THE STUD FARM, FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT TILL 1920 – INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF MEZŐHEGYES WITH THE TETRAHEDRON-MODEL

A MÉNESINTÉZET MEGALAPÍTÁSÁTÓL 1920-IG – MEZŐHEGYES TÖRTÉNETÉNEK BEMUTATÁSA A TETRAÉDER-MODELLEL

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***Abstract**: The aim of this study is to explore the system of connections among the natural-, social-, economical-, and infrastructural spheres in the historic development of Mezőhegyes, from the establishment of the Stud Farm (Ménesintézet) to the Trianon peace treaty, by the means of the tetrahedron-model developed by TÓTH JÓZSEF. The essence of the model is the following: the settlement is determined by four spheres –nature, society, economy and infrastructure- which are in close connections with each other. It can be modelled by a tetrahedron where each sphere (the four sides of the geometric solid) are in a very close and inseparable connection, the interaction can be observed at the edges. If there is a change in any elements (spheres) of the settlements, it affects the other three elements (spheres), as well, so the tetrahedron transforms completely.*

***Abstract:** A tanulmány célja a természeti-, társadalmi-, gazdasági- és infrastrukturális szférák közötti kapcsolatrendszer feltárása Mezőhegyes történeti fejlődésében a Ménesintézet megalapításától Trianoni békeszerződésig TÓTH JÓZSEF tertaéder-modelljének segítségével. A modell lényege a következő: a települést négy egymással kölcsönhatásrendszerben álló szféra – természet, társadalom, gazdaság és infrastruktúra – határozza meg. Ezt egy tetraéderrel modellezhetjük, amelyben minden szféra (mind a négy oldala a testnek) szoros és elválaszthatatlan kapcsolatban van a többivel, a kölcsönhatások az élek mentén fedezhetők fel. Ha a település bármely elemében (szférájában) változás történik, akkor ez hat a másik három elemre (szférára), tehát a tetraéder teljesen átalakul.*

***Key words**: Tetrahedron-model, infrastructural sphere, social sphere, economic sphere, natural sphere*
***Kulcsszavak**: tetraéder-modell, infrastrukturális szféra, társadalmi szféra, gazdasági szféra,, természeti szféra*

INTRODUCTION

Mezőhegyes was ranked town 1 March 1989. The inhabitants of the town will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of this rank in 2009. This occasion made the compilation of a geographical monographic topical. This study is aiming to introduce a tiny piece of it, concretely the period between the establishment of the Stud Farm and the Trianon Peace Treaty.

As the onion of Makó, wine of Tokaj, wheat of Bánkút so horse and its breeding on high level had made Mezőhegyes well-known all over the world (TÓTH 1986). The existence of Mezőhegyes is due to the establishment of the Mezőhegyes Stud Farm. The main objective of Joseph II with the stud farm was to found an excellent military stud in order to provide horse-reserves for the army. The species of so-called „nonius" was bred. Its basis was a covering stallion called Nonius Senior, seized from France- as we can read in the book of SZ. BOZSIK, NÓRA.

I have two objectives ahead: to reveal the system of connections among the natural-, economical-, social-, and infrastructural spheres in the period chosen, and the other one: to

realise a new data base (LADÁNYI 1929) for the future generation to draw on the past, to size up the present and to get encouragement for the future.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

I am aiming to write this study by means of the tetrahedron-model invented by TÓTH, JÓZSEF. The mentioned model was defined by TÓTH as follows. Settlements defined as the culminating points of the social-economical space are determined by four spheres- nature, society, economy and infrastructure- which are in close and intensive connection with each other. This system can be modelled with a tetrahedron which is a geometric solid confined by four coincident equilateral triangles. Actually, the model shows that each sphere are in a very close and inseparable connection, and the interaction can be observed at the edges. Consequently, the settlement – which consists of these spheres and is interpreted from this aspect – is a cooperative system the unity of which cannot be disrupted. If any of these elements (spheres) is taken out, it cannot be defined as a settlement any more. The dynamic feature of the model is stressed by the fact that it observes the settlement in constant transformation, in the alteration of its population, economy, infrastructure and natural environment. The system is well-balanced in the sense that a change in any spheres of the tetrahedron –the settlement- affects the other elements, too. However, a change in the feature or quality of any sides has to bring the transformation of the tetrahedron – since it is a well-balanced model (TÓTH 1997).

Because of the synthesizing feature of geography and complexity of the town I will refer to borderlines such as history of economy, local history, demography etc. I am adapting the results of border sciences but I do not regard the full synthesis from side of social sciences as my task (TÓTH 1976).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding that I am carrying out researches on settlement geography it would be necessary to define what we mean by settlement. By settlement we mean the spatial unit of a group of people including the domicile and working place of this group. Domicile is the place where a person or a group of people settle down and which is suitable to protect both their own physical well-being and their own material goods. Also all the human building or a natural project which makes the domicile appropriate to furnish the above-mentioned aims is called home. Working place is a place where a person or a group people carry on with any activities to supply their wants (MENDÖL 1963).

BELUSZKY PÁL (1999) approached the definition of settlement from a functional point of view: the settlement is a functional unit of institutions –places of living, working and relaxing, service institutions- regularly utilized by a group of people with the purpose of a complex social reproduction in cooperation to natural environment (GAL J. 2005).

Formation, development and decline of settlements is always in close connection with geographical-natural conditions of the given region, with its social-economical features, and with their changes. The settlement is a system based on interactions between the social-economical, infrastructural and natural spheres where the content elements are very important (TÓTH 1997).

As soon as the position of the stud farm had been marked, they started to encircle the land and to build the planned buildings. Mezőhegyes bore the characteristics of a consciously planed settlement from the very beginning it differed from the neighbouring settlements because of its town-like centre- as we can read in the work of BALANYI. Captain Csekonics József was charged with supervising the constructions. VERTICS JÓZSEF surveyor divided the enclosed area into 84 parts each of which contained 500 Hungarian acres and each of which

was called after the number of wells. CSAPLOVICS wrote that the necessary *buildings* had been constructed by 1801, in very short time. These were the followings: the house of the commander, two big barracks, the big restaurant, the stable of covering and young stallions, animal hospital, different types of buildings for the purpose of the farm and to station the craftsmen, dry mill, butcher's shop, baking house, winter and summer riding school in the centre, eight high and spacious stables in the 'puszta' (plain), houses built in the ground for horse herds and other outbuildings.

The land of Mezőhegyes, according to the aims set, was mainly pasture, and its hardly considerable part was utilized as plough-land (RUISZ 1888) at the time of the establishment of the stud farm and then for long, too. According to the data even in 1801 only 911 Hungarian acres out of the 40.000 acres of land was ploughed, the other area was used as a pasture and meadow, though its excellent land would have repaid the work with interest. ERDÉLYI wrote that weeds grew on it as tall as a man, like a jungle (ERDÉLYI 1827). *With the establishment of the stud farm had began the transformation of the natural environment. According to the tetrahedron-model a change in the economical sphere affects the natural sphere, along with the infrastructure and society*. We can learn from RUISZ'S work that locust-trees were planted around the stables to give protection for the horses against the heat at midday. Later these trees were cut down and were substituted with other trees. It was Skolka who put the reason for it down, according to him the fresh sprouts of the locust-tree were harmful for the horses. Under the command of Boxberg, Traun, Travera great areas were covered with *elm-, oak-, ash-, and maple-trees* due to the afforestation (BALANYI 1999). Elm-trees were planted along the roads which were to the credit of the stud farm. In 1848 forests of 1152 Hungarian acres covered the landscape. In 1819 plane trees of Indian origin were planted to the centre of the institution.

There was *a significant change in farming*, in addition to the changes in the natural environment. The number of plants to produce was constantly increased. It was in 1843 to sow corn for the first time – as we can read at BALANYI. Oats-silos were built to store oats which can be seen even today. They have been declared historic buildings.

There was a transformation in the social sphere, too. At the time of the establishment soldiers, military officers came here. They were followed by the family members. They were the first inhabitants in the settlement.

The 1848-49 Hungarian War of Independence did not cause significant changes in the settlement's life. It can be read in TARKÓ, GÁBOR's work that Mezőhegyes did not have to send soldiers though the recruiting committees regarded the hussars and horseherds of Mezőhegyes very valuable who played an important role in training both soldiers and horses. The most famous soldier from Mezőhegyes was a young lady, Pfiffner Paulina who fought in Bem's army in Transylvania. In the weeks before Világos highly valuable properties and a force of horses were taken to Mezőhegyes. Kossuth spent two days (1-2 August 1849) in Mezőhegyes. Austrian troops invaded the settlement. The military priest, Gonzeczky János was sentenced to death and executed. The sentence was executed in Pest. His property was confiscated – as BAJNAI BEKE, ISTVÁN wrote. We can read at BALANYI that during this period 140 stablemen ran away from the stud farm. In his research TARKÓ, GÁBOR proved that these young men became the members of the national guards. Most of them were simple common soldiers or farmhand without any independent existence.

There was a great change *in 1872 the settlement was given into civil hands*, since previously military administration was felt in Mezőhegyes. *According to the tetrahedron-model the settlement as a well-balanced system sensitively reacts to the changes (TÓTH J. – TRÓCSÁNYI A. 1997). The civil administration brought changes in each sphere*. In 1870 the number of the civil population in Mezőhegyes was 423 the military population was represented

in the same number. In 1896 the number of its population increased to 5.500. The growth of population had started.

Infrastructure gradually developed in accordance with the boom in economy and demography. BALANYI, MIKLÓS mentions in his work that in the beginning education as a private institution functioned in Mezőhegyes. There was *a military school* in the settlement. In 1870 the minister Szlávy József ordered that the public education in the school of Mezőhegyes should be executed regarding the country's laws. He considered necessary to raise the military school among the public schools. In 1872 there were two classrooms in the settlement with two teachers. In 1896 there were eleven classrooms with eleven teachers and a nursery school with a nursery-school teacher. The district schools were established. The grange schools were constantly built from the academic year 1874/75 (BALANYI 2004).

The civil administration brought a big *economical recovery*. GLUZEK Gyula land-steward set the stud farm off on the way of *industrialization*. By 1885 seven distilleries had been built, in 1889 the sugar factory, the canal Élővíz, hemp factory, brick factory, and wells were sunk. A network of industrial railway was built in the area. At the construction of the sugar factory it was essential to connect Mezőhegyes to the railway transportation. *Consequently the change in the economic sphere caused necessary changes in the infrastructure.* We can learn from the work of KOVÁCS, ISTVÁN that Mezőhegyes was connected to the railway transportation from three sides: from Arad, through Mezőhegyes to Újszeged and from Mezőhegyes to Kétegyháza. BALANYI MIKLÓS wrote that Mezőhegyes had become a railway junction in 1883.

From 1881 in addition to horses other animals were raised for example Hungarian grey bulls, 'mangalica' boars, 'merino' rams. A new variety of the 'nonius' horse was bred. This variety was suitable for both military and agricultural purposes.

The intensive agriculture and industrialization *attracted the future inhabitants*. In 1880 the number of population was 3230, this number increased to 5141 by 1890, to 7006 by 1900 and to 7972 by 1910. During the World War I we can observe stagnation in the growth of population.

The star of Mezőhegyes reached the zenith (ERDÉSZ 1986) until the outbreak of the World War I. The stable financial situation made the realization of new processes in cultivation and breeding, along with the constant increase in the level of farming possible. ERDÉSZ, ÁDÁM mentions that the outbreak of the war did not cause crisis. The stud farm substituted the missing working force with development of machines.

It was on 2 May 1919 that the Romanian troops started to invade and pillage Mezőhegyes. The *Romanian invaders looted 10.000 animals from the stock, and the movable machines, equipments from the factories, workshops*. After their withdrawal it was almost hopeless to restart the economy of the stud farm again.

CONCLUSIONS

We could learn from the study that an economical boom started with the establishment of the settlement and the stud farm. At the same time the natural sphere transformed. Trees were planted, the lands which lay fallow earlier got cultivated. Buildings were constructed, the infrastructure was started to be built. The settlement which previously was under military administration was given into civil hands which resulted in intensive industrialization. It caused an increase in the number of population, and development of the infrastructure. Consequently, if a change occurred in any of the spheres in the tetrahedron-model, it affected the other ones, too, since it is a well-balanced system (Tóth J. – Trócsányi A. 1997).

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