

## ABSTRACTS

### Pál Fodor: The “Captives’ Fifth” in the Ottoman Empire (Fifteenth to Seventeenth Centuries)

The Ottoman state’s first two hundred and fifty years were made up of a series of victorious raids and wars of conquest that yielded spoils in overwhelming quantities. Capturing prisoners of war was considered the most lucrative type of plunder, and the state began to tax this activity early on. Scholarship traditionally dates the introduction of the “fifth,” a tax levied on captives, to the reign of Sultan Murad I (1362–1389) in the second half of the fourteenth century.

The study investigates the practice of collecting the fifth between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries from three perspectives. First, it examines the customs that developed in the Hungarian borderlands, which is followed by the discussion of the tax collection practices in the imperial capital, based on documents of leased tax privileges. Finally, the methods used during seventeenth-century imperial campaigns are examined, providing and number of examples for the central government’s advance preparations, which facilitated the rapid collection and administration of the fifth. While the captives tax was initially set to one fifth of the value of the captives, by the seventeenth century, it turned into a flat rate tax with two categories: adults taxed at the full rate and children at half.

The source material presented in this study clearly demonstrates that taking captives – as a way of life, a business, and a means of securing labor – remained as significant an institution in the Ottoman Empire at the end of the seventeenth century as it had been in its early period and during its peak.

### Miklós Fóti – Éva Sz. Simon: Kasim Kethüda, a Man of the Government

Reconstructing the careers of mid-rank officials in the Ottoman Empire is one of the important objectives of Ottoman archontological research. It provides deeper insights into the activities of the provincial elite, which in turn contribute to our understanding how the imperial administration was managed in the occupied territories of Hungary. Such biographies also fill in the blanks of historiography that was not recorded by chroniclers. The protagonist of the present study was an Ottoman official whose eventful career has remained outside the works of historians and can only be reconstructed by tracing the data and the history of his estates in the defters.

Starting his career in the occupied territory, Kasim voivode, kethüda, kapudan, and later, bey gained experience as a census officer and the head of several sancaks in the Balkans and the occupied territories. At the height of his

career, in 1577, he was appointed to serve the empire as the defterdar of Buda during the financial overhaul of the Ottoman-controlled territories. He is credited with the plan to organize the peripheries of the empire into new sancaks, which brought about the almost imperceptible extension of the imperial borders during the period of peace following the Treaty of Edirne. His work was accompanied by factional infighting among the Ottoman power elite, and Kasim continued to play an important background role in breaking the hegemony of the Yahyas and then the Sokollus in Hungary.

Throughout his life, Kasim moved between Albania, Central Anatolia, and the occupied territories in Hungary. The sources concerning his life are therefore very diverse. His activities have been preserved in his sancak censuses, in the timârdefters and ruznamçe of various livas, in the central registers of appointment of sancakbeys, as well as in the mühimme defters and documents now held in the Turcica collection in Vienna.

### Gábor Kármán: Habib Ağa, Hungarian Interpreter at Buda

Interpreters in Early Modern courts regularly used their access to sensitive information to supplement their income with payments from foreign powers. The local power centers of the beylerbeyis of Buda, who played an important role in the diplomatic exchange between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires, were no exception to this rule. Habib Ağa, a Hungarian interpreter, who was active in Buda between 1626 and 1636, however, went further than his colleagues who often informed dignitaries from the Kingdom of Hungary about the internal politics of the Ottoman Empire and its Hungarian provinces. The loyalty of Habib Ağa towards the Principality of Transylvania was so strong that, in 1630, he gave detailed advice to the newly appointed beylerbeyi, Acem Hasan Pasha, how to continue the close cooperation that his predecessor maintained with the recently deceased Gábor Bethlen. The situation was exceptional and was mostly the result of Bethlen's communication strategies with the Ottoman dignitaries, rare among Transylvanian rulers, in which he positioned himself as the sultan's office holder. The case study aptly illustrates how locally bound lower-ranking officials of the Ottoman provinces were in a position to influence the policies of governors, who often came from distant lands and had no prior knowledge about regional power networks.

### Adrienn Papp: Ottoman–Hungarian Cohabitation in Buda in the Light of Archaeological Ceramics

In Buda, which had a significant Hungarian population even during the Ottoman occupation, relatively few well-dated artefacts have been preserved

from the period before the Fifteen Years' War. Most of the objects ended up underground during the clearing of ruins after the Reconquest, so they were more accessible to researchers. However, a new extensive excavation provides a more nuanced picture of late sixteenth-century material culture, suggesting that during the sixteenth century, Hungarian craftsmen made efforts to meet the demands of the Ottoman population. For example, they produced Ottoman-style ceramic bowls that can be clearly identified as the work of Hungarian craftsmen. It is also clear that the sixteenth century was a period of lively Western contacts, as is indicated by the shape of everyday vessels. The pots and jugs were essentially Western in character and even followed the changes in Austrian shapes, while some Ottoman types commonly found in the seventeenth century, were completely absent.

During the seventeenth century, however, a significant change is detectable regarding Ottoman artefacts: while Ottoman works by Hungarian masters disappeared, new types of objects emerged, which indicates the growing presence of Balkan masters. At the same time, the number of westernized objects was also on the rise at this time. Comparing the material from Buda with the finds from Belgrade yields interesting results. Significant differences can be seen in the relationship between the two cities and in the presence of Western or Hungarian ceramic wares.

Overall, it is justifiable to conclude that while in the sixteenth century Hungarian craftsmen still produced Ottoman-style objects in an attempt to meet new demands, by the end of the seventeenth century these types had disappeared, and the Ottoman population chose their wares from the general range of Hungarian craftsmen. During this period, the demand for their uniquely shaped objects was met by the products of Ottoman/Balkan craftsmen.

## Balázs Sudár: The Hungarian Population of Buda in the Second Half of the Sixteenth Century

Hungarian Ottoman studies have always been at the forefront of Turkish tax census research, using increasingly sophisticated methods that provide unparalleled insights into the demographics of the population in Ottoman Hungary – in this case, the Magyars. In this respect, the works of Gyula Káldy-Nagy and Géza Dávid are still very relevant. Their studies, however, also prove that only the combined and critical use of multiple sources can yield realistic results for a given settlement, and that it is imperative to conduct in-depth research down to the level of families and individuals. The study uses this approach to trace the development of the Hungarian population in Buda between 1546 and 1590, while at the same time drawing attention to the limitations of the defters as source material. It argues that Buda at this time was depopulated to a lesser degree than had been previously assumed; the community was tenacious and,

albeit somewhat fractured, it still constituted a significant urban population. Ottoman Buda remained one of the most important Hungarian cities.

### Ágnes Szalai: The Border Fortress of Somlyó and the Condominium of Northwest Transylvania in the Apafi Era

In the Principality of Transylvania, the consequences of the power crisis between 1657 and 1662 posed significant challenges to Prince Michael I Apafi and his administration, who came to power in 1661. The greatest challenge was the intensifying Ottoman influence in the principality's neighborhood: following the capture of Várad (1660) and most of the Partium, the Ottomans established a new province with the former "gateway" of Transylvania as its center. However, similar to other border regions of the Ottoman Empire, the exact boundary between the Principality of Transylvania and the Várad Eyalet was not clearly established. As a result, a considerable part of the counties in Partium and Transylvania were forced to pay taxes to both the principality and the Ottoman province of Várad; in other words, this area operated as joint possession (condominium).

In the region also subjected to the Várad Ottomans, the representation of Transylvanian interests, the maintenance of legal continuity, and the protection of the local population were carried out by the "territorially competent" Transylvanian border fortresses; for example, Somlyó, whose jurisdiction primarily extended to the northwestern counties of the principality. In the new situation, both the Transylvanian state and the landowners had an interest in the local population staying in place: in addition to the "new" Ottoman overlords, the "old" ones from Transylvania and the Partium continued to claim their taxes from the region, as did the treasury to maintain its former revenues. These were indispensable for the operation of the Transylvanian border fortress system, especially Somlyó. To this end, establishing framework of coexistence, acceptable to both parties, was necessary. Moreover, Somlyó and the region it guarded constituted a special case because the daily lives of both the Transylvanian administration and the local population were also threatened by the raids of the Hungarian Royal Army soldiers in Szatmár and Kálló, Upper Hungary.

The study examined the "mutual interdependence" of the population of the condominium and the border fortress of Somlyó, in the shadow of Ottoman power. Based on this, it presents the social and economic impacts of dual possession and uses individual case studies to provide an insight into the changes in everyday life in the border zone. The changing situation had a profound effect on individual lives as well, for example, some local landowners left the area subjected by the Ottomans to seek their livelihood in the more secure Transylvanian border fortresses, such as becoming officials in Somlyó Castle. The study also includes the examination of the "career paths" of individuals who integrated into the Transylvanian economic administration through this trajectory.

## Szabolcs Varga: The Memory of the Ottoman Era and the Muslim Architectural Heritage in Croatia

The study explores how the attitude towards the Ottoman period has evolved in the territory of present-day Croatia. It is a well-known fact that the areas south of the Drava were affected by the Ottoman conquest more drastically and for longer than, for example, the Kingdom of Hungary. From the middle of the fifteenth century onwards, attacks were constant, and the Ottoman Empire's proximity was acutely felt until the dismantling of the military frontier in 1881. It is also widely known that southern Slavs, including Croats, often entered Ottoman service, and many of their villages became Islamized, leading to the construction of several Muslim religious buildings in the region. In this respect, one might expect that Croatia would have many mosques and baths and a somewhat positive perception of the Ottoman era. However, with the exception of Đakovo and Klis, hardly any Muslim architectural monuments have survived in modern Croatia. They have been systematically demolished or converted and using them for their original function has never been considered. Croatian historical memory has not cultivated a positive image of the Ottoman period: it is still largely predominated by strong anti-Ottoman attitudes. The aim of the present study is to explore the reasons behind this distinctive phenomenon.