

PAPAL POWER, LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PRETENDERS: THE CHURCH OF CROATIA, DALMATIA AND SLAVONIA AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE THRONE OF THE KINGDOM OF HUNGARY-CROATIA (1290-1301)

Mišo Petrović

Abstract. Previous research has mainly concentrated on whether or not the Apostolic See actively supported, obstructed or ignored the rise of the Angevins to the throne of Hungary between 1290 and 1301. Whatever papal stance historians supported coloured how they explained changes that occurred in this period in the Church organization of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia, and what role these adjustments played in the subsequent arrival of Charles Robert to the throne of Hungary in 1301. Instead, I have analyzed local developments and how these were interconnected with the international situation and how each influenced one another. This included assessing the motivations behind the actions of three major players who brought Charles Robert to Hungary: the Apostolic See, the Angevin court in Naples and the local oligarchs, the Šubići. Although other explanations for the cooperation between these three parties can be supported, namely the cultural, economic and political factors, the focus of this paper is on changes in the local Church structures. I tracked how each of the involved parties contributed to these developments and used local Church reforms for their personal gain. This paper evaluates the inextricably related agendas of the Apostolic See, the Angevins and the Šubići at the close of the thirteenth century.

THE RIVAL AND THE VASSAL OF CHARLES ROBERT OF ANJOU: KING VLADISLAV II NEMANJIĆ

Aleksandar Krstić

Abstract. Vladislav II (c. 1270–after 1326) was the son of Serbian King Stefan Dragutin (1276–1282, d. 1316) and Queen Catherine Árpád. Forced to hand the Serbian throne over to his younger brother Stefan Uroš II Milutin (1282–1321), Dragutin retained the royal title and the northern parts of the Serbian state. In 1284 he received Hungarian possessions south of the Sava and the Danube (Belgrade and Mačva) from his brother-in-law, Hungarian King Ladislas IV. Stefan Dragutin asserted the rights of his sons to the Serbian throne, and because of that he waged the war with his brother Milutin for several years (1301–1312). At the same time, Dragutin married Vladislav to the daughter of the Transylvanian voivode Ladislas Kán and declared his candidacy to the Hungarian throne. Although it caused the military conflict between Charles Robert and Stefan Dragutin (1307–1313), pretensions of the Serbian prince did not seriously jeopardise the authority of the young Angevin king. Vladislav II succeeded his father as the ruler of his state (1316), most likely as the vassal of King Charles Robert. However, Vladislav was soon captured by his uncle Milutin, who occupied his territories. That led to the conflict between Milutin and Charles Robert, and after the death of the Serbian king, Vladislav II temporarily re-established his state (1321–1326). Expelled by Milutin's son King Stefan III Dečanski (1321–1331) in 1326, King Vladislav II escaped to Hungary, where he most likely died.

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN THE URBAN NETWORK OF HUNGARY IN THE EARLY ANGEVIN PERIOD

Katalin Szende

Abstract. This paper examines the new traits of urban development in Hungary in the Angevin period, especially during the reign of Charles I (1301–1342). It discusses the foundation of new towns and renewing or changing the privilegial charters of old ones in the light of the new political and economic circumstances, and the changing preferences of royal urban policy. On the whole, urban development both benefited from and contributed to the stabilizing of the rule of the Angevins in the first half of the fourteenth century, but different elements of the urban network of Hungary experienced different trajectories. In this period the Kingdom of Hungary did not have a single ‘capital city’, but Timișoara, Visegrád and Buda served as royal seats at various points of time, owing their importance to the presence of the king and his court, and less to formal privileges. Royal involvement with episcopal seats was gradually reduced, and by the early fifteenth century it was restricted to the city of Gradec (Zagreb). The most consciously developed aspects of urban life were mining and trade, which proved to be the profitable in the long run and where the kings’ interests favourably coincided with those of the towns.

TOWNS AND CENTRAL PLACES IN THE DANUBE-TISZA/TISA-MAROS/ MUREȘ REGION IN THE MIDDLE AGES

István Petrovics

Abstract. In this paper, after a short introductory survey of urban development in medieval Hungary, the author elucidates the correlation between central places and towns. Then he gives a comprehensive picture about the central places and discusses the history of the major towns located in the Danube-Tisza/Tisa-Maros/Mureș region. Finally the author stresses the special characteristics of urban development in the southern parts of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary.

LIVING BY THE BORDER: SOUTH SLAVIC MARCHER LORDS IN THE LATE MEDIEVAL BALKANS (13TH–15TH CENTURIES)

Neven Isailović

Abstract. The article gives an overview of the history of late medieval marcher lordships and their lords in the region between South Slavic states and neighbouring countries (primarily Hungary). It is noted that both South Slavs and their immediate neighbours organised territories along the borders as official or unofficial marcher lordships. In wartime, which was quite frequent in this period, these buffer areas were first to be exposed to the enemy’s attacks. For this reason, usually the important and powerful noblemen, trusted by the ruler, occupied the position of marcher lords, acquiring more power and wealth through their office which occasionally became hereditary. Using the examples of Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian nobles who controlled the marcher regions, it is shown that, despite the confidence

which was given to them, they were not always loyal to their suzerains. Sometimes they even triggered political fragmentation of their own country, using their substantial political, economic and men power to achieve their own goals. In the period of the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans, they were prone to switch sides, serving either the Hungarians or the Turks at a time, and leading the local population along with them.

IOBAGIO CASTRI - NOBILIS CASTRI - NOBILIS REGNI
CASTLE WARRIORS - CASTLE NOBLES - NOBLEMEN. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
SOCIAL STRATUM IN COUNTY OF KRIŽEVCI

Éva B. Halász

Abstract. The society of the Kingdom of Hungary was divided into several groups in the Arpadian period. Each group had its own status, which means each group owned a complex system of services and rights which were characteristic exclusively to a particular group. One of them was the status of the castle warriors (*iobagiones castri*). In one hand they had lesser liberty, then the nobles, but in other hand they had lesser service, then the strata of *castrenses*. The diversity of the society disappeared till the fourteen century, and the society was divided into two big groups: nobles and serfs. But in Slavonia the castle warriors still were mentioned in the sources in the fourteen century. In the next century a new term - the castle nobles (*nobiles castri* - was written in the sources, and in parallel the term *iobagiones castri* disappeared. The paper analyzes and compare the characteristics of the two social strata and shows the development of a special social group through the similarities and differences.

BEHIND THE ARCHONTOLOGY OF KRASSÓ COUNTY
(REMARKS ON THE PERSONNEL AND THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY
AUTHORITIES IN KRASSÓ)

Elek Szaszko

Abstract. The main objectives of the paper were to get an insight into the operation of the county authorities of Krassó through its personnel and to compare it with the findings of the literature. For this, the participants of all levels of the county administration were included in the analysis: the already existing lists of the *ispáns*, the deputies and of the noble judges have now been extended by the men called *ex nobis* and the men of the county. First, the prestige of being the head of Krassó was examined to see whether it had any impact on the administration of the county. It can be stated that it was the first half of the 14th century when the *ispáns* were the most regularly present in person in their offices and their absence did not necessarily follow from the fact that they were often high ranking dignitaries. However, from the 1360s the *ispáns* disappeared from the county administration leaving the direction of the county court and judicial work to the deputy or deputies similarly to the general tendency prevailing in medieval Hungary. In the second part of the paper, the operation of the county was discussed from a socio-historical aspect focusing on the careers and the affiliation of some deputies. In this chapter, firstly, the method of revealing lord-retainer relationships was adopted in order to make attempts to clarify the identity of certain *ispáns* (more successfully in the case of palatine Opuljai László, less fruitfully in the case of the *ispáns* in the 1390s). In

addition to that it was also intended to draw a more vivid and lively image about the office holders of Krassó through their careers. This aim was borne in mind during the discussion of the involvement of the deputies in the county administration while considering features like duties, titles, the length of the tenure, the dual office holding – the existence of co-deputies, and the three-level administrative system. Last but not least, the question of “the indispensable requisites” of the noble counties (the noble judges) was revised including those men – the men called *ex nobis* and the men of the county – who accompanied and/or replaced them in their duties. The classification of these people not only enabled us to make remarks on the changes that took place in the county administration or to see whether the list of the noble judges could be extended or not, but it also contributed to make suggestions about the dynamics of the noble community, for instance by recognising the trustworthy members of the county and by identifying their social status as well. With reference to the latter, the analysis of these groups included a new aspect of investigation which was focusing on the affiliation of the noble judges. Although the issue has remained undecided – since the sources from Krassó County do not provide satisfactory number of evidence –, it may offer an additional facet of research in order that the operation of the county authorities can be understood in a better way.

CONVERGENCES AND DIVERGENCES: THE EARLY PERIOD OF THE LUXEMBURG DYNASTY IN BOHEMIA AND HUNGARY

Balázs Nagy

Abstract. The paper discusses the process of coming to the throne of the Luxemburg dynasty in Bohemia in the early 14th century and in Hungary in the late 14th century and concludes that there are strong parallels in these process in the two countries. The early Luxemburg rulers of Bohemia, King John and his son, Charles IV took several steps to promote the cult of local saints of Bohemia and also abroad. It is well reflected by baptismal name of Charles (Wenceslas) and the strong support of his cult in mid-14th century Bohemia. Sigismund, king of Hungary from 1387, used the very same methods to strengthen his power in Hungary as his father had used in Bohemia some decades earlier. He expressed his personal veneration of the eleventh-century national saint of Hungary, St. Ladislaus through several donations to the shrine of the saint. The veneration of national saints and the strengthening of the royal legitimation by this, was a method used effectively by Luxemburg rulers both in Bohemia and Hungary.

THE PRICE OF ASCENDING TO THE THRONE SIGISMUND OF LUXEMBURG'S FIGHT FOR THE THRONE OF HUNGARY AND NORTHWESTERN HUNGARY IN PLEDGE

János Incze

Abstract. Sigismund of Luxemburg probably could hardly have managed to become king of Hungary without the Moravian margraves' military aid. The study discusses the events surrounding Sigismund's ascension to the throne of Hungary and focuses on the fate of the Váh-Danube interfluvium which was occupied by the Moravian troops and held under the

margraves' authority till their military expenses were met. Furthermore, the paper investigates to what extent they have managed to subdue the lands of Nyitra and Pozsony Counties, what the limits of their authority were in this region, how Sigismund tried and succeeded to recover the territory in the end, and what could have been the legal status of the Váh-Danube interfluvium during the Moravian rule.

THE GENERAL CONGREGATION OF STATUTES, 1397, IN TIMISOARA

Zoltán Iusztin

Abstract. The 13th century was a period of fully social and political changing in the Kingdom of Hungary. After the Tatars' invasion new institutions were made into relief through the reconstruction process, some of them being similar to the statutes meetings in Occidental Europe. Part of historiography asserted that the initiative of congregations and provincial meetings belonged to the time kings, but there are sources to attest that during the critical moments the authority of the Crown was practically inexistent, the Roman-Catholic Church, through the agency of the Magyar bishops made efforts to keep away the country unity. That mission did not end with Carol Robert's coronation, but went away the next century.

As for the social level, the same period was a decisive one for the nobility coming into being; having removing the other inhabitants from the political life, it became the main ally of the crown in the process of ruling the country. When setting as a homogeneous and representative body for the whole kingdom, nobility has its own hierarchy, with the barons at the top. Together with the great nobles they took permanently part in the country ruling while the rest of the nobles did it only in general meetings. Even if initially all the country inhabitants, no matter their social status, might take part in the congregations meetings, in the length of time that nobility obtained the exclusive right to organize those institutions. The same process was a decisive one in appearance of some social groups with their own interest and features, known as statutes. In spite of the well-known opinions concerning their diversity and composition, the historical sources grant the fact that the states' members were recruited from nobility. Given the lack of their representativity and their non uniform distribution along the Hungarian Kingdom, neither the ethnic nor the professional communities, as the towns and boroughs could be related to a certain status. Concomitantly with that, the largest majority of towns and boroughs were in fact set as parts of nobiliary estates and it means that their inhabitants were quite similar to the serfs' status.

NOTES ON THE CAMPAIGN OF VLADISLAV VARNENCHIK IN NORTHEASTERN BULGARIA IN THE AUTUMN OF 1444

Nevyan Mitev

Abstract. The Vladislav Varnenchik's campaigns of 1443-1444 have been subject of research by many scientists. The topic is widely spread in European historiography. In recent years new sources and research were introduced in scientific circulation, new archaeological monuments were discovered in Northeastern Bulgaria, including numismatics. The existence of new source and archaeological data suggests a new view on the events in the autumn of

1444 has to be created. The task in this study is to attempt to solve some of the most complicated cases about the march of Vladislav Varnenchik in Northeastern Bulgaria in the autumn of 1444.

FOREIGNERS IN THE SERVICE OF DESPOT ĐURAĐ BRANKOVIĆ ON SERBIAN TERRITORY

Miloš Ivanović

Abstract. During the reign of Despot Đurađ Branković (1427–1456) were increased influence of foreigners in Serbian state. After fall of Thessaloniki under Ottoman rule in 1430 many prominent Byzantines decided to come in Serbia. Among them were relatives of Irene Kantakouzen wife of Despot Đurađ. By the end of the fourth decade of 15th century her brother Thomas Kantakouzenos became the most powerful person on Despot's court in Smederevo. The Ragusans in the service of Despot Đurađ performed for him mainly diplomatic tasks. Their activities were sometimes limited by decisions of the authorities of Ragusa. The only foreigner who was heaving a Serbian title was Ragusan Paskoje Sorkočević as steward of ruler finance. Latin chancellor of Despot Đurađ was Nicola Arhilupis from Kotor (Cattaro). Finally, Ottoman Ibrahim was courtier of Despot Đurađ. The foreigners had important role because of specific political position of Serbian state during its existence in the 15th century. Some of them had estates on Serbian territory and because that they belong to the order of Serbian nobility.

EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF CARANSEBEŞ BY THE END OF THE 15TH CENTURY

Ligia Boldea

Abstract. In the urban milieu of the city of Caransebeş at the end of the 15th century, the family of Pâclişar of Caransebeş (belonging to the townspeople in all well-founded probability) recognizes its duty in consolidating the social status and overstepping the bounds of a provincial life; so, the family sent its two sons to university. The University in Krakow was the family's choice, as that one and that in Vienna were among the most attended by the exponents of the nobiliary and urban elites in the Banat. It seems that the family aimed to enter the ecclesiastic positions in the area. Matei Pâclişar is the one who succeeded in doing it, as a custodian (1487–1501) and a lecturer after in the structures of Arad Chapter. There is no information on the career of his brother, Nicolae, once graduating. The few references on this family throw little light upon their life. But what is remarkable is just the fact that a family in a provincial small urban center was able and interested in trying hard to support its two sons in attending one of the most prestigious universities in Central Europe. Undoubtedly it is to note it as a proof of ambitions and wishing to get a high education in the days when literacy was far from the social and intellectual preoccupations of the majority of the time elites.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE VOIVODE OF TRANSYLVANIA'S RIGHT OF DONATION

Tibor Neumann

Abstract. The instruction given by Ferdinand I (1526–1564) to András Bátori, voivode of Transylvania, in 1552, by which the king authorised the voivode to grant away freely the smaller estates (that is, within 20 tenant sessions) which devolved upon the Hungarian Crown in Transylvania, has long been known and cited in the historiography. What is still unknown is since when the voivodes had enjoyed such an authority. According to the author, the first voivode to acquire the royal right to make landed donations was János Szapolyai (1510–1526), later king of Hungary as John I (1526–1540). He seems to have been given the right as a compensation after the spring of 1519, when, upon the death of Imre Perényi, István Bátori, ispán of Temes was elected as palatine instead of János Szapolyai himself. The limit of his donational authority was initially 400 tenant sessions, but it seems to have been curtailed shortly thereafter, for already in 1521 and 1523 the voivode only made donations which extended to much smaller estates (the study offers a detailed analysis of the not too many surviving sources). It has to be emphasised, however, that the donational authority of the voivode was not an organic outgrowth of Transylvanian constitutional development, but was tailored instead to the person of the richest Hungarian magnate, voivode János Szapolyai, and thus further contributed to the emerging princely „aura” which surrounded the voivode, anyway of royal blood on his mother's side. Since so far only two donations of land made by the voivodes of King John in the period after 1526 have come to light, it is open to doubt whether during the wording of the 1552 instruction the right once granted to Szapolyai was used as a precedent. It is thus possible that it is in fact the donational right enjoyed by the royal commissioners – among them the captain-general András Bátori – , who were sent by king Ferdinand to Transylvania in 1551, and the experience gained from their activity there, which should account for the subsequent authority granted to Bátori himself. It is certain that not only he but also his successors, Ferenc Kendi and István Dobó, exerted the right of donation.

EVERYDAY LAW IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Martyn Rady

Abstract. In the Middle Ages, courts had little to guide their judgments. Statute law was thin and the customary law was unstable. When courts referred to customary law they often did so for rhetorical effect, declaring judgments that were expedient or equitable as rooted in the customary law. By appealing to the customary law, assemblies might also act in a legislative capacity, advancing propositions as customary rights that needed confirmation. In reaching judgments, courts often arrived at decisions by balancing the rights or *iura* of the parties, either assuming a midway position between contending claims or establishing which rights were the older and thus had priority. But litigants might also agree among themselves to adjust their rights in their own mutual interest, thus creating a separate legal sphere that operated outside the normal customary conventions. In understanding the way medieval law worked, historians should set aside the positivist view of the law, which sees it as something handed down from the top, and think instead of norms proceeding out of agreements about rights, settled at various levels, but in the manner of ‘a plethora of seemingly incompatible things that can count as law.

IOAN KENDEFI, IOAN GLEŚÁN, AND NIKOLA CREPOVIĆ PRAGMATIC –
FIDELES IN FIGHT FOR TRANSYLVANIA AND THE BANAT DOMINATION
(MIDDLE OF THE 16th CENTURY)

Costin Feneşan

Abstract. During the fight between Ferdinand I of Habsburg and Queen Isabella's party to be the master of Transylvania and the Banat in the middle of the 16th century, the combatants' sudden passing from a part to the other became a common fact, no matter if they aimed to escape from certain imminent reprisals or to have a concrete benefit. Political or even moral grounds seem to have been totally ignored at that time. The destiny of some of those pragmatic *fideles* – related to both the involved parts – is analyzed on the basis of several documents in the Magyar National Archives (their text in annex); they are: Ioan Kendefi belonging to a family of the middle nobles class in Haţeg and Hunedoara areas; Ioan Glesán, member of a family of the small nobility in the north-west of Transylvania, and Nikola Crepović, a Serbian mercenary who tried his fortune in the fight among the three “grands” (Ferdinand I, Queen Isabella and the Sublime Porte).

Kendefi who was on the side of Queen Isabella up to 1545, changed the way on the side of Ferdinand I. He was rewarded as a *fidelis* of Ferdinand in 1551, with more estates in Hunedoara County, for his deserts both in the battle nearby Haţeg (16th of November 1550) and in winning Caransebeş and Lugoj over to Ferdinand's side. The estates had before belonged to a partisan of Queen Isabella, the former princely counselor Lázár Kún. It seems that after Isabella's return (the fall of 1556) Kendefi lost the estates he had been given in 1551.

Ioan Glesán who had been on Isabella's side at the beginning but without an important office, was winning over Ferdinand's side by General Castaldo, commander of troops in Transylvania, on the Habsburgs' service. Following Castaldo's insistence, Glesán was appointed as a ban of Caransebeş and Lugoj, since 1552, in spite of the local nobility's opposition. From that position Glesán skillfully run in the summer of 1552 between Ferdinand's party (namely, General Castaldo and count Stefan Losonczy who was in Timişoara under the Turks' siege) and the extreme Ottoman danger, so that none of those parts had to upbraid him with something; possibly, he run so under the local nobility's pressure. More than this, due to Glesán's endeavors the Ottomans didn't take hold of the banat of Caransebeş and Lugoj; it rested on Ferdinand's side and only paid tribute to the Porte. Ferdinand rewarded Glesán in 1553 by keeping him as the castellan of Cetatea de Baltă (*Küküllövár*) in Transylvania, and giving him more estate in the next year, in the counties of Târnava and Alba where Glesán had retired into in 1553. Glesán's destiny after Queen Isabella's return (1556) rests still unknown.

Undoubtedly, Nikola Crepović is the most striking example of a pragmatic *fidelis* who feels no scruples in changing sides he serves for. He served Ferdinand of Habsburg up to 1544, as the Serbian haidouk's commander. Having entered Queen Isabella's service, he got the nobiliary appellation of *Sasvar*, in 1545. Crepović changed again sides in the spring of 1551, entering Ferdinand's service during the fights of 1551–1552 which ended with Timişoara and the Low Banat falling into the Ottomans' power. Finally, Ferdinand rewarded that “loyal” Crepović, on the 27th of June 1553, by pledging to him the castle of Brănişca and the appertained to villages, for 1,000 forints. The next year, Ferdinand pledged for two years long and in change of 4,000 forints, to the same Crepović four estates in the county of Târnava. But Crepović had seen how the wind blew in Transylvania and changed sides at the right time. That “loyal” man returning was soon rewarded. Shortly after her return in

Transylvania (1556), Queen Isabella appointed Crepović a member of the Princely Council; in the summer of 1558 he got the office of a ban of the banat of Caransebeş and Lugoj and worked there up to the end of 1559. A real chameleon, that personage died in 1562, the time he was the captain of Alföld; he was buried in the church that his wife Mara (Margareta) and his daughter Ecaterina built later at Bârsău (Hunedoara comitat).

MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN THE TRANSYLVANIAN PRINCIPALITY. THE CAPTAIN GENERAL IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Florin Ardelean

Abstract. The military organization of the Transylvanian principality was influenced by its medieval inheritance and the innovations of the Early Modern Period. The structure of the military hierarchy in the second half of the Sixteenth century was in many aspects similar to that of the previous centuries. The highest position in the chain of military command was the captain general. This office was usually given to important representatives of the nobility. It required political influence, wealth and military experience. The captain general was the *locum tenens* of the prince as supreme military commander, but his prerogatives were usually limited to the duration of a single campaign. The evolution of this military office in the second half of the Sixteenth century was determined by the political and military necessities of the young Transylvanian state. Among the most important Transylvanian captain generals from this period were: Steven Mailat, Emeric Balassa, Baltazar Bornemisza, Peter Petrovici, Melchior Balassa de Gyarmath, Cristofor Hagymásy, Steven Báthory and Francisc Geszthy.

BETWEEN EPHEMERALTY AND FICTION. ADDENDA TO THE HISTORY OF THE BANS OF CARANSEBEŞ AND LUGOJ

Dragoş Lucian Țigău

Abstract. The present study resumes the theme of the appointed bans in Caransebeş and Lugoj (where the institution of banat was attested between 1536 and 1658). New names that have been for various reasons ignored or unknown so far might be added to the list of the 32 already known bans. The five personages I shall dwell on were on the climb during the Báthoris' age (1571–1613). They are Farkas Petky, István Bocskai, Lajos Rákóczi, Farkas Kamuthi, and Gergely Némethi. According to their deeds and influence, they were studied by certain historians, but their dignity of bans was less investigated. The first two men are registered as bans due to a historiographic confusion. On the following two ones older precise data certified their dignity, but those ones need some supplementary explanations. The last personage had been a ban only for a couple of weeks, an aspect that his posterity totally ignored.

The investigation puts in light that the men who really had been appointed for a ban had a nominal presence in the society of the districts of Caransebeş and Lugoj. Their appointment was based exclusively on military and politically reasons. The ephemerality of their functions had also other important reasons: lack of relations with the local nobility and of proprieties in the Banat. Although they had fleeting or imaginary relations with the Banat, given their own destiny the five personages remain important. What is to be noticed is the

ambition to climb the social ladder, through some high dignities up to that of a prince of Transylvania. The function of a ban was of a secondary importance for all of them.

PRICE OF HUMAN RESOURCE IN TRANSYLVANIA DURING THE 16TH–17TH CENTURIES

Livia Magina

Abstract. The Principality of Transylvania experienced the social phenomenon of serfdom, even a longer period of time than other territories of Europe. One of the features of the property was the possibility of trading the domain. Usually, contracts of sale specify the price of the estate, but can be find enough documents specifying the price of human resource. Serfs price, sold with all the assets that belong to them, was an unexploited economic aspect in Romanian historiography and can provide a number of new issues concerning both the rural world and the social relations and economic development of noble or princely estate.

PLEDGES AND DEBTS. PRICES OF GOODS IN THE BANAT OF THE 16TH-17TH CENTURIES

Adrian Magina

Abstract. The early modern Banat represents a field of investigation still little known in Romanian historiography. Pledge and debt reflect prices in the history and functioning mechanisms of early estate market. In Banat, those involved in the transactions are mostly members of the noble elite, the few who had enough money to be invested. Prices were dictated by the particular conditions of each transaction, nobles had always investing more cash in properties located in the vicinity of previously owned. In relation to estate, human component price, serfs for example, has not experienced major oscillations. Debt and pledge beyond financial and economic importance, offer clues for understanding the elite mentality and for coagulation and dismantling of early modern estates.

THE CITY, THE PRINCE AND THE PORTE: ON THE FEASIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF THE URBAN PRIVILEGES AND PRINCELY POWER IN TRANSYLVANIA DURING THE 17TH CENTURY

Edit Szegedi

Abstract. Starting from a conflict, in the years of 1680–1681, concerning a church building at the suburb of Blumăna in Braşov, where the Calvinist nobility, the prince and the High Porte were involved, the present study tries to show up the complexity of towns, states and the central authority relations within the Principality of Transylvania, as well as the place of a Transylvanian town in connection with the Porte. The study focuses on the limits of the

states' privileges, but also of the princely power in political and confessional questions. The case of the Saxon town of Braşov is comparatively discussed with the situation of the royal free city of Târgu-Mureş and of the former royal free city of Cluj, so to present the similitude of the early-modern towns problems beyond the confessional and linguistic affiliation.