

Aspects of Urban Life in Eighteenth-Century Transylvania: Administrative History and Natural Phenomena in Martin Bredt's Town Chronicle of Reghinul Săsesc

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CHRONICLES CAN be viewed as an important element in the construction of urban identity.¹ The term “urban chronicle” is quite controversial. What researchers call “town chronicle” today can have diverse features, in form and content. The form of works known as “Chronicles” can range from the chronological enumeration of notable events to small narrations in prose, also chronologically constructed.² Regardless of whether they are called “journals,” “chronicles” or “annals,” these works have the urban space as a common denominator, since their purpose is that of describing and recounting the history of the respective urban settlement.

Another aspect worth mentioning is that these town chronicles reflect the collective cultural memory of the respective society. In several fundamental works on cultural memory, Aleida and Jan Assmann³ analyzed the “external dimensions” of memory, that is, the external social conditioning on individual memory. Assmann distinguished four categories of memory, the last one being “cultural memory” perceived as “conveyance of the thought.”⁴ “These categories then become an integral part of cultural memory if they convey a thought. Cultural memory is perceived as a ‘connective structure’ within social groups where the individuals belonging to a certain group are aware of their common past.”⁵ According to Assmann’s claims, cultural memory has a formative character for the respective society. Therefore, any individual memory is socially and culturally permeated.

This study is an analysis of the chronicle by Martin Bredt from the Transylvanian town of Reghinul Săsesc (Saxon Reghin), presently in Romania.

Based on the abovementioned theses, one could argue that town chronicles contain products of cultural memory. The author of the chronicle records the memories of the town or his social group, concomitantly acting as the representative of a social-cultural milieu. The recording of memory involved having certain cultural aptitudes such as solid writing skills, historical knowledge, and access to town documents as well as possessing the financial means necessary for the procurement of the materials required for the task at hand.

This excerpt from Bredt’s chronicle was among the manuscripts that Prof. Wilhelm Hellwig⁶ bequeathed to the library and archive in Gundelsheim. The fact that Prof. Hellwig had only a fragment at his disposal means that this town chronicle was very likely more ample.

From the Chronicle of Martin Brecht, senator in Reghinul Săsesc⁷

ON THE poplar behind, there is an inscription that reads: “Est Martini Brecht Anno 1764”. Currently, the little book is in the possession of the shoemaker Georg Hermann,⁸ (called Greg/Girku) (from [1]774-[1]776). On the officers and soldiers stationed⁹ here (even travelers in transit). Franz. Officers’ addresses and so forth.

19 May 1781, 11 boundary stones were placed between Magyarrégen (Hungarian Reghin) and Reghinul Săsesc in the area known as “Kleiner Ham”¹⁰ in the presence of the following persons

Mr. Consul Michael Lösch

Mr. Proconsul Johann Czobell

Martin Brecht Jr. and Sr.

Georg Elsen orator

Johan Schuller senior

Zacharias Thellmann Sr.

Daniel Wermescher-Szöts

Georg Wellmann

Michael Burger.

Annotation: Where a dispute remained because of a boundary stone.

12 June 1781,¹¹ the dome was placed on the tower of the [Roman] Catholic church with great solemnity, etc.

[1]776 – I was sworn in as deputy senator.

28 January 1782: I became a full senator.

9 February 1708: my father, Martin Brecht, was born.

3 October 1744: I, Martin Brecht, was born.

29 February (March?¹²) 1785: every vineyard here and all across the country froze; as a result, no wine could be made and grapes could not be picked. The corn also froze as well as all the vegetables, thus becoming more expensive. A quarter costs 1.8 Florins, while that of corn 1 Florin.

From the continuation of the chronicle¹³:

The year 1840 was great for wine making; hail struck on the “Kukurutzweg” down toward the lower boundary and on the Beng.¹⁴ Those living on the Magazingasse¹⁵ received an ordinance stipulating that the cattle fair would be held on their honorable street.

This year, the Police was organized: Mr. Georg Urban acted as director, Andreas Szatmári as deputy, and Mr. Samuel Melze¹⁶ (instead of Meltzl) as intern.

This short chronicle provides information pertaining to the political, administrative, cultural, and meteorological local history for the period 1764-1840. It also contains certain toponyms that are also relevant to the agricultural and forestry history of the township (see the map in the Annex). In terms of importance and the time period covered, it is second only to the chronicle of the Elsen family.¹⁷

The context in which the chronicle was written: the administrative-juridical situation of Reghinul Săsesc in the Habsburg era

ORDINANCE NO. 1296 of 12 March 1762, issued by the Gubernium, stipulated that, from a jurisdictional point of view, Reghin would remain independent from Turda County, and its inhabitants should pay special attention to the following aspects: 1) imperial and Gubernial ordinances had to be followed to the letter; 2) guilds will operate according to their

privileges and they had to practice their trade free of any fraud; 3) watchmen should not go beyond their duty with regard to the fines collected for illegal cattle grazing. Following this ordinance, every legal matter had to be first settled by the Magistrate's Office in Reghin. Appeals were taken to Bistrița, and from there to the *Universitas Saxorum* which also served as the ultimate appellate court.¹⁸

The consequence was that once the political administration came from the imperial Gubernium, its ordinances reached the Magistrate's Office via the office of the Lord Lieutenant of Turda County while, from a judicial point of view, Reghinul Săsesc was still completely outside the County's jurisdiction, as it had been in the period of King Matthias Corvinus.

However, the proper subordination of Reghinul Săsesc to the County was a constant source of disputes and conflicts.

This argument led to the outbreak of a conflict that made the Gubernium set up a special committee to investigate the matter in Reghin and establish the validity of the town's claims before the County.

The results of the investigation were included in the Gubernial Decree no. 382 of 22 March 1762. It concluded that County authorities had no jurisdiction over Reghinul Săsesc regarding private law because, according to the old privileges, the town had its own magistrates that applied the law. It was decided that in future, the Magistrate's Office in Reghinul Săsesc would continue to serve as a tribunal and that appeals were to be filed first in Bistrița and then at the *Universitas Saxorum*.¹⁹

Thus, until 1796, Reghin was directly subordinated to the Gubernium; from this date until 1848, it was subordinated only concerning appeals. The Gubernium first sent all the documents pertaining to Reghin to the Lord Lieutenant in Turda, who sent them further to the Magistrate's Office in Reghinul Săsesc.

According to the 1784 administrative reform of Emperor Joseph II, municipal autonomy was dissolved and eleven new counties were created in Transylvania. From an administrative point of view, Reghinul Săsesc belonged to Turda County whose seat was in the town of Turda. However, after 1788, there was a protest movement that managed to dissolve this system in 1790 when the decrees issued by Joseph II were abrogated.²⁰

In 1790, the Lord Lieutenant in Turda sent a small army to Reghinul Săsesc to formalize the incorporation of the locality into the county, but it was received with hostility by the local population.²¹

In 1793, the County's *Fiscalprocurator* challenged Reghinul Săsesc's *jus gladii* (the right of the sword). The challenge was followed by a series of protests submitted to the *Tabula Regia* in Târgu-Mureș and the Gubernium, which were all rejected. Ultimately, the matter was taken to Emperor Francis I who ruled in the County's favor on 10 September 1801. The ruling was published on 19 February 1802.²²

The ruling bodies of the town of Reghinul Săsesc in Martin Bredt's period

MARTIN BREDT'S chronicle also provides us with certain information on his status as senator of the market-town of Reghin, which will be explained below. The town was ruled by the Magistrate's Office and the so-called authorized Community [Autorisierte Kommunität].

The Magistrate's Office was the executive body with authority in matters pertaining to the Community, having manifold attributions. Its personnel consisted of: 1) The mayor²³ elected

for a two-year term. Upon its completion, in case he did not run for a new term, he took up a position as councilman within the Magistrate, and received the title of Proconsul; 2) Six or seven senators having the function of councilmen; on occasion, a few extra senators called “supernumerary” were elected, apart from the seven aforementioned ones; 3) a chief notary [erste Notär], 4) a deputy notary [Vizenotär] and 5) the archivist. To them, one can add several young interns.

The members of the authorized Community were elected from among those of the Magistrate’s Office.

In case the office of Mayor became vacant, the next Mayor was elected from among three or four senators whose nomination was approved by the Magistrate’s Office. In case a senator position became vacant, the same number of candidates were nominated from among the so-called “supernumerary” senators. Notaries and the archivists were elected from among the young interns.

The validation of the Mayor was conducted only after the Community’s election minutes were sent by the Magistrate’s Office to the Governor of Transylvania, and the confirmation came via the Imperial Court.²⁴

The Community. The creation of this *viginti viratus* was ordered by the Imperial Government in Vienna in 1755. This institution replaced the old *universitas oppidii*.

In case a seat became vacant due to the death of a functionary, the election was conducted according to the established rule: the Magistrate’s Office nominated three citizens, but sometimes their number could reach four or five; then, the Community elected its preferred candidate by secret ballot; the actuary of the Community read out the election minutes in front of the members of the Magistrate’s Office and finally, the elected candidate was immediately invited and validated in the presence of both ruling bodies.

The 1791 Law of the Diet stipulated that whenever a public office had to be filled, the three *natio* and the four accepted Christian denominations had to be equally considered. As for Reghinul Săsesc, until 1848, the Roman Catholic denomination had representatives in the Magistrate’s Office, while the Reformed Protestant and Greek-Catholic ones were also represented in the Community, albeit to a lesser extent. The official language of both ruling bodies was German.

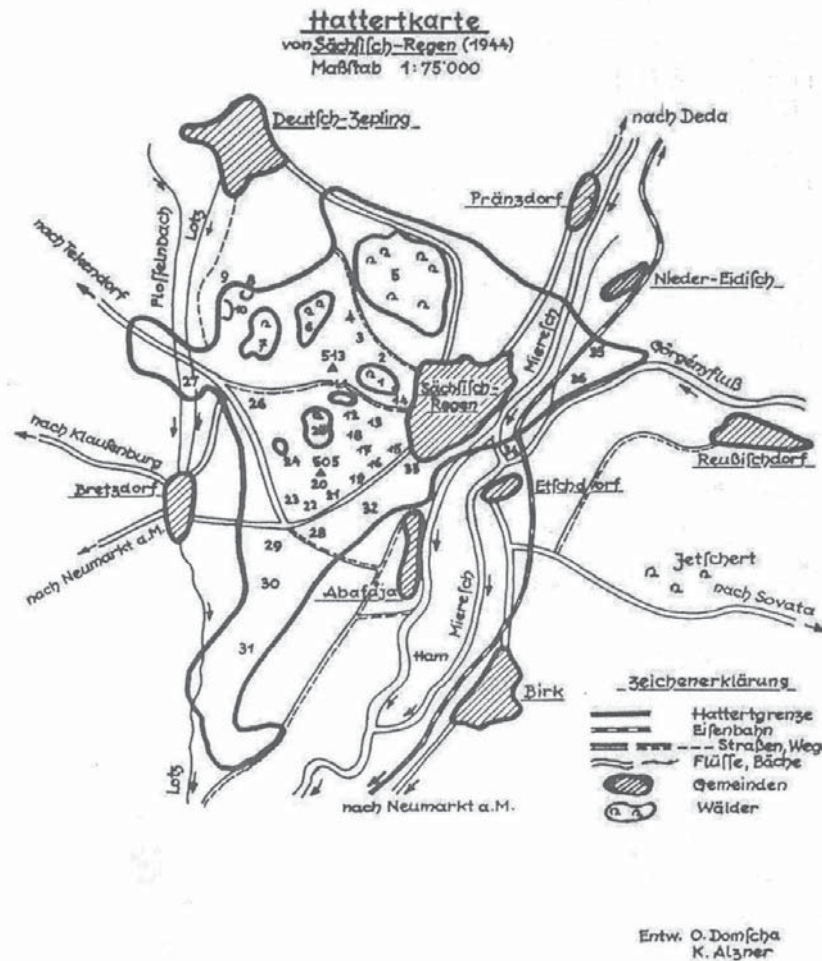
The activity of the Magistrate’s Office and the Community was regulated through Gubernial ordinances, commissions, and proposals. As for the Community, the regulation was conducted via the Orator who took part in the meetings of the Magistrate’s Office.

The so-called *Villicus* (economist) was also elected from the ranks of the Community; his task was the management and maintenance of public buildings, roads and bridges, barns, the cleaning of public spaces, etc. The Community provided the financial means; upon issue of the assignment, the money was immediately made available at the cashier’s office via an order of payment; the Orator, who usually collected the *Villicus*’s receipts, conducted the final control.

The Community also had to choose from within its ranks a person assigned with billeting, two tax collectors, and two so-called field inspectors. On occasion, there were no voluntary candidates for these offices. As a result, the nominees could not afford to reject the aforementioned positions or else they had to give up their status as members of the Community and all the privileges that came with it.

Consequently, one can note that the Community was assigned the management and supervision of all public goods, it had the right to elect all functionaries as well as the task to represent the citizens’ point of view. Its members were not members of the Magistrate’s Office. Both ruling bodies preserved their respective sphere of activity. Additionally, there were never conflicts between them.

The Community’s management and safekeeping of the wealth of the Community was not contested. As for the latter aspect, it is worth mentioning that without a special proposal from the Community, the expenses of the cashier’s office, constructions, etc. were not approved by the Gubernium.²⁵



The aspect of the market-town of Reghinul Săsesc in the period described by Martin Bredt

THIS PERIOD witnessed increased efforts from the functionaries at the Magistrate's Office to elevate the market-town to the rank of town. The first request in this respect was sent to Emperor Francis in 1817, the following ones being submitted to the Transylvanian Diet in 1838, the Parliament in Vienna in 1841, 1845 and 1847, and the Parliament in Budapest in 1848, but all of them were ultimately rejected.²⁶

In the period 1699-1848, one can note an intensification of handicraft, commercial and agricultural activities. The demographic²⁷ development also required the construction of new buildings and the expansion of the "town." Albeit there is no document mentioning this expansion, historiographic data as well as indications in the field lead to the conclusion that this period witnessed an expansion southward up to the Kreuzgasse (situated at the crossing between the present-day Nicolae Bălcescu and Mihai Viteazul Streets, that is, on the place where the Roman Catholic church was built in the eighteenth century); the former military hospital, on whose facade one can still see the inscription with the 1848 coat-of-arms, was built at the end of the eighteenth century outside the town for hygiene reasons.²⁸ The expansion of the market-town, namely the eastern frontage on the Rittmeistergasse (present-day Teilor Street) and the northern wing up to Wolfgasse (present-day Horea Street), was conducted in several stages until the beginning of the nineteenth



Reghin in the 18th century

century. In 1848, at the northern entrance, approximately opposite to the military hospital, there was a barrier where a customs office was located.²⁹ In this period, the locality was also expanded in the direction of the Mureș River, which became necessary due to the ongoing commerce with timber and the existence of tanneries.

Most buildings and dwellings were still made of wood, and roads were still unpaved, which made traffic difficult in unfavorable weather.³⁰

The town's central square included not only the stables of the cavalry units,³¹ but also many other wooden constructions, such as the lodge of the office for measurements and weighing, the shops of potters, shoemakers, tanners and coopers, and a barbershop. Moreover, there were also brick buildings belonging to certain merchants as well as temporary tents of various vendors (fruits, vegetables, meat, etc.), and a butcher's shop. Finally, the square included the cavalry unit's headquarters with a garden and a large courtyard³² (photo 1).

On 16 May 1842, the Diet sanctioned the construction of a road linking Cluj, Târgu-Mureș, and Reghinul Săsesc. To this end, each noble family contributed four *kreuzer*, and the peasants provided labor.³³

Meteorological information

NOTES ON the weather and on exceptional meteorological phenomena can be found in many chronicles written in this period. These notes can be interpreted in many ways and can be read as mosaic stones within the meteorological history of Transylvania. According to the chroniclers, they generally served as explanations for the economic crises from the period. Bredt did not look for supernatural causes or divine punishments in order to explain exceptional meteorological phenomena. He provides information on the low temperatures registered all across Transylvania in 1785, which took a heavy toll on the agriculture. Grape and corn production were heavily affected, which led to an inevitable increase in prices in the following years. Furthermore, it is known that the preceding year (1784) had been very rainy and that 1785 witnessed many floods. In both years, crops were very poor.³⁴

A second note refers to the year 1840 that witnessed a great wine production as well as a massive hailstorm. The increase in wine production in Transylvania is also confirmed by the increase in the number of coopers within the guilds across the province.³⁵

Conclusions

THE TEXT of the Bredt Chronicle reminds of the Humanistic tradition in which the recount of the history of a town is combined with the description of buildings and the enumeration of functionaries. However, in this case, we are also provided with data on the history of the author's family, not only on that of the town. Additionally, the chronicle also has a spiritual side, represented by its recount of the inauguration of the tower of the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, one can note that the language used is simple, given that the author was not a learned person, but an ordinary town functionary. Therefore, the short Bredt Chronicle remains a presentation of administrative functions, done in the context of the establishment of a border, with the provision of certain meteorological data. The use of the German language indicates the author's preference for a simple language instead of the more elevated and official Latin. One can also see that two persons are mentioned as "Mr." ("Herr" in the original), which indicates the right of citizenship they enjoyed.



Notes

1. Harald Tersch, "Stadtchroniken am Beispiel der <<Eisenstadt>> Steyr," in: Josef Pauser, Martin Scheutz and Thomas Winkelbauer (eds.) *Quellenkunde der Habsburgermonarchie (16.–18. Jahrhundert) Ein exemplarisches Handbuch* (= Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung, Ergänzungsband 44), Munich, Vienna, 2004, p. 927-938, here 927.
2. Stephanie Dzeja, *Die Geschichte der eigenen Stadt. Städtische Chronistik in Frankfurt am Main vom 16. bis zum 18. Jahrhundert*, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Brussels, New York, Oxford, Vienna, 2003, p. 14.
3. A few relevant works on this topic are: Jan Assmann, *Das kulturelle Gedächtnis. Schrift, Erinnerung und politische Identität in frühen Hochkulturen*, Munich, 1997; *Religion und kulturelles Gedächtnis*, Munich 2000; Aleida Assmann, *Erinnerungsräume. Formen und Wandlungen des kulturellen Gedächtnisses* München, 1999; *Einführung in die Kulturwissenschaft. Grundbegriffe, Themen, Fragestellungen*, Berlin 2006.
4. As the three other domains of the "external dimension" Assmann mentions "mimetic memory," which refers to action as imitation, "the memory of things," which refers to the understanding of everyday things, and "communicative memory," described as language and communication that an individual learns and uses in the interaction with the others (Dzeja, *Die Geschichte der eigenen Stadt...*, p. 19).
5. Jan Assmann, *Das kulturelle Gedächtnis*, p. 16. Quote from Dzeja, *Die Geschichte der eigenen Stadt...*, p. 19.
6. Samuel Wilhelm Hellwig was born on 21 December 1832 in Reghinul Săsesc. He graduated from high-school in Sighișoara in 1854, and then studied theology and natural sciences in Tübingen and Berlin. Beginning with 13 June 1859 he held the position of conrector at the school in Reghinul Săsesc, from 20 May, 1861 he acted as its rector, then as interim headmaster of the *Untergymnasium* in Reghinul Săsesc. In 1864, he took the professor exam. From 20 November 1864 he successively held the position of headmaster of the *Realschule*, the *Unterrealgymnasium* (1869), and the *Untergymnasium* (1883) in Reghinul Săsesc. On 17 April 1906 he submitted his retirement request. He retired on 31 August 1906. He passed away on 13 January 1924 at Sebeș, in the house of his daughter who had married there. He was laid to rest on 16 January 1924 in Reghinul Săsesc. He wrote many studies and articles on the history of the town of Reghin and the local German school (Fr. Schuller and Hermann Andreas Hienz, *Schriftsteller Lexikon der Siebenbürger Deutschen*, Köln-Weimar-Wien, 2000, Bd. 7, p. 69).
7. *Aus der Chronik des Martin Bredt, weil. Senator in Sächsisch-Regen*, in: Siebenbürgisches Archiv Gundelsheim, Nachlass Czoppelt, A169, Bd.1.
8. The fee register of the shoemakers' guild in Reghinul Săsesc for the period 1771-1872 contains the name of Georg Hermann at position 107 (Arhivele Naționale, Direcția Județeană Mureș, fond Asociația industrială a cizmarilor din Reghin, inventory no. 169).

9. Reghinul Săsesc hosted the headquarters of the Savoy Dragoons as well as those of other cavalry regiments toward the end of the eighteenth century (Joseph Haltrich, "Zur Geschichte von Sächsisch-Regen," in: *Archiv des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde*, Band 3, Heft 2, 1858, Kronstadt, p. 289-290).
10. The German name is "Kleiner Hamm" which can be translated as "The Small Cut-down Forest." In the Saxon dialect, "Hamm" means "cut-down forest."
11. The local Roman Catholic congregation was formed in 1736. The building of the church was finished in 1781 according to Bredt's chronicle. Until then, Roman Catholics, who were mostly soldiers, had congregated at the chapel in Apalina (Joseph Haltrich, "Zur Geschichte von Sächsisch-Regen" in: *Archiv des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde*, Band 3, Heft 2, 1858, Kronstadt, p. 290).
12. Apparently, the note in brackets was written by W. Hellwig who noted Bredt's mistake. Given that 1785 was not a leap year, the month of February could not have 29 days.
13. The emphasis belongs to W. Hellwig.
14. The toponym "Benk," "Beng," or "Bengh" refers to the place known as "Binkert." This was a domain that was still uninhabited in the fourteenth century (Gustav Rösler, "Zur Geschichte der Stadt Sächsisch-Regen (Reen) und ihrer sächsischen Umgebung bis zum Aussterben der Arpaden," in: *Siebenbürgisches Archiv*, Band 7, Cologne-Vienna, 1968, p. 202-205; Richard Huß, "Baierische Unterlagerung und bairischer Adel in Nordsiebenbürgen," in: *Südostdeutsche Forschung*, Munich, 1936, p. 147-159). The term "Binkert" can be translated as "The birch forest." The suffix *-ert* is the old Transylvanian form of the Germanic "hart" which means "forest in which cattle are taken to graze" (Johann Wolf, "Siebenbürgisch-deutsche Waldnamen," in: *Korrespondenzblatt des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde*, Hermannstadt, 1884, p. 85-90, here 87-88). Such toponyms are frequent in Transylvania.
15. The present-day Mihai Viteazul Street.
16. Samuel Metzl von Lomnitz, 1840 police trainee, 1842 police actuary, 1850 deputy notary, 1850 interim mayor; 1856 inspector charged with supervising cadastral petitions in Cluj; cadastral inspector in Cluj; circa 1842, marriage to Julie Mathilde Bogner (nee 7 June 1824), the daughter of Michael Bogner, merchant. The father, Samuel Meltzl von Lomnitz of Zips, was an Evangelic of Augustan Confession, emigrated to Reghinul Săsesc circa 1800 (H. Czoppelt, in: *Chronik der Stadt Sächsisch-Regen in Siebenbürgen / Rumänien*, Siebenbürgische Bibliothek/Archiv, Nachlaß Czoppelt, A VIII, 169, Sächsisch-Regen, Band 4, I, p. 148).
17. This Chronicle was originally published in Romanian: Dorin Ioan Rus, "Cronica familiei Elsen din Reghinul Săsesc," in: *Reghinul Cultural*, vol. VI, Reghin, 2002, p. 65-75; there is also an English version of this text: Dorin Ioan Rus, "Aspects of Everyday Life and Natural Phenomena as Recorded in the Chronicle of the Elsen Family from Reghin (1704-1853)," in: *Transylvanian Review*, Cluj-Napoca, 4/2011, p. 65-76.
18. ***, *Beiträge zur Kenntniss SächsischReens. Festgabe den Mitgliedern des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde, dargeboten von der Stadt SächsischRegen*, Hermannstadt 1870 (hereinafter referred to as: Beiträge...), p. 214.
19. ***, *Beiträge*, p. 213.
20. Karl Vocelka, "Glanz und Untergang der höfischen Welt. Repräsentation, Reform und Reaktion im Vielvölkerstaat," in: Herwig Wolfram (ed.), *Österreichische Geschichte 1699-1815*, Vienna, 2001, p. 388-389.
21. Josef Haltrich, "Zur Geschichte von Sächsisch-Regen seit letzten hundert Jahren," in: *Archiv des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde*, Band 3, Heft 2, 1858, Kronstadt, p. 282-285; here, p. 275 (on the development of this conflict, see the third subchapter of the book by Dorin-Ioan Rus, *Sub semnul lui Marte*, Accent, Cluj-Napoca, 2007, p. 120-121).
22. Josef Haltrich, p. 275.
23. For the period 1764-1840, Bredt's Chronicle mentions the following mayors of Reghinul Săsesc: 1760: Nicolai Michael; 1781: Czobel Johannes, emigrated to Germany, Roman Catholic; in 1781 he acted as proconsul as Bredt claims; 1770: Graeser Simon; 1777-1796 Loesch Michael (in 1780 proconsul, in 1781 consul, in 1796 proconsul); 1778: Helwig Michael; 1790 Helwig Samuel (in 1803 senator, in 1811 proconsul, in 1817 consul); 1780: Wagner Georg (*notarius* between 1783 and 1788, senator between 1788 and 1796, consul between 1796 and 1806; proconsul between 1806 and 1826); 1800: Wagner

- Samuel, *Honorarius Magister*, the son of Georg Wagner (he also acted as vice-notary between 1802 and 1809; notary between 1809 and 1822; senator between 1822 and 1826; consul between 1827 and 1829; proconsul in 1832 and between 1833 and 1839; in 1850, he passed away at the age of seventy-one; 1830-1832: Urban Georg, consul, Roman Catholic, whose ancestors settled here from Frankenstadt in Moravia circa 1750; in 1837, he was elected mayor; in 1840 he acted as police commissioner (*Die Markt- und Stadtverwaltung Sächsisch-Regens. 1494-1944*, manuscript, Siebenbürgisches Bibliothek/Archiv, Nachlass Czoppelt, A 169, Sächsisch-Regen, Bd. 7, p. 5-7).
24. Ibidem, p. 3.
 25. Ibidem, p. 4.
 26. Josef Haltrich, p. 275, H. Czoppelt, *Chronik*, I, p. 111, 124, 145, and 155.
 27. In 1765, Reghinul Săsesc had 1528 inhabitants (“Beiträge zur Staatskunde von Siebenbürgen. IV. Die Zählung der evangelischen im Land vom Jahr 1632 vergleichen mit der vom Jahr 1766,” In: *Archiv des Vereins für siebenbürgische Landeskunde*, Af, 2/1845, p. 253). According to the 1850 census, Reghinul Săsesc had 4881 inhabitants living in 954 dwellings. According to sex, there were 2303 men and 2578 women. According to nationality, there were 2871 Saxons, 893 Romanians, 865 Hungarians, 165 Germans, 51 Jews, 9 Gypsies, 8 Bohemians, 7 Armenians, 6 Moravians, 4 Galicians, 1 Tyrolean, and 1 Croat (Haltrich, *Zur Geschichte...*, p. 329-330).
 28. “Sächsisch-Regen vor Hundert Jahren. Aus dem Tagebuch Johann Birthlers d.Ä.” in: *Bistritzer Deutsche Zeitung*, no. 4, 6, 20 from 11 I, 18 I, 7 III 1924.
 29. “Erlebnisse aus dem Feldzüge gegen die Insurgenten während dem Kriege im Siebenbürgen im Jahre 1848/49 von Samuel Elsen aus Sächsisch-Reen,” at Arhivele Naționale, Direcția Județeană Hunedoara, Fond Silviu Dragomir, pp. 6-10 (hereinafter referred to as: Samuel Elsen, *Erlebnisse*).
 30. Haltrich, p. 282.
 31. In the second half of the nineteenth century, a subscription fund was set up for the construction of new military barracks in the southern part of the town. The aim of the town administration was to sanitize the center by removing the stables and their annexes from the area (*Beiträge zur Kenntnis Sächsisch-Reens*, p. 236-239).
 32. Haltrich, p. 289-290.
 33. “Siebenbürgischer Bote,” LVII (1842), no. 36 (16 May), p. 383-384.
 34. See Paul Cernovodeanu and Paul Binder, *Cavalerii Apocalipsului*, Bucharest, 1993, p. 205-206.
 35. The rise in the membership of the coopers’ guild in Agnita is marked by the creation of the new seal in 1840 (Dorin Ioan Rus, “Handwerkszeichen von Agnetheln,” in: *Sargetia*, XXXII, 2004, p. 19-32). The following year witnessed an increase in the number of cooper journeymen in Agnita. As a result, they made a new chest (Dorin Ioan Rus, “Însemne de breaslă din Agnita,” (II), in: *Historia Urbana*, vol. 1/2006, Sibiu, 2006, p. 165-183).

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Abstract

Aspects of Urban Life in Eighteenth-Century Transylvania: Administrative History and Natural Phenomena in Martin Bredt's Town Chronicle of Reghinul Săsesc

The study is an analysis of the chronicle by Martin Bredt from the Transylvanian town of Reghinul Săsesc (Saxon Reghin), presently in Romania. The document provides information pertaining to the political, administrative, cultural, and meteorological local history for the period 1764-1840. It also contains certain toponyms relevant to the agricultural and forestry history of the township. The Bredt Chronicle recounts the history of this town, the main events such as the inauguration of the tower of the Roman Catholic Church; it provides the reader, also, with the description of buildings and the enumeration of functionaries, and with meteorological data as well.

Keywords

chronicle, Reghinul Săsesc, Martin Bredt, urban history