

## ABSTRACTS

**Zoltán Bicsok**

### ■ *Motifs Indicating a Military Lifestyle on the Seal Representations of the Szekler Noble Family*

Keywords: *seal representations, motifs, Szekler noble family, military lifestyle*

If we take a look at the seal material of the Szekler noble families reflecting military motifs, we notice the naturalistic and detailed representations as the main feature of these seals. A Hungarian (Szekler) infantry soldier holds a sword in his right hand and a severed, bleeding Turkish head in his left hand; a Hungarian (Szekler) horseman prepares to stab a Turkish soldier begging for mercy; another seal shows a rampant lion holding a sword, on the top of which a severed Turkish head can be seen; turbans lying on the ground and mutilated Turkish corpses – bloody scenes from the daily life in the medieval and early modern Turkish-Hungarian wars, represented on wax seals with a diameter of 1-2 cm – memories of heroic deeds, military merits and examples to follow at the same time, in a society where war was an essential feature of the way of life and military service was the basis of community identity.

**István Botár**

### ■ *Thoughts and Problems around the Colonization of the Székelys*

Keywords: *problems, colonization, Székelys*

Although in the last decade more important monographs were published about the formation of the early Székely (or Szekler) settlement system, there are more important aspects that still need to be revisited. First of them is the question regarding the original locations where the Székelys lived previously. The traditional historiography based on dialect teleconnections, toponyms, anthropological data and written sources presumes that the initial main Székely territories were in the southern and western part of Transdanubia (the peripheries of Hungary). From here some groups of Székelys were moved in Bihar county (the border region between Hungary and Romania) by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, others in Central Transylvania, and only in a third step did they find their final home in the Eastern Carpathians in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Lately the colonization of the Székelys is pushed even earlier back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The paper confronts these commonly accepted standpoints with the archaeological and historical facts. West Danubia was not populated in the 10-11<sup>th</sup> century, the

South Danubian anthropological material has no connection with the medieval anthropological material of Székely Land, written sources of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century mention the Székelys still far away from their actual territories. In concordance with this archaeological data proves 11-12<sup>th</sup> century elements (settlements, castles, churches) in the Eastern Carpathians that precede the arrival of the Székely population. Székelys cannot be attested archaeologically or in any other way in the region until the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, so until then the Eastern Carpathians belonged to the counties of the kingdom and the generally known Székely Land formed only during the 13-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**János Fodor**

### ■ *György Bernády, the “Szeklers’ Capital” and the Szeklers*

Keywords: *György Bernády, Mayor, Tîrgu Mureş, “Szekler question”*

György Bernády has become known to posterity as the founding Mayor of modern Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş, its Lord Lieutenant as well as a prominent politician during the interwar period. The aim of this article is to present the peculiar “Szekler” identity of the city’s political discourse during György Bernády’s politically active years. During his ten-year term as Mayor, between 1902 and 1912, the town discards its rural character, becoming a city on its way to modernization. Also, it is the period when the “Szekler question” becomes a highly disputed issue and starts to find a way through the daily political discourse. During WWI Bernády was also appointed State Secretary responsible for war refugees, and after 1919 he returned from Budapest to Transylvania, which became part of Romania, where he served as a leading figure of the Hungarian minority party. During this time the “Szekler question” and its various forms were used as defensive political communication strategy of that time.

**Csaba Gidó**

### ■ *Roads and Railroads in Szeklerland – from the Reform Era to the Second World War*

Keywords: *Szeklerland, roads and railroads, Reform Era, Second World War*

The present-day appearance of the Szeklerland road and railway network is the result of a long process. As a result of the public road developments initiated in the Reform Era, the main routes in the region were modernized, and between 1868 and 1915

the present-day local and state railways of the Szeklerland were built. The region was thus integrated into the economic and social circulation of the Carpathian Basin. The First World War put a considerable strain on the road and railway network, and damaged roads and bridges were only temporarily restored. In the period 1920-1940, after the change of empire, Romanian governments spent only a minimal amount of money on infrastructure maintenance. After the Second World War, the focus shifted from railways to roads, and during the decades of communism, the main routes were paved with concrete and asphalt. Roads and railways have played an important role in the economic and social development of the region, transmitting civilisational values.

**Zsolt Molnár**

■ ***Trianon in Our Public Spaces***

Keywords: *cult of Trianon, Trianon memorials, Trianon symbols, politics of memory*

The public cult of Trianon began a century ago, in January 1921, with the inauguration of a group of statues in Szabadság Square in Budapest, followed by a series of monuments related to the issue. Over the past century, architects and sculptors have immortalised the Trianon tragedy, drawing attention to the injustice of the peace treaty and giving hope for the reunification of a divided nation. Despite their ever-changing symbolism, the Trianon memorials continue to send the same message today as they did a hundred years ago: Trianon is here among us. This study looks at the history of Trianon memorials from the 1920s to the present day. It shows how the ever-changing climate of remembrance politics over the last hundred years has influenced the public commemoration of Trianon and the symbolism of the memorials.

**Botond Nagy**

■ ***Households of Villages in the Dualism Era in Háromszék County***

Keywords: *households of villages, Dualism Era, Háromszék County*

The paper explores the main features of the current expenditure and revenue of the villages belonging to Háromszék County between 1880-1914. Based on the volume of principal amounts, three periods are delimited with clear characteristics on both the income and costs sides. While in the first stage the village mostly relies on the wealth of public ownership, in the years before the Great War the additional tax became the dominant material source. In the early days

of the civil era, spending was limited to what was the most needed, then the Central Government's modernization efforts have placed an increasing burden on rural communities. Two main groups of sources are put to use: the annual budgets and accounts, respectively the municipal decisions that apply to every new item of expenditure and revenue.

**Károly-István Novák**

■ ***Udvarhely, the Typical Szekler Town of the "Blissful Times of Peace"***

Keywords: *Székelyudvarhely, typical Szekler town, Austro-Hungarian Monarchy*

After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise in 1867, a new chapter opened in Transylvania, the easternmost province. The Szekler and Saxon districts ceased to exist and the county administration became common. Small towns and market towns that could not meet the criteria of the city were transformed into large villages, almost unknown localities grew into urban industrial-mining centres.

Development was not very rapid on the disadvantaged periphery, such as the Mezőség/Câmpia Transilvaniei or Szeklerland. Before the railways were constructed, agricultural production in Szeklerland received little incentive from the national market, and small-scale manufacturing industry was pressured by competition from factory products. As there were very few factories in the area, the impoverished could not be absorbed by industry, and this increased emigration.

During the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, education and culture developed spectacularly in Transylvania and especially in Szeklerland, with a high-quality school network, especially in the case of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş, Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc and Székelykeresztúr/Cristuru Secuiesc, later Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe. The proportion and role of teachers and students was significant in these local communities.

Between 1867 and 1914, Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc has retained and even expanded its central roles in the region, and despite the toll war, the late railway connection and the modest manufacturing industry, the small-scale-trading town was one of the dominant economic centres of Szeklerland. Remaining a school town, it had a vibrant cultural life. Despite its moderate financial situation, significant modernization processes began, many infrastructural developments have been carried out, which have significantly

increased the urbanization level of the town and thus the quality of life of its citizens. This arc of development came to a halt with the outbreak of the First World War, and then, after the war, the history of the city continued in a whole new situation.

**Zsolt Orbán**

■ ***The Identity(ies) of the Székelys***

Keywords: *Székely, group identity, ethnicity, myth*

In the last two decades there were many political, economical and cultural initiatives that tried to highlight the Székely (or Szekler) ethnicity, the otherness and uniqueness of Székely identity. The study aims to give an answer to the question: are Székelys entirely Hungarian or do they have a distinct identity?

Throughout the Middle Ages the Székelys were one of the three Transylvanian estates, their fraternity with the Hungarians being emphasized starting from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Hungarian Revolution of 1848 is considered a milestone, when Székelys put away their particular identity and embraced the Hungarian one, becoming members of the Hungarian political nation.

Although they identify themselves as Hungarians and are part of the Hungarian culture, the Székelys have always maintained a somewhat distinct ethnic identity. They have always seized the opportunity to accentuate their ancient, Hunnic origin, their millennial freedom, equality, autonomy, democracy, heroism, isolation. This can be tracked in the historiography, literature, press, public discourse, heritage-making politics, in promoting or (re)inventing traditions etc. in the last two centuries.

**Mária Szikszai**

■ ***Workshop Secrets of the Anthropological Present 1. Field diary, Szatmár/Satu Mare***

Keywords: *anthropology, field diary, Szatmár/Satu Mare, Swabians*

The text is a revised version of the anthropological field diary made during a research trip in the last week of July 2018. An anthropological field diary usually

includes, but is not limited to, information and experiences experienced during the field research. The researcher talks to people, attends ceremonies, finds out property relations, maps social relations systems, and in the meantime documents all of this. The anthropological field diary includes the slow process by which the researcher goes from the moment he or she starts to write stories about the culture. The present text is based on a field study conducted in 2018, and was stylized, provided with fresh footnotes in 2021.

**Zsuzsa Szóts P.**

■ ***The Szekler Anthem Born from a Profane Psalm – the Story of a 100-year-old Song***

Keywords: *György Csanády, Cantata, Szekler Anthem, element of the commemorations*  
György Csanády wrote the *Cantata* – the lines of the song written for a women's choir, that was part of a mystery-play – exactly 100 years ago, which later became known as the *Szekler Anthem*. The original text of the *Szekler Anthem* is composed of eight lines, inspired by the forced escape from the motherland and the loss of home. These are the feelings that only those can experience and relive who were once deprived of their homeland. The circumstances of the birth, the occasions of the performance, the adoption of the anthem by the society and the inseparable social background of the *Szekler Anthem* is closely related to the functioning of the Association of Szekler University and College Students. The rationale of the *Szekler Anthem* received and still receives a lot of criticism. Despite the objections, along Kölcsey's *Hymn (Himnusz)* and Vörösmarty's *Appeal (Szózat)*, the *Szekler Anthem* is an important element of the commemorations organized on certain secular and religious holidays or events celebrating the history of the Hungarian and Szekler nation. This prayer chosen by the people has become our symbol, besides the Szekler coat of arms and flag, representing our regional cultural identity, the modern expression of our community's cohesion.

## SZÁMUNK SZERZŐI

A lapszámot szerkesztette:

**Hermann Gusztáv Mihály** és  
**Kovács Kiss Gyöngy**

**Bicsok Zoltán** (1976) – történész-  
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**Szöts P. Zsuzsa** (1983) – kulturális  
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„Az itt sorba rendezett nyolc tanulmány összeválogatásánál tekintet-  
tel voltunk arra, hogy időben minél szélesebb sávot fedjenek le, te-  
matikájuk révén pedig képet adjanak arról, milyen irányú kutatások  
folynak jelenleg a székelyföldi történészberkekben. Eleve elzárkóz-  
tunk attól, hogy itt a »háromkötetes« székelység-történet rövidített  
változatát adjuk, de azt sem szerettük volna, hogy más szerzőgárda  
révén feltétlenül annak meredek alternatíváit, netán épp cáfolatait  
tárjuk az olvasó elé. E válogatás csupán egy keresztmetszet, mely  
távol áll attól, hogy teljes legyen. [...]»

Ezekkel az előljáró gondolatokkal adjuk át a szót – egyelőre még  
nem a stafétát – a kötet fiatal szerzőinek, próbálván egyben megnyug-  
tatni az aggodalmaskodókat: »a székelyek történetét székelyek (is)  
írják«...»

(Hermann Gusztáv Mihály)

ISSN 1222 8338



9 771222 283304 2 10 1 2

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