

**CONSIDERATIONS ON THE FORMATION AND EVOLUTION  
OF THE PROFESSIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC  
INTELLIGENTSIA IN TRANSYLVANIA BETWEEN  
1700—1848**

**SUMMARY**

The appearance and development of the rural intelligentsia was surely determined by the peculiarities of the social, economic, political and cultural development in Transylvania. Owing to the place occupied in society, it will be subordinated and serve — from the very beginning — the feudal system of exploiting the natural resources and the labour force.

The most important economic clerk that appeared, already in the XVI<sup>th</sup> century at the beginning on the royal, voivodal, and then on the private domains, was the so called *provizor*. But it was not made yet a complete distinction between the different functions and domanial high dignities at that time. If the landlord had more domains, there was employed a provisor for each domain, and in order to coordinate their activity there was also appointed a *prefect*, a function that was instituted and generalized in Transylvania in the course of the XVII<sup>th</sup>—XVIII<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, the prefect on the private domains became the proper leader of the whole domain and had several economic clerks in his subordination. We can speak now, in the principality of Transylvania, of a real bureau-

cratical apparatus, having a central co-ordinating body, composed of prefect, the chief accountant (*sames*), the chief cashier and their operator clerks (secretaries, scribes etc.). The smaller domanial subdivisions were directed only by intendants or administrators. In the course of time, some young people that had finished middle school in Transylvania and had worked for some time as prefects, secretaries and provisors — for example, the economist Ioan Neagoe — were sent and given pecuniary aid at different universities in order to attend courses and accumulate new knowledge in the field of agronomy, veterinary surgery, book keeping of financial operations and drawing up the official documents etc. During the last two decades of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, but mostly in the first half of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, the changes taking place in the social-economic life of the principality and the wide receptivity to the European trends of ideas, in conformity with the historical conditions of the Transylvanian society, had in a natural way determined changes in the structure of the rural economic intelligentsia. There were new categories of functionaires („procurator“, „oculator“, „regius“, administrative and technical directors at the domanial manufactories, silviculturists and inspectors of forests, cashiers and collectors etc.) and specialists in fruit growing, greenhouses, cultivation of industrial and fodder plants (the clover, the lucerne, the vetch), the rearing of new breeds of animals etc. Moreover, some of the intellectuals were the promoters of reforming, even revolutionary ideas.

The rural intelligentsia carried on its activity in touch with the enslaved peasantry of the 1702 villages and 586 rural localities where, beside the enslaved peasantry there also lived free peasants and small owners. Making an estimation based on archival sources, we have come to the conclusion that in 1820 there were in the principality of Transylvania about 2000 functionaires (prefects, provisors, and accountants), that is a very important and large category of laical intellectuals. This number (approximate) must have been greater, since some documents did not include the number of scribes, secretaries, cashiers, lawyers, silviculturists etc.