



Melinda Köteles-Szőke  
Hungary, University of Debrecen

# Toponym History and Local History

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# Charters



- important sources of the early (11th-century) history of the Hungarian language
- legal documents
- in Latin
- toponyms and personal names in Hungarian

# Different Types of the Charters



- 1. authentic and original charters
- 2. authentic and copied charters
- 3. interpolated charters
- 4. forged charters



# Authentic Charters

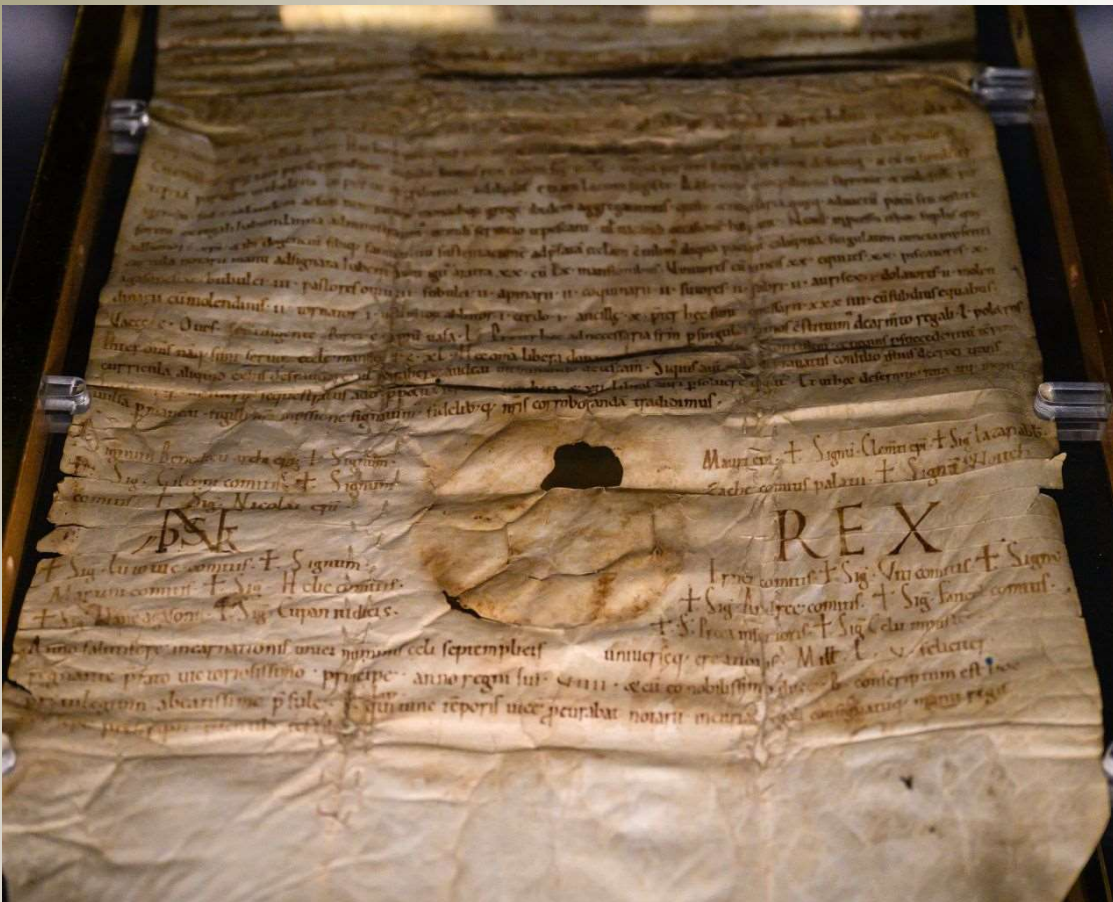


- the most valuable charters
- they have survived in their original forms
- place names refer to the time when the charters were issued

# the Founding Charter of Tihany, 1055



- the earliest authentic Hungarian charter that has survived in its original form



## *Kesztölc* village, 1055



“inde ad **castelic** et feheruuaru rea meneh hodu utu rea”

'on the military road from **Kesztölc** to Fehérvár'



# Kesztölc village, 1055



one of the stones of the former Roman road



18th-century village:

**Várdomb** 'castle + hill,

in the contemporary toponymicon:

**Római-kő** 'Roman stone'

# *Kesztölc* village, 1055



The semantic content of the name *Kesztölc*  
shows the former existence of the fortress

Slavic loan name

The basis: Slavic \***kostelъ** 'castle, fortress church' lexeme + the Slavic **-ьць** suffix

Final source: Latin **castellum**



# Copied Charters



- authentic charters
- they have not survived in their original forms
- the names refer to the age of the original charter

# Interpolated Charters



- copied and forged charters
- they were forged by inserting longer or shorter texts





# Garamszentbenedek Charter, 1075



The original document: 1075 (until 16th century)

Interpolated version: 13th century

The names of the original parts → 11th century

The names of the interpolated parts → ?

# Garamszentbenedek Charter, 1075



'I have also given a **village** from the other bank of the *Tisza* within its own boundaries, *Sagi* with its **lands, market and free ford, which should only be granted to the abbot.** The boundaries are thus divided: [...] **then as far as this *Huger* flows down past the village of *Kurth*, which I have already mentioned, and flows into the Tiza, this is the final boundary**'.

(The interpolated parts are indicated in bold.)



## *Kurth* village, 1075



interpolated name of the charter →

this was inserted into the charter in the 13th century

name may be earlier than the age of interpolation (13th century)

## *Kurth* village, 1075



the archaeological finds:  
from the late 9th century

*Kurth* toponym was created  
from the name of one of the  
conquering tribes



Munkácsy's painting about Conquering



# Forged Charters



They were not written in the year indicated in the text

**Pécsvárad and Bakonybél Charters:**  
    abbeys were founded at the  
beginning of the 11th century  
    their founding charters were  
written in the 13th century  
(according to the text in the 11th  
century)

    they have survived only in the  
form of copies

# Forged Charters



- previously issued charters were used to write the forged documents
- The Bakonybél Forged Charters had an authentic source (Bakonybél Survey, at the end of the 11th century)
- 23 names (of the 34 toponyms) have 11th-century historical toponomastic source value in the 13th-century forged charter



## *Paloznak, 1037*



- 1086: *Ploznic* (with two consonants) – **Slavic structure**
- [1079: poloznic]
- +1037 [13th century]: *Poloznuk* (with one consonant- a vowel was added between the consonants) – **Hungaria structure**
- ? There was an authentic version of the forged charter



- The name has derived
  - from a Slavic place name
  - from personal name of Slavic origin
- **Plaznik** (personal name)
- (? form with two consonants was the primary one)



