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The Role of the Szeklers in the Borders Defense in the Middle Ages and the Period of the Principality

Keywords: Szeklers, borderland, border defense, border castle, rifl eman, self-defense

Present study analyses the role of the Szekler people in the defense of the eastern border of the Hungarian Kingdom through the Middle Ages and the period of the Transylvanian Principality and is based principally on contemporary sources. We have to underline that the special military function and activity of the Szeklers stood on the basis of the privileges and personal liberties of this people. The infrequent medieval written sources take remarks concerning the border defense such as closing the cramps and the control of the border areas. During the period of the Principality the defense of the borders changed in more aspects. Some communities near the eastern borderland got special function in the control and defense of the border, such as: guarding the roads, footpaths and the cramps which had gone from Transylvania to Moldavia, and closing them in the time of wars, and to spy outside of his country. They also had the role of watching over the border castles and customs. His function of the Szeklers remained until the time of annexation of Transylvania to the Habsburg Empire at the end of 17th century.

Géza Hegyi

The Affiliation of Medieval Szilágy (Sălaj) Region in the Mirror of Social Relations.

Keywords: Sălaj, Transylvania, Hungary, social relations, foreign landowners, places of authentication

During the last two decades, some new views have emerged concerning the affiliation of medieval Middle Szolnok and Crasna counties (present-day Sălaj region). The study tries to decide whether these two counties can be considered parts of Transylvania or of the inner territory of the Kingdom of Hungary, examining the informal relations of the local society with the surrounding territories between 1200 and 1424. The aspects considered are geographical, social historical, and institutional. The author finds that the targeted counties were connected much more to Hungary from this point of view. Only one family of all the medieval owners of local castles (14 in number) had arrived from Transylvania. In 1341, 34 of 87 landowners (including the king as well) had external roots, but only 9 in the eastern province. For the authenticating activity, the Hungarian church institutions (especially, for this period, that of the

chapter of Oradea) played an overwhelming role: they issued 75-85% of the local documents.

András W Kovács

The Authorities of Middle Solnoc and Crasna Counties in the Middle Ages

Keywords: medieval counties, Solnoc, Crasna, comes, iudex nobilium, comes perpetuus, Drágfi of Beltiug.

The present study discusses the formation and functioning of medieval Middle Solnoc and Crasna counties (administrative units organized by the royal administration) from the 11th century up to 1541. Starting with the last decades of the 13th century, the authorities of each of these two counties consisted of a *comes* (appointed by the king in Crasna and by the voivode of Transylvania in Middle Solnoc county) and four noble judges (*iudices nobilium*) elected from among the local nobility. Between 1261 and 1476, voivodes of Transylvania bore the title of ‘*comes of Solnoc*’ (*comes comitatus Zolnuk*), however, all three parts of the formerly undivided county, Inner, Middle and Outer Solnoc had their own *comites/vice-comites*, and from the beginning of the 15th century voivodes did not have authority over Outer Solnoc and Middle Solnoc counties anymore. In Middle Solnoc and Crasna counties, judicial activity, the most important function of the nobiliary county, starting with the 14th century, was performed in the name of the voivode, at the occasional assemblies of the county (*congregatio generalis*; in the name of the palatine in the case of Crasna county) or at the more regular county court (*sedes iudiciaria*, abbreviated as *sedria*) sessions held by the *vice-comes* helped by the four *iudices nobilium*. Sometime in the 1470s, the Drágfi of Beltiug family received the hereditary title of *comes perpetuus* of Middle Solnoc and Crasna counties, and from that time on the *comites* of the two counties were members of this same family, while *vice-comites* were chosen from their *familiares*.

László Pakó

The Inquisitors (*directores causarum*) in the Judicial Practice of Cluj at the End of the 16th Century

Keywords: early-modern judicial practice of Cluj, inquisitional process, town inquisitor, town advocates

The two inquisitors of the town (*inquisitores malefactorum*) are mentioned for the first time in the judicial protocols of the town in 1584, but the first regulation of their activities dates from March 1587. The establishment of the institution was marked by a series of circumstances: the growing efforts of the town officials to tighten the control over the community of the town, the introduction of the inquisitorial procedure, and the judicial activity of a town advocate called György Igyártó. After their competences and duties being delineated in 1587, they were charged to take action against criminals in cases that didn't involve private accusation, and gained an important role in the management of the town's revenues as well. The two inquisitors were annually elected among the *centumviri*. Their activity focused on the crimes that endangered the security and the public order of the town's society – mainly the security of the human life, of the family and the public morality – and to a lesser extent on trials concerning the material belongings of the citizens. The data presented shows that the apparition of the institution stimulated greatly the development of the judicial practice of the town. They were charged to take up the efforts of the town's magistrate to provide an institutional frame for the persecution and the punishment of the criminals. The growth in number of both the type of the crimes prosecuted and the number of criminal trials started through private or public initiation at the court of the town proves a more effective impeachment of the criminals; furthermore, it clearly indicates the growing role of the justice in the disciplining process of the society. These changes can be listed among other political, social and religious changes of the second half of the 16th century, that are closely linked to the town's endeavor to gain its independence in every aspect of the town-life.

Klára P. Kovács

An Italian Architect in the Service of the Kings of Hungary. Contributions to the Biography of Domenico da Bologna (1540)

Keywords: fortresses, renaissance architecture, military architecture, Italian architect, Buda, Gherla, Szamosújvár

Domenico da Bologna was an Italian architect who had worked in Austria, Hungary – including Transylvania – and most probably in Italy as well, in the decade preceding the fall of Buda (1541). Contrary to the presumed significance of his work, there are only two fortresses that can be attributed, almost undoubtedly to him: the castle in Gherla and the modernization of the walls

of Buda. The present article interprets four letters containing new information about Domenico in the endeavour to reduce the lack of information concerning the life and activity of this architect. The letters published as annexes, were all written in 1540 after the death of King John I (1526–1540) and preceding the military campaign conducted by Leonhard von Vels at the order of King Ferdinand I (1526–1564), whose goal was to occupy Buda. The author reasons that the letters are all evidence of King Ferdinand's intention to convince the architect – who was in Buda by that time on the side of the defunct King's people – to go over to the Habsburg party. Hoping to achieve his goal, King Ferdinand reissued the letter of donation of King Szapolyai concerning certain houses in Buda given to Domenico; he also offered him the position of Royal Architect for a 50 fl orins monthly wage and issued a *passport* for the architect to go to the royal court. However it is very unlikely that Domenico accepted Ferdinand's offer.

Emőke Gálfi

István Szamosközy, the requisitor

Keywords: István Szamosközy, archivist, Alba Iulia, chapter,

István Szamosközy was the most significant historian of the 16th century and his artistic performance in describing the past remained incomparable for a long time. The Hungarian historiography has been focusing on Szamosközy's life and historical works, but one volume of registers compiled by the historian while he was the archivist (lat. requisitor) of the secularized chapter of Alba Iulia (which contains entries from 1602-1612) hasn't been studied by the researchers. This important office facilitated for the historian the use of important historical documents preserved in the archives of the Chapter, while the salary and the different donations contributed to his relative prosperity after the hardships of the war which lasted 15 years. The register compiled by Szamosközy contains among the data of his activity as a requisitor, information on his life, including the donations of the princes or important patrons, such as Zsigmond Sarmasági, mayor of Turda county. This study aims to discuss all this data and tries a detailed description of the archivist, István Szamosközy.

Tamás Fejér

Ecclesiastical-juridical Status of the Reformed Church in Făgăraș in the 17th Century

Keywords: Făgăraș district, liber baronatus, reformed church, episcopal visitation, manorial court, synodus partialis, consistory

The aim of this paper is to present the specific ecclesiastical-juridical status of the Reformed Church in Făgăraș. We came to the conclusions, that the three distinctive characteristics of this church, such as the episcopal visitation, the early establishment of the consistory and the supervision of the Orthodox and Lutheran churches of the district can be attributed to several causes. Firstly, it was the juridical status (*liber baronatus*) of Făgăraș district due to which the hierarchy of Orthodox and Lutheran churches could not exercise their usual jurisdiction, their attributes being partly taken over by the consistory. Secondly, it was the geographical location due to which the church could not be included into a deanery, therefore it has been placed under episcopal and not decanal visitation, and some functions of the partial synod (*synodus partialis*), such as judging matrimonial cases, were taken over by the divorce court composed by priests and members of the consistory. Thirdly, it was the ethnic and religious heterogeneity, especially the existence of a significant Saxon Lutheran community, due to which the borough's council could not coincide with the parish's council.

András Kovács

The House of Lucas Rodner of Cluj

Keywords: Lucas Rodner, Cluj, two-story building, late Baroque-early Neoclassical style, Gothic and Renaissance windows, epigram-fragment inscription

The two-story building situated in the *Vetus Castrum* of Cluj, belongs at first appearance to the late Baroque–early Neoclassical style. The research of the house conducted between 1995 and 1996 has discovered the remains of at least four Gothic windows, as well as some fragments of Renaissance windows. One of the latter bears an inscription that is a fragment of an epigram, inspired probably from calendars printed in Krakow sometime in the first part of the 16th century. Another fragment, contemporary with the previous one, bearing a coat of arms along with the LR monogram, has led to the identification of the owner of the house: Lucas Rodner, a member of the town-elite who held public offices between 1590–1606. In addition to the above

mentioned, a third window-frame fragment belonging to this same group and bearing the name of the owner, was preserved in the collection of the National History Museum of Transylvania.

Anikó Szász

Gergely Bethlen's Instructions to his Office Holder in Berghin from 1683

Keywords: Social history, estate management, income management, manorial court, instruction, serfs

The present paper presents and analyzes Bethlen Gergely's instructions addressed to his office holder from 1683. The document offers interesting data about the situation of the serfs in the village of Berghin (Alba County), about the duties of the office holder, the management of the husbandry of the allodium, as well as the strategies and ambitions of the landlord regarding his estate and his income. The text reveals Bethlen Gergely's purpose to keep his estate under strict supervision, to increase his income, as well as to prevent the discontent of his serfs, considering the local customs and circumstances.