

A DAY OF ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE MARBAL 2017 PROJECT

July 28, 2017 Jess Beck Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology
2017, Excavation, Fieldwork, Osteology Archaeological fieldwork, Archaeology, Bioarchaeology, Bronze
Age, Coffee, fieldwork, Mortuary Archaeology, Romania, shovel test pits

Disclaimer: This post is a time-stamped “day in the life” of MARBAL ([Mortuary Archaeology of the Râmpeț Bronze Age Landscape](#)) co-director Jess Beck, and is brought to you by approximately 17 cups of coffee.

6:40 am: Consume first two cups of coffee. Begin analyzing bones in home lab.



8:53 am: Two cups of coffee later, head out the door for the museum. Demolish breakfast of Cascaval, bread, and delicious Romanian red peppers that project member Emilie Cobb thoughtfully prepared for me.



9:24 am: Arrive at our collaborator [Horia Ciugudean's](#) lab at the [National Museum of the Union](#). Emilie begins size-sorting fragments, while I finish entering data on an adolescent pair of scapulae, clavicles, and innominates.



10:53 am: I continue my analysis, moving on to the fragmentary adolescent cranium. Please notice the binder clip I have fetchingly clipped to my shirt so that I do not lose track of it.



12:25 pm: The most important meal of the day! Cookie break as we pack up for the field.



12:46 pm: Make a brief detour to the train station to procure tickets for our trip back to Budapest on Monday.



1:13 pm: Stock up on field snacks at local supermarket.



1:33 pm: En route from the train station in Alba Iulia to our field site in the mountains. I nurse my current thermos of coffee on the ride.



2:17 pm: Arrive at field site to find it only SLIGHTLY more glorious than morning lab setting.



2:47 pm: Project co-director [Colin Quinn](#) begins putting in shovel test pits.



4:06 pm: Colin bemoans not taking a charcoal sample two years ago after we hit multiple sterile test pits.



4:11 pm: After being (foolishly) entrusted with making a sketch map of our STPs, it becomes clear that I do not in fact know where North is.



5:01 pm: After a rough half-hour of realizing our own limitations, we switch locations, and begin putting in a 1mx1m to examine the profile of an area in which a modern road cuts through an Early Bronze Age tomb.



5:07 pm: Colin teaches Emilie how to package a charcoal sample.



6:15 pm: After taking some closing photos, we stock up on glamour selfies and pack out.



6:30 pm: Important car snacks are consumed in celebration of a stratigraphically informative 1×1.



7:30 pm: Return to the house to shower, eat, and load and label photos from the day. Next up: publishing this post, and then immediately copying this Romanian buddy I spotted yesterday:

