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XXXIII

Arheologie



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Peter Anreiter, Eszter Bánffy, László Bartosiewicz, Wolfgang Meid, Carola Metzner-Nebelsick (eds),
*Archaeological, Cultural and Linguistic Heritage. Festschrift for Erzsébet Jerem in Honour of her 70th
Birthday*, 2012, Main Series 25, 633 pp. with BW and colour illustrations ISBN 978-963-9911-28-4
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ANOTHER EARLY IRON AGE ZOOMORPHIC CLAY FIGURINE FROM TÂRGU MUREŞ

SÁNDOR BERECKI

Keywords: zoomorphic figurine, porcine, Iron Age, Târgu Mureş

Cuvinte cheie: figurină zoomorfa, porcine, epoca fierului, Târgu Mureş

Clay figurines are frequent finds in Early Iron Age sites. The pieces of information regarding these artefacts frequently are limited to their mentioning and/or illustration, however several syntheses, analytic and experimental studies have also been written. On the margin of a recent discovery from the fortress in Târgu Mureş the paper brings into discussion (again) the Early Iron Age zoomorphic clay figurines.

The prehistoric materials from the archaeological layers in the fortress from Târgu Mureş are scarce due to the landscaping and earth works of the later periods. Only a few prehistoric features were revealed, since the establishment of the Franciscan friary and then the buildings of the medieval and modern town, followed by the constructions of the Austrian Army heavily disturbed the layers from earlier periods. The first settlement on this terrace situated on the left bank of the Mureş River dates from the Neolithic Starčevo–Criş–Körös culture;¹ from this period a few hearths, clayed platforms and pottery were found. From the soil above the Stone Age layer, finds from the Wietenberg and Noua cultures were unearthed,² followed by the Early Iron Age layer and the correspondent few features. After the beginning of the first millennium BC the terrace was inhabited again at the beginning of the first millennium AD by Romans and communities from the migration period.³

During the excavations from the last years several Early Iron Age figurines were revealed. In 2011, a clay figurine representing a horse was found,⁴ followed by further figurines in 2012. The present paper presents one of these clay finds from the last year.

The fragmentary clay figurine is brown coloured; because of the uneven firing its colour is lighter on one side and darker on the other. Its

surface is rough, it was tempered with crushed potsherds and chaff, thus pores can be observed on the surface of the object. The two legs on the right side are broken, the legs on the left side are conical, as well as the two ears. The mane is indicated by a rib drawn from the paste, which starts between the two ears in the front and has an oblique trajectory, ending on the right side of the rump. The representation is highly schematic; the anatomical characteristics of the animal can hardly be defined. The determination of the species is also made difficult by the fragmentation of the figurine: the frontal, head part which might greatly help in the classification, is missing. Even so, considering the mane and the analogies, one may define the figurine as a representation of a wild boar.

Conditions of discovery: Târgu Mureş–Fortress, 2012/C41a, -120 cm. Dimensions: length: 28.75 mm; frontal height: 19.31 mm; dorsal height: 23.76 mm; ears' length: 5.65 mm; length of frontal legs: 8.02 mm; length of dorsal legs: 8.76 mm; length of the mane: 23.88 mm. Weight: 5.95 g.

The clay figurine is very schematic and rough, like the majority of the figurines from this period.⁵ Regarding the details presented on the representations of wild boars one can observe that – excepting two of the finds from Lechinţa de Mureş, where the tusks are also represented⁶ – only the ears are modelled on the head, without further details.⁷

¹ Petică – Molnár 2000.

² Petică – Apai 2003.

³ Körösfői 2009.

⁴ Berecki 2012.

⁵ Vasiliev 1986, 80.

⁶ Horedt 1963, Abb. 2/3, 5.

⁷ Ursache 1999, 43.



Fig. 1. Zoomorphic clay figurine from Târgu Mureș (drawing: A. Pokorny).

The closest analogies can be mentioned from Teleac⁸ and Lysychnyky.⁹ In the case of the object from Târgu Mureș, the definition of the species was attempted based on the mane of the figurine, although at Lysychnyky in Ukraine such manes are also characteristic for bulls; yet, in their case the species can be defined on the basis of the abdominal anatomical elements.

Regarding the number of the zoomorphic representations, at the very end of the 20th century only 82 such objects were known, out of which fourteen were representing porcine.¹⁰ Among the 43 clay figurines from Siret, only horses, bovine and a single porcine are reproduced;¹¹ however this later piece has too few details to accept its identification as a porcine. A number of 35 pieces were discovered at Grănicești, among them horses, bovine and porcine.¹² Wild boars are rare representations among the zoomorphic figurines. One of the two clay animals from Tilișca had the tusk represented.¹³ 35 zoomorphic figurines were found at Teleac and among them three porcine were identified;¹⁴ probably two of them represent wild boars.¹⁵ Another wild boar is known from Vărădia-*Chilii* in Banat.¹⁶

Nine representations of porcine are known from Lysychnyky,¹⁷ out of which probably only one would be a wild boar. The figurines are very

schematic; the anatomical details which would indicate their species can hardly be recognized. From more distant areas, wild boars were identified among the 40 pieces from Visegrád-*Csemetekert/Lepence* found in front of a kiln dated to the HaA2B period of the Urnfield culture. Discoveries from the Hallstatt culture are also mentioned from the site – the rest of the figurines were dated to this period –; the site was considered the westernmost point on the distribution map of the eastern type of zoomorphic clay figurines.¹⁸ Nonetheless, their parallel to the figurines discovered at Lechința de Mureș was questioned lately.¹⁹

Therefore, even if the majority of the zoomorphic representations are domestic animals,²⁰ sometimes wild ones occur, both types shaped in static position. The pieces from Lechința de Mureș were all considered wild animals,²¹ however in the absence of arguments the affirmation cannot be embraced unreservedly, since the ovine and horses might just as well be domestic. It can be concluded that among the zoomorphic representations of the Early Iron Age only wild boars represent the wildlife, while some of the other representations, such as ovine, bovine or horses cannot be assuredly categorized as domestic or wild animals.

Only occasionally the sex of the animals is represented. In the case of porcine, the figurine from Siret was considered a male;²² one of the figurines from Teleac a female,²³ while the two wild boars from Lechința de Mureș were seen as males.²⁴

Regarding the available archaeozoological data of the period, wild boar bones of seven

⁸ Vasiliev 1986, 80, fig. 1/5–6.

⁹ Maleev 1996, 366, Abb. 1/7. Later, the same author defined the same figurine as a bull (Maleev 2007, 67–68, fig. 3); however, in the paper, several classifications can be questioned, since among porcine also ovine can be seen, among bovine maybe some porcine and between the ovine some horses.

¹⁰ Ursache 1999, 42.

¹¹ Mareș et al. 2008, 83, 92, fig. 6/11.

¹² László 1994, 90, fig. 46–49.

¹³ Lupu 1989, 60, fig. 26/11, 21.

¹⁴ Vasiliev 1986, 80, fig. 1/5–6, 2/2; Vasiliev et al. 1991, 68, fig. 27/5–6; 28/2.

¹⁵ Horedt et al. 1962, fig. 6/4.

¹⁶ Gumă 1993, 189–190.

¹⁷ Maleev 2007, 66–67, fig. 2.

¹⁸ Gróh 1984, 56, Abb. 4/1.

¹⁹ Gróh 2009, 25–26, 29–30.

²⁰ Vasiliev 1986, 80; László 1994, 90; László 2001, 307; Ardeu – Bălos 2003, 184.

²¹ Sîrbu 1987, 108.

²² Mareș et al. 2008, 92, fig. 6/11.

²³ Vasiliev 1986, 80, fig. 1/6.

²⁴ Ursache 1999, 43.

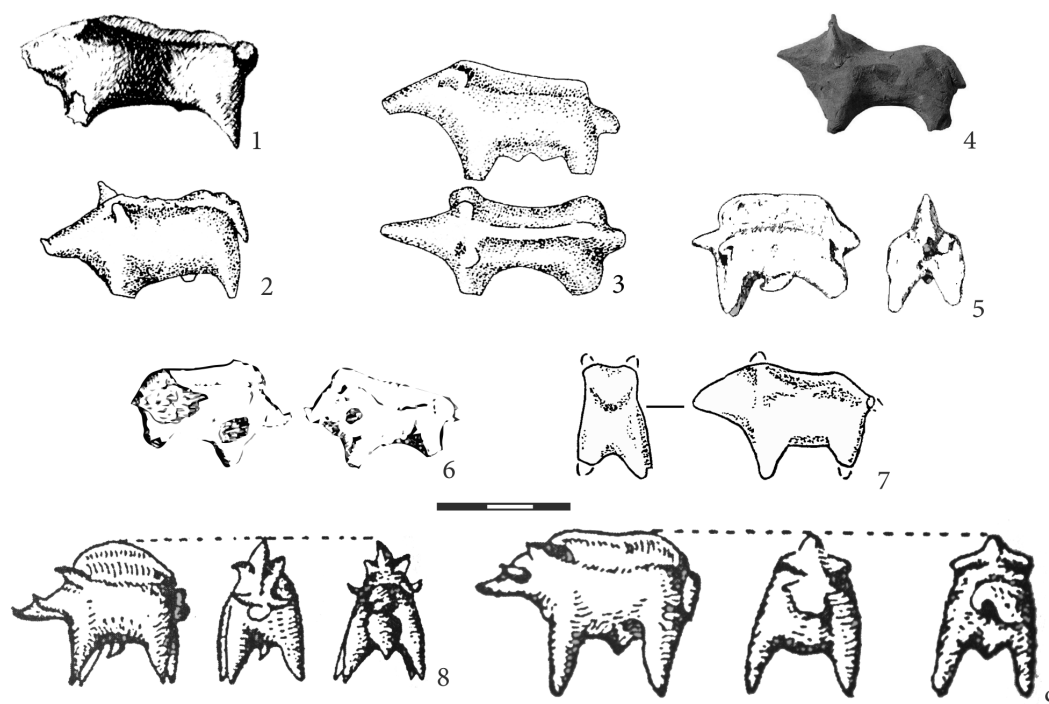


Fig. 2. Early Iron Age porcine representations. 1. Teleac (after Horedt et al. 1962, without scale); 2–3. Teleac (after Vasiliev 1986); 4. Baks (after Szabó 2011); 5–6. Tilişca (after Lupu 1989, without scale); 7. Lysychnyky, UA (after Maleev 1996); 8–9. Lechința de Mureş (after Horedt 1963).

individuals were discovered at Racoş–Piatra Detunată,²⁵ six individuals at Mediaş–Gura Câmpului, five at Teleac, three at Bernadea and one at Mediaş–Cetate and Zau de Câmpie–La Grădiniță.²⁶ For the Early Iron Age – and obviously the previous period – the crossbreeding between pig and wild boar was presumed.²⁷

Zoomorphic representations are not so much characteristic for a culture;²⁸ they are rather a common symbol of the period and area.²⁹ The majority of the pieces date from the HaB–HaC period, but they were found also in HaA contexts.³⁰ Generally, the anthropomorphic representations were dated largely, between 1200 and 600 BC.³¹

The observations according to which the Early Iron Age zoomorphic figurines have a unitary character, that they are of fine paste and are well fired, finely executed and their dimensions are corresponding to the proportions of the real

animals,³² or that some are presenting artistic valences³³ cannot be generalized unreservedly, especially if taking into consideration the objects from Târgu Mureş.

For the contemporaneous Cozia–Saharna culture three types of cultic places or sanctuaries have been defined: domestic, territorial and cultic centres, the clay figurines – among them the zoomorphic ones – discovered in houses being seen as an argument for the first category.³⁴ In the case of the figurines from Visegrád the wild boar – previously considered tapir – was endowed with cultic functions because of the inventory of the pit in which it was found together with a pair of tusks, while the rest of the figurines were interpreted as toys; the perforated horse figurine was considered a toy put in the front of a clay wagon.³⁵ Their cultic role connected to fertility and fecundity³⁶ or domestic magic and ritual practices,³⁷ or cultic accessories³⁸ may be questioned even because of

²⁵ el Susi 2009, 231–234.

²⁶ Bindea 2008, 101–105.

²⁷ el Susi 2009, 232–233.

²⁸ László 1994, 90.

²⁹ Maleev 2007, 74; Sana – Bejinariu 2010, 172.

³⁰ Sîrbu 1987, 108; the two pieces discovered at Chinari were dated to the HaA2–HaB1 period (Rezi – Nagy 2009, 103–104).

³¹ Metzner-Nebelsick 2000, 164.

³² Sîrbu 1987, 108; László 1994, 90; Ardeu – Bălos 2003, 184.

³³ Vasiliev et al. 1991, 145.

³⁴ Kaşuba 2003, 192.

³⁵ Gróh 1984, 62; Gróh 2009, 29.

³⁶ Gróh 1984, 62; Vasiliev 1986, 80; László 1994, 90; Leviţki 1994, 111; Ursache 1999, 45; László 2001, 307; Szabó 2002, 52; Ardeu – Bălos 2003, 185.

³⁷ Sîrbu 1993, 132–133; Sîrbu 2004, 361.

³⁸ Mareş et al. 2008, 88.

their rudimentary and schematic character in a period when potters achieved great masterpieces, but also because of the presence of wild animals. The shaping of these objects did not necessitate high manual dexterity, as experiments have shown that an unskilled person could accomplish such an object in five to ten minutes.³⁹ Considering them the 'finger exercises' of potters⁴⁰ would be contradicted however by their distribution on a relatively large area. Since some of the pieces have been provided with holes, an apotropaic role can be presumed;⁴¹ but a profane utilization is also probable, or even a changing functionality of these clay objects can be presumed.⁴² Since no figurine has been discovered in grave, their connection to the funerary practices can be excluded.⁴³

Either way, the zoomorphic clay figurines are symbols of the pastoral ideology of the period, and based on the distribution map one can conclude that they reflect the close intercultural contacts on a ritual and ideological level between communities on both sides of the Carpathians.⁴⁴ It is questionable if they were also art objects in the broader context of symbolic material culture,⁴⁵ but surely these social products give an insight of the cultural system of the period⁴⁶ through the eyes of the manufacturer – (and therefore in a subjective mode), cultural system characterized by sedentary lifestyle, agriculture and animal breeding.⁴⁷ It remains an unanswered question, however, whether these objects were used in rituals or ceremonies meant to influence these factors. In any case, they certainly underline the – profane or cultic – importance of these animals, and from the wildlife the role of the wild boar for the communities from the beginning of the first millennium BC.

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³⁹ Tarbay 2012.

⁴⁰ Tarbay 2012.

⁴¹ Berecki 2012, 54.

⁴² Berecki 2012, 55, fig. 5.

⁴³ Ursache 1999, 45.

⁴⁴ Metzner-Nebelsick 2000, 164.

⁴⁵ Mina 2007, 264.

⁴⁶ Mina 2007, 264.

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Sándor BERECKI

Mureș County Museum
Tg. Mureș, RO

Rezumat

Figurine din lut sunt descoperiri frecvente în siturile din prima epocă a fierului. Deși informațiile cu privire la aceste artefacte în cele mai multe cazuri sunt limitate la o mențiune și/sau ilustrarea lor,

unele sinteze, studii analitice și experimentale tratează această categorie de descoperiri. Pe marginea unei descoperiri recente din cetatea de la Târgu Mureș prezentul studiu aduce în discuție (din nou) figurine zoomorfe de lut de la începutul epocii fierului.

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Archäologischer Anzeiger, Berlin
AB	Archaeologia Baltica, Klaipėda
ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
ActaEa	Acta Eurasistica, Wrocław
ActaMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
ActaSic	Acta Siculica, Sf. Gheorghe/Sepsiszentgyörgy
ActaTS	Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis, Sibiu
AE	L'Année Epigraphique, Paris
AHG	Annals of Human Genetics, New York
AI	Archaeologia Iugoslavica, Beograd
AISC	Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice, Cluj
AKorrBl	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Mainz
AnB	Analele Banatului, Timișoara
AncCivScytSib	Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia, Leiden
AnnMedCEU	Annual of Medieval Studies at CEU, Budapest
Antaeus	Antaeus. Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
Apulum	Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
ArchAustr	Archaeologia Austriaca, Wien
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
ArchKözl	Archaeologiai Közlemények, Budapest
ARozhl	Archeologické Rozhledy, Praha
Areopolisz	Areopolisz. Történelmi és társadalomtudományi tanulmányok, Székelyudvarhely
ArhKiev	Archeologija. Nacional'na akademija nauk Ukraini. Institut archeologii, Kyjiv
ArhMed	Arheologia Medievală, Cluj-Napoca
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei, București
ArhSof	Arheologija. Organ na Arheologičeskija Institut i Muzej pri Bălgarskata Akademija na Naukite, Sofija
ARegia	Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani Regis, Székesfehérvár
ArsHung	Ars Hungarica. Bulletin of the Institute of Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
AT	Antik tanulmányok. Studia antiqua, Budapest
Banatica	Banatica. Muzeul Banatului Montan, Reșița
BÁMÉ	A Béri Balogh Ádám Múzeum Évkönyve, Szekszárd
BAR	British Archaeological Reports, Oxford
BAVA	Beiträge zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Archäologie, München
BayVgBl	Bayerische Vorgeschichtsblätter, München
BerBayDenkmPfl	Bericht der Bayerischen Bodendenkmalpflege, Bonn
BerDenkmPflNs	Berichte zur Denkmalpflege in Niedersachsen, Hameln
BerRGK	Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission, Berlin
BiMÉ	A Bihari Múzeum Évkönyve, Berettyóújfalu
BudRég	Budapest Régiségei, Budapest

CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
CercArh	Cercetări arheologice, București
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin
CommArchHung	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungaricae, Budapest
CSIR	Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani, Berlin–Mainz
Dacia	Dacia. Revue d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Ancienne, Bucarest
DissArch	Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös Nominatae, Budapest
DME	A Debreceni Déri Múzeum Évkönyve, Debrecen
Dolg	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából, Kolozsvár
DolgSzeged	Dolgozatok a Szegedi Tudományegyetem Régiségtudományi Intézetéből, Szeged
EJA	Estonian Journal of Archaeology, Tallinn
EMÉ	Az Egri Múzeum Évkönyve, Eger
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
EMúz	Erdélyi Múzeum, Kolozsvár
ETF	Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek, Kolozsvár
FI	File de Istorie. Muzeul de Istorie al Județului Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
FontArchHung	Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae, Budapest
FolArch	Folia Archaeologica, Budapest
FVL	Forschungen zur Volks- und Landeskunde, Sibiu/Hermannstadt
GCBi	Godišnjak Centra za Balkanološka Ispitivanja, Sarajevo
Gymnasium	Gymnasium Zeitschrift für Kultur der Antike und humanistische Bildung, Heidelberg
HK	Hadtörténelmi Közlemények, Budapest
IPH	Inventaria Praehistorica Hungariae, Budapest
IstorZapiski	Istoricheskiye Zapiski, Novorossiysk
Istros	Istros. Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
IzvSamara	Izvestiya Samarskogo Nauchnogo Centra Rossijskoj Akademii Nauk, Samara
JAA	Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, New York
JbRGZM	Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz
JRS	The Journal of Roman Studies, London
KM	Keresztény Magvető. Az Erdélyi Unitárius Egyház Folyóirata, Kolozsvár
Korall	Korall. Társadalomtörténeti Folyóirat, Budapest
KSIA	Kratkie Soobščeniya Instituta Arheologii AN SSSR, Moskva
MAK	Materialy po arheologii Kavkaza, Moskva
MAR	Materialy po arheologii Rossii, Sankt Petersburg
LexMA	Lexikon des Mittelalters, München–Zürich
Marisia	Marisia (V-). Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
Marmatia	Marmatia, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Maramureș, Baia Mare
MatCercArh	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
MatWczesnośred	Materialy Wczesnośredniowieczne, Wrocław
MemAnt	Memoria antiquitatis. Acta Musei Petrodavensis, Piatra Neamț
MFMÉ	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged
MFMÉ – StudArch	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve – Studia Archaeologica, Szeged
MH	Műveltség és Hagyomány, Debrecen
MHVK	Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins des Kantons Schwyz, Aarau
MIA	Materialy i Issledovaniya po Arheologii SSSR, Moskva

MNMAK	Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Adattárának Közleményei, Budapest
MünchBeitrVFG	Münchner Beiträge zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte, München
MPK	Mitteilungen der Prähistorischen Kommission, Wien
NK	Numizmatikai Közlöny, Budapest
OH	Opuscula Hungarica, Budapest
PBF	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, Stuttgart
PIR	Prosopographia Imperii Romani, Berlin
PrzA	Przegląd Archeologiczny (Archaeological Review), Poznań–Wrocław
RBK	Reallexikon zur byzantinischen Kunst, Stuttgart
RE	Realencyclopädie: Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft, Stuttgart
RESEE	Revue des Études Sud-Est-Européennes, Bucarest
RevBist	Revista Bistriței, Bistrița
RossArh	Rossijskaja Arheologija, Moskva
RRHA	Revue Roumaine d'Histoire de l'Art, Bucarest
SAI	Svod arheologičeskikh istočnikov, Moskva
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva
Savaria	Savaria, Szombathely
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
SF	Südostforschungen, München
SlovArch	Slovenská Archeológia, Bratislava
SlovNum	Slovenská Numizmatika, Bratislava
SMMK	A Somogy Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei, Kaposvár
SovArh	Sovetskaja Arheologija, Moskva
SHP	Starohrvatska prosvjeta, Zagreb
SpNov	Specimina nova. Dissertationem ex Instituto Historico Universitatis Quinqueecclesiensis de Iano Pannonio nominatae, Pécs
SSz	Soproni Szemle, Sopron
StAntArch	Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica, Iași
Starinar	Starinar. Arheološki Institut Beograd, Beograd
Stratum	Stratum plus. Archaeology&Anthropology, Chișinău
StTH	Studia Turco-Hungarica, Budapest
Światowit	Światowit. Annual of the Institute of Archaeology of the University of
Warsaw, Warsaw	
Századok	Századok. A Magyar Történelmi Társulat Folyóirata, Budapest
Thraco-Dacica	Thraco-Dacica, București
UAV	Ufimskij Arheologičeskij Vestnik, Ufa
UPA	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
VAH	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica, Budapest
VAU	Voprosy Arheologii Urala, Sverdlovsk
Vestnik MGOU	Vestnik Moskovskij Gosudarstvennyj Oblastnoj Universitet. Istoriâ I Političeskie Nauki = Bulletin of the Moscow State Regional University. History and political science, Moscow
VDI	Vestnik Drevnej Istorii, Moskva
VjesDal	Vjesnik za Arheologiju i Povijest Dalmatinsku, Split
VMMK	A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei, Veszprém
VMS	Viking and Medieval Scandinavia, Turnhout
VTT	Veszprémi Történelmi Társaság, Veszprém
WMMÉ	A Wosinsky Mór Megyei Múzeum Évkönyve, Szekszárd
ZGy	Zalai Gyűjtemény, Zalaegerszeg
ZPE	Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Bonn