written sources but also by its archaeological remains ca. 15 km west of Arad on a
former island. The documentary sources indicate that the abbey was dedicated to the
Virgin and used by Benedictine friars. It was built ca. 1100. The first written source,
dated to 1183, shows the abbey in full activity. The buildings were ruined after the mid-
sixteenth century and drastically despoiled. After first excavations in 1981, further digs
at the abbey took place between 2001 and 2009. Many parts of the former building
complex were identified, mainly in the eastern part of the island, near a dried-up
branch of River Mureş.

The present article focuses on the remains of a lavabo discovered in 2004
among the ruins of the former abbey. The author presents their archaeological context
of discovery and the remains of the water supply system, she establishes the period
when the fountain was used (in the end of the twelfth century), and provides a
hypothetical graphical reconstruction. The latter is based on the traits of the discovered
stone fragments and through analogy with Western European fountains from cloisters
and settlements or baptismal fonts dated to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The
lavatorium, neighbouring channels and water tower are only part of the system of water
management in Bizere, which further research may identify more precisely and on a
wider scale.

**Keywords:** Romanesque art, medieval splash fountain, Benedictine abbey.

ADRIAN ANDREI RUSU, Religious and non-religious in material culture of Bizere abbey
(Frumuşeni, Arad county)

**Abstract:** Various artifacts belonging to the former Benedictine abbey in Bizere were
recovered during archaeological excavations in 1981 and from 2001 to 2009. The
present study focuses on few of such items. The first analyzed piece is a partially
preserved bronze piece in the shape of a dragon’s or a snake’s head, broken off from the
body at some point. Several comparable Western European pieces suggest that the
fragment might belong to the upper end of a crosier, and enable a partial graphic
reconstruction. Given that the item was found in an abbey complex, it was arguably an
abbatial crosier. Stylistically Romanesque, it may be dated sometime before the
thirteenth century and thereby be considered the oldest abbatial crosier known so far
from the territory of present-day Romania.

The second object, from which two pieces were found, is the foot of a large pot.
It is an exception among the series of similar pots discovered until now. A
reconstruction, typological classification and a study of its functionality will be
discussed. The last one is a fragmentary casting negative for producing stellate mace
heads. This find is the only one piece of this type in our area. Its presence in a
monastery reveals a type of weapon production that has no connection with the nature
of the monastic establishment, which we archaeologically researched. Such examples of
artifacts contribute to the reconstruction of the larger picture of religious and secular
life of Bizere monastery and offers clues to some geographically distant connections for
the technical achievements of this place.

**Keywords:** Benedictine abbey, medieval bronze artifacts, abbatial crosier, bronze pot,
stellate mace heads.