

# DRACULA , by Bram Stoker .

TEXT 1 (1/2)

## Chapter I

### Jonathan Harker's Journal

(KEPT IN SHORTHAND)<sup>1</sup>

3 May. Bistritz.<sup>2</sup>—Left Munich at 8.35 p.m. on 1st May, arriving at Vienna early next morning; should have arrived at 6.46, but train was an hour late. Buda-Pesth seems a wonderful place, from the glimpse which I got of it from the train and the little I could walk through the streets. I feared to go very far from the station, as we had arrived late and would start as near the correct time as possible. The impression I had was that we were leaving the West and entering the East; the most Western of splendid bridges<sup>3</sup> over the Danube, which is here of noble width and depth, took us among the traditions of Turkish rule.<sup>4</sup>

We left in pretty good time, and came after nightfall to Klausenburgh. Here I stopped for the night at the Hotel Royale. I had for dinner, or rather supper, a chicken done up some way with red pepper, which was very good but thirsty. (*Mem.*, get recipe for Mina.) I asked the waiter, and he said it was called 'paprika hendl,' and that, as it was a national dish, I should be able to get it anywhere along the Carpathians.<sup>5</sup> I found my smattering of German very useful here; indeed, I don't know how I should be able to get on without it.

Having some time at my disposal when in London, I had visited the British Museum,<sup>6</sup> and made search among the books and maps in the library regarding Transylvania;<sup>7</sup> it had struck me that some foreknowl-

1. Various shorthand systems were employed in the nineteenth century; in 1837, the Pitman method came into general use. This method of speedwriting, in which geometric shapes replace words, is difficult to learn but efficient to use.

2. Now Bistrita, Romania.

3. Count Széchenyi's bridge over the Danube linking Buda and Pest was completed in 1849.

4. Transylvania passed from Turkish dominion to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1711.

5. A heavily forested, V-shaped mountain range separating Transylvania proper from the other Romanian provinces: Moldavia to the east and Wallachia to the south.

6. Established 1753. The British Library Reading Room with its majestic dome, a haven for self-improving Victorians, opened in 1857. Like Jonathan Harker, Stoker learned most of what he knew about Eastern European history and legend in the British Museum.

7. In western Romania; about 43 percent of the territory. In essence, fittingly for vampires, the history of Transylvania is a history of whom it belongs to. From the second to the fourth centuries, Dacia, as it then was, was incorporated into the Roman empire. In the tenth century, the Hungarians (Magyars) conquered it, colonizing it through the fifteenth century with German settlers. In 1526, the Turks overran the Hungarian kingdom; Transylvania, still ruled by Hungarian princes, became a semi-independent province of the Turkish Empire. In 1691, the Hapsburgs reconquered it; in 1867, the Austro-Hungarian Empire placed Transylvania under Hungarian rule. After World War I, Transylvania became Romanian, though Hitler briefly returned it to Hungary in 1940.

Bram Stoker gave to Transylvania vampires and notoriety, but he did so at the last minute: Dracula's homeland was originally Styria, like that of Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's languidly loving vampire in *Carmilla* (1872). When he changed *Dracula's* setting, Stoker drew freely on Emily Gerard's *The Land Beyond the Forest* (1888), a popular Victorian account of Transylvanian history and legend.

sténographique

la vue

largueur/profondeur

rudiments

cartes  
shocked



quère

edge of the country could hardly fail to have some importance in dealing with a noble of that country. I find that the district he named is in the extreme east of the country, just on the borders of three states, Transylvania, Moldavia, and Bukovina,<sup>8</sup> in the midst of the Carpathian  
 25 mountains; one of the wildest and least known portions of Europe. I was not able to light on any map or work giving the exact locality of the Castle Dracula,<sup>9</sup> as there are no maps of this country as yet to compare with our own Ordnance Survey maps;<sup>1</sup> but I found that Bis-  
 30 tritz, the post town<sup>2</sup> named by Count Dracula, is a fairly well-known place. I shall enter here some of my notes, as they may refresh my memory when I talk over my travels with Mina.

frontiers

In the population of Transylvania there are four distinct nationalities: Saxons in the south, and mixed with them the Wallachs, who are the descendants of the Dacians;<sup>3</sup> Magyars in the west, and Szekelys in the  
 40 east and north. I am going among the latter, who claim to be descended from Attila and the Huns.<sup>4</sup> This may be so, for when the Magyars conquered the country in the eleventh century they found the Huns settled in it. I read that every known superstition in the world is gathered into the horseshoe of the Carpathians, as if it were the centre of some sort of imaginative whirlpool; if so my stay may be very interesting.  
 45 (Mem., I must ask the Count all about them.)

tourbillon

I did not sleep well, though my bed was comfortable enough, for I had all sorts of queer dreams. There was a dog howling all night under my window, which may have had something to do with it; or it may  
 50 have been the paprika, for I had to drink up all the water in my carafe, and was still thirsty. Towards morning I slept and was wakened by the continuous knocking at my door, so I guess I must have been sleeping soundly then. I had for breakfast more paprika, and a sort of porridge of maize flour which they said was 'mamaliga,' and eggplant stuffed  
 55 with forcemeat,<sup>5</sup> a very excellent dish, which they call 'impletata.' (Mem., get recipe for this also.) I had to hurry breakfast, for the train started a little before eight, or rather it ought to have done so, for after rushing to the station at 7.30 I had to sit in the carriage for more than  
 60 an hour before we began to move. It seems to me that the further East you go the more unpunctual are the trains. What ought they to be in China? ┘

strange

deeply farine

aubergine

8. Moldavia was a province of Romania, which had become a kingdom in 1881. In the 1890s, Bukovina was an autonomous duchy within the Austro-Hungarian Empire; it too is now part of Romania. The wild border country through which Jonathan travels teeters on the edge of fragile national independence.

9. Despite the claims of various tour directors, and some critics as well, Castle Dracula does not exist on any map.

1. Military maps.

2. A town with a post office or post-horses.

3. Dacia, whose area corresponds roughly to twentieth-century Romania, became a province of the Roman Empire under the Emperor Trajan in A.D. 105. As late as June 1995, a Romanian patriot boasted in a letter to the *New York Times* of his Roman inheritance, scrupulously differentiating Romanians from the "Romanay Gypsies" who, in *Dracula*, prove to be treacherous allies of the vampire.

4. Attila was king of the Huns from 434 to 453. These Asian nomads invaded and devastated China, Italy, and the Roman Empire. Dracula's Szekelys claim descent from these enemies of Western civilization.

5. Finely ground and highly spiced meat, fish, or poultry that is served alone or used in stuffing.