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ET D'HISTOIRE ANCIENNE

NOUVELLE SÉRIE

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2016

EN SOUVENIR D'ALEXANDRU VULPE

ACADÉMIE ROUMAINE
INSTITUT D'ARCHÉOLOGIE « VASILE PÂRVAN »

D A C I A

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ET D'HISTOIRE ANCIENNE

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CHEMICAL ANALYSES ON ROMAN COINS AND SILVER OBJECTS FROM THE MĂLĂIEȘTII DE JOS HOARD, ROMANIA

STEFFEN KRAUS*, ERNST PERNICKA**

Keywords: XRF-analyses, silver, tin, zinc, copper

Abstract: The results of the analyses on the silver coins confirm the existing knowledge about the compositional changes of coinage during the first three centuries AD. Especially with the beginning of the second half of the 3rd century, more copper was added to the silver coinage. The tin contents in the coins of Philippus Arabs, Traianus Decius and Valerianus I show that the addition of copper was in form of tin bronze. The silver of the jewellery and the ingots was alloyed with zinc. The reasons of this addition are not clear. Also still unclear is the provenance of the silver. Lead isotope analysis is not suitable in this case, because the lead isotope signatures of the objects are by necessity a mixture of the lead in the silver and in the copper. Furthermore, it cannot be excluded that some metal was remelted and mixed which would erase any information on provenance.

Cuvinte-cheie: analize XRF (fluorescență de raze X), argint, staniu, zinc, cupru

Rezumat. Rezultatele analizelor efectuate asupra monedelor din argint confirmă cunoștințele deja existente despre schimbările compoziționale ale monetăriei romane din primele trei secole p. Chr. Un adaos semnificativ de cupru este caracteristic pentru monetăria romană de după începutul celei de a doua jumătăți a secolului al III-lea p. Chr. În monedele emise de Filip Arabul, Traian Decius și Valerianus I se poate recunoaște adăugarea în aliaj a unui bronz compus din cupru și staniu. Argintul din podoabe și din lingouri prezintă un adaos semnificativ de zinc. Motivele acestui adaos nu pot fi precizate. Tot neclară rămâne și originea metalului prețios. Analiza izotopilor de plumb nu este indicată în acest caz. Prin reciclare și prin aliajul mai multor metale, orice informație despre proveniența materiei prime este compromisă.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the chemical analyses on various silver objects from the hoard of Mălăieștii de Jos, Romania, which is currently preserved in the Museum of Ploiești. In total, 15 Roman coins, five bracelets, two ingots and one fibula were analysed as well as the bronze vessel, in which the hoard was found (see Table 1, where the sample numbers correspond to the catalogue numbers in the previous contribution of Spânu, Dima and Frînculeasa from the current volume). The aim of the study was to prove whether the silver objects (ingots and jewellery) and the coins are related based on their chemical composition. The question is whether the gold and silver smiths used only remelted Roman coins for the production of silver objects or used silver produced from local mines (*e.g.* Transylvania).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The chemical compositions of the objects were determined on drilled samples using an energy-dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (ED-XRF) type ARL Quant'X from Thermo Scientific at the

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** Curt-Engelhorn-Zentrum Archäometrie GmbH, Mannheim; ernst.pernicka@cez-archaeometrie.de.

Lab no.	Sample no.	Object	Method of Analysis
MA-153873	Mal 2	Coin, Vespasian	ED-XRF
MA-153874	Mal 12	Coin, Trajan	ED-XRF
MA-153875	Mal 24	Coin, Hadrian	ED-XRF
MA-153876	Mal 37	Coin, Hadrian: Sabina	ED-XRF
MA-153877	Mal 40	Coin, Antonius Pius	ED-XRF
MA-153878	Mal 49	Coin, Antonius Pius Faustina I	ED-XRF
MA-153879	Mal 51	Coin, Antonius Pius: Diva Faustina	ED-XRF
MA-153880	Mal 54	Coin, Antonius Pius: Marc Aurel	ED-XRF
MA-153881	Mal 59	Coin, Marc Aurel	ED-XRF
MA-153882	Mal 61	Coin, Marc Aurel: Faustina II	ED-XRF
MA-153884	Mal 65	Coin, Commodus: Crispina	ED-XRF
MA-153885	Mal 67	Coin, Septimius Severus: Caracalla	ED-XRF
MA-153886	Mal 71	Coin, Philippus Arabs	ED-XRF
MA-153887	Mal 72	Coin, Traianus Decius	ED-XRF
MA-153888	Mal 73	Coin, Valerianus I	ED-XRF
MA-153891	Mal 76a	Fibula, body	ED-XRF
MA-153892	Mal 76b	Fibula, pin	ED-XRF
MA-153893	Mal 77	Ingot	ED-XRF
MA-153894	Mal 78	Ingot	ED-XRF
MA-153895	Mal 79	Bracelet	ED-XRF
MA-153896	Mal 80	Bracelet	ED-XRF
MA-153897	Mal 81	Bracelet	ED-XRF
MA-153898	Mal 82	Bracelet	ED-XRF
MA-153899	Mal 83	Bracelet	ED-XRF
MA-153901	Mal 84a	Vessel, corpus	ED-XRF
MA-153902	Mal 84b	Vessel, handle	ED-XRF

Table 1. Analysed objects and methods applied.

Curt-Engelhorn-Centre for Archaeometry GmbH, Mannheim, Germany. This device uses a rhodium X-ray tube to excite the elements of the material. As a consequence, the excited atoms in the irradiated material emit electromagnetic radiation in the range of X-rays. This secondary X-ray fluorescence radiation (XRF) is highly specific for the elements present and is therefore used for element identification. By measuring samples with known compositions (reference materials) determination of elemental concentrations is possible. The analyses were performed with an energy-dispersive device after a slightly modified procedure described by Lutz and Pernicka¹.

RESULTS

The composition of the coins and silver objects

The results of the chemical analyses of the coins and silver objects are summarized in Table 2. All investigated samples contain the common alloy components copper (Cu), lead (Pb) and gold (Au). The jewellery and the ingots as well as some coins also contain zinc (Zn), tin (Sn) and bismuth (Bi). For all investigated objects copper is the major alloying element. While most coins contain content from 8 to 24% copper, the three latest coins contain more than 30% (Fig. 1). The copper contents of the jewellery objects and the two ingots range between 31 and 56% except for one bracelet (sample Mal 81) which contains “only” 12.8% copper. The lead content varies from 0.5 to 3.5% in all analysed objects indicating cupelled

¹ Lutz, Pernicka 1996.

Lab no.	Sample no.	Ag	Ni	Cu	Zn	Cd	Sn	Sb	Au	Hg	Pb	Bi
MA-153873	Mal 2	91	n.d.	8.2	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.47	n.d.	0.46	0.05
MA-153874	Mal 12	81	n.d.	18.4	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.06	n.d.	0.66	0.03
MA-153875	Mal 24	88	n.d.	10.9	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.31	n.d.	1.03	0.09
MA-153876	Mal 37	84	n.d.	13.7	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.08	n.d.	1.39	0.40
MA-153877	Mal 40	86	n.d.	11.8	0.44	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.15	n.d.	0.94	0.18
MA-153878	Mal 49	88	n.d.	10.5	0.45	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.07	n.d.	0.57	0.09
MA-153879	Mal 51	87	n.d.	10.5	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.06	0.19	n.d.	1.95	0.24
MA-153880	Mal 54	79	0.02	18.6	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.04	0.27	n.d.	1.42	0.36
MA-153881	Mal 59	76	0.08	19.5	1.00	n.d.	n.d.	0.22	0.83	n.d.	2.03	n.d.
MA-153883	Mal 62	81	n.d.	16.2	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.06	0.18	n.d.	2.05	0.50
MA-153884	Mal 65	88	n.d.	9.9	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.09	0.66	n.d.	0.74	0.19
MA-153885	Mal 67	50	0.01	48	0.18	n.d.	0.15	0.07	0.57	n.d.	0.71	0.11
MA-153886	Mal 71	63	n.d.	33	1.28	n.d.	1.26	n.d.	0.21	n.d.	1.46	n.d.
MA-153887	Mal 72	70	n.d.	24	0.27	n.d.	1.67	0.08	0.51	n.d.	3.68	0.11
MA-153888	Mal 73	40	n.d.	54	n.d.	n.d.	4.5	0.03	0.27	n.d.	1.56	n.d.
MA-153891	Mal 76a	48	0.08	44	4.93	n.d.	0.19	0.03	1.10	n.d.	1.29	0.06
MA-153892	Mal 76b	35	0.05	56	6.60	n.d.	0.54	0.05	0.48	n.d.	1.09	0.04
MA-153893	Mal 77	51	0.03	40	7.32	n.d.	0.23	0.03	0.47	n.d.	0.67	0.04
MA-153894	Mal 78	54	n.d.	39	5.61	n.d.	0.22	0.02	0.68	n.d.	0.75	0.05
MA-153895	Mal 79	61	0.01	33	3.19	n.d.	0.64	0.02	0.39	n.d.	1.33	0.10
MA-153896	Mal 80	64	n.d.	33	0.94	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.44	n.d.	0.70	0.17
MA-153897	Mal 81	85	n.d.	12.8	0.89	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.71	n.d.	0.76	0.17
MA-153898	Mal 82	47	n.d.	47	4.53	n.d.	0.33	0.02	0.58	n.d.	0.91	0.09
MA-153899	Mal 83	63	n.d.	31	2.32	n.d.	0.62	0.03	0.67	n.d.	2.65	0.13

Table 2. Chemical composition of the analysed coins and silver objects, measured with ED-XRF. All values are given in mass percent. Elements with “n.d.” were below detection limits.

silver. It is noteworthy that only the later coins contain up to 4.5% tin while the earlier coins do not contain tin. The tin content of the jewellery and ingots averages around 0.4%. Zinc frequently occurs in jewellery and ingots up to 7.3%.

According to the silver/copper ratios of the coins (Fig. 1) a significant deterioration in the quality of the coinage can be observed, which is in accordance with published knowledge about the decrease of the

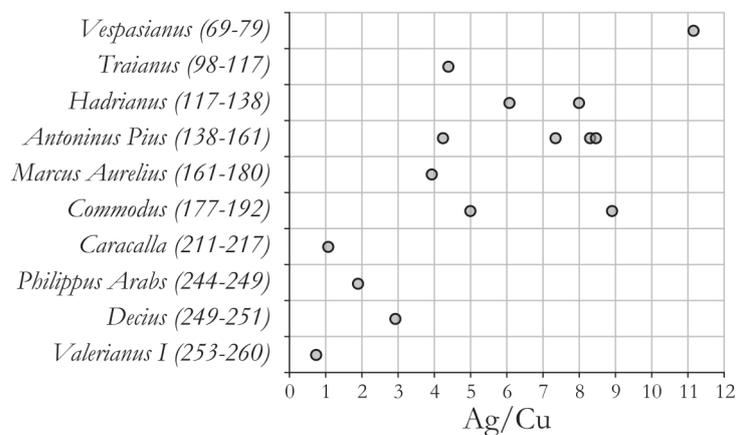


Fig. 1. Silver/copper ratios in the analysed coins compared with the respective Roman emperor (with their years of reign)

silver content over time in Roman coinage². The high concentrations of tin in the later coins suggest an addition of tin bronze which may have been deliberate, because the resulting alloy is described as more ductile and resistant to tarnishing³.

The bivariate diagram of copper vs. zinc shows that zinc always occurs in jewellery and ingots in combination with a relatively high copper content (Fig. 2), which in turn allows inferences about the manufacturing technique. Following the corresponding phase diagram copper lowers the smelting point of silver⁴. Additions of up to 10% copper lead to alloys that can be deformed in the hot state without affecting the silvery colour of the metal. However, the investigated silver objects contain more copper which, on the one hand, lowers the melting point of the silver but, on the other hand, results in a yellowish colour.

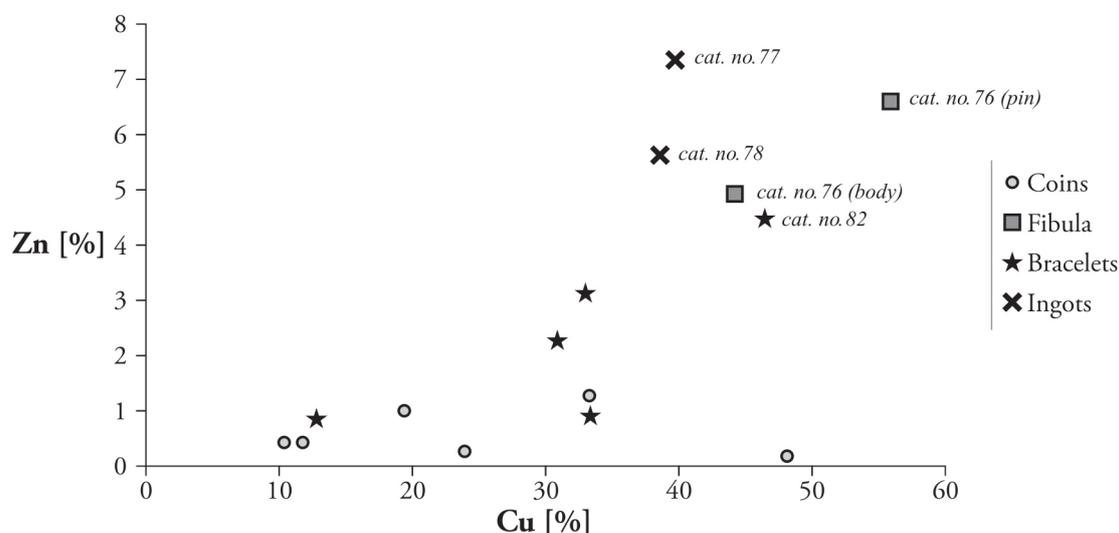


Fig. 2. Bivariate diagram of copper vs. zinc. Most jewellery objects as well as the ingots show significant higher concentrations of copper and zinc than the analysed coins.

The addition of zinc counteracts this colouring effect and additionally improves the properties of the melt⁵. It further lowers the melting point and acts as deoxidant preventing the formation of copper oxide during casting, which makes the alloy brittle. Such alloys are described as resistant to tarnishing and pliable. According to the zinc/copper ratios of the analysed silver objects their chemical composition suggests that brass was added to produce the alloy. It is, however, impossible to decide on the basis of the available data whether the silver used derives from remelted silver coins or was freshly produced.

The composition of the bronze vessel

The results of the chemical analyses of the bronze vessel using ED-XRF are given in Table 3. The corpus of the vessel contains 7% tin, which corresponds to the composition of a low tin bronze. Such tin bronzes are softer and more ductile than the optimal composition of tin bronzes with 10 to 15% of tin. In contrast, the handle was made of a leaded bronze, which suggests that the handle was separately cast.

² E.g. Klockenkämper, Hasler 1978, p. 350.

³ Brepohl 1992, p. 53.

⁴ Tafel, Wagenmann 1951, p. 85, fig. 55.

⁵ Brepohl 1992, p. 54; Moesta, Franke 1995, p. 154.

Labor-Nr.	Original-Nr.	Cu	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Zn	As	Se	Ag
MA-153901	Mal 84a	92	< 0.01	0.15	0.02	0.06	< 0.1	0.10	0.01	0.055
MA-153902	Mal 84b	71	< 0.01	0.48	0.01	0.02	0.3	< 0.01	< 0.01	0.036
Labor-Nr.	Original-Nr.	Cd	Sn	Sb	Te	Pb	Bi			
MA-153901	Mal 84a	< 0.005	7.0	0.156	< 0.005	0.33	< 0.01			
MA-153902	Mal 84b	< 0.005	5.0	0.096	< 0.005	22.6	< 0.01			

Table 3. Quantitative composition of the bronze vessel and the handle determined by ED-XRF. All values are given in mass percent. Values preceded by “<” are below detection limits.

CONCLUSION

The results of the analyses on the silver coins confirm the existing knowledge about the compositional changes of coinage during the first three centuries AD. Especially with the beginning of the second half of the 2nd century, more copper was added to the silver coinage. The tin contents in the coins of Philippus Arabs, Traianus Decius and Valerianus I show that the addition of copper was in form of tin bronze. The silver of the jewellery and the ingots was alloyed with brass, maybe because the zinc ensures the silvery colour of the metal. The question whether the used silver comes from remelted silver coins or was freshly produced could not be answered. Still unclear is also the provenance of the silver. Lead isotope analysis is not suitable in this case, because the lead isotope signatures of the objects are by necessity a mixture of the lead in the silver and in the copper. Furthermore, it cannot be excluded that some metal was remelted and mixed which would erase any information on provenance.

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ABRÉVIATIONS

- AA – Archäologischer Anzeiger. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Darmstadt, München, Tübingen – Berlin
AAIN – Annali dell’Istituto Italiano di Numismatica, Roma
AARMSI – Analele Academiei Române. Memoriile Secțiunii Istorice, București
Academica – Academica. Revistă editată de Academia Română, București
ACSS – Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia, Bordeaux – Moscow
ActaArchCop – Acta Archaeologica, Copenhagen
ActaArchHung – Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
ActaMM – Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis, Vaslui
ActaMN – Acta Musei Napocensis. Muzeul Național de Istorie a Transilvaniei, Cluj-Napoca
ActaMP – Acta Musei Porolissensis. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă, Zalău
ActaMV – Acta Musei Varnaensis, Varna
ActaMT – Acta Musei Tutovens, Muzeul „Vasile Pârvan”, Bârlad
ActaPraehArch – Acta Praehistorica et Archaeologica, Berlin
ActaTS – Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis. Institutul pentru Cercetarea Patrimoniului Cultural Transilvănean în Context European, Sibiu
AÉ – L’Année Épigraphique, Paris
AEM – Archäologisch-epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Österreich-Ungarn, Wien
AISC – Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice, Cluj-Napoca
AJA – American Journal of Archaeology, Boston
AJS – The American Journal of Sociology, Chicago
Alba Regia – Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani regis, Székesfehérvár
Aluta – Muzeul Național Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe
Alt-Hildesheim – Alt-Hildesheim. Jahrbuch für Stadt und Stift Hildesheim, Hildesheim
AM – Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts. Athenische Abteilung, Athen
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Annals of Science – Annals of Science, Taylor and Francis Online (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tasc20>)
ANSNS – American Numismatic Society. Numismatic Studies, New York
AnUA-SH – Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica, Alba Iulia
AnUBucurești – Analele Universității București, București
Angustia – Angustia. Arheologie, Etnografie, Sfântu Gheorghe
ANSMN – American Numismatic Society; Museum Notes, New York
AntCl – L’antiquité Classique, Revue interuniversitaire d’études classiques
Antik Tanulmányok – Antik Tanulmányok. Studia Antiqua, Eötvös József Collegium, Budapest
Antiquitas – Antiquitas, Museo Historico Municipal de Priego, Cordoba
Antiquités Nationales – Antiquités Nationales, Musée des Antiquités Nationales, Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Antiquity – Antiquity. A Review of World Archaeology, Durham
AO – Arhivele Olteniei, Craiova
APS News – The American Physical Society News
Apulum – Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis. Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia
Archaeological Dialogues – Archaeological Dialogues, Cambridge

- Archaeometry – Archaeometry, The Society for Archaeological Science, Gesellschaft für Naturwissenschaftliche, Associazione Italiana di Archeometria, University of Oxford, Wiley
- ArchBulg – Archaeologia Bulgarica, Sofia
- ArchÉrt – Archeológiai Értesítő, Budapest
- ArchHung – Archaeologia Hungarica, Acta Archaeologica Musei Nationalis Hungarici, Budapest
- ArchKorr – Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Mainz
- ArchRozhledy – Archeologické Rozhledy, Praha
- ArheologijaSSSR – Arheologija Soyuz Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik, Moskova
- ArhMold – Arheologia Moldovei. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie, Iași
- ArhSofia – Arheologija. Organ na Arheologičeskija i Muzej, Sofia
- Arqueologia y Territorio Medieval – Arqueologia y Territorio Medieval, Universidad de Jaén, Jaén
- Ausgrabungen und Funde – Ausgrabungen und Funde, Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin. Sektion für Vor- und Frühgeschichte; Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR. Zentralinstitut für Alte Geschichte und Archäologie
- BARIntSer – British Archaeological Reports, International Series, Oxford
- BerRGK – Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt am Main
- BCH – Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, Athènes – Paris
- BHAUT – Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis, Timișoara Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis, Timișoara
- Bibliotheca Ephemeris Napocensis – Bibliotheca Ephemeris Napocensis, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei al Academiei Române, Cluj-Napoca
- Bibliotheca Historica Romaniae. Monographies – Bibliotheca Historica Romaniae. Monographies, Academia Republicii Socialiste România, Secția Științe Istorice, București
- Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis – Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei al Academiei Române, Cluj-Napoca
- BJb – Bonner Jahrbücher des Rheinischen Landesmuseums in Bonn, Bonn
- BMC, I – H. Mattingly, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, I, Augustus to Vittelius*, London, 1923.
- BMC, II – H. Mattingly, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, II, Vespasian to Domitian*, London, 1930.
- BMC, III – H. Mattingly, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, III, Nerva to Hadrian*, London, 1936
- BMC, IV – H. Mattingly, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, IV, Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, London, 1940.
- BMC, V – H. Mattingly, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, V, Pertinax to Elagabalus*, London, 1950.
- BMC, VI – R. A. G. Carson, *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, VI, Severus Alexander to Balbinus and Pupienus*, London, 1962.
- BMI – Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice, București
- BMJT – Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman, Alexandria
- BMTAGiurgiu – Buletinul Muzeului „Teohari Antonescu”, Giurgiu
- Bosporskie issledovanija – Bosporskie Issledovanija (Études bosporaines), Académie nationale ukrainienne des sciences, Simferopol
- BSFN – Bulletin de la Société Française de Numismatique, Paris
- BSNR – Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române, București
- BTM Mühely – BTM Mühely, Budapesti Történeti Múzeum, Budapest
- Budapest Régiségei – Budapest Régiségei, Budapesti Történeti Múzeum, Budapest
- BulBOR – Buletinul Bisericii Ortodoxe Române, București
- Buridava – Buridava. Muzeul Județean Vâlcea, Râmnicu Vâlcea
- CA – Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României, București
- CAB – Cercetări Arheologice în București, Muzeul Municipiului București, București
- Caiete ARA – Caiete ARA. Arhitectură, Restaurare, Arheologie. Asociația ARA, București
- Cahiers des Sciences Humaines – Cahiers des Sciences Humaines, O.R.S.T.O.M. (Agency: France)

- CAJ – Cambridge Archaeological Journal
 CANT – Cercetări arheologice în aria nord-tracă, București (I – 1995, II – 1997, III - 1999)
 Carpica – Carpica, Carpica. Complexul Muzeal „Julian Antonescu” Bacău, Bacău
 CCA, campania – Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
 CCDJ – Cultură și Civilizație la Dunărea de Jos, Muzeul “Dunării de Jos”, Călărași
 CCGG – Cahiers du Centre Gustav-Glotz, Publications de la Sorbonne, Paris
 Centaurus – Centaurus, European Society for the History of Science, John Wiley & Sons Ltd
 CercIst – Cercetări Istorice, Iași
 Chiron – Mitteilungen der Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, München
 Chronica Valachica – Chronica Valachica. Studii și materiale de istorie și istorie a culturii, Târgoviște
 Chronométriphilia – Chronométriphilia, La Chaux-de-Fonds
 CICSA – Centrul de Istorie Comparată a Societăților Antice, Universitatea București, București
 CIL – *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, Berlin, 1862-.
 CIS – *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum*, Paris, 1881-.
 Classica et Christiana – Classica et Christiana, Centrul de Studii Clasice și Creștine al Facultății de Istorie a Universității „Al.I. Cuza”, Iași
 CIQ – The Classical Quaterly, The Classical Association, Cambridge
 CN – Cercetări Numismatice. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României, București
 CNM – Corpus Nummorum Moldaviae
 Collection de la Maison de l’Orient méditerranéen. Série Épigraphique – Collection de la Maison de l’Orient méditerranéen. Série Épigraphique, Maison de l’Orient et de la Méditerranée Jean Pouilloux, Fédération de recherche sur les sociétés anciennes, Université Lumière Lyon 2 - CNRS
 Communications – Communications. EHESS/CNRS-Centre Edgar Morin, Paris
 Comparative Criticism – Comparative Criticism, Cambridge University Press
 Corviniana – Corviniana. Acta Musei Corviniensis, Hunedoara
 CRAI – Comptes Rendus des Séances de l’Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris
 Crisia – Crisia. Muzeului Țării Crișurilor, Oradea
 Critica Storica – Critica Storica, Associazione degli storici europei, Firenze
 CSA – Current Swedish Archaeology, Swedish Archaeological Society
 Current Anthropology – Current Anthropology. University of California, Merced
 Dacia N.S. – Dacia (Nouvelle Série). Revue d’archéologie et d’histoire ancienne. Académie Roumaine. Institut d’archéologie « V. Pârvan », București
 Danubius – Danubius, Revista Muzeului de Istorie Galați, Galați
 Das Altertum – Das Altertum, Berlin – Amsterdam – Oldenburg
 Das Mittelalter – Das Mittelalter, UTB GmbH, Stuttgart
 Der Anschnitt – Der Anschnitt, Vereinigung der Freunde von Kunst und Kultur im Bergbau, Bochum
 DHA – Dialogues d’Histoire ancienne, Université de Franche-Comté, Paris
 Die Kunde – Die Kunde. Zeitschrift für niedersächsische Archäologie, Hannover
 DissArch – Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös Nominatae, Budapest
 DissPann – Disertationes Pannonicae. Ex Instituto Numismatico et Archaeologico Universitatis de Petro Pázmány nominatae Budapestensis provenientes, Budapest
 DIVR – D.M. Pippidi (ed.), *Dicționar de istorie veche a României (Paleolitic – sec. X)*, București, 1976.
 Documenta Praehistorica – Documenta Praehistorica, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology
 Documenta Valachica – Documenta Valachica. Studii și materiale de istorie și istorie a culturii, Târgoviște
 Drobeta – Drobeta. Muzeul Regiunii Porțile de Fier, Drobeta-Turnu Severin
 EAIVR – Enciclopedia Arheologiei și Istoriei Vechi a României (ed. C. Preda), București, 1994
 EJS – European Journal of Sociology
 Epigraphische Studien – Epigraphische Studien, Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn, Köln
 EphemDAC – Ephemeris Dacoromana. Annuario della Scuola Romana di Roma
 EphemNap – Ephemeris Napocensis. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca
 Ethnic and Racial Studies – Ethnic and Racial Studies, London : Routledge & Kegan Paul

- EurAnt – Eurasia Antiqua. Deutsche Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
- FI – File de Istorie. Muzeul Județean Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
- FolArch – Folia Archaeologica, Budapest
- Fontes I – V. Iliescu, V. C. Popescu, Gh. Ștefan (ed.), Izvoare privind Istoria României, vol. I, București, 1964.
- Fontes II – H. Mihăescu, Gh. Ștefan, R. Hîncu, V. Iliescu, V. C. Popescu (ed.), Izvoare privind Istoria României, vol. I, București, 1970.
- FrühMitAltSt – Frühmittelalterliche Studien. Jahrbuch des Instituts für Frühmittelalterforschung der Universität Münster, Münster
- Gerión – Gerión. Revista de Historia Antigua
- Germania – Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt am Main
- GlasnikSarajevo – Glasnik Zemlinskog Muzeja u Sarajevu, Sarajevo
- Greece & Rome – Greece & Rome, Classical Association, Cambridge University Press
- HispAnt – Hispania Antiqua. Revista de Historia Antigua (digital journal: <https://revistas.uva.es/index.php/hispaanti>)
- Hesperia – Hesperia. The Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Athens
- Historia – Historia. Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart
- History and Anthropology – History and Anthropology, Taylor & Francis (Routledge)
- History and Theory – History and Theory. Studies in the Philosophy of History, Middletown
- History Compass – History Compass, Wiley-Blackwell
- Histria Antiqua – Histria Antiqua, Institut društvenih znanosti IVO PILAR, Zagreb
- HNE – M. Lidzbarski, *Handbuch der Nordsemitischen Epigraphik*, Weimar, 1898.
- HPQ – History of Philosophy Quarterly, University of Illinois Press
- IDR II – G. Florescu, C.C. Petolescu, *Inscripțiile Daciei Romane*, vol. II: *Oltenia și Muntenia*, Editura Academiei Române, București, 1977.
- IDR III/1 – I.I. Russu, N. Gudea, V. Wollmann, M. Dușanic, *Inscripțiile Daciei Romane*, vol. III/1: *Dacia Superior. Zona de sud-vest*, Editura Academiei Române, București, 1977.
- IDRE – C.C. Petolescu, *Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae. Inscriptions externes concernant l'histoire de la Dacie*, I-II, București, 1996-2000.
- IG XII 6.2 – K. Hallof, A.P. Matthaiou, *Inscriptiones Graecae XII 6. Inscriptiones Chii et Sami cum Corassiis Icariaque. Pars 2. Inscriptiones Sami insulae. Dedicaciones. Tituli sepulcrales. Tituli Christiani, Byzantini, Iudaei. Varia. Tituli graphio incisi. Incerta. Tituli alieni. Inscriptiones Corassiarum. Inscriptiones Icariae insulae*, Berlin – New York, 2003.
- IGB – G. Mihailov, *Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria Repertae*, 5 vol., Sofia, 1958–2001.
- IGLN – V. Božilova, J. Kolendo (eds.), *Inscriptions grecques et latines de Novae (Mésie inférieure)*, Ausonius, Bordeaux, 1997.
- IGLR – E. Popescu, *Inscripțiile grecești și latinești descoperite pe teritoriul României*, București, 1976.
- IGLS VI – J.-P. Rey-Coquais, *Inscriptions Grecques et Latines de la Syrie. VI. Baalbek et Beqa'.* Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique 78, Paris, 1967.
- IGLS XVII.1 – J.-B. Yon, *Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie. XVII/1. Palmyre* Bibliothèque archéologique et historique 195; Beirut, 2012.
- ILB – B. Gerov, *Inscriptiones Latinae in Bulgaria Repertae*, Sofia, 1989.
- Il Mar Nero – Il mar nero: annali di archeologia e storia, Roma
- ILS – H. Dessau, *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*, Berlin, I (1892), II (1902), III (1916).
- ISSJ – International Social Science Journal
- Interpretation – Interpretation. A Journal of Political Philosophy, Waco
- ISM I – D.M. Pippidi, *Inscripțiile din Scythia Minor*, vol. I. *Histria și împrejurimile*, București, 1983.
- ISM II – I. Stoian, *Inscripțiile din Scythia Minor grecești și latine*, vol. II. *Tomis și teritoriul său*, Bucarest, 1987.
- ISM III – A. Avram, *Inscriptions grecques et latines de Scythie Mineure*, vol. III. *Callatis et son territoire*, Bucharest–Paris, 1999.
- ISM IV – E. Popescu, *Inscriptions de Scythie Mineure*, vol. IV. *Tropaeum – Durostorum – Axiopolis*, Bucharest–Paris, 2015.

- ISM V – E. Doruțiu Boilă, *Inscripțiile din Scythia Minor*, vol. V. *Capidava – Troesmis – Noviodunum*, București, 1980.
- IstMitt – Istanbuler Mitteilungen, Istanbul
- Istros – Istros, Muzeul Brăilei „Carol I”, Brăila
- IzvestijaSofia – Izvestija na Nacionalnija Arheologičeski Institut, Sofia
- JAMT – Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, Springer
- JHS – Journal of Hellenic Studies, London
- JIES – Journal of Indo-European Studies, Washington
- JFA – Journal of Field Archaeology, Boston University, Taylor & Francis
- JMC – Journal of Material Culture, SAGE Publications Ltd.
- JNG – Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte, Bayerische Numismatische Gesellschaft, München
- JÖAI – Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archäologischen Institutes in Wien
- Journal of Value Inquiry – The Journal of Value Inquiry, Springer
- JRA – Journal of Roman Archaeology, Portsmouth, Rhode Island
- JRAI – Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute, London
- JRAI (N.S.) – The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, London
- JRAI-GBI – Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, London
- JRGZM – Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz, Mainz
- JRS – Journal of Roman Studies, London
- Kadmos – Kadmos. Zeitschrift für vor- und frühgriechische Epigraphik, Berlin
- Klio – Klio. Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte, Berlin
- La Cultura – La Cultura. Rivista de Filosofia, Letteratura e Storia
- LIMC – Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae, Zürich, 1981-1999
- Lucerna – Lucerna. The Roman Finds Group Newsletter, Stevenage, UK
- Marmația – Marmația, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Baia Mare, Baia Mare
- MASP – Materiali po Arheologii Severnogo Pričernomorja, Odesa
- MCA – Materiale și cercetări arheologice. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, București
- MemAnt – Memoria Antiquitatis, Acta Musei Petrodavensis, Complexul Muzeal Județean Neamț, Piatra-Neamț
- MFME – A Móra Ferenc Múzeum évkönyve. Móra Ferenc Múzeum, Szeged
- MIA – Materialy i issledovanija po arheologii SSSR, Moskva – Sk. Petersburg
- MitteilungenBerlin – Mitteilungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte, Berlin
- Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatisch-Aegyptischen Gesellschaft – Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatisch-Aegyptischen Gesellschaft, Leipzig
- MN – Muzeul Național, București
- MonographRGZM – Monographies des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz
- Montana II – V. Velkov, G. Aleksandrov, *Epigrafski pametnitsi ot Montana i raiona*, Montana, 1994.
- Mousaios – Mousaios. Buletinul Științific al Muzeului Județean Buzău, Bacău
- MSȘIA – Academia Română. Memoriile Secției de Științe Istorice și Arheologie, București
- MusHelv – Museum Helveticum: schweizerische Zeitschrift für klassische Altertumswissenschaft = Revue suisse pour l'étude de l'antiquité classique = Rivista svizzera di filologia classica, Schwabe-Verlag
- NAC – Numismatica et Antichità Classiche. Quaderni Ticinesi, Lugano
- Nestor – Nestor, University of Cincinnati, Department of Classics, Cincinnati
- NC – Numismatic Chronicle, London
- NNM – Numismatic Notes and Monographs, New York
- Novensia – Novensia, Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Centre, University of Warsaw, Warsaw
- NZ – Numismatische Zeitschrift. Österreichische Numismatische Gesellschaft, Wien
- Oltenia – Oltenia. Studii și comunicări, Craiova
- Orientalia – Orientalia, Pontificio Istituto biblico, Roma
- Pact – Pact. Journal of the European Study Group on Physical, Chemical, Biological & Mathematical Techniques Applied to Archaeology, Strasbourg
- PAS – Praehistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa, Berlin

- PAT – Patrimonium Archaeologicum Transylvanicum
 PAT – D.R. Hillers, E. Cussini, *Palmyrene Aramaic Texts*, The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project, Baltimore, 1996.
- PBF – Prähistorische Bronzefunde. Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur, Mainz, Seminar für Vor- und Frühgeschichte der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt a. M, Abteilung für Ur- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie des Historischen Seminars der Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität, Münster
- PCPhS – Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society, Cambridge
- Peuce – Peuce. Studii și Note de Istorie Veche și Arheologie. Muzeul Delta Dunării / Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Simion Gavrilă”, Tulcea
- Peuce S.N. – Peuce, serie nouă. Studii și Cercetări de Istorie și Arheologie. Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Simion Gavrilă”, Tulcea
- Philosophie – Philosophie, Les Éditions de Minuit, Paris
- Phronesis – Phronesis. A Journal for Ancient Philosophy, Leiden
- PIR² – *Prosopographia Imperii Romani, saec. I-III*, ed. II, Berlin–Leipzig
- PNAS – Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Washington DC
- Poetics Today – Poetics Today, Duke University, Columbus, USA
- Polis – Polis. The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought, Exeter
- Pontica / Pontice – Pontica. Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie, Constanța
- PPS – Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, Cambridge
- PZ – Praehistorische Zeitschrift. Freie Universität, Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie, Berlin
- QS – Quaderni di storia, Roma
- RAN – Repertoriul Arheologic Național (<http://ran.cimec.ro/>)
- RE – *Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaften*, Stuttgart, 1893-
- REA – Revue des Études Anciennes. Maison de l'Archéologie, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, Pessac
- RES – *Répertoire d'épigraphie sémitique*, Paris, 1900-1968.
- RÉSEE – Revue des Études Sud-Est Européennes. Academia Română, Institutul de Studii Sud-Est Europeene, București
- RevBistr – Revista Bistriței. Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
- Review of Metaphysics – The Review of Metaphysics. A Philosophical Quarterly, Washington DC
- Revista Arheologică – Revista Arheologică, Academia de Științe a Moldovei, Institutul Patrimoniului Cultural, Centrul de Arheologie, Chișinău
- Revista d'arqueologia de Ponent – Revista d'arqueologia de Ponent, Unitat d'Arqueologia, Prehistòria i Història Antiga del Departament d'Història de la Universitat de Lleida, Lleida
- RevMuz – Revista Muzeelor, București
- Révue d'Alsace – Révue d'Alsace, Fédération des Sociétés d'Histoire et d'Archéologie d'Alsace, Colmar
- Revue d'Archéométrie - ArchéoSciences, revue d'Archéométrie, Presses universitaires de Rennes
- Revue du Louvre – La Revue du Louvre et des musées de France, Conseil des musées nationaux (France), Paris
- Revue du Nord – Revue du Nord. Archéologie de la Picardie et du Nord de la France, Université de Lille, Villeneuve D'Asco
- RGA – *Reallexicon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, Berlin
- RGZM – Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz, Bonn
- Rhetorica – Rhetorica. A Journal of the History of Rhetoric, Berkley
- RI – Revista Istorică. Academia Română, Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga”, București
- RIB – Roman Inscriptions of Britain, London
- RIC, II – H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, II, Vespasian to Hadrian*, London, 1926.
- RIC, III – H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, III, Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, London, 1930.
- RIC, IV/1 – H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, C.H.V. Shutherland, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, IV/1, Pertinax to Geta*, London, 1936.
- RIC, IV/2 – H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, C. H. V. Shutherland, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, IV/2, Macrinus to Papienus*, London, 1938.

- RIC, IV/3 – H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, C. H. V. Shutherland, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, IV/3, Gordian III-Uranus Antoninus*, London, 1949.
- RIC, V/1 – P. H. Webb, *The Roman Imperial Coinage, V/1*, London, 1927.
- RIS – E. Weber (ed.), *Die römischen Inschriften der Steiermark*, Graz, 1969.
- RIU III – L. Barkóczi, S. Soproni, *Die römische Inschriften Ungarns, 3. Liefereng: Brigetio (Fortsetzung) und die Limesstrecke am Donauknie*, Budapest–Bonn, 1981.
- RMD – *Roman Military Diplomas*, London, I (M.M. Roxan, 1978), II (M.M. Roxan, 1985), III (M.M. Roxan, 1993), IV (M.M. Roxan, P.A. Holder, 2003), V (P.A. Holder, 2006)
- RMM-MIA – Revista muzeelor și monumentelor. Monumente istorice și de artă, București
- RPC I – A. Burnett, M. Amandry, P.P. Ripollès, *Roman Provincial Coinage, I. From the death of Caesar to the death of Vitellius (44 BC-AD 69)*, London – Paris, 1992.
- RPC II – A. Burnett, M. Amandry, I. Carradice, *Roman Provincial Coinage, II. From Vespasian to Domitian (AD 69-96)*, London – Paris, 1999.
- SAA – *Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica*. Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza”, Iași
- SAI – *Studii și Articole de Istorie*, București
- Sargetia – *Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis. Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane*, Deva
- SchwNumRu – *Schweizerische Numismatische Rundschau*, Bern
- Science – *Science*, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington DC
- SCIV(A) – *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche (și arheologie)*. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, București
- SCN – *Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică*. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, București
- Scripta Valachica – *Scripta Valachica, Studii și materiale de istorie și istorie a culturii*, Târgoviște
- SEG – *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, Leiden 1923-1971, Alphen aan den Rijn 1979-1980, Amsterdam 1979-2005, Boston 2006-
- Semitica et Classica – *Semitica et Classica. Revue internationale d'études orientales et méditerranéennes. International Journal of Oriental and Mediterranean Studies*, Paris – Turnhout
- SlovArch – *Slovenská Archeológia*, Nitra
- SMA – *Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology Series*
- SNG Copenhagen 2 – *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum Copenhagen. The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals. Danish National Museum, Volume 2. Macedonia and Thrace*, reprint of original edition, New Jersey, 1981.
- SNG BM Black Sea – *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum, Great Britain, Volume IX, British Museum, Part 1: The Black Sea*, London, 1993.
- SNG Stancomb – *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum, Great Britain, Volume XI, The William Stancomb Collection of Coins of the Black Sea Region*, Oxford, 2000.
- Southwestern Journal of Anthropology – *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*, University of Chicago, Chicago
- SP – *Studii de Preistorie*, București
- Starinar – *Starinar, Arheologskog Instituta*, Belgrade
- StCl – *Studii Clasice*, București
- StComPitești – *Studii și Comunicări, Pitești*
- StComBrukenthal – *Studii și Comunicări, Muzeul Național Brukenthal*, Sibiu
- StComSatuMare – *Studii și Comunicări. Muzeul Județean Satu Mare, Satu Mare*
- Stratum plus – *Stratum, Vysshaya Antropologicheskaya Shkola*, Chișinău
- Studia Palmyreńskie – *Studia Palmyreńskie, Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology*, University of Warsaw, Warsaw
- Studia Troica – *Studia Troica, Universität Tübingen, University of Cincinnati, Mainz am Rhein*
- Südost-Forschungen – *Südost-Institut München, Deutsches Auslandswissenschaftliches Institut (Berlin, Germany), Leipzig*
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- TPAPhS – Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Society. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore
- TÜBA-AR – Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi Arkeoloji Dergisi
- Tyche – Tyche. Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Wien
- Tyragetia – Tyragetia. Anuarul Muzeului Naţional de Istorie a Moldovei, Chişinău
- Tyragetia International – Tyragetia International, Muzeul Naţional de Istorie a Moldovei, Chişinău
- UPA – Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
- Valachica – Studii şi cercetări de istorie şi istoria culturii, Târgovişte
- VDI – Vestnik Drevnej Istorii, Moskva
- World Archaeology – World Archaeology, Taylor & Francis
- ZfE – Zeitschrift für Ethnologie, Berlin
- ZfN – Zeitschrift für Numismatik, Berlin
- ZPE – Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Bonn
- ZSav – Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte. Romanistische Abteilung, Wien