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# TRANSYLVANIAN REVIEW

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## **Institutional Structures and Elites in Sălaj Region and in Transylvania in the 14<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

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The coat of arms from 1418 of the Csese (Kese) of Dans and of Keresztúr family, inherited later by the Wesselényi family (National Archives of Hungary, Collection of pre-1526 charters, DL 105473). Photo by ÉRIKA CZIKKELYNÉ NAGY.

Maps by BÉLA NAGY

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# Editing and Publishing Historical Sources in the Research Institute of the Transylvanian Museum Society\*

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TAMÁS FEJÉR

**T**HE TRANSYLVANIAN Museum Society (Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület), the earliest Transylvanian scholarly society (founded in 1859) established its research institute in 2006 mainly with the aim of editing the medieval and early modern sources of Transylvania. The institute and its agenda of source edition is closely intertwined with the scholarly figure of the late Zsigmond Jakó (1916–2008), a prominent member of the national and international scholarly community of medievalists. As a member of the Romanian and Hungarian academies and a former president of the Transylvanian Museum Society (1990–1994), Professor Jakó persistently urged the research units he had been directing to be reorganized into a research institute. According to his view, it was only a high level of institutionalization of editing and publishing sources through which the Transylvanian medieval and early modern studies would flourish. He reckoned the same institutional framework would enhance the emergence of a new generation of scholars who were to establish an up-to-date corpus of medieval and early modern sources. Moreover he aimed at establishing common grounds for the divergent research by setting forth some fundamental principles on how to edit both the sources from before 1542 and the early modern ones.

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## Working Methods

OUR RESEARCHES are treating and compiling the edition of sources in a way that is less characteristic to the Romanian historical establishment: in forms of abstract (*regesta*). It is well-known that during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the *regesta* became the most widely used form of Hungarian editing of medieval sources.<sup>1</sup> Even though the *in extenso* edition is usually considered of complete and lasting value, this abridged form of editing and publishing has proved to be most suitable and practical when dealing with hundreds of thousands of charters. On the other hand, if we take into account the regression of the expertise in Latin and palaeography even of historians, the latest information regarding medieval and early modern times can be disseminated in a broader circle of general audience only using this method.

In *How to compile regesta for the repertorium of medieval Transylvanian charters. Methodological advices*<sup>2</sup> written by Zsigmond Jakó along the regulations of Iván Borsa,<sup>3</sup> the *regesta* is defined as a Hungarian abstract of the charter containing “the description of the fact that has legal significance. Furthermore it sums up all the names, geographical names, all the Hungarian and vernacular (i.e. non-Latin) words that occur in the text, all the titles and dignities of the individuals, all the relevant occurrences and expressions, and all the data regarding the institution, the chancellery that granted the charter. It also contains the comments upon the sealing of the charter, the description of the monetary units, units of measurement, etc.” The *regesta* is not meant to cover all the details of the charter, and it is not able to cover all the technicalities of such a document. But those who need the original Latin document will be able to recover it based on the archival shelfmark. So the *regesta* only commends certain aspects to the attention of the reader, and minutely leads her/him to the place where further information is available. Let us also stress that all the *regesta* contain similar clusters of information, regardless of whether they discuss published or unpublished charters, since most of the earlier publications are hardly available.

According to the generally established custom, researchers draft the *regesta* piece by piece, charter by charter. Accordingly, the charters transcribed entirely or focusing on their contents are singled out from the transcribing charter, and published in their own chronological place. Meanwhile the charter singled out is referred to in the place of the transcribing charter. A charter that is transcribed focusing on contents is a document that has, at least, its year and the granter included into the transcribing charter. The case of the references (*Urkunden-Erwähnungen*) is much more problematic. These are highlighted and individually compiled into *regesta* only when they can be dated exactly or approximately, otherwise they are left within the text of the respective charter.

Two cases should be foregrounded here: when unambiguous variants of technical terms are not to be found, or when longer excerpts of texts are ambiguous. In these cases the original Latin terms and excerpts are used in brackets so as to make the meaning of the original text as clear as possible. This solution is to be used only in exceptional and inevitable cases so that the multiple brackets and the frequent alternation of the Hungarian and Latin passages should not affect the intelligibility of the *regesta*.

The boundary inspections (*reambulatio metarum*) inform in a highly precise and instructive way about the former relationships of a certain place, therefore they are included into the text of the *regesta* in their original size and language; likewise, the extra sigillum notes (*extra tenorem*) or the notes regarding the management of the chancellery of the Principality and that of the places of authentication. In the text of the *regesta* the dates given along the ecclesiastical feast days are transformed according to our contemporary (Gregorian) calendar. This is followed by the original form of the date abbreviated and put into parentheses, since it is only the original text that can serve as a proof for the accurateness of the transcript of the dating. As far as the dating of the early modern sources is concerned, the dating of the charters that were written after December 25, 1590 is adjusted to the new, Gregorian calendar, since at the Transylvanian Diet held on September 21, 1590 the Estates of the Realm consented to its introduction beginning with Christmas Day of the same year.<sup>4</sup>

Our research programmes pay special attention to the indexes containing all the names and names of places that occur in the *regesta*, respectively to the headwords that will arouse scholarly interest. In fact these detailed indexes are preparing an exhaustive database of the historical archontology and topography of medieval and early modern Transylvania. The managers and researchers of the different programmes apply similar principles to the catalogue of the used bibliographic and archival sources.

In what follows let us map the research programmes and results of the Institute of Research that are based on the above-mentioned principles of source editing and publishing.

## 1. The Collection of Transylvanian Medieval Charters (*Codex Diplomaticus Transsylvaniae*)

**T**HE MAIN aim of one of the major enterprises of Hungarian and Romanian medievalism is “to establish strong foundations for the scholarly and modern research of the medieval history of Transylvania by exhaustively collecting, editing and publishing the medieval documentary sources.”<sup>5</sup> It was

already in 1943 when the Transylvanian Museum Society and the Transylvanian Scientific Institute (Erdélyi Tudományos Intézet) started the preparations for editing the archive materials of medieval Transylvania, but the first volume of the Collection of Transylvanian Medieval Charters could be published only half a century later thanks to Zsigmond Jakó. The volume resulting from the “one-man-research workshop” of the professor was published by the National Archives of Hungary. In the introduction of the publication Jakó was the first to sum up and assess the history of Transylvanian source editing, publishing and research done by Hungarian, German and Romanian researchers. Moreover, the same introduction established the basic principles to be followed by the further work of editing these sources. In the followings we shall detail these recommendations.

Jakó identifies the historical Transylvania of the centuries of the Middle Ages with the seven inner Transylvanian counties under the jurisdiction of the voivode (Inner Solnoc [Belső-Szolnok], Dăbâca [Doboka], Cluj [Kolozs], Turda [Torda], Alba [Fehér], Hunedoara [Hunyad], Târnava [Küküllő] counties), Szeklerland and Saxon land, respectively the counties of Middle Solnoc (Közép-Szolnok) and Crasna (Kraszna) from the so-called Partium. This is the broad area the data of which are included into the Collection of Transylvanian Charters. In Jakó’s view the verge of the Transylvanian Middle Ages and therefore the bordering event of the medieval charter sources is not the battle of Mohács (1526), but the Ottoman Occupation of Buda (1541), the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom, since this latter was to start the stately dissolution of the kingdom and the formation of the Principality of Transylvania. According to Zsigmond Jakó’s estimation of the Transylvanian historical charters, there are about 30–35,000 such diplomas from before 1542,<sup>6</sup> but he underlines that due to the unknown quantity of the transcriptions this number could be much higher (the number of abstracts to be drafted is surely above 35,000). Let me stress that Jakó has a broader notion of the concept of the charter: it is used as an umbrella term not only for the different legal documents, but also for the practical (non-literary) use of literacy, i.e. missive letters or economic documents (rendering of accounts, registers). According to Jakó the material included and to be included into the collection should be gathered according to the following two principles: 1. charters issued by medieval Hungarian institutions should be collected as exhaustively as possible today, 2. charters issued by foreign institutions that have already been published. Thus every charter which is related to the historical Transylvania, to the Transylvanian settlements and inhabitants and which has been preserved either in the original or in transcriptions, in pre-17<sup>th</sup> century copies and in major collections of copies of charters is to be included into the Collection of Transylvanian Charters. Should a charter have even a single data referring to Transylvania, it is thought to be included into the collection. In such cases a shorter, concise *regesta* highlighting

the Transylvanian aspects is drafted. Besides the authentic charters also the forged ones are included. Of course, the forgeries are clearly distinguished from the authentic ones. Viewed from this perspective, it is a distinctive merit of the hitherto published volumes that they treat their material on the basis of independent source criticism: in contrast to the former publications the texts are accompanied by concise and clear critical comments. Therefore, thanks to the series, historical research is able to work with sources screened by up-to-date professional source criticism. The volumes are completed by map inserts informing the reader about the history of the settlements, the management of the churches or about other types of relationships of the historical Transylvania.

From the second volume the “one-man-research workshop” was complemented with András W. Kovács, then, from the third volume onwards, with Géza Hegyi. After Zsigmond Jakó passed away, it has fallen on them to carry on with the scholarly enterprise: they have to edit, supplement and index the abstracts he had already prepared for edition, and to go on with the exhaustive editing tasks of the *regesta* after 1400. Regarding the supplements of the series, the number of the texts is still growing, since based on the also growing electronic database of the National Archives of Hungary<sup>7</sup> the new editors reveal novel “Transylvanian” charters and data.

Three volumes have been published in the series. They contain 2,893 Hungarian *regesta* of the charter material from between 1023–1359. The fourth volume is expected to be published in 2013 and is planned to comprise 1,000–1,200 abstracts of the charter materials of the period between 1360–1372. According to the editors’ estimation the series will reach the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century with two-three more volumes.<sup>8</sup>

## **2. The Protocols of the Alba Iulia (Gyulafehérvár) and Cluj-Mănăştur (Kolozsmonostor) Places of Authentication Dating from after the Secularization (1556)**

**I**T IS well-known that places of authentication (*loca credibilia*) is the umbrella name for those ecclesiastical institutions (chapters and convents) which issued authentic charters in response both to the request of private persons and authorities.<sup>9</sup> It was the birth of the Principality of Transylvania and the beginnings of the Reformation that opened up a new file in the life of the two places of authentication functioning in medieval Transylvania:<sup>10</sup> the Alba Iulia/Transylvanian chapter and the Cluj-Mănăştur convent.<sup>11</sup> After the 1556 secularization of the Catholic ecclesiastical institutions, the Estates of the Realm were aware of the

importance of the places of authentication and had special interest in protecting their archives so as to guard their ceaseless usage. Therefore the Diet ordered the archives of the chapter and convent to be controlled both by the prince and the Estates of the Realm, and appointed lay letter searchers (*requisitores litterarum*) who were well-informed in matters of legal issues. They were remunerated by the prince. Until 1575 their only task was to transcribe charters when being ordered so by the authorities. As a matter of fact, the reorganization of the *loca credibilia* took place in 1575 after a transitional period of two decades. At this time the *requisitores* of both the chapter and the convent were instructed in detail regarding their work, and the two places of authentication were given new seals.<sup>12</sup> This reorganization actually transformed the two places of authentication into princely offices producing also the protocols that are our objects of research.

In fact these protocols were meant to improve the preservation of the legal documents granted by the *loca credibilia*. Based on them, the *requisitores* issued authentic transcripts at the request of the clients. At the time being twenty volumes of protocols of the Alba Iulia chapter<sup>13</sup> and twenty-eight volumes of protocols of the Cluj-Mănăştur convent<sup>14</sup> dating from the age of the Principality are preserved in the National Archives of Hungary.

The scholarly literature has already clarified the historical authenticity of the protocols. Therefore let us only mention that they are abounding in valuable facts and historiography has hardly used them even though – with the exception of the *Libri regii* – there is no cluster of sources from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries to be compared to them regarding their unity and continuity. The borderline of authority and competence between the two places of authentication was the Mureş (Maros) river, even though smaller areas overlapped. On the southern part of the river the Alba Iulia chapter (the counties of Alba, Hunedoara, Târnava, Zărând [Zaránd], Severin [Szörény]), on its northern side the Cluj-Mănăştur convent (Cluj, Turda, Dăbâca, Inner Solnoc, Middle Solnoc and Crasna county) was the competent authority.

The protocol entries under research can be divided into two main groups. The declarations (*fassiones*) are based on the request of individuals in matters of private law (for instance, sale and purchase, pawning, exchange of landed property, donation etc). The reports (*relationes*) were usually written down at the request of the prince. These were documents like interrogations (*inquisitio*), boundary inspections (*reambulatio metarum*) and entering into possessions (*introductio, statutio*). The mainly Latin entries were more or less chronologically written into the protocols in full or abridged form. Nevertheless the volumes are chronologically overlapping since the *loca credibilia* employed several *requisitores* who in their turn kept their “own” protocols.

The aim of the editors is to deal with surviving protocols of the places of authentication from the reorganization that took place in 1575 till the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Nevertheless the editing and publishing is not done protocol by protocol. This means that besides the entries of the protocols of a certain period the volume of *regesta* contains every entry to be found in later protocols, but referring to the respective period. It is a clear advantage of this method that the research foregrounds the material of a certain place of authentication in a clear-cut chronological line. All the *regesta* volumes contain a short codicological description of the protocols informing about the archival shelfmark, the size, the length, the present-day state of preservation, the period and state of binding, the watermark of the manuscript.

Until now 974 *regesta* were published in the first volume of the series containing entries from between 1575 and 1599 of the protocols of the Alba Iulia chapter.<sup>15</sup> The next two volumes of *regesta* are planned to contain the protocols until the end of Gabriel Bethlen's reign (1600–1629), while another volume will be dedicated to the entries drafted under the reign of George Rákóczi I. (1630–1648). According to the calculations of the editors, the protocols ranging till the end of the reign of Prince Michael Apafi I. (1690) (i.e. all the material of the protocols in the period of the Principality of Transylvania) will result in about 7–8,000 abstracts.

As far as the protocols of the Cluj-Mănăstur convent are concerned, a first volume is planned to include the entries between the 1575 reorganization and 1590.

### 3. The *Libri regii* of the Transylvanian Princes

**A**LREADY THE name *Libri regii*<sup>16</sup> of the Transylvanian princes highlights that these copy books or protocols taken in the Chancellery of the princes continued the practice of the royal court of Buda, a tradition introduced by the Angevins in the first half of the fourteenth century.<sup>17</sup> Though Transylvania – being an autonomous state and a vassal of the Ottoman Empire – was not ruled by kings, but by elected princes, these books were called *Libri regii* not only by the historical tradition, but also by the scholarly study of sources, and each title bears the name of the prince at issue. According to some data, sometimes they were called even *Liber Văivodalii*.

The clerks of the princely chancellery (to be more precise at the so-called *cancellaria maior* branch of the chancellery) copied those important charters into these books which issued permanent rights and privileges in the name of the

prince, or were related to matters of clemency. Therefore documents such as donations of nobility, estates, offices and honours, privileges, exemptions, rules and regulations of corporations and social organizations can be found here. The very same books also included a large number of princely approvals (*consensus*) necessary for the validity of testaments and a large variety of private documents (buying and selling, exchanges of landed property, donations, mortgage, etc.). If the beneficiary lost his/her charter, an authentic transcription was issued upon request and on the orders of the prince based on the entries of the *Libri regii*.

There is no doubt that the *Libri regii* do not contain all the charters issued by the princely chancellery, but we do not know the rules of selection. Probably there was no rule that selected the charters to be copied or to be left out regarding their content. The charters were registered in a rather loose chronological order, mostly in full text, in most cases preserving the text that came closest to the original. Besides, there are some that lack the usual formulae, otherwise reproducing the content of the charter in detail. But the terse, a few-lines-long abstract, shorter than the others, is more frequent, just mentioning the content and the names of the persons. We can be certain that the last two kinds of texts, the detailed ones and mostly the few-lines-long abstracts do not contain all the information that had once been in the full-text version of the charter, but despite this fact they can also be used as historical resources. Most of the documents enrolled into the *Libri regii* are written in Latin, but several Hungarian and a few German private letters and guild regulations are to be found among the transcripts due to the princely confirmations.

Today the archive of the Alba Iulia chapter preserved by the National Archives of Hungary has twenty-seven original *Libri regii*<sup>18</sup> and three volumes of photocopies.<sup>19</sup> Two other original volumes from the Cluj-Mănăstur convent can be counted also here. These are to be found in the archives of the convent also in the National Archives of Hungary. Consequently the historical research can take into account 30 volumes of *Libri regii*, but originally their number must have been much higher, since we have knowledge also of other volumes that have been destroyed or lost.

The value of the *Libri regii* as a historical source is given first of all by the variety of the documents being copied into them, and the abundance of information related to almost any aspect of the society in the age of the principality. The variety of the content of this cluster of sources makes possible a wider range of uses, but most of all these contents can become first-hand sources for local history, genealogy and archontology.

The series contains the *regesta* of all the preserved *Libri regii* separating all the volumes of each and every prince into different units regardless of the number of volumes. The work holds together all material of every ruler in strict chronological

order and in a sole series of numbers, restarting the numbering in the case of each prince. Let us stress that each *regesta* volume will open with the transcripts or references from earlier centuries. All the *regesta* volumes contain a short codicological description of the *Libri regii*. Following the archival shelfmark, these inform about the size, the length, the present-day state of preservation, the period and state of binding, the watermark of the manuscript.

Until this moment two volumes have been published as part of the series. They include 2,540 *regesta* of six volumes of *Libri regii* preserved from the period between 1569 and 1602 and compiled under the reign of John Sigismund, Christopher Báthory and Sigismund Báthory.<sup>20</sup> The volume of *regesta* to follow focuses on the *Libri regii* of Stephen Bocskai from 1606 and Sigismund Rákóczi from between 1607 and 1608 (circa 800 abstracts). A further volume will be published based on the two *Libri regii* of Gabriel Báthory from the years 1608–1610.

#### 4. The Archives of the Wesselényi Family from Hodod (Hadad)<sup>21</sup>

**T**HE AIM of the scrutiny is to improve and modernize the research of the local history of Sălaj (Szilágyság) by publishing the archival materials that reach up to the 17<sup>th</sup> century out of the 700-year archival heritage of the Baron Wesselényi family.<sup>22</sup> It is a certainty that the research of the medieval and early modern institutional and social history of the Sălaj region that used to stretch from the former Middle Solnoc and Crasna counties has to be based mainly on the archival materials of this family. The model for editing and publishing this material is the latest published volume of the series entitled *The Archives of the Transylvanian National Museum* which has an exemplary way of treating the archives of the Wass family from Țaga (Cege).<sup>23</sup> Consequently we deal with the materials of the Wesselényi archives from before 1690 in a twofold manner: either by compiling Hungarian abstracts, or publishing the documents in their entirety when they are especially important regarding the family or the general historical research. The documents dated after 1690 are presented in a concise manner from fascicle to fascicle. As far as possible, this short presentation enumerates all the names of places and individuals who are referred to in the fascicle. It is the duty of these brief descriptions to inform the researchers about the quantity and nature of the sources. An alphabetical index summing up all the writers and receivers of the letters will present the missive letters to be found in the archival material. The introductory paper of the publication will detail the history of

the family, its family relationships, its estates. Moreover it will inform about the constitution, the compounds of the archives, the ordering of these archives in the past, and the provenance of their parts (since certain estates and the documents referring to them came to be owned by the family in different historical periods and due to diverging ways of taking possession of the estates and various family relations). The volume will contain map inserts informing about the possessions of the family and a family tree. Since an exhaustive and comprehensive picture on these aspects can be obtained only after a future thorough research of the whole archival material, let us only sketch the beginnings of the family's career and the history of the family archives in brief.

Miklós and Farkas, members of the Wesselényi family originating from Nógrád county, fled to Transylvania after 1556 due to their role in the rebellion of Ferenc Bebek, being persecuted for disloyalty.<sup>24</sup> Already by the 1560s Miklós (1504–1584) had a noteworthy bureaucratic career: between 1563 and 1568 he acted as *director causarum*, and was appointed *prothonotarius* between 1568 and 1584.<sup>25</sup> He acquired an estate in Geaca (Gyeke, then Cluj county) and established the basis for the Geaca-based side of the family. Already in 1646 the spear side of the family died out with Miklós's grandchild Boldizsár Wesselényi, the *comes* of Dăbâca county (1615–1646)<sup>26</sup> and *arendator decimarum* of the Principality (1634–1646).<sup>27</sup> After a short Transylvanian stay, his brother, Farkas (1502–1582) returned to Hungary. But his son Ferenc (1540–1594) had a paramount role in the rise of the family and in establishing the Transylvanian estate and prestige of the family. From his early youth Ferenc Wesselényi entered Prince Stephen Báthory's service and followed him also to Poland after the latter was elected king (1576). As treasurer and councillor he was a man of confidence of the king there. In 1582 he was granted baronial title for services rendered,<sup>28</sup> and by means of a deed of gift dated on March 6, 1584 he was given the castle of Hodod in Middle Solnoc county, the *oppida* Hodod and Jibou (Zsibó), and other 17 estates and parts of estates detailed in the charter.<sup>29</sup> This gift made the family ascend from the lesser nobility to the Transylvanian aristocrats. One of the sons of Ferenc, István already became councillor, from 1607 to 1614 he was the *comes* of Middle Solnoc county,<sup>30</sup> from 1614 to 1622<sup>31</sup> his brother Pál holds the same office in the same county, and becomes chamberlain (*cubicularius*)<sup>32</sup> between 1608 and 1613. The most important career of the Hungarian side of the family was that of the son of the late István, Ferenc (1605–1667) who was granted the title of count in 1646, and the diet of 1655 in Bratislava (Pozsony) elected him palatine of Hungary. The Transylvanian line of descent was carried on by the above mentioned Pál. Besides other noteworthy representatives of public life among his descendants are István Wesselényi (1674–1734), the diary writer<sup>33</sup> and Miklós (1796–1850), one of the outstanding politicians of the reform era.<sup>34</sup>

From the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the family came to be related to the major aristocratic families of Transylvania: the Gyulafis, the Bánfis, the Lónyais, the Kornis, the Béldis, the Bethlens, the Rhédeis, the Telekis, etc. As we already mentioned, the main possessions of the Transylvanian side of the family were in Middle Solnoc county, but naturally the increase of the influence went hand in hand with the new possessions, whether by means of merits or by marital politics. Therefore from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards the documents and charters accompanying the possessions contain data referring not only to the already mentioned Middle Solnoc county, but to almost the whole of Transylvania, and also the Partium.

The ascension, the growth of the authority and wealth of the family from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards naturally brought about the increase of the amount of the archival documents referring to the family. The most part of the archival material of the Transylvanian side of the family was preserved in the Transylvanian National Museum Archives, an institution that used to function within the Transylvanian Museum Society.<sup>35</sup> After the Transylvanian Museum Society was discontinued in 1950, the management of these archives was taken over by the Cluj Department of the Library of the Romanian Academy under the name of Historical Archives.<sup>36</sup> In 1974 the material was transferred to the Romanian National Archives Cluj County Branch (Cluj-Napoca). In what follows we detail the inventory and status of the archives of the Wesselényi family according to the 1949 register of the Transylvanian National Museum Archives:

1. The archive from Jibou of the Wesselényi family was entrusted to the care of the Transylvanian Museum Society in 1896 (78 fascicles, 20,000 letters, 3 running metres of volumes). It has documents from the period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>37</sup> At the time being it is kept in the custody of the National Archives Cluj County Branch<sup>38</sup> and in the University Library of Cluj. The archive from Jibou of the Wesselényi family used to be temporarily preserved in Gârceiu (Görcsön) by Baron Miklós Wesselényi (1845–1916), the *comes* of Sălaj county. In 1896 the family deposited it at the Museum Society.<sup>39</sup> The archive transported to Cluj in 1896 amounted to 14 large cases and it was Zoltán Ferenczi (1857–1927), the director of the common library of the Museum Society and the Franz Joseph University of Cluj who organized the archives for the first time.<sup>40</sup> In the second half of the 1930s Lajos Kelemen (1877–1963) and Attila T. Szabó (1906–1987) put into shape a new order. They arranged the documents into 78 groups (at this time the archive had about 20,000 documents).<sup>41</sup> Let us mention here that the constitution and organization of the personal archive of Miklós Wesselényi (1796–1850) within the archive of Jibou was carried out by József Venczel (1913–1972) at the end of the 1940s on behalf of the Archives. Nevertheless his presentation of the collection could be published only in 2002.<sup>42</sup> At the end of the summer of 1943 a part of the Transylvanian National Museum

Archives, seven cases of the medieval charters and other materials thought to be important were transported from Cluj in order to rescue the materials still deposited in the University Library from the battle line.<sup>43</sup> The cases contained also the medieval charters of the Wesselényi family's archive from Jibou. After the end of the war and the banning and discontinuation of the Transylvanian Museum Society, the National Archives of Hungary were returned to their former place of preservation, i.e. to the University Library. Following their arrival the archival materials were deposited in the manuscript archive of the library.<sup>44</sup> Unfortunately the documents rescued from the Wesselényi archive were never included again into the archive from Jibou handled then already by the Cluj Department of the Library of the Romanian Academy. Not even in 1974 was the former unity of the archive regained when the Museum Society Archives were taken over by the National Archives Cluj County Branch. Thus the awkward situation emerges that the greatest part of the medieval materials of the Wesselényi family archive are preserved in the University Library of Cluj (Special Collections),<sup>45</sup> on the other hand the archive itself is in the Cluj County Branch of the National Archives. Let us mention here also that the well-known handbook on the historical sources of Hungary<sup>46</sup> informs also about an archive of Gârceiu of the Wesselényi family. There is no such an archive, and the error is probably due to the former place of preservation of the documents: as we have already mentioned the archive of Jibou was in Gârceiu at the time of the handover in 1896.

From 1896 onwards the rich material could finally be used by the scholarly research. Already in November 1896 Gyula Kincs, professor of the Reformed Grammar School of Zalău (Zilah) asked for permission to do research.<sup>47</sup> A similar request was handed in to the Transylvanian Museum Society by Mór Petri in 1898 and János Karácsonyi in 1900.<sup>48</sup> At the same time borrowing became possible. Several items were borrowed personally,<sup>49</sup> or by means of an institution<sup>50</sup> from the Museum Society.

2. *The archive from Hodod of the Wesselényi family* was entrusted to the care of the Transylvanian National Museum Archives in two instalments, in 1940 and in 1947 (30 fascicles, not ordered). It contains documents dated from between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>51</sup> At the time being it is preserved in the National Archives Cluj County Branch.<sup>52</sup> Our investigation about the fragment of the archive delivered in 1947 has established only a few circumstances: at that time the material was preserved by Count Degenfeld family. Kristóf Degenfeld's (1841–1922) wife was Terézia Wesselényi (1860–1924), and the family entered into the possession of large estates through her person. One of these estates was the castle of Hodod.<sup>53</sup> In all appearances Géza Kovách (1925–2004) delivered the fragment of the archive from Hodod to the Archive of the Museum Society in April 1947<sup>54</sup> as a result of the steps taken by the Transylvanian National Museum Archive to save the Wesselényi documents of the Degenfelds.<sup>55</sup>

3. *The fragment of the Cluj archive of the Wesselényi family* was taken over by the Transylvanian National Museum Archives (2 fascicles, not organized). It used to contain documents from the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>56</sup> For the time being we were unable to locate it in the National Archives Cluj County Branch.

4. *The archive from Dragu (Drág) of the Wesselényi family* was entrusted to the care of the Transylvanian National Museum Archives in 1949 (4 fascicles). It contains documents from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century in a chronological order.<sup>57</sup> In fact the archive is only the remainder of the Dragu archive of the family. This fragment was handed to the Museum Society Archive by György Bethlen (1888–1968), the son of Sarolta Wesselényi and Count Ödön Bethlen, a prominent figure of the interwar political life.<sup>58</sup> At the time being the fragment is to be found in the National Archives Cluj County Branch.<sup>59</sup>

5. The Wesselényi family also had a smaller corpus of documents reaching back till the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the archive of the Calvinist College of Cluj (*Kolozsvári Református Kollégium*) formerly preserved by the Transylvanian National Museum Archives.<sup>60</sup> This could be only partly traced back in the National Archives Cluj County Branch. On the other hand these documents, the three medieval charters and some texts from the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>61</sup> are not to be found in the inventory of the present-day collection of the college. However in July 1903 in the library of the college Lajos Kelemen saw the two cases that contained materials on the Wesselényis, and at the same time he succeeded to copy the inventory compiled about their content.<sup>62</sup> Based on this, the research shed light on the fact that at the time being some of these documents are to be found in the archive from Hodod of the Wesselényi family.<sup>63</sup> And since we know that the compiler of the inventory, József Wesselényi (1769–1826) was a descendant of the Hodod side of the family, in all likelihood the material originally belonged to the archive of Hodod of the family, but sometime in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was transferred to the library of the college due to reasons we still not know. The fragment of the archive came to be part of the Transylvanian National Museum Archive partly together with the former archive of the college in 1944,<sup>64</sup> and partly in the beginning of 1945 thanks to Emánuel Brüll (1884–1951), the custodian of the college library.<sup>65</sup> As it has already been mentioned, a certain part of it was included into the family archive of Hodod probably after 1950.

6. A major archival fragment, rich in medieval charters of the Transylvanian side of the Wesselényi family, is preserved by the National Archives of Hungary.<sup>66</sup> The part of the documents that are dated between 1528 and 1844 totals 0.56 running metre.<sup>67</sup> The charters compiled before Mohács were classified to the Collection of Diplomats (Diplomatikai Levéltár).<sup>68</sup> Let us stress here that circa 30 charters from before 1526 were included into the family archive from the archive of the former Sălaj county.<sup>69</sup> It was the same archive that stood at the origins of some other documents from the period between 1716 and 1914,

but these were singled out, separated and reorganized into a new collection under the name *Szilágy county* (P 636).<sup>70</sup> These documents entered the family archive after the constitution of the county in 1876, in all certainty in the period Baron Miklós Wesselényi acted as *comes* of Sălaj county.

Even though it still cannot be established when and how this fragment of archive came to the possession of the National Archives of Hungary, it is no doubt that originally it was part of the Jibou archive of the family. In 1899 János Karácsonyi published a short article on the coat of arms of the Wesselényi family<sup>71</sup> informing also that he revealed the grant of arms based on a copy of Sándor Bölöni, a custodian of the Museum of Oradea. The latter made his copy from the original preserved in the archive of the family then still to be found in Gârceiu. As we already noted, the Jibou archive preserved in Gârceiu was entrusted to the care of the Museum Society in 1896. Since today the original of the grant of arms is in the National Archives of Hungary,<sup>72</sup> for reasons we cannot identify a certain part of the Jibou archive was left in Gârceiu, and then transferred to the National Archives of Hungary.

Our research focuses on exploring and editing these archives. Let us note here that the identification of the parts of archives (for instance, those dispersed due to marriages) that would complete the core archives is not our main goal. In spite of it this is a major task of the future, since the dispersed materials could bring new data to the forefront in matters of historical possessions and inheritance.

From a thematic point of view the documents of these archives do not differ from the other family archives: besides the documents related to the right of possession, the correspondence of the members of the family (for instance the whole personal correspondence of the personal archive of the younger Miklós Wesselényi consists of 10,237 items<sup>73</sup>), the documents related to their office and kept by them, records of economic nature and those related to the management of the possessions were preserved in a higher number. From the period before 1542 about 280–300 charters (i.e. archival units) have been preserved in original or in copies, and in their turn these stored the texts of about 500 documents. Let us highlight here that out of these the digital images of the charters from before 1526 can be accessed on the website of the National Archives of Hungary. But the medieval part of the archive focuses not on the Wesselényi-family, but on the Jakcs family from Coșeiu (Kusaly) who died out on the male line in 1582. As we already alluded to it, this is due to the fact that the possessions of the Jakcs family (the castle Hodod, the *oppida* of Hodod and Jibou etc.) together with the charters referring to them were given as a gift to Ferenc Wesselényi in 1584.

The archives are hardly unknown to the scholarly world, but only a few explored systematically the materials referring to the period before the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One

of these was Mór Petri who surveyed the archive from Jibou for his monograph on Sălaj county.<sup>74</sup> Others include Attila T. Szabó who made public the abstracts of the Hungarian documents from before 1600 of the archive from Jibou,<sup>75</sup> and A. A. Rusu who published documents from before 1355 of the same archive in abstracts and with full texts.<sup>76</sup> Of course, the most important enterprises of the Romanian and Hungarian medieval studies (*Codex Diplomaticus Transylvaniae*, *Documenta Romaniae Historica, C. Transilvania*, *Charters of the Sigismund Era*, *Documenta res Hungaricas tempore regum Andegavensium illustrantia*) published a dozen charters from the archives of the family. Besides these major editions, the scattered publications (to use a popular nineteenth-century term for them: the so-called *oklevélkalászatok*) also revealed several documents from the period we dealt with.<sup>77</sup>

**S**UMMARIZING THE core ideas of the paper: in the Research Institute of the Transylvanian Museum Society the editing and publishing of sources follow the track once laid out by Professor Zsigmond Jakó. The essence of the research he initiated is that the sources produced in Latin and other languages, used in medieval and early modern Transylvania should be published in the form of Hungarian abstracts. Thus this written heritage will be accessible also to the broader circle of those interested, or to historians not having any knowledge of Latin and palaeography. Until now the research programmes of source edition and publication made available more than 6,400 abstracts. Most of these have been unknown for historiographic research. As far as our experience shows nowadays they are used more and more. This situation is also a clear sign that the editing and publishing of historical sources seems to be an excellent scholarly opportunity through which these working groups can make themselves useful for both the Romanian and the Hungarian historical research. Finally let us express our hope that these scholarly enterprises will help the Transylvanian medieval and early modern research surmount the difficulties and backlog by improving the editing and publishing of historical sources. □

Translated by LEVENTE SZABÓ

## Notes

1. The abstract form became widespread due to editions like *A nagykállói Kállay-család levéltára* (1224–1386) (The archive of the Kállay family from Nagykálló) (2 vols., Budapest: Magyar Heraldikai és Genealógiai Társaság, 1943), edited by Imre Szentpétery, respectively the so-called *Zsigmondkori oklevéltár* (Documents of the Sigismund Era) (1387–1424), *A Magyar Országos Levéltár kiadványai*, II,

- Forráskiadványok, no. 1, 3–4, 22, 25, 27, 32, 37, 39, 41, 43, 49 (11 vols., Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó and Magyar Országos Levéltár, 1951–2009) begun by Elemér Mályusz and continued by Iván Borsa, Norbert C. Tóth and Tibor Neumann.
2. Typewritten manuscript, undated. Based on this and under the guidance of Professor Jakó, the researchers of the institute drafted a detailed regulation regarding the editing of early modern charters. The regulation bore in mind the characteristics of the charter-issuing practice of the early modern charters. We present the practice and methodological prerequisites of the *regesta* based on these two regulations.
  3. Elemér Mályusz and Iván Borsa, eds., *A Szent-Ivány család levéltára 1230–1525* (The archive of the Szent-Ivány family 1230–1525), *A Magyar Országos Levéltár kiadványai*, II, Forráskiadványok, no. 14 (Budapest: Akadémiai, 1988), 5–10.
  4. Sándor Szilágyi, ed., *Monumenta Comititalia Regni Transylvaniae. Erdélyi Országgyűlési Emlékek (1540–1699)* (21 vols., Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, 1875–1898), (henceforth: *MCRT*), vol. 3 (1576–1596), 374.
  5. Zsigmond Jakó, ed., *Codex diplomaticus Transsylvaniae. Diplomata, epistolae et alia instrumenta litteraria res Transylvanas illustrantia. Erdélyi Okmánytár. Oklevelek, levelek és más írásos emlékek Erdély történetéhez*, vol. 1 (1023–1300), vol. 2 (1301–1339), vol. 3 (1340–1359), *A Magyar Országos Levéltár Kiadványai*, II, Forráskiadványok, no. 26, 40, 47 (Budapest: Akadémiai and Magyar Országos Levéltár, 1997–2008), vol. 1, 7. Our sketch of the research is based on the introduction of the publication: “A középkori okleveles források kutatása Erdélyben” (The research of medieval documentary sources in Transylvania), especially on pages 30–32.
  6. In his “Erdélyi forráskiadás az utóbbi félévszázadban” (Transylvanian source editing in the last fifty years), *Levéltári Közlemények* 75, no. 1 (2004): 3, Jakó estimates there are 35–40,000 charters from before 1542. The digital facsimile of most of these medieval Transylvanian sources can be accessed in the online database of the National Archives of Hungary, <http://mol.arcanum.hu/dldf/opt/a/110505htm?v=pdf&a=start> (accessed 13 October 2011).
  7. György Rác, ed., *Collectio Diplomatica Hungarica. A középkori Magyarország digitális levéltára* (Digital archives of medieval Hungary) (DL-DF 4.3.) (Budapest: Arcanum and Magyar Országos Levéltár, 2008, DVD-ROM). See also: György Rác, “Collectio Diplomatica Hungarica. Medieval Hungary online: The online portal of the National Archives of Hungary on medieval charters,” *Archiv für Diplomatik, Schriftgeschichte, Siegel- und Wappenkunde* 56 (2010): 423–444.
  8. Géza Hegyi and András W. Kovács, “Codex diplomaticus Transsylvaniae,” *Archiv für Diplomatik, Schriftgeschichte, Siegel- und Wappenkunde* 56 (2010): 420–421.
  9. The places of authentication have a wide scholarly literature. Out of this let us only mention: Franz Eckhart, “Die glaubwürdigen Orte Ungarns im Mittelalter,” *Mitteilungen des Instituts für österreichische Geschichtsforschung* 9 (1914): 395–558; Imre Szentpétery, *Magyar oklevéltan* (Hungarian diplomatics), (Budapest: Magyar Történelmi Társulat, 1930), 74–77, 121–138, 214–222; Tamás Kófalvi, “Places of Authentication (loca credibilia),” *Chronica*. Annual of the Institute of History, University of Szeged 2 (2002): 27–38; László Solymosi, “Die glaubwürdigen

- Orte (loca credibilia) Ungarns im 14–15. Jahrhundert,” *Archiv für Diplomatik, Schriftgeschichte, Siegel- und Wappenkunde* 55 (2009): 175–190.
10. László Papp, *A hiteles helyek története és működése az újkorban* (The history and activity of the places of authentication in the modern age) (Budapest: “Élet” Irodalmi és Nyomda Részvénytársaság, 1936), 56–68, 108–117. On the activity of the Alba Iulia chapter after secularization see: Zsolt Bogdándi and Emőke Gálfi, “The Alba Iulia chapter of authentication after secularization,” *Colloquia. Journal of Central European History* 13, no. 1–2, (2006): 290–304.
  11. On the places of authentication in medieval Transylvania see: Francisc Pall, “Contribuții la problema locurilor de adeverire din Transilvania medievală (sec. XIII–XV)” (Contributions to the issue of the places of authentication in medieval Transylvania, 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries), *Studii și materiale de istorie medie* 2 (1957): 391–405; On the activity of the Alba Iulia chapter before secularization see: Károly Vekov, *Locul de adeverire din Alba Iulia. (Secolele XIII–XVI)* (The Alba Iulia place of authentication. [13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> centuries]) (Cluj-Napoca: Centrul De Studii Transilvane and Gloria, 2003). For the protocols of the Cluj-Mănăstur convent before 1556 see: Zsigmond Jakó, ed., *A kolozsmonostori konvent jegyzőkönyvei* (The Protocols of the Cluj-Mănăstur convent) (1289–1556), *A Magyar Országos Levéltár kiadványai, II, Forráskiadványok*, no. 17 (2 vols., Budapest: Akadémiai, 1990).
  12. Sigismund Jakó, “Instrucțiuni arhivistice ale oficiilor din Transilvania 1575–1841” (Archival instructions of Transylvanian offices), *Revista Arhivelor* (Seria Nouă) 1, no. 1, (1958): 51, 54–56.
  13. The collection called *Protocolla* (F2) are to be found within the archive of the Alba Iulia chapter. Cf. Trócsányi Zsolt, *Erdélyi kormányhatósági levéltárak* (Transylvanian governmental archives) (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1973), 134; Antal Beke, *Kimutatás a gyulafehérvári káptalannak őrizete alatt volt országos levéltár átadásáról* (Report on the handover of the national archive of the Alba Iulia chapter) (Budapest: Az Athenaeum R. Társ. Könyvnyomdája, 1884), 9–11.
  14. These are to be found in the collection called *Protocolla, Libri regii et Styliionaria* (F 15) within the archive of the Cluj-Mănăstur convent. Cf. Trócsányi, *Kormányhatósági lt*, 140.
  15. Zsolt Bogdándi and Emőke Gálfi, eds., *Az erdélyi káptalan jegyzőkönyvei* (The protocols of the Transylvanian chapter) vol. 1 (1222–1599) *Erdélyi Történelmi Adatok*, no. VIII/1. (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2006)
  16. On the *Libri regii* in more detail see: Tamás Fejér and Anikó Szász, “The so-called Libri Regii Protocols of the Transylvanian Princes,” *Colloquia. Journal of Central European History*, 13, no. 1-2, (2006): 272–289. A digital format of the *Libri regii* has been provided by historians from Miskolc: Éva Gyulai, ed., *Az erdélyi fejedelmek oklevelei (1560–1689) Erdélyi Királyi Könyvek* (The charters of the Transylvanian princes [1560–1689]). Transylvanian Libri Regii) (Budapest: Arcanum; Miskolci Egyetem Bölcsészettudományi Kara, 2005, DVD-ROM)
  17. On the medieval Hungarian *Libri regii* see Imre Hajnik, *A királyi könyvek a vegyes házakbeli királyok korszakában* (The royal *Libri regii* under the reign of the mixed dynasties), *Értekezések a történelmi tudományok köréből*, vol. VIII/3 (Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, 1879); Szentpétery, *Oklevéltan*, 181–184. The *Libri*

- regii* from after 1526 were digitally published by the researchers of the National Archives of Hungary: Zsuzsanna Vissi, Gabriella Trostovszky, István Németh, Csilla Tuza, Judit Csavlek, Gabriella Magyar, György Németh, eds., *Libri Regii. Királyi Könyvek 1527–1918* (Budapest: Magyar Országos Levéltár and Arcanum, 2006, DVD-ROM), <http://mol.arcanum.hu/digidat/opt/a100513.htm?v=moldigidat&a=start&a1> (accessed 13 October 2011).
18. Beke, *Kimutatás*, 5–9; Trócsányi, *Kormányhatósági lt.*, 133.
  19. These contain the photocopies of the volume compiled under the reign of Sigismund Báthory in 1601–1602. The original manuscript is preserved in Vienna.
  20. Tamás Fejér, Etelka Rácz, and Anikó Szász, eds., *Az erdélyi fejedelmek Királyi Könyvei* (The *Libri regii* of the Transylvanian princes) vol. I (1569–1602), Erdélyi Történelmi Adatok no. VII/1–3, part VII/1, János Zsigmond Királyi Könyve 1569–1570 (The *Liber regius* of John Sigismund 1569–1570), VII/2. Báthory Kristóf Királyi Könyve 1580–1581 (The *Liber regius* of Christopher Báthory), VII/3. Báthory Zsigmond Királyi Könyvei 1582–1602 (The *Libri regii* of Sigismund Báthory 1582–1602) (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2003–2005)
  21. The members of the research programme entitled: Institutional Structure and Political Elite in Sălaj Region in the 14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Structuri instituționale și elite din Țara Silvaniei în secolele XIV–XVII) funded by CNC SIS (code: TE\_204) are: András Kovács, Anikó Szász, Géza Hegyi, Tamás Fejér. The website of the project: <http://www.familyhistory.ro/>
  22. Mór Petri (1863–1945) compiled his monograph on the county of Sălaj established in 1876 (*Szilágy vármegye monographiája*) (The monograph of Sălaj county) (6 vols., Zaláu: Szilágy vármegye közönsége, 1901–1904). This scholarly work dating from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries serves as a starting point of almost every later elaboration on the region, but the researcher of the 21<sup>st</sup> century cannot be satisfied with the material he used and dealt with.
  23. Antal Valentiny and András W. Kovács, eds., *A Wass család cegei levéltára* (The archive from Țaga of the Wass family), *Az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Levéltára* no. 3 (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2006).
  24. The most useful scholarly work treating the history of the family stretching to the 17<sup>th</sup> century: Farkas Deák, *A Wesselényi család őseiről* (On the ancestors of the Wesselényi family), *Értekezések a történelmi tudományok köréből* no. VII/8 (Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, 1878)
  25. Trócsányi Zsolt, *Erdély központi kormányzata 1540–1690* (The central government of Transylvania 1540–1690), *A Magyar Országos Levéltár kiadványai* III: Hatóság és hivataltörténet no. 6 (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1980) 357, 363.
  26. *MCRT*, vol. 7 (1614–1621), 258; Deák, *Wesselényi család*, 21.
  27. Trócsányi, *Központi kormányzat*, 325.
  28. Jakó Zsigmond and Radu Manolescu, *Scrierea latină în evul mediu* (The Latin writing in the Middle Ages) (Bucharest: Editura Științifică, 1971), Album, 32–33.
  29. Romanian National Archives Cluj County Branch (Direcția Județeană Cluj a Arhivelor Naționale, Cluj-Napoca; henceforth: Nat. Arch. Cluj), Wesselényi of Jibou family archive (Fond no. 250), Documente medievale (1533–1585), no. 119.

30. Nat. Arch. Cluj, Wesselényi of Hodod family archive (Fond no. 460), no. 14; Trócsányi, *Központi kormányzat* 36.
31. Nat. Arch. Cluj, Wesselényi of Hodod family archive (Fond no. 460), no. 22; Wesselényi of Jibou family archive (Fond no. 250), Acte cronologice apartinătoare membrilor familiei Wesselényi și rudelor lor (Chronological documents belonging to the members of Wesselényi family and their relatives), no. 4 (1616–1630).
32. Trócsányi, *Központi kormányzat*, 321.
33. Wesselényi István, *Sanyarú világ. Napló, 1703–1708* (Wretched World. Diary 1703–1708), eds. András Magyarai and Lajos Demény (2 vols., Bucharest: Kriterion, 1983–1985)
34. Trócsányi Zsolt, *Wesselényi Miklós* (Budapest: Akadémiai, 1965).
35. On the Transylvanian National Museum Archives see: András Kiss and Rudolf Wolf, “The Archives of the Transylvanian Museum, 1842–1950,” *Transylvanian Review* 4, no. 3 (1995): 72–94. Treated in detail by András Kiss, “Az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Levéltárának kialakulása és története” (The formation and history of the Archives of the Transylvanian National Museum), in *Az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület gyűjteményei* (The Collections of the Transylvanian Museum Society), ed. Sipos Gábor (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2009), 183–237.
36. For a short overview cf.: Teodor Pompiliu, Mihail Triteanu, and Liviu Ursuțiu, “Arhiva Istorică a Bibliotecii Filialei din Cluj a Academiei Republicii Socialiste România” (The historical archive of the Cluj Department of the Library of the Romanian Academy), *Revista Arhivelor* 10, no. 1 (1967): 125–136.
37. Kiss, “ENM Levéltára,” 234.
38. Wesselényi of Jibou family archive (Fond no. 250), 23.5 running metres; the documents from before 1600 were classified into the Collection of medieval charters (Colecția de documente medievale).
39. “But a major and noteworthy increase of our manuscript archive is due to Sir Baron Miklós Wesselényi, the *comes* of Sălaj county who made an eternal deposit to the library of the Transylvanian Museum Society, depositing all the manuscripts and the whole archive of the Wesselényi family. He also ordered a 180-forint worth cabinet to preserve the archives. The organization of the archive will take place in the summer of the current year (1897).” *Erdélyi Múzeum* 14 (1897): 346.
40. *Erdélyi Múzeum* 17 (1900): 233.
41. After the completion of the work Attila T. Szabó informed the researchers on the principles of this organization. Cf. Attila Szabó T., “A Wesselényi-levéltár és XVI. századi magyar iratai” (The Wesselényi archive and its 16<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian documents), *Levéltári Közlemények* 16 (1938): 205–208.
42. József Venczel, *Iffabb Wesselényi Miklós személyi levéltára* (The personal archive of the younger Miklós Wesselényi), *Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Levéltára*, no. 2 (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2002).
43. Zsigmond Jakó, *Jelentés az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Levéltárának 1943. évi működéséről* (Report on the activity of the Transylvanian National Museum Archives concerning the year 1943) (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 1944), 5.
44. Kiss, “ENM Levéltára,” 215–216.

45. Their catalogue: Lista documentelor feudale ale familiei Wesselényi, redactate în limba latină (The list of feudal documents in Latin of the Wesselényi family).
46. Kosáry Domokos, *Bevezetés Magyarország történetének forrásaiba és irodalmába* (Introduction to the sources and scholarly literature of the history of Hungary), Series I, vol. 1. Általános rész (General part), I–II (Budapest: Tankönyvkiadó, 1970), 764. Cf. also: National Archives of Hungary, Photographic Collection of Diplomatics (Diplomatikai Fényképgyűjtemény), U 506. This collection contains the digital images of the medieval charters of the Archive from Jibou preserved in the University Library of Cluj.
47. Nat. Arch. Cluj, Archive of the Transylvanian Museum Society (henceforth: Arch. Trans. Mus. Soc.), Historical Archive (no. 230), 14/1896.
48. *Ibid.*, 5/1898, 2/1900.
49. E.g. Viktor Récey in 1899, the already-mentioned Zoltán Ferenczi from Budapest in 1899–1901, Samu Kardos in 1903. *Ibid.*, 2/1899, 16/1899, 1/1900, 11/1901, 2/1903.
50. E.g. the University Library of Budapest for Zoltán Ferenczi in 1904 and for Jenő Barbul in 1906, the Library of the Hungarian National Museum for Károly Papp in 1906. *Ibid.*, 7/1904, 29/1906, 1/1906.
51. Kiss, “ENM Levéltára,” 234.
52. Wesselényi of Hodod family archive (Fond no. 460), 5 running metres of documents. The charters dating from before 1600 were included into the *Colectia de documente medievale* (Collection of medieval charters).
53. Gyöngy Kovács Kiss, ed., *Álló és mozgóképek. Vázlat az erdélyi főnemességről* (Still pictures and motion pictures. Sketch on the Transylvanian aristocracy) (Kolozsvar: Korunk, [2003]), 65–66.
54. He sent an interesting account to Zsigmond Jakó about the on-the-spot investigation: cf. Nat. Arch. Cluj, Arch. Trans. Mus. Soc., Historical Archive (no. 230), 24/1947.
55. Unfortunately the letters themselves have been lost. *Ibid.*, 16/1947 (A Degenfeld-féle hadadi Wesselényi lev. megmentése érdekében írt levelek) (Letters written with the aim to save the Wesselényi archive of Hodod).
56. Kiss, “ENM Levéltára,” 234.
57. *Ibid.*
58. The certificate of the handover has been lost. Cf. Nat. Arch. Cluj, Arch. Trans. Mus. Soc., Historical Archive (no. 230), 9/1949. (Bethlen György letétbe helyezi a Wesselényi család drági levéltárának maradványait) (György Bethlen deposits the remains of the archive from Dragu of the Wesselényi family.)
59. Wesselényi of Dragu family archive (Fond no. 227).
60. Zsigmond Jakó, József Sebestyén, and György Böződi, “Az erdélyi levéltárvédelem múltjából” (From the past of the Transylvanian archival protection), *Erdélyi Múzeum* 56, no. 1–2 (1994): 101–102. As a matter of fact it survived in the archival collection of the Calvinist College of Cluj together with some other, smaller archival deposits.
61. Two fascicles that according to their archival shelfmark belong to the material of the Wesselényi family occurring in the archival collection of the Calvinist College.

62. Wesselényi of Jibou family archive (Fond no. 250), no. 2. (Inventare de arhivă, 1712–1903), fol. 537–538.
63. For instance, the charter of Sigismund Rákóczi dated 23 February 1607, which appoints István Wesselényi, the *comes* of Middle Solnoc county. At the time being this charter is to be found in: Wesselényi of Hodod family archive (Fond no. 460), no. 14. The privilege charter of the Hungarian king Ferdinand II dated from January 16, 1627, granting baronial title to Zsigmond Lónyai is to be found in the very same collection under no. 94.
64. Jakó, Sebestyén and Bözödi, “Levéltárvédelem,” 101–102; Kiss, “ENM Levéltára,” 228.
65. Nat. Arch. Cluj, Arch. Trans. Mus. Soc., Historical Archive (no. 230), 55/1945.
66. The *Archivum Familiae Wesselényi* (E 199) is also in the custody of the National Archives of Hungary. The most part of its material was created during the office years and life of the above-mentioned Palatine Ferenc Wesselényi. Most of the items are linked to his years of work as a palatine and chief captain of Upper Hungary. But since our task is to explore the archives of the Transylvanian side of the family, we do not deal with this cluster of sources from the period between 1583 and 1732. For a detailed overview of the collection see: Ferenc Maksay, *A Magyar Kamara Archívuma* (The archives of the Hungarian Treasury) (Budapest: Magyar Országos Levéltár, 1992), 138–139.
67. And is to be found in the collection P 702. For a short overview see: István Bakács, ed., *Kisebb családi és személyi fondok*, III., 650–1560. Alaptörzsszámok. Repertórium (Smaller family and personal collections, vol. 3, no. 650–1560. Repertory) Levéltári leltárak, vol. 53, Magyar Országos Levéltár, P Szekció (Budapest: Magyar Országos levéltár, 1971) 67–70.
68. The archival shelfmark of the collection is Q 288. Cf. Iván Borsa, ed., *A Mohács előtti gyűjtemény* (Collection of pre-Mohács charters), Levéltári leltárak, vol. 54, Magyar Országos Levéltár (Budapest: Magyar Országos Levéltár, 1972), 35. The digital images of the charters can be studied on the website of the National Archives of Hungary: <http://mol.arcanum.hu/dldf/opt/a100517htm?v=pdf&a=start> (accessed 13 October 2011).
69. For the archive of Szilágy county see: Kosáry, *Bevezetés*, 378; Kovách Géza, “A Szilágy vármegyei levéltárak kalandos útja a II. világháború után” (The adventurous fate of the archives of the former Sălaj county after WWII.), *Levéltári Szemle* 45, no. 2 (1995): 82–88.
70. István Bakács, ed., *Kisebb testületi, egyesületi és intézményi fondok*. Repertórium (Smaller collections of corporate bodies, associations and institutions. Repertory), Levéltári leltárak, vol. 51, Magyar Országos Levéltár, P Szekció (Budapest: Magyar Országos Levéltár, 1970), 23.
71. “A báró Wesselényi család eredeti czimere. (Szines hasonmással és a szöveg közt három rajzzal)” (The original coat of arms of the Wesselényi family. With a colour facsimile and three drawings), *Turul* 17 (1899): 153–157.
72. Collection of Diplomatics, no. 105473.
73. Venczel, *Wesselényi Miklós*, 11.

74. See footnote no. 22.
75. Szabó T., “Wesselényi lt,” 209–235.
76. “Documentele medievale ale familiei Wesselényi” (Medieval documents of the Wesselényi family), *Acta Musei Porolissensis* 5 (1981): 311–346.
77. For instance Zoltán Köblös published the charter of the Polish king Stephen Báthory dating from 3 April 1582, granting baronial title to Ferenc Wesselényi (Cf. *Genealógiai Füzetek* 1 [1903]: 138). He also published the charter of the Hungarian king Ferdinand II dating from 16 January 1627 about the baronial title of Zsigmond Lónyai (Cf. *Genealógiai Füzetek* 2 (1904): 44.)

### **Abstract**

#### Editing and Publishing Historical Sources in the Research Institute of the Transylvanian Museum Society

The aim of the paper is to present the research programmes of the Research Institute of the Transylvanian Museum Society (Cluj-Napoca), dealing with the edition of the medieval and early modern sources of Transylvania: The Collection of Transylvanian Medieval Charters (*Codex Diplomaticus Transsylvaniae*), The Protocols of the Alba Iulia and Cluj-Mănăstur Places of Authentication Dating from after Secularization (1556), The *Libri regii* of the Transylvanian Princes and the Wesselényi Family Archives from before 1690. These programmes follow the fundamental principles on how to edit both the sources from before 1542 and the early modern ones, laid out by Professor Zsigmond Jakó (1916–2008), a prominent member of the national and international scholarly community of medievalists. The essence of the research he initiated is that the sources produced in Latin and other languages, used in the medieval and early modern Transylvania, should be published in the form of Hungarian abstracts (*regesta*). This abridged form of editing and publishing has proved to be most suitable and practical when dealing with hundreds of thousands of charters, on the other hand this written heritage will be accessible also to the broader circle of general audience or historians not having any knowledge of Latin and palaeography.

### **Keywords**

Transylvanian Museum Society, source editing and publishing, medieval charters, regesta, places of authentication, *Libri regii*, family archive, Wesselényi family