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### TOOLS AND TERMINOLOGIES OF BREAKING AND HARL SOFTENING METHODS IN HEMP PROCESSING IN COUNTY BORSOD-ABAÚJ- ZEMPLÉN

(Abstract)

The authors studied hemp processing, linen production, the changes in national costume of peasantry in about 200 settlements of county Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. They publish their material in the editions and series of the Museum. In this article they present the different phrases of preparing harl material to qualification, the breaking (*törés*), the dressing (*tilolás*), and the different tools of harl softening /breaking mills (*törőmalom*), falling mills (*kálló*), beetles (*kölyű*), the hemp rubbers (*kenderdörzsölő*).

The authors point out that two kinds of tools and their varieties used for the first breaking of the hemp can be found in the county. The breaking mill of beetle type (*kölyű típusú kendertörő*) (fig. 11) can be found on a relatively narrow area. It is known in villages regarded by people as well as by the ethnographic literature inhabited by Eastern Palots ("barkó"). The other tool for breaking hemp is the breaking mill of dresser type (*tiló típusú kendertörő*). Both the board and the pierced dressers are used. The latter one is characteristic on the well definable territories of Taktaköz and Bodroglaköz (map 3). Tools with cutting or breaking edges are also to be found among the breaking mills of dresser type. Its name (*tiló* or *terlica*) hints at its relations to nationalities. It is characteristic of villages in the Zemplén Mountains and it is in connection with the German and Slovakian settlements in the 18th c. (map 3). Tools of the second breaking of the hemp are also the board type dressers. The authors paid special attention to registering the names of the tools and the terminologies of phases of production carried out on them, just like on putting these data on maps (maps 9—10).

After breaking the harl follows the softening. Plentiful of terminologies, tools and edifices are representing this phase in county Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. *Breaking mills* are to be found in counties Nógrád, Heves and Szolnok as well. In our area about fifty mills were functioning, some of them founded as early as the 15th—16th cc. There are two types of breaking mills. One (the majority) worked with water energy, where falling wooden clubs (*fabunkó*), "bakó" and arrows (*nyíl*) broke the harl (fig. 12—13). The other type was motor-driven. In this case an iron roll (vashenger) running round on a table softened the harl (fig. 17—18). The distribution of the types and their names are also registered on maps (fig. 14—15),

just like the attraction territories of the breaking mills (map 16). The attraction territory of a larger mill contained 6–8 settlements. The whole county could be divided according to these mills. It is interesting that the place of harl softening mills is occupied by edifices of different type in the Bodrogeköz villages where, at the same time, the name of the hemp rubber (*kenderdörzsölő*) is known (fig. 19). This tool has contacts towards the Great Plain as it evidently takes the place of the mills on plainy areas.

A similarly interesting territory is county Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén if we consider the distribution of tools and methods of harl softening. Some methods can be dated back to the time of occupation of the country (896), appearing in hemp processing from the leather culture of the time. Thus appears the simple chemical method of retting and fermentation of the harl in brany water. The stamping with feet and treading on the harl is characteristic feature in North-Hungary. Putting hemp in the bed and softening with the warmth of the human body and breaking with its weight is also an ancient habit inherited from the leather culture. These methods are not characteristic of a given territory, they occur sporadically (fig. 20).

The authors mention that hemp procession has preserved several archaic methods and tools. The registering of the names of tools and terminologies of the working processes on maps is suitable for gaining new data and informations about different ethnographic groups and also for discovering connections and influences of the nationalities.

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