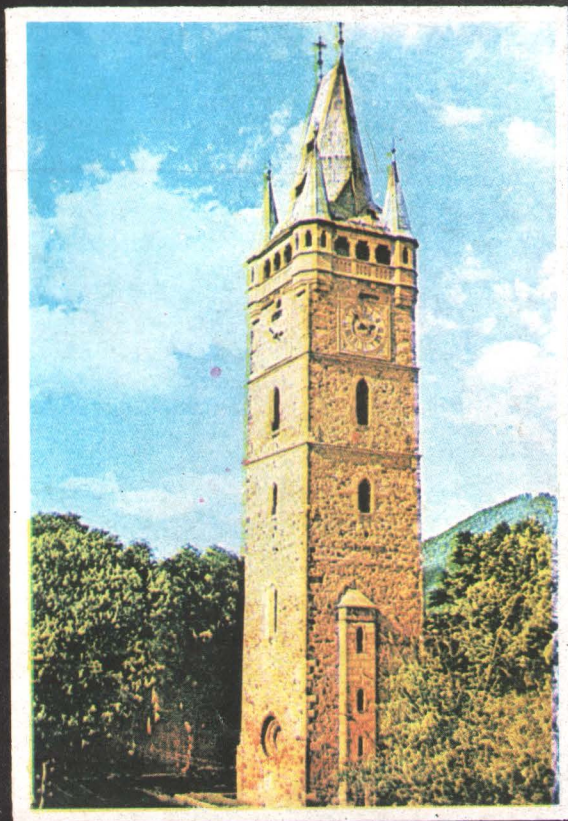


HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
IN BAIA MARE



FOUNDED BY

ancu de Hunedoara



BAIA MARE

On the 1st cover :

- Stephen's Tower – general view of the southern and western façades
- House of Iancu de Hunedoara – the northern façade in Mihai Viteazul Street

VISITING PROGRAMME :

- Stephen's Tower – May–Sept daily from 11 to 13
- House of Iancu de Hunedoara, daily from 10 to 13.
Closed on Monday

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Photographs : IULIU POP



Bas-relief on the southern side of the tower representing a knight in an armoury, perhaps the very founder Iancu de Hunedoara, voivode of Transylvania

Defender of the peoples' freedom from this very part of the Europe, skilful leader of the country, Iancu de Hunedoara bounded his name, among so many unforgettable events, of the raising of numerous edifices, which seemed to be destined by their founder to immortalize, in this way, his capacity.

Due to his brave victories, Iancu of Hunedoara, the descendant of a great and noble Romanian family, born in Tara Românească, had been rewarded with many royal estates. Among his domains, the mi-

Way up to the levels of the Tower, on the South side. Spiral stone steps



ning region of Baia-Mare was of main interest for the Prince. Iancu took important measures in miner developing, which had known in this part of the country a period of stagnation. The privileges which the Prince had given to the people from this place made their supply easier and spared them from certain taxes.

On the occasion of this visit at Baia-Mare in 1446, Iancu of Hunedoara ordered a tower to be built here (other sources speak about the overaising of the already existant tower) attached to the imposing gothic church raised a century before (1347–1376).

The building was finished by after the unexpected death of the Prince, by his son, King Matei Corvin, in 1468.

The tower, becoming the steeple of the church, was also town clock after the installation of the machinery in 1628, and it was used as well as a place of ward and observation, as well as a ceaseless mark for the townspeople or for the foreigners who came at Baia-Mare. The tower, called „Stephen” according to the above mentioned church owner and pulled down last century (because of the accidents ruins were causing) lasted due to the citizens' care, who saved it from fires, and degradation. Mainly because of the electric discharges from the year of 1561, 1769, 1806, 1868, these ruins



Bas-relief on the vestern side, representing the coat of arms of Baia Mare, with the symbols of mining

needed, each time, vast reconstruction works of the tower, like in 1619, 1770, 1898–1899 and, implicitly, some building modifications. The last restauration works were done in 1961, 1962 and 1977.

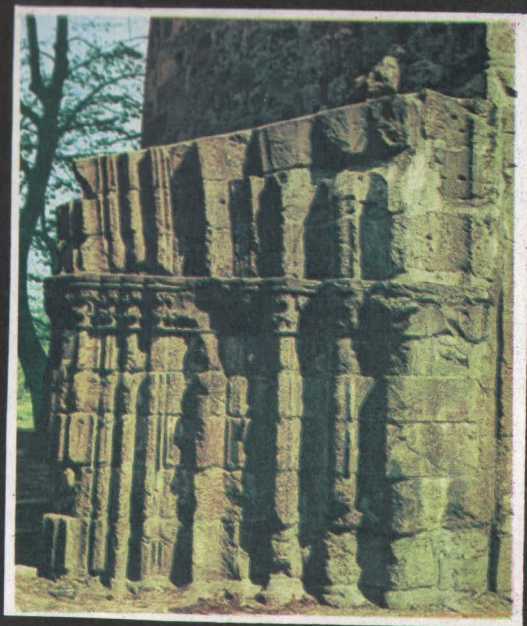
Having a prismatical form, with a square base, the tower is 40m high. Downstairs, on the northern side it has a wide room with ogival vaults and a wonderful gothical window representing a rosette form, situated on the western wall. The room shelters a medieval lapidary almost all the pieces of it coming from the building of the now-disappeared church.

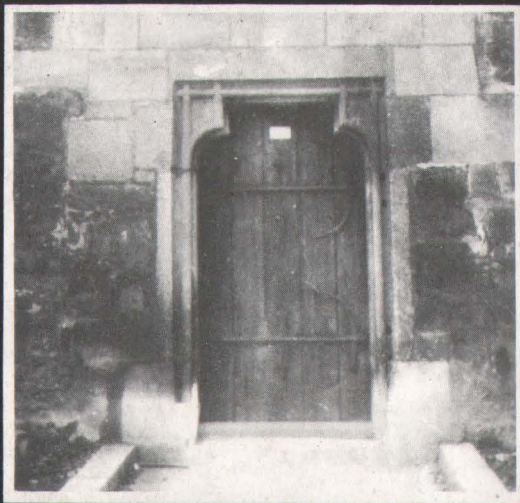


Gothic window rosette shaped, on the western façade

Part of the portal

On the southern side, a narrow stairs made of stone, spirally unfurled, goes to the floors where the bells are situated. Next, some wooden stairs direct to the clock machinery room, as well as to the other two overlapped rooms.





The grand floor of the northern side with the admittance door to the Gothic room

An observation tower with rails and archways made also of stone disposed around the last room, affords the human's eye to pierce far away the stretch of the town, as well as its picturesque surroundings. The wall of this room is painted with fresco towards the observation tower, showing some parts of the Baia-Mare firemen activity. The roof of the tower is similar to

a pyramidal form helmet, being flanked by four small towers raised on the corners of the observation tower.

An imposing building, with an elegant line, being declared one of the symbols of this town, the Stephen's Tower stirs everybody's attention.

The ruins of the IVth century church. Plan achieved before their demolition by the towns municipality in 1847





Impressed by the beauty of the monument and by its founder's personality, Nicolae Iorga, in one of his wanderings at Baia-Mare in 1906, called the construction „The Iancu's Tower“.

On this visit at Baia-Mare (the town was called in the Middle Ages „Rivulus dominarum“) in 1446, Iancu of Hunedoara initiated in this place the construction of a castle for his family, too. Finished also by the King Matei Corvin after his father's death, the castle — today an imposing

Architecture detail. The Gothic Room

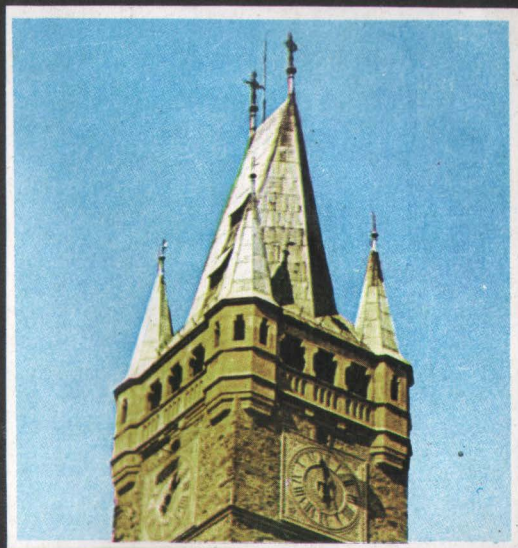


house – is placed in the old centre of the town, in the eastern part of the market, at number 18 and it has an inspired plate : „lancu of Hunedoara's House".

A bulky construction, initially fortified, keeping, in spite of all the lately modifications, wonderful medieval architectural elements, the house has the downstairs and the floor situated above a high cellar.

The rooms have a vaulted ceiling, those from downstairs communicating through a corridor also vaulted. At the end of this corridor, a wooden spiral stairs goes to the floor of the house.

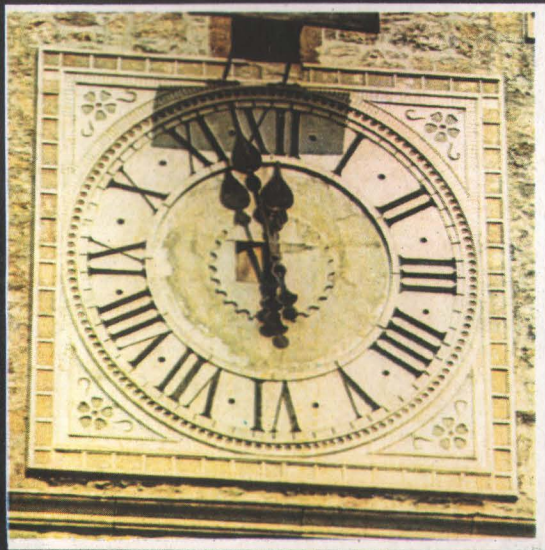
The construction is binded to the neighbour building through three archways-counterstrongholds suspended over the old street, which go from the central market of the town towards the old mint building, situated on the Săsar's river bank.



The upper floors of the tower with turret clock and balcony

Iancu of Hunedoara's House, recently having a cultural destination, lodges in its rooms from the floor thematic exhibitions of mineralogy, plastic art, ethnography and folk art, history, etc.

The turret clock of Baia-Mare



Architectural detail from the balcony



The House of Iancu of Hunedoara, the façade
from the Libertății Square

Important historical and architectural monuments, these two buildings, concisely presented here, bounded to Iancu's of Hunedoara name – underlining moments of shining medieval history of Baia-Mare – are parts of the touristic and cultural tour of Maramureș, being visited by larger and larger number of tourists interested in them.

The House of Iancu, detail of an interior



View from the top of the Tower to the Hill of
Flowers and the Museum of Ethnography

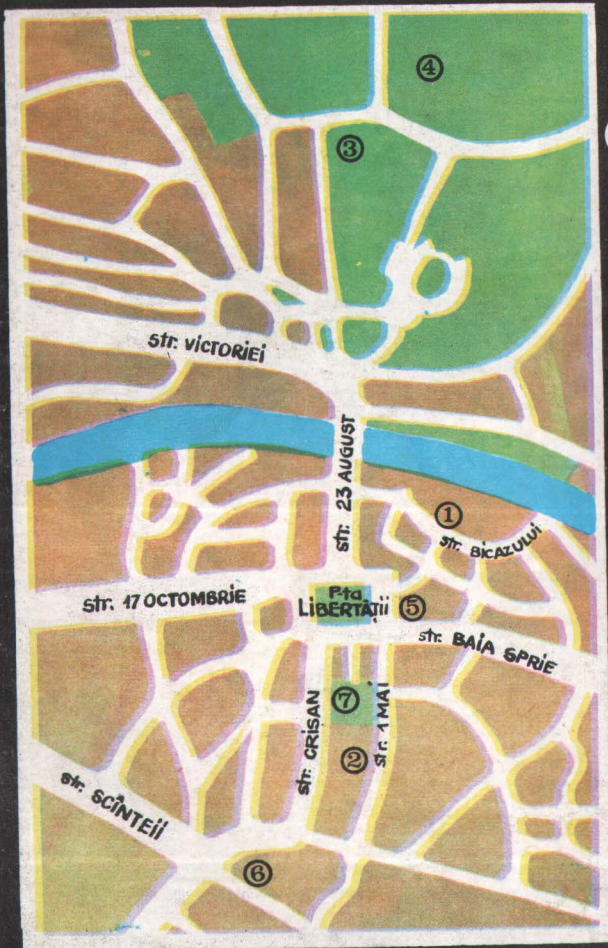


Baia-Mare – general view from Stephen's
Tower

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1



1. Museums of History,
History of Mining
Technique, Mineral-
ogy

2



2. Art Museum

3



3. Ethnographic
Museum

4



4. Folk Architecture
Reservation

5



5. The House of
Iancu of Hune-
doara

6



6. The Butchers'
Tower

7



7. Stephen's Tower