



Monastic Life, Art and Technology at the Bizere Monastery (Arad County, RO)

Code PN-II-RU-TE-2012-3-0477

Contract no. 51/30.04.2013

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2013-2016; 41 months

Annual Report January - September 2016

1) Articles published in IDB indexed journals:

No.	Title	Year	Journal	ISSN	Status	Author
1	<i>Jetoanele medievale din ceramică: utilități cu multiple dubii de interpretare</i>	2016	<i>Analele Banatului</i>	1221-678X	Accepted	Adrian Andrei Rusu

2) Books; studies in volumes:

No.	Title	Year	Volume	ISBN	Status	Author
1	<i>Concepts distorted by Ideologies. 'Romanian Art' or 'Art In Romania'?</i>	2017	<i>Convivium</i> IV.1 Editors: Xavier Barral i Altet, Ivan Foletti, Brepols)	978-2-503-56607-8	Under evaluation	Ileana Burnichioiu
2	<i>The Medieval Monuments from Transylvania in the 20th Century Romanian Historiography</i>	2017	<i>Convivium</i> IV.1 Editors: Xavier Barral i Altet, Ivan Foletti, Brepols)	978-2-503-56607-8	Under evaluation	Adrian Andrei Rusu

3	<i>Riverine monasticism in the Kingdom of Hungary. Navigation on the Lower Mureş and the Benedictine abbey of Bizere</i>	2017	<i>Monastic Europe AD 1100-1700: landscape and settlement, Brepols</i>	-	Accepted	Oana Toda
4	<i>Meeting a medieval community of Bizere Monastery: lifestyle, occupation and nutritional status</i>	2017	<i>Homines, Funera, Astra 4. Time and Cause of Death from Prehistory to Middle Ages. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Funerary Anthropology. 21 – 23 September 2014, '1 Decembrie 1918' University (Alba Iulia, Romania), Eds. R. Kogălniceanu, M. Gligor, R. Curcă, S. Straton, Oxford, Archaeopress</i>	-	Under evaluation	Luminița Andreica (Szilagyi)
5	<i>Manifestations of Violence in the Benedictine Abbey from Bizere (Frumușeni, Arad County)</i>	2017	<i>Violence in the Ancient and Medieval World, Universidade de Lisboa - Centro de Estudos Clássicos</i>	-	Accepted	Adrian Andrei Rusu

3) Papers presented at conferences, symposiums etc.:

No.	Authors	Title	Conference/symposium/workshop/poster
1	Ileana Burnichioiu	<u><i>East-West Interaction in Medieval Art and Architecture. The Case of Bizere Monastery (Romania)</i></u>	Invited lecture, Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies (CEU) & Romanian Cultural Institute in Budapest, 3th March.
2	Bernadett Bajnóczi, D. Györkös, V. Mozgai, M. Szabó, M. Tóth, I. Burnichioiu	<u><i>Archaeometric analysis of mosaic tesserae and a "red marble" decorative stone from the Bizere monastery (Arad county, Western Romania)</i></u>	EMC2016 2nd European Mineralogical Conference, Rimini - Italy, 11-15 September, Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia: <i>Minerals, rocks and fluids: alphabet and words of planet Earth.</i>

The **CENTER FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES**
in collaboration with the **Romanian Cultural Institute**
cordially invites you to the tenth lecture
of its eleventh **COLLOQUIUM SERIES**



Ileana Burnichioiu
| University of Alba Iulia

**East-West Interaction
in Medieval Art and Architecture:
The Case of Bizere Monastery (Romania)**

In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, one of the most important phenomena pertaining to the history of Christianity in the Hungarian medieval kingdom developed around the Mureș-Tisza river confluence area (an important salt route) where more than thirty Benedictine and Greek monastic foundations emerged. After falling into ruin and oblivion, the nineteenth century marked the outset for various historiographic controversies about the identification of their foundation places, rite, hierarchical subordination, but also of their founders, of their cultural influences coming from the West or from the Byzantine territories, all based on the scarce evidence which these establishments had left behind.

Among these monastic communities, the Benedictine foundation of "Bizere" has benefited from an extensive research with spectacular results. The archaeological excavations (1981, 2001-2009, and 2014) brought to light hundreds of carved stones fragments, remains of the cloister, and traces of two Romanesque churches and a palace; furthermore, two large decorated surfaces of polychrome pavement mosaics were found *in situ*. Given the scarcity of the written sources, these artifacts bring evidence of East-West connections in the medieval art and architecture of this particular area. Their analysis provides fruitful suggestions about the origins and the western and eastern relationships of some monastic centers in this part of medieval Europe.



Ileana Burnichioiu is lecturer at the History, Archaeology and Museology Department of the University of Alba Iulia, Romania. She received her BA degree in Art History and Archaeology at the same university in 1996 and the MA degree in Medieval Studies at Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca in 1997. In 2010 she earned the PhD. in Visual Arts from the University of Arts in Bucharest. She has authored several studies on the medieval art and architecture of Transylvania and the Banat, co-edited several collective volumes, organised extensive field work, exhibitions, and conferences. She is currently the principal investigator of the multidisciplinary project Monastic life, art and technology at Bizere monastery" (2013-2016) (UEFISCDI-Romanian Research Foundation) and member of the research team of the Palace of Transylvanian Princes in Alba Iulia (from 2014). Her main areas of interest are: medieval art and architecture; medieval archaeology.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF MOSAIC TESSERAE AND A 'RED MARBLE' DECORATIVE STONE FROM THE BIZERE MONASTERY (ARAD COUNTY, WESTERN ROMANIA)

Abstract

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Keywords: mosaic tesserae, red marble, Bizere monastery

The Medieval Bizere monastery is situated 15 kms from Arad (Western Romania), south of the valley of River Mureş, on the territory of Frumuşeni village. It was founded around the year 1100 and disappeared after the 16th century. A large variety of building and decorative materials, including masonry blocks, bricks and mosaic tesserae, were discovered during the archaeological excavation of the monastery. Most of the mosaic tesserae were found to be dispersed, however, two surfaces of pavement mosaic, belonging to the basilica of the abbey, were found *in situ* (Burnichioiu & Rusu, 2006, 2011). In order to assess the material usage for decorative elements, several dispersed mosaic tesserae made of rocks and ceramics and a 'red marble' decorative stone were studied by means of optical and cathodoluminescence microscopy, X-ray diffraction, electron microprobe and stable isotope analyses. Based on the mineralogical, petrographic and geochemical characteristics the probable sources (provenance) for the rocks are suggested, whereas the firing conditions (temperature) of the ceramics are established.

Most of the studied tesserae consist of metamorphic rocks such as white marble, quartzite, greenschist, hornfels and 'serpentine marble' (ophicalcite). Magmatic rocks (basalt) and sedimentary rocks (sandstone, limestone and breccia) were also identified.

Based on the geology of the region we can assume that most of the rocks have local source in the nearby Southern Apuseni or the Poiana Rusca Mountains. For example, basalt may originate from the Jurassic ophiolitic sequence cropping out in several quarries in the Southern Apuseni Mountains. A potential source of sandstones (quartzarenite and quartz-rich arkose) may be the Upper Cretaceous Gosau succession of the same mountains. Moreover, the Mureş Valley, that is the alluvial pebbles of River Mureş, can be also a possible source for rocks. Some of the white marbles with heteroblastic and cataclastic/mortar texture most probably originate from the Southern Carpathians (Bucova/Zeicani). The possible local or distant source of some white marble mosaics and other unique tesserae made of 'serpentine marble' and black-and-white breccia is still to be identified.

The 'red marble' decorative stone found at the Bizere site is a bioclastic nodular limestone containing a large amount of Middle Jurassic *Bositra* shell fragments. Although a 'red marble' deposit exists in the Apuseni Mountains (at Menyháza/Moneasa), the petrographic and stable isotope characteristics of the studied stone point to a relatively distant source, the Gerecse Mountains in Hungary.

The ceramics studied are diverse in appearance including grey, red and sandwich-structured mosaic tesserae and a red brick. All but one was made from clay intentionally tempered with sand, most probably from the River Mureş. The phase composition of the ceramics suggests a firing temperature of ≤650–700 °C.

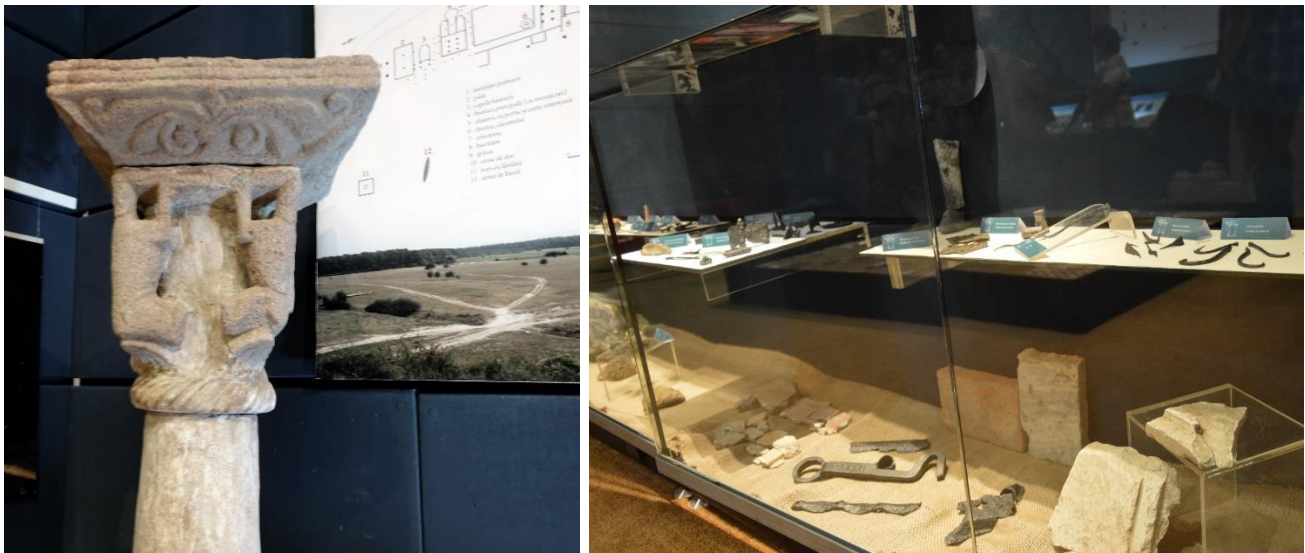
Burnichioiu, I. & Rusu, A. A. (2006): Mozaicurile medievale de la Bizere (The medieval mosaics from Bizere). Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 55 p.

Burnichioiu, I. & Rusu, A. A. (2011): Medieval floor mosaics at Bizere Monastery. A brief survey. *Transylvan. Rev.* **20/2**, 3–13.

4) Scientific Reports/analyses of laboratory

Brigitta Maria Kürtösi (Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest), *The Bizere Blue. Archaeometrical Investigation of Medieval greyish-blue Mosaic Tesserae from Bizere Monastery*, 2016.

5) Permanent exhibition: „Bizere. Monastic life, art and technology”, in Complexul Muzeal Arad, 2016 (Ileana Burnichioiu, Oana Toda, Adrian Rusu, Sebastian Manolescu, Stefan Wagner).



6) National and international research internship (libraries, archives, museum collections).

I. Burnichioiu: Arad, Budapesta.

7) Project website: <http://diam.uab.ro/index.php?s=10&p=56>

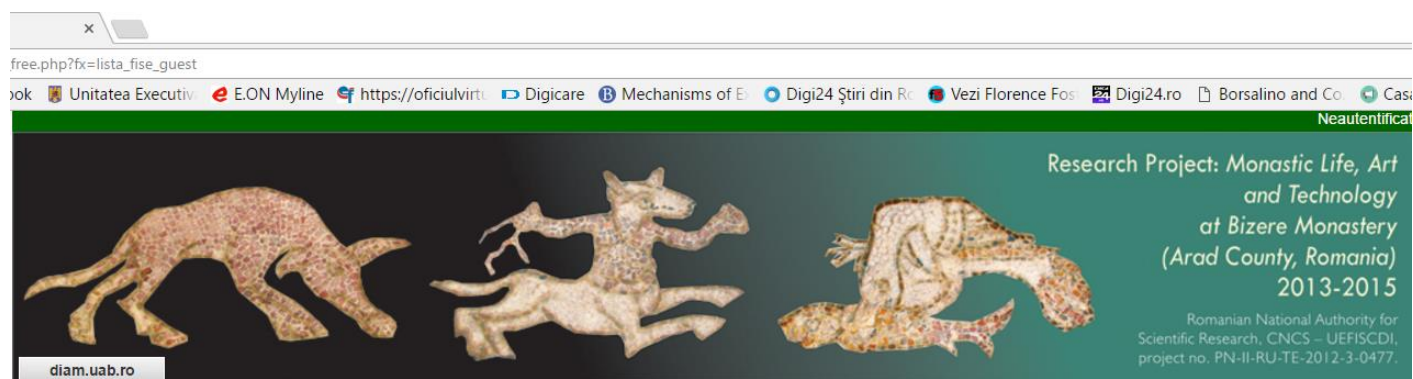
(Mădălin Ordean, Ileana Burnichioiu).

8) Project database: http://diam.uab.ro/bizere/guest_free.php?fx=lista_fise_guest

(Oana Toda, Adrian Andrei Rusu, Mădălin Ordean, Sebastian Manolescu).

9) Documentation and inventories of artefacts – Arad Museum


(Ileana Burnichioiu)




Cercetare

Căutare

Numar	Nume	Material	Dimensiune/greutate	Numar bucati	Tehnica	Datare	Foto an	Desen
236	picior cazan	bronz	greutate fragment mic: 0,365 kg; greutate fragment mare: 1,187 kg; fragment mic are baza cu două laturi de 6 cm și una 4 cm; lungime fragment mare: 13 cm; axa în partea inferioară: 2,5 cm și în partea superioară: de 4,2 cm.	2	turnare	cca. secol XIII	foto2015/descoperire 2005	→
235	cap dragon	bronz	lungime: 4,1 cm, grosime: 0,6 cm; greutate: 8 gr.	1	turnare	secol XII - prima jumătate a secolului XIII	foto2015/descoperire 2002	→
234	ac	bronz	lungime: 5,5 cm; grosime sârmă: 0,15 cm.	1	turnare	medievală	foto 2014/descoperire 2014	→
233	rebut de prelucrare	bronz	lungime: 2,2 cm; lățime: 0,5 cm; grosime bandă: 0,1 cm.	1	turnare, perforare	medievală	foto 2014/descoperire 2014	→
232	șaiță sau petic de vas	bronz	dimensiuni: 1,9 x 1,7 cm; grosime tablă: 0,1 cm; 0,3 cm.	1	turnare, perforare	medievală	foto 2013/descoperire 2001	→
231	piesă tubulară	bronz	lungime: 5,6 cm; diametru exterior: 0,9 cm; grosime tablă: 0,1 cm.	1	turnare, ciocănire	medievală	foto 2013/descoperire 2001	→
230	tablă	bronz	lungime: 5,3; lățime: 2,6 cm.	1	turnare	medievală	foto 2013/descoperire 2001	→
229	tablă ornamentată	bronz	diametru reconstituit: 5,5 cm; grosime tablă: 0,15 cm.	1	turnare, ciocănire	medievală	foto 2013, desen 2001/descoperire 2001	→
228	capac pipă	bronz	diametru maxim: 2,7 cm; grosime tablă: 0,1 cm; diametru umbo central: 2 cm.	1	turnare	secolele XVIII-XIX	foto 2013/descoperire 2001	→
227	închizătoare carte	bronz	lungime: 2,3 cm; lățime: 1,8 cm; grosime tablă: 0,1 cm.	1	turnare, ciocănire	cca. mijloc de secol XV	foto 2013/descoperire 2001	→

<p>Monastic Life Bizere x cercetare x diam.uab.ro/bizere/ x</p> <p>diam.uab.ro/bizere/guest_free.php?fx=vizualizare_fisa&id=1830</p> <p>Aplicații ileanaburnichioiu Facebook Unitatea Executivă E.ON Myline https://oficiulvirtu Digicare Mechanisms of E Digi24 Știri din R Vezi Florence Fos Digi24.ro Borsalino and Co Casa De Vanzare Metodele de apl</p>	
Număr: 40	Nume: cuțit import
<p>Descriere vizuală: cutit de proveniență germană cu lamă și mâner prevăzute cu orificii (șase) pentru fixarea plăselei prin nituri, pe banda mânerului la extremitățile acestei zone aplici decorative din tablă de bronz au fost fixate pe ambele fețe; la trecerea de la lamă la mâner au fost aplici de mai mici dimensiuni cu 4 caneluri, extremitatea mânerului a fost placată cu o componentă mai elaborată, constând din două plăci cu decor canelat și vegetal (prinse cu două nituri) și unite la capăt pentru a forma o terminație bitronconică.</p>	
Material: fier, bronz	Dimensiune/Greutate: lungime totală: 18,7 cm; lungime lamă: 9,6 cm; 9,1 cm; lățime maximă lamă: 1,1 cm; lățime maximă mâner: 1 cm; grosime bandă mâner: 0,3 cm; diametru orificii nituri: 0,15 cm; lungime a mediane bronz: 0,7 cm; lungime decorațiune extremitate: 3,5 cm; grosime tablă bronz: 0,05 cm.
Număr bucăți: 1	Tehnică: batere la cald, turnare, nituire
Stare de conservare: bună/conservată	Loc de descoperire: S 117, carou NE, ad. -1, 57 m, nivel deranjat de intervenții târzii.
Datare: secolele XIII-XV	Deținător nt. inventar: CMA
Bibliografie:	
Foto (an): foto2015/descoperire 2014	Desen:
	

<p>Monastic Life Bizere x cercetare x diam.uab.ro/bizere/ x</p> <p>diam.uab.ro/bizere/guest_free.php?fx=vizualizare_fisa&id=1971</p> <p>Aplicații ileanaburnichioiu Facebook Unitatea Executivă E.ON Myline https://oficiulvirtu Digicare Mechanisms of E Digi24 Știri din R Vezi Florence Fos Digi24.ro</p>	
Număr: 181	Nume: aplică decorativă
<p>Descriere vizuală: piesă de formă florală, cu șase lobi/petale dispuse în jurul unui orificiu de fixare situat în centru; fiecare lob prezintă perforație, însă acestea se datorează cel mai probabil deteriorării (oxidării) tablei din care este realizată piesa.</p>	
Material: bronz	Dimensiune/Greutate: diametru maxim: 1,3 cm; grosime 0,1 cm; diametru orificiu central: 0,15 cm.
Număr bucăți: 1	Tehnică: turnare
Stare de conservare: bună/neconservată	Loc de descoperire: S 103.
Datare: medievală	Deținător nt. inventar: CMA/17862
Bibliografie:	
Foto (an): foto 2015/descoperire 2009	Desen:
	

Număr: 161

Nume: lingură

Descriere vizuală: lingură euharistică din bronz, cu mâner în secțiune romboidală, având ca terminație un model realizat din două caneluri ?i o formă asemănătoare unui mugure; cupa, largă, a fost îndoită ?i prezintă crăpături.

Material: bronz

Dimensiune/Greutate: lungime: 14 cm; grosime mâner: 0,3 cm; lățime cupă: 4 cm

Număr bucăți: 1

Tehnică: turnare

Stare de conservare: bună/conservată

Loc de descoperire: S I10/1, col? SV , ad. -0,15 m.

Datare: cca. secol XV

Deținător nt. inventar: CMA/17528

Bibliografie:

Foto (an): foto 2015/descoperire 2002

Desen:

Autor fișă: Oana Toda

