

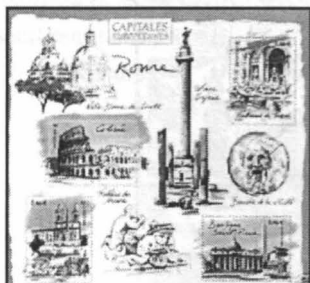
TRAJAN'S COLUMN

Trajan's Column in Rome (see: *Figure 1*) dates from 113 AD and reaches a height of 38 meters. Trajan's Column is decorated by a Spiral Frieze of a 200-meter length. There are 23 Spirals with 155 scenes and over 2500 figures at about 2/3 life size, executed with apparent accuracy of detail. The scenes are divided from one another by architecture or by landscape elements. The scenes of the Spiral Frieze are the creation of Apollodorus of Damascus and are a pictorial narrative of both Daco-Roman Wars (101-102 and 105-106) in present day Romania.

The Column of Trajan is not about battles alone - only about 1/4 of the space is devoted to battle scenes - but about all aspects of war. Special attention is given to what happens before and after a battle: sacrifices are made to the state gods, new cities are founded and constructed and the underlying subject is the efficiency of Trajan's war machine. The Dacians (the inhabitants of what is now called Romania) are also heroically portrayed. They are worthy adversaries who can hold their own.

The 1st Campaign begins on the Dacian frontier, where the Roman soldiers unload provisions. The scene of Trajan's troops crossing the Danube river on a bridge of boats is rendered in detail and identified by the presence of a half-length bearded male figure seen from the rear - god *Danubius* - a personification of the Danube River (see: *Figure 3*). The scenes that follow depict battles, the building of roads and of Military Forts (see: *Figure 4*), the presentation of captives and of embassies to the emperor. On *Figure 5* an embassy from the Dacian Chiefs advise him to desist from military action in favor of peace. During the 2nd Campaign of the 1st Dacian War, the Dacians attack a Roman Fort but are repelled. On *Figure 5*, is depicted in exquisite detail the scene of the Dacian cavalry and army crossing a river and suffering losses; and then attacking the Roman fort unsuccessfully. Then follows a night battle with many Dacians taken prisoner while others flee. During the 3rd Campaign Trajan's armies march to Decebalus' Capital. A hand-to-hand combat ensues and the Dacians are defeated and surrender. The Dacians are forced to dismantle the walls of their city and are also ordered to retreat from the captured territory.

The need for the 2nd Dacian War came because Decebalus violated the terms of the treaty. Trajan departs from an Adriatic port, lands in Dalmatia and travels to the Danube. Upon arrival he offers sacrifices; later on the Roman army is storming the Dacian capital. On *Figure 2* (below) the scene depicts Dacian Warriors making preparations to defend their fortress. The Dacians are defeated and the Romans are moving further north to quell the last resisters. Some of them decide to flee, while others including Decebalus commit suicide. Trajan's Column was meant to serve as a political message in stone commemorating Trajan's military victories in Dacia.



PRE-1900 POSTAL CARDS MC

Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 3) GOD 'DANUBIUS' AND ROMAN SOLDIERS CROSSING A BRIDGE
COLUMN OF TRAJAN, Rome, 113 AD, Spiral nr. 1, Panel D. Issue: Oct. 15, 2004.
For: Historical issue. Cancel: June 29, 2006, Sarmizeget, special illustration and
mention: 'DECEBALUS - DACIAN LEADER, 1900 YEARS, 106 - 2006'.

(Figure 4) EMPEROR TRAJAN SUPERVISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FORT
COLUMN OF TRAJAN, Rome, 113 AD, Spiral nr. 3, Panel A. Issue: Oct. 15, 2004.
For: Historical issue. Cancel: June 29, 2006, Sarmizeget, special illustration and
mention: 'DECEBALUS - DACIAN LEADER, 1900 YEARS, 106 - 2006'.

Figure 5) TRAJAN RECEIVES THE SURRENDER OF A DACIAN CHIEF
COLUMN OF TRAJAN, Rome, 113 AD, Spiral nr. 4, Panel D. Issue: Oct. 15, 2004.
For: Historical issue. Cancel: June 29, 2006, Sarmizeget, special illustration and
mention: 'DECEBALUS - DACIAN LEADER, 1900 YEARS, 106 - 2006'.

Figure 6) DACIANS ASSAULTING A ROMAN FORT
COLUMN OF TRAJAN, Rome, 113 AD, Spiral nr. 5, Panel B. Issue: Oct. 15, 2004. For: Historical issue. Cancel:
June 29, 2006, Sarmizeget, special illustration and mention: 'DECEBAL 2006
-CONGRES INTERNATION.DE DACOLOGIE'.

