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THE EVOLUTION OF STREET NAMES IN FĂGĂRAȘ FROM THE MIDDLE AGES UNTIL TODAY

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Abstract: *This article examines the evolution of street names in Făgăraș, beginning in the Middle Ages. Situated in the central region of Romania along the middle course of the Olt River and north of the Southern Carpathians, Făgăraș boasts a rich historical tapestry reflected in its street nomenclature.The earliest documentary references to the streets of the old town emerge in the 16th century. Most of the names of streets and squares, particularly in the central area, can be found in various records, including statistical and fiscal documentation (such as conscriptions), city plans, and articles from the press, primarily from the modern era, especially during the Habsburg/Austro-Hungarian administration leading up to the 19th century. Over the years, these street names have undergone significant changes due to notable historical events, including the Union of Transylvania with Romania in 1918, the shift to a communist regime after 1945, and the transition back to democracy following 1989. Furthermore, the settlement has experienced considerable territorial expansion, resulting in a marked increase in the number of new street names.*

Key words: *Street Names, Făgăraș, the Middle Ages, the modern era, the Union of Transylvania with Romania, the communist period, the post-communist period*

1. INTRODUCTION

The analyzed settlement is mentioned in a document dated March 11, 1291, by which Ugrinus is put back in control of his possessions, *Făgăraș* and *Sâmbăta*, by the Alba Iulia Diet. The town is, however, much older, the archaeological discoveries recording an earth fortress with wooden fortifications, dated in the 12th-13th centuries, and local tradition even supports the existence of a Roman fort, probably located north of Olt. Although the documentary mentions related to Țara Oltului / Olt Country the settlement are not lacking, until the end of the 16th century we have no mention related to the names of the arteries included in the urban perimeter. Most of the names of

streets, squares, especially in the central area, are recorded in documents, statistical-fiscal records (urbaria, conscriptions), city plans, press articles, appearing especially in the modern era, under the Habsburg / Austro-Hungarian administration, until the 19th century or the beginning of the last century. Later, in addition to the name changes, for the older arteries – caused by the Union of Transylvania with Romania (1918), the transition to the communist regime (after 1945) and the return to democracy (after 1989) – the settlement experienced an important territorial expansion, reflected also in the appreciable increase in the number of (new) street names.

The present study does not come on an "empty ground", to be added to other numerous works in the field, which address the evolution of street names. Thus, we can recall the study carried out by Reuben S. Rose-Redwood, Derek H. Alderman and Maoz Azaryahu – *The urban streetscape as political cosmos*, which addresses the names of streets in the United States, that of Dutt Varshneyee – *The Street Names of Inverness: A Diachronic Study of their Cultural, Political & Religious Connotations*, related to the evolution of street names in the Scottish city of Inverness, the work of Basik Sergei – *Exploring informal vexillgeographies: Flags, urban place names, and local identities in Minsk, Belarus*, which addresses Belarusian street toponymy, or the study published by Oleksiy Gnatiuk, Viktoriia Zapototska and Oleksii Havrykiuk – *Less Politicised – (Not) More persistent? Longitudinal study of street name change in Kyiv, Ukraine*, regarding the modification of urban street nomenclature in Ukraine. Such approaches can also be found in the scientific literature related to the street names of Romanian cities. Among the studies carried out, we cite the one published by Remus Crețan and W. P. Matthews – *Popular responses to city-text changes: street naming and the politics of practicality in a post-socialist martyr city* that addresses the street toponymy of Timisoara, the one carried out by Mihai S. Rusu – *Shifting urban namescapes: street name politics and toponymic change in a Romanian(ised) city*, on the street nomenclature in Sibiu, the work compiled by Sebastian Jucu – *The Geo-Historical reflection in the cultural landscape of Lugoj*. Also, mentions related to street names appear in the volume published by Remus Crețan and Vasile Frățilă – *Dicționar geografico-istoric și toponimic al județului Timiș (Geographical-historical and toponymic dictionary of Timiș county).*

The analysis, not only geographical, but part of a complex scientific approach – cultural, philological, historical, ideological, can be found in the two volumes of the work *„Misterele" onomastice ale Iașilor (Onomastic „Mysteries" of Iași)*, published by Mircea Ciubotaru. Such studies have also focused on highlighting the evolution of the aspects analyzed by us in urban settlements currently located outside the actual borders of Romania, such as the one about the central area of Chișinău, published by Anatolii Gordeev – *Межвоенный период. Последние дни старого центра (Interwar period. The last days of the old center)*. We also quote the comparative study on the cities of Chișinău, Cernăuți/Chernivtsi, L'viv and Wroclaw, carried out by Bo Larsson – *Inter-war urban environment and culture – doomed to be crushed a few years later – to be found again. Comparisons between Chişinău, Černivci (Cernăuți), L'viv (Lwów) and Wrocław (Breslau), affected by similar fates*. Even Făgăraș benefited from such an approach to the aspects analyzed by us, but only tangentially. Thus, Iulian C. Toroczkai and Olivia Andrei published the article *Făgăraș as Jerusalem? Interethnic and interreligious ethos in Transylvania*, where they refer to the interwar street

nomenclature of Făgăraș[1], mentioned by Eginald Schlattner in *Cocoşul decapitat (The Decapitated Rooster*). In a study[2] related to the chrono-spatial distribution of the ethno-linguistic and confessional structure of the city by neighborhoods – *Etnie, limbă şi confesiune la nivelul cartierelor făgărăşene (Ethnicity, language and confession at the level of the districts of Făgăraș)* – we highlighted the spirit of inter-ethnic and inter-confessional coexistence with the help of several examples of hodonyms too.

2. METHODOLOGY

Related to the research methodology, it includes two categories of methods: collecting scientific information (documentary sources) and analyzing and interpreting it. The first category includes the sources from which we extracted the onomastic information: historical documents, statistical-fiscal records (urbaria, conscriptions), yearbooks (general, telephone), plans, topographical maps, articles from the press of the time, electoral lists and others. In the second one, we mention the cartographic method and the geographical method. In carrying out the present scientific approach, we had to solve several problems. The first is related to the absence of any information regarding the territorial extension of the settlement until the end of the 16th century. We can only guess that the street nomenclature of the town remained unchanged in the previous centuries, being limited only to the old, original core of the settlement (superimposed over its central-northern part). Even after 1600, in the statistical-fiscal records, these street names appear, but not all, and often without specifying the spatial location of the components of the locality (square, street/alley, neighborhood/hamlet, etc.) to which they refer. This is why, where we have managed to highlight the location of the hodonym in question, it must be viewed with circumspection. Only after 1800 can we talk about a more precise localization of these names, facilitated both by the information from the statistical-fiscal records (the Czyrakian conscription from 1819-1820), by the appearance of the first plans of the settlement, made by the authorities or by the collection, very detailed, of toponyms from the former district of Făgăraş (made in 1864-1865, at the insistence and through the effort of the academician Pesty Frigyes). Our activity started with the documentation phase, in which we consulted document collections, statistical-fiscal records, town plans, topographical maps, yearbooks, various newspapers, journals, etc. Based on this documentation, a series of maps, which capture the evolution of the city, as well as the table containing the periodization of the evolution of its street nomenclature, followed.

Another problem, which results from the ideas above, is also related to the imprecise nature of the extent of the arteries that will bear a certain name. Such situations are recorded, also for older streets, such as *strada Morii / Malom utca = Mill street*, recorded among the first, since 1595, having, since the 19th century, at least, a location in the central-southern part of the municipality, but with a route that crossed the central area, to the west of the citadel, and continued with the old *uliţa Grecilor / Negustorilor = Greeks / Merchants Street*, today – *Ion Codru Drăguşanu Street*. The

[1] Iulian C. Toroczkai, Olivia Andrei (2017), *Făgăraş as Jerusalem? Interethnic and interreligious ethos in Transylavania*, HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies, 73(3), 4492, https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v73i3.4492, p. 4

[2] Ionel Boamfă (2022-2024), *Etnie, limbă şi confesiune la nivelul cartierelor făgărăşene*, Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis, XI, 2022, p. 401-416 (first part), Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis, XII, 2023, p. 193-210 (second part), Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis, XIII, 2024, p. 315-333 (third part).

same situation is recorded, also from that time, for *strada Hurezului* / *Hurez utca*, which would have crossed the current central area, near the current "Radu Negru" National College, but which restricted its location only to a northern segment of the *strada 13 Decembrie = December 13 Street*. We also mention here the *strada (uliţa) Căciularilor/ Chivărarilor / Süveges utca = Cappers Street*, developed, probably from the 17th century, together with the old *Ciuta / Vadkert* neighborhood (mentioned, after 1600, in the urbaria and conscriptions) and originally superimposed on the current streets *Vasile Alecsandri* and *Sfântul Constantin Brâncoveanu*. The existence of some streets with a greater length is reinforced by a situation from the communist period, in which, as a reaction of hostility towards religious life, in general, and towards the Orthodox community, in particular, the (interwar) *Constantin Brâncoveanu* street was included in the neighboring artery, which continued to the east, *Tudor Vladimirescu*, returning to the current situation only after 1989. Based on these considerations, we decided to "draw" the names of the mentioned streets, on the route determined, with approximation, and previously presented.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before presenting the evolution of the street nomenclature of Făgăraş, we "review" the territorial development of the locality in the last millennium (Figures 1-10). On these cartographic representations (Figures 1-10) we have also transposed the toponyms from the neighborhood of the settlement, from the extravillain of the locality. In certain cases, not a few, from the toponyms recorded in the vicinity of the town, names of streets and/or neighborhoods appeared, such as the name of the *street (Grădina) Inului*, in the central-northern part (today, *Inocenţiu Micu Klein Street*), or *Ciutărie* (currently, *Gheorghe Barițiu Street*), or that of the current *Meltea* neighborhood, developed during the communist period, with the name evolved from the Hungarian form *Melytó = Lacul adânc / Deep lake* and others. In other cases, the current street nomenclature "inherits" either the route of the hydrographic network from the past – the case of *strada Râului = River street*, parallel to *1 Decembrie Street*, developed on the old route of the *Berivoi* River, after its diversion, during the communist period, to the west of the city – or on that of some derivations (ponds) arranged by human communities, since the Middle Ages, such as the case of strada *Pe Vale = On the Valley Street*, which recalls the route of the former *Tăbăcarilor Pond* or that of *strada Iazul Morii = Mill Pond Street*.

Taking into account the constraints imposed by the (quasi-)absence of information, for older periods and / or by state ownership or by the intervention of the authorities (often brutal, but sometimes inconsistent, especially after 1989), we delimited 5 intervals, each with certain characteristics of their own.

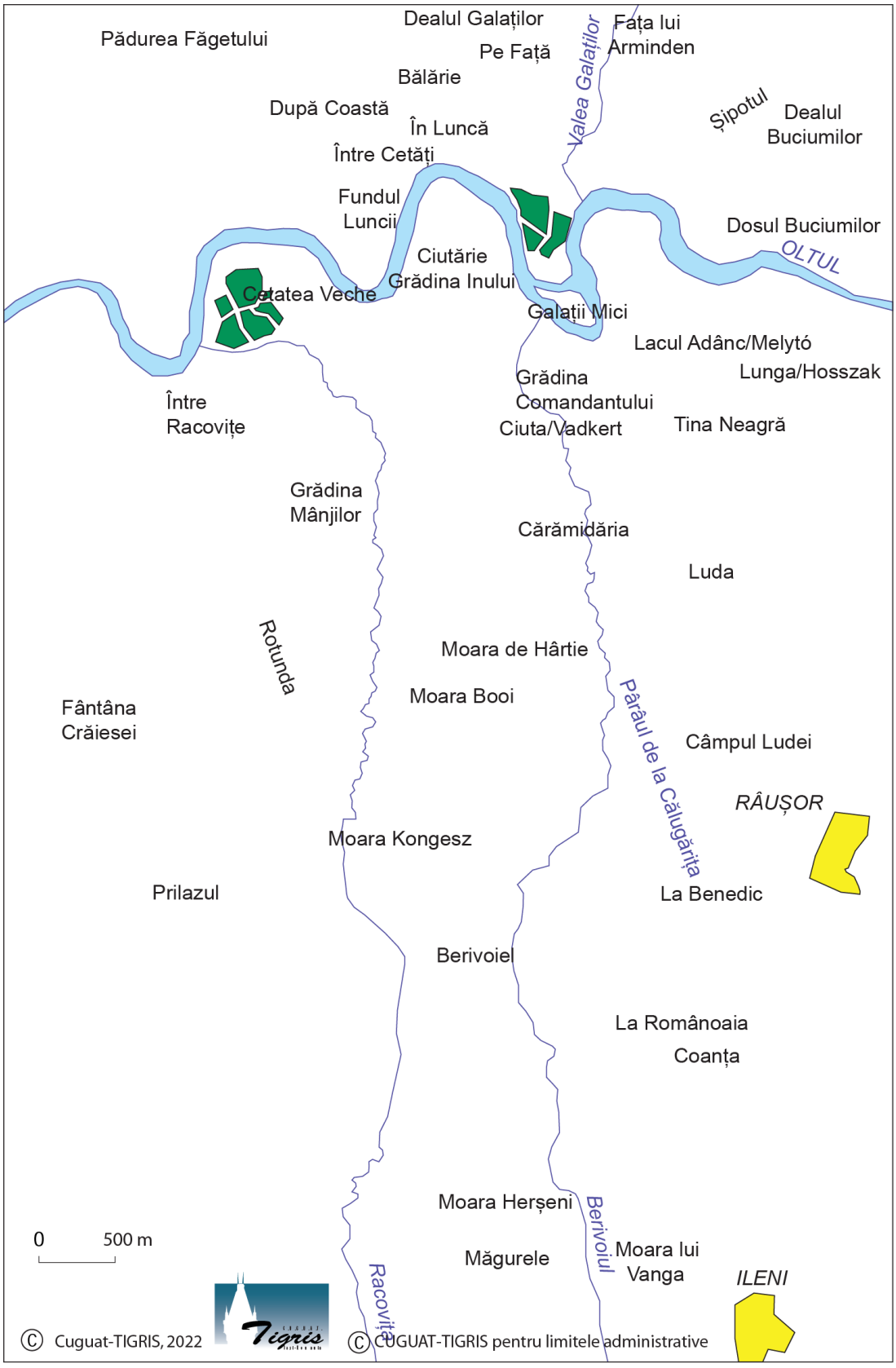

Figure 1. Făgăraș before 1240

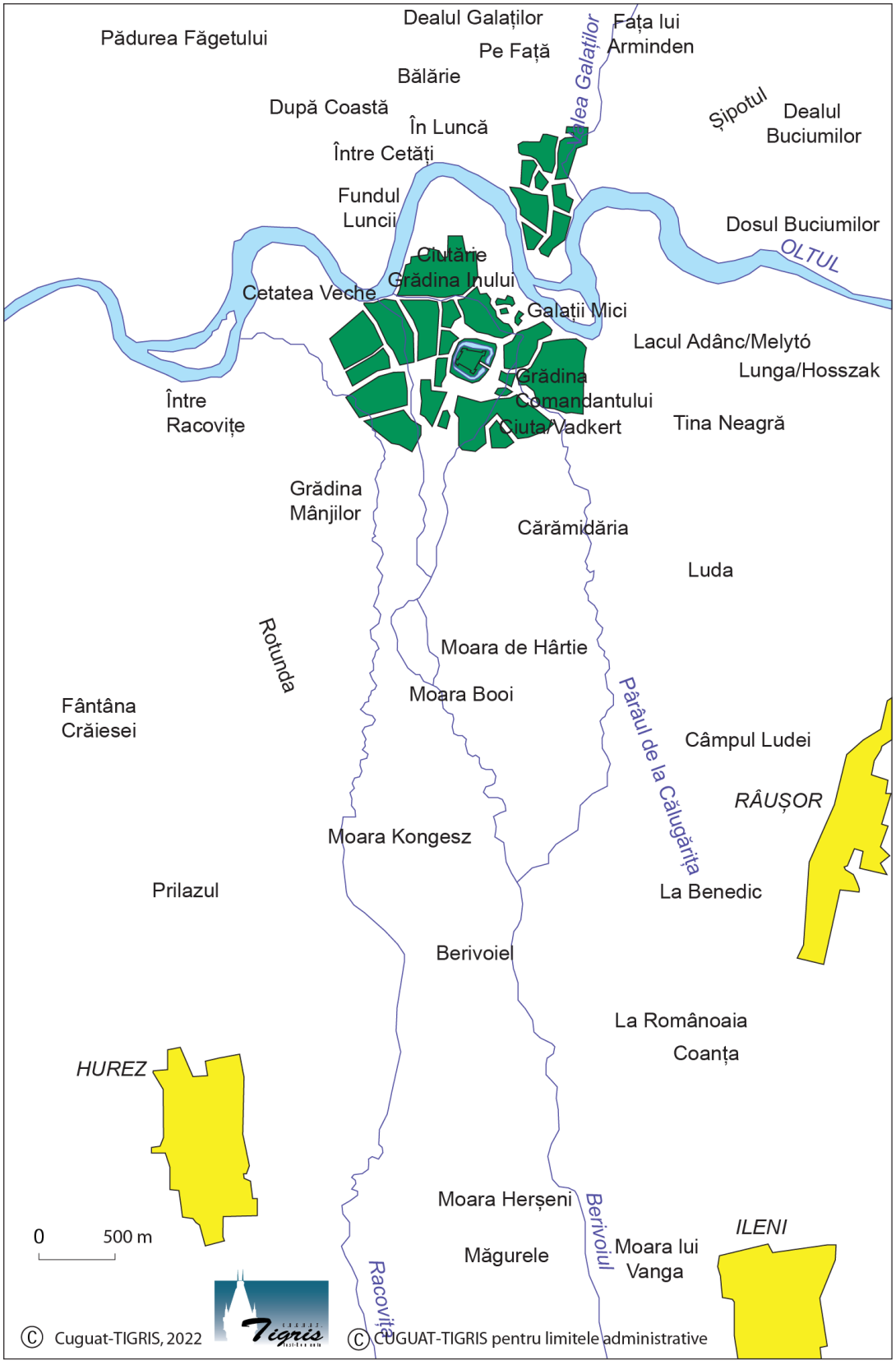

Figure 2. Făgăraș in the years 1300-1500

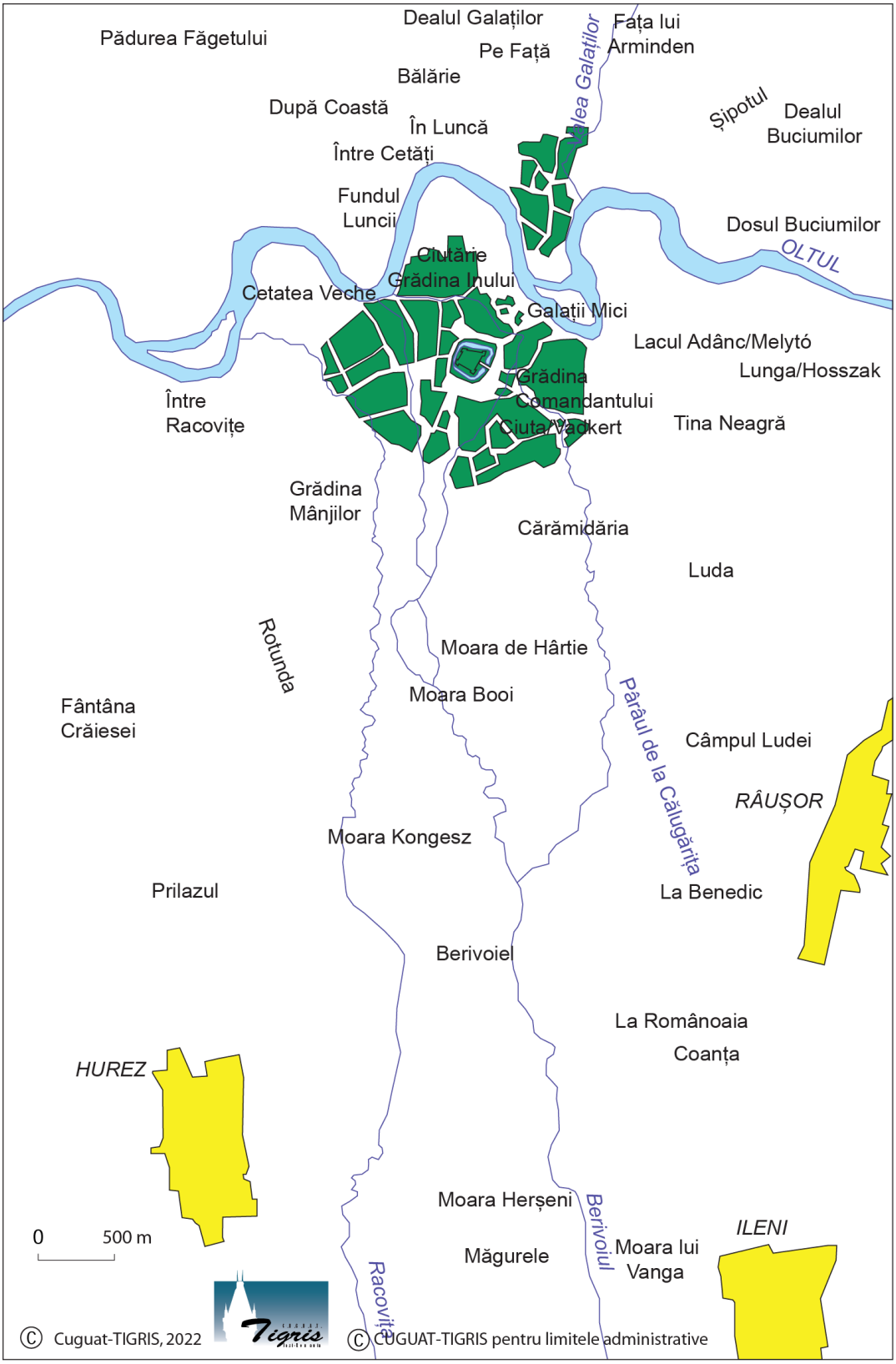

Figure 3. Făgăraș in 1690

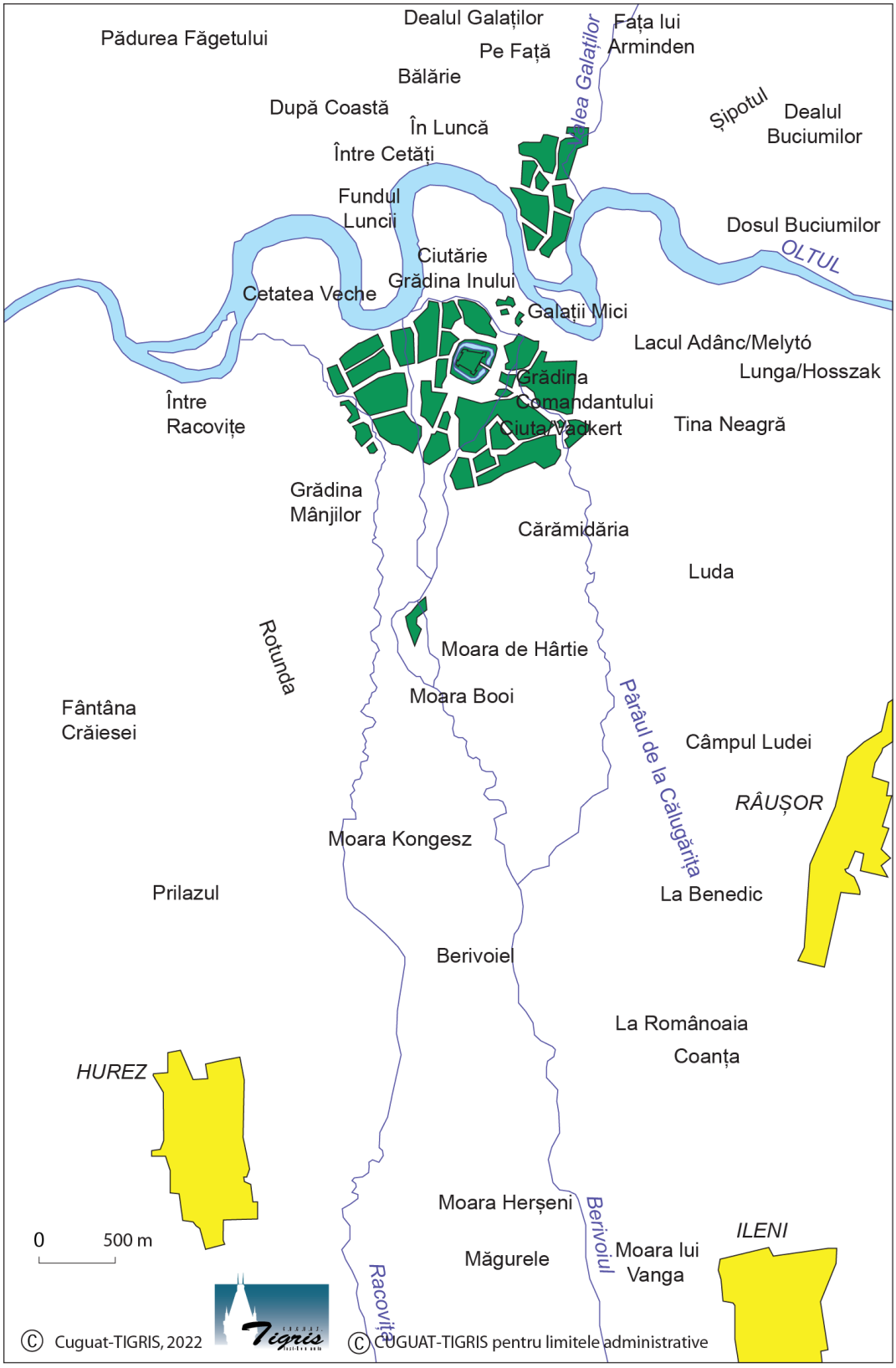

Figure 4. Făgăraș in 1766

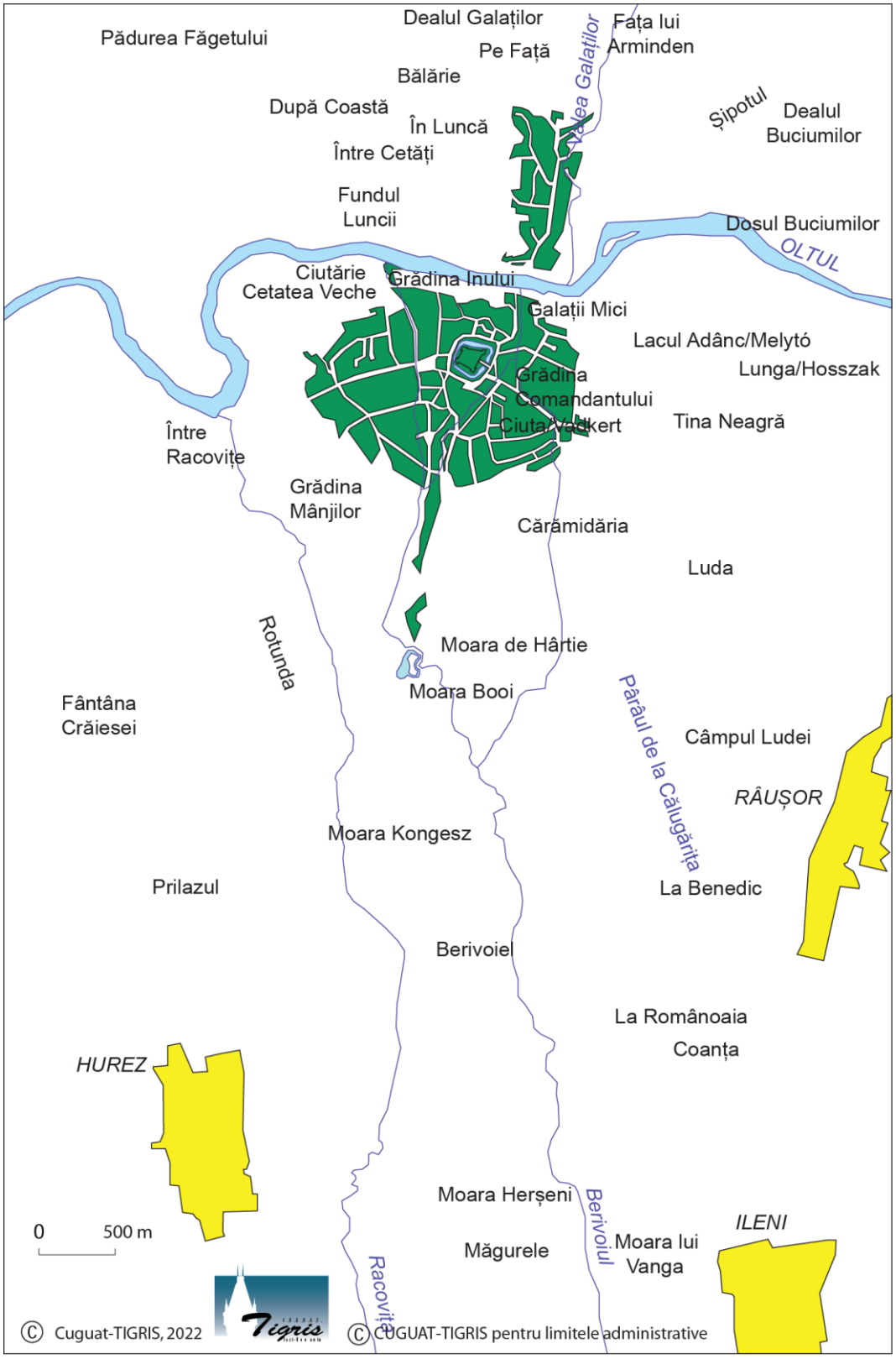

Figure 5. Făgăraș in 1855

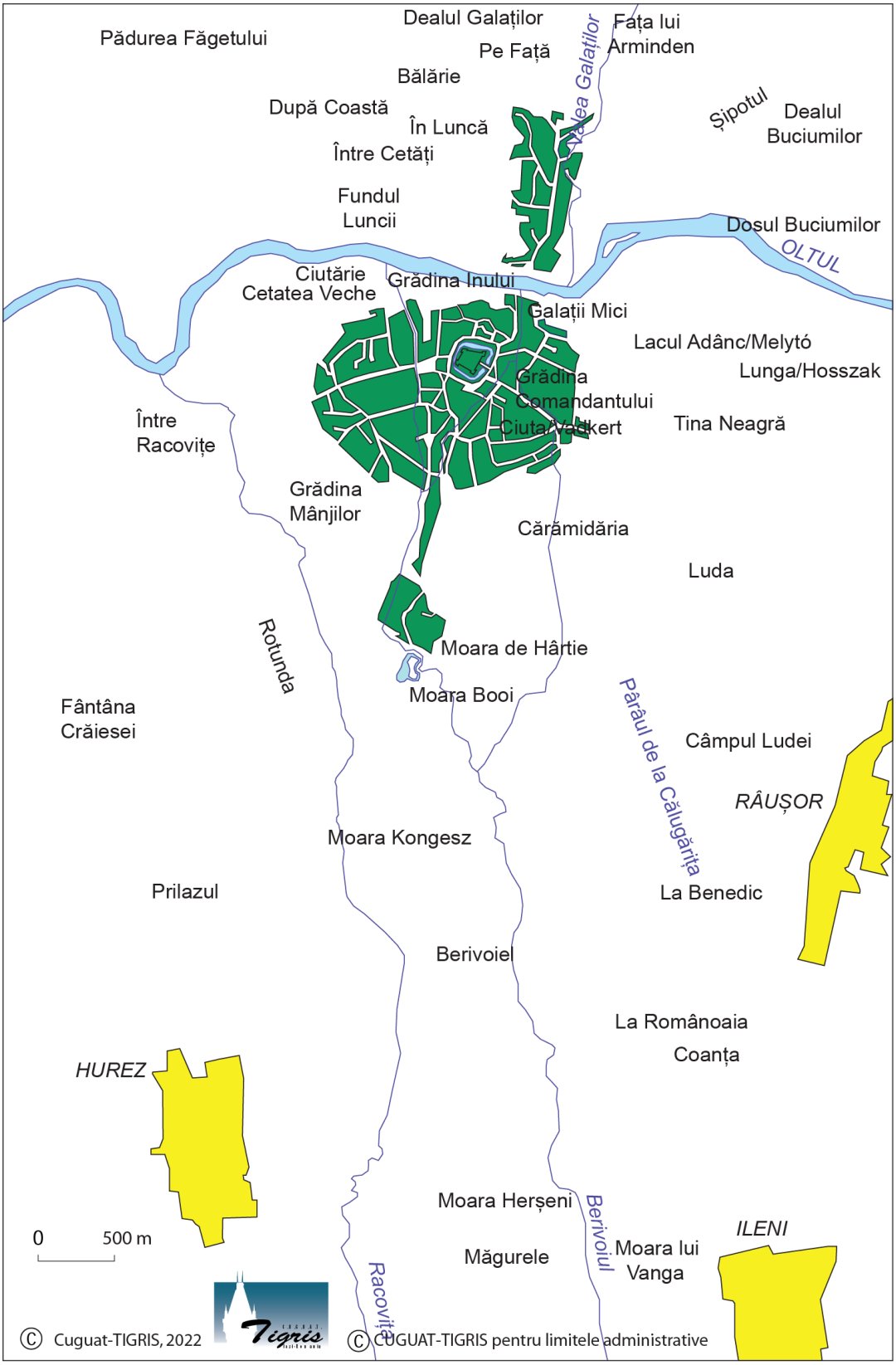

Figure 6. Făgăraș in 1871

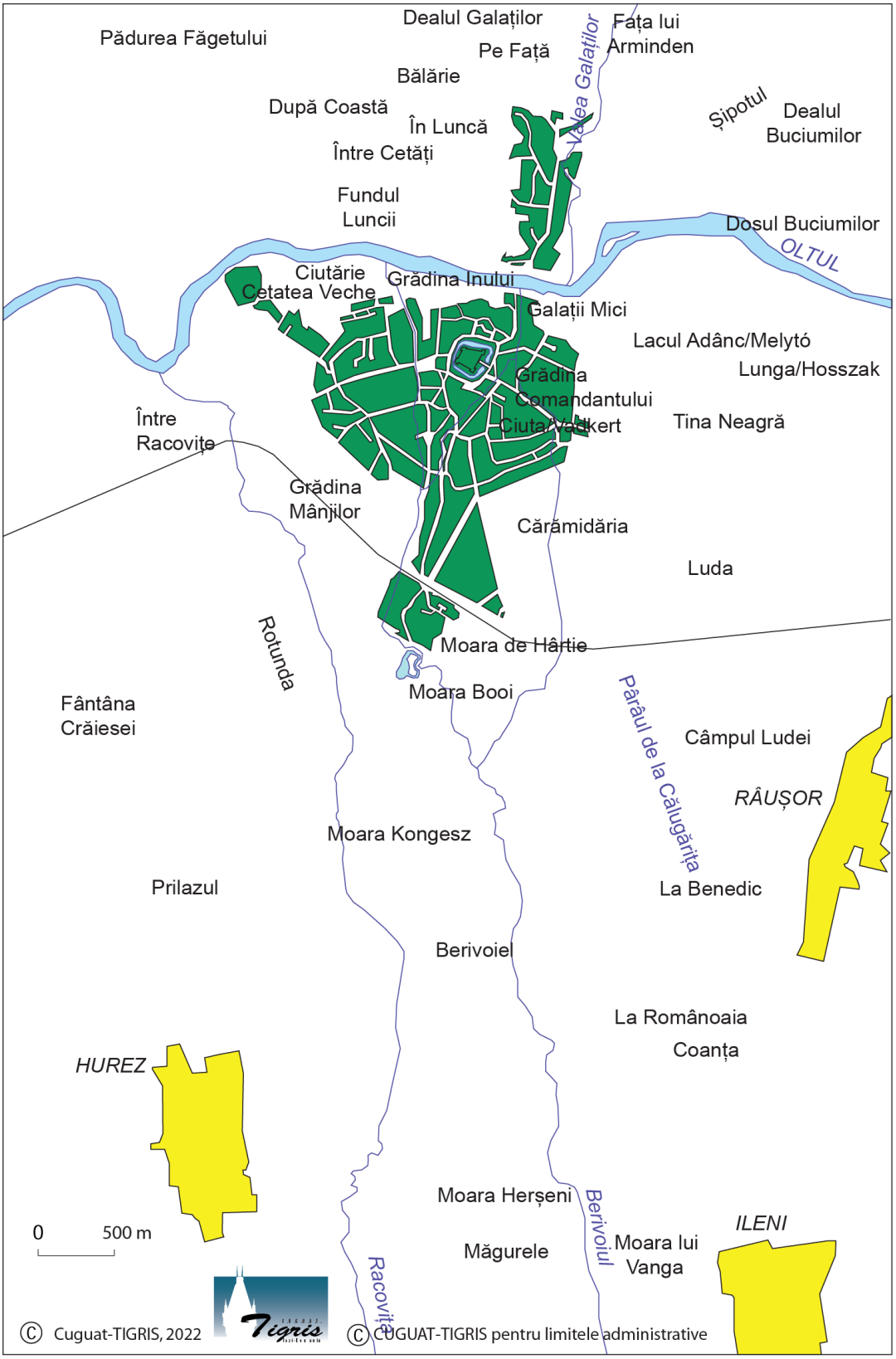

Figure 7. Făgăraș in 1900

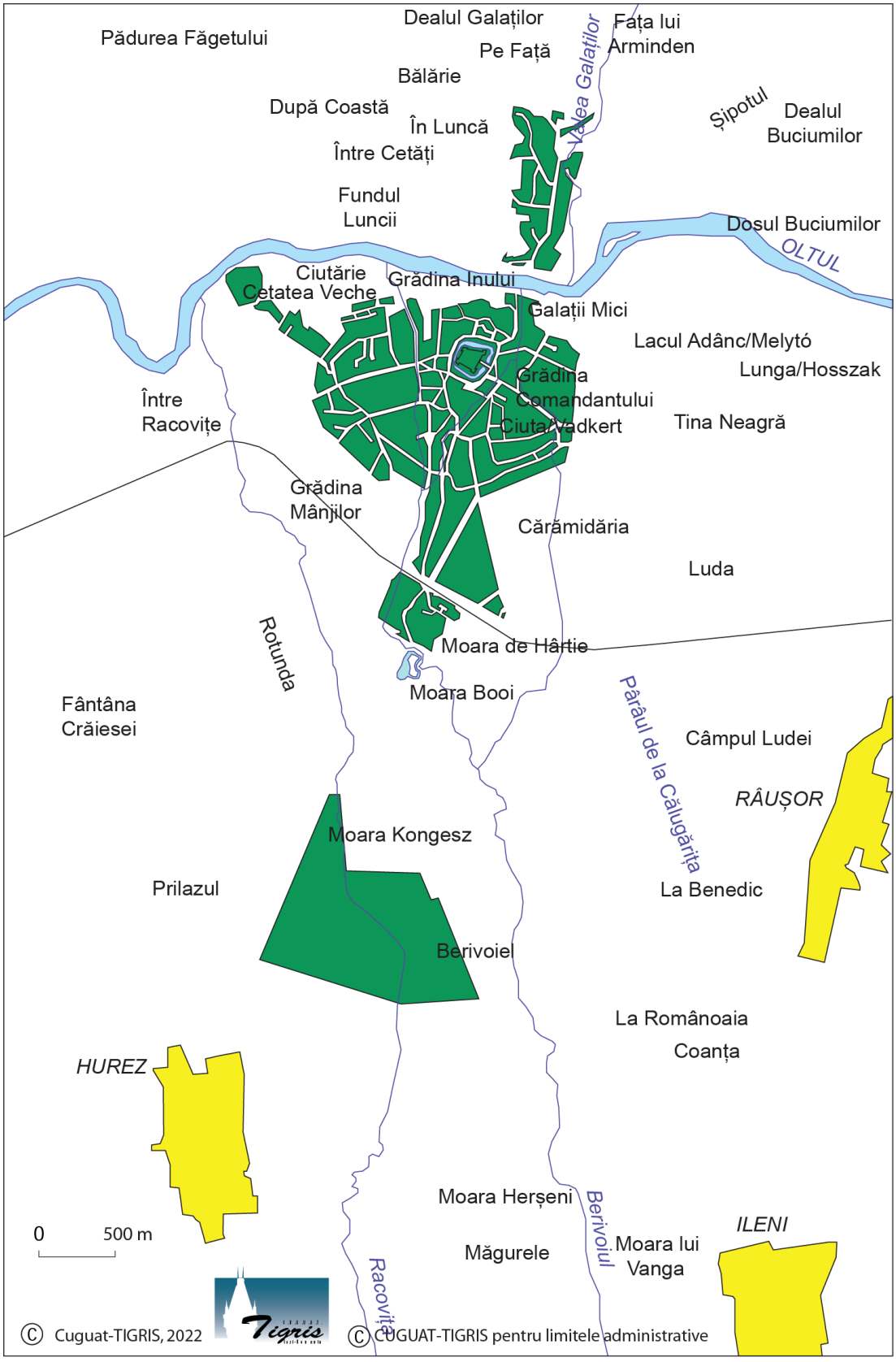

Figure 8. Făgăraș in 1930

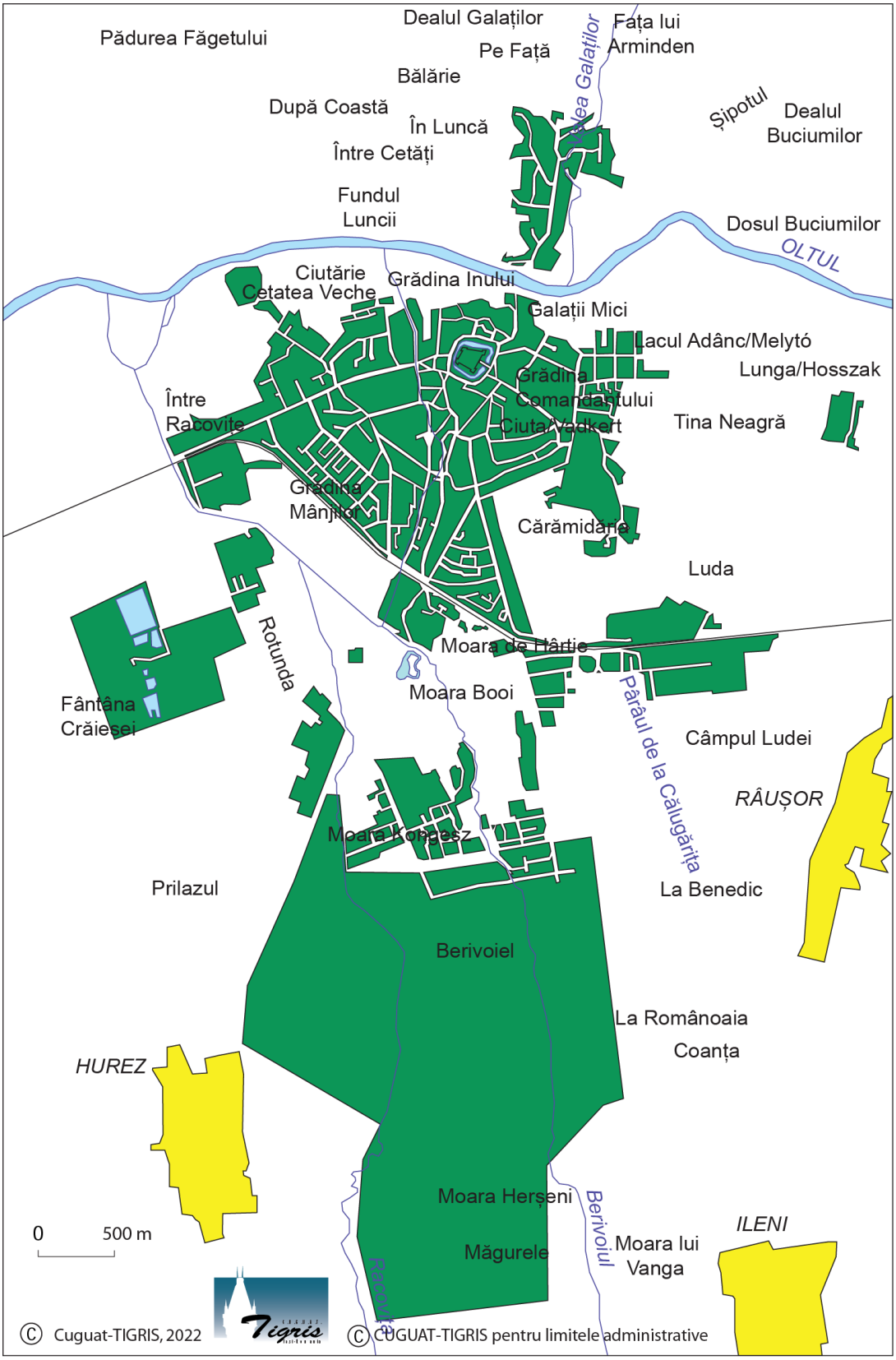

Figure 9. Făgăraș in 1980

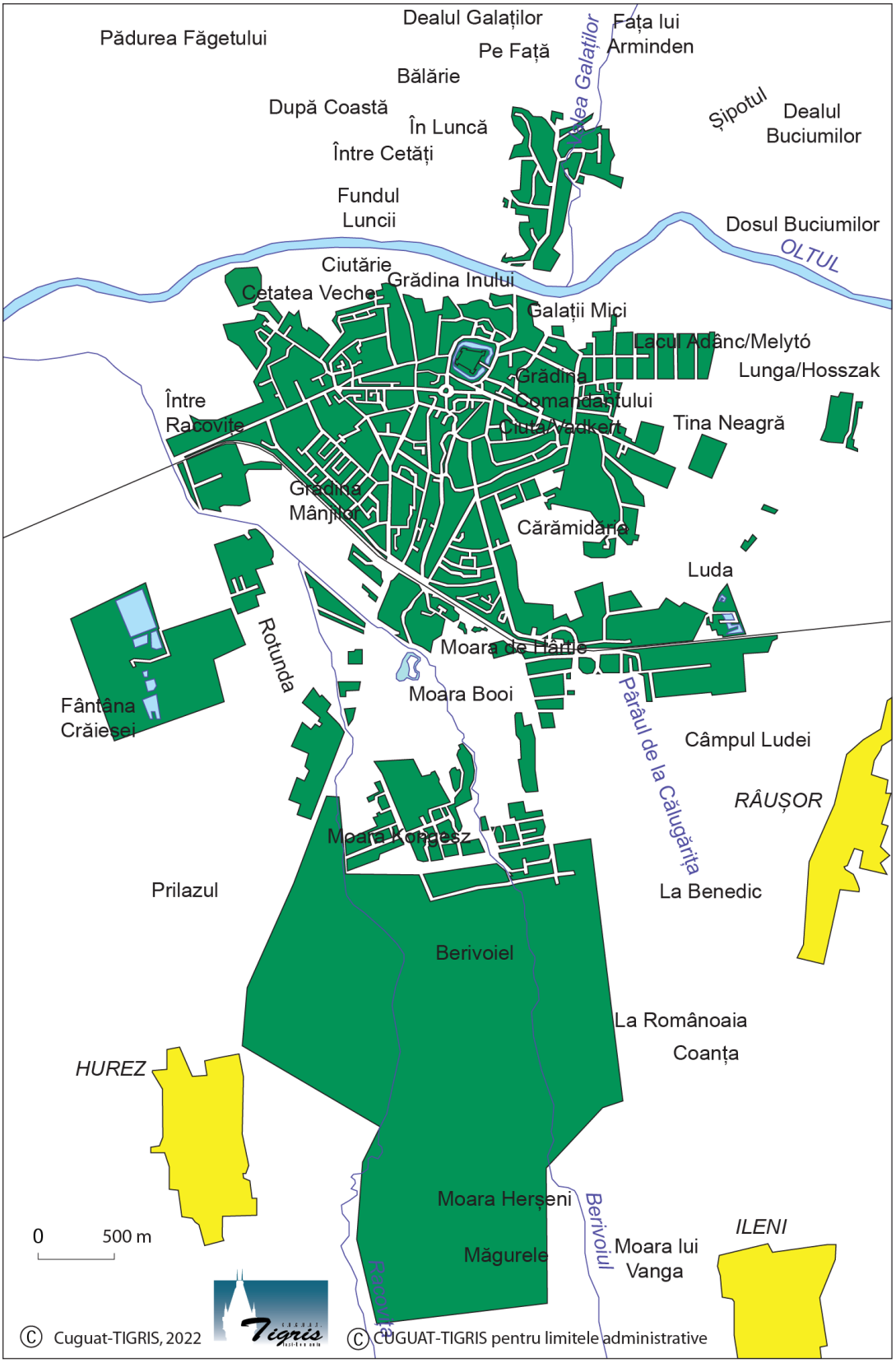

Figure 10. Făgăraș in 2010

The first, called by us, the *Transylvanian interval, before the year 1700*, with only 22 street names recorded, in some cases, followed by the "fragmentation" of the units in question into smaller elements with different names. Many of the streets/alleys attested even before 1600 enter here – *Morii, Hurezului, Ciuta/Vadkert* and others. Street names related to specific economic activities have also developed, as is the case with the names of the streets of *Negustorilor = Merchants* / *Grecilor = Greeks*, *Pălărierilor = Hatters*, *Tăbăcarilor = Tanners*, *Căciularilor/*Chivărilor = *Cappers*, *Morii = Mill*, *Olarilor = Potters*. The interval captures the period before the inclusion of Transylvania (and Făgăraş) in the Habsburg Empire.

The second, superimposed *on the inclusion to the Habsburg / Austrian-Hungarian Empire, 1701-1918*, marks a significant increase in the number of street names to 38. This is due both to the denser street network in the central part and to the beginning of consistent development, both territorial and demographic, of the city on Olt. Some names refer to the ethno-confessional character of the population that lived in them: *Secuilor = Szeklers / Hurezului*, *Ţiganilor / Ţigănia Mare = Gypsies / Great Gypsyland, România de Jos = Lower Romania, România de Sus = Upper Romania, România Mică = Little Romania, Luterană = Lutheran* and others, preserved, for the most part, even after the Union of 1918 On the other hand, the names of an official, glorifying some leaders also appear – *Ferenc Jozsef Tér / Franz Joseph Platz / Piaţa Franz Joseph, Herzing utca, Zeyk utca*, located in the central area.

The third stage overlaps *the interwar period and the second world conflagration – 1918-1945 –* and brings a slight increase in the number of street names, which reaches 48, as a result (and) of a slow process of territorial-demographic growth. In addition to the few glorifying names from the period before the Union, changed in this interval, many others appear, decided by the Romanian local administration. Thus, the central square becomes *Unirei Square, Herzing utca – Principesa Elena Street, Zeyk utca – Mihai Eminescu Street*, adding many other names related to Romanian history, literature and culture: *Mihai Viteazul Square, Regală Street, George Coşbuc Street, Ion Codru Drăguşanu Street, Constantin Pop Street, Brâncoveanu Street, Aron Densuşianu Street, 15 Septembrie Street, Regina Maria Park* and others. In total, no less than 15 names have this character, apart from those that appeared in the previous period.

The communist period follows, within the 1945-1989 timeframe. Territorial expansion, also doubled by rapid demographic growth, also leads to a much larger number of toponyms of this type: 97. Many are also names with a glorifying character, 11 of them having to do with the propaganda-ideological aspect: *Vasile Roaită Street, Republicii Street, Republicii Square, I. V. Stalin Street, I. C. Frimu Street, Grivița Roşie Street* and others. Some have eliminated old toponyms, perhaps, also with a glorifying character (but more suitable to the national/local specifics), as is the case with *Radu Negru Street*, which became *Vasile Roaită*, *Principesa Elena Street*, renamed *Republicii Street*, or *Regală Street*, renamed *I. V: Stalin*, or of *Regina Maria Park*, changed in *1 Mai = May 1*. However, even the regime "removed" some of its "idols". Thus, after the ideological "thaw" that followed the disappearance of the "father of the nations", several street names of this type disappeared, including *I. V. Stalin*, which became *6 martie = March 6*, but also *Vasile Roaită*, renamed *strada Şcolii = School Street*, *I. C. Frimu*, which became *Câmpului Street*, or *Grivița Roşie*, renamed *Stadionului*. For the arteries in new neighborhoods or those that appeared in areas with blocks of flats, names related to the economic specifics (predominantly industrial) of the locality were also found:

Azotului, Fontei, Nicovalei, Chimistului, Eprubeta, Oxigenului, Clorului streets and others. There are also many "neutral" names, especially from the floristic "arsenal": streets named *Lalelelor = Tulips*, *Macului = Poppy*, *Narciselor = Narcissos*, *Bujorului = Peonies*, *Trandafirilor = Roses*, etc., many of them in the *Florilor* district, developed in the post-war period. However, especially after 1970, names related to the glorification of personalities and / or events from the country's past unrelated to the totalitarian regime were also granted: *Andrei Mureşanu, Nicolae Bălcescu, Tudor Vladimirescu, Gheorghe Doja, Aurel Vlaicu, Ion Creangă, Miron Costin , December 1* and others.

The last stage, the *post-communist* one, begins *after 1989*. The fact that, although it is in demographic decline, the municipality continued to (more) grow in territory, led to a current total of 102 street names. Although the name links with the glorification of the communist regime disappeared – the streets named *6 martie*, respectively *Filimon Sârbu* became *Doamna Stanca*, respectively *Negoiu* – there remained a few "references" to events that can be interpreted not exactly positively: the street and Piaţa *Republicii*, or the street *13 Decembrie* (this also giving the name of a district, one of the largest in the city). On the other hand, the "appeal" to some local personalities is noteworthy, who gave names either to old streets of the municipality – *Cimitirului Street*, renamed *Octavian Paler*, *Inului Street*, renamed *Inocenţiu Micu Klein, Stadionului Street*, changed to *Dr Ioan Şenchea* – either led to the granting of names for new streets: *Valeriu Literat, Virgil Fulicea* or *Ion Gavrilă Ogoranu*. However, the local authorities "forgot" or did not want to (re)name some streets, unjustly eliminated by the totalitarian regime: *Cerbului* S*treet*, named during the interwar period and even in the first communist years, *Aron Densuşianu*, not it regained its old name, unlike its "neighbor", renamed, as in the interwar period, *Sfântul Constantin Brâncoveanu*. In other cases, names given to other elements reappeared in the onomastic "landscape" of Făgăraş. Thus, if the old *Piaţa Unirei = Union Square* from the interwar period, renamed *Piaţa Republicii = Republic Square* by the communists, remained with this name, the new artery that crosses the central part, in the east-west direction, became, since the last years of the communist dictatorship, *Bulevardul Unirii = Union Boulevard*, name kept even after 1989 (and also taken over by a neighborhood, located immediately west of the central square that bore this name).

We continue with brief presentations of the evolution of the oldest street names, attested either before 1600 or in the 17th century. Thus, the *strada Morii / Malom utca = Mill Street* probably stretched from the (then) southern part of the city when it was first mentioned (in 1595), containing on a route (roughly) to the north, on the northern segment of the *Dr Ioan Şenchea Street*, then of *Nicolae Bălcescu Street*, west of the Cetate = Citadel, then entering the current *Ion Codru Drăguşanu Street*. All these "segments" gradually received other names, becoming distinct streets. The loss of the link with the original name can also be explained by the "migration" of the mill / mills along the street to the south, leaving the old inner city of the locality. A similar fact happened with *strada Hurezului (Secuilor) / Bogoly (Szekely) utca = Hurez (Szeklers) Street*. It started from the western part of the town, from the current intersection with *Unirii Boulevard* to the south, passed through the area of*Şcolii Street*, in the approximate west-east direction, then, again, to the south, along the route of *1 Decembrie* and even *13 Decembrie* streets. The expansion of the city meant that, from the communist period until today, there is a *Şoseaua Hurezului = Hurez Road*, which passes south of *13 Decembrie Street* and the railway, towards the former Chemical Plant

and Hurez village. The segment of the mentioned street that has been passing for over a century, past the first elementary school in the city (the former General School no. 1), up to the "Radu Negru" National College, was renamed, together with the aforementioned high school unit, *Radu Negru*. The communist leadership did not (too) appreciate the legendary "founder" of Wallachia, renaming the street *Vasile Roaită*, but some representatives returned later, baptizing it *Școlii Street*, a name that is still preserved today. *Strada Becleanului / Bethlen utca* crossed the fair from the center, to the west, towards the neighboring village of the same name (it was also a town until the 18th century). It became the *strada Regală = Royal Street*, in the interwar period, "hosting" both the County House/Prefecture of the (former) county, as well as the former High School for Girls (today, the "Doamna Stanca" National College). The communist regime initially renamed it *I. V. Stalin*, and after the disappearance of the "father of the peoples" – *6 martie = March 6*. After 1989, she received the name *Doamna Stanca*. The connection between *Târgului Square* (currently *Republic Square*) and the citadel area was through *Koezep ucza / Strada Centrală = Central Street* (*de Mijloc = Middle*). Named *Csaky* before 1918, it was changed to *Constantin Pop*, a name still recorded today. Today, the connection between *Școlii Street* and the mentioned square is via *Mihai Eminescu Street*. The name was given to it after the Union of 1918, previously the artery was called from the 17th century, at the latest, *Piac utza / strada Pieții = Market street*. The last name, before the current one, was given to it during the Austro-Hungarian period, when it was renamed *Zeyk utca*.

To the north of the same central square of the locality was, about four centuries ago, *Also ucza / strada de Jos = Lower street*. Later, probably from the 18th century, it was renamed *Luterană Street*[3] (marking the presence of the evangelical church and the German school in the city), a name that the communist regime replaced with *Libertății street*. The original part of *Morii street*, from the 17th century, are attested, with a distinct name, *Negustorilor / Grecilor Street*. With this name it "lasted" until the interwar period, when, as a sign of appreciation for the good deeds done for Făgăraş and Ţara Oltului, it received the name of the illustrious *Ion Codru Drăguşanu*, who "survived" even during the communist period.

Remembered as a small hamlet (probably) in the 17th century, *Galații Mici / Kis Galacz*, located south of Olt, continued towards the fortress with a *Hid ucza / strada Podului = the Bridge Street*. This, along with the segment of the former hamlet, incorporated into the city, became, during the Habsburg period, *Podul Oltului Street*. The interwar period coincided with the exact specification of its northern direction, towards the village located across Olt, by the name of *Galaților Street*, but the communist regime decided that the artery could "glorify", better, *Ștefan Gheorghiu*. In the second part of the dictatorial regime, it returned to the older name – *the Bridge Street* – preserved until today. The *Olt ucza / strada Oltului* is also remembered from the 17th century. Located for a long time on the northeastern outskirts of the town, the artery preserved its name, not having any information about any possible modification of it. Nearby, to the east of the Cetate, there is another old thoroughfare, the *strada*

[3] We are not sure that it is the same artery. In locating it, we relied on two elements: the current *Libertății Street* descends, towards the north, towards Olt (the Berivoi River also flowed here, until a few decades ago), so it was located below the central square. Then, until the beginning of the 18th century, in addition to the evangelical church there was also a reformed one, destroyed by the Habsburgs during the War of the Kuruc, because from its tower the rebels could watch the movements of the imperial troops in the Citadel.

Cetății = Citadel Street. It was called *strada Verde = Green Street* until the interwar period, later receiving its current name. A good part of the old Jewish community of the city lived here. In fact, at the eastern end of the street is the Jewish cemetery. Mentioned, initially, on a 17th-century plan as *Hatar utca / strada Hotarului = Border Street*, it became *strada Cerbului = Stag street* in the Habsburg/Austro-Hungarian period (remembering the development of the artery in the old *Parcul de Vânătoare = Hunting Park* also called *Ciuta / Vadkert*). After the Union, it was named in honor of *Aron Densușianu* and, initially, the communist regime left this name, but later decided to return to the old one – *Cerbului Street* – preserved even after 1989. The *Süveges utca / stradaCăciularilor / Chivărarilor = Cappers street* probably developed in the 17th century, south of the Citadel, on the western and southern sides of the *Hunting Park / Garden*. The western side, oriented to the north, became, after the Union, *Vasile Alecsandri*, a name preserved until today, while the southern side, oriented west-east, was renamed *Brâncoveanu*. The communist regime "eliminated" the voivode-martyr, "gluing" this segment of the street to the newly appeared *Tudor Vladimirescu* artery, so that, after 1989, the street would return to its interwar name, in the form of *Sfântul Constantin Brâncoveanu*.

The old *Ciutărie* was an uninhabited area, originally, located from the north of the Citadel, towards the east, including the former *Hunting Garden / Park* and the *Grădina Comandantului = Commandant's Garden*, extended to the east of the Făgăraş fortification. Having become *Ciutărie Street*, since the pre-war period (are mentioned on an Austro-Hungarian plan from 1855 under the Hungarianized form, *Csuteria*) it kept its name even after the Union. It was renamed, during the communist period, becoming, until today, *Gheorghe Barițiu Street*. The Old *Piața Cetății = Citadel Square*, which has surrounded, for centuries, the oldest building in the city, kept its name until the end of the Austro-Hungarian period (under the form *Var Ter*). From the interwar period it was renamed *Mihai Viteazul*, in memory of the voivode-unifier of the three Romanian Countries, an appointment that "resisted" even during the totalitarian period. On the other hand, the other square in the central area of the municipality had a slightly more hectic onomastic evolution. Originally known as *Piața Târgului*, then – *Piața Mare*, before 1918, also called *Ferenc Jozsef Ter / Franz Joseph Platz / Piața Franz Iosif*, it was renamed, in the interwar period, *Piața Unirei = Union Square*. After the forced abdication of King Mihai (1947), it became *Republic Square*, a name it kept after 1989. North of the old intersection between *Bethlen utca / strada Becleanului* and *Szekely / Bogoly utca / strada Secuilor / Hurezului*, is *Livezii Street*. Its route, until the end of the communist period, extended to the vicinity of Olt, where there was a brick factory. The place has been mentioned, for centuries, as a hayfield, under the name *Cetatea Veche*. The toponym confirms the existence of a Făgăraș fortification older than the current one, confirmed, during the communist period, by archaeological excavations, which brought to light the remains of an earth fortress with wooden fortifications, dated to the 12th-13th centuries. The old name – *Cetatea Veche = the Old Citadel* – was replaced by the current one – *Livezii Street* – from the interwar period. The current name does not seem to speak of the existence of a *place with fruit trees* (non-existent, it seems in the area), but rather of an older *livadă de fân = hay orchard*, Transylvanian expression for *fâneață = hay*. We also note the fact that, for at least four centuries, there are also streets, mentioned among the oldest, that have kept their name unchanged. It is *Oltului, Pălărierilor* and *Tăbăcarilor* streets. The first of those mentioned is attested even before 1600, in 1595.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A few ideas emerge, which we will briefly present:

- The slow evolution of the settlement, before 1945, is also reflected by the growth, at a more modest pace, of the number of names of the arteries of Făgăraș;

- From the Habsburg / Austrian-Hungarian period, the first names with a glorifying character appear, although, most frequently, such names (often justified) were given after the Union of 1918 and, above all, during the communist period (many, undeserved and, precisely for that reason, largely eliminated after 1989), by the Romanian administrations;

- Although, after 1989, there was no return to some of the justified names granted in the interwar period, the post-December authorities insisted, in addition to changing many of the glorifying names granted by the communists, on the "promotion", in the street nomenclature, of some local personalities;

- Some names, even with a glorifying character, have survived, at least from the interwar period (so, for about a century), as is the case of *Mihai Viteazul Square* and *Mihai Eminescu, George Coșbuc, Ion Codru Drăgușanu, Constantin Pop, Vasile Alecsandri, Aron Pumnul* streets;

- For the most part, the old craft-commercial character was maintained, "betrayed" by some old street names – *Tăbăcarilor, Pălărierilor, Morii, Târgului* and others – "doubled" by the appearance of toponyms related to industrial and tertiary activities (transportation) developed in the last (more than one) century: the streets of *Azotului, Fontei, Nicovalei, Chimistului, Eprubetei, Ciocanului, Piața Gării*, etc.

- Instead, the multi-cultural, ethno-confessional specificity, preserved until the interwar period, completely disappeared from the street nomenclature.

- We consider that we have managed to "review", based on the mentioned periodization, the evolution of the street nomenclature of Făgăraș. This evolved, of course, in a natural way until the end of the Habsburg/Austro-Hungarian period (when the first glorifying arterial names appear), subsequently being marked by frequent onomastic changes, both as a result of political changes and as a matter of law consequence of the territorial expansion of the locality.

- The study can serve as a starting point, as a benchmark, for other such approaches, both at the national, Romanian and international level.

We conclude with a personal opinion, based on the analysis of the evolution of the street nomenclature in Făgăraș. We consider it useful, even necessary, to change the names of some roads, in accordance with local and/or national traditions. Thus, the central square can become the *Unirii = Union*'s again, because the current name is linked to the sad and illegitimate event of December 30, 1947, when King Mihai was "abdicated" with threats and blackmail. Also, the name *Doamna Stanca* can be given to another street, in the central area[4], proposing the return of the current name to *Regală = Royal Street*. In the same vein, the current *1 Mai Park* can return to its interwar name, *Regina Maria*. It is not a "pro-monarchist" campaign, but the observance of a historical truth: the Romanian Monarchy, through King Carol I, brought Romania's Independence

[4] Thus, the current *Inocențiu Micu Klein Street* can take the name of *Doamna Stanca*, and the *Hurezului Street* segment, south of *Scolii Street*, can be (re)named *Ioan Inochentie Micu* (*Klein* is the German translation of the last name!), because, next to the *Școlii Street*, there is the Greek-Catholic church, recently built.

(1877-1878), and through King Ferdinand – National Integration (1918-1920). On the other hand, we propose removing the name *December 13* and replacing it, either with *Hurezului Street*, or *Secuilor Street*, or, more appropriately, with *September 15*, the date of the first entry of the liberating Romanian Army into Făgăraş (1916), during the First World War. The hodonym also existed, in the interwar period, for the northern section of the current *Nicolae Bălcescu Street*, destroyed in the last years of the communist dictatorship. We also propose the return of *Cerbului Street* to the name it bore until the beginning of the communist period – *Aron Densuşianu*. Nearby, the former General School no. 2 has been bearing the name *Ovid Densuşianu* for many years, recalling a family with special contributions to the life of the town[5]. Another traditional name is *Luterană Street*[6], which can (re)take the place of the current name, also imposed by the communists, *Libertăţii Street*. Perhaps the names of the Galaţi district streets *Constantin Dobrogeanu-Gherea* and *Ana Ipătescu* could be replaced, also with names of local personalities. Without having been "communists", the regime overused their names, with many people associating them with the pre-1989 totalitarian power.

We are aware that these proposals can give rise to discussions and raise some problems, related, for example, to the effort of local residents to change their identity documents, in order to "accommodate" the new addresses. We wonder, however, why the authorities did not ask for the opinion of some experts or what prevented them from completely eliminating the names that, even indirectly, can be associated with the totalitarian regime? Also, with apologies for the rigor, we end everything with a question: the authorities, when they decided on the street name changes that we request to be replaced (again), did they know about the old Romanian saying „*Înainte de a tăia o dată, măsoară de zece ori!*" = "*Before you cut once, measure by ten times!*"?

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[5] Aron Densusianu is the father of Ovid Densusianu. Perhaps we will find a artery of Făgăraș also for the memory of Nicolae Densusianu, Aron's brother, who published a collection of documents entitled *Monumente pentru istoria Tierei Fagarasiului (Monuments for the history of the Făgăraş Country)*.

[6] The return to the old name of the street, as well as the option to reintroduce, in the street nomenclature, *strada Secuilor / Szeklers Street*, would restore, at least in part, also toponymically, the old spirit of inter-ethnic and inter-confessional coexistence, which characterized the settlement, centuries ago row.

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