

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE TOPONYMS IN THE ȘUREANU MOUNTAINS VIEWED ON THE CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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**Abstract.** *The Evolution of the Toponyms in the Șureanu Mountains viewed on the Cartographic Sources.* The Șureanu Mountains are situated in the south-western part of Transylvania, relatively close to Oltenia and Banat regions. These mountains were represented in cartographic documents since ancient times, but the first detailed maps on this region were the Habsburg ones. For this reason, this study will display the cartographic evolution and the toponymy from the Austrian administration. The toponyms reflecting settlements, roads, rivers and landforms have been changed from one cartographic edition to another due to the German and the Hungarian documents existing in Transylvania, each nation influencing the toponymy of these places. Another prominent issue in the analysis of the cartographic sources is the changes brought in the extension of the settlements, routes of transports and valleys. Rivers have also been modified to facilitate territorial expansion of the human settlements.

**Rezumat.** *Evoluția toponimelor din Munții Șureanu, conform surselor cartografice.* Munții Șureanu sunt localizați în partea sud-vestică a Ardealului, fiind relativ aproape de Oltenia și Banat. Acești munți au fost reprezentați cartografic din cele mai vechi timpuri, însă primele hărți detaliate au fost cele austriece. Din acest motiv studiul va prezenta evoluția cartografică și toponimele începând cu perioada dominației austriece. Toponimele localităților, drumurilor, râurilor, a formelor de relief s-au modificat de la o ediție cartografică la alta datorită existenței în Transilvania a germanilor și a ungarilor mai mulți ani consecutiv, astfel că fiecare nație a influențat limba în care au fost scrise toponimele. Un alt aspect vizibil în analiza surselor cartografice este cel al modificărilor teritoriale, majoritatea



localităților și-au mărit suprafața construită, drumurile s-au îmbunătățit și au apărut alte noi rute, și de asemenea, căile ferate sunt un element nou. Râurile au fost modificate, pentru facilitarea expansiunii teritoriale a așezărilor umane.

**Key words:** *Șureanu Mountains, toponyms, cartographic sources, territorial changes of settlements.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *Munții Șureanu, toponime, surse cartografice, modificări teritoriale ale așezărilor umane.*

## 1. THE LOCATION OF THE ȘUREANU MOUNTAINS

The Șureanu Mountains are from the ancient times very well populated, due to the suitable conditions brought by its relief as well as they were an important economic area, with a position in southern Transylvania connecting to other historical regions - Banat and Oltenia. These mountains are just a part of the Carpathian Chain and a division of the biggest mountain group of the Southern/Meridional Carpathians ('Carpații Meridionali'). Most of the limits of the Șureanu Mountains are very precise; for instance, the Sebeș river is the border of its eastern part, while on the southern part the Eastern Jiu river separates the Șureanu Mountains from the Parâng Mountains. On the south-west and nord-west there lies the Hațeg Depression and the Orăștie Corridor.

## 2. A BRIEF GEO-HISTORICAL VIEW ON THE ȘUREANU MOUNTAINS

Over the years the Șureanu Mountains have been inhabited by many human cultures. The first important nation was that of the Dacians. Today there are still traces of Dacian settlements in these mountains. Then, it came the Roman conquest and the development of the Roman Empire. Even at heights more than 2,000 m, the Șureanu Mountains do not have steep slopes, but a big plateau. For this reason, at about 1,950 m, in the so-called Ocolu area there are still traces of a Roman fort. The same thing can be observed in the western part of the great heights.

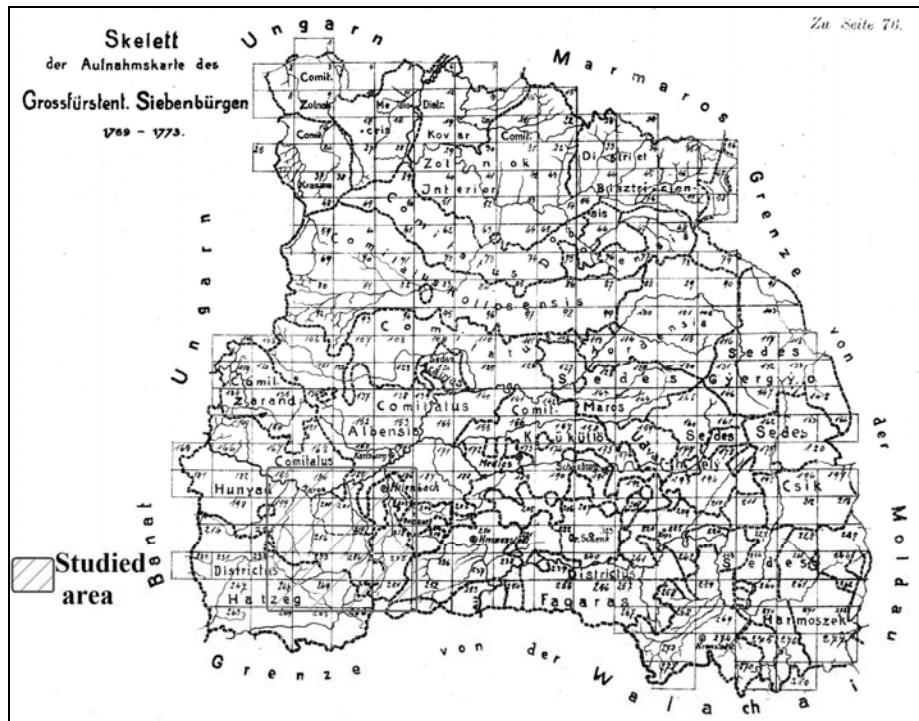
After this period, the Șureanu Mountains history was directly correlated with that of Transylvania. The aim of this study is to compare the map evolution from the Habsburg times till now. During the Habsburg Empire there had been made the first detailed maps of the Șureanu Mountains. In that period on the mountains border there were two Saxon (German) fortress: Sebeș (Mühlbach) and Orăștie (Broos): while in the low altitude area there were Saxon villages, at the heights there were Romanian villages.

In 1867 there was an important event for the Habsburg Empire, which has been known as "Ausgleich", when Hungary received equal rights with Austria, and formed the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In this way Transylvania was led 50 years (until the First World War) by this monarchy and from 1918 became a territory of Romania. After 1918 all maps produced later were in Romanian language.

Especially after the Second World War the Șureanu Mountains area has changed. The settlements have expanded their bulding area, while the direction of the Sebeș river was changed very much and deforestation have strongly changed the landscape.

### 3. METHODOLOGY OF STUDY: THE CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES AND THE SPECIFIC PLACE-NAMES

For this study there have been used a wide range of maps, which are useful to observe the changing of the place-names in the Şureanu Mountains. The first detailed maps of this area were made by the Austrians, during the Habsburg Empire. They have made three editions of maps. The first one it is known as “Erste Landesaufnahme” or “Josephinische Landesaufnahme”, as they were realized during the Joseph the Second, the Emperor of Austrian Monarchy. These maps were materialized between 1756 and 1785, in military purpose, when the Austrians found that in their old maps there were missing many details. At the beginning, there had been made only maps for the traditional Austrian area, and after a while the focused on the other dominated territories. The map for Transylvania had been made between 1769 and 1773, and it had 280 sheets. From these ones 18 represented the Şureanu Mountains (Figure 1). Here one can notice the old citadels, the villages, the buildings, the roads, the rivers, the mountain peaks and the types of vegetation. All these maps were hand-painted; at that time the altitudes were represented by hatch.



*Figure 1: The Şureanu Mountains on the first edition of the Austrian maps made for Transylvania region (source: Josephinische Landesaufnahme, 1773)*

The second edition of the Austrian maps was represented by the Franciscan maps, being made during the Emperor Francis the First. This edition of maps is known as “Zweite Landesaufnahme” or “Franziseische Landesaufnahme”. The maps were created between 1806 and 1869, as the Austrian administration wanted to improve the first edition, while they were fighting with the French Emperor Napoleon. The Transylvanian maps were realized at the end of this period, in year 1862. The method of representing the altitude on these maps is better than the first one: they used the triangulation, thus the quality of maps from this second edition is better. Another source for this analysis is from the third edition of the Austrian maps, which is known as “Dritte Landesaufnahme” or “Franzisco-Josephinische Landesaufnahme”. This name came from the Emperor Franz-Joseph the First. All these maps were made between 1869 and 1896. This third time the Transylvanian maps were not as detailed as for the Austrian territory itself.

For this study there were taken into account not only the Austrian maps but also some Hungarian maps made in 1912. There is one map for each county, and the Şureanu Mountains in that time belonged to two counties: the biggest part was in the western area, located on the Hunedoara county, while the eastern part was on the Sibiu county. On these maps there were represented the landforms, the maximum altitude of different massifs, the hydrological network, the towns, the villages, the roads, the railways and so on and so forth. If till 1912 the place-names were in German, from that time they were only in the Hungarian language. Another Hungarian map was created between 1913-1916, representing all the Transylvanian area: the Şureanu Mountains were placed on the southern border of Transylvania, nearby the Parâng Mountains, in the Romanian Carpathians.

Finally, we compare the older map sources with the Romanian ones, which could be followed on the topographic maps 1:100000 and 1:25000 overlapping the whole Şureanu Mountains area. On these maps the altitude is represented by contour, an important element being that the heights were added. On the same maps it is easy to recognize the roads, the railroads, the human settlements, the hydrological network and different types of forest trees (beech, fir, spruce).

A comparison of all these maps is reflected in the change of the place-names. It is noticed a stratification of the names due to the different administration the Şureanu Mountains was dominated by (The Habsburg, the Austro-Hungarian and the Romanian) as well as new geographical elements which reveal not only new toponyms but also new settlements, rivers or other changes.

#### **4. THE EVOLUTION OF THE MAIN PLACE-NAMES: STRATIFICATION AND CHANGES**

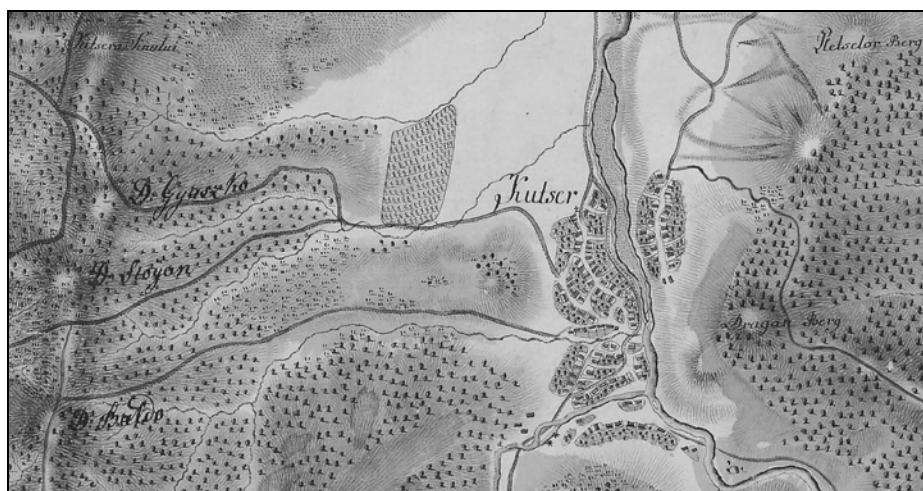
Because the Şureanu Mountains are in Transylvania they were influenced by many cultures. The purpose of this study is to correlate and explain the various terms of the same town, rivers, roads, relief units etc. For this reason these geographic elements will be presented separately.

##### **a) The oiconyms in the Şureanu Mountains**

At the beginning it must be presented the oiconyms, as they were probably most affected by changing the management and the domination. The largest settlements are located at the edge of the Şureanu Mountains. The cities known here are Sebeş, Cugir, Orăştie and Petrila, and these names are on the new maps 1:100,000 and 1:25,000, made

after year 1960. The oiconyms (the towns' names) are changed on the Austrian and Hungarian maps.

Analysing the Josephine maps, it is possible to see that Mühlenbach is the name for Sebeş, Kutser for Cugir (Figure 2), Broos for Orăştie and Petrilla for Petrila. Soon after these maps, there were made the Franciscan maps, where some names had been changed. From Mühlenbach for Sebeş becomes Mühlbach, for Cugir from Kuster to Kudzsir, only for Orăştie and Petrila the names remain the same.



**Figure 2:** Cugir on the Josephine map, 1770

The Hungarian names are totally different, so they sound different, but also the meaning is changed. In German the name for *Sebeş* – Mühlbach, means the ‘river with mills’, in Hungarian is Szászsebes, which means ‘fast river of the Saxons’ (the Romanian *Sebeş* coming from the Hungarian noun ‘sebes’ meaning ‘fast river’).

The name for *Cugir* remains the same on the Hungarian maps from 1912: Kudzsir, but for Orăştie (in Romanian the root ‘oraş’ meaning ‘town’) appears a new name: from Broos to Szászvár (‘the chalet of the Saxons’). Petrila (in regional Romanian ‘petrilă’ means ‘stony area’) keeps the name Petrilla, which confirm much smaller influence of the Austrians and the Hungarians in this part than in the center of Transylvania (Figure 3).

In the Şureanu Mountains (‘Şureanu’ is a Romanian anthroponym coming from the Romanian noun ‘şură’ as a special wood-made place for keeping cereals or different objects for protection from wind and rain) the settlements present a different evolution name, because the Germans and the Hungarians did not go so far in the mountains. For the first time it was presented the villages along the Sebeş river, very well marked, which make easier the movement of population. In some place the river valley is larger and the settlements are close to each other.

The first village after Sebeş to the south is *Petreşti*. This is represented on the Josephine maps, and also on the other ones, and almost all villages from the Sebeş Valley. On the first edition of Austrian maps, *Petreşti* is written like *Petersdorf* (translated as Peter’s

village), a German name, but in the same time appears the Hungarian name: Peterfalú (translated also as ‘the village of Peter’), because here there lived Germans but also Hungarians. In the second edition of the Austrian maps, the Franciscan ones, Petrești has just the German name, and on the Hungarian maps from 1913 it is just Peterfalú.

On the southern area, there are three close settlements: *Sebeșel* (‘small Sebeș’), *Săsciori* (‘Saxon village’) and *Laz* (translated as ‘deforested village’), while on the Josephine maps there are added other settlements as: Sebeselly (translated as Sebeș Hills), Szászesor, and Lasz. On the second edition of the Austrian maps, there are some small changes, but the names remain in German: Sebesely, Szászasor and Laaz. On the Hungarian maps the names are not so much modified, just the Laz village have a new name: Sebesláz (‘the Laz from Sebeș’).

On the areas with bigger heights from the valley, the names of settlements are unchangeable, and they are identical with those in Romanian - just the way that they are written is different. For example, the villages *Căpâlna* (from ‘căpâlna’ originating in Hungarian ‘kapolna’ which is ‘chappel’) and *Șugag*, are on the first Austrian maps written as Kapolna (‘Chappel’) and Dorf Sugag (Sugag Village’), while on the Hungarian ones the names become Sebeskăpâlna (‘the chapel on the Sebeș river’) and Sugág.



Figure 3: The Șureanu Mountains area on the Hungarian map 1913-1916

For a better exemplification of the development of the Romanian villages from the Șureanu Mountains, there are presented the settlements from the secondary valleys of the

mountains, where the distances from the important urban center is much bigger. The name in Romanian, German and Hungarian are similar: Răchita (German: Rekitte, Hungarian: Rekitta), Strungar (German: Strungar, Hungarian: Sztrungár), Loman (German: Loman, Hungarian: Lomány). 'Răchita' means 'willow', 'Strungar' is related to the Romanian noan 'strungă' (narrow pass or straight), while 'Loman' comes from Slave 'lom', meaning 'wood'.

The towns are the most important form of anthropical organization; it is also important the roads for the contact between the settlements and for the transport. Because of this on all maps there were represented the roads and railways.

On the Romanian maps the roads are added like different categories as: European roads, national roads, county roads and so on. At the margins of Șureanu Mountains there are two European roads and they interconnect in Sebeș: E 68 and E 81. European road E 68 is coming from Deva and goes to Sibiu. On the Josephine maps these roads have different names, depending on the sheet that they are. On the sheet Josephinische Landesaufnahme 186, where is town Sebeș, the European road E 68 has two names. From Sebeș to Sibiu the name is "Landstrasse nach Hermannstadt" (the national street to Sibiu – in German) and from Sebeș to Orăștie is called "Landstrasse von Száfváros" (national road from Orăștie – in German), (Figure 4 and Figure 5).



**Figure 4:** Today European road E 68 on the Austrian map named "Landstrasse von Száfváros" ('The Roadmap from Orăștie')

On the sheet Josephinische Landesausnahme 200, where it is represented Orăștie, the European road E 68 is written as "Landstrasse nach Mühlenbach" (the national street to Sebeș – in German). In all others maps the roads are represented without names. European Road E 81 from Cluj Napoca to Sebeș is named "Landstrasse nach Carlsburg" (the national street to Alba Iulia – in German). Another road added on the Josephine maps, but with smaller importance, is county road DJ 705 A, which make the connection between Orăștie and Hațeg, and is added as "Landstrasse von Hatzeg" (national street from Hațeg – in German). Other roads from the Romanian maps are the national road N 67 C (Sebeș -

Novaci), the national road N 7A (Petrila-Voineasa) and the county road DJ 704, nearby Cugir.



**Figure 5:** The European road E 68 on a topographic Romanian map 1:100000

The settlements in some area are dependent most of the time of water resources, and that's why all of them, no matter the size, are localized along the rivers or near by them. The rivers are represented on all the maps, on the Romanian, the Austrian and the Hungarian ones, but the names are different from one edition to another. From this reasons is needed an exemplification of rivers name. Sebeș river is situated on the eastern limit of the Șureanu Mountains, and on the Josephine maps is named Sebes Fluss (Sebeș river in German). On the Hungarian maps the situation seems to be different: Sebes as Mühlbach, because the German influence was still important. The Cugir river is named Kudserer Wasser (Cugir water - in German, with origins from the 15<sup>th</sup> century documents where Cugir settlement appear as 'villa Kunentum' or 'the town of Kun family', or later - in year 1493 - as 'villa Kudzyr'), because the size of this river is smaller than the other rivers. In the south and in the west it is river Strei (name probably coming from old Tracic name 'streu' which means 'to flow'), known by different names: Strel, and Szrehl in German and Sztrig in Hungarian. Eastern Jiu has another name: Hungarian Jiu, Ungarische Schül Bach or Magyar Zsil.

#### **b) The oronyms**

Another interesting feature found in the analysis was the presence of the *oronyms* in the Șureanu Mountains. In the mountains the altitude increases gradually, while in the marginal places as in depressions the slopes are not steep and the landscape is like the one in a hill region. For this reason, most often the oronyms receive the depression or hill names. Most of them are taken from the local population, predominantly the Romanians. It can provide examples, making comparison between the name appeared on Romanian topographic maps with scale 1:100000 and on the Austrian maps, from the collection of Josephine maps: Dealul Manoilă ('Manoilă's Hill') – Manoila (German), Dealul Lung ('Long Hill') – Dial Lung (German).



On the places where there are the highest altitudes, the most important toponyms remain the mountain peaks. As in the lower areas, the same phenomenon of the name repetition is observed also here: Vf. Șureanu ('Șureanu Peak') – Schurian, Vf. lui Pătru (Peter's Peak) – Vurvu Petru (Figure 6), Vf. Comărniceleului (its name origin is the Romanian word "comarnic", a local word identifying a small opening where the sheep used to enter to be milked; it actually means "the gate of sheep") – Komarnicsele, Vf. Aușelu (from Romanian name 'aușel' 'kinglet or Regulus cristatus') – Vurvu Aussellu, Vf. Pârva (family name) – Purva, and Vf. Gropșoara – Gropschoara ('small dip or hollow, excavation').



*Figure 6: Petru's Peak on the Josephine map*

No matter what elements (natural or anthropical), all these toponyms describe the changes from one map to another due to different language and to different culture of those who made them. The biggest differences are noted at the border areas of Șureanu Mountains, where the influence of the German and the Hungarian languages was stronger than in the higher mountain areas where these influences had not penetrated so far. Here it was a predominance of the Romanian population, thus the Romanian names are on all the editions of the maps.

## **5. TERRITORIAL CHANGES ON SETTLEMENTS, VALLEYS AND ROUTES OF TRANSPORT**

On the analysis of the maps, the toponyms are probably some of the most obvious changes after the construction mode (hatching, contour, triangulation). Most impressive seems to be the territorial ones. The best comparison is made between the Austrian maps (even from their first edition, as they are the oldest version), and the Romanian maps (1:25000, the latest ones), so that it should be easier to observe many changes made over time.

The built area of the *settlements* suffered the most visible changes. On the 1770s, when the Josephine maps were made, the population number was much smaller than today, so the settlements were less extended. The towns from the margins of the Șureanu Mountain have mostly been developed. On the Austrian maps, only in the town Sebeș it is remarked the Saxon fortress, some specific Romanian houses and their house plots. During that period this town was most developed in the north and in the west, while lately it has expanded greatly in all parts, especially to the south and to the east. The fortress is still there, the walls are not fully preserved, but the narrow streets preserve the irregular shape - a remarkable view on the new maps. Orăștie is another example of a town with fortress. Compared with the situation in Sebeș, the fortress in Orăștie has a much smaller size, but there were many individual houses out of the fortress. On the new maps it is remarkable the territorial expansion of the town on all sides, but especially on the north.

On the southern part of the Șureanu Mountains, towards the Petroșani Depression, Petrila has shown some of the most impressive changes. On the maps of 1770s, it appears like a large area occupied by houses situated far away one from another. Currently the town is compact, with many new buildings, and beside them on the map there are noted other settlements located towards the heights of the Șureanu Mountains: Câmp, Tîrci and Râscoala. The first two are located along the Eastern Jiu, and the last one along the Râscoala river. A new settlement, Tău Bistra, was observed on the Sebeș Valley, where the altitude is about 1,000 m.

On the *valleys* of the Șureanu Mountains the spatial changes were also visible. Most villages were developed simple, along the river valleys. On the new maps, it is easy to see that they are much more developed, the villages having new perpendicular streets. On the Josephine maps the villages were at visible distances one from each other, but on the new maps it is remarkable the limit of the built surface even if it is still an autonomy of each village. This situation appears both on the Sebeș Valley, with the settlements: Sebeșel, Săsciori and Laz, and on the Grădiștea Valley with the villages: Orăștioara de Sus, Ludeștii de Jos and Costești (Figure 7). Ludești means ‘the people who are coming from the Ludescu family’, where ‘lud’ is Slave form for ‘mad’, while Costești refers to ‘persons following from Costescu family’, where ‘coastă’ refers to a Romanian hill/mountain slope.

The maps presented changes also at the shape of the roads, due to the measurement quality and manufacturing techniques, but mostly to the *roads* that have changed in time. On the first edition of the Austrian map there were no railways and the normal roads were not so well developed. On the highest mountain area there were just some mountain paths; on the Josephine maps there appeared only the roads from lower altitudes. Most of the roads were made along the river valleys, but on the areas where the relief allowed a real road network has been built. Some national roads have changed even their own courses; in this idea it can be remade the European Road E 81 in the northern edge of the Șureanu Mountains. On the most recent maps there have appeared a link between Alba Iulia and Sebeș, passing right through Lancrăm, a small village, and through the western part of Sebeș, where it connects the European road E 68. On the Josephine maps the roads show that it has been developed much further to the east, reaching the center of Sebeș town. Furthermore it overlaps the famous Salt Road, known as the “Roman Path”.

Some changes of the settlements area and of the roads were conditioned by the location nearby the rivers. In the 1770s the rivers were not arranged: those rivers where the valleys were large have small branches. Some river managements were done only in the towns from the edge of the mountain areas, and especially in Sebeș, where it was created the

so-called “Channel of the Mills”, hence the German name is Mühlbach – ‘river with mills’. It is noted that on the recent maps the upper part of the rivers (less the medium and inferior part as well) are well defined now. This was possible hydrological arrangements made during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries for the protection of the human settlements.



**Figure 7:** The area of the settlements Buciu-Costești on the Josephine map (left) and on a Romanian map (right)

From the Austrian, the Hungarian and the Romanian maps it is shown the territorial changes made on the Șureanu Mountains, according to the influence of each type of administration and to its planning policies, reflected on settlements, valley courses and routes of transport (roads, railways).

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

In time the Șureanu Mountains have appeared on many cartographic sources and have had a rich toponymy. They were presented by different methods, which were more and more accurate in time. It was found that the existing toponyms in this area have changed once with the change of the type of administration of the Transylvanian region. If at its beginning it was ruled by the Habsburg Empire, the first maps appeared with German toponyms, then during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy it was created a Hungarian map edition, while after 1918, when Transylvania belonged to Romania, maps had mainly Romanian toponyms. Each time the maps had military purposes.

It was found that the biggest changes have shown the toponyms from the marginal areas of the Șureanu Mountains, where the German and the Hungarian influences were stronger. Romanian peasants prevailed in the high areas, transmitting their toponyms directly

on the field. This area has changed in terms of human settlements, hydrography and routes of transport. This process was possible due to the increasing number of population and living standards.

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