

ELEMENTS OF CARPATHIANS GEOGRAPHY IN THE OLD HISTORIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTS

Petru URDEA*, **Claudia URDEA****

* *West University of Timișoara, Department of Geography, Blv. V. Pârvan,
No.4, 300223, Timișoara, Romania, e-mail: urdea@cbg.uvt.ro*

** *„Avram Iancu” School, Timișoara, Romania, e-mail: claudi_urdea@yahoo.com*

Abstract. *Elements of Carpathians Geography in the old historic and cartographic documents.* The article shows several aspects of how the network of mountain toponyms was formed in our mountain area and how this process is illustrated in Middle Age documents and cartographic sources. The way in which mediaeval documents reflect a certain way of perceiving the different characteristics of our mountains, (mountains with alpine aspect vs. other mountains) is also illustrated. The apparition and perpetuation of certain oronyms on various maps, especially on the maps of Transylvania is also illustrated, the other Romanian provinces being poorer in cartographic productions. After analyzing the above mentioned cartographic material we may conclude that the oronym *Carpatus*, *Carpates*, *Carpathes*, *Carpazzi*, never appears in the area of the Meridional Carpathians, but only in the area of the Oriental Carpathians. It most frequently appears in two areas of the Eastern Carpathians i.e. at the sources of Tisa and at the sources of Mureș and Olt, or at the sources of Târnave rivers. The oronym *Alpes*, derived from the appellative *alpes*, appears on maps of the Southern Carpathians from the 16th century until the end of the 19th century when, on a scientific –didactic source, the regional oronym *Carpații Meridionali (Southern Carpathians)* appears together with the oronym *the Alps of Transylvania*. The names *Transylvanische Alpen* and *Transylvanian Alps* frequently appear especially on contemporary German and English cartographic documents instead of *Southern Carpathians*, the name *Carpathians* being used only for the Eastern Carpathians.

Rezumat. *Elemente ale Geografiei Carpaților în vechi documente istorice și cartografice.* Articolul reliefează câteva aspecte despre modul în care s-a format rețeaua de toponime despre munte în Carpații Românești și cum acest proces a fost ilustrat în documentele Evului Mediu și în sursele cartografice.



Este de asemenea ilustrată modalitatea în care documentele medievale reflectă un anumit mod de a percepe diferite caracteristici ale munților noștri, (munți cu aspect alpin vs. alți munți). Este evidențiată totodată, apariția și perpetuarea anumitor oronime pe diferite hărți, în special pe hărțile Transilvaniei, celelalte provincii românești fiind sărace în producții cartografice. După analizarea materialului cartografic menționat mai sus, putem concluda că oronime precum *Carpatius*, *Carpatas*, *Carpathes*, *Carpazzi*, nu apar niciodată în aria Carpaților Meridionali, ci doar în cea a Carpaților Orientali. Oronimul menționat apare în mod frecvent în două areale ale Carpaților Estici, în surse despre râurile Tisa, Mureș și Olt sau Târnave. Oronimul *Alpes* (*Alpi*), derivat din apelativul *alpes*, apare pe hărțile Carpaților Sudici începând cu secolul al XVI-lea până la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea când, pe o sursă științifică și didactică, oronimul regional *Carpații Meridionali* (*Carpații Sudici*) apare împreună cu oronimul *Alpii Transilvaniei*. Numele *Transsylvanische Alpen* și *Transylvanian Alps* (*Alpii Transilvaniei*) apare frecvent, mai ales în documentele cartografice contemporane Germane și Engleze în locul *Carpaților Sudici*, numele *Carpați* fiind atribuit numai Carpaților Estici.

Key words: *mountains, maps, Middle Age documents, Carpathians, Romania.*

Cuvinte cheie: *munți, hărți, documente din Evul Mediu, Carpați, România.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The article aims to show several aspects of the way in which the mountain toponym network of our country appeared and how this process is shown on the cartographic documents of Middle Ages. On the other hand we will show how the mountains with alpine aspect are represented differently in medieval documents from other mountains of the Romanian Carpathians. It is important to mention that we wrote this article bearing in mind the words of George Vâlsan who said that “The Carpathians should not be considered with the eyes of the writer looking for particularities, or with the eye of the traveler who sees the mountains for the first time. They should be considered with the eye and sense of the people who are living near them” (Vâlsan, 1924).

The analysis of the major toponymy of the Romanian Carpathians shows a major discrepancy between hydronyms and oronyms, the first category appearing much earlier than the second. The richness of Carpathian hydronyms in early cartographic sources was revealed in fact from the first consistent historical geography analyses of cartographic sources (Popescu-Spineni, 1938). This condition is considered to be normal as valleys represented from the dawn of history throughout the centuries areas with high living potential. More so, the major communication routes appeared and evolved especially along valleys, a perfect example for this is the Roman routes network.

The present structure of Carpathian oronyms, with status of regionyms, as it appears in manuals, scientific works and general works as well as on general or special maps, or singular works, is mainly a consequence of the didacticism and lyrical of the Romanian geography and cartography. It is important for our endeavor to admit the phenomena of toponymic stratification specific to a certain region (Ungureanu, Boamfă, 2006).

The structuring process of the major toponymy of the mountain areas, the general mountain names are “a conquest made by us, modern people... born in the necessity of the man of science to work with them” (Conea, 1938a). The great researcher of the historic geography of the Carpathians, the geographer Ion Conea rightly noticed that in the early

days of geography the writer would use the local mountain appellative to name a mountain so this would become a proper name (Conea, 1938a).

Keeping in mind the words of the Romanian geographer Simion Mehedinți that “the map is the eye of the geographer” (1931) we will try to show several aspects specific to the Romanian Carpathians starting from the antique information up to the stage of the modern Romanian geography. The structuring of the oronyms network in the Carpathians, their continuity and enrichment are highly dependent on the merits of Renaissance cartographers and editors, the spreading of important books and atlases in the entire Europe and, of course, in the Romanian space but especially in Transylvania, which was an active part of the Renaissance cultural current (Klaniczay, 1995).

2. ANTIC REFERENCES

It is well known that the first geographic information on the Carpathian-Danubian Pontic space belong to the ancient Greek historians Hesiod, Anaximandru, Hecateu, Herodotus and others. The first mentions are hydrographic references mentioning the Danube (*Istros*), and the Mureș (*Marisos*), the Nistru (*Tyras*). Unfortunately orographic references of that period are vague. Hesiod (7th c. B.C.) in his work *Theogonia* mentions that north of the Danube lays a vast space formed by the Mountains of Rhipaei (*Ρίπατα Οροσ*), this information appears later on Medieval maps as *Sarmaticus Ripae* (lat. *ripae* – cliff, abrupt). It is only logical that when Dacians are mentioned they should be associated with the mountains, as the historian Lucius Annaeus Florus (approx 10-140) writes: “*Daci montibus inhaerent*” (Historia Augusta, XXVIII, IV, 18).

Ptolemy writes that Dacia “is delimited at the north by a part of the European Sarmatians, from Mount Carpates (*Καρπάτου ὄρους*) to the margin of the mentioned curve of the river Tyras ...” (Ptolemy, III, 8, 1, in Izvoare, I, 1964)

Taking into consideration that toponyms reflect a certain feature of the place we are convinced that the apparition of the oronym Carpathians is highly connected to the etymology of this oronym.

Giving proper credit to Claudius Ptolemais we may notice that the general designation of the mountains of our country do not subscribe the general rule stated by Ion Conea that general names are recent, modern, results but the Carpathians were for more than a millennium the sole toponymic reference on the maps of these parts of the world. We must accept only one exception. Mount Cozia, an individualized oronym, inherits the antic *Mons Caucasus* from the work of Annaeus Florus (Conea, 1938b).

The somewhat intricate nature of the Carpathians was underlined by the historian Cassius Dio (155-236) who said when describing the wars of the Romans against the Dacians that on their way to Sarmizegetusa the Romans “have a difficult ascension to the top of the mountains” (LXVII, 8).

We may notice that this feature of a part of the Carpathian relief is also mentioned in Medieval cartographic documents referring to the Dacian space.

In 551, the historian Jordanes in his major work “*DE ORIGINE ACTIBUSQUE GETARUM*” or “*GETICA*” referring to the territory situated north of the Danube writes „*Quae patria in conspectu Moesiae sita trans Danubium corona montium cingitur ...*” (XII. 74) stating a reality of the Romanian geographic space i.e. the Carpathians, positioned as a crown are a true vertebral column of the relief of our country. It is not surprising that this



Figure 2: Segment of Tabula Peutingeriana with „Alpes Bastarnice”

3. MEDIEVAL ACQUISITIONS

It is a well known fact that the presence of the mountains in the areas inhabited by the Romanians is mentioned ever since the first medieval documents. They were mentioned because of their strategic and military and also economic importance, mountains being often considered border lines.

The Chronic of Nestor, or *Povest vremennykh let*, - the earliest East Slavic chronicle, compiling in the years 1112-1113 by Saint Nestor the Chronicler (c. 1056 - c. 1114 Kyiv) – mentions for instance that after the Hungarians passed Kiev they hurried “through the tall mountains, that were named Hungarian, and began to fight with the Volochs and Slavs who lived there” (Cronica, XIX). Also when Sviatopolsk, the son of the prince Vladimir, wanted to murder his brother Sviatoslav, he followed him “to the Carpathian Mountains, when he wanted to seek refuge in Hungary” (Cronica, XLVIII).

In *Gesta Hungarorum*, - Latin for *The Deeds of the Hungarians* -, a record of early Hungarian history written probably between 1196 and 1220, the Chronicary Anonimus mentions in several occasions the Gate of Mezeș, “*portam Mezesynam*”, (Gesta...XIX), „*portas Mezesinas*”, (Gesta...XXI, XXII, XXVI,). The incursion of the Hungarians in the Pannonian Basin is described as their leaving “*terra Galicie*” traversing the forest Houos „*ultra-silvam Houos*” and came down to Pannonia (Gesta ...IX), „*Et sic uenientes per siluam Houos ad partes Hung descenderunt*” (Gesta...XII). Considering that the mountains between Galicia and Maramureș are named by the Hungarians Havas and that in Hungarian *havas* is a term used to designate only high, snowy mountains with alpine features (Urdea, 2001), we think that Anonimus made reference to the mountain Hoverla – *silvam Houos*, which becomes in our days **Hóvár** the highest mountain (2061 m) of the Wooded Carpathians or Cernahora. To underline this idea comes the reference of Anonimus that after crossing the mountains the first place of settlement was named Muncas „*...locum, quem occupaerunt, Muncas nominauerunt eo...*” - (Gesta...XII), which is the present city of Mukacevo, situated in the trans-Carpathian Ukraine. Anonimus also mentions the confrontations between the duke Menumorut and Tosu and Zobolsu, captains of Arpad, somewhere between Crișu Repede and Someș, at their return to Hungary, before reaching the river Tur, they settled camp near a dumpy mountain, „*paruos montes*”, probably Culmea Codrului (579 m).

The chronicle of Simon de Keza *Gesta Hunorum et Hungarorum* mentions that the Seklars are neighbors to the Wallachians in the mountains „*cum Blachis in montibus confinii*” (IV.6; in Popa-Lisseanu, 1935).

The *Diploma of the Ionanite Knights* (1247) mentions that King Bela the 4th gives the Ioanites “*totam terrain de Zevrino cum Alpibus*”. The principalities of Litovoi, Ioan and Farcaș are mentioned with the reference „...*ante dicto a fluvio Oltae et Alpibus ultrasilvanis...*”. This explicit formulation is due both to the economic perception of the alpine fields and of a good knowledge of the space, i.e. the vicinity to Făgăraș Mountains.

In the Scandinavian *Hervarar saga*, a legendary saga from the 13th century which describes ancient Germanic legends about battles between Goths and Huns, and in the last part is a source for Swedish medieval history, the name *Karpates* appears in the predictable Germanic form as *Harvaða fjöllum*.

Due to the economic value of the villages’ domains for the medieval rural communities their account captures their natural potential, as we mentioned before (Urdea, 1983, 2001). The cases in which mountains –*montibus*– are used to confirm the possessions of the nobility of „Țara Hațegului”, Hațeg Country, are frequent in medieval documents. Where high mountains are considered, here Retezat Mountains and Țarcu Mountains, they are mentioned as *alpibus*. For exemplification we mention:

- the document of June 8, 1377 in which the capitulus of Alba Iulia reports to the King of Transylvania, Ladislau, an answer referring to the division and delimitation of the Brytonia domain with one part in the alpine area “*a parte aplinum*”, being the case of Țarcu Mountain (Documenta, 2006, doc. 168);

- the document of September 4, 1402, which gives account of the sale of a part of the territories of Fărcădin and Ohaba villages and which makes reference among others to the mountains – *montibus* – and the high mountain with pastures - *alpibus* (Izvoare, 1986, doc. 3);

- the document of August 17, 1404, by which king Sigismund, gives to Ioan, son of Căndea de Râu de Mori for “*fidelitatibus et fidelium obsequiorum*” the domain Nucșoara with all its “uses and belongings”, „...*nemoribus, montibus, ... alpibus, ...*” (Izvoare, 1986, doc. 7);

- the document emitted in Prague at November 22, 1452, by which king Ladislau „...*quod nos consideratis multimodis fidelitatibus ac fidelium obsequiorum laudo dignis meritis*” gives to Căndreș, son of John, son of Căndrea of Râu de Mori, the possessions Râu de Mori, Suseni, Brazi, Ostrovel, Ohaba, Valea Dâljii, Sibîșel, as well as parts of the domains Poieni, Reea, Pâclișă, Cârnești, Poieni, Galați, Fizești and Sâmpetru with “all its uses and belongings” „...*nemoribus, rubetis, virgultis, alpibus, montibus, vallibus...*” (Izvoare, 1986, doc. 176);

- the document of March 27, 1463, by which king Mattia Corvinus grants his subjects Peter and Ladislau of Coroiștei for “*fidelitatibus et fidelium serviorum*” the village Coroiștei with all its usages „...*nemoribus, montibus, alpibus, ...*”. (Izvoare, 1986, doc. 229).

The mountains with alpine aspect, in this case Retezat Mountains, were perceived differently. A clear proof for this is that in the case of the granting of some villages that did not have in their domain mountains with alpine character, like in the case of the villages Vad, Nălaț, Balomir, Bărăști, Densuș or Baru, Merișor and Crivadia the mountains, i.e. Poiana Ruscă and Tulișă Mountains, were called *montibus*. This is proved by the following documents:

- the document of August 14, 1440, by which king Ladislau enhances the ownership privilege for the domain of the villages Vad, Nălaț, Balomir, Bărăști with „...*rubetis, montibus, vallibus, ...*” to Pleșuvul, son of Dan, and to Mihail, son of Ioan of Vad and to Dumitru and Ladislau of Streisângeorgiu (Izvoare, 1986, doc. 86);

- the document of November 15, 145, by which king Ladislau grants several families from Sălașu for „*multimodis obsequiorum meritis fidelium*” the possessions called Merișor (*Meysor*), Crivadia (*Krywadya*), Baru (*Baar*), with all their belongings with „...*rubetis, montibus, vallibus, ...*” i.e. thorns, mountains, valleys (Izvoare, 1986, doc. 172);

- the document of 10 December 1458 by which king Matei Corvin grants of Sandrin Mușina of Densuș for „*fidelitatibus et obsequiorum meritisiorum*” a half of possession Hățăgel with all its uses and belongings, „...*nemoribus, montibus, vallibus, ...*” (Izvoare, 1986, doc.).

The perception of the rocky mountains is proved as well by the document of Ludovic I, king of Hungary, of June 28, 1377 by which he reinforces the border line of the Aiud and Remetea domains at the request of the capitulus of Alba Iulia and of the noblemen of Rimetea, a border mark being placed between two rocky mountains „...*duos lapideos montes...*” (Documenta, 2006, doc. 179). Our field research data lead to the conclusion that the border mark is situated in the saddle from the north of Pietrele Secuiului (1128 m) from Colții Trascăului and has the shape of a pile of rocks. The documents reflect as well the difficulties encountered by the locals where the terrain is rough due to high density of the forest and high altitude „...*densitatem silvarum et altitudines montium...*”. This illustrative example is given by the document emitted in Buda at January 28, 1380, by which Ladislau, king of Transylvania, demands the capitul of Alba Iulia to send men to testify for the border of the domains Cepău, Mintiu, Șintereag and Fata situated at the foot of Mount Țibleș (Documenta, 2006, doc. 449).

In comparison to the above mentioned situation, documents referring to Țara Făgărașului (Făgăraș Country) are from an early stage richer in geographic names. The Mountains Lerescu, Moșul, Nimaia and Ludișorul are mentioned in documents emitted by the kings of Wallachia in 1414, 1437 and 1476 (Urdea, 1983). The *Urbarium*, very comprehensive administrative- economic and social documents, mention with high precision the mountains which belonged to each village and the sheepfolds on them. They were mentioned in a distinct part of the documents called *Alpes* (Urdea, 1983). For instance, in the *Urbarium* of 1640, approx. 30 oronyms are mentioned, (written in Hungarian), from which the mountains Nimaia, Țiganului, Gropile, Groapa Hârsenilor, Valea Buzduganului, Stânișoara, Petriceaua, Picioru Scoarței, Valea Radului, Belia, Scărișoara, Baba, Budiu, Pleașa, Jeleaju, Valea Pojorții, Moșul, Fața, Smida, Fața lui Dobrin, Drăguș, Arpășel, Jneapănu, Viștea Mare, Zănoaga, Ucea Mare, Tărăța, Ucișoara, Buteanu, Albota, and in the *Urbarium* of 1647 the mountains Negoiu, Bărcaciu, Puha, Șerbota, Sărata, Podragu, Gârmanu and Scara are mentioned.

We are confronted thus with the assimilation by the officials of Făgăraș Domain of the toponymy used by the locals, this being an important step in the evolution of the region, i.e. the transition from oral to the official record of a system of toponyms, made of oiconymes (villages) and their mountain possessions reflected in oronyms. The present situation is almost identical to the one mentioned before, in situation in which in the alpine area on each valley, corresponding to the glacial valleys and their cirques of origin, grazing is present.

In Transylvania there is a unitary approach of the matter because the chancelleries wrote all texts in Latin but there are still some exceptions. The document from September 4, 1373 by which the convent of Lelez states the endowing of Balc, Drag and Ioan, sons of the late king Sas, with the Cuhea domain (Bogdan Vodă), mentioning the mountains Țibleșul, Știol, Nedeia, Toroioaga, Ignăteasa, Nedeia: „*ab illo loco ascendit supra ad montem Zepleshauas (Țibleș), inde versus orientem servando ad alium montem Kenezhasa (Cneazului), inde ad tertium montem Stolhausa; inde ad quartum montem Terhouasa (Toroiağa), a quo postmodumdirigitur versus septemtrionem ad montem Ignathauasa (Ignăteasa), deinde ad alium montem Vigsaghauasa (Vișeu), alio nomine Nedele (Nedeia)...*” (Documenta, 2002, doc. 272). Consequently, although the document is written in Latin, particular mountains, i.e. tall mountains, were referred to by using the modifier *hauasa*, a Latinized form of the Hungarian *havasi*, meaning covered in snow. As we mentioned before (Urdea, 2001), the word *havasi* in Hungarian means alpine, and the word *havasok* is used to designate high mountains with alpine features, like Fogarasi havasok, Radnai havasok, Retyezat havasok. Noticing that even smaller mountains, with altitudes below 2000 m, are nominated in the same way, like in the case of Mount Țibleș (1839 m), Toroioaga (1930 m), Ignăteasa (1766 m), we cannot exclude the possibility that the name was used in relation to the long persistence of the snow in the mountain area, a geographic and climatic reality of that time.

We think that for some areas the toponyms reflect an intense inhabiting and a very good knowledge. This was important for orientation but also for commercial, administrative and legal purposes. A document from 1520 in which Transylvanian and Oltenian noblemen establish the borderline between Transylvania and Oltenia (Eftimiu, 1935; Donat, 1937) illustrates by means of toponymy that the Romanians of the mountain areas knew very well their environment. This border is considered the first political border between Transylvania and Wallachia (Conea, 1938b). In order to avoid the conflict between Transylvanian and Wallachian shepherds for the alpine pastures, the emissaries of Ioan Zapolya and Neagoe Basarab draw a precise border from peak to peak, from Olt Valley to Orșova (Conea, 1938b). This document follows the ridges of the Carpathians and watersheds and the features of each mountain and peak is expressed in the clear and precise manner of the Latin language: „*ad verticem*” – on the top, „*ad picem*” – at the peak, „*per apicem*” – on the ridge, „*per summitatem*” – at the high, „*per cacumen*” – on the highest and sharpest peaks. Even in these graphic Latin names the Romanian name can be easily identified, written by ear by the probably Hungarian secretary.³⁹ oronyms are mentioned from Olt Valley to Râu lui Frate („*rivus Frateo dictus*”), through the Mountains Lotrului, Șurianu, Tulișa, Retezat, Godeanu and Cernei, to the west, towards the Cerna Passage on the following route: Stâlpu’ lui Neag („*columna Nyagoe*”) – Muntele Negru (Black Mountain) („*montis Negru*”) – Voineagul („*montis Voineszul*”) – Piatra Albă („*Piatra Alba*”) – the Peak of Pătru („*montem Petru*”) – Bilele creek („*torentum Bemelg*”) – Dealu Babii („*montem Belbe*”) – Făgețel („*montis Felijen*”) – Custura – Drăgșanu- Paltina and Soarbele („*ex monte qui appellatur Curta, Szidristan, Paltin et Szorobele*”) – Galbena („*Mits Galbeni et Mare Galbeni*”) – Lăpușnicu Mic creek („*Torrentes Basnicului*”) – Nedeia („*et mons ille vocato Nedeje*”) – Râu Șes („*rivam Urkasate*”) – Groapa Nedeii („*ad montem Grupa Nedeiesei mare*”) – Cracul Scurtele („*Krakul Skurtilor Negru*”) – Scurtele („*montis Skurtilor*”) – Plaiului creek („*monte Pareul lui Plan*”) – Branul („*Branul nominatur*”) – Nedeia („*montem aequae Nedegin*”) – Morarul – Zana („*montem Morrarului et Szavina*”) – Tucila („*Tutilon*”) – Râu Șes („*Rivum RikajaseNegru*”) – Olanul Mare („*montis Majore*”).

Olanuloff”) – Olanul Mic („*montem Mic Olanuloff*”) – Piatra Albă („*montem usque Piatra Alba*”) – Cracul Mihocului and Curpenul („*montem Krakuluu Mihokov et Kipenov*”) – Hidegul („*in apice Ungedului*”) – Craiova („*mons Krajova*”) – Babei Peak – Opleșata – Bogdănețu – Vlașcu Mic – Vlașculețu – Vârful Rău („*ad montes sic vocatur Nababebj, Opezsaiser, Bognanecsul, Ulasca, Mik, Ulaskulecs et Vurful reu*”) – Prislop – Piatra („*montem Prislop de Piatra*”) – Rusina („*montem Rufina*”) – Străjeț („*montis Strinikul*”) – Râul Alb („*Reul Alb*”). The hydronyms Râul Alb (White River), at present Bela Reka, was subject to a process of slavization after the year 1520 (Ion Conea, 1938b).

The names mentioned above are official forms given by some officials but the geography of our mountains is also used in the academic language of some erudite personalities such as Dimitrie Cantemir. The Moldavian scholar, who had perfect knowledge of Latin, distinguishes in his work “Description Moldaviae” between common mountains and alpine mountains. Consequently, he mentions that the mountains at the borders with Transylvania belong to the Transylvanians „...*montes Transylvanorum erant*...”, he mentions these mountains when he referred to the sources of the Prut river „...*e montibus Transylvaniae, Carpaticis veterunt*...”, he describes Bistrita sourcing in Rodnei Mountains, with alpine features using an elaborate language „*Bistriza, ex alpihus Transylvaniae ortum ducons*,...”. He makes a clear distinction when he gives account of the sheep bred on the alpine pastures „*In Alpihus vix dici potest*...” (Cantemir, 1714, Cap. VII).

It is unfortunate that the oronym fund of the monumental work is poor as he only mentions Mount Ceahlău („*Montium altissimus est Czahlow* ...”), Ineu („*Aliud etiam est montium iugum Ineul incolis dictum*...”), and Vrancei Mountains („*In radicibus montium Vranceie*...”) and the map made by Cantemir only mentions Mount Ceahlău.

Cartographic references have as groundwork the Geographica of Ptolemaios and its enclosed maps. European maps of Dacia take all the information given by Ptolemaist, Carpatius Mons having the same position as they have on the maps of Ptolemaist. The map named “Tabula nona Europae” published in 1478 by Francesco Berlinghieri at Florence, the map “Tabula moderna Poloniae, Ungariae, Boemiae, Germaniae, Russiae, Lithuanianiae” published by Nicolaus Germanus in Ulm, in 1482, and the map named “Nona Europae Tabula” by P.D. Turre in 1490 in Rome are some examples that use the data from Ptolemaios (Popescu-Spineni, 1938). Even some late cartographic materials on Dacia use the data of the maps of Claudius Ptolemaios completed in most cases with data from the first maps on Transylvania and Hungary by Lazarus- Tannstetter and Johannes Honterus.

For instance, on the map of Petrus Kaerius, a map called painting-map (Ziegenbalg, 1993), entitled “Vetus description Daciarum nec non Moesiarum” published in Hague in 1541, the Carpathians, “*Carpathes Mons*” appear both at west from the upper course of Tisa, “*Tibiscus flu*” and at east of the upper course of Olt, “*Aluta flu*”. It is interesting that the text „*Serrorum montes, ardui et inaccesibi, nisi per quam peritis. Amen*”, (Ridged mountains, abrupt and inaccessible. Not even at least for skilled mans. Amen.) appears between Aluta flu (Olt river) and the mountains at west (Figure 3). West from the Tisa basin are *Sarmatic mons* and further them *Germaniae Pars*. The above mentioned texts appears in the same place on the map „*Daciarum, Moesiarumque, vetus descriptio*” published in 1612 at Antwerp by Juan Baptist Vrients on which appear Făgăraș Mountains (*Fogaras mo*), Bucegi Mountains (*Buceft*), Poiana Rusca Mountains (*Eifenthor mons – Vafkapu*) – The Transylvanian Iron Gate - Harghita Mountains (*Hargita mons*), Poga Mountains (*Pogahavas*), the name of the Carpatians (*Carpatus nunk Crapak mo*) being mentioned same as on the previous map.



Figure 3: Fragment of the Kaerius map (1541)

However, we must tacking account that the first cartographic view of the Romanian provinces since the Antiques times centered on Dacia, appeared in the second half of the 15th century. It was marked on the map of german cardinal Nicolaus Cusanus or Nicolas von Kues (1401-1464) where, on the basis of the antique geography, new geographical aspect were shown. On the map „Germania Tota Tabella” draw probably between 1450 and 1458 (Gróf, 2005), appear *Carpatus Mons*, *Danubius*, and the three Romanian provinces, Transylvania - *Transilvania*, Moldavia – *Magna Walachia* – and Valahia –*Valachia Magna* (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Romanian provinces on the Cusanus map

Another early cartographic document which mentions Transylvania as „SEPTEMCASTRUM TRANSILVANA” is the map „Ungheria” of the engraver and cartographer Francesco Roselli (1447-1514) of Florence who lived for 8 years at the court of the king Mattia Corvinus (Gróf, 2005). On this map (Figure 5). Transylvania appears sided on three parts by mountains, those on the western side being named but the deciphering is very difficult, the only word that can be read is *mont* the other might be *hobaf* considered to be a mistranscription of the Hungarian *havas*. It could be the case of a Latin-Hungarian combination meaning *snowy mountain*.

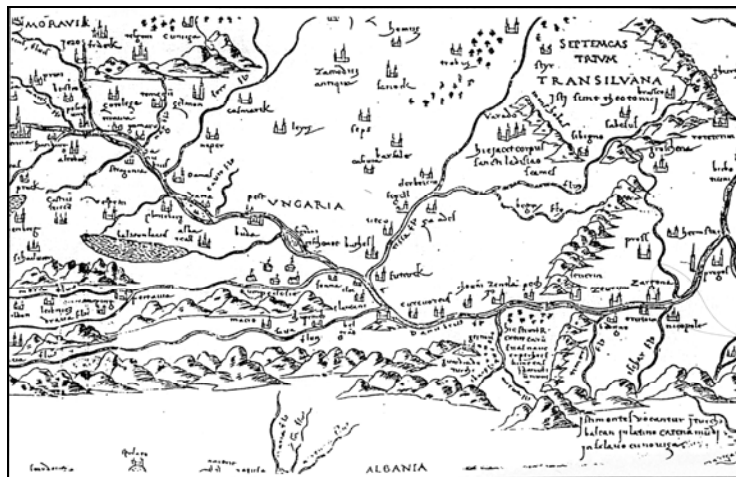


Figure 5: „SEPTEMCASTRUM TRANSILVANA” and Carpathian arch on the Roselli map

The first important cartographic productions for the Romanian space are those referring to Transylvania made by Lazarus and Tannstetter and especially Johannes Honterus due to the connection with the cultural scientific productions of European Renaissance.

The map of Lazarus Tannstetter, “Tabulae Hungariae”, considered being “the pride of Hungarian Cartography” (Grof, 2005) was published in 1528 at Academia Apiana of Ingolstadt. The main author of the map was Lazarus, secretary of Tamás Bakócz, Archbishop of Esztergom, who worked together with his professor Georg Tannstetter gen. Collimitius (1482-1535), mathematician, astronomer, cartographer, physician of the Emperor Maximilian I, and also with his former colleagues from the University of Vienna, Johann Spießhaimer gen. Cuspinianus (1473-1529), Jakob Ziegler (1470-1546) and Peter Benefits gen. Apianus (1495-1552), the latter dealing with the printing of the map in Ingolstadt (Meschendorfer, Mittelstrass, 1996).

This map includes very much geographic information about Transylvania, for which we consider it to be the first cartographic reference for Romanian toponymy. The Carpathian are represented by the physiographic method of perspective as groups of mountains and oronyms **mention for the first time** Făgăraș Mountains – *Fogaras montes*

(Figure 6) - , Harghita Mountains - *Mons Hargita* (Figure 7) - , and Vlădeasa Mountains – *Kalata Alpes*. Convinced that this oronym surprises us we must mention that Hungarians still use today this name for Vlădeasa Mountains. On the other hand, these mountains are called by using the name *alpes* due to their imposing appearance when looking in spring from north-east, from Huedin basin, near Călata village, when the mountains are covered in snow.



Figure 6: Transylvania, southern part, on the Lazarus-Tannstetter map (1528)



Figure 7: Transylvania, northern part, on the Lazarus-Tannstetter map (1528)

The first map dedicated to Transylvania is that of the Saxon humanist of Braşov Johannes Honterus (1498-1549), published in Basel in 1532, an extremely valuable resource including almost 1960 toponyms. Moreover this map was used as a starting point for numerous later cartographic productions about Transylvania or this part of Europe. The study of this map reveals 6 new oronyms. Thus *Carpatus mons* appears between the source of Tarnava Mica – *KleinKockel fl.* – and Giurgeu Basin – *IORDIA* – (Figure 8), Mount Heniul appears with its German name *Kalberg*. Braşov Basin, or Țara Bârsei (Bârsei Country) appears also with its German name *BURZELAND*. Southern Carpathians appear on the map with the name *Alpes*, placed twice in the mountain area between Olt – *Alth fl.*- and Vallachia – *VALACHIAE PARS*, mountain area illustrated very suggestively in physiographic manner (Figure 9). South of the “Alps” and east of Olt, appears, obviously misplaced, Haţeg Basin, *HAZEK*.

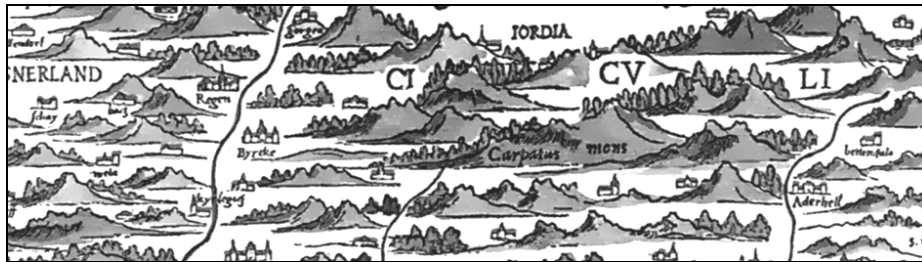


Figure 8: „Carpatus Mons” on the Honterus map (1532)



Figure 9: „Alpes” on the Honterus map (1532)

As we previously noticed (Urdea, 2001) we think that the use of the name *Alpes* in reference to the Southern Carpathians was made by Honterus deliberately from the point of view of a good connoisseur of European geography. The rich informative and cartographic material of his work “*Rudimenta Cosmographica*”, first published in 1530 in Krakow and later in 3 versions and 38 editions stands proof to this (Binder, Nussbächer, 1988).

Another early map important for the Romanian space is the map “*REGNI HUNGARIAE CHRONOGRAPHIA VERA*” made in 1552 and published in Vienna by Wolfgang Lazius in 1556.

Lazius used for Transylvania information from Lazarus and especially Honterus, and information that he gathered himself on his trips. Furthermore, he had direct connections with two Transylvanian scholars, i.e. Christian Baumgartner gen. Pomarinus from Bistrița (1504-1565) and with Johannes Bornemissa from Cluj (Meschendorf, Mittelstrass, 1996).

This explains why his map is richer in oronyms. The following oronyms are mentioned on his map: *Chyarnabora mons* (Cernahora Mts.), *Schneperg* (= *Schneeberg* = snowy mountains), *Pogan Hauassa mons* (Pagan Mts.), *Hargyta mons* (Harghita Mts.), *SARKAN mons* (Șercăii Mts. = Perșani Mts.), *BVCZEST* (Bucegi Mts.), *CZERNEST* (Zărnești Mts. = Piatra Craiului Mts.), *FOGARAS mons* (Făgărașului Mts.), *Haczak vallis* (Hațeg Valley), *Eisenthor* (The Transylvanian Iron Gate), *Kalota mons* (Vlădeasa Mts.), *Mezewz mons* (Mezeșului Mts.), *Zylac mons* (Zălăului Mts. = Sălajului Hills), *Makra mons* (Mocrei Mts. = Zarandului Mts.). We consider that this *Macra mons* was originally Mocrea Hill (378 m) an imposing volcanic neck that raises straight from the gulf-field of Crișul Alb, near the village Mocrea - slav *moča* – mud, marshes, the village being situated in the low valley of Crișul Alb, the illustrated plains belong undoubtedly to Zarandului Mountains.

It is important to mention that the maps of Honterus and the map of Lazius were starting points for many later cartographic documents, like those made – and who circulated in many editions – by Johannes Sambucus (1566, 1571), Sebastian Münster (1540, 1588), Giacomo Gastaldi (1546, 1559, 1566), Mathias Zündt (1566, 1567), Gerhard de Jode (1567, 1578, 1579), Abraham Ortelius (1570, 1575, 1579), Philip Galee – Peeter Heyns (1577, 1593), Pirro Ligorio (1559, Gerhard Mercator (1585, 1595), Matteo Florimi (1590), Conrad Loew (1596), Alexander Mair (1594, 1596), Pietro Marchetti (1598), Barent Langenes (1598), Mastthias Quad (1596) etc.

We mention that the map of Hulsius Levinus “*Novus opus geographicum*” of 1630, east of Șiria Castle (*Syry*) appear *Makya Mons*, north of Caransebes (*Karanșebes*) appear *Mons Porta Ferrea*, east of Făgăraș (*Fogaras*) appear *Kertzberg*, Cârței Mountains, under the sources of Olt (*Aluta F*) and Mureș (*Marișus F*) appear *Mons Pagan*.

On the map entitled „*Carte DE L'EMPIRE OTTOMAN Comprenant les Possessions de la PORTE en Europe, en Asie, et en Afrique; Avec les Parties Limitrophes de l'Arabie, de la Perse, de la Russie et de l'Empire d'Autriche*” by Noël and Vivien, revued and corrected by Charles Piqueet, geographer of the king and duke D'Orléans, published in Paris in 1848 the Romanian mountain area only M. *Sarcan* east of Prahova and, starting with the Wooded Carpathians, along the Oriental Carpathians appear „*Mont Karpath ou Krapack*”.

Following the way in which the oronyms of the major units of the Romanian Carpathians appear on the maps of various Atlases we notice that the oronym Transylvanian Alps is omnipresent for the Southern Carpathians, for Eastern Carpathians appears the oronym Carpathians, and the Western Carpathians appear either without oronym or as Banat Mountains or Bihor Mountains.

At the end of 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, when atlases become more complex and exact, the maps referring to the Romanian Carpathians very many oronyms appear. The best example is the “Meyers Handatlas”, published in 1844 in Hildburghausen, on map nr. 7 dedicated to Transylvania “Siebenburgen”, map on which the relief is illustrated by hachures, more than 120 oronyms are present, important mountains being mentioned within each mountain unit, an important example being that of Făgăraș Mountain (Figure 10). Of the mountain units that appear today on the maps of Romania we mention Bucegi Mountains (*Buceses*), Baiului Mountains (*Baiu*), Călimani Mountains (*Kelimani*), Tarcăului Mountains (*Terko*), Hășmașului Mountains (*Hagymas*), Vlădeasa Mountains (*Flagiasza*), Bihor Mountains (*Bihar*), Mount Mare (*Montele Mare*). In the same Atlas, on map nr. 67 „Europäische Turkey” are mentioned Banatului Mountains „*Banater Geb.*”, this would impose this oronym for the mountains from the Southern Banat.

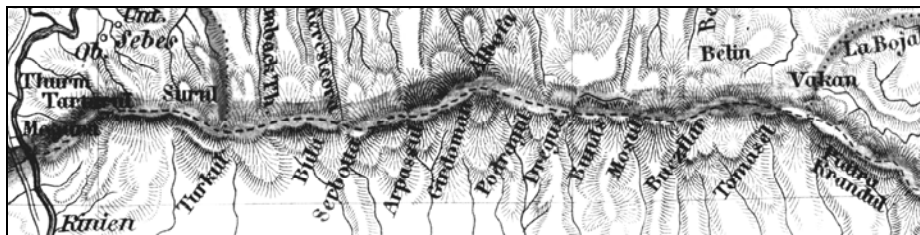


Figure 10: Făgăraș Mountains on the „Meyers Handatlas” (1844)

We notice that in the first American Atlases the mountain area of our country is entirely wrong. Thus the map “Hungary and Transylvania” (scale 1:3 801 600), published by Fielding Lucas Jr., in „A General Atlas Containing Distinct Maps Of all the Known Countries in the World”, published in Baltimore in 1823,- the best general atlas and the finest general atlas produced in the U.S. at that time -, the author shows the Carpathian Mountains as a discontinuous ridge (Figure 11).

An entirely wrong representation of the reality is in „The Edinburgh geographical and historical atlas” appeared in Dublin, Edinburgh and London in 1831 where, the map „Hungary, Transylvania &c., provinces of Austria” (scale 1: 1 470 000), represents Transylvania entirely covered with mountains (Figure 12).

Another example is the map „Galizien, Ungarn, Slavonien, Kroatien, Siebenburgen, Dalmatien, Moldau, Wallachey” from EFTER Stielers Atlas published in 1852 at Stockholm, map in which in the Carpathian area are present only the Transylvanian Alps „*Transilvanische Alpen*”.

This situation persists later also, so that in Sydow-Wagners Methodischer Schul-Atlas (1932), on the maps 34 „Ungarische Tiefebene und Karpaten”, 37, „Balkanhalbinsel”, and 44 „Ost-Europa”, the divisions of the Carpathians are *Ost Karpaten*, *Transsilvanischer Alpen*, *Banater gebirge* and *Bihar Gebirge*.



Figure 11: Aspect of Carpathians chain on the map „Hungary, and Transylvania” (Fielding, 1823)

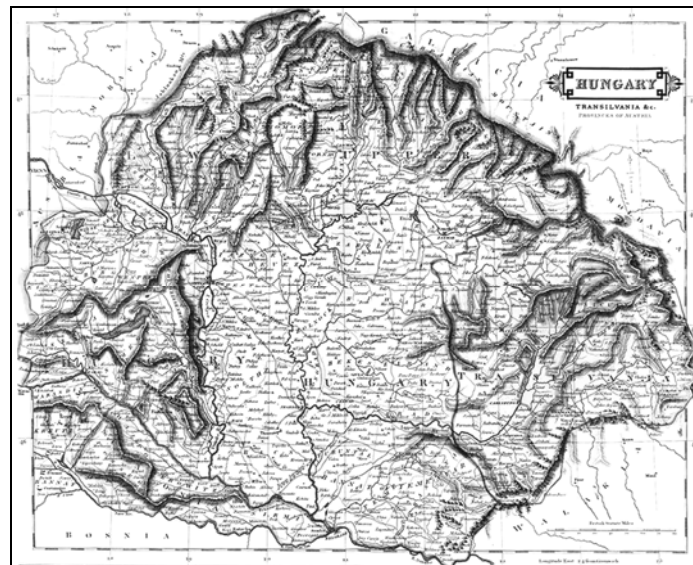


Figure 12: Aspect of Carpathians chain on the map „Hungary, Transylvania &c., provinces of Austria” (Lizars, 1831)

Consequently we notice that especially in the XIXth century German and English cartographic documents are frequently used the names *Transsylvanische Alpen* and *Transylvanian Alps* and not Southern Carpathians, the name Carpathians being used only for the Eastern Carpathians. This situation persists despite of the fact that the authors of these maps have the possibility to research the Romanian maps and atlases contemporary to them. Such an example is the map „Romania” from „Atlante internationale del Touring Club Italiano” published in Milano in 1929, map on which although very many mountains are mentioned in romanian writing style, such as *Munții* (Mountains) *Hațegului* – instead of Retezat Mountains-, *Munții Vulcani* (Vâlcan), *Muntele Parângului*, *Munții Sebeșului*, *Munții Sibiului*, *Munții Geister* – instead of Perșani Mountains – *Munții Buzăului*, *Munții Brețcani*, *Munții Ciucului*, *Munții Bistriței*, *MunțiiTarcăului*, *Munții Călimanului*, *Munții Rodnei*, *Munții Lăpușului*, *Munții Bihorului*, *Munții Metalici*, *Munții Rez*, *Munții Codrului*, *Munții Apuseni etc.* only one oronym is used to name one of the three major subdivisions of the Romanian Carpathians i.e. the *Transylvanian Alps*.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that in the Pergamon World Atlas (1968) in the pages dedicated to Romania, on the map “Main types of relief” the subdivisions of the Carpathians are Eastern Carpathians, *Transylvanian Alps* and Bihor, and in “The Bantam Illustrated World Atlas” (1989), the major Carpathian units of Romania are *Carpathians*, *Transylvanian Alps*, *Banatului Mountains* and *Bihor Mountains*.

We consider that the mentioning with this name of the Southern Carpathians only illustrates a main feature of a part of the Romanian Carpathians, their alpine feature, noticed from the beginning of scientific cartography and perpetuated to modern times. Moreover, by the expression of this feature Romanian Carpathians are integrated in the European alpine orogen unit not only from physical- geographical aspect but also from economic and anthropogeography aspect, so the name Transylvanian Alps should not disturb anybody.

4. CONCLUSIONS

One of the conclusions to be drawn from the analysis of the above mentioned cartographic documents is that the first oronyms appear in the 16th century, thus toponymic fund being preserved and enriched gradually until the 19th century when the network of toponyms has a structure which anticipates the present one. Another conclusion is that the oronym *Carpatus*, *Carpates*, *Carpathes*, *Carpazzi* never appears in the researched documents in the area of the Meridional Carpathians, but only in the area of the Oriental Carpathians. They appear very frequently here in two areas: at the sources of Tisa and at the sources of Olt and Mureș, or at the sources of the Târnave. For the Southern Carpathians the oronym *Alpes*, derived from the appellative *alpes*, appears from the 16th century until the 19th century when the regional oronym Southern Carpathians also appears. Mainly in contemporary German and English cartographic documents we encounter very frequently the name *Transsylvanische Alpen* and *Transylvanian Alps*, and not Southern Carpathians, the name of the Carpathians being used only for the Eastern Carpathians.

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