

*Prologue to the work Knowledge about the Nitra Chair by Matej Bel**

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Abstract

Polyhistor Matej Bel (1684–1749) is one of the leading scholars working in the Hungarian environment. His top multi-volume work entitled *Notitia hungariae novae historico-geographica*. The gradual elaboration of patriotic-geographical works containing a number of key facts from individual stools belonging to the Habsburg Monarchy was started. The presented study is an introduction to the passage of the Nitra seat based on the existing manuscripts of Matej Bel, but also his assistants (former students and collaborators) who participated in the design of the final form of the written volume. A key element of the paper is the basic characteristics of the source documents, which directly related to the Nitra capital, as well as the list of contributors. Individual manuscripts were identified by archival work abroad (Hungarian National Library and Hungarian Landscape Archive).

Keywords: Matej Bel, Nitra, Noticia, stool, source, archive, cyberspace

Foreword

The process of preparing a description of the Nitra capital, which the authorship is attributed to the Hungarian scholar Matej Bel (1684–1749) from Očová, belongs to a monumental volume called *Notitia Hungariae Novae Historico-Geographica*. The patriotic work from the era of Enlightenment absolutism records factual data from 48 Hungarian thrones, which the author composed for several decades with the intention of informing, but especially popularizing contemporary knowledge about the historical-geographical state of the monarchy on the example of selected territories.

To this day, it is questionable when Matej Bel came up with the idea of composing an extensive work that would include several scientific disciplines in describing the history of the Kingdom of Hungary from the beginnings dating back to the era of Maria Theresa (1740–1780).

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Based on archival documentation¹ we find out that in 1718 Matej Bel announced to the public a reflection on the creation of a complex three-volume work² on the history of Hungary from a political point of view³ – geographical development. He cited the need for knowledge of Hungarian history as a reason⁴ for the literate sphere of the population, but at the same time called for further publishing activities aimed at rationalizing science. Originally, the first section was to be published the following year, but the overall final version.⁵

The works were not finally published until 1723 under the title *Hungariae antiquae et novae prodromus*, with preparation for a future work capturing the historical and geographical character, but also ethnographic with linguistic differentiation in the Hungarian part of the monarchy.

Considering the fact that Matej Bel, lived during the last anti-Habsburg uprising (the most influential circles developed the syndrome of rebel support on the initiative of evangelical scholars),⁶ and at the same time had the necessary educational act (acquired abroad: Halle) therefore had to explain the reason and intention to write a work describing the individual throne of Hungary. By letter dated 23 July 1720, Matej Bel asked individual Bratislava officials with a request for the possibility of obtaining data and data for the planned processing of the author's work in book form.⁷

¹ For more details: WELLMANN, Imre. Bél Mátyás (1684–1749). In *Történelmi Szemle*, 1979, vol. 22, p. 381–391.

² The first volume was to be published as early as 1719 and deal with the oldest history of Hungary, especially the ethnic picture (description of the influence of the Scythians, Huns, Avars, but also Slavs) in the formation of the contemporary Hungarian kingdom. The second part was to complete the history of the overall course of the history of medieval Hungary and the third the so-called modern history until 1740/1742.

³ The work was probably a preparation for the Notices, as the content section was created on the basis of archaeological-museum artifacts, and contemporary information came from archives, libraries but also from private collections.

⁴ Matej Bel pointed out the fact that similar patriotic works are already being created in Western Europe, such as by Johann Andreas Bosius (1626–1674) *Introductio generalis in Notitiam rerum-publicarum orbis universi* (1676).

⁵ The overall medieval period eventually disappeared from its final form, but at the same time new sections were created, such as natural conditions and curiosities at the local level.

⁶ HAAN, Lajos: Bél Mátyás. Székfoglaló értekezés. Budapest: Históriaantik Könyvesház, 1879, p. 21.

⁷ “*Ad Instantiam honorandi Domini Matthiae Bél Augustanae Confessionis hic Posonij nunc Praedicantem agentis, qui certum Librum Hystoricum de Notitia Hungariáé antiquae et novae (uti intitularet) conscribere intenderet, et ut idem Suae Dominationis Opus accuratius, recteque Geographiae conformius elaborari quiret, certum Suum Hominem pro majori Indagatione Plagae Comitatus hujus de loco in locum exmittere vellet, resolutum est. Quod sive ipse Dominus Praedicans, sive vero Homo ipsius ad id destinandus hunc in finem exiret, et de loco in locum condescendere niteretur, munit se Passualibus ad minimum a Magistratu liberae, Regiaeque Civitatis Posoniensis pro parte sui extrahendis, et ad quemcunque Processum devenire eundem contingeret, tam apud Dominum ejusdem Processus Judlium, quam vero Dominiorum Officiales praeve semet insinuet, nec aliud quid potissimum in Negotio Religionis, vel Comitatus praejudicioso, praeter insinuatam Plagae Investigationem acititare, aut operari praesumat, verum ab ejusmodi rebus se absteineat. Sic haud dubie in subministracione Vecturae, Domini Judlium, ita et dicti Dominiorum Officiales, ac Locorum Judices, et Incolae, eidem adminiculo erunt, ex parte inclyti Comitatus quoque non difficultando. Ex generali Inclyti Comitatus Posoniensis, in libera Regiaque ejusdem nominis Civitate die 23. Mensis Julij, Anno*

Although Matej Bel himself pointed out in the letter the importance of writing the history of the Hungarian capital⁸ had to justify in writing the nature and relevance of the work of the Hungarian estates. Within the mentioned attributes, it was necessary to prove the fact where the applicant is the work and at the same time who funds the extensive research. At the same time, Matej Bel had to prove his national and religious identity, residence and age of living in Hungary.⁹

1720. *celebrata...*” For more: SZELESTEI, N. László. Magyarországi tudósok levelezése. Vol. 3: Bél Mátyás levelezése. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1993, No. 115, p. 78.

⁸ In six points, Matej Bel emphasized the sense of birth of the work, namely: based on examples from abroad, it is necessary to make the history of Hungary visible, to highlight Hungarian authors writing historical-geographical works directly from the territory of Hungary, to eliminate mistakes and non-sense made by foreign authors describing the history of the Hungarian monarchy, unifying information from older works into one volume, evaluating the religious situation in Hungary; make the data available to the following educators.

⁹ “*Humillima Declaratio Ad benignissimum Sacratissimae Majestatis Caesareo-Regiae CAROLI VI. Regis ac Domini nostri longe clementissimi, mandatum, super opere cui titulus: Hungária Antiqua et Noua obsequiosissime concinnata. Quandoquidem Sacratissima Sua Caesareo-Regia Majestas, Dominus et Rex noster longe clementissimus, ex Paterno, quo in haereditarium Suum Regnum Hungáriáé, fertur adfectu et propensione, benignissime demandavit, vt de opere meo, quod Hungáriáé antiquae et nouae titulo inscriptum volui, coram Inclyto Comitatu Posoniensi, sincere et genuine rationes redderem; atque id vt facerem, illibata, in Regem ac Dominum meum naturaliter clementissimum, fides mea requireret; iuxta tenorem praelibati Caesareo-Regii mandati, sancte et procul omni furore, ita profiteor. Et quidem: Ad Primum: Cuiusnam sim nationis, et a quo tempore in Regno Hungáriáé morer? Respondeo: Me in dulcissima Hungária, et quidem in Inclyto Comitatu Zoliensi, natum ac educatum esse, neque, nisi sub motibus proxime praeterlapsis, in Saxonia, studiorum caussa commoratum fuisse; Ad Secundum: Cuius jussu et dispositione praeallegatam descriptionem instituere intendam? Respondeo: Jussu quidem neminis, sed solo ac nudo amore Patriae, cuius decus, honorem et vtilitatem promouere, ad bonum ciuem pertinere semper existimaui. Caussae interim, ac motiua, quae me induxerunt, vt laboriosissimum hoc et vastum opus in me susciperem, multae eaeque variae exstiterunt. Primo: Gentium exterarum exempla, quae exiguae subinde et tenues Prouincias, vt sibi decus pararent, magnis et splendidis voluminibus descripserunt. Quam quidem occupationem, iure naturae et gentium, sua sibi sponte viri docti delegerunt. Secundo: Auctorum exterorum criminationes deseri a suis, Hungáriám, neque gentium reliquarum exemplo, scriptis illustrari. Tametsi enim non desint, qui hac in parte cum laude versati sint, quia vero aliud sibi optimi illi auctores proposuerunt, quam vt res Hungáriáé omnes, scripto complecterentur, atque adeo exterorum criminationes diluerent; relictam mihi messem longe amplissimam aduertí, in qua prosequenda studia laboresque mei vtiliter queant collocari. Tertio: Auctorum exterorum hallucinationes, de rebus nostris scribentium, quas siue per ignorantiam, siue prauos adfectus, multis modis foedant, neque non ita subinde miscent, vt rerum gnaris non possint non taedio esse, et risum, quin indignationem saepe mouere. Quarto: Siquidem multa, cum ab antiquis, tum recentibus quoque scriptoribus, non extraneis modo, sed domesticis edam, praeclare de Hungária nostra, sparsim tamen, memoriae sunt 81 125-126 prodita, in vnum ea volumen, iusto adhibito selectu, compilanda volui; vt haberet gens nostra, originis ac factorum suorum expressa quasi quaedam vestigia. Quinto: Quia DEVS Optimus Maximus qui mirabilis est in operibus suis, Hungáriám iis donauit muneribus, quae penitiori contemplatione sunt dignissima; volui periculum facere, annon studiis meis, quantulacunque sint, lucis quidpiam iis adfundi possit, atque Numinis aeterni gloria illustrari. Sexto: Accessit summorum et doctissimorum virorum, cum in Hungária nostra, tum apud externos, frequens et seria exhortatio, vt in illustranda Patria nostra, ea methodo, qua id me facturum publice*

The letter addressed (July 30, 1720) the royal Hungarian office and, in addition, attached an excerpt from the work *Prodromus*, awaiting the beginning of the writing of works, also with the help of data that he would obtain from officials from local chairs. After studying the individual passages of *Prodromus* with a selected official director, the then palatine Count Mikuláš Pálffy (1657–1732) initiated a meeting between Matej Bel and a leading member of the royal office, Nikolas Zinzendorf, on other alternatives to the issue of *Notices*. The result of the meeting had a positive response, as the king himself finally decided to support financially publication of Bel's work with an annual sum of 400 gold.¹⁰

The accelerator to the creation of an extensive work was also the fact that Matej Bel had extensive support, which we can classify as follows:

- Permanent contributors, e.g.:
 - Matolai János
 - Dobai Székely Sámuel
 - Buchholtz György
 - Reviczky János Ferenc
 - Bél Károly András
- Roman Catholic Church, e.g.:
 - Ráday Pál
 - Esterházy Imre
 - like the Bratislava Franciscans
- Evangelical Church, e.g.:
 - Czemanka András

promiseram, strenue pergerem, remque litterariam, meo isto opere, orbi erudito longe gratissimo, iuuarem. Quorum monitis eo lubentius parendum esse duxi, quo honestius existimaui, non modo de Patria bene mereri, sed doctorum quoque desideris satisfacere. Quemadmodum ergo honestissimum iuxta et innocentissimum meum esse, ex doctis liquido constat; ita in eam porro curam vnice incubui, vt cum opus tam vastum atque diffusum elucubrare, vires ac aetatem hominis unius superet, plures existerent, viri docti, apud exteros et in Hungaria nostra, qui operas mecum sociarent. Quo fine Prodromum quoque hunc, quem Declarationi huic adiungo, sed plenior tamen, edendum volui, vt haberent cynosuram quasi quandam viri doctissimi, ad quam collectanea, et symbola sua exigent. Tantum autem abest, vt institutum hocce meum, clam et ausu surreptitio, prosequi voluerim, vt potius, sub idem plane tempus, cum Sacratissimae Caesareo-Regiae Maiestatis, mandatum benignissimum, apud Inclytum Comitatum Poseniensem publicatum fuisset, de aquirendo viis debitis, priuilegio Caesareo-Regio, sollicitus fuerim; probe omnino gnarus haec istius modi conamina, publicum decus ac vtilitatem concernentia, publica simul Regis auctoritate promoueri, praemuniri que debere. Quae cum ita sint, sicuti sunt omnino, plane confido fore, vt Inclytus Comitatus Poseniensis, cui sinceram hanc ac genuinam propositi mei declarationem, vigore mandati Caesareo-Regii, humillime insinuare volui ac debui; Eandem fstat Declarationem meam, vna cum compendio Prodromi operis totius, quem hic adiungo, Excelsae Cancellariae Dominis mihi gratiosissimis, transmissurus, atque honestissimam destinationem hanc, in decus Patriae, emolumentum ciuium, et rei litterariae augmentum, quod iterum iterumque profiteor, vnice susceptam, pro singulari suo in bonas artes fauore, de meliori sit commendaturus. Quod cum supplex rogo, me ac propositum meum, experto fauori Inclyti Comitatus, commendans maneo Inclytae Vniuersitatis Dominorum mihi Gratiosissimorum Colendissimorum..." SZELESTEI, N. László. Magyarországi tudósok levelezése. Vol.3: Bél Mátyás levelezése. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1993, No. 125, p. 81–82.

¹⁰ HAAN, Lajos. Bél Mátyás. Székfoglaló értekezés. Budapest: Históriaantik Könyvesház, 1879, p. 39.

- Mitsinsky János
- Rotarides Sámuel
- Záborszky Jakab
- Zbiskó József Károly
- Aristocracy, e.g.:
 - Batthyány Lajos
 - Esterházy Ferenc
 - Forgách János Ádám
 - Forgách László
 - Forgách Pál
 - Károlyi Sándor
 - Károlyi Ferenc
 - Teleki Mihály
 - Wesselényi István
 - Zichy Károly
- Office set, e.g.:
 - Aszalay Ferenc
 - Beniczky Tamás
 - Buday Zsigmond
 - Dobai Pál
 - Dobai Péter
 - Halmágyi István
 - Tordai Boldizsár
 - Paluska György
 - Szluha Ferenc
 - Sigray József
- Contemporary scholars, e.g.:
 - Kray Pál
 - Kolinovics Gábor
 - Friedrich Wilhelm von Sommersberg
 - Jeszenák Pál
 - Engelbert Kempelin
 - Szulyovszky Gáspár
- School sector, e.g.:
 - Bohus György
 - Haynóczi Dániel
 - Ruisz János Kristóf
 - Tomka Szászky János
- Former students of Matej Bel, e.g.:
 - Kuntz Jakab
 - Mikoviny Sámuel
 - Prónay Gábor
 - Prónay Pál
 - Radvánszky László
 - Ruttkay Dániel

The accelerator to the gradual writing of facts from the individual chairs was the mutual cooperation of Matej Bel with selected correspondents, as well as with local officials who had the official data necessary for the construction of the work. After each completed chapter, resp. Stool Matej Bel had to hand over to the royal office for inspection part of the work, which evaluated the content and the level of the proposed work. The first volume concerned the Electoral See, which Matej Bel handed over on October 1, 1727, and the Royal Chancellery sent back a reply on March 5, 1728.¹¹

In the description, the office closely monitored the level of processing of issues in areas such as:

- the religious sphere in the chairs,
- traditinal folk customs,
- military meetings between the imperial army and the insurgents,
- personalities (especially emphasis on persons unacceptable to monarchies, eg Emerich Thököly, Francis II. Rákóczi, or their commanders),
- significantly officials had comments to avoid the author's title Excellentissimus, "Illustrissimus"¹² for some sections, and others.

¹¹ For more information on the remaining stools: TÓTH, Gergely. Bél Mátyás „Notitia Hungariae novae...” című művének keletkezéstörténete és kéziratának ismertetése. Budapest: Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem Bölcsészettudományi Kar, 2007, pp. 134–135.

¹² For more details: Answer (dated 14 December 1730) of the Royal Chamber after reading the seven volumes of the Notation, which Matej Bel was to revise. SZELESTEI, N. László. Magyarországi tudósok levelezése. Vol.3: Bél Mátyás levelezése. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1993, No. 398, p. 218–219. “*Sacrae Caesareae Regiaeque Cancellariae Aulico-Hungaricae Nomine Discreto Viro Matthiae Belio, hisce intimandum. Posteaquam Parte Operis Ejusdem Geographico-Historici, Septem Regni Hungariae Comitatus, nempe Maramarusiensem, Ugocsensem, Krasznsensem, Bekesiensem, Zarandiensem, Aradiensem and Csanadiensem, extitisse applied observations; And first, about the Maramarusi Committee in the description of Arcis Huszt, see Author §. 6 ° Diplomlen Bethleniani, super officio Supremi Comitatus Maramarusiensis Bethlenio Collato, mentioned by the faculty, illud in Appendice semet producturum sponderat, nuspiam tamen illud reperiri; Dein, quoad Comitatum Krasznsensem, Membro 2. §. 4 ° in duobus Locis Praedicatum Familiae Bánffy de Losoncz, nescitur quo ex motivo Author deleverit, cum tamen Praedicatum illud de Losoncz, hic vel ideo addendum videretur, ut superextans haec Familia Banfiana, ab altera, quae Bánffy de Also Leadva dicta fu, point deficient, distinguished by Non absimili ter in ordine quoad Comitatum Aradiensem, membro 1 ° §. 11 0 et alibi passim, Comitatum Temesiensem, appellari Banatum, Cum tamen res Hungaricas vel primis labris delibanti constare debeat, quod in Numero Banatum Hungariae et Partium Eidem annexarum, nec in Lege, nec in Historia, mentio Banatus Temesiensis etpian error hit merito corrigendus esset. The District Council of Temesiensis Nomine Committee (cujus Supremi Comites inter Barones Regni de praescripto Legis numerantur) insigniri deberet In Descriptione praeterea Comitatus Csanadiensis, pariter Membro 1 ° §. 1 ° for errors Banatum Temesiensem recitari: Ibidem demum in enumeratione Episcoporum, post Stephanum Telekesy, poni ultimo defunctum Comitem Ladislaum de Nadasd, cum tamen Telekesio ad Agriensem Infulam promoti, Stephanus Dolný, huic Sigismundo Ordcusi omcus Lab, istody successes and is not defined by Labsanszko, Episcopatum hunc, dictus Comes Ladislaus de Nadasd obtinuerit Caeterum de Titulis Excellentissimi, Illustrissimi et reliquorum prout et a denominatione Locorum Curialium, generaliter praescindendum venire. Quara supra-fatus Author juxta praenotatas observations et correcturas se dirigere, and accom-modanda accom-modare noverit ac debeat. With the cancellation of Cancellaria has Regia Hungarica Aulica manet addicta et benevola. Per Eandem Can cellari am Regio-Hungaricam Aulicam...*”

Needless to say, in the period from 1725 to 1729/30, no evidence of problems in obtaining stool data was preserved. However, since about the middle of 1730, when designing individual parts (concerning stools such as Nitra and Bars), the data needed for finalization are absent. Bel was even forced repeatedly (May 20, 1735) in writing to ask selected chairmen for information. He did not receive a reply until September 20, 1735.

Since 1735, obtaining information from at least 28 stools has been problematic (as written sources show us), which are the result of delays in the gradual publication of parts of a life's work.¹³

Introduction to the Nitra capital

The original manuscript of Matej Bel was completed as early as 1727, but the author himself emphasized the relatively large shortcomings and the absence of data at several settlements that he intended to process. The year 1730 was supposed to be the closing date of the final form of the manuscript, which, however, finally reached 1735.¹⁴

Matej Bel originally had three manuscripts, which he revitalized and supplemented with data. Depending on the level and content as well as the linguistic style of writing, we assume that the main helpers in designing the manuscripts were students from Nitra (at least two) who supplied Matej Bel with a considerable amount of factual information in describing individual settlements. Bel himself collaborated with the local family aristocracy (eg. the Forgács family: with Forgács János and László; with the Rajesányi family, or the Ujfalusy family, etc.).

¹³ TÓTH, Gergely. Bél Mátyás „Notitia Hungariae novae...” című művének keletkezéstörténete és kéziratának ismertetése. Budapest: Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem Bölcsészettudományi Kar, 2007, p. 142–143.

¹⁴ Matej Bel's request to the chief officials also informs us about this, as the author urgently needed data to finalize the inventory of the Nitra capital. “*Serenissime Dux, I Domine, Domine Clementissime! Excelsum Consilium Regium Locumtenentiale! Quae DEI Optimi Maximi, and Suae Caesareo-Regiae Maiestatis gratia est, Primus Operis mei, quod de Hungária scribere exorsus sum, Tomus, luce publica donatus iam est. Hunc, opitilant numine, alter sequi deberet; quippe typis iam traditus; nisi Inclitorum Comitatum, Nitriensis et Barschiensis Historia, honestissimum institutum sufflaminaret. Complaints to this end, with the second memorandum of the Committee approved by me on the Admission Agreement, amendment and amplification of this new Benignissimo Caesareo-Regio mandate, on the basis of test sequence results, Excellentissimis Dominiis Supremis Comitibus, and I wish to receive the following questions, Incl in non-necessitant recurrence, false substitute, and locorum potissimum situs, ex vero adnotentur. That plurality of fuses impediment is accepted, which is due to the augmentation work of the laboratory with a retardation of the hucus; Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament, and having regard to the opinion of the Committee,. Serenissimum Ducem, Excelsum item Consilium Regium Locumtenentiale, obsequentissime rogandum duxi, debuique; vi, pro Sua erga meliores litteras, et Patriae in primis decus, propensione, memoratorum Comitatum Reuisionem et augmentationem, (feruentibus iam lypographorum operis) accelerari facere, benignissime dignarentur, ne, si transilire eos oporteret, Opus concinit etumum dispum, contra situs ordinem, loco alieno, interseri debeat. Quam Serenitatis Regiae, Domini Domini Clementissimi, et Excelsi Consilii Locumtenentialis Regii, singularem benignitatem, aeternis laudibus, prosequuturus manebo, dum viuam, inter vota felicitatis perpetuae...*” SZELESTEI, N. László. Magyarországi tudósok levelezése. Vol.3: Bél Mátyás levelezése. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1993, No. 521, p. 327–328.

The local bureaucratic apparatus responded to Matej Bel's request, warning that he did not have enough staff to obtain the necessary data through fieldwork. They also drew attention to the fact that the Office needs to finance staff for possible "research" for which it does not currently have earmarked economic resources.¹⁵

Matej Bel finally finished the work, albeit with a significant delay. He sent the list of information to the authorities that investigated, resp. verified the content of the work. The work had to be modified and corrected several times according to the attached pattern (the office commented mainly on mistakes and errors made by Matej Bel)¹⁶ and even the author himself requested a postponement (until October 7, 1735) to complete the incomplete parts. We have the mentioned information from the documentary evidence from July 15, 1735.¹⁷

He sent the main part of the work for verification directly to the Nitra office and, after revision, again to the Hungarian Royal Office on March 13, 1736. The most important part of the work remained the original third manuscript with Bel's notes. Several factual data (especially detailed descriptions of settlements, villages, which the author himself visited) did not get into the main part of the work.

Preserved manuscripts of the Nitra capital

After examining the existing sources that directly affected the Nitra capital, it is possible to classify individual manuscripts on the basis of the chronology of their origin (individual data were summarized in the works of 2006 and 2007 by the historian of Hungarian origin Tóth Gergely) as follows:

Inclytus Comitatus Nitriensis¹⁸ – the file documents the original intention of Matej Bel to create, according to the exact structure, the overall outline of the facts about the Nitra capital. Matej Bel began writing in writing on about August 1, 1726, based on a work from 1720, the author of which is an unknown creator.

Nitriensis Committee¹⁹ – the letter evidence itself recalls a previous document with the intention of obtaining the detailed content of the information that Matej Bel will need to create the forthcoming work. The relevant part is one of the main sources in the description of individual settlements in the Nitra capital.

Historia Comitatus Nitriensis²⁰ – the first real working description of the Nitra seat, which is based on two older manuscripts. Due to the fact that there were no ambiguities in the description of the infrastructure and road network near Nitra, Nové mesto nad Váhom or Obdokoviec, Matej Bel asked for a more detailed analysis of the information and at the same time asked for the elimination of mistakes about selected villages. At the same time, the author asks for a revision of the facts or the addition of curiosities at most settlements in the region. In most cases, Matej Bel did not specify directly in the text his remarks on corrections, but asked at the end of the letter. Over a period of time, the polyhistor revitalized

¹⁵ Magyar Országos Levéltár (MOL) C 42 Misc. Fasc. 95 no. 33. ff. 74–75. (No. 39).

¹⁶ ZEMENE, Róbert, Marián. *Belov opis Nitrianskej stolice*. In Tibenský Ján (ed.). *Matej Bel. Doba – život* – dielo. Bratislava, 1987, p. 328–337.

¹⁷ MOL C 42 Misc. Fasc. 95 no. 33. (No 42.).

¹⁸ Esztergomi Főszékesegyházi Könyvtár (EFK) Hist. I. qq. ff. 1-13.

¹⁹ EFK Hist. I. qq. ff. 14-30 r.

²⁰ Liceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, 427, kt. pp. 1–238.

the text itself, especially from the vicinity of Nové mesto nad Váhom, which it corrected and supplemented, thus creating the basis for the final form. The text of the manuscript was completed on November 7, 1727.

Nitriensis Committee²¹ – the manuscript documents the correction of the original version, but “empty” spaces are noticeable in several places, as there is no complete transcript of the manuscript. March 1730, and at the same time according to the will belonged to the property of a certain István Jeszenák.

Nitriensis Committee. Member IV. The Ujhelyiensi process²² – manuscript processed on the road of Nové mesto nad Váhom. The main part of the text was created on older documents, which obviously underwent a correction. At the end of the manuscript, Matej Bel asked for a correction, resp. to supplement information on stool judges. In the text part, we find out the intervention, but we do not know their purpose or the author making the corrections. The text was written around March 1730.

Nitriensis Committee²³ – the manuscript captures a description of the city of Nitra and the castle complex itself. The author is Matej Bel himself, who completed and adjusted the factual data, at the same time verified the data on landscape judges. The mentioned manuscript was sent to the office of the Hungarian Chamber’s office, as we record relatively extensive modifications after their revision. Matej Bel also gives a list of villages that belonged to the city of Nitra and at the same time created a chronology of the bishops of Nitra after 1737, when Ernő János Harrach took office. The text of the manuscript was completed on March 2, 1730.

A Magyar Udvari Kancellária Bél Mátyásnak²⁴ – a fraction of the documentary evidence on behalf of the Hungarian Court Office announces and comments on errors and mistakes made by Matej Bel in designing the work. Significant shortcomings are not mentioned, but officials again warn the author not to “mention” curial villages in which only one aristocratic family lives. The document was addressed on March 13, 1736, after urgent requests (eg September 20, 1735)²⁵ Matej Bel.

Observations around the description of the Comitatus Nitriensis²⁶ – fractional manuscript by an unknown author. Let’s record again the thorough reworking of information, especially in the description of the agricultural settlement of Nové mesto nad Váhom. The text was created only after the approval of the overall construction of the work by the Hungarian court office, sometime in the middle of 1736.

De vicis Processus Nitriensis²⁷ – the direct text of the Nitra capital after 1736 was created from the mentioned manuscript. An important attribute is the exact list of Nitra settlements, which finally reached the final part for the needs of the final work.

²¹ Líceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, 431, kt.

²² EFK Hist. I. pp.

²³ Líceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, 427a.

²⁴ MOL A 35.

²⁵ Reflexiones per Deputationem Comitatus Nitriensis in obsequium Benigni Intimati in opus Matthiae Belii relati ad Comitatum Nitriensem concinnatae et Excelso Consilio submissae. EFK Hist. I. IIII/1.

²⁶ Líceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, Fragmenta IV.

²⁷ Líceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, 511. 8/11.

Nitriensis Committee²⁸ – the manuscript forms a substantial part of the description of the Nitra capital, as well as a supplementary description of Nové mesto nad Váhom. In both cases, the information is included in the final form, authored by Matej Bel. It is assumed that the mentioned data should be part of another chapter itself, or even a selection monograph, which would be published after 1736.

De vicis Processus Bodokiensis²⁹ – the manuscript is a similar example of the above, with a detailed list of settlements that are included in the road in the territory of Obdokoviec. The manuscript was also to be part of further work.

The printing of the Nitra capital itself took place in several phases, mainly due to the revision and supplementation of data on the initiative of Matej Bel himself, or from officials of the Hungarian Court Office. In most professional literature, the date of publication is marked the period from 1735 to 1749, while the key year can be considered the year 1742, when the Nitra capital was published in print.

Matej Bel's knowledge and its processing in today's cyberspace

Processing of data from individual works of Matej Bel with a historical-geographical undertone in the current virtual-multimedia environment offers several possibilities with the application of other interpretive components of data from several scientific disciplines, such as:

- from archaeological-historical sciences – comparison of Matej Bel's knowledge with later, secondary works from the position of truth or error of historical data for the final revision of data;
- archiving and contemporary linguistics – basic analysis of the triangle, namely: the official version of Matej Bel's work, data sent by Matej Bel's correspondents (collaborators), later supplemented works by successors (eg. György Gyurikovits, 1780–1848). However, the decisive element remains the original language, ie Latin or Hungarian.
- geography and cultural heritage – comparison of geographical knowledge with the official version of the file, as well as pictorial materials from the Hungarian Monuments Commission, or from the Slovak Monuments Office, or the current state with the help of photographic and photogrammatical focus of the terrain, or a specific monument.

It is possible to create a “bridge” between the cyberworld and the data of Matej Bel in at least three forms.

The simplest form of implementation is the construction of your own website with the alternative of applying guerrilla marketing³⁰ presentation of information to the general professional and lay public. When setting the content of the mentioned page as attributes it is necessary to consider attributes such as: chronology, places, Curriculum vitae (CV), tools.

²⁸ Líceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, 511/12.

²⁹ Líceumi Könyvtár, Pozsony, 511/16.

³⁰ Guerrilla marketing is intended not only to provide promotion, but on the contrary to interpret parallel data from several scientific disciplines to the assumptions of objective information and avoidance of historical errors from the former Habsburg monarchy.

The first section (chronology) presents several presentations on the life of polyhistor Matej Bel: childhood, adolescence and his education, academic and political career, appreciation of his work and death on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

The second part (places) offers a description of specific places that are in the works of Matej Bel from official published material supplemented by data from existing historiography on the issue. After clicking online, the percipient will obtain, in addition to a photographic and video preview, specific historical data about the selected locality (eg. terrain, city, cultural monument, etc.).

The third part (biographies or CV) presents a gallery of portraits, through which the online visitor has access to the biographies of some relatives, but especially collaborators with whom Matej Bel collaborated in designing his publishing activities.

The fourth section (tools) is devoted to the study of Matej Bel's work from the point of view of current scientific capacities from several spheres (eg. history, linguistics, geography and others), which point to the usability of specific works of a Hungarian scholar. In the mentioned section, annual updates on new findings are important.

An online visitor can navigate the content of the page through a 3D interface,³¹ in which the four sections are shown as separate units, but interconnected by a "legend" with the intention of offering a maximum overview of data on the life and work of Matej Bel.

Currently, the most ideal form is considered to be the conception of the so-called virtual textbook with the possibility of connecting to a website.

The virtual online textbook must have the following main elements configured:

- biography of Matej Bel – available from archival sources and book publications divided into several categories according to the criterion of usability in practice (eg. to whom the online textbook will be intended, ie lay (students), professional public;
- work activities – analysis of specific works from several directions (eg. history, geography, linguistics and others) with the possibility of publishing selected parts through an online source;
- graphics – responsible processing and subsequent presentation of digitized documents with the alternative of creating an image database from archival sources;
- sound and film activities – maximum processing and presentation of all available sources that have been published to the general public so far.

The virtual textbook has the possibility of promoting scientific disciplines as well as specific current outputs, therefore a joint financial coverage from several sectors is needed, not forgetting the private base.

In the near future, it is possible to consider a third form, namely the holographic revival of an online exhibition with Matej Bel's own transcendent life (bounded by the project administrators).³²

The biggest benefit of the project is the application of artificial intelligence to achieve the most accurate historical data. The basic point of the relevant section is the holographic

³¹ Technical specifications: The first launch of the application requires the automatic installation of the Xtreme VR add-on, which is compatible with several programs (eg. Internet Explorer). In addition, this application requires a graphics card with 3D acceleration capability and a video driver with OpenGL support.

³² Precise guidance on the data will be provided by the study sponsor in accordance with the applicable legislative guidelines.

processing of the whole person (skeleton) of Matej Bel from the available image materials with the intention of constructing a virtual avatar. The virtual guide will guide online percipients through the life cycles from birth to death, but at the same time with the alternative scientific message of data for future generations. The priority principle is the interpretation of the bibliographic component from several angles, such as social classes and ethnic conditions, education and culture, science and technology, politics and career, religion and uprisings, which influenced the very life of Matej Bel.

In the same spirit is filled with the construction of the so-called a virtual mirror in which an already created avatar helps online percipients with the help of 3D and XD written samples (parts) of works and an original sound voice in the person of Matej Bel.

Selected architectural findings of Matej Bel and their processing into a virtual form

The principle of virtual architecture is an alternative comparison of data (specific selected architectural examples, which are created visually-graphically) Matej Bel with later data from different time eras (eg. from the information of the Hungarian Monuments Commission, the Government Commissariat, from a historical-archaeological perspective at the turn 20th and 21st centuries). Current photographic and photogrametric materials are also a decisive factor when comparing data.

When building a virtual architecture, you need to configure the following scheme:

- creation of a detailed bibliographic inventory of the researched locality and selected units,
- the most accurate cartographic capture of systems,
- unification of definitions – naming of units in the examined region,
- in-depth research of available archival funds in terms of political and economic tendencies,
- analysis of preserved graphic materials (paintings, plans, engravings, drawing graphics and others),
- analysis and revision of the acquired facts and corrections of dispositional proportions of data obtained from fortification systems.

The concept of virtual architecture must address, in addition to historical themes, other areas, such as:

- Military (eg. method of siege of Hungarian castles, source examples...);
- Economic (eg. construction and usability of period economic objects...);
- Economic (eg. administrative way of financing the prosperity of medieval castles, later fortified castles...);
- Artistic-architectural (eg. description and visual-virtual comparison of architectural parts from abroad on the example of a chapel, toilet, etc.);
- Pedagogical (eg. comparison of classical and modern presentation of feudal fortifications at home and abroad, alternative solution without large initial capital, educational practice...).

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