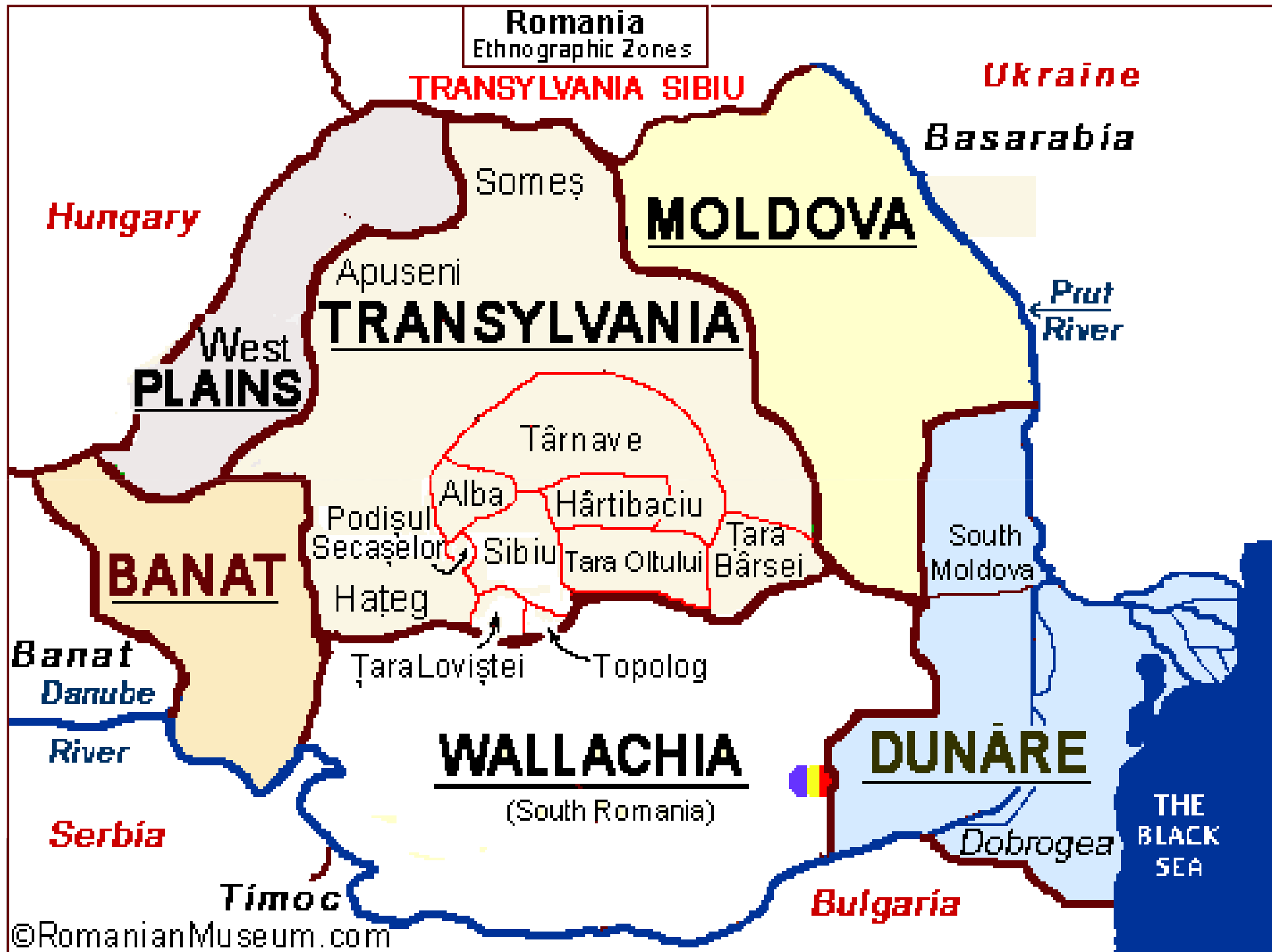


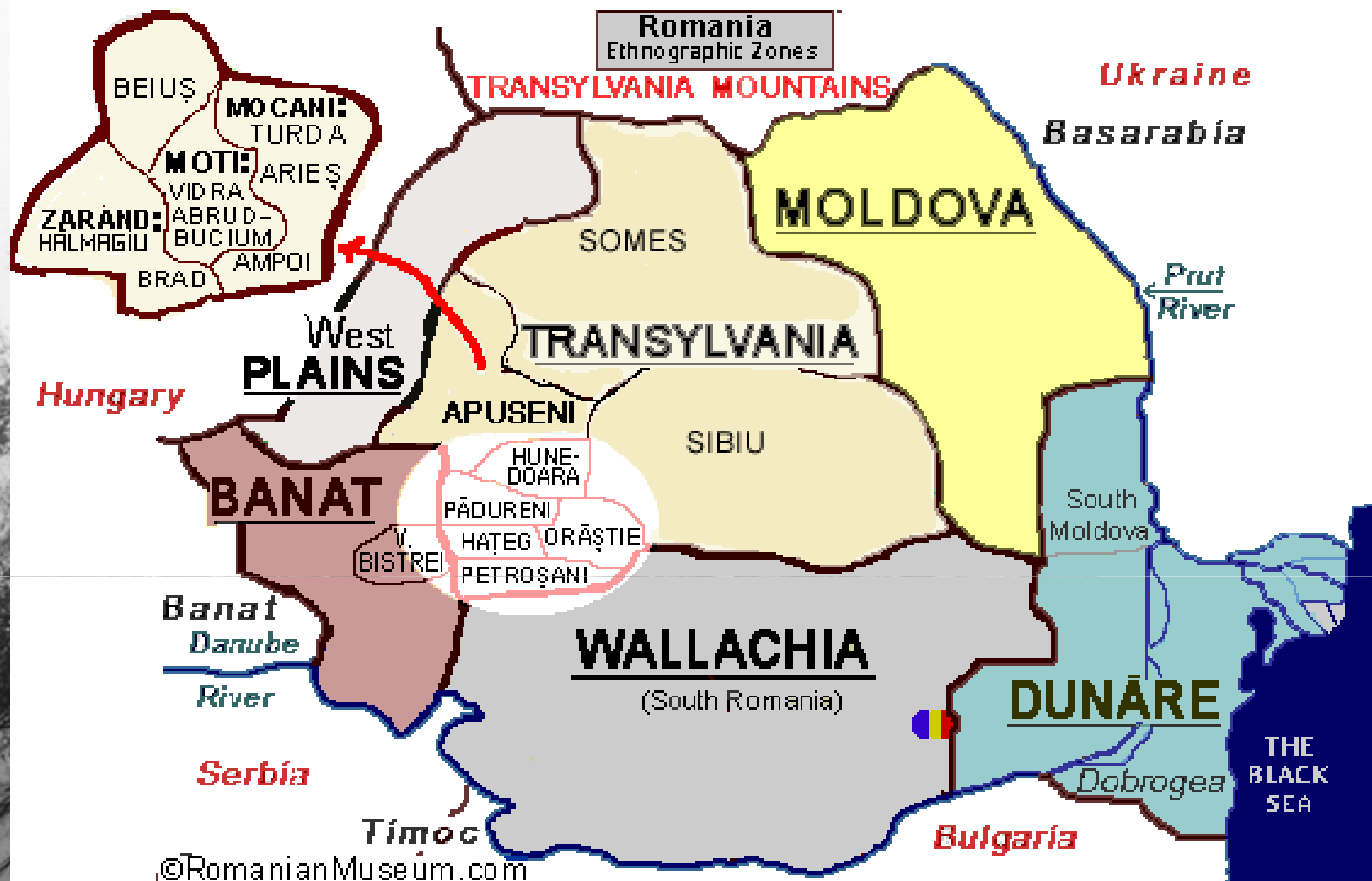


Most popular Romanian folk

Traditional costumes in Romania

- The structure of Romanian traditional clothing has remained unchanged throughout history and can be traced back to the earliest times. The basic garment for both men and women is a shirt or chemise, which is made from hemp, linen or woollen fabric. This was tied round the waist using a fabric belt, narrow for women and wider for men. The cut of this basic chemise is similar for men and women. In the past those worn by women usually reached to the ankles while men's shirts were shorter and worn over trousers or leggings made from strips of fabric. Women always wear an apron over the chemise. This was initially a single piece of cloth wrapped round the lower part of their bodies and secured by a belt at the waist, as is still seen in the east and south east of Romania. In Transylvania and the south west of Romania this became two separate aprons, one worn at the back and one at the front.





The highlighted area represents the stronghold of Decebal, the last king of Ancient Dacia, just before Dacia became part of the Roman Empire around 100A.D. Also, in this highlighted region (SW Sibiu, Valea Bistrei, Hateg, Orastie, Padureni, Tara Motilor,) the Romanian Folk Costumes retain some very old features: predilection for black and white; modest amount of embroidery; shipskin vests; caps (part of a woman head-cover,) and fringes (on aprons, coats, veils.) Fringes are considered a primitive feature.

- The outer garments worn by both men and women are similar, the main differences being in cut and decoration which depend mainly on the region of provenance. These garments are usually made of sheepskin, or felted woollen fabric, and decorated with leather appliqué and silk embroidery.
- Traditional clothing worn on workdays and festivals used to be similar, the main difference being that the festive dress, especially those worn for weddings was more richly embroidered. In the past the headwear worn by the bride was especially ornate with specific local styles. In poorer areas basic clothing with little or no embroidery has always been worn.

Romanian Folk Costumes: **TRANSYLVANIA** MUNTII HATEG Hundedoara



Romanian Folk Costumes
Woman from Hunedoara



Head Cover Detail



Compare 1910 Woman's head cover (CE AP SA)
to 100 A.D. ancient King Decebal' hat



Stone House

Momârlan Woman, from Jiul de Vest River Valley



Momârlan, Woman



Head Cover (TINDEU, 12"x90", one end embroidery & lace; other end simple)



Jacket




Hair Styling
(4 steps)



Blouse

Romanian Folk Costumes
Transylvania
West Jiu River Valley
Momârlan, woman

The various pieces of costume have gone out of use at different times during the 20th century. The first item to disappear in many areas were leather peasant sandals (*opinci*), although these could be seen in poorer villages again in the years just after the communist regime fell.



In most rural areas men's traditional trousers were replaced by modern factory made trousers by mid century and in the post communism years jeans has become universally common. Traditional over garments became an expensive luxury, new garments only being purchased by people living in the very wealthy villages. More recently the traditional jacket makers in many areas have died with few new artisans being trained to carry on their craft.



Transylvania
Momârlan man in summer outfit,
wearing "câmașă cu barburi"





Man from Făgăraș or
Țara Oltului
RomanianMuseum.com



Woman from
Marginimea Sibiului
(with headdress=PAHIOL , vest=PIEPTAR DESPICAT)





Badea Cârțan în 1899



Woman from
Marginimea Sibiului
(with headdress=PAHIOL , vest=PIEPTAR DESPICAT)









However if you look closely in the more remote areas some older people still wear items of traditional clothing. This can be for women a gathered black skirt or dark wraparound with a blouse of local cut either with or without a leather waistcoat. In Oaş and Maramureş even young girls often wear the local fashion costume on Sundays. This is normally made from brightly coloured material, in Oaş a dress, in Maramureş a skirt. Added to the local costume is the latest fashion in blouses and footwear such as white lacy blouses in Maramureş and platform shoes or stilettos, in both regions.



Men usually have "western " trousers or jeans but may have a local shirt, or local shaped hat, although unfortunately the universal trilby is fast replacing these. Certain items of costume, specific to occupations, are still worn, for example men working in the forestry industry wear the wide leather belts (*chimir*), usually now over a T-shirt and jeans. Men's traditional fur hats (*caliciulă*) are still worn in winter in rural areas, and women usually wear a printed woollen scarf, and often a traditional straw hat over this when working in the fields in the summer.











Thank you!