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WHAT'S UNDER THE LID: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF SOME DETAILS OF THE VÄLCHITRÄN, CHERVEN BRYAG AND CĂLĂRAȘI TREASURES (102 YEARS LATER)

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Keywords: Late Bronze Age, stone moulds, Coslogeni, Vălchiträn, Călărași

Abstract: The present paper is a brief contribution to the study of the remarkable finds from Vălchiträn, Cherven Bryag, and Călărași. The focus of the study is on half of a stone mould, which is probably related to the gold and silver lids from the above-mentioned collective and individual finds. Based on the analysis of the shape and dimensions of the stone mould, it is assumed that it was most likely used to make a bronze construction placed at the base of a precious metal lid, similar to the widely popular ones made of gold and silver. The discovery of the mould and a stone sceptre similar to the one from the Uluburun shipwreck allows us to assume narrower chronological framework for the mould itself, and indirectly for the gold and silver artefacts from the territory of present-day Bulgaria and Romania.

Cuvinte-cheie: Bronzul târziu, matrițe din piatră, Coslogeni, Vălchiträn, Călărași

Rezumat: Lucrarea de față reprezintă o scurtă contribuție la studiul descoperirilor remarcabile de la Vălchiträn, Cherven Bryag și Călărași. Obiectul la care se face referire aici este o jumătate de matriță din piatră, care ar putea fi legată de discurile din argint și aur descoperite în spațiile mai sus menționate. Pe baza analizei formei și dimensiunilor acestei matrițe, se poate presupune că a fost utilizată pentru realizarea unui suport din bronz care să susțină discul făcut dintr-un metal prețios. Descoperirea matriței împreună cu un sceptru din piatră similar cu cel descoperit pe epava de la Uluburun ne permite să presupunem cadre cronologice mai restrânse pentru matriță și, indirect, pentru artefactele din aur și argint de pe teritoriile actuale ale Bulgariei și României.

INTRODUCTION¹

Over the past century, hoards and single finds composed of precious metals, including the Vălchiträn gold treasure discovered near the village of the same name near Pleven (Mikov 1958; Chukalev, Dimitrova 2018) the hoards from Călărași (Bondoc 2006; Constantinescu 2006), Cherven Bryag (Stefanova 2018), Rădeni, Kryzovlin (Vulpe, Mihailescu-Bîrliba 1986; Popescu, Oanță-Marghitu 2018) and others, continue to intrigue scholars and raise questions related to their origin, cultural affiliation, interpretation, and chronology. This study is a modest contribution to the attempt to resolve questions regarding certain details in the construction of some of the elements of the aforementioned treasure items, which could be of significant importance for clarifying their relative chronology and cultural connections.

THE MOULD OF GLĂVAN

The ancient collection² of the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum–Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NAIM-BAS) stores an unknown and unpublished, fully preserved half of a stone mould, with noticeable small chips at the corners. It was discovered with the well-known sceptre from Glăvan (Vassileva 2018, p. 254, fig. 2), secondarily re-deposited in a burial mound from the second half of the Iron Age (5th–3rd century BC) (Kitov 1990, p. 36)³. The limited information concerning the circumstances of the finds does not permit an in-depth analysis. The presence of the two artefacts (discovered together) within the mound fill, outside the confines of any funerary structures, may be explained in several ways. The first possibility is that both artefacts were originally embedded in the soil that was excavated and subsequently used for the construction of the tumulus. It may be assumed that this soil was sourced from the immediate vicinity in order to minimise the time required for its transportation to the selected location of the mound. It cannot be

¹ The publication is part of the implementation of the project “Non-destructive archaeology: an interdisciplinary study of the settlement pattern of the Ludogorsko Plateau in the Bronze and Early Iron Age”, contract between NAIM-BAS and the Bulgarian National Science Fund no. KP-06-H80/12 from 15.12.2023.

² I would like to express my warm gratitude to Assist. Prof. Dr. Slava Vasileva, curator of the Antiquities Fund at NAIM-BAS, for the opportunity to learn about this interesting artifact.

³ The excavator interprets the mould for casting a bronze sceptre without substantiating the assertion in detail, see Kitov 1990, p. 36.

excluded that, within this area and/or at the specific location of the tumulus, structures from an earlier period once existed and were disturbed or compromised during the accumulation of the mound. It is also conceivable that the two objects were intentionally deposited within the mound fill for ritual purposes. All of these interpretations remain preliminary and hypothetical. The possibility of the reuse of artefacts of significantly earlier date within later contexts is not unfamiliar in the territories of present-day Bulgaria, with numerous and varied examples attested. These include both settlement-derived objects and finds from funerary complexes. Emblematic cases are known from the settlement mound at Sveti Kirilovo (Detev 1942, p. 237–243), Brestak (Mirchev 1969, p. 104, 110, tabl. III.1.–и) and the necropolis at Duvanlii (Filov 1934, p. 137–140). For this reason, the possibility that the two objects were used and/or curated over a period of eight to nine centuries may not be dismissed.

It is made of talc-schist, and its surface shows intense burn marks. Its shape is trapezoidal with a semicircular cross-section and a perfectly smooth surface. Its dimensions are: length: 15.7 cm; maximum width: 12.3 cm; width at the preserved end: 11.7 cm; maximum thickness: 5.8 cm; thickness at the preserved end: 4.9–5 cm; thickness at the end with a broken corner: 5.3 cm; diameter of the circle: 9.2 cm; depth of the carved part, at the periphery of the circle (cast part): 0.2 cm (Fig. 1)⁴. On the flat surface of the mould, as well as along its sides, there are no perforations for fastening wedges, nor are there any alignment marks indicating the fitting of the mould to a corresponding half or lid. It is round in shape, with an opening at the top for pouring the molten metal. Inside the disc, there is a rectangular negative in the centre of the bed, as well as two pairs of four relief areas (which are worn to varying degrees as a result of use) – the outer ones are irregularly quadrilateral in shape, arched, while the inner ones have equilateral triangle shape, with their vertices pointing towards the centre of the circular space. When the object was cast, they formed openwork openings giving it an internal cross shape, while the rectangular negative was cast in the shape of a dowel. It cannot be excluded that the mould was used for casting a semi-finished product or blank, which subsequently underwent additional technological operations, such as cutting, hammering, levelling, and surface polishing, until the desired final form of the object was achieved. The find has no parallels among the stone moulds known to that point. The only similarities in shape and cross-section are with some moulds designed for casting double and ordinary axes – Ada Tepe (Popov 2018, p. 402–415, 511, cat. № 327), Breznik etc. (Chernykh 1978, p. 206, T. 42: 3; Panayotov 1980, p. 190). The shape of the casting is rare or unique because, as mentioned above, no similar moulds nor any cast bronze objects have been found. Nevertheless, certain elements in the construction

of some of the artefacts comprising the Vălchitrăn treasure and the lid shaped objects from Cherven Bryag and Călărași make it possible to formulate hypotheses that allow for the interpretation of the mould from Glăvan and determination (as far as possible) of the relative chronology of at least part of the Vălchitrăn treasure and of the finds from Cherven Bryag, and Călărași (Bondoc 2006; Stefanova 2018; Mehofer *et alii* 2024).

The disc-shaped form of the Glăvan mould is very similar to the bronze bases or inserts implemented in the hollow areas of the disc-shaped objects (called “lid-shaped”) from the above-mentioned collective and individual finds. They are well documented and described in the latest Bronze Age corpus, published recently (Alexandrov *et alii* 2018). Thanks to the several published observations, some of the assumptions in the following lines can be made (Mikov 1958; Penkova, Mehofer 2018, p. 208–214; Chukalev, Dimitrova 2018, p. 378–382; Mehofer *et alii* 2024, p. 307–323).

There are two large and five small golden discs with bulbs from Vălchitrăn in total. The two largest ones have a two-component bronze structure, made by casting (Mikov 1958, p. 11–15, fig. 5–6; Penkova, Mehofer 2018, p. 211; Mehofer *et alii* 2024, p. 310–312, 314, fig. 3, 4, 7). It is openwork, cross-shaped, with a central opening filled with amber. Similar bronze forms are also observed on the silver lids from Călărași (Bondoc 2006, p. 280, fig. 1–3; Popescu, Oanță-Marghitu 2018, p. 114, 118, fig. 13) and Cherven Bryag (Stefanova 2018, p. 224, fig. 2). They differ in that they are not cross-shaped, like those on the Vălchitrăn lids, but are single with an opening in the middle. All three lids from Vălchitrăn, Călărași, and Cherven Bryag have bronze inserts at the base of the disc, and each of them has a different shape. For all the examples cited, it is noted that they are positioned at the base of the discs and are made by casting, with the lost wax casting method being suggested for Călărași (Bondoc 2006, p. 281; Penkova, Mehofer 2018, p. 211). None of the bronze objects cited have a known mould for their casting.

Based on the data presented, the following observations can be made. The similarities between the shape of the mould from Glăvan and the bronze structures from Vălchitrăn, Cherven Bryag, and Călărași suggest that the mould from Glăvan was intended for casting a similar design for “another set of lids” (?), which have not yet been identified.

In considering other possible interpretations of the mould from Glăvan, an association with the openwork spoked wheels of the 1st millennium BC inevitably arises that is, whether it is possible to interpret the mould as a potential tool to produce such objects. Such a hypothesis should be discussed in depth. Regardless of the visual similarities, mainly due to the presence of openwork perforations, the finished object would differ significantly from the published examples. The differences can be observed primarily in two directions. First, in the central part of the mould from Glăvan, a small rectangular negative

⁴ I would like to express my deep gratitude to Chavdar Chomakov for taking images of the mould.



Figure 1. Glăvan. The mould (photo Chavdar Chomakov).

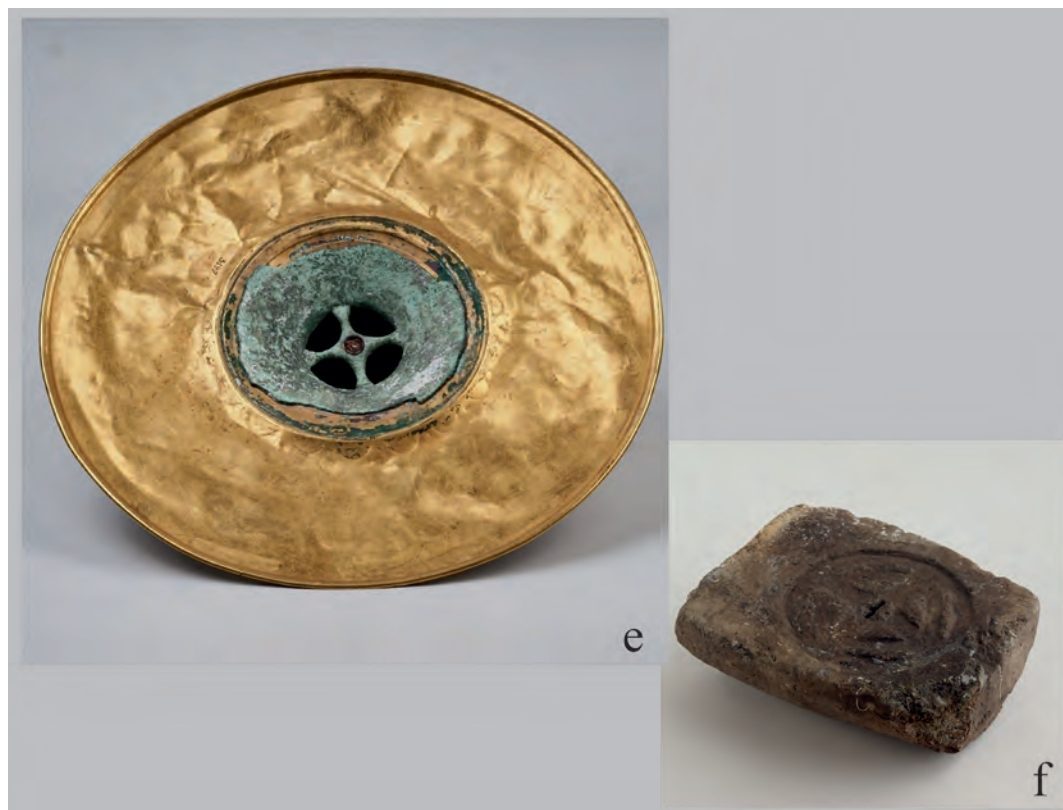


Figure 2. Glăvan, Vălchitrăn. Images of the mould and the bronze base construction of golden disc (Inv. No. 3197).

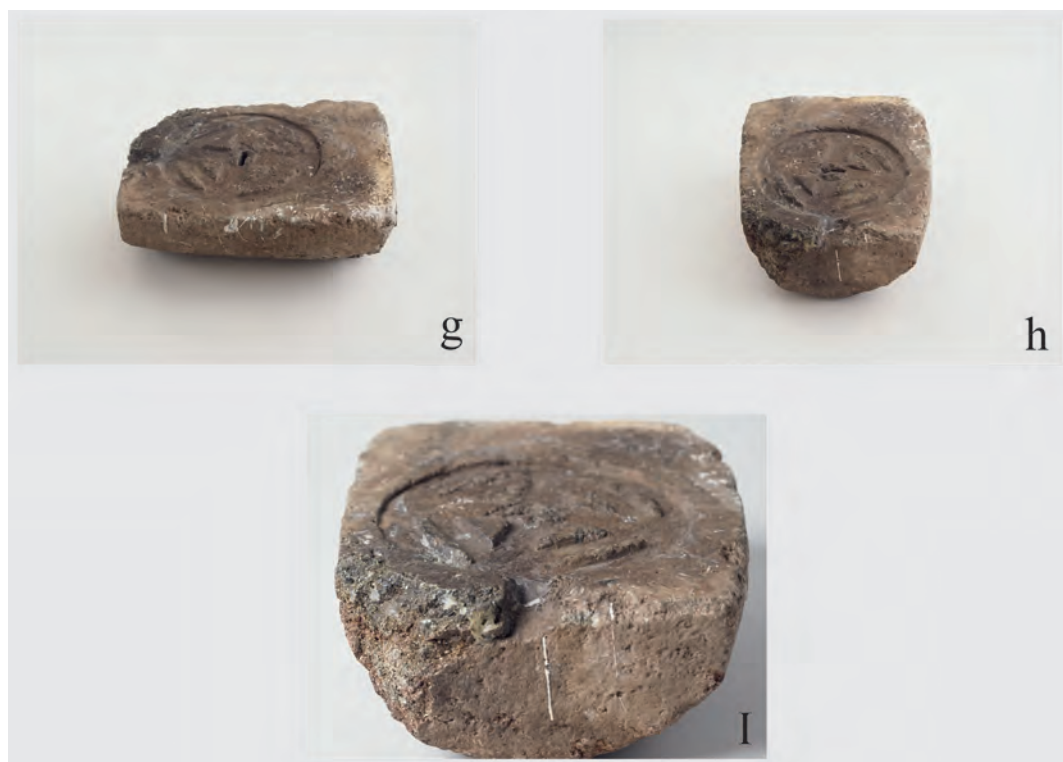


Figure 3. Glăvan. The mould – details (photo Chavdar Chomakov).



Figure 4. Map of the sites mentioned in the paper (Denitsa Sandeva).

is formed on a slightly profiled base. Upon casting, the negative would appear in high relief as a pin, while its base and periphery would form a concavity or socket with a convex shape, very close to that of the bases of the lids from Vălchitrăn (Mikov 1958, p. 12, fig. 5). In this way, it was clearly not intended to have, and accordingly lacks, a modelled seat for a cast or even composite hub (regardless of whether it has a double-sided or single-sided perforation) for the finished wheels, as is the case in all examples. Second, upon casting, the finished object would have arcuate external openwork perforations and triangular internal openwork perforations. For comparison, in the bronze wheels, the spokes are rod-shaped, clearly expressed and modelled. They have a circular cross-section, while the openings/voids between the spokes are open and clearly defined (Petrescu-Dâmbovița 1977, p. 347, 365, pl. 347, pl. 383; Dima, Borangic 2018, p. 15–32; Danielisová *et alii* 2020, p. 33–36, fig. 1q, fig. 3; Dima 2020, p. 23–31; Ondrkál *et alii* 2020, p. 2, 7, fig. 8). Differences are also observed in relation to the circular appliqués and objects from Oradea, Vinča, Vidovice, Brodski Varoš, Privina Glava (Gavranović 2013, p. 158, Abb. 11–7; Hansen 1994, p. 252–258, Abb. 160–161), as well as with the mould from Varvara (Ćurčić 1902, p. 50–51, fig. 8), which is intended for casting a circular object with eight spokes. On the basis of these observations, it may be hypothesised that the pin may have been used for attachment to the upper part of the inner base of the construction of a metal lid or for fixing an amber bead at its centre, as is the case with Vălchitrăn lids (Mehofer *et alii* 2024, p. 311, fig. 3–4).

Determining the chronology of the stone mould, and thus narrowing down the ranges of the lid shaped artefacts made of precious metals from the aforementioned locations, is greatly facilitated by the fact that the well-known stone sceptre from Glăvan was also found in the embankment of the burial mound, along with the stone mould, although both objects have until now been claimed to have no clear context (Kitov 1990, p. 36; Vassileva 2008; Vassileva 2018, p. 25). However, its discovery in the mound does not strip it of its context. The proximity to other similar finds – from Lyulin (Vassileva 2018, p. 253–254, fig. 1), Uluburun (Bass 1996, p. 68, 72), Draja de Jos (Vulpe 1970, Taf. 41, No. 563–565; Vulpe 1975) etc. – points to a date in the Late Bronze Age⁵, for which the *terminus post quem* can be assumed to be the date of the sceptre from Uluburun in 1316 BC, or 1320 +/-15 calBC. This dating is based on the Egyptian electron ring, Canaanite bracelets, Canaanite medallion, gold scarab of Queen Nefertiti, Mycenaean pottery found in the ship and last dating models providing by ¹⁴C dating (Bass 1996, p. 74–75; Vassileva 2018, p. 256; Manning *et alii* 2009, p. 178–184, fig. 13–17).

Thus, although indirectly, it can be assumed that the mould from Glăvan could be dated to the end of the 14th and throughout the 13th century BC. On this basis, with a high probability, it can be hypothesised that this date

can also be accepted for the discs from Vălchitrăn, Cherven Bryag, Călărași and the other sites in the region.

DISCUSSION

The presence of a stone mould, whose purpose is most likely associated with the inner bronze forms of noble metal lids, raises a number of important questions related to the cultural determination and identification of such artefacts from sites like Vălchitrăn, Cherven Bryag, and Călărași.

The discovery of the stone mould with a stone sceptre, remarkably similar to the one from Uluburun, suggests that the mould (as well as the sceptre) may have been part of an intense relocation of people and objects during the Late Bronze Age. The presumed route along which this took place may overlap with the routes of today's Aytos and Karnobat passes. These two passes connect the plains and lowlands on both sides of the Stara Planina Mountain range.

The area north of Stara Planina Mountain, in northeastern Bulgaria, is characterised by a particularly high number of collective and individual finds dated to the Late Bronze Age. These include metal objects distributed across three chronological horizons, as well as the stone moulds for manufacturing these metal objects. A prime example is the find from Pobit Kamak (Dergachev 2011; Hristova 2018; Leshtakov 2018), as well as some newly discovered individual stone moulds from the region of modern villages near the town of Kubrat – Medovene, Kamenovo etc. (Minkov *et alii* 2024). Alongside these artefacts are objects whose origins are linked to the Tei and Coslogeni cultures. The material manifestations of the first mentioned culture are ceramic vessels in burial complexes on the territory of present-day eastern Bulgaria, as well as settlements, such as the settlement mound at Dyadovo⁶ and the fortified settlement at Visegrad (Dremsizova-Nelchinova 1984, p. 114, fig. 13)⁷, which reach as far south as the Gallipoli Peninsula – in the area of Troy and Tell Maidos (Hristova 2010, p. 19; Sazci, Mutlu 2018–2019, p. 330, Abb. 15). The stone sceptres characteristics of the Coslogeni culture are known on both sides of the Stara Planina Mountain range (Hristova 2010; Alexandrov, Taneva 2013; Zidarov, Agulnikov 2016). Another sign of population and material dislocation is the presence of bone psalias for horse harnesses, located in sites in both northeastern and southeastern Bulgaria (Minkov 2023). To these can also be added bronze ingots in the form of stretched ox-hides from eastern and northeastern Bulgaria, of clearly Aegean-Anatolian origin. These examples illustrate

⁶ Unpublished finds currently exhibited in the exhibition materials from Tell Dyadovo, Nova Zagora district.

⁷ This constitutes evidence both for migrations through these territories and for the presence of ceramic material from an earlier period within the area of the fortified settlement, namely the Middle Bronze Age. See Dremsizova-Nelchinova 1984, p. 114, fig. 13.

⁵ The suggested primary date for the sceptre is 13–12 c. BC.

north-south vertical migrations on both sides of the Balkan Mountains. At the same time, there was also east-west horizontal population movement within the vast boundaries of the Danube Plain along the Danube River, evidenced by the distribution of hoards and single finds of bronze artefacts and precious metal objects. Their connection consists both in the homogeneity of certain artefacts and in distinct indicative links between separate deposits located at a considerable distance from each other; examples of such links are the arc-shaped pectoral plates from Emen (Chukalev 2018, p. 355–358), Tabashka Cave (Valentinova 2018, p. 352–354), the find from Panayot Hitovo, Rositsa/Alexander Stamboliiski (Elenski 2010, p. 121–128; Konova 2018, p. 359–363) and the gold object kept at the Regional Museum of History in Haskovo (Leshtakov *et alii* 2010, p. 35), as well as the connection between the bulbs from the lids of the Vălchitrăn treasure (and similar lids mentioned in the study) and one of the moulds from the collective find at Pobit Kamak. This suggests the existence of a dense network of intense transregional relations and interactions between the different cultural areas. It is perfectly plausible that the mould from Glăvan may be a direct connection between the cultural centres of the Coslogeni culture and the carriers and transporters of materials coming from rich cargo ships, such as the shipwreck at Uluburun.

With a high degree of presumption and probability, it can be said that the locations of the hoards of metal and other objects from northern Bulgaria represented the southern periphery of the main core of Bronze Age metallurgy, the peak of which was located in the Carpathian-Danube basin. This is also confirmed by the mapping of collective finds in the territory of present-day Romania. It was during this highly developed period exchange of ideas, materials, and artefacts could have been transferred by the Coslogeni populations who had migrated to the modern Bulgarian lands. Thus, the aforementioned hoards and collective finds cannot be unequivocally associated with the characteristics of the material culture of Coslogeni. Nevertheless, it may be hypothesised that, during processes of population migration of the eponymous culture south of the Danube, the physical transfer of the discussed objects and artefacts was possible. At present, it cannot be asserted that this necessarily implies a cultural definition or attribution, beyond the fact that they represent items subjected to transfer across a traceable spatial distance. Scarce evidence of this has already been found at newly registered archaeological sites such as those at Gyaur Punar, Tutrakan (Alexandrov *et alii* 1998), Orlovets (Petrova *et alii* 2021), Kamenovo (Minkov *et alii* 2024), Voditsa (Georgiev *et alii* 2021), Durankulak (Atanasov *et alii* 2006), and others. Despite the different profiles of the cited sites, interpreted as settlements or sites with special functions, stone moulds, bone psalia, and mass pottery material typical of the Coslogeni culture's pottery repertoire are present. This shows further development of a sedentary lifestyle and integration into the local geographical and cultural environment. This statement

is supported by parallel artefacts, located deep into the southern parts of today's Bulgarian territories, namely the stone sceptres from the Yambol area and the stone sceptre and mould near the village of Glăvan.

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ABREVIERI / ABRÉVIATIONS / ABBREVIATIONS

AAC – Acta Archaeologica Carpatica, Kraków
ACMI – Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București
ActaArchHung – Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
Acta Classica Univ. Scient. Debrecen – Acta Classica Universitatis Scientiarum Debreceniensis, Debrecen, Ungaria
ActaMN – Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj
ActaMP – Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
ActaPraehistA – Acta praehistorica et archaeologica
AIGR – Anuarul Institutului Geologic al României, București
AIIAC – Anuarul Institutului de Istorie „George Barițiu”, Cluj
AJA – American Journal of Archaeology, Boston
AJPA – American Journal of Physical Anthropology
Alba Regia – Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani regis, Székesfehérvár
Anatolia Antiqua – Anatolia Antiqua. Revue internationale d'archéologie anatolienne. Institut Français d'Etudes anatoliennes d'Istanbul
Anatolica – Anatolica. The Netherlands Institute for the Near East in Leiden
AnB – Analele Banatului, Muzeul Banatului, Timișoara
AncNearEastSt – Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Leuven, Belgia
Angustia – Angustia. Arheologie, Etnografie, Sfântu Gheorghe
Anmed – Anmed. Anadolu Akdenizi Arkeoloji Haberleri, Antalya, Turcia
AnSt – Anatolian Studies. British Institute of Ankara
AnUCraiova – Analele Universității din Craiova, Craiova (seria Istorie)
AnUVT – Annales d'Université “Valahia” Târgoviște, Section d'Archéologie et d'Histoire
Apulum – Acta Musei Apulensis. Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia
ArchBulg – Archaeologia Bulgarica, Sofia
ArchÉrt – Archaeológiai Értesítő, Budapest
ArchHung – Archaeologia Hungarica, Acta Archaeologica Musei Nationalis Hungarici, Budapest
ArchKorr – Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Mainz
ArchMűh – Archeometriai Műhely
ArchRozhledy – Archeologické Rozhledy, Praha
Argesis – Argesis. Muzeul Județean Argeș. Pitești
Arheologia Medievală. Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
ArheologijaSSSR – Arheologija SSSR. Svod Archeologičeskikh Istočnikov, Moscova
Arheološki vestnik – The Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
ArhMold – Arheologia Moldovei, Iași
AS – Archeologica Slovaca, Bratislava
AST – Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü, I. Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı, Istanbul / General Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Museums
AȘUI – Analele științifice ale Universității Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Iași
BA – Biblioteca de Arheologie, București
BaBesch – Bulletin antieke beschaving. Annual Papers on Classical Archaeology
BAI – Bibliotheca Archaeologica lassiensis, Iași
Baltic-Pontic Studies – Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Institute of Archaeology, Institute of Eastern Studies, Poland
Banatica – Banatica. Muzeul Banatului Montan, Reșița
BarBrSer – British Archaeological Reports. British Series, Oxford
BARIntSer – British Archaeological Reports. International Series, Oxford
BCMI – Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice
Be-Ja – Bulgarian e-Journal of Archaeology
BerRGK – Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt am Main
BIAA Monograph – British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara
BiblEphemNap – Bibliotheca Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
BiblMemAnt – Bibliotheca Memoriae Antiquitatis, Piatra-Neamț
BiblThrac – Bibliotheca Thracologica, București

- BMC – *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, Londra; II, *Vespasian to Domitian*, 1930; IV, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, 1968; V, *Pertinax to Elagabalus*, 1950 (H. Mattingly)
- BMI – Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice, București
- BMJT – Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman, Alexandria
- BMTAG – Buletinul Muzeului Județean „Teohari Antonescu”, Giurgiu
- BSA – British School at Athens, Athens
- BSNR – Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române, București
- BSPF – Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Française, Paris
- BSSC – Buletinul Societății de Științe din Cluj
- București-MIM – București. Materiale de Istorie și Muzeografie. Muzeul Municipiului București
- BYZAS – German Archaeological Institute of Istanbul
- CA – Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României, București
- CAB – Cercetări arheologice în București. Muzeul Municipiului București
- Caiete ARA – Caietele ARA, Revistă de Arhitectură. Restaurare și Arheologie, Asociația ARA, București
- Carpica – Carpica. Complexul Muzeal „Iulian Antonescu” Bacău, Bacău
- CCA – Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
- CCDJ – Cultură și Civilizație la Dunărea de Jos, Călărași
- Cerclst – Cercetări Istorice, Muzeul de Istorie a Moldovei, Iași
- CN – Cercetări numismatice, București
- CollAn – Colloquium Anatolicum. Anadolu Sohbetleri, Institutum Turcicum Scientiae Antiquitatis, Istanbul
- Crisia – Crisia. Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea
- Cuadernos del Museo Geominero – Museo Geominero, Instituto Geológico y Minero de España, Madrid
- Current Anthropology – Current Anthropology. University of California, Merced
- Dacia – Dacia (Nouvelle Série). Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Académie Roumaine. Institut d'archéologie « V. Pârvan », Bucarest
- Danubius – Danubius, Revista Muzeului de Istorie Galați
- Documenta Praehistorica – Documenta Praehistorica, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Ljubljana
- DolgCluj – Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiséggyűjtéséről, Kolozsvár
- DTKFD – Ankara Üniversitesi Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi Dergisi
- EJA – European Journal of Archaeology
- ERAUL – Études et Recherches archéologiques de l'Université de Liège
- ÉtAlex – Études Alexandrines, Centre d'Études Alexandrines
- ÉtTrav – Etudes et travaux. Studia i prace. Travaux du Centre d'archéologie méditerranéenne de l'Académie Polonaise des Sciences
- EurAnt – Eurasia Antiqua. Deutsche Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
- FrC – Fragmenta Comica
- FolArch – Folia Archaeologica. A Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Évkönyve. Annales Musei Nationalis Hungarici, Budapest
- FSI – Forensic Science International
- Germania – Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt
- Geoarchaeology – Geoarchaeology. An International Journal
- Hesperia – Hesperia. Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Cambridge
- HOMO – HOMO. Journal of Comparative Human Biology, Stuttgart
- Human Evolution – Human Evolution, International Institute for Humankind Studies and University of Florence
- Ialomița – Ialomița. Studii de cercetări de arheologie, istorie, etnografie și muzeologie, Slobozia
- IJO – International Journal of Osteoarchaeology
- Iran – Iran. Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies
- IstMitt – Istanbul Mitteilungen, Istanbul
- Istros – Istros, Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
- IzvestijaVarna – Izvestija na Archeologiceskii Institut, Sofia
- JAHA – Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology, Cluj-Napoca
- JAnat – Journal of Anatomy
- JAS – Journal of Archaeological Science
- JAS: Reports - Journal of Archaeological Sciences: Reports
- JDAI.AA – Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Archäologischer Anzeiger, Berlin
- JFS – Journal of Forensic Sciences

- JHE – Journal of Human Evolution
 JRA – Journal of Roman Archaeology
 JRGZM – Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz, Mainz
 JRS – The Journal of Roman Studies
 KST – T. C. Kültür Bakanlığı, Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü, I. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı, Ankara / Republic of Turkey, General Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Museums, Ankara, Turkey
 LIMC – Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae, Zürich, München, Düsseldorf
 Litua – Litua, Studii și cercetări, Târgu-Jiu
 LRBC – *Late Roman Bronze Coinage A.D. 394-498*, Londra, 1965: I, *The Bronze Coinage of the House of Constantine A.D. 324-346* (P. V. Hill, J. P. C. Kent); II, *Bronze Roman Imperial Coinage of the Later Empire A.D. 346-498* (R. A. G. Carson, J. P. C. Kent).
 Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica – Macedonian Archaeological Society, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
 MAMA – Monumenta Asiae Minoris antiqua. Publications of the American Society for Archaeological Research in Asia Minor
 Marisia – Marisia. Studii și materiale. Arheologie – Istorie – Etnografie, Târgu Mureș
 Marmatia – Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Maramureș, Baia Mare
 MarNero – Il Mar Nero. Annali di archeologia e storia
 MCA – Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
 MDOG – Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient Gesellschaft
 MemAnt – Memoria Antiquitatis, Piatra Neamț
 MFMÉ – A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged
 Mousaios – Mousaios. Buletinul Științific al Muzeului Județean Buzău
 MuzNaț – Muzeul Național, București
 NAC – Numismatica e Antichità Classiche, Lugano-Pregassona
 OIP – Oriental Institute Publications, University of Chicago
 OJA – Oxford Journal of Archaeology, Oxford
 Olba – Mersin University Publications of the Research Center of Cilician Archaeology, Mersin, Turkey
 PALMA – Papers on Archaeology of the Leiden Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, Olanda
 PAS – Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa, München-Berlin
 PBF – Prähistorische Bronzefunde, Münster
 Peuce – Peuce. Studii și cercetări de istorie și arheologie, Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale, Tulcea
 Phoenix – Phoenix. The Journal of the Classical Association of Canada
 Plural – Journal of the History and Geography Department „Ion Creangă” Pedagogical State University, History, Culture. Society. Seria Archaeologica II, Chișinău
 PMMB – Publicațiile Muzeului Municipiului București
 Pontica – Pontica. Studii și materiale de istorie, arheologie și muzeografie, Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța
 PZ – Prähistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin-Mainz
 Quaternary International – Quaternary International. The Journal of the International Union for Quaternary Research
 Quaternary Science Reviews – Quaternary Science Reviews. The International Multidisciplinary Research and Review Journal
 RA – Revue Archéologique, Paris
 RAASI – Revista de Arheologie, Antropologie și Studii Interdisciplinare, Institutul de Cercetări Bioarheologice și Etnoculturale, Republica Moldova
 Radiocarbon – An International Journal of Cosmogenic Isotope Research, Cambridge
 RCAN – Revista de Cercetări Arheologice și Numismatice, Muzeul Municipiului București
 RevBistr – Revista Bistriței. Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
 RevMuz – Revista Muzeelor, București
 RGZM – Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseums Mainz, Mainz
 RIC – *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, Londra: I², *From 31 BC to AD 69*, 1984 (C. H. V. Sutherland); II, *Vespasian to Hadrian*, 1926 (H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham); II.1, *From AD 69-96. Vespasian to Domitian*, 2007 (I. A. Carradice, T.V. Buttrey); II.3, *From AD 117-138. Hadrian*, 2019 (R. A. Abdy, P. F. Mittag); III, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, 1930; IV.1, *Pertinax to Geta*, 1968 (H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham); IV.2, *Macrinus to Papien*, 1938; IV.3, *Gordian III – Uranian Antoninus*, 1949 (H. Mattingly, E. A. Sydenham, C. H. V. Sutherland); V.1, 1927 (reimprimat 1968; P. H. Webb); VII, *Constantine and Licinius A.D. 313-337*, 1966 (P. M. Bruun); VIII, *The Family of Constantine I A.D. 337-364*, 1981; X, *The Divided Empire and the Fall of the Western Parts A.D. 395-491*, 1994 (J. P. C. Kent)
 SAA – Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica, Iași
 Sargetia – Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis. Buletinul Muzeului județean Hunedoara, Deva

SAV – Študijné zvesti Archeologicky ústav SAV, Nitra
Sci Rep – Scientific Reports
SCIV(A) – Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie), București
SCN – Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, București
Seleucia – Seleucia. Olban Excavations Series
SP – Studii de Preistorie, București
SprawArch – Sprawozdania Archeologiczne, Warsaw
SRMKA – Seramik Araştırmaları Dergisi, The Journal of Ceramic Research
StArchBrno – Studia Archaeologica Brunensia, Masaryk University, Brno
Starinar – Starinar. Arheološki institut Beograd
StComPitești – Studii și Comunicări, Seria Istorie, Muzeul Județean Argeș, Pitești
StudCom Satu Mare – Studii și comunicări Satu Mare
Studia Praehistorica – National Archaeological Institute with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Syria – Syria. Archéologie, art et histoire. Institut Français du Proche-Orient
Terra Sebus – Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Anuarul Muzeului Municipal „Ioan Raica”, Sebeș
Th-D – Thraco-Dacica, București
Thracia – Thracia, Sofia
TIB – *Tabula Imperii Byzantini*, Wien
Transylvanian Review – Transylvanian Review. Centrul de Studii Transilvane, Cluj-Napoca
TÜBA-AR – TÜBA-AR Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi arkeoloji dergisi (TÜBA-AR Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Archeology)
UPA – Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
VAH – *Varia Archaeologica Hungarica* V. Redigit Csanád Bálint. Publicationes Instituti Archaeologici Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
Varia Anatolica – *Varia Anatolica*. L’Institut Français d’Études Anatoliennes, Istanbul
Ziridava – Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad