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Special Questions in a Special Region: Changes of the Monastic Network in Transylvania

Keywords: Transylvania, monastic network, Middle Ages

The Transylvanian monastic network developed slower than in the rest of the country, especially in Transdanubia, indicating the limitations of the area's sustaining capacity. Despite its geographical proximity, the Eastern monasticism was not present in the region during the Árpád era. Of the twelfth-century reform orders, only the Cistercians were able to settle permanently. Despite the repeated attempts, the Premonstratensians failed, while the Austin canons apparently did not even try to settle in the region. The special position of Transylvania within the kingdom is reflected in the fact that mendicant orders arrived there a little slower than in other parts of the country (except the Great Hungarian Plain), but as early as about 1300 the number of the friaries exceeded that of monasteries, the latter being in decline. In terms of sustaining capacity and the proportion of urban friaries, the region is similar to areas in Western and Northern Europe where mining and trade had a significant economic weight. In addition, the network of monasteries clearly shows the lower proportion of both the lesser nobility and the large landowners, which is particularly evident in the absence of kindred monasteries and the small number of Pauline monasteries. In the fifteenth century, the expansion of the monastic network was not only due to internal causes but also to political interests of the royal power, and therefore the economic difficulties felt in other respects were not directly reflected in the development of the monastery network. A striking phenomenon unique to the country is the late medieval surge in the number of female communities. In terms of the spread of the Beguine communities, the phenomenon parallels Slavonia within the country, suggesting that, in addition to local traditions, this may be considered a consequence of the Ottoman wars. One of the peculiarities of Transylvania is that in the sixteenth century the Eastern monasticism almost disappeared from the area, as did the monasteries of the Catholic Church, due to the temporary effect of the Reformation. All in all, in the light of the network of monasteries, medieval Transylvania offers an image of a dynamically changing region that needed some external support but was self-operative, with a character that was closer to the western half of the country than its immediate neighbours.

Tamás Fedeles

The Transylvanian Diocese and the Apostolic Chamber during the Reign of King Sigismund of Luxembourg

Keywords: Apostolic Chamber, Transylvanian Diocese, papal taxation, ordination at the Roman Curia, ad limina visitations

The *Reverenda Camera Apostolica* was one of the most ancient offices of the Papal Curia which, throughout the centuries, evolved into a central organ of the Holy See, carrying out economic, political and judicial functions, and ultimately had become the supreme governing body of the

Papal State. Under the pontificate of Pope John XXII, an extensive reform was introduced in the board of finance, establishing a strict fiscal system based on reservations, *servitia*, tithes, *spolia* and other means of taxation. As part of the transformation, bookkeeping and accountancy was reorganized and the boundaries of the taxation districts, which had an often-changing character in earlier times, were also to be concluded. On account of the reforms following the Great Western Schism (1378–1417), the office developed into an organisation possessing such a governance power which extended to the entire Western Christendom, thus to the Kingdom of Hungary regarding both temporal and spiritual matters as well. In my paper I am to review the most important points of presence between the Apostolic Camera and the Transylvanian Diocese in the span of half a century from 1387 to 1437 focusing on the following fields: 1) taxation, 2) the *ad limina* visitations, and finally, 3) ordination of priests in the *Curia Romana*.

Géza Hegyi

The Tithe Paid by the Romanians Settled on “*Terrae Christianorum*”: from Theory to Practice

Keywords: tithe, Transylvania, Romanians, fiftieth, ethnic changes

The Transylvanian Romanians, although they lived on the territory of the predominantly Catholic Hungarian Kingdom, were the followers of the Orthodox rite, and therefore did not pay the tithe during the 13–14th centuries. However, the voivodes of Transylvania decreed in 1408 on the request of the diocesan, that the Romanian communities which had moved to “Christian lands” (*terrae Christianorum*, i.e. settlements formerly inhabited by Catholics) should pay the tithe, for getting a compensation for the lost incomes of the Church. In this study, I examine the implementation of this regulation, introducing into the discussion several new sources. In the first decades, there are no data indicating any attempt to put into practice the decree from 1408. Out of those 36 former Catholic parishes, which got a Romanian population between 1337 and 1461, only three can be found on the list of tithe-paying settlements from 1589. Due to the often repeated royal decrees regarding this matter, the idea of the tithe payable by the Romanians settled on *terrae Christianorum* really became part of the Transylvanian legislature at the end of the 15th century, when its implementation can be considered more successful, too. Out of the 23 parishes which got depopulated and then repopulated between 1461–1599, 15 kept on paying the tithe even with a Romanian population. This success, however, was confined mainly to the territory of Fehér (Alba) county because as a result of the Ottoman attacks this territory became the typical scene of population change in formerly Catholic villages, and because the Catholic Church could effectively assert its power and implement the decree here, in the neighborhood of the episcopal center, primarily on its own estates. In other regions alternative solutions were found (e.g. by redirecting the fiftieth, i.e. the traditional tax paid by Romanians, to the Church), however in many cases the landlord and his Romanian serfs found a way together to sabotage the collection of the tithe.

Mihai Kovács

Clerical and Secular Placeholders of Ferenc Várdai Bishop of Transylvania

Keywords: suffragan, vicar, provisor, episcopal placeholder, episcopal authority

The paper is a prosopographical analysis regarding the placeholders of Ferenc Várdai, bishop of Transylvania between 1513 and 1524. As well as in other bishoprics of late-Medieval Hungary, the exercise of episcopal authority was divided between three categories of personnel: the suffragan, the vicars *in spiritualibus* and the provisors of episcopal estates and revenues. Brief biographies of each member of the group are followed by the proper analysis. This shows that noble origin was necessary only for being a provisor, personal relationship with the bishop was important, albeit not sufficient, for the recruitment, a certain level of education and competence being also required for each office. The inquiry also partially reveals the complex relationship network between the members of the group. There is some evidence regarding the fact that the bishop and his entourage were perceived by other clerics as a united group, which allows the conclusion that the selection of placeholders was efficiently used in order to enhance the power of the bishop in local society

László Pakó

Caring Husband or Wife Killer? Poisoning, French Disease, and Details of a Procurator's Career in Early Modern Cluj

Keywords: poison, French disease, uxoricide, procurator, judicial corruption, mercury-treatment

The study focuses on certain unclarified aspects of the life of George Igyártó, a procurator in the early modern town of Cluj. Based on his career, we have shown earlier how the prosperous activity and – due to acts of judicial corruption – the downfall of a person, at first in the service of the citizens, then also as official procurator of the town, marked the whole judicial system of Cluj. This time we shall concentrate on a case of a woman, around 1581, whom he accused of wearing carnival costumes on the streets of the town, accused him with adultery and uxoricide. Some witnesses stated that he poisoned his first wife with food containing mercury, being helped by a traditional healer and a surgeon. According to others, the wife was suffering most probably of the French disease, which together with her ignoring the strict medical prescriptions of a surgeon caused her death. As other studies have also shown, the contradictory standpoints of the litigants demonstrate that in times when limited medical knowledge made the diagnosis of the cause of death more problematic than today, the litigants had more chance to influence the decisions of the judges on behalf of their causes. The case also shows how thin and fragile the borderline was between contrasting opinions under the circumstances of the early modern medical system, in our case between an action being interpreted as a murder or as a life-saving effort.

Andor László

The Relationship of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia during István Bocskai's Principality

Keywords: István Bocskai, Transylvania, Age of Principality, Transylvanian Saxons, Wallachia, Moldavia, Radu Șerban, Ieremia Movilă, political relations, Fifteen Year's War

During the 16th century, close connections came to existence among the three countries between the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empire. At the beginning of the Fifteen Year's War, these bonds became even stronger when Sigismund Báthory, the Prince of Transylvania, joined the Christian forces, and made an attempt to strengthen cooperation of the states lying in the sphere of influence of the Ottoman Empire. The appearance of Báthory's uncle, István Bocskai, turned the prolonged and more and more hopeless war in the autumn of 1604. He realized that momentarily the restoration of the medieval Hungarian Kingdom was impossible, the Habsburg king was unable to maintain his rule over Transylvania, therefore the principality could assure its peace only by the acceptance of the supremacy of the Porte. The Moldavian support enabled Bocskai to get the support of the Szeklers and later of the Saxons, moreover of the Wallachian prince Radu Șerban who previously had taken part in the war on the side of emperor Rudolf and had started campaigns against Mózes Székely and István Bocskai. During the time of frequent negotiations, the Saxons, especially the town of Brassó (Corona, Brașov) played a key role. The mutual dependency, good neighbourhood and maintenance of friendly relations of the three states became obvious again.

László Fazakas

Industry and Infrastructure in Cluj-Napoca in the Dualism Period

Keywords: industry, infrastructure, Cluj-Napoca, 19th Century

One of the most significant changes in the life of 19th century cities was the modern infrastructure network. The various infrastructure systems have become indispensable elements of the operation of the cities. On the one hand, they played a decisive role in improving the living conditions of the population and the development of a modern urban lifestyle, on the other hand, they were essential conditions for industrial activity. In this paper, I try to examine the impact of infrastructure systems built in the 19th century on Cluj-Napoca's industry and how they shaped its development.

György Gaal

The Richter-Case. A Scholar's Way up to Moral Fall

Keywords: Aladár Richter, university, Botanical Institute, Botanical Garden, Kolozsvár/Cluj, Transylvanian Museum Society, science, fraud

Following his university studies in botany at Budapest, Aladár Richter (1868–1927) had the opportunity to visit all the important botanical institutes and gardens from Europe. In 1899 he was promoted professor of botany at the Kolozsvár/Cluj Franz Joseph University. He reorganized the Botanical Institute and the old Botanical Garden of the town. He created a Botanical Museum and a rich Herbarium. But he was extremely severe with his students and assistants. In 1910, he managed to have a new territory bought by the state at a very suitable place for a new University Botanical Garden. He was elected member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and several botanical associations. He was the head of the Botanical Section of the Transylvanian Museum Society. Though he had many merits his financial accounts were not quite correct, he expropriated pieces from the Herbarium of the Museum Society, he obliged his assistants to serve his own personal purposes. One of his assistants, Endre Szabó made public these things in newspapers. The control commission of the university declared him not guilty, but he did not dare to prove it by means of a legal action. He rather got retired at the age of 45. Later he tried to get some jobs in his field in Pozsony/Bratislava, then in Budapest, but he was refused everywhere. The scientific community considered him guilty.