

Hegy, Géza

The Districts in the Medieval Transylvanian Diocese

Keywords: ecclesiastical administration, tithing, county, archdeaconry, subcultellus, districtus

The administration of the tithe required the division of the dioceses into smaller territorial units. These units varied considerably from diocese to diocese, first of all in terms of their names, but also partly in terms of their size and differentiation. The basic unit of tithing in the Transylvanian diocese, primarily in the territories subjected to the episcopal tithe, was the *comitatus*, which, despite the similarities in name and territory, cannot be identified with the secular counties, but rather with the archdeaconries (or deaneries). Smaller territorial units, such as *districtus* and (*sub*) *cultellus/succutellus*, are mainly found in the more dispersed areas from Fehér/Alba and Küküllő/Târnava counties paying tithes to the chapter. In my study I have also tried to define the extent of these tithe districts.

W. Kovács, András

Two Unpublished Letters of Summons to the Transylvanian Provincial Assemblies (1478, 1502)

Keywords: Transylvania, voivodal congregation, diet, noble society, Middle Ages

Before the conventional end of the Hungarian Middle Ages (1526), we know of only four letters of summons to provincial assemblies, issued by the voivodes and addressed to the county nobility. The present study publishes the two letters that have remained unpublished. One of them, the document of 1478, is the only one known so far which is not only addressed in general to the nobility of a county, but nominally lists the five “most prominent” (*nobiliiores*) nobles of the county of Dăbâca/Doboka, who were expected to attend the consultation with the voivode. Among them we find a landowner of large estates, a member of the Bánffy family, but also small landowners (who may have represented other families in whose service they might have been). The smaller landowners nominalized in the letter of summons did not hold any offices in the county organization, but presumably they might have represented more influential families they were serving as *familiars*. Some data suggest the presence of county counts at such voivodal assemblies, who may not even have been invited, but were present ‘ex officio’. Including the latter, the number of nobles gathered from the seven Transylvanian counties seems to have

remained below fifty. The procedure for the selection of the delegates is not known, but it is not excluded that they were appointed in advance by the community of nobles of each county

Lakatos, Bálint

The Self-governing Structure of Turda/Torda and Its Activity until the End of the 16th Century

Keywords: local government, town charters, judge, council, notary, seal

The self-government organisation of Turda/Torda in the 15th-16th century can only be deduced from sporadic sources due to the decay of the town archives in 1601. We know only 31 issues between 1424 and 1599. Although the town consisted of two quarters (Old and New Town), it was led by one inner council of one judge and twelve jurors before 1619. According to their privileges, they were freely elected annually. It is not possible to determine the exact date of the elections until the second half of the 16th century, then it was probably around New Year's Day or Epiphany. The election was made by the "fifty men", the external council. The written administration was carried out by the notary, who also wrote the town book. This office is recorded from 1411, the town book is mentioned in 1535. Other town officials (forest judge, wine judge, ward of the vineyards, lake judge) are only recorded from the very end of the 16th century. The weekly sessions of the inner council were held on Mondays–Tuesdays and on Fridays–Saturdays. In the case of real estate matters, charters were often issued on 24 December or on the vigil of Pentecost ("sealing day"). Torda used a single seal until the end of the 15th century, then a larger and a smaller one. The coat of arms was a variant of the Hungarian royal coat of arms with red and silver cut. This was forgotten by the 17th century.

György, Árpád Botond

The Archontology of the Town of Târgu Mureş/Marosvásárhely

Keywords: urban history, administration, judge, council, archontology

The study presents the activities of the main officials of the administration of 17th century Târgu Mureş/Marosvásárhely. The leading role was played by the judge of the town, who was not only

in charge of the city's internal but also its external relations. A significant role was played by the sworn citizens, who took their share in the administration of justice and tax collection in the city. The town notary also had an important role in the administration of the town, in addition to his regular duties of issuing documents and recording revenues and protocols. The main part of the research is represented by the archontology attached to the study, which provides a basis for interpreting the internal power relations and changes in the political life of the town.

Mátyás-Rausch, Petra

Sándor Barcsay's Mysterious Wife - New Data on the Social Relations of the Fodor Family of Abrudbánya/Abrud

Keywords: Barcsay family, marriage, familiaris of the court, social mobility, intellectuals

This article inquires into the social opportunities of the Transylvanian precious mining via one career- history from a noble family who belonged to the economic elite of Abrudbánya/Abrud, the most significant mining town of Metaliferi Mountains. The Fodor family was part of a number of resettled noble families in this region who wanted to improve their social and financial status with the help of precious metal mining. This family had so many entrepreneurial skills that this way they could become the most influential family in the area of the Metaliferi Mountains. Pál Fodor was an ancestor of this family, who led the gold exchange in the precious metal mining towns. Via his social and financial network, his son, György Fodor, could access court service in the court of Gábor Bethlen. His daughters could get married with members of noble families (for example the family of Barcsay). These marriages did not only have advantages for the Fodor family, but also for the Barcsay family, because they could get significant wealth.

Bogdándi, Zsolt

Church Historical Data from the Protocols of the Convent of Cluj-Mănăştur. The Jesuits and the Church of Cluj-Mănăştur

Keywords: places of authentication, Cluj-Mănăştur, registers, Jesuits, Church History

The registers of the place of authentication of Cluj-Mănăştur are considered the most important sources for the medieval history of Transylvania. The protocols of this place of authentication were preserved even after the secularization of the ecclesiastical estates and the moving of the archive and the appointed *requisitors* to the city of Cluj. In the approximately 30 volumes from the princely period, there are also records of the testimonies of the few Catholics in the town and its surroundings as well as the various legal acts concerning the activity of the Jesuits. The aim of this work is to present these sporadic data on the history of the Catholic Church, and in particular those concerning the Catholic parish of old Cluj-Mănăştur.

Gálfi, Emőke

Additions to the Biography of Chancellor Simon Péchi (1614-1621)

Keywords: biography, Transylvanian Principality, chancellor, estates

The study focuses on Simon Péchi, the fallen chancellor of Prince Gábor Bethlen. Although Péchi is a well-known figure in the history of Transylvania thanks to different historical and literary works, the study is justified by the newly discovered data on his person. This information tells us not only about the acquisition of his estates, but also about the methods by which he acquired them. In addition, the inclusion of new data has helped to clarify the misconceptions surrounding Péchi's person.

Szalai, Ágnes

“The Soldiers of [...] Várad Gnash Their Teeth against Sebesvár” The Fortress of Sebesvár/Bologa in the First Decade of the Apafi Era

Keywords: Transylvanian Principality, condominium, government, Apafi era, Ottomans

The events of “the crisis of power” posed serious challenges to Prince Mihály I Apafi and his government: the functioning of the Transylvanian state became practically disorganised. The biggest problem was the increasing Ottoman pressure on the Principality. After the conquest of Várad/Oradea (1660) and with it, most of Partium, Ottomans created a new *vilayet* with the centre at Oradea. The exact boundaries between the Principality of Transylvania and the *vilayet*

of Oradea were not clearly defined, so this area was also characterised by the so-called joint sovereignty (*condominium*). Therefore, in order to protect the Transylvanian state and its (tax-paying) inhabitants, it became essential to organise a new system of fortresses as soon as possible, and the government chose the fortress of Bologa as one of the links in the system. The aim of this study is to show how Bologa became a substitute for Oradea and how it was able to organise defence against the Ottomans and maintain the continuity of Transylvanian authority in the *condominium* territory in the first decade of the Apafi era. My further objective is to describe how during the ongoing conflicts between the soldiers of Bologa and the Ottomans of Oradea, the Transylvanian government tried and succeeded in representing its own interests against the leaders of the neighbouring Ottoman *vilayets* on the one hand, and the Sublime Porte on the other.

Nagy, Kornél

The Armenians' "Labanc" Bishop. The Armenians in Transylvania and Ferenc Rákóczi's War of Liberation

Keywords: Armenians, Ferenc Rákóczi, Transylvania, bishop, Oxendio Virziresco

In recent scholarship, very little is known of the history of the Armenians in Transylvania during the period of Ferenc Rákóczi's War of Liberation (1703–1711). For this reason, my brief article is primarily dedicated to the vicissitudes of the Armenians from both historical and church-historical point of view in the early 18th century. Moreover, this study aims at focusing upon the positive and negative effects on the Armenians in Transylvania caused by Francis Rákóczi's War of Liberation. At the same time, the studies have shown that Armenian Catholic (Uniate) Bishop Oxendio Virziresco (1654–1715), as the spiritual and political leader of the Armenian community, and firmly loyal to Apostolic Holy See in Rome and the Catholic Viennese Court, became an important key figure of Catholicism at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. Due to disadvantageous church-political conditions in Transylvania, caused by the politically strong protestant élite at the end of the 17th century, András Illyés (1639–1712), the true appointed and elected Roman Catholic (Latin rite) Bishop of Transylvania, could not enter the territory of his diocese and take his position there as bishop. So, Oxendio Virziresco remained the highest ranked Catholic prelate in Transylvania in this period. Finally, this study has analysed the consequences of Ferenc Rákóczi's War of Liberation on the whole Armenian community in Transylvania, resting upon the undiscovered documents kept at the archives in Budapest, Esztergom, Csíksomlyó (*Șumuleu Ciuc*), Gyulafehérvár (*Alba Iulia*), Rome, the Vatican City, Venice, Vienna, Warsaw and Yerevan.

Szabó, Zsolt

The Administrative Elite of Maramureş County between 1860 and 1867

Keywords: administrative elite, national identity, prosopography, continuity, corruption, ethnicity

Due to its multiethnic composition, the study of the county elite of Maramureş can provide an interesting inquiry in the continuity/discontinuity of its elites and the modernization of county administration and the way in which nationalism shaped this process. The analysis was made through the usage of the prosopographical method and encompasses the short but tumultuous period of 1860–1867. The release of the October Diploma brought back to power the elite of 1848–49. The most influential groups were those of the protestant Hungarians and the Romanians, largely because of their involvement in the revolution. The Roman Catholic Hungarians were mainly represented by the influential Szaploneczay family. Ruthenians were underrepresented in administration. A swift change in imperial policy in 1861 would challenge the local status quo. A royal commissioner of Ruthenian origin, Péter Dolinay was tasked with the reorganization of the administration. He brought in Roman Catholic Hungarians who served during the neoabsolutist regime in neighboring counties, as well as Ruthenians from Maramureş who held smaller positions in 1860. This served his personal interests as well as those of the Viennese government and Ruthenian national movement. However, rampant levels of corruption led to his dismissal in 1863. Real change began only in 1865, when the events leading to the *Ausgleich* of 1867 started. The dominant groups of 1860 regained power but had to share more of it with the Ruthenians. Factors other than the political also played a role in the shaping of the elite such as: schooling, social background, familial ties and administrative experience. It can also be stated that the high ratio of functionaries who served during the revolution and the neoabsolutist period, and the presence of Romanians with *hungarus* identities allied to the Hungarian nobility, are characteristics specific for Maramureş.