

MARISIA

Studii și materiale

XXXI

Arheologie

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The fibula from Suseni (photo: B. Rezi)

Back cover:
Seal and embossed book ornament from Târgu Mureş (photo: I. Plájás)

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BRONZE OBJECTS FROM THE EXCAVATION OF THE TÂRGU MUREŞ FRANCISCAN FRIARY

ZOLTÁN SOÓS

Mureş County Museum, Târgu Mureş, RO

The Franciscan friary from Târgu Mureş is intensively researched for more than one decade. The present paper proposes to present the bronze objects from these excavations. Based on their utility they were grouped in several types: friary objects, household tools and clothing accessories. A few outstanding artefacts indicate the importance of the Franciscan friary from Târgu Mureş.

Keywords: bronze objects, Franciscan friary, Middle Ages, household objects, clothing accessories

The excavation of the Franciscan friary from Târgu Mureş, one of the largest friaries in the eastern part of the Hungarian kingdom started in 1999.¹ The site of the friary was mainly destroyed in the 17th century; the cloister and most of the friary's buildings were demolished and reused as construction material for the new town wall. The systematic research of the former friary's buildings revealed a number of well preserved archaeological complexes that contained rich archaeological material. These provided solid chronological evidence for the identified artefacts since most of them contained coins or in some cases the stratigraphy offered the necessary information for the dating of an object.

The Târgu Mureş Franciscan friary had four major construction phases (Soós 2002; 2003). The first construction phase can be dated to the 1320's when the first still unidentified church and two wooden buildings, a warehouse and a friary building were built (Fig. 2). The second phase can be dated to the end of the 14th century. In this period the second church (today Calvinist church), the sacristy and the northern wing was built. The third phase is connected to the observant Franciscan activity in the 1440's, when the 55 m high tower was built. The last important construction period was in the 1480's when Transylvanian Voivode Stephen Báthory fortified the friary because of the approaching Turkish danger. In the mid 16th century the whole town was converted to Calvinism and the friary's buildings lost their function. A smaller part of the buildings were used by the protestant school but the other buildings, except the church and the tower, were demolished in order to obtain construction material for the town walls.

The site of the former Franciscan friary was almost completely destroyed by later demolition and within the buildings we found only a few undisturbed areas. The excavations provided

¹ The systematic archaeological excavation at the site of the former Franciscan friary (in present a Calvinist church) started in 1999 under the supervision of Prof. Adrian A. Rusu, from the Institute of Archaeology and History of Art from Cluj Napoca.

a rich and varied bronze material from the 14th and 16th centuries. First we would like to present the different archaeological complexes in a chronological order.

To define the foundation period of the friary it was very important the identification of the 14th century friary buildings. Until now, we have identified two 14th century buildings, which were outside the area of the 15th century stone made friary. The 14th century buildings were made of wood and there were no later constructions above them, therefore we could identify their structure and so the excavated archaeological material is from a well determined chronological period. This is important not only for the history of the friary but it reveals the process of the foundation of a friary in the late middle ages. The foundation and evolution of a friary had several stages and the final result depended a lot on the financial support of the place, on the activity and importance of a friary, on the leaders of a friary, on the strategically important site selection and on the political support. In the case of the Târgu Mureş friary one can follow the whole evolution process from the early wooden phase of a smaller foundation until the construction and fortification of a large religious and pilgrimage centre of regional importance.

The first identified wooden building was the L1. In 2005 the north-western corner of the 15th century friary was researched and instead of the later friary structures the foundation of the northern wall and a small plaza paved with stone was identified. The northern wall was longer than the friaries' courtyard (Fig. 1), probably the Franciscans planned the construction of a western wing as well but for unknown reasons this never happened. Nevertheless, below the plaza marked with the gray colour the traces of an earlier wooden building were identified that was destroyed in a fire. The site of L1 was excavated in 2005–2007 (Fig. 2). The wooden building's floor was dug in the yellow clay, the eastern side was 1 m deepened in the soil while its western side was on the edge of the hill. The pit of the former building was filled up with the garbage resulted after the fire and it was never rebuilt; therefore all the material kept in the house remained below the ruins. This helped to establish an exact chronology and to recover precious archaeological material. Inside the building we identified a large quantity of different types of seeds, pottery (GYÖRFI 2008), leather fragments and even carbonized fragments of wooden tableware such as bowls and cups. Based on the large amount of seeds – mainly grain (CIUTĂ 2009; 2010) – and pottery material indicate that the burned wooden building served as a warehouse.

Some of the architectural elements of the building were also identified, while from one of the partly carbonized roof beams we could get a sample for dendro-chronological analysis. The results were more than satisfactory; we could establish that the oak tree was cut around the year 1315. This means, that the latest by 1317 the building was standing. During the research of the



Fig. 1. The reconstruction of the Franciscan friary based on the results of the archaeological excavations and on the existing analogies (by Gergely Buzás).

eastern side of the building we identified a Charles Robert coin in the destruction layer. With the help of the coin we could establish the functioning interval of the warehouse between the years 1317 and latest around 1350. The precise chronology of the building provided solid evidence in the dating of the bronze material as well. From the L1 warehouse we have two important bronze finds: the remains of a *stilus* and a bronze bowl (cat. no. 3 and 37; Pl. 1/3; 4/37a–d).

The second complex named L3 was identified northeast to the Franciscan friary. It was excavated in 2009–2010 and it turned out to be the remnant of a cellar of the larger 14th century friary building. This building was demolished during the mid 15th century and its construction can be dated to the mid 14th century. The size of L3 was around 96 square meters; its southern wall was 8 meter long and its western wall was 12 meter long. L3 had a specific construction technique. On the bottom of the 2.5 meter deep cellar a 0.6 meter wide and 0.5 meter high stone wall was built using plaster composed of clay mixed with sand. On the stone foundation the wooden wall was placed. Inside the foundation four large wood columns were placed at every three meter. These columns supported probably the upper structure. Based on the archaeological material, the L3 building was demolished, its material was reused at another construction and its cellar was filled up with the garbage of the friary. Based on the coin finds the last period when the L3 functioned could have been the end of the 14th century we have found Louis the Great coins on the cellar's floor. The place of the former cellar was filled up in approximately fifty years; the latest coins were from the mid 15th century. The filling of the cellar contained an enormous quantity of pottery since the place served as a garbage pit after it was abandoned. We have found a large quantity of stove tiles and animal bones along with the garbage of a bone tool workshop that produced mainly rosaries, glass fragments, but iron fragments and bronze material were also revealed.

The bronze material found in L3 contains a number of special objects and tools such as a second 14th century *stilus*, snuffers, book cover ornament, thimble, needle, knife handle, clothing accessories, etc. The large variety of the bronze objects reveals a lot of information about the rich material culture of an important medieval friary. In case of other archaeological sites such a large variety is not characteristic. The most important bronze find from L3 is a so-called pointed oval (*vezica*) shaped 14th century seal. This unique find belonged to the guardian of the Győr (western Hungary) Franciscan friary. We can connect some of the finds to the activity of the friary or to another group of objects found here. For instance the large number of thimbles (eight) might be connected to the presence of a bone workshop. The thimbles were probably used during the drilling process of the bones. The presence of another *stilus* is also connected to the friary where the friars copied codices and documents. The *stilus* was used for writing on wax boards. The book cover ornaments are again connected to the friary's life. Usually larger friaries had a library a compactor and a *scriptorium*, meaning a place where the friars copied the manuscripts. The newly copied books received a cover and necessary bronze ornaments to protect them. The other objects were connected to everyday life and probably one can find them in the case of other medieval sites as well. The knife handles are very widespread but the candle extinguisher fragment from the early 15th century is again a rare piece.

The third important archaeological complex with a considerable number of finds was the cellar of the 15th century friary building. The late gothic construction was demolished in the early 17th century but the filling contained several late medieval objects. The late gothic cellar had around 105 square meters, a little larger than the 14th century cellar. The filling of the cellar consisted mainly of demolition material from the friary buildings; therefore the archaeological



Fig. 2. The ground plan of the 14th century friary with the wooden buildings.



Fig. 3. The fortified Franciscan friary at the late 15th century.

material was not so numerous. Nevertheless, it contained a number of unique and high quality finds, mainly renaissance stove tiles, but in the area of the former heating system we found a larger concentration of book covers. The bronze ornaments were found in ash and burned soil below the filling of the cellar composed of demolition material. Based on the powerful burnt traces on the floor of the cellar we could establish that the northern wing of the friary once burned down and it was reconstructed later. This circumstance let us believe that the scriptorium of the friary was among the heated parts of the buildings and it was destroyed in a fire together with the books.

In the demolition layers of the cellar there were only a few bronze objects, we found one more book cover ornament and a few bronze fragments. The other bronze objects were identified accidentally or they were single finds thus they could not be connected to a specific activity or friary building. Altogether, a very important quantity of bronze artefacts was found, among them several rare objects and some of them, such as the seal, are unique until now in medieval Hungary.²

The bronze material

Generally we call bronze objects all the materials made of copper, plumb or tin alloy. The bronze also contains different materials so we have tin or plumb bronze depending on the quantities. It is important regarding the origin of an object if it is yellow copper, because these are all imported. The bronze material identified during the excavations may be grouped in three major categories.

The first category is composed of objects that belonged to the specific activity of a friary such as items belonging to book binding, seals, etc. The second group is formed of clothing accessories, the third group contains different tools, while in the fourth group we have unidentified objects. Within the three categories one can separate items that were probably produced in specialized town workshops and the rest of the objects were probably imported. In this matter it is of great help the research of E. BENKŐ (2002) on Transylvanian bronze workshops, which produced church bells and baptismal fonts. On the medieval bells of different chronological periods one can see different small decorative medallions. Among these medallions there are two major groups; the first one represents the symbol of different pilgrimage places reused for a longer period within a bell founder workshop, while the second group is composed of book cover ornaments and of cloth or belt accessories. The medallions representing clothing accessories and book cover ornaments have a very wide variety both chronologically and typologically. In the medieval workshops they reused a number of bronze ornaments and in case of each bell or baptistery we have a different set of decoration motifs. Several ornaments were used throughout generations and a certain set of symbols became the trademark of a workshop, therefore the production year of a bell can be misleading in the chronological determination of the decoration elements. Moreover the set of symbols used on the bells can be misleading as well because they do not necessarily reflect the material produced in Transylvanian workshops. We have few written evidences regarding the mobility of the Transylvanian guild members in Sibiu (Hu. Nagyszeben, Germ. Hermannstadt) the son of two different masters studied in Vienna and it is described, that when they returned they brought a number of special bronze items, belt and cloth ornaments, to use as bell or baptismal font ornament in their own workshop (BENKŐ 2002, 180).

2 Two more seals were found in excavations in the Hungarian kingdom, one 14th century seal in Visegrád and one 13th century seal in the Pilis Cistercian monastery.

The chronological horizon of the bronze objects identified at the excavation of the Franciscan friary was established based on the stratigraphy of the layers, on the analogies and based on the database of Transylvanian bells and baptistery fountains. Certain elegant ornaments such as book covers or belt buckles were reused for bell decoration even after half a century (BENKŐ 2002, 174–176). A large part of the decorations were probably borrowed from the local goldsmith's workshops of the town and these decoration elements are usually chronologically closer to the production date of the bells. Nevertheless, these types of objects are only produced in larger centres and in specialized workshops. The more simple bronze items could have been produced in the workshops of smaller towns as well such as most of the clothing accessories or household tools.

Special objects

The first group of bronze finds is connected to the presence and the specific activity of the friary. In case of larger medieval friaries it is very likely to find objects that can be linked to the profile and activity of the institution. During the excavation of similar sites depending of the importance of the place there were found objects that referred to different types of activity. It is very likely to find book cover ornaments as friaries and monasteries are the most important places of literacy for centuries. These institutions usually had smaller libraries; larger centres such as Târgu Mureş had *scriptoriums* and the necessary tools for book binding.

During the excavation 9 objects belonging to book binding were found. Among these, the most significant are a perforated ornament representing a chalice surrounded with acanthus leaves (Pl. 1/8), a book corner ornament (Pl. 1/7) and the rest was composed of buttons bronze made stripes and clamps. There are two cover ornaments, one corner ornament and one casted ornament having a chalice in the middle. The ornaments we found are rather fragmentary so it would be very difficult to reconstruct a possible late medieval book cover. Excellent analogies are offered by the material discovered at the Pilis Cistercian monastery (HOLL 2000) and at the excavations of the Alba Iulia/Gyulafehérvár bishopric palace (MARCUS-ISTRATE 2008; MARCUS-ISTRATE 2009, cat. no. 123–129).

The other special objects are rather rare, very specific and one of them is directly connected to the Franciscan order. During the excavations we have found two *stili* from the 14th century. Used for writing on wax-boards, the medieval *stilus* has a very wide typology. Both pieces (Pl. 1/3–4) came from a closed context, one is dated to the first half of the 14th century, while the second is very likely from the 14th century but it was identified in a garbage pit from the first half of the 15th century. The first *stilus* is elaborate, elegant, it has an octagonal shape and it narrows towards the pin part. It has a rounded end, small but thick spatula shape with two half moon carvings at the base. A small carved line is the mark between the spatula ending and the octagonal body of the *stilus*. Its head is again separated by two small ring decorations from the body followed by a 0.5 cm pin. The *stilus* is approximately 6 cm long. It was found in an early 14th layer dated – as already mentioned – with the help of dendro-chronological analysis of a beam (1317) and a Charles Robert coin (1342). The layer was identified in an approximately 100 square meter storage building (L1, see Fig. 2), which burned down sometimes in the mid 14th century. Based on the style and rarity of the *stilus* it is a unique find in the 14th century Hungarian kingdom. The second *stilus* was identified in building L3 in the filling of the former cellar. It is 15 cm long, its spatula is 3.5 cm long and 1.5 cm wide, the other side ends in a pin. Compared to the other *stilus*

this is a simple piece without any decoration. Based on the filling of the cellar the *stilus* was lost or thrown out sometimes in the early 15th century. The layer contained coins from King Louis the Great (1342–1382) and from King Sigismund of Luxemburg (1395–1437). Therefore, the second *stilus* is again a 14th century item and against the very small number of the preserved medieval *stili* we have to say that in a larger friary with scriptorium it is very likely that there were a larger number of *stili* made of bronze or bone in use but until the present day very few medieval friaries were thoroughly excavated in central Europe. We believe that the *stilus* was used in everyday life in teaching activities or even in daily recordings of the friary. Important friaries worked like charter houses, they copied documents, they wrote letters and they were involved in trials.

We have identified two rings from the late medieval and early modern period. The first one is probably a private seal ring from the late 15th century having a small oval shaped top decorated with a symbol in the middle surrounded by small semicircles. The body of the ring has a simple decoration composed of lines carved on the surface. The ring was made from a single bronze piece (Pl. 1/5). The second ring is from the mid 16th century it is composed from two parts, the top of the ring and the body. The body is a simple bronze ring without any decoration, the top is larger and its centre part has a solar symbol decoration surrounded by semicircles placed along the edges (Pl. 1/6).

The Medieval Seals

The most important bronze finds from the excavation are two seals from the 14th and early 16th centuries. A first seal was identified in the filling of the L3 building's cellar in cassette C30, □3/a at 1.40 m depth. It has a pointed oval (almond-like) shape representing Saint Elisabeth holding a fish in her right hand (Pl. 1/1).³ The figure of the saint has a large crown on her head that fills the upper part of the seal. The figure of the saint stands in contra post and she holds her mantle in the left hand. Usually the main accessories of Saint Elisabeth on medieval representation are the loaf of bread in one hand and a plate or jar in the other hand, also holding a fish in her hand, offering her gown or clothes to the poor referring to the miracle of the mantle, representation with roses in her lap referring to the miracle of the roses (GECSEK 2007). Among these the representation with the loaf of bread and the miracle of the mantle are probably the most often used accessories while the representation with a fish it is used in a smaller number in medieval iconography.⁴ The central field is surrounded by two pearl like stripes that contain the inscription around the figure of the saint. The inscription made possible the exact identification of the origin of the seal. The first letter is an S followed by a dot and it is the abbreviation of Sigillum. After S(igillum) one can read the word GARDIANI that directly connects the seal to the mendicant orders because only they had guardians as leaders of a friary. On the other half of the seal the first letter is an abbreviated E that is the first letter of the guardians name followed by the inscription IAURINUM which offers the exact place of the friary in the town of Győr in western Hungary.

The detailed analysis of the seal revealed a number of elements. Among these the most important are the letter types used on the seal that based on analogies are characteristic for the mid 14th century. They show similarities with the letters used on the seal of the chapter of Csázma

3 Saint Elisabeth belonged to the Franciscan tertiary order. They lived in convent-type houses under a rule – usually *Supra montem* with some added constitutions. The Franciscan tertiaries did not have a common distinctive habit before the formation of the unified Third Order Regular.

4 See the catalogue composed by O. GECSEK (2007).

and on the seal of the Zagreb chapter (TAKÁCS 1992, 42, 99). Another important detail in the chronological identification is related to the background ornament formed by rhomb shaped net with a dot in the middle. Exactly the same motif one can see on the Zagreb seal but it is the late Anjou period in the Hungarian kingdom, when this type of decoration is widely used. On more elaborate seals instead of the dot like decoration one can see different ornaments such as the lily (TAKÁCS 1992, 42). Based on the existing medieval Hungarian ecclesiastic church seal collection presented in the book of I. Takács it is clear that most of the preserved seals were made earlier in the 13th, first half of the 14th centuries and that the material from the second half of the 14th century does not offer very good analogies. It is very likely, that for further and more exact results one should research the Austrian or German ecclesiastic seals from the same period. Taking into account the vicinity of Győr to the Austrian border and its large German population it seems logical that most probably the seal was made by a foreign goldsmith workshop like Vienna.

A last and important element that helps the chronological identification of the Győr seal is the representation of the figure of Saint Elisabeth. The mantle of the saint is arranged in wimples, it covers her left shoulder, where she seems to have a larger cloth buckle. The wimples are more accentuated on her shoulder, her hip seems to be a little wider and her mantle is elegantly stretched at her knees. The way of arranging the mantle and the almost S like contra post of the saint's figure, based on the analogies⁵ indicates that the seal was probably made in the second half of the 14th century.

Gathering the three essential chronological elements the possible production date of the seal is very likely the second half of the 14th century. The filling of the cellar can be dated to the mid 15th century based on the large number of coins. This means that the seal after a few decades of use was lost or intentionally thrown in the garbage after the death of the guardian of the Győr Franciscan friary. We know from documents that guardians of friaries were sent to analyze the activity of the friaries in different districts and with the occasion of the local assemblies. The seal of the Győr guardian shows that he was here in an official mission and it also means that important delegations were sent from remote friaries in order to obtain an objective description of an important friary or of a region. This is one of the possible explanations on how the seal of the guardian of the Győr friary was brought to Târgu Mureş.

The smaller seal (Pl. 1/2) was dated to the late 16th–early 17th century, found in the filling of the stone made cellar built in the early 15th century. It was found in C23 at the depth of 1.5 m in square □1/d. The seal has an octagonal shape with four longer and four shorter sides. Its handle is narrowed until its end, formed by a larger buckle and it was probably hanged in its owner's neck. On the seal one can see a moving lion raising its front right leg placed in a heraldic shield. The lion shows its tongue and it has a raised tail. Above the shield there is a small separated field with two initials G D. These two letters probably are referring to the first letters of the owner. The whole representation and the letters are surrounded by a decoration composed of a pearl row. Based on the shape, size and characteristics of the seal, it belonged very likely to a nobleman. On the basis of its shape and the letter types, the seal can be dated to the mid 16th century and it was lost or thrown during the late 16th–early 17th century. Unfortunately the coat of arms and the initials are still unknown; therefore, the identity of the seal's owner could not be identified.

5 Regarding the iconographical representation, for the clothing the most relevant analogies are from the late 14th early 15th century, see the statues of the Buda castle or the Madonna statues from Toporec/Toporc (Slovakia) and Cisnădioara/Kisdisznód (Romania) in the collection of Hungarian National Museum (MAROSI 1987, 362, 388, 390).

Clothing accessories

The second group of objects presented here are the clothing accessories. There are several local or regional products such as belt ornaments, buttons, pendants and buckles. Among these a square shaped ornament representing a snake surrounding a staff (Pl. 6/65) was found along with a few belt ornaments produced probably in a specialized workshop and one trefoil shaped ring brooch. The belt ornament is pin pointed at one of its edges and it was positioned at the end of the belt. It is lavishly decorated with leaves. The belt buttons have an octagonal shape with a convex middle part and with four claws on the back side. The ring brooch is rather a rare object, there are only around five similar pieces found in Transylvanian excavations. The buckle had a decoration made with incision and it follows the pattern of the late gothic buckles produced in north of Europe. The incision tries to follow the shape of letters and leaves.

An interesting decoration element is a bronze pendant, its upper part is triangle shaped it ends in a hook, its lower part is square shaped and it has a small plate attached with three nails. It seems that the pendant, together with other pendants was attached to a leather belt and then hanged on someone's cloth as decoration. The rest of the bronze pieces are simple buttons and belt buckles.

Household accessories and tools

The third group is composed of bronze objects used in households or in everyday life. Most of the objects from this category were identified in the building L3, that is the cellar of the early 14th century friary building, used as garbage pit after the demolition from the early 15th century. Among the most interesting identified objects was the lower part of a candle extinguisher composed of two spatula shaped sides⁶ and the large number of thimbles was noticeable. Eight thimbles were found and five out of eight were identified in L3. The thimbles could be connected to the large number of carved animal bone material. The carved animal bones were mainly of antler (deer) and from these beads were produced for rosaries. The thimbles could be used in the process of carving or during the string process. We have identified in the same context about six bronze needles.

A separate group of the household tools are the fragments from cutlery and tableware. There were identified knives, forks and bronze made knife or spoon handles. In this article we are only going to discuss the bronze made items so we are only going to deal with the handle of knives and probably spoons. Different types of handles with close analogies at Alba Iulia/Gyulafehérvár (MARCUS-ISTRATE 2009, cat. no. 152, 155, 156, etc.), and a few accessories were found, such as a bronze petal from the end of a handle. The more complex pieces were produced in specialized workshops just as the casted bronze handle or we have a number of knife handles from Steyr or Nürnberg workshops imported in large number. These handles have a special cover from bronze plates combined with animal bone. The bronze plate was often decorated with vegetal ornaments. The elegant handles have a widened crown like ending (Pl. 2/24). Another interesting bronze piece identified during the excavation is a bronze made fishing hook. The hook is 5.7 cm long and it has no beard at its end (Pl. 5/42).

The bronze finds from the Târgu Mureş Franciscan friary are very important and relevant to understand the regional connections of a friary and of a middle sized market town. A number of bronze items found at the friary excavation are rather connected to the wealth and possibilities

6 The artefact has close analogies at Oradea/Nagyvárad (RUSU 2002, 158, pl. LVI/i).

offered by a mid size market town in central Europe but there are also objects directly connected to different activities of a large Franciscan friary. With the comparison of the objects found at the friary and the material identified through the research of the medieval bells and baptismal fonts produced in the workshops of the larger Transylvanian Saxon town's one will see the differences in its content and decoration. The work of E. BENKŐ (2002) revealed that most of the ornamental material used at the bell foundries was a specific collection partly brought from abroad and partly gathered from the local goldsmith workshops that cooperated with the foundries. While the ornamental material of the bell foundries was mainly composed of elegant clothing accessories (belt buckles, discs, pressed plates or clothing ornaments) and book cover ornaments, the bronze material of the friary contains a large number of objects connected to everyday life activities such as bone carving workshop, horse accessories, fishing, tableware (knife and spoon handles), local commerce (weight balance) and only a smaller part of the friary's material is composed of ornamental clothing and book binding accessories. We found similarities between the ornamental discs used in the foundries and between the diadem discs found in the grave M52 (SOÓS-GÁL 2010), but these similarities are again very general, the Anjou lily and the running deer are very widely used in the 14th and 15th centuries. The symbols on the discs are not closely related to the symbols used in the Transylvanian foundries and they were very probably produced in the central part of the Hungarian kingdom. Their close analogies are to be found in the Cuman cemeteries of the great Hungarian plane (HATHÁZY 2002) and in today's Slovakia in the medieval cemetery of Nyitražobor (RUTTKAY 2005). Moreover, the ornamental elements from the friary are rather produced in the region; while the bell foundries gathered specific material from abroad as well; therefore we have only few similar items in the two materials. In the foundries some ornaments were used for generations and each generation added new ornaments and medallions to the collection; therefore it is possible to identify the origin of the bells based on the ornaments and letter types used in a workshop. It became clear that the foundries were closely connected to the goldsmiths, carpenters, engravers and sculptors from where they obtained a part of the ornaments or they remade the used ornaments (BENKŐ 2002, 183–184).

Regarding the workshops we have found important data about the activity of the Transylvanian bronze foundries. Besides producing bells in case of need they produced a number of special objects such as weight balance and very probably bronze bowls and three legged pots (grappe). We have at the friary a number of specific objects such as candle extinguisher, bronze pot leg, fragments of bronze bowls, two *stili*, several thimbles and we believe that all these products except maybe the elegant *stilus* were produced in the Saxon towns of Transylvania in Hermannstadt, Kronstadt or possibly in the nearby Schässburg.

The difference between the ornamental objects found in the friary and used in the bronze foundries can be explained by the nature of the friaries material that came from many different sources through the wide range of donations and pilgrimage, so it is almost impossible to establish the direct source. The only exception is the seal of the Győr Franciscan friary's guardian, which was probably produced in one of the workshops of the western side of the Hungarian kingdom (maybe Pozsony or Buda) or in the nearby Vienna.

The bronze material of the friary identified during the archaeological excavations offers important data regarding the richness of medieval Transylvanian material culture and about the intensity of the commercial relations. A number of objects such as the knife handles (Styria, Nürnberg), diadem discs (central Hungary), seal (western Hungary) arrived here either

through commerce or through the specific Franciscan activity. In this matter the material is unique because it is composed of objects with laic as well as religious background and it reflects how the presence of an important ecclesiastic establishment influenced the material culture and also the connections of the town dwellers with the outside world.

A last important aspect of the bronze material recovered from the excavations is the large variety of fragments and raw material such as bronze wires and plates. Besides the debris material we have a number of spoiled objects and more important we have found several dross fragments and raw bronze. All this finds indicates that a workshop functioned at the Târgu Mureş friary, at least for a certain period, where they produced different type of bronze objects such as needles, book cover accessories and possibly simple cloth accessories. We have one direct source regarding the *scriptorium* of the friary from 1522 but based on the archaeological evidence the book copy workshop was functioning at least from the second half of the 14th century. Based on the finds except the high quality book cover ornaments a number of binding elements such as bronze stripes, hooks, buckles were produced in a workshop that functioned connected to the friary or within the friary. The vicinity of the workshop is proved by the large number of debris and spoiled objects found in the garbage of the friary. Most of the fragments were found in the demolished L3 buildings cellar in burned warehouse L1 and in the filling of the fifteen century cellar. Moreover, the presence of bronze dross proves that the workshop was producing bronze castings as well. Besides the bone carving workshop, the bronze workshop is the second type of manufacture that we could prove with the help of archaeology. Accessories for bronze manufacturing were found in other friaries too, such as a moulding form at Vinţul de Jos/Alvinc Dominican friary (RUSU 1998, cat. no. 38) and a crucible at Teiuş/Tövis Franciscan friary⁷, but in the present day there are not enough proofs for the presence of workshops there.

The Târgu Mureş Franciscan friary is the first from Transylvania where we could prove the existence of workshops that functioned besides and connected to the friary but they very probably fulfilled the needs of the population of the market town and they possibly sold a part of the products for the pilgrims. Therefore the workshops offered an important extra income for the friary and we might expect further discoveries to prove the existence of similar workshops in case of other large friaries as well. This kind of economic activity was very profitable if we think about the large and stabile number of customers represented by the needs of the friary, the inhabitants of the region, the donors and the pilgrims.

CATALOGUE

Special Objects

1. **Seal**, (Inv. no. 8680), C31/2009, C 30, □3/a, -1.4 m, late 14th century. The seal represents Saint Elisabeth holding a fish in her right hand, she has a crown and she wears a mantle. Around the figure of the saint there is an inscription bordered by two rows of pearl *S(igillum) GARDIANI – E* (name of the guardian) *IAURINUM*. The inscription reveals that the seal belonged to the guardian of the Győr Franciscan friary. The seal is 4.7 cm long, 2.7 cm wide and 0.4 cm thick. It has a hook behind from where it was hanged in the guardians neck.
2. **Seal**, (Inv. no. 8556) C23/2008, 1.50m, □4–5/a, late 15th–early 16th century. The seal has an octagonal shape with four longer and four shorter sides. Its handle is narrowed until its end formed by a larger buckle and it was probably hanged in its owner's neck. On the seal one can see a moving lion raising

7 Unpublished information kindly offered by A. A. Rusu.

- its front right leg placed in a heraldic shield. The lion shows its tongue and it has a raised tail. Above the shield there is a small separated field with two initials G D. The seal is 2.7 cm high, the lower seal part is 144 × 1.1 cm, at the hook it is 0.9 cm wide and 0.5 cm thick.
3. **Stilus**, (Inv. no. 7908) 14th century, first half, C13/2006, □4/D, -1.50 m, casting. One side is ended in a pin, the other side is widened, the middle has an octagonal shape and it narrows towards the pin. Before the pin it has three little rings. The *stilus* has a special shape it could be used in the codex transcription for the design of the initials, its length is 7.4 cm.
 4. **Stilus**, (Inv. no. 8669), C34a/2010, □4/B, -2.2 m, casting, second half of the 14th century. On one side there is 3.5 cm long and 1.5 cm wide spatula, the haft is 11.5 cm it is narrowed from the spatula and it is ending in a pinpoint. The length of the *stilus* is 15 cm it was probably used for writing on wax board.
 5. **Seal ring**, (Inv. no. 8550), C23, □e-f/3-4, -2.75 m, it was found in the filling of the 15th century cellar near the western column. Probably a private seal ring from the late 15th century having a small oval shaped top decorated with a symbol in the middle, surrounded by small semicircles. The body of the ring has a simple decoration composed of lines carved on the surface. The ring was made from a single bronze piece. Diameter: 2.7 cm.
 6. **Ring**, (Inv. no. 8681) C6/2004. Ring from the mid 16th century, it is composed from two parts, the top of the ring and the body. The body is a simple bronze ring without any decoration, the top is larger and its central part has a solar symbol decoration surrounded by semicircles placed along the edge. Its diameter is 2 cm its height is 2.4 cm, thickness of the ring 0.18 mm.
 7. **Embossed book corner ornament**, (Inv. no. 8683), S1/1999, □11, - 2.3 m, 15th century, pressed. It has a rhomboidal shape, it was a corner ornament and also protected the book cover. In the middle of the ornament there is a flower symbol in relief with six petals, at the edge it has a decoration motif formed from lines, and on the inner end one can see an oak leaf having two holes at its beginning. The wholes created by the nails are visible. Its length is
 8. **Book cover ornament**, (Inv. no. 7911), C 21/2007, □4/e, -2.9 m, 15th century, casted. The fragment was part of a larger ornament, one of its narrow edges was preserved and it is decorated with a repeating lily motif, between the lilies the ornament was perforated. On the longer side it has two simple edges and between them a decoration of perforated acanthus leaves surrounding a chalice. The rest of the stripe was broken, we do not know local analogies but there is one similar ornament preserved in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum (LOVAG 1999, 87, 228, item no. 220). The ornament is 4.6 cm long, 2.75 cm wide and 0.16 cm thick.
 9. **Book clamp**, (Inv. no. 8686), C34/2010, □b/1, -2 m, early 15th century pressed. It has a trapezoidal shape (2.5 × 1.5 cm) with two nails at its wider side and a simple striated decoration at the edge. On the narrower side there is a buckle for the clamp. Length 4.2 cm, width (middle part) 0.6 cm, width (end part) 1.55 cm.
 10. **Book cover ornament**, (Inv. no. 8698), C29/2008, 15th century, pressed. The pressed ornament was preserved in a very bad shape its decoration is hardly visible. The ornament has a stripe decoration with vertical lines inside surrounding a vegetal ornament consisting of leaves and a spiral line. At the fourth edge it has a dent like decoration. On the object it is visible the trace of a nail. The fragment is 3cm long and 2.4–2.6 cm wide, it has a trapezoidal shape.
 11. **Book buckle**, (Inv. no. 8701), C34/2010, □b/3, -2.30 m, mid 15th century. The buckle is a thicker object, it is widening from one side to the other. It starts with a hook and eye, followed by a round shaped part with a hole in the middle, between a single closing groove and a double closing groove. After the double groove follows the widening body of the buckle, ended in three V shaped dents. Just near the dents there are two holes with the bronze nails inside. On the other side there is a small fragment of a bronze plate and between them it is visible a fragment of leather from the book cover. It has a similar analogy in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum (LOVAG 1999, 90, 230, item no. 230). Its length is 4.4 cm, thickness 0.4 cm, width (wide side) 1.3 cm, width (middle hole) 0.85 cm.
 12. **Book buckle**, (Inv. no. 8705), C 34/2010, -2.6 m, mid 15th century. The buckle is made of a simple tucked plate, it has a hook on its upper part, its lower side has a trapezoidal shape and on the front side it has a V shape dent decoration. On the lower wider side there are two bronze nails preserved in the

- buckle used probably at smaller books. Its length is 2.5 cm its width at the lower wide side is 1.5 cm, its width at the upper part is 1.2 cm.
13. **Book buckle**, (Inv. no. 8749), C34, 15th century, pressed bronze plate. The buckle is composed of a square shaped body having three holes on its surface. One corner was broken just as the hook of the buckle and it has the trace of a cut as it was separated from the book cover. Its length is 3.1 cm its width is 2.1 cm.
 14. **Book cover stripe**, (Inv. no. 8709), C30/2009, 15th century, cut from a larger bronze plate. The book cover stripe has two simple striated decorations at the two edges in the middle it has no ornament. Its length is 5.2 cm, its width is 1.2 cm and its thickness is 0.09 cm.
 15. **Book or box cover stripe**, (Inv. no. 8732), C34/2010, -2.55 m, early 15th century. The stripe was cut from a larger plate its edges are faceted and uneven; it has five holes in the middle part. One side is round; on the other side the ending part was broken. Its length is 11 cm its width is generally 0.65 cm its thickness is 0.1 cm.
 16. **Book cover stripe**, (Inv. no. 8754), C30/2009, -0.8 m, 15th century, bronze stripe. The stripe has no decoration it has six holes in a row two of them still has nails inserted. Its length is 7.5 cm its width is 1.44 cm its thickness is 0.09 cm.
 17. **Book cover ornament**, (Inv. no. 8700), C23/a/2008, □6, -1.4 m, late 15th early 16th century. The square shaped fragment is divided by a square shaped incision that divides in eight equal parts its inside. Every second field is striated. One of its edges has three V shaped decoration besides the decoration there are two holes for the nails, at the opposite side it was continued there is the breaking line. It is 2 cm wide, 2.2 cm long and 0.8 mm long.
 18. **Book cover ornament**, (Inv. no. 8719), C 34/a/2010, □4/c, -2.3 m, 15th century, pressed. The inner end of the ornament has a serrated decoration and two nail holes, on the body of the plate there is a stylized fish ornament formed by two rhomboidal line decoration surrounded by a simple line frame. The outside part of the ornament with the clamp is missing. Its length is 4.7 cm, its width is 1.65 cm, and its thickness is 0.08 cm.
 19. **Book cover button**, (Inv. no. 8720), C25, -1.71 m, 15th century, casted. The button has a 0.7 cm wide rim having a high sphere in the middle. Its height is 0.9 cm, its diameter has 2 cm.
 20. **Book cover clamp**, (Inv. no. 8731), C23, □f/5, -2.3 m, 15th century. Fragment of a smaller book's lock system. The clamp is 1.6 cm long, 0.9 cm wide and 0.12 cm thickness, it ends in a little hook.
 21. **Bronze plate fragment and bronze nail**, (Inv. no. 8728), C23/2008, □1-3/g-h, -2 m, 16th century. The fragment of a bronze plate and nail could be used as book binding accessory. The nail is 1 cm long, the plate is 2.1 cm long and 1.6 cm wide.
 22. **Candle extinguisher**, (Inv. no. 8684), C34/2010, -1 m, late 14th early 15th century, casting. Only the lower part was preserved, the upper part with the handles is missing. On the lower part we have two wider spatula-type ends; one side has a deepened ending so it could extinguish the candle. The deeper side has a wider side where one can see tree circle ornaments having a point in the middle. At every circle the backside of the spatula has a wave like higher point. The extinguisher fragment is 7 cm long.

Household accessories and tools

23. **Knife handle**, (Inv. no. 8687), C34/2010, □4/D, -0.8 m, 15th century, casting. It has a flattened octagonal shape, in the middle it has a simple line drawing decoration formed of five lines. In the two sides it has triangle shaped line decoration, the handle is widened and it has three knobs at its end. From the three knobs two end in a point, the middle one is round shaped. The handle is 7.3 cm long at its end is 1.4 cm wide, at the middle has 0.8 cm.
24. **Knife handle fragment**, (Inv. no. 8708), C34/2010, -3.1 m, 15th century, composed of bronze plate and iron middle. The fragment is from the back side of a handle, it still has its iron core, which is surrounded by the decorated bronze plate. Its decoration is made through incision imitating the form of leafs and it is ending in two circular lines. The end of the handle has three knobs the lower one is ending in a point and it is little longer. The knife probably originated from Styria, it is a German import. Its length is 4.8 cm its width is 2.7 cm at the wider part and 1.74 cm at the lower narrow part.

25. **Knife handle fragment**, (Inv. no. 8718), C34/2010, pressed, 15th century. The fragment is the copper cover plate of a Styrian type knife handle. Its decoration is made through incision imitating the form of leafs and it is ending in two circular lines. The end of the handle has three knobs the lower one is ending in a point and it is little longer. Its length is 4.87 cm its width is 2.25 cm at the wider side, the thickness of the bronze plate is 0.037 cm.
26. **Spoon handle fragment**, (Inv. no. 8729), C34/2010, 15th century, casted. Only the bronze outside cover was preserved of the spoon handle, it has a hexagonal shape narrowing from its backside towards the spoon where the hexagonal handle ends in a rounded part margined by two circular lines. It ends in a small bulb. It is 6.2 cm long its widest upper part is 1.2 cm near the spoon part it is 0.68 cm wide.
27. **Weight**, (Inv. no. 7909), C15, (2006), □2, -1.85 m, casting, 15th century. The weight was used at scale measuring. Its weight (after restoration) is 50 g, its height is 1.64 cm and its diameter is 3.6 cm. It has a round conic shape, inside and outside it has a simple decoration composed of three parallel lines on its rim it has again a decoration formed by three parallel lines. The weight was part of a set composed of twelve or more pieces.
28. **Weight**, (Inv. no. 8688), C8, □3/b, -2.0 m, casting, 15th century. The weight was used at scale measuring. Its weight (after restoration) is 70 g, its height is 2.35 cm and its diameter is 4 cm. It has a round conic shape with narrower bottom and a wider top. There are traces of simple line decoration on the outside. The surface of the weight is deteriorated as it was found just below the walking surface of the cellar entrance and it was in permanent contact with moisture. The two weights were part of different sets.
29. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8689), C34a/2010, □C/4, -2.3 m, first half of the 15th century, casting. Onion shaped thimble decorated with holes placed in a spiral shape. The holes have a practical reason to support the needle and it protected the finger. At the bottom it has a small trench bellow the holes. The thimble is 1.8 cm wide and 1.4 cm high.
30. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8690), C34/2010, □1-6/a-e, -1.6 m, first half of the 15th century, casting. Conic shaped thimble decorated with holes placed in a spiral shape. The holes have a practical reason to support the needle and it protected the finger. At the bottom it has a small trench bellow the holes. The thimble is 1.8 cm wide and 1.4 cm high. The thimble was found near a coin of Sigismund of Luxemburg from the first half of the 15th century.
31. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8691), C31/2009, □C/1, -0.4 m, 14th century, casting. Conic shaped thimble, with a pointed decoration. The thimble was made without a top; at the bottom it has a wider rim. The object is 1.35 cm high and 1.8 cm wide at the bottom.
32. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8694), B/C2 (2005), □1/a-b, 17th century, pressed. Conic shaped thimble, with pointed decoration, it is 1.32 cm wide, and it is 1.41 cm high. At the bottom there is a single circular line closing the decoration.
33. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8692), C34/2010, 1.7-1.9 m depth from the early 15th century filling of the L3 friary building. The thimble has thinner walls it was partially damaged in the soil, it was restored. It has numerous dot like wholes on its surface arranged in a spiral form. At the base of thimble there is an empty space left without any decoration. It is 1.6 cm high and 1.8 cm diameter.
34. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8693), C 25/2008, 1.2 m depth, from the filling of the L2 15th century wooden building. The thimble is slightly distorted, it has 1.8 cm width at the base and it has 1.53 cm height. On the surface there is a pointed decoration arranged in a spiral line.
35. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8695), C30/2009, -3.3-3.7 m, found on the cellars floor level. The thimble has a conic shape with numerous small dot-like points on its surface. At the bottom it has a simple circular line decoration. It is 1.8 cm wide and 1.6 cm high.
36. **Thimble**, (Inv. no. 8696), C38/2011, 0.2 m depth, □ 3/c, besides the filling of the L3 friary building, 15th century. This is the largest thimble found within the friary material, its width is 2.1 cm at the base and 2.2 cm at the top it is 1.82 cm high. The thimble has a conic like shape with slightly rounded top, a soft rim and a narrowing body. At the bottom it has two circular lines closing the pointed spiral line decoration on the outside. Near the circular line at the bottom of the thimble there is a gothic majuscule A letter, probably meaning the name of the manufacturer or eventually the owner.

37. **Bowl**, (Inv. no. 8746), C13/2005. The bowl is among the rare pieces from this period we do not have analogies for the early 14th century but we have representations about similar objects. The bronze bowl had a thin wall its height is 14 cm and its diameter was approximately 40 cm.
38. **Pot leg**, (Inv. no. 8753), C34A/2010, □3/a, -1.7 m. H= 6.4 cm, diameter at the bottom 2.7 cm, diameter at the middle 2 cm. The bronze made leg imitates the shape of a lion leg and it belonged probably to a smaller pot or eventually to an *aquamanile*.
39. **Bronze vessel leg**, (Inv. no. 8747), C23/b, □5/I, 15th–16th century, casted. The vessel leg has a square shaped section it has a widened bottom and it is narrow at the top. Its height is 3.15 cm its width at the bottom is 1.1 cm, at the top is 0.7 cm.
40. **Bronze vessel rim**, (Inv. no. 8697), S2/2003, □5, -1.35 m, 15th century. Rim fragment of a bronze vessel. The fragment was found in a 14th century garbage pit together with numerous pottery fragments and three late 14th century coins (Louis the Great of Hungary). The rim is a fragment of a 14th century bronze vessel it is 7.77 cm wide and 4.2 cm height the thickness of its wall is 0.25 cm.
41. **Chisel**, (Inv. no. 8711), C38, -0.4 m, 15th–16th century. Lower fragment of a bronze gouge, possibly used in the friary workshop. Length 4.5 cm, 2.2 cm, thickness at the top 0.7 cm – at the edge 0.2 cm.
42. **Fishing hook**, (Inv. no. 8710), C20/2007, □1/a, -1.55 m. 16th century. The fishing hook is 5.7 cm long and there is 1.3 cm distance between the pin and the body. In the upper side there is a small ring for the thread.
43. **Needle**, (Inv. no. 8736), C23/2008, □3–4/e–f, -2.8 m, 15th–16th centuries. The needle has a small bulb at its end and it is pin pointed at the other end. It is 5.5 cm long and 0.11 cm thick.
44. **Needle**, (Inv. no. 8737), C23/2008, □3–4/e–f, -2.8 m, 15th–16th centuries. The needle has a small bulb at its end and it is pin pointed at the other end. It is 5.7 cm long and 0.11 cm thick.
45. **Needle**, (Inv. no. 8738), C23/b/2008, □3/i, -1.2 m, 15th–16th centuries. The needle has a small bulb at its end and it is pin pointed at the other end. It is 2.9 cm long and 0.095 cm thick.
46. **Needle**, (Inv. no. 8739), C23/2008, □d/5, -2.3 m, 15th–16th centuries. The needle has a small bulb at its end and it is pin pointed at the other end. It is 3.3 cm long and 0.085 cm thick.
47. **Needle**, (Inv. no. 8740), C23/a/2008, □h/5, -2.3 m, 15th–16th centuries. The needle has a small bulb at its end and it is pin pointed at the other end. It is 2.5 cm long and 0.091 cm thick.
48. **Auger**, (Inv. no. 8748), C13/2005, 14th century. The auger has a square shaped body from its middle part that is narrowing and it ends in a point. The other side is round shaped it is slightly narrowing, from this side it was attached to a wooden handle. It is 8.1 cm long and 0.33 cm thick.
49. **Filter**, (Inv. no. 8730), C34/2010, -3.1 m, 15th century, pressed. The filter fragment has a wider 1 cm margin the rest of the fragment has wholes on the surface. It is 6.4 cm long and 3.8 cm wide, its thickness is 0.05 cm.
50. **Bronze ring**, (Inv. no. 8723), C7/2004, □2/c, -1.35 m. 16th century, bronze wire. It was the accessory of a tool, its section is square shaped, its diameter is 2.3 cm its thickness is 0.08 cm.

Clothing accessories

51. **Button**, S IV/1999, -0.34 m, 15th–16th century, pressed. Round shaped bronze button, its decoration is hardly visible because of its deterioration, could have been a flower in the middle. It has 2.3 cm diameter and 0.7 cm height.
52. **Button**, (Inv. no. 8734), C31/2010, -2.5 m, 15th century, pressed. It was made from a thin 0.1 cm thick bronze plate to which they soldered a hook. It has a 0.2 cm rim and its diameter is 1.5 cm.
53. **Button**, (Inv. no. 8735), C34/2010, -2.7 m, 15th century. The button was cut from a simple bronze plate it has two narrow holes cut into the surface. Through the holes they entered a strong bronze stripe and they folded in two sides. The button could be on a leather cloth. It has 1.2 cm diameter, its legs are 2 cm and 1.8 cm long.
54. **Triangle belt ornament**, (Inv. no. 8704), C31/2009, -2.7 m, 15th century. Triangle shaped pressed ending of a narrow belt with two nails, it is 3.1 cm long and 1.7 cm wide.

55. **Belt ornament**, (Inv. no. 8706), C6/2004, -1.2 m, 15th century, casted. The belt ornament was found above the medieval floor level of the cloister. It was placed at the end of a belt. The belt ornament has a pointed end its surface is covered by a rich floral palmetto ornament. Its beginning follows the shape of the leaf and close to this there is a nail that was pierced through the ornament to attach this to the leather. Its backside has no ornaments. Its length is 3 cm, width is 1.8 cm, its thickness is 0.4 mm. The ornament has close analogies within the small and mid size market towns (BENKÓ 1992).
56. **Belt button**, (Inv. no. 7915) S I/1999, □ C 1, 15th century, casted. It has an octagonal shape at its edge there is a thin 2.6 mm rim in the middle it has a spherical shape with a small point at its top. The diameter of the button is 2.6 cm its height is 1 cm. On the back side it has four claws that made possible its attachment to a leather cloth.
57. **Belt button**, (Inv. no. 7914), C8/2004, □5, -0.45 m, 15th century, casted. It has an octagonal shape at its edge there is a thin 2.6 mm rim in the middle it has a spherical shape with a small point at its top. The diameter of the button is 2.6 cm its height is 0.9 cm. On the back side it has four claws that made possible its attachment to a leather cloth.
58. **Belt button**, (Inv. no. 8682), C23/2008, -0.45 m, from the filling of the 15th century cellar, 15th century, casted. It has an octagonal shape at its edge there is a thin 2.3 mm rim, in the middle it has a convex shape with a small point at its top. The diameter of the button is 2.9 cm its height is 1cm. On the back side it has four claws that made possible its attachment to a leather cloth.
59. **Ring brooch**, (Inv. no. 8702), C36/2011, -1.6 m. The brooch fragment was found in the 15th century graveyard of the friary inside the chapter house. The fragment is from a four leaf clover shaped ring brooch; its decoration is made through incision. At the two edges it has two lines, within them rhomboidal simple ornaments. It has one hole preserved that served for the attachment of the brooch to the cloth. On the surface there are traces of gilt. It is 0.88 cm wide and length of the fragment is 4 cm. The diameter of the buckle could be around 5.4–5.6 cm.
60. **Belt buckle, spoiled**, (Inv. no. 8745), C34/2010, -2.8 m, late 14th–early 15th century. The piece looks like a spoiled buckle; this is the first evidence of the existence of a bronze workshop. One side of the buckle is straight here it could have been connected to the belt. The buckles diameter is 2.8 cm and its thickness is 0.17 cm.
61. **Belt ornament**, (Inv. no. 8699), C23/2008, from the filling of the 15th century cellar. It is a fragment from a belt ornament, having a flower with five petals in the middle marked by two stripes at the two edges. It is 2.1 cm wide and 1.55 cm long.
62. **Cloth buckle**, (Inv. no. 8703), C34/a/2010, C/2 □, -1.6 m, (pressed) a square shaped 2 × 2.1 cm large buckle having a whole at each corner and a claw on one side. Besides the buckle we found a 4 cm long bronze band that was probably connected to the buckle.
63. **Bracelet**, (Inv. no. 8707), C13/2006, first half of the 14th century. The bracelet is composed of spun bronze wire. It is an important and rare find for the early 14th century Transylvania together with the preserved bronze wire fragments. Two fragments were preserved from the bracelet. It is probably imported from Germany. Its thickness is around 0.36 cm, the lengths of the fragments are 7.4 cm and 5 cm.
64. **Bronze wire**, (Inv. no. 8711), SIII/2003, □5, -1.4 m, 14th century. The roll of bronze wire was found bellow the 15th century walking layer near the wall, close to a grave. It was probably imported for a local manufacture as a raw material and used for cloth decoration. We found two types of metal threads, one has a simple thread form and the second has spiral a shape with a simple bronze thread in the middle.
65. **Embossed ornament**, (Inv. no. 8683), C34a/2010, -2.3 m, late 14th–early 15th century, pressed. Cloth ornament, made from embossed copper plate. The ornament is square shaped, its size is 4.6 × 4.6 cm and has a central image surrounded by a blank frame and the very edge has a pearl decoration. In the middle square there is a symbolic representation of a snake surrounding a column, the snake has on both sides a head. In the background one can see an ornament imitating trees. A possible explanation for the representation is the example of the fire snake from the book of Moses.

66. **Pendant**, (Inv. no. 8717), sporadic find in the Târgu Mureş castle. The pendant was probably a cloth accessories and it seems to be from the 15th–16th centuries. It has a hook on the top followed by a triangle shaped top and a trapezoidal body. On the edges it has a simple line decoration at the top triangle part it has a striated decoration. On the back side another smaller trapezoidal plate is nailed with three nails. Its length is 3.1 cm; its width is 1.8 cm at the bottom.
67. **Cloth ring**, (Inv. no. 8712), C34/2010, 15th century, bronze casting. The wide ring has two edges at both sides and on one side there is a simple line decoration. The ring was very probably a cloth accessory. Its diameter is 3,7cm, the width of the ring is 0.7 cm and its thickness is 0.36 cm.
68. **Cloth ring**, (Inv. no. 8713), C35/a/2011, -1.05 m, besides the grave M110. 15th century, bronze casting. The wide ring has two edges on both sides. The ring was very probably a cloth accessory. Its diameter is 3.9 cm, the width of the ring is 0.67 cm and its thickness is 0.33 cm.
69. **Cloth ring**, (Inv. no. 8714), C35/a/2011, -1.1 m, 15th century, bronze casting. It was also found in the vicinity of the graves. The body of the ring is circular without any specific decoration. The ring was very probably cloth accessory. Its diameter is 2.8 cm and the width of the ring is 0.4 cm.
70. **Cloth ring**, (Inv. no. 8715), C36/2011, -1.4 m, 15th century, bronze casting. It was bellow the 16th century clay bed of the brick floor. The body of the ring has a flattened part it has no decoration. The ring was very probably a cloth accessory. Its diameter is 3.37 cm, the width of the ring is 0.4 cm.
71. **Cloth ring**, (Inv. no. 8716), C34/2010, □a/2, -2.55 m, 15th century, bronze casting. It was found in a 15th century filling layer. The body of the ring is circular without any specific decoration. The ring was very probably cloth accessory. Its diameter is 2 cm and the thickness of the ring is 0.3 cm.
72. **Cloth ring**, (Inv. no. 8726), C36/2011, -m, 15th century, casting. The bronze cloth ring we identified in a fifteen century grave and it also had an unidentified coin besides. The simple rings section has an ellipsoid form its diameter is 4 cm, its thickness is 0.5 cm in the front and 0.35 cm on the side.
73. **Cloth clamp**, (Inv. no. 8721), C35/a/2011, -1.6 m, found in the grave M129 on the right femur. It is from the 15th century, made of bronze wire. The cloth clamp has two parts a hook and an eye. On several medieval representations one can see similar clothing accessory, this is the first grave where we have found a medieval cloth clamp in good condition.
74. **Cloth clamp**, (Inv. no. 8722), C35/a/2011, -1.2 m, found in a grave, on the right femur. It is from the 15th century it was made of bronze wire. It was a cloth accessory, only the hook side of the clamp was preserved.

Others

75. **Twisted bronze wire**, (Inv. no. 8733), C34/2010, -2.6 m, 15th century. The bronze wire is bended in a semicircle and it is twisted therefore it has a spiral decoration on the surface; it ends in an eye for a hook. We do not know its usage. It is 0.17 cm thick and 3.6 cm is the diameter of the semicircle.
76. **Bronze lily ornament**, (Inv. no. 8742), C23/2008, □e-f/3-4, -2.8 m, 15th century. Lily shaped bronze ornament fragment, only the upper part of the lily was preserved with three petals. It has a simple incised decoration on its surface and it was punched in the middle. It is 2.48 cm high 2.13 cm wide, its thickness is 0.2 cm.
77. **Bronze wire**, (Inv. no. 8743), C34/2010, □a/4, -1.9 m, 15th century. Bronze wire probably used as raw material for bronze processing, decoration etc. It thickness is 0.2 cm its length is 13 cm.
78. **Bronze wire**, (Inv. no. 8744), C34/2010, -1.6 m, 15th century. Bronze wire probably used as raw material for bronze processing, decoration etc. It thickness is 0.34 cm its length is 5.4 cm.
79. **Stripe with whole**, (Inv. no. 8725), C23/2008, □c-d/4-5, 15th–16th centuries, bronze plate from the walking layer of the 15th century cellar. The stripe has a widened part with a square shaped hole in it and the trace of a line incision near the hole. The piece was very probably part of the lock of a little box. Its length is 8.7 cm its width at the whole is 0.75 cm, its average width is 0.5 cm and its thickness is 0.15 cm.
80. **Bronze plate with furrow**, (Inv. no. 8727), C31/2009, -1.9 m, 15th century, pressed. The bronze plate has a 0,4cm furrow in the middle and on one side it is slightly bended at the edge. It is 3.8 cm long and 2.1 cm wide.

81. **Bronze stripe**, (Inv. no. 8750), C34/2010, 15th century. The bronze stripe is twisted in its third part; it seems to be a spoiled piece. Its length is 10.8 cm its width is 0.8 cm its thickness 0.14 cm.
82. **Spacer**, (Inv. no. 8751), C34/2010, b-d/2-4, -2.3 m, 15th century. The oval shaped spacer was probably produced for a handle; it has a square shaped hole in the middle and a number of scratches on its surface. It is 2 cm wide and 0.09 cm thick.
83. **Bronze plate**, (Inv. no. 8752), C34/2010, c/2, -2.2 m, 15th century. The bronze plate has three evenly placed holes in a row. It is 2.9 cm long 1.95 cm wide and 0.05 cm thick.
84. **Bronze stripe with hook**, (Inv. no. 8724), C30/2010, -0.8 m, 15th century, bronze plate. The stripe has no decoration on one of its end it has two nails, in the vicinity of the other end has three small holes, while at the end there is a tube to attach to the body of the book or box. Its length is 7.5 cm its width is 1.44 cm its thickness is 0.09 cm.
85. **Bronze plate**, (Inv. no. 8755) C30/2009, -0.8 m, 15th century, bronze plate. The plate has a hole in the middle; it seems to be a removed bronze piece from a book cover or other item. Its height is 2.6 cm its width is 2.7 cm.

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Fig. 1. The reconstruction of the Franciscan friary based on the results of the archaeological excavations and on the existing analogies (by Gergely Buzás).

Fig. 2. The ground plan of the 14th century friary with the first church (later chapter house) and the wooden buildings.

Fig. 3. The fortified Franciscan friary at the late 15th century.

LIST OF PLATES

Pl. 1–6. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureș–Franciscan Friary.



Plate 1. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureș–Franciscan Friary.



Plate 2. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureș–Franciscan Friary.



Plate 3. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureș–Franciscan Friary.

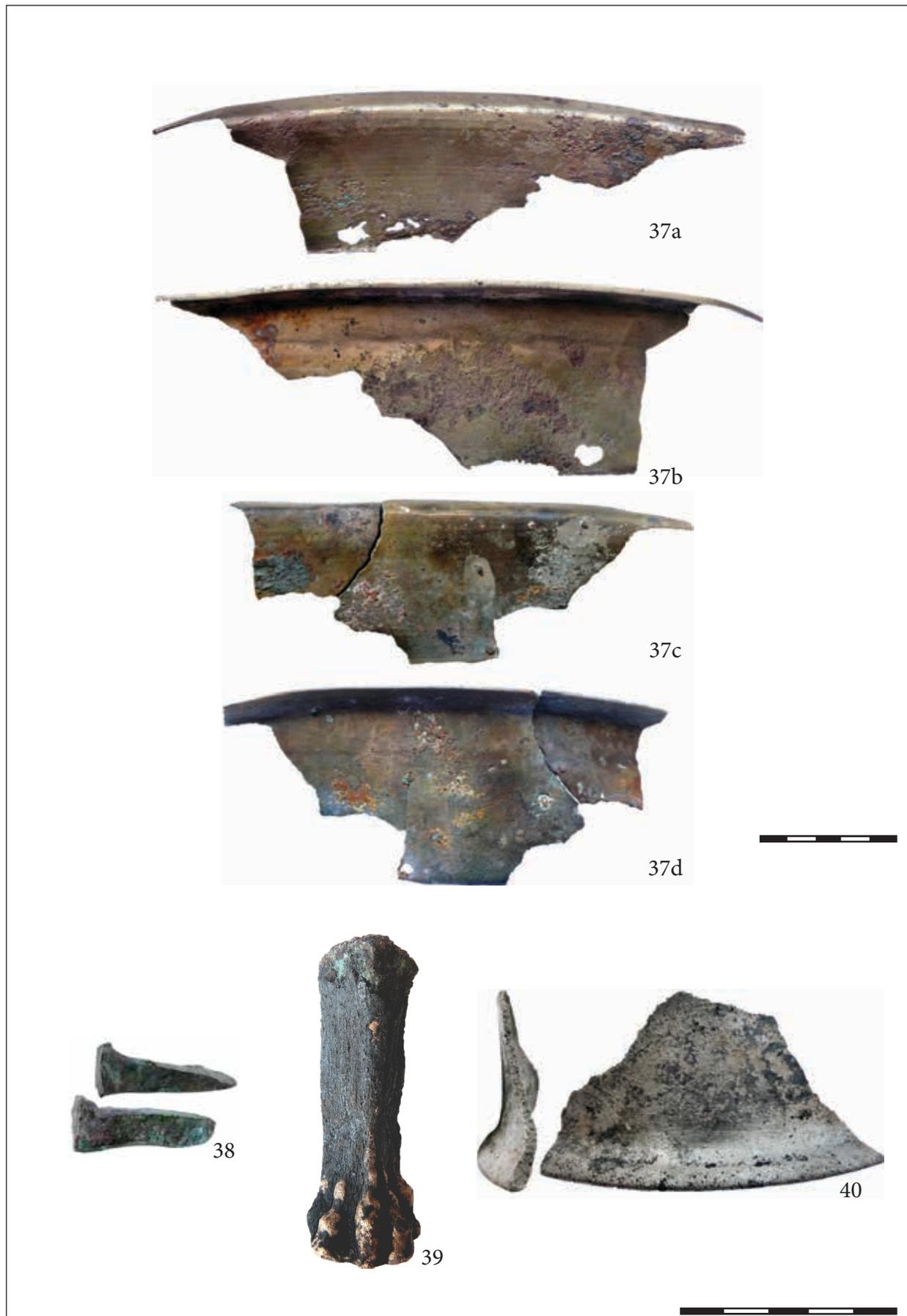


Plate 4. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureş–Franciscan Friary.



Plate 5. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureș–Franciscan Friary.



Plate 6. Bronze objects from Târgu Mureș–Franciscan Friary.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABSz</i>	Acta Biologica Szegediensis
<i>Acta</i>	Acta (Siculica), Muzeul Național Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>ActaArch</i>	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaArch Carpatica</i>	Acta Archaeologica Carpathica, Academia Scientiarum Polona Collegium Cracoviense, Kraków
<i>ActaArch København</i>	Acta Archeologica, København
<i>ActaMN</i>	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ActaMP</i>	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>Aetas</i>	Aetas, Történettudományi folyóirat
<i>AJA</i>	American Journal of Archaeology
<i>AJPhA</i>	American Journal of Physical Anthropology
<i>Alba Regia</i>	Alba Regia, Annales Musei Stephani Regis, Székesfehérvár
<i>Aluta</i>	Aluta, Revista Muzeului Național Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>AMIT</i>	Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran und Turan, Berlin
<i>Analele Banatului</i>	Analele Banatului, Muzeul Banatului, Timișoara
<i>Anatolian Studies</i>	Anatolian Studies, Journal of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara
<i>Annales MNH</i>	Annales Musei Historiae Naturalis Hungariae, Budapest
<i>AnnalesUA, SH</i>	Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica, Alba Iulia
<i>Angustia</i>	Angustia, Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>AnthrAnz</i>	Anthropologischer Anzeiger, Journal of Biological and Clinical Anthropology
<i>AnthrKözl</i>	Anthropológiai Közlemények, A Magyar Biológiai Társaság Embertani Szakosztályának folyóirata, Budapest
<i>Antiquity</i>	Antiquity, London
<i>AO</i>	Arhivele Olteniei, Craiova
<i>Apulum</i>	Apulum, Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
<i>ArchAustr</i>	Archaeologia Austriaca, Wien
<i>ArchBulg</i>	Archaeologia Bulgarica, Sofia
<i>ArchÉrt</i>	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
<i>ArchHung</i>	Archaeologia Hungarica, Budapest
<i>ArchKorr</i>	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum in Mainz
<i>Argesis</i>	Argesis, Studii și Comunicări, Pitești
<i>ArhMold</i>	Arheologia Moldovei, Iași
<i>Asmosia</i>	Association for the Study of Marble and Other Stones In Antiquity
<i>ATN</i>	Archaeological Textile Newsletter
<i>AVSL</i>	Archiv des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde
<i>BA</i>	Biblioteca de Arheologie, București
<i>BAI</i>	Bibliotheca Archaeologica Iassiensis, Iași
<i>BAM</i>	Bibliotheca Archaeologica Moldaviae, Iași
<i>Banatica</i>	Banatica, Muzeul de istorie al județului Caraș-Severin, Reșița
<i>BAR</i>	British Archaeological Reports, International Series, Oxford

<i>BAU</i>	Beihefte Atlas der Urgeschichte
<i>BCMI</i>	Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice
<i>BCRC</i>	Buletinul Centrului de Restaurare-Conservare a Patrimoniului Cultural Național, Iași
<i>BCȘS</i>	Buletinul Cercurilor Științifice Studentești, Alba Iulia
<i>BdA</i>	Bolletino di Archeologia
<i>Beiträge MK</i>	Beiträge zu ur- und frühgeschichtlichen Archäologie des Mittelmeer-Kulturraumes, Bonn
<i>Beiträge UFMV</i>	Beiträge zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns
<i>BerRGK</i>	Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission
<i>BHAB</i>	Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica
<i>BHAUT</i>	Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis
<i>BM</i>	Bibliotheca Marmatia, Baia Mare
<i>BMA</i>	Biblioteca Mvsei Apvlensis, Alba Iulia
<i>BMAnt</i>	Bibliotheca Memoriae Antiquitatis, Muzeul de istorie Piatra Neamț
<i>BMBistrița</i>	Biblioteca Muzeului Bistrița
<i>BMM</i>	Bibliotheca Mvsei Marisiensis, Seria Archaeologica, Târgu Mureș, Cluj Napoca
<i>BMN</i>	Bibliotheca Mvsei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>BMP</i>	Bibliotheca Mvsei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>BMTA</i>	Buletinul Muzeului Teohari Antonescu, Giurgiu
<i>BPH</i>	Bibliotheca Praehistorica Hispana, Madrid
<i>BpRég</i>	Budapest Régiségei, Budapest
<i>B-PS</i>	Baltic-Pontic Studies
<i>Bremer ArchBl</i>	Bremer Archäologische Blätter, Focke-Museum, Bremer Landesmuseum
<i>Britannia</i>	Britannia, A journal of Romano-British and Kindred Studies
<i>BT</i>	Bibliotheca Thracologica, București
<i>CA</i>	Cercetări Arheologice
<i>Carpica</i>	Carpica, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă „Iulian Antonescu“, Bacău
<i>CCA</i>	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România
<i>CI</i>	Cercetări Istorice
<i>ComArchHung</i>	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Corviniana</i>	Corviniana, Acta Musei Corviniensis, Hunedoara
<i>Crisia</i>	Crisia, Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea
<i>CRPC</i>	Conservarea și Restaurarea Patrimoniului Cultural, Iași
<i>CurrA</i>	Current Anthropology
<i>CsSzME</i>	Csíki Székely Múzeum Évkönyve, Csíkszereda
<i>Dacia</i>	Dacia, Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, I–XII (1924–1948), București; Nouvelle série (N. S.), Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, București
<i>DDMÉ</i>	A Debreceni Déri Múzeum Évkönyve
<i>DolgKolozsvár (Ú. S.)</i>	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából, (új sorozat, 2006–), Kolozsvár
<i>Eirene</i>	Eirene, Studia Graeca et Latina, Prague
<i>EM</i>	Erdélyi Múzeum, Kolozsvár
<i>EphemDacoromana</i>	Ephemeris Dacoromana
<i>EphemNap</i>	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj–Napoca
<i>EpigAnat</i>	Epigraphica Anatolica, Köln
<i>EPRO</i>	Etudes préliminaires aux religions orientales dans l'Empire romain
<i>ETF</i>	Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek, Kolozsvár
<i>FBSMB</i>	Forschungen und Berichte der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin

<i>FMSt</i>	Frühmittelalterliche Studien, Münster
<i>FolAnthr</i>	Folia Anthropologica, Szombathely
<i>FolArch</i>	Folia Archeologica, a Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Évkönyve, Budapest
<i>FÖ</i>	Fundberichte aus Österreich, Wien
<i>Godišnjak Sarajevo</i>	Godišnjak Centra za Balkanoloska Ispitivanja Akademije Nauka i Umjetnosti, Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo
<i>Germania</i>	Germania, Frankfurt am Main
<i>Hesperia</i>	Hesperia, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
<i>IPH</i>	Inventaria Praehistorica Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Jahrbuch RGZM</i>	Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz
<i>JahrDAI</i>	Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Berlin
<i>JahrMV</i>	Jahresschrift für Mitteldeutsche Vorgeschichte, Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften for the Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte (Halle), Berlin
<i>JahrOM</i>	Jahrbuch des Oberösterreichischen Musealvereines
<i>JAMÉ</i>	A Nyíregyházi Jóna András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza
<i>JAMT</i>	Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory
<i>JBAA</i>	Journal of the British Archaeological Association
<i>JfA</i>	Jahrbuch für Altertumskunde
<i>JFS</i>	Journal of Forensic Sciences
<i>JHE</i>	Journal of Human Evolution
<i>JRS</i>	Journal of Roman Studies
<i>MAkadÉrt</i>	Magyar Akadémiai Értesítő
<i>Marisia</i>	Marisia (V–), Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
<i>MCA</i>	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
<i>MCIV</i>	Materiale și Cercetări de Istorie Veche a României, București
<i>MIMK</i>	Molnár István Múzeum Kiadványai, Cristuru Secuiesc
<i>MittAGW</i>	Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft Wien
<i>MittBGAEU</i>	Mitteilungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte
<i>MittCCEB</i>	Mittheilungen der Central-Commission zur Erhaltung der Baudenkmale
<i>MΩMOΣ</i>	MΩMOΣ, Óskoros Kutatók Összejövetelének konferenciakötete
<i>Monographien RGZM</i>	Monographien Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz
<i>MTAÉ</i>	Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Évkönyve
<i>Offa</i>	Offa, Berichte und Mitteilungen zur Urgeschichte, Frühgeschichte und Mittelalterarchäologie
<i>OpArch</i>	Opuscula Archaeologica, Arheološki zavod, Filozofski fakultet u Zagrebu
<i>Ősrégészeti levelek</i>	Ősrégészeti levelek / Prehistoric newsletter, Budapest
<i>PA</i>	Patrimonium Apulense, Alba Iulia
<i>PamArch</i>	Památky Archeologické, Praha
<i>PAS</i>	Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa, Berlin, Kiel, München
<i>PB</i>	Patrimonium Banaticum, Timișoara
<i>PBF</i>	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, München, Stuttgart
<i>Peuce</i>	Peuce, Studii și cercetări de istorie și arheologie, Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale Tulcea, Institutul de Istorie și Arheologie, Tulcea
<i>Pontica</i>	Pontica, Anuarul Muzeului de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța
<i>PPS</i>	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, London
<i>PZ</i>	Praehistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin
<i>Pulpudeva</i>	Pulpudeva, Semaines philippopoitaienes de l'histoire et de la culture traces
<i>RdA</i>	Rivista di Archeologia
<i>RégFüz</i>	Régészeti Füzetek, Budapest
<i>RevArh</i>	Revista Arhivelor, București

<i>RevBis</i>	Revista Bistriței, Complexul Județean Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud
<i>RGF</i>	Römisch-Germanische Forschungen, Mainz, Berlin
<i>RHistRel</i>	Revue de l'histoire des religions
<i>RRTP</i>	Revista română de textile-pielărie, Iași
<i>RSP</i>	Rivista di scienze preistoriche, Istituto Italiano di Preistoria e Protostoria
<i>Sargetia</i>	Sargeția, Buletinul Muzeului județului Hunedoara, Acta Musei Devensis, Deva
<i>SCICP</i>	Studii și comunicări de istorie a civilizației populare din România, Muzeul Brukenthal, Sibiu
<i>SCIV(A)</i>	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
<i>SIMA</i>	Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology
<i>SlovArch</i>	Slovenská Archeológia, Bratislava
<i>SpecNova</i>	Specimina Nova Dissertationum ex Instituto Historico Universitatis Quinqueecclesiensis de Jano Pannonio nominatae, Pécs
<i>StComCaransebeș</i>	Studii și Comunicări de Istorie Veche Caransebeș
<i>StCom Satu Mare</i>	Studii și Comunicări Satu Mare
<i>StCom Sf. Gheorghe</i>	Studii și Comunicări Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>StCom Sibiu</i>	Studii și Comunicări, Muzeul Brukenthal, Sibiu
<i>StudiaD</i>	Studia Danubiana, Series Symposia
<i>Studia Troica</i>	Studia Troica, Universität Tübingen
<i>StudiaUBB</i>	Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, series Historia, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Studie AUCAB</i>	Studie Archeologického Ústavu Československé Akademie věd v Brně, Praha
<i>Študijné zvesti</i>	Študijné zvesti, Archeologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akadémie Vied, Nitra
<i>Suceava</i>	Suceava, Anuarul Complexului Muzeal Bucovina
<i>Swiatowit</i>	Swiatowit, Rocznik katedry archeologii pierwotnej i wczesnosredniowiecznej Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego
<i>Századok</i>	Századok, A Magyar Történelmi Társulat folyóirata
<i>Terra Sebus</i>	Terra Sebus, Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Sebeș
<i>Thraco-Dacica</i>	Thraco-Dacica, Institutul de Tracologie, București
<i>Tisicum</i>	Tisicum, A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, Szolnok
<i>TrudyErmit</i>	Trudy Gosudarstvennogo Ėrmitaža
<i>UPA</i>	Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
<i>VAH</i>	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica, Budapest
<i>VIA KÖK</i>	VIA, Kulturális és Örökségvédelmi Kismonográfiák – Monographia Minor in Cultural Heritage, Budapest
<i>VF</i>	Vorgeschichtliche Forschungen, Berlin
<i>Zargidava</i>	Zargidava, Revistă de istorie, Bacău
<i>ZE</i>	Zeitschrift für Ethnologie
<i>ZSL</i>	Zeitschrift für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde