

Abstracts

Robert Offner

The German Notes of Hans Jordan, Citizen of Cluj / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg in the 16th Century

Keywords: Thomas Jordanus von Klausenburg – Protomedicus of Moravia – Hans Jordan – dialectological examination of a manuscript in a Bible – family tree of the Jordans – description of the election of a new Town Council of Kolozsvár 1535

Thomas Jordanus von Klausenburg (1540-1586) was one of the most famous physicians and scholars of Transylvanian origin from the 16th Century. He was the first elected protomedicus of Moravia in Brünn/Brno (Czech Republic). New sources are able to supplement his biography with previously unknown details like birth day, names of the parents, brothers and sisters, due to detailed philological investigations (by experts from Vienna, Regensburg and Hermannstadt/Sibiu) of the records from his father, Hans Jordan, in the family's Bible (Strasbourg, 1525). The father emigrated in 1520 probably from the Southern parts of Germany to the German language speaking area of Transylvania. His manuscript provides new data about the dialect and origin of the writer as well about the City Council elections of 1535 in Klausenburg (today Cluj-Napoca) as he also became a member of the council (centumviri). The paper also deals with the family tree of Hans Jordan and the biography of Thomas Jordan.

Bogdándi Zsolt

The Saxons and the Princely Table in the 16th Century

Keywords: Transylvania, Age of Principality, court of law, Princely Table, Saxons, legal procedures

This study analyzes the relationship between the Transylvanian central court of law, the so-called Royal/Voivodal/Princely Table (Tabula) and the privileged Saxon community of Transylvania in light of the archival sources. The Princely Table adjudicated the cases appealed from the Universitas Saxonum, which resided in Szeben (Sibiu, Hermannstadt). The Saxons did

not have their own court session, their cases were determined by the Table during the congregations of the Transylvanian estates, held on different locations. From the Princely Table their actions could be transmitted to the court of personal presence (*personalis presentia*). Cases between Saxons were appealed rarely to the Table, in most of the cases one of the litigants came from the nobility of the neighbouring counties or from the Szekely community.

Pakó László

The Judicial Activity of Early Modern Transylvania from a Different Perspective. The Correspondence of the Procurator Lucas Pistaki (1567–1595)

Keywords: Transylvanian Principality, judicial institutions, Princely Table, Princely Chancellery, procurator, correspondence, Transylvanian Saxons, Bistrița/ Bistritz/ Nösen, District of Bistrița

By analyzing the correspondence of Lucas Pistaki, an early modern Transylvanian procurator with the town-magistrate of Bistrița (Beszterce, Bistritz/Nösen) between 1567 and 1595 the study brings new data on the judicial activity of Transylvania and on the professional and private life of an early modern procurator. Our archival sources are unique since they do not discuss the mentioned topics from the point of view of the authorities who operated the system, but rather from “below”, from the point of view of those who participated as litigants or as their representatives in the judicial process. More than half of the letters concern the lawsuits of Bistrița represented by Pistaki at the court sessions of the Princely Table against the nobility of the surrounding counties. The same letters contain details about the activity of the Table, the daily tasks of Pistaki at these court sessions and the charter-issuing activity of the Princely Chancellery too. Other letters discuss the activity of the judicial institutions of the counties and the trials he represented for the town at these sessions. Some missives also show that, if asked, Pistaki advised the magistrates of the town in issues regarding their judicial actions even in cases when he did not represent the town. Sporadically there are fragments regarding Pistaki’s private life and family members, or details about more general news and events from around the country that could have influenced the town’s and district’s inner life and political connections. The data of the correspondence shows that, based on his experiences gained as notary of the Princely Chancellery and as procurator, Lucas Pistaki had a deep knowledge of the whole judicial system

of the country and of the characters who operated it. He had a better knowledge of the customs and laws of the country, the decisions of the Diet, or even of the privileges of the Transylvanian Saxons in general, and of the town or the District of Bistrița in particular than the members of the town-magistrate themselves.

Fejér Tamás

Historical sources concerning the political relations between Transylvanian Principality and Wallachia at the end of the 16th century

Keywords: Transylvania, Wallachia, political relations, Sigismund Báthory, Michael the Brave

The aim of this paper is to present new historical sources concerning the political relations between the Transylvanian Principality and Wallachia, respectively between Prince Sigismund Báthory and Voivode Michael the Brave at the end of the 16th century. Out of these sources, the first document is well-known among the historians, and contains the pact and alliance concluded on May 20, 1595 between Sigismund Báthory and Michael the Brave, according to which Wallachia acknowledged the suzerainty of Prince Báthory. However, this version of it, has not been published so far. The second document, which is dated also on May 20, 1595 is unknown, and therefore of paramount significance, to scholars, foregrounds the appointment of Michael the Brave as Voivode by Prince Báthory on the throne of Wallachia *vita ipsius durante*. In the same document the Prince established the incomes of the Voivode and granted his own (i.e. Michael the Brave's) estates in Wallachia to the Voivode and his legitimate male heirs. The texts of these two documents were preserved in a formulary of the Transylvanian princely chancellery from the end of the 16th century. The last document, which is known by historian through a Latin resumé, is published *in extenso* for the first time. This mandate of institution (*litterae introductoriae*) from April 4, 1596 concerns some estates in the Doboca county, which were donated by Prince Báthory to Michael the Brave, Voivode of Wallachia and princely counselor.

Kármán Gábor

Turks at the Table, Turks in the City. János Bocatius and the Image of the Turks in Hungary

Keywords: images of Turks, Buda, epistle, István Bocskai

The study is a close analysis of the image of Turks found in Johannes Bocatius' *Relatio vel epistolica commemoratio*. Writing about the negotiations of István Bocskai, prince of Transylvania with the grand vizier at the Rákos field and about his visit to Buda, Bocatius creates a dynamic image of Turks, leading his readers to his point in four steps. The image of the formidable, barbarian Turk is questioned by the experience related to the personal meeting: the Turks are also human beings. This is then modified by the strong experience of foreignness at the meal after the negotiations; and the images of destruction related to Buda make it obvious why a clear distance towards them must be maintained. The image of Turks, created by this follower of Bocskai, who at this occasion accepted Ottoman vassal status, can thus also be read as a political statement.

Dáné Veronka

The Unknown Branch of a Cubicularius Clan: the Bornemisza's of Cluj

Keywords: Treasury Officers, cubicularii, Cluj, Rákóczi György, Treasury, careers, finances, administration

This essay carries on Zsolt Trócsányi's study into the lower ranking staff of Treasury Officers, namely the *cubicularii* (*cubicularius*) and their offices via the two Bálintffy cubicularii introduced earlier, through the careers of László Bornemisza and his two brothers Gergely and Ferenc from a Kolozsvár Patrician family and also the probably related Tamás Bornemisza from Kolozsvár. The research has revealed that László who with his younger brother Ferenc turned Catholic under the influence of Jesuits and probably also has studied in foreign universities, never done any work in the administration of inland revenue but rather played a diplomatic role together with his brother. Prince Gábor Bethlen sent László as his envoy to Vienna and to the Porte on several occasions, while Ferenc was a key contact figure with France and the Porte. (It

was also him who accompanied the prince's nephew Péter Bethlen on his peregrinus trip.) Both brothers' careers ended when György Rákóczi the new prince instigated procedures against their brother-in-law Kristóf Bálintffy. As opposed to the diplomat cubicularius László, Tamás, his relation was clearly involved in the administration of finances. The story of the Bornemiszas clearly shows that while 'cubicularius' meant a person whose duties had to do mainly with the Treasury, as princely courtier ('equerry') he could be made useful in connection with many other duties. Only through investigating individual careers a clearer differentiation among specific duties can be made, which requires further research.

Mátyás Rauch Petra

The Management of Treasury During the Bethlen Era

Keywords: princely prefect, Tamás Debreczeni, praefectus absolutus, Principality of Transylvania

I would like to present the Prince's decisions and motivations in connection with treasury through data collected about a new-old fiscal office: that of the *princely prefect*. This search is only in its incipient phase as in presenting this office and its duties we can only refer to the incomplete collection of documents regarding Tamás Debreczeni, a princely prefect. In the sources this fiscal office appears as *praefectus absolutus*, and its most important functions are the following: administration of the estate, administration of the prince's rights and establishing relations with cities and towns of the Principality of Transylvania. This office was created probably after the Hungarian financial administration system. During our research we could identify a new office, that of the treasury prefect, later referred to as treasurer. We can be sure that this latter one was a permanent office beginning from the late Báthory era and that there was a small size administrative personnel in its subordination.

Szalai Ágnes

Additional information for courtly, governmental and political function of Pál Inczédi under the reign of Mihály Apafi I.

Keywords: Mihály Apafi, Pál Inczédi, princely court, fiscal government

Despite the fact that Pál Inczédi was one of the outstanding members in the Principality of Transylvania at the end of 17th century, his career is lesser-known in Historical Sciences.

He started his early career in the princely court as a valet of prince, Mihály Apafi I. Not much after that, he moved up in the courtly hierarchy, he served the princess, Anna Bornemissza as a secretary (*secretarius*). Subsequently – certainly, by means of the princely couple's trust – he won one of the most important positions in the princely court, he started working as a butler (*thesaurarius aulici*).

Besides the courtly service, Inczédi attained prominent functions in the fiscal management too. Initially, he was granted the office to operate the Saxon's tenth as a *supremus decimator*, after that he gained one of the most important functions (*praefectus*) in the economic administration.

Moreover he had other political roles, which denotes his outstanding influence. On one hand, he worked in the legal domain as an assessor and „hired judge” (that is a judge who is chosen by the sides in a lawsuit), on the other hand, he bode continuously in the princely court at the end of Apafi-era and there he organised the top level of the government.

The aim of this paper is to present the above-mentioned details of Pál Inczédi's career in the princely court and in the central government of the Transylvanian Principality under the Apafi-era stage by stage. Moreover my intention was to identify the duties connected to his titles and to provide a review for his allotted donation, which he received for his services.