

De la șarpantă la zidărie. Cercetări din anii 2020-2021 privind elevația bisericii fortificate din Vîscri

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Abstract:

This article demonstrates the use of state-of-the-art methods in building archaeology ('Bauforschung') and the knowledge that can be gained through their application, using the fortified church of Vîscri as a case study. The church's roof truss formed the subject of the authors' master's thesis (2020-2021) at the University of Bamberg. The research is grounded in precise documentation. This article presents the results relating to the construction history not only of the roof truss but also of the church as a whole, alongside the technical methods employed and the archival and bibliographic sources consulted.

Based on the building-archaeological findings and dendrochronological analysis, the entire roof truss of the church can be dated to 1643, except for a small number of identifiable repair phases. Superficial spoon-bit holes in the tie beams suggest that the longitudinal bracing frames were fabricated on site, a practice that appears to have been common in the region. Furthermore, traces of earlier roof structures on the eastern wall of the tower, visible from the nave roof space, indicate that the tower was erected, at the earliest, in connection with the westward extension of the Romanesque church, rather than in the thirteenth century as previously assumed. The same wall also preserves evidence for the church's original height and for the imprint of the vaults from its fortification phase in the early sixteenth century, when the choir was also provided with a reduit, now demolished. Although the ceilings of the nave and the choir could not be dated precisely, the relative chronology established on the basis of evidence from the roof space indicates that they were erected around the turn of the nineteenth century. In this context, the year 1743, currently inscribed on the triumphal arch in Roman numerals, may be interpreted as a transcription error for 1793.

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