# BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY DOCTORAL SCHOOL - RELIGION, CULTURE, SOCIETY

## DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

### **Church Organs in Three Roman Catholic Deaneries of the Archdiocese of Alba Iulia**

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**Key words:** musical instruments, Church organ, Transylvanian organs, organ builder, archives, Archdiocese, Archdeacon.

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#### Summary

The church organ is an indispensable part and accessory of the sacredness and diverse heritage of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Transylvania (later Gyulafehérvár Archdiocese) founded in 1009. The organs of Transylvania, including our Archdiocese, are the easternmost examples of organ architecture in Europe that are still in active liturgical use.

The present doctoral dissertation captures the organ history of the three archdeaconry districts of our Archdiocese. Although these three districts form a separate unit organizationally and geographically, they can be considered unified from a denominational point of view, since for a long time all three districts were originally Catholic.

All of the researched archdeaconry district instruments bear witness to the fact that the organ was always an integral part of the liturgy, for which many believers who adored the sound of the organ were able to make quite a sacrifice. A similar attitude can be traced even nowadays! After all, we can say that in the course of history, more and more musical instruments have been renewed and rebuilt for the glory of God and the spiritual benefit of the communities.

The main objective of my doctoral dissertation is therefore the detailed research and documentation of the organ regions of the three archdeaconries of our diocese, as well as the identification and enumeration of the organs that have not yet been recorded in the registry, as well as to provide a chronicle based on the various archives and records.

There were a total of 64 parishes<sup>1</sup> or ministries in these three archdeaconry districts, of which 71 parish churches, chapels, or parish branches currently have an organ in. Added to this is the recently purchased organ of the Gyergyószentmiklós Reformed Church in Gyergyó District and the Unitarian Church of Csíkszereda in Felcsík District, which does not form part of the following data.

In the Archdeaconry district of Alcsík-Kászon, 15 parishes and their affiliated branches have a total of 18 churches and chapels with organs.

The archdeaconry district of Felcsík district produces the most organs, there is currently a total of 33 churches and chapels in 24 parishes and their affiliated branches

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This includes the two Catholic parishes with the Armenian rite (Gyergyószentmiklós and Szépvíz) and the two Franciscan monasteries and convents. (Csíksomlyó and Szárhegy) Furthermore, the university parish/campus ministry of Csíkszereda is also listed separately.

have instruments. The only Unitarian church instrument can be found in this district.<sup>2</sup>

The Archdeaconry District of Gyergyó with its 20 organs is similar in size to the Archdeaconry District of Alcsík. The only Reformed church instrument can be found in this district.<sup>3</sup>

Two useless instruments in this district are the instruments of the chapel in Borzsova and the church in Gyimesközéplok. In total, currently, there are 69 churches and chapels in the three districts with functioning musical instruments. Divided into settlements, the three districts are currently found in 50 localities and 53 parishes and monastery churches.

Due to the administrative boundaries of the three archbishopric districts, it accounts for nearly 40 percent of the current organs of Hargita County.<sup>4</sup>

If we include the settlements, churches, and chapels in the districts where the former existence of organs could be traced during the research, in addition, four more localities, churches, and chapels in the Alcsík district and nine in the Felcsík district once possessed a working organ. In total, 82 churches or chapels in the three districts once had a traditional organ.

In the case of some churches and chapels, archival research also contributed to tracing the former existence and identification of several organs and the exact circumstances of their construction. Including the expansion and reconstruction of the existing organs, which entailed a complete transformation of the original character of the

Octave 4', Rohrflöte 4', Spitzflöte 2', Mixtur 3x 1, 1/3', Pedal, C-g1, 30 notes. Subbass 16'. Manual + Pedal. Based on the communication of organ builder László Bors (October 28, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The organ was made in 2014 by the gold-wreathed organ building company Váradi és Fia. The factory's last M+P/7 version mechanical slide organ was purchased from István Váradi by the Unitarian parish, which was delivered and installed by organ builder László Bors in 2024. The instrument was blessed by Unitarian superintendent István Kovács during a service held on October 17, 2024, after which organist László Siklódi-Szabó played for the first time. Arrangement of the organ: Manual, C-á3, 58 notes Principal 8', Bourdon 8',

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>In the Gyergyószentmiklós Reformed Church, until October 2020, the traditional organ did not serve at services. Their instrument was made in the Netherlands by organ builder Karel Rouw between 1987 and 1989. The organ was used as a home organ, bought from Germany. During the service held on October 31, 2020, the local priest blessed the instrument, which was then played for the first time by Molnár Tünde, an organist living in Marosvásárhely. Disposition of the organ: Manual, C–f3, 54 notes 1. Holpÿp 8', 2. Prestant 4', 3. Roerfluit 4', 4. Quint 2 ½', 5. Vlakfluit 2', 6. Terts 1 3/5 ', Manual + Pedal. Pedal, C–d1, 27 notes. (Hung) Cf. BARABÁS Orsolya, *Orgonával bővült a gyergyószentmiklósi református templom,* In: Székelyhon, II. évf., 209. szám., 2020. október 29, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Based on István Dávid and more recent research, a total of 185 church organs are currently registered in Hargita County. Zoltán Pap lists 112 organs in his study of the organ builder at Udvarhelyszék. Of these, 101 belong to the Roman Catholic, including 3 Franciscan monasteries, as well as instruments belonging to 43 Reformed, 39 Unitarian, and 2 Armenian Catholic denominations. The Felcsík Archdiocese also has two Catholic church organs in Gyimesbükk, Bákó county, which are not included in the total of Catholic church organs. Thus, the current musical instruments of the three Archdeacon districts make up 38 percent of the total musical instruments of Hargita County. Compare Zoltán PAP, Restoration of the Kolonics organ of the Saint Nicholas Church in Gyergyószentmiklós, In Isis. Transylvanian Hungarian Restaurateur Notebooks 21, Haáz Rezső Museum Székelyudvarhely 2022, 75.

organ, the fate and history of a total of 207<sup>5</sup>, hitherto partially unknown organs in the territory of the three archdiocese, has been revealed or clarified (more or less), in a total of 53 parishes and their affiliated churches and chapels.

In the account below the builders and instruments of the organs are shown, which are currently located in the three districts of the Archdeaconry, divided into settlements. About the organs built by unknown masters, only the approximate year of construction could be determined, based on their stylistic features.

In the case of the instruments preserved in their original condition, initially, their year of construction was determined, with the name of the builder and their location. The current size and register number of the instruments are shown in a separate column.

About the organs with major modifications, the original construction year is indicated first, followed by the builder of the instrument, additionally, the year of the most recent modification or expansion is mentioned in parentheses, as well as the name of the craftsman who performed the work.

| Т      | The current organ builders and organists of the three districts |                                |      |     |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|------|-----|
| Year   | Organ builder(s)  | Settlement/ Parish church      | Size | Reg |
| 1894   | Angster József (and his son)                                    | Karcfalva                      | M+P  | 11  |
| 1905   |   | Gyimesbükk, bükkpataki chapel  | M+P  | 6   |
| 1910   |   | Borszék                        | M+P  | 10  |
| 1911   |   | Szépvíz, Armenian Church       | 2M+P | 11  |
| 1942   |   | Csíkmadaras                    | 2M+P | 11  |
| 1958   | Alfréd Führer   | Csíkmenaság                    | M+P  | 5   |
| 1840   | Barabás Sámuel  | Csíkcsicsó                     | M+P  | 8   |
| 2021-  | Bartis Szabolcs and Bors  | Gyimesfelsőlok, Saint Andrew's | 2M+P | 20  |
| 2024   | László  | temple                         |      |     |
| 1899   | Boda József   | Kozmás                         | M+P  | 9   |
| 1900   |   | Lázárfalva                     | M+P  | 7   |
| 1921   |   | Csíkszentimre                  | M+P  | 10  |
| 1933   |   | Ajnád                          | M    | 5   |
| 1904-  | Boda József - Sándor Péter                                      | Csíktaploca                    | 2M+P | 16  |
| (2019) |   |                                |      |     |
| 1990   | Bosch company   | Borzont                        | M+P  | 7   |
| 1925   | Carl Theodor Kuhn's   | Gyimesbükk, Great Church       | 2M+P | 18  |
|        | company   |                                |      |     |
| 2017   | C.O.T. Hărman company   | Madéfalva, Saint Anne temple   | M    | 6   |
| 1834   | Goos János  | Csíkszentmihály                | M    | 7   |
| 1995   | Hermann Binder -Pap   | Gyergyócsomafalva - Szászfalu  | 2M+P | 6   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The total of 207 instruments does not include the Reformed organs of Gyergyószentmiklós and the Unitarian organs of Csíkszereda.

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|                 | Zoltán                              | chapel                                       |          |    |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------|----|
| 1700<br>körül   | Johannes Baumgartner                | Csíkbánkfalva                                | M        | 2  |
| 1898-<br>(1920) | Klink Sándor - Boda József          | Csíkszereda, Saint Cross temple              | M+P      | 7  |
| 1898-<br>(2002) | Klink Sándor –<br>Pap Zoltán        | Csíkszentsimon                               | 2M+P     | 14 |
| 1863            | Kolonics István                     | Csíksomlyó, Saint Peter and Paul temple      | M        | 9  |
| 1864            |                                     | Balánbánya                                   | M+P      | 10 |
| 1865            |                                     | Zsögöd                                       | M+P      | 6  |
| 1865            |                                     | Csíkszentkirály                              | M        | 6  |
| 1867            |                                     | Tekerőpatak                                  | M+P      | 7  |
| 1870            |                                     | Szárhegy                                     | M+P      | 10 |
| 1872-<br>(2016) | Kolonics István - Pap Zoltán        | Gyergyószentmiklós, Saint<br>Nicholas Temple | 2M+P     | 18 |
| 1883-           | Kolonics István - Bors              | Csíkszentgyörgy, Saint George                | 2M+P     | 11 |
| (2006)          | László                              | temple                                       | 21111    | 11 |
| 1883-           | Kolonics István - Bors              | Tusnád                                       | 2M+P     | 11 |
| (2023)          | László                              | Tushida                                      | 21/1   1 | 11 |
| 1885            | Kolonics István                     | Kászonújfalu                                 | M+P      | 11 |
| 1885            | Troines is van                      | Csíkszentlélek                               | M        | 6  |
| 1885            |                                     | Csíkverebes                                  | M        | 5  |
| 1892-<br>1893   | Kolonics István - Takácsy<br>Ignácz | Csatószeg                                    | M+P      | 9  |
| 1873            | Nagy József                         | Csíkszentmárton                              | M+P      | 9  |
| 1875            | Nagy Jozsei                         | Kilyénfalva                                  | M+P      | 7  |
| 1874-           | Nagy Jázgaf                         | Gyergyóújfalu                                | 2M+P     | 16 |
| (2004)          | Nagy József -<br>Pap Zoltán         | Gyergyoujiaiu                                | ZIVI+P   | 10 |
| 1894            | •                                   | Csíkpálfalva                                 | M        | 6  |
| 1889-           | Nagy József Nagy József - Bartis    | Gyergyótölgyes                               | M+P      | 8  |
| 2007            | Szabolcs Sándor Péter               |  | IVI+P    | 0  |
| 1892-<br>(2010) | Nagy József -<br>Bors László        | Szépvíz, Saint László temple                 | 2M+P     | 24 |
| 1827            | Petrus Gottlieb Schneider           | Kászonjakabfalva                             | M        | 7  |
| 1829-           |                                     | Csíkdelne, St. John's temple                 | M        | 6  |
| 1834            |                                     | _  |          |    |
| 1901            | Rieger Ottó, Rieger                 | Gyergyószentmiklós, Armenian                 | 2M+P     | 14 |
|                 | Testvérek (Brothers)                | Church                                       |          |    |
| 1902            |                                     | Maroshévíz                                   | 2M+P     | 11 |
| 1904            |                                     | Szárhegy, Franciscan monastery               | 2M+P     | 11 |
| 1911            |                                     | Ditró, Sacred Heart of Jesus<br>Temple       | 2M+P     | 25 |
| 1915            |                                     | Madéfalva, Sacred Heart of<br>Jesus Temple   | 2M+P     | 14 |
| 1916            |                                     | Gyergyóalfalu                                | 2M+P     | 10 |
| 1942            |                                     | Nagykászon                                   | M+P      | 6  |
| 2008            | Sándor Péter-Bartis                 | Gyimesfelsőlok, Komjáti temple               | 2M+P     | 11 |

|                 | Szabolcs                          |   |      |    |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|------|----|
| 2015            | Sándor Péter és Bakos<br>Károly   | Csíkszereda, Millennium temple                  | 2M+P | 18 |
| 1862            | Sámuel Binder                     | Csíkborzsova, Saint Joseph the<br>Worker temple | M+P  | 14 |
| 1872-<br>(2016) | Takácsy Ignácz - Bors<br>László   | Csíkszenttamás                                  | 2M+P | 19 |
| 1873            | Takácsy Ignácz                    | Csíkmindszent                                   | M    | 5  |
| 1884-<br>(2009) | Takácsy Ignác - Pap Zoltán        | Csíkszentdomokos                                | 2M+P | 21 |
| 1885-<br>(2000) | Takácsy Ignácz - Pap Zoltán       | Gyimesközéplok                                  | 2M+P | 15 |
| 1889-<br>(2015) | Takácsy Ignácz - Pap Zoltán       | Csíkrákos                                       | M+P  | 8  |
| 1879            | Vass István                       | Gyergyóremete                                   | M+P  | 10 |
| 1878-<br>(2000) | Vass István -<br>Pap Zoltán       | Gyergyócsomafalva                               | 2M+P | 28 |
| 1929            | Wegenstein company                | Csíkszentmiklós                                 | 2M+P | 15 |
| 1931            |                                   | Csíksomlyó, Franciscan<br>monastery             | 3M+P | 41 |
| 1939            |                                   | Csíkdánfalva                                    | 2M+P | 19 |
| 1965            | Willem van Leeuwen                | Gyergyószentmiklós, Saint Joseph the Worker     | 2M+P | 17 |
| 1961            | Willi Péter                       | Hidegség, Saint Imre Church                     | M+P  | 5  |
| 1962            |                                   | Alsóborszék, chapel                             | M    | 3  |
| 2008            | Pap Zoltán                        | Hidegség, Saint Stephen's<br>Church             | M+P  | 8  |
| 2012            |                                   | Csíkvacsárcsi                                   | M+P  | 8  |
| 2015            |                                   | Ditró, Saint Catherine temple                   | M+P  | 7  |
| 2015            |                                   | Ditró, Saint Imre temple                        | M+P  | 7  |
| 1700<br>around  | Unknown master                    | Csíkborzsova, chapel                            | M    | 4  |
| 1729-<br>(1885) | Unknown master<br>Kolonics István | Újtusnád  | M    | 6  |

Transylvania can be regarded as a vast organ museum. Professional researchers and experts in this field count more than 1,500 organs, most of which can already be classified as objects of museum value. According to Erich Türk, however, "a complete and detailed inventory of the country's approximately 1,500 organs is still missing."<sup>6</sup>

Although the vast majority of these musical instruments are village organs of modest size and training, on the whole, they reveal a colorful and authentic picture of the history of our education and musical culture.<sup>7</sup> There are also newer instruments, but their

<sup>6</sup> TÜRK Erich, *Újabb adatok Észak-Erdély orgonáiról*. In: Magyar Egyházzene. XX. évf., (2012/2013). 1. num. 179.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> DOKUMENTUM 1993/1994, 104.

number is relatively small, most organs are more than a hundred years old.

Based on the data available to us, we can say that in the researched three Archdeaconry districts, organ culture already existed from the middle of the 17th century. In the 17th century, archival sources refer to organs already existing in all three districts: the shrine church of Csíksomlyó (1650?, 1659), Gyergyószentmiklós (1662, 1677), Csíkszereda Mikó castle (1694), Gyergyóalfalu (1697), Csíkszentgyörgy (around 1690).

The 17th-century organs of the three districts were made in Brassó, as well as in Kraków. Among them, Brassó stands out as the most renown organ-making place. The organ bought for the church in Szásznádas in 1629 or Csíksomlyó in 1659 and later repaired by Kájoni also confirm this, as well as the organ bought for the church in Gyergyószentmiklós in 1677.

Given their size (smaller, positive instruments) and structure 17–18<sup>th</sup> century organs mostly had a belt-driven blower.<sup>9</sup> This is indicated by the innumerable issues of cash registers and account books, as the "organ belts" quickly wore out and new ones had to be purchased.

Master organ builders or organ repairers, known by their name, appeared in this region only from the end of the 18th century, and from the 19th century, the names and work of more and more organ makers became known in the light of the existing researchable documents.

We have no information about the local masters working in the districts, except for János Kájoni and the scholar István Abos from the village, but in the 17th and 18th centuries due to the succinctness of the 19th-century sources, we cannot exclude the work of other local masters.

During the research, the names of 67 master organ builders' and organ repairers' name could be revealed, including those of the 18th and 20th centuries. From the 19th century, one can also encounter hitherto unknown names, such as Rosa Lőrinc, János Raab, Mátyás Velter, András Jakab, János Nagy, Mózes Nagy, Mihály Schuller, Josef Behr.

The data obtained show that the masters who built and repaired musical instruments, almost without any exception, came from neighboring counties, provinces, and parts of the country, and most of them came from the Saxon countryside. It is only at

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Saxon organ culture of the 14th–16th centuries. His memories of the 19th century were summarized by: HERMANN 2000, 11–23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Today, you can still find such organs that can be operated by pulling a belt, among others: Csíkbánkfalva, Gelence Catholic Church. Marosvécs Reformed Church.

the turn of the century (19th-20th century) that a local master appears under the name of József Boda.

The oldest known organ builder is the Franciscan monk, known as János P. Kájoni, who was an outstanding figure in the early history of organ architecture in Transylvania. We have a Latin note from him on the organ in Somlyó from 1664, according to which he also made organs in Csíksomlyó, Szárhegy, Mikháza, and also "et alia multa instrumenta" (many other instruments). In 1879, Simon Jukundián, the first one to discover Kájoni, wrote to one of his friends: "I had played on the organs built by his own hands for 8 years (in Somlyó, Mikháza, and Szárhegy)."<sup>10</sup> If Kájon's instrument in Csíksomlyó stood up until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it must have been demolished by István Kolonics, an instrument rebuilt by Kolonics was in use in Szárhegy until 1904, then in 1910 it was moved to the Catholic church in Sáromberke, where it is still in use today.<sup>11</sup> The further fate of Kájoni's other instruments is unknown.<sup>12</sup> However, it can be proved that István Abos, a native of Alfalva, learned organ-building from him, who repaired the organ in Csíkszenttamás.

Mátyás Velter from Sepsikőröspatak in Háromszék stands out among the early 19th century masters in Szelkerland, who was also active in Csíkcsicsó, Csíkszentdomokos and Gyergyóalfalu. He was followed by the organ builder Sámuel Barabás from Papolcz, with several works in Csík and Gyergyó. Among the districts, Felcsík and Csíkcsicsó have the only organs standing still.<sup>13</sup>

Among the Saxon masters, Johann Goos from Segesvár stands out with his works from Csíkszentmihály and Csíkszentmiklós, as well as Petrus Gottlieb Schneider from Brassó, with the Armenian church organ in Szépvíz and his organ in Kászonújfalú.

Starting from the 1850s, one of the most active and productive organ builders in the region was István Kolonics, who came from Szabatka, and worked in Csíksomlyó and then in Kézdivásárhely until 1859. He built 19 new organs in the three districts and rebuilt or repaired 13 more. Thanks to his activities, instruments made by old Saxon masters were

<sup>11</sup> Based on the stylistic features of the instrument found at Sáromberké, it is the work of Johannes Hahn, an 18th-century organ builder from Sibiu, and not from Kájon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Vegyesek, In: Új Magyar Sión Egyházirodalmi Folyóirat, X. Évf., 1879, 398–399. (ADT)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> In Mikhazá in 1707, it is noted about the Kájon organ that the old organ was removed, instead the governor Zsigmond Kornis Gróf had a new organ and choir built. In 1893, the organ builder Ignác Takácsy repaired and expanded the Kornis organ, and in 1910, a M+P/7 pneumatic organ worth 2,800 kroner was purchased from the Rieger company instead of "as a gracious memory of the 17th century". Compare: by: HISTORIA DOMUS SEU CONVENTO MIKHÁZA Volume I., 1707–1877, 15., MIKHÁZI FERENCES ZÁRDA DOMUS HISTÓRIÁJA II. Volume, 1877–1990, 37, 119.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> István Dávid's repertoire attributes the organ of Magyarhermány's reformed church (1849) as the only work of Sámuel Barabás. by: DÁVID 1996, 100., SZŐCSNÉ 1999, 74–75.

transferred to several churches. Thus, for example, Johannes Baumgartner's organ from Szentivánlaborfalva was moved to the chapel in Csíkbánkfalva village, or similarly to the one in the chapel of Csíkborzsova in 1880 originating from the Reformed church in Sederjes. Kolonics' activity extended not only to the construction of organs but also to that of the altars.

Kolonics's student, the organ builder György Bartha from Homoródalmás, also worked in the district; he mostly carried out repair works at the end of the 19th century.

He is followed by Ignác Takácsy, an organ builder from Marosvásárhely, who worked in the Felcsík and Alcsík region, with six organs, and József Nagy from Brassó also built a similar number of organs. Mózes Balás considered the organ builder and painter of Udvarhelyszék, also appears in the Al- and Felcsík districts, where we know of three musical instruments and even a pulpit. Furthermore, István Vass from Marosvásárhely, considered a student of Takácsy, has two works, both located in the Gyergyó district.

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the expansion of the large organ factories in Hungary slowly reached the eastern part of the country, including the districts of Csík and Gyergyó. Thanks to the economic boom of the parishes, at the turn of the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it was possible to order instruments from famous domestic organ makers. Thus, the Rieger company from Budapest yielded six instruments, and the Angster company from Pécs provided five other instruments in this region.

Some of the works of the lesser-known organ builder Sándor Klink also appear in the districts, although these cannot be said to be durable and high-quality works.

At the turn of the century, József Boda settled in Csíktaploca, and he was mostly present with his cone box organs, he also carried out conversion and repair work on several organs until the end of the period between the two world wars. Among Boda's children, Jenő continued his activities as an organ repairer until the 1980s.

In the last year of the First World War,<sup>14</sup> following the collection of the bells and other metal objects, the facade whistles of the organs made of tin or tin alloys were dismantled. The period after the change of empire was also the era of organ repairs. At that time, essentially, one organ-building factory and two masters from Székelyföld remained to repair the decimated stock of instruments and possibly take care of the construction of new ones: the factory of Richárd Wegenstein in Temesvár can claim the construction of

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See: RÓTH András Lajos, *Hadrendben az orgonák*, In: Lustra, V. évf. (2018) 1. szám., 48–52.

three new organs and the repair of eight. Organ builder József Boda, with four new and 25 repaired and modified instruments, is one of the most prolific creators of the Al- and Felcsík districts. He was followed by Ferenc Szeidl, who settled in Nagyvárad and later in Marosvásárhely, who completed two reconstructions and ten instrument repairs. In addition, in the 40s, the "war" works of Angster from Csíkmadaras and Rieger from Nagykászon came. Ákos Bálint, chorister and chorus master, could also repair some instruments.

During the Second World War and in the period that followed, organ repair masters emerged from obscurity, such as Ákos Maksay, Árpád Magyari, and Zoltán Prekop. The political and economic situation of the 1950s following the Second World War was not favorable to the damaged instruments nor the Transylvanian organ architecture, as organ construction and repairs almost completely stopped.

The nationally renowned Wegenstein organ factory was closed, and the state authorities restricted the operation of organ builders who repaired instruments classified as "clerical". Thus, the organ repair activity in this period mainly manifested itself in the replacement of requisitioned pipes and the repair of organs, as well as the installation of blower motors. Building new ones was out of the question.

Starting from the 1960s, János Mesnyi, an organ builder from Marosvásárhely, tried to repair organs that were unusable and in need of thorough repair, making full use of the limited possibilities. Until the 1990s, he was almost the only organ builder who could deal with organs in a meaningful way, so he repaired ten organs in the districts.

Similarly, Jenő Boda and Ottó Einschenk from Brasov worked as organ repairers. In the 1980s, we also encounter the activities of organ builders Walter Kindl and József Molnár on this organ site.

The events of 1989 and the subsequent political changes also created new opportunities for the organs of the three Archdeaconry districts. First of all, it was possible to train the necessary specialists during this period, namely: Károly Bakos, Bartis Szabolcs, László Bors, Zoltán Pap and Péter Sándor. Thanks to their activities, with few exceptions, it was possible to restore, repair, expand, and rebuild the organs, what is more, to build new instruments, and to make up for the necessary shortages with used instruments in good condition brought from abroad. Thanks to their work, organ building had been revived in Transylvania.

With the increase in the demand for musical instruments, imported musical instruments appeared around the 2000s, although at first this was only manifested in the

expansion of smaller musical instruments. Thus, for example, the organs of Gyimesfelsőlok or Gyergyócsomafalva were rebuilt and expanded. But in all three districts, the older and especially the more recently built churches have foreign imported instruments, such as Alfréd Führer for Csíkmenaság, the Walcker company for Tusnádfürdő, the Kuhn company for Gyimesbükk, the Bosch company for Borzont, Péter Willi instruments for Alsóborszék and Hidegség, and Willem van Leeuwen's Dutch concert organ for Gyergyószentmiklós, Tusnádfürdő belongs to the Walcker company, which was given to Székelyudvarhely in 2024, and Karel Rouw's organ went to the reformed church on Gyergyószentmiklós. Similarly, the last organ of the Váradi organ building company in Hungary went to Csíkszereda, the Unitarian denomination.

Owing to all of the above-mentioned procedures, it is gratifying that in the past three decades, the organ stock of all three Archdeaconry districts has been expanded with nearly 33 new or newly rebuilt instruments, which also contributed to the increasingly favorable condition of the district's instruments. In the three districts, we have information on only two completely unusable instruments, the organ of the church in Gyimesközéplok and the chapel in Borzsova. Five still functional instruments are awaiting urgent and immediate repair, <sup>15</sup> on two of these repair works have already been started. (Kozmás; Szépvíz, Armenians;), and six instruments: Gyergyóremete, Gyergyóújfalu, Csíkszentmiklós, Nagykászon, Csíkszentimre, Kászonújfalú organs require minor repairs, tuning and cleaning. The condition of the other instruments can be described as impeccable or good. The old, unusable, nevertheless historically valuable musical instrument of the chapel in Csíkborzsova requires complete restoration.

The vast majority of musical instruments can be found in small and large churches and chapels where the community is not yet threatened by complete obsolescence and a decrease in population, which is why there is a constant demand from the parishes for the careful supervision, maintenance and restoration of these instruments, in contrast to the organs of other cults, where many valuable instrument's fate is already sealed due to the lack of a vivid community. Except for the few instruments mentioned, the organs are still in daily active liturgical use.

In addition to the cultural, social and economic factors, the condition of musical instruments is also related non the least to church music, which is of a very favorable standard in most places. In the recent period, it is gratifying that more and more cantors in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Csíkszereda, Saint Cross; Lázárfalva; The organs of Kászonjakabfalva.

the districts are making a living by completing advanced music studies and other courses on this topic. Thus, a higher demand for the organ and artistic music develops in more and more communities. A consistent sign of this, in the above-mentioned period, is the multitude of new instruments and the renewal of old ones. All of this is thanks to the significant financial sacrifice of the parishes, as well as to various tenders and local financial resources.

In the majority of parishes, the old instruments of historical value continue to be used, and these are sometimes adapted to today's liturgical needs. New organs were made for parishes where the old, unusable instruments did not represent much value or did not meet musical needs at all.

The favorable state of musical instruments in the current three archdeaconry districts of our Archdiocese certainly elevates the examined region to one of the most active musical instrument regions in Transylvania, compared to the other regions and denominations that have been examined so far.

In this regard, the main goal of the thesis was achieved, as we managed to gain considerable knowledge and a new insight into the organ stock and culture in the three districts of our Archdiocese.