

PRELIMINARY STUDY: ANTHROPNOMY FROM MARAMUREȘ COUNTY (14TH TO 16TH CENTURY)

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Abstract. Prin lucrarea de față¹ se dorește cercetarea numelor de persoane din comitatul Maramureș, fapt ce contribuie la o mai bună cunoaștere a nobilimii. Cronologic, cercetarea se încadrează între începutul secolului al XIV-lea și finalul secolului al XVI-lea.

Intervalul a fost ales în funcție de surse, documente medievale, pe care le avem la dispoziție. Sursele folosite au fost documentele medievale întâlnite atât în formă edită cât și inedită. Principalul instrument utilizat a fost volumul de documente întocmit de Ioan MIHALYI de Așa, *Diplome maramureșene din secolele XIV și XV*. În plus, au fost utilizate și documente inedite, anume documente deținute de Direcția Județeană a Arhivelor Naționale Maramureș și de Arhivele Naționale din Ungaria (hungaricana.hu).

Prin studierea numelor nobililor se dorește aprofundarea unor elemente din societatea medievală: relațiile dintre nobili, poziția femeii în familie și în comitat, dar și date privind familia din comitat.

Cuvinte cheie: comitatul Maramureș, antroponim, nobilime, Evul Mediu, familie nobiliară.

1. Introduction

*The names of individual men are always taken from some property of the men to whom they are given. In regard to time, men are named after the Saints on whose feasts they are born: or in respect of some blood relation; thus a son is named after his father or some other relation*². Being an era based eminently on the prescriptions of the Church, the society of the Middle Ages paid special attention to the names of people. Thus, as Thomas of Aquinas stated, a child is named either after a saint's name or after a relative.

The aim of this paper is sketching some general aspects regarding the anthroponymy from Maramureș county from 14th to 16th century. This time span was chosen because of the sources, namely by 14th century there are documents that record information about Maramureș, and after 15th century the information regarding the county

¹ This paper is a small part of my doctoral thesis *Maramureș society in the 14th - 16th centuries: nobles and relationships between families from Maramureș County*; the public defence of the thesis took place in Cluj on March 17th, 2017 (*Societatea maramureșană în secolele XIV-XVI: nobili și relații între familiile comitatului Maramureș*).

² Aquino, 3, 37, 2 (q3).

grew. Another aspect that needs to be recorded is that the main sources used were medieval documents. Firstly and the most important are the documents edited by Ioan Mihalyi of Apșa and some documents from the Maramureș branch of the Romanian National Archives and from The National Archives of Hungary.

Even if the common ancestors were important for the members of the same descendants³ there are not many examples in the documents in which we can find a continuity of the first name from one generation to another, especially from father to son. In some situations, continuity is more visible to the second generation, from grandfather to grandson. For the first recorded inhabitants of Sarasău we know about name continuity from father to his son in the year 1326. Thus, Stanislau receives his name after his father Stan⁴. In Giulești, in the middle of the 14th century, there is Giula son of Dragoș, who names one of his son Dragoș, like his father⁵. Also in Rozavlea there is the case of Gheorghe, son of Grigore, in the year 1353⁶. In the following century, in the year 1419, in Șieu there is Peter Man son of Peter of Șieu⁷. In 1426 in Sarasău Stan son of Stanislau of Crăciunești⁸ is recorded. In 1429 we encounter Michael and his son Michael of Sarasău⁹.

In this manner we see how the nobles were named by their own name in relation to their father, sometimes also their grandfather, and also by the name of the owned property, such as Mihail, son of Luca of Ferești. The part of the name with the property the nobles owned could change during the life due to the division of the common property (between *fratres condivisionales*) or due to the possession of several estates by a nobleman¹⁰. In other words, according to Ioan DRĂGAN, there were four elements that defined the nobleman: the name received at birth, the affiliation, the estate of origin and the social status¹¹. Another way of naming was identifying a person after distant relatives, as in the situation of Dragoș, son of Clement, son of Dragoș of Sarasău. It is not mandatory that Dragoș was Dragoș's nephew but the latter could as well have been a more distant relative¹².

From the fourteenth century the introduction of a *cognomen* next to the first name¹³ is generalised. Among the reasons for introducing a surname may be the following ones: the need for more accurate identification of a person within a community, it was an approach that facilitated the legal practice in easing the bureaucratic work of the medieval chancellor, also with the population growth there was a use of a lim-

³ Fügedy, 1982, p. 27.

⁴ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 3.

⁵ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 13.

⁶ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 16.

⁷ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 134 (131).

⁸ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 155.

⁹ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 162.

¹⁰ Fügedy, 1982, p. 28.

¹¹ Drăgan, 2000, p. 191.

¹² Fügedy, 1982, p. 28; Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 161.

¹³ Turcuș, 2001, p. 14.

ited number of names¹⁴. As well, the difficulty of finding most of the people who appeared in some documents only by name and also sometimes after having both, name and surname¹⁵. Before introducing this surname, we can point out a stronger connection between the relatives¹⁶. Among the first recorded names, we have in 1415 Petru Nemeș of Giulești and Danci Ioan of Oncești¹⁷. In the first case “Nemeș” comes from the Hungarian equivalent name “Noble”. One can easily observe the non-uniformity among the acceptance and use of this surname. Therefore, the name also depicted the complete identity of a person, both female and male, and the naming of children can also be a factor in how they perceived their family¹⁸.

For Maramureș county, over time, there have been some last names that have been preserved and which can be found even today. In many situations the name can be associated with certain villages, because they are present only in that particular place. Thus, Danci is a name that is widespread nowadays in Borșa, Vișeu or Săcel.

Although the family name has been present since the beginning of the 15th century, it becomes more widespread at the end of the mentioned century and the beginning of the nearest in order. Next, we could mention names that are usually associated with some places, according to the medieval documents. The family name Hodor can be found in Budești or Bârsana, Belin in Sârbi, Bud in Budești, in Ieud there are the following names: Cionca, Gorzo and Balea, in Sarasău: Banc or Gherheș, Nan in Șieu or Vișeu, the version Man is also found in Șieu, Deac and Turcuș were present in Dragomirești, Feketeu in Cosău, Urda in Leordina, Pop appears in several villages including Giulești and Vișeu, Buftea or Mariș¹⁹ were found in Bogdan Vodă (the former Cuhea), Vlasin in Bârsana or Rednic in Giulești.

A small part of Maramureș nobles chose to Hungarianize their name. Some moved to other counties and they also adopted the Catholic confession. Thus, the surname usually found in the Hungarian area with the enclitic -i (y), -fi (fy, ffy), -fia (fya)²⁰ in Maramureș is found in isolated situations. Here can be mentioned the members of Dragfy family, Drag’s descendants, choosing to live in Sătmar county after the fifteenth century. Then, at the beginning of the 16th century, we can identify Mihail Leordinay of Leordina in 1502, or Ioan Papffya of Săliște in 1504.

In the case of female and male Romanian anthroponyms from Maramureș county, we will be able to notice three patterns. In the first place there are the names of Latin origin, then those of Romanian-Slavic origin and, finally, the numerous category of catholic names found in the calendar²¹. In the following, the female and male anthroponyms will be analyzed separately.

¹⁴ Turcuș, 2001, p. 15

¹⁵ Turcuș, 2001, p. 15.

¹⁶ Bouchard, 2001, p. 98.

¹⁷ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 111.

¹⁸ Bouchard, 2001, p. 98.

¹⁹ Nowadays we meet the name Mariș in the village Ieud.

²⁰ Drăgan, 2000, p. 191.

²¹ Pop, 2011, p. 271.

2. Masculine Anthroponymy

After studying documents regarding Maramureș county in the Middle Ages it was possible to identify a number of 141 names used, with an unequal frequency, by the male nobles. In the fourteenth century there are some names mentioned with a slight variety. Things changed in the fifteenth century due to the increase of the number of documents. Thus, we witness a variety and a considerably greater number of anthroponyms in documents.

The anthroponyms identified in the documents are noted in **Table 1**.

In their first stage of life, the male nobles were recorded in documents according to their relation with their father (and the estate they owned) or other male figures of his family. Thus, in many situations one can find, when reading the sources, the degrees of kinship that a noble had in his family: brother, cousin, nephew, brother-in-law, uncle, husband, father or grandfather. These details were of utter importance mainly in trials when they judged land inheritance problems. After the nobles grew up, they tended to identify only with their own name and the estate they held. In addition to these identifications within the family, there were also elements that were attributed to them and through which they were identified in the county as neighbors, abutters or witnesses. These aspects were also important in trials on land disputes or other quarrels among nobles. Also, their role in society was attached to the name: vicecomes, magistrate, notary, abutter, witness, neighbor or priest.

Furthermore, another detail that is highlighted in documents is whether the nobles were dead or alive. This aspect mattered especially in processes. In fact, in many cases, the death of a noble caused some lawsuits to start. The age of the nobles was not known from documents, or at least not from the ones known so far²².

From the researched documents regarding the medieval county of Maramureș there were names of Romanian and Slavonic origin²³ to be identified. Thus, the following anthroponyms could be noted: Balea, Banc, Costea, Crăciun, Danciu, Dragu, Dragoș, Duma, Giurcă, Gostoia, Iuga, Ivașcu, Lupșa, Man (Mănăilă), Nan, Nicolae, Radu, Pinteia (Pintilie), Roman, Stan (Stanislau), Vlad (Vladislav) or Voicu²⁴. The Romanian names identified by Radu POPA are: Radu, Oprea, Man, Maril, Crăciun and Neag²⁵. Some physical attributes taken as a nickname are to be found in anthroponyms: Crețul (Curly), Feyer (White), Mic (Little), Fekete (Black). In relation to the social status are: Nemeș (Noble), Vaida (Voievod - Voivode) and Ostaș (Soldier). Also, connections are made with certain people: Tătar or Turcuș²⁶. Bogdan is the most widely used Slavic theophoric name, and Bogdan the infidel voivode is the best known example for the space we are researching²⁷.

²² In other documents we have mentioned ages, like in a situation from from the Cluj branch of the Romanian National Archives CJ-FD-00329-1-166 from 31.10.1533.

²³ Drăgan, 2000, p. 191.

²⁴ Pop, 2011, p. 271-272; Drăgan, 2000, p. 191.

²⁵ Popa, 1997, p. 27.

²⁶ Drăgan, 2000, p. 192.

²⁷ Turcuș, 2001, p. 132.

LETTER	ANTHROPONYM	FRECVENCY
A	Andrei, Andreica, Alexandru (Alexandrin), Alexiu, Augustin	5
B	Balc, Balazer (Balasyr), Balea, Banc, Bartolomeu, Bârsan, Bela, Bence, Benedict, Bilc, Birtoc, Blasiu, Bogdan, Bud	14
C	Carol, Carul, Chindriș, Chodur, Claudiu, Clement, Codrea, Coroi, Costea, Cotârlă, Crăciun, Crețul, Cristian	13
D	Dan, Danci, David, Dionisie, Dominic, Drag, Dragomir, Dragoș, Duma, Dumitru, Dunca, Drutha	12
E	Emeric	1
F	Farkstan, Frățilă	2
G	Gavrilă, Gheorghe, Gherheș, Giula, Giurca, Giurgiu, Gorzo, Gostoia (Gostolea), Grad, Grigore	10
H	Hanc, Havrila (Gavrilă?), Henț, Hotico	4
I	Iacob, Ioan (Iool, Iancu, Ivan), Iuga, Ivanca, Ivanciuc (Ivașcu), Ilie, Ilarie, Iurca, Iusco	13
L	Lachk, Lad, Ladislau, Ladomir (Lodomir), Ladvan, Lazăr, Leonard (Leu), Leuca, Luca, Lupșa	12
M	Maka, Marcu, Mariș, Mauriciu, Maxim, Mayn, Mănăilă, Mic, Micle, Micula, Mihail, Mircea, Miroslav, Moiş	13
N	Nan, Neag, Nichita, Nicolae	4
O	Opriș	1
P	Panc, Pârja, Petru, Pinte, Pintilie	5
R	Rad, Radu, Roman	3
S	Sandrin (Alexandru), Sas, Simon, Solomon, Stan, Stanislau	6
T	Tatomir, Tătar, Teodor, Tivadar, Toma	5
V	Valentin, Vana Niger, Vanc, Vancea, Vinț, Vlad, Vladimir, Vlașin, Voicu	9
W	Wanchyuk	1
Z	Zemere	1

Table 1. Masculine anthroponyms.

These Romanian and Slavonic names coexisted with the Catholic ones that came on the Hungarian track. The fact that Maramureş started to be organised as a county and implicitly the frequent contacts with the Catholic Hungarians led to the adoption and adaptation of some names with a certain Catholic character among the inhabitants of the Maramureş county. The names²⁸: Dan, David, Ilie, Solomon, Iacob, Gavil (Gabriel), Mihail and Ioan hold an Old Testament origin. The theophoric names are²⁹: Cristian, Bogdan and Teodor; sure enough this names can keep the Eastern mark for their bearers. The names with New Testament origin are the following³⁰: Andrei, Bartolomeu, Filip, Ioan, Luca, Marcu, Petru, Simon, Ştefan, Toma, Baltazar and Lazăr. The following can be related to saints and martyrs³¹: Alexandru, Augustin, Clement, Carol (Corui), Grigore, Gheorghe, Valentin, Stanislau, Benedict, Blasiu, Dionisie, Dominic, Ştefan and Emeric. The apostolic anthroponyms³² found in the documents concerning the inhabitants of Maramureş are: Petru, Ioan, Andrei, Iacob, Filip, Toma, Bartolomeu, Simon, and from the evangelists there is also the name Marcu.

3. Feminine anthroponymy from Maramureş County

In the Middle Ages female presence was important especially because of their role in procreation. More than this, in Werbőczy's *Tripartitum* (1517) it is stated that the woman gave shape to the seed generated by men, as seen in the following *pater enim generat mater autem formam solum generandi dat et praestat*³³. This way of perceiving the difference between the two sexes can be tracked in medieval documents. In this sources (legal documents) the registration of female presence was on a secondary level, after men³⁴. Thus, we will not find names of women in offices that were responsible for leading the county. However, in general, in those where they were named, they were mentioned in relation to the nobles from the family they belonged to.

From researched sources we meet just over forty female presences in the chronological range 1301–1526 in the County of Maramureş. In the fourteenth century there were only six female presences registered, for the first two decades of the sixteenth century only four names, so that the rest and most of them, were recorded in the fifteenth century. For these female presence 24 different names were identified.

The anthroponyms identified in the documents are: Agnes, Ana, Anastasia, Anca, Axica, Baba, Caterina, Călina, Dorotea, Elena, Ilka, Magdalena, Malinca, Margareta, Maria (Marişca), Marina, Marta, Mălina, Sandra, Scora, Sofia, Stana, Teodora and Zora. Of these, the most used were Stana and Margareta. The first one is of Slavonic origin, and the second of Latin origin, commonly used for the women in the Kingdom of Hungary. Margareta is one of the three names, together with the names Nicolae and Ecaterina, which had a significant role in shaping the Western and Tran-

²⁸ Turcuş, 2001, p. 113.

²⁹ Turcuş, 2001, p. 92-93.

³⁰ Turcuş, 2001, p. 92.

³¹ Drăgan, 2000, p. 192; Turcuş, 2001 p. 93.

³² Turcuş, 2001, p. 138.

³³ *Tripartitum*, 2005, I, 7:3.

³⁴ Turcuş, 2001, p. 163.

sylvanian onomastics³⁵. Old Testament origin have the following names: Maria, Ana and from the apostols time there can be mentioned the name Elena. Taking over names of Catholic origin such as Elena, Caterina, Magdalena, Margareta can mean, as the medievalist I. Drăgan states, that the nobles assume a public life within the Kingdom³⁶. It may also suggest the assumption of nobility and proximity to Catholic communities, but not necessarily the adoption of Catholicism.

Of all the women present in the documents at the time of their recording, only four were dead, the rest were widows, mothers, sisters of nobles, aunts of nobles, and also their status were married or still single. Thus, their life always depended on some male figures, first the fathers, then their husbands, and if their husbands died the widows depended on their sons. Furthermore, in trial they were often represented by a male relative or a representative³⁷. Another interesting detail is noticeable, so far there are no documents, for the Maramureș county, in which one can find exactly the age of a child or of a women.

Another aspect that can be spotted is that most women were identified by their own name, and in two cases the place of belonging was clearly mentioned: Anca of Rednic in the year 1475 and Agnes of Săpânța in the year 1431³⁸. In other situations it was noted that the women were recorded according to the degree of kinship or their relation with the men from that particular document. This visible dependence, that can be frequently spotted in the sources, stays under the sign of the difference and upon the legal, social and economic limitation of the women in comparison to the men³⁹.

* * *

The process of integration of Maramureș into the Kingdom of Hungary had certain effects, including the adoption of a certain diversity in the use of names. Thus, in addition to a new organization system – the county, and its offices – the nobles of Maramureș began to use new names, from Hungary.

From the analysis of the county's anthroponyms one can see the use of names with Romanian origin (like Mic and Iuga), but also names used in the Catholic calendar. With certain Hungarian provenience there are: Benedict, Carol, Clement or Leonard, and for woman Caterina or Margareta.

When referring to nobles, until the 15th century, they appeared in relation to their relatives (parents, uncles, grandparents of brothers) or to the office they practiced in the county, or scarce outside the county. In the 15th century the last name was adopted, by which one nobleman could be more easily identified, and could be more easily distinguished by other nobles. The pattern by which a nobleman was recorded in medieval documents is like in the example: Petru Gherheș, son of Ioan Gherheș of Sarasău. Together with the family name one can identify the village from which the noble came

³⁵ Turcuș, 2001, p. 33.

³⁶ Drăgan, 2000, p. 192.

³⁷ Vizauer, 2017, p. 104.

³⁸ Mihalyi, 2009, doc. 306, 307, 166 (167). The name Rednic refers to the nobles from Giulești.

³⁹ Magina, 2015, p. 88.

from. For example if we know that the noble's family name was Balea it is possible that the noble came from Ieud, and if the noble was caled Gherheș, he was from Sarasău.

Thereby, analyzing the medieval society of Maramureș from the perspective of onomastic studies, several aspects are to be found. In this respect, we can mention: the relationship between the nobles, the position of the woman within the family (and into the county), and information about the family from the Medieval Era.

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