

ETHNIC NICKNAMES (SOBRIQUETS) IN TRANSYLVANIA DURING THE 13th – 14th CENTURIES

Abstract: In this article I intend to present and analyse briefly a special category of nicknames, which I have called ethnic nicknames, because each of them represents the name of an ethnicity in Hungarian and Latin. I have extracted the nicknames from published medieval documents relating to the Transylvanian principality and the contiguous counties to the west and north (Caraş, Timiş, Cenad, Arad, Zarand, Bihor, Crasna, Middle Szolnok, Sătmar and Maramureş). The period I had in view is that of the twelfth-fourteenth centuries; more precisely, the superior time limit is the end of the Angevin Age (1382-1386).

Twenty nicknames have been identified and presented here. They are included in the sixteen annexes at the end of this study, as follows: 1. The Bulgarian; 2. The Czech; 3. The Croatian; 4. The Cuman; 5. The Jew; 6/A. The German, 6/B. The Saxon and 6/C. The Teuton 7. The Italian; 8. The Latin; 9. The Hungarian; 10. The Pecheneg; 11. The Pole; 12. The Romanian; 13/A The Russian, 13/B The Slav and 13/C The Slovak; 14. The Saracen; 15. The Szekler; 16. The Tartar.

Keywords: ethnic nicknames, Transylvania, Middle Ages, onomastics, sobriquets, ethnicity

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As is well known, in the past most anthroponyms had a clear meaning, which, to a large extent, has been lost in time. Numerous examples can be found in documents relating to medieval Transylvania, such as: Agna (*little lamb*; 1235),² Ancilla (*maid, slave*; 1235),³ Batur (*valiant*; 1221),⁴ Farkas (*wolf*; the twelfth-fourteenth centuries and later),⁵ Fichur (*son, boy*; 1202-1203),⁶ etc.

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² Johannis Karácsonyi, Samuelis Borovszky, *Regestrum Varadinense. Examini ferri candentis*, Budapest, 1903, no. 389, p. 307 (Infra: *Regestrum Varadinense*); *Documente privind Istoria României*, Veacul XI, XII şi XIII, C. Transilvania, vol. I (1075-1250), Bucureşti, Editura Academiei Române, 1951, no. 67/389, p. 147 (Infra: *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*).

³ *Regestrum Varadinense*, no. 385, p. 305; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 67/385, p. 146.

⁴ *Regestrum Varadinense*, no. 307, p. 268; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 67/307, p. 121.

⁵ *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 4, pp. 2-3; no. 41, pp. 23-27; *Documente privind Istoria României*, C. Transilvania, Veacul XIII, Vol. II (1251-1300), Bucureşti, Editura Academiei Române, 1952, no. 369, p. 327 (Infra: *DIR.C.XIII/2*); *Documente privind Istoria României*, Veacul XIV, C. Transilvania, vol. I (1301-1320), Bucureşti, Editura Academiei Române, 1953, no. 21, pp. 16-17; *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, C. Transilvania, vol. XIII (1366-1370), edited by Ioan Dani, Konrad Gündisch, Viorica Pervain, Aurel Răduţiu, Adrian Rusu,

Referring to the anthroponymy of the twentieth century, Romulus Vulcănescu noted that: “The structure of contemporary names no longer reflects the social status and the personality of the bearer. People’s names have become bland and irrelevant in our century...”⁷ Even if the majority of Christian anthroponyms have a well-established meaning,⁸ they do not express physical traits, spiritual features or the nature of the events that the bearer went through and that influenced his existence. In most cases, these names indicated only the fact that the person denominated was a Christian.

The relevant category of expressive onomastic elements includes nicknames, in this case ethnic nicknames, due to the fact that they tell us something important about the bearer, revealing that person’s ethnic background. Therefore, a research related to ethnic nicknames can bring an important contribution to a better knowledge of the history of Transylvania, more precisely, of its ethnic complexity. Thus, the purpose of this undertaking has been to identify, catalogue and bring ethnic nicknames to the attention of historical research or of auxiliary sciences (onomastics, for example). Ethnic nicknames represent an element that has so far been less frequently addressed by researchers.

The nicknames that are the subject of this article have been extracted from published medieval documents referring to voivodal Transylvania and the adjacent counties (Caraș, Timiș, Cenad, Arad, Zarand, Bihor, Crasna, Middle Szolnok, Sătmar and Maramureș) until the end of the Angevin era (1382/1386).⁹ However, I will use the more extensive understanding of Transylvania as a region which includes the whole space mentioned above.

Just like any type of research aimed at more distant periods in time, the study of medieval nicknames has its own limits and difficulties, which can affect the final results of the objectives the researcher aims to achieve. One of the main difficulties in the case of nicknames consists in identifying the reasons that led to the assignation / the emergence of a sobriquet. In many situations, the motivation is clear, but there are plenty of cases where it is downright difficult, if not impossible to surmise it,¹⁰ as the meaning of the

Susana Andea, București, Editura Academiei Române, 1991, no. 314, pp. 480-481 etc. (Infra: *DRH.C/13*).

⁶ *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 41, p. 26.

⁷ Romulus Vulcănescu, *Antroponimia în “obiceiul pământului”*, în “Actele celui de-al XII-lea congres internațional de lingvistică și filologie romanică”, București, Editura Academiei Române, 1970, pp. 1099-1103 (p. 1099).

⁸ Aurelia Bălan-Mihailovici, *Dicționar onomastic creștin: repere etimologice și martirologice*, București, Editura Sophia, 2009.

⁹ *Documente privind Istoria României*, C. Transilvania, Veacul XI, XII și XIII, Vol. I-II (1075-1300) și Veacul XIV, Vol. I-IV (1301-1350), București, Editura Academiei Române, 1951-1955; *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, C. Transilvania, vol. X-XVI (1351-1385), București, Editura Academiei Române, 1977-2014.

¹⁰ Mariann Sliz, *Személynévadás az Anjou-korban*, Históriaantik, Budapest, 2011, p. 228.

nickname remains obscure.¹¹ Concerning the situation of ethnic nicknames, the reason is obvious; however, we must not abandon caution entirely, because there are examples in which sobriquets did not express the ethnicity of the bearer, but had a different source. It is well-known that John Lenghel (Polack), who was not Polish, got his nickname due to the fact that he accompanied King Charles Robert to Poland.¹²

The geographic location of individuals who had ethnic nicknames is also difficult, because many people owned property in different counties, and in the documents they are mentioned either in connection with a certain estate, or with another. Because of this, but also due to the lack of more information, most of the times it is possible to determine the place (town, county) of origin, or even the residence of the people we deal with in this study. In the annexes at the end of the article, where I nominated each individual who carries an ethnic nickname, I have shown the county or counties in which that person owned property or conducted his activity.

However, the results obtained from researching ethnic nicknames are not to be neglected, as they reflect, in addition to interethnic relations or the mobility of some of the inhabitants, the great ethnic diversity of Transylvania in the medieval period. This was a determining element in the formation of Transylvanian society and culture, both medieval and modern.

Before starting to analyse ethnic nicknames, I should clarify the difference between nicknames and surnames, although some researchers talk about individual surnames when they refer to what I call here nicknames.¹³ A nickname is regarded as an onomastic element with affective content, granted to a person on the basis of physical or mental characteristics, or taking into account his activities. When the nickname is generalised by being adopted by several members of the family, it loses both its affective content and its ironic or satirical character, becoming a surname.¹⁴ However, the surname derived from a nickname continues to have a somewhat personal

¹¹ Monique Bourin, *Les formes anthroponymiques et leur évolution d'après données du cartulaire du chapitre cathédral de D'Agde (Xe siècle - 1250)*, in "Genèse médiévale de l'anthroponymie moderne, Études d'anthroponymie médiévale (Ire et Ile rencontres - Azay le Ferron, 1986-1987)", sous la dir. de Monique Bourin, Tome I, Publications de L'Université de Tours, 1988, pp. 179-217 (p. 193).

¹² *Ibidem*.

¹³ Albert Dauzat considered the name bestowed in the wake of heroic, comic, etc. happenings as an individual surname – *Les noms de personnes. Origine et évolution*, Paris, Librairie Delagrave, 1934, 11.

¹⁴ Camelia Fircă, *Porecla și supranume în Oltenia*, Editura Universitaria, Craiova, 2008, p. 18; Camelia Zăbavă, *Porecla – o "insulă" de mentalitate arhaică în postmodernitate*, in Nicolae Felecan (ed.), "Numele și numirea. Actele Conferinței Internaționale de Onomastică, Ediția I: Interferențe multietnice în antroponimie", Baia Mare, 19-21 September 2011, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2011, pp. 287-295 (p. 288); Mariana Carmen Pielaru, *Porecla în limbile română și franceză*, Craiova, Editura Legis, 2012, p. 82.

character, reflecting the situation in which the bearer found himself at a given moment.¹⁵

I have clarified this aspect with regard to nicknames and surnames because we have a case in which a nickname may have been turned into a surname, being used by several members of the same families. This was Ceh / Cheh (The Czech). The first character mentioned by this nickname was Jacob yclept Cheh (*Jacobus dictus Cheh*), a noble of Reud (Rediu, Cluj County), referred to in 1336 as the late father of Peter¹⁶. His sons, Peter, Michael, Andrew, Deseu and Ladislau, mentioned in the following years, were also called Ceh / Cheh¹⁷. As I said, it is possible that the nickname Cheh was passed from father to sons. If this was the case, then a nickname was converted into a surname.

Ethnic nicknames in medieval Transylvania

I have identified 20 different ethnic nicknames borne by 136 individuals (135 men and 1 woman), which I have grouped into the 16 annexes that can be found at the end of the article: Annex 1. The Bulgarian; 2. The Czech; 3. The Croatian; 4. The Cuman; 5. The Jew; 6/A. The German, 6/B. The Saxon and 6/C. The Teuton 7. The Italian; 8. The Latin; 9. The Hungarian; 10. The Pecheneg; 11. The Pole; 12. The Romanian; 13/A The Russian, 13/B The Slav and 13/C The Slovak; 14. The Saracen; 15. The Szekler; 16. The Tartar.

The following table includes some information that provides a clearer picture on the frequency of each of the nicknames.

¹⁵ Teodor Oancă, *Geografie antroponimică românească. Metodă și aplicații*, Editura de Sud, Craiova, 1998, p. 13.

¹⁶ *Documente privind Istoria României, Veacul XIV, C. Transilvania, vol. III (1331-1340)*, București, Editura Academiei Române, 1954, no. 304, p. 396 (Infra: *DIR.C.XIV/3*).

¹⁷ A document from 1345 mentions all the brothers together: *Documente privind Istoria României, Veacul XIV, C. Transilvania, vol. IV (1341-1350)*, București, Editura Academiei Române, 1955, no. 387, pp. 275-276, 646-647 (Infra: *DIR.C.XIV/4*); Ferenc Piti, *Anjou-kori oklevéltár, XXIX (1345)*, Budapest – Szeged, 2013, no. 838, pp. 462-463 (Infra: *Anjou, XXIX*).

	Ethnic nickname		The forms encountered in documents	No. of individuals (total: 136)		In percentages	
1	The Bulgarian		Bolgar, Bulgar	2		1.5%	
2	The Czech		Cheh, Chech, Cheeh, Cheech, Ceh	20		14.7%	
3	The Croat		Horuath, Horuat	3		2.2%	
4	The Cuman		Kun, Cwn, Kwn	9		6.6 %	
5	The Jew		Sydou	1		0.7%	
6	A	The German	Nemeth	2	15	1.5 %	11%
	B	The Saxon	Saxo, Zaz, Zaaz	10		7.3 %	
	C	The Teuton	Teutonicus	2		1.5 %	
7	The Italian		Olaz, Oloz, Olasz	4		2.9%	
8	The Latin		Latinus	1		0.7%	
9	The Hungarian		Magyar, Magar	7		5.1%	
10	The Pecheneg		Beseneu, Besseneu, Bessenow, Bissenus, Byssenus	5		3.7%	
11	The Pole		Polonus	1		0.7%	
12	The Romanian		Olacus, Olachus, Olachi, Volachus, Wolahus	9		6.6%	
13	A	The Russian	Uruz, Vros, Vruz, Wruz	7	19	5.1 %	14%
	B	The Slav	Sclavus, Sclaus	5		3.7 %	
	C	The Slovak	Tot, Toth, Thoth, Touth, Thowth	7		5.1 %	
14	The Saracen		Serechen	1		0.7%	
15	The Szekler		Syculus, Siculo, Zekul, Zekel	32		23.5%	
16	The Tartar		Tartarus, Tatar, Thatar	8		5.9%	

Table no. 1: Ethnic nicknames in Transylvania during the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries

The data in the table should not be seen as absolute. They offer only a general picture on the ethnic nicknames used by the population of Transylvania. The information I have obtained permits just a comparison between the various nicknames used.

Certainly, a greater number of people had nicknames like this back then, but only some of them have reached us, through written documents. As can be seen in the annexes at the end of this study, the vast majority of the persons under examination were of noble condition. There is a small number of dependent people or free non-nobles, such as serfs, townspeople or “guests” from the West. It is impossible to determine how many people of a simple condition, who were not mentioned in official documents or in other types of written sources, were called by their fellows The Romanian, The Hungarian, The Saxon or The Slav. Therefore, the data obtained do not reflect the real situation in quantitative terms, but are merely orientative; nonetheless, this information allows the emergence of a hierarchy that highlights the main ethnic groups which determined the appearance of ethnic slurs. Also, it is possible for some persons to have been registered twice, in particular in those cases in which the information about the individual in question is poor.

Further I will briefly analyse every ethnic nickname, going into details only where the available information is more consistent and relevant for a better understanding of the emergence and perpetuation of a specific sobriquet.

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The Bulgarian (*Bolgar, Bulgar*): I have identified only two individuals nicknamed The Bulgarian inside the Carpathian Arch: *Johannes dictus Bolgar* and *Ladislaus dictus Bulgar / Bolgar*. Could they have been of Bulgarian ethnicity or descendants of Bulgarians, or, like the aforementioned John yclept Lenghel, could they have acquired nicknames in the wake of happenings related to Bulgarians or Bulgaria? In Alba County there was a village which had the name of *Chergewd Bulgaricum / Chergewd Bulgary*⁵⁷ (today, Cergău Mic, Alba County), founded, apparently, with the contribution of Bulgarians who came to this area from the south of the Danube in the thirteenth century.⁵⁸ This confirms the existence of communities of Bulgarians in Transylvania also during the following century. Therefore, the appearance of the nickname The Bulgarian in an area inhabited by large numbers of Romanians, but also of Saxons, is more than plausible.

⁵⁷ Franz Zimmermann, Karl Werner, *Urkundenbuch zur Geschichte der Deutschen in Siebenbürgen*, I (1191-1342), Hermannstadt, 1892, no. 525, pp. 476-478 (Infra: *Ub.*, I); *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 294, pp. 385-387.

⁵⁸ Petru Sechel, *Cergău Mic. Studiu monografic*, Blaj, Editura Astra, 2005, pp. 57-60.

Still, let us not lose sight of the other hypothesis. It is more than possible that those two individuals, or at least John yclept the Bulgarian, first mentioned in 1366, took part in the Bulgarian campaign of the Hungarian King Louis, who besieged and conquered Vidin in 1365.⁵⁹ Like the already mentioned John yclept Lenghel, who accompanied King Charles Robert in Poland, he may have owed his nickname to this fact.

The Czech (*Ceh, Chech, Cheeh, Cheech, Ceh*; Annex 2): individuals carrying the ethnic nickname The Czech represented the second largest group, after those nicknamed The Szekler. These were 20 people, geographically distributed across several counties, such as Dăbâca, Cluj, Turda, Alba, Târnava or Bihor.

Andrew, Michael, Peter, Deseu, George and Ladislau were the sons of Iacob, all being called Chech (see Annex 2). If we take into account the fact that several people came from the same family, and the younger generation bore the name Ceh [Czech] as a cognomen and not as an agnomen, then the number of individuals who actually bore the ethnic nickname The Czech was lower. Also, in a case like this, the sobriquet does not necessarily indicate the ethnicity of the bearer.

The written sources do not talk about groups of Czechs colonising Transylvania or migrating from the area of Bohemia. However, some toponymic elements refer to their ethnic name: *Chehyweolgfew* (The Source of the Czech's Valley) in the county of Crasna (a settlement in the proximity of the localities Șimleul Silvaniei, Nușfalău and Zăuan, now disappeared, Sălaj County; in 1341)⁶⁰ or *Chehteluke / Chehtelke*, in the county of Cluj (Cistelec, today Vișinelu, Mureș County; in 1348)⁶¹. The aforesaid Jacob yclept Chech was mentioned as being a noble of Reud, Cluj County (Rediu, Cluj County), a village located at about 31-32 km in a straight line from Chehteluke (Vișinelu, Mureș County). This Chehteluke / Chehtelke would signify, in translation from Hungarian, *Land of the Czech* or *Place of the Czech*. Like in the case of the ethnic nickname The Bulgarian, it is possible that a group of emigrants got here and that this time they were Czechs. Thus, individuals called Cheh from the county of Cluj, or maybe only Jacob or an ancestor of his, could have been of Czech ethnicity; the ethnic nickname may then have moved onto the descendants as a cognomen.

The Croat (*Horuath, Horuat*; Annex 3): in this category I have identified only three people, but I do not have information on their origin or their place of residence. We only know that a certain Symon yclept Horvath owned the property Hassas, today Hășdate in the county of Cluj,⁶² and Stephen yclept Horuat / Horuath was probably not from the area under

⁵⁹ Pál Engel, *Regatul Sfântului Ștefan: istoria Ungariei medievale (895-1526)*, second edition, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2011, p. 195.

⁶⁰ *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 58, pp. 54-58, 592-595.

⁶¹ *DIR.C.XIV/4*, no. 666, pp. 460-462, 684-685; no. 671, pp. 464-465, 685-686.

⁶² *DIR.C.XIV/4*, no. 620, pp. 430-433.

investigation, because the document specifies that he was deliberately sent here from the royal court.⁶³ In the former counties of Middle Szolnok and Crasna there were some localities whose names are reminiscent of the Croats (in Hungarian: *horváth* = Croatian): *Chroath*, the county of Middle Szolnok (today Horoatu Cehului, Sălaj; in 1220)⁶⁴; *Horuath* (in 1340)⁶⁵, *Matthyas-Horuatha* (1350)⁶⁶ and *Sadan-Horuatha* (1350)⁶⁷ in Crasna County, all three settlements having disappeared.

In another study I tried to figure out the ways through which Croats might have reached the territory of Transylvania,⁶⁸ but the problem was not solved in a satisfactory manner. Thus, two possibilities seemed closer to the truth: either some of the White Croats, who are said to have migrated from somewhere north of the Carpathian Mountains to the Croatia of today, also settled in the north-west of Transylvania, or, sometime during the twelfth century, groups of Croats came into this part of medieval Hungary after the conquest of Croatia by the Hungarians. Regardless of the path Croats took to reach this region, a fact that the toponymy appears to support, and regardless of whether the individuals registered with nicknames such as *Horuath* / *Horuat* (The Croat) were locals or not, I think the nicknames in question certainly referred to the ethnicity of the people named thus.

The Cuman (*Kun, Cwn, Kwn*; Annex 4): as regards people referred to as The Cuman, only one was from voivodal Transylvania, the majority coming from the counties of Bihor and Sătmar. In fact, Cumans were summoned again to Hungary by the Hungarian King Bela IV, being colonised in two areas which were subsequently called Nagykurság (Greater Cumania; east of the Tisza) and Kiskurság (Smaller Cumania; between the Danube and the Tisza).⁶⁹ Regarding the Cumans, the toponymy is poorer than in the case of other ethnic groups. We do know, however, the village

⁶³ Frigyes Pesty, *Krassó vármegye története. III. Oklevéltár*, Budapest, 1882, no. 92, pp. 136-151; no. 93, pp. 151-152 (Infra: Pesty, III); *Documenta Romaniae Historica, C. Transilvania, vol. XV (1381-1385)*, edited by Susana Andea, Lidia Gross, Adinel Ciprian Dincă, București, Editura Academiei Române, 2014, no. 257, pp. 413-438; no. 275, pp. 461-463 (Infra: DRH.C/15).

⁶⁴ *Regestrum Varadinense*, no. 238, pp. 242-243; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 67/238, p. 103.

⁶⁵ Ferenc Piti, *Anjou-kori oklevéltár*, XXIV (1340), Budapest-Szeged, 2001, no. 329, pp. 154-155; *Codex diplomaticus Transsylvaniae. Diplomata, epistolae et alia instrumenta litteraria res Transsylvanas illustrantia / Erdélyi okmánytár. Oklevelek, levelek és más írásos emlékek Erdély történetéhez*, III (1340-1359), ed. Zsigmond Jakó, Géza Hegyi, András W. Kovács, Magyar Országos Levéltár, Budapest, 2008, no. 17, p. 37 (Infra: EO, III).

⁶⁶ EO, III, no. 563, p. 218.

⁶⁷ EO, III, no. 563, p. 218.

⁶⁸ Victor V. Vizauer, *Rolul onomasticii în cercetarea istoriei Transilvaniei în secolele XII-XIII. Studiu de caz: etnotoponimele*, in "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie George Barițiu din Cluj-Napoca", LIV, 2015, pp. 17-36 (pp. 23-24).

⁶⁹ Pál Engel, *op. cit.*, p. 133; see also the map on p. 395.

*Kunfalu*⁷⁰ (in translation: the *Cuman Village*), probably located in the county of Caraș (a settlement somewhere at the boundary between the counties of Timiș and Caraș, now disappeared). The few data known about individuals called *The Cuman* give me cause to say that the nickname indicated their ethnicity. These Cumans – or perhaps their descendants – settled in some counties to the west of voivodal Transylvania, probably following the receipt of estates or official dignities from the Hungarian kings.

The Jew (*Sydou*): in Annex 5, where I included this nickname, there is only one person, Paul yclept the Jew (*Paulus dictus Sydou*; in Hungarian *zsidó* means Jew), a servant in the village of Zeudumutur, Middle Szolnok County (today Sauca, Satu Mare County). In this case it can safely be said that this was a man of Jewish ethnicity and that his nickname certainly reflected the ethnicity of the bearer.

The German / Saxon: in Annex 6 (A, B and C) are included people who had a nickname referring to Germans: The German (*Nemeth, Nemth* – “*németh*” being the Hungarian term by which a German is designated), The Saxon (*Saxo, Zaz, Zaaz*) and The Teuton (*Teutonicus*). Saxons are one of the largest ethnic groups in Transylvania, alongside Romanians, Hungarians and Szeklers. In addition to the Saxon Seats, Germans were found in significant numbers in the district of Bistrița, but also in the counties of Sătmar (Satu Mare, Mintiu – united now), Cluj (the town of Cluj, Florești / Feneșul Săsesc – Saszfenes etc.), Inner Szolnok (Ocna Dej, Dej), Dăbâca (Sic) or Alba (Sebeș, Vințul de Jos, etc.). The individuals analysed here came mostly from the aforementioned areas: Saxon Land, the counties of Cluj, Dăbâca, Alba, Bihor and Caraș. In their case the nickname certainly expressed their ethnicity.

The Italian (*Olaz, Oloz, Olasz*; Annex 7) and **The Latin** (*Latinus*; Annex 8): I have treated the ethnic nicknames The Italian and The Latin together because, as will become apparent hereinafter, the terms of *latinus* and *olasz* had very close meanings in medieval Hungary.

In the twelfth-thirteenth centuries, Latins meant Walloons, guests who had come from the southern part of present-day Belgium. According to György Székely, villages called *Latina* or *Olaszi* on the territory of medieval Hungary were inhabited primarily by Walloons, and only in some cases by Italians.⁷¹ Also, Pál Engel stated that at the beginning (twelfth century) of colonisations from the west came several Walloons (*Latins*), also called *olasz* by Hungarians. The latter is a term borrowed from the Slavs. However, the Hungarian historian added that this *olasz* could also mean at that time

⁷⁰ DRH.C/15, no. 448, pp. 613-614.

⁷¹ György Székely, *A Székesfehérvári latinok és a vallonok a középkori Magyarországon*, in *Székesfehérvár évszázadai*, vol. II, Székesfehérvár, 1967, pp. 45-72.

any Latin-speaking population.⁷² Relating to the Latins in Oradea, Nicolae Drăganu considered that they were Italians.⁷³

I have come across four bearers of the ethnic nickname *The Italian*, but only for two of them can the explanation regarding the source of the nickname be close to the truth. These were a former canon of the Church of Transylvania, called Michael yclept *Olaz*,⁷⁴ and John yclept *Olasz*,⁷⁵ possibly a townsman from Oradea. As regards the former canon Michael yclept *Olaz*, it is very likely that he was an Italian or that he had studied in the peninsula, arriving in Transylvania after being appointed canon of the above-mentioned church. Also, it is possible that he received his nickname here in Transylvania, where he was a stranger to the locals, or maybe somewhere else where he conducted his spiritual activity. In the case of John yclept *Olasz*, if he was from Oradea or the surrounding area, his nickname is not surprising, because it is known that many Italics/ Latins lived in Oradea and the neighbouring villages, as attested by *Veneția* (*Venecia*, the name of the street / district mentioned in the thirteenth century),⁷⁶ and the names of the neighbouring villages *Olassi*⁷⁷ (Olosig, Bihor) or *Olozi*⁷⁸ (today a district in the city of Oradea), the latter being also called *villa Latinorum Waradiensium* (*village of the Latins in Oradea*).⁷⁹

In the documents of the time, I encountered a single individual with the ethnic nickname *The Latin*, more specifically the Knight (*miles*) John the Latin (*Iohannes Latinus*). He was mentioned in 1204-1206 and had settled among the Teutons (Germans, Saxons) of Rivetel (today Cîsnădie, Sibiu County, Sibiu). Later, in 1231, a document talked about the Saxon knights Corrad and Daniel, sons of John the Latin, Christians whom the Hungarian King Bela IV had exempted from taxes for four of their villages. Among

⁷² Pál Engel, *op. cit.*, p. 89.

⁷³ Nicolae Drăganu, *Românii în veacurile IX-XIV pe baza toponimiei și onomastice*, București, Imprimeria Națională, 1933, p. 293.

⁷⁴ *Documenta Romaniae Historica, C. Transilvania, vol. XI (1356-1360)*, Edited by Ioan Dani, Aurel Răduțiu, Viorica Pervain, Konrad G. Gündisch, Sabin Belu, București, Editura Academiei Române, 1981, no. 147, p. 139; no. 251, p. 258; no. 252, p. 258.

⁷⁵ *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 473, pp. 532-533.

⁷⁶ *Venetia* Street is mentioned in numerous documents, but I will only list some of them: *DIR.C.XIII/2*, no. 381, p. 343; *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 396, pp. 476-477; *DIR.C.XIV/4*, no. 123, pp. 111-112; *DRH.C/13*, no. 27, pp. 39-41 etc.

⁷⁷ *Monumenta Vaticana historiam regni Hungariae illustratia / Magyarországi Vatikáni Okirattár*, I, 1, Budapestini, 1887, pp. 42, 55, 60, 64, 71, 79, 83, 86 (Infra: *Mon. Vat. Hung.*, I/1); *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 56, pp. 44, 63, 70, 71, 77, 84, 88, 102, 109, 114.

⁷⁸ *Mon. Vat. Hung.*, I/1, pp. 41, 45, 46, 60, 69, 77, 83, 89; *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 56, pp. 48, 49, 70, 71, 84, 99, 109, 120.

⁷⁹ *Regestrum Varadinense*, no. 137, p. 202; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 67/137, p. 75 and note 8, p. 75.

these was the *villa Latina* in the county of Târnava (Waldorph, Valendorf, today Văleni, Braşov County).⁸⁰

What is somewhat intriguing in this case is the fact that in the document Corrad and Daniel, the sons of John the Latin, are called Saxon knights (*militēs Saxones*).⁸¹ Could this John the Latin have integrated himself so well among the Saxons that his descendants were already considered Saxons? It is very possible that this was the case. Perhaps some interests drove Corrad and Daniel to consider themselves Saxons. There is no information about the wife of John the Latin, who could have been one of the Saxon locals among whom John had settled. This would have strengthened Corrad and Daniel's sense of belonging to the Saxon community. However, John the Latin could very well have been a Walloon, or maybe a speaker of another language derived from Latin, whose offspring already considered themselves Saxons, their origin remaining nonetheless visible in the name of one of their villages, the above-mentioned *villa Latina*.

The Hungarian (*Magyar, Magar*; Annex 9): among the seven individuals who wore the nickname The Hungarian, there were six nobles and a servant (*famulus*), all of the nobles coming from outside of voivodal Transylvania, more precisely from the counties of Sătmar, Bihor, Timiş and Caraş, and the servant from the Land of Bârsa. Anthroponyms and toponyms considered to be indicators of ethnicity appeared on the territory of Hungary in the eleventh-twelfth centuries, in the forms Mogurdi (the name of a serf) or Mogioroi (the name of a settlement).⁸² In view of the fact that a good part of the population of Transylvania was made up of Hungarians, logic urges us to consider that an individual nicknamed The Hungarian was probably living or performing a function in an area or a locality where the members of a large population of a different ethnicity, perhaps representing the majority, assigned him this name. This may have been the case of Stephen yclept Magyar, noble of Ermen, the county of Caraş (today Gherman, Timiş County).⁸³ A large number of Romanians lived in the county of Caraş. Besides these, in the fourteenth century, there were also a few Cumans and Pechenegs or their descendants. It is possible that Stephen was given this nickname by members of one of the other ethnic groups living in the area.

The Pecheneg (*Beseneu, Besseneu, Bessenow, Bissenus, Byssenus*; Annex 10): two of the five individuals called The Pecheneg, John⁸⁴ and

⁸⁰ *Ub.*, I, no. 15, p. 7-8; no. 16, pp. 8-9; no. 63, pp. 54-55; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 46, pp. 28-29; no. 54, pp. 32-33; no. 212, pp. 254-255.

⁸¹ *Ub.*, I, no. 63, pp. 54-55; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 212, pp. 254-255.

⁸² Gyula Németh, *A magyar népnév legrégebbi alakjai*, in "Magyar Nyelv", XXV/1-2, 1929, pp. 8-9.

⁸³ *Pesty*, III, no. 76, p. 103-104; *Documenta Romaniae Historica, C. Transilvania, vol. XIV (1371-1375)*, Edited by Aurel Răduţiu, Viorica Pervain, Susana Andea, Lidia Gross, Bucureşti, Editura Academiei Române, 2002, no. 42, pp. 44-45.

⁸⁴ Ioan is mentioned in many documents, which is why I will limit myself to listing only some of them: *Pesty*, III, no. 28, p. 32; no. 29, pp. 32-42; no. 32, pp. 44-45; no. 33, pp. 45-

Mathias,⁸⁵ were brothers and came from the county of Caraș. Then, Andrew yclept Besse was a noble of Zuchak, Cluj County (Suceag, Cluj County). We do not know what area Albert yclept Beseneu and Paul yclept Bessenow / Beseneu, castellan of Ciceu, came from. However, toponymy can help us to locate the Pechenegs in the space of interest to us. These ethnic toponyms were found in the counties of Sătmar, Bihor, Arad and Cenad⁸⁶: Beseneu / Besene / Besenew, Bihor County⁸⁷ (the thirteenth century; a locality near Oradea, now disappeared); Beseneu, county of Cenad⁸⁸ (it is possible that this was the village of Besenova Veche, today Dudeștii Vechi, Timiș County); Besenyë Too, probably in the county of Sătmar (in 1169)⁸⁹; Bessenyaw / Bissena, a settlement and a forest in the county of Arad (thirteenth century; it may have lain in the vicinity of Agriș Arad County). For the next century, I identified about 12 settlements with names that make reference to Pechenegs. These settlements were distributed on a wider territory, including the counties of Timis, Hunedoara, Târnava and the Szekler seat of Sepsî.⁹⁰ Let me mention only a few of the settlements: Beseneu, the county of Târnava⁹¹ (today, probably Valea Izvoarelor, Mures County); Besenis / Berzenew / Beseno / Bezenev, Timiș County⁹² (Beșenova Nouă, today Dudeștii Noi, Timiș County); Besenczsed / Besenzd, the seat of Sepsî⁹³ (Beșeneu, today Pădureni, Covasna County), etc.

Taking into account the toponyms listed above, I think the ethnic nickname The Pecheneg was a precise reference to this ethnicity. In fact, in the early nineteenth century, Réső Ensel Sándor considered that the origin of names like Besenyő (Pecheneg) was in the ethnic name of Pechenegs.⁹⁴

46; no. 89, pp. 130-131; no. 90, pp. 131-132; no. 92, pp. 136-151; *DRH.C/11*, no. 201, pp. 200-201; no. 283, pp. 278-292; *DRH.C/12*, no. 16, p. 16; no. 17, p. 16; no. 24, pp. 20-21; no. 29, p. 23; no. 66, pp. 50-51; no. 67, pp. 51-53; no. 68, p. 53; no. 164, p. 144; *DRH.C/14*, no. 357, pp. 497-501; *DRH.C/15*, no. 140, pp. 190-191; no. 160, pp. 231-233 etc.

⁸⁵ *Pesty*, III, no. 92, pp. 136-151; *DRH.C/15*, no. 257, pp. 413-438.

⁸⁶ For more details, see: Victor V. Vizauer, *stud. cit.*

⁸⁷ Among other mentions: *Regestrum Varadinense*, no. 352, p. 288; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 67/352, p. 134.

⁸⁸ *Hurmuzaki-Densușianu*, I, 1, no. XCVII, p. 124-126; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 199, pp. 240-241; no. 219, pp. 261-263.

⁸⁹ Georgius Fejér, *Codex Diplomaticus Hvgariae Ecclesiasticvs ac Civilis*, Tom VII, Vol. I, Budae, 1831, no. CXVI, pp. 161-163; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 10, pp. 4-6.

⁹⁰ For details, see: Victor V. Vizauer, *Etnotoponimele și distribuția comunităților etnice în Transilvania medievală (prima jumătate a secolului al XIV-lea)*, in "Trecutul mai aproape de noi. Omagiu Profesorului Gheorghe Marinescu la 70 de ani", edited by Alexandru Gavrilăș, Dan Lucian Vaida, Adrian Onofreiu, George G. Marinescu, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2015, pp. 177-190.

⁹¹ Franz Zimmermann, Carl Werner, Georg Müller *Urkundenbuch zur Geschichte der Deutschen in Siebenbürgen*, II (1342 - 1390), Hermannstadt, 1897, no. 639, pp. 59-60; *DIR.C.XIV/4*, no. 706, p. 488.

⁹² *Mon. Vat. Hung. I/1*, pp. 148, 151, 157, 160; *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 56, pp. 228, 232, 241, 245.

⁹³ *Mon. Vat. Hung. I/1*, pp. 106, 134; *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 56, pp. 152, 202.

⁹⁴ Ifj. Réső Ensel Sándor, *Helynevek Magyarázója*, Második Füzet, Pest, 1862, pp. 215-225.

The Pole (*Polonus; Lengyel*; Annex 11): another ethnic nickname with a single identified bearer is *The Pole*. This was a certain Leukus *Polonus / Lengyel* (in Hungarian: *lengyel* = Polish), a noble in the county of Sătmar, mentioned in 1373 and 1376.⁹⁵ Although the documents state that he was a noble of Nagysejmen, Szabolcs County, I have included him among the individuals analysed here because his family owned properties also in the county of Sătmar. However, regarding the nickname *The Pole*, without having more information it is difficult to determine the reason behind this ethnic sobriquet. The bearer could have had Polish ancestors or, like in the case above-mentioned John yclept *Lenghel*, a different kind of connection with Poland.

The Romanian (*Olacus, Olachus, Olachi, Volachus, Wolahus*; Annex 12): like in the case of those dubbed *The Hungarian*, the situation of the 8 individuals called *The Romanian* is no different. In view of the fact that the large part of the population of Transylvania (in the broader sense) was composed of Romanians, it is natural that some of them will have been called *The Romanian*. The nickname may have been given either by members of other ethnic groups, as I think was the case of George yclept *the Romanian* (*Georgius dictus Olah*), a serf who received at one point the Felekfark / Gyurgfolua estate in the county of Cluj (today Gheorgheni, Cluj County) from a noble of Jucu,⁹⁶ or even by the authorities, when they were referred to in official documents, this being probably the case of John the Romanian (*Wolahus*) from the county of Maramureş, the brother of Drag and Balc from the Dragoşesti kin (1378)⁹⁷ or Karachon the Romanian (*Olachus*), a noble of Bilke from the county of Bereg (today in Ukraine).⁹⁸ These are only a few examples.

The Russian/ The Slav / The Slovak (*Vros, Sclavus, Tot / Toth*; Annex 13): this group contains the ethnic nicknames *The Russian* (in Hungarian: *orosz* = Russian), *The Slav* and *The Slovak* (in the same language: *tót* = Slovak), because all refer to people of Slavic origin. There are situations in which two names that specify ethnicity are used for an individual, sometimes in the same document, like *The Slovak* (*Tot*) and *The Slav* (*Sclavus*). This was the case of Laurencius yclept *the Slovak / Slav* (*Laurencius dictus Tot/*

⁹⁵ *A nagykállói Kállai-család levéltára*, II (1351-1386), Budapest, 1943, no. 1704, p. 166; no. 1734, p. 174; *DRH.C/14*, no. 244, p. 372; no. 245, p. 373; *DRH.C/15*, no. 66, p. 77.

⁹⁶ Samu Barabás, *A római szent birodalmi gróf széki Teleki oklevéltára / Codex diplomaticus Sacri Romani Imperii comitum familiae Teleki de Szék*, I (1206-1437), Budapest, 1895, no. CXXII, pp. 169-170 (Infra: *Teleki*, I); *DRH.C/14*, no. 28, pp. 27-28.

⁹⁷ Antonius Fekete Nagy, Ladislaus Makkai, *Documenta historiam Valachorum in Hungaria illustrantia, usque ad annum 1400 p. Christum*, Études sur l'Europe Centre-Orientale, 29, Budapest, 1941, no. 246, pp. 280-282 (Infra: *Documenta Valachorum*); *DRH.C/15*, no. 281, pp. 469-471.

⁹⁸ *Documenta Valachorum*, no. 77, pp. 110-111; *DIR.C.XIV/4*, no. 522, pp. 354-355; *Anjou*, XXXI, no. 387, p. 218.

Sclavus).⁹⁹ Laurencius was the *comes* of Nitra (Slovakia), but members of his family had connections with Transylvania. His son Nicolas Konth was the voivode here, and another son, Leukus, was *comes* of the Szeklers and of Braşov¹⁰⁰.

It should be noted that *Tot / Toth* could refer to both Slovaks and Slovenians. Both Melich János and Melegdi János believe that the term *tót* was used by Hungarians not only for designating Slovaks, but also some southern Slavs, more precisely Slovenes.¹⁰¹ By contrast, Simon Miklós associates the ethnonym *tót* only with Slovaks.¹⁰²

I have also come across an interesting situation in 1329, when a certain Stephen yclept Toth (*The Slovak*) represented Iwanka yclept Vruz (*The Russian*) in front of the chapter of the church in Cenad.¹⁰³ Was that Stephen in the service of Iwanka because their ethnicity was the same? If so, then the significance of one of the ethnic nicknames is not just the one directly expressed. The word probably had a more general significance. I am inclined to think that this was *Vruz / Uruz* (The Russian), the word probably referring to Slavs in general, just like *Sclavus / Slavus* (Slav). This would not be the first time a term had been used in a general way to designate Slavs. The cleric Rogerius mentioned the Ruthenians (*Rutheni*) when he enumerated the populations that had been taken into captivity by the Mongols in 1241-1242 (in the area of the counties of Bihar, Arad and Cenad),¹⁰⁴ most certainly with reference to the Slavs who lived in the region. The same Rogerius used the name of Ruscia for the Russian knezates.¹⁰⁵ By contrast, Nestor the chronicler used the term *Slovenian* for Slavs.¹⁰⁶ In the description of Oriental Europe, The Anonymous Geographer stated that Macedonia was surrounded by Ruthenians (*rutheni*), and Thessaly was bordered to the west by Rasia.¹⁰⁷ From the few examples it can be inferred that very clear terms to designate the different groups of Slavs did not exist in those times, which strengthens

⁹⁹ For *Tot* see Imre Nagy, *Anjoukori okmánytár. Codex diplomaticus Hungaricus Andegavensis*, VI (1353-1357), Budapest, 1891, no. 95, pp. 150-152 (Infra: *Anjoukori okmánytár*, VI) sau *Documenta Romaniae Historica, C. Transilvania*, X (1351-1355), Bucureşti, Editura Academiei Române, 1977, no. 235, p. 245 (Infra: *DRH.C/10*); and for *Sclavus* see *Anjoukori okmánytár*, VI, no. 104, pp. 169-170 or *DRH.C/10*, no. 250, p. 257.

¹⁰⁰ *Anjoukori okmánytár*, VI, no. 63, pp. 109-111; *DRH.C/10*, no. 212, p. 230.

¹⁰¹ János Melich, *A tót népnévről*, in *Magyar Nyelv*, XXV/9-10, 1929, pp. 321-328; János Melegdi, *Népnevek*, in *Magyar Nyelv*, XVIII/7-8, 1922, pp. 165-167 (p. 167).

¹⁰² Miklós Simon, *Tót, szlovák*, in *Magyar Nyelv*, XVIII/1-3, 1922, p. 80.

¹⁰³ Gyula Nagy, *A nagymihályi és sztárai gróf Sztáray család oklevéltára*, I (1235-1396), Budapest, 1887, no. XLVIII, pp. 59-60; *DIR.C.XIV/2*, no. 550, pp. 293-294.

¹⁰⁴ M. Rogerii, *Carmen miserabile*, in G. Popa-Lisseanu, *Izvoarele Istoriei Românilor*, Vol. V, Edit. Bucovina, Bucureşti, 1935, Chap. XXXVII (Infra: *Carmen miserabile*).

¹⁰⁵ *Carmen miserabile*, Chap. XIV.

¹⁰⁶ *Cronica lui Nestor*, in G. Popa-Lisseanu, *Izvoarele Istoriei Românilor*, Vol. VII, Bucureşti, 1935, Chap. V.

¹⁰⁷ Anonymi Geographi, *Descriptio Europae Orientalis*, in G. Popa-Lisseanu, *Izvoarele Istoriei Românilor*, Vol. II, Bucureşti, 1934, Chap. IV.

my belief that the word *vruz* / *uruz* referred to a Slav in general. As a result, it is difficult to determine how clear was the significance of the ethnonym *tot* / *toth*, especially since for a long time Hungarians used it to refer to both Slovaks and Slovenians, as I have shown above.

As a result, the ethnic nicknames *Vruz* / *Uruz*, *Tot* / *Thoth* / *Toth* or *Sclavus* probably meant a Slav, but it is more difficult to determine, without additional information to which of the Slavic groups the individual belonged.

The Saracen (*Serechen*; Annex 14): this was a special situation. In a document from 1269 I came across a man who was called Serechen (in Hungarian *szerecsen* = Saracen, Moor) and probably resided in the county of Inner Szolnok.¹⁰⁸ Therefore, this could have been a personal name and not an ethnic nickname, although the anthroponym makes reference to a specific population, namely the Arabs in Spain or those of North Africa. Regarding the appearance of such a name or nickname, there are several possibilities: the individual was a captured Saracen or the offspring of a Saracen brought to the area as a prisoner of war or as a slave; the man had darker skin, which would have led to his comparison with a Moor / Saracen by the other members of the community of which he was a part; or this was a Muslim who was called The Saracen due to the fact that Saracens were Muslims. In support of this last hypothesis, we must not forget that there were Muslims who lived in the area of the counties Bihor and Arad in the first part of the thirteenth century. In 1223 documents mentioned some Ishmaelites who were involved in a conflict with the church and the provost of Arad¹⁰⁹, and the above-mentioned cleric, Rogerius, in his *Carmen miserabile*, recounts that the Mongols, on their way to Arad and Cenad, took Hungarian, Ruthenian, Cuman and Ishmaelite prisoners¹¹⁰. However, if we take into account the fact that the son of Serechen was called John, which was a Christian name, we should not rule out the possibility that the Serechen was a Muslim brought to the area as a prisoner of war or a bought slave who was then Christianised. Unfortunately the social category to which Serechen or his son belonged is not specified. About John we find out that he owned a certain estate, without other details.

The Szekler (*Syculus*, *Siculo*, *Zekul*, *Zekel*; Annex 15): the most numerous group is that of the ethnic nickname The Szekler, comprising 32 people. Among them is the only woman registered, *Margaretha dicta Zekul*, a slave (*ancilla*) released in 1339¹¹¹. Besides the Szekler seats of eastern and south-eastern Transylvania, or the Seat of Arieş, the individuals called The Szekler also appeared in the counties of Cluj, Turda, Alba, Târnava, Timiş and on Saxon Land, or, at least, they came to own properties in those areas. As their inclination towards military service is well-known (they owed it to

¹⁰⁸ *DIR.C.XIII/2*, no. 106, pp. 116-117.

¹⁰⁹ *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, no. 141, pp. 196-197 and no. 144, pp. 198-199.

¹¹⁰ *Carmen miserabile*, Chap. XXXVII.

¹¹¹ *DIR.C.XIV/3*, no. 458, pp. 522-523, 603-604.

Hungarian kings)¹¹², some of them could be castellans: for instance, Georgius dictus Zekel and Petrus dictus Zekel, castellans of Unguras (in 1357),¹¹³ and Jacobus dictus Zekul, the castellan of Rupea (1362)¹¹⁴.

The large number of people nicknamed The Szekler should come as no surprise because Szeklers, along with Romanians, Hungarians and Germans, were among the most numerous ethnic groups in Transylvania. And when the bearers of this nickname lived in regions where other ethnic groups represented the majority, it is easy to understand why the sobriquet was used.

In some cases, however, this could have been a simple indication of the ethnicity of one of the aforementioned persons in the text of the document, without it being an ethnic nickname. An example is that of *Franciscus siculus de Vduorhel*¹¹⁵ (Odorheiu Secuiesc, Harghita County), where *siculus de Vduorhel* could have the meaning of *The Szekler of Odorhei*, thus showing only that Francis was a Szekler, without *siculus* having become an ethnic nickname.

The Tartar (*Tartarus, Tatar, Thatar*; Annex 16): the last group of ethnic nicknames, The Tartar, contains 8 elements. Most of them, more precisely four, were mentioned in the county of Sătmar, Bihor and Ugocea. As for the last two, we only know that one was a canon of the Church of Transylvania and the other was a kingsman. The county of Sătmar has a history in this regard, made visible in its anthroponymy and toponymy. In 1215 a village with the name of Tatar¹¹⁶ was mentioned in the county of Sătmar. Ilona K. Fábián believed that the name originated from an anthroponym mentioned in documents in 1181.¹¹⁷ In fact, two Cuman men were mentioned on the territory of Hungary in 1333; one of them bore the name of Tatar (*Tatar filio Vgudey*)¹¹⁸. Taking this information into account, we may notice that there are two plausible paths for the appearance of the nickname The Tartar: either from a toponym, or from an anthroponym, in the case of the latter the bearer of the nickname being probably a Cuman. There

¹¹² Pál Engel, *op. cit.*, pp. 144-145.

¹¹³ *Teleki*, I, no. LXVI, p. 103-104; *Documenta Valachorum*, no. 96, p. 132-133; *DRH.C/11*, no. 81, pp. 81-82; no. 107, pp. 108-109.

¹¹⁴ László Makkai, *Kiadatlan oklevelek Kolozsvár középkori történetéhez*, Cluj, 1947, no. 2, p. 5-6; *DRH.C/12*, no. 96, pp. 71-72.

¹¹⁵ *Teleki*, I, no. LXXXIX, p. 128; *DRH.C/12*, no. 194, p. 177.

¹¹⁶ *Regestrum Varadinense*, no. 126, p. 198; *DIR.C.XI-XIII/1*, doc. 67/126, p. 73.

¹¹⁷ Ilona K. Fábián, *Néhány népnévi eredetű helynév a Várad Regestrumban*, in *Az V. Magyar Névtudományi Konferencia előadásai (Miskolc, 1995, augusztus 28-30)*, Szerkesztette B. Gergely Piroska és Hajdú Mihály, Budapest-Miskolc, Kiadja a Magyar Nyelvtudományi Társaság és a Miskolci Egyetem Bölcsészettudományi Intézete, 1997, II, Helynevek, pp. 254-259 (p. 256).

¹¹⁸ István Vásáry, *Cumans and Tatars. Oriental Military in the Pre-Ottoman Balkans, 1185-1365*, Cambridge University Press, 2005, p. 11, note 35 (*apud* L. Rásonyi, *Kuman özel adlari*, in *Türk Kültürü Araştırmaları*, 3-6, 1966-1969, pp. 71-144 – pp. 88, 106, 113 şi 136) and notes 37-38.

are no indications to suggest in any way that the ethnic nickname Tatar / Thatar really referred to a Tartar.

Annexes - Persons identified as having an ethnic nickname (agnomen)

Annex 1 - The Bulgarian (in the documents: Bolgar, Bulgar - 2 persons):

-Johannes dictus *Bolgar* (mentioned in 1366-1370), noble, Cluj County (?).

-Ladislaus dictus *Bulgar* / *Bolgar* de Thusun / Tuşinu, de Sancto Rege / Sâncrai, de Datus / Dătăşeni (1356-1379), noble, deceased, the county of Cluj, Turda and Alba (?).

Annex 2 - The Czech (Cheh, Chech, Cheeh, Cheech, Ceh - 20 people):

-Andreas dictus *Cheh* (1345), noble, the county of Cluj or Turda (?); son of Jacobus; brother of Michael, Petrus, Deseu and Ladislaus, all called Chech.

-Bakoch dictus *Chech* (1369), noble, master, the county of Târnava (?); brother of Jacobus, Zekul and Laurentius, all called Chech.

-Deseu dictus *Chech* (1345, 1349), noble, judge of the nobles from the county of Cluj (1349); son of Jacobus; brother of Michael, Petrus, Andreas and Ladislaus, all called Chech.

-Georgius dictus *Cheeh* (1324-1346), noble, man of the voivode of Transylvania (1326), the county of Cluj or Turda (?).

-Georgius dictus *Cheh* (1355), noble.

-Jacobus dictus *Cheh* (1336), noble, kingsman from the county of Alba (?).

-Jacobus dictus *Cheh* (1325, 1336), noble, the county of Cluj or Turda (?); the father of Petrus, Michael, Andreas, Deseu and Ladislaus.

-Jacobus dictus *Chech* (1369), noble, master, the county of Târnava (?); brother of Bakoch, Zekul and Laurencius, all called Chech.

-Johannes dictus *Cheh* (1334), noble, judge of the nobles in the county of Dăbâca.

-Ladislaus dictus *Cheh* (1345-1374), noble, man of vice-voievodes Egidius (1351), Petrus (1367), Johannes (1372) and Ladislaus (1373), judge of the nobles from the county of Cluj (1353), the kingsman, man of Voivode Emericus (1372); the county of Cluj or Turda (?); son of Jacobus; brother of Michael, Petrus, Andreas and Deseu, all called Chech.

-Ladislaus dictus *Cheh* (1376), noble, castellan of Adorjan (county of Bihor).

-Laurencius dictus *Chech* (1369), noble, master, the county of Târnava (?); brother of Bakoch, Zekul and Jacobus, all called Chech.

-Mychael / Michael dictus *Cheh* (1334, 1340, 1345), noble, judge of the nobles in the county of Cluj; son of Jacobus; brother of Petrus, Andreas, Deseu and Ladislaus, all called Chech.

- Nicolaus dictus *Chech* (1347), probably a serf, the county of Bihor (?).
- Nicolaus dictus *Cheh* (1358), noble of Scenmihaltelekw, the county of Turda (Sânmihaiul de Pădure, Mureș County).
- Petrus dictus *Cheech* (1343), noble, deceased.
- Petrus dictus *Cheh* (1345), noble, county of Dăbâca or Turda (?).
- Petrus dictus *Chech* (1364), noble.
- Thomas dictus *Ceh* (1356), noble of Lamperth, county of Cluj (?).
- Zekul dictus *Chech* (1369), noble, master, county of Târnava (?); brother of Bakoch, Jacobus and Laurencius, also called Chech.

Annex 3 – The Croat (Horuath, Horuat - 3 individuals):

- Petrus dictus *Horuath* (1376), noble (?), man of the vice-voivode.
- Stephanus dictus *Horuat* / *Horuath* (1378), noble, kingsman sent specially from the court; probably not from Transylvania.
- Symon dictus *Horvath* (1348), noble, county of Cluj or Turda (?).

Annex 4 – The Cuman (Kun, Cwn, Kwn - 9 individuals):

- Wanthuk the Cuman (1283), possibly a noble, county of Bihor (?).
- Franciscus dictus *Kun* de Kak (1382), noble, county of Satu Mare.
- Johannes dictus *Cwn* / *Kwn* (1364, 1369), possibly a noble, county of Satu Mare.
- Lucas dictus *Kwn* (1379), knight of the royal court, witness of the king.
- Michael dictus *Kun* (1347), probably a serf, county of Bihor (?).
- Nicolaus dictus *Kun* (1370), kingsman.
- Nicolaus dictus *Kwn* de Zakal (1382), noble, county of Turda.
- Petrus dictus *Kwn* (1362), freeman, non-noble (?), county of Bihor.
- Stephanus *Kun* (1333-1334), noble (?).

Annex 5 – The Jew (Sydou):

- Paulus dictus *Sydou*: (1363), servant, from Zeudumutur, county of Middle Szolnok (Săuca, Satu Mare County).

Annex 6/A – The German (Nemeth; 2 persons):

- Johannes *Nemeth* (1385), noble of Melleche (in Hungary).
- Michael dictus *Nemth* (1347), serf (?), possibly from the village of Vasary, county of Bihor (near Salonta, Bihor County).

Annex 6/B – The Saxon (Saxo, Zaz, Zaaz; 10 individuals):

- Alardus *Zaz* (1344), *guest*, Saxon Land; father of Gyan *Zaz*.
- Andreas *Saxo* (1332), clergyman, priest in the village of Banabyky, county of Cluj (Vâlcele, Cluj County).
- Andreas dictus *Yaaz* / *Zaaz* (1361), *guest*, from Vinch Inferiori, county of Alba (Vințul de Jos, Alba County).
- Gyan *Zaz* (1344), *guest*, Saxon Land; son of Alardus *Zaz*.

-Jacobus dictus *Zaaz* (1377), house master of the hospital of St. Elizabeth's Church in Cluj.

-Johannes dictus *Zaz* / *Zaaz* (1341, 1361, 1367), kingsman, man of the voivode, noble of Borsiyacobfolua / Barsa Jacobfolua, county of Alba (settlement now disappeared near Sâncel, Alba County).

-Johannes dictus *Zaz* (1369), noble, county of Caraș (?).

-Johannes dictus *Zas* (1372), deceased, owned a part of Heesfolua, Saxon Land or the county of Alba (?) (Hașfalău, today Vânători, Mureș County).

-Michael dictus *Zaaz* (1326), clergyman, priest; Sic, county of Dăbâca.

-Nicolaus *Saxo*: (1361), county of Cluj.

Annex 6/C – The Teutonic (Teutonicus; 2 persons):

-Martinus *Teutonicus* (1206), guest from the village of Vratotus, Saxon Land.

-Nicolaus *Teutonicus* (1332-1337), priest, county of Bihor (?).

Annex 7 – The Italian (Olaz, Oloz, Olasz; 4 persons):

-Johannes dictus *Olasz* (1340), townsman (?), deceased, from Oradea (?), county of Bihor.

-Michael dictus *Olaz* (1357, 1358), clergyman, deceased, former canon of the Church of Transylvania.

-Paulus dictus *Oloz* (1319), noble (?), county of Caraș.

-Thomas dictus *Olaz* (1382), serf, from Rezege, county of Satu Mare (Resighea, Satu Mare County).

Annex 8 – The Latin (Latinus):

-Johannes *Latinus* (1204, 1206, 1231), knight (*miles*), Saxon Land; father of Corrad and Daniel.

Annex 9 – The Hungarian (Magyar, Magar; 7 people):

-Dionisius dictus *Magyar* (1337-1357), noble of Redes and Paly, county of Satu Mare (today in Hungary).

-Johannes dictus *Magar* (1341), noble, county of Bihor.

-Johannis dictus *Magyar* (1370), noble, deceased, county of Satu Mare.

-Nicolaus dictus *Magiar* (1368), servant, region / district of Brașov (?).

-Paulus dictus *Magyar* (1333), master, noble of Themeskuz, probably the county of Timiș.

-Paulus dictus *Magar* / *Magyar* (1323-1347), noble, great treasurer and castellan of Gymus (1324-1332).

-Stephanus dictus *Magyar* (1371), noble of Ermen, county of Caraș (Gherman, Timiș County).

Annex 10 - Pecenegul (Beseneu, Besseneu, Bessenow, Bissenus, Byssenus; 5 persons):

-Albertus dictus *Beseneu* (1320), noble.

-Andreas dictus *Besse* de Zuchak / Suceag (1362), noble, county of Cluj.

-Johannes *Bissenus* / *Byssenus* (1357-1378), noble, castellan of Ersomlou (Vărădia), county of Caraș, comes and castellan of Owar (1361), bailiff of the royal court; brother of Mathyas Bissenus.

-Mathyas *Bissenus* (1378), noble, county of Caraș; brother of Johannes Bissenus.

-Paulus dictus *Bessenow* / *Beseneu*: (1364), noble, castellan of Ciceu (Cycow / Chycho).

Annex 11 – The Pole (Polonus):

-Leukus *Polonus* (1373, 1376), noble of Nagysemen, county of Szabolcs (Hungary), de Ker, county of Satu Mare (today in Hungary); brother of Stephanus de Radalf; killed in 1376.

Annex 12 – The Romanian (Olacus, Olachus, Olachi, Volachus, Wolahus; 8 individuals):

-Georgius *Olachus* (1359), serf, from Rewfalva, county of Alba (the settlement was located somewhere in the area of Aiud, Alba County).

-Georgius dictus *Olah* (1371), serf, deceased, county of Cluj.

-Johannes *Wolaho* (1378), noble, county of Maramureș.

-Karachon / Karachond *Olachi* (1347), noble of Bilke, county of Bereg (azi în Ucraina).

-Karapcz *Olachus* (1363, 1371), noble, county of Timiș (?).

-Ladislaus *Olachus* (1372), serf, county of Cluj.

-Myk *Olacus* (1346), noble, county of Maramureș.

-Nicolaus *Volachus* (1363), noble (?).

-Ztoyan *Olachus* (1377), noble (?), servant (?), county of Hunedoara.

Annex 13/A – The Russian (Uruz, Vros, Vruz, Wruz; 7 individuals):

-Iwanka dictus *Vruz* / *Vruz* Iwanka (1329), noble, county of Cenad or Zarand (?).

-*Uruz* (1216), peasant (?) from the village of Sari, county of Bihor (Șauaieu, Bihor County).

-*Uruz* (1219), peasant (?) from the village of Kenesy, county of Dăbâca.

-*Vros* (1202-1203), vineyard keeper, serf, from the village of Regnen, county of Bihor (?).

-*Vros* (1214), serf of the citadel of Bihor.

-*Vros* (1214), peasant (?) from the village of Orobag, county of Szabolcs (?) (Ungaria).

-*Wruz* (1214), serf from the village of Gyan, county of Bihor.

Annex 13/B – The Slav (Sclavus, Sclaus; 5 persons):

- Gregorius *Sclavus* (1381), peasant, serf (?), from Egreg, county of Zarand (Agrîşu Mare, Arad County).
- Jacobus *Sclauus* (*Jacobo Sclauo*) (1371), peasant (?), county of Bihor.
- Nicolaus dictus *Sclauus* (1347), noble, county of Satu Mare (?).
- Petrus *sclavus* (1370), serf, county of Bihor (?).
- Stephanus dictus *Sclavus* (1341), noble (?), county of Bihor.
- Benedictus dictus *Sclauus* (*the slave*¹¹⁹) (1372), county of Timiș.

Annex 13/C – The Slovak (Tot, Toth, Thoth, Tough, Thowth, Sclaus; 7 people):

- Johannes dictus *Tough* / *Thoth* (1365-1382), noble of Chamafaya, county of Cluj (Ciumăfaia, Cluj County), man of the vice-voivodes of Transylvania.
- Johannes *Toth* (1378), noble of Tusum, county of Cluj (Tușinu, Mureș County).
- Nicolaus dictus *Thoth* (1345), noble, vice-castellan of Unguraș.
- Petrus dictus *Tot* (1337), townsman (*cives*) from Satu Mare (*Zothmar*).
- Petrus dictus *Thowth* / *Tough* (1347), serf, county of Satu Mare (?).
- Stephanus dictus *Toth* (1329), noble (?), county of Cenad or Zarand (?); he had power of attorney in a trial involving Iwanka yclept Vruz.
- Stephanus dictus *Thoth* (1353), serf, county of Satu Mare.

Annex 14 – The Sarachen (Serechen):

- Serechen (1269), county of Inner Szolnok (?); father of Johannes.

Annex 15 – The Szekler (Syculus, Siculo, Zekul, Zekel; 32 persons: 31 men, 1 woman):

- Dominicus *siculus* (1345), noble of Tylegd, the seat of Telegd / Tileagd (subsequently Odorhei).
- Franciscus *Siculus* (1363), freeman, non-noble or noble (?), from Vduorhel, Odorhei Seat (Odorheiu Secuiesc, Harghita County).
- Georgius dictus *Zekel* (1357), noble, castellan of Unguraș, man of the voivode.
- Gregorius dictus *Zekul*: (1351), noble.
- Ilba *Siculus* (1364), freeman, non-noble or noble (?).
- Jacobus dictus *Zekul* (1362), noble, castellan of Rupea.
- Jacobus *Syculus* (1381), noble of Kakas, Mureș Seat (Cocoși, probably Vălureni, Mureș County).
- Johannes *Zekul* (1302, 1308, 1312), clergyman.

¹¹⁹ This is how the editors of *DRH.C/14* translated the word *Sclauus* – see p. 104.

- Johannes dictus *Zekul* (1344), noble, kingsman, bailiff of the royal court (1344).
- Johannes dictus *Zekul* (1352), townsman from Cluj.
- Johannes *Siculus* (1360), noble, county of Turda.
- Johannes dictus *Zekul* (1368), townsman, tailor, from Sebus, county of Alba (Sebeş, Alba County).
- Ladislaus dictus *Zekul* (1363), noble, clerk of Almaş, county of Cluj.
- Margareta dicta *Zekul* (1339), servant (*ancilla*) / freed slave, county of Târnava (?).
- Martinus *Siculus* (1334), noble, county of Turda (?).
- Meggyes *Siculus* (1317), noble, Mureş Seat (?).
- Michael dictus *Zekul* (1362), servant (?), county of Cluj (?).
- Mycael dictus *Zekul* (1381), noble.
- Nicolaus *Syculus* (1360), freeman, non-noble, probably deceased.
- Nicolaus dictus *Zekul* (1375), noble (?), county of Târnava or Saxon Land (?).
- Nicolaus dictus *Zekel* (1376), noble.
- Orbos *Siculus* (1344), noble.
- Paulus dictus *Zekul* (1333-1334), servant of Sandrin, captain of the archers, county of Outer Szolnoc (?).
- Paulus *Siculus* (1358-1360), noble of Nova Torda, county of Turda.
- Petrus *Siculus* (1271), noble, comes.
- Petrus dictus *Zekel* (1357), noble, castellan of Unguraş, man of the voivode of Transylvania.
- Ropha *Siculo* (1345), noble.
- Semian *Siculus* (1331), noble, Odorhei Seat.
- Stephanus dictus *Zekek* / *Zekel* (1368), noble (?), county of Inner Szolnok.
- Stephanus dictus *Zekul* (1382), noble of Zaruastelek, county of Timiş (a settlement now disappeared, near Fârdea, Timiş County).
- Thomas dictus *Zekul* / *Zekel* (1377, 1380), townsman from Cluj (?); father of comes Nicolaus, judge of the city of Cluj.
- Zubuslaus / Zucuslaus *Siculus* (1271), noble, county of Alba (?).

Annex 16 – The Tartar (Tartarus, Tatar, Thatar; 8 individuals):

- Johannes dictus *Tatar* (1347), serf (?), possibly from the village of Vasary, county of Bihor (near Salonta, Bihor County).
- Johannes dictus *Tatar* (1358), noble, county of Satu Mare (?).
- Ladislaus *Tartarus* (1370), peasant (?), from villa Vosuary, county of Sătmar (Oşvarău, Satu Mare County).
- Nicolaus dictus *Thatar* (1327), noble, comes, county of Satu Mare (?).
- Nicolaus dictus *Tatar* (1355), noble, kingsman.
- Petrus *Tartarus* (1317-1329), clergyman, canon of the Church of Transylvania.

- Stephanus dictus *Tatar* (1323), noble, county of Ugocea (?).
- Stephanus dictus *Thatar* (1352-1357), noble of Keter, county of Satu Mare.