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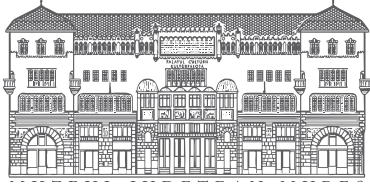
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE UGRON CASTLE IN FIATFALVA (HARGHITA COUNTY)

Zsolt NYÁRÁDI*

During the renovation of the Ugron Castle building in Filiaş (Fiatfalva, Harghita County, RO), between 2020 and 2023, we had the opportunity to carry out archaeological excavations at several points. As a result, the remains of a 15th-century manor house surrounded by defensive trench were uncovered. After it was destroyed by fire, the Geréb family commissioned the construction of a Renaissance castle, which was also equipped with defensive walls, corner towers, and a moat. With the help of written sources and rich artifacts, it was possible to clarify the ownership relations and the building history.

Keywords: archaeological excavations, 15th century fortified residence, Renaissance castle, fortification system, stove tiles, noble families

Cuvinte Cheie: săpături arheologice, reședință fortificată din secolul al XV-lea, castel renașentist, sistem de fortificații, plăci de sobă, familii nobiliare

INTRODUCTION

Filiași is located in the southern part of the former Keresztúr Seat (Keresztúr-szék), near the neighbouring Saxon territories. On the western edge of the settlement, along the floodplain of the Târnava Mare River, developed the manorial centre that, by the end of the Middle Ages, served as the residence of the Geréb family. The castellum, for which András Geréb received a princely donation, ranks among the most significant architectural ensembles in the Szekler Land.

At some distance from the main village, in a clearly distinct area, the estate of the noble family bearing the name of *Fiatfalva* began to take shape already in the 14th century – at least according to the evidence provided by the archaeological finds recovered from the site (Fig. 1). The scarce written sources related to the building¹ and their supplementation by archaeological data have already been discussed in pre-

vious research. In 1991, the earliest identifiable building within the castle precinct was successfully located and excavated.² During an analysis of an inventory compiled in 1805, Ibolya Sándor attempted to identify the modern-era owners of the building.³ A summary of the available data can also be found in the work of András Sófalvi.⁴

The comprehensive restoration of the building provided an ideal opportunity to investigate its historical development. Initially, the focus was on smaller test trenches to study the traces of different periods in as much detail as possible. During the foundation reinforcement works, larger surfaces could be examined, and the lowering of floor levels in the northern wing's cellars revealed unexpected architectural features, archaeological structures, and finds. In the second phase of renovation, additional data was obtained from areas farther from the main building during the excavation of trenches for

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¹ DÁVID 1981, 133.

² BENKÓ 1992, 188–191.

³ SÁNDOR 2009, 605–622.

⁴ SÓFALVI 2017, 212.

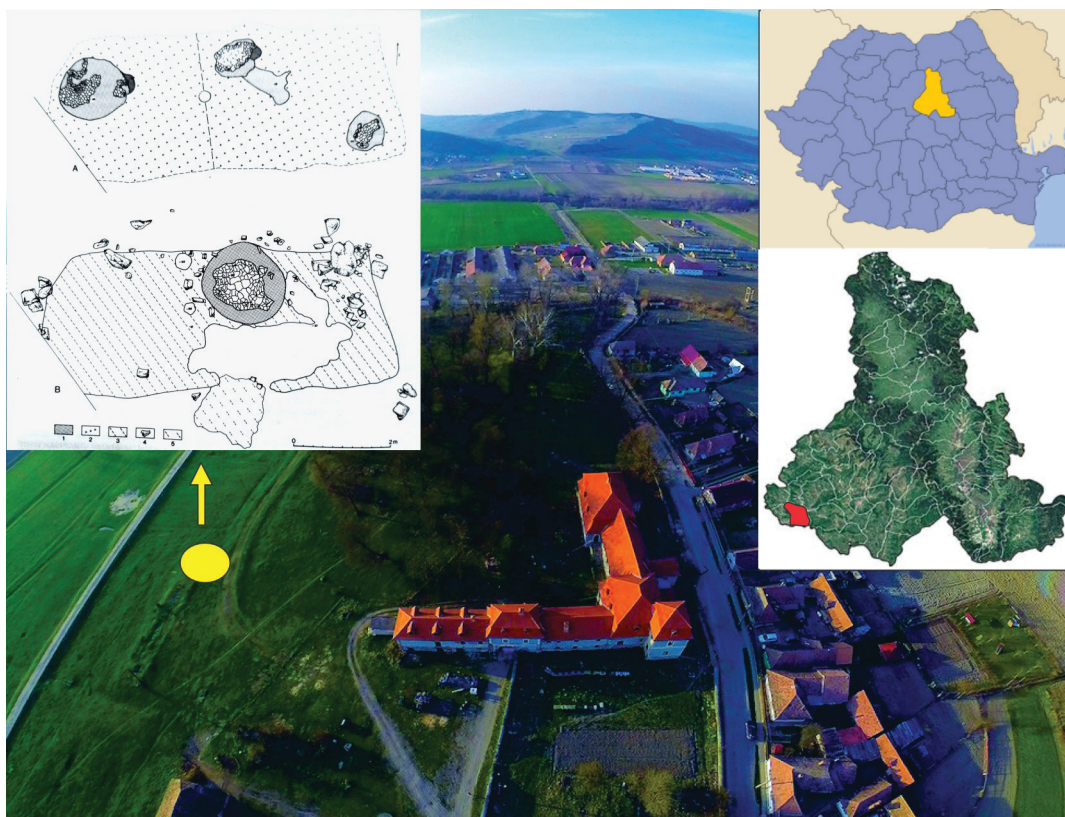


Fig. 1. The location, and ground plan of the Fiafalva Castle with the 14th–15th century residential house.

various utility lines (Pl. I). Due to constraints of time and funding, it was not possible to fully excavate the 16th–17th century noble residence. However, even limited investigations allowed for modifications to the building plans to ensure that this section would be preserved and made accessible for potential future research.

BEGINNINGS: 14th–15th CENTURY

In 1990, during the excavation of a lime pit located southwest of the castle, a large quantity of medieval ceramics and stove-tile fragments was recovered. It became evident that a residential building had been intersected. To clarify the situation, a rescue excavation was organized in 1991, during which a 14th–15th century surface dwelling was uncovered.

The house's floor was constructed in several phases, with the first phase situated at a depth of 0.37–0.45 m. Above the burned structure, a dense, dark-brown deposit accumulated, containing materials associated with the Geréb manor from the 15th–18th centuries.

The two-room timber building was revealed as a rectangular footprint measuring 7.6×3 m, divided into two sections by a row of posts. Its entrance was in the southern part of the eastern room, preceded by a compacted clay floor, likely indicating a roofed porch above the doorway. In the larger room, a circular clay oven was installed, with its plastered opening facing into the interior space. Beneath the house's floor, traces of an earlier, similarly sized building were identified. Under the oven, a second cooking surface emerged. This earlier structure also consisted of two rooms, although in this case, a small oven was present in the smaller room as well. Ceramic fragments were incorporated into their foundation, and a pit containing 14th century pottery was discovered beneath the floor.⁵

Findings of similar pottery were also brought to light during our investigations. Several fragments were recovered from earthwork carried out southwest of the building, in the broader area surrounding the house excavated in 1991.

⁵ BENKŐ-SZÉKELY 2008, 42.

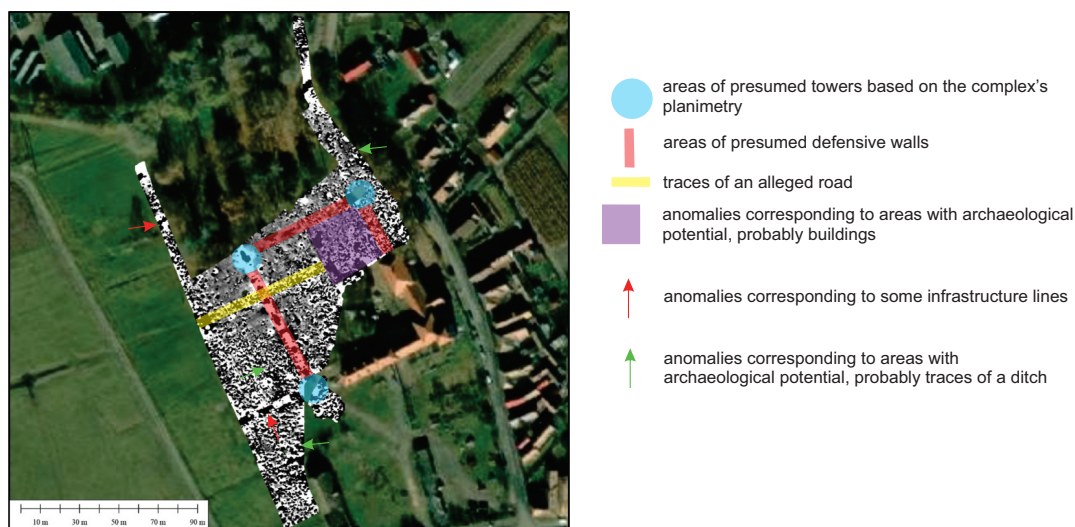


Fig. 2. Interpreted magnetometric survey from 2022.

In addition, on the northeastern side, during the installation of underground electric cables, a burnt, daub-covered surface measuring 1.4–1.5 meters in diameter were identified at a depth of 0.9–1 meter (Feature 14). This feature most likely represented an outdoor hearth, slightly sunken into the ground. No traces indicating the presence of a built structure were observed in its vicinity, and the finds derived exclusively from the fill of the feature.

Two principal ceramic types were distinguishable among the recovered material:

(1) fragments of thick-walled, wheel-thrown pots made of brown, coarsely sand-tempered fabric showing layered firing, and

(2) fragments of smaller vessels made of finely levigated, brown to greyish-brown clay, occasionally show layered burning and surface treatment, along with a shoulder fragment of a jug.

It is highly probable that, already during this period, a distinct plot began to form on the periphery of the village, which later became the nucleus of the emerging manorial estate.

THE 15th CENTURY MANOR HOUSE OF THE *FYATHFALWA* AND GERÉB FAMILIES

We have no precise data regarding the rise of the family bearing the name of the settlement. It is certain, however, that by the mid-15th century

they had attained noble status and were mentioned between the local Szekler aristocracy. The first written record dates to 1456, when, by order of King Ladislaus V *Jacobi Becz de Zenthmarthon* and *Symoni Zekel de Arapathak* were installed in a share of the estate of Albești (Fehéregyháza, Mureș County, RO) (*quartam partem possessionis Feyereghaz vocate*), which had previously been owned by *Michaelis Crws* of Sighișoara (Segesvár; Mureș County, RO) (*quondam nobilis domine consortis Michaelis Crws dicti, civis civitatis nostre Segeswar*) and, upon his death, had reverted to the crown. Among those present at the installation – alongside the Galambfalvi, Nagytóthi, Rugonfalvi, Megyesi, and Petki families – was one János, son of Pál of *Fyathfalwa*.⁶

Further information concerning the members of the family is provided by a charter issued in 1460, in which Balázs, son of Illés of Fiafalva, appeared at the convent of Kolozsmonostor (ro. Cluj-Mănăștur, now part of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj County, RO) to exchange his share of the estate at Szentiván in Belső-Szolnok County, inherited from his mother Veronika (daughter of János of *Zenthywani*), with Benedek, son of Miklós of Iklód.⁷ On this occasion he also represented his siblings, who were named István, Anna (wife of János Chereni), Veronika, and Dorottya. Based on these data, it may be inferred that Pál had a

⁶ MOL DL 29.285. FEHÉR 2015, 5–6.

⁷ SZOKL VIII. 93.

brother named András, who had a son László, and another brother, Illés, who had a son János. Later sources suggest that, although Pál had two sons, they were no longer alive by 1466. At that time, Pál, son of János, and László, son of András, were mentioned as co-owners of lands in Feleag (Magyarfelek, Mureş County, RO) and Mureni (Szederjes, Mureş County, RO). It is in this context that Balázs Geréb appears for the first time, also listed as one of the proprietors of these estates.⁸

It seems, therefore, that one of Illés's daughters – presumably Dorottya mentioned in the earlier charter – became the wife of Balázs Geréb. The other daughter, Veronika, married János Pálffy of Fiafalva, who by 1478 was deceased. In that year King Matthias ordered to install János's daughter Ilona, wife of Mihály Tatár of Timafalva (now part of Cristuru Secuiesc, Harghita County, RO), into her father's share of the estates located in villages of Feleag and Mureni (the daughter had been legally declared a 'filiaficata', i.e. adopted as an heir in the male line).⁹ Through this division, the former holdings of the Fiafalvi family was split into two parts: the larger portion passed into the hands of the Geréb family, while the other came under the ownership of the Tatár family of Timafalva. The latter portion was repurchased in the second half of the 16th century by György and Boldizsár Geréb.¹⁰

Further information concerning the noble Geréb family – of likely Saxon origin, which settled in Filiaş following marital alliances from the end of the fifteenth century, namely from 1499. At that time, a certain István Geréb declared himself a kinsman of György, son of Domokos Petki; of Pál Nyújtódi; of Skolasztika, daughter of István Hosszútelki; and of the Veseuş family. On these grounds, he demanded a share of the estates in Alba County belonging to the Veseuş kindred: Veseuş (Vesződ, Alba County, RO), Boian (Bólya, Alba County, RO), Hidegvíz (now part of Şeica Mare, Alba County, RO), Mihalt (Mihályfalva, Alba County, RO) Szászújfalva (now part of Rădeşti, Alba County, RO), Cuveş

(Kövesd, Alba County, RO) Ighişu Vechi, (Ivánfalva Sibiu County, RO).¹¹

The Fiafalvi branch of the Geréb family also appears to have been related to the Árapataki lineage, since in 1520 Ferenc Geréb of Fiafalva and Orsolya sued Balázs Árapataki in connection with their respective properties.¹² In 1545, another member of the family is mentioned when Gergely Ózdi and Gáspár Geréb, both residents of Filiaşi, reported to György Fráter that, in accordance with his instructions, they had gone to Vitalius of Vânători (Héjjasfalva, Mureş County, RO) to negotiate the division of the Noşlac (Nagylak, Alba County, Ro) estate on behalf of Anna, wife of György Nyújtódi.¹³

From the second half of the fifteenth century onwards, the village was thus inhabited by several noble families: first the Fiafalvi, then briefly the Pálffy, and subsequently the Geréb family. Although the documentary evidence is scant, it nonetheless provides indirect proof of the existence of a manor house that functioned as the administrative centre for estates located both within the county and in neighbouring Szekler villages.

Archaeological investigations connected with the restoration project begun in 2020,¹⁴ succeeded in precisely locating the site, layout, and approximate dimensions of the manor house, as well as clarifying the circumstances of its destruction. When these findings are correlated with the documentary sources, a coherent picture emerges.

Traces of the manor house and its associated outbuildings were discovered during the exploration and deepening of the cellars running beneath the northern wing (P 3, P-6). In this area, the level of the 17th–18th century cellars had been lowered relative to the original walking surface, which prevented the recovery of stratigraphic information from the

¹¹ MOL DL 26.467.

¹² PÁLMAJ 1902, 174–176.

¹³ SZOKL II. 73.

¹⁴ The reference point for the excavation's elevation data was the construction's relative +00 level, which practically corresponds to the newly established floor level of the northern wing. Compared to the exterior ground levels after the renovation, this was 1.8–1.9 meters higher.

⁸ MOL DL 28.622, BENKŐ–SZÉKELY 2008, 94.

⁹ SZOKL I. 224–225.

¹⁰ BENKŐ–SZÉKELY 2008, 96.

15th–16th centuries. Some data, however, could be obtained from trenches 7, 8, and 16, opened in the exterior area in front of the northern wing. The compact, trampled walking surface of small gravel lay very close to the upper level of the wall remains found inside the cellar. Measurements of the postholes also indicated that approximately 0.25–0.30 m of the original surface had been destroyed. This observation is significant, as in the southwestern part of area P-3 (see excavation plan) two slightly irregular stone foundations, roughly 0.7 × 1 m in size, sunk into sterile clay, were uncovered (Pl. II/1–2). These were constructed of river cobbles and flat stones bonded with grey mortar. In line with these, a third foundation trench left by a removed wall was documented. To the south of these, two smaller but similar stone foundations were also found. It is likely that there were originally six supporting points in total, suggesting a building with an approximate ground plan of 7 × 5.5 m. Attached to its southern side may have been an annex or porch, traces of which were detected in trenches 7 and 16, where postholes, larger stones, and fragments of daub were recorded. In Trench 7, the remains of a stone foundation belonging to the structure of the portico were documented. The fill of the pit contained several unglazed pottery fragments as well as pieces of rectangular stove tiles. These were tempered with coarse sand and fired to a reddish, occasionally mottled colour. On the framed front, bordered by a rod and raised rim, a mounted soldier is depicted riding left on a horse, facing forward (the central part is missing: he originally held a lance with a flag in his left hand and had a beard). Above his shoulder is a triangular motif filled with dots. The preserved fragment measures 18 × 26 cm. (Pl. IX/5) A close parallel is known from Cristuru Secuiesc (Székelykeresztúr, Harghita County, RO), although the crown motif there represents a different type.¹⁵

Near the building, larger flat stones were encountered, beyond which the terrain sloped steeply to the north. Subsequent excavation revealed that this marked the edge of a defensive

ditch into which a later stone wall had been inserted (Feature 8). Within this feature, four postholes were identified, and thanks to the moist soil conditions, fragments of wood were preserved. These may have formed part of a palisade or entrance structure. Unfortunately, the available excavation area – limited by a collapsed and backfilled cellar on the western side and by the wall built into the ditch – did not allow further investigation. The previously mentioned exterior gravel surface was covered by a 0.15–0.20 m thick layer of burnt daub mixed with charcoal; the same layer was also found in the fill of C 8 (the defensive ditch) (Pl. V). The large fragments of fired daub provided evidence for a timber-framed superstructure of the manor house. Worn brick fragments found within the burn layer suggest that bricks may have been used as a flooring material. The roof was covered with shingles, as indicated by the numerous small nails recovered. In addition to this, a significant assemblage of pottery was collected, consisting mostly of unglazed fragments but also including examples with interior or exterior glazing (Fig. 3). Among the more remarkable finds are the fragments of stove tiles that once heated the manor house (Pl. IX/3). The best-preserved specimens are rectangular, green-glazed stove tiles, made from reddish-brown clay. Their framed and moulded front panels depict, on the left side, a crowned king offering a chalice in his left hand, the right side of the tile is missing. The field between two crowned figures is occupied by an inverted heraldic shield (Pl. IX/1). Similar, but unglazed fragments have been found at Cristuru Secuiesc and are dated to the first half of the sixteenth century.¹⁶

It bears a dark-green glaze and is bordered by a narrow moulding, divided horizontally into two fields: the upper decorated with continuous vegetal ornamentation, with a three-leaved hanging plant at the left whose bent leaf bears a shallowly modelled relief face (possibly a putto). The lower field is adorned with large, bead-like dots (Pl. IX/2). Several other unglazed fragments and one interior green-glazed stove eye were also documented.

¹⁵ BENKŐ–SZÉKELY 2008, 262.

¹⁶ BENKŐ–UGHY 1984, 60.



Fig. 3. 15th–16th century pots from the fill of the defensive ditch (Object 8).

Associated with this building were the eastern cellars (P-1, P-5, P-6), within which traces of a slightly sunken, log-framed timber house were identified. This structure measured approximately 5.2 m in width and 6–6.5 m in length, with a hearth located in its southern part. The dwelling, exposed in several sections, had its central, northern, and southern portions partly obscured by later masonry additions, preventing the exact reconstruction of its full dimensions. In two places, postholes lined with stones were recorded. No clear evidence of interior partitioning was observed. Originally, the

building seems to have been sunk about 0.40–0.45 m into the ground.

The uppermost fill consisted of a 0.15–0.20 m thick brownish-grey clay layer mixed with charcoal and burnt clay, beneath which lay a 0.6–0.8 m yellowish clay layer containing fragments of daub and charcoal. Below this was a compact 0.15–0.20 m thick brown deposit rich in charcoal, daub, and ceramic fragments. The ceramic assemblage was dominated by 15th–16th century wheel-thrown pots with handles and their corresponding lids. Out of a total of 1820 sherds, only 108 displayed glazing – either on the interior or

exterior surface. In addition to pottery, numerous glazed and unglazed stove-tile fragments were recovered, along with heavily worn bricks (presumably from a floor), several forged iron nails – some clearly used for wooden shingles – as well as various iron implements (some with incised decoration), glass fragments, bronze pieces, and small fragments of bronze hairpins.

Finds connected to this phase were also recovered at some distance from the described buildings. It's important to mention Trench 20, located not far from the gate entrance, where at a depth of 2.4–2.6 m, fragments of grey, unglazed bowl-shaped stove tiles and rectangular tiles were unearthed from a yellowish, clayey, compact, occasionally charcoal-flecked mixed layer. The grey fragments were tempered with fine, micaceous sand. Within a simple moulded frame, a knight in armour is shown rearing on a richly adorned horse facing right, holding a straight, long-bladed sword in his right hand in a thrusting position. The horse's saddle is flat and lacks a backrest, with impressions of textile visible on the surface (Pl. IX/5). The dimensions can only be reconstructed (based on analogies, approx. 26.5 × 20.5 cm). Its closest parallel comes from Cristuru Secuiesc, Kriza János Street no. 23, recovered from the infill of the manor house cellar, and dated to the 16th century.¹⁷

The manor house, enclosed by a defensive ditch, was in the possession of Benedek Geréb in the mid-16th century.¹⁸ Historical sources recall him as one of those found guilty by John Sigismund and his supporters for instigating the events of 1562, for which he was imprisoned in a castle dungeon.¹⁹ His relative Miklós, of the Mihăileni (Szentmihály, Harghita County, RO) branch of the family, was likewise incarcerated.²⁰ Although no written record explicitly mentions the fate of the Fiafalva manor, the archaeological evidence strongly suggests that it perished in a major conflagration at that time.

RENAISSANCE CASTLE

After being released from captivity, Benedek Geréb received 27 peasant households as a donation from John Sigismund in 1566, who sought to reconcile with the Szekler nobility following the recent events.²¹ At that time, an inventory recorded that his elder son, Boldizsár, possessed 16 peasant plots in Filiaş, 2.5 in Secuieni (Újszékely, Harghita County, RO), and 3.5 in Bodogaia (Alsóboldogfalva, Harghita County, RO).²² In 1571, Benedek Geréb passed away. That same spring, Mihály Telegdi, the Székely chief captain, ordered the dismantling of a fence recently built on Geréb's estate in Cristuru Secuiesc.²³ By 1576, Benedek Geréb's widow held estates in Jacodu (Zsákod, Mureş County, RO), Avrămeşti (Szentábrahám, Harghita County, RO), Bodogaia, and Secuieni, while his son Boldizsár owned properties in Bodogaia, Filiaş, and Secuieni.²⁴

Due to the lack of archival sources, archaeological data cannot precisely determine the exact time of the earlier manor's destruction. However, a coin issued by King Rudolf of Hungary in 1581, discovered at a relative depth of 2.75 meters in Trench 19, provides some indication. Stratigraphically, the coin was deposited within the levelling layer of the earlier building's destruction debris, formed during or after the commencement of new construction works. In 1581, Boldizsár sent a letter from Filiaş to the Voivode of Transylvania concerning Péter Dániel, who protested against the enfeoffment of Anna, widow of Ferenc Dániel.²⁵ By 1582, Boldizsár and his brother György jointly purchased the estates of Miklós Tatár for 600 florins – properties that had once belonged to the Fiafalva family and had passed into the Tatár family through the female line.²⁶ During the donation proceedings of the following year, it was revealed that the old Benedek Geréb was an important person. In recognition of the service,

¹⁷ BENKŐ-SZÉKELY 2008, 261.

¹⁸ SZOKL VIII. 282.

¹⁹ VERES 1983, 40–41.

²⁰ BALOGH 2005, 41.

²¹ SZOKL II. 209.

²² SZOK. Ú.s. VII. 38.

²³ SZOKL II. 324–325.

²⁴ SZOKL IV. 37–39.

²⁵ VAJDA 1894, 27–30.

²⁶ BENKŐ-SZÉKELY 2008, 96.

the two sons were granted as a new donation the portions of property they had long possessed in the villages of Feleag (Magyarfelek, Mureş County, RO) and Mureni (Szederjes, Mureş County, RO) they had held previously, though without official documentation.²⁷

The soldiering Geréb brothers, who according to the 1566 tax and military registers took part in the campaigns of John Sigismund, received significant donations and privileges because of their service,²⁸ enabling them to establish a new manorial centre. As no archival documents survive relating to this process, the data yielded by archaeological investigations have become of exceptional value. Based on this, we were able to provide new information regarding the ground plan, dimensions, and defensive features of a Renaissance castle built in the second half of the 16th century – an edifice previously not recorded in the literature.

According to the archaeological evidence, the remains of the earlier timber structure – destroyed by fire – were levelled, and, partly reusing the former moat, the foundations were laid for a defensive wall enclosing an area of approximately 70 × 70 meters. This wall surrounded an inner courtyard and had corner towers at its angles, while the entire complex was encircled by a water-filled moat (Pl. IV/3). Of the original corner towers, three have since been destroyed, and the curtain wall survives only along the northeastern side. The traces of the vanished walls were detected both by magnetometric survey and during the excavation of utility fieldworks on the southern and western sides. Unfortunately, the form of the corner towers can be inferred only from the surviving example.

The defensive wall measured about 1.4 meters in thickness, with rectangular, outwardly splayed loopholes (opening in a defensive wall used for shooting at attackers with small arms or artillery) closed by straight lintels on its lower level. These were associated with an interior flagstone walking surface, the remains of which were identified in trenches 4, 5, 6, and 17. Cleaning of the paving stones yielded pottery

fragments datable to the second half of the 16th century (Pl. VI). The foundation of a staircase leading to the upper defensive floor was found north of the main entrance. On the upper level, keyhole-shaped loopholes were present, some of which – especially those above the gateway and on the remaining corner tower – were later walled up with bricks (Pl. IV/2).

The main entrance opened in the central axis of the eastern wall and led beneath a tower-like, two-storey structure. Part of the bridge that once spanned the moat may have been the narrow; arched stone wall identified at the outer base of the curtain wall. During this construction phase, no buildings were erected along the inner side of the defensive wall. The only residential structure, now destroyed, was the so-called ‘palace wing’ situated on the north-western side (Pl. IV/1). This multi-roomed building, containing at least three different rooms, was investigated in trenches 22 and 23. From the plinth level of its east–west oriented wall (Pl. II/3), ceramic fragments datable to the second half of the 16th century were recovered. Unfortunately, its connection with the northern curtain wall could not be established, as that area was impossible to excavate. The eastern wall of the residence lies beneath a collapsed and backfilled cellar. Fragments of finely carved white limestone Renaissance architectural elements – cornices, doorframes,²⁹ window mullions, and corbels – were recovered from various parts of the building from secondary positions (Pl. VIII). Some parts of the building, the original floor was likely made of circular bricks.

²⁹ A decorated doorframe is also mentioned in the 1812 inventory, located in a now-demolished part of the building on the north-western side. The doorway was bricked up, but its ornate frame caught the attention of the inventory compilers. *”Megint ezen Szobának déli oldalán láttatik egy szép faragott kő ajtó szemöldök, mely most téglával vagyon bérakva. Innen visszakerülve a nyolcadik szám alatt leírt Palotába, melynek a napnyugotra nyíló ajtaján kimenne, az épületnek napnyugoti része mellett elnyúló Tornácsba, mely Tornác alólról kő lábakon feljövő kő tornác, megbérelve vagyon fenyő deczkával, melyen állanak az épület fedelezetét tartó kilenc kifaragott cserefa és egy fenyő oszlopok, mely a Pincék padlása és a Szobák pavimentuma kinyúló gerenda végekre szegezett hitvány, régi fenyő deczkákkal van megpadolva.”* (SJHAN-ARHMUNMC FOND 250. FASC 1632/1813, 331–332.)

²⁷ JAKAB-SZADECKY 1901, 329.

²⁸ BALOGH 2011, 113.

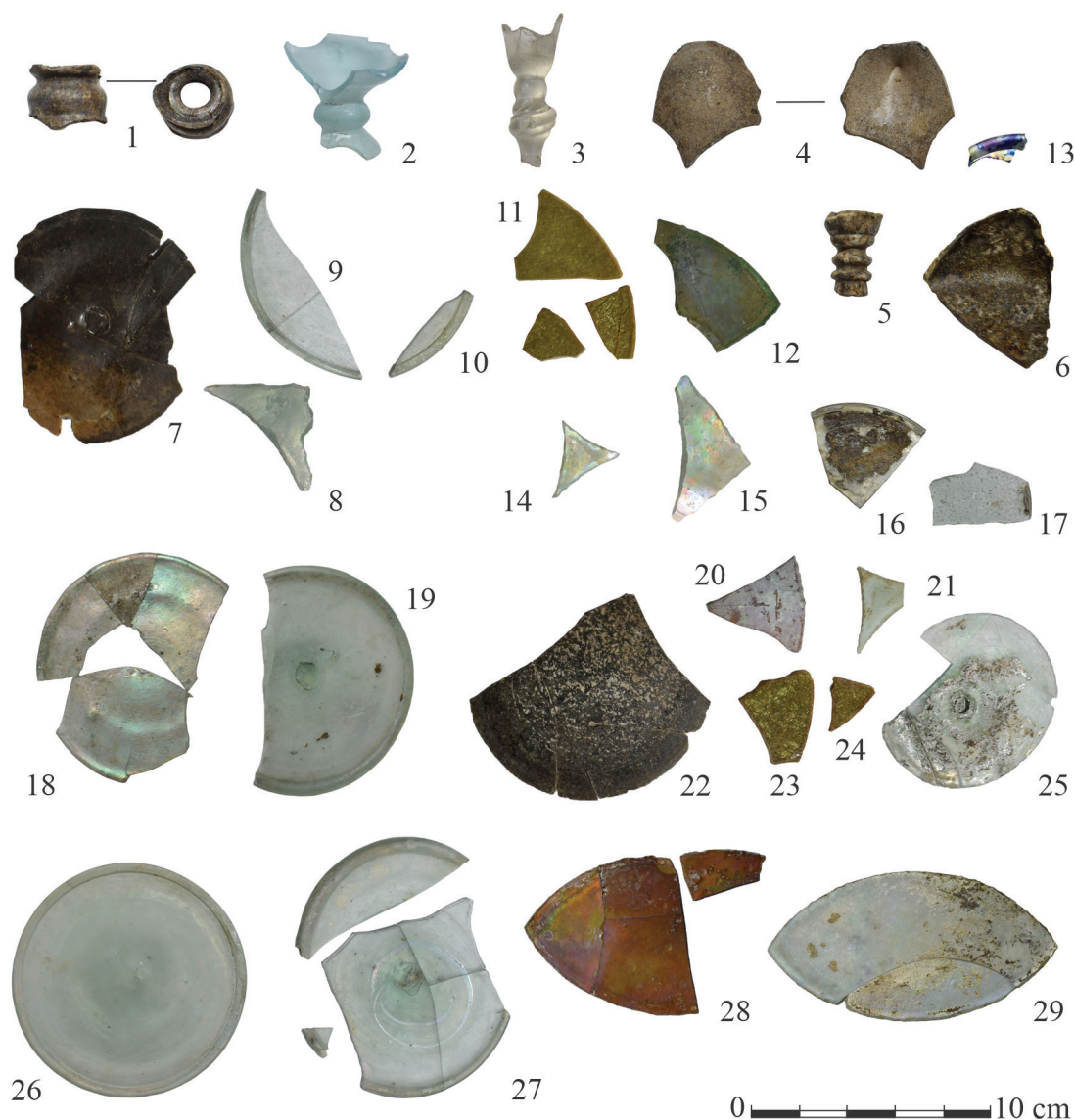


Fig. 4. 1–6. Glass fragments from 17th century layers; 7–29. White and yellowish-brown window glass fragments with lead came from the levelling layer between 2.8–2.9 m in Trench 22.

Several fragments were found in the basement, each 4.5 cm thick with a radius of 17 cm; four such pieces would have formed a complete circle. During the restoration, a reconstructed floor made of these elements was installed in the former chapel room of the corner tower. According to the 1805 inventory, the floor of this room was made of brick, but without mentioning the exact form.³⁰

³⁰ "Isten tiszteletének (Templomnak) használt Alkotmányba vagyon a bé menetel, melynek felső része (Mennyezete) nyolc lábokról felvett, igen cifra csipkézettekkel megékesített Bolthajtásból való, pavementoma pedig téglából

Another floor made of bricks is also mentioned in the 1812 inventory, presumably belonging to the north-western corner tower.³¹

van ki rakva". (SJHAN-ARHMUNMC FOND 250. FASC 1631/1805, 219.)

³¹ "Az épületnek n[ap]nyugot felől való részire egy felől faragott kapu, más felől hársfa ajtó szemöldökök között, jó két vas sarkakon egy fenyő deczka ajtó rajta lévő vas retesszel és reteszfővel egy jó tágas, négy szegeletű Szobába, melynek vagyon szépen csipkézett bolthajtása, mely nagyon megrepedezett, és nevezetesen az északi része leszakadozott és béomladozott két helyen. Pavimentuma vagyon téglából kirakva, mely helyel-helyel fel vagyon bomolva". (SJHAN-ARHMUNMC FOND 250. FASC 1632/1813, 331–332.)

Some of the residential quarters appear to have been semi-subterranean. The earliest walking surface of this level was encountered in trenches 22 and 23 as a brown, compacted clay layer with trampled surfaces. In Trench 22, fragments of white and yellowish-brown lead-framed window glass were recovered from a levelling layer between 2.8 and 2.9 m (Fig. 4). From the upper, white mortar-and brick-flecked layer (associated with vault construction), a fragment of a moulded, limewashed door frame carved from soft sandstone was found. If the building was constructed adjacent to the northern curtain wall, it may have comprised three rooms: proceeding from south to north, a 10 × 10 m chamber, followed by one measuring 7 × 14 m, and a third of roughly similar size situated between the northernmost room and the defensive wall.

On the western side of the northern wing, once the plaster had been removed, the line of the defensive wall, the adjoining wall of the attached building, and a walled-up arched doorway leading into a backfilled cellar became clearly visible.

Few castles in Scaunul Odorhei (Udvarhelyszék, RO) exhibit comparable defensive features. One such parallel is the manor built in 1579 at Sânpaul (Homoródszentpál, Harghita County, RO) by order of Farkas Kornis. Although its similar date of construction would make it an excellent analogy, information concerning the building – demolished in the nineteenth century – is unfortunately very limited.³²

Boldizsár Geréb died sometime after 1583 without heirs,³³ and the completion of the construction works must have fallen to his brother György. A lawsuit involving the neighbouring Csákány family of Keresztúrfalva records that Geréb had his nine serfs brought to Fíliaş, and in 1588 he ordered timber worth 300 florins to be cut and transported from the Sósvíz forest 'for his own household'.³⁴ In 1581, he had taken into his service Lukács Fazakas, who, having learned the craft from guild masters, made green-glazed stoves for him – but Geréb subsequently treated

him as a serf.³⁵ By 1596, György Geréb was no longer among the living, for in matters concerning the taxes of the Fíliaş serfs, his wife Anna Sigér was mentioned as the acting party.³⁶

MAGNETOMETRIC SURVEY AND CORRELATION WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

To confirm the floor plan layout revealed during the archaeological investigations, the owner commissioned a magnetometer survey. Hopefully this will help to identify and locate the areas that must be avoided during future groundworks. The surveys were carried out by archaeologist Dr. Alexandru Popa.³⁷ The use of this method made it possible to create magnetic maps representing the interpretation of the archaeological potential of the evaluated land surface. As a result, the magnetometry map processed through interpolation indicates the presence of numerous magnetic anomalies (Fig. 2). We also note the presence, over large areas, of clusters of anomalies corresponding to a fill layer containing magnetically sensitive material, especially in the southern part of the evaluated surface. This layer persists even in the areas where the manor's towers would be expected to have been located. There are several zones free of the fill layer at the ground surface of archaeometric and archaeological interest. Based on analogies observed at other sites evaluated using the same method, we consider that the anomalies shown may indicate areas with traces of habitation from the period of the late 16th century, probably related to (defensive) ditches. Taking these aspects into account, we believe that the zones with clusters of anomalies marked deserve to be further evaluated in the future through targeted archaeological excavations.

The magnetometric surveys were in full accordance with the results of the archaeological investigations, providing mutual confirmation and allowing for the assessment of

³² SÓFALVI 2017, 144.

³³ EFKK 1582–1602, 287.

³⁴ SZOK. Ú.s. I. 45–46.

³⁵ SZOK. Ú.s. II. 135.

³⁶ SZOK. Ú.s. II. 318.

³⁷ POPA 2022.

individual wall sections revealed in smaller excavation areas. The analysis of the survey data indicated the presence of larger building traces only in the northwestern part of the site, corresponding to the 16th–17th century residential structures. One of the anomalies was discovered in the middle, with north-south orientation and it was determined as an alleged road. A detailed examination of the 1812 inventory reveals that this area was not part of a road, but rather a stone-built partition wall covered with shingles. The gateway leading through was located beneath the porch in front of the palace wing.

Since the surveys were conducted during the implementation phase of the construction project, further investigation of certain areas – particularly the northern side of the complex, the eastern zone in front of the building, and the northeastern section of the inner courtyard – was not possible as the works progressed. However, given that several utility trenches crossed these areas and limited archaeological excavations were also carried out there, the overall interpretation of the site layout and development has not been substantially altered.

17th CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS

At the turn of the century, the Filiaş manorial centre – which had served its owner as a multi-functional establishment, encompassing defensive, residential, representational, and economic functions – suffered severe damage. During the events of 1599, following the intervention of Szekler troops, who assisted Voivode Mihály's entry into Transylvania and their subsequent liberation from serfdom, widespread revenge was exacted for the events of 1596. Numerous noble residences were set ablaze, including the Odorheiu Secuiesc castle. One of the Nyújtódi manor houses in Cristuru Secuiesc also perished at this time and was never rebuilt.³⁸ By 1602, when George Basta swore the Szeklers to loyalty to Emperor and King Rudolf, András

Geréb, son of György, was mentioned the single noble person in Fiafalva.³⁹

Archaeological investigations associated with the castle's restoration identified several charred layers, indicative of destruction caused during these events. Unlike earlier layers, these burnt deposits contained no daub; however, much of the timber superstructure of the defensive floor and the roof may have been destroyed by fire (Pl. II/5). Nails for shingles and wrought-iron nails predominated in this layer. Subsequent construction layers were laid directly over the destruction, indicating that not only were the previous structures restored, but the internal buildings were also expanded. Stratigraphically, trench 14, located northeast of the main gate, provided one of the clearest sequences: at a depth of 2.75 m, a charred destruction layer overlies a yellowish clay floor (Pl. III/2). Beneath it lies the construction level of the defensive wall, under which are the destruction layers of the first timber building. Excavation through the late-16th century burnt layer revealed the plinth of a nearby wall, over which a thick, 0.15–0.20 m gravel-filled walking surface had been laid. This stratigraphy was observed in several locations and could thus be accurately mapped on the site plan (Pl. III/1).

The young Geréb András pursued a military career. In 1609, a letter from the prince to Captain János Petki revealed that while serving in Moldavia, two of his servants had been attacked.⁴⁰ In 1611 he took part in a battle near Braşov (Brassó, Braşov County, RO) against Voivode Şerban Radu on the side of Gabriel Báthory. It was likely during this engagement that the future prince, Gabriel Bethlen, took note of his abilities. Despite this, the forces suffered a severe defeat, with an estimated 7,000–10,000 casualties,⁴¹ Geréb András was captured and his release was secured at considerable cost.⁴² In 1612 he was appointed officer to the vice-captain (Daniel Mihály) and the sub-judge (Pál Ugron) of Scaunul Odorhei.⁴³ According to the 1614 tax

³⁸ BENKŐ-SZÉKELY 2008, 89–91.

³⁹ SZOKL. V. 317.

⁴⁰ SZILÁGYI 1867, 304.

⁴¹ MAREŞ 2018, 70.

⁴² KÁLLAY 1829, 248. SZILÁGYI 1867, 141.

⁴³ JAKAB-SZADECKY 1901, 326.

census, he possessed the third-largest number of serfs among the Odorheiu Secuiesc nobles. His 108 serfs were spread across the Filiaş estates and the villages of Goagiu (Gagy, Harghita County, RO), Bodogaia, Secuieni (Újszékely, Harghita County, RO), Cecheşti (Csekefalva, Harghita County, RO), Cristuru Secuiesc, Rugăneşti (Rugonfalva, Harghita County, RO), Şimoneşti (Siménfalva, Harghita County, RO), Beteşti (Betfalva, Harghita County, RO), Porumbenii Mici şi Porumbenii Mari (Kis- and Nagygámbfalva, Harghita County, RO), Aluniş (Székelymagyaros, Harghita County, RO), Obrăneşti (Abránfalva, Harghita County, RO), and Mujna (Székelymuzsna, Harghita County, RO).⁴⁴

In 1618, Geréb András became vice-captain of the princely cavalry and in 1620 was appointed captain of the prince's bodyguard, replacing the deceased Gergely Szepesi Nagy.⁴⁵ In recognition of his services, the prince confirmed his holdings with a new donation in 1625. By this time, the castle's reconstruction had been completed, as the donation letter specifically mentions that *'the collapsed manor house was rebuilt in stone in the form of a fortress'*.⁴⁶ In 1627 he still appeared in the serf census, but he died without heirs the following year. His estates reverted to the prince, who granted them to the young Székely Mózes, who married Geréb's widow, Judit Lónyay. The royal steward and judge of Scaunul Mureş (Marosszék) acquired the Filiaş buildings for 3,000 thalers, *'cum castello, sive domo et curia nobilitari'*.⁴⁷

In 1630 Catherine of Brandenburg granted him the remainder of the Geréb estates, including portions in Cristuru Secuiesc, Secuieni, Ceheşti, and Beteşti, with the exception of the mill on the Târnava River in Odorheiu Secuiesc. The following year, Prince György Rákóczi granted further donations, including the villages Feleag of Stâna de Mureş (Maroscsúcs, Alba County, RO), Găbud (Gábod, Alba County,

RO), and in Alba County, a three-wheel mill in Cristuru Secuiesc on the Târnava Mare River, and a noble plot in Timafalva.⁴⁸

However, he enjoyed his new holdings for only a short time. In 1634⁴⁹ he still owned his estates, but subsequently lost them due to disloyalty, in accordance with the parliamentary decree. Prince György I Rákóczi then granted the Filiaş estate and manor to Mátyás Brenhidai Huszár,⁵⁰ royal steward and judge of Scaunul Mureş, who never resided at Filiaş⁵¹ and died in 1652.⁵² The estate then passed to his widow, Éva Barcsai.⁵³ Huszár Mátyás left two daughters, one of whom, Borbála, inherited the Odorheiu Secuiesc portion. Through her first marriage, it passed to the Torma family, and through her second husband, to the Nemes family.⁵⁴

According to the 1696 settlement, the aforementioned Filiaş manor, or *'castélly cum omnibus ad se pertionibus'*, was to remain divided among four heirs: Samuel and György Torma, on the other side Domokos and Mátyás Nemes, including all associated properties in Scaunul Odorhei (Udvarhelyszék).⁵⁵

18th CENTURY: DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

At the beginning of the 18th century, significant transformations took place in the castle. In 1704, during the events between Ferenc Rákóczi and the Habsburg Empire. The deputy captain of Scaunul Odorhei, Tamás Ugron, together with Tamás Nemes, Mihály Henter, and Zsigmond Székely in Trei Scaune (Háromszék, Covasna County, RO), managed to rally much of the Szekler community to the cause of Prince Zsigmond Rákóczi. The poorly organized and

⁴⁴ BALOGH 2011, 31. ábra.

⁴⁵ JENEY 2014, 211–212.

⁴⁶ „*possessio Fiatfalva, una cum curia nobilitari in eadem habita, olim quidem diruta nunc autem ex fundamento... e lapidis in forma castris*” JAKAB-SZÁDECKY 1901, 339. BENKŐ-SZÉKELY 2008, 98.

⁴⁷ SZOKL IV. 235.

⁴⁸ SZOKL IV. 237–238.

⁴⁹ SZOKL IV. 250.

⁵⁰ JAKAB-SZÁDECKY 1901, 375.

⁵¹ SZOK. Ú.s. V. 299.

⁵² JAKAB-SZÁDECKY 1901, 375.

⁵³ SJCAN-ARHMUNCJN FOND 567. Fasc. XVII. 11. 326–327.

⁵⁴ KELEMEN 1925, 165. KELEMEN 1982, 225, 226. TÓTH 1902, 549.

⁵⁵ SJCAN-ARHMUNCJN FOND 567. Fasc XVII.11. 416–417.

largely untrained force – mostly armed with scythes and hoes – was defeated on 28 January 1704 at Holdvilág, despite its numerical superiority. The several-thousand-strong Szekler army fled before the imperial troops of Colonel Johann Karl Tige, numbering barely five hundred but well-trained, disciplined, and equipped with artillery.⁵⁶

By 1707, the re-establishment of gubernatorial authority in the Szekler Land had begun. In 1709 the return of those, who had fled to Moldavia was underway, as they were granted amnesty and tax exemptions. Among those returning were Sámuel Torma and Mátyás Nemes⁵⁷ the owners at Filiaş. It was most likely due to their involvement in these events that their estates suffered extensive devastation, during which the defensive structures of the castle were destroyed.

Archaeological excavations revealed, along the castle walls, traces of a widespread destruction layer,⁵⁸ from which a halved *poltura* coin issued by Prince Ferenc II Rákóczi in 1704 was recovered in trench 19. Investigations in the southern section of the moat and near the entrance suggest that the castle suffered a severe siege during the war, resulting in the complete destruction of its southern half. Rubble from the collapsed defensive wall filled the moat, which was later further filled with debris from restoration works, leading to its eventual obliteration (Pl. II/4).

In 1712 noble residents of the village included Sámuel and György Torma, and Domokos and Mátyás Nemes.⁵⁹ The devastation from the early 18th century required prolonged repairs. By 1714, the restoration of the chapel – bearing the initials *ND* (Nemes Domokos) – appears to

have been completed. In 1718 József Hermányi Dienes referred to the estate as a ‘ruined castle’.⁶⁰

The 18th century rebuilding phase included the construction of latrines and auxiliary buildings in the backfilled moat, the reconstruction of the southeastern section, and the reconfiguration of the main entrance. To this period also belongs the addition of a portico supported by stone pillars along the southern part of the northern wing.

In 1753 at Apalina (Abafája, Mureş County, RO), Baron József Huszár (grandson of Borbála Berenhidai Huszár) and Count Sámuel Bethlen with his wife, Countess Klára Nemes, purchased the share of the Odorhei estate inherited from Domokos Nemes of Hídvég. This included, at Filiaş, one complete bastion, the manor house, a ruined building, a cellar, a wooden coach shed in the courtyard, as well as the associated peasant plots, inhabited and deserted holdings, gardens, arable lands, meadows, forests, vineyards, and all related rights, along with possessions in Bodogaia and Ceheşti. As the properties lay far from his residence, Nemes sold them for one thousand imperial florins.⁶¹

On the military map compiled between 1769 and 1773, the late medieval chapel still appears, and the castle is depicted with an enclosed courtyard and four corner towers (Fig. 5). The accompanying cartographic description notes only that both the castle and the church within the village, as well as the chapel situated on the hill outside the settlement, were built of stone.

The mentioned hill, where the chapel stood dominates the surrounding landscape, offering a strategic vantage point over the area. From this position, the transport of provisions towards Sighişoara would have been the most convenient, underscoring the topographical advantages that likely influenced the original placement of the ecclesiastical and defensive structures alike.⁶²

⁵⁶ KÓNYA 2014, 315–325.

⁵⁷ CSEREI 1852, 435.

⁵⁸ In his autobiography, the Transylvanian chancellor Miklós Bethlen reports that in 1703, following the outbreak of the war, the imperial troops, after setting fire to Sámuel Bethlen’s estate at Hoghiz (Hévíz, Braşov County, RO), also burned down his own house and barn at Sănpaul. (*Gróf Bethlen Miklós önéletírásának második fele*. Kiad. Szalay László. Pest, 1860. 309.) Also the fortress in Odorheiu Secuiesc was destroyed in 1706 by Lőrinc Pekri. (SÓFALVI 2017, 144).

⁵⁹ PÁL 2009, 191.

⁶⁰ MAKKAJ 1941, 245–246.

⁶¹ SJCAN–ARHMUNCJN. F 221. 274. 1. 1753.

⁶² *Anhang zu der Kriegs des Gross Fürstenthum Siebenbürgen. Drittes Buch vorinnen verschiedene Anmerkungen über Sectiones 151–159 und so weiter biss inclusive 208 enthalten*. Kézirat. Bécs, K. u. k. Kriegs-Archiv. 159. Sectio 176.

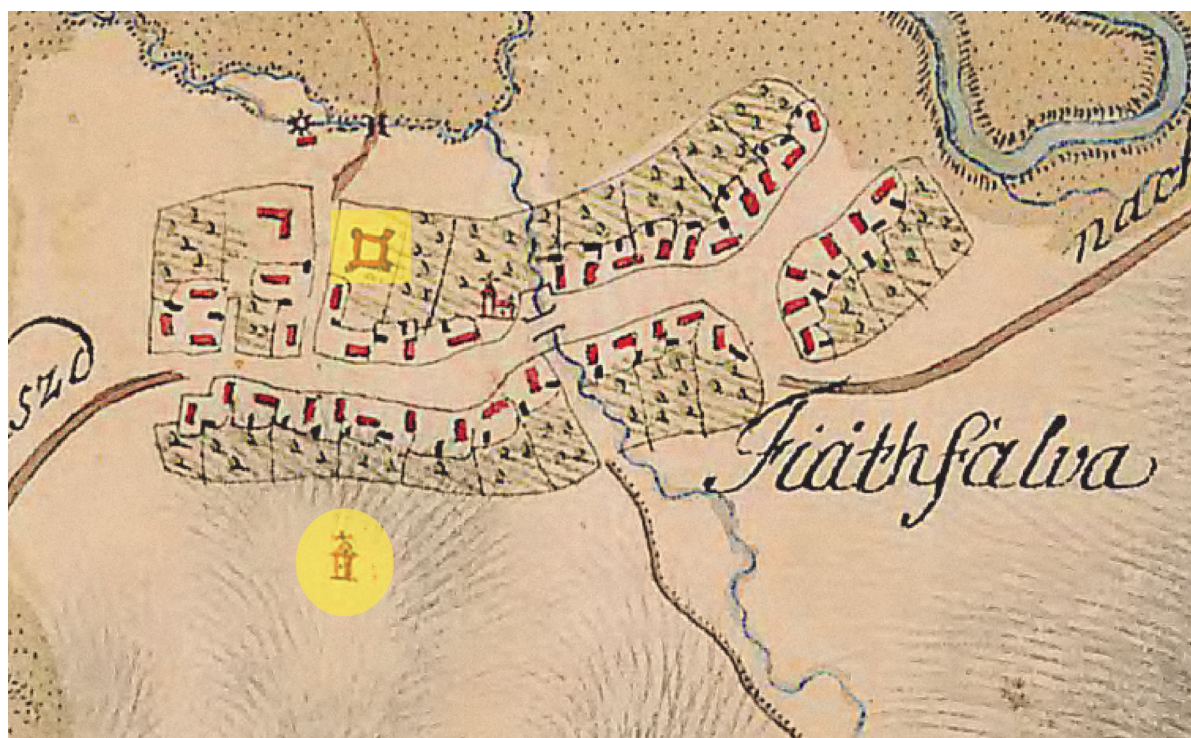


Fig. 5. Depiction of the manor buildings and chapel on the First Military Survey.

In 1804 the Fiaș estate passed to Julianna Bethlen following her mother's death. During the legal dispute with her husband, she had no income, and after spending four months in Vienna for medical treatment, she fell into financial distress. Consequently, she mortgaged the Fiaș estate for ten years to the merchant Miklós Sinkovics of Dumbrăveni (Erzsébetváros, Sibiu County, RO) for 25,000 Hungarian forints.⁶³ In 1805 the mortgage was redeemed by Farkas Wesselényi and Lajos Kemény.⁶⁴

19th CENTURY: DEMOLISHED STRUCTURES AND LATE CLASSICIST RECONSTRUCTION

Despite the partial repairs following the early 18th century destruction, during the first decades of the 19th century the ownership of the castle changed frequently, and at times it was held

by multiple proprietors simultaneously (Pl. X). A crucial source for this period is provided by the inventories drawn up in 1805⁶⁵ and 1812,⁶⁶ compiled shortly after the death of Countess Julianna Bethlen. Before her death she suffered from prolonged illness and spent much of her final years abroad, particularly after the burial of her mother, Klára Nemes, in Fiaș in 1800 at the age of eighty-one. Almost all her movable possessions were removed from the estate, many of them sold off.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ SJHAN-ARHMUNMC FOND 250. FASC 1631/1805, 219.

⁶⁶ SJHAN-ARHMUNMC FOND 250. FASC 1632/1813, 331–332.

⁶⁷ "Ezüst nemüket, asztalra való készülékeket melyek a néhai édes anyjáról maradtak volt a grófnéra, ami valamire való portékák voltak a házakba itten Fiașfalván és ami Kordáné önnagyságáról maradtak volt is mind elvitték önnagyságuk, hogy csak a kopacz falak maradtak. Egy udvari csengettyű volt itten Fiașfalván még csak azt is elvitték, sőt a familia harangját is levették a toronyból és elvitték Fenesre, ez ma is ott, a csengettyű pedig Balázstelkén megvannak. [...] Egy óra is volt itten Fiașfalván, asztalra való, ezt is elvitték, ma is meg van Fenesen, ami ezüst nemüeket és marhákat elvitettek innen önnagyságok, azokat mind feljegyezték s felirattak magoknak és az írást magok elvitték. A gabona pedig nem ment írás mellett el innen, hanem csak minden

⁶³ SJCAN-ARHMUNCJN. FOND 221. F, 363/1804. 19–20.

⁶⁴ SJHAN-ARHMUNMC FOND 250. FASC 1631/1805, 219. FASC 1632/1813, 331–332.

Access to the castle was constructed through the vaulted gate in the early 18th century. Within the inner courtyard, the buildings were described as neglected, in many places dilapidated and crumbling. The southern section, near the main entrance, was in particularly poor condition, with the upper rooms built not of stone but of timber beams (*boronafák*). The northern and western sides of the courtyard were still enclosed by a high stone wall.

The 1812 inventory devoted a separate section to the ‘decayed’ (*elromladozott*) buildings – details of great importance, since these structures were demolished only a few years later. According to the record, on the southern part of the inner courtyard, west of the stone gate, stood an uninhabitable, roofless building with a chimney, which may once have served as a kitchen. East of it was a spacious room enclosed by square stone walls, most likely corresponding to the south-western corner tower. Along the northern side stood an inner fence enclosing a vegetable and fruit garden. Beneath the arcade of the northern wing there was a large, abandoned cellar, reinforced in the middle by several stone and wooden pillars. From this cellar, one could access the north-western corner tower (a square-shaped, originally vaulted chamber), whose vaults had already collapsed. Below this, another vaulted cellar was supported by beams and two stone piers. In the garden a stone-lined well was mentioned – which still survives today. Not far from it stood another rectangular, solidly built vaulted structure, formerly known as the *Hajduk House*, referred to in the inventory as a truncated stone building”, enclosed by a palisade and hedge leading to the stable on the south-eastern side.

Summarizing the data from the inventory, it appears that by this time the northern defensive wall was still standing, together with the collapsed cellar of the earlier residential wing, while the north-western bastion survived to about three-quarters of its height. The south-western tower also remained, as did the fourth corner tower near the well. However, on the southern side the defensive wall had entirely disappeared.

After the death of Countess Julianna Bethlen,

the Fíliaş estates were inherited by her daughter Orsolya, the wife of István Mikó.⁶⁸ In 1820, the documents mention Mikó’s mill and forty-one servants.⁶⁹ Their daughter, Róza, married into another branch of the Mikó family, becoming the wife of Miklós Mikó. Having served in the Napoleonic Wars, he undertook several construction projects, among them the late Classicist Mikó Castle at Olteni (Oltszem, Covasna County, RO),⁷⁰ the bourgeois townhouse in Odorheiu Secuiesc,⁷¹ and the reconstruction of the Fíliaş castle, which removed the previously described decayed structures. The cellars were vaulted, the open arcade of the northern wing was enclosed, and the timber-framed upper floor of the south-eastern wing was rebuilt (Pl. VII). Unfortunately, no direct documentary evidence of these construction works has yet been found.

The 19th century reconstruction of the Fíliaş castle corresponds closely to a broader trend observable across Transylvanian noble residences in the early to mid-19th century – namely, the transition from fortified manor to Classicist country house. The interventions attributed to Miklós Mikó reveal a conscious departure from the defensive character of the earlier structure and an effort to align the residence with contemporary notions of comfort, symmetry, and representational architecture.

The vaulting of the cellars, the closure of the open arcade on the northern wing, and the regularisation of façades likely introduced a more unified architectural rhythm, replacing the fragmented medieval and early modern composition with a balanced, horizontally accentuated appearance characteristic of late Classicism. The rebuilding of the timber-framed upper part of the south-eastern wing also suggests a concern for durability and stylistic coherence, aligning the structure with the ideals of order and proportion promoted by the neoclassical idiom.

Although no direct architectural plans or construction records have survived, stylistic parallels with the Olteni Mikó Castle – a

⁶⁸ SÁNDOR 2009, 606.

⁶⁹ TAKÁCS 2001, 249–250.

⁷⁰ BENCZÉDI–CSÁKI 2019.

⁷¹ NYÁRÁDI 2020, 15.

írás nélkül”. SJCAN–ARHMUNCJN. F 221. FASC, 363/1804. 19–20.

verifiable work of Miklós Mikó – support the hypothesis that similar design principles were applied in Filiaş. These include the use of symmetrical courtyards, arched ground-floor openings, and the integration of former defensive elements into a residential composition.

By 1839, Miklós Mikó had passed away, and his two orphaned daughters, Eszter and Rozália, were placed under the guardianship of Pál Kemény.⁷² Some records from this period may have subsequently passed into the archives of the Kemény family from Mănăstireni (Magyargyerőmonostor, de. Ungarisch Klosterdorf, Cluj County, RO). In the same year, Benedek Mikes of Zabola married Eszter Mikó,

thereby acquiring the Filiaş estates.⁷³ The Mikes of Zabola did not reside here; in 1852 the property was sold for 2,400 forints to Antal Zakariás Szentdomokosi, an Armenian mining entrepreneur, and his wife Rebeka. The transfer of ownership was handled by István Kendeffy and Ferenc Kemény.⁷⁴ The Zakariás family retained possession only briefly, for in 1866 János Ugron and his wife Ágnes Györffy purchased the estate for 40,000 forints.⁷⁵ The property remained in the hands of the Ugron family until the nationalisation of 1948,⁷⁶ from which the castle derives its present-day name.

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⁷³ SJCAN–ARHMUNCJN F 253, FASC. 224, 450.

⁷⁴ SJHAN–ARHMUNMC F 591 FOND Colectia unor familii de nobili secui 1650–1949. Familia Ugron 42.

⁷⁵ SÁNDOR 2009, 606.

⁷⁶ OLÁH–GÁL 2014, 51–52.

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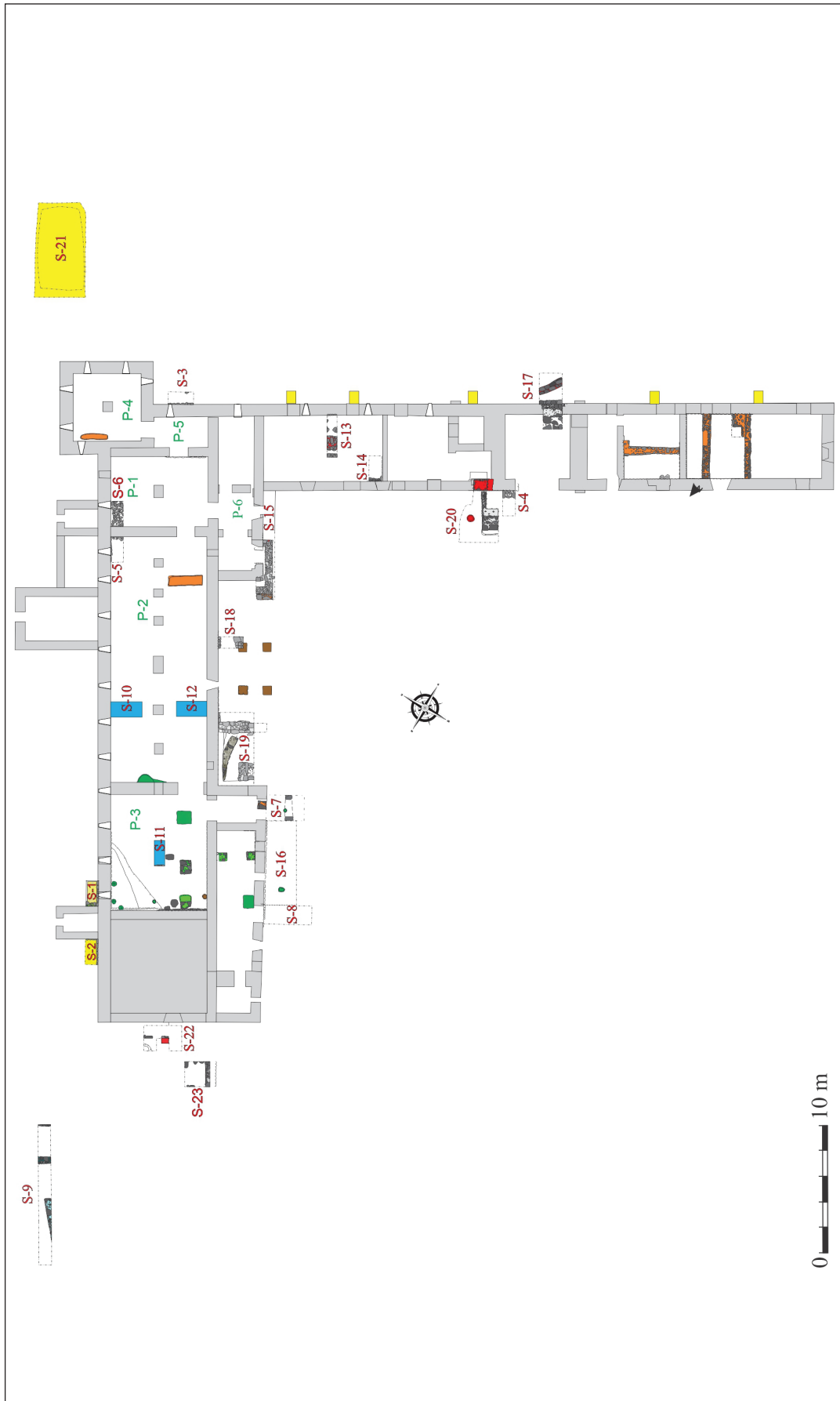


Plate I. The building with excavated trenches and surfaces (2020–2023)



Plate II. 1–2. Traces of building foundations and postholes of the defensive ditch uncovered in P 3; 3. Trench 23: clay daub collapsed from Phase 1 and the southern wall of the Phase 2 palace building; 4. Trench 17: structure of the gate entrance and early 18th century destruction/infill layers; 5. Late 16th century destruction level in P 6.



1



3

2

Plate IV. 1. Western side of the northern wing: 1. Defensive wall; 2. Walled-up vaulted passage; 3. Southern wall of the palace section built in the second half of the 16th century; 2. Original masonry of the gate tower with keyhole-shaped loop hole and later adjoining wall sections; 3. Trench 21: infilling of the moat.



Plate V. 15th-16th century residential house with foundations and defensive ditch.

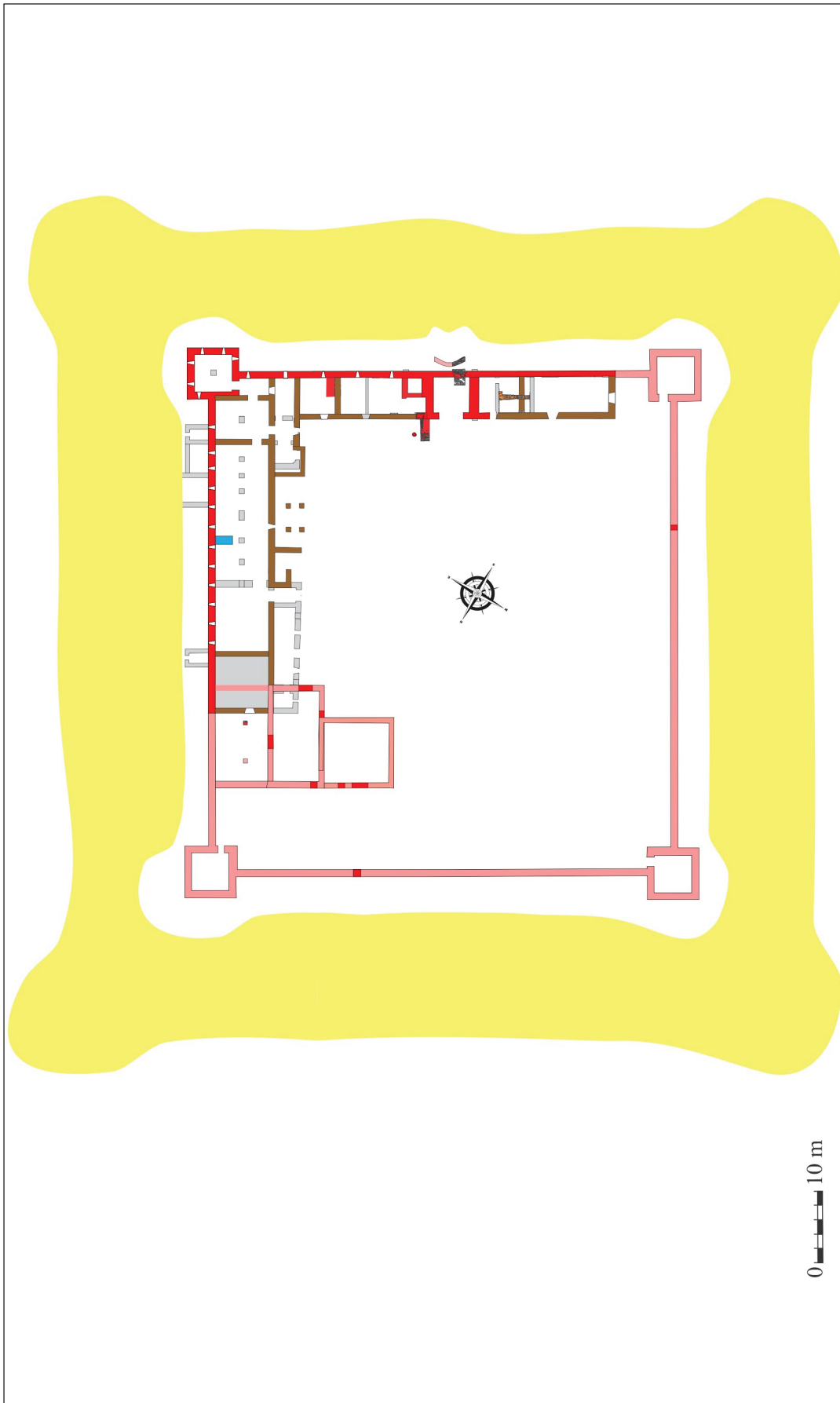


Plate VI. Mid-16th century Renaissance castle with four corner towers, defensive structures, and 17th century additions.



Plate VII. Traces of 19th century alterations on the building's ground plan.

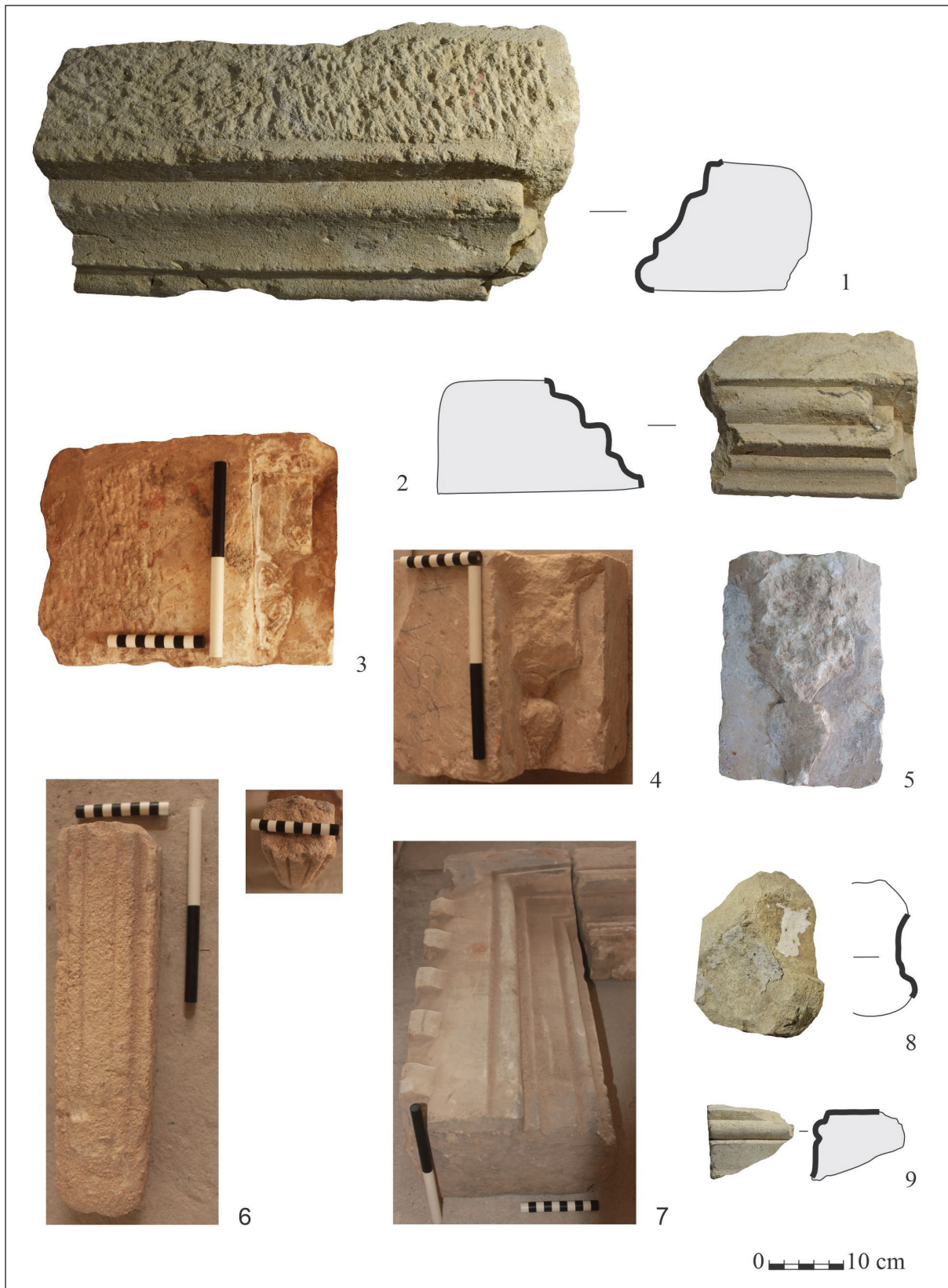


Plate VIII. Renaissance cornices, corbels, window and door frames, and mullions from secondary position.



Plate IX. 1–3. Early 16th century stove tiles and stove fragments from the infill of the defensive ditch (Object 8); 4–6. 16th century stove tiles with knight figures from the levelling layer of Phase 1.

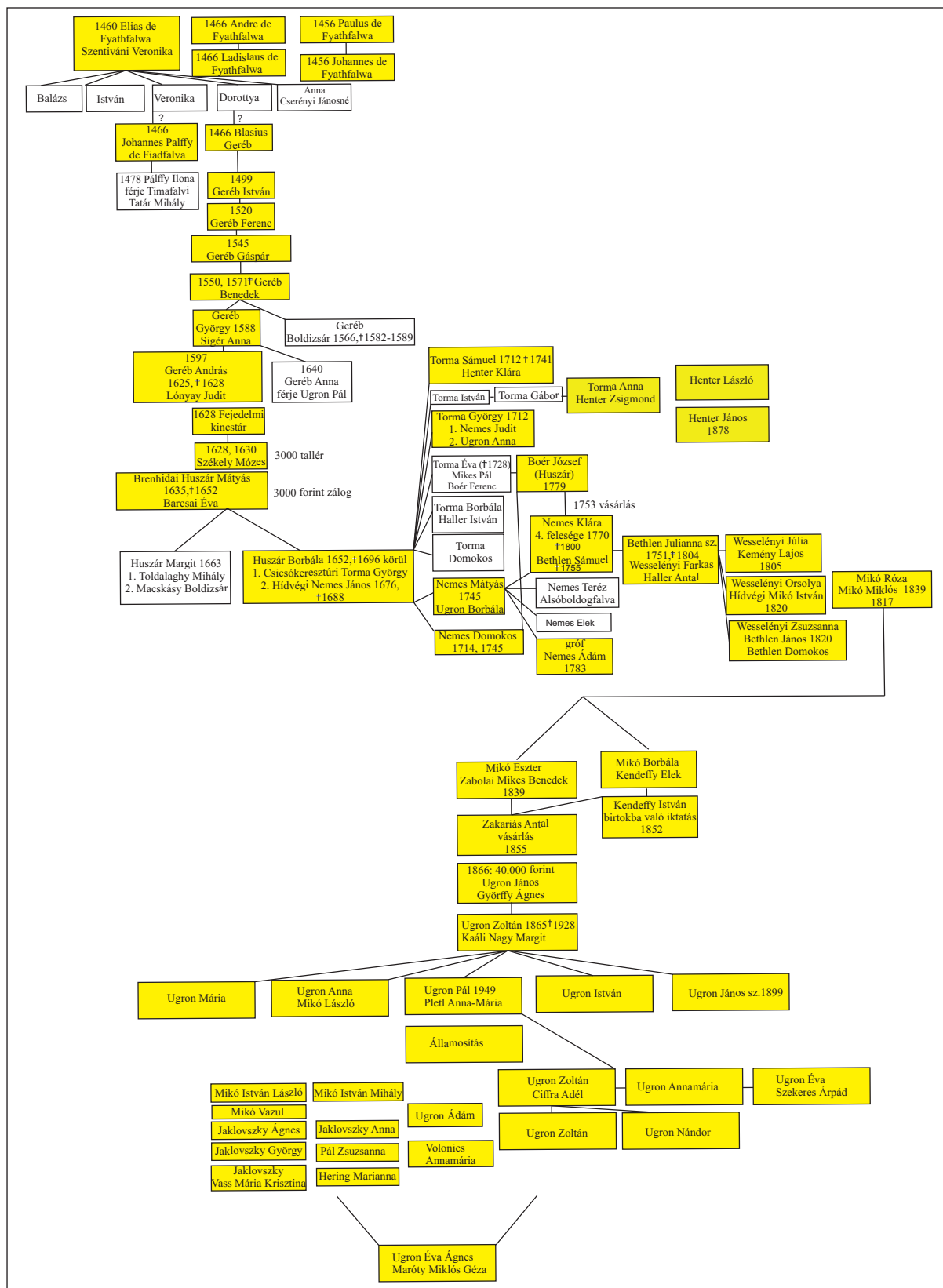


Plate X. Genealogical chart of the estate owners and inheritance lines.

ABBREVIATION

<i>ACMI</i>	Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București
<i>Acta Antiqua</i>	Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>Acta Siculica</i>	Acta Siculica. A Székely Nemzeti Múzeum Évkönyve, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>ActaArchHung</i>	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaMN</i>	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ActaMP</i>	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>AEM</i>	Archaeologisch–Epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Oesterreich–Ungarn, Wien
<i>American Antiquity</i>	American Antiquity, Society for American Archaeology
<i>Analele Banatului (S.N.)</i>	Analele Banatului S.N., Arheologie – Istorie, Muzeul Național al Banatului, Timișoara
<i>Angustia</i>	Angustia, Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>ANRC</i>	Arhivele Naționale ale României, Cluj
<i>Apulum</i>	Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
<i>Aquincumi Füzetek</i>	Aquincumi Füzetek, Budapesti Történeti Múzeum, Budapest
<i>Archaeolingua</i>	Archaeolingua, Budapest
<i>ArchÉrt</i>	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
<i>ArchKorr</i>	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt: Urgeschichte, Römerzeit, Frühmittelalter, Mainz
<i>ArchKözl</i>	Archaeologiai Közlemények, (1859–1899), Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Archaeológiai Bizottsága, Budapest
<i>ArhMold</i>	Arheologia Moldovei, Institutul de arheologie Iași, Iași
<i>ATF</i>	Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis, Muzeul Țării Făgărașului, Făgăraș
<i>AUA (SH)</i>	Anuarul Universității 1 Decembrie 1918, Alba Iulia
<i>AUASH</i>	Annales Universitatis Apulensis. Series Historica, Universitatea 1 Decembrie 1918”, Alba Iulia
<i>BiblEphNap</i>	Bibliotheca Ephemeris Napocensis, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Bibliotheca Marmatia</i>	Bibliotheca Marmatia, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Maramureș
<i>BiblThrac</i>	Bibliotheca Thracologica, București
<i>BMM</i>	Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis, Seria(es) Archaeologica, Târgu Mureș
<i>BMN</i>	Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Buridava</i>	Buridava. Studii și materiale, Muzeul Județean „Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu” Vâlcea
<i>Caiete ARA</i>	Caiete ARA (Arhitectură. Restaurare. Arheologie), Asociația ARA, București
<i>CAN</i>	Cercetări arheologice în aria nord-tracă, Institutul de Thracologie, București
<i>CCA</i>	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
<i>CIL</i>	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin
<i>Coll. Med.</i>	Collegium Mediense. Comunicări Științifice, Muzeul Municipal Mediaș, Mediaș
<i>ComArchHung</i>	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Complutum</i>	Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid
<i>Crisia</i>	Crisia, Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea

<i>Dacia</i> (N. S.)	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, I–XII (1924–1948), Nouvelle série (N. S.): Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne
<i>DissPan</i>	Dissertationes Pannonicae, Budapest
<i>EDR</i>	Ephemeris Dacoromana. Annuario della Scuola Romana di Roma, Roma
<i>EphNap</i>	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ErdÉvsz</i>	Erdélyi Évszázadok, a Kolozsvári Magyar Történelmi Intézet évkönyve, Kolozsvár
<i>ErdMúz</i>	Erdélyi Múzeum. Az Erdélyi Múzeum Egylet Történelmi Szakosztályának Közölnye, Kolozsvár
<i>ETF</i>	Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek, Kolozsvár
<i>FileIst</i>	File de Istorie, Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița-Năsăud
<i>HTRTÉ</i>	A Hunyadmegyei Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat Évkönyve (1880–1912), Déva
<i>Hung. Archaeol.</i>	Hungarian Archaeology, Archaeolingua, Budapest
<i>Hungarian Archaeology</i>	Hungarian Archaeology, Archeolingua, Budapest, e-Journal
<i>IDR</i>	Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae, Academia Română
<i>Istros</i>	I stros. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
<i>JAHA</i>	Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Art History of Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca & Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca
<i>JAMÉ</i>	A Nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve
<i>JAMT</i>	Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, Springer Nature
<i>JAS</i>	Journal of Archaeological Science, Elsevier, e-Journal
<i>JdI</i>	Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
<i>JMS</i>	Journal of Mithraic Studies
<i>Journal of Applied Geophysics</i>	Journal of Applied Geophysics, Amsterdam
<i>JRA</i>	Journal of Roman Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, https://journalofromanarchaeology.com/
<i>JRMS</i>	Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies, Association for Roman Military Equipment Studies
<i>LUPA</i>	
<i>Lustra</i>	Lustra, Internationale Halbjahresschrift für Fragen des Klassischen Altertums, Göttingen
<i>MAGW</i>	Mitteilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien, Wien
<i>Marisia</i>	Marisia (V–XXXV): Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
<i>Marisia-AHP</i>	Marisia: Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium (2019–), Târgu Mureș
<i>MBV</i>	Münchener Beiträge zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte, München
<i>MCA</i>	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, București
<i>MIMK</i>	Molnár István Múzeum Kiadványai, Székelykeresztúr
<i>MNL DL</i>	Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár, Diplomatikai Levéltár
<i>NIMB</i>	Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section B: Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms, Elsevier, e-Journal
<i>OJA</i>	Oxford Journal of Archaeology, Oxford
<i>Opitz Archaeologica</i>	Opitz Archaeologica, Martin Opitz Kiadó, Budapest
<i>Páztortúz</i>	Páztortúz (1921–1944), Kolozsvár
<i>PAT</i>	Patrimonium Archaeologicum Transylvanicum, Cluj-Napoca

<i>PBF</i>	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, München, Stuttgart
<i>Peabody Museum Bulletins</i>	Peabody Museum Bulletins, Harvard University Series
<i>PPS</i>	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, London
<i>Pril. Inst. arheol. Zagrebu</i>	Prilozi Instituta za arheologiju u Zagrebu, Zagreb
<i>PZ</i>	Prähistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin
<i>Quat.Int.</i>	Quaternary International, International Union for Quaternary Research, Elsevier, e-Journal
<i>Radiocarbon</i>	Radiocarbon, Cambridge University Press
<i>ReiCretActa</i>	Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta, Tongeren
<i>Religion</i>	Religion, e-Journal
<i>RevBis</i>	Revista Bistriței, Complexului Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
<i>RevMuz</i>	Revista Muzeelor Institutul Național pentru Cercetare și Formare Culturală, București
<i>RMM – MIA</i>	Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. Monumente istorice și de artă, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, București
<i>SaalbJb</i>	Saalburg-Jahrbuch. Bericht des Saalburg-Museums
<i>SAO</i>	Studien zur Archäologie in Ostmitteleuropa, Berlin
<i>Sargetia (N. S.)</i>	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, deva
<i>Sbor. FFUK Historica</i>	Sborník Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského, Historica, Bratislava
<i>SCIV(A)</i>	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
<i>SlovArch</i>	Slovenská Archeológia, Nitra
<i>StCom Satu Mare</i>	Studii și comunicări Satu Mare, Muzeul Județean Satu Mare
<i>StudPreist</i>	Studii de preistorie, Asociația Română de Arheologie (ARA), București
<i>Székelyföld</i>	Székelyföld, Kultúrális folyóirat, Csíkszereda
<i>Terra Sebus</i>	Terra Sebus, Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Muzeul Municipal „Ioan Raica”, Sebeș
<i>Thraco-Dacica</i>	Thraco-Dacica, Institutul de Tracologie, București
<i>Tisicum</i>	Tisicum – A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve, Szolnok
<i>UPA</i>	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
<i>VAH</i>	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica, Budapest
<i>VMMK</i>	A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei, Veszprém
<i>V PU</i>	Vydavetel'stvo Prešovskej univerzity, Prešov
<i>WorldArch</i>	World Archaeology, Taylor & Francis, e-Journal
<i>Xantener Berichte</i>	Xantener Berichte. Grabung–Forschung–Präsentation, Mainz

MARISIA. ARCHAEOLOGIA, HISTORIA, PATRIMONIUM

With a publishing tradition since 1965, in 2019 the annual of the Mureş County Museum initiated a new series entitled: *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. The publication provides a panel for new research results in archeology, architecture and material heritage of the history of arts and culture. The studies mainly focus on the inner Transylvanian region that encompasses also Mureş County. Beyond local valuable contributions, the annual aims at a regional and global concern that is relevant for the whole of Transylvania. Among the annual's missions is to provide mutual interpretation of the research results produced by the Romanian and Hungarian scientific workshops. Therefore, the annual articles are mainly in English but based on the field of research and the approached topic studies in German, Romanian or Hungarian are also accepted.

Cu o tradiție din anul 1965, anuarul Muzeului Județean Mureş s-a relansat în 2019 sub titlul *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. Această publicație se descrie ca o platformă științifică care cuprinde rezultatele cercetărilor în domenii precum: arheologia, arhitectura și patrimoniul material din zona istoriei artelor și a culturii, studii localizate în regiunea centrală a Transilvaniei, din care face parte județul Mureş. **In extenso**, anuarul își propune să ofere un spațiu unitar contribuțiilor științifice valoroase, relevante din perspectiva geografică a ceea ce înseamnă întreaga regiune a Transilvaniei. Una dintre misiunile publicației este aceea de a oferi tuturor celor interesați spațiul de schimb pentru cele mai noi rezultate din atelierile științifice românești și maghiare. Articolele anuarului sunt scrise în general în limba engleză, existând totodată articole scrise în germană, română și maghiară, în funcție de specificul domeniului și a temei abordate.

A Maros Megyei Múzeum 1965 óta megjelenő évkönyvének 2019-ben útjára bocsátott új sorozata, a *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium* elsősorban a mai Maros megyét is magába foglaló belső-erdélyi régió régészeti, épített és tárgyi örökségére, nemkülönben az ezekhez kapcsolódó művészettörténeti, művelődéstörténeti kérdésekre vonatkozó újabb kutatások tudományos fóruma. A lokális perspektíván túl igyekszik kitekinteni a regionális és univerzális összefüggésekre, így a tágran értelmezett Erdély területére nézve is közöl kiemelkedő értékkel bíró tanulmányokat. Küldetésének tekinti a hazai román és magyar tudományos műhelyekben született eredmények kölcsönös tolmácsolását. A dolgozatok nyelve főként az angol, de szakterülettől és témától függően német, román vagy magyar nyelven is közöl írásokat.