

The socage regulation of Maria Theresa in the languages of the South Slavic peoples of Hungary. The tables

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Abstract: The socage regulation of Maria Theresa (1767–1774) raised the relationship between landlords and villeins from the sphere of civil law to the competence of public law and at the same time it formulated exactly the socage services of the peasants which depended on the size and on the quality of the lands they held.

The lands held in villeinage was a basic economic unit in the Hungarian Kingdom the size of which determined the amount of tax and socage services of the villein. This system of taxation and socage services was unknown in countries to the East of Hungary and in the Balkans.

The commitments and obligations of the villeins working on a whole unit of land were detailed in the socage tenure regulations, whereas the villeins working only on a part of a unit of land were ordered to provide their services according to proportion. The commitments and obligations of the villeins and the serfs in the socage tenure system were listed by name in the so-called *Tabella* [Table], attached to the socage tenure regulations. During the process of regulating the socage tenure system, the settlements under subjection to landlords were given uniform socage tenure regulations all over the country, and it was the task of the county-level officials responsible for the enforcement of the socage tenure regulation to register the local data into these documents.

Keywords: South Slavic languages, Maria Theresa, the socage regulation, villeins, Rhenish Forint, measures in Hungarian Kingdoms

The socage regulation of Maria Theresa (1767–1774) raised the relationship between landlords and villeins from the sphere of civil law to the competence of public law and at the same time it formulated exactly the socage services of the peasants which depended on the size and on the quality of the lands they held.

The handwritten and printed documents of the socage regulation are valuable sources of the social and economic history of the nations living in the Hungarian Kingdom at that time. They are interesting not only for historians. The linguistic analysis of these documents throws light on the characteristic features of these languages used at that time in the official records. Consequently, the huge amount of documents written in the course of the socage regulation, offer, valuable material for historical linguistics as well.¹

¹ Cf. UDVARI István, *Az úrbérrendezés forrásai magyarországi délszláv népek nyelvén*, I. Nyomtatványok. *Dimensiones Culturales et Urbariales Regni Hungariae* 2. Nyíregyháza 2002; *idem*, *A Mária Terézia korabeli úrbérrendezés szlovák nyelvű kéziratok forrásai*. Szepes és Zemplén

The philological analysis of the socage documents provides especially important results for the Croatian, Serbian and Slovenian languages. This is due to the fact that the various dialects of the South Slavic peoples of the Hungarian Kingdom were used parallel and at the same time in the official records (1767–1774). The printed socage regulations, for example, had 7 Croatian, 2 Slovenian² and 2 Serbian variants. The finding, publication and linguistic analysis of these documents is the task of more work and further investigations promising new data both for historical dialectology and the history of official literacy.

Before starting to describe the table attached to the printed socage regulations³ we have to give some information about the lands held by the villeins.

The lands held in villeinage was a basic economic unit in the Hungarian Kingdom the size of which determined the amount of tax and socage services of the villein. This system of taxation and socage services was unknown in countries to the East of Hungary and in the Balkans.

This unit consisted of two main parts: one in the village itself and the other one in the fields belonging to the village. The land in the village consisted of the building site with the building and the farming outhouses on it, of the orchard, the kitchen garden and the stack yard. The size of this inner land was fixed by the socage regulation of Maria Theresa in two *Pozsony mérő*-s, i.e. one Hungarian *hold* (= 1.42 English acres). The unit outside the village consisted of the plough-land and of the free use of the pasture, the woods and the territories covered with water and reeds. In addition to it the villeins could have their own woodland for logging, independent of the socage. The size of the plough-land was fixed by the socage regulation of Maria Theresa in 26–32 *holds*, the pasture in 8–10–12 *holds*, the concrete number of holds depending always on the quality of the fields.

The owner of the lands was the landlord but the users of the lands were concrete individuals (villeins) and the use was permanent. The villein could not be removed from his house, unless for some important reason. His children could inherit the lands. For the use of these lands, however, he had the following obligations: to pay in money, in kind and to perform socage service. According to the socage regulation, the villein had to do one day socage service with draught animals each week (52 days a year) or 104 days without draught animals. Villeins without land had to provide 18 days socage; and the serfs without

vármegyék. Vasvári Pál Társaság Füzetei, 15. Nyíregyháza 1996; *idem*, Rusinski žerela urbarskoji reformy Mariji Teriziji. *Studia Ukrainica et Rusinica Nyíregyháziensia* 6. Nyíregyháza 1999.

² The analysis of the Slovenian socage regulation see: KOZÁR-MUKIČ Mária, Jezik urbarjev Slovenske okrogline (Tótság) v 18. stoletju. In: Nemzetközi Szlavisztikai Napok II. Szombathely 1986. 115–121; See also M. KOZÁR Mária, Adatok a murántúli szlovének 18. századi életmódjához. In: Razmerja med etnologijo in zgodovino. Ljubljana 1986.

³ For the Hungarian text see: SINKOVICS István (ed.), Magyar történeti szöveggyűjtemény, II/2. 1526–1790. Budapest 1968. 981–998.

land and house, 12 days a year (without draught animals) The working day started with the rise of the sun and ended at sunset (including the way to and from the work). Those having only a part of the land fixed by the regulation had to provide socage in proportion to the land used by them. In addition to these socage services four villeins (together) had to provide one "long transport" a year taking no more than two days. During this transport all kinds of customs (the 30th parts, the ferriage, accommodation, etc.) were covered by the landlord. The villeins were also to take part in hunting for three days, with the landlord providing them with gunpowder and bullets. Villeins holding a whole land unit had to provide the landlord with one *öl* (= 3.5 cubic metres) of firewood cut down in the landlord's woods and prepared for transportation by villeins doing socage service without draught animals.

The quota of money to be paid by the villeins with land and house was one Forint, those having distillation rights paid two Forints a year.

Products paid in kind: crop and fruits (corn, grapes, etc.); one ninth of bees; sheep and kids, but these also could be paid in money. The villeins were also expected to give "presents" to their landlord each year, such as two chickens, two capons, 12 eggs, one *icce* (= 0.88 litre) of butter, and thirty villeins were to give one calf (or instead of that 1 Forint (Rhenish) and 30 krajcárs).

The socage regulation contained a list of prohibitions, corroborated also by the 7th paragraph, enumerating all former socage duties (both in kind and money) which were abolished by the new regulation.

A survey of data preceeded the regulation which described in details the conditions of the villages, the size of the lands owned by the villeins and the kinds of socage. The questionnaire contained nine questions and answers in the native tongue of the villeins which, therefore, is a valuable source for linguistic investigations.

The socage regulation of Maria Theresa fixed the size of lands used by the villeins and also unified the socage services in the whole country.

The prescriptions of the socage regulation were for villeins with a maximum piece of land, the socage of those having only a part of it had to be in proportion to the size they owned.

Therefore, the tables attached to the socage regulation listed the names of villeins who had only a half, a quarter, or even less of the land. The table contained also the names and socage of those who had only a house or had no property at all. It was also noted if the villein had the right to move or not.

The tables in the South Slavic languages had four different types (a⁴, b⁵, c⁶, d⁷) and three subtypes (bb⁸, cc⁹, dd¹⁰). With the exception of d and dd all of them

⁴ To be found: Helytartótanácsi Levéltár. Dep. urbariale. C. 59. Zala vármegye. Szivica.

⁵ To be found: *ibid.*

⁶ To be found: *ibid.*

used Hungarian orthography. The sound value of the graphemes is the following: cz, tz [c]; ch [č]; ch, ty [ć]; s, sc, ss [š]; sz, z [s]; s [ž]; gy [d'], [dj]; ly [lj]; x [ž]. The sound value of the Italian *gl* was [l'] and of the *gn* was [ñ]. The table variants *a* and *b* are in Slovenian and Kajkavian dialect of the Croatian, the variants *c* and *d* reflect the vocabulary of the Štokavian dialect of the Croatian and the Serbian languages. The tables *a* and *b* are to be found in the socage documents of the Croatian and Slovenian villages of county Zala, the *c* type can be found in the archive material of Serbian and Croatian villages of county Bács and Baranya and the *d* type contains material for Croatian villages in counties Baranya, Somogy and Vas.

The headings of the table

1. First and second name
2. Data of the inner land (whole, half, etc.)
3. The exact size of the inner land (in *Pozsonyi mérő*, one *Pozsonyi mérő* = 0,71 English acre).¹¹
4. Data of the land outside the village.
 - 4/1. The size of the plough-land in Hungarian *hold*.¹²
 - 4/2. The size of the hayfield in *kaszás*, or *embervágó*.¹³
5. The socage services in a year.¹⁴
 - 5/1. The number of socage days to be done with draught animals.
 - 5/2. Or, the number of socage days to be done without draught animals.
6. The ninth part.¹⁵
7. Taxation.
8. Payment for the rent – Rhenish Forint.¹⁶
9. Firewood – *öl*.¹⁷
10. Weaving – font.¹⁸

⁷ To be found: *ibid*.

⁸ To be found: *ibid*.

⁹ To be found: *ibid*.

¹⁰ To be found: *ibid*.

¹¹ *Pozsonyi mérő* = half *hold*.

¹² One *hold* = two *pozsonyi mérő*, 1100–1300 *négyszögöl* (1 *négyszögöl* = 3.57 m²).

¹³ The size of the hayfield was given in a measurement indicating a territory a man was able to mow in a day. This was usually one *hold*.

¹⁴ A villein with a whole piece of land had to work 26 days with draught animals or 52 days without them. Those having a house but not land had to work 18 days, and those who had no property 12 days.

¹⁵ It meant 26 days socage with draught animals or the double of it without animals (or 4 Rhenish Forints). The socage was reduced if the land was smaller.

¹⁶ All villeins with land and house had to pay one Rhenish Forint.

¹⁷ For one whole land one *pozsonyi öl*.

Butter (extracted by boiling) – *icce*.¹⁹

Kapons – number.²⁰

Chicken – number.²¹

Eggs – number.²²

Lands given to villeins in case the land or the pastures were less than allowed by the regulation. No ninth part was paid from these lands – *hold*.²³

1. First and second name

1/a. Ime i pridavek

1/b. Imena y pridovki

1/c. Kersztina imena i pridivki

1/d. Ime i pridivak

1/dd. Jme i pridivak ~

2. Data of the inner land (whole, half, etc.)

2/a. Kmetszkoga szelischa kakvocha

2/b. Kmetszkoga szelischa kakvocha

2/c. Podloxnika kutyno mezto kakvo jeszt, i koliko

2/d. Varst selglanske basctine.

3. The exact size of the inner land (in *Pozsonyi mérő*)

3/a. Kakvocha kmetszkoga szelischa. Nutrasnya, na meru posunszku.

3/b. Odluchenye szelischa. Nuterni grunt. Posunszki vagan.

3/c. Podlosnéka mizto unutri. Kolikozt. Pod poxunszki mirov.

3/cc. – subtype ~ mirev

3/d. Varst seglanske basctine. Nutargna. Na miru poxunsku.

4. Data of the land outside the village

4/a. Kakvocha kmetszkoga szelischa. Zvunszka.

4/b. Odluchenye szelischa. Zvunszky grunt.

4/c. Podlosnéka mizto u pollyu. Kolikozt.

4/d. Varst seglanske basctine. Izvanska.

4/1. The size of the ploughland in Hungarian “hold”

4/1/a. Orane zemlye mekote.

4/1/b. Rali zemlye illi mekote. Rali germja. Rali koloszeka.

4/1/bb. – subtype ~ nekote

¹⁸ If no ninth was paid of flax and hemp, 6 pounds of hemp or flax had to be woven (for one whole villein land).

¹⁹ One *icce* butter from each whole piece of land (one *icce* = 0,88 litre).

²⁰ Two kapons from each whole piece of land.

²¹ Two chickens from each whole piece of land.

²² 12 eggs from each whole piece of land.

²³ Under this heading the size of the land and pasture was indicated in *hold*, provided for those whose lands had to be completed.

4/1/c. Orátye zemlye aliti nyiva jutara.

4/1/d. Pogla za oragne jutro.

4/2. The size of the hayfield in *kaszás*, or *embervágó*

4/2/a. Szenokossa na voz.

4/2/b. Kosczy szenokosse.

4/2/bb. – subtype ~ *koschi*

4/2/c. Livada koszatza.

4/2/d. Livada na voz.

5. The socage services in a year

5/a. Czeloga letta szlusba illiti goszpochina.

5/b. Czeloga leta tlake.

5/c. Preko godine szlusbe illiti robotte.

5/d. Sluxba na godinu, illi robot.

5/1. The number of socage days to be done with draught animals

5/1/a. Marsechka goszpochina. Dnevi.

5/1/b. Tlake z marhum. Dnevov.

5/1/c. Robotta sz márvom 2óm. Dán.

5/1/d. Robotta marvinska ...²⁴ marvom. Dan.

5/2. Or, the number of socage days to be done without draught animals

5/2/a. Ali meszto toga pesichka szlusba. Dnevi.

5/2/b. Ali meszto ovih pessichki tlachki tesaki. Dnevov.

5/2/c. Alliti meszto toga rukama szlusba. Dán.

5/2/cc. – subtype ~ *mezto*.

5/2/d. Ili na misto ove piescki posao. Dan.

6. The ninth part

6/a. Devetina.

6/b. Devetina.

6/c. Devétak.

6/d. Devetak

7. Taxation

7/a. Dohotki.

7/b. Podanki, y dache.

7/c. Dávanye.

7/d. Davagne.

8. Payment for the rent – Rhenish Forint

8/a. Czeloga letta rendarszka placha. Raniski.

8/b. Czins. Rai(ninski).

²⁴ Here the number of draught animals was given.

8/c. Preko godine arenda. Flor(enus).

8/cc. – subtype: ~ Fl(orenos).

8/d. Arenda na godinu.

9. Firewood – öl

9/a. Derva na ogeny. Klasster.

9/b. Dérv na ogeny. Klas(ter)

9/c. Za vatru derva. Fáth.

9/cc. – subtype: ~ Fát

9/d. Derva na varru.

10. Weaving – font

10/a. Pregyenye. Funt.

10/b. Prediva. Funt.

10/c. Preszti bude.

10/d. Predegne. Funat.

11. Butter (extracted by boiling) – icce

11/a. Prekuhano maszlo. Meczel.

11/b. Maszla. Holb.

11/c. Iszkuhána mászla. Polics.

11/cc. – subtype: ~ Po(lics).

11/d. Iztoplyeno maslo. Holba.

12. Capons – number

12/a. Kopun. N^{ro}

12/b. Kopunov. Numero.

12/c. Kopuna. No.

12/cc. – subtype: ~ Nro.

12/d. Kopun. Nro.

13. Chicken – number

13/a. Pische. N^{ro}

13/b. Pischenecz. Numero.

13/c. Pileta. No.

13/d. Pile. Nro.

14. Eggs – number

14/a. Jaicze. N^{ro}.

14/b. Jaicza. Numero.

14/c. Jaicza. No.

14/d. Jaja. Nro.

15. Lands given to villeins in case the land or the pastures were less than allowed by the regulation. No ninth part was paid from these lands – hold.²⁵

- 15/a. Nutrasnih hishih gruntov, i szenokoss pomanykanya nadomeschenye, od koih sze deveto ne daje.
- 15/b. Nutrasnih hisnih gruntov y szenokos pomankanya nadomechenye od koi sze deveto nedaje.
- 15/bb. – subtype: ~ nadomeschenye.
- 15/c. Kutyistye i livada komu fale namiszcsanye, od kud devétak ne bude sze davati.
- 15/cc. – subtype:~ kutystye
- 15/d. –

The printed and handwritten documents of the regulations reflect a well organised society whose administrative system worked smoothly. This was mainly due to the tolerant attitude of the state to various nationalities and their languages. In the socage regulation, for example, the official Latin language and languages of the individual nations were used side by side, each with its definite function and distribution. We are convinced that only due to this method was it possible to collect and to process the data successfully and manage this large scale project.

²⁵ Under this heading the size of the land was given in *hold* which was provided for those whose lands had to be completed.