

THE DACIAN SOCIETY - FIERCE WARRIORS AND THEIR WOMEN SOURCES AND REPRESENTATIONS

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Abstract: There is not much information about the Dacian society and especially the role of women within it. There are few ancient sources who deal more with the Thracians and a few about the Getae and Dacians, but the majority speak about the men and their wars. It is not very difficult, however, to understand the role of women in a warrior society, although parallels must be drawn to other ancient civilizations in the area. From what we know from sources, representations on Trajan's Column and archaeology, Dacian common women were in charge with the most domestic activities, while the noble women wore gold and jewels. However, it is possible that, in the final days of the independent Dacian Kingdom, they all fought for their lives and children, while many of their husbands had already been killed.

Keywords: Dacians, women, warriors, Transylvania, ancient society, Trajan's Column.

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THE DOMESTICATION OF AN ITINERANT OBJECT: THE TRUE CROSS RELIQUARY FROM THE LOUVRE MUSEUM

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Abstract: The Reliquary of the True Cross from the Louvre Museum serves as a good illustration of some key ideas which are of high interest for modern art historians studying medieval art. These ideas are: hybridity (syncretism, compositeness), portability (mobility), circulation, and transparency (crossing borders). The Reliquary is a product of a complicated cross-cultural exchange with more than one participant. First of all, it is a composite, or hybrid, object. The cross-shaped reliquary was produced in the Holy Land in the twelfth century, most likely in Jerusalem, while the casket, in which the cross is housed, was produced later, probably in a South Italian or Sicilian workshop of the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. Furthermore, the reliquary belongs to a big family of portable objects, which are defined by the feature of portability, and which add to its material value significant symbolical value when they are transported beyond the borders – geographical, cultural, or political – of the region of their production. In order to better understand the reliquary and its value, I answer two sets of questions. First is the set of “traditional” questions of Western European art history, namely authorship, style, date, and periodization. Then I consider this reliquary as an “object without borders,” in terms of Jennifer Purtle, and find answers to the kinds of questions related to the specificity of portable objects: What is the object within the context in which it exists? How and why does an object move beyond borders? What meaning and what cultural and economic value accrue to an object when it exists without borders? Answering these questions, I show how the reliquary moved from one cultural and political context to another, being re-shaped and re-considered on the course of its travels.

Keywords: Compositeness, Holy Land, Hybridity, Medieval art, Portability, Reliquary, Syncretism, Transparency, True Cross.

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AT THE „MARGIN” OF THE ROMANIAN PRE-MODERN SOCIETY. THE JEWS

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Abstract: This paper shows the attitudes of Romanian society regarding to the ethnic category considered at the social margin. In this case were, for example, the Jews, “excluded”. Towards those “marginalized”, Romanian society in the 17th-18th centuries did not show the “Christian pity”. Its attitudes were argued by the religious convictions ideas and by the transferring clichés from Western Europe to Eastern Europe.

Keywords: Social attitudes, Mentality, Pre-modernity, History, Religion.

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PERSPECTIVES FOR RESEARCHING BRITISH APPEASEMENT OF NAZI GERMANY IN THE INTER-WAR YEARS USING THE DIGITIZED NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY*

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Abstract: This paper aims to verify that the methods for researching the British appeasement policy towards Germany in the inter-war years can include the new method of studying the digitized collections of newspapers of the British Library. The policy of appeasement led by Great Britain during the inter-war years still represents a very attractive subject of research. The challenge lies not only in the new data harvested from primary sources such as documents and newspapers but also in the new methods of researching that may be applied, and that may increase the interest of scholars. Today, researching the digitized collections of archives are not even a futuristic resource, but a growing necessity. Accessing the British Library's digitized collections through the British Newspaper Archive website is often easier and more efficient than going to the archives. The site has more than 40 million digitized newspapers, mainly local periodicals, which can be accessed by searching for keywords, establishing filters and saving results to retrieve them later. The electronic resources of the digitized collections provide valuable help in my doctoral research on the Anglo-French appeasement reflected in the newspapers, which proves to be a great challenge, given the fact that the subject was widely covered in many of the central newspapers. But, of course, this method immediately poses multiple questions: is this method of research as rigorous as the traditional research conducted in the archives? Does this method provide the intercoder reliability framework required for such works? These are the research questions that remain at the center of this article. Previous research on the subject of digitized collections and also the analysis of the resources of the British Newspaper Archive in comparison with the traditional British Library resources can provide an answer.

Keywords: Appeasement, British Library, Newspapers, Intercoder reliability.

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GLOBAL POLITICS, REGIONAL COMPETITION: GREAT POWER POLITICS IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Abstract: This paper deals with the issue of competing great power interests in Central Asia, known for specialists in international relations as the New Great Game. The focus is in first hand on interests of the “Big Four” global powers and secondly, on the interests of a series of regional powers which can bring decisive contributions to the New Great Game. The analysis has two directions: one concentrated on strategic analysis, and the second focused on economic interests.

Keywords: New Great Game, Central Asia, economic diplomacy, geopolitics, Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

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