

## VARIA

### **Sigismund of Luxemburg and his Modern Scholars: The *Between Worlds: Sigismund of Luxemburg and his Time* Conference in Oradea (December 6-9, 2007)**

The conference in Oradea about Sigismund of Luxemburg was a unique event in its own respect, as it was the first major conference devoted to a leading European personality that did neither come to life, nor die, but was only buried in what is now modern Romania (yet was closely involved in the local and regional politics and society). It was also rather unique as, in spite of the impressive editorial works and the skillfully balanced exhibitions of 2006 (both in Budapest and in Luxemburg), no scientific meeting of greater extent had taken place. In fact, the last and virtually the first academic venue of this genre, devoted to emperor and king Sigismund of Luxemburg had taken place in Budapest in 1987. On Romanian soil, the conference was part of the *Between Worlds*, series, started in 2006 by the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca and the Romanian Academy, focused on key figures and events in regional and continental history (2006: John Hunyadi, 2007: Sigismund of Luxemburg, 2008: Matthias Corvinus, and 2009: the Union of Florence).

Organized by the City Hall of Oradea, the Babeş-Bolyai University, the *Țării Crișurilor* Museum of Oradea, the University of Oradea and the Romanian Academy, with the institutional support of major academic centers and structures such as the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Ca'Foscari University of Venice or the University of Szeged, the conference (December 6-9, 2007) involved almost 80 participants and some of the leading figures in the field (Erő Marosi, János M. Bak, Konrad Gündisch, Gianfranco Giraudo, Cesare Alzati, Franck Collard, Johannes Preiser Kapeller, Damir Karbić, László Gróf, Enikő Csukovits, Enikő Rűsz-Fogarasi, Șerban Papacostea, Viorel Achim, Camil Mureșanu, Ioan-Aurel Pop, or Ioan Drăgan). The participants from 9 countries (Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, England, Romania) took the stage in parallel sessions devoted to the major aspects of the king's reign and time.

#### From Luxemburg to Oradea

##### I. Politics and Law

##### II. Society and Economy

#### Image and Impact: The Faces of an Age

##### I. Historiography and History (1. The Late Medieval Perspective; 2. Modern and Early Modern Points of View)

##### II. Between the Churches (1. Latin Christendom; 2. Greek Christendom)

##### III. Image and Belief (1. Saints, Sinners and Instruments; 2. Heraldry, Cartography and Patterns)

#### The Realm, its Monarch, his Subjects: Structure and Exception

##### I. *Rex, reguli et regnum* (1. The Center and its Limits; 2. Local Powers and Regional Ambitions)

II. Revenues and Rewards (1. Charters and Profit; 2. Families and Followers)

III. Royal Borderlands (1. Defense, Trade and their Consequences; 2. Duties and Freedoms)

Crowns, Emperors and Kings: Political Shapes and Military Forms

I. Crusade and Diplomacy (1. Ottoman Affairs; 2. Frontier Efforts and Movements)

II. European and Regional Politics (1. Supporters and Infidels; 2. Allies and Enemies)

III. Men and Means (1. Aims, Claims and Opportunities; 2. Concepts and Cities)

A Ruler's Coordinates

I. North and South

II. East and West

The scientific quality of the proceedings and the very hospitable and warm environment led to the most fruitful and relevant discussions, completed by the exhibition devoted to Sigismund of Luxemburg's age east of the Tis(z)a, curated by Doru Marta (*Țării Crișurilor* Museum of Oradea) and Tudor Sălăgean (National Museum for the History of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca). These facts and impressions are captured in the words of some of the leading scientific figures that attended in the conference in the cold days of December.

*[...] it was splendid congress, worthy of Sigismund that recaptured the European dimension of the city of Oradea, in the manner defined by Karol Woytjla for the reconstruction of the concept of Europe (Cesare Alzati).*

*The conference had a twofold effect. On one hand, it intensified scientific contacts between the countries involved, though to the presence of leading figures in the field [...]. On the other, it augmented the Romanian reception of a leading European figure (Konrad Gündisch).*

*[...] The 'extra mural' program of the conference had the same relaxed air to it. Varied and interesting, they always produced the unexpected. [...] Any disappointments? Yes. I did not, could not see the tomb of Sigismund nor St Ladislás. They were destroyed long ago in the turbulent history of the region and of Oradea. But I suppose it did not matter. The joy of history is searching for and through the incomplete records of the past and connecting it to our lives, while enjoying the present. The Conference at Oradea achieved it all (László Grof).*

*[...] The conference provided the opportunity for most insightful reflections and for contacts with distinguished colleagues, which are otherwise difficult to meet. It was unquestionably a very positive experience [...] made possible by an impeccable logistical organization (Gianfranco Giraudo).*

The lectures delivered at the conference will be published in the third volume in the *Between Worlds*, series (= *Mélanges d'Histoire Générale*, Nouvelle Série, I, 3). Until then, the abstracts of the proceedings can be found in *Sigismund of Luxemburg and his*

*Time (Oradea, December 6-9, 2007)* (= *Mélanges d'Histoire Générale*, Nouvelle Série, Subsidia, I) edited by Florina Ciure and Alexandru Simon (Oradea, Editura Muzeului Țării Crișurilor, 2007, 172 p.), volume made available also online ([www.patzinakia.ro/guests](http://www.patzinakia.ro/guests)).

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