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**Potentials of Tourism and Free-time Activities in Hungary in the
Age of Dualism with Special Respect to Békés County
(1867-1914)**

Topics of Ph.D. Thesis

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1. Justification of subject-matter and objectives of research

The tourism is a very complicate social and economical phenomenon, which has recently become one of the most important branches of economy all over the world. The understanding of development history of tourism assists the better knowing of modern tourism and its tendencies in the future.

The cultural history of different nations certifies that people have never been satisfied with contentment of their basic needs e.g. the satisfaction of their instinct for food, housing and everyday way of living, but they have tried to utilise any tools and opportunities to make their eating and relaxing conditions as enjoyable as possible and have delightful experience.

This is especially true for these days, when all the possible resources are tried to be exploited to make our free-time more useful and enjoyable.

The different forms of hospitality and later the different types of travel businesses and lodging were created to satisfy the demands of travellers emerging during their shorter or longer journeys. The catering and lodging has always changed parallel to the development of the society and means of transport. This is valid for the '20th century phenomenon' i.e. the tourism as well.

In my thesis the history of tourism is studied, while the age of dualism is discussed in more details. The literature of period 1867–1914 has been analysed, however, there are some topics which needed the survey of a much longer time interval.

After the survey of economical and social development of Hungary in the age of dualism, the beginnings of the Hungarian tourism are detailed, and it is also demonstrated how the travelling has changed from 'the passion of genteel nobles' to the travelling available for the bourgeoisie. In the discussed period the very early roots of tourism can be observed, but this tourism is obviously very far from the present day mass tourism. However, the different ways of spending of free-time have already occurred. The facilities of spending free-time in that period are demonstrated first of all on Békés County examples describing the events of social life and entertainment in more details.

Special respect is paid to the first big event which attracted lots of people from Békés County as well.

2. Methods of approach of the thesis

The fifty years after the Austro-Hungarian Reconciliation of 1867 are among the most successful economical eras of our country. Although there are different opinions about the speed of development, but it is agreed that Hungary turned to an agro-industrial country with a well-developed food-industry and intensive export activity from the under-developed agrarian country by the beginning of the 20th century. The most important task of decades following the Reconciliation was to make the under-developed country an advanced one similar to the other European states. Certainly the Age of Dualism was the most dynamic period of Hungary's history, which is proved by the economical development, increase of population, speediness of social changes, and improvement of system of cultural institutions and everyday life as well as modernization.

Basically the thesis tries to answer three main questions as follows:

- 1. How did the economy and society of Age of Dualism changed from point of view of evolution of tourism?*
- 2. Which were the main characteristics of tourism in Hungary in the Age of Dualism?*
- 3. Which opportunities of culture and free-time activities were available for the bourgeoisie of Békés County in the studied period?*

3. Methods and sources of the study

The thesis consists of two bigger parts. In the first part the aim was to disclose the home and foreign literature and to demonstrate the conceptual frames. In the second part the contemporary press of that age and the archives of Békés County are

surveyed, as in this period no summary of local history was written about the tourism of the age.

The historical method is basically narrative in the investigation part, and as such, it offers wide range possibilities for the historian to present the results of the study on the basis of the sources, the collected knowledge, the questions connected to the topic and the features of the studied problem.

In the first part of the thesis the reflexive method has been applied i.e. the research results of other authors are summarized (Ignác Romsics, Iván Berend T., György Ránki, László Kósa, András Rubovszky, Andor Szigeti, Miklós Walkó) concerning the changes in the travelling opportunities of the different social layers parallel to the economic development. Accordingly the chosen method is rather an approach of social history. In determination of notion of tourism and in demonstration of European tourism of the age – especially that of England and Hungary – works of home and foreign authors like Laos Throsby, Matron Lengyel, Dens Kavas and Nicholas Parsons were considered.

The discrepancy of the methods depends mainly on the available sources, or more exactly they are chosen according to the elaborated topic and the possibilities determined by the sources.

The sources collected in the course of the archive studies are very significant elements of the thesis as they serve as a base for several micro-historical references. In the second half of the thesis, the aim of which is to demonstrate Békés County of the studied period based on the actual research, the author used the ealdorman's and vice-ealdorman's documents of Békés County kept in Békés County Archives. In the preparation of chapters of the thesis the articles of Békés County Bulletin and the newspaper Békés of that time, the collection of Regulations of Békés County Associations and the documents of Council of town Gyula were utilized.

4. The structure of the Thesis

The thesis consists of thirteen chapters.

In the *Preface* it is emphasized how complicated social and economical phenomenon the tourism is, and that it has developed to one of the most significant branch of economy all over the world by this time. The knowledge of development history of tourism may help the understanding of modern tourism and its future tendencies.

The *second chapter* demonstrates the economical and social conditions from the standpoint of development of tourism. It is important to emphasize that the economical changes of age of dualism influenced the social changes which assisted the development of tourism. The very characteristic institutions of social life of that time: the coffee rooms, cafés, confectionaries, restaurants, pubs, inns and hotels come to life as well. This chapter describes how the different social layers spent the holidays and their free-time.

The *third chapter* explains the notion of tourism, its historical roots and the influence of industrial revolution on tourism.

The *fourth chapter* describes the characteristics of tourism in the age of dualism in Hungary. It demonstrates how the railway, road and water travel as well as the flying developed, and which were the most visited health-resorts. The historical roots of today's very popular rural tourism, which are inseparable from the Lake Balaton, are also detailed in this chapter. The seaside holidays were spent at the Adriatic Sea, but Budapest and the hilly parts of the country were also preferred.

The biggest part of subject-matter of *the fifth to the tenth chapters* was collected in archive documents and the contemporary Békés County media, as no summary of the local history was prepared about the tourism of Békés County in the age of dualism, thus this branch of economy can be evaluated only on the basis of different sources of that period. The characteristics of economical life as well as the culture and free-time activities of citizens of Békés County are demonstrated on the basis of the surveyed sources. The different social clubs, acting, restaurants and the spa life are demonstrated in details.

The *last chapter* summarizes the results of the research and highlights that in spite of the fact that Békés County was mainly an agricultural region and the most

representative part of the population worked in the agriculture, the forms of tourism based on the demands of the middle class and characteristic to the age of dualism occurred in this part of the country as well.

5. Short description of results of the thesis

The main sources of the research were those archive materials which were found in the contemporary newspapers of Békés County and the documents of Békés County Archive. The results of the thesis are detailed from Chapter Five as the collected information served as a source for demonstration of economical and cultural life as well as the free-time activities.

The economical life in Békés County in the age of dualism is detailed in the Fifth Chapter using the information collected in the technical literature. The half century of the free competition capitalism after 1867 was charged with severe contradictions in Békés County, too. On the one side there were significant changes the results of which might be identified even today. The more up-to-date agricultural and industrial production, the communication, the settlement development and the professional and general culture were served by these changes. From the Reconciliation of 1867 till the agrarian reform of the 1920s, two serious changes occurred on the area of the present Békés County, which assisted the enlargement of peasants' holdings against the latifundia. The plant cultivation has an important role in the economy of the country in the second half of the 19th century. The cereal growing and arable crop production were the main branches of agriculture, but the animal husbandry was more and more significant, too. In the first period of industrial development, in the first decades after the Reconciliation of 1867 the handicrafts flourished while the small-scale manufacture started to decline. On the other side the prosperity of the service industries of the period has continued and the settling of different industrial branches has started in the region. The national millennium celebrations of the year 1896 and the participation of Békés County in the events of these celebrations are also shown in Chapter Six

together with the activities which were the initial manifestations of tourism in the spending of free-time. The topic was elaborated on the basis of the ealdorman's and vice-ealdorman's documents of Békés County Archive. This was a significant event as it strengthened the national identity in wider masses of the population, and at the same time it was a good opportunity to demonstrate Békés County besides the other regions of the country. There were twenty exhibition groups on the millennium exhibition. Békés County aspired to organize mainly the sixth group, which covered the agriculture as well as forestry as our county had several centuries of traditions in the agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. Besides the main groups the different sub-groups detailed the separate topics e.g. the sub-group No. 4 which was about the herbs, fibre plants, while the sub-group No. 5 presented the tobacco production and processing. Another significant field was the demonstration of animal husbandry (horse- , cattle- and sheep-farming, piggery and poultry farming), apiculture, fisheries and silkworm production. Committees were formed in the county to organize and manage the participation in the national exhibition, which besides the national protocol was very encouraging in the life of the settlements. In the agricultural groups the exhibition of live animals and the viniculture of the county needed more help to be realized. Most of the ground-landlords tried to exhibit the products of their manor, which demonstrated that their activities and thinking had changed not only in the politics but also in the other spheres of life, and this resulted in serious development of Békés County. From among the big manors of the region counts Frigyes Wenckheim, Dénes Almásy, Albert Wodianer and Dénes Wenckheim were among the exhibitors. Besides the participation in the millennium events, the local events were also very significant, as compared to the fairly small size of the settlements, the millennium celebrations of the one thousand years existence of Hungary were very large scale nearly in each settlement. New roads, schools and public hospitals were built for the millennium.

The biggest part of *Chapter Six* covers the events demonstrating the community culture, sports and other entertainment possibilities which were initiated and popularized by the different societies and clubs. These societies initiated the free-

time activities of the period of dualism; however, a part of these activities was connected to the different layers of social hierarchy i.e. the other layers were excluded from them. Despite this feature they had significant impelling force for the community.

In the writing of this chapter mostly the articles of Békés County Bulletin and the newspaper Békés were utilised, but the ealdorman's and vice-ealdorman's documents of Békés County Archive, the collection of statutes of associations of Békés County and the documents of Town Council of Gyula were also used. From among the charity associations it is worth mentioning the women's associations of Gyula, Csaba and Szarvas, the members of which arranged the most county balls and literature evenings.

The influence of Békés County Association of Archaeology and Cultural History has been very fruitful for the after-world as it founded several public libraries in Békés County.

Besides the balls, literature evenings and dinner parties the equestrian sports and hunting were made very popular by the hunters' associations and the lords, and these events attracted many visitors to the county. These free-time activities were based on the excellent nature conditions of Békés County of that time as well. There were lots of swamps, sedge-marshes and forests which offered favourable conditions for the stock of game, even for the wolves. Besides the equestrian clubs the equestrian sport was also popularized by the Békés County Greyhound Club founded in 1874, which organized not only horse riding races, but greyhound racings as well.

The Békés County Economic Association founded in Szarvas in 1860 had more than four hundred members, and besides the organization of horse races its main task was to develop all the branches of the economy on the area of Békés County. The foreign fashions influenced the life of sport clubs e.g. the Sport Club of town Gyula often organized pigeon shootings and ball hunting, or single-sculler competitions on the river Körös. The ice-skating and gym clubs gained a significant role in the organization of sports events of Békés County of that era – involving all

the layers of the society. The most significant gym club functioned in Békéscsaba, which popularized the sports by the arrangement of national competitions in 1891 and 1898.

The singing and music were popularized by choirs and singing clubs, which were very popular in all layers of society and were available for the members of all the layers of the society. The importance of this type of free-time activities was demonstrated by the national choir festivals arranged in Kolozsvár in 1874 and in Szeged in 1876. The most significant musical event of the era was the visit and concert of Henrik Wieniawsky, Ede Reményi and Kálmán Chovan in Békés County.

The people living in the county were entertained by different circuses and entertainers as well. These performances were in the pavilion and Komló restaurant. In 1896 the performance of the 'world famous' anti-spiritist pair Homes and Fey was watched by a very big audience.

Chapter Seven demonstrates the locations of catering as the stages of social events. The locations of events of this era were much diversified, for example in Gyula the most popular were the hotel Komló and the restaurant Korona, while in Szarvas the hotel Árpád and the restaurant Bárány were the best places for the different events. Besides the restaurants and inns the coffee houses and confectionaries became also very popular.

Chapter Eight – among others - describes the theatrical life or acting which had a significant role in the life of citizens of the different settlements, and at the same time it was the best form of popularization of culture and literature for wider layers of the society as well. For example in 1862 German actors visited Gyula, however, they were not very successful. In the years 1864–1865 the Csaby Theatrical Company showed its programme in the county capital. The theatrical company led by Fábíán Várnay had a performance in Békéscsaba in 1874. This information comes mainly from the 1874–1876 volumes of Békés County Bulletin and from the work of Ferenc Scherer titled History of Town Gyula.

As a result of forming of theatre districts and the work of theatre managers and actors' associations the entertainment offered by the strolling companies was available for the inhabitants of smaller settlements as well.

Chapter Nine presents the spa life of Békés County and the bathing resort Gyopárosfürdő. The spa life of the 19th century, in which the curing, the holidays and the entertainment have not been separated yet, was definitely connected to the life of bourgeoisie. In the time period of the 1867 Reconciliation the notion of free-time emerges as the work (in a wider sense the completion of any tasks) and the relaxation are separated, which clearly refers to the bourgeois thinking. Besides the healing power offered by the spas, the travelling to a bathing resort was one of the forms of relaxation and resting for the bourgeois social layer. Therefore the 7th Paragraph of Article 6 of 1896 Law of Government Budget envisaged significant development in this sphere. This was especially important as the year 1896 was the millennium year of Hungary, and the arrangement of the national exhibition of the one thousand year old country became an important task for every settlement. The first bathing resorts in Békés County were constructed for the utilization of water of Körös river system, which has been published in the newspaper Békés since 1887. Gyopárosfürdő (bathing resort) is in three kilometres from Orosháza, and the first provisional bathing establishment was started here in 1896. Its medicinal water comes from the upper sodic soil layer. Its chemical composition was analysed by Ferenc Kiss, chemist of town Szeghalom in 1870, and he identified fourteen different minerals in it. The healing power of this water is similar to that of Pality, Konyár, Nyíregyháza and the Lake Fertő. It was listed among the Hungarian bathing resorts in 1896, but its real development took place only on the turn of the century. The 1879 issue of Békés-Csaba of Békés Megyei Lapok was an excellent source in the presentation of this topic.

Chapter Ten details the Paris World Exhibition of 1900 as a good opportunity to travel abroad. Based on the Article XVIII of Law of 1897 Hungary participated in the Paris World Exhibition firstly as an independent country. For this occasion Békés County did not prepare such an artistic work which could be shown in the

World Exhibition, but the county's museum owned such historically interesting objects which previously had been shown in other international exhibitions. For the collection of these objects Ottó Hermann, the Head of the Hungarian Ornithological Centre was invited. For the arrangement of travels to the world exhibition a separate directorate was established, the chairman of which was Viktor Thoroczky, and its manager was Nándor Somogyi.

The surveyed sources reflect the development processes of tourism very accurately in the Age of Dualism. It is obvious that as a result of increase of length of free-time and the availability of financial sources the institutions and occasional organizations serving the tourism and spending of free-time were established and their number increased quickly. The sources of Békés County also demonstrate which forms of tourism were available for only few members of society and which were available for wider groups of people in such a local society where the bourgeois layer was narrower.

Completing the summary the thesis is finished with the References and the List of Archive Sources, and finally the Annexes are enclosed.

6. Publications issued in the subject-matter of the thesis

6. 1. Publications

Klára Glózik (2007): Historical Roots of Tourism in Hungary in the Light of Development of European Tourism. – 1st International Conference on Environment Science and Water Management. 18-19 October 2007. Szarvas. Tessedik Sámuel College. Tudományos Közlemények. 2007. Tom. 7. No.1. Vol. 2, p 259-265 (in Hungarian)

Klára Glózik (2008): Historical Roots of Rural Tourism in Hungary. In: Management of Durable Rural Development: Rural tourism section. International Scientific Symposium, Banats University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara p 151-156

Klára Glózik (2008): Snapshots from the Development History of Hungarian Rural Tourism from the Reform Age till the „Gyöngyösbokréta” Movement. In: Lectures of 6th Great Plain Scientific Landscape Management Days Conference on CD (Szolnok College, Faculty of Agriculture and Technical Science in Mezőtúr, 16-17 October 2008). Summary: 9 (in Hungarian)

Klára Glózik (2008): Past and Present of Tourism in Békés County. In: Sporttudomány, neveléstudomány a gyakorlatért. 37th Conference on Biology of Locomotion, Tessedik Sámuel College, Pedagogical Faculty, Szarvas p 230-233 (in Hungarian)

Klára Glózik (2008): Hungarian Roots in the History of Resurging Tourism of Montenegro. In: XII. Apáczai Days International Scientific Conference – Values of Renaissance – Renaissance of Values (Nyugat-Magyarországi University, Apáczai Csere János Faculty, Győr 20-22 October 2008). Lectures on CD. p 434-443 (in Hungarian)

Klára Glózik (2009): Traditions in Bathing Resort Culture of Békés County – Orosháza – Gyopárosfürdő. In: Lectures of Erdei Ferenc 5th Scientific Conference (Kecskemét College, 3-4 September 2009) Vol. 3. p 792-797 (in Hungarian)

6.2. Conferences

Historical Roots of Tourism in Hungary in the Light of Development of European Tourism. Tessedik Sámuel College, Szarvas, 1st International Conference on Environment Science and Water Management. 18-19 October 2007 (in Hungarian)

Past and Present of Tourism in Békés County. Tessedik Sámuel College, Pedagogical Faculty, Szarvas, 15-16 November 2007. *Sport Science and*

Educational Science for the Practice, 37th Conference on Biology of Locomotion (in Hungarian)

Historical Roots of Rural Tourism in Hungary. Banats University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara, 15-16 May 2008. *International Scientific Symposium*

Snapshots from the Development History of Hungarian Rural Tourism from the Reform Age till the „Gyöngyösbokréta” Movement. Szolnok College, Faculty of Agriculture and Technical Science in Mezőtúr, 16-17 October 2008. *6th Great Plain Scientific Landscape Management Days* (in Hungarian)

Hungarian Roots in the History of Resurging Tourism of Montenegro. Nyugat-Magyarországi University, Apáczay Csere János Faculty, Győr, 20-22 October 2008. In the frame of *Apáczay Days. Values of Renaissance – Renaissance of Values* (in Hungarian)

Traditions in Bathing Resort Culture of Békés County, Orosháza – Gyopárosfürdő. Kecskemét College, 3-4 September 2009. *Erdei Ferenc 5th Scientific Conference* (in Hungarian)

Traditions in Bathing Resort Culture of Békés County, Mogyoróssy János Library, Gyula, 4 December 2009. *The Influential Processes of Past – Value Based Historical Research in Gyula* (in Hungarian)

The archive studies were based on the materials of Békés County Archive, among them the vice-ealdorman’s documents of Békés County of the years 1872 – 1950, the ealdorman’s documents of Békés County of the years 1880 – 1950 and the documents of years 1882 – 1950 of Mayor of town Gyula, while the sources of

published press were the 1874 – 1876 issues of newspapers Békés Megyei Közlöny and the 1872 – 1903 issues of Békés from the collection of Békés County Library.

Klára Glózik (2010): From the History of Tourism of Békés County. In: Bárka XVIII. 6/2010. p 93-97. (in Hungarian)