



ULBS

Universitatea "Lucian Blaga" din Sibiu

Interdisciplinary Doctoral School

Doctoral Field: History

Doctoral Thesis

**STRUCTURES OF POWER IN
MEDIEVAL TRANSYLVANIA
(XIII-XIV CENTURIES) - A DIPLOMATIC
ANALYSIS**

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SUMMARY

The present paper has set out to examine and bring forth the development of secular and ecclesiastical administrative-territorial structures within medieval Transylvania in a broad sense. This endeavor has been made possible with the use of medieval documents issued between the 12th-14th centuries. Geographically, the thesis focuses upon the regions of Transylvania, Banat, Crișana, and Maramureș. A subchapter upon the Banate of Severin was added for its special relevance. The research strives to achieve a complex projection regarding the medieval administrative *apparatus*. The limited number of available documents has made it all the more difficult. If there is a high frequency in medieval charters for the period between the 13th-14th centuries, one cannot state the same for those issued during the 11th and the 12th centuries, at a time when the administrative structures and units were established. The scarcity of documents during the early stage in the initiation of an administrative network represents a crucial obstacle in determining the exact moment when the royal authority had decided upon the formation of these particular administrative-territorial structures. Our aim has thus become the examination of their emergence and the way they were re-shaped, as well as the role taken upon by the ones named at their helm.

The first chapter, “*Latin diplomatics in medieval Transylvania*”, focuses upon two sections: the first one is emphasizing the evolution of diplomatics within the former area of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and its research by analyzing the history of this discipline through the lens of three historiographical trends, Romanian, Hungarian and the one produced by the Transylvanian Germans. We managed to provide an overview regarding the beginning and the development of the study of documents and the historians whose research was based upon and dedicated to it. Consequently, there was also a need to point out the different document issues that were published in time, namely the ones concerning the medieval history of the Hungarian realm and explicitly Transylvania. The second section of this chapter is assigned to the early stages of the institutionalized writing in the Realm of Hungary and to the various types of documents produced during that period. In order to better capture this sequence of our research, we ‘moved’ from a European, more general frame, towards a more particular one, that of the Hungarian realm. The chapter comes to an end with the description of the various types of documents.

The second chapter, “*Secular administrative-territorial institutions, from their emergence up until the 14th century*”, was laid out in ten sub-chapters. This major second part of the thesis depicts the institutional context in the Realm of Hungary at the start of the 11th

century up until the reign of Charles Robert of Anjou. The political events that shaped the internal development within the Hungarian state and, implicitly, the administrative structures are the chapter's main focus. The approach towards the counties' research was undertaken region-wise, namely for Transylvania (the inner Carpathian area), Banat, Crişana and Maramureş. The nature of our analysis has led to a series of chronological demarcations, i.e. to a sequence-based approach for the period between the 11th-12th centuries, between the years 1201-1241, between the years 1242-1300 and after the year 1300. Within the region of Banat, we have analyzed the counties of Cenad, Timiş and Caraş; in Crişana we delved into the history of the counties Bihor, Crasna, Arad and Zarand (the last two of them coming into being after 1202); the emergence of the county of Sătmar was accounted for concerning the region of Maramureş and the counties Solnoc, Cluj, Dăbâca, Turda, Târnava, Alba and Hunedoara in Transylvania. The county of Sibiu, the *Burzenland* and the Banate of Severin are showcased in separate sub-chapters. The investigation of the medieval documents provided the necessary information for a series of lists for each county, stating the names and periods when someone in particular was appointed at the head of the structure. The novelty character of these lists consists in bringing forth some of the people that weren't mentioned in previous studies.

Concerning the counties, the starting point in our research was the initial unit of one large county for each region, the one that encompassed all future ones. In the area of Banat, the first county was that of Cenad, shaped as such between the 11th-12th centuries. The counties of Timiş and Caraş were later detached of it. The same situation was identified in Crişana, where the larger county was Bihor from which Crasna was subsequently formed. For the region of Maramureş, the first and largest county was that of Sătmar. The inner Carpathian area imposed a north-south research, depicting the counties of Solnoc, Dăbâca, Cluj and Alba. The following sub-chapter emphasized the internal and external political context between the late 12th century and the early 13th one. The counties of Banat, Crişana and Maramureş in the first half of the 13th century, between the years 1201-1241, were subjected to our analyze. In the area of Banat, next to the above-mentioned structures, we gathered all the information regarding the counties of Cenad, Timiş and Caraş, as well as the emergence of the county of Arad. Northwards, in Crişana, the first units we tackled with were the counties of Zarand and Bihor, Sătmar being the last to be laid out. Our approach continues within the inner Carpathian area by reflecting the valences of the dignities encountered here, the one of the voivode and the one of the *comes*. In this context we would like to bring forth the example of the county of Crasna: even though it was geographically a part of Transylvania, it wasn't

under the jurisdiction of its voivode. Another important sub-chapter depicts the events leading to the German settlement in southern Transylvania, its causes and the area's development up until the year 1241. Following these events, we considered the calling of the Teutonic Order to the *Burzenland* also of great significance for our research. Another event with a major influence upon the administrative structures of the Hungarian realm was the Mongol invasion and its consequences. For this approach we have used not only medieval documents, but also narrative sources, namely chronicles. An example in this sense is *Carmen Miserabile*, a testimony written by Rogerius, a monk, who was captured during the Mongols' attacks. His writing proves invaluable for the comprehension of the invasion's real size and disastrous effects. The chapter of the thesis continues with the analysis of other regions, such as Banat, Crișana and Maramureș using the same methodology as in the previous chapter. For the 13th century, other relevant structures were the Banate of Severin – mentioned first during the third decade – and the Duchy of Transylvania, mentioned during the second half of the century. This last period was dominated by the continuous internal conflicts between the king, the duke of Transylvania and various parties of noblemen taking one or the other side. Two waves of conflicts have been registered between king Béla IV. and his son, the future Stephen V. These were carried out with clashing armies and losses on both sides. The second wave to affect the political balance within the kingdom, especially in the relation between royal authorities and Transylvanian ones, is dated back to the period after the death of Stephen V., when different members of nobility tried to gain the power in their favor and to establish new dynasties. The situation shifted into a new direction with the start of the 14th century, namely that of the Anjou dynasty, after Charles Robert succeeded in obtaining the Hungarian crown for himself and his successor. Thus, he managed to put an end to the oligarchy promoted by the nobility.

We would like to stress the defining nature of the document as an instrument used in the unfolding of our research, namely the depiction of the emergence of administrative-territorial units. There were also cases when we had the chance to boost the inter-disciplinary nature of our work, by benefiting from a series of results from the field of archaeology. These were especially meaningful in the context of refining the different chronologies.

The third chapter, "*Administrative territorial ecclesiastic institutions*", set out to bring our endeavor to an end. The most important institutions in the eastern part of the Hungarian realm were depicted: the bishopric of Cenad, the bishopric of Oradea, the bishopric of Transylvania and the provostship of Sibiu.

In the end, we consider that our scientific research opened the way for future research, not only of case studies but also of wider ones, focusing upon inter-institutional relations within the medieval *apparatus*, as well as between the various administrative-territorial units and their representatives. We strongly believe that the development of these structures became more balanced after the start of the Anjou dynasty and contributed to a shift in the royal policies with an attention directed towards other aspects.

Keywords: medieval document, county, duchy, voivode, Transylvanian *dux*, Transylvanian voivode, 12th-14th centuries.

Content

SUMAR.....	
SUMMARY	
CONTENT	
INTRODUCTION.....	
1. LATIN DIPLOMATIC IN MEDIEVAL TRANSYLVANIA.....	
The research and development of diplomatic in Transylvania	
Document editions regarding the Hungarian realm (general).....	
Document editions regarding Transylvania (explicit).....	
The practice of institutionalized writing in the Kingdom of Hungary *	
Document types.....	
2. LAIC ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL INSTITUTIONS, FROM THEIR EMERGENCE UP UNTIL THE XIVTH CENTURY	
The medieval counties in the regions of Banat, Crişana, Maramureş and Transylvania during the XIIth century *	
The royal policy towards the end of the XIIth century and the early XIIIth century.....	
The counties in Banat, Crişana and Maramureş between the years 1201-1241*	
The voivode and the heads of the Transylvanian counties between 1201-1241	
The German settlement and organization within an autonomous struture in southern Transylvania	
The Teutonic Order in Burzenland between the years 1211-1225.....	
The Mongol invasion and its consequences upon the laic territorial structures.....	
The counties in Banat, Crişana and Maramureş in the second half of the XIIIth century	
The Banate of Severin	
Inner-Carpathian administrative-territorial institutions during the last decades of the Arpadian dynasty.....	
3. ECCLESIASTIC ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL INSTITUTIONS	

The bishopric of Cenad between the XIth century and 1342.....

The bishopric of Oradea between the XIth century and 1342.....

The bishopric of Transylvania between the XIth century and 1342

The provostship of Sibiu*

CONCLUSION

CHARTS AND TABLES' LIST

LIST OF MAPS

ABBREVIATIONS.....

DOCUMENTS EDITIONS.....

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