

Máthé János: “The Chronology of Magyarhermány”

This volume was built around Máthé János’s manuscript: “The Chronology of Magyarhermány”. This manuscript, studies about the author and his work, his previously unknown writings and the analysis of his Securitate/state security files make up this present volume.

The introduction speaks about Máthé János: his family, works, career, life. His as activity a public person, his way of thinking are discussed in this part of the book.

The chronology represents an unequalled source of a Szekler settlement, namely Magyarhermány, between 1944-64. Through this chronology one can trace the major transformations in the life of this community, i. e. the war period, the inflation, the effects of monetary changes, the seize of power by local communists, the birth of institutionalised discrimination with a list of the kulaks. Moreover this manuscript shows how the wealthy classes became impoverished and how taxes kept climbing. It also illustrates the tryouts of collectivisation and the ways trough which the state tried to break this community.

The manuscript is not just a blunt chronology of the events; Máthé János enriched it with his own comments and analyses. Thus one can get an insight of those suppressed and the reader is feels what they have been feeling. Browsing through Máthé János’s notes one can witness the period of early communism and the transformation of a rural society.

After the chronology itself comes a short part which presents us with the methodology and types of investigation used by the Romanian Secret police the *Securitate*. This is an introductory part to the following study about Máthé János’s investigation by the *Securitate* and his state security files.

Due to Máthé’s activity as a historian and a public person, from the 50’ on the state police began following him. Except for a few short interludes the *Securitate* kept him under observation until the year of his death in 1986. They sabotaged his career, opened his letters and there were informers whom reported almost his every move. At the end of this analysis the reader is provided with some conclusions on the activity of the Romanian state police, *Secutitate*.

The appendix is made up of excerpts from Máthé János’s unpublished works. These on one hand complete the chronology and on the other hand present experiences, which illustrate his way of thinking and outlook on life. Moreover the Appendix contains two of Máthé’s speeches that exemplify his mentality and values.

To improve the accessibility of this volume, indices of names, places, institutions and subjects were included.