

SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

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Andrew Wilson  
Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire



To: Hon. Dacian Cioloș  
Prime Minister of Romania

8 December 2016

We strongly support the application to inscribe the historic mining landscape of Roșia Montană on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Statement of Significance for the Roșia Montană area that we wrote at the request of the Romanian Ministry of Culture in 2010 concluded that the Cărnic Massif constitutes part of a wider cultural landscape in the Roșia Montană area of high significance, comparable in magnitude to “outstanding universal value” in the UNESCO criteria for World Heritage status. The underground evidence of mining, galleries, adits and technology gains in significance because it is associated with an historic landscape above ground with evidence of processing, settlements, ritual and communities. Further evidence, from epigraphy, wax tablets and closely dated archaeological deposits, enhances Roșia Montană as one of the world’s outstanding heritage assets.

If assessed against the UNESCO criteria of significance of **outstanding universal value** (only one of which need to be satisfied to make a site eligible for World Heritage status), the Roșia Montană region clearly meets the following four criteria:

- (ii) exhibits an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or **technology**, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bears a unique or at least **exceptional testimony** to a cultural tradition or **to a civilization** which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) is an **outstanding example** of a type of building, architectural or **technological ensemble or landscape** which illustrates a significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) is an **outstanding example** of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

The landscape is of outstanding universal value as a palimpsest of mining activity from the early second century to the late twentieth century, including the most extensively explored underground Roman gold mine yet known, coupled with an above-ground complex of Roman



mining settlements, cemeteries, shrines and ore-processing sites; and extensive remains of underground Austro-Hungarian mining and a network of surface streams and ponds to drive ore-processing sites. It merits inclusion on the World Heritage List.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. J. Wilson' with a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew Wilson  
Head of the School of Archaeology  
Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire