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CONTACT

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai”
Str. A. Papiu Ilarian, nr. 10A, 540074 - Târgu Mureș;
E-mail: icsu.acad.ms@gmail.com

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ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

ANUARUL INSTITUTULUI DE CERCETĂRI SOCIO-UMANE
„GHEORGHE ȘINCAI”

XXVIII/2025

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**ÎNCĂ UN REGE:
ALFONSO AL V-LEA DE ARAGON ȘI ELITELE REGATULUI UNGARIEI ÎN
SEPTEMBRIE 1444**

Ioan-Aurel Pop*
Alexandru Simon**

Abstract: *Yet Another King: Alfonso V of Aragon and the Elites of the Kingdom of Hungary in September 1444.* Alfonso V of Aragon, king of Naples, had a claim to the throne of Hungary. His major move came after John Hunyadi became regent of Hungary and sided with the Iberic-Italian monarch (1446-1447). The present paper deals with the “prehistory” of Alfonso’s planned enthronement that left, chiefly after 1920, historiographic scares. The study focuses on the Hungarian contacts of Alfonso on the eve of the ill-fated crusade of Varna, where Władysław I (III) Jagiello, king of Poland and of Hungary, lost his life (1444). Alfonso formally maintained amicable relations with the crusader monarch, but did not acknowledge him as King of Hungary. He only accepted Władysław as king of Poland, Dalmatia and Croatia (the latter however had been in personal union with Buda for a long time). This stance directs our attitude towards to items: (1) the allegiances of Alfonso’s “Hungarian contacts” (the majority of them became members of the Hunyadi-party after 1444) and (2) Hungarian and Romanian reluctances (the main researchers, on both sides, of the Aragonese issue, either omitted these contacts or mentioned in haste and with few details). “A break with the past” seems therefore to be the sound scholarly choice.

Keywords: *Alfonso V of Aragon; Władysław I (III) Jagiello; John Hunyadi; Lajos Thallóczy; Constantin Marinescu; nationalism; historiography; Crown of Hungary.*

**RĂZBOAIELE MEMORIEI ÎN TOTALITARISM.
POLONIA ȘI MASACRUL DE LA KATYN ÎN PRESA REGIMULUI ION
ANTONESCU (APRILIE-MAI 1943)**

Florin Anghel*

Abstract: *Memory’s Wars in Totalitarianism. Poland and Katyn Massacre in Press of the Ion Antonescu Regime (April-May 1943).* In the second half of April 1943, all titles of the censored and controlled Romanian press referred extensively to the discovery of mass graves at Katyn, near the Russian city of Smolensk. Romanian press collected information from Nazi German and Fascist Italian public sources about the progress of forensic investigations, also (printing articles) about legal and military news from the region of the forests of Katyn.

First public information about Katyn in Romania of the totalitarian regime of Marshal Ion Antonescu appeared simultaneously in newspapers such as „Viața”, edited by the well known

*Dr., prof. Universitatea „Ovidius” din Constanța, email:fl_angel@yahoo.com.

writer Liviu Rebreanu, on April 14, 1943, in the most important and longevity Romanian newspaper „Universul”, also on April 14, 1943 and in the most influent regime newspaper „Curentul” on the same day. All the texts of the articles from different newspapers are very similar, which indicates that they could be just releases from Berlin and translated into Romanian.

Romanian newspapers were heavily censored, pro-Axis and anti-Semitic in orientation, and produced mediocre editorial content. Most of the information, interviews, and opinions were transmitted from Nazi propaganda or Berlin officials, as it actually happened in the case of other Axis capitals. Romanian editorial content is poor in scale, in journalistic value and also as a documentation effort. Editorials were much more extensive, courageous and critical towards Soviet Union and the murders documented by the discoveries from Katyn. From mid-April to the end of May 1943, a lot of these editorial opinions, also about relations between USSR and Great Britain, United States and Polish Government in exile in London, were formulated by all important Romanian journalists and editors-in-chief of the newspapers.

Keywords: Katyn massacre; Poland; Romanian newspapers; Ion Antonescu regime; 1943.

CONSIDERAȚII ASUPRA IMPLICĂRII ELITEI ORĂDENE ÎMPOTRIVA REVIZIONISMULUI PROMOAT DE UNGARIA HORTHISTĂ ÎN PERIOADA INTERBELICĂ

Gabriel Moisa*

Abstract: *Considerations on the Involvement of the Oradea Elite Against the Revisionist Policy Promoted by Horthy's Hungary During the Interwar Period.* The interwar period was an extremely complex timeframe. It was a time when the traditional Romanian local elite was joined by an important segment of intellectuals from various other areas of the country, both from Transylvania and the Old Kingdom. The phenomenon of combating the revisionism was part of the action of the Romanian state and was seen as an act of normality, meant to consolidate the union from 1918. Similar phenomena occurred in all Central European states after the First World War, including Hungary and Austria. The phenomenon was specific to all newly formed nation-states, regardless of the era in which it happened. The regions of the new states needed a solid connection with the center for their viability. This was also achieved by culturally rebalance of the newly acquired territories, which were geographically marginal to the center, by deploying intellectuals willing to make this effort.

Keywords: Oradea Romanian elite; revisionism; Hungary; Oradea; interwar period.

NURSE BETWEEN THE LINES: ROMANIAN FEMALE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FELLOWS IN MEDICAL PROFESSIONS IN-BETWEEN INNOVATION AND SUPPRESSION

Sonia D. Andraş*

Abstract: This paper explores the role of nurses with specialized training in Romania in the inter- and post-war period until the Communist takeover in 1948. It focuses on the Rockefeller Foundation's support for encouraging modern nursing education in the interwar period and beyond, until the curtailing of academic relations. The research highlights how prejudices related to women's abilities and role in medical science and practice have informed the perception of healthcare by decision-making authorities in Romania. It examines the international support for modern medical education and the response of the Romanian authorities to these initiatives, analysing the position of nurses as professionals and gender relations in this historical framework. This paper applies an interdisciplinary approach in the assessment of fellowship records, reports, diaries and pertinent observations from Rockefeller Foundation representatives. The research is centred around the relationship between the concepts of health, beauty and fashion used in propaganda regarding women's roles. Primary sources include Romanian publications between 1920 and 1948 and documents from Rockefeller Foundation representatives. The aim is to follow and deepen the understanding of the professional trajectory of Romanian female medical professionals with Rockefeller Foundation support. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of gender studies throughout history in Romania and provides a theoretical and practical basis for future research in the field of medical and related sciences.

Keywords: *Rockefeller Foundation; nursing; Romania; women; interwar period; Second World War; Stalinisation.*

ANALIZA STRUCTURII ELITEI COMUNISTE DIN JUDEȚUL MUREȘ ÎN 1944-1948: O PERSPECTIVĂ SOCIO-DEMOGRAFICĂ

Corina Mașca*

Abstract: Analysis of the Structure of the Communist Elite in Mureș County, 1944–1948: A Socio-Demographic Perspective. *This article examines the formation of the communist elite in Mureș County between 1944 and 1948, drawing on archival records of the Romanian Communist Party. It reconstructs the local power structure and the socio-demographic profile of key activists by examining their social origins, educational background, professional*

* Postdoctoral researcher, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Seal of Excellence (MSCA-SoE@UNIPI) Fellow at the University of Pisa, Italy, email: sonia.d.andras@gmail.com.

* Dr., cercetător științific, Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai” al Academiei Române din Târgu Mureș, email: hategancorina@gmail.com.

trajectories, and political careers. The analysis reveals the ethnic, social, and occupational composition of the Party's leadership. The research sheds light on the mechanisms through which political authority was established and consolidated at the local level in the early phase of Romania's communist regime.

Keywords: *Communist Elite; Romania; Mureș County 1944–1948; Romanian Communist Party; Local elites under communism; Eastern Europe; political history.*

**N. STEINHARDT AND NICOLAE BALOTĂ.
THROUGH THE LENSES OF TRAUMA AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Iulian Boldea*

Abstract: Nicolae Balotă's texts seduce and instruct, transposing the reader into the iridescence of the word ideas lived, through a true passion of erudition. Their modelling effect is undeniable. The rigorous demonstration and the fluidity of the bookish memory, the exigency of the analyses and the frenzy of the associations, the logic of the ideas and the affective vibration, all these antinomies of writing make up the intimate substance of the personality of the author. The spectacle of horror is noted by the writer with poignancy and detachment. Disturbing are the images of the infinite abyss, as are the revelations of the fall into the depths, the labyrinthine route the scholar has to traverse to emerge into the light. The cold and suffering are recorded in elliptical notations, but also the ways in which the scholar, the tormented "pilgrim through the land of words", tries to find compensatory ways in the face of fetid reality.

Keywords: *confessional; endeavors; sensitivity; doubts; impulses.*

**POLITICĂ ȘI ADMINISTRAȚIE ÎN TURDA INTERBELICĂ. NOTARUL VASILE
MEȘTER (1875-1965), OM POLITIC, PREFECT ȘI SENATOR**

Răzvan Mihai Neagu*

Abstract: Politics and Administration in Turda During the Inter-War Period. The Case of Notary Vasile Meșter (1875-1965), Politician, Prefect and Senator. This study continues our investigation into the life and work of Vasile Mester. In the present material, our attention is focused on the interwar period, when Vasile Mester's career reached its peak. Vasile Mester came to Turda in 1921. He integrated perfectly into the life of the Romanian community in Turda, in a short period of time, becoming a respected member of it. Vasile Mester was a

* Prof. Dr., „G.E. Palade” University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology, Târgu Mureș, iulian.boldea@gmail.com.

member of the National Liberal Party, and for a long time he served as vice president of the county branch of this political party. Vasile Mester was prefect of Turda Arieș County for a short time (1924), representing the government in the territory. Later, he was elected senator in the Romanian Parliament (1934-1937). Vasile Meșter was a supporter of the monarchical authority regime of King Carol II and of the single party (National Renaissance Front, later the National Party). During the Second World War, Vasile Meșter's activity decreased in intensity, as the examination of the press of the time is able to illustrate. Most likely, his age also contributed to his stepping back from the public sphere. However, at the end of World War II, he resumed HIS political activity to some extent. He was a member of the National Liberal Party-Tătărescu/Bejan. In his old age, Vasile Meșter was pursued by the Securitate and labelled an "enemy of the people", losing all his material possessions, but despite this, due to his age, he did not experience the harshness of the Romanian gulag.

Keywords: lawyer; public notary; prefect; senator; political life.

ELITA EDUCAȚIONALĂ A JUDEȚELOR CIUC, ODORHEI ȘI TREI SCAUNE ÎN PERIOADA INTERBELICĂ: PORTRETE, CONTRIBUȚII, MOȘTENIRI

Tatiana Scurtu *

Abstract: *The Educational Elite of Ciuc, Odorhei, and Trei Scaune Counties in the Interwar Period: Portraits, Contributions, Legacies.* This study explores the educational, cultural, and identity-building roles of Romanian teachers, professors, and public intellectuals in the interwar counties of Ciuc, Odorhei, and Trei Scaune. In a context marked by interethnic tensions and Magyarization policies, these educators emerged as key agents of Romanian affirmation through schooling, cultural associations (such as ASTRA), local initiatives, and the Romanian-language press. Drawing on a variety of sources – biographical records, pedagogical publications (*Era Nouă*, *Școala Noastră*), handwritten monographs, and parish histories – the study reconstructs the intellectual and civic profiles of this educational elite. Their contributions in school organization, identity assertiveness journalism, community education (e.g., ASTRA's village schools), and historical memory are emphasized. Despite facing material hardship and ethnic marginalization, Romanian educators in Ciuc, Odorhei, and Trei Scaune Counties upheld national education as a form of cultural resistance. This research highlights their enduring legacy as institution-builders, role models, and guardians of community cohesion in a historically contested region.

Keywords: Interwar period; Romanian educators; cultural resistance; Ciuc; Odorhei; Trei Scaune.

* Drd., Cercetător științific, Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai”, Târgu Mureș, tatianascurtu9@gmail.com.

PORTRETUL UNUI OFIȚER DE EXCEPȚIE: DUMITRU PETRESCU TOCINEANU GRADE, DISTINCȚII, ONORURI, DECORAȚII, APARTENENȚE : (1910-1943)

Daniela Curelea*
Dragoș Lucian Curelea**

Abstract: *Portrait of an Exceptional Officer: Dumitru Petrescu Tocineanu Military-Grades, Distinctions, Honors, Decorations, Affiliations: (1910-1943).* In the present article, the authors aim to present information about the activity of Dumitru Petrescu Tocineanu, who distinguished himself as an exceptional officer of the Royal Army of Romania. The research we have undertaken has been designed from the perspective of historiographical recovery, both of the hierarchical path of this important officer, and to present the distinctions, medals, diplomas of honor and decorations that the above-mentioned officer held on his own merits. He was honored by the Romanian sovereigns, Ferdinand I, Carol I and Mihai I, but not only in the time interval 1912-1943.

Keywords: *distinctions; orders; decorations; grades; officer Dumitru Petrescu Tocineanu; 1912-1943.*

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF KARL KURT KLEIN: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE “MIHAI EMINESCU” CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IAȘI AND TO THE ROMANIAN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD

Silvia Popovici*

Abstract: *This article examines the significant contributions of Karl Kurt Klein (1897-1971) to the Central University Library “Mihai Eminescu” Iași and, by extension, to Romanian university education during the interwar period (1918-1940). Klein's impact is analysed across two primary domains: his pedagogical advancements in German studies and his transformative modernization of the university's Central Library.*

As an “extraordinary professor” at Iași from 1932, Klein, in collaboration with Rector Traian Bratu, developed innovative methods for teaching German, aligning with broader efforts to modernize Romanian education. His philological research, particularly on Transylvanian Saxon dialects, challenged established views and promoted a nuanced understanding of cultural “exchanges” between Romanian and other cultures, advocating for a “European area of study.”

* Dr., prof., Colegiul Tehnic „Cibinium” Sibiu.

** Dr., prof., Colegiul Tehnic Energetic Sibiu, email: c_drg@yahoo.com.

* PhD sociologist, scientific researcher at "Mihai Eminescu" Central University Library Iași, e-mail address: silvia.popovici@bcu-iasi.ro.

Crucially, as Director of the “Mihai Eminescu” Central University Library Iași, Klein spearheaded its reorganization in 1932 according to the “scientific criteria” of the B. Harms and W. Gülich system. This initiative professionalized the library's operations, significantly enhanced its capacity to support advanced research, and facilitated extensive international exchange programs with 930 entities from 69 countries. This modernization was a direct transfer of cutting-edge international library science practices, providing an essential infrastructure for the university's and library's “European evolution”.

Klein's position as a Transylvanian Saxon scholar amidst rising Romanian nationalism and anti-Semitic sentiments highlights his commitment to academic collegiality and intellectual integrity. His public solidarity with Rector Bratu following an assassination attempt by Legionary students in 1937 underscores his dedication to academic principles in a politically charged environment.

By comparing Klein's work with that of prominent interwar educators like Constantin Angelescu, Nicolae Iorga, and Onisifor Ghibu, this article demonstrates that while others focused on broad national-level reforms or ideological shaping, Klein's contributions represented a vital “modernization from within,” elevating academic quality and fostering international best practices. The establishment of the “Karl Kurt Klein” European Documentary Centre within the university library stands as a lasting proof to his profound and enduring legacy, underscoring his role in shaping modern Romanian higher education.

Keywords: Karl Kurt Klein; “Mihai Eminescu” Central University Library Iași; Romanian university education; interwar period; Transylvanian scholar.

ASPECTE ALE ACTIVITĂȚII LUI ALOISIE TĂUTU ÎN EPARHIA GRECO-CATOLICĂ DE ORADEA REFLECTATE ÎN ZIARUL „VESTITORUL”

Narcis Martiniuc*

Abstract: *The Activity of Aloisie Tăutu in the Greek-Catholic Diocese of Oradea Reflected in “Vestitorul” Periodical.* The activity of Aloisie Tăutu within the Greek-Catholic Diocese of Oradea, as reflected in the periodical “Vestitorul”, represents an essential reference point for understanding the evolution of Greek-Catholic theology and historiography in the twentieth century. In my opinion, Aloisie Tăutu stands out as the most important Greek-Catholic theologian of the second half of the twentieth century, through his remarkable contributions to the fields of history and theology, embodied in a substantial documentary corpus. His theological work followed the major directions of Catholic intellectual renewal promoted after the Second Vatican Council, marking a necessary and beneficial shift from a certain Greek-Catholic “provincialism” toward a Catholic “universalism”, more precisely a Roman-Catholic one, in full harmony with the spirit of the time. Having lived for many years in the Vatican, Tăutu was not merely a Romanian Greek-Catholic clerical or diplomatic presence in

* Dr., asistent de cercetare, Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai” al Academiei Române din Târgu Mureș, narcismartiniuc@gmail.com.

Rome, but rather a rigorous, active, and knowledgeable researcher, whose works remain a lasting reference for studies in ecclesiastical history and Catholic theology.

Keywords: Aloisie Tăutu; Greek-Catholic Church; Oradea Eparchy; Theology; Historiography.

**CONFIGURAȚIA ȘCOLILOR PRIMARE PUBLICE ÎN CADRUL
SISTEMULUI DE ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNT DIN BASARABIA.
STUDIU COMPARATIV. (A II-A JUMĂTATE A SECOLULUI AL XIX-LEA)**

Diana Ețco*

Abstract: *The Configuration of Public Primary Schools within the Education System in Bessarabia. Comparative Study. (Second Half of the 19th Century).* The study analyzes the configuration of public primary schools within the education system in Bessarabia, focusing on the second half of the 19th century. Under the imperative of new socio-political realities, especially after the peasant reform of 1861, the educational system was connected to the process of transformations within Russian society through a new legislative framework. The quintessence of the reforms validated the decentralization of public education, local autonomy, and the eligibility of school administrative bodies, abolishing the caste school and replacing it with a public school accessible to all social strata. A major innovative feature of the 1864 reform was granting the right to open public primary schools to local self-government institutions (zemstvos, cities), societies, and private individuals, as well as permission for women to practice teaching activities. The duration of studies varied, from three years in one-class schools to six years in two-class schools, and the curriculum included religion, reading, grammar, arithmetic, and church singing, supplemented by natural sciences, history, and geography in urban schools. School funding came from various sources, including the state budget, Bessarabian, and private capital. Village communities provided a major contribution of over 81%, playing an essential role in the financial support of rural schools. The comparative study between the southern and northern districts of Bessarabia revealed significant discrepancies. Although the southern area (Bender, Akkerman, Ismail) registered a higher total number of enrolled students, the northern area (Chișinău, Orhei, Iași, Soroca, Hotin) prevailed in quality, with a higher proportion of students enrolled in two-class schools. The accessibility of public instruction was generally deficient, with an average of one school for every 3-4 localities at the gubernatorial level.

A notable trend was the increase in the schooling rate among the Jewish population, which showed a pragmatic interest in state schools, despite existing inequities regarding tuition fees compared to the Christian population. In the second half of the 19th century, the education system became heterogeneous, and the abolition of serfdom acted as a catalyst for the opening of public primary schools, responding to a need for social integration rather than necessarily a major political priority.

Keywords: public primary schools; school legislation; tuition; free public education; curriculum.

* Dr., cercetător științific superior, Institutul de Istorie al USM, eskodiana@yahoo.com.

**IOACHIM MUREȘANU,
UN PRECURSOR AL SPIRITULUI INTELECTUAL INTERBELIC**

Margareta-Tabita Moldovan (Știr)*

Abstract: *Ioachim Mureșanu: a Pioneer of the Interwar Intellectual Tradition.* The interwar period in Romania represents a phase of cultural consolidation and affirmation of nineteenth-century national values. Far from being a rupture, it continued the intellectual and educational traditions established by the 1848 generation and the Transylvanian elite, emphasising moral responsibility, civic duty, and national identity. Ioachim Mureșanu (1832–1903) exemplifies this continuity. Educated in Năsăud, Brașov, Blaj, Sibiu, and Vienna, Mureșanu combined rigorous classical training with practical legal studies, developing a robust juridical and cultural competence. Despite financial obstacles, his perseverance, aided by patrons such as Vasile Nașcu, enabled him to complete his education and engage actively in public life through legal advocacy, petitions, and political representation. Mureșanu's career illustrates the interconnection between education, civic engagement, and national consciousness, bridging the nineteenth-century efforts to define Romanian identity with the cultural and intellectual developments of the interwar elite. His activity underscores the centrality of education and culture as instruments of both individual and collective emancipation, highlighting the moral, civic, and professional ideals that shaped modern Romanian society.

Keywords: Romanian interwar period; national identity; Transylvanian intellectuals; Ioachim Mureșanu; cultural continuity.

**INTELIGENȚIA ROMÂNĂ DIN TRANSILVANIA ȘI BANAT. ROLUL ACESTEIA ÎN
SPRIJINIREA COMUNITĂȚILOR LOCALE (1880–1918)**

Antoniou-Ioan Berar *
Marcela Berar**

Abstract: *The Romanian Intelligentsia from Transylvania and Banat. Its Role in Supporting Local Communities (1880–1918).* The article analyses the essential role of the Romanian intelligentsia in affirming the cultural and national identity in Transylvania and Banat. The authors define the intelligentsia as a social category made up of educated individuals actively involved in the cultural, moral, and political life of society, capable of mobilizing resources

* drd. Universitatea de Medicină, Farmacie, Științe și Tehnologie „George Emil Palade” din Târgu Mureș, email: smargaretatabita@gmail.com.

* Dr., Inspectoratul Școlar Județean Mureș, antoniuberar@yahoo.com.

** Dr., prof. Școala Gimnazială nr.1 Luduș.

and influencing public opinion. The symbolic relationship between the people and the intelligentsia is emphasized – the people being the “body,” and the intelligentsia the “soul” – and it is shown that although the number of intellectuals had increased by the end of the 19th century, their moral authority over the masses had diminished due to its social isolation and the absence of a middle class. The solution proposed by the press of the time was the constant and direct rapprochement of the elite with the people through cultural, educational, and economic activities, thereby strengthening community solidarity and trust.

The Romanian press in Transylvania played a decisive role in asserting national identity by informing the public, promoting Romanian culture, and mobilizing communities against Magyarization policies through articles, memoranda, and cultural events. Examples include protests against the 1879 education law, the involvement of bishops and the local elite in defending the Romanian language, as well as financial and moral support for cultural projects such as the Society for the Romanian Theatre Fund and the activities of ASTRA.

The Romanian intelligentsia also became directly involved in the life of local communities by organizing cultural and philanthropic events, building and maintaining churches, promoting Romanian theatre and music, educating the public, and supporting national institutions. Their actions were characterized by perseverance, solidarity, and professionalism, despite the financial, social, and political difficulties imposed by the Austro-Hungarian authorities.

The initiatives of the Romanian intelligentsia in Transylvania were vital for consolidating national identity, promoting Romanian culture, and creating a durable cultural and educational infrastructure, proving that the intelligentsia acted as a cultural engine and a unifying force within the community.

Keywords: *intelligentsia; Transylvania; people; culture; community.*

THE GREEK AND AROMANIAN ORTHODOX POPULATION AND THEIR TRADING ASSOCIATIONS IN MISKOLC, 1750–1850

Éva Gyulai*

Abstract: The study examines the formation, structure, and long-term development of the Greek and Aromanian Orthodox community in Miskolc between 1750 and 1850, with particular attention to merchant networks, religious institutions, and cultural identity. It traces the Balkan origins of the community, especially from Moschopolis, and analyses their role in regional and long-distance trade, their legal and social integration into the Kingdom of Hungary, and their internal organisation through the Orthodox Church, the Greek school, and the merchant company. The study addresses linguistic practices, education, confessional life, family networks, and patterns of social mobility, including ennoblement. It also follows the

* University of Miskolc, Institute of History, Department of Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern History, honorary professor, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Miskolc Regional Committee, History and Ethnography Section, gyulai-eva@freemail.hu.

transformations of the nineteenth century that led to the dissolution of the merchant company and the gradual assimilation of the community, while highlighting the persistence of Orthodox religious identity and institutional memory.

Keywords: *Greek Orthodox community; Aromanian merchants; Miskolc; Balkan migration; merchant associations; Orthodox Church; Greek school; linguistic practices; social mobility; urban economy; cultural identity.*