Introducción

What is a sundial? What’s a gnomon? How it works? During this course, you already found the answers, right?

“E pur si muove!”...Due to the sunlight it is possible to obtain the gnomon’s shade in the hour framework of the sundial, which indicates the true solar time, not the average time indicated by the conventional clocks.

“En utilisant la lumière du soleil pour obtenir l’ombre du gnomon sur la ligne des heures, les quadrans solaires montrent le temps solaire vrai et pas le temps moyen indiqué par les horloges conventionnels”

“Grazie alla luce del sole per ottenere l’ombra del gnomono sulla linea delle ore i quadranti solari dicono l’ora solare vera e non il tempo medio, indicato dall’orologio convenzionale”

A sundial can be a piece of art, or just a simple one to tell us the hours. In our city there are just a few.

The most interesting Sundials in Cluj

1. The oldest sundial is a roman one, made of limestone, which was found in the archeological site “Sapca Verde” Manastur, (now there is a mall, Polus). It was found into Villa Rustica, a roman patrician house and now is at the History Museum.
2. The “St. Mary” Calvaria Church, Manastur, dates from the beginning of the XI-th century. On the southern wall there is a vertical sundial built around XV-th century

3. In the center of our town, on the southern wall of Wolphard-Kakas Villa (nowadays “The University of Belle Arts”), there is a sundial from XVI-th century, but if you want to see it you have to enter into an enclosure (patio) at the top floor of the institute

4. From 2009, the International Year of Astronomy, in the Botanical Garden, there is another sundial. Precisely, an horizontal sundial including a time equation but also a vertical one on the south side of the limestone rock pedestal just in front of the Research Centre Building.
Other exemples

Also, in Cluj county, there are a few sundials on the churches wall like:

- Reformed Church from Sancraiu

- Reformed Church from Turda
- Armeano-catholic church “Sf. Treime”, Gherla, Cluj county

- Reformed Church from Huedin, Cluj County

- Reformed Church from Manastireni
• ADR North-West Building, Radaia, Cluj county

But also, the most important and the oldest sundial is at about 150 km from Cluj, at Costesti. See Costeli paper.