

Turda. Historical and Social Peculiarities in Urban Development of the City and its Surroundings

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Abstract

The position of Turda settlement in territory has always been used as a link between the systems of settlements which directly border the city. The intentions of this paper are the study of the regional importance that the city of Turda generated over its constitution as a settlement and the analysis of its polarizing role. This paper aims to discuss the settlement potential regarding its heritage and cultural aspects. I propose analyzing the peculiarities of the urban structure by historical significance and also the overlapped urban layers that have generated the unique composition of the entire assembly in the historical center. In the city life there can be noticed a lack of urban strategies and the constant need for new development trends. Due to the high density of architectural monuments, the assembly of the historical center, the areas with industrial importance and the significance of salt as an economic and symbolic aspect, the city has a great potential to be discussed and cultivated. In the postmodern era the cultural and recreational functions acquired a great importance by calling into question the role of small cities in developing of territorial strategies and affirming local identity by historical and cultural heritage preservation. Toward which aspect should the development strategies focus so that the city would impose as a polarizing center? What urban elements should be considered as important in managing the structure of the city when discussing long-term visions? The objective of this research paper is aimed at informing the public about the existing values, such as the patrimonial ones, the urban ones, and the cultural significance. This paper wants to provide a new perspective for the understanding and appreciation of the city's urban structure, different from everything that has been deliberated so far, very briefly indeed, compared to the long existence and complexity of the city.

Rezumat

Așezarea orașului Turda a fost folosită dintotdeauna ca o verigă de legătură între sistemele de așezări cu care se învecinează direct. Intențiile în acest sens sunt studierea importanței teritoriale pe care a generat-o orașul Turda de-a lungul constituirii sale ca așezare și analizarea rolului polarizator al acestuia. Lucrarea de față își propune să discute potențialul patrimonial/cultural al așezării. Propun analizarea structurii orașului din perspectivă urbanistică și implicit rolul structurilor urbane care s-au suprapus și au generat azi structura unică a ansamblului istoric central. În viața orașului se simte lipsa unei strategii urbane care să canalizeze mai multe direcții de dezvoltare. Datorită densității mari de monumente de arhitectură, a ansamblului istoric central, a zonelor cu importanță industrială ridicată și a prezenței sării, orașul are un mare potențial pe care să-l discute și să-l valorifice. În perioada post-modernă, funcția culturală și de agrement a

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căpătat o importanță deosebită, aducând în discuție rolul orașelor mici în dezvoltarea strategiilor teritoriale și afirmării identității locale prin conservarea patrimoniului istoric și cultural. Înspre ce ar trebui să se orienteze strategia de dezvoltare ca orașul să se impună în zonă ca centru polarizator? Ce elemente urbane trebuie luate în considerare în gestionarea structurii orașului când dezbatem previziuni pe termen lung? Obiectivul lucrării de cercetare vizează în primul rând informarea opiniei publice asupra valorilor existente în stare latentă - valoarea patrimonială, urbanistică, de așezare strategică în teritoriu și nu în ultimul rând valoarea culturală dată de trecutul istoric. Lucrarea se vrea a oferi o perspectivă nouă de înțelegere și apreciere a structurii orașului, diferită de tot ce s-a discutat până acum, foarte puțin de altfel, în comparație cu vechimea și complexitatea orașului.

Keywords: urban strata, archaeological layers, cultural patrimony, potential areas, collective memory.

1. Introduction

This paper aims to discuss the peculiarities of the urban and historical evolution regarding the city of Turda. This is part of a larger research project regarding the city of Turda urban development and constitution throughout history, and represents just the first part of it. As a research method I divided the time axis presented below in the four major historical periods, the ones which were the most significant regarding the social events and historical moments. This was made to enable the starting point of this research, which is an urban-historical one. In the following lines I will present a bit of the existing literature related to the territorial evolution of the city and its surroundings and the particular issues related to the establishment of the settlement. This paper comprises a short part of this historical study which will present the main aspects that have marked the historical and urban development of the settlement, from its status as a Pre-Roman place, Roman Colony, and up to what it will become much later, a significant County's town center.

2. Recent Research and References in the field

In this study were used many references of several related fields of urbanism and architecture. It is important to mention that in the selection of bibliography I haven't found any complex studies regarding the analysis of the urban structure of the city. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the morphological and social features, and the conclusions are based on the various information that I managed to put them altogether so far. Therefore, the first studies and the most substantial ones that I went through were the archaeological ones, those directly linked to the process of the urban constitution of the city. Another field of study from which I interpreted information was related to society and local history. In terms of specialized studies, at the beginning I expected to find something more substantial related to the urban development of the city, but I found very few references, and in the end I had to get back to the archaeological and historical studies for almost all periods of time that marked the city's urban development. I would like to mention here the two recent development strategies¹ [3, 4]. In what concerns these strategies it is important to point out that the lack of a complex urban planning study around the city and its surroundings reduces the importance of the patrimonial aspects for the whole area.

3. Historical Overview

In the case of Turda city we propose a sociological and historical analysis of the entire urban tissue inside the city center and the adjoining areas. The results and conclusions of this analysis will be embodied in some future case studies that will aim to establish the potential areas in terms of cultural and touristic development. Moreover, it can be mentioned here the meaningful areas from the inner historical center which are stored in the memory of the residents, like the roman fort, the fortified churches, the central square, the pedestrians small bridges over Racilor stream, etc.; these numerous places have a great potential to be harnessed as in tourism, culture and archaeology. Analyzing these studies, it can be concluded that the main stages in the city development were directly related to the local and global economy and to the social layers. The city has gone through periods where it has been highly developed on all levels, but also thorough periods of continuous decline. Under those circumstances, the significant historical stages, regarding the urban establishment, are those which created today a complex structure by overlapping layers of antiquity, medieval times, nineteenth century and the interwar period when the city had its most flourishing and wealthy time both in the field of economy and culture.

3.1 Antiquity



Figure 1. Time axis. Major aspects regarding the evolution of the settlement in the Antiquity.

Analyzing the potential of historical heritage and culture also requires a parallel urban planning outlook (Fig. 1); and, at the same time it requires highlighting the role of urban strata that have merged and generated the uniqueness of the central historical assembly, the spindle shaped square. Life in pre-Roman Dacia, in the area of Turda city, was established in incipient urban seatings from both socially and politically point of view. The urban congestions in these areas formed strong civilian communities with diverse social layers, which gravitated around the fortified acropolis, positioned on open platforms. The systematic of the settlements was archaic, so the Dacians have evolved quite quickly due to the urbanizing approach within the municipal urban structures introduced by the Romans settled here. The internal development of Dacian seatings had a natural evolution and led to the transformation of some rural-type settlements in municipalities and colonies [2]. The Dacian settlement of this area is certified under the toponym Dierna in the pre-Roman period². The structure of pre-Roman settlements, which have succeeded within the territory and the predetermined Roman urbanism, led to the orientation of the settlement. The outcome of the archeological research is very limited so far, and, consequently, it has been assumed an area which corresponds with the initial nucleus of the Dacian fortress.



Figure 2. Pre-Roman Potaissa.



Figure 3. Potaissa in the first half of the 2nd century AD.

The exact position of the Dacian fortress in the territory remains unknown, the archeological research being so limited. The latest archaeological research led to a more accurate positioning of the establishment's core, at the flowing of Pordei Valley into the Arieș River (Fig. 2). After the roman conquest in the territory of Transilvania, the settlement was mentioned in several historical evidences under the name of Potaissa; this name contains the term vicus that designates a place constituted on an ad-hoc basis in the immediate vicinity of a Roman camp, The Fifth Macedonian Legion Camp (Fig. 3,4).

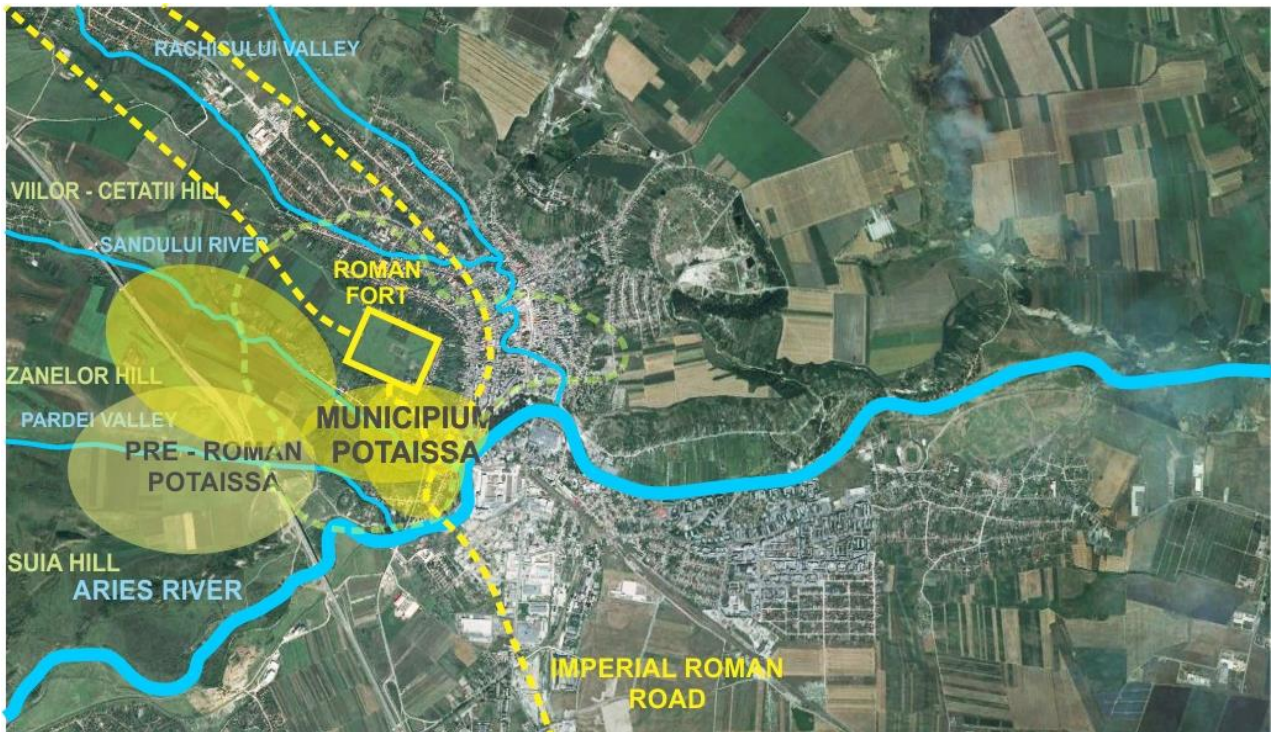


Figure 4. Potaissa in the 3rd century.

Taking into consideration these informations, we could conclude that the cores of the Dacian and the Roman settlements are two different ones, although close to each other. According to the Roman urban military principles, the area adjacent to the vicus had all the qualities needed to build a fortress. We mention here the existence of a large plateau located above the Roman imperial road, plateau well suited for a good defense, offering good accessibility and visibility. The Roman imperial road was traced throughout the Dacian settlement, connecting Apulum with Napoca; considering that this road's position was the only one viable, geographically, the migration of the settlement's core was needed. This nucleus has passed through several transformations, but each time its territorial migration was made in connection with the Arieş River, which runs through the city. As a morphological feature, the roman urban structure did not overlap the Dacian structure; the two settlements were not the same, but they were considerably close, located near the present historical center.

Further on, we will talk about the archeological site of the Roman camp, the military settlement and about the civilian settlement which grew along the Roman imperial road. The first documentary attestations that refer to the civil and military settlement from Turda city dates from 1574 and originates from the diary of a French traveler, Pierre Lescarpier [7]. He describes, in his travel journal, the position of the military camp in relation with the imperial road and the civilian settlement. Today, the Roman fort is considered to be the most important archaeological monument of the city, which dates from the period of Roman military occupation, but, unfortunately it is also the least valued as a touristic destination (Fig. 5). The architectural components of the fort, which are still preserved today, are the foundations, some elements of the sewer water line and, in some places, the still visible parts of the overstructure. The planimetry of the Roman fort was preserved almost entirely, but its walls were continuously demolished, after the Aurelian Retreat, until the Middle Ages; the majority of the rocks removed from its walls were used to construct buildings and churches in the city center. Another attestation is that of Zamosius, historian and humanist, who at the end of the XVI century visited the military camp of Potaissa and described in detail one of its gates [11].



Figure 5. The ruins of the Roman military settlement. The archaeological site of The Fifth Macedonian Legion.



Figure 6. The new archaeological area and the position of the industrial platform within the city, in relation with Arieş River.

Many ideas can be formulated about the Roman occupation and about its overall influence, regarding the progress of the city and its surroundings; but the clearest aspect is, perhaps, related to the existing economic resources, which eased the election of this place. The Roman civilian settlement has developed over time due to the wealth of resources in its surroundings. Therefore, its development was clearly favoured by the imperial traffic artery which connects Apulum and Napoca. The Roman soldiers had a significant role in the development of the settlement and into the lives of civilians. The Roman population who founded the settlement prospered continuously due to the strong economic ties with the auxiliary troops stationed in the camp. These economic links have increased with the establishment of Roman civilians who had followed the legion soldiers. For a long time, the archaeologists were confused about the exact locations of the settlements called Potaissa and Salinae. It was believed that Potaissa was located on the territory of the present town of Cluj-Napoca, while on Turda's territory was located the Salinae settlement. All these data were inaccurate, making confusion due to the accelerated development of Potaissa, both economically and territorially. The lack of recent research in the archaeological field due to the impossibility of making excavations in the historical center did not allowed the development of a topographic drawing of the city (Fig. 6). The city was formed near the Dacian village and was founded, largely, by Roman civilians, who followed the Roman legion quartered here between the years 168-169 AD. After the Roman occupation Potaissa held the juridical status of vicus, until the second century AD, despite having an accelerated internal development. Consequently, it has followed the other two titles, municipium and colonia. The title of colonia comprised Potaissa settlement and its rural

territory. This title was granted together with *Jus Italicum* by the protective Emperor Septimius Severus³ [2]. The particular marks of this legion are still visible today on many bricks scattered throughout the city, in the foundations of central buildings and along the strongholds of churches in the city center. The Fifth Macedonica Legion was in charge of protecting the eastern part of the settlement [8, p. 25]. The rural territory was not large but was intensely exploited. The city was established as an urban settlement in the second half of the IInd century AD and in the first half of the IIIrd century AD, along with its evolution as a *vicus*, *municipium* and later *colonia*. The civilian settlement, which gravitated around the fort, has been extended over the Old Turda neighbourhood, towards the New Turda neighbourhood and through the Arieş meadow, occupying here wide spaces. The hearth of the settlement is certified as being located near the bridge, built by the Romans, over the Arieş River. This bridge was required by the imperial road route, *Apulum-Napoca*, but today the bridge no longer exists. Another route of lower importance linked the settlement to the nearby necropolis. The civilian settlement was established according to the principles of Roman urban planning. Thus, in the city structure can be recognized particular features of the Roman urban planning, even though the archaeological research were limited due to the overlapping of subsequent archaeological layers. *Cardo Maximus* was represented by the Roman road that ran through the center of the settlement, and *Decumano Maximus* was represented by Arieş River trail [1]. The prosperous urban life of the settlement was attested by the ruins of a four kilometers long aqueduct, which supplied both the fort and the city. Accordingly, the craft industry has developed around the fortress in various workshops, factories and housing. The Roman legion has played a significant role in building the city and in creating a close connection between the civilian and military life.

As many historians and archaeologists said, the fall of Rome led to the collapse of the entire urban and social system created by it. Following the archaeological research it was assumed that Potaissa was affected by an unexpected attack of migrants from the east. As a result of this, Potaissa citadel was inevitably demolished and the stone of its walls was used to built the foundations and the walls of some buildings and churches in the city center. Today, the field of Roman ruins covers an area of approximately 12 km². The boundaries of this area of study have been recently reviewed and proposed by the archaeologists for the new General Urban Plan of the city. This area overlaps almost entirely over the historical center, and over the entire industrial area. It's an important element to be considered, since it can create spaces of identity by discovering archaeological sections in spaces like disused industrial areas.

3.2 Middle Ages

Over the urban layer of the Dacian and Roman settlement of Potaissa, the late medieval urban structure, which parasitized the Roman city, overlapped. Concerning the early medieval period, there are few historical evidences (Fig. 7). The first part of the middle Ages was negatively affected by the massive barbarian invasions that affected the development of the seating. No positive information is known about Turda in this period of time. Later, the city developed as a German-Hungarian town, certified under the name of Thorda or Torda [8, p. 27].



Figure 7. Time Axis. Major aspects regarding the evolution of the settlement in the early and late Middle Ages.

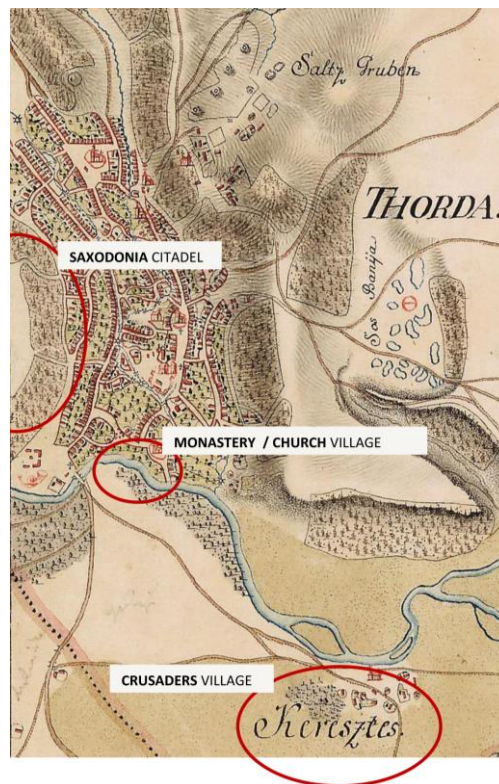


Figure 8. The location of the three Saxon seatings within the city: Saxodonia Citadel, Church Village and Crusaders Village.

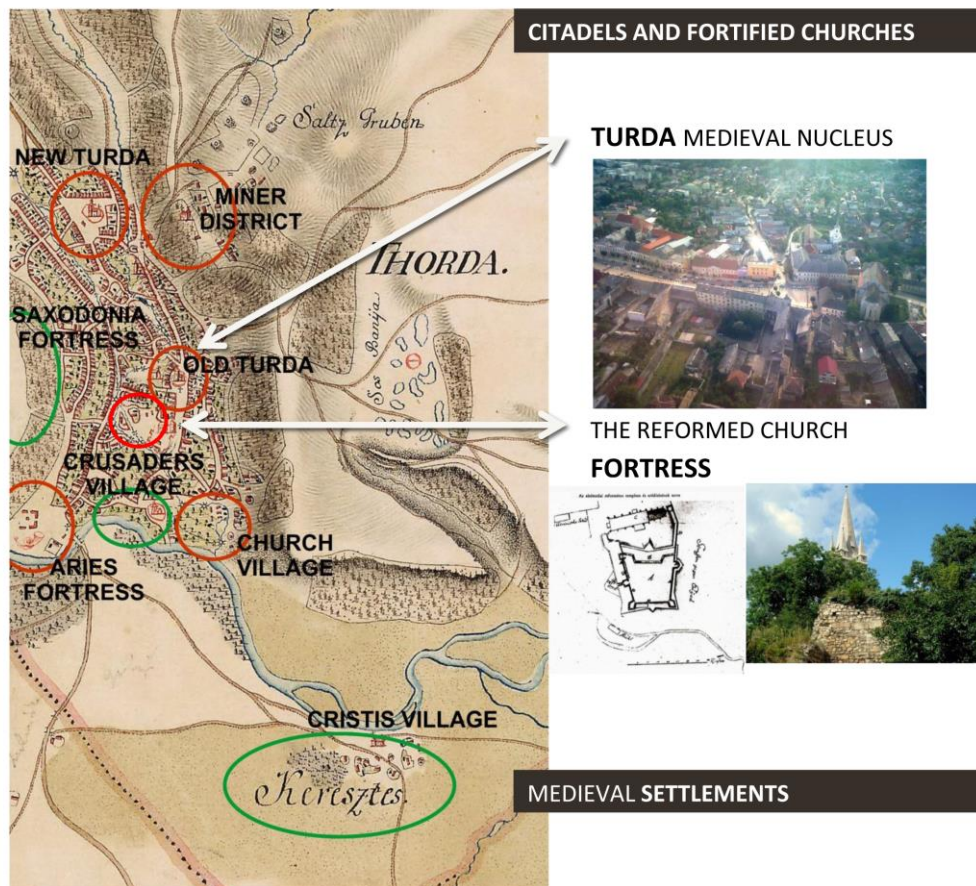


Figure 9. The medieval seatings and fortified churches that formed the city.

The oldest document that mentions the settlement under the name of Turda is a Hungarian Diploma, since 1075, of the emperor Géza I, which mentions the customs of the city bridge. Another certification is a Diploma which dates from 1117, mentioning the Saxons, who were people brought to the city by Hungarian kings to exploit the salt mine. These Saxons benefited from great privileges. This diploma mentions that the Saxons occupied the roman camp and formed on its place Saxodonia citadel (Fig. 8). Later on, the Szeklers were supported by the Hungarian kings to the detriment of the Saxons and, thus, their cultural influence was greatly diminished. Few of the other assemblies of the settlement were mentioned in the Hungarian diplomas. Later on, Turda fortress, which became later Arieş citadel, was mentioned in the work of Teodor Murăşanu [8, p. 27]. This fortress was formed by the Hungarian colonists brought here by Gabriel Bethlen; they had to replace the repeatedly massacred citizens by Basta and to raise a fortress at the end of the Roman Bridge. This fortress was originally called Tordavar, which, translated, means Turda Citadel (Fig. 9). Another written evidence of the Saxons dates from 1170. Then it was mentioned Cristiş commune which overlaps territorially over today's Oprişani neighbourhood. This community was part of a monastic order which developed their settlement on the left bank of the river. Today, this site can be localized in the central park area, the one accessible from downtown, near to the City Hall and to the unfinished building of Culture House. The church of this establishment, which represented its core, was located right on the site of this unfinished building. Before being integrated as an adjoining neighbourhood of the city, the district was called Cristiş village. This name was taken from the inhabitants of the settlement which were monk-crusaders. Other testimonies of this area may appear in various documents of property under the name of Keresztes or of Vila Criciferorum de Thorda. Therefore, we can see that the populations, which constantly colonized the territory, the Saxons, the Szeklers and the Hungarians, have played an important role in the formation of the city, generating a prosperous economy by exploiting the salt mine and by setting up identity places.

An interesting study about the formation of the city is the one of the researcher Niedermayer, which brings into question the Saxon origins of the settlement [9]. He supports the idea that the Saxons founded the city and that the center was proportioned according to the Saxon urban organizational principles. Among these urban morphological principles, those which can be observed in the case of Turda are: the predetermined plan of the central zone and the elongated central square which should enable the conduct of frequent fairs. In the case of Turda city, the central square has an elongated spindle shape that allowed in the city's history the development of trade fairs. Therefore, the main activity was the economic exchange, so the city was called a noble fair. The idea that the city has developed as a Saxon settlement is also due to historical attestations concerning many Saxon colonies. The Saxons founded a fortress, a convent and two villages, both part of a monastic order (Fig. 8). Later, however, the Saxons were discouraged and their influences had no continuity in the structure of the city, so the few possible elements that we have inherited from them are those already mentioned.

About the urban peculiarities of the following medieval period we have further information, both documentary certifications and the preserved built environment. The medieval period was late in Transylvania, and so it was in the case of Turda too. Through this period there have been various transformations on morphological level. The city was formed through the unification of several villages, settlements and fortifications. The chaining of fortresses, and later, the fortified churches along Racilor stream, recall the privileges that the city had by adopting the religious freedom for all believers, granted here for the first time in the world. The first urban core around which revolved the settlement was Turda Citadel (Fig. 9). Later, by joining neighboring villages it became Arieș Citadel. The first medieval core is represented by the Roman-Catholic church parcel built at the end of the 14th century, and it is called Old Turda. The establishment of the town was also favored by the gradual incorporation of other small medieval settlements, such as: church village, crusaders village and miner's village. Another significant seating over the medieval period which had equal rights and duties same as Old Turda was New Turda. These two settlements became today the main quarters in the city [10].

In terms of urban perspective, Teodor Murășanu mentions [8, p. 27] a visitor which records the fact that in the great fair held around the 1500 the city had stone-built houses, beautiful streets, and it was inhabited by hardworking people. Later on, by the year 1601, a part of the city, New Turda neighbourhood was almost entirely destroyed. In 1614, Gabriel Bethlen, the Prince of Transylvania, as a measure to revitalize this neighborhood, has tried to repopulate it in order to improve the work at the salt mines in the northern city. Therefore, in 1619, the Prince granted some privileges to these salt cutters, in order to encourage the repopulation of this neighborhood. Thus, the Szecklers and the Romanian infantry were to receive noble rights as a reward for military service. The rights of the inhabitants of New Turda became larger as those in Old Turda, which generated discontentment among the population and has led to support for the separation idea of the two areas of the county. This idea didn't exist until then because the two districts, Old Turda and New Turda had common rights and obligations. Approximately around 1650 the two neighborhoods merged. As the historian Orban Balazs appreciate, the result of this merging was outlined in a specific Transylvanian place, a feudal noble fair. As a result of this, the two neighborhoods equalized the rights and obligations of the two communities that inhabited them [10].

3.3 XIX Century / Interwar Period

In the following period, the settlement evolved to the status of shire by joining the strongholds and neighboring villages and then evolved to the status of county seat (Fig. 10). This privileged status influenced the city's economy and culture.



Figure 10. Time axis. Major aspects regarding the evolution of the settlement during the 19th century and the Interwar Period.



Figure 11. The evolution of Turda Shire into Turda County.

Turda city, the capital of the shire comprised the central area of the old town, the neighboring districts and the small settlements. The old town area comprised two distinct urban areas, which were under the same administration. These two areas were the Old Turda which represents today's city center, and New Turda, the further part towards Cluj. In Turda-Arieş Shire, thanks to this form of organization, an intense activity in developing the urban structure took place.

After 1918 and after the adoption of the new administrative organization, the country was divided

in counties. So, the real estate activity was characterised by a big upsurge, both in public construction and in private ones, as a consequence of industrial development, trade and last but not least to crafts manufacture. Therefore, a new type of central houses appeared. These were specialized for trade and crafts, functionally configured with an open commercial space directly over the square. These buildings were fitted with special designed spaces for commercial activities or individual common organization of artisans. The buildings were built with the entrance oriented directly to the street, with access to the patio in many cases by an arched passage or entrance. The inner courtyard was also bordered in many situations with constructions on one or two sides [6, p. 143].

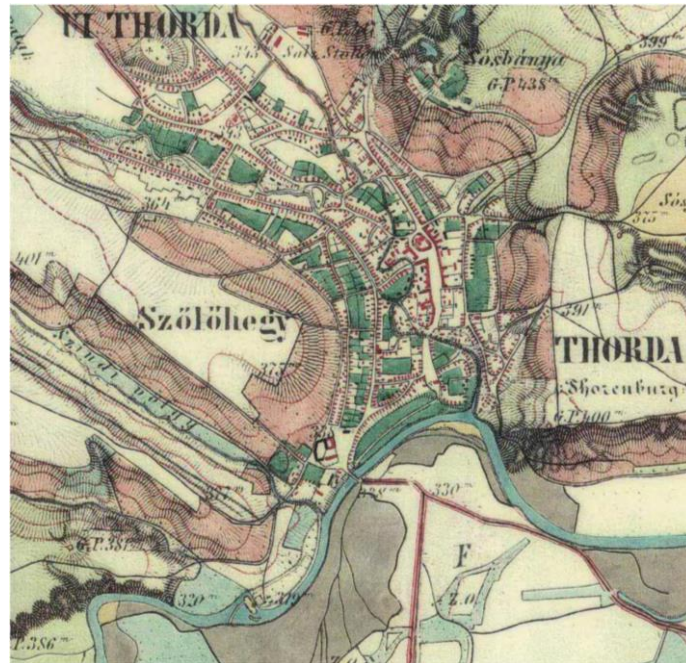


Figure 12. The Josephina Map from the years 1869-1874. It can be noticed the public garden and the city promenade.

Being a county residence, Turda housed some very important functions and activities which increased the economic and artistic life in the interwar period. Among these we can mention the Athenaeum, the Theatre, the Museum and the central Library, which had a flourishing activity. It can be noted a great number of other urban elements, among them the public garden and the city promenade (Fig. 12). As an immediate result of the administrative reform of 1876 and the merger of the Arieş Szeckler Seat with Turda County, there resulted another major territorial-administrative formation, called Turda-Arieş County. This county was an administrative unit of the Kingdom of Hungary, which functioned during the years 1876⁴-1920⁵. The capital of this county was Turda. The county was founded in 1876, when the territory of the Szekely Seat of Arieş was attached to Turda County (Fig. 11). Turda-Arieş County was definitively abolished on 24 June 1925 by the law of administrative unification⁶. Turda, the county capital, was composed of the central zone of the old town, the neighboring districts and a few small settlements. The old town or downtown area was seen as being composed of two distinct zones, which were under the same administration: the Old Turda and the New Turda. Old Turda was considered the part of the iron bridge and up to the end of the street Avram Iancu, and New Turda was the part which continued towards Cluj. This split in two distinct zones has been preserved due to the differences in the social classes which inhabited them.

The city promenade was the term used for the historical downtown area. The central area was both the entertaining and promenade area for the inhabitants, as well as the headquarters for the city's

institutions. This period was mentioned in several local publications as the time of the Casino, Philharmonic and Athenaeum [5, pp. 17-18]. During the 1920's and after, Turda was an important cultural center. In the affirming of the city as a cultural center has greatly contributed the active work carried out by the Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and Culture. Its intense activity of supporting the culture has allowed the assertion of local socio-cultural groups, established in Turda and in the neighborhoods. The cultural activity was particularly effective during this time and hit a boom throughout the interwar period, manifesting itself and embodying the neighboring villages in Turda County. The County, this new form of territorial organization, was a first-order administrative unit in the Kingdom of Romania, in the historical region of Transylvania. The extent of the interwar Turda County was identical to that of former Turda-Arieș Shire, the county being appreciated as having a bizarre shape, elongated from east to west. The county capital has been preserved. Thus, Turda city represented both an important industrial center and main residence of the county authorities. At the end of this form of organization, some profound transformations took place. On the other hand, the salubrity inside the city was precarious, due to the lack of sewerage and sanitation structures. Nevertheless, the county had water and an electrical plant. The streets were paved with river stone and there used to be a public garden inside the city, which has been preserved until today - the central park.

The main transportation form, within the county and the city, was the railway. Thus, the railway station located on the right bank of Arieș River was surrounded, in south, by the industrial buildings which have made this city an important industrial center. The issue of building a railroad was discussed several times in the city council. It can be mentioned the LXXIV meeting of the Diet of Transylvania, held in 30 June 1860, when Dr. Ioan Ratiu discussed the issue of building a new railway in Transylvania, along with the possibility of expanding the existing railway network and linking Transilvania with Galati city, and further with Odessa and Constantinople; but the land structure from the outskirts of the town which consisted of small plots owners did not alleviate this approach, making impossible the decision to built a railway through this city. Another transportation form consisted in carriages used by inhabitants to move around the city and for evening walks. These were located near the Catholic Church in the Republicii square. There were also several taxi cars and buses that ensured a linkage with Opișani district. Entering the city from the railway station involved the crossing over the iron bridge and through some streets and important squares in terms of urban planning and history. The first square reached by coming to this direction is Regina Maria Square, nowadays colled 1 Decembrie 1918 Square. The representative building of this square is the Prefecture Palace, buiding situated on the eastern front. After the constitution of Turda County the building was occupied by the city administration, which settled here. The Prefecture building had to be proposed in the Republic square but the urban context and the historical circumstances did not allowed this. The related land of this building was part of the eastern area of the former hay market; but in 1884 it was approved the purchase of land and buildings located in the city. Therefore, it was created the context for building such an edifice, very necessary in the shire and later in the county. Turda-Arieș County was one of the most important counties in Transylvania who lacked proper administrative headquarters, and, maybe, this was a reason that conducted later on his decline as a cultural pole.

In terms of entertainment, from the urban and commercial point of view, in the central square and its peripheral sites were restaurants and bistros, frequented by yhe city's inhabitants and also by the residents of neighboring counties, especially those from Cluj. On the Sunday walk on Corso, in the city center, there were unwritten rules regarding the importance of attending a frontline or the other. Between the years 1940-1950, the walk through the city meant a display of social status by attending a front or the other, especially in situations when the local political parties changed in the local administration [5, p. 7].

4. Conclusions

Between the periods of postmodernism, the cultural and recreational function acquires great importance, especially when it comes into question the importance of small towns in the territorial development strategies. This serves both to economic development and tourism, to the assertion of a local specialized tourism and to the local identity, by preserving the cultural heritage. Analyzing the urban structure of the city and its historical evolution allows us to formulate working hypotheses and to outline several possible case studies. Therefore, we can identify several important elements which can be observed and valorised in the layout of the city structure: the Roman archaeological sites, the fortified churches along Racilor stream and the particular central squares. On the eastern front are located the obstructed pedestrian passageways, which cross the main island of the city center. On the western front there are many small pedestrian bridges, and many places with pedestrian potential, where the bridges disappeared in time. The pedestrian structure of the city could be considerably increased with these urban elements. Therefore, these elements of identity allow me to formulate some case studies focused on indentifying the potential areas in terms of social, cultural and urban tissue development. In conclusion, I think that proposals of reconverting areas and even the reinstatement in the collective memory of some spaces of cultural heritage, the peculiarities of the city structure, all these should be preserved and promovated in order to also increase the tourism activity.

5. Notes

1. The most recent development strategy for the city of Turda is CON-TURDA. Concept de dezvoltare la nivel regional 2014-2020. It is inteded to complete the previous one CON-TURDA. Concept de dezvoltare la nivel regional 2011-2016.
2. Diarna means that from Turda until to the mile stone there are 10 000 steps. This is about the Aiton Millar stone, which marks the distance to the Dacian settlement.
3. According to historical attestations the Emperor Septimius Severus (193 – 210 AD) raised Potaissa to the rank of a privileged city (municipium, and afterwards colonia), he completed the works for building the camp and he sat in the Fifth Macedonica Legion.
4. The administrative reform, whereby the administrative structure of Transylvania was changed and was established Turda-Arieş County. The Arieş Seat was embedded in Turda-Arieş County creating a new administrative unit.
5. Treaty of Trianon, following which the county along the entire Transilvania became part of Romania.
6. Promulgated by Royal Decree nr.1972/June13, 1925.

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