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**Romanian Anthroponymy Acknowledged in the Mediaeval Latin Documents Issued by the Romanian Chancelleries (13th – 15th century)**

*Abstract: This paper analyzes elements of Romanian anthroponymy acknowledged in the mediaeval Latin documents issued by the Romanian Principalities chancelleries in 13th – 15th century. The author discusses the word-formation, the chronology, the etymology and the spelling of these lexemes.*

**Key words:** *Romanian language, mediaeval Latin, anthroponymy, s*

language used in the environment in which the clerks learned Latin, their maternal language, and the language used in the environment in which they lived and wrote. In Transylvanian chancelleries, the clerks were especially Hungarians, Transylvanian Saxons, Italians or Hungarian-speaking Romanians. Since the texts were most probably written under dictation in Hungarian, and perhaps in German in the Saxon areas, the Romanian lexical elements are almost exclusively toponyms (names of places) and anthroponyms. The royal clerks in the two extra-Carpathian countries, Wallachia and Moldavia, were at first foreigners: Polish, Hungarians, Germans, Italians. Still, over the time they were elected from the local population that studied in local schools or at the universities in Cracow and Wien (Ciurea 1940, 1945; Jakó, Manolescu 134–135). Therefore, the influence of the Romanian language on Latin, facilitated by the same procedure of writing the contents of the papers under dictation, is much more apparent - from the vocabulary to the morphology, syntax and regional pronunciation elements.

The inventory analyzed here comprises 70 anthroponyms, from which 8 are also used as toponyms, and 6 as appellatives:

1) Anthroponyms: *arbur* [tree], *bade*[uncle - respectful term of address in the country ; term used by women in the country to caress their beloved men], *bădică* [diminutive of *bade*], *bălan* [blonde], *bălțat* [motley, striped], *bărbos* [bearded], *boar* [cowboy], *bob* [bean], *bulgar* [Bulgarian], *buzdugan* [mace], *cal* [horse], *cătană* [soldier], *cârjă* [crutch], *cioban* [shepherd], *ciocan* [hammer], *cocor* [crane], *colț* [fang ; corner], *Crăciun* [Christmas ; Santa Claus], *creț* [curly], *danci* [gypsy kid], *drac* [devil], *drag* [beloved, cherished, dear], *făt* [foetus, son, boy, child], *frate* [brother], *frunte* [forehead], *ghindă* [acorn], *gros* [thick, bulky], *grozav* [terrible, fearful, almighty], *grumaz* [neck], *hoț* [thief], *lup* [wolf], *mic* [small], *mogâldă* [hill, heap], *mohilă* [hill], *moldov(e)an* [Moldavian], *moșoc* [hair bun], *murg* [sorrel], *mușat* [nice, beautiful], *oglinďă* [mirror], *pașmag* [slipper], *pășat* [millet cooked with milk, butter, cheese etc.], *sărbătoare* [feast], *sârb* [Serbian], *scurt* [short], *sucă* [trouble, bad habit], *sulea* [devil ;scamp, sneak], *svânt* [saint], *șerb* [serf], *tăut* [Slovak], *turc* [Turk], *țepă* [stake], *țigănuș* [little gypsy], *ungurean* [Hungarian], *vărzar* [vegetable grower], *veveriță* [squirrel], *vrabie* [sparrow].

2) Anthroponym and toponym: *alb* [white], *bărbat* [man], *floare* [flower], *furcă* [pitchfork], *negru* [black], *pădure* [forest], *plop* [poplar tree], *prisacă* [apiary; terrain recently cleared].

3) Anthroponym and common word: *baci* [shepherd in charge of a sheepfold], *brânză* [cheese], *călugăr* [monk], *fecior* [son, boy, lad], *popă* [pope, parson], *țigan* [gypsy].

The lexical material offered by anthroponyms has a great importance in knowing the constitution process of onomastics in the Romanian language. The remark concerning the toponyms made by Iorgu Iordan can be also applied to anthroponyms, respectively that many anthroponyms had or still have an appellative value in everyday language. For only after they began being used with an appellative value, the Romanians were able to extend their usage, employing at the same time both values: as common words and anthroponyms (Iordan 18).

With regard to their source the anthroponyms are in most cases nicknames coming from common nouns, adjectives or diminutives.

1. Anthroponyms coming from common nouns:

- a. plant names: *arbore, bob, floare, ghindă, pădure, plop.*
- b. names of animals or birds: *cal, cocor, lup, veveriță, vrabie.*
- c. object names: *buzdugan, cârjă, ciocan, furcă, oglindă, pașmag, țeapă.*
- d. human body: *frunte, grumaz, moțoc.*
- e. occupations: *baci, boar, călugăr, cătană, cioban, hoț, popă, vârzar;*
- f. food: *brânză, păsat.*
- g. ethnicity: *danci, moldovean, sârb, tăut, turc, țigan, ungurean.*
- h. miscellaneous: *bade, bărbat, crăciun, drac, făt, frate, mogâldă, mohilă, prisacă, sărbătoare, soare, sucă, sulea.*

2. Anthroponyms coming from adjectives: *alb, bălan, bălțat, bărbos, creț, drag, gros, grozav, mic, murg, negru, scurt, svânt.*

3. Anthroponyms coming from diminutives: *bădică, țepeluș, țigănuș.*

By origin, anthroponyms can be grouped as:

1. Words of Latin origin: *alb, arbur, bălțat, bărbat, boar, cal, Crăciun, drac, făt, fecior, floare, frate, frunte, furcă, ghindă, gros, lup, negru, pădure, păsat, plop, scurt, șerb.*
2. Thraco-Dacian words: *brânză* (probably), *grumaz, murg.*
3. Words of unknown or questionable origin: *baci, bade, cocor, creț, hoț, mogâldă.*
4. Slavonic<sup>4</sup> loan words: *bob, bulgar, călugăr, cârjă, ciocan, colț, drag, mohilă, popă, prisacă, svânt, țigan, veveriță, vrabie.*
5. Hungarian loan words: *cătană, sucă, tăut.*
6. Turkish loan words: *cioban, pașmag, turc.*
7. Serbian loan words: *sârb.*
8. Bulgarian loan words: *grozav.*
9. Tatar loan words: *buzdugan.*
10. Romany (gypsy language) loan words: *danci.*
11. Words formed by derivation in the Romanian language: *albot, bădică, bălan, bărbos, bobuș, calotă, moldovean, moțoc, mușat, oglindă, sărbătoare, sulea, țepeluș, țigănuș, ungurean, vârzar.*

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<sup>4</sup> We include in this category words in both literary and vernacular language.

## Chronology of acknowledgements

The comparison with the dates included in DERSR shows the fact that generally there are no significant differences between the oldest acknowledgments of the Romanian terms present in the Slavonic–Romanian and Latin documents; however there are a number of terms whose first usage in Middle-Latin sources is older:

Baci:	1319	– DERSR: 1488
B rbat:	1285	– DERSR: 1471
Boar:	1404	– DERSR: 1519
Brânz :	1477	– DERSR: 1490
Bulgar:	1476	– DERSR: 1546
Cal:	1511	– DERSR: 1543
C tan :	1534	– DERSR: <1596–1600>
Ciocan:	1433	– DERSR: 1505
Cre :	1260	– DERSR: 1425
Drac:	1452	– DERSR: <1459>
Drag:	1334	– DERSR: 1414
Ghind :	1468	– DERSR: 1495
Gros:	1476	– DERSR: 1486
Ho :	1538	– DERSR: 1594
Mic:	1227	– DERSR: 1399
Oglind :	1477	– DERSR: 1591
erb:	1383	– DERSR: 1407
ig nu :	1453	– DERSR: 1526

## Toponyms' spelling

Spelling reveals the clerks' efforts to reproduce Romanian pronunciation, making an appeal to the spelling rules familiar to them from the maternal language or from the language spoken in the environment in which they grew or studied (usually Hungarian, German or Polish). These are the graphic equivalents most common in documents:

a = , o: *Albota* (Albot ), *Badyka* (B dic ), *Balczad* (B l at), *Barbat* (B rbat), *Kalota* (Calot ), *Chakan* (Ciocan)

e = , ea: *Dionisius Caluger* (Dionisie C lug r), *Kolcza* (Col ea), *Flore* (Flore), *Tewtwl logoffet* (T utul logof t)

i = â: *Nicolaus Brinsa* (Nicolae Brânz ), *Luca Kirsza* (Luca Cârj )

o = , u: *Dobra Bolan* (Dobra B lan), *Barbossol* (B rbosul), *Coman Bolgar* (Coman Bulgar), *Kathana Bolgaro* (C tan Bulgaru), *Iwan Bwzdogan* (Ioan Buzdugan)

oy = oa: *Floyre* (Floare)

y = i: *Badyka* (B dic ), *Fychywr* (Ficior)

c = , : *Dancwlo* (Danciului), *Fracilla* (Fr il )

ch = , : *Bach* (Baci), *Chakan* (Ciocan), *Crechul* (Cre ul), *Danchul* (Danciul)

cz = , , z : *Iohannes Grumacz* (Ioan Grumaz), *Balczad* (B l at), *Czoban* (Cioban), *Kolcza* (Col ea)

d = t: *Balczad* (B l at)

g = g': *Thoma Ginda* (Toma Ghind )

gh = g: *Dragh* (Drag)

gy = g': *Bagya* (Badea)

h = ': *Mohilă*

k = c: *Badyka* (B dic ), *Kalota* (Calot ), *Kokorra* (Cocora)

s = : *Cipellus* ( epelu )

sch = , : *Bobusch* (Bobu ), *Craschun* (Cr ciun), *Danschwl* (Danciul)

ss = s: *Barbossol* (B rbosul)

sz = j: *Luca Kirsza* (Luca Cârj )

th = t: *Barbath* (B rbat), *Kathana* (C tan ), *Thurk Iwon* (Turcu Ion)

tz = : *Kretzul* (Cre ul)

w = u, v, o: *Bobwl* (Bobul), *Bwzdogan* (Ioan Buzdugan), *Danchwl* (Danciul), *Fychywr* (Ficior), *Fwrka* (Furc ), *Petrus Grozaw* (Petru Grozav)

## Elements of morphology

Enclitic article:

**a.** masculine: *Albul* [1428]; *Barbol* [1507]; *Barbossol* [1476]; *Bobwl* [1447]; *Crechul* [1447]; *Danchul* [1374]; *Drakwl* [1452] etc.

**b.** feminine: *mulierem Alba vocatam* [1550].

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We tried to present some features of the Romanian anthroponymy just as they are shown in the research of the Romanian lexis conducted on a sample of Latin diplomatic documents issued by the three Romanian Principalities chancelleries and published in well-known collections of historical sources. Setting the year 1600 as *terminus ad quem* is justified by the fact that after this date the texts written in Romanian are growing in numbers. Of course, in the future it will be necessary the research of a more vastly corpus of sources issued both by Romanian and foreign chancelleries. This way, the number of anthroponyms and other elements of Romanian language will grow most certainly, contributing to the enrichment of our knowledge concerning Romanian language.

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