

SURNAMES OF ROMANIAN ORIGIN IN THE HUNGARIAN SURNAME STOCK: ÁRGYELÁN, MAROSÁN, MOLDOVÁN

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Abstract: The topic this paper has set out to explore wished to yield some insights into one chapter of the Romanian-Hungarian historical, linguistic and onomastic contacts from the point of view of current Hungarian research. The aim of the paper was to present the aforementioned topic based on representative historical and current onomastic sources: the presence, history and distribution of surnames of Romanian origin in the Hungarian surname stock. The main focus of the paper are three specific surnames (*Árgyelán*, *Marosán* and *Moldován*), with reference to the presence, changes, distribution and variants of these names in present-day Hungary and the territory of the historical Hungarian Kingdom and Transylvania.

Keywords: surname, language contacts, name assimilation, name geography, Hungarian, Romanian.

Surnames of Romanian origin in the current Hungarian surname stock

We have no accurate data concerning the exact percentage of surnames of non-Hungarian origin within the Hungarian surname stock. According to estimates about 40% of the entire surname stock can be of non-Hungarian origin, borne by about 10% of the population (Soltész 1983). The vast majority of these surnames of non-Hungarian origin in Hungary consists of those of German and Slavic origin, with only a small minority of Romanian names besides them.

Of the roughly 10 million inhabitants of Hungary 0.2-0.3% are ethnic Romanian. In the town with the largest Romanian minority, Méhkerék/Micherechi, for example, where about 50% of the inhabitants label themselves ethnic Romanians, about one third of the surnames are of Romanian linguistic origin (Vörös 2010: 104).

The most widespread components of the current Hungarian surname stock of Romanian origin are the surnames *Árgyelán* (1200 persons as name bearers), *Marosán* (1400 persons) and *Moldován* (1500 persons). (The data are based on the 2007 and 2009 censuses, different pronunciation and/or spelling variants of the surnames summarised and the numbers rounded. Our sources were:

CsnE., ŰCsnE., Vörös 2010: 104–110.) Among the surnames with over 1000 name bearers in Hungary we also find *Ráduly* (1100 persons), *Krizsán* (3400 persons) and *Serbán* (1200 persons), which can be of Slavic or Romanian origin, and also *Móré* (1100 persons), which can be of Hungarian, Romanian or Gypsy origin (CsnE.). However, among the more frequent surnames (above 1000 name bearers) in Hungary we find no other surname of Romanian origin.

In the following, we shall look at the surnames *Árgyelán*, *Marosán* and *Moldován* to gain insight into the stock of Hungarian surnames of Romanian origin. Presently we do not have the opportunity to examine the other instances of Hungarian surnames of Romanian linguistic origin, their different types and the further questions of their study. (For an extensive treatment of the latter questions see Zsemlyei 1997; Murádin 2005: 130–136; Benő 2011, 2012 etc.)

The surnames *Árgyelán*, *Marosán* and *Moldován* in the current Hungarian surname stock

All the three surnames in question are based on place names (FNESz. 1: 422; 2: 99, 153–154), referring originally to the geographic origin of a person. *Árgyelán* is a derivative of *Ardeal* (< Hun. *Erdély*¹, i.e. the name for Transylvania); *Marosán* comes from *Maros* (Hun. *Maros* > Rom. *Mureș*, a hydronym of old Indo-European origin, also denoting a region); and *Moldován* comes from *Moldova* (a region name of Romanian origin, denoting Romanian Moldova). These surnames were coined with the historical Romanian suffix *-an*, whose contemporary form is found in the current Romanian surname stock as *-ean/-eanu*.

These names have been recorded in numerous pronunciation and spelling forms in the Hungarian surname stock, which can be the result of centuries of changes as well as the names of those recently settled in Hungary. From the different variants and their respective frequencies it is possible to identify the characteristic types and features of name assimilation processes. (The frequencies of the individual surname variants – i.e. the number of name bearers – are again given in rounded figures below, based on the sources listed above.)

The most frequent variants of the surname *Árgyelán* (1200 persons in total) are *Árgyelán* (790), *Ardelean* (120) and *Argyelán* (100). The less frequent ones are *Ardeleán* (50); *Árgyellán*, *Ardelán* (30–30); *Árdeleán* (20); *Argyilán*, *Árgyilán*, *Ardelán*, *Argyellán*, *Ardeleanu* (10–10). Very rare variants are *Ardellán*, *Árdellán*, *Ardelleian*, *Árgyelán* and *Árgyalán* (1–2). One potential factor behind the variation can be the variance of the name among the Romanian dialects. It is also to be noted that the common word *árgyelán* made it into some of the eastern dialects of the Hungarian language as a loanword (Márton et al. 1977: 47), so

¹ The Hungarian name *Erdély* originates from *erdő* 'forest' + *elű* = *elv* 'beyond something' (FNESz. 1: 422).

some of these surnames can also be the result of name formation within the Hungarian language.

The most frequent variants of the surname *Marosán* (1400 persons in total) are *Marozsán* (760) and *Marosán* (520). The less frequent ones are *Mrsan*/*Mrsán* (40–40) and *Marosgn* (30). Very rare ones are *Marosián*, *Marusan* and *Marusán* (1–1). It is to be noted, however, that the name *Muresan* and its variants are a lot more infrequent within the name corpus: *Muresan* (50); *Muresán* (30); *Muresanu*, *Muresian*, *Muresián* (1–2).

As for the surname *Moldován* (1500 persons in total), its more frequent variants are *Moldován* (870), *Moldván* (320), *Moldovan* (210) and *Moldoványi*² (190). Less frequent ones are *Moldovány* (30) and *Moldovanu* (10). Very rare ones are *Moldvány*, *Moldováni*, *Moldovanyi*, *Moldvan* and *Moldoveanu* (1–4). It is to be noted, however, that the common word *moldován* was also adopted by the Hungarian dialects spoken in Transylvania, as it is also testified by historical data (Bakos 1982: 239, 441). Thus, once again, some of these surnames can be a result of Hungarian name formation, too. Among the bearers of this name the Armenian refugees who settled in Transylvania having travelled through Moldova can also account for some of them (CsnE. 337).

The exact morphosemantic equivalents of the surnames discussed here can be found in the surname stock of Hungarian origin. The equivalent of Rom. *Árgyelán* is Hung. *Erdélyi*, which is of course by far the most frequent of these surnames, being based on one of the great historical regions of Hungary (9800 persons as name bearers in total³). The equivalent of Rom. *Marosán*, i.e. Hung. *Marosi*, is a lot more infrequent (3600 persons in total). The equivalent of Rom. *Moldován*, i.e. Hung. *Moldvai* ~ *Moldovai*, is by far the most infrequent of the three surnames (300 persons in total), not surprisingly, as Moldova has always been outside the borders of Hungary. Of course there are other surnames, based on different types of name-giving motivation, which also refer, in a different way, to these regions – especially surnames formed from ethnonyms (as in the case of *Oláh*, for example, which was the historical Hungarian ethnonym for Romanians). This fact concerns the question of frequency of the three surnames discussed in this paper, but is outside our current focus (see e.g. Farkas 2013: 513–515).

The surnames *Árgyelán*, *Marosán* and *Moldován* can be found in each county of Hungary today, but their distribution clearly shows the route their bearers (the ancestors of the present name bearers) took: all occur the most frequently

in the counties that are the nearest to the border with Romania (cf. Vörös 2010: 104–110). More than half of the bearers of the surname *Árgyelán* are found in the southeastern counties of the country (Csongrád and Békés); in Békés county, the hotspot of the Romanian ethnic minority in Hungary, this name is, uniquely, among the 100 most frequent surnames (the 89th most frequent one in the county, 0.115% of the name bearers; source: DHS.). As for the surnames *Marosán* and *Moldován*, their bearers are concentrated in the easternmost counties of Hungary (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar and Békés). The geographic distribution of the other, less frequently worn Romanian surnames in Hungary is not as clear-cut as this: migration and family history may have been additional factors influencing that, as well as the possibility of third-language origin (cf. Benő 2012).

In order for us to explore the presence of the three surnames in question in the Hungarian surname stock, it would be essential to know their frequency and distribution in the ethnic Hungarian minority community in Romania. Unfortunately, however, we have no systematic data on which to rely (cf. Murádin 2005).

Surnames of Romanian origin within the historical surname stock

Based on the accessible sources concerning the early historical surname stock of the Carpathian basin we can but draft a rather sketchy picture of the Romanian surnames. The Hungarian surname dictionary containing the earliest historical data (CsnSz.) contains only the surnames of Hungarian origin. The academic works exploring the ethnic make-up of a particular historical county according to the local surname stock could be more informative (Máramaros/Maramureş: Bélay 1943, Szatmár/Sătmar: Maksay 1940; Bihar/Bihor: Jakó 1940 etc.; for their possible use see Orosz 2003), which were published in different separate volumes and, therefore, are difficult to summarise.

As an example we can mention that in a surname dictionary containing the data for the Upper Tisza region for 1401–1526 (8848 cases; FTSznSz.), we find only 8 of surely or most probably Romanian origin, with 1 occurrence each:

Table 1. Supposable Romanian surnames in the Upper Tisza region, 1401–1526

Name	Occurrence	Origin	Meaning	Settlement	County (in the 15th–16th c.)
<i>Bratul</i>	1500; <i>Brathwl</i>	< <i>brat</i>	'monk' (DOR. 215)	Gilvács/Ghylvaci (RO)	Szatmár
<i>Cincár</i>	1513; <i>Chynczal</i>	< <i>fințar</i>	'mosquito' v. 'thin, slim'	Szinérváralja/ Seini (RO)	Szatmár

² The form *Moldoványi* can be the result of spontaneous as well as of intentional name Magyarisation (see below).

³ Nevertheless, the surname *Erdei* (*erdei* 'from the wood') should partly also be considered here, as it can be a variant of the surname *Erdélyi*, too (*Erdei*: 9100 bearers in total).

Name	Occurrence	Origin	Meaning	Settlement	County (in the 15th–16th c.)
<i>Csor-ján</i>	1415: <i>choryan</i>	< <i>ciorian</i>	'of crow(s)' (DOR. 239, 328)	Pályi (Ópályi) (HU)	Szatmár
<i>Csor-tyán</i>	1468: <i>chorthán</i>	< <i>ciortean</i>	'devil-ridden' (DOR. 264)	Túr (Mezőtúr)? (HU)	West-Szolnok
<i>Didu</i>	1513: <i>dydw</i>	< <i>Didu</i> nickname	(DOR. 42)	Veréce/Веряця (UA)	Ugocsa
<i>Dina</i>	[1445–1448]: <i>Dina</i>	< <i>Dina</i> nickname	(DOR. 35)	Veresmart (Szabolcsveresmart) (HU)	Szabolcs
<i>Krisán</i>	[1460–1480]: <i>Cresan</i>	< <i>Crișan</i> nickname	(DOR. 36)	Gyula (Szőlősgyula)/Дюла (UA)	Ugocsa
<i>Sorban</i>	1513: <i>Sorban</i>	< <i>șarban</i> ~ <i>șarban</i>	'Romanian from Serbia' (DOR. 381)	Csarnatő/Черна (UA)	Ugocsa

The scarce data given above do not make it possible to make a frequency list, but it does make it possible to prove the presence of ethnic Romanians in the given region since the 15th century, with the odd Romanian name-bearer making it as far afield as the Szabolcs or Middle Szolnok counties. Unfortunately with regard to the area with the most significant contact between the two surname system, Transylvania, no such representative medieval surname collection has yet been compiled that would make it possible to complete the data above.

More reliable data can be obtained from the early 18-century conscriptions, both for Transylvania and the Hungarian Kingdom. The database of historical surnames for the Carpathian basin for 1715 and 1720 compiled within the Atlas of Historical Surnames of Hungary research project⁴ (AHSZ.; see in detail Fodor 2013: 518–520), in turn, gives a comprehensive picture of the surnames of non-Hungarian origin as well. Using surnames as the basis for ethnic reconstruction cannot be carried out even partially here, but using the three discussed Romanian surnames as examples can yield some useful insights in this respect. (On the correlation of names and ethnicity, and the various methods of name analysis used for the determination of ethnic distribution see Szabó 1937, Bagdi and Demeter 2005, Fodor 2013: 523–526, Farkas 2015 etc.)

At the current phase of the research it is not possible to determine the proportion of all the surnames of Romanian origin in the Hungarian Kingdom of

this historical period, but we can do these calculations specifically for the three surnames in question. In 1715 0,052% (86 persons), in 1720 0,089% (158 persons) of the complete surname stock are made up by these three surnames in the Hungarian Kingdom including the Partium region (Máramaros/Maramureș, Szatmár/Sátmar, Kraszna/Crasna, Kővárvidék/Țara Chioarului, Bihar/Bihar, Zaránd/Zărand and Arad/Arad counties). Even this handful of data testifies to a significant increase, which, in turn, might indicate a large-scale migration of the Romanian population within a five-year timespan in the early 18th century (cf. Wellmann 1989: 47).

The proportion of surnames of Romanian linguistic origin can as yet be given only in the case of the conscription of Szekler seats in 1721–22 (AHSZ. 1721/22). Among the twenty most common surnames of the Szekler seats there is not even one of Romanian linguistic origin – the earliest one on the list with a certainly Romanian etymon is *Radul* (*Ráduly*), which is the 67th, while the second, *Moldován*, is the 75th. It is important to note that the top of the list is occupied by *Oláh* ('Romanian'), at 3,36% (454 persons).

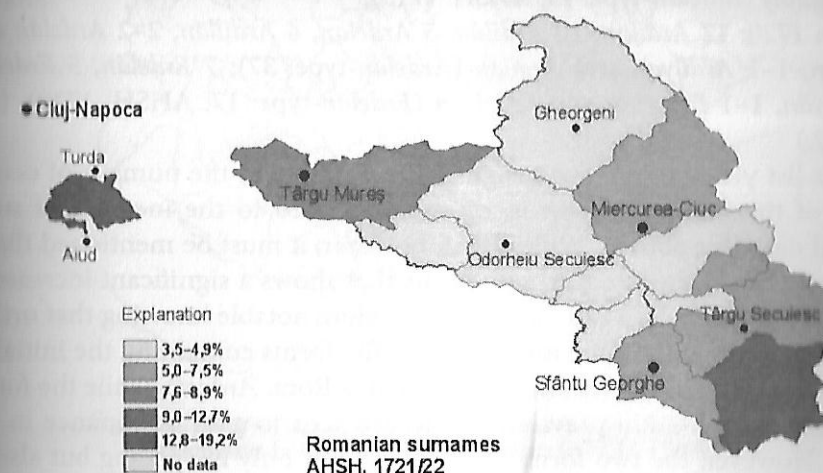


Figure 1. The geographic distribution of the surnames of Romanian origin of the Szekler seats (AHSZ. 1721/22)

In the database of the Szekler seats we find 1108 (8.2%) surnames of Romanian linguistic origin, as opposed to the 11740 (86.93%) Hungarian ones. We need to note, however, that this calculation only shows the distribution of surnames according to linguistic origin and not the actual ethnic composition of the sample. Considering the ethnicity-specific Romanian given names next to some of the Hungarian surnames (e.g. *Lup*, *Ursul*, *Bukur*, *Opra*, *Kifur*, *Kirilla*, etc.) and the true ethnic background of the surnames referring to ethnicity (*Oláh*),

⁴ The AHSZ. research project was supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the National Research, Development and Innovation Office – NKFIH PD 116414.

the proportion of Romanians in the Szekler region is higher than that suggested by the surname data – cc. 8.5–10%. The highest proportion of Romanian surnames occurred in Aranyosszék (Scaunul Arieșului) (19.2%), followed by Orbaiszék (Scaunul Orbai) (12.7%) and Marosszék (Scaunul Mureșului) (8.9%) (see Figure 1). These data reflect the direction and chronology of the migration of Romanians in the Szekler region (see in detail Fodor 2016). As for the other regions of Transylvania, unfortunately we still have no similar data.

In the following we shall look at the history of the three surnames in question in the early 18th century, for the exploration of which the data recorded by the AHSH. can be considered an appropriate source, as seen above.

The surnames *Árgyelán*, *Marosán* and *Moldován* in the early 18th century

The occurrences of the surname *Árgyelán* (with Romanian orthography: *Ardelean*) are as follows (main variants by frequency):

– in 1715: 9 *Ardelyan*, 4 *Argillan*, 2 *Argyelan*, 1–1 *Argyélan*, *Ardillan* and *Ardulyan* (*Ardelan*-type: 18); 7 *Erdelan*, 3–3 *Erdellan* and *Erdillan*, 1–1 *Erdélyan* and *Erdilány* (*Erdelan*-type: 15; AHSH. 1715);

– in 1720: 12 *Ardilan*, 10 *Ardilán*, 5 *Ardelan*, 4 *Ardillan*, 2–2 *Ardelán* and *Argyilan*, 1–1 *Ardilyan* and *Argilan* (*Ardelan*-type: 37); 7 *Erdelán*, 5 *Erdelan*, 3 *Erdélyán*, 1–1 *Ergyelán* and *Erdélyán* (*Erdelan*-type: 17; AHSH. 1720). (See Figure 2.)

This list yields numerous insights. The increase in the number of occurrences of the name *Árgyelán* is, of course, linked to the increase of summarised data (see above). Within that, however, it must be mentioned that it is the number of the *Ardelan*-type forms that shows a significant increase as opposed to *Erdelan* by 1720. This is all the more notable knowing that orthographic practice at the time was unstable. The forms containing the initial *E* refer to the Hungarian etymon (Hun. *Erdély* > Rom. *Ardeal*), while the forms beginning with *A*-, still prevalent today, are seen to gain dominance in the source. However, the two forms are different not only in spelling but also in pronunciation; the reason for this is to be found in the Eastern Hungarian dialects, in which they are pronounced as an open *e* [æ], whose place of articulation is close to that of the [a] sound.⁵ The fact that the Romanian surname *Árgyelán* can occur with an *E*- at all can be explained by two factors. One is that census takers recognised the Hungarian etymon in the name, thus they Magyarised its form (Rom. *Ardilan* ~ *Ardelan* > *Erdelan* ~ *Erdellan* ~ *Erdélyán*

stb.)⁶. Another potential explanation could be that, apart from the Romanian equivalent of the Hungarian *Erdély*, i.e. *Ardeal*, another version, *Erdeal*, may also have existed, as the Hungarian dialect spoken in the Partium and Mezőség (Câmpia Transilvaniei) regions a more closed [ɛ] sound has been used, as a result of which it might have been the *Erdeal* version which got incorporated in the Romanian language, only to be later overwritten by the *Ardeal*-type. To verify this hypothesis, however, further data would be required concerning the history of the Romanian language. (For a detailed analysis see Fodor 2015: 170–171.)

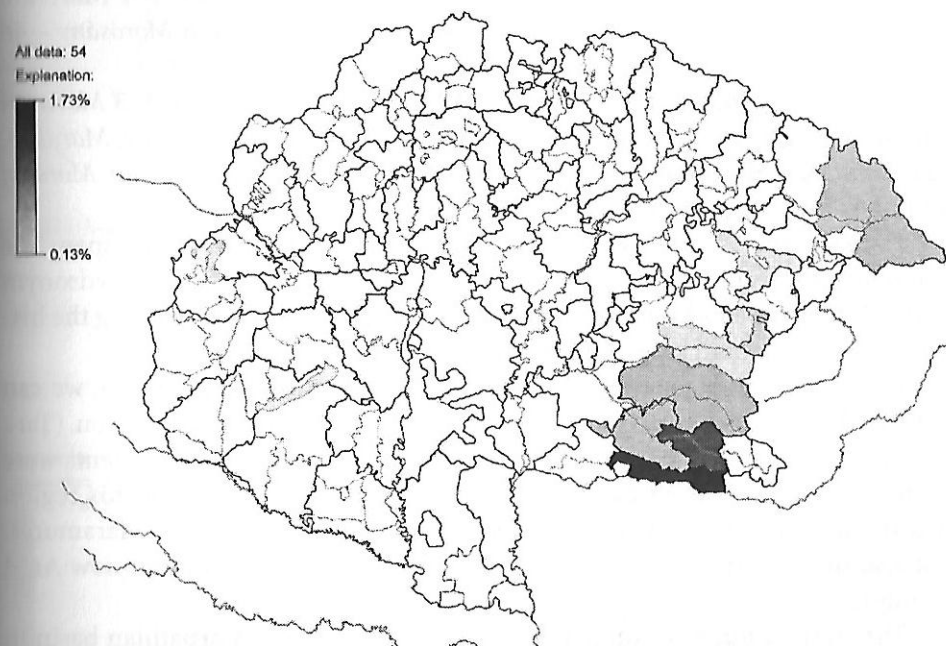


Figure 2. The geographic distribution of the surname *Árgyelán* and its variants in the Hungarian Kingdom (AHSH. 1720)⁷

The largest river of Transylvania, the Maros/Mureș, has a significant section crossing the region, so the surname of those living along the river or moving from such regions can potentially refer to the name of the river. However, in the Hungarian name-giving practice referring to rivers is not very widespread.

⁵ The comparison of the data of the two conscriptions shows that, although rarely, it happened that the names got translated (e.g., 1715: *Erdellan Juon* > 1720: *Erdélyi János*, 1715: *Argillan Gabrilla* > 1720: *Erdélyi Gabrilla*, 1715: *Bogdan Moldovan* > 1720: *Moldvai Bogdány*) (Fodor 2015: 170).

⁷ With one data item difference compared to the earlier published map (Fodor 2015: 171).

⁶ There are many examples for vowel correspondence among the Transylvanian place names in Hungarian and Romanian. As for names containing the same stem, *erdő* 'forest' we note Hun. *Erdőd* > Rom. *Arduđ*, Hun. *Erdőfalva* > Rom. *Ardeova*; with another etymon: Hun. *Egyed* > Rom. *Ađhđd*, Hun. *Esküllő* > Rom. *Ađhileu*.

The findings of the current comparison clearly show this fact, as in 1715 there were 15 persons with the Hungarian name *Marosi* as opposed to the 46 persons bearing the Romanian equivalent *Marosán*, while in 1720 there were 14 instances of *Marosi* and 89 persons with the name *Marosán*. If we take into account census takers' practice of Magyarising some of the names they found, the number of the actual bearers of the name *Marosi* is even lower, while it can be clearly seen that it is quite prevalent in the Romanian name stock.

The variants of the name *Marosán* are the following:

– in 1715 (with the number of occurrences preceding them): 15 *Marossan*; 8 *Morossan*; 6 *Marossán*; 5 *Marosan*; 2–2 *Morsan* and *Morosan*; 1–1 *Marosán*, *Marosszán*, *Morezsan*, *Morisan*, *Morsan*, *Morssan*, *Murissan* and *Morosány* – 46 persons in total (AHSH. 1715);

– in 1720: 41 *Marusán*; 14 *Marosan*; 9 *Morosány*; 4 *Morossán*; 3–3 *Marusan* and *Marossán*; 2–2 *Marossan*, *Marussan* and *Morosany*; 1–1 *Marusány*, *Marasan*, *Marussán*, *Marosán*, *Morossany*, *Mrossán*, *Maroszan*, *Marsan*, *Marosáni*, *Morsán* and *Morsány* – 91 persons in total (AHSH. 1720).

Here we can also see the doubling of the numbers in a 5-year timespan. The Romanian forms indicate the process of integration of the Hungarian hydronym in the Romanian language, and could be good sources for those studying the history of the Romanian language as well.⁸

If we look at the geographic distribution of the data (see Figure 3), we can see that both names were especially frequent in the Kővárvidék region (Jara Chioarului) (1715: 22 items; 1720: 40 items); thus almost half of the items were found here. This in itself can be an indirect proof of the fact that this region was the destination of migrant groups not only from Máramaros/Maramureş, but also from south-southeast, from Transylvania or Zaránd county (now Arad county).

The starting point of Romanian settlers arriving in the Carpathian basin in the early modern period can be reconstructed based on some of their names (*Moldvai*, *Moldován*, *Oltyán*, *Muntyán*, etc.). The following surname forms can be found in 1715 in the Hungarian Kingdom referring to the Moldovan origin: 4 *Moldovan*; 2 *Moldován*; 1–1 *Moldovany* and *Moldván* – 8 persons in total (AHSH. 1715); while in 1720: 10 *Moldvan*; 3 *Moldován*; 2–2 *Möldován*, *Moldovan* and *Moldván* – 19 persons in total (AHSH. 1720). All of these occur in the Partium region, adjacent to historical Transylvania, with the greatest frequency recorded in Middle Szolnok and Kraszna (Crasna) counties (see Figure 4). The Hungarian equivalent of the surname, *Moldvai*, is also found sporadically in these counties (2 *Moldvay*, 1–1 *Moldvai* and *Moldva* – 4 persons in total).

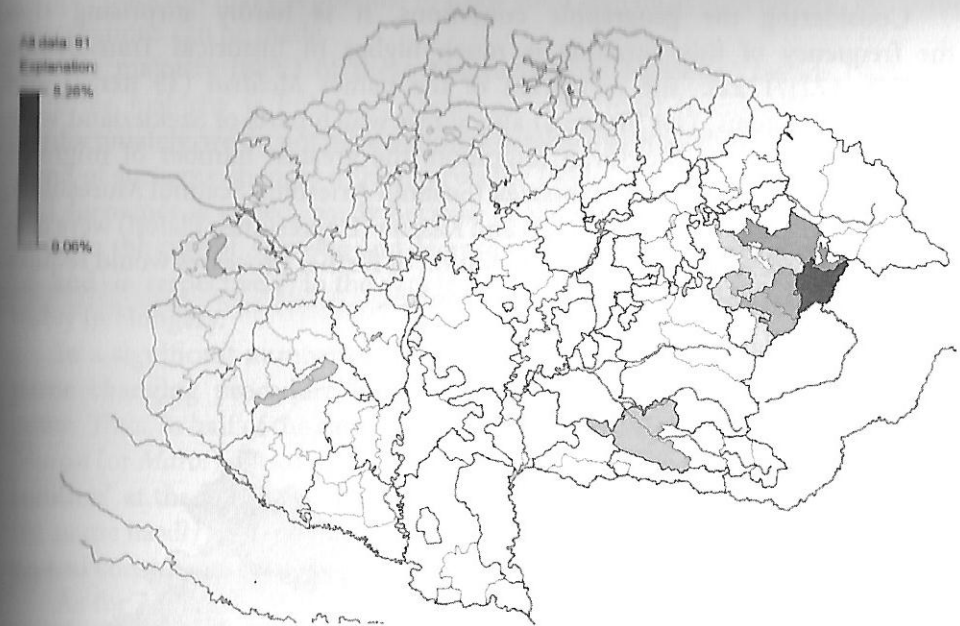


Figure 3. The geographic distribution of the surname *Marosán* and its variants in the Hungarian Kingdom (AHSH. 1720)



Figure 4. The geographic distribution of the surname *Moldován* and its variants in the Hungarian Kingdom (AHSH. 1720)

⁸ A potential sequence of change: (*Marasan* <) *Maros(s)an* > *Marus(s)an* > *Mors(s)an* > *Mrossan*?; *Maros(s)an* > *Moros(s)an* > *Morezsan* > *Muris(s)an*.

Considering the geographic conditions, it is hardly surprising that the frequency of this surname is much higher in historical Transylvania (AHSH, 1721/1722). The cartogram of the names *Moldvai* (35 items) and *Moldován* (34 items) (see Figure 5) also shows which parts of Szeklerland were most affected by the Moldovan migration: the greatest number of migrants arrived in Aranyosszék and Marosszék (Scaunul Arieşului, Scaunul Mureşului), while Alcsík (Depresiunea Ciucului) and Kászón (Depresiunea Plăieşi) were also heavily affected. A more detailed exploration of further processes would require the use and detailed processing of other sources.

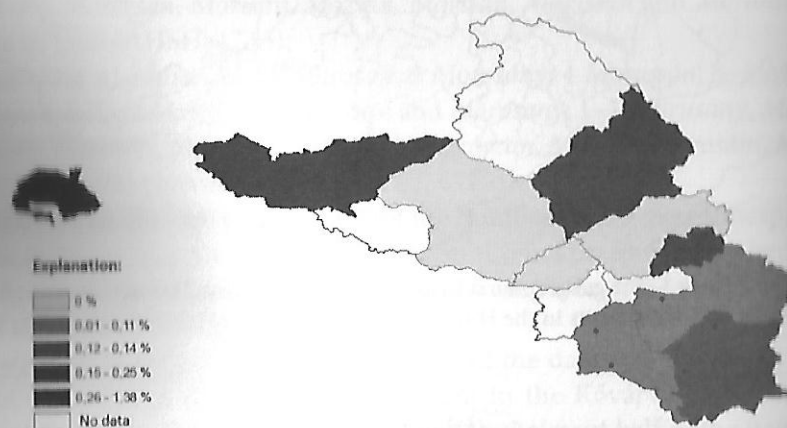


Figure 5. The geographic distribution of the surnames *Moldován* and *Moldvai* in Szeklerland (AHSH, 1721/22)

The surnames of Romanian linguistic origin in the history of surname changes in Hungary

The history of surnames of Romanian linguistic origin in Hungary was affected by spontaneous name assimilation processes and, to a lesser extent, also by official name Magyarisation procedures. Intentional name Magyarisation among ethnic Romanians in Hungary was relatively uncommon for various (geographic, social and cultural) reasons – unlike in the case of ethnic Germans and Jews in Hungary (cf. Karády and Kozma 2002 passim, Berecz 2009: 267–268).

The electronic database of official surname Magyarisation procedures (DOSCH.) is at our disposal, and from this we can see that out of the more than 66,000 cases in the 1815–1932 period only 112 involved one of the three Romanian surnames in question: 37 *Árgyelán*, 31 *Marosán* and 44 *Moldován* surnames (including their variants) were officially Magyarised in this period. This

sample does not make it possible to draw solid statistical conclusions, but some observations can be made.

The majority (88%) of these Magyarisations happened before 1920, and a visible majority is linked to applicants who lived in nowadays Romania. (Unfortunately, we do not have a similar database as regards the second growing trend of surname changes in Hungary after 1933.) The orthography of the original surnames is varied, partly because of the instability of orthography at the time. In the case of *Árgyelán* and *Marosán*, the Romanian type of spelling (with *-d-* and *-u-* respectively) in the data from the given period is more frequent than today in Hungary.

In a significant number of cases the new name taken as a result of the surname changing procedure was the Hungarian equivalent of the Romanian name. Thus, in half of the cases *Árgyelán* became *Erdélyi*, while *Marosán* became *Marosi* (or *Maros*) in two thirds of the cases. This could have been the “the simple solution” at the time, especially for *Marosán* > *Maros(i)*, in which the sound of the name hardly changed (the first letter remained unchanged, too, which was a typical consideration among name changers).

As for *Moldován*, its Hungarian equivalent is rare, so the similar technique could not be considered the obvious solution. Only one fifth of the *Moldován* surnames were changed into *Moldvai* ~ *Moldovai* or even to *Moldoványi*; in fact, the latter is not the Hungarian equivalent, but a form created by modifying the name ending, this way inserting the surname into the system of Hungarian surnames. (This change of the name ending can be the result of spontaneous influences, but it was also a popular method among the name changers of the era; cf. Farkas 2009: 370, Juhász 2007.) Thus, all in all we can state that the phenomenon of official surname changes in the 19th and 20th centuries in Hungary hardly involved surnames of Romanian linguistic origin.

Conclusions

This paper set out to provide some insights into a chapter of the Romanian-Hungarian historical, linguistic and onomastic contacts from the point of view of current Hungarian research. The aim of the paper was to present the topic based on representative historical and current onomastic sources: the presence, history and distribution of surnames of Romanian origin in the Hungarian surname stock. The picture is as yet fragmented: there are many more sources to be processed and questions to explore. What we know and how we know it, in turn, should be subject to further analysis on the basis of both Romanian and Hungarian research.

This is why professional forums and links are so important: they make it possible to carry out dialogues, to find out about each other's findings and

achievements and put these into wider contexts. Among this kind of meetings one can note The International Conferences on Onomastics "Name and Naming" and its proceedings, which are the result of the activity of the Centre of Onomastics in Baia Mare, whose founding owes so much to Professor Nicolae Felecan. The present paper is in his honour.

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