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978-1-107-48667-6 - Dacia: An Outline of the Early Civilizations of the  
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OF THE EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF  
THE CARPATHO-DANUBIAN  
COUNTRIES

BY

VASILE PÂRVAN



CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
1928

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107486676](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107486676)

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First published 1928

First paperback edition 2015

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-107-48667-6 Paperback

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## TRANSLATORS' PREFACE

In March, 1926, Professor Pârvan gave a short course of lectures at Cambridge on the Early Civilizations of the Carpathian and Lower Danubian Countries. He came at the invitation of the Special Board for Classics and stayed as the guest of St John's College. It was felt that some permanent memorial of his visit might be of considerable interest to a wider public and the Cambridge University Press kindly undertook the publication of this book, which embodies the substance of his lectures. The first draft of the text was dictated by the author when he was already suffering from the illness which was soon to prove fatal, and could not be revised by him. It has been translated into English as a slight token of esteem to the memory of a great scholar and a charming friend.

Born in a little Moldavian village in 1882, Vasile Pârvan sprang from the ranks of a people imbued with 'a strange instinct for its Latinity.' At the local lycée he acquired a sound grounding in Classics which served him in good stead when he went as a student, first to Bucarest and then to Germany. The dissertation which he presented

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for his doctorate at Breslau in 1909—*Die Nationalität der Kaufleute im römischen Kaiserreiche*—was at once recognized as an important contribution to scholarship. But the task which he made his life work was the active prosecution of excavations in the rich but little explored regions of his native land.

His energy was phenomenal. To a masterly knowledge of earlier work undertaken by Roumanian, German and Magyar archaeologists in this little known field, he added the firstfruits of a whole series of excavations carried out, for over fifteen years, either directly by himself or under his supervision. As Professor at the University of Bucarest and Director of the Roumanian School at Rome (which owed its foundation in no small measure to his own activity), he gathered round him a whole school of young men to whom he imparted something of his own insatiable curiosity. Under his auspices, the results of their research began to appear, in French, in the annual periodical, *Dacia—Recherches et Découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie* which Pârvan himself instituted in 1924. His plan of publishing a comprehensive account of his own finds at Istria layer by layer had unfortunately not proceeded farther, at the time of his death, than a description of Istria IV, which appeared in the



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*Annals of the Roumanian Academy for 1916 and 1923.*

His failing health made him concentrate more than ever on his work. As permanent secretary of the Roumanian Academy and as director of the *Cultura Nationala*, a publishing house with a high educational and artistic purpose to fulfil, he played a very important rôle in the intellectual life of his native land. His largest and most comprehensive contribution to archaeological studies—*Getica*—appeared in the year of his death. Here he attempted a synthesis of the early history of the Carpatho-Danubian countries down to the end of the Roman era, with ample documentation and a wealth of illustrations. Readers of this present volume who desire to examine further the material and evidence upon which the author's conclusions are based will find them fully treated in *Getica*.

It has seemed best to place the illustrations all together at the end of this book. References to the plates are indicated in the text by numerals in Clarendon type. The blocks themselves have been selected from *Getica* and have been kindly lent by the Roumanian Academy.

The translators wish to thank Professor Adcock, of King's College, Professor Minns, of Pembroke College, Mr J. M. de Navarro, of Trinity College,

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and Mr C. T. Seltman, of Queens' College, for their very great kindness in reading through the proofs and making many valuable suggestions. The map was drawn by M. Dionisie Pecuranu, of the Muzeul Național de Antichități at Bucarest, on the basis of material supplied by two former assistants of Professor Pârvan—Dr Ecaterina Vulpe and Dr Radu Vulpe. To them, as to the officials of the Cambridge University Press, the translators cannot sufficiently express their gratitude.

**I. L. EVANS**

**M. P. CHARLESWORTH**

*St John's College  
Cambridge*

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## PLATES

*after p. 204*

1. Finds from Gușterița, Hajdú-Böszörmény, Brașov and Orăștie.
2. Cauldrons from Kántorjánosi, Alba Iulia and Máriapócs. Gold disc from Otlaca.
3. Bronze finds at Fizeșul Gherlii.
4. Vases from Târgul Mureșului and Corneto. Plaques from Sighișoara and Nesactium.
5. Wheels from war chariots from Abos and Arcalia.
6. Hydria from Bene.
7. Figure of Anaitis from Năeni (front view). Scythian comb from Bucarest. Harness ornaments from Craiova.
8. Bronze pole-top, Bucarest Museum.
9. Hallstatt and Scythian remains from Aiud.
10. Bracelets from Pipea and Biia.
11. Gold treasure from Gyoma. Gold fibula from Mikhalkovo.
12. Contents of a Celtic tomb at Silivaș.
13. Helmets from Túrócz and Silivaș.
14. Standards, trumpets and quivers from Trajan's Column.
15. Battle-axes from Trajan's Column. Stone alignment at Costești.
16. Stone Circle at Grădiștea Muncelului.

**Map.** Available for download from [www.cambridge.org/9781107486676](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107486676)