

Nasz znak: MPK.074.1.2018.KT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sub-Carpathian Museum of Krosno and its branch, the Carpathian Troy Open-Air Archaeological Museum at Trzcinica, Poland, are organising an International Conference entitled "Open-Air Archaeological Museums: Reconstruction and Reenactment – Reality or Fiction?" which will be held on 18 and 19 October this year. The aim of the Conference is to present and discuss a variety of issues connected with the construction and operation of open-air archaeological museums, especially as regards the reconstruction of prehistoric and early medieval structures, and to draw conclusions from the opinions our participants will present.

The past few decades have witnessed a dramatic growth in the number of open-air archaeological museums in Europe and the re-enactment movement associated with them. Not only have a lot of new institutions of this type been founded, but we have also had a set of standards compiled for the way they should be built. This building boom has arisen in response to the growing interest in learning about Man's earliest history in a new and different way from what traditional indoor archaeological museums can offer.

But its success is attended by a series of dangers due to things like the fact that the concept of what an open-air archaeological museum should be like is based on the one hand on the archaeological research conducted on the site, and on the other hand on solutions determined by experimental archaeology. We all know that we will never be able to reconstruct a full picture of the culture of prehistoric and early historical societies on the basis of archaeological research alone, and yet the creators of outdoor museums do all they can to make it as comprehensive as possible for their visitors.

So the following question arises – is the vision of history the general public gets in an outdoor museum fact or fiction? Is it true to life, or is it a fantasy created on the basis of a projection back into the past of what we know about contemporary societies as described by ethnography, or perhaps a materialisation of the stereotypes we have of prehistoric peoples?

The Carpathian Troy Open-Air Archaeological Museum at Trzcinica, the venue for the Conference, is situated near Jasło in the Voivodeship of Sub-Carpathia in south-eastern Poland. It is an exceptional place on the archaeological map of Central Europe. The excavations which have been conducted here, on the site of a monumental hillfort, have shown that there were strongholds here in the Bronze Age (2100 – 1350 BC) and in the Early Middle Ages (780 – 1030 AD). The earlier phase was associated with settlement by Epi-Corded Ware and Otomani-Füzesabony peoples, and the younger phase with the tribal and early statehood periods.

In 2011 an outdoor archaeological museum was established here to protect and promote the unique discoveries made on this site, and straightaway it became an important point on the map of open-air archaeological museums in Central Europe.

The Conference is being organised by the Sub-Carpathian Museum of Krosno, which has a branch at the Trzcinica Open-Air Archaeological Museum. We have built up a reputation over many years for our conferences on Carpathian archaeology and history.

We hope that this Conference will also provide an opportunity for people interested in the outdoor museum movement, reconstruction, and experimental archaeology to meet.

Information on conditions for participation in the Conference and the application form are available on our website, www.karpackatroja.pl

If you are professionally involved in open-air archaeological museums and prehistoric or early medieval reconstruction or re-enactment, we look forward to seeing you at our Conference in Trzcinica.

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