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The Ciuc-Ghimeş Quarantine (18th–19th Centuries). Archaeological Researches of the Former Customs Point “Cetatea Rákóczi”*

Andrea Demjén, Florin Gogâltan

To Teacher András Deáky from Ghimeş-Făget

Abstract: The present article briefly focuses on written sources and archaeological excavations organized in 2015 in the Rákóczi Fortification. This was located at about 32 km on the north-eastern side of the town Miercurea-Ciuc, in the village Ghimeş-Făget (Bacău County). There was an observation post that functioned since the beginning of the 17th century and was connected to the Ciucului Mountains customs (*tricesima*). During the 18th and 19th centuries Blockhaus C or “Cetatea Rákóczi” was part of a very complex system of fortifications consisting of ramparts, ditches, and bastions. These were meant to protect the border between Transylvania and Moldavia. The fortification’s periodization was made on the basis of archaeological researches, on-site observations (the study of the walls’ structure and the composition of the mortars) and finally, by correlating this information with the plans kept in *Kriegsarchiv* in Vienna.

Keywords: Ciuc-Ghimeş, Ghimeş Pass, Rákóczi Fortification, Austrian quarantine, Transylvanian Principality, Modern Period.

Besides the case of the quarantine in Gheorgheni-Pricske¹, the research of Austrian quarantine institutions in eastern Transylvania² also included the so-called quarantine in Ciuc-Ghimeş. This was located at 32 km distance, on the north-eastern side of Miercurea-Ciuc (Hung: Csíkszereda, Harghita County) in the village Ghimeş-Făget (Hung: Gyimesbükk, Bacău County). This is situated in the area of the upper Trotuş River, at the exit of the Ghimeş Pass (near DJ 12A) (Fig. 1).

At the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century the buildings of the quarantine were still standing. This is clearly proven by some old photos found in the private collection of Ágoston Bilibók from Ghimeş-Făget as well as those kept in the archive of the parish church in Ghimeş-Făget³. The walls of some of the quarantine’s buildings have been recently rebuilt by the locals (the chaplain’s and the director’s house, the church, and a barn). The site is currently one of the most visited locations in Ghimeş Valley. It is part of the pilgrimage organized on Pentecost at the *1000 years-old border*⁴. Two defensive towers were also preserved, with ruined walls. On the site one may also see traces of the wall and the palisade that once connected the towers that closed the pass. A reconstruction project exists for one of the defensive towers, the so-called “Blockhaus C” or “Cetatea-Rákóczi” [The Rákóczi Fortification], and this called for the intervention of archaeologists.

“Blockhaus C” in Ghimeş-Făget, or according to the name that is better known to visitors, “Cetatea-Rákóczi”, is located on top of the steep hill of *Kőorr*. This rises on the right side of River Trotuş to an altitude of 714–721 m (GPS coordinates: N 46,23325°; E 26,06581°) (Fig. 2). *Lista monumentelor istorice* [List of historical monuments] in Bacău county, published in 2010, includes *Fostul punct vamal*

* English translation: Ana M. Gruia.

¹ Demjén, Gogâltan 2015a, 375–412; Demjén, Gogâltan 2015b, 369–377; Demjén 2016, 135–194.

² “The quarantine from the passes of the Eastern Carpathians (eighteenth-nineteenth centuries)” is the topic of Andrea Demjén’s doctoral dissertation to be defended in 2018 under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Nicolae Edroiu (The “George Bariţiu” Institute of History in Cluj-Napoca) part of the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy (SCOSAAR).

³ We thank Mr. Ágoston Bilibók and priest József Salamon for allowing us to consult and use the unpublished materials in their collections.

⁴ Deáky 2012, 136–147, 165–169.

„Cetatea Rákóczi” [The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”] (code LMI: BC-II-m-B-00830) in the Ghimeș-Făget settlement⁵.



Fig. 1. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. Geographic location.



Fig. 2. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”.
Aerial photograph (photo by Ferenc Fodor).

Historical sources⁶

The sources connected to the so-called “Cetatea Rákóczi” are related to general information on the customs and the manner in which the border was supervised in that area. The customs point in

⁵ <http://arhiva.cultura.ro/Files/GenericFiles/LMI-2010.pdf> (406.)

⁶ The researches at the National Archives of Romania and the processing of the written records were financed through the doctoral scholarship provided by the Eötvös Lóránd Tudományegyetem Budapest (Eötvös Lóránd University Budapest) and the Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma (Ministry of Human Capacities) from Hungary, during 2016/2017 (A. Demjén). The study of the documents from the National Archives of Hungary was financed by the Hungarian Academy through a Domus Hungarica Scientiarum et Atrium research scholarship in 2016 (A. Demjén). The translation

Ghimeş features in the written records ever since the time of the Transylvanian principality. A document dated to December 14th 1606 mentions the existence of custom points in Ciucului and Giurgiului mountains. The document notes the fact that the customs' revenue had to be collected for the prince and trustworthy people had to be appointed to lead the custom houses⁷.

The secondary literature mentions the fact that the fortification was built in 1626, during the reign of Prince Gabriel Bethlen⁸. However, there are no reliable sources to confirm this piece of information. The fortification of Ghimeş was first mentioned in a protocol dated June 7th 1634. The document informs that the military unit led by Bálint Lőrincz stood guard at Cetatea-Gemes („...az gemes Uarán...”) ⁹. The inventory/*urbarium* of the forge in Ciuc (Mădăraş, Hung. Csíkmadaras, Harghita County) and the *tricesima* (customs) in Frumoasa (Hung. Csíkszépvíz, Harghita County) of 1677 mention that during peace times at Cetatea-Ghimeş two people were standing guard every week and other times, as long as it was needed. The person who became its keeper had to serve a year at the customs and at the guard post under the lead of the custom's officer. Those who fulfilled the guarding duty were excused from other contributions, except for the country tax¹⁰. Four years later, in 1681, the inventory of the forge in Ciuc and of the customs in Frumoasa recorded the conditions in which the custom's house was guarded and the customs tax collected, but the fortification was no longer mentioned¹¹.

In fact, except for the two already mentioned documents that attest its existence no certain data regarding the time when the fortification was built, how it was constructed etc. is available from the time of the Transylvanian Principality.

Written sources become more numerous once the Austrians arrived in the area. A 1693 protocol records the fact that the inhabitants of Ineu (Hung. Csíkjenőfalva, Harghita County) did not guard the fortification in Ghimeş, the paths, and the mountain pastures¹². The fortifications and the ditches in the Ghimeş Pass started to be (re)constructed during the subsequent years. Austrian soldiers made the repairs and guarded the pass, but the expenses fell on the Seats of Ciuc, Gheorgheni, and Caşin. Regarding these constructions and the repair works at the Ghimeş Pass, the inhabitants filed complaints in 1697 related to their chores at the Ghimeş fortification (300 or 400 workers, 24 wagons on shorter or even one-month-long periods)¹³.

In 1698, four carpenters from the Pfifferhoffen regiment worked in the Ghimeş Pass for 84 days. Their salary (reaching a total of 114 m.fl and 24 denars) was to be reimbursed by the Seats of Ciuc and Giurgiu¹⁴. Sporadic data is also available on the erected constructions: in 1711 the Seats of Ciuc and Giurgiu requested the exemption from military obligations because 40 men worked and 12 wagons were used every day for the ditch in Ghimeş. For the constructions, the Seat had provided 1000 planks, shingles, and nails for the shingles¹⁵. However, the above-mentioned documents never mentioned constructions or renovations performed at Blockhaus C / the Rákóczi Fortification.

From the nineteenth century we have to mention the name of Károly Benkő who made important observations regarding the fortification in his description of the Seats of Ciuc, Gheorgheni and Caşin. Benkő recorded the fact that a *Kommando-House* stood on a steep peak above River Trotuş and it could be reached via an access way with 134 steps covered with shingles¹⁶.

The first author who wrote a detailed description of the fortification was the Szekler historian Balázs Orbán who presented the Ghimeş Pass among other monuments in the area. He described a fortification located on the top of the steep hill of *Kőorr* that was probably built on the spot of the old fortification of Ghimeş. He also mentioned the fact that one could reach the fortification via a covered

of the 18th-century German documents was made by Associate Professor Edit Szegedi (Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of European Studies) whom we thank for her cooperation.

⁷ TT 1885, 307–308.

⁸ Szőcs 2009, 10; Vofkori 2009, 278; Biró 2010, 4; Deáky 2012, 143.

⁹ Szőcs 2009, 11–12. For the original document see SJHAN F 27/3.

¹⁰ Pataki 1971, 63.

¹¹ MOL F 234, 18–19; Pataki 1971, 103–105.

¹² Biró 2010, 5.

¹³ EOE 1898, 316.

¹⁴ SzOkI VII, 21.

¹⁵ SzOkI VII, 181–182.

¹⁶ Benkő 1853, 63–64.

corridor provided with 134 steps¹⁷. The building of the customs' point and the chapel were on the left side of the hill. He also noted the fact that another fortification (*Blockhaus B*) was located on the left side of River Trotuş and a wooden palisade, enclosing the valley of the river, stood between the two forts. The border with Moldavia started behind the palisade and there were the custom's buildings and several huts inhabited by the frontier guards. Probably, the road towards Moldavia was only accessible with carts pulled by oxen or on horseback¹⁸.

In his volume dealing with the historical monuments from Transylvania, the historian László Kővári also mentioned "Cetatea Rákóczi" that was in ruins. The fortification could be reached via the 134 steps located under a roofed corridor. A guard point with loopholes was located near the road¹⁹. According to Gábor Biró's researches, the steps mentioned by K. Benkő, B. Orbán, and L. Kővári were taken apart in 1897 when the rail road was built and they were replaced with a steeper stair with 96 steps²⁰.

Cartographic sources²¹

Important data on Blockhaus C/the Rákóczi Fortification may be obtained from the analysis of maps, ground plans, and profiles from the 18th century. The *Kriegsarchiv* in Vienna preserves several ground plans published by G. Biró in his book on the Ghimeş Pass. Thus, on a 1718 map the fortification was recorded as a *Blockhaus* fortress²². In 1733 it was mentioned as *a ruined fortress on top of Adelmás Mountain with gunpowder storage in its precinct*²³. A 1768 map records the road leading from Ciuc to Moldavia through the *Ghymős* Pass, with all the fortification systems (Pl. 1/2). A sketch with the ground plans and sections of the three old towers from the *Czick-Ghymős* Pass has been attached to this map: A. the tower on Ghymos Mountain, B. The tower on the ditch, C. The tower on Aldamas Mountain (tower C is "Cetatea Rákóczi"; Pl. 1/1)²⁴. It seems that this tower was already ruined between 1733 and 1768, as it was renovated in 1771. Another general plan of the quarantine station in Ghimeş made in 1771 mentioned *a tower or a Blockhaus at the end of Mount Adelmás that together with the wall were almost entirely repaired*²⁵. Another map, dated 1780–1781, presented the earth fortifications with palisade from the pass²⁶. "Cetatea Rákóczi" was labeled as Tower no. 1 and on the plan one could see a main building that was trapezoidal in shape, with two rooms and the entrance in the northern corner. The southern wall of the fortification continued westwards where it ended in a trapezoidal construction with a single room. In the north-eastern corner of the fortification the cartographer depicted the wall with the access corridor and the wall that connected the two towers (tower 1 and tower 2), that had the function of closing the valley (Pl. 2). On the best known situation plan regarding the Ghimeş Pass, created in 1791 (Pl. 3), the fortification was only rendered as a *defensive tower*²⁷. The most important ground plans and profiles regarding the defense system at "Cetatea Rákóczi" are those from 1854 (Pl. 4)²⁸ and 1876 (Pl. 5)²⁹. Both of them depict a trapezoidal tower with an upper floor. The ground floor had an approximate length of 12–12.5 m and an approximate width of 6 m. The fortification could be accessed from the northern side, in the north-eastern corner of the ground floor. According to the plan, three windows existed on the southern side, but none on the others. A single room featured inside, on the ground floor, while in the western part there was a small room (?) and stairs marked

¹⁷ Orbán 1869, 82–84.

¹⁸ Orbán 1869, II, 83–84.

¹⁹ Kővári 1892, 131.

²⁰ Biró 2010, 63.

²¹ For the research of the material from the archives in Vienna thanks are due to our colleagues Dr. István Fazekas, Tibor Balla and Ferenc Lenkefi. We also thank Mr. G. Biró for allowing us to use his maps bought from the *Kriegsarchiv* in Vienna. For the 19th–20th-century written data and photographs regarding the fortification we thank our colleagues János Szócs and Lóránt Darvas (the Szekler Museum in Miercurea-Ciuc).

²² Biró 2010, 10–11.

²³ Biró 2010, 14–15.

²⁴ Biró 2010, 18.

²⁵ Biró 2010, 25–27.

²⁶ ÖstA KA, K VII k 404.

²⁷ Plan des Gyimes Passes v. J. 1791, Eperjesy 1929, 133.

²⁸ Biró 2010, 44–45.

²⁹ Szabó, Karcag 2012, 222.

outside it, on the northern and western sides. The upper floor measured between 11.70 m and 12.20 m in length and 5.50 m in width. It had a single room and a stove in the north-western corner (only on the 1854 plan). Two windows were marked on the southern side and a single window on the northern side. Near the southern wall of the fortification, one could access the western side of the plateau via some steps. The southern wall extended westwards through another wall (in fact the walls marked the edge of the bedrock) and in the western part the sources mentioned a defence system with palisade that enclosed the plateau. On profile a-b that displays the elevation of the walls one may note the fact that the wall measured ca. 1.3 m in thickness at foundation level and became narrower towards the upper floor, reaching a width of 0.9 m. The plans made in 1854 and 1876 reflected the actual ground plan of the fortification in the second half of the nineteenth century. Therefore, these are the most relevant for a possible reconstruction project.

The Ghimeş Pass fortifications, together with “Cetatea Rákóczi”, were still standing in the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the subsequent century, as seen on the contemporary photographs (Pl. 6). One can determine the place of the windows and of the loophole based on photos, plans, and profiles regarding “Cetatea Rákóczi” published by G. Biró, Á. Karcag and T. Szabó. The windows were located on the ground floor, on the southern wall, while no openings appeared on the northern wall, except for the entrance. On the 1854 and 1876 plans no window featured on the ground floor’s eastern wall, but a photograph taken in 1907 showed one window on the ground floor and another one at the upper floor. Two windows could be seen on the upper floor, on the southern wall, and a single window on the northern side.

The archaeological researches³⁰

In the spring of 2015 preventive archaeological researches had to be performed. The Ghimeş-Făget (Bacău County) town hall initiated wall elevation studies of the fortification. They were also interested in uncovering the walls covered with soil (Pl. 7), clarifying the ground level inside the fortification, and making a plan of the fortification for a restoration and reconstruction project.

The researches have envisaged opening a section measuring 23×2 m on the northern side (Fig. 3), inside the fortification. After documenting the ground, and the southern profile of the section (Pl. 11/1), the team has entirely emptied and documented the inside area of the fortification (Pl. 8/1–2).

The archaeological researches were able to identify the first construction phase of the fortification that was of an irregular rectangular shape, with an inner length of 11.60 m and a variable inner width of 4.30×3.80 m. The walls were made of river stone, of rocks varying in size, in some places also crushed bedrock, connected with gray mortar, relatively compact, mixed with gravel and pieces of lime. The fortification’s walls were erected straight on the bedrock, following its contours and incorporating the rock itself in the southern part.

The southern wall measured 1.40–1.50 m at the foundation. Part of its elevation was preserved to the height of approximately 4.50 m from the current ground level. On the southern wall one may note the presence of one beam socket, square in shape, at the height of 3.10 m from the last ground level of the fortification’s use. The beam that once stood in this socket, supported the ceiling of the ground floor and the ground level of the upper floor rested upon it. The pair socket was observed in the northern elevation, but it had been filled in subsequently with small river rocks and pieces of bricks connected with gray compact mortar mixed with gravel and pigments of lime and brick. In the southern wall we have observed stones protruding towards the inside (rounded river rocks connected with mortar; the imprint of a wooden beam was noted between them). This room stood straight on top of wall Z–3 and was meant to equalize the level between the native rock and the tower’s upper floor. The entrance to the upper floor was likely there as well. The imprint of a wooden beam can be observed in the wall, inside and along the southern wall, above the beam socket.

³⁰ The archaeological researches were financed by the Town hall of the municipality of Ghimeş-Făget and by the teacher András Deáky from the settlement. The following team took part in the preventive archaeological excavations performed in May – June 2015: Florin Gogâltan, Andrea Demjén, Elena-Lăcrămioara Istina, Elena Cristina Cordoş, Marian Lie, and Mihaela Savu (Pl. 11/2). A report of these researches has been published in *Cronica cercetărilor arheologice din România pe anul 2015*: Gogâltan et al. 2016, 167–168.



Fig. 3. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. S 1. Area B. View from the west and east.

The northern wall measured 1.40–1.50 m at the foundation and less in elevation, i.e. 1.0 m. Part of the northern wall's elevation is still standing, to a height of ca. 4.0 m from the contemporary ground level. The northern wall of the fortification has gone through several interventions and repairs. Analyzing the eighteenth-century maps and plans we were able to obtain important data on the construction phases of the fortification. The 1768 plan shows that an *old tower* stood on *Mount Aldamas*, rectangular in shape, with a single room, an upper floor, and two entrances: one on the northern side and the other on the western side. A stove was also recorded near the northern wall of the fortification. It seems that the *old tower* was in ruins, as it was almost entirely renovated in 1771. According to our on-site observations, the renovation probably envisaged the northern wall that was remade and filled-in several times, as suggested by the composition of the inner northern profile of the fortification. Another wall (Z-2) was added in front of the northern wall, to the right side of the brick steps. Z-2 was made of large and average size crushed stones mixed with small river rocks and a lot of bricks, everything connected with compact, light gray mortar mixed with sand and lime pigments. This phase, that fills-in one part of the northern wall of the fortification (the wall blocks part of a beam socket), extends to the base of the brick steps. When the dividing wall was constructed, part of the north-western wall's elevation was taken out and the eastern wall was completely demolished. Two other fills were identified in the texture of the northern wall. Visible only due to the material and composition of the mortar; these repairs cannot be dated (Fig. 4).

The eastern wall of the fortification measured between 1.40 and 1.50 m in thickness and between 1.30 and 1.50 m in height from the contemporary ground level. According to the main plan and to the section of the defensive tower (Blockhaus C) from the end of 1768, the thickness of the eastern wall was of 0.88 m in the upper part and the outer height of the eastern wall was of 5.79 m. The most detailed plan and profile regarding the fortification is the one dated to 1854. The plan of the ground floor records that the thickness of the eastern wall was of 1.25 m at the foundation and 0.94 m at the upper floor. The gray-yellow outer plaster has been preserved on the eastern wall. The western wall was depicted on the 1768 plan, but it was probably demolished during the 1771 renovations. Only part of its foundation has been preserved and there are also traces of mortar attached to the bedrock. The wall's foundation measured 0.80 m in thickness.

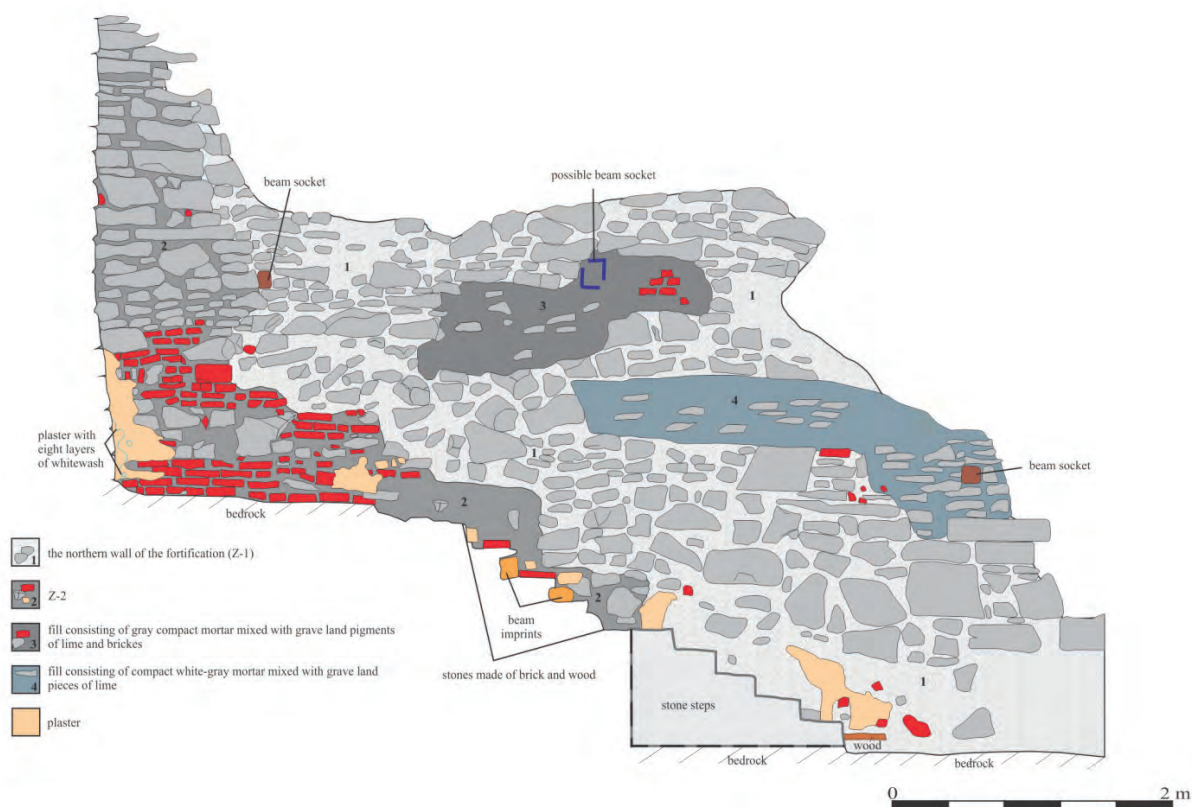


Fig. 4. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. The northern profile of the fortification wall’s elevation.



Fig. 5. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. S 1. Area C. The ditch with traces of posts.

The foundation and the elevation of the former defensive wall (Z-4) oriented E-W, have been preserved in the eastern part of the fortification. The wall was made of large and average size bedrock stones connected with yellowish-gray mortar, compact, mixed with gravel and sporadic pigments of lime. The wall’s elevation measures between 1.20 and 1.30 m in thickness at has been preserved to the

height of ca. 1.20 m. This wall had the role of connecting the two defensive towers in the Ghimeş Pass: “Cetatea-Rákóczi” (Blockhaus C) and Blockhaus B. During the research we have identified a ditch and inside it two post holes (0.70 m apart) on the southern side of the defensive wall, 0.3 m to the south of the wall’s line (Fig. 5). Taking into consideration the fact that the defensive wall was made of stone, the post holes were probably made for the scaffold used for its construction. According to end of the nineteenth photographic sources, this wall was demolished when the railroad was constructed in 1897.

Inside the tower we have identified the traces of four transversal beams oriented east-west (beams length: 5.50 m, beams width: 0.20–0.25 m) and of four other beams oriented north-south (beams length: 2.40–3.80 m, beams width: 0.12–0.20 m), that supported the wooden floor (Pl. 6). The position of the eight transversal beams had been carved into the rock. In front of the entrance we have identified the traces of the wooden threshold that measured 1 m in width and between 0.10 and 0.14 m in length.



Fig. 6. Ghimeş-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi” (area B): inside the fortification: general photograph of the transversal wooden beams. View from the south.

In the northern part of the fortification we have uncovered five stone steps (steps length: 1.20–1.26 m, steps width between 0.26 and 0.36 m) and four steps made of bricks (steps length: 1.50 m and steps width 0.24–0.28 m). The stone steps had been constructed out of large faceted stones carefully placed one beside the other or above the other, connected with compact white-gray mortar (Fig. 7/1, 3). The brick steps were made of entire bricks, oriented E-W, connected with compact light gray mortar mixed with gravel and lime and brick pigments. Wooden beams had been placed in the western part of the bricks, the imprint preserved in the elevation of the northern wall of the fortification. One vertical beam has been preserved near the stone steps, on the southern side, probably marking the remains of a rail.

The imprint of the four wooden steps leading to the upper floor has been preserved on the western side of the dividing wall (Z-2) (Fig. 7/2). Traces of burnt wood were identified near this wall during our researches, marked on the drawing of the northern profile of S1 through two burnt lenses (Pl. 8/1). According to the plan, these modifications were made in 1771.

The western wall of the fortification was also demolished during that period and the new dividing wall (Z-2) was built. The elevation of the dividing wall measures 0.70 m in thickness, part of it preserved to the height of ca. 3.50 m from the current ground level. The wall consists of large and average

size pieces of broken rock mixed with small river rocks and a lot of bricks, everything connected with compact, light gray mortar mixed with sand and lime pigments.



Fig. 7. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi” (area B). 1, 3. Details of the stone and brick steps; 2. The dividing wall of the fortification with the imprint of the wooden steps. View from the east.

A fill was also added during this period on the inner side of the northern wall (starting on the right side of the brick steps). This phase, that fills part of the fortification’s northern wall (the wall blocks part of a beam socket) extends to the base of the brick steps and in the western part, functioned as a dividing wall. An intact portion of plaster has been preserved in the north-western corner of the room and eight layers of whitewash were observed on its surface (the fourth layer was bluish in color, the others were white). Part of the elevation of the north-western wall was taken out during construction on this dividing wall (Z-2). The fortification’s western wall was completely demolished (Z-1 that features on the 1768 plan). The northern and southern stair walls (Z-5) leading to the upper floor were built out of stone in place of the western wall (Z-1 in 1768). The wall was made of large and average size river rocks mixed with crushed bedrock and bricks, connected with compact white-gray mortar mixed with gravel and pigments of lime and bricks. On the other hand, the northern wall of the stair was made of large, irregular bedrock stones connected with less mortar; the wall was faceted towards the outside and irregular towards the inside. According to our observations, the northern wall of the stair was constructed together with the steps (the northern part of the four stone steps is connected to the northern wall) leading to the western part of the fortification. The northern wall measures 0.50–0.70 m in thickness and its elevation reaches, in some parts, the height of ca. 1.50 m. The southern wall, with a width of 1.20 m, displays today an elevation of approx. 2.50 m in height.



Fig. 8. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi". Aerial photograph of the western part of the fortification (photo by Ferenc Fodor).

On the western side of the Rákóczi Fortification/Blockhaus C, on the upper floor, we have uncovered the elevation of the western and northern walls (Z-6) of a small room (2.20×3.20 m; Fig. 8). The walls were made of large and average pieces of broken bedrock mixed with bricks and connected with crumbling, sandy, yellow-gray mortar mixed with pigments of lime and a lot of gravel. The room's inner plaster has been preserved in the northern part of the wall. The wall on the north-western side was built on the outer side of the northern wall (Z-1) that was probably demolished in 1771. It measured approx. 0.60 m in thickness. The western wall displays a thickness varying between 0.36 and 0.56 m. The wall is placed on the bedrock and between the two one can note a thin layer of dark brown soil, though in the north-western part the massive natural rock was built into the wall. This wall does not feature on the plans from the second half of the nineteenth century.

As we have mentioned in the beginning of the article, through the 2015 preventive archaeological researches we were able to reconstruct the ground plan of the fortification. The fortification was in use for an extended period, emptied and cleaned several times during its active period, and then it went through two world wars³¹. During the researches we have uncovered fragments of tobacco pipes, several pottery fragments, pieces of glass panes, forged nails, one knife blade, one pocket knife, one copper applique, one metal button, and one boot metal reinforcement (Pl. 10/1–10). All the discovered objects dated from the nineteenth–twentieth centuries. The fortification's periodization was made on the basis of archaeological researches, on-site observations (the study of the structure of the walls and of the mortars) and by correlating them with the plans kept in *Kriegsarchiv* Vienna.

We were thus able to identify the walls on the basis of the 1768 plan that probably reflects the situation between 1718 and 1733 when the fortification was mentioned as an *old tower*, at that time in ruins. The archaeological researches were able to identify the first construction phase of the

³¹ Among the discovered archaeological materials one can mention a military canteen dated 1936, preserving the cork stopper, one metal cup dated 1938, one mine fragment, and several cartridges dated 1939 (Pl. 10/11–13).



Fig. 9 . Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi".
Aerial photograph (photo by Ferenc Fodor).

fortification that was of an irregular rectangular shape, with an inner length of 11.60 m and a variable inner width of 4.30×3.80 m. The walls were made of river stone, of rocks varying in size, in some places also crushed bedrock, connected with gray mortar, relatively compact, mixed with gravel and pieces of lime. The fortification's walls were erected straight on the bedrock, following its contours and incorporating the rock itself in the southern part. As no dating elements were found near the walls, the latter cannot be dated with precision. Admitting that in 1718 the fortification housed the commander headquarters of the customs in Ghimeș Pass and that 15 years later the fortification was described as a ruined fortress at the end of Mount Adelmas, one can presume that the first construction phase (Z-1) dated to the seventeenth century (Fig. 10).

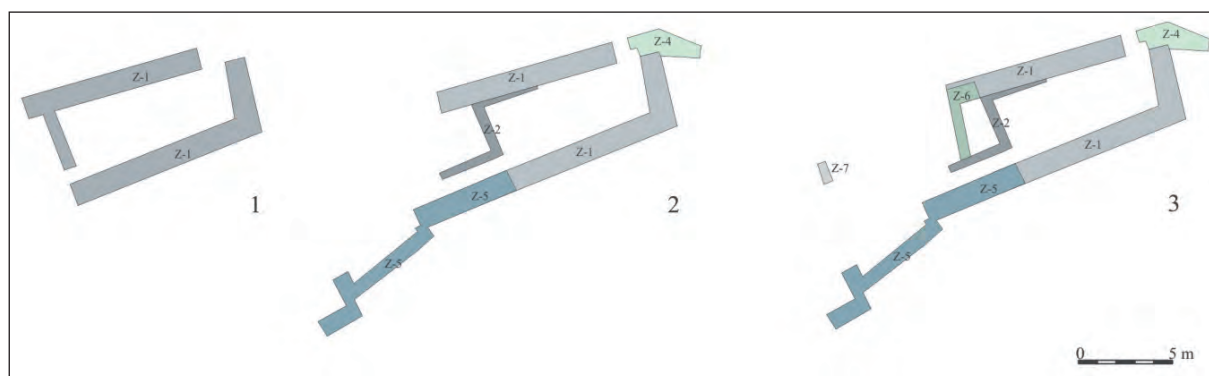


Fig. 10. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi". Periodization of the construction phases: 1. Before 1768; 2. In 1771; 3. During the 19th century.

This site is a monument of architecture of maximum importance in the context of seventeenth- and nineteenth-century customs and quarantines in eastern and southern Transylvania. In the seventeenth century it was an observation post in connection to the customs (*tricesima*) in Ciucului Mountains that functioned there since the beginning of the seventeenth century. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Blockhaus C or “Cetatea Rákóczi” was part of a very complex system of fortifications consisting of ramparts, ditches, and bastions meant to protect the border between Transylvania and Moldavia.

Acknowledgements

Our gratitude goes foremost to teacher András Deáky of Ghimeș-Făget, without whom these researches would have not been performed. We also thank the members of our research team: Elena-Lăcrămioara Istina (“Iulian Antonescu” Museum Complex Bacău), Elena Cristina Cordoș (Valahia University in Târgoviște), Marian Lie (Köln University) and Mihaela Savu (Kiel University).

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| Öst KA, K VII k 404 | Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, <i>Situations Plan von dem in Siebenbürgen gegen die Moldau liegenden Passes Csik-Gyimes, der Schanz wie solche dermalen besteht, nebst einem Stuck von der Contumaz und jenseitigen Anhöhen</i> , 1780–1781, Viena. |
| SJHAN F 27 | Arhivele Naționale ale României, Serviciul Județean Harghita al Arhivelor Naționale, Fond 27, Scaunul secuiesc Ciuc, Miercurea-Ciuc. [National Archives of Romania, Harghita Direction of the National Archives, Font 27, Ciuc Szekler Seat, Miercurea-Ciuc.] |
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| EOE 1885 | <i>Erdélyi Országgyűlési Emlékek – Monumenta Comititalia Regni Transylvaniae (1630–1636)</i> , IX. Budapest 1885. |
| Eperjesy 1929 | K. Eperjesy, <i>A bécsi hadilevéltár magyar vonatkozású térképeinek jegyzéke</i> . Szeged 1929. |
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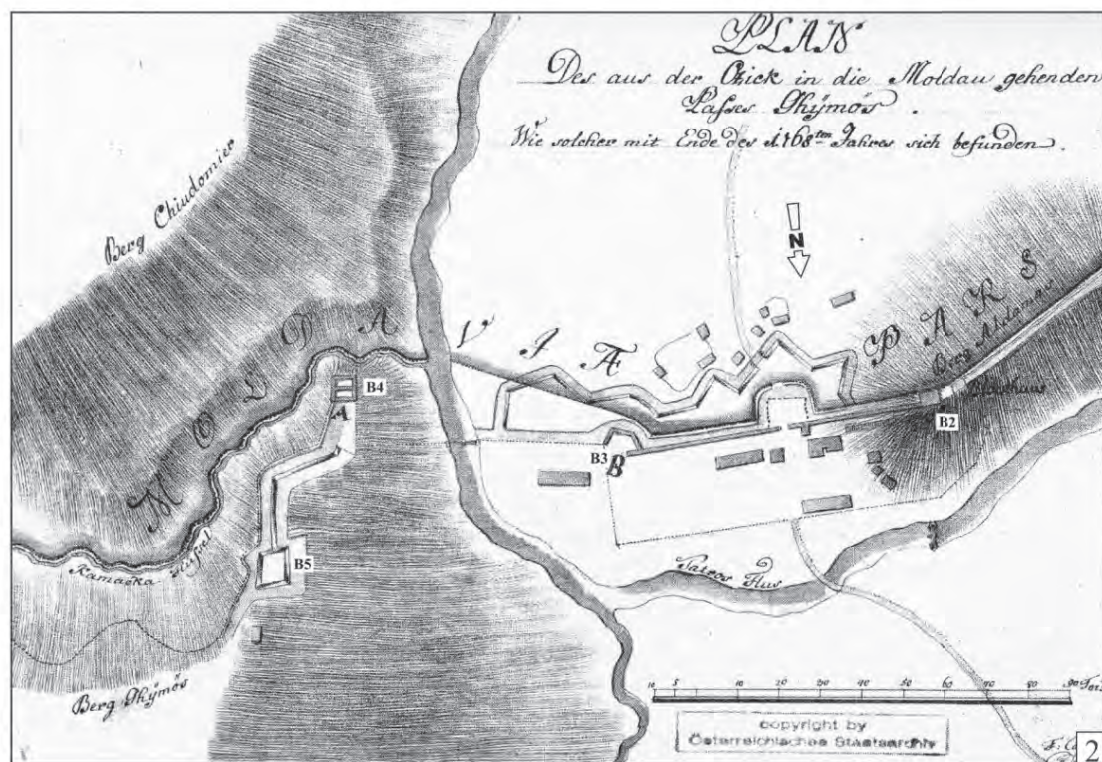
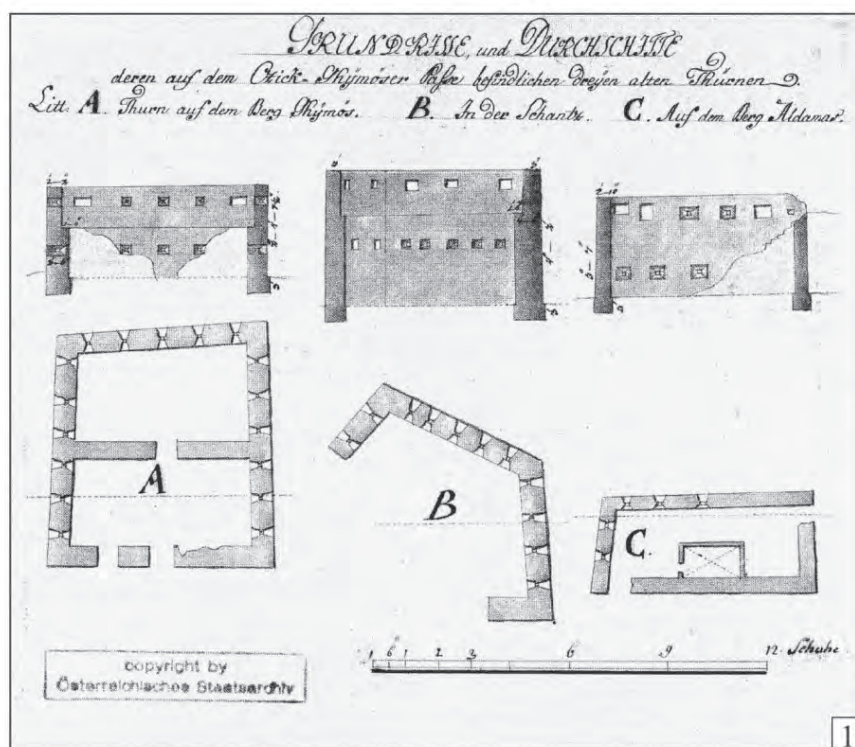


Plate 1.1. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. Ground plans and sections of the three towers in the Ghimeș Pass in 1768 (after Biró 2010, 18); 2. 1768 map (after Biró 2010, 19).



Plate 2. Ghimeş-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi". Detail on the 1780–1781 map (Öst KA, K VII k 404).

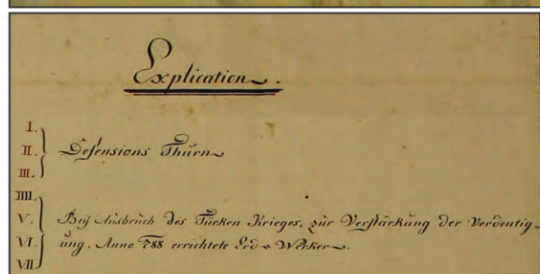


Plate 3. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. Detail with the fortifications in Ghimeș Pass on the 1791 map I. The Rákóczi fortification (Öst KA, I. C. VI. 0–1–2495).

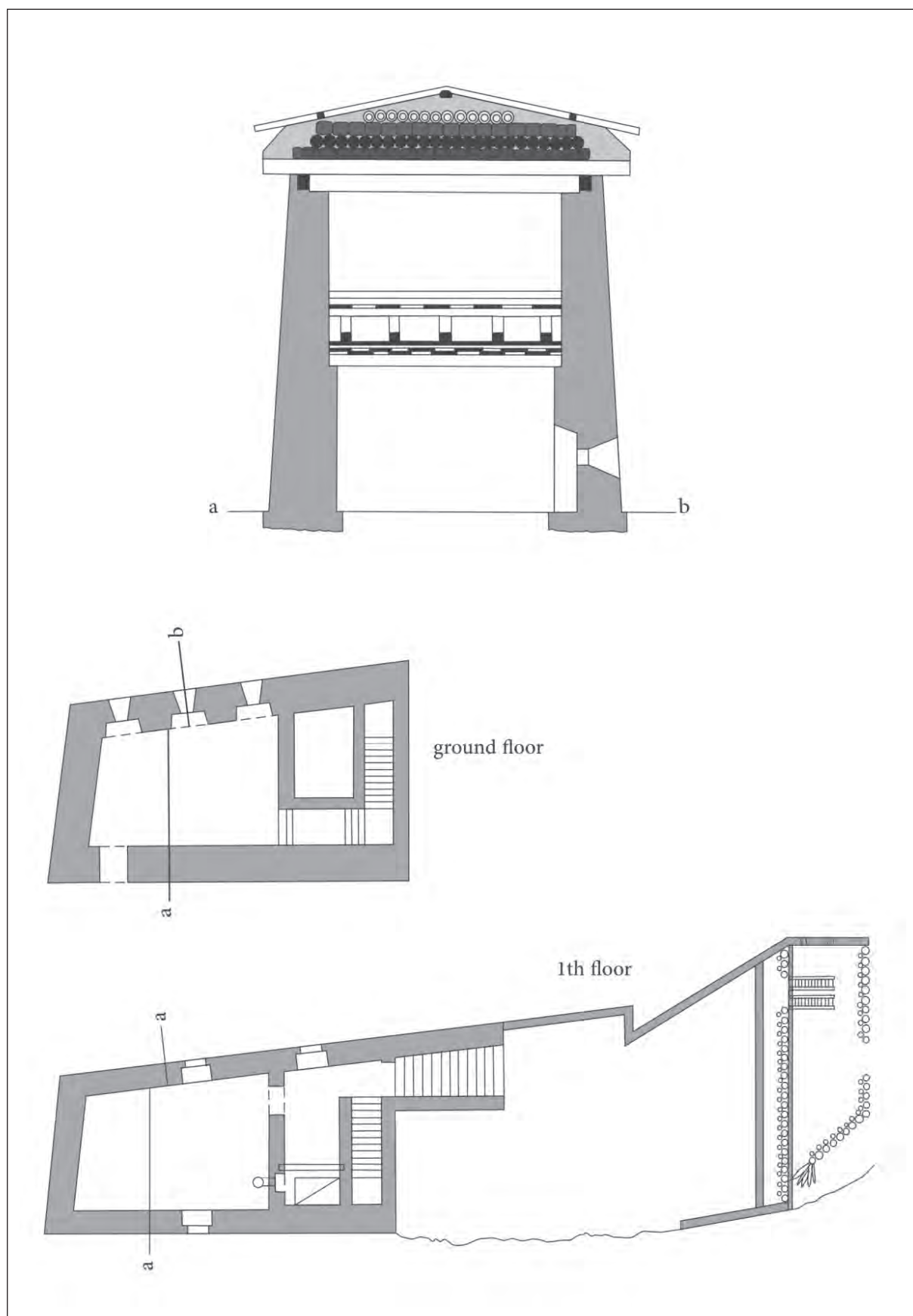


Plate 4. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi". Ground plan and profile made in 1854 (after Biró 2010, 44–45).

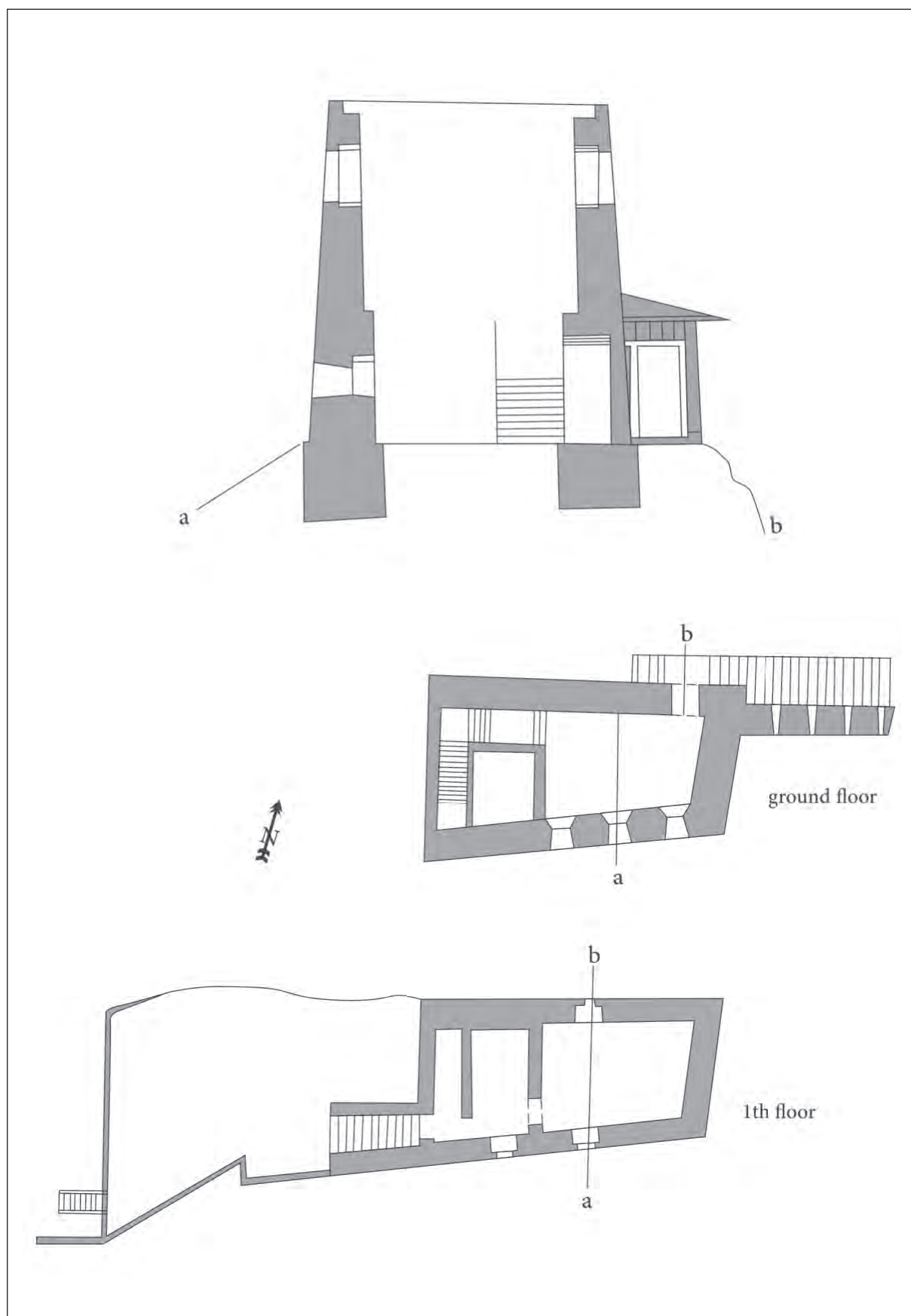


Plate 5. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi". Ground plan and profile made in 1876 (after Szabó, Karcag 2012, 222).



Plate 6. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. 1. Photograph taken in 1897 (from Ágoston Bilibók’s private collection); 2. Twentieth-century photograph (from the collection of the Szekler Museum in Miercurea-Ciuc).



Plate 7. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. The fortification before the archaeological excavation. 1. The northern wall. View from the west; 2. The southern wall of the fortification. View from the east; 3. Inside the fortification. View from the east.

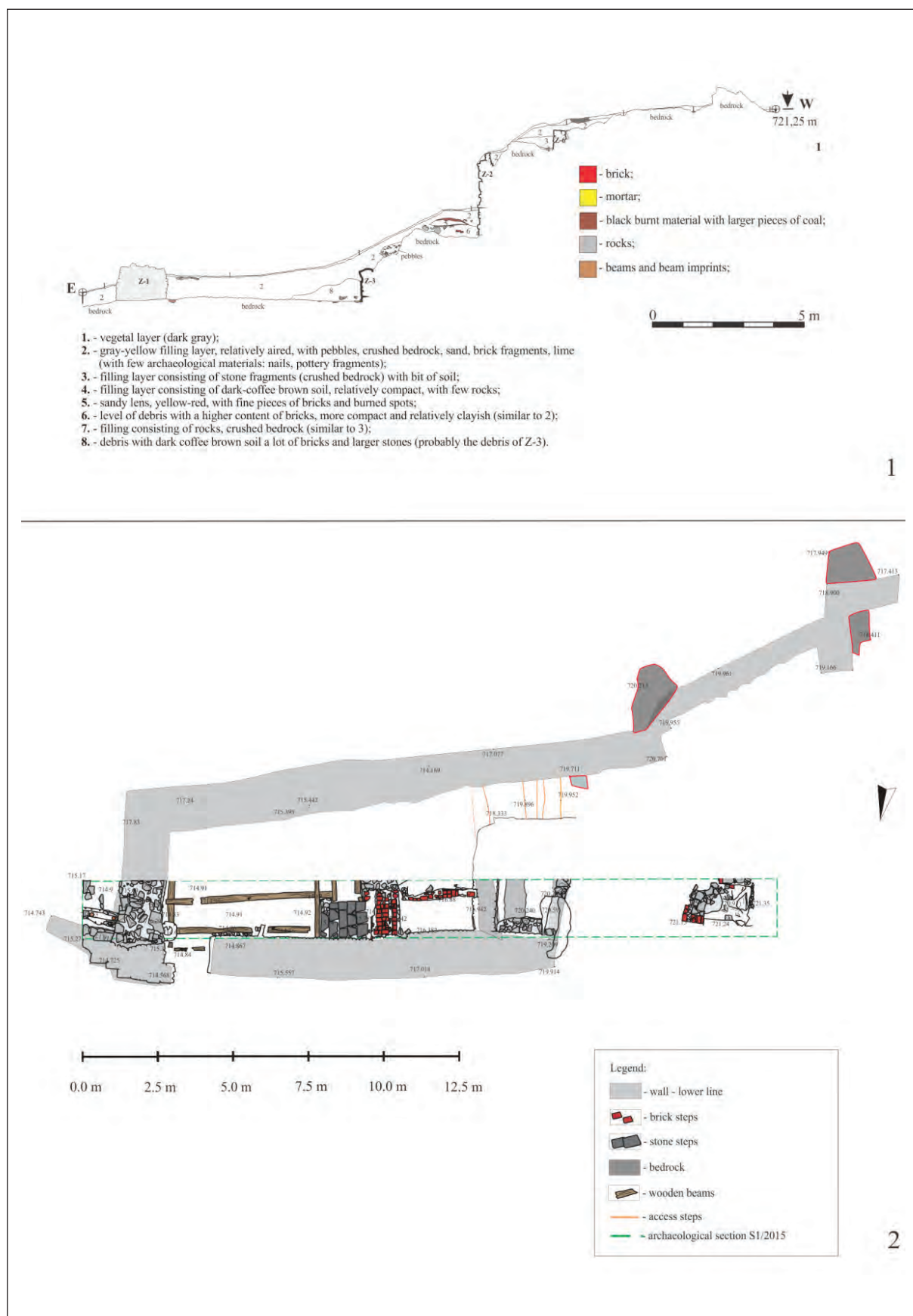


Plate 8. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point "Cetatea Rákóczi". 1. Southern profile of S1/2015; 2. General ground plan of S1/2015.

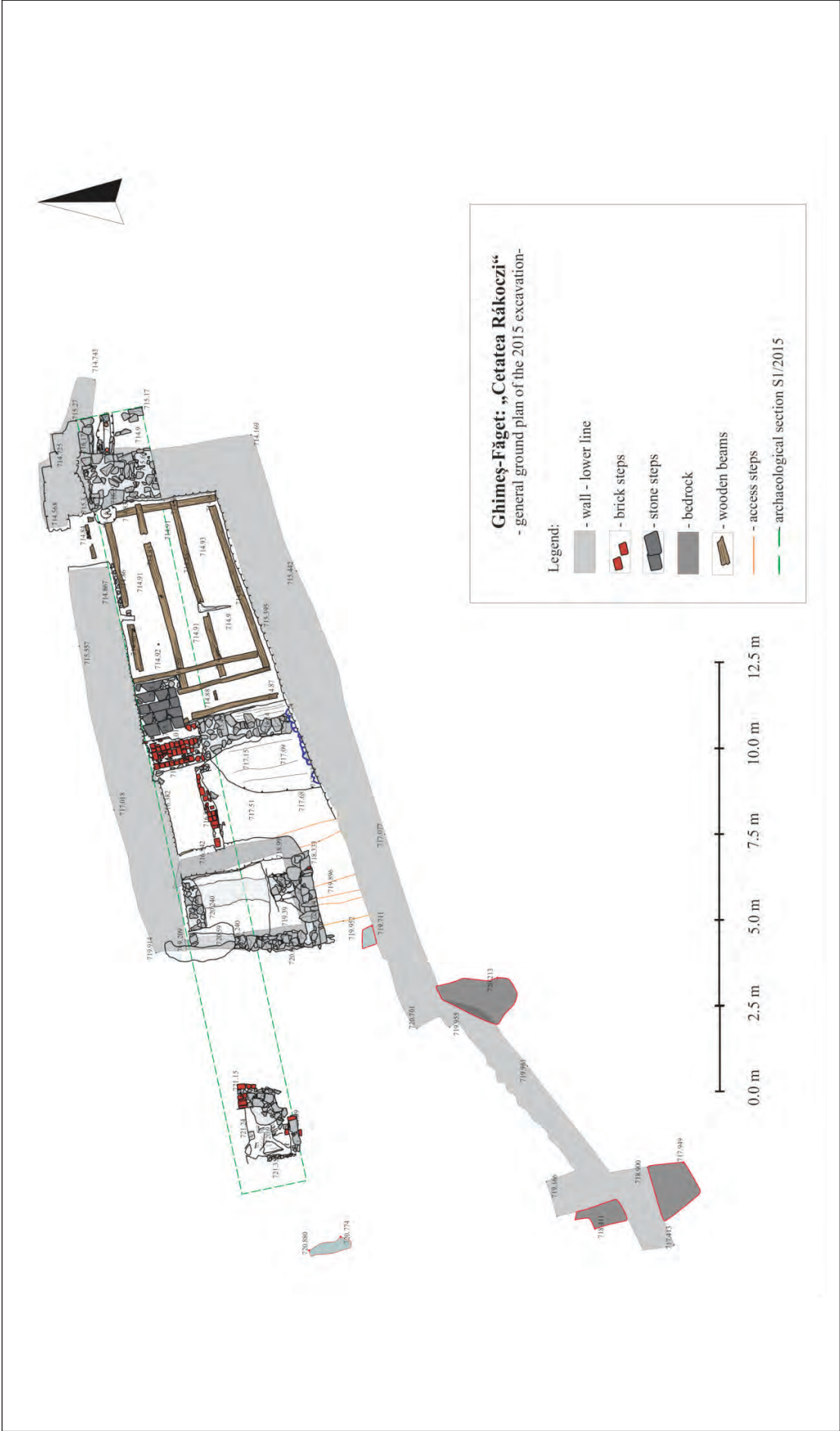


Plate 9. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. General ground plan of the 2015 excavation.



Plate 10. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”. 1. Pipe fragments; 2. Gun flint; 3. Button; 4. Boot metal reinforcement; 5. Copper applique; 6, 9. Forged nail; 7. Metal object; 8. Knife blade; 10. Pocket knife; 11. Mine fragment; 12. Cartridge; 13. Military canteen and cup dated 1936–1938.



Plate 11. Ghimeș-Făget. The former customs point “Cetatea Rákóczi”.
1. Picture during the documentation of S 1; 2. The research team.

Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AAASH | Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Budapest. |
| Acta Ant et Arch Suppl | Acta Antiqua et Archaeologica Supplementum. Szeged. |
| AAC | Acta Archaeologica Carpathica. Krakow. |
| ACMIT | Anuarul Comisiunii monumentelor istorice. Secția pentru Transilvania. Cluj. |
| ARA | Annual Review of Anthropology. Stanford. |
| ActaArchHung | ActaArchHung Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Budapest. |
| AEM | Archäologische Epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Österreich-Ungarn. Heidelberg. |
| AIIA Cluj | Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie. Cluj-Napoca. |
| AISC | Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice. Cluj-Napoca. |
| AMP | Acta Musei Porolissensis. Zalău. |
| ATF | Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis. Făgăraș. |
| ATS | Acta Terrae Septemcastrenses. Sibiu. |
| Agria | Agria. Annales Musei Agriensis. Az egri Dobó István Vármúzeum évkönyve. Eger. |
| AnB S.N. | Analele Banatului. Timișoara. |
| AMS.CEU | Annual of Medieval Studies at CEU. Budapest. |
| ACN | Archaeological Computing Newsletter. Florence. |
| ArchÉrt | Archaeologiai Értesítő. A Magyar Régészeti és Művészettörténeti Társulat tudományos folyóirata. Budapest. |
| ArchJug | Archaeologia Iugoslavica. Beograd. |
| ArhPregled | Arheološki Pregled. Arheološko Društvo Jugoslavije. Beograd. |
| ArchSlovCat | Archaeologia Slovaca Catalogi. Bratislava. |
| Archaeológiai Közlemények | Archaeológiai Közlemények. A hazai Műemlékek Ismeretének Előmozdítására. Budapest. |
| ArchKorr | Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt. Mainz. |
| ArhMold | Arheologia Moldovei. Iași. |
| AMN | Acta Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca. |
| AMP | Acta Musei Porolissensis. Zalău. |
| ArchRozhl | Archeologické Rozhledy. Praga. |
| ArhMed | Arheologia Medievală. Cluj-Napoca, Brăila, Reșița. |
| ASMB | Arheologia Satului Medieval din Banat. Reșița 1996. |
| AVSL | Auftrage des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde, Wien. |
| Banatica | Banatica. Reșița. |
| BAM | Brvkenthal Acta Mvsei. Sibiu. |
| BAR Int. Ser. | British Archaeological Reports. International Series. Oxford. |
| BCMI | Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice. București. |
| BCȘS | Buletinul Cercurilor Științifice Studențești. Arheologie – Istorie – Muzeologie. Alba Iulia. |
| BG | Botanical Guidebooks. Kraków. |
| BerRGK | Bericht der RömischGermanischen Kommission. Frankfurt a. Main. |
| BHAB | Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica. Timișoara. |
| BHAUT | Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis. Timișoara. |
| BMB. SH | Biblioteca Muzeului Bistrița. Seria Historica. Bistrița Năsăud. |
| BMÉ | Bihari Múzeum Évkönyve. Berettyóújfalu. |
| BMI | Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice. București. |
| BMN | Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca. |
| BMMK | A Békés Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei. Békéscsaba. |
| BMMN | Buletinul Muzeului Militar Național. București. |
| BThr | Bibliotheca Thracologica. Institutul Român de Tracologie. București. |

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CAB | Cercetări Arheologice în București. București. |
| CAH | Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae. Budapest. |
| Carpica | Carpica. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie, Bacău. |
| CAMNI | Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul de Istorie al R. S. România/Muzeul Național de Istorie. București. |
| CIL | <i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i> . Berlin. |
| CCA | <i>Cronica cercetărilor arheologice (din România)</i> , 1983-1992 <i>sqq.</i> (și în variantă electronică pe http://www.cimec.ro/scripts/arh/cronica/cercetariarh.asp). |
| Classica et Christiana | Classica et Christiana. Iasi. |
| CRSCRCR | Coins from Roman sites and collections of Roman coins from Romania. Cluj-Napoca. |
| Crisia | Crisia. Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea. |
| Dacia N.S. | Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Nouvelle serie. București. |
| Danubius | Danubius - Revista Muzeului de Istorie Galați. Galați. |
| DDME | A Debreceni Déri Múzeum Évkönyve. Debrecen. |
| DolgCluj | Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Érem- és Régiségtárából, Kézdivásárhely (Cluj). |
| DolgSzeg | Dolgozatok. Arbeiten des Archäologischen Instituts der Universität. Szeged. |
| EphNap | Ephemeris Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca. |
| EMEÉ | Az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület Évkönyve. Cluj-Napoca. |
| EMÉ | Erdélyi Múzeum Évkönyve. Cluj-Napoca. |
| EAZ | Ethnographisch-Archäologische Zeitschrift. Berlin. |
| FADDP/GMADP | Führer zu archäologischen Denkmälern in Dacia Porolissensis/Ghid al monumentelor arheologice din Dacia Porolissensis. Zalău. |
| File de Istorie | File de Istorie. Bistrița. |
| FolArch | Folia Archaeologica. Budapest. |
| Forsch. u. Ber. z. Vor- u. Frühgesch. BW | Forschungen und Berichte zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Baden-Württemberg. |
| GPSKV | Gradja za proučavanje spomenika kulture Vojvodine. Novi Sad. |
| GSAD | Glasnik Srpskog Arheološkog Društva. Beograd. |
| HOMÉ | A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve. Miskolc. |
| HTRTÉ | Hunyadvármegye Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat Évkönyve. Déva (Deva). |
| JAMÉ | A nyíregyházi Jósza András Múzeum Évkönyve. Nyíregyháza. |
| JahrbuchRGZM | Jahrbuch des RömischGermanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz. |
| JAHA | Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology. Cluj-Napoca. |
| Lohanul | Lohanul. Revistă culturală științifică. Huși. |
| MCA | Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice. București. |
| MCA-S.N. | Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice-Serie Nouă. București. |
| MA / MemAnt | Memoria Antiquitatis. Piatra Neamț. |
| MFME | A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve. Szeged. |
| MFME StudArch | A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Studia Archaeologica. Szeged. |
| MN / MuzNat | Muzeul Național. București. |
| NumAntCl | Numismatica e antichità classiche. Milano. |
| Opitz Archaeologica | Opitz Archaeologica. Budapest. |
| Opuscula Hungarica | Opuscula Hungarica. Budapest. |
| OM | Orbis Mediaevalis. Arad, Cluj-Napoca. |
| OTÉ | Orvos- Természettudományi Értesítő, a Kolozsvári Orvos-Természettudományi Társulat és az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület Természettudományi Szakosztálya. |
| Palaeohistorica | Acta et Communicationes Instituti Archaeologici Universitatis Groninganae. |
| PamArch | Památky Archeologické. Praha. |
| Past and Present | Past and Present. Oxford. |
| PIKS/PISC | Die Publikationen des Institutes für klassische Studien/ Publicațiile Institutului de studii clasice. Cluj-Napoca. |
| PBF | Praehistorische Bronzefunde. Berlin. |
| PMÉ | Acta Musei Papensis – Pápai Múzeumi Értesítő. |
| PZ | Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin. |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ReDIVA | Revista Doctoranzilor în Istorie Veche și Arheologie. Cluj-Napoca. |
| Revista Bistriței | Revista Bistriței. Bistrița. |
| RevMuz | Revista Muzeelor. București. |
| RIR | Revista Istorică Română. |
| RMM-MIA | Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. Seria Monumente istorice și de artă. București. |
| RMMN | Revista Muzeului Militar Național. București. |
| RESEE | Revue des Études Sud-Est Européennes. București. |
| Ruralia | Ruralia. Památky Archeologické – Supplementum. Praha. |
| RVM | Rad Vojvodjanskih Muzeja. Novi Sad. |
| Sargetia | Sargetia. Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane, Deva. |
| Savaria | Savaria. A Vas megyei Múzeumok Értesítője. Szombathely. |
| SCIV(A) | Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche. București. |
| SCN | Studii și Cercetări Numismatice. București. |
| SlovArch | Slovenská Archeológia. Nitra. |
| SIA | Studii de Istoria Artei. Cluj Napoca. |
| SIB | Studii de istorie a Banatului. Timișoara. |
| SKMÉ | A Szántó Kovács János Múzeum Évkönyve. Orosháza. |
| SMIM | Studii și Materiale de Istorie Medie. București. |
| SMMA | Szolnok Megyei Múzeumi Adattár. Szolnok. |
| SMMIM | Studii și Materiale de Muzeografie și Istorie Militară. București. |
| Starinar | Starinar. Arheološki Institut. Beograd. |
| Stratum plus | Stratum plus. Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology. Kishinev. |
| StCl | Studii Clasice. București. |
| StComBrukenthal | Studii și comunicări. Sibiu. |
| StudArch | Studia Archaeologica. Budapest. |
| StudCom | Studia Comitatus. Szentendre. |
| Studii și Comunicări | Studii și Comunicări. Arad. |
| StudUnivCib | Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis. Sibiu. |
| StudCom – Vrancea | Studii și Comunicări. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Etnografie Vrancea. Focșani. |
| StudŽvest | Študijne Zvesti Arheologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akadémie Vied. Nitra. |
| Symp. Thrac. | Symposia Thracologica. București. |
| Századok | Századok. A Magyar Történelmi Társulat Folyóirata. Budapest. |
| TIR L34 | D. Tudor, <i>Tabula Imperii Romani</i> . București 1965. |
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| VIA | Visnik Institutu arkheolohii. L'viv. |
| Ziridava | Ziridava. Arad. |
| ZSA | Ziridava Studia Archaeologica. Arad. |
| w.a. | without author |

