

Romania by CAVELIER Justine, LEROUX Enola, and HURE Camille

Romania according to Dracula

Vlad III was born at the end of November 1431 and he was murdered in 1476 in Romania. He was called the impaler because he was a cruel man who impaled people and supposedly drank blood. He became a prince of Valachie in 1448. He was a member of the Order of the Dragon, a military and religious society. When he was small, Vlad III was taken as hostage, he learned the Turkish method of impalement on stakes. He began his many cruelties and it was the beginning of his reputation as one of the cruelest men Romania had ever known.

To be respected, he decided that all crimes would be punished by impalement. Despite his coldness and his wickedness, there was less crime and both trade and culture evolved enormously.

Vlad III was the inspiration for Bram Stoker's character "Dracula" which

means son of the devil. The Romanian word "Dracul" means dragon and devil. The Order was important for the legend because it explains the name of Dracula. During the ceremonial, the uniform of the Order, black cloak and red, inspired Bram Stoker's and can be seen in Dracula's dress. Bram Stoker was inspired by the vampire legends which appeared in 1819 in England.. When the travelers returning from the East told stories about

the undead, which helped keep the interest in vampires alive. The real Dracula was infamous for his cruelty; the character created by Bram Stoker doesn't resemble Vlad III, it's just the inspiration, except for his social standing and name. Bram Stoker's novel is based on a story which does come from the East though. A lot of readers thought that the novel had been inspired by real facts.

Place to explore

Bram Stoker built his book from many real locations, with descriptions specified on historical sites in Romania and can be visited. All of these historic sites reflect the life of Vlad III (Dracula) as well as the highlights of his life. Indeed, in the city of Sighisoara, we can visit the house where Vlad was born. Bram puts in his book of sites such as the old princely Court in the most beautiful and largest city of Romania that is Bucharest; where Vlad kept his prisoners in the dun-

geons. He puts in motion the characters of his book in places like the monastery of Snagou where it seems are buried the remains of Vlad. There are also the ruins of the Poenari Fortress (a castle), the town of Arafa. But especially the castle of Bran which owes its fame to the famous myth of Dracula. Bram Stoker highlighted Romania in places which have become famous thanks to this legend.



Vlad III (1431-1476) and his Bran Cas-

Vampirism

According to the myth, the vampire comes out of his tombstone at night to suck the blood of the living. The vampire remains alive thanks to his feasting on blood, and in turn his victims become vampires. The myth has existed for ages. Many stories evoke legends or historical practice of vampirism. Greek mythology evokes certain deities which were vampire. A lot of civilizations practiced human sacrifices often exerted on children or young people. The term vampire officially appears in 1725 in Hungary: a farmer was said to have come back after his death with the loss of eight people from his village. These situations will multiply throughout

Europe and especially in Hungary and Romania. The epidemics of plague, yellow fever, smallpox and cholera damaged Europe in the 18th century, and many accounted the vampires as being responsible for it. Punitive expeditions against the corpses of suspected vampires were conducted: people

cut off the heads or planted a wooden stake through their heart to kill these ghosts. Two Eastern Europe figures are said to be the models for Bram Stoker's novel of Dracula: Barthory Erzebeth and Vlad Teppes (Dracula).



Count Dracula Vampire Picture

Dracula's legend

The vampire is very much a monster because he is ugly, putrid, with rotting flesh, a semi-human creature bloated with rot from the grave. His body's color is purple-blue after he's drunk blood, we can see blood dripping down his chin. Bram Stoker took many different traditions and ideas about vampires and incorporated them into his creation. He combined the beliefs and vampire legends from several countries and blended them together into a hideous whole.

Draculea means "dragon" or "devil." It has also been nicknamed Dracula. This prince was in his time a monster, he massacred people cruelly and sowed terror such as nobody ever dared to stand against him. He is credited with the deaths of thousands of people.

Some even claimed he drank the blood of his victims and he ate his bread. It marked the spirits so that his memory lasted after his death. The monks who crossed Europe related around the world how cruel he was.

Vlad Dracul III was also known as Vlad the Impaler. He impaled his enemies alive. During his bloody reign, he tortured and killed all people opposing him. Vlad impaled his victims, skewering them on tall wooden stakes and leaving them on display along the borders of his territory as a warning to discourage invading armies. He killed between 40,000 and 100,000 people in this cruel and horrific fashion.