

Medieval Genealogies of Maramureș The Case of the Gorzo (Gurzău) Family of Ieud

IOAN-AUREL POP

AS OPPOSED to other Romanian territories included first militarily and then from a political and administrative point of view into the Kingdom of Hungary between the 11th and the 14th centuries, Maramureș was fully transformed from a Romanian voivodate into a county, its original noble elite descending exclusively from the old Romanian knezes. This fundamental transformation took place in a decisive fashion only starting with the 14th century, more precisely in the second half of the century in question. At that time, after the founding of Moldova by Bogdan I, the Hungarian authorities took firm measures meant to organize Maramureș along the Hungarian model, in order to avoid disturbances such as the one caused by the Romanian rebellion east of the Carpathians.

Because of these changes, documents begin to indicate the composition—and even the names—of the landowning class in Maramureș. The direct and immediate cause of this was the obligation of those landowners to prove their rights by way of written documents, issued by the king and by the other official authorities of the realm. As until around 1400 no foreign landowner had managed to penetrate the rural Romanian world of Maramureș, all the estates, organized in the form of knezates, were held by local knezes. The threat of seeing their estates taken over by newcomers in the service of the king and of the crown led to an authentic competition which, in the 14th and the 15th century, saw the elimination of the lesser knezes and the massive ennoblement of the Romanian feudal lords, who adapted to the feudal Hungarian model (based on the Old Hungarian customs, strongly influenced by the Western model, initially of German and then of French-Neapolitan extraction). Consequently, starting with the 14th century, documents begin to describe a vigorous class of Romanian landowners, who managed to survive throughout the Middle Ages and into the Modern Era and who quite early adopted the lifestyle of the feudal nobles and developed a similar mentality. Among the elements of this mentality we find the idea of

landed estate and the awareness of military duties, but also the importance given to donation and ownership deeds, the transmission of the title from one generation to the other, the recognition of various exemptions and advantages in the form of privileges, the periodic reconfirmation of one's status, the preservation and knowledge of the family genealogy, the granting of heraldic insignia, etc. Under these circumstances, many Maramureș families can trace their ancestry back to the 14th century and even to the one before it. Such a family is the one known as Gorzo (Gurzo) or Burzo of Ieud and of Suciul de Sus.¹

If we consider their original estate, their ancestry dates back to Dragoș the Founder. Of him little is known, even when it comes to his precise identity, for it is difficult to identify him among the numerous characters bearing the same name from the first half of the 14th century. In other words, specialists still do not know the precise identity of the founder of Moldavia, as none of the Maramureș characters known as Dragoș and who lived in the first half of the 14th century seems to fit the bill. We know that this Dragoș—who had never been a voivode and who allegedly reached Moldavia before 1350 as voivode on behalf of King Louis I of Anjou—had a son and heir named Sas, who in his turn had a son and heir named Balc (brother to Drag, Dragomir² and Ioan or Ștefan). Balc's generation returned to Maramureș, after the fierce Moldavian revolt of 1359, acknowledging their eventual defeat in a hostile environment that drew strength from another rebellion, stirred by the Maramureș followers of Bogdan of Cuhea, which spread east of the mountains and continued there. We know that, after being driven out of Moldavia, on 2 February 1365 Balc (referred to as “our voivode from Maramureș”) and his aforementioned brothers received from the king the assets confiscated from the rebellious voivode Bogdan and his sons, namely, the estate of Cuhea and the villages belonging to it: Ieud, Bocicoel, Vișeu de Sus and Vișeu de Jos, Moisei, Borșa, and two known as Săliște.³ In other words, the descendants of Dragoș did not return to their ancestral lands, which may have allowed for their precise identification, but received instead the estates of the opposing faction. Later on, on 11 August 1373, the same monarch ordered the Convent of Lelez (a Catholic monastery and an official chancellery in Upper Hungary, today in Slovakia) to acknowledge Balc, Drag and Ioan, the sons of Sas, as lords of the estate of Cuhea and of the estates known as Bocicoiu Mare, Biserica Albă, Taras și Buștina, located in County Maramureș.⁴ Shortly afterwards, on 25 November 1387, we read about another member of the same family, a certain Iuan Românul/the Romanian (*Iwan Olachus*), “the son of the maternal sister of their excellencies Balc and Voivode Drag” (*filius scilicet sororis uterinae magnificorum virorum Balk et Drag voyvodae*). For his military services and in compensation for the death of his father (Dragomir) under the walls of Vidin (in Bulgaria) and of his brother (Tatomir), killed at *Belcz* (in the Ukraine),

King Sigismund of Luxemburg granted him the estates of Iza and Apșa de Jos.⁵ Still, on 1 May 1390, these two estates, as well as Rona de Sus, Bârsana, Rozavlea, Ruscova and Vișeu, were resized to the benefit of Voivode Balc and of Drag “of Maramureș,”⁶ no mention being made of their nephew, Iuan Românul. A document issued soon afterwards (on 8 May 1397) speaks of one Ladislau, the son of Ioan, the brother of Balc and Drag (the latter now called voivode and *comes* of Maramureș). This nephew, together with his two aforementioned uncles, were lords of the fortress of Chioar (in county Solnoc), and of the estates of Hust și Sighet (in County Maramureș).⁷ A document from 1397 is the first to indicate that Balc had two sons, Dumitru (*Demetrius*) and Alexandru (*Sandor*), who, together with their father and their uncle (Drag), obtained from the king a resizing of their estate at Teceu.⁸ The same individuals and other relatives of theirs are mentioned in an important writ dated 7 April 1402 and in which the palatine of Hungary demanded the Convent of Lelez to acknowledge their ownership over some estates and mountain ridges, among which we find “Frumoasa, also known as Beautiful Mountain” (*Formoza, alio nomine Zephavas*).⁹ We find here a Romanian place-name later translated by the notary (deacon) into Hungarian. The transfer of ownership over these landed estates (including the villages of Budești, Vincești, Rona de Jos, Gănești, Berbești, Ferești, Muntele Uglei and Uglea, in County Maramureș) was done, as we have already indicated, to the benefit of Dumitru and Alexandru, the sons of Balc, Sandrin and Gheorghe, the sons of Drag and Ladislau, the son of Ioan Românul (brother to Balc and Drag). The family tree outlined so far is presented in Annex 1.

The early 15th century saw the end of an important stage in the history of this family. After a possible conflict with his brother Balc, Drag died in late 1400, while his elder brother is mentioned as “deceased” only on 25 June 1402.¹⁰ Between 1365 and 1400, in northeastern Transylvania the descendants of Dragoș had established a distinct political and administrative unit, centered on the Maramureș voivodate. In other words, the Romanian country refused to Bogdan of Cuhea and his followers in 1340–1360 was in a way established by the descendants of Dragoș, driven out of Moldavia after 1365 and subjects of the King of Hungary. The family held some of the highest offices, being among the barons of the realm: voivodes of Maramureș (1365), *comes* of Sătmar (1368), *comes* of Maramureș (1373), *comes* of the Szeklers (1387), *comes* of Ugocea (1389). Apart from receiving these offices, they also became some of the richest lords in the kingdom, holding more than 10 mighty fortresses and a huge estate with 200–300 villages in the counties of Maramureș (approximately 50 villages), Ugocea, Sătmar, Sălaj and Solnoc-Dăbâca, plus the villages of their familiars (small local knezes) in Maramureș and in other neighboring counties, which owed them obedience in keeping with the bond of vassalage. For instance, the

document quoted above also indicates that in 1402 the descendants of Dragoș seized many villages and mountains in Maramureș, but they left the villages, the mountains and the pastures to be run by the old local knezes. In 1405, the estate of Chioar alone had approximately 1000 square kilometers and included 58 villages, of which 50 were Romanian.¹¹ In fact, in many villages of Maramureș taken over by the descendants of Voivode Dragoș the local Romanian knezes continued to exercise the *facto* authority, as petty vassals. This huge estate was rather unitary in nature, incorporating almost all of the regions of the Upper Someș, from the border of the Voivodate of Transylvania to the Tisza river, and the lands on the Upper Tisza, to the western boundary of County Ugocea.¹² The sons of Sas sought a status similar to that enjoyed by their powerful neighbor, the voivode of Transylvania, as indicated by the value they placed on their own title of voivode, although they were at the same time *comes* of four counties. Their double titles (voivode and *comes*) reflected the double reality of their lives: the first came with their Romanian, Romanian-Slavic and Byzantine heritage, while the other originated from the new Western world, adopted alongside the institutions of the Kingdom of Hungary.

Another indication of Balç and Drag's plans for establishing a polity here is their ecclesiastical center of Peri, for which they obtained (in 1391) privileges close to those of a bishopric, but of the Eastern rather than of the Western kind, in direct dependence to the great ecclesiastical center at Constantinople. The authority of this monastic nucleus fulfilling the role of a bishopric (*stavropighia*) stretched even beyond the estate in question, reaching the neighboring areas of northern Transylvania and Crișana inhabited by Orthodox Romanians.

The descendants of Dragoș gained this privileged status and joined the magnates of the realm mainly because of the considerable military services they provided, as they and their banners had fought in the campaigns of Vidin (1365–1368), Halich (1375, 1382), Serbia, against the Turks (1392), in Moldavia (1395), etc.

Their power began to be limited only in the last decade of the 14th century, as the crown sought to consolidate the central authority and other nobles felt threatened by the tremendous power accumulated by this family. The final blow was dealt around the year 1400, when Balç (seemingly after his brother's death, occurred precisely in 1400) is mentioned as the leader of an action taken against King Sigismund and mounted using the Maramureș power base of the family. It could be that in 1401 he joined the anti-royal faction led by Chancellor John Kanizsai, while during the same year or in the spring of 1402 he and his men fought on the side of the pretender Ladislaus of Durazzo, Sigismund's rival. The events of that year and the support given by the Dragoș family to the magnates opposed to King Sigismund of Luxemburg meant the end of the political and

administrative system they had set up in Maramureș and in the neighboring areas. The descendants of Drag, who took up residence in county Satu Mare and were probably not involved in the aforementioned conflicts, continued to enjoy royal protection and, after their conversion to Catholicism around the middle of the 15th century, once again rose to prominence (becoming the Drágffy family). Although in 1404 an amnesty was granted to the former enemies of the king, in Maramureș the descendants of Dragoș lost their power and authority. Later documents indicate that many families of local Maramureș knezes were given confirmation for their villages, which had once been assimilated into the estate of the Dragoș family.

The aforementioned sons of Balc, Dumitru and Alexandru, also reverted to the old situation of local Maramureș landlords or knezes. Thus, Dumitru, “the son of the late master Balc, voivode of Maramureș,” is mentioned on 20 February 1405 in connection to a complaint filed against him by some nobles from Domnești. It seems that ten years earlier, members of the Dragoș family had diverted the flow of the Talabor river, causing great damage to the plaintiffs.¹³ This is the last known reference to Dumitru, son of Balc, and it concerns an area located north of the Tisza, on the Talabor Valley, very far from the estate of Cuhea given to the family in 1365.

A document from 3 December 1419, issued by King Sigismund of Luxemburg, shows that the crown granted the Romanian knezate of Ieud to Valentin, “our most beloved Romanian,” the son of Teodor of Ieud, and through him to his sons Ioan, Luca, Sandrin și Danciu, to Sandrin and Ioan, his maternal brothers, and to other relatives.¹⁴ The diploma in question indicates that the donation concerned “the true boundaries, confines and borders the estate had while being rightfully held by Valentin and his ancestors.” This clearly shows that we are dealing not so much with a donation, but with a recognition of Valentin’s ancestral rights over Ieud. Furthermore, the diploma says that he had held this land “rightfully,” an ambiguous term that may indicate lawful ownership. However, no older deeds concerning Ieud and issued to the Romanian Valentin, son of Teodor, or to this Teodor himself are known to have survived until today. As we have seen, in 1365 Ieud had been granted by the king to the sons of Sas and grandchildren of Dragoș, who returned from Moldavia, together with the entire estate (valley knezate) of Cuhea.¹⁵ In 1373 and 1384, Balc and Drag and their relatives received reconfirmations of their rights over this vast estate which also included Ieud. Hence the possible conclusion that Valentin and his father Teodor were also members of the Dragoș family, as the only deeds to the estate of Ieud issued prior to 1419 are those granted to the sons of Sas. In this case, the only possible link is Dumitru, the son of Balc, last mentioned in 1405, who may have had a son named Teodor, Valentin’s father. There are, however,

serious counterarguments to this hypothesis. First of all, such a descent is not mentioned *expressis verbis* in any document. In other words, there is no testimony saying that Teodor was the son or even a blood relative of Dumitru. Secondly, the fact that the ancestors of Valentin, son of Teodor, had held the knezate in question *rite* could mean that they had held it “according to custom” or, in other words, according to the old unwritten rule. Thirdly, the last reference to Dumitru, the son of Balc (in 1405) placed him in the area of the Talabor Valley, very far from Cuhea and Ieud.¹⁶ In fact, as we have seen, Ieud was not among the villages granted in 1402 by the palatine to brothers Dumitru and Alexandru, the sons of Balc. Finally, after 1402 (the death of Balc) and after the defeat of the rebellion directed against the king, as we have seen, the descendants of Balc fell into disgrace and lost their possessions which gradually returned, also from a legal point of view, into the hand of the old masters, the local Romanian knezes. Consequently, alongside Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa, Alexandru Filipașcu or Radu Popa, we can assume that in 1419 we witness the restoration of the old village knezes of Ieud, who had run the village under the authority of the Dragoș and probably also of the Bogdan family.

In conclusion, the blood tie between Valentin, son Teodor, and the descendants of Dragoș, voivode of Moldavia can be assumed, but is not proven. This does not mean that the local family of Ieud knezes is less old than that of the founders of Moldavia. The local (village) knezes of Ieud, the ancestors of Valentin and of his father, Teodor, most certainly ruled the village throughout the entire 14th century, first under the Bodgan family and then under the descendants of Dragoș. Their names, however, became known only at the beginning of the 15th century, after the dissolution of the huge estate previously held by the descendants of Dragoș, voivode of Moldavia. The characters of 1419 and a few other (relatives of theirs) are once again mentioned on 3 February 1427, when, according to custom, King Sigismund of Luxemburg ordered the Convent of Lelez to issue the official acknowledgement of their rights over Ieud.¹⁷ The holders of the estate were Valentin, son of Teodor of Ieud, together with Ioan, Sandrin, Luca and Danciu, the sons of Valentin, Ștefan and Mihail, the sons of Iuan (Valentin’s brother), Teodor, the son of Dragomir, his brother Balasyr, Zemere, the son of Drăguș, Dan, the son of another Dragomir, Ivașcu, the son of Șandor (Alexandru), and his brother Gorzo. From Bratislava, on 20 March 1435, King Sigismund (presently crowned emperor) ordered the Convent of Lelez to resize the estate of Ieud (and erect boundary markers) for its owners, namely, Balea (*Bale*) of Ieud, and his sons Ioan, Sandrin (Alexandru) and Danciu.¹⁸ This document, just like the previous one, indicates that the old knezate structures had disappeared or were no longer mentioned, as we only find references to “estate” and not once to “knezate.” Besides, the measurement of the boundaries, set

in 1435 only in the direction of Cuhea and Dragomirești, indicates an area of approximately 130 square kilometers, reaching the mountain peaks of Țibleș, Hudin and Măgura. In 1451, nine sheepfold areas were delineated for the same “estate of Ieud,” in the mountains between Bătrâna and Știol, near the sources of the Iza and of the Vișeu, between 20 and 40 kilometers away from the village.¹⁹ From a genealogical point of view, however, the boundary measurement of 1435 indicates clearly that this “Balea” (*Bale*) is none other than the Valentin of 1419 and 1427 (his sons’ names also match!) and that this shortened version (the scribe’s way of rendering the Romanian pronunciation) lies at the origin of the name of the Baleas of Ieud. On 15 January 1451, John Hunyadi, governor of Hungary, ordered the Convent of Lelez to reset the boundaries of the Ieud estate, at the request of its owners, among whom we find Alexandru (Sandrin), Ioan (Onișa or Onița) Balea, Ioan (Ivașcu), Gorzo, George Petru Man, Mihail and deacon Iuga.²⁰ On 12 May 1456, King Ladislaus I chose Gorzo and Ivașcu of Ieud as possible royal witnesses (alongside several others) to the granting of the Borșa estate to the sons of Hotico of Vișeu. The answer of the Convent of Lelez, drawn up on 4 June 1456, indicates that Ivașcu of Ieud was indeed a witness to the aforementioned transfer of property.²¹ Two years later, on 22 June 1458, King Matthias Corvinus once again mentioned one Gorzo of Ieud as possible royal witness in the investigation of a complaint made by George Petru Man of Șieu.²² Similarly, on 30 May 1458, the same sovereign appointed Ivașcu and Gorzo of Ieud as possible witnesses to the granting of the Cuhea knezate to Simion of Cuhea and to his relatives (eventually, they did not witness the procedure, being replaced by one Ioan of Apșa).²³ On 3 March 1459, the same King Matthias Corvinus ordered the Convent of Lelez to acknowledge the ownership rights of his faithful followers Grigore Gorzo and Ioan of Ieud over seven serf fees and two manors which they held on the estate of Ieud by right of inheritance.²⁴ More edifying for kinship relations is the document issued by the Convent of Lelez on 18 June 1459, in which Ivașcu (Ioan), the son of Sandrin (Alexandru) of Ieud, and his relatives (his brother Grigore Gorzo, his son Alexandrin, Ivașcu and Toma, the sons of Grigore Gorzo) ended their dispute and came to an agreement (after many arguments and trials) with Sandrin Balea of Ieud and his relatives (his brother Ioan Balea, his sons Ioan Balea, Chindriș and Lazăr, and his nephew Simion, the son of Ioan Balea), following the mediation of some “honest and noble men” (arbiters), and the former ceded to the latter three *jugera* of arable land.²⁵ A fragmentary document from 1461 features a testimony of Sighet jurors on a settlement between several nobles—among whom Gorzo and Ivașcu <of Ieud>—and an inhabitant of Sighet.²⁶ Ivașcu of Ieud is also mentioned on 24 February 1468 as a witness for the landlords of the estate of Moisei, testifying that the estate in question had belonged to Ambrozie of

Dolha and to his ancestors and had been seized by some noblemen from Vișeu de Sus and Vișeu de Jos and Săliște.²⁷ On 11 March 1468, in connection to the same estate of Moisei, among the witnesses mentioned we also find the same Ivașcu of Ieud, together with Toma, Simion, and two Ioans, all from Ieud.²⁸ On 29 January 1471, the gathering of the nobles from County Maramureș acknowledged an agreement between the nobles of Cuhea and those of Dragomirești, and among the mediators we find Ivașcu, *Drwthā* and Simion of Ieud.²⁹ Sandrin Balea of Ieud is mentioned in 1474 as a magistrate of County Maramureș, involved in solving a dispute between two groups of noblemen from Oncești.³⁰ In 1493 we find references to one Mihail of Ieud, one Petru Balea and one Dăncuș Dumitru of Ieud, but it is impossible to determine their kinship to the aforementioned characters. The family tree, which continued until the late 15th century, can be seen in Annex 2.

It is more difficult to determine with precision what happened to the Romanian noble families of Ieud in the 16th century, as few of the existing sources on them have been published. The most relevant documents in this respect are those in the archive of the Chapter of Lelez (today Iasov, in Slovakia), the most important chancellery for the inhabitants of Maramureș and the institution that dealt with nearly all matters pertaining to landed estates. Thus, for the year 1504 we find a “summons” sent to several nobles, among whom Simion (Cionca) of Ieud.³¹ The same Simion Cionca, together with Ilie of Ieud, are mentioned as “masterful Romanians” (*agiles Valachi*) in 1506. Certain deeds made to Sigismund Pogan (from a Hungarian family, not native of Maramureș) in 1503 and 1504, for the estates of Biserica Albă, Ieud, Cuhea, Săliște, Moisei, Săcel, Dragomirești, Bicicioiu de Sus and Neagova, also make reference to the opposition of local nobles Teodor Deac and Dominic of Ieud. In 1511, the latter, his sons Ioan and Grigore Gorzo of Ieud, and one Lazăr Balea received from King Ladislaus II a confirmation of the old documents of 1427 and 1435.³² Dominic is also mentioned in 1516, alongside a certain Ioan of Ieud, possibly his son (they are described as nobles who had taken an oath). In 1506, one Simion Gorzo and other nobles (of Apșa) protested when Sigismund Pogan was granted the estates called Apșa and Crăciunești.³³ In 1517, this Sigismund Pogan, who appears to have been challenged in his rights over the aforementioned Maramureș estates, was forced to return the “whole villages” of Cuhea, Dragomirești, Bocicioiu Mic and Ieud to nobles Dominic, Lazăr Balea and Ioan of Ieud, in exchange for 100 oxen, 50 mares and 200 sheep.³⁴ A deed from 1519 issued by King Louis II mentions a dispute between Luca of Ieud and Ioan of Ieud, two brothers who shared the same estate of Ieud (Luca of Ieud wanted rights over the share held by Ioan of Ieud). It seems that one year later Luca of Ieud obtained a deed to

his share of that estate. In 1524, among the landlords of the estate of Rozavlea, near Ieud, we find Teodor, Ștefan and Valentin, referred to as *Baia* (meaning, of course, Balea), alongside Ilie of Ieud. Similarly, without too many details, we find references to Mihai of Ieud or Ieudeanu (*Ioodi*, lord at Apșa de Jos, in 1520, 1524, and 1525), Iura of Ieud (in 1525), Ioan Faccygo (or Foczaga, Fothego, with several versions), etc. A writ from 1539 clarifies some of the family relations, as, in a matter judged by the county authorities (the deputy *comes* and the four nobiliary magistrates), we find references to a certain Gheorghe Cionca, the son of Simion, who had a dispute with Ioan Faccygo, the son of Lazăr, and with Ioan Domocoș and his brother, the sons of Dominic of Ieud.

A certain Ioan of Ieud is mentioned as nobiliary magistrate and royal witness (in 1549). He is not Ioan Foczaga, because in 1549 both are mentioned together with Ladislau *Bolya* (certainly a corrupted form of Balea) and Teodor Căndreș (*Theodorus Kenderes*) of Ieud, as landlords of Săliște, Săcel and Moisei. Four decades earlier, in 1505, the lords of the same estates had been Dominic of Ieud, Lazăr Balea and Gheorghe of Ieud. The same Ioan of Ieud from 1549 is mentioned as a nobiliary magistrate on 28 June 1558 (reference is also made to Fătul, the son of Ioan Balea, Petru, the son of Ioan Ilieș, and Alexa, the son of Toma Sas of Ieud). In 1560, among the nobiliary magistrates we find Gheorghe and Ladislau Balea of Ieud, and in 1585 one Toma of Ieud. A document issued by the county authorities in 1565 confirmed the will in which Gheorghe or Giurgiu (*Dsurds*) Gorzo left his possessions to Maxim *Damen* (Damian), the grandson of Toma Gorzo.³⁵ The family tree resulting from all this information, for the 16th century, is presented in Annex 3.

Ioan Gorzo, also known as Dominic or Domocoș, after his father's name (Dominic, alias Damian), must be the, through Dumitru, an ancestor of Andrei Gorzo, mentioned starting with 1577 in the village of Suciul de Sus.³⁶ In 1553, a certain Andreica, member of the homonymous family from Vișeu, was *rayvoda* in Siciul de Sus, a village belonging to the citadel of Ciceu.³⁷ In 1575–1866 some descendants of noble families from historical Maramureș (from Ieud, Vișeu de Sus and Vișeu de Jos, Budești and Apșa de Jos) crossed the mountains towards the southwest, at Suciul de Sus. The first nobleman known to have made this move was the aforementioned Andrei Gorzo or Gurzo, a descendant of Alexandru or Sandrin (Balea) of Ieud, the son of Teodor (the latter mentioned in 1419). Andrei Gurzo of Ieud (who lived approximately between 1550 and 1630) worked in the service of Transylvanian voivode and prince Stephen Báthory (voivode between 1571 and 1575, prince between 1575 and 1583), who later also became king of Poland (1576–1586). Documents speak of his participation in anti-Ottoman campaigns and in battles against “Muscovy” (Russia),

and of his presence at the coronation of his liege lord as king of Poland. Sometime in 1573–1575, Andrei Gurzo received from Stephen Báthory an estate at Suciul de Sus, relatively close to Ieud, but outside the borders of historical Maramureș, in the neighboring county of Solnoc (Solnocul Interior).³⁸ This gift and the relocation of the Ieud nobleman came at a time of uncertainty in southeastern Maramureș, when claims were being advanced by foreign nobles, such as the aforementioned Sigismund Pogan of Cseb (whose family had also taken control of Ieud). The gift of land made by Stephen Báthory was evoked in 1592, when Sigismund Báthory, the then prince of Transylvania, issued a privilege recognizing (renewing) the nobility status of Andrei Gurzo of Suciul de Sus and of all his male or female descendants, as well as their coat-of-arms and fiscal immunity, as a reward for the loyal service bought to the prince and his family.³⁹ Later on, in 1618, Prince Gabriel Bethlen gave the same Andrei Gurzo of Suciul de Sus another estate with fiscal immunity, just like the previous one.⁴⁰ Andrei had five sons (Gabriel or Gavril, Macedon, Toma or Tămaș, Aron and Birtalan or Precup), mentioned around the middle of the 17th century (1654), who all had descendants of their own and carried on the family name.

Consequently, this character—Andrei Gurzo—is the founder of the Gurzo (Burzo) family of Suciul de Sus, whose descendants can still be identified today. In Romanian, the name Gorzo must have been Gurzău, deriving, according to Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa, from George⁴¹ (through variants such as Georgi, Giurgi, Giorz). Burzo seems to be just a corrupted form of Gurzo, as in the late medieval and humanist script the capital G looked to the untrained eye very much like a B. In fact, Andrei of Suciul de Sus came to be later called Gurzo or Burzo. Until today, the family has had a most remarkable evolution, sometimes entwined with the history of Transylvania, of the Transylvanian Romanians, and of Romania itself.

□

Notes

1. The name *Gorzo* is an old one, being mentioned since 1374. See Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa, *Diplome maramureșene din secolele XIV și XV*, Sighet, 1900, nr. 39, p. 71 and Radu Popa, *Țara Maramureșului în veacul al XIV-lea*, 2nd edition, Bucharest, 1997, p. 93.
2. It may be that this Dragomir was not the brother, but the brother-in-law of brothers Balc, Drag, Ștefan and Ioan, as we shall see later.
3. I. Mihalyi de Apșa, *Diplome maramureșene*, doc. no. 29, p. 56-58 (and the three subsequent editions); *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, D. *Relații între Țările Române*, vol. I, Bucharest, 1977, p. 80-83; *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, C. *Transilvania*, vol. XII, Bucharest, 1985, p. 398-401 etc.

4. I. Mihalyi, *Diplome maramureșene*, doc. no. 36, p. 65–67; *DRH*, C, vol. XIV, p. 394–395.
5. I. Mihalyi, *Diplome maramureșene*, fourth edition, Cluj-Napoca, 2009, no. 52, p. 114–115.
6. *Ibid.*, no. 57, p. 130–131.
7. *Ibid.*, no. 65, p. 151–152.
8. *Ibid.*, no. 67, p. 155–157.
9. *Ibid.*, no. 71, p. 164–166.
10. R. Popa, *Țara Maramureșului*, p. 237. On 25 June 1402, Dumitru and Alexandru, the sons of Balc, complained that their late father had been deprived by his brothers, Drag and Ioan Românul, of his rights over the fortress of Nyaláb and the burgh of Terebes, with the related estates, situated in county Ugocea. *Ibid.*, p. 237, note 100.
11. I. Kádár, *Szolnok–Doboka vármegye monográfiája*, vol. VII, Dej, 1905, p. 328; R. Popa, *Țara Maramureșului*, p. 232.
12. R. Popa, *Țara Maramureșului*, p. 233.
13. *Ibid.*, no. 75, p. 173–174.
14. *Ibid.*, no. 140 (141), p. 338–339.
15. In this respect it is worth mentioning that two documents from 1444 which mention the village of Bocicoel (also mentioned in the 1365 donation to the Dragoș family) locate it in the district of Cuhea (*in districtu Kobnya*), indicating the recognition of the onetime knezate of the Bogdan family. *Ibid.*, no. 189, p. 456–457 and no. 191 (190), p. 460–462.
16. In fact, the descendants of Dumitru's brother Alexandru are mentioned in 1434, in the area of Ardud, in county Satu Mare. More specifically, Balc's daughter-in-law, the noble lady Iustina, Alexandru's widow, and their son Ioan and grandson Mihail. *Ibid.*, no. 169, p. 403–404.
17. *Ibid.*, no. 157, p. 377–379.
18. *Ibid.*, no. 171 (170), p. 408–411.
19. R. Popa, *Țara Maramureșului*, p. 85. I. Mihalyi, *Diplome maramureșene*, no. 211 (209), p. 504–507.
20. I. Mihalyi, *Diplome maramureșene*, no. 211 (209), p. 504–507.
21. *Ibid.*, no. 228 (226), p. 543–545.
22. *Ibid.*, no. 241 (244), p. 577–579.
23. *Ibid.*, no. 244 (243), p. 586–588.
24. *Ibid.*, no. 246, p. 592–593.
25. *Ibid.*, no. 249, p. 601–602.
26. *Ibid.*, no. 256 (253), p. 618.
27. *Ibid.*, no. 282, p. 680–683.
28. *Ibid.*, no. 283, p. 684–688. A diploma issued on 25 March 1471 suggests that one quarter of the Ieud estate was held by Vlașin (*Blasius*), Ioan and Alexie of Ieud, who had received it without any opposition. *Ibid.*, no. 294 (295), p. 715–717.
29. *Ibid.*, no. 295 (293), p. 718–720. *Drwth* or *Drotha* is rendered by Mihalyi as Doroftei (p. 720, note 4).
30. *Ibid.*, no. 303, p. 734–736.

31. All documents quoted henceforth, issued after 1500, were included in the volume of Maramureș diplomas from the 16th–18th centuries which remained in manuscript form in the collection of Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa and which we are preparing for publication.
32. I. Mihalyi, *Diplome maramureșene*, p. 379.
33. Al. Filipașcu, *Enciclopedia familiilor nobile maramureșene de origine română*, ed. Ion and Livia Piso, Cluj-Napoca, 2006, p. 112.
34. The dispute did not end here, as in 1548 the widow of Sigismund Pogan was given Ieud by King Ferdinand of Habsburg.
35. Al. Filipașcu, *Enciclopedia familiilor nobile maramureșene*, p. 112.
36. National Archives, Cluj County Division, coll. no. 45: Maramureș County Prefecture, *Noble Families Series*, inventory no. 697, file no. 256/1753–1856 Gorzo Family (Ieud).
37. See J. Kádár, *Szolnok-Doboka vármegye monographija*, Dej, 1901, p. 495 and Al. Filipașcu, *Enciclopedia familiilor nobile maramureșene*, p. 4.
38. Until 1541, county Maramureș and Transylvania belonged to different political and administrative unit, as Transylvania was a distinct voivodate while Maramureș was just another county belonging to the Kingdom of Hungary. After the dissolution of Hungary (1541), Transylvania proper, Banat, and the western counties known as Partium (Maramureș among them) formed a nearly autonomous state (under Ottoman feudal suzerainty)—the Principality of Transylvania—whose borders did, however, change in the course of time. For example, for certain periods of time between 1541 and 1688, Maramureș was part of Habsburg Hungary.
39. National Archives, Cluj County Division, Teleki de Cornești Family collection, file 249, p. 303–308.
40. *Ibid.*, p. 315–330.
41. I. Mihalyi, *Diplome maramureșene*, p. 602, note 1.

Abstract

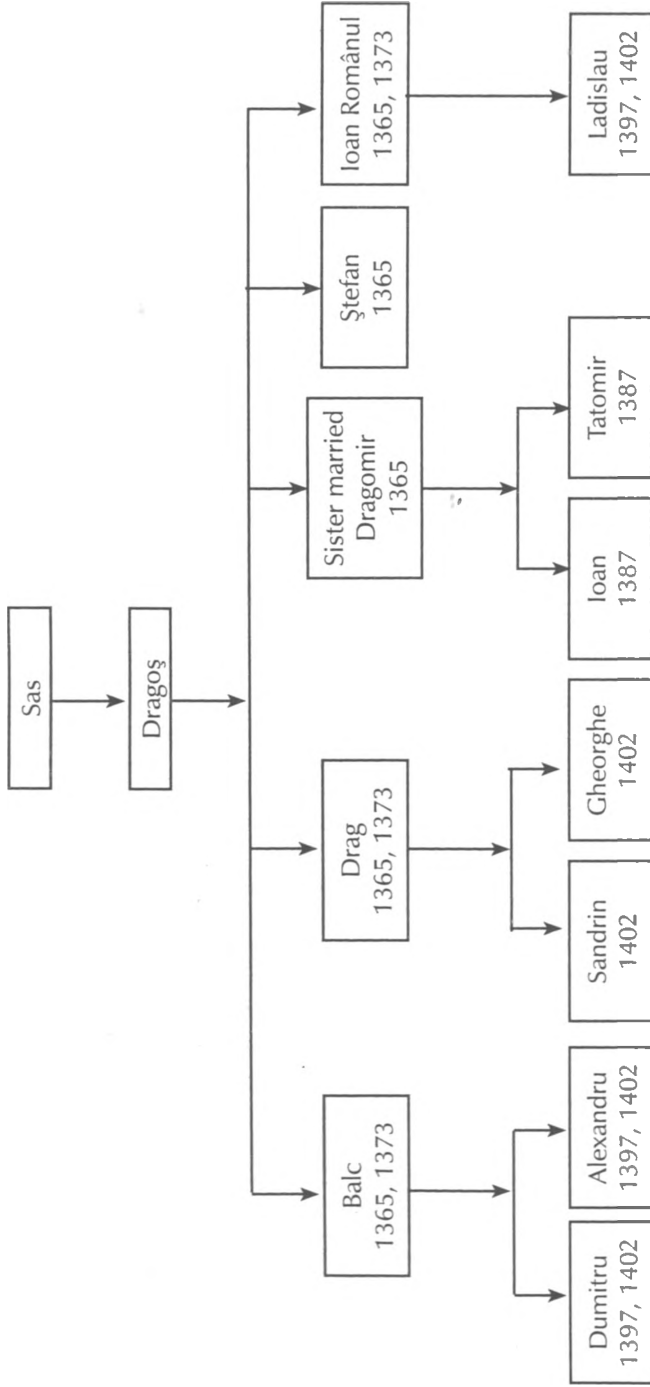
Medieval Genealogies of Maramureș The Case of the Gorzo (Gurzău) Family of Ieud

As opposed to other Romanian territories included first militarily and then from a political and administrative point of view into the Kingdom of Hungary between the 11th and the 14th centuries, Maramureș was fully transformed from a Romanian voivodate into a county, its original noble elite descending exclusively from the old Romanian knezes. This fundamental transformation took place in a decisive fashion only starting with the 14th century, more precisely in the second half of the century in question. At that time, after the founding of Moldova by Bogdan I, the Hungarian authorities took firm measures meant to organize Maramureș along the Hungarian model, in order to avoid disturbances such as the one cause by the Romanian rebellion east of the Carpathians. Under these circumstances, many Maramureș families can trace their ancestry back to the 14th century and even to the one before it. Such a family is the one known as Gorzo (Gurzo) or Burzo of Ieud and of Suciul de Sus.

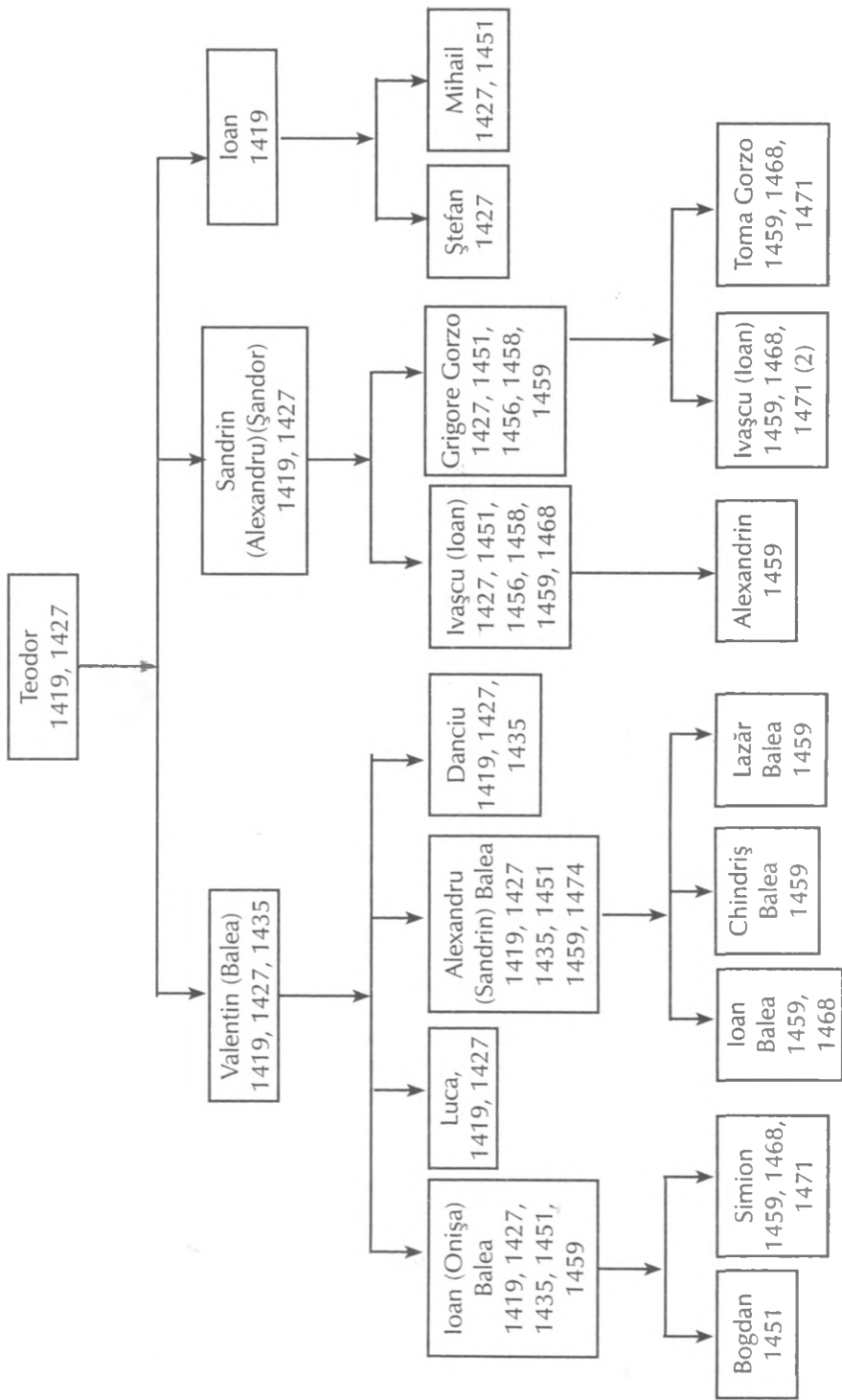
Keywords

Transylvania, Middle Ages, Romanians from Maramureș, genealogy, Gorzo family

Annex 1



Annex 2



Annex 3

