

# **Astrocultural tourism in Romania-another way of doing astronomy education**

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**Victor Anestin (1875-1918) – considered to be the father of Romanian amateur astronomy – said: “Numbers and long equations are not the bait with which the admirers of heaven can be caught”**

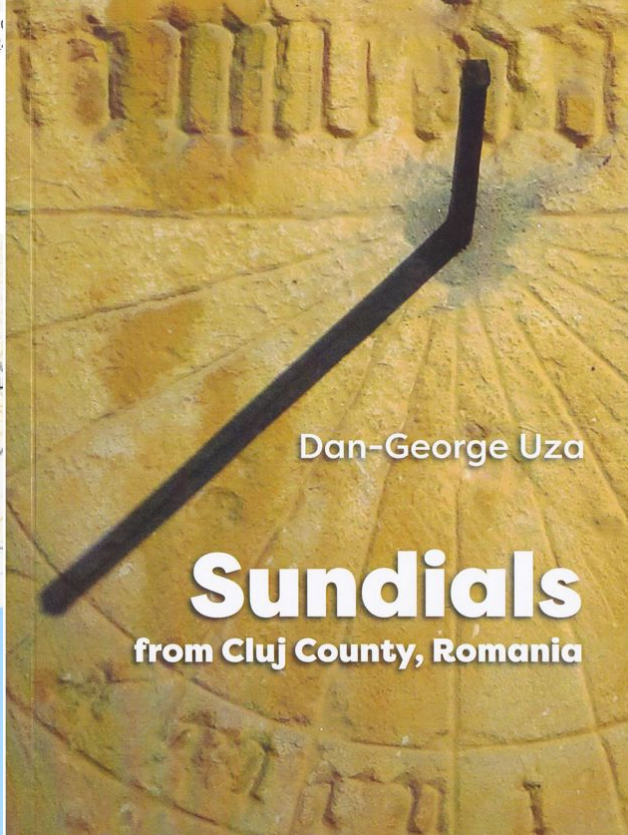
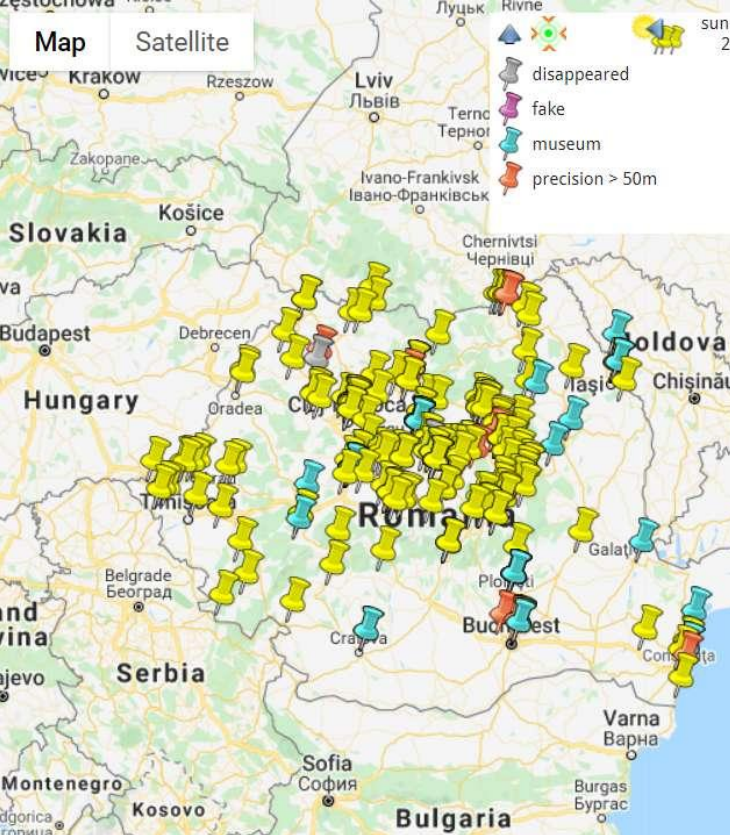
**Astronomical heritage in Romania may constitute the core of a special kind of tourism involving astrocultural travels. We group the main objects of interest for the Romanian astrocultural tourist into three categories.**

**It is rather remarkable that the vast majority of these discoveries and the efforts to make them known have been undertaken by amateurs. The list may go on... but what is most important is the fact that astrocultural tourism can be a good starting point for astronomical education in the case of youngsters, adults and the elderly alike.**



## ***Astronomical ornaments***

***Stylized astronomical decorations pertaining to certain celestial events such as eclipses, comets or other solar imagery have been discovered mostly in northeastern and northwestern Romania.***



Dan-George Uza

# Sundials

from Cluj County, Romania

## Astronomical timekeeping devices

The tourist can visit about 200 Romanian sundials, most of which are concentrated in the historical province of Transylvania: attempts to coalesce them into specific sundial trails have been made for the cities of Alba Iulia (2015) and Cluj-Napoca (2021); in the first case a flyer has been published, in the second case even a booklet. All sundials can be found freely with the mobile app SundialAtlas



## Cosmological and astrological representations

A few frescoes depicting historical solar system diagrams (some geocentric, some heliocentric) can be found inside some of the picturesque, small wooden churches scattered in the area around Zalău and Baia Mare: they constitute a great starting point to the history of astronomy for the casual visitor. Finally, some churches also exhibit frescoes of the zodiac signs, though the link of religion and astrology is a complicated, albeit an interesting one.