

BUILDING SCIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTURE IN MALTA

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Abstract. *This article addresses architectural practice in the nineteenth century through a case study in ecclesiastical architectural history, namely, the Mosta Rotunda, based on primary sources written by the architect. A public technical commission was appointed to assess the design's structural feasibility, especially with regards to the suitability of local stone to build a domed roof. With respect to professional conduct, an incident involving unsuitable work carried out in the architect's absence and his robust response reinforces the architect's responsibility for ensuring on-site masons executed their assignment as directed. The incident also highlights that if the client insisted upon alterations that did not match the architect's design, the architect would be free to officially relinquish his position as the professional liable for the project.*

Keywords: *Church history, professional ethics, building science, James Fergusson, Giorgio Grognet, Mosta Dome, Malta.*

Introduction

After Suleiman I drove the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St John out of Rhodes, the Spanish King Charles V handed them the Maltese Islands in 1530. They made the archipelago their domain, with Italian as the official language. Their rule came to an end in 1798, when the sovereignty of the islands was handed over to the French Republic. The French stay in Malta, though brief, was marked by landmark political and social reforms, including the abolition of feudal rights and privileges and the abolition of slavery. Public primary and secondary education was introduced and the university was replaced by an "École Centrale" with eight chairs, all scientific in nature, covering disciplines ranging from stereometry to physics and chemistry. The Maltese revolted against the French for closing religious convents and seizing the treasures of the Church, and the French surrendered in 1800 following a blockade by the British, who came over in response to the locals' request. Thus Malta voluntarily became a Protectorate of the British Empire; however Britain failed to leave the islands under terms of the Treaty of Amiens, 1802. The British Crown colony of Malta, officially known as the Crown Colony of the Island of Malta and its Dependencies, was established in 1813 and confirmed through the Treaty of Paris in 1814, and it remained so until Independence in 1964.

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This paper focuses on the Mosta Rotunda, the parish church of Mosta. Its construction started soon after the island became a colony. Its dome is an imposing architectural statement and a feat of building engineering structure in local masonry. Modelled on Hadrian's Pantheon in Rome (118-128 AD), it has the third largest dome of any Christian church in Europe. It was designed in the Neoclassical idiom by the architect-engineer Giorgio Grognet de Vassé¹ (1774-1862) who also supervised its construction. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate the building science and professional ethics underlying the design and construction of this outstanding nineteenth-century church.

Background

The Mosta Rotunda is a significant Neoclassical building by a Maltese architect-engineer.² Mosta is a town located at the centre of the island of Malta. Until the early twentieth century, it was known as *Musta*, the Arabic word for central.³ The seventeenth-century parish church, erected to the design of architect Tommaso Dingli,⁴ became too small for the spiritual needs of the community.⁵ In 1812 Grognet proposed to build a church in the Neoclassical style modelled on the Pantheon in Rome (**fig. 1**). Others attribute the proposal to the parish priest, who had celebrated his first mass

¹ Giorgio Grognet de Vassé (1774-1862) was a Maltese architect-engineer of French descent. Initially educated towards the priesthood in Frascati, Italy, he sympathised with the Jacobins and entered the service of Napoleon Bonaparte's army, where he spent 13 years preparing drawings for the Civil and Military Department of Engineers (Schiaivone 2009b, p. 989-990). Having disregarded his father's wishes when he joined the French army in Italy, he was considered a disgraced member of the family. His uncle Count Saverio Marchese (1757-1833), an art connoisseur and a man of letters, had excluded him from his will (Azzopardi 1983, p. 37; Farrugia 2011, p. 42; Farrugia 2012, p. 35-36). Grognet returned to Malta after the French campaign in Ottoman Egypt and Syria (Bianco 2018b, p. 3-4). Although the Scottish historian James Fergusson (1808-1886) cast doubt on Grognet's architectural formation (Fergusson 1862, p. 32-33), Mahoney provided evidence that he was indeed well-versed in architecture (Mahoney 1996, p. 218).

² The first comprehensive study on Neoclassical architecture in Malta was undertaken by K. Borg at the former Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, recently renamed Faculty for the Built Environment, of the University of Malta (Borg 1982).

³ Salomone 1911, p. 8.

⁴ Tommaso Dingli (1591-1666) is a Maltese architect and sculptor of the Baroque Age responsible for the design of numerous parish churches in Malta, notably in the old parishes of Birkirkara, Attard and Mosta. The first two still stand; the former underwent restoration a few decades ago (Bianco 2017a) whilst works on the latter will be commencing shortly. Together with Vittorio Cassar, the son of Gerolamo, the resident engineer of the Order of St John, he worked on forts in the Maltese Islands and was responsible for the building of the old Porta Reale Gate and the Bishop's Palace, both in Valletta (Quentin Hughes 1967, p. 208-209).

⁵ Salomone 1911, p. 18.

there;⁶ certainly the design did address the pressing need felt by the community/parishioners to enlarge the church.

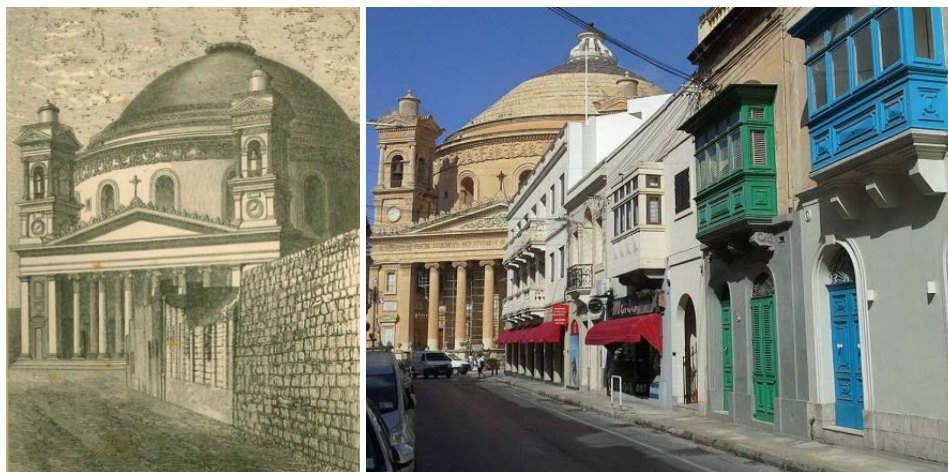


Fig. 1. View of Mosta Church: (left) circa 1860 (after J. Fergusson) and (right) at present

Although opposed by the bishop of the time, the development proposal secured the consent of the British Governor General once the queries raised by local architect-engineers regarding the suitability of constructing such a large dome in local stone were addressed.⁷ The erection of the church commenced in 1833 and was completed by 1861. Work progressed rapidly on site. The church bestowed indulgencies upon volunteers who worked on Sundays; the number of workers numbered 2-300 hundred on a given day.⁸ “The building was a work of love so practical that after a few years, in 1841, one third of the total height of the church was complete.”⁹ By 1860, the work was at an advanced stage and the old church was pulled down within days. The dome was closed by a lantern in 1889 not in conformity with Grognet’s design.¹⁰

⁶ *Malta Penny Magazine* 1841a, p. 117.

⁷ *Ibid.* The industrial minerals of the Maltese Islands are mainly sedimentary limestone of shallow marine origin (Bianco 1995). The dimension stones used in the erection of the Mosta Rotunda were extracted from the lower member of the Globigerina Limestone Formation which outcrops at a distance of circa 2 km south of the building site (Bianco 2018a). At the time of the erection of the Rotunda, a corpus of knowledge on the stones of Malta coupled with experience were available and applied during the previous two centuries when the archipelago was governed by the Order (Quentin Hughes 1967, p. 191-199; Bianco 1999).

⁸ Bianco 1995, p. 118.

⁹ Salomone 1911, p. 21.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

Reviews of the church both during and post construction were positive. A guide for foreigners visiting Malta published in 1839 states that

This temple is certainly the most magnificent, extensive and solid modern building, [...] which certainly, when finished, will be an ornament to the Island, will immortalise the architect, and draw towards the casual every visitor to Malta.¹¹

The weekly publication *Malta Penny Magazine* published an article on the project spread over two consecutive issues: 24 and 31 July 1841.¹² It gave an overview of the whole design and concluded by “wishing M. Grognet the best success in his undertaking and paying him a just compliment for the manner in which he has so far conducted it.”¹³ The notable negative review was in a publication by the architectural historian James Fergusson issued in 1862, a year after services started in the new church. It attributed the building to the ability of the masons, notably master mason Anglu Gatt,¹⁴ and defects in architectural ornament to the lack of “a learned architect to look over their design, and correct the details.”¹⁵ A leading twentieth century British historian of German descent, Nikolaus Pevsner, questioned Fergusson’s scientific method of assessing historical buildings¹⁶ and a recent publication notes that he cited no sources to support his claim about Grognet.¹⁷

Primary sources overview

Three historical primary sources, original documents written by Grognet in Italian, were published unedited by Salomone.¹⁸ In the preface, Salomone argued that these documents, numbered and entitled as follows, disprove Fergusson and vindicate the claim that Grognet was an ingenious architect-engineer. The documents are:

1) *Relazione Architettonica Teorica, e Pratica scritta dall' Ingegnere-Architetto Giorgio Grognet relativamente al suo disegno del nuovo Tempio da doversi costruire a Casal Musta posto nella campagna di Malta* (Report on the architectural, theoretical and practical considerations of Engineer-Architect Giorgio

¹¹ MacGill 1839, p. 124.

¹² *Malta Penny Magazine* 1841a, p. 117-119; *Malta Penny Magazine* 1841b, p. 120-122.

¹³ *Malta Penny Magazine* 1841a, p. 118.

¹⁴ Anglu Gatt (1796-1875), a son of a Maltese builder from the town of Zejtun, was one of the prominent master masons on the Maltese archipelago. He was introduced to Grognet by the leading Maltese architect from the same town Michele Cachia (1760-1839) (Schiaivone 2009a, p. 901).

¹⁵ Fergusson 1862, p. 34.

¹⁶ Pevsner 1972, p. 238-251.

¹⁷ Bianco 2018b, p. 209.

¹⁸ Salomone 1913.

Grongnet with respect to his design for the new Church to be constructed at Musta Village which is situated in the countryside of Malta);¹⁹

2) *Relazione Dimostrativa della Possibilità ed Eseguibilità Della Rotunda secondo i Calcoli ed il Disegno del Signor Architetto ed Ingegnere Giorgio Grongnet, 1833* (Report on technical feasibility and execution on the Rotunda as per the calculations and the design of architect and engineer Giorgio Grongnet, 1833)²⁰ and

3) *Ai Signori Deputati per la fabrica della nuova Chiesa di Casal Musta* (To the Committee Members for the construction of the new Church of Musta Village).²¹

All documents are signed as Giorgio Grognet, rather than by his full official name Giorgio Grognet de Vassé. Furthermore, he spelled his surname “Grongnet.” The first document, dated 18 January 1833, was signed in Valletta, whilst the third document was signed, on the morning of 12 March 1834, in Mosta. In both, Grognet signed as “l’Architetto Ingegnere” (the architect engineer). The second document, the only one which bears a title – namely *Relazione sul mio Progetto per la nuova Chiesa da Fabricarsi di pianta in Casal Musta* (Report on my project for the new Church to be built according to plan at Musta Village) – is dated 1833; it is likely to have been written after 18 January 1833 and definitely prior to May 1833, when building works commenced on site.

Results

The report dated 18 January 1833 is a detailed declaration stating the brief for the project and Grognet’s reasons for opting for the design of a rotunda, similar in form and mass to the Roman Pantheon. The internal space of the building is equivalent to the area needed to cater for the population of the village. It further states that:

1) doubts were cast on the structural stability of the proposed church and whether, given the inferior quality of Maltese stone, the dome can be supported by the drum;

2) due to (1) above, representatives from the village referred their concerns to the British Governor General of the Islands who, in turn, referred the design to four practising *periti* (see definition below) for their endorsement; and

3) Grognet had furnished the said *periti* with explanations grounding the feasibility of his design.

¹⁹ Grongnet 1833a, p. 9-12.

²⁰ Grongnet 1833b, p. 15-22.

²¹ Grongnet 1834, p. 24.

A *perit* (plural: *periti*) practices the profession of architect-engineer introduced to Malta in the sixteenth century by the Order of St John.²² By the eighteenth century, *periti* sat on ecclesiastical boards, drew up plans and valuations of immovable property and drafted plans and reports for notarial deeds.²³

This document includes a comparative study with the Pantheon. Citing Francesco Milizia,²⁴ the leading eighteenth century authority on the history and theory of architecture, to support his claim that the compressive strength of the limestone of Malta is safe for the realization of his design, Grognet moves on to compute the stresses that the drum would be able to endure and the resultant factor of safety for the dead loads imposed by the structure. He also included an estimation of the construction costs. It concludes by giving the following reasons for why the round form is the most fitting for the design of the new parish church:

1) To keep the old church within the interior of the new church until the latter is roofed over by the dome, so that the locals are not deprived of a place of worship;

2) To cater for the entire population of the village: it is a fact that the circle is the best geometric form as it contains the greatest usable space;

3) To avoid tampering with the graves of plague victims located under the floor of the projected church by placing columns on them;

4) To cut down on the use of timber beams and labour by using the old church as a formwork for the erection of the dome;

5) To make the construction of the new church more economical by not using columns; and

6) To build a church whose architecture breaks away from traditional ecclesiastical design, given that “dove tutte quasi le Chiese capiate sono servilmente l’una dall’altra” (almost all the churches are slavishly copied one from the other).

The second document is a detailed technical submission to support the feasibility of erecting the new Church as per Grognet’s structural design. It includes a drawing illustrating the superimposition of the catenary curve over a hemispherical one (**fig. 2**). This document reads as Grognet’s submission to the commission set up by the British Governor General to examine whether his design was technically feasible given the properties of local limestone. It includes not just his rationale but also his structural engineering

²² De Lucca 1975; Spiteri, Borg 2015.

²³ De Lucca 1975, p. 434; Bianco 2017b, p. 1-8.

²⁴ Milizia 1785, p. 227. Francesco Milizia (1725-1798), who never practised architecture, was the leading authority at the time of Grognet on the history and theory of architecture. His empirical data was derived from the work of the French mathematician, architect and civil engineer Émiland Gauthey (1732-1806).

2) would not permit under his supervision any labourer lacking good taste that ran contrary to the theory of architecture by disfiguring with similar *scempiaggini* (stupidity/nonsense) such a beautiful and costly building.

The correspondence concluded with his professional orders:

- 1) Removal of the erected jamb of the door; and
- 2) Confirmation that in the future all work would be undertaken in good taste.

Whilst remarking that he was their architect, chosen amongst others, and that his overarching interest was to be of service to them, he wished, with all due respect, and induced by his pride, to confirm that the contract between him and the Deputies would not have any force should his instructions be undermined by them. Should this happen, he would be set free from any responsibility and they would have the freedom to continue with the erection of the church according to their taste as the owners. The correspondence concludes by stating that if he did not receive a clear and satisfactory reply within three days, he would be able to know how to regulate himself.

Discussions

The art and science of building the Rotunda has fascinated scholars since its erection:

The building of the dome over this church forms by itself a marvel of architecture: for no scaffolding was used and neither stone nor wooden work set up to direct its curvature. It was done by simply notching each course to the one below: in other words, when the circular foundation on which the dome rests was finished, the first row of the dome was built with heavy blocks of stone, having one edge cut off, so as to give the right concavity, and so placed as to overlap their supports by one third of their length: then another layer was built on this, overlapping it in the same way. This process went on until the dome was completed.²⁵

Mosta Rotunda is based on an integrative design approach with particular reference to a realised building, a methodology encouraged in today's architectural design education, and thus a "thoughtful appropriateness of design and intellectual elegance of detail."²⁶ The Pantheon was used as a comparative study to support Grognet's claim that his design could be realized. His structural design is based on mathematical calculations; he computed the compressive stress generated by the dead loads of the dome and the drum and checked whether local limestone was likely to fail against

²⁵ Salomone 1911, p. 21-22. The latest extensive research to comprehend the erection of the masonry dome was undertaken by C. Cuschieri (Cuschieri 2006). This study includes scaled masonry models to study the dynamics and the construction details of the Rotunda.

²⁶ Fergusson 1865, p. xiii.

the optimal crushing strength of soft stone used by Milizia. He further computed the factor of safety of his design. The detailing of the building construction is impressive. Furthermore, the programme management for the efficient construction of the church without the use of scaffolding and additional labour manifests the ingenuousness of the project.

In designing Mosta Church, Grognet demonstrated his “erudition and knowledge of scientific methods of calculations as against old methods based on experience and tradition,”²⁷ a statement recalled in Schiavone.²⁸ He technically addressed the concerns relating to the ability of local limestone to take the compressive stresses generated by the structure, and not only was the dome stable but it withstood the test of time, including a German Second World War bomb which penetrated the shell but failed to explode.

Grognet’s correspondence of 12 March 1834 offers significant insight into the professional standing of a *perit* in the nineteenth century:

- 1) Approved design was to be complied with during the realisation of a building;
- 2) Building works had to comply with the theory of the art of architecture. Masons lacking in good architectural taste should not be allowed to work on site;
- 3) An architect-engineer was continuously supervising the work and directing the masons. When he needed to absent himself from the building site, he would leave instructions (such as for the ornamentation of the door jambs, as per the case above);
- 4) If his instructions were not complied with, he would order the offending construction work to be removed; and
- 5) He would take failure to comply with his instructions (which was not an issue in this case) as due cause to relinquish his professional responsibility for the work to the owners of the building site.

Grognet’s position demonstrates not only a manifestation of his uprightness but his professional ethics. It demonstrates his awareness of the need to not become involved and/or be associated with a design which ran counter to the axioms of architectural design. Corruption of architectural taste and violation of architectural grammar and vocabulary were not tolerated. A significant point is made with respect to professional responsibility. Noting the original spirit of the cited primary source this reference is linked with the legal responsibility of an architect for his work. The architect is liable for the building; he may opt to relinquish his position as the architect of a given project if the client and/or masons do not comply with his discretion and/or direction.

²⁷ Mahoney 1996, p. 318.

²⁸ Schiavone 2009b, p. 989.

Conclusions

The analysis of this significant case study about nineteenth-century ecclesiastical architecture in the archipelago of Malta, the smallest member state of the European Union, leads to the following conclusions with respect to the art and science of building and the profession of the architect at the time:

1. A public technical commission empowered to assess the structural design of a public building could be set up to give a second opinion on the safety of the design; this was a further step in the evolution of architectural-engineering professional practice in Malta;

2. The architect made use of an integrative design approach supported by a realised case study relevant to the development project;

3. The architect saw himself as responsible for ensuring that the approved design is executed by the building masons; if he did not endorse variations made without his consent, he would order them to be removed;

4. Building masons were to follow the directions of the architect; masons who were not knowledgeable and sensitive to good taste were not be allowed to work on the site; and

5. If clients or their agents failed to comply with the directions of the architect, the latter had the right to relinquish his professional responsibility for the building.

These rules were significant then and are still today. They are derived from the work of an architect who truly fit the Vitruvian perspective.²⁹ The Roman scholar stressed the importance of philosophy in the education of the architect as it

[...] completes the architect's character by instilling loftiness of spirit, so that he will not be arrogant, but rather tolerant, fair, and trustworthy, and, most important of all, free from greed.³⁰

Acknowledgement

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²⁹ Bianco 2018b, p. 205-206.

³⁰ Vitruvius 1999, p. 22.

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LISTA ABREVIERILOR DE PERIODICE

- AB** - Analele Buzăului. Muzeul Județean Buzău.
- Academe** - Academe. The American Association of University Professors. Washington.
- ACNLU** - Acta Conventus Neo-Latini Upsaliensis. Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Congress of Neo-Latin Studies (Uppsala 2009). Leiden.
- ActaHASH** - Acta Historica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Budapest.
- ActaMN** - Acta Musei Napocensis. Muzeul de Istorie a Transilvaniei. Cluj-Napoca.
- AÉ** - Archaeologiai Értesítő a Magyar régészeti, művésztörténeti és éremtani társulat tudományos folyóirata. Budapest.
- AI** - Anale de Istorie. Institutul de Studii Istorice și Social-Politice de pe lângă CC al PCR. București.
- AIAC** - Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca.
- AIIAI/AIIX** - Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie „A. D. Xenopol” Iași (din 1990 Anuarul Institutului de Istorie „A. D. Xenopol” Iași).
- AIIN** - Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională. Cluj, Sibiu.
- Alba-Iulia** - Alba-Iulia. Alba Iulia.
- AM** - Arheologia Moldovei. Institutul de Istorie și Arheologie „A. D. Xenopol” Iași.
- AnB** - Analele Banatului (serie nouă). Muzeul Național al Banatului. Timișoara.
- Antik Tanulmányok** - Antik Tanulmányok. Akadémiai Kiadó. Budapest.
- AO** - Arhivele Olteniei (serie nouă). Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane. Craiova.
- Apulum** - Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis. Muzeul Național al Unirii Alba Iulia.
- ArhSom** - Arhiva Someșană. Revistă istorică-culturală. Năsăud.
- ArhMed** - Arheologia Medievală. Reșița, Cluj-Napoca.
- Astra Salvensis** - Astra Salvensis. Cercul Salva al ASTRA. Salva.
- AT** - Arhivele totalitarismului. Institutul Național pentru Studiul Totalitarismului. Academia Română. București.
- AUASH** - Annales Universitatis Apulensis. Series Historica. Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” din Alba Iulia.
- AUMCS** - Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Sklodowska. Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Sklodowskiej. Lublin.

Lista abrevierilor de periodice

AUS	- Acta Universitatis Szegediensis De Attila József Nominatae. Acta Historiae Litterarum Hungaricarum. A József Attila Tudományegyetem-Bölcsészettudományi Kar. Szeged.
AVSL	- Archiv des Vereins für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde. Sibiu.
Banatica	- Banatica. Muzeul de Istorie al Județului Caraș-Severin. Reșița.
BAR	- British Archaeological Reports (International Series). Oxford.
BC	- Biblioteca și cercetarea. Cluj-Napoca.
BCȘS	- Buletinul Cercurilor Științifice Studentești. Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” din Alba Iulia.
BHAB	- Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica. Muzeul Banatului Timișoara.
Boabe de grâu	- Boabe de grâu. Revistă de cultură. București.
Brukenthal	- Brukenthal. Acta Musei. Muzeul Național Brukenthal. Sibiu.
București	- București. Materiale de istorie și muzeografie. Muzeul Municipiului București.
Bylye Gody	- Bylye Gody. International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research. Washington.
Caietele CNSAS	- Caietele CNSAS. Consiliul Național pentru Studierea Arhivelor Securității. București.
CB	- Călăuza bibliotecarului. Biblioteca Centrală de Stat București.
CBAstra	- Conferințele Bibliotecii Astra. Biblioteca Județeană Astra. Sibiu.
Cărți românești	- Cărți românești.
CCA	- Cronica cercetărilor arheologice. cIMeC. București.
CEHF	- Cahiers d'Études Hongroises et Finlandaises. Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3.
CollMed	- Collegium Mediense. Comunicări științifice. Colegiul Tehnic „Mediense” Mediaș.
Colloquia	- Colloquia. Journal of Central European History. Institutul de Studii Central-Europene al Facultății de Istorie și Filosofie a Universității „Babeș-Bolyai” Cluj-Napoca.
ComȘtMediaș	- Comunicări Științifice. Mediaș (este continuată de CollMed).
Contimporanul	- Contimporanul. Revistă de avangardă, cu program constructivist. București.
Corviniana	- Corviniana. Acta Musei Corvinensis. Muzeul Castelului Corvineștilor.
Cumidava	- Cumidava. Muzeul Județean de Istorie Brașov.

Țitatel	- Țitatel. Matica slovenská. Martin.
Discobolul	- Discobolul. Revistă de cultură. Uniunea Scriitorilor din România. Alba Iulia.
Drobeta	- Drobeta. Seria Etnografie. Muzeul Regiunii Porților de Fier. Drobeta-Turnu Severin.
Drobeta. Artă Plastică	- Drobeta. Seria Artă Plastică. Muzeul Regiunii Porților de Fier. Drobeta-Turnu Severin.
eClassica	- eClassica. Centro des Estudos Clássicos. Lisabona.
EF	- Einband-Forschung, Informationsblatt des Arbeitskreises für die Erfassung, Erschliessung und Erhaltung Historischer Bucheinbände (AEB). Berlin.
EJCE	- European Journal of Contemporary Education. Academic Publishing House Researcher. Bratislava.
EJST	- European Journal of Science and Theology. Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Jassy.
EO	- Etnograficheskoye obozreniye. Institut etnologii i antropologii RAN. Moskva.
EphNap	- Ephemeris Napocensis. Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei Cluj-Napoca.
EPK	- Egyetemes Philologiai Közlöny. Akadémiai Kiadó. Budapest.
ER	- Exportgut Reformation. Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Europäische Geschichte Mainz. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. Göttingen.
ESTuar	- ESTuar. Online. București.
Familia	- Familia (seria I: 1865-1906). Oradea.
FI	- File de Istorie. Muzeul de Istorie Bistrița (continuată de RB).
FM	- Europäische Zeitschrift für Mineralogie, Kristallographie, Petrologie, Geochemie und Lagerstättenkunde. Deutschen Mineralogischen Gesellschaft. Stuttgart.
Folklore	- Folklore. Centre de Documentation et le Musée Audois des Arts et Traditions populaires. Carcassonne. Montpellier.
Gazeta ilustrată	- Gazeta ilustrată. Literară. Politică. Economică. Socială. Cluj.
GeoJournal	- GeoJournal. Spatially Integrated Social Sciences and Humanities. Springer Science and Business Media (Netherlands).
GT	- Geographia Technica. Geographia Technica Association. Cluj University Press. Cluj-Napoca.
HE	- Historia Ecclesiastica. Prešovská univerzita. Prešov.
HHCT	- History and Historians in the Context of the Time. Academic Publishing House Researcher. Bratislava.

Lista abrevierilor de periodice

- HHR** - Hungarian Historical Review. Institute of History, Research Centre for the Humanities. Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Budapest.
- Hierasus** - Hierasus. Muzeul Județean Botoșani.
- Historica Carpatica** - Historica Carpatica. Zborník Východoslovenského múzea v Košiciach. Košice.
- HL** - Humanistica Lovaniensia. Journal of Neo-Latin Studies. Seminarium Philologiae Humanisticae. Leuven.
- HQ** - The Hungarian Quarterly. The Hungarian Quarterly Society. Budapest.
- HS** - Historické štúdie. Historický ústav slovenskej akadémie vied. Bratislava.
- Hyphen** - Hyphen. A Journal of Melitensia and the Humanities. The New Lyceum (Arts), Msida, Malta.
- IJCS** - International Journal of Conservation Science. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Jassy.
- IJHCS** - International Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies. University of Gafsa.
- INT** - Istoriya nauki i tekhniki. Izdatel'stvo „Reaktiv”. Ufa.
- IV** - Istoricheskii vestnik. Moskva.
- IS** - Izvestiya Samarskogo tsentra Rossiiskoi akademii nauk. Samara.
- IYZGU** - Izvestiya Yugo-Zapadnogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Yugo-Zapadnyi gosudarstvennyi universitet. Kursk.
- Izvestiya ANKSSR** - Izvestiya Akademii Nauk Kazakhskoy Sovetskoy Sotsialisticheskoy Respubliki. Seriya obshchestvennykh nauk. Alma-Ata.
- Îndrumător bisericesc** - Îndrumător bisericesc misionar și patriotic. Episcopia Aradului. Arad.
- Îndrumător pastoral** - Îndrumător pastoral. Episcopia Ortodoxă Română de Alba Iulia.
- JBS** - The Journal of Baroque Studies. International Institute for Baroque Studies at the University of Malta.
- JIA** - Journal of International Affairs. School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. New York.
- JSRI** - Journal for the Study of Religions & Ideologies. The Academic Society for the Research of Religions and Ideologies. Cluj-Napoca.
- Kniha** - Kniha. Matica slovenská. Martin.
- Knižničný zborník** - Knižničný zborník. Matica slovenská. Martin.
- LAR** - Literatură și artă română. Idei, simțire, formă. București.

Limba română	- Limba română. Institutul de Lingvistică al Academiei Române „Iorgu Iordan - Al. Rosetti”. București.
Luceafărul	- Luceafărul. Revistă literară (1902-1945). Budapesta.
MA	- Mitropolia Ardealului. Revista oficială a Arhiepiscopiei Sibiului, Arhiepiscopiei Vadului, Feleacului și Clujului, Episcopiei Alba Iuliei și Episcopiei Oradiei. Sibiu (1956-1991).
Magyar Nyelvőr	- Magyar Nyelvőr. A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Nyelvtudományi Intézet. Budapest.
Magyarország	- Magyarország. Budapest.
MCA	- Materiale și cercetări arheologice. București.
ME	- Memoria Ethnologica. Centrul Județean pentru Conservarea și Promovarea Culturii Tradiționale Maramureș. Baia Mare.
MH	- Melita Historica. Malta Historical Society.
MK	- Magyar Könyvszemle. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Budapest. Irodalomtudományi Intézet Országos Széchényi Könyvtár Budapest.
MKS	- Magyar Könyv-Szemle. A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia - Irodalomtudományi Intézet. Budapest.
MLN	- Modern Language Notes. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Baltimore.
MN	- Muzeul Național. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României. București.
MP	- Magyar Pedagógia. A Magyar Pedagógiai Társaság. Budapest.
Muzeum	- Muzeum. Muzejní a vlastivedná práce. National Museum. Prague.
NLWJ	- The National Library of Wales Journal. The National Library of Wales. Aberystwyth.
Noema	- Noema. Comitetul Român de Istoria și Filosofia Științei și Tehnicii. București.
NNI	- Novaya i noveishaya istoriya. Rossiiskaya akademiya nauk. Moskva.
NP	- Novoe proshloe. Yuzhnyi federal'nyi universitet. Rostov-na-Donu.
NS	- Nasledie i sovremennost'. Rossiyskiy nauchno-issledovatel'skiy institut kul'turnogo i prirodnogo naslediya im. D. S. Likhacheva. Moskva.
NVBU	- Nauchnye vedomosti Belgorodskogo universiteta. Seriya Istoriya. Politologiya. Ekonomika. Informatika. Belgorodskiy natsional'nyy issledovatel'skiy universitet. Belgorod.
OK	- Orvostörténeti Közleményel (Communicationes de historia artis medicinae). Budapest Semmelweis

Lista abrevierilor de periodice

	Orvostorteneti Muzeum Es Konyvtar And Magyar Orvostortelenmi Tarsasag. Budapest.
Orizont	- Orizont. Timișoara.
ORP	- Odrodzenie i reformacja w Polsce. Instytut Historii Polskiej Akademii Nauk. Warszawa.
PA	- Patrimonium Apulense. Direcția Județeană pentru Cultură Alba. Alba Iulia.
PB	- Patrimonium Banaticum. Direcția Județeană pentru Cultură Timiș. Timișoara.
Pediatria	- Pediatria de Atención Primaria. Publicación Oficial de la Asociación Española de Pediatría de Atención Primaria.
PH	- Prace Historyczne. Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie.
Poarta Inimii	- Poarta inimii. Alba Iulia.
Programm Mühlbach	- Programm Mühlbach. Programm des evaghelischen Untergymnasium in Mühlbach und der damit verbundenen Lehranstalten. Sebeș.
PS	- Protestáns Szemle. Magyar Protestáns Irodalmi Társaság. Budapest.
RA	- Russkii arkhiv. Academic Publishing House Researcher. Bratislava.
RAPPS	- Revista de Administrație Publică și Politici Sociale. Universitatea de Vest „Vasile Goldiș” din Arad.
RB	- Revista Bistriței. Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud. Bistrița.
RE	- Revista economică. Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.
REF	- Revista de Etnografie și Folclor. Institutul de Etnografie și Folclor „Constantin Brăiloiu”. Academia Română. București.
Revista Arheologică	- Revista Arheologică. Centrul de Arheologie al Institutului Patrimoniului Cultural al Academiei de Științe a Moldovei. Chișinău.
RFR	- Revista Fundațiilor Regale. Revistă lunară de literatură, artă și cultură generală. București.
RH	- Roczniki Humanistyczne. Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego Jana Pawła II. Lublin.
RHSEE/RESEE	- Revue historique du sud-est européen. Academia Română. București, Paris (din 1963 Revue des études sud-est européennes).
RI	- Revista de Istorie (din 1990 Revista istorică). Academia Română. București.
RJMH	- The Romanian Journal of Modern History. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Jassy.

RM	- Revista Muzeelor. București.
RMM	- Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. București.
RMV	- Revue de médecine vétérinaire. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse.
România literară	- România literară. Săptămânal de literatură și artă. București.
Rossiiskaya istoriya	- Rossiiskaya istoriya. Akademicheskii nauchno-izdatel'skiy, proizvodstvenno-poligraficheskiy i knigorasprostranitel'skiy tsentr Nauka. Moskva.
RRH	- Revue Roumaine d'Histoire. Academia Română. București.
RT	- Revista Teologică (între anii 1956 și 1991 a apărut sub denumirea de Mitropolia Ardealului). Mitropolia Ardealului. Sibiu.
SA	- Sovetskaya arkheologiya. Akademiya Nauk SSSR. Moskva.
SAI	- Studii și articole de istorie. Societatea de Științe Istorice și Filologice a RPR. București.
Samus Sargetia	- Samus. Muzeul Municipal Dej. - Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis. Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane Deva.
SCA	- Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie. Institutul de Antropologie „Francisc I. Rainer”. Academia Română. București.
SCIA	- Studii și Cercetări de Istoria Artei. Seria Artă Plastică. București.
SCIV(A)	- Studii și cercetări de istoria veche (din 1974, Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie). București.
Slavyanskii al'manakh	- Slavyanskii al'manakh. Institut slavyanovedeniya Rossiiskoi akademii nauk. Moskva.
SMIC	- Studii și materiale de istorie contemporană. Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga” al Academiei Române. București.
SMIM	- Studii și materiale de istorie modernă. Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga” al Academiei Române. București.
Sovremennik	- Sovremennik. Sankt Petersburg.
SPST	- Sovremennye problem servisa i turizma. Russian State University of Tourism and Service. Moscow.
SS	- The Social Sciences. Western Social Association. Dubai.
Studia Studii	- Studia. Transilvania Express. Brașov. - Studii. Revistă de istorie (din 1974 Revista de istorie și din 1990 Revista istorică). Academia Română. București.

Lista abrevierilor de periodice

- SUP** - Studi Umanistici Piceni. Istituto Internazionale di Studi Piceni. Sassoferato.
- Századok** - Századok. A Magyar Történelmi Társulat. Budapest.
- Terra Sebus** - Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis. Muzeul Municipal „Ioan Raica” Sebeș.
- TIIAE** - Trudy Instituta Istorii, Arkheologii i Etnografii. Akademii Nauk Kazakhskoy Sovetskoy Sotsialisticheskoy Respubliki. Alma-Ata.
- TNK** - Trudy NII kul'tury. Ministerstvo kul'tury RSFSR. Moskva.
- TR** - Transylvanian Review. Centrul de Studii Transilvane al Academiei Române. Cluj-Napoca.
- Transilvania** - Transilvania. Centrul Cultural Interetnic Transilvania. Sibiu.
- TS** - Theologiai Szemle. A Magyarországi Egyházak Ökumenikus Tanácsa. Budapest.
- TT** - Testimonia Theologica. Evanjelická bohoslovecká fakulta Komenského univerzity v Bratislave.
- Unirea** - Unirea. Alba Iulia.
- UR** - Ungarische Revue. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia. Budapest.
- VAH** - Varia Archaeologica Hungarica. Budapest.
- Valori bibliofile** - Valori bibliofile din patrimoniul cultural național. Cercetare, valorificare. Consiliul Culturii și Educației Socialiste. Muzeul Județean Vâlcea. Râmnicu Vâlcea.
- VChGU** - Vestnik Chelyabinskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Chelyabinskii gosudarstvennyi universitet. Chelyabinsk.
- VE** - Vestnik Evropy. Sankt Petersburg.
- Verbum** - Verbum. Revista catolică. București.
- Vestnik Tverskogo** - Vestnik Tverskogo Gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Seriya Istoriya. Tver.
- Vestnik VEGU** - Vestnik VEGU. Vostochnaya ekonomiko-yuridicheskaya gumanitarnaya akademiya. Akademiya VEGU. Ufa.
- VI** - Voprosy istorii. Institut russkoy istorii Rossiyskoy akademii nauk. Moskva.
- Viața românească** - Viața Românească. Revistă literară și științifică. Iași.
- VMKK** - A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei. Veszprém.
- Vox libri** - Vox libri. Biblioteca Județeană „Ovid Densusăianu” Deva.
- VS** - Voennyi Sbornik. Academic Publishing House Researcher. Bratislava.
- VV** - Vestnik vospitaniya. Moskva.

- Zalai Múzeum** - Zalai Múzeum. Zala. Múzeumok Igazgatósága. Zalaegerszeg.
- ZfE** - Zeitschrift für Ethnologie. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde und Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie Ethnologie und Urgeschichte. Berlin.
- ZfhWK** - Zeitschrift für historische Waffen- und Kostümkunde. Dresdner Verein für Waffenkunde. Berlin.
- ZfTZ** - Zeitschrift für Tierzüchtung und Züchtungsbiologie: Organ der Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft Tierzucht im Forschungsdienst (continua: Zeitschrift für Züchtung. Reihe B, Tierzüchtung und Züchtungsbiologie). Berlin, Hamburg.