

**UNIVERSITY „BABEŞ-BOLYAI” CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY
DEPARTAMENT OF REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY**

**THE AMLAŞ LAND.
STUDY OF REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY**

**PhD THESIS
- abstract -**

***SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR,*
Prof. univ. dr. POMPEI COCEAN**

***PhD candidate,*
PAVEL ION-HORAŢIU**

CLUJ-NAPOCA

2010

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

- I.1 AREA IN REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY – MENTAL SPACE – „LAND”
- I.2 REGIONAL METHODOLOGY IN AMLAŞ LAND REVELATION

CHAPTER II. AMLAŞ LAND AS AN HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTRUCTION

- II.1 AMLAŞ TERRITORY DURING ANCIENT PERIOD
- II.2 THE ECONOMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATION OF ROMANIANS IN THE FORM OF „OBŞTI”
- II.3 THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE TRANSILVANIAN SPACE FOR IMIGRANTS – HUNGARIAN PENETRATION IN TRANSYLVANIA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE NATIVE POPULATION
- II.4 SAXONS COLONIZATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE TERRITORY AND THE POPULATION
 - II.4.1 Saxons Origins, Purpose and Colonized Area
 - II.4.2 The Administrative Organization of the Saxons
- II.5 FIRST REFERENCES TO AMLAŞ
- II.6 AMLAS LAND’S TERRITORIAL EXTENT IN THE HISTORIANS VIEW
- II.7 THE ORGANIZATION OF AMLAS TERRITORY DURING XII-XVII CENTURIES
 - II.7.1 Salgo Fortress. Controversies and Certitudes
 - II.7.2 From “Amlaş Territory” During the Reign Of Vladislav Vlaicu to Amlaş Duchy under the Rule of Mircea the Elder and His Successor
 - II.7.3 The Emergence of Sibiu, the Metamorphosis of the Amlaş Duchy into Sălişte Seat and The Saxon Administration of the Region
- II.8 MILITARIZATION OF THE REGION MADE THROUGH THE FOUNDATION OF THE BORDER GUARD REGIMENTS.
 - II.8.1 Purpose, Organization and Operations Of Regiments
 - II.8.2 Rights and Obligations of Border Guards
 - II.8.3 Their Role in the Imperial Military Policy
 - II.8.4 Disappearance of Border Guard Regiments
- II.9 BETWEEN AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN DUALISM AND THE GREAT UNION OF 1918
- II.10 THE AMLAŞ LAND RETURNING TO NORMAL. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE TERRITORY AFTER 1918

CHAPTER III. THE REGIONAL SYSTEM

- III.1 THE CURRENT LIMITS OF AMLAS LAND REGIONAL SYSTEM
- III.2 THE SUPPORT COMPONENT AND ITS ROLE IN THE REGIONAL SYSTEM
 - III.2.1 Relief Characteristics and Geomorphological Hazards
 - III.2.2 The Role of Climate in the Region Humanization and Current Climate Hazards
 - III.2.3 Water Resources
 - III.2.4 The Soils
 - III.2.5 Biogeographic Potential
 - III.2.6 Environmental Conditions
- III.3 THE ACTION AND INTERACTION COMPONENT. GEODEMOGRAPHICS CHARACTERISTICS IN AMLAŞ LAND
 - III.3.1 Official Demographical Data. The First Wills and Censuses Held During 1850-2002
 - III.3.2 The Numerical Evolution of the Population
 - III.3.3 Population Dynamics (Natural And Migration)
 - III.3.4 The Spatial Distribution of Population.
 - III.3.5 Population Structure by Age and Sex
 - III.3.6 Ethnic and Religious Structure of the Population. Changes Over Time

- III.3.7 Educational Level of the Population.
- III.3.8 Occupational Structure
- III.3.9 Malfunctions and Demographic Hazards
- III.4 THE SETTLEMENTS SYSTEM
 - III.4.1 Overview Over the System of Settlements
 - III.4.2 The Typology of Settlements
 - III.4.3 The Hierarchy Ranks of the Settlements
 - III.4.4 Settlements System Malfunctions
 - III.4.5 Build Heritage of Amlaş Land

CHAPTER IV. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COORDINATES OF THE REGION

IV.1 THE AGRICULTURE AND THE GRAZING

IV.1.1. THE AGRICULTURE

- IV.1.1.1 Natural, Socio-Economic and Historical Premises
- IV.1.1.2 Land Use Structure. Indicators
- IV.1.1.3 Plants Growing
- IV.1.1.4 The Degree of Agricultural Mechanization
- IV.1.1.5 Livestock

IV.1.2 Grazing

- IV.1.2.1 The Age of Grazing In The Region
- IV.1.2.2 The Organization of Pastoral Life
- IV.1.2.3 The Calendar of Pastoral Life
- IV.1.2.4 The Pastoral Decline Since the Nineteenth Century

IV.2 THE INDUSTRY

IV.3 THE FORESTRY

IV.4 TOURISM POTENTIAL

- IV.4.1 Natural Tourism Potential
- IV.4.2 Anthropogenic Tourism Potential
- IV.4.3 Current Trends in Region Tourism

IV.5 TRADE AND SERVICES IN AMLAŞ LAND

IV.6 TEHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORY

IV.7 EDUCATION AND HEALTH

CAPITOLUL V. THE AMLAŞ LAND AS A MENTAL SPACE

V.1 SHAPING AND EVOLUTION OF AMLAŞ LAND MENTAL SPACE

V.2 FACTORS INVOLVED IN SHAPING OF AMLAS MENTAL SPACE

V.3 THE MENTAL SPACE CHARACTERISTICS

V.4 SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL PRODUCTION OF THE MENTAL SPACE

- V.4.1 Traditional Occupation
- V.4.2 Folk Crafts And Folk Industry
- V.4.3 Folk Art
- V.4.4 Folk Costumes
- V.4.5 Painting
- V.4.6 Folk Literature
- V.4.7 Dialect
- V.4.8 Customs and Traditions
- V.5.9 The Amlaş Land – Leading Cultural Region

CAPITOLUL VI

VI.1 THE REGIONAL CHOROTYPE

VI.2 SWOT ANALYSIS

VI.3 CONCLUSIONS

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Keywords: region, land, mental space, specification, transformation, limit grazing, chorotip regional, region specific

The originality of Amlaş land relative to other similar regional formations is given by the fact that currently, it does not represent any spatial entity and cannot be found even in the consciousness of local inhabitants (most have never heard of it). Frequently mentioned in historical documents (especially in the titles of rulers of Wallachia), it is an example of a "land" which failed to respond to external destructive factors, digressing up from its natural evolution in a direction that lead to her dissolution. However, Amlaş Land can be prosecuted as a model for other regional parties in terms of vulnerability to similar threatening phenomena. In this way, the scientific approach aimed to capture the current features of the old system elements so, and with a rich historical information, to succeed in rebuilding the Amlaş Land in different reverberation times for its evolution.

Effective part of Wallachia ("Țara Românească") for a period of 90 years (1366-1453) as a domain of the Wallachian rulers, Amlaş Land has suffered frequent changes of the shape of political and administrative organization influenced by the foreign rulers of Transylvania. Therefore, if the mode of formation and early development (until the sixteenth century) of the mental space of the Amlaş Land sowed with similar steps in other regions of Romania, by the Romanian mental space fragmentation with allochthonous populations infiltrating: the Hungarians (from the tenth century) and the Saxons (in southern Transylvania, from sec.XII). Thereafter, especially under the pressure of German settlers, it produced a spatial and functional metamorphosis of the Amlaş Land. The new entity had a new center of reference (Săliște), but conserved the country core until now, when, among other settlements around which are similar in many ways, forms "Mărginimea Sibiului".

CHAPTER I

I. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

I.1 AREA IN REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY – MENTAL SPACE – „LAND”

The area occupies an important place in the study of Geography, and hence its branches, but becomes indispensable in the Regional Geography, where is part of the matrix structure, moreover, in its deep entering, the etymology of the word order itself (the region = area, surface area) "(P. Cocean, 2002). Mental spaces is a complex structure, difficult to individualize, because of the hierarchical arrangement (from general to particular) with constant interference between levels, but also because they have limitations dictated less by the natural elements and more by psychological aspects.

The "Lands" are "homogenous natural regions, specific to the Charpatian North-Danubian's space, throughout their lifetime characterized by a strong ethnic, linguistic and ethnographic bound" (A. Puscas, 2000).

I.2 REGIONAL METHODOLOGY IN AMLAȘ LAND REVELATION

The regional method approaches the entire phenomenology that operates in a territory, detaching it, through complexity, bringing together techniques and methods of operation used at the branch level.

To decipher the features of the Amlășului Land's mental space, the way people perceive in this area where they live, and a sense of belonging in which they cherish for him, I used the questionnaire and interview technique, applied to the inhabitants of this area. To avoid inhabitants subjectivity in shaping the region's mental space limitations, we conducted raids in the adjacent northern, eastern and western spaces, where the same questions were applied. The results of the questionnaire were the basis for drawing and graphic design choremic the territory as a region polarized. To decipher the polarizing flows within the system, in addition to objective analysis conducted on the basis of knowledge and technical infrastructure of the surrounding land and a questionnaire was developed to highlight the relationship between rural territorial system. The results of the questionnaire were the basis for drawing the chorema model and for the graphical representation of the territory as a polarized region.

CHAPTER II

II.AMLAŞ LAND AS AN HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTRUCTION

II.1 AMLAŞ TERRITORY DURING ANCIENT PERIOD

The rich natural potential of the region led to an ancient habitation since the Middle Paleolithic period (100,000 - 30 000 BC), the permanent housing being evidenced by archaeological proofs of Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. Much richer and more intense is the evidence of Antique times. We mention the Dacian fortress from Tilişca (dating from second century BC) on the hill Catanas (712 m altitude), which reaches its peak development during Burebista (82? - 44 BC), the most important Dacian monetary center, with 14 molds for producing coins. After nearly 170 years of Roman administration that has completely changed the destiny of its inhabitants and started the formation of the Romanian people, the emperor Aurelian chooses to leave Dacia under the the pressure of Goths, to whom he offer it based on an agreement so they can become allies ("federates"). Withdrawal is south of the Danube, starting in 271 (legions of Transylvania), lasts until 275 and it targets the state representatives (legions and administration), plus some rich people (C-tin C. Giurescu Dinu C. Giurescu, 1971), but most of the approximately one million people remain in the old colony.

II.2 THE ECONOMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATION OF ROMANIANS IN THE FORM OF „OBȘTI”

In the next period, marked by countless invasions of migratory populations, the residents of this area had the main form of organization the „obști”, located in river valleys and natural hollows. There has been a shift of the center of gravity of the socio-economic life of the former Daco-Roman cities to rural areas, more appropriate to the new conditions of life of the population, to protect against the invaders. The „obști” fulfill the complex economic, administrative, political and military functions: a framework which enables a normal economic and spiritual life, maintaining order, achieving objectives of common interest, defense organization, development of relations with the outside, allowed the preservation of traditions and ancestral customs, the preservation of civilization and language, the assimilation of foreigners. In this way these the „obști” represented the conservation of the traditional system of social, political and military organization, preservation of ethnic background, language and civilization of the Romanian people.

II.3 THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE TRANSILVANIAN SPACE FOR IMIGRANTS – HUNGARIAN PENETRATION IN TRANSYLVANIA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE NATIVE POPULATION

Since 896, the Hungarians led by Árpád enter the Tisza Plain. Finno-Ugric people, originating from central Asia, Hungarians begin expeditions in all directions, but after defeat in the west against the German emperor Otto the Great (the year 955, the River Lech), they focused particularly on the east, to Transylvania. Here, they slowly began to expand their influence, succeeding in 200 years to dominate the entire Romanian province.

The advance of the Hungarians into Transylvania was made with great difficulty, so that in the first phase they were able to hold a single county, Solnoc. By the end of the twelfth century Hungarians reach the Mures and Tarnave vallies and set up other six counties: Alba, Dăbâca, Cluj, Turda, Tarnava and Hunedoara. The seven counties were mingled until the fourteenth century. In southeastern Transylvanian, Hungarians enter only at the end of the thirteenth century, but they are not organizing counties. As a nation less prolific and having a low expansion power, they can only expand the territory ruled by the use of settlers of other nationalities.

II.4 SAXONS COLONIZATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE TERRITORY AND THE POPULATION

Colonization of the population of German origin, made with the consent and even endorsed by the Hungarian kings, was accompanied by a number of granted privileges. This provided them a free life and an ideal framework for development. It was done in order to strengthen the border territories of the kingdom and had a decisive role in formation and then disappearance of the Amlaş Land.

II.5 FIRST REFERENCES TO AMLAŞ

The Amlaş territory was for the first time mentioned in the legend of the foundation of Negru Voda (big "herţeg" of Amlaş and Fagaras), cited in the "Anonymous Chronicle" (Cronica anonimă) in southern Transylvania, which occurred in 1290, and had as outcome the foundation of Wallachia (Țara Românească). The legend is accompanied by the controversy aroused by the possible confusion between Hațeg and herţeg and the nature of the character's legendary Negru Voda, seen by many as Radu Voda (1373-1364).

The first documentary mention of the Amlaş settlements dates from 1309, when is cited the pastor of Amlaş, about some misunderstandings about the church, continued in the next period, which shows the existence of a well-knit human community in the region. The importance of locality is embossed by the high value of tithe paid to the bishop of Alba Iulia.

II.6 AMLAS LAND'S TERRITORIAL EXTENT IN THE HISTORIANS VISION

Regarding the Amlaş territory borders, there were different views expressed over time by historians, especially in the first half of last century. All opinions converge on the idea of locating the Amlas territory in space of Săliște hollow, but with variable extensions.

- D. Onciu considered "Amlaşului land, located between Fagaras Land and Hațeg Land" as well as "and some adjacent side of the mountains, to the Lotru Valley"
- P.P. Panaitescu considered the Amlaş Duchy not be deemed to be in continuity with the Tara Romaneasca, "a small feudal enclave in the southwest Transylvania with six romanian villages and a defense castle;
- I. Minea says that "cannot be told Amlaş duchy, which never existed, but the Amlaş and Fagaras duchy;
- Nicolae Iorga thought about "a duchy of Fagaras and Amlaş can not be told and is more than doubtful that he (Vladislav) actually had those beautiful Romanian villages under the mountain around Săliște.
- I. Moga made the demarcation that it corresponds the most with historical sources, based on a thorough knowledge of political and social realities of that era. Thus, starting from the documents and the pastoral nature of these settlements, which was one of the elements of their specificity, has been achieved the demarcation of Amlaşului duchy borders and their evolution over time.

II.7 THE ORGANIZATION OF AMLAS TERRITORY DURING XII-XVII CENTURIES

The fact is that the perception of a region with variable limits is generated by the permanent destruction and reconstruction which has undergone the social system of this country.

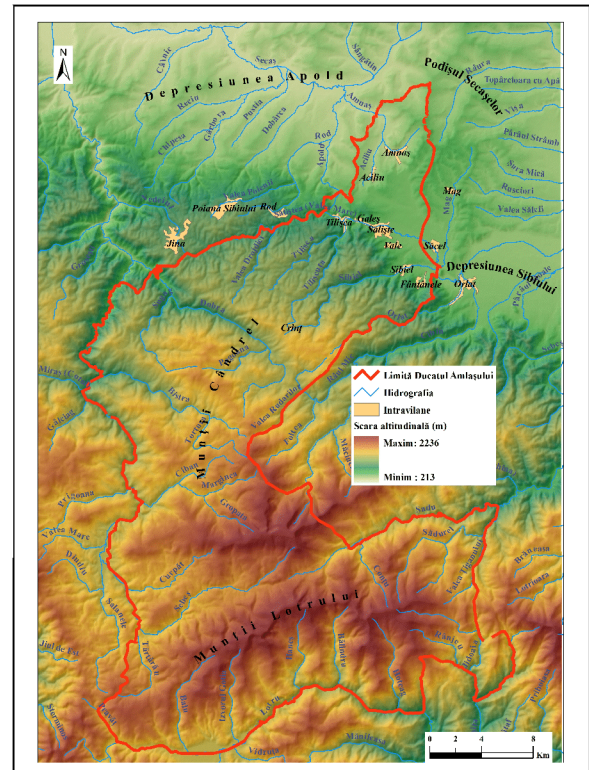
The first organization of this territory was the political subordination to the Salgo fortress, with a domain consisting of nine villages. The fortress was built in XII century, in order to strengthen the southern border and control the Saxons and the Romanians. The king tried to organize a domain of the fortress between 1322-1366, but at the end of the XIV century it was abandoned due to the construction of Turnu Rosu, Lotru and Talmaciu fortresses who took its strategic functions.

Since 1366, The Amlas space becomes part of the Tara Romaneasca land (Wallachia) until 1453. "The Territory over the mountains", he belongs to the Hungarian crown occupied Transylvania, and is given as a reward to Wallachian rulers with a friendly policy. The territory appears in Wallachian administration during the reign of Vladislav Vlaicu (1364-ca 1374), and comprises five villages: Săliște,

Gales, Valley, Cacova, Sibiel. Since 1383 is organized as a duchy and contains its maximum extension, consisting of eight villages and is going again under the Wallachian rule in 1389 (under the reign of Mircea the Elder).

In 1453 Matthias deprives Vladislav II of the duchy, then in 1469 he gives it to the Saxons University (an administrative body with political, legal and cultural responsibilities). This is the second major blow applied to the ancestral territorial system, first being represented by the colonization of Saxons in the southern Transylvania. A center-periphery relation is formed, dominated by the Sibiu regional pole at the expense of Amlaş, which becomes an ordinary dependent locality. The Romanian population occupied a peripheral area (mărginaş), generating, thus Mărginimea Sibiului, a Romanian space entity, based on cultural, ethnic and organization similarities, which includes areas of Amlaş territory except its capital, which the Saxon colonization changed its original character.

Fig.1 – The Duchy of Amlaş during Mircea the Elder (Mircea cel Bătrân)



At the same time, it enhance the polarized role of Saliste, based on sheep breeding and craft development, which becomes the center of Săliște district (seat) resulted from the Amlaş Duchy collapse. Saliste becomes the reference center of Romanism (which Amlaş lost because of the Saxons colonization). Săliște seat, although it will be under the seat Sibiu subordination, it will keep in the same time the old Romanian institutions and the domestic law. The Săliște Seat is composed of villages located in this hollow, plus Tilișca, but it will gather around other surrounding Romanian settlements such as Jina, Sibiu Glade, Rod, Săcel or Mag. If we follow the Amlaş Land's evolution in distinct periods which marked its development, we see that the one constant has been a "five Romanian villages" (quinque villis Olaceis) to which was subsequently added Tilișca. Spatial and functional metamorphosis occurred between the XV and XVI centuries, when, despite keeping Amlaş Land core, it changed the systemic structure vectors. The loss of Amlaş village was accompanied by a neglect of the topic, which is slowly forgotten.

The history of Săliște Seat was marked by numerous convulsions, pressures and uprisings caused by the increasing trends of expansion and oppression exercised by the foreign administration (German and Hungarian). Taking advantage of the territory with high economic value occupations, particularly grazing, which allowed through transhumance (nomadic pastoralism) to maintain ties with their brothers beyond the mountains, the Romanians managed to survive and to emancipate themselves, kept awake by the hope of national unity made on December 1 1918, in the union city of Alba Iulia.

II.8 MILITARIZATION OF THE REGION MADE THROUGH THE FOUNDATION OF THE BORDER GUARD REGIMENTS.

In 1762, the guard of "mountain lands" will be reorganized and modernized, through the establishment of border guard regiments in Transylvania. The 1st border guard regiment was established in Orlat, with its 6th company, while in Jina was formed the 5th company. This has led some residents to receive facilities from the Austrian government (particularly the status of free citizens), the leading role in economic empowerment, social and cultural, but it was also generating social convulsions due to the condition originally imposed, that to abandon the Orthodoxy and convert to the Greek-Catholicism.

II.9 BETWEEN AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN DUALISM AND THE GREAT UNION OF 1918

Between 1868 and 1918 Transylvania was incorporated in the Hungarian part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During this period, the Empire increased the discriminatory measures against the Romanians, Swabians, Slovaks, Serbs, Croats (in Banat) and the late nineteenth century, even the Saxons, thanks to a strong Magyarization policy implemented by the authorities, following the models of state and national politics at that time common in Europe (France, Germany). The Romanian resistance in the region was always felt, a very important role had the active participation in the Revolution of 1848 or the “Memorandum” movement.

II.10 THE AMLAȘ LAND RETURNING TO NORMAL. ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE TERRITORY AFTER 1918

At the end of World War I, in the context of the dual monarchy collapse, Hungary proclaimed their independence, including Transylvania in its territory. Romanians held on December 1st, 1918 a National Assembly in Alba Iulia attended by about 100,000 people, of which over 8,000 come from villages in Sibiu. National Assembly decides to unite with Romania the Romanian-inhabited territories. After the realization of the Great Union, a better life is felt immediately for the Romanians, and amid economic changes, particularly by focusing on industrialization.

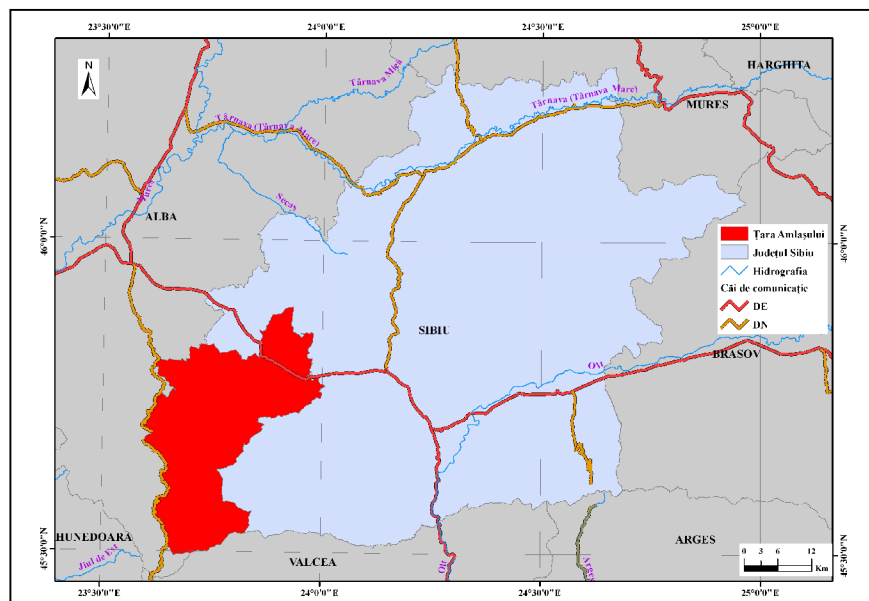
After the Second World War, with many casualties also from this region, it joined the Communist regime that led to a removal of ancient customs and traditions amid commuting or moving to the factories in town, the encroachment of property and village depersonalization in general.

CHAPTER III III. THE REGIONAL SYSTEM

III.1 THE CURRENT LIMITS OF AMLAȘ LAND REGIONAL SYSTEM

Amlaș Land's political boundaries have suffered over time significant changes, being able to distinguish more points of reference. Following the administrative reform of 1968 the municipalities in this region are located in Sibiu County, on the territory of five administrative units: the Tilișca commune (with the Rod and Tilișca villages), the Orlat commune (with Orlat village), the “Poiana Sibiului” (Sibiu Glade) commune (with “Poiana Sibiului” village), the Jina commune (with Jina village) and the Săliște commune (with Aciliu, Amnaș, Crint, Gales, Fântânele, Mag, Sacel, Săliște, Sibiul, Vale). In 2003, the Saliste commune became an urban settlement.

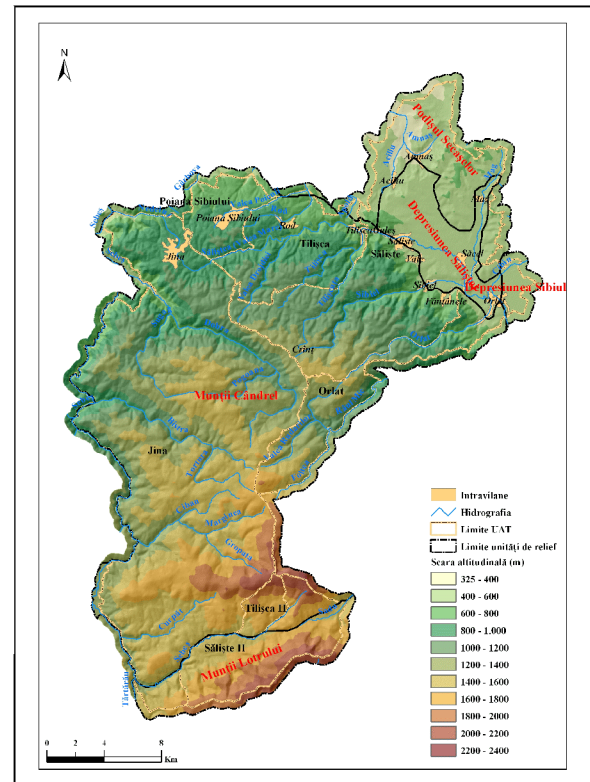
Fig.2 Amlaș Land. The position inside the territory



III.2 THE SUPPORT COMPONENT AND ITS ROLE IN THE REGIONAL SYSTEM

The landscape characteristics and the Geomorphological risks. The natural components of territorial system analysis shows the presence of morphological varieties (with the three stages features - mountains, piedmont and hollow, plus a small area of a plateau), with complementary opportunities to exploit by the public. Thus, the Amlaş Land overlaps the Saliste Hollow, which includes it all, the south-west of Sibiu Hollow and partly the Lotru and Candrel Mountains in the south while in the north it includes a portion of Plateau Secas. It carries on more than 1800 m altitude (from below 400 m in north to over 2200 m in south - 2244 m Candrel peak and 2242 m Steflești peak.). It is an extent very diversified morphometrical, which has provided favorable conditions for a range of economic activities and, therefore, was inhabited since ancient times.

Fig.3 – Amlaş Land. Morphological unities



Geomorphical hazards are all the threats due to internal and external processes that lead to changes in land surface characteristics. Geomorphical hazards in this region are in particular given by the slope instability. Risk phenomena that we have to consider the region are: landslides, torrential, flooding, mass movement processes (landslides, crumbling, mud flow) and torrential erosion.

The role of climate in the region humanization and current climate hazards. The climate conditions, with the suitability (particularly in the lower spaces, in the hollows) or, conversely, constraints (in the mountain area) imposed to people have acted on the inhabitants of this region, requiring a specific lifestyle. Thus, there was a dualism of housing, a permanent transfer from the villages located in the hollows areas, favorable to a wide range of crops and huts in the mountain area, with large meadows, favorable for breeding. Because of these complementary natural conditions there is a complex human activity in the region, and as logical, material accumulations made by the inhabitants of this space.

In terms of climate, in the Amlaş Land space with temperate continental climate it appears an oceanic influence, and a number of nuances caused by altitude, the presence of mountain area, and the landscape configuration. Thus, there is a hills and aisle climate in north, and one mountain specific area climat in the south. Despite the fact that the Amlaş Land occupies a territory of high altitude, the climate is favorable for the development of human life. Even in the mountains the weather conditions are milder than in similar areas in other parts of the Romania, caused by the influence of western and north-western wet and warm air masses, which causes a reduction of the continental climate. Because there is no weather station in the region, there was used the data from the two stations located in the vicinity, those from Sibiu and Paltiniș. The data collected from the meteorological station at Sibiu can be considered as valid for the hollow area of Amlaş Land, while the Păltiniș station gives us a glimpse about the specific climatic conditions of the mountain region.

Climate hazards in the Amlaş region are manifested through the phenomena with no important intensity or frequency: hail (with effects on agriculture, road transport), thunderstorms and fog presence (both on the activities of transport) in the hollow area and fogging phenomena and deposition of ice in the mountain area.

Water resources have been a favorable factor for the region's population by providing water (including for animals), by supporting the popular traditional industries (milling, oil production, wood processing in sawmills), by the richness of fish, and now by tourist attractiveness.

Groundwater in the mountain area are present in crystalline rock fractures and sedimentary deposits and appear as powerful springs. In lower areas, water table is at depths of 2-5 m, in coarse fluvial-lacustrine deposits. Vonica Constantine mentions the high hardness of the water wells. In the foothills, the groundwater depth exceeds 10 m, leading to clogged plain making his appearance, forming swamps, most drained and used as meadows and pastures, or even fish.

The hydrographic network is represented by short and fast rivers, characteristic for the mountainous area, with maximum in spring, being part of the Mures and Olt basins. The rivers in the western area are gathered by the Sebes river. The Sebes river was the west limit of the former duchy for a large portion. The rivers in the eastern area are gathered by Sadu and Cibin rivers. These three rivers run through a short or marginal portion of Amlaş country so that the main river that crosses the entire region is the Râul Negru. He gathers the waters around Jina (which is called "Luncuta") and then crosses the localities Rod, Tilișca, Gales, Săliște and Săcel.

The number of *lakes* is reduced in the region and are purely artificial: the fish pond complex located in the low area on the Mag river, which opened in 1985 and the fish pond near Orlat located on the right side of Cibin, completed in 1986.

Soils have differences on the extent of this region, due to the orographic, geological, climatic and vegetation variety, and anthropogenic activities. Thus, in the meadows (Râul Negru) are present mainly alluvial soils, gleyic, cambic typical chernozem in the piedmont area, while luvisc brown soils appear in the hills. The pseudorendzine soils appear more in the inclined slopes (on the clay deposits of calcium carbonate). In the higher areas the clay is present (in the beech forest and mixed), which is increasing acidity as the growth of the spruce. The sharp slopes and the forest upper limit dominates the highly acidic podzol and limestone soils, and those with weak slope appear pseudogleysated soils.

Biogeographic potential, closely related to orographic conditions, highlights the natural productivity of the regional system and presents the well-known natural setting of vegetation (from the forests of holms in the Secaş Plateau, beech and conifers in Lotru and Candrel Mountains, to the alpine meadows) with various fauna elements associated. Stretching currently more than 30% of the total area of the region, the pastures and hayfields have supported the main traditional activity of the people, pastoralism, which has ensured the Romanians continuity in this space.

Wide extension of forest vegetation (53% of the total surface area) had a role of housing the population and was the basis of the second traditional occupation of the inhabitants of the region, the forestry, providing raw material for housing, shelters for animals, agricultural tools, for heating, and then also as an economically exploitable resource.

Environmental conditions are analyzed to highlight the conservation mode of natural components of the Amlaş Land space under increasing pressure of the anthropogenic factor. Analyzing the air quality, soil and water, waste management and the presence of protected areas can be said that the Amlaş Land is an ecological regions without a significant impact of the negative aspects.

III.3 THE ACTION AND INTERACTION COMPONENT. GEODEMOGRAPHICS CHARACTERISTICS IN AMLAȘ LAND

The conditions offered by the support component of the system led to an ancient and permanent habitation in the the Amlaş Land space of the predacians, Dacian-Roman and then Romanian populations. This is shown by numerous archaeological discoveries. Even the mountain area, which holds an important position in this region, was not an insurmountable obstacle in the way of human expansion, being an area with a significant population, because they are "massive mountains with bridges flat like a table on large distances [...], rich in pastures and abundant sources even to the top "(Nicolae Dragomir, 1938) so that they are" by far the most inhabited of all the mountains deployed from Caransebes to the Intorsura Buzau" (Conea , Badea, 2004)

The population is the most important asset of a territory because it could lead to production and consumption and the ability to transform the environment. The knowledge and the analysis of demographic data are an essential tool in order o assure a sustainable development of society, through the

intervention upon the poor sectors and encouraging those with potential. Quantitative and qualitative analysis followed the Amlaş region population, insisting upon the characteristics and the specificities of the administrative territorial unit level and even locality level. Based on these data, one can identify, by inductive, the effects of certain present and past phenomena, and by deductive reasoning, it can be deciphered the important processes in the region's demographic stability.

Rendering the numerical evolution of the population, the ethnic and confessional structure was based on demographic information obtained from the eighteenth century, based on tax and wills data continued with accurate informations provided by censuses of the nineteenth century and the twentieth century and those offered by DJS Sibiu.

The decreasing number of the inhabitants of the region, from the peak of 26 856 inhabitants, reached in 1857, to 17,350 in 2010 had many causes, including the decline of grazing, transcarpathian migration, low natural increase, rural exodus. This decrease of 35.4% is a characteristic to Almas Land because of the difficult conditions in which it has developed. The "lans" are generally recognized for the consistency of the herd population over time. The only places that have experienced population growth in the last 160 years are Jina (from 1846 inhabitants in 1850 and 4075 inhabitants in 2010), Orlat (from 1846 inhabitants in 1850 to 3206 inhabitants in 2010) due to their militarization, accompanied by social and territorial benefits, Mag, where the growth is more subdued (from 401 inhabitants to 439) due to natural increase rate of gypsy population, which is the main ethnicity in this settlement.

The analysis of ethnic composition highlights the overwhelming preponderance of the Romanian population. Ethnic homogeneity of the Amlaş Land (Romanians have over 98% of the population in 11 of the 14 localities) is a characteristic of the region that has been perpetuated throughout history, despite numerous attempts aimed to break. Exceptions are represented by Amlaş, where the Germans were 81% of the population in 1941, but their share declined after World War II following the well-known exodus of German population, currently representing only 6%. Another special case is that of Mag village, where the gypsy population is 63%, its natural increase rate inverting in a few decades the ethnic composition of the village.

The religious groups of population analysis reveals the homogeneity of the region with predominance of the Orthodox over the entire history of this area, as evidenced by official data for the last 150 years, which is the time monitored by censuses. It is noted that throughout the region, the Orthodox share remained at high levels without fall only slightly below 85% (97.7% in 2002) during this period of time. And here, the conversion attempts have been countless, leading to a number of advantages that are offered to those who gave up their Orthodox religion. A good example is the border regiments situation, which could not incorporate in the first phase others than "united". This is eloquent in Orlat, The First Romanian Border Regiment headquarters, a militarized commune which "should" include non-Orthodox, where Greek-Catholicism is embraced by most people (around 90% between 1850 and 1910). After the Great Union of 1918, Romanians from Orlat gradually returned to the ancient Orthodox faith, so that Orthodox currently represents more than 99% of the population of the village. Another exception regarding the inhabitants's confession in relation to the rest of the region residents is that of the Amlaş village, region inhabited mainly by the Saxons in the past, having an evangelical religion. The evolution of the confessional structure in this area is closely linked to the ethnical evolution, the massive departure of the Saxons after World War II, causing the decline of evangelical religion from between 73-77% (1850-1910) to 0.12 % (2002).

The analysis of spatial distribution of the population, the structure by age and sex, the educational level, the occupational structure and the natural and migratory dynamics complete the demographically radiography of the region.

The malfunction and demographical hazards. An aging population manifested by increasing the economic dependency ratio, translated into practice by increasing the pressure on the active population, which must provide the resources also to those unemployed, the rural decline amid exodus to urban centers located outside the region (particularly Sibiu) and the decline of traditional economic activities (grazing), the phenomenon of migration and the declining birth rates are the main demographic weaknesses of the region.

III.4 THE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM

This space inhabited since ancient times shows a typical example of close contact with the mountain, especially at the border of the region. The inhabitants have used the natural resources from the mountains, creating a remarkable and original pastoral life, and a busy trade with the products obtained from the natural resources, expanded into neighboring countries, thus contributing to the unity of language and culture of the Romanian people. This interaction between man and environment is reflected in the structure and territorial distribution of the types of settlements, but also in household organization.

The age of the Almas Land's villages is evidenced by a series of archaeological discoveries, demonstrating the existence of a sedentary population since ancient times. The rich evidence of ancient habitation includes traces of settlements from the Bronze Age, as is the culture of Wittenberg, from 1550-1300 BC. From the first Iron Age, Hallstatt, there are traces on Catanas Hill, near Tilișca. Also here, there were found ancient, Dacian ruins, representing the center of a settlement with multiple functions, which makes the existence of the Tilișca village a permanent sedentary human communities since the 1st millennium BC. The existence of settlements in the Roman period is modest represented in the region (sandstone sarcophagus, coins discovered at Amlaș) while the surrounding areas abound with so-called villae rusticae. After a period of migrations, when the Slavs are assimilated by the locals, there are found the first written evidence of the existence of the settlements, located at the mouth of the mountain streams or their droppings cones (Lupu, N, Popa D, 1990). Thus, the first documents mentioning all these villages are dated in the XIV-XVI centuries.

Today, Almas county is located entirely in the southwest County of Sibiu and includes 14 settlements, administrated by four rural and one urban territorial units. The localities of the region are ranked in three categories: Tier 3 (Săliște) Tier 4 (village centers) and Tier 5 (villages).

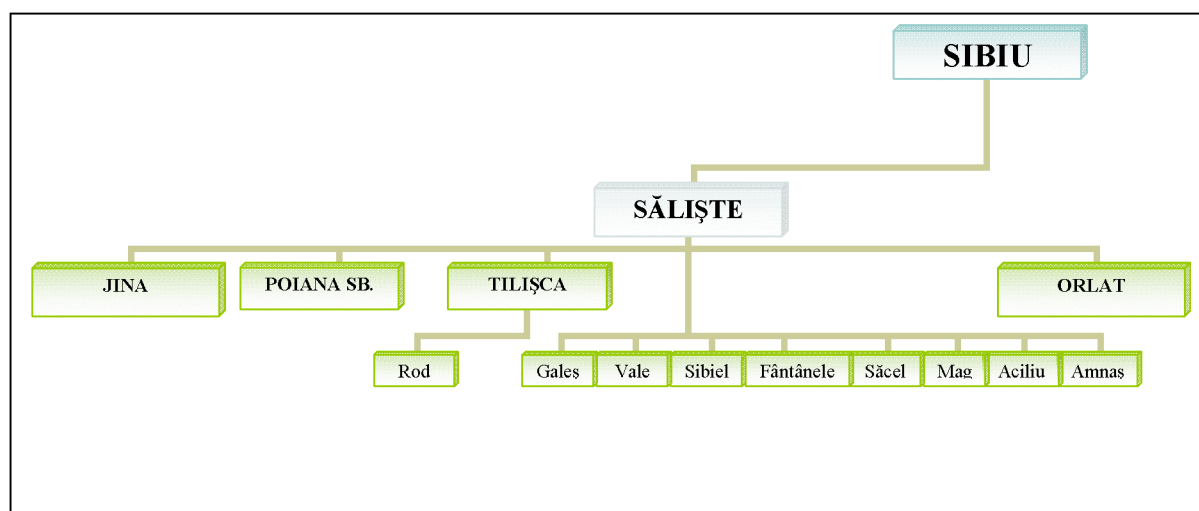


Fig.4 – Amlaș Land. The settlements network

Also important is the structure of the villages on two levels - one lower altitude level (the precincts of the villages, compact) and a higher altitude level (consisting of buildings used for breeding, so-called "huts", scattered). Jina has even three such levels, with two used for the huts.

The settlements typology uses different criteria to classify the localities:

- by population size: small rural settlements (less than 500 inhabitants: Amnaș, Gales, Fântânele, Sibiel Vale Mag, Rod), medium-sized rural settlements (Săcel Tilișca), big rural settlements (over 1500 inhabitants: Poiana Sibiului, Orlat), very large rural settlements (Jina, with over 4,000 inhabitants), and very small urban settlements (Săliște)
- by hearth structure: villages gathered with houses stuck together, like Saxon settlements (most);

- by texture: irregular (most), and linear (Tilișca, Sibiel)
- by function: predominantly agricultural with livestock (the mountain and contact villages), cereals (the depression villages), and handicraft and industrial (Săliște);
- by spatial distribution: 8 indicators were considered - the density of settlements, the settlements conventional density (d.a.c.), the areality index (c.a.), the average distance between two settlements (dm), the concentration index, the index of dispersion (Id), the centrality index, the polarization potential (Pp);

The settlements system malfunctions:

- Low degree of urbanization – there is only one urban settlement - Săliște (2830 inhabitants), which represents more than half of the overall population of the administrative unit (5795 inhabitants). It is necessary to support the diversification of Săliște services so that they could strengthen its position in the network of settlements in this region offering solutions to inhabitants everyday problems;
- High percentage of small settlements (less than 500 inhabitants - 8 settlements), without basic services;
- Uneven spread of settlements in the territory, with large areas without localities (the mountains), the average density of settlements is 2.07 inhabitants per square km compared to 5.06 nationally;

Table 1 . Spatial distribution of settlements

Territorial unities	Total surface (km²)	Number of settlements	Settlement density (/100 km²)	d.a.c.	c.a. (km² /settlement)	d.m. (km)	Id	Pp
Săliște	226,78	9	3,97	2,03	25,20	5,02	4,09	21,23
Jina	315,66	1	0,32	1,03	315,66	-	0	0
Orlat	59,02	1	1,69	4,41	59,02	-	0	0
Poiana Sb.	23,47	1	4,26	9,49	23,47	-	0	0
Tilișca	52,77	2	3,79	2,51	26,39	5,14	0,28	0,74
Țara Amlășului	677,70	14	2,07	2,07	48,41	6,96	-	-

- Poor technical territorial infrastructure;
- The aspect change of traditional settlements - the alteration of traditional architecture with negative effects on tourism (new constructions with a modern architecture by the same pattern as in any other part of the Romania).

Amlăș Land *built heritage* is a result of becoming in time of settlements and inhabitants and their activities and reflects the economic, social and cultural development level in different periods of time. Also, a valuable built heritage can be a basis of support for regional development, particularly through tourism attractiveness that it sustains.

CHAPTER IV

IV. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COORDINATES OF THE REGION

IV.1 THE AGRICULTURE AND THE GRAZING

The location of the region's territory, at the contact between mountain and plateau area was a crucial element in the development of certain agricultural occupations, suitability for livestock being exploited since ancient times, while the need of agricultural products imposed people to grow products who are best suitable to the weather conditions in this space.

The agriculture, with its two branches (animal breeding and cultivation of plants) was always the main activity of the inhabitants of this region, the proportion of people working in this sector is maintaining very high until today (54% of the total active population).

Due to conditions imposed by the terrain, inhabitants practiced a mountain agriculture. In the past, the agricultural area was split in 2 parts called The Great Field and The Small Field in Orlat, Vale, The Great Plain and the Small Plain in Săliște, or The Upper Field, The Lower Field in Jina, used to alternate crops since the thirteenth century. In this way it was intended to ensure the conditions for both agriculture and livestock, but this system was abandoned now, each grower is alternating the crops on its own.

Land use structure highlights the natural resources on it and could easily be inferred weight of each agricultural branch in the occupations of the inhabitants, the problems facing the local economy, and, going further action to be taken to address them.

Of agricultural land, pasture and hay have the most significant share (together accounting for 84%, which explains the strong pastoral development in Poiana Sibiului and Jina, with a share of over 95% of agricultural area), followed by arable land (15%, with values below 4% to Jina and Poiana Sibiului), other types of agricultural lands (vineyards, orchards) have an extension very low, below 1%. Just in Săliște, the arable land have a more significant proportion, 28.7% of agricultural land, being the only administrative unit in the region where there are more extensive areas planted with cereals, vines, grapes and fruit trees.

The areas occupied by orchards have a small share (0.41% of total agricultural land) and vines (0.38%), having a mixed nature, often overlapping grassland, resulting in a specific mosaic.

Because the Amlaș Land territory include both higher mountain areas and lower areas, there is a clear distinction between the types of crops on the two areas. As a result, in the territories administered by Orlat and Săliște predominate the cereals, while in the higher areas are grown only plants more resistant to cold, especially potatoes.

Shepherding. The geographical location, at the meeting between the mountain area and the hilly area, has made this area the cradle of Romanian pastoral. Mountains with undulating peaks, rich in pastures and water sources have created ideal pastoral practice conditions since ancient times. This preoccupation with wide extension and importance to the economy of most settlements that make up the Amlaș Land, has the beginnings lost in the mists of time (with evidence of practice since Dacian period).

Over time, shepherding known three forms, influenced and determined by internal factors (population and the number of animals growth with impact on the pastures quality) and external factors (confiscation of some mountains, economic constraints):

- *Sedentary Shepherding*, as the first form, achieved by grazing on the border village by the inhabitants who had fewer sheep and had other occupations (summer flocks of these sheep were made and placed in the mountains, and in winter were kept with other animals);
- *Swinging Shepherding*, sheep owners gave the sheep in the care of a handful of shepherds, to move them between the rural and the mountain area, and then, as a result of several factors, in other further regions;
- *Transhumant Shepherding*, conducted in remote areas for long periods of time.

Constraints on Romanians who underwent colonization of this space with the Germans, through a series of privileges granted to new entrants and aimed at taking possession of the mountains of the region have led to changes in the pastoral life of the natives. Thus, there was an attempt to extend grazing through deforestation, but mainly looking for places for grazing elsewhere, thus leading to the practice of transhumance. This is considered "an advanced stage of the pastoral," one of the most complex forms "of the pastoral economy". (Mircești, C. 1976). This is an ingenious solution to enhance grazing, plant mass deficit used to transfer stalls being provided elsewhere in more favorable climate (Transylvania Plateau, Mureș Valley, Banat, Dobrogea, Bulgaria, Bessarabia, Crimea, Caucasus, Bugeac, Hungarian plains). It is an ancestral occupation included in the structure of the Carpathian archetypal intimate space, perfected over centuries, allowing resistance to external pressures and population, while feeding her emancipation and maintaining permanent links with the Romanians south of the Carpathians.

Transhumance reaches its height in the mid-nineteenth century, then collapses as a result of several factors: the Peace of Adrianople (1829) which caused the capitalization of agriculture in Wallachia and Moldova, development of mountain peasants during land reform of 1860 - 1870, resulting in even distribution of land and forests, the cold winter of 1875 when most of sheep died, the ban by Bulgaria, in 1879 of passing flock at Rusciuc, closure of the Walachia Customs with Hungary between 1876 and 1900, as a result of economic warfare between the two countries, laying high odds products. The continuous decline persisted in the twentieth century due to the employment of shepherds in the region of collective farms and state farms since the early 60s all over the country (Crisana, Banat,

Dobrogea, Bărăgan), where they went with their animals, social behavior change of the population, the conditionalities imposed by the central policy of the mutations occurred in land management.

IV. 2 THE INDUSTRY

The entrepreneurial spirit of people, major communication routes crossing the area and geographical position facilitated the development of the region.

Crafts (blacksmithing, pottery, woodworking, wheelwrights, coopers, furriers, harness, opincărit, and shoemaker) and popular industry (milling, oil production, fiber processing and fabric, wood) were very well represented in the region over time. They are currently endangered due to invasion of industrial products.

During the Communist era there were some attempts of industrial development of the area, particularly the development of Săliște, through the opening of a leather goods factory, a workshop of the Mining Company and Parts of Sibiu, Department of carpet weaving, Department of Mechanical and clothing textures, the Milk Collection Centre.

The "Orlatex" company which is located in Orlat is the successor of the textile factory established in 1850 and currently produces a wide range of blankets and bed coverings, having a number of 70 employees.

In the region, industrial employment is 19.5% of the employed population and 18% of the active. In other administrative units, Poiana Sibiu, Jina and Tilișca industry is entirely missing.

IV. 3 THE FORESTRY

Spread over 53% of the region, the forest is an important natural resource with multiple recovery 'of wood (to ensure compliance with regeneration), the use of berries and mushrooms.

Exploitation of wood is a traditional activity in the Amlaș County, practiced since ancient times, encouraged by the extent of the ancient forest in this area, mentioned as early as the thirteenth century the Romanian forest (*silva Blachorum*). The forestry experienced the same type of operation as in other regions with large forests: carpentry, jogăritul, rafting, cărăușitul, etc. The forestry was conducted in parallel with traditional activities (grazing and cultivation), independently in each household, with the use of joagărelor, and ax.

IV.4 TOURISM POTENTIAL

The Amlaș Land has a great tourism potential, both natural (mountain unit complex, mountainous depressions, corridors, with peaks and ridges, extended platforms, steep slopes, with wonderful landscapes, bioclimatic and biogeographical potential), and, following a long and rich history, a valuable anthropogenic potential (Geto-Dacian and Romans archaeological remains, historical and cultural objectives from the Middle Ages, religious cultural sites, cultural and rural civilization heritage). So, the Amlaș Land is an important tourist region because it provides opportunities for practicing all types of tourism (recreation and leisure, health care, cultural and versatile), and several forms, but especially rural tourism, agrotourism, ecotourism. Lately, the localities from this region, but particularly from the part of Mărginimea Sibiului, have established a large number of guesthouses (50), concentrated especially in Sibiel (40), but non of them are agrotouristic geusthouses.

As a specialization of the future, the mountains are favorable for the recreational tourism, with multiple components (fishing, hunting, hiking, climbing), this area being covered by transit tourism, in the tourist region of the Southern Carpathians (Cocan, P. - 1997)

IV.5 TRADE AND SERVICES IN AMLAȘ LAND

Analysing the proportion of people employed in commercial activities of total employment, we see high values, above the average in the Sibiu county (22.92% vs. 15.76%), with an extreme value at Tilișca, over 56% where the number of people employed is low, which underlines the fact that commercial activities are always present in all settlements, even those without a major economic

development. Employment in other service areas is 29.21% of total employment, above the county average, which is 24.21%. Jina is a special situation with a very high proportion of people employed in the education sector (over 33%), transport (over 20%) and even the administration fields (12.71%).

IV.6 TEHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORY

Communication lines are represented in the region by the DN1 road network and E68 (which aims the southern hollows), E81 (from Alba Iulia to Sibiu and then along the Olt Valley), plus a series of secondary and forest roads, the Railway network, six settlements in the region having a railway station: Sibiel, Sacel, Săliște, Aciliu, Tilișca and Orlat.

The analysis of drinking water supply and sanitation, electricity supply, methane gas indicates the following issues:

- a) less than 40% of households are supplied with water (only 10% in Jina)
- b) poor development of sewerage systems (only in Săliște and Orlat)
- c) there are 248 dwellings (4%) not connected to electricity supply;;
- d) only 23% of homes have bathrooms;
- e) lack of a centralized heating system;
- f) low yield of individual heating;
- g) lack of gas supply;
- h) uncontrolled water quality;
- i) lack of biological treatment of wastewater

IV.7 EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Education was a priority for the region's population and especially for those from Săliște, their inclination for culture being materialized since the distant past by building and supporting schools. Education in Săliște, with schools whose existence is proven by documents since the early seventeenth century, currently represented at primary level, secondary level and high school, gave to the region a whole series of illustrious men, among whom six members of Romanian Academy, thus contributing to the development of Romanian science, techniques, and culture

Health protection is achieved through a system of units consisting of clinics (present in every administrative unit), dental offices and pharmacies. There is poor maintenance of sanitation in the region (no hospital, a doctor for 1451 persons, a dentist for 3400, a pharmacist for 5800)

CHAPTER V V.AMLAȘ LAND AS A MENTAL SPACE

V.I SHAPING AND EVOLUTION OF AMLAȘ LAND MENTAL SPACE

The mental space, through its strong connection between man and land, become an indestructible entity, a territorial complex, where nature and man interfere in the most intimate interrelationship. The Carpathian mountain range had a decisive role in shaping the mental spaces, because they were not an insurmountable obstacle, but a truly "ethnic bound for the Romanian people".

The Amlaș Land mental space had a separate development, particularly influenced by a number of external factors. The manner of formation and early evolution (up to the eleventh century) were sown with similar steps in other regions of our country. Its spatial individualization, by splitting the original Romania mental space, started in eleventh century when immigrants first appear and finalized in XII-XIII with massive colonization of the Saxons in the region.

In this period between XIIth and XVth centuries, it has been preserved due to administrative appartenance to the Wallachians rulers, but signs of metamorphosis can be felt because of the administrativ subordination of the territory towards Amlaș village. The population in this village was mainly made up of Saxons and had a polarizing role. During this period, the land was made up of eight villages (Amlaș, Aciliu, Cacova, Sibiel Vale Săliște Gales, Tilișca). Its nucleus, made up of the last 6 villages was very well coagulated because of the similarities of language, ethnic, occupational, customs and cultural

conditions of its inhabitants. Another role was played by the presence of a common pressure upon their territories, represented by the Hungarian crown and then Saxon settlers.

Later, with the passage of this land under the administration of the Saxons (in the late fifteenth century), producing a series of administrative and social changes, the Duchy of Amlaş becomes Saliste Seat (made up from the same six locations). Although a new political entity was created, this time exclusively Romanian, it was subordinated to the Saxon administration from Sibiu, not to get out of control. With time, other surrounding settlements attached to the territory of Amlaş Land: Săcel, Orlat, Mag, Aciliu (older villages), Jina, Poiana Sibiului, Rod (newer formed settlements in the mountains). The last three villages were formed by the runaway Romanians expelled by the Saxons from their native settlements located in the plateau area.

The current trend is to expand the Amlaş Land mental space to the entire territory of Mărginimea Sibiului, made up of 15 administrative units: Boița, Cislădie, Cristian, Gura Râului, Jina, Miercurea Sibiului, Orlat, Poiana Sibiului, Poplaca, Rășinari, Sadu, Râu Sadului, Săliște, Tâlmăciu și Tilișca. An important role was the fact that the inhabitants of Mărginimea Sibiu have the same traits dictated by lifestyle (due to close contact with the mountain, which required pastoralism as the main occupation), ethnic and linguistic characteristics.

V.2 FACTORS INVOLVED IN SHAPING OF AMLAS MENTAL SPACE

The individualization of Amlaş Land mental space was favored by a number of factors which created a framework for an isolated development, different from the adjacent areas. These factors had natural, cultural, ethnic, linguistic origins but they were also related with the political organization and the influence of polarizing centers inside and outside the region.

V.3 THE MENTAL SPACE CHARACTERISTICS

The life of the local inhabitants evolved around an indestructible trinity: church, school and family, which by its particularities, has been instrumental in shaping an original mental space.

The inhabitants of this area are characterized by several defining aspects (C. Bucur, 2003):

- ability to continuously adapt the existing situation, aiming to manufacture products and profitable business practice, which led out of economic autarky;
- Performance of financial accumulation, because of breakage autarkic system and adoption of market economy, as can be seen today especially in the buildings architecture;
- Creating a complex economic system by raising livestock, wood processing, agriculture (cereals, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, vine), which allowed the exploitation of products with result in the accumulation of capital;
- Open and receptive cultural spirit towards the authentic cultural values which represents "the capacity and availability [...] to assimilate in culture, the most diverse ideas, designs, technical processes and consumer goods in rural and aulic urban civilization, and their integration as elements of their own specific way of life "

V.4 SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL PRODUCTION OF THE MENTAL SPACE

Material and spiritual production of the mental space, or, in other words, the culture in the region, was estimated on the basis of indicators used by the European Commission's Directorate of Culture, but also on other national used indicators (regional personalities, folk culture values). Combining them it obtained a complete picture of the Amlaş Land culture, one of the richest and most diverse "countries" in Romania.

Traditional occupations, folk crafts and industries, folk art by its elements of authenticity, variety and originality represent the elements of the rich material and spiritual production of the region.

CHAPTER VI

VI.1 THE REGIONAL CHOROTYPE

The chorema, a concept developed by Roger Brown, is "the basic structure of geographical space" with which it can analyze and represent its organization by showing the arrangement of elements occupying the space and how they interact.

The current structure of the regional system is dictated by a series of elements defining the orientation of flows. The proximity of major urban settlements (Sebes and Sibiu) with administrative, medical, educational, cultural, economical functions prints a centrifugal character. This is underlined also by the organization of natural rivers crossing the two centers (Sebes, respectively Cibin) collecting the entire river system which crosses the Amlaş Land.

In addition to the centrifugal nature, the organization of regional system shows a centripetal tendency, by its internal attractive centers. Thus, Săliște and to a lesser extent Tilișca and Orlat (for the village of Rod) presents an economical and demographical trend upward, making an area of positive tropism.

Of major focus is the link between the two major urban centers in the neighborhood, Sebes and Sibiu, along DN1 and the railway. Along this axis, a permanent and intensive exchange of matter and energy is attained.

In the region, there are three territorial development areas: an effervescent area in the north, at a lower altitude, crossed by the national and european transport axes, an area of convergence in the central-north, with most of the population and regional flow (caused by the presence of polar urban area I Săliște) and an isolated area in the southern mountainous space, with a tourism potential.

CONCLUSIONS

Although suffered over time many metamorphosis which differentiated it from other "lands", the Amlaş Land kept its core of six villages (Săliște Cacova, Vale Sibiului, Tilișca) impossible to divide despite numerous attempts. The invincible strength of this group of villages with autonomous character lasted from the time previous to the foundation of Wallachia until today when it forms, among other villages, Marginimea Sibiului.

The destiny of this region, with an early emerging trend similar to other "lands" from Romanian territory has followed a unique and original path, due to special conditions in this part of Transylvania. Thus, the Saxons colonization, together with the many privileges granted to them, changed irreversibly the region's development. Amlaş Land, also reigned by the Wallachian rulers as part of Wallachia is reorganized as a seat and falls under the administration of the Saxon University. It created a center-periphery relation between the strong city of Sibiu, the Saxon capital in Transylvanian and Romanian-occupied space, situated on the edge (margin) which generated Mărginimea Sibiului.

The metamorphosis was accomplished between the XV and XVI centuries, the new entity maintaining the core, but changing the systemic structure vectors, including the "capital". The role Amlaş, perhaps an old Romanian settlement, colonized with Saxons, was taken by Saliste, an emerging settlement due to the full swing of crafts and grazing.

The location in the Carpathians (Căndrel and Lotru Mountains), with a special development of pastures, had a decisive impact on the lives of residents in this area which have adapted to the conditions provided by the natural environment and therefore have embarked on a series occupations closely related to the offer of the territory in which they lived. The inhabitants have used since ancient times the resources provided by the mountains, creating a remarkable and original pastoral life, and a busy trade with the products obtained, expanded into neighboring countries, thus contributing to the unity of language and culture of the Romanian people. This interaction between man and environment is reflected in the structure and territorial distribution of the types of settlements, the organization of households, traditional primary and secondary occupations, habits, customs and traditions.

The current problems of Amlaş Land, made up of 14 settlements, are given by the poor development of the centers of polarization, even if Săliște became a urban settlement, being poorly

developed or missing important elements of attraction such as municipal, infrastructural and industrial facilities, Sibiu so overwhelming influence being decisive in the continuous loss of population. To these are added some old problems, driven by the vast expanse of the mountain area of weather related, which prevents the development of agriculture and expansion of construction.

But this latter aspect has benefits too, the presence of vast grasslands, which favored a particular pastoral development decisively influenced the lifestyle of rural residents in that area. In addition to natural grassland other resources of this region are forests, rich waters, and especially, the tourism potential. Those resources can be the engine for development in this area, by the attractiveness of its natural characteristics and by historical tourism, as a result of a long and rich past. First steps in this area have been achieved, but this activity must be developed, aiming at the same time reducing the negative effects it may bring.

The Amlaş Land mental space had a separate development, particularly influenced by a number of external factors. The current trend is to expand the Amlaş Land mental space to the entire territory of Mărginimea Sibiului, made up of 15 administrative units: Boița, Cislădie, Cristian, Gura Râului, Jina, Miercurea Sibiului, Orlat, Poiana Sibiului, Poplaca, Rășinari, Sadu, Râu Sadului, Săliște, Tâlmăciu and Tilișca.

In the Middle Ages in particular, the Amlăș region, this ancient Romanian “land”, whose inhabitants have always had in mind the hope of emancipation, never tired of keeping the struggle for national liberation and independence, was a bridge between Wallachia and the rest of Transylvania, strengthened by the intense transhumance in the Carpathians, and by the exchange of cultural values and products. Therefore, the Amlăș Land represents a close relationship over time between brothers of the same blood and kin, ruthlessly separated and kept awake by the hope for the national unity achieved on the 1st of December 1918, in the unity city of Alba Iulia.

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1) Banciu, A. (1944), *Roiri Săliștene*, Revista Transilvania, LXXV;
- 2) Bidart, P. (2004), *Realizarea unei lucrări de cercetare în domeniul științelor sociale*, Revista 22 (Suplimentul Plus 22), nr.160;
- 3) Boțan, C. N. (2010), *Țara Moșilor. Studiu de geografie regională*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca
- 4) Brătianu, G. I.(1980), *Tradiția istorică despre întemeierea statelor românești*, Editura Eminescu, București;
- 5) Bucur, C. (2003), *Vetre de civilizație românească. Civilizația Mărginimii Sibiului. Istorie, patrimoniu, valorizare „muzeală”*, Editura Astra, Sibiu;
- 6) Burza, M. (2000), *Munții Cindrelului: studiu geoecologic*, Editura Universității „Lucian Blaga”, Sibiu;
- 7) Caramelia, V.V. *Considerații demografic-antropologice asupra migrațiilor populației din Mărginimea Sibiului*, în „Probleme de antropologie”, vol.VI, Academia RPR, Centrul de Cercetări Antropologice;
- 8) Căzănișteanu, C. (1988), *Pe urmele lui Mircea cel Mare*, Editura Militară, București;
- 9) Chirca, H. (1977), *Structura națională a populației Scaunului Sibiu la 1750*, în „Ștefan Meteș la 85 de ani”;
- 10) Ciangă, N. (2001), *România. Geografia turismului (partea întâi)*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca;
- 11) Ciobanu, V. (1924 – 1925), *Statistica românilor ardeleni din 1760-1762*, Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională Cluj, III;
- 12) Cocean, P. (2005), *Geografie regională*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj – Napoca;
- 13) Cocean, P. (2004-2005), *Carpații ca spațiu mental arhetipal al poporului român*, Studii și Cercetări de Geografie, LI-LII, București;
- 14) Cocean, P. (2004), *Structura spațiului mental românesc*, Studia „Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai”, Geographia, nr. 1;

- 15) Cocean, P. (1997), *Țara (The Land) – A Typical Geographical Region Of Romania*, RRG, 41;
- 16) Cocean, P., Ciangă, N. (2000), *The „Countries” of Romania as Mental Spaces*, The 29th International Geographical Congress, Seoul, Korea;
- 17) Cocean, P. (coordonator) (2009, a), *Mărginimea Sibiului. Planificare și amenajare teritorială*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca;
- 18) Cocean, P. (2009, b), „Țările” din România, Terra, XXXVIII-XXXIX, București;
- 19) Cocean, P. (2010), „Ținutul” un taxon regional specific României, Geographia Napocensis, IV, 1, Cluj-Napoca;
- 20) Columbeanu, S. (1973), *Cnezate și voievodate românești*, Editura Albatros, București;
- 21) Conea, I., Badea, L. (2004), *Munții Mărginimii Sibiului. Cadrul antropogeografic*, Editura „Universitaria”, Craiova;
- 22) Constantinescu, Mircești (1976), *Păstoritul transhumant și implicațiile lui în Transilvania și Țara Românească în secolele XVIII-XIX*, Editura Academiei RPR, București;
- 23) Crișan, I. H. (1975), *Burebista și epoca sa*, Editura Enciclopedică Română, București;
- 24) Decei, A. (1942), *Cetatea Salgo de la Sibiel (jud. Sibiu)*, Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională, Cluj-Napoca, VIII;
- 25) Donat, I. (1966), *Păstoritul românesc și problemele sale*, în „Studii”, revistă de istorie, XIX, 2, București;
- 26) Dragomir, N. (1924 – 1925), *Din trecutul oierilor mărgineni din Săliște și comunele din jur*, Lucrările Institutului de Geografie al Universității din Cluj, vol. II;
- 27) Drăgulescu, C. (1996), *Arii naturale protejate în județul Sibiu*, Editura Constant, Sibiu;
- 28) Ianoș, I. (2000), *Sisteme teritoriale – o abordare geografică*, Editura Tehnică, București;
- 29) Irime, C., Dunăre, N., Petrescu, P. (1985), *Mărginenii Sibiului – civilizație și cultură populară românească*, Institutul de Cercetări Etnologice Dialectologice, Muzeul Brukenthal Sibiu;
- 30) Fruma, I. (1935), *Problema Universității Săsești și a instituției celor Șapte Juzi*, Editura „Cartea Românească”, Sibiu;
- 31) Giurcăneanu, C. (1988), *Populația și așezările din Carpații Românești*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București;
- 32) Giurescu, C. C., Giurescu, D. C. (1971), *Istoria românilor din cele mai vechi timpuri până azi*, Editura Albatros, București;
- 33) Hașeganu, I. (1941), *Mărginenii în viața economică a Transilvaniei și vechiului regat*, Tipografia Minerva, Brașov;
- 34) Iorga, N. (1988), *Istoria românilor*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București;
- 35) Ilieș, G. (2007), *Țara Maramureșului. Studiu de geografie regională*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca;
- 36) Irime, C., Dunăre, N., Petrescu, P. (1985), *Mărginenii Sibiului – civilizație și cultură populară românească*, Institutul de Cercetări Etnologice Dialectologice, Muzeul Brukenthal Sibiu;
- 37) Lukacs, A. (1999), *Țara Făgărașului în Evul Mediu (se. XIII – XVI)*, Editura Enciclopedică București;
- 38) Lupaș, I. (1938), *Realități istorice în voievodatul Transilvaniei din secolele XII-XVI*, Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională Cluj-Napoca, VII;
- 39) Lupu, N. (1968), *Cetatea Sibiu*, Editura Meridiane, București;
- 40) Meteș, Ș. (1971), *Emigrări românești din Transilvania în secolele XIII-XX (Cercetări de demografie istorică)*, Editura Științifică, București;
- 41) Moga, I. (1973), *Scrieri istorice, 1926-1946*, Editura Dacia, Cluj-Napoca;
- 42) Moga, I. (1973), *Mărginea. Ducatul Amlașului și Scaumul Săliștei*, Scrieri istorice, Editura Dacia, Cluj-Napoca;
- 43) Moga, I. (1973), *Problema Țării Loviștei și Ducatul Amlașului*, Scrieri istorice, Editura Dacia, Cluj-Napoca;
- 44) Moga, I. (1929), *Din frământările săliștenilor pentru școală*, Anuarul Gimnaziului Mixt din Săliște (Sibiu) pe anul școlar 1928-1929, Sibiu;
- 45) Nagler, T. (1981), *Așezarea sașilor în Transilvania*, Editura Kriterion, București;
- 46) Nartea, F. (2002), *Comuna Săliște – Săliștea Sibiului, prezentare în date și imagini*, Editura Etape, Sibiu;

- 47) Nistor, N. (1974), *Din trecutul scaunelor românești Săliște și Tâlmăciu*, „Studii și Comunicări, Arheologie și Istorie”, Muzeul Bruckenthal, vol. 18;
- 48) Nistor, N. (1978), *Ducatul Amlașului și Țara Făgărașului, punți de legătură cu Țara Românească în Evul Mediu*, „Mitropolia Ardealului”, XXIII;
- 49) Oancea, I. D. (1979), *Despre țară și țări*, SCGGGG, Tom XXVI, București;
- 50) Onciul, D. (1902), *Titlul lui Mircea cel Bătrân și posesiunile lui*, „Convorbiri literare”, XXXVI;
- 51) Oprescu, G. (1956), *Bisericile cetăți ale sașilor din Ardeal*, Editura Academiei RPR;
- 52) Panaitescu, P. P. (1938), *Mircea cel Bătrân și suzeranitatea ungurească*, Academia Română, Mem. Șef. Ist. ser.III, Tom.XX, mem. 3, București;
- 53) Panaitescu, P. P. (1964), *Obștea Țărănească în Țara Românească și Moldova. Orânduirea feudală*, București, Editura Academiei;
- 54) Pascu, Ș. (1971), *Voievodatul Transilvaniei*, Editura Dacia, Cluj-Napoca;
- 55) Păltineanu, I. (2003), *Tilișca: monografie*, Editura Etape, Sibiu;
- 56) Părean, I. (2005), *Legende din Mărginimea Sibiului*, Editura Psihomedica, Sibiu;
- 57) Petrea, R., Petrea, D. (2001), *Turism rural*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj – Napoca;
- 58) Pop, I.A. (1986), *Autoritatea domnească și întinderea Țării Românești în timpul lui Mircea cel Bătrân*, SUBBH, XXXI, 2;
- 59) Pop, I.A. (1986), *Stăpânirile lui Mircea în Transilvania*, Revista de Istorie, 39;
- 60) Pop, P.G. (2000), *Carpații și Subcarpații României*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca;
- 61) Pop, P.G. (2001), *Depresiunea Transilvaniei*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană”, Cluj-Napoca;
- 62) Posea, G. (1969), *Depresiunea Săliște*, în Studii și cercetări de geofizică, geologie și geografie, XVI, Editura Academiei, București;
- 63) Prodan, D. (2002), *Transilvania și iar Transilvania: considerații istorice*, Editura Enciclopedică, București;
- 64) Pușcaș, A. (2007), *Țara Chioarului. Studiu de geografie regională*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca
- 65) Rotariu, T., Semeniuc, M., Mezei E. (1999), *Recensământul din 1900: Transilvania*, Editura Staff;
- 66) Rotariu, T., Semeniuc, M., Mezei E. (1999), *Recensământul din 1910: Transilvania*, Editura Staff;
- 67) Rotariu, T., Semeniuc, M., Mezei E. (2002), *Recensământul din 1841: Transilvania*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană;
- 68) Rotariu, T., Semeniuc, M., Mezei E. (2003), *Recensământul agricol din 1895: Transilvania*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană;
- 69) Rotariu, T., Semeniuc, M., Mezei E. (2004), *Recensământul agricol din 1850: Transilvania*, ed. a II-a, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană;
- 70) Rotariu, T., Semeniuc, M., Pah, I. (1996), *Recensământul din 1857: Transilvania*, Editura Staff;
- 71) Rusu O. (2003), *Săliștea Sibiului – de la porțile orașului la orașul porților deschise*, Editura Tipotrib, Sibiu;
- 72) Sacerdoțianu, A. (1968), *Dimitrie Onciul – Scrieri istorice*, Editura Științifică, București;
- 73) Sandu, M. (1998), *Culoarul depresionar Sibiu-Apold. Studiu geomorfologic*, Editura Academiei Române, București;
- 74) Stahl, P.H. (2005), *Case și acareturi din Mărginimea Sibiului*, Editura Paideia, București;
- 75) Stoicescu, N. (1988), *Unitatea românilor în evul mediu*, Editura Academiei, București;
- 76) Șandru, D. (1946), *Mocanii în Dobrogea*, Institutul de Istorie Națională, București;
- 77) Toderașcu, I. (1988), *Unitatea românească medievală*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București;
- 78) Tufescu, V. (1988), *Subcarpații și depresiunile marginale ale Transilvaniei*, Editura Științifică;
- 79) Ursan, V. (2006), *Graiul din Mărginimea Sibiului*, Editura „Alma Mater”, Sibiu;
- 80) Xenopol, A.D.(1985), *Istoria românilor*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București;
- 81) *** – *Recensământul populației și locuințelor- 16 martie 2002*, Județul Sibiu, Institutul Național de Statistică, Direcția Județeană de Statistică Sibiu;
- 82) *** – *Sibiu, România – Anuarul statistic al județului,2003*, Institutul Național de Statistică, Direcția Județeană de Statistică Sibiu;

- 83) *** – *Sibiu, România – Anuarul statistic al județului, 2009*, Institutul Național de Statistică, Direcția Județeană de Statistică Sibiu;
- 84) *** – „Istoria militară a poporului român”, Editura Militară, vol. II, București, 1986;
- 85) *** – „Săliștea Sibiului – străveche vatră românească”, Asociațiunea transilvană pentru literatură română și cultura poporului român - ASTRA, Sibiu, 1990;
- 86) *** – „Jurnalul Național”, nr. din 18 iulie 2006 și 19 iulie 2006;
- 87) *** – „Recensământul populației din 21 februarie 1956”, Direcția Centrală de Statistică, București, 1958;
- 88) *** – „Recensământul populației și locuințelor din 15 martie 1966”, Direcția Centrală de Statistică, București, 1970;
- 89) *** – „Recensământul populației și al locuințelor din 5 martie 1977”, Direcția Centrală de Statistică, București, 1980;
- 90) *** – „Recensământul populației și locuințelor din 7 ianuarie 1992”, Direcția Centrală de Statistică, București, 1994;
- 91) *** – „Recensământul populației și locuințelor 18 martie 2002, Județul Sibiu”, Institutul Național de Statistică, Direcția Județeană de Statistică Sibiu;
- 92) www.adrcentru.ro, accesat la 27.07.2010;
- 93) www.ape.sibiu.ro, accesat la 11.04.2009;
- 94) www.wikipedia.com, accesat la 03.08.2010;
- 95) www.saliste-sibiu.ro, accesat la 28.08.2010.