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PhD DISSERTATION PROGRESS REPORT*

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to present a report about the status of the author's ongoing doctoral dissertation. Since the author's first publication had been published in *Rocznik Przemyski. Historia* in 2019, further archival research was made as well as other publications were finished concerning the Habsburg–Ottoman territorial negotiations in Szécsény and Buda in 1628–1629. In the following, one can find information regarding publications related to the topic of the dissertation, and information regarding the first partial results.

Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie raportu o stanie bieżącej pracy doktorskiej autora. Od czasu ukazania się pierwszej publikacji autora w „Roczniku Przemyski. Historia” w 2019 roku, prowadzono dalsze

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kwerendy archiwalne oraz zakończono kolejne publikacje dotyczące habsbursko-ottomańskich negocjacji terytorialnych w Szécsény i Budzie w latach 1628–1629. Poniżej znajdują się odnośniki dotyczące publikacji związanych z tematyką rozprawy oraz informacje dotyczące pierwszych wyników cząstkowych.

Słowa kluczowe: Péter Koháry, Traktat pokojowy w Szőny (1627), negocjacje terytorialne w Szécsény i Buda (1628–1629), habsbursko-ottomańskie sprawy dyplomatyczne, analiza ilościowa i jakościowa zbioru korespondencji

Keywords: Péter Koháry, Peace Treaty of Szőny (1627), territorial negotiations at Szécsény and Buda (1628–1629), Habsburg–Ottoman diplomatic affairs, quantitative and qualitative analysis of a collection of correspondence

The topic of my doctoral thesis in progress is a part of the peace process of Szőny. The entire process covers the period from 18 December 1626, until 8 December 1629. My research focuses on the territorial negotiations in Szécsény and Buda (1628–1629). From the point of view of the mentioned negotiations, Péter Koháry was a key figure. Koháry was the vice-captain of Érsekújvár (present day *Nové Zámky*, in Slovakia) and vice-general of the border-fortress zone of the Cisdanubian district and mining region¹ from 1611 to 1632. Koháry was a member of the Hungarian delegation during the peace talks in Szőny (1627), and he was later appointed as the head of the Hungarian delegation during the subsequent territorial negotiations in Szécsény in 1628. In addition to his appointment, it is worth noting that count Miklós Esterházy was his superior before 1625, when Esterházy was appointed as the Palatine of Hungary.

The so-called territorial negotiations in Szécsény and Buda ended fruitlessly, later on 6 April 1629, Muharrem, the Bey of Szolnok and Gáspár Tassy, Palatine Esterházy's secretary had concluded an agreement. As it has been pointed out above, Koháry was a key figure in this process, therefore, through his correspondence, one can gain a deeper, more detailed picture regarding the process.

Surprisingly, the collection of Baron Péter Koháry's correspondence (who held his offices a bit more than 20 years) has not been published thus far, only a few parts of it are available and the only systematic collection which focuses on Péter Koháry was published by András Komáromy in 1911.² It contains 30 letters.

Additionally, it is worth mentioning one further source collection, namely József Stessel's work ('Adatok az 1628. évi szécsényi alkudozás történetéhez I–II').³ In his

¹ In Hungarian: Dunáninnen kerületi és bányavidéki végvidéki főkapitány-helyettes. In Latin: supremus vicecapitaneus/vicegeneralis partium regni Hungariae Cisdanubianarum et confiniorum antemontanorum supremus vicecapitaneus. G. Pálffy, 'Kerületi és végvidéki főkapitányok és főkapitány-helyettesek Magyarországon a 16–17. században' [Borderfortress-captain-generals, District-captain-generals and Vice-captain-generals on the Hungarian Frontier of the Habsburg Empire in the 16th and 17th Centuries], *Történelmi Szemle*, 39/II (1997), p. 271.

² A. Komáromy, 'Koháry Péter érsekújvári kapitány levelei Thurzó György nádorhoz 1611–1616' [Letters of Péter Koháry, the Captain of Érsekújvár to Palatine György Thurzó 1611–1616], *Hadtörténelmi Közlemények*, 12 (1911) pp. 77–109.

³ J. Stessel, 'Adatok az 1628. évi szécsényi alkudozás történetéhez I–II' [Data to the History of the Negotiations of Szécsény in 1628, I–II], *Magyar Történelmi Tár*, 3 (1902), pp. 430–452, pp. 481–510.

work he published letters written by Koháry during the territorial negotiations, but it did not include the Palatine's responses to him. It should be noted that, according to Stessel, one can find the mentioned part of the sources in the Koháry-Coburg family's archive.⁴ The letter collection referred to above contained the mentioned part.

In addition to the afore-mentioned source collections, several further letters can be found concerning Péter Koháry in other source publications, e.g. with regard to Cardinal Péter Pázmány,⁵ Palatine Miklós Esterházy,⁶ and the Peace Treaty of Szőny (1627).⁷

In the following, I intend to present my publications as well as those in which I have participated.

The initiative of my research on this topic was: 'On the Question of the Negotiations Between the Habsburgs and the Ottomans at Szécsény and Buda (1628) through Palatine Miklós Esterházy's letter to the head of the Hungarian negotiators'.⁸ This article contains a brief overview of the whole peace process of Szőny, and its second part includes a document that shows the main issues of the territorial negotiations. The article also involves the English translation of the published document. It is worth noting that this sample serves as an example to show another possibility for source publishing, thus in my dissertation the sources will not be translated from Hungarian to English.

It was followed in 2020, by 'Péter Koháry's Life and Correspondence – Outline for a Greater Synthesis'.⁹ This article contains a draft of Péter Koháry's biography, with a focus on the most problematic questions of his life. Additionally, that paper

⁴ J. Stessel, 'Adatok az 1628. évi [...]', p. 420; The mentioned letters published in: G. E. Marton, 'On the Question of the Negotiations Between the Habsburgs and the Ottomans at Szécsény and Buda (1628) through Palatine Miklós Esterházy's Letter to the Head of the Hungarian Negotiators', *Rocznik Przemyski, Historia* z. 1 (22), 55 (2019), pp. 79–91; G. E. Marton, '„Az mint Isten tudunk adja, oltalmazzuk vértünkkel is szegény hazánknak bástyáját...” Magyar nyelvű Esterházy-levelek a Koháry-Coburg család levéltárából [“As God grants us strength, we are defending our poor motherland's bastion with our blood” Esterházy-letters in Hungarian from the Koháry-Coburg Family's Archive]', *Aetas*, 35/III (2020), pp. 126–150.

⁵ F. Hanuy, Pázmány Péter bibornok, esztergomi érsek, Magyarország primása összegyűjtött levelei [Collected Letters of Cardinal Péter Pázmány, the Archbishop of Esztergom, Primate of Hungary], I–II, Budapest, 1911, II. (1629–1637), p. 213 (Nr. 684), p. 232 (Nr. 702); T. Martí, Pázmány Péter bíboros, esztergomi érsek nemzetközi és hazai kapcsolatrendszeréhez: három kiadatlan Pázmány-levél [Details To the Hungarian and International Network of Relations of Cardinal Péter Pázmány, the Archbishop of Esztergom: Pázmány's Three Unpublished Letters], In: A. Ajkay – R. Bajáki (Eds.): Pázmány nyomában. Tanulmányok Hargittay Emil tiszteletére. Vác, 2013. pp. 315–322., pp. 318–320 (Nr. 2).

⁶ F. Salamon – L. Szalay, Galánthai Gróf Eszterházy Miklós. Magyarország nádora. I–III. [Miklós Eszterházy Count of Galántha. The Palatine of Hungary. I–III], Pest, 1863–1870, III. (1627–1629) Pest, 1870. pp. 378–384, pp. 391–393, pp. 466–468.

⁷ P. Jászay, 'A' szőnyi béke. 1627' [The Peace Treaty of Szőny. 1627], *Tudománytár, Értekezések* 4 (1838), pp. 195–197; Brandl, G. – Göncöl, Cs. – Juhász, K. – Marton, G. E. – Szabados, J., 'Válogatott források az 1627. évi szőnyi békeszerződés történetéhez' [Selected Sources to the History of the 1627 Peace Treaty of Szőny], *Lymbus*, 15 (2017), pp. 165–168, pp. 174–176, p. 189.

⁸ G. E. Marton, 'On the Question [...]', pp. 79–91.

⁹ G. E. Marton, 'Péter Koháry's Life and Correspondence – Outline for a Greater Synthesis', *Rocznik Przemyski, Historia* z. 1 (25), 56 (2020), pp. 25–36.

comprises the first partial results of my source collecting activity concerning his career.¹⁰

In the same year, I published some parts of Koháry's correspondence.¹¹ The article contains 14 letters which were addressed to Péter Koháry by the Esterházy (in 13 cases the sender is Miklós Esterházy, in one case it is Pál Esterházy). These letters can be found in the Koháry-Coburg family's archive.¹² This source publication, which features documents of the Koháry Family's Archive, is designed, on the one hand, to add some newer elements to the already extensive published correspondence of the Esterházy family, on the other hand, to be a herald of a greater project that aims at collecting and publishing the whole of Péter Koháry's correspondence.

At the end of 2021, with regard to the negotiations an article entitled 'Three Hungarian Diplomats' Emissary Diaries – A Comparative Analysis of Emissary Diaries of János Rimay, Gáspár Tassy and Mihály Tholdalagi in the Context of the 1627 Peace Treaty of Szőny' has been published in the journal, *Prace Historyczne*.¹³ During the last years, three further works have been published by my colleagues with my contribution on the topic of the peace process of Szőny: 'Válogatott források az 1627. évi szőnyi békeszerződés történetéhez'¹⁴; 'Kommunikáció és híráramlás. A Habsburg-oldal tárgyalási stratégiája az 1627. évi szőnyi békekötés során'¹⁵; 'Kommunikation und Nachrichtenaustausch –

¹⁰ In a shorter article in Hungarian, Péter Koháry's life was summarised in 2021: G. E. Marton, 'Koháry Péter (1564–1632). Vázlat és források egy készülő életrajzhoz' [Péter Koháry (1564–1632). Outline and Sources for a Biography in Preparation], *Acta Universitatis Szegediensis: Acta Historica*, 146 (2021), pp. 95–102.

¹¹ G. E. Marton, '„Az mint Isten tudnunk adja [...]” [...]', pp. 126–150.

¹² They can be found in original: Štátny Archív v Banskej Bystrici (ŠA BB) [State Archive in Banská Bystrica]. Koháry–Coburgovské archív, Rodový archív Koháry–Coburgov, Časť I, Listiny, korešpondencia a rôzne písomnosti [Koháry–Coburg Family's Archive, Class I, Diplomas, Correspondence and Various Documents] box nr. 40575., No. 861–913. Briefe an Peter Koháry 1616–1632; Also, they can be found in microfilm: Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár Országos Levéltára (MNL OL) [National Archives of Hungary], X 1045 (Koháry család [Koháry Family]), microfilm Nr. 40575, Nr. C 1228, Nr. C 1229.

¹³ G. E. Marton, 'Three Hungarian Diplomats' Emissary Diaries – A Comparative Analysis of Emissary Diaries of János Rimay, Gáspár Tassy and Mihály Tholdalagi in the Context of the 1627 Peace Treaty of Szőny', *Prace Historyczne*, 148/IV (2021), pp. 719–730. (The first version of this article was published in 2020: G. E. Marton, '„Szőnyből tudatjuk...”. Három magyar diplomata – Rimay János, Tassy Gáspár és Tholdalagi Mihály – követnaplójának összehasonlító elemzése az 1627. évi szőnyi békekötés kapcsán', In: J. Ujváry, Zsuzsanna, (Ed.), *Oszmán–magyar viszony a 16–18. században: Tanulmányok a Magyar Királyság és az Oszmán Birodalom népeinek – magyarok, törökök, rácok, tatárok, zsidók, görögök és egyéb népek – hétköznapjairól; Egyén és közösség viszonya [Ottoman–Hungarian Relations in the 16th–18th Centuries: Studies on the Everyday Life of the Peoples of the Kingdom of Hungary and the Ottoman Empire (Hungarians, Ottoman-Turks, Rascians, Tartars, Jews, Greeks, and Other Peoples); The Relationship of Individual and Community]*. Budapest, 2020, pp. 135–148.

¹⁴ Brandl – Göncöl – Juhász – Marton – Szabados, 'Válogatott források [...]', p. 151–203.

¹⁵ Brandl, G. – Göncöl, Cs. – Juhász, K. – Marton, G. E. – Szabados, J., 'Kommunikáció és híráramlás. A Habsburg-oldal tárgyalási stratégiája az 1627. évi szőnyi békekötés során' [Communication and Information Flow. The Negotiation Strategy of the Habsburg Party during the 1627 Peace Treaty of Szőny], *Aetas*, 33/IV (2018), pp. 108–124.

Verhandlungsstrategie der habsburgischen Seite bei der Friedensverhandlung von Szőny 1627'.¹⁶

In this part, last but not least, a new and valuable volume of diplomatic history source publication should be mentioned: 'The Correspondence of the Beylerbeys of Buda, 1617–1630'.¹⁷ This volume contains 440 sources. In this volume, 21 documents have been elaborated by me. (In 18 cases the sender is Mürteza Pasha of Buda, and the addressee is Péter Koháry¹⁸; in two cases the sender is Mürteza, the addressee is Pál Esterházy¹⁹; in one case the sender is Gáspár Tassy, the addressee is Mürteza Pasha.²⁰) The mentioned exchange of letters between Mürteza Pasha and Péter Koháry is particularly important for my dissertation. All of them were written during the peace process of Szőny, namely between 29 June 1628 and 5 November 1629. Here, it is worth mentioning Gáspár Tassy's letter to the Pasha of Buda, written in Érsekújvár on 17 August 1629. Concerning Mürteza's correspondence, a noteworthy problem is that the Pasha of Buda can be found mostly as a sender, but as an addressee, only in a few cases. Concerning the peace process, my database²¹ contains 199 records from the years of 1627–1629. Regarding Koháry, it includes 148 letters (sender: 66; addressee: 82). Moreover, 22 letters were sent from Mürteza Pasha to Koháry, but only one letter is recorded in which the Pasha of Buda is the addressee. It should be noted that the exchanging letter between the parties was continuous. So, the lack of letters sent to the Pasha or unevenness of them is, on the one hand, in connection with the demise of the pashas' court in Buda, on the other hand, when a pasha left his office in Buda, he took his personal archive with him (which was destroyed later or unexplored yet). Unfortunately, there are no copies or register of letters sent.

At this point, it is necessary to return to Gáspár Tassy's letter. Why is it significant? From the letters sent by the Pasha, one can draw the conclusion easily that the origin of the problems during the time of the peace process was the Hungarians' attitude and behaviour. However, Tassy's long letter addressed to Mürteza Pasha showed a more nuanced perception of the issues from the perspective of the Hungarians.

Compared to the number of the records published in 2020,²² the database involves 104 new records (it means in total: 391). The following diagram and tables

¹⁶ Brandl, G. – Göncöl, Cs. – Juhász, K. – Marton, G. E. – Szabados, J., 'Kommunikation und Nachrichtenaustausch – Verhandlungsstrategie der habsburgischen Seite bei der Friedensverhandlung von Szőny 1627', *Chronica*, 19 (2019), pp. 113–140.

¹⁷ Kármán, G. – Cevrioğlu, M. H. – Dorogi, I. – Fóti, M. – Glück, L. – Marton, G. E. – F. Molnár, M., *The Correspondence of the Beylerbeys of Buda, 1617–1630*, Budapest, 2022.

¹⁸ No. 284; No. 294; No. 307; No. 310; No. 313; No. 327; No. 329; No. 369; No. 372; No. 375; No. 377; No. 380; No. 381; No. 383; No. 385; No. 386; No. 392; No. 399.

¹⁹ No. 281; No. 303.

²⁰ No. 384.

²¹ The database reflects the status of the research as of 12 July 2022.

²² G. E. Marton, 'Péter Koháry's Life', pp. 31–32.

contain the time distribution of Péter Koháry's exchange of letters from 1610 to 1632,²³ so this time span covers his career. In addition to this, the tables below contain his exchange of letters with the Hofkriegsrat (Aulic War Council) and with other dignitaries in 1627–1629. With the help of these quantitative analyses, one can observe Koháry's network of relations from the point of view of this peace process.

Figure 1.: The time distribution of Péter Koháry's exchange of letters from 1610 to 1632 (based on him being the sender or the addressee)

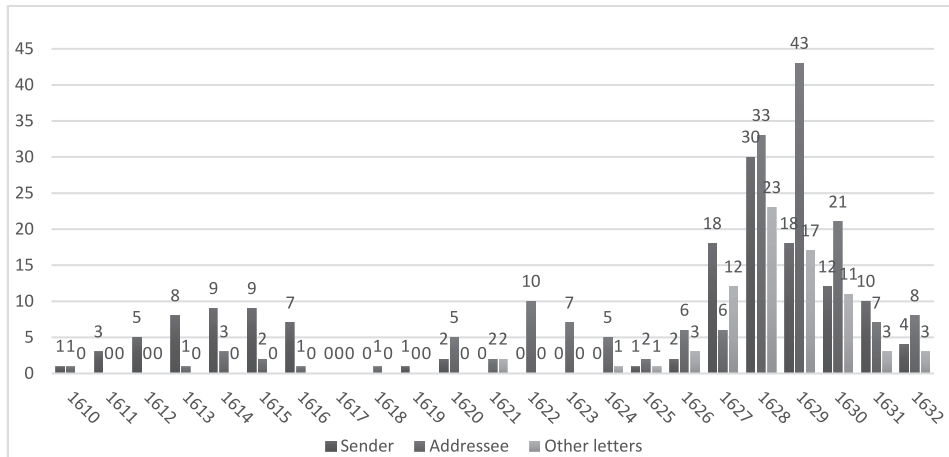


Table 1.: Exchange of letters between Péter Koháry and the HKR and dignitaries (1627–1629)

From	To	Number of letters
Péter Koháry	Ferdinand II	1
	Hofkriegsrat (including Gerhard von Questenberg)	6
	István Pálffy	42
	Mürteza Pasha	1
	Other Ottoman dignitaries	1
Hungarian commissioners (including Péter Koháry)	Miklós Esterházy	22
Miklós Esterházy	Péter Koháry	9
Hofkriegsrat (including Gerhard von Questenberg)		5
Mürteza Pasha		22
Other Ottoman dignitaries		20

²³ It should be noted that during the next years, my goal is to collect Péter Koháry's whole correspondence, that is why my research encompasses a longer period than the time span of the discussed peace treaty.

With the help of this database, one can examine his relationship with the dignitaries of the two parties. The quantitative analysis can inform us about the network of relations and the intensive periods as well as the gaps in the collection of the sources.²⁴ However, it is only the qualitative analysis that can show us what the most important points and problems were during the negotiations. Besides, it can shed light on the quality of the dignitaries' relationship. In several cases, the documents contain pieces of information about them. For instance, once Tatar Ibrahim, Bey of Esztergom wrote the following to Péter Koháry in the post script of an official letter (in which Ibrahim wrote about the problem of the lack of taxation), "*Isten engedelmeiből holnapi napon vadászni megyek, az mi vadat fogunk, nagyságodnak részt teszek belőle!*"²⁵ This points to the fact that over the simple official relationship, an informal one can be assumed between them. Based on Graeme Murdock's suggestion concerning the forms of address,²⁶ it has to be pointed out that they are mostly stylised and conventional, but these formal parts convey further pieces of information while analysing the participants' (personal) relations.

Finally, I wish to mention two articles which are in press. 'A Dissertation in Preparation – Structure, Methodology, Approach, and Content. The Peace Treaty of Szőny (1627) and Its Subsequent Territorial Negotiations (1628–1629) in Light of Péter Koháry's Correspondence'.²⁷ The goal of this paper is to provide an outline of the author's dissertation in progress in terms of its structure, methodology, approach, and content. The paper also contains an overview of Habsburg–Ottoman peace treaties, besides a summary of the afore-mentioned peace process. In this article, one can find a survey of the already collected sources (both published and unpublished). The aim of the paper's second part is to present a guide for the documents in Hungarian, supplemented with examples, which are designed to demonstrate how the sources could be published in accordance with the rules of the guide.

The other one, titled 'New Sources from the Koháry-Coburg Family's Archive – Additions to Péter Koháry's Biography',²⁸ sets out to present some new

²⁴ Concerning this question and the quantitative analysis, see more: G. E. Marton, 'Péter Koháry's Life', pp. 31–33.

²⁵ (Tatar) Ibrahim Bey of Esztergom to Péter Koháry, Esztergom, 31 December 1627. ŠA BB Koháry–Coburgovské archív. Rodový archív Koháry–Coburgov. Č. I. No. 12140. In microfilm: MNL OL X 1045 (Koháry family) microfilm No. C1228. No. 12140. (Original document).

²⁶ Graeme Murdock suggested to me writing another article, which is accepted for publishing in Cluj-Napoca. In that article, the above-mentioned letter will be published. G. E. Marton, 'A Dissertation in Preparation – Structure, Methodology, Approach, and Content. The Peace Treaty of Szőny (1627) and Its Subsequent Territorial Negotiations (1628–1629) in Light of Péter Koháry's Correspondence', *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia*, (2022). In press.

²⁷ G. E. Marton, 'A Dissertation in Preparation – Structure, Methodology, Approach, and Content. The Peace Treaty of Szőny (1627) and Its Subsequent Territorial Negotiations (1628–1629) in Light of Péter Koháry's Correspondence', *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia*, (2022). In press.

²⁸ G. E. Marton, 'New Sources from the Koháry-Coburg Family's Archive – Additions to Péter Koháry's Biography', *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia*, (2022). In press.

sources concerning Koháry, namely the testament of the vice-captain. These new results can help complete and correct data of Koháry's biography. Furthermore, the analysis of these new sources allows for a better understanding of his life, relationships, actions, and financial status. In historical literature, a wide range of studies can be found concerning the life of Koháry's son (István I) and grandson (István II), but research has not sufficiently focused on Péter who established the reputation and status of the Koháry Family. Beside his diplomatic role and activity, his role in securing the family's position is also a reason to pay attention to him.

Most of Péter Koháry's correspondence, as it has been mentioned above, is unpublished. The already collected letters can be found in the following Hungarian and foreign archives. In Hungary (Budapest): Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Egyetemi Könyvtár és Kézirattár [Eötvös Loránd University, University Library and Archives] (ELTE EKK); MNL OL [National Archives of Hungary]. In Austria (Vienna): Österreichisches Staatsarchiv [Austrian State Archives] (ÖStA) Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv (HHStA); ÖStA Kriegsarchiv (KA). In Slovakia (Banská Bystrica): Štátny Archív v Banskej Bystrici [State Archive in Banska Bystrica] (ŠA BB).

This research report aimed to show the status of my ongoing research which is the basis of my dissertation in preparation. My PhD thesis aims to examine the territorial negotiations of Szécsény and Buda through the correspondence of the representatives, giving new answers for the better understanding why the territorial negotiations ended fruitlessly after a year-long series of negotiations in Szécsény. Some information can be retrieved from a letter written by Gáspár Tassy, but the processing of all the sources is necessary to shed light on all details and problems of the discussed territorial negotiations, during which participants wanted to make some small changes on the common borderland.

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ŠA BB Koháry–Coburgovské archív. Rodový archív Koháry–Coburgov. Č. I. No. 12140. In microfilm: MNL OL X 1045 (Koháry family) microfilm No. C1228. No. 12140.

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