

THE BURGHERS OF MEDIEVAL TEMESVÁR/TIMIȘOARA IN THE LIGHT OF WRITTEN SOURCES

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In an earlier work by us we have pointed out that the citizens of Temesvár/Timișoara are referred to in medieval charters as *cives et hospites*.¹ The guests of Temesvár/Timișoara (*hospites de Themeswar*) are mentioned first in written documents in 1341. Not quite a year later, on 9 February 1342, the chapter house of Csanád/Cenad issued a charter in which mention is made of the *cives de Temeswar*. A distinct part of the townsfolk in Temesvár/Timișoara, namely the merchants - *mercatores de (nostra civitate) Themeswar* - appear in King Sigismund's charter issued on 13 January 1415 and also in the charter of Nicholas Csáki, voivode of Transylvania, issued on 15 September in the same year.

The first citizens of Temesvár/Timișoara whose names have survived are mentioned in a charter issued in 1361. These citizens, *Valentinus filius Michaelis et Vehul [Utul?] dictus de Sumplijo cives de Themeswar* were probably merchants. From the fifteenth century onwards the number of documents increases in which the burghers of Temesvár/Timișoara are mentioned specifically by name. In these cases, the Christian name of the burghers are preserved together with their father's or with the designation of their profession. These two variants - either separately or together - are sometimes also combined with the name of the town of Temesvár/Timișoara; for example, as well as the aforesited *Valentinus* and *Vehul*, we find *Sebastianus Georgii de Themesuar* (1400), *Johannes corrigiator de Themeswar* (1411), and *Andreas de Themeswar* (1446). In rare cases, these proper names even refer to some nearby locality from where the burghers migrated to Temesvár (*Vehul [Utul?] dictus de Somplijo civis de Themeswar*).

Below we are going to enumerate all the burghers of Temesvár/Timișoara who appear in the written sources before the end of the sixteenth century.

The burghers of Temesvár/Timișoara referred to by a collective desig-nation

19/05/1341,	Chapter house of Arad: hospites de Themeswar ²
09/02/1342,	Chapter house of Csanád: cives de Temesuar ³
18/06/1373,	King Loius I: iudici, iuratis et civibus ac hospitibus de Temesuar ⁴
13/01/1415,	King Sigismund: mercatores de nostra civitate Themeswar ⁵
02/10/1487,	King Mathias: cives et inhabitatores civitatis nostre Themeswariensis ⁶
28/12/1494,	John chaplain from Bárta/Bardejov: 28 pilgrims from Temesvár/Timișoara decided in Venice to return home from their pilgrimage to Rome (Et etiam de Themeswar XXVIII reversi sunt, ...) ⁷

The burghers of Temesvár/Timișoara referred to by a specific name

01/09/1361:	Valentinus filius Michaelis et Vehul (Utul/Vecul?) dictus de Sumplijo cives de Themeswar ⁸
1390/1398/1402:	Michael filius Benedicti olim judex/civis de Themeswar and his brother (frater) Jacobus; [Poztos dicti] ⁹
30/08/1405:	Johannes dictus de Jenew et Dyonisius filius Johannis iobagio regalis de Paznad cives de Themeswar ¹⁰
13/01/1411:	Johannes corrigiator ¹¹
20/10/1424:	Benedictus filius Michaeli Poztos dicti de Themeswar (nobilis vir) ¹²
27/08/1429:	Jacobus Zygg civis de Themeswar ¹³
04/10/1440:	Kyes Miklós ¹⁴
18/01/1451:	Johannes literatus civis de Themeswar ¹⁵
1458:	Dorothea, uxor Emerici institoris de Themesuar, filia judicis civitatis; ¹⁶
Johannes,	sellator de Themesvar (et) filius suus Philipus nomine VIII annorum; ¹⁷
13/10/1459:	Demetrius, filius Georgii Sclavi de Temesvar vel Georgii Thot etatis IX annorum ¹⁸
1459:	Elena uxor Johannis institoris de Temesuar et filius eorum, Ladislaus etate XVIII mensium ¹⁹
	Nicholaus Teg de Temesvar ²⁰
	Valentinus clericus de Temesvar ²¹
	Pellifex in Temesvar ²²
05/07/1474:	Georgius Marazy filius Blasij de eadem Maraz civis civitatis Themeswar ²³
12/01/1490:	Stephanus Magnus de Themeswar

	Blasius Pethew de Themeswar
27/04/1492:	Bartholomeus Besenew de sepedicto Themeswar ²⁴
22/06/1498:	Michael Thorsa civis civitatis Themeswar ²⁵
17/03/1507:	providus Briccius Thot consocius noster ²⁶ circumspectus Ladislaus Mezaros civis oppidi Themeswariensis ²⁷
1508:	Michael juratus civis de Themeswar ²⁸
1500/1510:	Members of the Bodó family from Temesvár ²⁹
1520:	domina Elizabeth relicta condam Petri Kys de Themesvar ³⁰
1523:	Johannes Olaah Nicolaus Zolga Ladislaus Matheiji cives civitatis nostre Themeswariensis ³¹
15/08/1523:	Michael Thorsa iuratus civis ³²
31/10/1523:	Georgius Sarko de Themeswar, Radycz de Themeswar, Woythyn de Themeswar, Paulus Twrkos de Themeswar ³³
11/04/1528:	Lucas Warga de dicta Themeswar ³⁴
02/02/1537:	Emericus Schnyder, Dionisius Kalmar, Bona Kromer, Andreas Czettencpfennig, Jorg Kyr schnner, Sygmund Rwbler ³⁵
12/08/1539:	Andreas Nagh de Themeswar ³⁶
1539:	Gyura Blassevity de Themeswar
25/06/1581:	Michael Philippovich de eadem (Themeswar) ³⁷
06/02/1582:	Hercheg István főbíró Olasz Tamás ³⁸ Natali di Saracca; Mateo; Crisostomo di Joannis; Toma Matijević; Andrija Cakalić; Gigura Nikolić; Raosav Matković; Vincenco Mihailović; Bernardo Jelich fia; Marino di Nicolo; Stefano di Jacobo; Đuro Nikolić; Ilija Vlahusić; Jakov Pavlović; Stjepan Paskojević; Pavao Đurpević; Giorgi di Dimitri; Đura Matijević; Martin Nikolić; Marin Ivanović ³⁹
08/03/1582:	Hercheg István főbíró Herczeg Péter (Ungarus) Simon Mihály fia Gáspár fia Márton (Ungarus) Barcouius Tamás Balomi(?) Péter (Ungarus) Szabó Tamás (magyar) ⁴⁰

Conclusions

The material presented above attests that the town of medieval Temesvár/Timișoara was administered by a judge (*iudex, báró*) who was supported in his work by the *iurati cives* (*esküdt polgárok*), that is the members of the town-council. At present, only two charters are known which were issued by the town council before the fall of Temesvár/Timișoara to the Ottomans in 1552, one in 1498, the other in 1523. Nevertheless, two other documents have survived from the late sixteenth century (1581, 1582) which also deserve attention. In contrast with the two former charters these documents were written not in Latin, but in Hungarian, and issued by the principal judge (*főbáró*) of Temesvár/Timișoara. The first *iudex* appears in written documents in 1390, and is named *Mychael dictus Poztos*. From the late sixteenth century another *báró* (*iudex*), to be more precise *főbáró* (principal judge) is known by name: István Hercheg. Curiously enough, the written documents preserved the name of only two *iurati cives*: Michael (1508) and Michael Thorsa (1523)⁴¹.

The scattered personal names preserved in documentary evidence, various references concerning urban administration, and the geographical location of the town are persuasive evidence that the *hospites*, and indeed the inhabitants of Temesvár/Timișoara, were preponderantly Hungarians until the mid-sixteenth century. Just as in the case of nearby Szeged, Latin and German guests, let alone Jews, did not play an important role in the development of medieval Temesvár/Timișoara. Beside Hungarians, Serbs and Ragusan merchants can be found among the burghers and the inhabitants of the town prior to 1552, and in the case of Johannes Olaah Romanian origin may be assumed. It is highly probable, that the number of Ragusan merchants increased significantly in the late sixteenth century and paralleled the attempts of the Republic of Ragusa aiming at the creation of a new “trading empire” on the Balkans controlled at that time by the Ottomans⁴².

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NOTES

1. István Petrovics, *Foreign Ethnic Groups and Urban Development in Medieval Hungary: the Case of Temesvár*, in *Analele Banatului (AnB)*, SN, Arheologie-Istorie, V, 1997, 235-245. Also see, István Petrovics, *Urban development in the Danube-Tisa-Mureş Region in the Middle Ages*, in *AnB*, SN, Arheologie-Istorie, IX, 2001 (Timișoara, 2002), 390-397; István Petrovics, *Foreign Ethnic Groups in the Towns of Southern Hungary* (Forthcoming).
2. *Oklevelek Temesvármegye és Temesvárváros történetéhez*. Másolta és gyűjtötte Pesty Frigyes. A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Tört. Bizottsága rendeletéből sajtó alá rendezte Ortvy Tivadar. Vol. 1, 1183-1430. *Temesvármegye és Temesvárváros története IV. [Charters to the History of Temes County and the Town of Temesvár]*. Collected by Frigyes Pesty, edited by Tivadar Ortvy.] (Hereafter TEMES), Pozsony, 1896, 69-71.
3. TEMES, 71.
4. National Archives of Hungary, *Collectio Antemohacsiana* (Hereafter OL. Dl.) 41 906.
5. TEMES, 493-494.
6. *Pesty Frigyes temesközi-szörénységi irathagyatéka [Manuscripts Concerning the History of the Danube-Tisa-Mureş Region from the Heritage of Frigyes Pesty]* (Hereafter PESTY HAGY.), A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Könyvtára, Kézirattár, MS. 4900.
7. *Bártfa szabad királyi város levélzárá, 1319-1526 [The Archives of the Free Royal Town of Bártfa, 1319-1526]*, Összeállította/compiled by Iványi, Béla. Vol. 1, Budapest, 1910, 465. (Charter no. 3167)
8. Petrovics, István, *Adalékok a középkori Temesvár kereskedelmi kapcsolataihoz [Contributions to the History of Trading Contacts of Medieval Temesvár]*, in *Acta Universitatis Szegediensis de Attila József nominatae. Acta Historica* (Hereafter AUSZ), CIX, Szeged, 1999, 34.
9. TEMES, 185-189, 195-198, 318-323. Also cf. Petrovics, István, *Egy 14. századi temesvári bíró: Posztós Mihály [A Fourteenth Century Mayor of Temesvár: Michael Posztós]*, AUSZ CIII, Szeged, 1996, 91-99.
10. OL. Dl. 92 246.
11. TEMES, 439.
12. National Archives of Hungary, Diplomatic photo collection (Hereafter OL. Df.) 260 269; Adrian Andrei Rusu, Ioan Aurel Pop, Ioan Drăgan, *Izvoare privind evul mediu Românesc. Tara Hațegului în secolul al XV-lea (1402-1473)*, Cluj-Napoca, 1989, 73.
13. TEMES, 626.
14. OL. Dl. 36 390; Jakó, Zsigmond (szerk./ed.), *A kolozsmonostori konvent jegyzőkönyvei [The Minutes of the Chapter House of Kolozsmonostor]*, Vol. 1, 1289-1556. Budapest, 1990, charter no. 277.
15. OL. Dl. 102 523.
16. Ivo Mažuran, Čudesna Ivana Kapistrana. *Miracula Ioannis de Capistrano*, Ilok A.D. 1460 (*Historijski Archiv u Osijeku. Fontes Historiam Essekini et Slavoniae Spectantes 4*), Osijek, 1972, 33.
17. *Ibidem*, 60-61.
18. *Ibidem*, 71.
19. *Ibidem*, 73.
20. *Ibidem*, 70.
21. *Ibidem*, 74.
22. *Ibidem*, 74.
23. OL. Dl. 73 028, Pesty, Frigyes, *A szörényi bánság és Szörény vármegye története [A History of the Banate of Severin and the County of Severin]*, Vol. 3, Budapest, 1878 (Hereafter PESTY 1878), 85-86.

24. PESTY HAGY. MS. 4900.
25. OL. Di. 19 838.
26. OL. Df. 245 532.
27. OL. Di. 59 966.
28. PESTY HAGY. MS. 4900.
29. Kubinyi, András, *Budai és pesti polgárok családi összeköttetései a Jagelló-korban [Family Contacts of the Burghers of Buda and Pest in the Jagiellonian Age]*, in *Levéltári Közlemények*, 37 (1966), 266-268.
30. PESTY HAGY. MS. 4900.
31. OL. Df. 245 811.
32. OL. Df. 246 160.
33. OL. Di. 26 685.
34. Juhász, Kálmán, *A csanádi székeskáptalan a középkorban [The Cathedral Chapter of Csanád in the Middle Ages]*, Makó, 1941, charter no. 692.
35. ARCHÍV MESTA KOŠIC. HER1. fol. 11. r-v. These Germans were originally burghers of Kassa/Košice, a significant merchant town in Upper Hungary. Soon after Kassa/Košice was occupied late in 1536 by the followers of King János Szapolyai, many of the German burghers were expelled from Kassa and relocated in the towns of the Great Plain. These towns were controlled by King János Szapolyai, and were inhabited exclusively by Hungarians. Cf. Petrovics, István, *Dél-dunántúli és dél-alföldi városok kapcsolata Felső-Magyarországgal a középkorban [Contacts of Towns Lying in Southern Transdanubia and the Southern Parts of the Great Plain with Towns of Upper Hungary]*, in Csukovits, Enikő, Lengyel, Tünde (szerk./ed.), *Bártfától Pozsonyig. Városok a 13-17. században [From Bártfa as far as Pozsony. Towns in the thirteenth-seventeenth centuries]*, Társadalom- és Művelődéstörténeti Tanulmányok 35, Budapest, 2005 (Hereafter BÁRTFÁTÓL POZSONYIG), 151, 155.
36. PESTY 1878. 215.
37. PESTY HAGY. MS. 4900.
38. *Ibidem*. The original charter was written in Hungarian. It is published in BÁRTFÁTÓL POZSONYIG, 156.
39. Eusebius Fermendžin, *Acta Bosnae potissimum ecclesiastica*. 925-1752. Zagrabiae 1892 (*Monumenta spectantia Slavorum meridionalium* 23), 320-321, Cf. Petrovics, István, Az „igaz hit” pislákolófénye: a Temesvárott élő raguzai kereskedők levele XIII. Gergely pápához [*The Glimmering Light of „True Faith”: a Letter Written by the Ragusan Merchants Living in Temesvár to Pope Gregory XIII*], in Bibók Károly, Ferincz István, Kocsis Mihály (szerk./ed.), Cirill és Metód példáját követve... *Tanulmányok H. Tóth Imre 70. születésnapjára [Following the Example of SS. Cirill and Methodius... Essays in Honour of Imre H. Tóth on his Seventieth Birthday]*, Szeged, 2002, 403-410 (The Hungarian translation of the original letter, written in the Croatian language, is also available in the study. See pp. 407-408)
40. Vajay, Szabolcs, *Temesvár Anjou-kori címere [The Coat-of-arms of Temesvár in the Age of the Anjou Kings]*, in *Levéltári Közlemények*, 46 (1975), 225-226. In his article Vajay also publishes the letter of István Hercheg, principal judge (főbíró) of Temesvár in the year 1582, that contains the names of the Hungarian burghers of Temesvár. It is important to note that István Hercheg's letter was written in Hungarian and addressed to Pope Gregory XIII.
41. For a comparison see the case of nearby Szeged where more than a dozen judges, 12 *iurati cives* and 2 notaries are known by their names from the same period. Moreover, solely the decimal list produced in 1522 contains 1644 - or 1784, as another opinion suggests - family names. Considering the number of the heads of families experts tend to believe that the population living in Szeged in the early sixteenth century numbered 8000-9500. Cf. Petrovics, István, *Várostörténeti tanulmányok. Fejezetek Szeged, Temesvár és Pécs középkori*

történetéből [Studies on Urban History. Chapters from the Medieval History of Szeged, Temesvár and Pécs], Kéziratos PhD disszertáció. [Unpublished PhD dissertation], Szegedi Tudományegyetem/University of Szeged, 2005, 317-318; BÁRTFÁTÓL POZSONYIG, 134.

42. Cf. Petrovics, István, *Az „igaz hit” pislákoló fénye*, 404 (with further literature).

CETĂȚENII TIMIȘOAREI MEDIEVALE ÎN LUMINA IZVOARELOR SCRISE

Rezumat

Articolul de față reprezintă o încercare de enumerare a celor cetăteni ai Timișoarei, care sunt consemnați în izvoarele scrise dateate înainte de sfârșitul secolului al XVI-lea. De altfel, în cercetarea istoriei medievale a Timișoarei, aceasta este prima lucrare de acest gen (care se ocupă de cetățenii orașului). Din cercetarea documentelor, atât a celor publicate, cât și a celor inedite, precum și a altor tipuri de izvoare scrise, autorul a ajuns la următoarele rezultate: în istoria Timișoarei până în anul 1552, cunoaștem numele unui jude, a 2 cetăteni jurați și a aproximativ 40 de cetăteni. Acestora li se mai adaugă, la începutul anilor 1580, încă un jude, 7 negustori maghiari și 20 de negustori din Ragusa care trăiau în Timișoara, cunoscuți, de asemenea, pe baza numelui lor.

În urma comparației datelor de mai sus cu cele referitoare la orașul Szeged, autorul ajunge la concluzia că materialul referitor la Timișoara este extrem de sărac. În cazul orașului Szeged, se cunosc mai mult de o duzină de juzi, 12 cetăteni jurați, precum și peste 1.500 de cetăteni din perioada anterioară mijlocului sec. al XVI-lea. În această privință, trebuie amintit faptul că doar lista de zeciuială din anul 1552 a păstrat numele a 1.644 de capi de familii (sau 1.784, conform unei alte opinii). Volumul modest al materialului despre Timișoara poate fi explicat și prin amploarea nemaiîntâlnită a distrugerii izvoarelor.