

**PRELIMINARY ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE INTRA-CARPATHIAN SPACE IN THE IX<sup>th</sup> AND X<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES.  
THE PRE-FEUDAL NECROPOLIS OF ALBA IULIA**

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The osteological material exhumated from the pre-feudal necropole of Alba Iulia is represented by a series of 342 skeletons, 104 of which are of 0-14 year-old children. The anthropological analysis developed on 238 skeletons (132 masculine and 106 feminine) indicates, on the average, a supra-middle sized population - with a dolichocephalic tendency in men and a mesocephalic one in women -, orthocephalic according to the height indices of the brain, a eurimetopon forehead and a long occiput.

The face is mezean, with mezoconchoid orbits and a leptorine nose. From a typological perspective, mention should be made of the presence of some exclusively Europoid – Mediterranean, Mediterranean-Dinaric, Mediterranean-Northern, Mediterranean-Alpine – anthropological types, in which the Mediterranean element is prevailing, together with some other secondary elements.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The archaeological investigations developed in several points of the very ancient town of Alba Iulia provided (especially significant) historical and archaeological proofs, attesting, beyond any doubt, the un interrupted presence of its inhabitants since more than 5 millennia. Thus, one of the largest Neolithic settlements, situated on the very territory of the actual town, has been identified, as well as locations from the first Iron Age (IX-IV<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C., a powerful/an important settlement over more than 30 ha), and also from the second Iron Age (IV-I centuries B.C.); the city of Apulum, now viewed as the most important center of formation and continuity of the Romanian people and Romanian language, has been established during the Roman period; an important necropole of the IV<sup>th</sup> century (the migration period) has been dugged out by archaeologist Bela Cserni, along with numerous traces of Dacian-Roman type, from the IV<sup>th</sup>-VI<sup>th</sup> centuries and also from more recent, pre-feudal (IX-X<sup>th</sup> centuries) and feudal periods. The archaeological investigations attest the existence between the VIII<sup>th</sup> and the X<sup>th</sup> centuries – of a powerful political center, possessing a concentrated autochthonous population, with its nucleus situated in the perimeter of the old Roman camps (the Principality of Bălgrad, another name for Alba Iulia), archaeologically attested by the discovery of a large necropole from the end of the VIII<sup>th</sup> century and of the X<sup>th</sup> one (called by Radu R. Heitel as “necropolis III” [6]. Another necropole (from the IV<sup>th</sup>, according to the same specialist), discovered in the north-western part of the area, from the second half of the XI<sup>th</sup> century and the