

ARCHAEOLOGY

ABIDING SPACES SELECTION AND ARRANGEMENT IN CAVES AND ABRIS IN THE BANAT

Sorin-Marius Petrescu

Abstract. Given their large chance of well results, three are the questions that stand out in the field of human abiding during the endokarst: A. criteria that made people chose in prehistory and not only the cave to live in for long; B. reasons that made that only a relative small number of caves present traces of human living in; C. inner arrangement of the abiding space.

Let's try to discuss them one by one.

A. From the very beginning I might say that only 136 caves from the 1252 that are classified in the Banat, register human abiding traces (up to the 19th century) so far. Only for 45 of them we have supplementary data on their entrance, the ones we are analyzing following their location.

By reviewing the caves with human abiding traces and data on the entrance orientation an interesting fact comes to bring out, at least: the prehistoric but also the historic people, contrary to some opinions, were not interested at any price to abide in caves with entrance directed to south and, by this, much more exposed to sun light and warm, but in caves with more important conditions to secure their living in.

B. None was to raise the question of the relative altitude of such kind of caves in relation with a stream/ river/ valley or a plateau, excepting for speaking tangentially about fishing, grazing or hunting and giving reasons for. In the case of caves I have analyzed, few are the ones located near a stream or even passed by a flow. The others are placed at different altitudes, some of them at high ones. Practically, people chose the caves that offered the best conditions both for living in and for granting secure for them and their cattle.

Once the coordinates of how the dwelling-cave was chosen and its altitude in connection with the thalweg of the nearest water source are known, the arrangement inside the endokarst space begins of a great importance.

C. The concrete data on the arrangement of the utile domestic space inner a cave are rather scanty in the Banat and we might speak about three categories for the present level of our research:

1). Wall-dwelling, delimited with artificial structures; 2) Screen-tent; and 3) Dwelling in abri.

The screen-tent was in our opinion the most used settlement by the small groups of hunters-reapers-sheep and goats breeders, as it was a relative simple and rapid arrangement, with small investment in working force and better living conditions. This type of arrangement should be taken for the most common and usual way to make shelters inside the caves, for a temporary abiding in or for hunting. But our greatest ill-luck and challenge too result from the difficulty to identify the remains of such arrangements as the conditions of visibility and stratigraphy in caves are not so good as in the case of the field sites. In fact, the human being took himself in prehistory for a part of the nature and used the caves like the other natural elements, for his unique purpose: surviving and progressing.

TECHNOLOGICAL EXPLOITATION OF *CERVUS ELAPHUS* ANTLER AT THE MESOLITHIC SITE OF OSTROVUL CORBULUI

Monica Mărgărit, Adina Boroneanț, Clive Bonsall

Abstract. Excavations between 1973 and 1984 at an open-air site on the island of Ostrovul Corbului (Botul Cliuci) in the downstream area of the Iron Gates of the Danube revealed abundant remains of Mesolithic occupation. The investigations brought to light habitation structures (pithouses), hearths and burials, as well as rich lithic and osseous assemblages and faunal remains, ostensibly belonging to two stratigraphically distinct horizons.

This paper reviews previously published information on the artefacts made of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) antler from the site and presents new data from a morphological and use-wear study of the assemblage, the aim of which was to establish whether there are any technological differences between the two alleged Mesolithic occupation horizons. The results are compared to those from other Mesolithic sites in the Iron Gates region.

At Ostrovul Corbului both shed antler and antler from hunted animals were used. The defining feature technologically is the use of volume blanks, with only a few artefacts involving longitudinal debitage. The typological range is limited with beveled tools („chisels”) predominant, reflecting a specialization on woodworking. Both products and sub-products of the manufacturing process are present in the assemblage, indicating *in situ* manufacturing of finished items. Comparison with other sites in the Iron Gates region points toward a fairly homogeneous Mesolithic antler industry, although there are some site-specific elements. Further research is needed to determine whether such variations reflect primarily economic or cultural factors.

SHORT CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE STARČEVO-CRIȘ FIGURINES FROM THE ȘOIMUȘ-TELEGHI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, FEATURE 176A (HUNEDOARA COUNTY)

Ioan Alexandru Bărbat

Abstract. The present archaeological note aims to present the specific anthropomorphic and zoomorphic images during the early Neolithic age, found at Șoimuș-Teleghi site, Hunedoara County; the preventive archaeological survey, within the fall of 2011, was occasioned by A1 Deva-Orăștie highway construction. The archaeological objects we are focused on were identified in 176a, a deep settlement, with a relative chronology on the basis of ceramics shape and ornaments belonging to IC/IIA and IIA – according to G. Lazarovici's chronologic system for Starčevo-Criș cultural complex.

In spite of their poor preservation, given their style and especially the way they were manufactured, they easily show a special category of objects in direct opposition to the rest of ceramics in the same early Neolithic settlement. Following the features relative to human physiognomy, we succeeded to identify a female anthropomorphic figurine in a sitting position, her bosom represented, but without her head, formerly disjoined. A second figurine, a female too possibly, is integrally disputable given its fragmentary shape and also the morphology of the preserved fragments. The last object totally preserved even bearing the

stamp of time, is a zoomorphic figurine; according to the way the features are represented – horns, the four legs, and tail –, the figurine might belong to ruminants' representations.

Even if the set of these ceramic objects is a limited one and not very well preserved somehow, we might conclude that the anthropomorphic and zoomorphic representations we discovered in the 176a settlement at *Șoimuș-Teleghi*, during the fall of 2011, make perfectly part and parcel of the early Neolithic artistic canons specific to anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines, in the Near East and south-eastern Europe, at the middle/end of the 7th millennium BC and the beginning of the 6th millennium BC.

We wish also to emphasize that all the above presented artifacts are probably representative for a sequence of spiritual life of the first agro-pastoral communities during the old Neolithic age in the south-west side of Transylvania, eight millennium ago about.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OF THE LATE NEOLITHIC SITE (VINČA C1-C2) AT UIVAR, TIMIȘ COUNTY

Georgeta El Susi

Abstract. The article puts forward the results of the analysis of 5,368 animal bones from Vinča C (trenches I-III) edifices at Uivar, Timiș County. Of those, 3,210 fragments were gathered from the Vinča C1 levels and 2,158 fragments from the Vinča C2 ones. In order to define the main characteristics of the late Neolithic husbandry, the outcomes have been compared to those of the Szakálhat dwelling in the site. All around, the economy of the Szakálhat communities was focused on cattle raising (42.46%), with a diminished contribution of other mammals (about 13%). Hunting is quoted with 30.3%. In the following levels, the share increases to 37.8%, reaching 46.7% in the Vinča C2 levels. In case of domestic taxa, the further variations have been noted: cattle reach the maximum in the Szakálhat habitation (42.46%), diminishing to 21% in the Vinča C levels. The proportion of domestic swine slightly varies. Most likely the environments, unaltered along the three cultural phases are supposed. Instead, the rate of small ruminants has some less significant fluctuations. Thus they record 13.7% in Vinča B2, increasing to 21.2% in Vinča C1, diminishing to 16.6% in Vinča C2. Probably there were density changes that would reflected some episodes of spreading/ reducing of pastures, associated with a field deforestation. The fact is also confirmed by the oscillation of the roe deer rate as follows: 5.37% in Vinča B2, 12.25% in Vinča C1 and 11% until the end of the Vincian habitation. In the same vein, the red deer rate is only 10.2% in Vinča B2, slightly increasing to 13.8% during Vinča C1, then reaching 22% towards the end of the Neolithic site. The heightening of the hunting, particularly that of red deer could suggest a cooling, accompanied by an extension of the wooded area towards the end of the Vinča C2 settlement. The percentage of the wild boar is around 10% all through the Neolithic settlement; likely the wet environment and the specific vegetation along the watercourses portrayed the site's surroundings during its function. Accordingly, a series of wildlife elements such as otter, beaver lived along the water streams, covered with a soft tree vegetation composed of oak, ash, elm, alder, poplar and willow. Those plain forests were also suitable for the boar and pig. Considering the faunal composition and rates of the species, the paleobotanical data from Uivar were confirmed.

BUREBISTA AT THE BANAT'S DANUBE. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DATA REGARDING THE EVOLUTION OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE IRON GATES REGION IN THE 1ST CENTURY BC

Aurel Rustoiu, Iosif Vasile Ferencz

Abstract. The first king of the Dacians (and of the Getae) mentioned in ancient written sources was Burebista (but also spelled Boerebistas, Byrebistas, Burvista etc). The chronology and the deeds of the Dacian king are still subject of controversy. The military campaigns carried out to the west, against the Boii and the Taurisci, the plundering expeditions in Macedonia and Illyria, as well as the military operations carried out on the Black Sea coast allowed, in a quite short period of time, the establishment of a realm which was wide enough to impress some of the ancient writers.

The aim of this article is to analyse the archaeological and historical data regarding the evolution of Dacian settlements from the Iron Gates region in the context of Burebista's military campaigns in Thrace, Macedonia and Illyria. Taking into consideration a series of data of historical geography provided by Strabo, it could be concluded that the military events must have happened on the Banat's Danube or in its vicinity. The question is whether Burebista's campaign to the south also leaved archaeological evidence in the region in question.

The appearance of Dacian settlements and fortresses in the Iron Gates region (Liubcova-Stenca, Pescari-Culă, Divici-Grad and Socol-Palanački breg, as well as Orešac-Židovar) at the end of the 2nd century BC was part of the social and cultural evolution of the communities from the entire Dacian territory during the LT D1. Their destruction and subsequent rebuilding around the middle of the 1st century BC, during Burebista's reign, reflect the orientation of local elites controlling the region in question towards the social and cultural models promoted by the Dacian kings and their close followers. This orientation is demonstrated by the appearance of dry stone structures (precinct walls and rectangular towers) made of local stone which imitated the monumental ones built in the Greek technique in the area of the kingdom's capital in the Orăștie Mountains. Another relevant phenomenon is the changing of the style of bodily ornamentation which included different elements (jewellery and costume accessories made of silver and bronze) which were similar to the ones from the kingdom's territory.

STONE AND CLAY MISSILES IN THE ROMAN CAMPS AT VĂRĂDIA, CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY

Flavius Petru Bozu

Abstract. The archeological investigations in the two Roman fortifications located within the precincts of the village of Vărădia lead to an important number of stone and burnt clay missiles discovering. The stone missiles were found in the padding of the defensive ditch of the earth camp on the Chiliz Hill. Strategically placed since the first war with the Dacians, in 101–102 AD, at over 170 m high, that Roman camp controlled both the whole valley of the Caraș River along the erosive tectonic depression of Oravița in the shape of a gulf, and the approaches toward and from Anina, Semenic, Dognecea, and Locva Mountains and the Danube too. The presence of those missiles in the defensive gorge, as some of them show traces of a second burning, might be tied to the camp abandoning through setting it on fire at

the moment the stone Roman camp at Pustă-Rovină was set already in work, during the post Trajan era. The clay missiles we have found in the Roman camp at Pustă-Rovină might be generically classified according to the three types Völling proposed: round, biconical and ellipsoidal in shape.

The geographic conditions of the Vărădia Roman camps location asked the presence of I *Videlicorum* cohort that strategically and tactically had to face a possible Iazyges' attack at the south-west border of Trajan Dacia, between 102 and 106; it was what happened after Emperor Trajan death and during the first years of Hadrian's rule.

BRICK WORKSHOPS FROM THE CANABAE OF APULUM

Doina Benea

Abstract. For Dacia a distinctive feature was created in the military brick workshops, especially those of Legio XIII Gemina, known throughout the stamps inlaid on the building material with the name of the legion or by disposing an anthroponym side by side the legion denomination. One may notice a first category of legion stamped bricks where the name appears (LEG XIII, LEG XIII G, LEG XIII GEM, LEG. XIII.GE associated or not with imperial epithets like P(ia).F(idelis), granted apparently by Antoninus Pius, or by using the imperial name of ANT(oniniana) issued by emperors Caracalla or Septimius Severus).

The second category of stamps associates the name of Legio XIII Gemina with some anthroponyms, names that in time raised lots of discussions in the bibliography of the subject matter. In case of Dacia province, the stamps of Legio XIII Gemina the most majority of them, with only one exception, bear the anthroponym disposed inside the same cartouch with the abbreviation of the legion name. As it had been already remarked in several occasions, these names appear simple under the cognomen (Cup(itius), Hera(cles?) etc.), or under names formed out of gentilicium and one praenomen (Fl. Marinus, Fl. Vitalis, Iul. Deiota (rus), Iul. Iulianus etc.) or, seldom as tria nomina (L. Auri. Secundus P. Cl. D (?) etc.).

Furthermore, the conclusion that arises states that the figlinae from the canabae were under Legio XIII Gemina control, not those from the private media of the ancient town, inexplicable by the nature itself of economical relations of the two entities: the army and the inhabitants dependent by their own existence to the canabae. The area of products distribution these officina had, in permanent economical contact with Legio XIII Gemina, involved Dacia Superior area, and was present not only in the civil environment, but also the military one corresponding to auxilliar troupes found in the province. This underlines a phenomenon that occurred only in Dacia, understudied that is able to reveal in the future many outcomes.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND FUNERAL BEHAVIOR IN THE TOWNS OF ROMAN DACIA (I) ULPIA TRAIANA SARMIZEGETUSA

Atalia Onițiu, Simona Regep

Abstract. Preponderantly the research concerning the population in Roman Dacia is founded on the analysis of the epigraphic material (inscriptions); it was in a large measure published, known and analyzed for about half a century in the literature of the field. Despite such a fact, information on the population there is not by far complete and exhaustive. This is

the reason that makes the analysis and re-interpretation of the epigraphic material necessary by the means of the social sciences (sociology, anthropology, and social history); new data concerning the social structure, relations between the various social categories or the familial and inter-ethnic relations might be brought into relief by this. The present approach aims to a deep analyzing by the means of social sciences of epigraphic material from the towns in Roman Dacia; as a first case study, the author insists upon the funeral inscriptions in Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica Sarmizegetusa, attempting to identify whether a standard way existed or not, namely a pattern of the epigraphic behavior belonging to different social categories in the area of the old capital of the province of Dacia. The analysis aims to identify the features of the commemorative culture in the case of any social categories (from decurions, liberti and augustales, slaves, soldiers and veterans to those ones belonging possibly to the middle class at that time), or social-professional categories (members of the *praefectus collegii fabrum*); the study points out the relation between inscription and the social state of the deceased/dedicant, relations between them, the text structure, decoration, representative images eventually, that come to make complete the epitaph. The study concerning the inscriptions points out the institution of family and obligation to commemorate the defunct persons as the main important aspects and the main reasons that underlie the funeral monuments building.

ROMAN AGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES FROM RAMNA (CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY) AND THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BANAT MUSEUMS IN TIMIȘOARA AND REȘIȚA

Călin Timoc

Abstract. The territory of the Ramna, in Caraș-Severin County is well known in the literature of the archaeological heritage it hosts, many discoveries being signaled more as a result of the fieldwalking or accidental digging. Acad. prof. dr. Constantin Daicoviciu, from Cluj has pushed the research of the area foreword, forcing them to collaborate for the interest of the research, the Banat Museum from Timișoara and the new born City Museum from Reșița. Durring the years 1959-1962 in this part of Banat the cooperation team started to excavate in different spots between Berzovia and Ramna several roman age constructions, from the beginning of 2nd century AD. Unfortunately the excavations remain until yet unpublished, and just today, we know more about the findings. The Soul of this excavations was the geography teacher Octavian Răuț, the first Director of the museum from Reșița.

By Ramna we are sure now that by „Odu Verde” spot, was in ancient times a big Ceramic Production Center with more than 4 kilns and in medieval period a necropolis there. By “Beran” another interesting spot, south from the village are the ruin of some construction that could be: a *villa rustica* or a *statio/ mansio*. Sadlyno research has been finished and published.

This article wants to be a restoration of the primary information about these archaeological researches with valuable discoveries, but still unpublished and of course to present the evolution of the cooperation between researchers from Timișoara and Reșița.

ROMAN PADLOCKS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE HIGHLAND BANAT MUSEUM FROM REȘIȚA

Ana Cristina Hamat

Abstract. In the collections of the Banat Highland Museum from Reșița, among other artifacts dated in the roman period we have also five objects whose functionality has not yet been fully clarified. So, in this article we would like to present and discuss three fragmentary roman padlocks and two fragmentary chains belonging also to a padlock. They have all been found in the roman *quadriburgium* from Gornea-Căunița de Jos and dated in the IVth century AD. Been discovered in the late roman fortifications, all five of them are linked with the military activity and we can presume that they have been used for securing money, equipment or even to restraint someone.

TWO BRONZE *SPATHA* SCABBARDS DISCOVERED IN DROBETA

Paul Grigore Dinulescu

Abstract. The collection of the Iron Gate Region Museum include also, among many artefacts that illustrate the rich and intense roman life in Drobeta, two bronze *spatha* scabbards. The two artifacts were discovered at Drobeta in 1962, based on the information from the inventory register, but without specifying the exact place of discovery.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CERAMIC PRODUCTION IN THE LATE ROMAN PERIOD IN SOUTH-WEST OF DACIA

Mariana Balaci Crînguș

Abstract. An important aspect of the economic life is craftsmanship production. For the southwest space of Dacia, we intend to bring into question the ceramic production from the second half of the 3rd century to the first half of the 4th century when many important political and military changes take place in this area and with a series of consequences for the human community. In this area, the ceramic production is certified by the archaeological researches in 6 settlements (Arad-Ceala, Dragasina, Freidorf, Mehadia, Tibiscum, Grădinari). Mostly, we consider that the ceramic production was intended to cover the local needs, without being able to say that in these kilns the ceramic was burnt to be used to be sold on great distances (perhaps Grădinari), this fact is supported by the small number of kilns identified up to now in a single settlement. However, we can not lose sight of the fact that the workshops from Mehadia and Grădinari also came as a response to the needs of several communities at a certain distance from the central place of ceramics production. About what exactly is the distribution area of these ceramics workshops, we can not pronounced yet.

SAXES DISCOVERED IN THE AVAR GRAVES FROM TRANSYLVANIA AND THE ROMANIAN BANAT

Călin Cosma

Abstract. The objects were discovered one in the cemetery at Șpălnaca/ Șugud (Transylvania) and the other at Timișoara/ Mодоș Bridge (Romanian Banat) (Map 1). Both artefacts have been identified in the professional papers as daggers, when, in fact, they are saxes. Both saxes have been found inside graves of Avar men. The grave from Șpălnaca/ Șugud which contained the sax is dated from the end of the Middle Avar period (680-710/720), whereas the other from Timișoara/ Mодоș Bridge is dated from the second part of the Late Avar period (760-810/830).

The two saxes can be recognized as the first (I) Csiki, defined for the finds discovered in the Avar cemeteries from the Carpathian basin. The occurrence of the two saxes in the Avar graves from the Transylvanian plateau and the Romanian Banat widens the geographic area where the saxes are known to have been used by the Avars, including the eastern Carpathian basin. However, they are only a few compared to the total number of Avar graves from Western Romania, thus indicating that the sax wasn't a weapon employed on a large scale by the Avar warriors that entered this area. The saxes from Șpălnaca/ Șugud and Timișoara/ Mодоș Bridge were probably used as weapons. At the same time, it is possible that they were only ceremonial weapons.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPERTOIRE OF CORNEȘTI, TIMIS COUNTY

Alexandru Szentmiklosi

Abstract. The field research carried out south of the Cornești-*Iarcuri* fortification, on the terraces bordering the Valea Viilor (Vineyards Valley) and in the North part of the village, revealed the presence of four new archaeological sites, namely Cornești-*Dealul Mare* (site no. 1), Cornești-*Grădina casei Micula* (site no. 2), Cornești-*Drumul Muraniului* (site no. 4) and Cornești-*Cimitirul ortodox* (site no. 5). The archaeological artefacts discovered in these archaeological sites indicate a long habitation of then region, from the Neolithic period, Bronze Age, Late Middle Ages and the modern period.

Along with these archaeological sites, the field survey carried out inside of Cornești village (on house plot no. 210a, respectively, site 3) indicated the eastward extension of the *Iugosloveni* archaeological site to the edge of the western terrace of the Lacul Pârâului. The two archaeological surveys and the magnetic prospection indicated a succession of historical dwellings. The *Iugosloveni* site is known in the archaeological literature, but without a clear illustration of the stratigraphic situation. As a novelty, the identification of some settlements that can be framed in the 10th-11th centuries and in the 12th-13th centuries, indicate a much longer residence of these terraces. Undoubtedly, the first documentary attestation of Cornești is much later than the beginnings of dwelling this area during the Middle Ages.

The field survey carried out in the area of the orthodox cemetery (Cornești-*Cimitirul ortodox*) was completed by the magnetic prospection and the LiDAR scan. The corroboration of the information shows that the earth rammed rampart of the Enclosure IV of the Cornești-*Iarcuri* was the northern limit of the village. Most likely, the defensive ditch of the rampart was an argument in setting the northern limits of the village, at the end of the 18th-19th

centuries. At the same time, the tracking of the Enclosure IV rampart duct on the eastern terrace of the Pistruia Valley shows a major deviation to the interior of the Enclosure IV duct. The deviation interrupted the continuity of the Enclosure IV on the western terrace of the Pistruia Valley. The connection of the two segments of the Enclosure IV's rampart cannot be seen anymore because of the clay exploitation made in the 2nd half of the XX century. Today the exploitation pits are used as fishing ponds. Unfortunately, these destroyed the archaeological context that might have explained whether it was a design/ construction error of the Enclosure IV, or perhaps, in this valley, there was one of the major gates of access to Enclosure III.

Last but not least, the field survey inside the orthodox cemetery identified a series of old graves. Among these graves, one of them is isolated but imposing. In this grave was buried the archpriest Pavel Lăzărescu (1796-1853).

FIELD SURVEYS AT RĂCĂȘDIA (CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY) (I)

Constantin Adrian Boia

Abstract. The field surveys we did within Răcășdia cadastral area aimed to discover new sites, in addition to the ones that are already included in the National Archaeological Record Database. There are lots reasons to grant the importance of their identification: new real developing, historical local geography reconstitution, etc. The surveys above come to join the ones at Igrîș and Moșnița Veche (Timiș County), Lipova Hills (counties of Timiș and Arad), and the Ciclova Valley (Caraș-Severin County).

We did those surveys in 2014–2015, with 25 new sites identifying and their record sending to the National Institute of Heritage (INP) to be recorded in the National Archaeological Record Database.

The archaeological remains (ceramics, volcanic tuff, iron scoria and iron loops or grinding mills) belong to various historical ages, namely: Bronze Era, Iron Era, the 2nd-3rd centuries AD, the Early Middle Ages, Mid Middle Ages and Late Middle Ages, and also to the Modern Era).

The largest number of those sites is located on some terraces of the rivers of Ciclova, Răcășdiuța, and Mercina, indicating the favorite setting places on plan or low lands nearby some active flows.

I believe that is very important to record all the archaeological fields and such a program must be develop in our country in order to really know the archaeological sites location, and to select after the sites worthy of systematically investigation according to the limited funds we have for. By this the authorities would also have new instruments to fight against the users of detectors – who won't have any excuse if ignoring the location of archaeological sites.

THE FIRST DENDROARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE FORTIFICATION OF TIMIȘOARA IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Patrick Chiroiu, Alexandru Szentmiklosi, Adrian C. Ardelean, Andrei Bălărie

Abstract. With real estate development and extensive work on transport, water and canal infrastructure, Timișoara had the chance to recover some of the historical information destroyed in the 19th-20th centuries, along with the modernization and development of the city. The rescue archaeological excavations carried out during these works have brought, for the first time, information about Palanca Mare (one of the two outer suburbs of medieval Timișoara) and about the system of building the 18th century fortification of Timișoara.

As a result of the construction of the City Business Center (CBC) building complex in the “Timisoara 700” Square area, as well as the underground parking in the northern part of the CBC complex, the foundations of the fortifications of the 18th century of Timisoara were uncovered. These foundations were identified as the counterguard no. I (fortification wall and counterscarp). On the occasion of the construction of building D of the CBC complex, during the period April-June 2011, the National Museum of Banat carried out a rescue archaeological excavation. The main objective of this archaeological excavation was to collect the scientific information regarding the construction techniques of the fortification from the area affected by the investment. In this research, part of the southern side of the counterscarp (with six abutments) was unveiled, as well as a short segment of the counter-guard escarpment. To the west of the counterscarp, in the immediate vicinity of the counterscarp, a fountain with the excavated walls armed with wooden planks was discovered. In the well filling were discovered archaeological materials from the Ottoman period (17th-18th centuries).

During the archaeological excavation, wood samples were collected, both from the wood substructure of the fortification and from the Ottoman period fountain. The objective of these sampling was the dendroarcheological dating of the samples taken from the wooden substructure of the counterscarp and the counterguards, respectively from the wooden structure of the Ottoman period fountain. 23 floating chronologies were obtained, of which 13 could be successfully interlinked with the reference chronology. The samples taken from the beams that formed the wood substructure of the brick foundation of the fortification, rectangular in section, were dated between 1739 and 1741. The samples taken from the posts that supported the transverse beams of the wooden substructure, circular in section, were dated between 1750 and 1756.

The best preserved sample of wood taken from the wood substructure of the bastion fortification of the 18th century formed the last annual ring in 1756. This date is a *post quem* argument, indicating that the works of construction of the counterscarp and counterguard no. I were started after 1756.

Regarding the Ottoman fountain, the analysis of one of the sampling samples shows that the last ring of the tree dates back to 1699. This dating, in combination with the archaeological materials discovered in the fountain and the stratigraphic context, indicates that the fountain was excavated after 1699 and functioned in the first half of the 18th century. When the most advanced line of stellar fortification were erected (the counterscarp and the Counterguard no. I), the ottoman period fountain was no longer functional.

HISTORY

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF A LOST SETTLEMENT: *MEZŐSOMLYÓ/ ŞUMIG*

Zoltán Iusztin

Abstract. The reconstruction of evolution of the old disappeared settlements, requires the application of interdisciplinary methods. On the other hand, the collaboration between

humanistic and natural disciplines is necessary. In the context of few testimonies, the unwritten sources remain the only that facilitate the reconstruction of history, but insofar as the two types of sources can be used concurrently, complementing each other, the image obtained becomes clearer. If we have written information for some medieval settlements, most of them remain anonymous, so only their material remains can bring their in attention of the history. A lucky case is the one of *Mezősomlyó* city, now disappeared, which is remembered by medieval documents. Apart from these sources, we also benefit from toponymic testimonies and, of course, material remains. Thus it is possible to reconstruct its evolution, which must be completed by archaeological research.

IN SEDES JUDICIARIA (II). WOMEN IN THE MEDIEVAL BANAT BEFORE THE COURT OF ROYAL CURIA. LAWSUITS

Ligia Boldea

Abstract. I have tried to analyze a series of general aspects of interaction of the women with the central and local judiciary milieu during the Angevins and Sigismund of Luxemburg rule in the Hungarian kingdom; it was the subject of the first part of my research relative to noble women in the medieval Banat, I published the late year. If the previous research broached the social-juridical statute of those ladies involved in lawsuits, the role they played in (accusers or accused persons), the way they presented or were represented before the courts and the costs the lawsuits obliged them to pay for, I try now to analyze the various species the noble ladies were involved in. The complexity of the subjects I had met during my research obliged me to approach for the present study only the species submitted to the central sedria, to the courts of the royal Curia, due to their gravity. The reference materials I have used point out an interesting, active and combative side of the female existence deprived otherwise of a significant exposition within a society copiously dominated by the male existence. I won't pretend to have made an exhaustive research, but the cases I met, the economic and social or juridical problems, the way those ladies tackled or solved the problems offer the opportunity to step forward inside the feminine universe at that time, with satisfactory results. So, some of the commonplaces which isolated the women in the Middle Ages in the restrained circle of her family seem not to integrally superpose the realities of that era. In spite of the references limited content following the time patterns and the necessity of a rigorous expression of a juridical action, the details resulted from the particularities of many species let us find out a series of interesting aspects of the problems the noble ladies had to confront, and it is worth pointing them out. The details outline together I hope a more lively and varied image on the role the woman played both within her family and the social milieu, without forced generalization and always keeping within the bounds, naturally. Another notice must be added to: given the type of the preserved acts, the documents content differ from case to case; it is the reason of operating with detailed data in certain cases, whiles in other cases I have at my disposal only summary ones on some judiciary actions.

THE VICEBAN, THE NOBLE JUDGES AND "THE TRAITOR" (THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OSZLÁRI AND THE PORAZFALVI FAMILIES)

Elek Szaszko

Abstract. The present study presents the biographies of two nobiliary families of a local importance, who lived in the medieval area of Temesköz (Între Timișuri/ Between the two Timiș rivers): the Oszális (also called the Pelbárthidas) and the Porazfalvis. Apart from the traditional data concerning their familial history, as for instance, their genealogy trees redrawing and their land possessions, we have been lucky to extend our research to a socio-historic level. Careers (functions they had, services within the families for instance) and the wedding models of the four most important members of the two families – Laurențiu and Paul of Oszlár, Marcu and Nicolae of Porazfalva – show the different horizons of the do-called mid-nobility the two families belonged to. Taking into account the political aspect of the Oszlár's biography, extra details on the events in the area in 1403 might be added to these horizons.

THE AFTERMATH OF A VICTORY: AN EPISODE OF STEPHEN THE GREAT'S DIPLOMACY AFTER THE BATTLE OF VASLUI (10 JANUARY 1475)

Ovidiu Cristea

Abstract. The paper focuses on *credibility* - a rather neglected aspect of the diplomatic contacts between Moldavia and the Western powers in 1475–1476. In the aftermath of the Battle of Vaslui (January 10, 1475), Stephen the Great sent a letter to all the Christian princes to announce his success and to request help for the war against the infidels. Right around that time, the Moldavian lord established the first diplomatic contacts with the Venetian Republic and the papacy using as messengers two foreigners: the Venetian Paul Ognibene and the Hungarian Nicholas Ujlaki. The choice was more the consequence of the Western lack of knowledge about Moldavia at that moment than a lack of diplomatic personnel at the Moldavian court. It seems Stephen the Great was aware that a Moldavian boyar might have raised suspicions in Venice or Rome, so he employed a Venetian subject to send the message about the victory and to affirm his determination to pursue the fight against the Ottomans.

VIGESIMA AGNORUM ET DECIMA PORCORUM. WALLACHIAN PASTORAL REVENUES IN POLAND IN THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURY

Grzegorz Jawor

Abstract. The purpose of the present article is the analysis of pastoral obligations of population from the settlements founded on the Wallachian law who lived in the territories of Poland in the 15th and 16th centuries. On the basis of a comprehensive research carried out on both published and manuscript sources, helpful data was collected in order to answer a few key questions regarding the identification of this topic. The problem of the genesis of the analysed revenues in kind will be consequently approached. Was the method of their collection established already in Poland or was it transplanted to Poland by the Wallachian immigrants arriving from the areas of Moldova and Transylvania? It will be equally important to attempt their systematisation, to characterise individual obligations for the benefit of the owners of villages as well as to present some of the logistic aspects related to their

acquisition. In this context one should be tempted to describe some of the obligations, typical for the Wallachian villages, which were fulfilled by their population and referred to as the police-fiscal duties. It is also worth to attempt the identification of reasons which caused these forms, already rather archaic in the realities of the 16th century Poland, to last and undergo only limited transformations due to the pressure from the money-goods economy.

REFERENCES ON CARANSEBEŞ TRADE IN THE 16TH CENTURY

Adrian Magina

Abstract. Given its geographic position the town of Caransebeş was a focal point between the Transylvanian territories and the Balkans. Located in the Timiș River corridor, one of the relative important commercial routes, the town began the main administrative and economic center in the Banat after the low part of the province had been occupied by the Ottomans in the second half of the 16th century. A series of documents concerning the role that Caransebeş played in trading with the Balkans, the Greek merchants' statute and their involving in the trade with Transylvania are preserved in the National Archive – Sibiu Office. These references weren't edited so far although they were known from about 50 years and used in a study relative to Caransebeş commercial activity, published in 1971. By integrally publishing these documents we attempted both to turn them to account and re-bring up-to-date a subject less touched in the last decades by the historiography in the Banat.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF TRANSYLVANIA AND PRINCELY COURT BUILDING THE FIRST DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT (1541–1551)

Anton Dörner

Abstract. Whole generations of historians concerned with the Principality of Transylvania building, but the princely court genesis and development in the 16th century tickled much less their fancy. An important reason probably for such an omission results from the Court of Alba archives destroying at the end of the 17th century, by the Habsburgs. To reconstitute that time means to use nowadays only other sources of reference, chronicles or memoirs belonging to people who lived around the prince. Whiles the institutional structure of the principality was a more difficult process and took more years, the princely Court was already set up at that time as a reminiscence of Buda Court, consisting in Polish and Italian courtiers or Magyar ones, of Hungarian origin. Extremely difficult was for the Transylvanian nobles to step into the private environment of Queen Isabella and her son.

FAMILY OF TIVADAR OF CARANSEBEŞ IN THE 16TH–17TH CENTURIES

Dragoș Lucian Țigău

Abstract. The family of Tivadar of Caransebeş was documentary recorded in the beginning of the 16th century. We are allowed to reconstitute the main aspects of that family's

life on the account of the preserved testimonies: onomastic, succession of generations, relationship, wealth and functions, cultural level and mentalities. That family lived and integrated in a preponderant Romanian milieu.

23 individuals (3 women among) are recorded up to 1700, in seven-eight generations. Their life is unequally documentary enlightened, so that only for 16 individuals we might prove at least one kind of relationship.

Their real consists in possessions, plots of land, houses and vineyards in the counties of Severin and Timiș, in the town of Caransebeș or in vicinity of it. The possessions in Timiș County were occupied by the Ottomans in 1522 and temporary recuperated during the campaign of 1595-1596. The family was deprived of all proprieties in the Banat after the Ottoman conquest in 1658. There were numerous disputes on the family's lands, the long conflict between Grigore Tivadar and the family of Fiat concerning the possession of Brebu being the most manifest.

For the social ascension, different members of the family acceded to dignities in Caransebeș (castellan), and in Severin County (count, vice-count, or assessor). The records related to the family of Tivadar's presence in the Banat ends with 1700.

NUPTIALIA FESTA AGEBANTUR: WEDDING INVITATIONS, A PRIMARY SOURCE FOR SOCIAL HISTORY IN PRINCIPALITY OF TRANSYLVANIA

Livia Magina

Abstract. Among the rites of passage, wedding is an event that takes place consciously. In Principality of Transylvania, the wedding is still an arranged event so that the future partners are part of a social and financial mechanism. However, the wedding was a reason for joy and the event had been announced and celebrated publicly in terms of rank. For the event, both weddings and splices, the guests were announced through invitations. As a private document, written in private purposes, the wedding invitation can be a source for social history in general and for the history of marriage particularly. The analysis of a sample of over 100 wedding invitations offers an unique opportunity to highlight new issues of private life.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CAPTAIN GENERAL OFFICE IN THE TRANSYLVANIAN ARMY DURING THE END OF THE 16TH CENTURY AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY

Florin Nicolae Ardelean

Abstract. At the end of the 16th century and during the first half of the 17th century the office of captain general maintained its position at the top of the Transylvanian military hierarchy. It was still regarded as a temporary military office, given to trustworthy nobles, during major military campaigns. Nevertheless, the new political and military context, determined some changes in the status of this leading position in the hierarchy of the Transylvanian army.

Historical sources from this period offer us new data about the attributions of Transylvanian captain generals. Offering exemption from military obligations, the internal

organization of the army, elaboration and enforcement of military regulations are some of duties performed by the captain generals during this period. As I have mentioned above, the captain general was considered a temporary military position but, during the reign of Prince Gheorghe Rákóczi I, Sigismund Kornis held this office several times for long periods. The appointment of two captain generals is exceptional (Székely and Csáky during the battle of Gurusláu, Kornis and Bornemisza in 1642 and 1644). During periods of political crisis the authority of the captain general was greatly increased (it was the case of Csáky, Gyulaffi and Sigismund Rákóczi).

The careers of the eight captain generals analyzed in this article share many similarities. Seven captain generals are representatives of the nobility while only one of them comes from the Szekler seats, Moise Székely. All the seven noble captain generals have origins outside the former Transylvanian voivodeship (Csáky – Bihar, Gyulaffi – Transdanubia, Sigismund Rákóczi – Borsod, Sennyei – Vas, Zólyomi – Bihar, Kornis – Abauj, Bornemisza - Bihar). Confession was not an obstacle for those pursuing a military career. Five of the captain generals were calvinists, one unitarian and two were catholics. For most cases (six out of eight) the title of captain general was the highest point in their career. Only Székely and Sigismund Rákóczi were elected Prince of Transylvania. Before reaching the highest position in the military hierarchy most personalities held offices of fortress captain or count (*comes*).

THE DEMILITARIZATION REFORM WITHIN THE HABSBURG ADMINISTRATION IN TIMIȘOARA AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE COURT COMMISSIONER IGNATZ KEMPF VON ANGRET IN THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IN BANAT (1751-1753)

Vasile Ionuț Roma

Abstract. The present study is a result of FWF project developed in 2015 by a research team at *Karl-Franzens University Graz*, the author of this work being a member of it. Prof. Dr.h.c.Dr. phil. Harald Heppner is the coordinator of the project.

By valorizing taxonomical records, statutes, reports, letters, notices, decrees, contracts, and registers, etc. found in the archives in Vienna, Budapest and Timișoara, but also, schematics, registration certificates and articles in the press at that time, the work offers a picture of the personnel management from the beginning of the demilitarization reform within the administration council (September 1751) until the end of Ignatz Kempf von Angret's mission in Banat (May 1754).

Once presented the context of Ignaz Kempf of Angret's professional development. Our work focuses on Ignaz Kempf von Angret's career, on the changes within the Habsburg administration council in Timisoara within the administration reform of 1751 and on the context in which Kempf von Angret and his commission were sent from Vienna to Banat in order to complete the started reform. Kempf von Angret's mission was to control and to reorganize the local staff, to take over the chair from the administration's president, Franz Anton Leopold von Engelshofen and to prepare the coming of the first civil president, Francesco de Paula Ramond de Villana-Perlas et Rialpo. He had also the mission to install him; he also had to reduce the effectives of the county millition and organize the border posts, set subsidizing rules and allocate dwellings to the staff.

A COMMERCIAL ATTEMPT OF “TIMIȘOARA AND TRIESTE TRADE IMPERIAL-ROYAL PRIVILEGED COMPANY” IN TRANSYLVANIA (1767–1768)

Costin Feneșan

Abstract. Once the Banat passing under the Hapsburg domination (1716) and the region organizing as a direct domain of the Imperial Crown and Chamber, the economic and commercial development of the new imperial province stood under the mercantilist precepts that were the state policy at that time. The economists in Vienna had the trade active balance and the protectionist monetary policy among their main objectives. Within such a direction, the Banat had to become an important provider of natural products to be exported (cattle, grains, and honey, wax, leather, and tobacco especially), and an outlet for the manufactured products in the hereditary countries, and a area of conveying in transit of the products in the Monarchy towards the Ottoman Empire and the ports at the Adriatic Sea (the so-called Austrian seaside), on the other hand. It was the frame to build in Timișoara – with the state support in the most cases – more trade companies: *Cattle Trade Society/ Societatea prediilor* (1720), *The German Trade Society* (1723), *The Rascian/ Greek Trade Company* (1725). Those companies disappeared in the context of the Austrian-Ottoman War, 1737–1739, only *The Rascian/ Greek Trade Company* being resuscitated in 1744.

The grave consequences of the seven years war made the authorities in Vienna find a way to revigorate the commercial activity in the Banat, the province having had ceased the incomes for 10 years long to the Town Bank in Vienna as a collateral for the loan of ten million forints. The *Privileged Society in Timișoara* was founded as such in 1759, with a consistent support of the state and some high officials in Timișoara and Vienna. Given the managers' incompetence, that society sooner came to a precarious financial situation. It was recovered from bankruptcy only by some specialists who came from Vienna (1763–1766). Joseph Sauvaigne formerly involved in trade with Trieste and Fiume at the Adriatic Sea, founded in 1765, in Timișoara, *Trieste Trade Company*. To annihilate such a serious competing, the Court Trade Council and the Banat Administration made the two companies joint in 1766, forming *Timișoara and Trieste Trade Imperial-Royal Privileged Company*. But the new company hadn't developed as they had hoped, especially after the intervention of some incompetent counselors of the Banat Administration (namely Georg Michael von Brandenburg). As a result, Joseph Sauvaigne founded in Timișoara too, in 1768, without any support of the state, *The New Banat Trade Company*. The hidden aim of that one was to take over the Banat commercial activities with the Adriatic seaside and to control after the all commercial activities of the imperial province. The new company succeeded to come off victorious, and the state became to support it after *Trieste-Timișoara Company* had suspended its work (1775). But the new company was dissolved too after the imperial Banat incorporation into Hungary (1778).

The present study exclusively based on the papers in The National Archives Sibiu, reconstitutes the attempt of *Timișoara and Trieste Trade Imperial-Royal Privileged Company* to open a storehouse in Sibiu (1767–1768). It was initiated by Joseph Sauvaigne, the manager of Trieste Trade Company at that time, within the joint trade company (1766) in Timișoara. Beginning with January 1767, Sauvaigne intensively corresponded with Transylvania *Regium Gubernium*, and the governor Hadik who was in charge with the commerce in the province too. That one repeatedly strived after convincing *Sibiu Trade Company*, in the town Magistrate subordination, to agree to such a storehouse opening, Sauvaigne having had to bring there and sell (wholesale) especially sugar and other goods from Trieste and the Adriatic seaside. Georg Michael von Brandenburg as the Banat Administration counselor who was intensively interested in the joint trade company in Timișoara, tried to undetermined

Sauvaigne's project. The pre-contract concerning the storehouse opening was signed, in the end, in 1767, the second half of April, in spite of the permanent mistrust and hesitations of Sibiu Trade Company. The paper was modified at Maria Theresa's command in the fall of 1767, to avoid Timișoara Company arriving to a monopoly position. We do not know how the company developed after, within Sibiu and Transylvania market as long as we have no other records on the question.

DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT IN SATU MARE COUNTY AT THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY

Paula Virag

Abstract. Census system totally changed in 1784. Changes came according to the reforms of Joseph II. For the first time in the history of Hungary they took census of the noble people, a reason to take that census for the first "modern" one. The whole process within the time of a census was integrally changed, not only the social categories they took census of. The civil authorities took census of civil population parallel with the military one, each locality and household. During the recording any household was given its own table with data on the members: name, age (in the case of male people exclusively), qualification (position within the household, social-professional statute, height and other physic features in the case of men, etc.). The census taker had simultaneously to classify people according to the stated categories, relying on sex, marital statute, few social-professional categories with their position within the household, and also the definitive departure of some members of the household. In the case of women, only their marital statute was noted down; the presence of strangers was also to be noted. A special, much simpler table, was give to the households belonging to the population of Israelite religion.

The census of 1784-1787 registered in Satu Mare County the distribution of people in the four regions of the county, in urban and rural localities. Numbers of men, of women and children, religion, occupations, etc. were also noted. The data of that census in 1784-1787 prove the population increasing comparatively with the previous enumeration. It was the result of the living standard improving, of passing over the natural calamities or military conflicts, but also of the colonization the local noblemen organized during the first half of the 18th century.

ON SALT LAND TRANSPORT BETWEEN TRANSYLVANIA AND BUKOVINA IMPROVING IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Dorin-Ioan Rus

Abstract. The 18th century in Transylvania and Bukovina was the witness of the roads extending and improving in view of a better transport of goods. But, the roads of a higher quality building, according to the modern technology, generated lots of technical, financial and logistic problems. Once taking over the two provinces administration, the Hapsburg officials improved the conditions of the planned roads construction and looked for technical solutions relative to the land transport developing. New commercial ways were built so, and

the old ones were consolidated. The role of land transport increased in parallel with the economic growing.

The salt road building between Transylvania and Bukovina was the result of the imperial mercantile policy connected to material returns from extracting and trading raw materials. Salt trading was not only a source for the imperial fiscal growing, but also it came to satisfy the consumers 'needs as salt was used to preserve foods. So, that road building was backed by economic imperatives. The local landscape was remodeled on some sections through clearing the large forest areas, and new grazing fields appeared so. Extra posts were created too for the soldiers of the Regiment 2, who had got the opportunity to make up their incomes during periods of crisis. There were problems concerning the connection between both the civil and military authorities as the road was built on the two provinces areas.

SYMBOLIC GEOGRAPHIES, IMAGES OF CENTER, PRINCE AND SAVING HERO IN THE ROMANIAN TRADITIONAL EPIC POEM

Mihaela Grancea

Abstract. The present study doesn't pretend to be an exhaustive one; it aims to note down both some of the specific images of prince in the Danubian principalities and some symbolic geographies in the premodern folk imaginarieness in the traditional Romanian ballad. Prudence is the order word in this case given the final aim of my approach, namely an *imagological* pattern setting, or the lack of a real connection between the image the officials elaborated and spread after, and the prince's perception in the rural world imaginarieness. Such a non-connection between the folk level and the official one concerning the political long lasting imaginarieness seems to be a paradoxical one. The two poles of the society in the Romanian medieval world should have been emotionally brought together through the folk(tales) books, the frescos in the Orthodox churches and monasteries, or the way they were respectful with the religious and secular traditions. But the particular historical context in the 18th century and the Romanian social structure, as well as the so strong differentiated cultural habits generated a series of elements to dissociate and alienate the social elites and the anonymous masses of people. This lack of communication, a dramatic one in substance, marked the structures of the social imaginarieness too.

It is the reason we have to consider in explaining why the Voievode/ Prince is a secondary character in the traditional epic poem. The Popular Hero and *Țarigrad* (Istanbul) as a center of authority in change, dominate the imaginarieness in the Romanian ballad.

CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE INVOLVEMENT IN THE REALIZATION OF THE GREAT UNION OF THE ROMANIAN THEOLOGIAN STUDENTS FROM BANAT, WHO LEARNED IN CHERNIVTSI BETWEEN 1875-1918

Răzvan Mihai Neagu

Abstract. The aim of the current material is that of presenting the contribution to the great union of the Romanian theologian students from Banat, who learned in Chernivtsi in the period between 1875-1918. The chronological boundaries of this study range between 1875-1918. These years were chosen because they mark capital events: the foundation of the

University of Chernivtsi and the realization of the Great Union. The university registry books during this period of time record 32 Romanian students from Banat, who chose to study theology in Chernivtsi. Most of them turned out to be authentic patriotic spirits, serving the community they belonged to as teachers and priests. Our data shows that out of 32, 20 have contributed at local or regional level to the realization of the Great Union. In late 1918, they became active participants in the unionist struggle. On December 1, 1918, some of them (11) attended the Great National Assembly in Alba Iulia that proclaimed the unification of Transylvania with Romania. In our opinion, the most important contributions were that of Avram Imbroane and George Popovici, the protopope of Lugoj.

NATIONAL FEELING AND POLITICAL PRAGMATISM.
THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CONSTANTIN BURADA
AND “POPORUL ROMÂN” AFFAIR

Ovidiu Emil Iudean

Abstract. Crisis government in Budapest during the first decade of the 19th century significantly influenced the Romanians’ political life within Dualist Hungary. After the Romanian National Party had adopted the activism, a series of electoral confrontations took part between Romanian politicians of different options. The ones who adhered to collaboration with the Magyar authorities and the ones who adhered to RNP disputed the role of the Romanians political-parliamentary representativeness in Transleithania. The role the press played was an essential one. The present study aims to present an episode during this political confrontation, focusing on *Poporul Român*, one of the main Romanian newspapers.

OUTLOOK ON I WORLD WAR MEMORIALS IN THE BANAT

Ionela-Felicia Moscovici

Abstract. Confronted with numerous documentary lacunas so far, the First World War history in the Banat benefit of the valuable sources consisting in remembrances, war memoirs and front diaries these last years. Reconstituting of the individual’s memory in the Banat as part of the collective memory became possible both due to the dear departed historians Valeriu Leu and Nicolae Bocşan whose research was carried on by Mihaela Bedecan, and to a large corpus of the Great War memoirs editing.

Thus the mechanism of the conflict remembrance transmission might be detected, the authors’ profile, their social-cultural and national or regional heritage might be studied; also the politic bearings might be quantified, and the historic time of remembering or commemorating analyzed. The complexity of the war memoirs (re)constituting or (re)building is but a challenge for a historian as there are more fields to be passed in a interdisciplinary spirit: history of culture, historic anthropology, oral history, history of memory, and last but not least, psychology.

WAR DIARIES OF BANEU SVETOZAR FROM THE BANAT, A PARTICIPANT IN I WORLD WAR

Mihaela Elena Stana, Carina-Ana Babeu

Abstract. We might know through the means of memoirs the human and sensible side of the events in the Banat during the First World War. Letters, diaries, or interviews and direct or indirect remembrances come to detect aspects concerning the soldiers' departure for the front, their route and taking part in battles or the war disaster, the little of nourishment, as well as the conditions in hospitals, fear of death, and weary for home and peace.

Baneu Svetozar is a model for how he inured to the bad conditions of the front and during his captivity. War, captivity, Austro-Hungary dissolving, death of Franz Joseph made the people be aware of the ethnic reality; it was the case of Baneu Svetozar too, who enlisted to the Romanian Volunteers Corps, as a lieutenant and the cashier of the Regiment I Horia.

Baneu Svetozar's confidences like those of other direct or indirect participants in the war supplement the image of the Banat world during World War I; no matter the social or cultural level of the authors, their confidences reciprocally draw together and give authenticity to the events.

DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF THE AROMANIAN CAUSE IN PARIS AT THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD CONFLAGRATION

Emanuil Ineoan

Abstract. The involvement of Romania in the Aromanian question represented an inedited for its foreign policy. Whereas in the case of Transylvania or Bukovina, the officials in Bucharest were involved in supporting a cultural nationalism which unfolded in various forms and at various intensities, in what the South-Danubian Romanians were concerned, the support had to be offered to some communities with which Romania had no direct geographical continuity. This support sparked a surprised and suspicious reaction from the Great Powers and caused immense anxieties to its neighbouring states, in particular Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria - states which did not understand the underlining reasons behind the actions of Romania.

The Balkan Wars brought an end to the organisational impetus which had appeared within the Aromanian communities as a result of a several years-old Ottoman legislation which offered them the possibility of proportional representation within the structures of local and central government. The aggravation of the situation in the region determines Romania to adopt a new strategy in what the Aromanian question were concerned: support for the incorporation of these communities within the new state which was springing on the geopolitical stage of the Balkans - Albania. The geographical continuity between the regions inhabited in majority by Aromanian and the presumed borders of the future Albanian state convinced the Romanian diplomacy that this was the most inspired solution for the weakly bound Aromanian community. However, the First World War and the difficult geopolitical situation it generated brought a formidable regress for these ethnic communities. Within their new national states, these communities could no longer find the support which a multinational and multi-confessional Empire had been eager to offer at the turn of the 20th century.

MOVIE THEATERS IN CARAȘ-COUNTY DURING THE INTERWAR PERIOD

Minodora Damian

Abstract. Effects of the optics technologic discoveries that brothers Lumière studied thoroughly, the inventors of the cinematographic technology in fact, offer people the possibility to entertain with an imagistic dimension similar to reality. So, there were new ways to exploit the people's free time within the recreative modern time table of the interwar period.

Given the emulation the new entertainment created at that time, with a strong social-economic impact the animated photo-projection had on the civilization in the Banat, I propose a historic foray in the field through the analytic analyses of data on the movie theaters in the region.

In the most of the cases the primary sources belong to the archive of the National Archive – Caraș-Severin County Service, in reports, minutes and correspondence.

The beginnings of the cinematographic projection in Romania come set in the beginning of the 20th century, in 1906–1907 to be more specific, the time that the first movie theater was set in Sidoli Circus in Iași, with a permanent possibility to demonstrate, where the first Romanian movies were shown too, even if the first movie room in Transylvania dated since 1901.

Having focused my research on Caraș County in the interwar period, I met movie rooms both in almost all the urban areas and the rural ones.

So, alternative ways of movie entertainment were found in Oravița, the capital city of the county of Caraș, in the case of *Modern* Movie Theater that Eugen Mătăsăreanu hired in 1926.

Industrialization of some areas with a great economic potential lead to a large increase of the indexes concerning the cinematographic projections. The human resources moving in waves towards Reșița and Bocșa, the two iron steel centers, or to Anina, the main mining center increased the necessity of new ways the people there spend their free time.

We might note UDR and *Zahalka* movie theaters in Anina, which admitted 800 to 1,000 persons. The movie theaters *Astra* in Oravița, *Olenia* in Reșița, and *Apollo* in Bocșa Montană admitted much more people in the summer time, with projections in the open air.

When speaking about culturalization and education of people the role of the movie theater was especially materialized in the case of young people who adopted the behavioral model of the film stars.

ASPECTS CONCERNING THE TRADES DEVELOPMENT IN CARAȘ COUNTY (1944–1948)

Eusebiu Narai

Abstract. In the field of trades that are deeply bound to the industry development, the problems were similar: lack of raw material; difficulties in gaining the legal personality; excessive fiscal duties; wear of the equipment; small number of employees; the local and central concerns proved as unsustainable; extension of clandestinism as a result of difficulties

the handicraftsmen had to face; insufficient real wages; political element involving in activity; difficulties in obtaining the necessary credits; low professional qualification, etc.

The handicraftsmen unions in Caraș County involved in solving the stringent problems of the workshops in the area: insufficiency of raw material; fiscal system, frequently inequitable; wear of equipment; small number of employees; inadequate professional qualification in some of the cases, etc. Besides the problems above, the unions took actively part into social-cultural programs.

The tendency of such a professional category with an important numerical weight in the urban milieu represented otherwise one of the main directions of Groza cabinet and, implicitly of the Romanian Communist Party at that time.

Supplying with raw material and credits obtaining in the case of handicraftsmen was permanently in the view of the central and local organisms that represented their interests. Frequently the measures they announced were but simple promises and so life of an important range of people was affected.

The central and local authorities focused mainly on struggle against the undeclared work concomitantly with extending the workers' qualification, as a favorable action in those fields lead to optimizing the handcrafts' work. The clandestine handicraftsmen were severely controlled also by the representatives of the correspondent unions; in the same time, delivering the compulsory raw contributions became an indispensable condition for unfettering the shops that had been affixed a seal to upon different pretexts at the beginning of 1948.

There were also other problems that affected both the handicraftsmen and their apprentices: work schedule, payment, days off and leaves and set of retirement age; the traditional workshops depended on those problems solving in certain areas of Romania, including the Banat.

There were multiple attempts in 1947 to relieve the handicraftsmen of some taxes and duties that were taken for inutile and even detrimental to the business progressing; the correspondent ministry drew up new orders concerning the fiscal system in the case of handicraftsmen, mainly in that of locksmiths, joiners and tailors.

Great modifications of the fiscal system were set in 1948, that affected equally all the employees in the country. The main ones: spreading out the payment for merchants and handicraftsmen with limited input up to 500,000 lei, abolishment of the global tax, revision of duties up to 500,000 lei and abolishment of the obligation of the natural persons with an annual income of 300,000 lei maximum to keep account books. Clemency of the fiscal organs was determined also by the handicraftsmen's low capacity to pay for lack of capital and commands.

The local and central authorities permanently focused on affording money and material rights to handicraftsmen and their apprentices, in order to compensate the salaries that were frequently insufficient to provide a decent life.

SEVERAL CASES OF "DEVIATIONS FROM THE PROLETARIAN MORALITY" OF ROMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY FROM BANAT AT THE BEGINNING OF COMMUNIST RULE (1948-1950)

Felician Velimirovici

Abstract. In the first section of the present article I propose an interpretation of a central concept for Communist ideology during the twentieth century, the proletarian morality, as this notion can be understood by studying the works of Marxist-Leninist classics.

The analysis is focused upon the main differences between this new type of moral code and the old, traditional moral system, presumed to be condemned by the victorious march of History. The second section provides an empirical description of concrete cases and acts of deviation from the proletarian morality committed largely by ordinary party members at the beginnings of the Communist regime in the region of Banat, by exploring a wealth of previously unresearched archival sources. The article concludes that during the first years of Communist power, at the grassroots level, the Communist Party officials have condemned and sanctioned mainly the same age-old peccancies and sins, and that the concept of proletarian morality has been nothing more than an ideological fiction.

THE WRITERS – THE *SECURITATE* – THE PARTY

Vasile Rămneanțu

Abstract. Important ideological changes come with the summer and fall of 1971, with negative repercussions on the Romanian culture. Nicolae Ceaușescu, the leader of the Romanian Communist Party (RCP) asked for a literature in accordance with the socialist realities, against the bourgeois influences, the retrograde mentalities, and was in favor of increasing the party control upon the culture. Those decisions had been set before Nicolae Ceaușescu's visit in China and North Korea; the leader said after that the two visits sanctioned his belief that the measures he had taken were politically correct. Those decisions show how Nicolae Ceaușescu remained faithful to the dogmatic side of ideology.

The *Securitate* pursued also in Timiș County the writers' reactions to the new cultural politics, and gave notice to the RCP County Committee about those reactions. According to the studied references, a large part of the local men of letters repelled the literature coming back to "the socialist realism", refused to write under command; they were also dissatisfied with the party control on literature and the activity of institutions in charge with fictional works censoring. Famous writers as Anghel Dumbrăveanu, Ovidiu Cotruș, Sorin Titel, Damian Ureche, Cornel Ungureanu, Andrei Ujică, and Adriana Babeți and others reacted as such.

The writers in the Banat were dissatisfied too with the way the literary-cultural revue *Orizont* had to allocate ever larger spaces to political events. It also results from the *Securitate* reports that the secret police was much more interested in literary works in the process of publishing to prevent the publication of those ones they took for having a political tendentious contents. The relations between Romanian writers and the foreign ones were also pursued, with the mention that the law was violated in the field; the reunions of the literary circles in Timișoara were pursued too.

The writers who joined the former Iron Guard Party were in the center of the *Securitate*'s attention, even if the literary work must be separated from the political one in my opinion.

The documents I studied also show that the *Securitate* were also interested in minor events in the writers' life, in their disagreements or aspects of their private live, and gave notice to the RCP County Committee about them; it proves all over again that the communist form of government wanted to control the whole Romanian society.

VARIA

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE ICONOGRAPHY OF MARY IN THE BAROQUE SCULPTURE IN TIMIȘOARA

Mihaela Vlăsceanu

Abstract. Following the main iconographic representations of Mary – Mary the Virgin, the Glorious Virgin Mary, Mary the Intercessor – the present study holds an inquiry in the public sculpture which represents these Catholic hypostases at the time the Banat was a border province of the Hapsburg Empire.

Given the political situation the subject connotations differ from the ones in Central Europe; for instance, one of the most abstract subject in the Baroque art, concerning the Immaculate Conception means Victory as in the Occidental milieu, but a victory against the Ottoman force in retreat at that time. Another iconographic well-known Baroque type, Mary the Intercessor, is plenty represented in the Baroque sculpture in Timișoara, the monument known as The Saint Trinity invoking Mary's attributes, by the magniloquence of Her representation.

In this urban area, one of Mary's representations, Mater Dolorosa, is absent, no sign of a variant of this subject, Pietà, being identified so far.

A NEW FRAGMENTARY RUPESTRIAN INSCRIPTION ON THE RUDĂRIA VALLEY (COMMUNE OF EFTIMIE MURGU, CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY)

Sorin-Marius Petrescu

Abstract. A stone with signs on has been observed upstream nearby the water mill called *Îndărătnica dintre râuri*/ "The Stubborn Mill between Rivers", during the field research in the summer of 2018 along the river of Rudăria (commune of Eftimie Murgu).

It is a text with a cursive writing which I presume to have been done by a stone cutter who rather used to work with a chisel than to write calligraphically, with 10 signs approximately, that can be noticed today. In the central area a sign in a circle is the one to direct our attention on; it is quasi-triangular in shape and could be interpreted even as a very essentialized head of an animal seen from the front, with ears (or horns) a little bit over the circle circumference.

I believe that the text was made at some time or other in the 19th century, in cursive Cyrillic characters, and the inscription could have been used to mark an upstream border limit for the local shepherds; from that original location, a high flood brought it to the place it is located now, nearby the mill.

