



HISTORICAL STUDIES

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(Summary by Tomory)

The population of Hungary at the time of Árpád's conquest^[1] could have been only Magyar. This realization is based upon the geographical names of the main body of their country (Hungary), and particularly the names of the region east of the Danube-Garam line. This becomes evident if we view the small number of Bulgarian-Slavic and Czech geographic names in the sea of Ugor-Hungarian names in the 9th c. AD. We also must remember that the territories occupied by the two Oláh principalities^[2] in Moldavia and Havasalföld have been Oláh speaking territories for the past 700 years and even so, only one seventh of their river-names are of Oláh origins up to this day. One must remark that even this one-seventh part of river names is applied to smaller rivulets or brooks only (p.65)

Anonymus^[3] mentions several times in his work that the peasants spoke a different language than the Árpáds. When for example, Duke Bors „collected many of the peasants to build a castle near the Boldva, which *‘these people’* named Borsod.” Consequently these people that are mentioned by Anonymus could have been none else but Magyars.

None of the river names mentioned in anonymus' *Gesta* were proven to be anything else but Magyar! It is not likely that they could be anything other than Magyar as written sources even before the 10th c. A.D. already mention the following bodies of water: Duna, Tisza, Maros, Szamos, Körös, Temes, Olt, Zala, Rába, Balaton and so on. These all preserved their Magyar names even though the Dak, the Celts, Illyrians, Romans, Sarmatians, Germanic people, the Huns, the Avars, Bulgarians, Slavs and Olahs passed through these regions. Chauvinism in ancient times was never so strong as to erase the original names of geographic areas. (p. 70)

Not all of the historical documents of the Árpád era have been published as of yet. The greatest number of these documents were published in the 12 hefty volumes by Wenzel, titled „*Collection of the Árpád documents.*” Out of these and the alphabetical *Index* prepared by Nándor Kovács, one easily can assemble at least 3,000 to 4,000 names of bodies of waters. Of all these names – for the sake of easy survey – I am going to discuss only the oldest names, which are the names before the Tatár invasion, even of these, I will mention only the most significant ones.

One also has to remark that if the people who spoke Hungarian would have arrived only with the Árpáds, there would not be any Hungarian geographic names in the earliest documents. But as we shall see, there are many of these. Among St. István's documents written in Greek, there is a document from the year 1000 A.D. from Veszprém (concerning the donations of Hurhida, etc.), in 1009 from Pécs, and in 1015 from Pécsvárad. All except the first mentioned were written in Latin and in all of these there is a considerable number of Hungarian place-names mentioned. Unfortunately, the originals of these documents were lost. Existing copies originated 100, 300 and 400 years later.

Hungarian geographic names as they appear in Anonymus' Gesta[4]

Names of bodies of water

Abád rév	portus Obad
Almás folyó	fluvius Almas
Balaton	fluvius Bolutun
Bodrog folyó	fluvius Budrug
Bodrog melléke	partes Budrug
Böge (Bega)	partes Beguey
Csesztreg folyó	fluvius Seztureg
Eger folyó	fluvius Egur
Fertő mocsár	stagnum Ferteu
Hejő folyó	Heuyou
Hernád folyó	Honrad
Jószás folyó	fluvius Jouxas
Kapus folyó	fluvius Copus
Kelepataka	Kelepotaca
Kórógy ér	fluvius Couroug
Körös folyó	Cris
Körtvélytó	Curtueltou
Maros folyó	fluvius morus
Nyárád vize	fluvius Naragy
Omsó-ér	fluvius humusouer
Ostoros vize	fluvius Ystoros
Rákos patai	fluviusRacus
Sajó folyó	Souyou, Souiou
Sár viz	Saru
Soroksár viz	ultra Surucusar
Szamos folyó	fluvius Zomus
Tekerő vize	fluvius Tekereu
Temes folyó	fluvius Temes, Temus
Tormos patak	rivulus Turmos
Tur vize	fluvius Turu
Vág folyó	fluvius Wag
Vajas Duna-ág	fluvius Uoyos

Other geographic names

Bihar vár	Byhor
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Bodajk hegy	Bodoctu
Bolhád hegy	Bulhadu
Bolondos vár	Blundus
Borsod vár	Castrum Borsod
Bars vár	Castrum Borsu
Budavár	Buduuar
Diód falu	Gyoyg
Emőd falu	Emeud
Erdély országrész	Erdeuleu
Esküllő falu	Exculeti
Gömör vár	Gumur
Győr (gyűrű) vár	Geuru
Gyümölcsény erdő	silva Gemelsen
Havas erdő	silva Houos
Himes udvar (Tokaj)	Hymes uduor
Keve vára	castrum Keue
Komárom vára	Camarum
Meszes kapu	in porta mezesina
Nyir erdő	a silvis Nyir
Pákozd hegy	montem Pacoztu
Sárvár (Ecsedi-lápon)	Saruuar infra paludes
Sátorhalom (Sátorhegy)	Saturholmu
Szeghalom falu	Zeguholmu
Szekcső falu	Zecuseu
Székelyek	Siculi
Szepes erdő	siléve Zepus
Szerencs hegy	Zeremsu
Szerep mocsár	lutum Zerep
Szer	locum Scerij
Szihalom	montem Zenuholmu
Tarras falu	Torhus
Tetőtlen halom	Teteuetlen
Torbágy erdő	silva Turobag
Tursók (törzsök)erdő	silva tursoc
Ungvár	Hunguar
Várad (Bars)vár	castellum Uarod
Vértes erdő	silva Uertus
Zaránd megye	Comitatum de Zarand
Zilah város	Ziloc
Zobor (Szopor) hegy	Zubur
Zombor (Zsomboly)	Zumbor

The names of bodies of waters before the Tatar invasion.

Name	Date	Meaning
Ag Duna	1201	Dunaág
Aldoucuth	1212	Áldókút
Alma	1183	

Aranas	1176	Aranyos
Arpas	1036,1086	
Balatin	1036	Balaton
Belsar	1231	Belsár
Berekzow(Lycosholm mellett)	1231	
Berethe	1227	
Berkyou	1235	Berettyó
Berkest alias Hydus- potok, fuit in		
Berekzo	1231	Berkesd
Bodrog, Bodrug	1093	
Budrog, Budrig	1067	
Boga Toufeu	1227	B.Tófó
Bozyas foka	1173	Bodzás foka
Boyzastou	1173	Bodzás tó
Chergou	1218	
Churgó	1219	Csurgó
Chuespotok	1212	Kövespatak
Copos,Copus	1231	Kapos
Cuher	1232	Kúér
Chuthsar eri	1214	Kúntsár ere
Dedpotoka	1200	
Didvag	1217	Dudvág
Donathava	1228	Dunatava
Dunazel	1223	Dunaszél
Éhes	1067	
Egur	1057	Eger
Egruspothoka	1231	Egres
Egris	1231	Egres
Egrog	1171	Egregy
Eleu teu	1223	Elő tó
Ereus ag	1231	
Eurem	1093	Örvény
Eurmenes	1219	Örvényes
Feyrthou	1224	Fehértó
Fekete sar	1216	
Fekete viz	1231	Máskép: Monyorós
Fekete rhe	1211	Fekete rév
Ferteu	1211	Fertő
Ferghes er	1228	Ferges ér
Fihed heri	1214	
Fizeg, Fizig	1086	Füzegy
Folutoa	1231	Falutava
Fuk	1228	Fok
Garmas potoka	1210	
Gastuna	800	Gesztenye
Gemulsinus	1214	Gyümölcsénes

Gerne vize	1219	
Gungus	1217	Gyöngyös
Hagymas	1093	
Halogos	1161	
Halap	1231	
Hango	1211	
Harangud	1211	
Her	1221	ÉR
Hydus	1231	Hidas
Holt wag	1223	
Hornad	1231	Hernád
Homuser	1067	
Homuspotok	1231	
Hucseos	1211	
Homorou potok	1210	
Keurs, Keurus	1171	Kőrös
Kyris	1086	
Koaspotok	1231	Kováspatak
Kuken-egur- pothok	1206	Kökény éger
Kuyar	1135	Kőárok
Lapus	1231	Lápos
Lapus feu	1224	Láposfő
Lenozou	1239	Lenaszó
Ludos er	1239	Ludas
Medes Pothok	1219	Meggyes
Myler, Miller tou	1237	Mélyér tó
Mocher	1231	
Mogoroud	1237	Mogyoród
Monorous	1231	Mogyorós
Moris	1219	Maros
Morzol	1234	Marcal
Nados	1213	Nádas
Noger	1239	Nagyér
Alma	1231	Alma
Peles	1231	(Hodos-ba)
Piscaros to	1232	Piskáros tó
Pwk er	1228	Pok ér
Queureus	1211	Kőrös
Quamlou uolgu	1086	Komló völgy
Racpotok	1216	Rák
Saar	1067	Sár
Saard, Saartou	1217	Sártó
Saharret	1228	Sárrét
Sajo, Syov	1230	Sajó
Soyov	1237	
Sartue	1067	Sártó
Sarus	1231	Sáros
Seeg	1239	Szeg, v. Szék

Seilvas feu	1231	Szilvásfő
Sebes	1137	
Secues	1211	
Soust	1219	Sósd
Tenerhere	1236	
Wagkuz	1237	Vágköz
Weguhomoc	1194	
Wios	1173	Vajas
Wirthis	1146	Vértés
Wyzes fener	1239	Fenyér
Woyos, Voios	1194	Vajas
Urkuta	1033	
Icirtou	1214	Ökörtoj
Zabadhegh	1093	völgy
Zakadath	1231	Szakadát
Zyndpathaka	1176	Szind
Zomus	1231	Szamos

But we do have the original document of the founding letter of the Tihany monastery dated in 1055. Even in this one document many Hungarian geographic names are preserved. Among these is Segisti, today Segesd tó. Fuk – Fok, Kucs-kut = Köveskut, Zilu-kut = Szilkut, Mortis = Martos, Sumit = Somogy.

Original documents dated from 1071 and 1217 mention Fizegi = Füzegy, Meler = Mélyér, Aranas = Aranyos, Cris, Kyris = Kőrös, a document from 1090 mentions the following river names: Bodrig = Bodrog, Eurin = Örvény (P. 71-72).

Who were the ancient inhabitants of Transylvania?

The river names are the *crown witnesses* to solving this question. All the river names east of the Tisza river both in the works of Anonymus and also in Árpád Ortvay's two volume collection of river names are without doubt of Hungarian origin and point to an ancient Hungarian presence in Transylvania. These evolved during the history of this region and are still in use within the Hungarian, Transylvanian Saxon and Rumanian population.

Names of bodies of water by Anonymus: Tisza, Szamos, Almás, Kapus, Sár, Omsó ér, Kőrös, Jószás, Tekerő ér, Tur, Kórógy, Maros Csesztreg, Böge, Temes, Fövény rév. Out of these sixteen names nine carry Hungarian meaning. But words formed with the –s affix are also clearly of Hungarian origin. None of the sixteen names could have originated from any other language.

Ortvay's collection of rivernames from the XI-XIII centuries are primarily the very specific Hungarian names formed with the above –s, an adjective affix. In later sections I will discuss some of these very clearly Hungarian names. For easier reading, I grouped them according to counties:

Alsó Fehér county: Maros, Nádas-patak, Pokolos, Sárd, Tó, Udvarát, Bocsárd.

Arad county: Száraz ár, Also in this county, in one single document which originated in 1203 AD., one finds the following names: Kőrös, Sáros, Hölgyes (arch. form of wiesel), Hodos, Ér, Fok, Kengyel víz.

Beszterce Naszód county: Gyepes, Kőrös, Medgyes, Somos, Hévjó, Berekjó, today Berettyó, Tekerő, Szakál ér, Szil ér, Omsó ér.

Brassó county: Tömös, Barca, Olt

Fogaras county: Árpás, Eger

Hunyad county: Nádos-patak, Feredű gyógy

Kis and Nagyküküllő county: Hévíz, Küküllő

Kolozs county: Almás, Aranyos-foka, Darvas-tó, Nyulas, Nádas, Sebes, Szamos, Aszujó séd, Borzasztó mocsár.

Krassó Szörény county: Temes

Maros-Torda county: Szakál

Szatmár county: Hidas, Erőság, Főzes, Hodos, Kékes, Kovás, Lápos, Berkesd, Berekszó, today Burszó, next to the Fentős erdő that was mentioned in 1236 AD. Bika patak, Fertő, Fekete víz, its other name Monyorós, Sár, Somos. A recently found document dating from 1181 identifies Tur, Ered, Sár and Kerekto next to the Szamos Sebes-patak.

Szilágy county: Almás, Egres, Egregy, Szilágy

Szolnok-Doboka county: Egres, Gyékényes, Lápos, Szamos, Sajó, Mélység

Temes county: Temes, Harangod, Bega

Torda-Aranyos county: Aranyos, Örményes

Ugocsa county: Homus patak

These are only a few names that point to Hungarian origin in Transylvania. For example, in addition to this extensive list there is also the Vargyas, Homoród, Nyárád, the other Almás, Szartos, Pogánis, Karas, Berény, Gyógy, Székás, Hideg, Hortobágy, Gyéres, Laudas, the other Kapus, Görgény, and Bodza among others.

Within the areas that were torn from the body of Hungary in the treaty of Trianon, one could easily mention at least another thousand Hungarian named waters.

The great majority of river names used by the Transylvanian Saxons are Hungarian names. The only German names are those of small brooks near Nagyszeben and Brassó. According to our findings, the river names show the following origins:

Hungarian names..... 20

German names..... 4

Oláh names..... 1

Slavic names..... 2

Names of unknown origin.... 4

None of the larger rivers have Oláh names. They use the same names as the Hungarians and the Saxons. The witnesses to the priority of habitation in this region are the river names and they show Magyar presence in this region since ancient times.

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Lajos Marjalaki Kiss

He was born on December 18, 1887 in Kisújszállás. He was the only one of the nine children in his family who was able to further his education. He studied in the renown Presbyterian school of Debrecent and he obtained

his teacher's certificate in 1906. He worked in Szinpetri, Borsod county from 1906 to 1907. Later he taught elementary school in his hometown. He worked as a teacher in Abrudbánya, Transylvania from 1913 to 1918.

At the same time he also worked with the archaeological department of the Kolozsvár Museum. He remained active in the fields of archaeology, linguistics and ethnography throughout his life. He published several scholarly works and articles, which were published by the Ottó Herman Museum. He still has a great number of unpublished manuscripts dealing with family histories, research materials and correspondences, which from the point of cultural history are of great value. He was a member of the Hungarian Ethnographic Society, and he regularly corresponded with the leading Hungarian intellectuals of his time, such as Ferenc Móra, Andor Leszih, Lajos Kiss, Zsigmond Móricz, János Melich, Báling Hóman, Gyula Bethlen, Gyula Illés, Gyula Germanus, István Gyórfy, Viski and László Bendefi.

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[1] Árpád was the leader of the seven Hungarian branches that returned to Hungary in the 9th century.

[2] Oláh was the historical name of the people we call Rumanian today. The latter name came into use in recent historical times when the Oláh citizens living in Transylvania petitioned the Hungarian Congress for this change of name, which was granted at this time.

[3] Anonymus, or the mysterious Master P., was notary to King Endre in the 13th century. His work the Gesta Hungarorum, a 24 pages long codex, is in the archives of the Széchenyi Library's manuscript section in Budapest, catalogued as Cod. Lat. Medii Aevi 403. Its facsimile edition was published by the Magyar Helikon in Budapest in 1977, translation by Dezső Pais.

[4] Let us observe not only the mass of Hungarian geographic names prior to Árpád's introit into Hungary but also the spelling by the foreign scribes trained in the Latin alphabet which is 17 characters short of the Magyar alphabet's requirements. The sometimes severely distorted rendering of names will serve as an excellent guide to 'decipher' the forms and meaning of Scythian names which underwent a similar treatment on the hands of non-Magyar scholars. (S.T.)

