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The historical source value of an Early Old Hungarian charter from an anthroponymic perspective*

1. Introduction

Hungarian charters are important documents for studying the early history, society, and culture of the Hungarian people. Therefore, they serve as an important source for historiography and linguistics, and within the latter especially for onomastics. Place and personal names in documents, which are mostly written in Latin and, more rarely. in Greek, are recorded in vernacular (Hungarian). In my paper, I focus only on the second onomastic category. The study of anthroponyms is important not only from the perspective of onomastics, but also because it provides useful information in a broader historical and social context. As studying certain periods of personal name history is only possible through surviving written sources, insights into the practice of naming and name usage can only be gained through analyzing charters. This allows us to study the origin, development, and change of names. The aim of this study is to demonstrate how the anthroponyms of a particular charter can be a valuable source for historical onomastics, while also highlighting some important methodological considerations.

1.1. Specific data are not examined in isolation, but within their textual context

The most appropriate approach to using anthroponymic data for scientific purposes is to examine it in close connection with its original source text, rather than taking it out of its philological context. In many cases, previous observations and statements about a particular name record can be confirmed, weakened or even refuted through its association with other names within the same context.

1.2. The function and genre of a remnant also determine the nature of the anthroponymic markers

In any case, it should be borne in mind that remnants from the Old Hungarian era containing personal names can be classified into different types according to their genre and purpose. As well as appearing in charters, they can also be found in narrative historical works. This functional distinction is also reflected

in the anthroponymic records. Even among charters, which always deal with legal transactions, there is a wide variation in the personal names, due to the different purposes and functions of the sources. For example, if the number of persons is more important than the persons themselves in a given document, personal name designations typically consist of a single name, even at the end of the 14th century. Conversely, when the aim is to identify individuals more precisely, they are identified by Latin structures of anthroponym markers containing Hungarian personal name elements. The use of templates to designate a person was determined by the rules of Latin charter-writing practice and can be divided into several types. In some cases, in addition to the anthroponym at the head of the structure, mostly a feature-indicating element is used to identify the individual: 1290: ***Johannes dictus Chouka*** (the Hungarian word *chouka* means 'jackdaw', cf. ÁSZ. 421); 1292–1297: ***Peturke de Naragy (**Naragy* [Nyárágy] refers to the place of residence or origin of the person, cf. ÁSZ. 632) etc. Sometimes such forms are also found without a Latin linking element, cf. 1393: ***Thomam Nogh*** (the Hungarian word *nogh* means 'big', cf. FEHÉRTÓI 1969: 116) etc. At the same time, Latin structural templates can also be used to express nexus relations, reflecting descent or ethnicity, cf. 1270: ***Syke de genere Opour*** (ÁSZ. 714); 1301: ***Stephanus filius Bank (**ÁSZ. 88) etc. In addition, combined versions of these structures can be found in charters, cf. 1275: ***Petenye filius Petri de Machalan*** (ÁSZ. 629) etc. (TÓTH 2016: 14–19, 76–85). Therefore, when examining the anthroponymic records of specific charters, it is necessary to take pragmatic circumstances into account as well, such as the purpose of the charter, who it was intended to record and the reason why. These factors also largely determine the type of personal name designations that can be expected in the source.

2. Examination possibilities of a specific charter

The following highlights the significance of a specific charter for the history of anthroponyms and its potential for investigation, illustrating the main principles of analysis.

In many ways, the Tihany Survey of 1211 is one of the most valuable sources in Hungarian historical anthroponymic studies (ERDÉLYI 1904: 388, SZABÓ 1959: 18–19, BENKŐ 1967: 41, HOFFMANN 2009: 18–19). Considering the circumstances of its creation and survival, this charter occupies a unique position: not only the sealed, authentic copy of the census has survived, but the draft is also available. Although the draft is more incomplete and shorter than the authenticated document, the two texts are almost identical in their descriptions of the estates and the people who served them (cf. KOVÁCS 2012: 38). The fact that many of the names appear in different spellings in the two

copies provides valuable information for the study of personal names, particularly with regard to spelling, phonetics and etymology. Moreover, the charter contains a wealth of anthroponymic data: some two thousand anthroponymic remnants are embedded in the Latin text. As is usually the case in censuses, the names of the individuals in the document enumerating the estates and peoples of the Tihany Abbey, are listed from estate to estate. The author of the charter usually records a person's name alongside those of their father, siblings, children, and occasionally grandchildren. This allows us to view the names of several generations simultaneously, which can enhance our understanding of family naming traditions. In connection with the Tihany Survey, I will touch upon issues that can be studied due to the charter's unique philological characteristics. However, I believe these issues can also be examined in other charters, not only from Hungary.

2.1. Semantic relationship between names

By relying on anthroponymic data from the charter, we can examine contemporary name communities that have been formed in various ways. A name community may be organized on a territorial basis, covering the entire habitat or environment in which the name's bearer lives and is known by his or her name. Since the Tihany Survey lists the names of those who served by estate, we also have the chance to analyze the naming patterns of a settlement, or, more specifically, of the aforementioned micro-communities of families. In the charters of the Árpád Era particular groups or family members often bear related names This relationship between names provides an opportunity to use one name to explain another. The original descriptive and feature-indicating function of some of the names in the charter can be inferred from examples that testify to the semantic relationship between the names. A good example of this is the pair of names *Farkas* 'wolf' and *Medve* 'bear' appearing as the names of family members in the Tihany Survey, cf. *In villa Supoc […] vdornicij […] filius Laurentii, Zemdij cum filiis suis* **Forcos, Medue (Medueh)** (PRT. 10: 513).

However, semantic relationships between names are not only found within families. As the charter categorizes the inhabitants of each estate by occupation, this indicates that names were given within socially organized name communities. The following example from the charter also supports this: *Preterea isti sunt piscatores […] filii* **Syguer (Suguer),** *Buhte (Buhteh), Botus; filius* **Euuen, Sileu (Silleu)** (PRT. 10: 509, 510). We can see here that names are chosen among people of the same occupation on the basis of similar attitudes. For example, two fishermen were named after fish species: one was called *sügér*, meaning 'perch', and the other was called *őn*, meaning 'asp'. One of their sons was given the name *süllő*, meaning 'zander'.

2.2. The difficulties of etymological determination

Exploring the etymology of personal names is crucial for historical anthroponymic studies. However, in most cases, determining the origin of names is not straightforward. The biggest problem arises with short names consisting of only a few sounds, but longer names present a challenge, too, as there are often several possible origins with equal probability. However, the complex examination of anthroponyms in a charter may provide clues to help us resolve uncertain cases (cf. MOZGA 2019, 2023). This is why it is helpful that the relationship between names is often indicated by morphological elements. For example, one person within a family may be recorded in the charter with the base form of the name, while the others may be mentioned with a modified version of the same name (possibly with different formants). This can be very helpful in identifying the etymons, or roots, of the names. This procedure is most noticeable in the case of loan names. Since the wording of the Tihany Survey makes it easy to identify kinship relations, we may find many examples of the repetition of the same name root to express family relationships, cf. *In villa Thurkh (Turk) isti sunt joubagiones ecclesie: filii Symien,* **Joan** *cum filio suo Vus, et frater eius Ibrachin cum filio suo* **Joachyn,** *et tercius* **Johannes** (PRT. 10: 515); *[In Tychon] coci [...] filii Zephal:* **Mortun, Mortunus** (PRT. 10: 503); *In villa Thurkh [...] vinitores ecclesie: filii Vros,* **Quinus (Quinjs)** *et frater eius* **Quina** *cum filio suo Kazmerio (Cazmer)* (PRT. 10: 515); *In villa Pechel [...] vdornici [...] filius Cuet,* **Luca, Luxa, Lucas** (PRT. 10: 504); *in eadem Gomas isti sunt artifices ecclesie [...] filii Monos,* **Ananian (Anian)** *cum filio suo* **Anta** *et fratres eius* **Ananias** *et* **Ontus** (PRT. 10: 514). *In altera vero villa nomine Belen, isti sunt ioubagiones [...] Symon filius* **Jac** *cum filiis* **Jacobo** *et Andrea* (PRT. 10: 507); *In villa Colon [...] ioubgiones [...]* **Paul** *cum filio suo* **Pousa** (PRT. 10: 508).

In the case of name segments consisting of a few sounds only, it is not always obvious from the coincidence of the first part of the name forms which base name they are derived from. Sometimes there are several options, so it is not possible to make a definitive decision based on the form of the name alone. Fortunately, the context of the document can sometimes help us to make a decision. For example, the derivative names *Micu, Micha* (*Mica*), *Micou* and *Mikus* in the charter could stem from the Hungarian *Miklós* (Latin *Nicolaus*) or *Mihály* (Latin *Michael*), or possibly from the Slavic root *Micula.* However, the charter segments suggest that these *Micus* and *Micu* records are more likely to be derived from the Hungarian *Miklós* (or Latin *Nicolaus*)*,* based on the patterns of naming within close family ties mentioned earlier, cf. *in [...] eadem Gomas [...] artifices [...] filius* **Micus, Michoulous (Micoulous)** (PRT. 10: 514); *In villa Fured [...] vinitores: Surc cum filiis suis Alexio,* **Nicholao** *et* **Micu** (PRT. 10: 506), *In altera [...] villa [...] Belen [...] ioubagiones [...]*

*Chekeu cum filiis Toma, Mana (Matica), Yroslou (Yroslau) et **Micoudeo,** frater eius **Micu,** cum filiis **Nicolao** et Kemus* (PRT. 10: 507). However, in the case of the following name records *Micha* and *Micou*, the Hungarian *Mihály* (Latin *Michael*) is more likely to be the starting point for similar reasons, cf. *In predio Colon […] ioubagiones […] filius Tucus, Sephal et frater eius Zalas, cum filiis suis **Michaele, Micha (Mica)** et Vros* (PRT. 10: 508); *In villa Zeuleus […] joubagiones […] filius Ociu, **Micou** cum filios **Michaele*** (PRT. 10: 507).

The association of names within a small community may be reflected in the repetition of etymological roots. The close relationship between names may also be indicated by identical affixes. This circumstance may also help us distinguish the name base from the formative element in cases where the name is more difficult to analyze. The charter examined here contains several examples of names of related persons showing a connection in this way, cf. *[In Tychon] pelliparii […] filius Luc**us,** Fulc**us*** (PRT. 10: 503); *In villa Fuzegy […] isti sunt exequiales […] filius Chek**eu,** Dem**eu** cum filio suo Beneduc (Benehduc)* (PRT. 10: 513); *In villa Poposca […] sunt servi […] filii Maogy (Mauogi), Ws, Serd**eh,** Zem**eh*** (PRT. 10: 505); *In villa Ozoufeu hii sunt agricole […] Nemuogv et filii sui Moc**chi,** Bun**chi*** (PRT. 10: 505); *Vdornici de Mortus hii sunt: filii Karachun (Carachon), Pota cum filiis suis, Thomud et filii eius Guz, Beke et frater Thomud, Bene (Tomud, Beneh), cum filio Texe et fratribuseius […] Bed, Mic**ou,** Pota, Mot**ou*** (PRT. 10: 511); *In villa Fotud […] curriferi: filii Zeud (Zeund), Mic**us** cum filiis suis, Pasca, Thexa (Texe), frater eius Luc**us*** (PRT. 10: 511); *In villa Thurkh […] vdornici […] filius Tupoz, Codou cum filiis suis Quen**e,** Vid**e,** Leguin**e,** Coda (Choda) cum filio suo Tiuan (Tiwan)* (PRT. 10: 515); *In villa Fuzegy […] sunt exequiales […] filii Zacharie, Fil**eh,** Sel**eh,** Onda, Paul, Sentus* (PRT. 10: 513).

In addition to family connections, the fact that the charter has survived in two versions can sometimes shed light on the relationship between the base name and the derivative name, cf. *Preterea etiam isti sunt vdornici in villa eadem Gomas comorantes, quorum nomina sunt hec: […] filius Bodoy (Buduoy), Moyna cum filiis suis Figuth (Figud), **Pet (Petur),** Eceh* (PRT. 10: 513); *[In Tychon] […] Hii sunt vdornici: […] filius Satad, Culesed, cum filiis suis: Ws, **Peter (Petur),** Cusit, Zuiteu* (PRT. 10: 504). At the same time, we may also find traces of the process of Latinization applied by the scribes of charters to personal names, in that in one copy of the charter we find the Latin version of the name, while in another we find the Hungarian one, cf. *In villa Gamas […] filius Thobie sacerdotis […] Juba nomine cum filiis suis Paulo (et alio filio; filio Bod, **Beneduc),** Both et **Benedicto** sunt vdornicij* (PRT. 10: 513); *In villa Thurkh […] vinitores ecclesie: filii Vros, Quinus (Quiunjs) et frater eius Quina cum filio suo **Kazmerio (Cazmer)*** (PRT. 10: 515); *In villa Fotud […]*

iobagiones […] filii Mathoy, **Miclous (Micolous)***, Donat, Fitcha* (PRT. 10: 510).

2.3. Patterns of personal names based on geographical areas

Charters are always created in connection with a legal transaction, and the names they contain—both anthroponyms and toponyms—often play a crucial, evidential, authenticating role. Thus, where the localization of place names allows it, we can also link personal names in a charter to specific geographical areas.

The Tihany Survey takes into account the estates belonging to the Abbey of Tihany and the servants living there. On the basis of 36 settlements spread over a relatively large area, we can examine the spatial characteristics of the personal names that originate there. We can analyze the spatial distribution of personal names in terms of their linguistic stratification or the horizontal distribution of a name. Below, I present these analytical possibilities using the personal names of the Tihany Survey. Approximately one fifth of the personal names in the charter belong to a group with an unknown origin, the association of which with a language is yet unclear. Loan names make up 46 per cent and are distributed among four language layers. The largest number of these (30 %) are ecclesiastical names of Latin origin, which gained popularity due to the influence of high culture, as was common in charters of this period. 16% of the names are personal names of Slavic, German, and Turkish origin that were introduced to the Hungarian language as a result of ethno-linguistic contacts. Over 30% of the personal names in the charter are of Hungarian origin

Compared to the corpus as a whole, the proportion of names of Latin origin was especially high in some settlements, exceeding 50%. Due to the differences in proportions, I examined the Latin name corpus of these settlements more closely and concluded that, while we cannot detect regional trends in naming, it is notable that there was often consistency in the names of families working on the estates in question. Siblings, or even entire families, were often given Latin names. The following examples illustrate these conscious choices of names within the family: *In villa Cuest […] isti sunt ioubagiones […] filii* **Beneh, Petrus,** *cum filiis suis,* **Georgio, Pousa (Pausa),** *frater eius,* **Paul;** *filius Moncud (Moncut),* **Joan,** *cum filio suo,* **Andrea** (PRT. 10: 505); see also *In villa Aarach (Araci) […] hii sunt pulsatores […] filius* **Mathie, Vrbanus,** *cum filio suo,* **Moyse;** *filius* **Abel, Petus***, cum filiis suis,* **Paulo** *et* **Thoma (Toma); Nicholaus (filius Micolaus), Adrian;** *filius Hunche,* **Egidius,** *cum filiis suis,* **Bunche, Petur,** *et frater eius* **Endus (Hendus)** (PRT. 10: 506) etc.

In some regions, we also observe a shift towards fewer Latin names. In areas further from the abbey, Latin names account for far less than 30% of the corpus as a whole. This is certainly related to the fact that these estates are further away

from the institutions and individuals who had the greatest influence on the culture of the time. Thus, the rate at which higher culture spread may have been slower in these areas.

The distribution of names of Hungarian origin also shows outstanding values in certain estates. Analysis of the name corpus of the estates also shows that this is connected with the fact that the accumulation and conscious choice of names of Hungarian origin can be observed in the naming of several families, although not necessarily for all family members, but typically for generations of the same level, cf. *In predio Colon [...] Et isti sunt servi: [...] filii **Mogd, Waca (Wacha), Pentuc**; filius **Pentuc, Morodehc (Moradic)**; filius **Keseyd, Keuueche (Keuuehchc)** (PRT. 10: 508); In villa Poposca (Popsoca) isti sunt servi [...] filii **Maogy (Mauogi), Ws, Serdeh, Zemeh**; filii **Rigou**, Keuseud, Pete, Locud; et frater eius, **Pentec (Pentuc)**, cum filiis suis, **Tompa** et **Heuche**; [...] **filius Monos, Fiacha, cum filiis suis, Huitol (Hiuotol) Chenke, Buhtus, Doba (Dobba), Coda** (PRT. 10: 505).

2.4. Name frequency

When examining the personal names on the charter, I also considered how frequently each name was used. The analysis showed that the individual names are relatively rarely repeated, indicating that the early 13th century was still characterized by an abundance and diversity of names, with a narrowing of the name corpus occurring in later periods. This is also reflected in the frequency of personal names in the charter: the most popular names include, in addition to Latin, a number of Hungarian and Slavic names. The repeated occurrence of certain names in some estates, especially when they are not related to family ties, shows that name fashion, which was intense throughout history, was also evident in the 13th century.

3. Conclusion

In this paper, I have tried to show how synchronic analysis of the anthroponyms in a given charter can reveal a variety of potential avenues for investigation. All of these factors contribute to the formulation of important conclusions that can be applied to the conditions and naming conventions of a given period, or help us to solve an uncertain question or name record. Complex analysis of the space delimited by the source and the name corpus associated with it can also provide valuable insights. And if a document stands out from the surviving documents of a particular era due to special circumstances, it may become an even more important source for onomastics.

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Abstract

The study of Old Hungarian personal names is only possible through written records, specifically those preserved in historical documents. This study examines whether an analysis of the personal names in a 13th-century charter can represent the personal name system of the Old Hungarian period, i.e. whether the charter is suitable for reflecting the personal name inventory of an era.

It will be shown to what extent a charter containing almost 2000 personal names can reflect the composition of the personal name system of the period in question, what problems we may face in the etymological determination of the names, and what techniques can be used to solve them.

This paper also illustrates how the special philological situation of a specific document—not only the certified copy of the charter is preserved, but also its draft—can have a significance for the history of names.

Keywords: personal names, loan names, etymology, synchronic analysis, special philological situation, geographical distribution