

ABSTRACTS

Mădălina Braşoveanu: Thoughts for a Documentary Exhibition: Traces of the Oradea – Târgu Mureş – Sfântu Gheorghe Network of Artists in the Securitate Archives

The study deals with the documentary traces left in the archive of the former Romanian political police by the communities of visual artists from Oradea, Târgu Mureş and Sfântu Gheorghe during the late '70s and early '80s, having in mind the organization of an exhibition. By employing analytical instruments of micro-history, oral history, and comparative analysis, the study discusses the possibility for these specific archival documents to become direct sources for local artistic historiography, while re-assembling, at the same time, the narratives and theoretical lines uncovered by the limitations of the same documents. From the micro-scale of the mail-art dialogue between the artists, recovered from a few snapshots available in their individual surveillance files, the study increases its scale of analysis in an attempt to follow the criteria and mechanisms used by the political power in its monitoring activity concerning visual arts. Due to the fact that the accusation of “nationalist attitude” was the main issue raised against the ethnic Hungarian artists from these communities, and these artists were the only ones who had been monitored, the conclusion that imposes itself as self-evident is that the ethnic factor was prevailing in the interests of the political police towards visual arts, and not the art itself. The study ends with an account of the planned exhibition, and is focused on the unstable status of these documents in themselves, on the additional layers of meaning they carry as part of the Securitate archives, on the risks involved when presenting them to the public – the main risk being represented by a precocious monumentalization.

Keywords: visual artists, Securitate, Securitate files, mail-art, Atelier Cenacle, Atelier 35

Gergely Fejér-Király – Ottilia György: Sustainable Finance through the Perspective of Social Banking

Due to the changes in the global economy new expectations have been addressed to conventional banking systems. The core of these expectations

is that banking activities should not cause losses to the society and their environment. The present article highlights the problems of the current banking system, and presents alternatives to conventional banking, such as social banking and the corporate social responsibility (CSR) integrated into the activity of traditional banking institutions.

Keywords: sustainability, banking system, social banking, sustainable finance, corporate social responsibility

János Fodor: The Experiences during a Journey in America – the Study Trip Made by György Bernády in 1911

Dr. György Bernády has become known to posterity as mayor of the modern city of Marosvásárhely/Târgu-Mureș, prefect and prominent Transylvanian politician. This article deals with a story of a journey, a decisive event in the context of his political biography. In 1911, Bernády visited the United States of America. The main reason of his journey was to do research on the United States' methods of natural gas consumption, and to implement these methods back home. Notes were taken of the journey, which contained mostly raw data of the places and factories visited; however, there are other sources that mention his observations about the mentality and other perspectives of certain events. Combined and analysed with other two memoirs of the same period (that of Albert Apponyi and of István Apáthy) the full journey can be reconstructed and put into a larger perspective. The main question of the paper is how this journey had affected the mentality and course of actions of Bernády after 1911.

Keywords: György Bernády, Marosvásárhely/Târgu-Mureș, Albert Apponyi, István Apáthy, political biography

László Geréb: Opportunities for a Business-friendly City in Szeklerland

The corporate sector of a settlement obviously determines the life, earnings and standard of living of its inhabitants, the financial opportunities of the local authorities, as well as the quality of public works. There is nothing new in the recognition that the leaders of settlements have to pay special attention to the local entrepreneurs by involving them in decision-making, supporting their innovations and helping their day-to-day activities with administrative tools.

This is a great challenge for every settlement and the municipalities in the Szeklerland are no exception. The Romanian legal framework offers limited opportunities for the local authorities to have an impact on the development of local economy. Despite the fact that the local companies significantly influence the life of a settlement, the local governments themselves do not possess enough leverage to support the enterprises. In the present study we describe the above mentioned phenomena: on one hand, we analyze the importance of the local enterprises in the life of the settlements, on the other hand, we examine the measures available to the local authorities to support the corporate sector.

Keywords: corporate sector, local government, business-friendly city

József Kánya: Pressures of Modernization in Szeklerland between 1876–1914 and 1990–2016

This study in economic history presents in a comparative perspective three cycles of modernization from the last 140 years of Szeklerland's history (1876–2016), with a specific focus on the turns of the 19th to the 20th century and the 20th to the 21st century. In the examined periods one can witness almost similar phenomena and challenges faced by the economy and society. Within the conceptual framework of centrum–periphery relationships, the study presents the measures and phenomena of modernization emanated by economic centers external to the region, and their inconsistent effects. Apparently, the problems faced in our days by the Szeklerland are the same as the problems 140 years ago. Over this time period the region was not able to finance its own development from local capital. Hence, the question whether the economic autonomy of the region is a realistic idea seems legitimate.

Keywords: modernization, mentality, centrum–periphery, organic growth, innovation, economic prosperity, crisis

Ambrus Miskolczy: “On the Road of the Wicked” (2)

“This country is situated on the road of the wicked” – that is what Gri-gore Ureche, a chronicler from Moldova in the 17th century wrote about his country, referring to the fact that Moldova had become the scenery of constant war conflicts, as well as to the fact that the expression that became an

adage regarding Wallachia, moreover, the entire region. Yet, during the 14th century, some sort of peace got installed. The two Anjou kings of Hungary were powerful enough to confront the Tatar influence, though not strong enough to be able to turn the two Romanian provinces into their constant vassals. On the opposite, these provinces joined the Greek Orthodox Church, thus enforcing their independence. This outcome can be easily reconstructed from written historical sources, but the road to that result not. Probably the most relevant opinion is that Wallachia was structured in a substitutive manner, in which its rulers had taken over the institutions of the previous Tatar state. Whether this ruling strata set off from Transylvania or from the southern side of the Carpathians to its conquest expedition, is hard to clarify unequivocally. It is also undetermined what role had the Cumans and Bulgars played, since the name of Wallachia's first prince, Basarab is a Cuman name, and at the end of the 12th century the Romanians from the Balkans were fighting alongside the Cumans in the region of the Danube against the Byzantine Empire. The Cuman-Frank analogy, however, is far-fetched, alike the way how Cuman influences are minimized, since the Romanian language still keeps around 40 words of Cuman origin, which designate essential parts of the culture of that epoch.

The establishment of Moldova, however, is due first of all to Romanian fighters set off from Maramures, who expelled the Tatars attacking from North, while the Transylvanian prince and the Szekler count expelled them from the South. This early coexistence with Hungarians is confirmed by place names and by words referring to the typical way of life of free peasants, towns and the era of feudalism. It also illustrates the description given by the prominent Romanian historian, P. P. Panaitescu: "Romania is the road of different civilizations and influences."

Keywords: establishment of Moldova, establishment of Wallachia, Kingdom of Hungary, Byzantine Empire, Basarab dynasty, Cumans