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**The Aspects of Relations among the Population of
Maramuresh and
Bistrita in the 15-th and 16-th Centuries**

-Summary of the doctoral dissertation-

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There was a double motivation when selecting this topic, both from an objective perspective referring to the previous interest about the study of Maramures county and from a subjective one due to personal Maramures ancestry. The types of rapports between the inhabitants of Maramures and Bistrita have been investigated in this research paper starting with the unpublished archivist information and a historiographic familiarisation with the subject.

The detailed research of a substantial number of documents and papers about the history of Maramures and Bistrita has many times and in various situations revealed aspects of these relations.

With the present step one attempts to present certain features that have been considered significant for the neighboring rapports between the two distinctive micro-regions in the 15th and 16th century as it was shown by the analysis of the historical and historiographic sources. Owing to the fact that an exploration of the relations dynamics between the two territories makes a very extensive and complex issue, which would require the analysis of a massive and divers volume of documents, and a thorough research, the paper does not include in the analysis all the existing relations amongst the two regions just the ones referring to the political, economical and judicial ones for which documentation material was found. One intended to explore a less researched topic but a very historically important one that could be evidenced with new investigation data, the archive collections being the ones to provide unpublished documents. Thus the current endeavor was meant to be a typecast of the rapports between the two neighboring areas, different as it regards their territorial organization, geographical disposition as well as the perspective of the population structure.

It is also necessary to present the drawbacks of this improvable research activity. Although in the beginning there was the premise of succeeding to organically study all the relations between the two regions, the extensiveness of the subject, the limited amount of time and the lack of some conclusive evidence about the period that was being studied determined us to concentrate solely on the relations we found enough archivist material for. As for the other types of relations, only the information we had had by the time the thesis was edited has been included. Nevertheless the inexistence of certain

documentation data referring to other types of relations fails to convince they had not existed. One can merely conclude that the information on this topic had not been recorded in writing or that the documents had been lost as the time past.

As it regards the methodology of research, we decided upon a combination of methods for a better clarification of the issue. We opted for the specific historical methods of research materialized through the analysis of the documents using the comparative method too in order to emphasize the similarities and the differences between the two neighboring regions, and to underline the particularities and the elements particular to each of them. Attempting a qualitative investigation of the documents, an interpretative as well as a quantitative one, the study had as main method the document analysis especially with the documents related to the officials' correspondence, in this case, a quantification of documents according to the number of existing letters in a certain period of time was carried on. The documents have been analyzed from the perspective of the editor, stressing the social and the historical context of the elaboration time, that of the information provided by the text.

As for the structure, the thesis comprises six chapters, each approaching fundamental aspects of the rapports between the people in Maramures and the ones in Bistrita. In this paper a classic typecast of the regional relations was chosen, that is according to their nature. Such a type of strategy involves better the documentation data gathered and gives the possibility of a detailed analysis of the rapports based on this criterion. The research of the dynamics of the rapports between the inhabitants of Maramures and Bistrita centered around three perspectives, which we identified at the source level as being: political and military, economical, and judicial rapports. Though there had been certain particularities for each micro-region, in the investigated period, one might notice the existence of these neighboring relations.

The political and military rapports during the 15th and 16th century were touched by major political and social transformations which took place in that period of time and left a mark upon the dynamics of these relations. The general political changes in The Kingdom of Hungary, the region of Transylvania respectively, have led to an intensification of the collaboration at the micro-regions level causing to form regional solidarity. All of these determined complex neighboring rapports dictated by the common interest to defense against dangers and invasions. The need for security brought about a concentration of the regional political forces against dangers, and an effort to prevent them. The mutual information transfers were one of the key factors that led to this success. Contrary to every ethnic, religious, social or cultural

difference existing at micro-region level in Transylvania, one can detect a consolidation of the relations in order to resolve common problems which they had been confronted with. Mutual exchange of news by means of mail generated the intensification of collaboration and the strengthening of neighboring rapports. One can also notice a strive to maintain good neighboring relations led by the authorities of the two territories which turned into mutual support and collaboration on agreements on trading, cattle grazing and establishing borders.

As to economical relations, collective exchanges of goods can be noticed. The documents evidence the existence of some settlements between the inhabitants of Maramures and Bistrita when it comes to borders, cattle grazing and duty-free customs. But many times there were problems at individual level, singular individuals going beyond these reciprocal settlements. Direct participation of the inhabitants of each zone at economic activities on the territory of the other region caused various problems and misunderstandings as well, which led to creating an official correspondence related to judicial situations. The authorities intervened with their means to protect their subjects' interests.

A particular analysis dedicated to the judicial relations encloses information about the main problems existing among the population in those regions: deceit, arguments for the borders of the lands, damage, assault and abuse, putting goods under distraint and hostage keeping, disagreements on borders and cattle theft, as well as cases of turning in fugitive subjects and going after villains and murderers. These judicial problems related rapports were regulated in time, each area trying to preserve their own old rights and liberties. The ones who judged were the authorities from the territory of the defendant respecting the nobles' rights and the autonomy of the Transylvanian Saxons from Bistrita.

The relation between people in Maramureş county and those in Bistriţa district is an important issue within the history of the Medieval Transylvania for which conclusive worthwhile information has been identified and mentioned. The study of all these types of rapports in their complexity, diversity and dynamics is of great importance for a better understanding of the regional structure, utility and dynamics in the 15th and 16th century Transylvania, as it is for the knowledge about the political, economical and judicial history of these regions. Going through these attempts of outlining the types of relations, one hopes to arouse the researchers' interest in studying this issue thoroughly and lead the way for more profound further analyses or even for new interpretations relevant to regional connections.