

production, during the first quarter of the sixteenth century. The considerable number of preserved retables help us outline several workshops working at the same time in this little town, while obviously Sibiu, the ecclesiastic, administrative, economic centre of the Saxons also served as important location for the same craftsmen around 1500/1525. These workshops have produced retables and several pieces of furniture for entire Transylvania, most probably also for the Szekler territories. Although foreign artistic influence is continuously present, with time it has been absorbed by local circumstances, been adapted to the local necessities, which led to the development of a specific local style that makes a panel painting of the period recognizable as Transylvanian.

**Keywords:** altarpiece, workshops, local style, Sighişoara, Sibiu, Transylvania.

CIPRIAN FIREA, **Evidence of Patronage in Late Medieval Transylvania. Saxon Priests as Promoters of the Arts**

**Abstract:** The study aims to analyse the “symbols of patronage” preserved in Transylvanian Saxon churches in order to answer a section of the *Cuius regio* questionnaire on the commissioning and production of artworks in the province. These signs, indicating both liturgical and artistic patronage, are inscriptions, coats of arms, “portraits”, tombstones, etc. The study concludes that especially in lesser localities in the *Universitas Saxonum*, the parish priest was the most conspicuous and active figure in artistic patronage. Even though the local community was the real patron in terms of *ius patronatus*, the most proficient users of visual symbols of patronage, who drove the energies of the communities towards such ends, seem to have been the parish priests. Several case studies (Biertan, Richiş, Moşna, Prejmer) provide evidence for this argument.

**Keywords:** Transylvanian Saxons, patronage, parish priests, late medieval art and architecture, heraldry.

MÁRIA PAKUCS-WILLCOCKS, **Transylvania and its International Trade, 1525-1575**

**Abstract:** The present study discusses Transylvania’s role in international trade in 1525-1575, with an emphasis on the long-distance trade connecting Western and Central Europe to the Ottoman realm. Using information from customs registers and account books of the three main trading towns, Braşov, Sibiu and Bistriţa, the author illustrates the volume and value of commercial traffic.

**Keywords:** long-distance trade, oriental trade, Saxon towns, staple right, cloth, textiles.

ANCA HAPCA, **Origins of a Border Conflict between the Maramureş and Bistriţa Regions**

**Abstract:** The study aims to present the genesis of the conflict between Maramureş and Bistriţa, or rather the pre-conflict which has its roots in the sixteenth century. The study can be considered a preliminary analysis of certain categories of sources pointing toward this dormant conflict. Letters exchanged by the authorities of both territories, stored in the Bistriţa City Hall collection and

the Cluj County Division of the National Archives, help reconstitute the dynamics of relations between Maramureş and Bistriţa, also providing valuable information about the appearance of the conflict in the sixteenth century. Even if in 1511 documents attested to an agreement over the borders of the two neighbouring regions, in 1551 the Maramureş authorities asked Bistriţa officials to mark the mountains and keep the old borders. All these documents capture the genesis of the dispute over setting borders between the two territories. The disagreement was exacerbated by cattle raids and unauthorized grazing. In fact, the border dispute lasted until the nineteenth century and required repeated interventions by the Transylvanian authorities. However in the sixteenth century the conflict did not escalate. In this early stage, each area tried to preserve their territorial rights.

**Keywords:** border conflict, sixteenth century, regional relations, Maramureş, Bistriţa.

**OCTAVIAN TĂTAR, The Regional Identity of Transylvania in the Mid-Sixteenth Century with Regard to Diplomatic Relations between the House of Austria and the Ottoman Porte**

**Abstract:** The analysis of the correspondence between the Viennese authorities and their envoys residing in Istanbul between 1541 and 1551, in conjunction with the documents issued by the Ottoman Porte, reveals a twofold perspective on the identity of Transylvania, and mostly in regards to its political, juridical and territorial status. Each of the two parties created and employed their own, contrasting images, which were justified by diplomatic and military reasons. In the diplomatic contacts with the Ottomans, the Viennese authorities included Transylvania in the formula: *Regni Hungariae pars, quam regina Isabella cum eius filio et frater Georgius possident*. By using this formula, Vienna highlighted two important aspects; Transylvania was part of the crown of Hungary; Transylvania and other territories pertaining to the kingdom were held by Queen Isabella, her son and George Martinuzzi. The status of Transylvania was completely omitted in the Viennese diplomatic texts; not even a hint of its incipient state form was ever mentioned. This is explaining why the Viennese diplomats went to great lengths in order to obliterate Transylvania's name from their treaty with the Ottoman Porte in 1547. The same logic guided the cautious Viennese diplomacy in its dealings with the government of Transylvania, denying any state identity to the principality. In the Austrian correspondence with the Ottomans, Isabella was referred to as "Queen Isabella," "the widow of late King John," because as female she could never claim the crown of St. Stephen. In their direct correspondence with Isabella, the Austrians did not hesitate to use the formulas "most serene lady, Queen Isabella," "the holiest lady Isabella, widow Queen of Hungary." The governor Georgius Martinuzzi was referred to as "frater Georgius." His official titles, which were given by the sultan and recognized by the Transylvanian estates, namely as governor, treasurer, or king's lieutenant were never mentioned in the Viennese letters. The future prince, John Sigismund, was even less mentioned in the Austrian diplomatic correspondence. Denying any royal title to