

# Documenta Res Andegavensium 1341 (Volume XXV)

FERENC SEBŐK



The sources of Hungarian medieval history - apart from narrative sources - are made up of published and unpublished charters. About 300,000 charters survive from the period before the battle of Mohács (1526), disproportionately distributed among the sub-periods of the Middle Ages. While 10,000 charters originated in the Árpáadian period (895-1301), most of them published, later periods are much underrepresented in this respect because the number of charters rises sharply and most of them remain unpublished. The first part of the era of King Sigismund (1387-1422) is again well represented by source publications, thanks to Elemér Mályusz, Iván Borsa et al. The last period of Hungarian medieval history is in much worse condition; charters from this period can only be found in thematic or family history source publications.

Turning our attention towards the history of the Angevin period, for a long time researchers had to rely on a source publication entitled *Anjou-kori okmánytár* (Charters of the Angevin period), which published charters *in extenso*, and due to this policy the series could not aim at publishing all the documents from this period. The series was stopped at Volume 7, which contained documents up to 1359. In 1990 a fundamental change was initiated by Gyula Kristó and his colleagues, when publication of *Anjou-kori oklevéltár* (*Documenta res Andegavensium*) was started. This new series ceased to follow the method of the *Anjou-kori okmánytár*, publishing documents in the form of excerpts in the Hungarian language. So far 17 volumes have been published in this series and work is currently making good progress. In a few years time the history of King Charles I (1301-1342) will be complete, which will offer unprecedented opportunities for research in the history of this age. None of the kings' ages after 1301 have been researched on the basis of all available sources, which will now be made possible with the help of our new series. Work will go on with the publication of the sources of King Louis I, the Great.

My dissertation processes the documents of the last but one year of King Charles I. At the outset I established that the National Archives preserves 776 original charters or their photocopies from this year. As a result of the kind cooperation of the Csongrád County Archives I had the opportunity to study these charters in photocopies. A small number of these documents were published ear-

lier (e.g., the *Anjou-kori okmánytár* contains 62 charters). I checked the originals of those charters which had already been published in order to screen out incidental mistakes. I prepared Hungarian language calendars of the charters. I established the dates so I could correct the mistakes in the chronological index of the National Archives of Hungary. (My dissertation contains a detailed list of these mistakes.) During the preparation of excerpts most of the problems were caused by the charters which survived only in transcripts or excerpts. In order to decipher them I had to read many other documents originating from other years. The language of the charters is medieval Latin, their way of writing is totally different from modern writing, special skills are needed simply to read them. Names and toponyms contained in the documents were taken over by my excerpts, retaining their original way of writing. The language of the excerpts is Hungarian, with the exception of dates and certain expressions, which retain their original Latin form. The total of excerpts reached the number of 900, including mentions. This work phase was followed by the preparation of apparatus joining each item in the dissertation. This contains all the data on how the charters' survived, whether they were published before, or not, etc. My dissertation also contains the charters which have not survived to the present day, but were published earlier in some source publication and later perished (e.g., in World War II). Furthermore, I also include the charters which were dated to 1341, but I managed to discover that they originated in other years.

Seals were described by an archivist colleague, whom I would like to thank here as well. The description of the seals of the surviving charters was included in the dissertation; those which I studied in the form of a photocopy only are only included if I could obtain some information on the form of sealing on the basis of the photographs.

The last phase of the work is the preparation of the index, which means arrangement of tens of thousands of data in the right order and application of excerpt numbers to them. I do not include the index in my dissertation because it would make my dissertation too voluminous, but it will be included in a future volume. This will contain all the personal names and toponyms included in my work.

As a result of my work, for the first time the poorly known period of King Charles I will offer better opportunities for study by Hungarian scholars. The volume, which will soon follow, will provide a continuation to the volumes about 1339 and 1340, and will join together the last years of King Charles I as work is in progress concerning the year 1342, too. My dissertation will shed new light on certain issues of the Angevin kingdom, e.g., the palatine's judicial activity in the country, the royal policy of establishing castle dominions, economic policy, foreign policy, etc., as well as new data concerning changes in contemporary Hungarian society.