

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