

BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ-NAPOCA

FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

EMERGENCE OF EARLY MODERN CAROL'S TIMIȘOARA (1716-1740)

PhD Thesis

Summary

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Key words: *Timișoara, 18th Century, urban history, cultural restoration, colonization, urban landscape, Habsburgs.*

The subject of our thesis is the history of early modern Timișoara, namely the first decades of Austrian administration (1716-1740). In the aftermath of the Austrian-Turkish War (1716-1718), Banat has been conquered and transformed into a province directly submitted to the emperor and Vienna. The city of Timișoara, residence of Banat even before, is being under siege itself, the battle for this fortress ending in October 1716. Ever since, the city will be organised and rebuilt after Habsburg plans and it keeps its function of residential place. The period of time of our study begins with the siege and ends after the plague. The development of Timișoara in this short era had to endure a slow-down during 1737-1739 (a new conflict between Austrians and Turks breaks out, whose side effect is also the plague).

Our main goal is to present how a city rises, how it takes form beyond the destruction caused by a siege. The siege was also the cause of a sudden administrative reorganization. We want to find out the modalities and procedures for configuring a town, who were the "builders" and to which category of early modern city belongs Timișoara. Because we study the first period after Austrian conquest, we need to ask what is the relationship between continuity and change for our subject: what is kept from the Ottoman era and what innovations does the Central European type of government bring. Furthermore, at the end of our research we will notice how much Timișoara was imprinted in the early years of the Habsburg administration, and if it was at a minor scale a laboratory for experiments of the rulers.

An extensive bibliography was dedicated to Banat in 18th Century, which includes important references to Timișoara. However, the original documents from Timișoara archives are a rich source that can bring new information to light. Therefore we chose to base our research on these sources and to build the story of Timișoara with their help.

The first chapter is a base for the upcoming analyse and demonstration. First of all, we present a short historical evolution of the Banat region and its residential seat, from the Middle Ages until 1716. We only chose the important events and the ones who show the changing relation between Europe's main political actors with interests in South-East. The study also focuses on the changes caused by Ottoman rule regarding the city. In the second

part of the chapter we write about the siege from August-October 1716, adding some description of the fortress in order to have a setting of our starting point. The next part (*Emergence of a Special Administration System*) has the following aim: to clarify the type of administration for the newly conquered province, its plans and main goals. We have analysed the first decrees from the central authorities in Vienna, in order to understand their attitudes regarding the autochthon population. This analyse is a base that will allow us in the end to conclude just how much of these plans have been implemented. We have noticed that part of the conquerers become „builders” and organisers of Timișoara. In addition, our interest focuses on the settlers, their journey and their hopes that brings them to this distant land. We also try to bring to light the origins of Timișoara’s citizens. Therefore we used information from Timișoara’s citizens book and we created a whole map that shows the origin of the settlers. The first chapter ends with a study that analyses building local and urban identities inside the city. Timișoara has a semiautonomous administration derived from the city hall (the institution of German and Rascia Magistrate). Furthermore, the city has an „urban geography” dictated by the authorities, that divides the inhabitants into 2 categories: the German catholics who live inside the city walls and the non-Germans, mainly orthodox Serbians and Romanians (Rascia) who are allowed to live in the suburbs. Both Germans or Rascians are called citizens in the documents.

The second chapter, *Residential City in Early Modern Era. The Roles of Carol’s Timișoara*, brings a dual perspective on many aspects of this settlement. On the one hand, the years 1716-1740 show that Timișoara finds herself in the early modern urban typology, specifically represents the city-residence category (according to the theory of centrality and functionality). A city differs from villages of the same period often only by qualitative elements and not by the number of inhabitants. A specific category of the early modern era are the many fortified towns, which replaced the old medieval fortress; these include the so-called “ideal city”. According to some experts, typically for the early modern period is the spread of the residential city, which became subordinated to the political factor and also critical for the functionality of that settlement. Thus, by being directly subordinated to the supreme authority, the new cities are built in the baroque style, in order to glorify the Court; they have primarily administrative buildings and a society whose top layer is made up of senior officials, soldiers and clergymen. The 18th Century Timișoara was restored

and built to become the provincial capital and the most important city of Banat. The city fulfilled military, administrative, economic and spiritual roles. Therefore, the purpose here is to analyse how all these functions are fulfilled by Timișoara, and to see to what extent the city was the center of Banat. On the other hand, this demonstration shows implicitly what is the evolution of the city in terms of institutional, military, economic or religious history. In this regard, the second chapter broadens the general framework that will be the base for other future more concrete data.

The third chapter, *Urban Space in Timișoara – Emergence of Baroque City. Patterns of Urban and Institutional Restoration* wants to be a description and a framework of the city. Timișoara's aspect and its characteristics at the beginning of the 18th Century are changing permanently. This process ends in the next century when the whole modern fortress is done and also the new catholic cathedral. But until then we only find some first traces of a baroque style who are build among other old turkish establishments. The way the city and the suburbs look in 1716 is different from their aspect in 1730 or 1740. The authorities also try to transform the environment by regularization of the river Bega and draining of the meadows. Using published maps from that era we manage to discover (partially) the apparence of the town before 1740. There is also a pattern applied by Habsburg rulers in case of cities conquered from the Turks. For that reason we tried a comparation between Timișoara, Arad and Oradea (material pattern) and between Timișoara and Belgrade (institutional pattern).

Chapter four - *Urban Life. Inhabitants of Timișoara 300 Years Ago* - is the culmination of our efforts to restore the urban picture in unusual and surprising details. Its purpose is to answer the questions *who* are the residents of the town, *what* do they do and *where* are they to be found? The chapter begins with an overview of the social stratification of early modern European cities. On this base we want to compose the particular structures of Timișoara. Those include noble characters „imported” from the territories of the House of Austria which occupy the first positions in the military and civilian administration, mayors and councilors of Timișoara, successful traders, artisans to many servants and laborers. Social layers are not easy to define, but Timișoara of that era reflects some of the social characteristics of cities in mainland. The chapter contains several case studies that deepen the research which is focused on certain social categories: elites, Jews, monks,

doctors, innkeepers, villains. We made a connection between the inhabitants and the places where they find themselves for their daily routine in order to paint in vivid colours, sounds and dynamics, the world from the dawn of modern epoch Timișoara: City Hall, the church and convent, the hospital and pharmacy, the court, the tavern and so on. We insert demographic details, but also references to the natural environment, the climate and their effects on the population. Thus a picture emerges, even if the highlighted points of interest do not cover everything that happens in the city. This picture contains details of daily life of townspeople: the labour, the attendance of holy mass, the visit to the market or the drinking in the tavern. The chapter is therefore dedicated to people of Timișoara from 300 years ago. We consider any person who is established in the city and works here a Timișoara citizen. We are determined to choose this option, especially because of the contribution of the settlers; of course, these are not originally from Timișoara, but come here to find a new home. Through their trades and crafts they help the town's reconstruction, they also start families and find their end here. Through these studies focused on people, we managed to find out the occupations of the townspeople, the social groups which existed, what indulged ethnic groups lived here, how salubrious / unhealthy, safe / unsafe the city was, how large was the population mobility, which of leisure time activities did the citizens fancy.

The last chapter – *Beginning and End of an Era* – brings our story to its ending. The moment that disturbs the fragile development of our town is caused by another Austrian-Turkish conflict and the plague that follows. The city itself is no battlefield, but collateral victim of the war because of army abuse, robbery, vandalism, population dynamics. On the other hand, the plague damages the city profoundly. The disease hits into the citizens daily activities or trades: churches and schools close down, people are forbidden to leave the city, there are no more traditional funerals, authorities try to keep an eye on craftsmen like butchers or bakers, and also on gatherings with lots of people in public or private houses. First we analyse the content of Vienna's decrees regarding the plague in Banat and then the special "Order for quarantine and sanitation" issued for Timișoara in 1738. These regulations change the urban life by introducing the quarantine, organizing lazarettes and the activity of specialized doctors and medical staff. This fresco of town life during the plague is a sum of visual, olfactory and auditory images. We finish our picture with a

more shiny scene, that of the end of the plague and the rebirth of Timișoara, celebrated through prayers, baroque processions and joyful singing. Last part of this chapter is „a glimpse into the future”, namely a short foray in the second period of Viennese administration. The aim here is to compare the two eras in order to establish the importance of the first decades in the larger frame of the 18th Century.

The time frame of 1716-1740 is characterised by a consistency of central authorities' plans. At the end of our thesis we can observe how much of these projects have been carried out completely, what are the result of the first short period of Habsburg administration and how deep is the Austrian hallmark on the city. Still there is a legacy from the former Ottoman rule, easier to notice between the old town's Turkish buildings, but also in the division of the citizens on ethnic-confessional criteria. Hence, there is an element of continuance between the two epochs. The Austrian rule manages to enrich and modify the ethnical and religious landscape and to boost the economy. The contributions of settlers is indispensable, shaded only by the difficult environment, the one that causes high death rate. In terms of economical development, Timișoara also played the role of a local laboratory for mercantile purposes. The authorities are heaving problems not only taming the natural habitat, but also with enforcing a series of rules among their subjects. Documents proved that several times there is a difference between the law and the reality, regardless if it refers to trades, crafts, public houses, quality and price of products, public safety and so on. However, the Austrian rule succeeded in creating a proper institutional, cultural and material frame for the city's future evolution.