



Karcag



KUMOK
I. VILÁGTALÁLKOZÓJA

Year of the Cumans 2009.



The town of Karcag in the year of the World Meeting of the Cumans

The tribunal alliance originating from Inner Asia arrived to the East-European steppe in the middle of the 11th century. Russian records from 1071 place them on the borders of the Kiev Principality; in 1078 they appeared as allies of the rebelling besenyos near the Lower Danube, in the territory of the Byzantine Empire. In their 150-year European history there are a lot of wars with Byzantium and the Russian principalities, some of which involved Hungary as well. As of 1095, Cumans continuously fought wars with shifting success against the Russian principalities neighbouring their territory from the north. In the year 1203 they occupied Kiev, but in 1219, already as allies of the Russians, they picked up arms against Hungary. In 1223 another Russian-Cuman alliance was established, this time against the Mongolians. In this year, the allied forces were defeated in the battle fought near the river Kalka.

They came to Hungary in 1091 for the first time, but László the 1st defeated them at the river Temes and successfully forced them back also during their second attack. According to the historians, these two defeats contributed to the fact that the subsequent major Cuman campaigns avoided the Hungarian Kingdom for a long time. On the other hand, Cumans living in the Havasalföld regularly raided Transylvania, so in 1211 András II resettled the German Knight Order to the Barcaság. The knights successfully defended the country, but as a result of their strives to become independent, the king expelled them in 1224.

After being defeated by the Mongolians in the year 1223, part of the Cumans moved to west. The Cumans orienting toward west friendly received the missionaries sent among them. As a result of the operation of the Dominican friars, the Cuman sovereign Barc accepted Christianity in 1227, and the Cuman tribes living west to the Dnieper accepted the empery of the Hungarian king. (From this time the titles of the Hungarian emperor also include "King of the Cumans") In order to continue the missionary work and manage the church service among the christened Cumans, archbishop of Esztergom, Róbert established the Cuman bishopship in Milkó. Fifteen years after the battle lost near Kalka, the western attack of the Mongolians started. After occupying the Russian cities, the army of khan Batu moved against the Cumans, and following another defeat, Kötöny (Kuthen), sovereign of the Cumans living in the East-European steppes requested asylum in the territory of the Hungarian Kingdom. Because of the danger of the Mongolian attack, but also his internal policy objectives, Béla the IV granted asylum to Kötöny and his people. According to the chronicles, in Easter of 1239 some 40 thousand Cuman families arrived to the territory of Hungary.

The Cumans settled in the middle of the country, which later led to severe conflicts. Conflicts between the nomadic Cumans wandering with their "endless bunches of animals" and causing damages to the goods of the farmers everywhere and the already settled Hungarians shortly became constant. By the spring of 1241, when the Mongolian attack started, the situation stretched to breaking-point, which led to an armed conflict and to murdering Kötöny and his family in Pest. After the death of their ruler, the Cumans left the country killing and destroying. Consequences of the Tatar Raid are well known.

Thanks to King Béla the IV managing the rebuilding of the country, in the mid 1240's the Cumans returned to Hungary, where they were settled in the plains of Tiszántúl, Duna-Tisza köze and Dunántúl Fejér county. In the 13th century the region inhabited by the Cumans spread from the Middle Tisza Region to the river Temes, hence the origin of the name Nagykunság, which today occupies a smaller territory in the Tiszántúl.



From the beginning, the Cumans were granted privileges. They organised independent, presumably clan-based Cuman administrative units, so-called "chairs". In the Middle Tisza Region, the Kolbász-chair – the later Nagykun District, today's Nagykunság – was formed from the territory of the clan Olas ('Unite!') by the end of the 14th century.

By the end of the 15th century, the Cumans were transformed into Christian farmers, and by that time they probably spoke both languages, or most of them became Hungarian. The only continuous Cuman monument found in Hungary – a Cuman paternoster written down in the mid 18th century – led researchers to the conclusion that in the 16th century, when reformation started in Hungary, part of them still spoke their original language.

Cumans presumably disappeared from the bigger part of the Tiszántúl after the battle at the Lake Hód, and the remaining groups merged into the Hungarian population inhabiting the area. Only the Kolbász-chair in the Middle Tisza Region – also referred to "officially" as Cumania Maior or Nagykunság as of the middle of 16th century – inhabited by the tribe (or clan) Olas survived the 150 years of the "Occupation".

Built into a settlement from a nomadic camp, Karcagújszállás first appears among the privileged villages of Kolbász-chair in the year 1506. When first mentioned, it was already a settlement litigating for its borders and astutely expanding them. The settlement was presumably transformed into a village in the mid 16th century. According to scientist Gyula Németh (originating from Karcag), the Cuman word Karcag – or its original form "karszak" – referring to the founding head of the clan and means "corsak" (steppe fox).

The suffix "újszállás" ('new settlement') attached to the word "kun" ('Cuman'), accompanying it until the end of the 19th century presumably refers to a winter settlement transformed into a village, and not necessarily to its reconstruction, although this meaning became relevant on several occasions, because during the 17th century – in 1617-18, 1672, 1695 and 1711 – it was rebuilt by the inhabitants from its ruins. The village was depopulated and rebuilt four times. Being the most resourceful settlement of the neighbourhood, it received not only the population of the neighbouring Cuman villages, but also acquired their lands, and eventually – after further expanding its borders – by the end of the 19th century it became the fourth largest town (67. 300 kh) of the country after Hajdúböszörmény, Debrecen and Hódmezővásárhely.

The century full of woes and hardship completed the assimilation of the Cumans. The Cuman population – probably speaking both languages at that time – retiring to a fully Hungarian environment was each time populated with a large number of new-comers, and by the end of the 17th century, the original Cuman language were replaced by the Hungarian language. Today, the language of the Cumans living in Hungary is only preserved in a few vague monuments, the "Cuman paternoster" and a few almost unrecognisable verses. A number of geographical names originating from the Cuman language have been preserved, such as Bengecseg ('heritage'), Orgonda ('meadow hill'), the Cuman and Hungarian Tarattyó ('diverging river'), Érbuga (Er-buga = 'heroic bull'), Táskond ('place of flood', flood-basin).

Some of the ancient family names are also of Cuman origin: Csőreg ('soldier'), a Kangur, Kocskor, Karacs ('blackish'), Kecse. There are several other words in the Hungarian language considered to be of Cuman origin: boza = drink fermented from millet, komondor, balta, kalauz, daku = frock, árkány = headrope, buzogány, bicska, csődör, tőzeg, bögöly etc.

We mentioned earlier the privileges granted to the Cumans in the 13th century and preserved while they were royal subjects. According to their privileges, the communities living in the Cuman chairs were subjects of the crown, their main judge and magistrate was the palatine to whom they paid 3000 gold bullions a year (since Béla the IV). Verdicts in the cases they'd brought to the court were made by their



own judges (and not for example the court-baron), their disputes with others living in the county were resolved by palatine, who also appointed their supreme captains. They elected their own magistrates and the priests of their congregations. They didn't pay port and customs dues. In exchange they had to serve as soldiers, but in the 15th century they already had to pay to the royal treasury products, animals and money.

The villages used their villages themselves; there were no landlords, so no manors were established, which means that the people living here bought off statute-labour.

After the end of the "Occupation", the ordeal of the Jász and the Cuman people continued, as their privileges were lost. In spring 1702, the Court sold all three districts to the German Knight Order. The lairdship of the three districts were taken over from the knights in 1731 by the Pest House of Invalids. As a result of the cooperation between the Jász and the Cuman people, and the material strength of their communities, in 1744-45 they were able to utilise the chance offering itself, and to officially buy off their old freedom on May 6th 1745 by paying more than half a million Rhenish florins and by arming and sending to camp a thousand horse-soldiers.

During the lairdship of the House of Invalids, on September 10th 1734, Karcag became a market-town as a result of the permission to organise fairs. At that time it bought off its borders as everlasting property for 43 200 Rhenish florins. Settlements of Jászság, Kiskunság and Nagykunság all celebrated the 250th anniversary of the redemption. The Cuman Memorial Site was inaugurated in the summer of 1995 as a tribute to the Cuman ancestors, the redemption ad the former Nagykun District, on the Kis-Hegyesbori Hill, in the ambit of Karcag near the main road Nr. 4.

As the most populous settlement of the Nagykunság, Karcag became the centre of the district and the residence of the office of the Nagykun supreme captain for twenty five years. Later, during the counter-reformation, following all kinds of offences and conflicts, the district offices were moved from the Calvinist Karcag to Kunszentmárton inhabited by Catholics. The most populous market-town of the Nagykunság could regain its status as administrative centre only in the 1850's, when it was designated as the centre of the newly established "Karcag imperial and royal district". After the restitution of the old administrative organisation, it actually had become the centre of the Nagykun District, until it broke up and merged into Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County in 1876. It must be noted that the nagykun people opposing the county tooth and nail also wanted to have the centre of an independent county here. It wasn't their fault that it could not be achieved.

The centre of the town is the huge main square established in 1825, which functioned as a market-place until the end of the 1960's. The City Hall, the shops of the Greek traders, the butchery and the inn was located near the main square. When increasing its territory in 1825, they planned to organise winter fairs here. The first Artesian well was established here on the 400-meter long square in 1893. The square was paved and canalised in 1903-1904. Today, the city centre is decorated with a carefully maintained nice park, the dominating building of which is the Calvinist church.

In the place of the Calvinist church there has been a church since the beginning of the 17th century. It is also a known fact that in 1633 a tower was added to the building erected around 1618, and in 1636 a bell was cast for the tower in Eperjes, and later it was surrounded by walls. The small church living through difficult times and serving the Calvinist congregation for almost one and a half century was about to collapse in 1743. The people of Karcag were about to start building a new "church", despite the fact that building churches was prohibited for the reformed confessions. The initiative resulted in a huge scandal. The construction was halted and the bishop of Eger was assigned to conduct an investigation of the case involving even the offices in Vienna. Magistrate of Karcag headed to bribe the officials of the imperial capital with full carts, and achieved the diminishment of the punishment and the continuation of the construction with huge breads from Debrecen, twists, honey-cakes



and turtles for the dining tables of the lords. The building erected as a result stood for fifty years. When its walls and arches were dangerously fractured in the 1790's, the congregation started another construction. The present church was built between 1793 and 1797, based on the design of and by Károly Rabl. Despite the major renovation in 1875 and several smaller ones carried out since, the building has not undergone significant changes. Major reconstructions were carried out in the tower, from the balcony of which a fire guard was monitoring the town.

In 1866, a substantial couple had donated a pipe-organ to the church, which was further improved in 1906, thanks to a considerable donation. The latest renovation of the building, the pipe-organ and the tower-clock of the Calvinist congregation was carried out in several steps between 1989 and 2006.

Church of the Catholic community built between 1771 and 1774 was also located on the main square until the year 1901. With the increase of the Catholic congregation, a new, bigger building was erected (designed by István Wind) instead of the small old church. A statue of Saint István was erected on the southern side of the church.

For the Catholic inhabitants of the town parcels were granted in 1770-71 on the right side of the Debrecen (today: Dózsa György) street, in the eastern part of the town. At the same time, the Szőlős Hill located near the road was also given to their disposal. The Catholics established their first cemetery here, and in 1850-52 they built a way of cross to the funeral bell standing on the hill. From that time forward, the name of the old Cuman hill was Kálvária hill. The stations, the statue and the belfry were renovated in 1993.

The elegant hall of the local tradesmen was built in 1903 in the place of the old Catholic church, in the entry of today's Bajcsy-Zsilinszky street to the main square. Near the Trade corporation we can find the building of the Nimród Bio-hotel, Bio-restaurant and Bio-store completed in 2008.

There is a nice park between the Calvinist church and the Bajcsy-Zsilinszky street. Its story began in 1884, when the leader of the Karcag courthouse ordered the convicts to plant trees around the courthouse building. Building of the park later continued based on the plans of landscape-gardener Gábor Fogarasi, and the fresh and green park located near the muddy and dusty marketplace quickly became popular. It was named Kossuth square in 1892, and later the entire city centre was named after Kossuth. Parallel to the construction of the City Hall (1910-1912), landscape-gardener from Timisoara, Ferenc Niemetz established its final form. The statue of Lajos Kossuth was erected here in 1906, the monument to the heroes of WWI in 1938, and the monument to the heroes of WWII in 1992. The series of the statues is closed by the country flag built in 1935, then dismantled then erected again in 1996. The bronze statue of the academician Gyula Németh (born in Karcag) and the Victoria Well symbolising the urbanisation and reconstructed in 2001 are located in the east side of the square, in the pedestrian precinct.

The oldest public statue of the town was erected by the nagykun towns near the Calvinist church around 1808-1809, in the memory of the visit of Palatine József to Karcag on July 16-17th 1805. Its site was marked with a grey granite column by the City Protection Association in 1997.

There are two other churches in the vicinity of Kossuth square. The Greek orthodox church was built by the local Greek traders in the honour of Saint György around 1795-1798. The small congregation does not exist anymore, but this nice old building was renovated both inside and outside in 1991.

The Israelite community of Karcag had been established in 1854, and in a few decades it developed into a large community. The synagogue located in the Kertész József street was sanctified in 1899. By the year 2000, the size of the community considerable decreased, but they renovated the church in the 1990's.

The first references of the school operated in Karcag are from the middle of the 16th century, but the first known written note is from 1676. Following the reconstruction in 1711, after the century of



wars, there are records about the school for the girls and the school for the boys. The nice old building behind the Calvinist church (Kálvin street 2.) was built between 1813-1818 as a school for boys. Today it is the building of the Calvinist Primary School. The Central school for girls was built in 1895 opposite to the school for boys (Kálvin street 5.), where – since the introduction of the co-education – the lower graders continue their studies. The tiered building near it is the former “farm-college”, where the primary school pupils of the farms surrounding the town until the end of the 1960’s were accommodated for the school-year. The farms do not exist anymore; the building is now the home of a local government office and the college of the Gábor Áron High School.

The four-class high school grew out from the primary school in the 1850’s, which by 1908 – due to the support of the citizens of Karcag – developed into an eight-class institution granting a GCE decree. The building located in entry of Madarasi street to the main square was built in 1894-95 on the parcel donated by the city. Between 1948 and 2008 it operated as a state-owned secondary school. As of September 2009 it will be returned to the Calvinist congregation. For the state-owned institution a new and modern building will be built in the territory of the Szentannai Sámuel Agricultural Secondary School. The predecessor of the agricultural secondary school was the farmer school founded in 1899 (also with the support of the city). The principal of the school – after whom it is named – was a pioneer of the domestic saline soil improvement. History of the third secondary school of Karcag goes back to 1890, when the industrial training school was organised. The Vocational School and College carrying the name of István Varró is located in the Varró street.

There are two other primary schools located near the museum in the Kálvin street. The primary school located under Kálvin street 9 was named after Mihály Kováts (1724-1779), a hussar officer born in Karcag, colonel of the Pulaski-legion, killed in the American war of independence, during the siege of Charleston. Mihály Kováts was commanded to the Prussian battlefield as one of the hussars of Jász-kunság organised in connection with the redemption. That’s where his several decades of military career taking him to the American army fighting for their freedom and independence. The memory of the soldier respected as a hero in the United States of America was first came to the fore in the 1930’s, then in 1978, in connection with the celebrations related to the return of the Crown. A memorial tablet was placed on the wall of the building identified as his birthplace in Karcag. After the house had been dismantled, a memorial site was established in the intersection of Bocskai street and Liliom street. In the honour of the death of the colonel (May 11th), the school carrying his name and the Mihály Kováts Fellowship Association every year organise educational and sports contests and exhibition.

The school under József Attila street 1, and the Nagykun Museum are named after István Györfly (1884-1939), professor of ethnography born in Karcag, also referred to as “the scientist of the Hungarian people”. István Györfly conducted scientific research near the Kunság, in the Hajdúság, among Matyos, Hungarians living in the valley of the Fekete Körös and Moldovan csangos, but he also reached Asia Minor as a member of an expedition. He published a number of ethnographic and historic works addressing the Kunság, the Cumans and Karcag. His work, the Chronicle of the Nagy-kunság has been popular since its publication in 1922. In addition, his merit is that he directed the attention of his colleagues, students and friends to the Nagy-kunság and the ethnographic and historic research of the Cumans. He conducted the first scheduled excavations near the town, and the establishment of collection of the Nagykun Museum is also the result of his encouragement.

The Nagykun Museum carrying the name of István Györfly is located in the classicist house under Kálvin street 4. The material collected by curate András Joó in 1906 was destroyed during World War II, its collection was restarted in 1951. It was a big leap, when in 1968 the Kálmán country-seat formerly used as a hospital became available, and was granted to the disposition of the museum. The permanent exhibition dedicated to the economy of the Nagy-kunság, the Chronicle of Nagy-kunság was opened



here in the year 1973. In 2000, the exhibition was transformed into a historical and ethnographic exhibition named Centuries of the Cumans. The other permanent exhibition introduces the work of István Györfly. The Museum Park surrounded by tilted iron fence houses the famous gastronomic event, the Karcag sheep cooking contest organised every year in the last weekend of June. The museum has two additional exhibition sites (and permanent exhibitions). The Nagykunság country house is located under Jókai street 16, where the visitor can familiarise with the typical furniture of a farmhouse of the end of 19th and the beginning of 20th century, as well as the everyday life of the Cumans. The exhibition to the work of the Kossuth Award holder Sándor Kántor (1894-1989), master of pottery known throughout Europe is established in another nice old Cuman living house. The Kántor pottery established in the 1930's is located under Bethlen Gábor street 10. Today, the heirs of Kántor work in it.

During the introduction of the buildings of the main square one could notice that due to the less durable construction materials generally used in the past, today's architectural monuments were built around the end of 18th and the beginning of 19th century. The classicistic building of the Morgó restaurant recalls the old times, the memories of outlaws and pandours. Today it is located in the junction of three streets (József Attila – Baross – Arany János), but its predecessor had been built on the edge of the town, and was subsequently surrounded by the city. The foundation of the current building was laid down around 1810. During the last two hundred years it was reconstructed several times, but until recently it was operated as a restaurant. There was also a legend that a tunnel leads from its basement to the other famous hideaway of the outlaws, to the Ágota Inn located in the edge of the town and the county.

It worth taking a look to the former country road taking to the Ágota Inn. When the weather is dry enough, we can walk to the river Hortobágy and the Ágota Bridge. Prior to the regulation of the river Tisza, the landscape was pinned by brooks and streams, and a number of bridges helped the travellers. Tired of the permanent repairs of the wooden bridges, in 1805-1809, the Nagykun District erected a sturdy stone bridge on the most relevant brook Zádor. Legend says that the lime used to conglutinate the stones was hydrated using bird eggs collected in the huge reed-plots, which made it that strong. The Zádor Bridge – just as its brother in Hortobágy – was built on nine arches, but a huge flood swept four of it. Following the regulation of the river Tisza, the waters dried up, and after the construction of the Szolnok-Debrecen railway line in 1857, the traffic of the road was also diminished. Today, the bridge is a monument, a memory of the history of transport and landscape. The field Zádor-lapos forms part of the Hortobágy nature reserve. A similar protected natural reserve can also be found in the west side of the ambit of Karcag. The Bócsai field used to be part of the former János Kara swamp. After the regulation of the rivers the swamp disappeared, and in the 1950's a storage basin was established in its deepest section. This huge water surface – the region of the Kecseri Lake – was declared a protected area in 1989. Southern gate of the Hortobágy National Park is on the Vágóhíd street, opposite to the Windmill. The building furnished as the farm houses of the Nagykunság houses an exhibition introducing the flora and fauna of the preserved areas.

Third verse of the Hymn also reveals that not only large-scale stock-farming was pursued in the area Kunság, but also cereal was harvested by the Cumans, which was considered as a special Hungarian product already in the first half of the 19th century. The lands produced corn of excellent quality rich in gluten, and famous bread and milk-loaf was produced from the flour of the Cuman corn. These products – together with the honey-cake – were highly valued and sought for in the fairs of Debrecen and other towns. The corn was milled in the dry mills of the town; in the second half of the 19th century sixty one such mills were registered. More advanced – and more spectacular – windmills appeared as of the 1840's, but were superseded in the same century by the steam mills producing at industrial rate and in higher quality. Erstwhile, dozens of windmills were in operation, but only one has remained. Today,



the windmill of Gál Ferenc - Gál Szabó Lászlóné - Deák György (Vágóhíd street) is a monument of the industrial history and of the professional skills of the wind-millers. The Kövesdaráló Exhibition Site and the mill history exhibition established in 2008 – and still under development – introduces the work of the millers and the mill industry of Karcag.

There are also areas in the ambit of Karcag, where corn or other agricultural products can hardly be produced. The improvement of such saline soils and plant improvement are the main tasks of the Research Institution established in 1947 (official name: Karcag Institution of the Centre of Agricultural Sciences under the Debrecen University). During the past decades, associates of the institution not only have carried out scientific work of international reputation, but also established a rare park around the central building. This little arboretum is the home of a number of rare plants.

The depth of the ground hides treasures as well, just think about the reserves of gas and medicinal waters explored in 1928 in the ambit of Karcag that has acquired European fame to Berekfürdő, which has become an independent village and the seventh Cuman settlement. In the 1950's explorations were carried out in Karcag, as well. During the past two decades, the city lido built afterwards were supplied with an indoor swimming pool, show-pool, camping for tents and caravans, bungalows, and apartments, and a rheumatologic department started its operation next to the lido. Development of the promising spa complex will continue in 2009.

The Nagykun Millennium Monument (2001) is located near the spa, in the former marketplace. The two-figure equestrian statue portrays the meeting of the king Béla the IV and the Cuman sovereign Köttöny arriving to the country border in 1239, thus reminding us to the occupation of the homeland by the Cumans arriving on the "people's country road" and transformed into Hungarians.

The city of Karcag awaits its guests with Cuman hospitality also in 2009, the year of the Cumans!





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1.) Nimrod Bio Hotel and Bio Restaurant 2.) Kossuth's statue
3.) The Country Flag 4.) Town Hall 5.) The Reformed Church
6.) Gábor Áron Grammar School, the Secondary School of Health Studies and Students' Hostel 7.) Victoria Well



1



2



3



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1.) Catholic Church 2.) The Bust of Saint Stephen
3.) Gábor Áron Grammar School 4.) Synagogue 5.) The Reformed Church
6.) Orthodox Greek Church 7.) Nagykun Reformed Church Elementary School



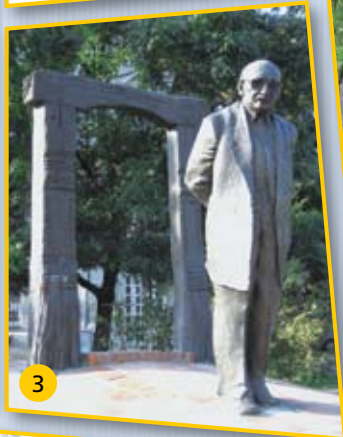
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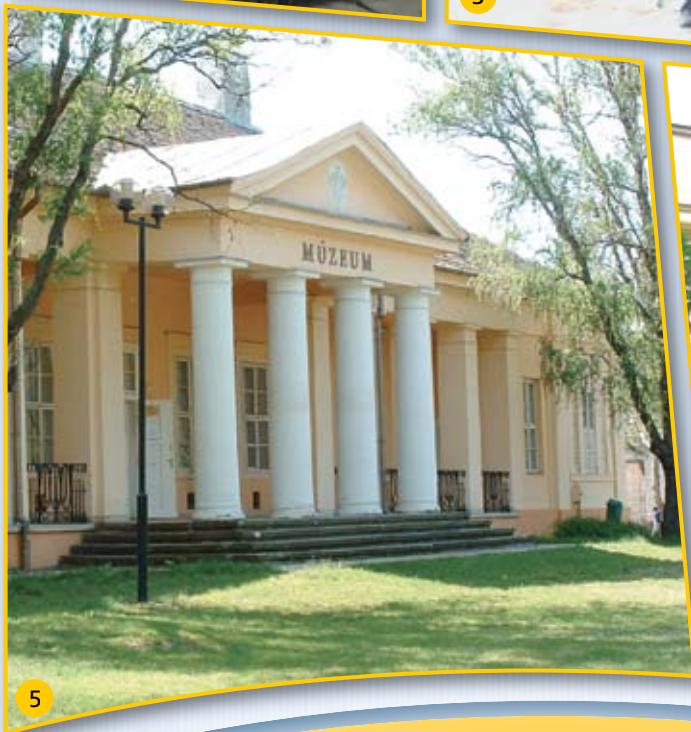
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- 1.) The Bronze Statue of István Györfy
2.) The relief of Sándor Szűcs 3.) The Statue of Gyula Németh 4.) The relief of István Varró
5.) István Györfy Great Cumanian Museum 6.) István Mándoky Kongur's relief



1.) Cumanian Farmhouse 2.) The exhibition in the Pottery House
3.) La Maison de l'Artisanat 4.) The exhibition in the Pottery House 5.) Museum of Pharmacy and Medical History 6.) The Cemetery Caretaker's House (partly underground) 7.) Mill with Millstones



1.) The relief of Mihály Kováts 2.) The Memorial Place to Mihály Kováts 3.) The Memorial Place to the Martyrs of Arad 4.) Great Cumanian Millennium Monument 5.) Heroes of the First World War 6.) Cumanian Pieta



1.) Windmill 2.) The Cumanian Memorial Place
3.) Reception House 4.) The Cumanian Memorial Place
5.) Kálvária Hill 6.) Zádor Bridge





MAGYARORSZÁG
Itthon otthon van





Our twin towns



Székelykeresztúr



Bácskossuthfalva



Szepsi



Longueau



Schwarzheide



Krosno Odrzańskie





Székelykeresztúr

The town of Székelykeresztúr is located in Transylvania, in the southwest region of Udvarhely county, in the valley of Nagyküküllő, between the creeks Gagy and Fehérnyikó, at an altitude of 390-395 meters, close to the Héjasfalva-Székelyudvarhely branch railway line and the asphalted county road DJ 122. The territory of the town is 5000 hectares, its population is 10 600 people.

The region is beneficial for farming, due to the climate rich in sunshine and the wide valley of the river; this area was adequate for the primitive man to settle down here.

The town and its vicinity have been populated for approximately 7000 years; the archaeological researches revealed the existence of a number of ancient cultures; their ancestors presumably arrived here in the 11th century. The settlement was first mentioned in writing in 1332 as Sancta Crux (Holy Cross). Later it was mentioned in Hungarian as Kereszt Úr (Lord Cross), because of the personification of the Holy Cross. On the Jézuskiáltó Hill elevating above the town, a cross was erected in the memory of the 144 local victims of World

War I. It is known from Catholic church records that in 1829, the "restitution of the old wooden cross" on the Jézuskiáltó Hill was requested. This means that the hill has marked with a cross for at least 200 years, but it is probably much older.

Due to the large number of jigger-makers, the settlement also went by the name Szitáskeresztúr (Jigger Holy Cross); it was officially named Székelykeresztúr in the middle of the 19th century, after it had been united with the neighbouring villages of Imafalva, Keresztútfalva, Fiafalva and Betfalva. But the prefix "székely" (szekler) was first used already in



1548. The reason this prefix was added to the name of the settlement was that a total of 42 settlements in the historic Hungary carries the name of the Holy Cross (Keresztúr).

It was mentioned as a market-town (oppidum) already in 1495; at that time it was already the centre of the independent Keresztúr-szék, and later the centre of the Keresztúr fiúszék. In 1559, Queen Isabella granted a charter to the town, which was later acknowledged by all sovereigns of Transylvania. The right to organise fairs was granted to the town as of 1590. All these privileges made possible further development towards urbanisation. The spirit of reformation was given a positive reception here; after 1548 the population joined to the Unitarian church founded in Transylvania, and soon school-master András Bora started organising a secondary school. However, the secondary school was established only in 1793. This school has been in operation ever since, and carries the name of its former benefactor Balázs Orbán. The reformed community started to strengthen in the second half of the 17th century: in 1631 they already had a school in operation, and soon they built their own church in the centre of the town. In 1767, the Catholics were given back their gothic church built in 1458, which is today one of the most famous historic monuments of the settlement. On July 30th 1849, the poet Sándor Petőfi arrived to the town to spend his last night in the Gyárfás mansion. His memory is preserved by a pear-tree, the legendary grave and three statues. Economy of Székelykeresztúr is dominated by agricultural cultivation and stock-farming, while the domestic and handicraft industries mainly produce for the local market. The first factory – a line factory – was built in 1901. The teacher school



founded in 1870 played an important role in the intellectual life of the town. After terminating the teacher training in Hungary in 1925, the school was closed down in 1955. Today the City Hall is operated in the building.

The City Museum was founded in 1946 – using the collections of the Unitarian secondary school – and has been carrying the name of dr. István Molnár, founder of the museum since 1997. Its valuable ethnographic, historic, architectural, natural history and artistic collections make it one of the most relevant museums of Székelyföld. Its open-air ethnographic section, the Szekler House of Kecset, the szekler (carved) gates, the collection of popular industrial structures and an entire szekler house near the Nyikó attract lots of visitors.

Natural medicinal spring of Székelykeresztúr located in Sósút is a popular destination for those suffering from rheumatic diseases.



Council of the town of Székelykeresztúr
P-ta Libeertai nr. 27.
4180 Cristuru Secuiesc
Székelykeresztúr
Romania
Phone: 0040266206012
Fax: 004066242709
E-mail: office@keresztur.ro
www.keresztur.ro



Bácskossuthfalva

The settlement is situated in the middle of the former county of Bács – Bodrog, in the northern region of the present Bácska county. Founders of the settlement were the Kumans emigrating from the region of Nagykunság in 1786. People living here are still aware and proud of their Kuman origin. Bácskossuthfalva is located 17 km south of the border of Hungary, in the heart of Bácska, where „Ears and mellow hills are smiling in the landscape”, where the visitor is greeted by the red-towered church. Every here and there, the enchanting landscape continues in carefully cultivated black fields crossed by roads.



Carters in the village greet the visiting guests by lifting their whips, while the courteous shopkeepers or the “old grannies” show them the way. In the grasp of the Telecskai hills, one can hear the frogs’ croaking in the Krivaj, and the lungs can’t get enough of the bland pressure of the bosket of shroud.

For the people living here it has been a great challenge to reach the current settlement form with its approximately 5600 inhabitants and its own industry from the semi-nomadic, farming way of life of the large number of Avar graves found in the vicinity of the Koplaló. Fate hasn’t always been good to the set-

tlement: the villagers had to be relocated on several occasions, but the “headstrong Kuman people” always stood their ground with dedication and endurance. The village is bordered by a swimming pool from north and by a 70-hectare artificial lake from the south. Both its natural characteristics and the established system of institutions provide a real value to the visiting guests, while its advanced hunting and wine tourism represents a true value. Youth camps organised every summer have become world-famous.

Tourists visiting the village may obtain information about the spectacles and services from the local tourist guide.

We kindly await you and your family in Bácskossuthfalva to participate in our traditional events and to witness the incomparable atmosphere and beauty of our village.



Local Community of Bácskossuthfalva

Bácskossuthfalva • 24340 Stara Pac –srski P út 67. • Serbia

Phone: 00381631732647 • Fax: 0038124741127

stamoravica@stcable.co.yu • www.stamoravica.co.yu



Szepesí - Moldava nad Bodvou

The town of Szepesí is located southwest from Kosice, along the road E 571 leading to Rozsnyó. This is the region, where the Kosice Plain ends and the Slovak Karst starts.

Due to its significance and geographical location, the town has been a natural regional centre for a long time. It was a district centre until 1960. Today, the population of the town exceeds 10 000, from which 49.1% are Hungarian, 47.4% are Slovak and 3.5% belong to other minorities, according to the results of the latest census.

The town is known for its traditionalism: several exhibitions of local history and ethnography await the visitors.



Szepesí is an important transportation junction point: also fast trains stop in its railway station, international and long-distance buses stop in the bus station. The Kosice airport is in 30 minutes from the town. There are several shopping centres, health centres, post office and hotel, as well as reputed restaurants, taverns and pensions. The Information Centre satisfying the needs of the visitors with its broad range of services has been in operation for almost 10 years.

Somodi and Torna with the medieval ruins above them are located west to Szepesí, followed by the beautiful Szádelő Valley, then – beyond Szoroskő – by the former capital of Gömör County – Rozsnyó. North from it we find Jászó with the famous Premonstratensian

cathedral and the Jaszó Cave, followed by the town of Mecenzéf with the second largest population of the Kosice district, and the Stósz Bath located in a beautiful landscape. Kosice, one of the most famous towns of the Highland and the capital of the county is located east to Szepesí.

With its infrastructure and services, Szepesí is an ideal starting point for various local history and natural sciences tours and excursions. For more information write to the following address:

Infocentrum, Hlavná 58, 045 01 Moldava nad Bodvou • Slovakia

Infocentrum: +42155 48 99 421

E-mail to: info@moldava.sk • www.moldava.sk



Longueau



At 28 metres above sea-level and at approximately sixty kilometres from the sea, Longueau is situated in Picardie, a region divided into three counties: Aisne, Oise and Somme. Our town lies in Somme county and it belongs to the built-up area of Amiens which comprises of 32 communities. On a surface of 342 acres, Longueau has 5 246 inhabitants.

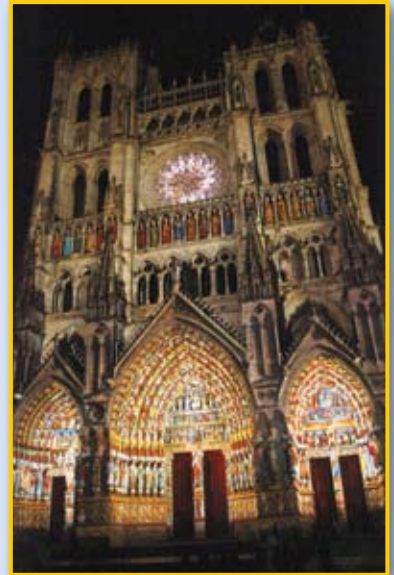
20 centuries ago, the town was occupied by the Romans who constructed a road that is still the most important road of the city. Longueau is the eastern gate of the capital of Picardie. In the course of time, Longueau, from a village counting only a few houses, has been

expanding into a city on the hill dominating the valley of the river Somme from the North and that of the river Avre from the West.

The inhabitants made their living mostly by the extraction of peat and by fishing, thanks to the many lakes ; and by their culture. In 1846 the life of Longueau changed with the arrival of the railway and its population doubled in a few years (from 250 to 650). It was a period of prosperity which lasted until the years of 1960's.

During the two world wars, Longueau played the role of a strategic centre and suffered enormously, both the population and the resources. Between 1939 et 1945, a huge number of bombs was dropped on the railway junction and its facilities, but unfortunately lots of them landed on the houses. The modernisation of the railway, the replacement of the steam trains by the electricity contributed to the decrease of the number of railway workers. At that time almost 30% of Longueau's population worked for the railway ; presently it is hardly 8%.

Nowadays, when the railway ceased to be a main employer of the inhabitants of Longueau, the city is an economic centre where numerous companies have been installed. City of the future, Longueau, right after Amiens, is the second most important community of the region. A wide variety of activities is offered to the young and to the not-so-young people : sport, culture, hunting, fishing. The city's bus lines allow us to enjoy a perfect visit in Longueau, while discovering all the attractions of the Amiens region. The closeness to the major city gives us the possibility to see several places of interest: Amiens and its cathedral (listed by Unesco), or, among others, the house of Jules VERNE (decorated with the author's painting of the city). At a distance of 80 km which means one hour's drive, one can visit the Bay of the Somme river (world heritage site).



Longueau • 80330 Place Louis Prof-BP 5
Phone: 0322974392 • Fax: 0322974253
E-mail: www.perso.wanadoo.fr/longueau-jumelage



Schwarzhöhe

General Information about the Town of Schwarzhöhe

Location: Southern region of Brandenburg Province in Oberspreewald-Lausitz district, on the Lower Lausitz Plain, north to the river Schwarze Elster

Population: ca.6350

Territory: 3321 hectares

Own since: January 11th 1967

Partner towns:

Krosno Odrzanskie (Poland) since 2001

Karcag (Hungary) since 2004

Piano di Sorrento (Italy) since 2005

Freemen:

Dr. Hans-Hermann Dehmel (since 2005)

Dr. Sokrates Giapapas (since 2004)

Overview of Schwarzhöhe and its surroundings

- 15 minutes by car to the Lausitz lakes
- Living area surrounded by forests, lakes and fields, favourable from transportation point of view
- Basic supply of the settlement is provided by various retail units, handicraft and service commercial units, as well as offers in the area of medical industry
- 4 kindergartens, one primary school, one high-grade centre, one high school
- Diverse free-time activities: discotheque, movie theatre, coffee-bar, bowling court, a number of associations, country museum
- Hotels, restaurants, pensions
- Lausitz EuroSpeedway is in 15 minutes distance
- Dresden, capital of Saxony Province is only 30 minutes away



Schwarzhöhe

01987

Ruhlandr Str.102.

Phone: 03575285-0

Fax: 035752 85-599

E-mail: stadtverwaltung@schwarzhöhe.de

www.schwarzhöhe.de



Krosno Odrzańskie

Krosno Odrzańskie is a picturesque town near the river Oder, in the middle-east region of Lubuskie voivodina, in 30 km from the Polish-German border. The population of the 19 settlements in the administrative area of Krosno Odrzańskie (21 thousand hectares) is 19 thousand people.

Krosno Odrzańskie is one of the most ancient Polish towns. They celebrated the millennium of the first written mention (in the chronicles of Thietmar) of the town in 2005.

From the historic monuments remained, the Piastowski Fortress built during the time of Henry the Bearded has a relevant role. The temple of St. Jadwiga of Silesia (wife of Henry the Bearded), the temple of St. Andrew and the ruins of the forest walls from the 14th century also carry historical value.

The interesting relief, the lakes, the forests (47 per cent of the territory) and the high-quality roads make the surroundings of Krosno Odrzańskie an attractive destination for the tourists.

The green hills and valley invite for hiking and biking.

The nearby lakes in Łochowice and Osiecznica offer a perfect summer vacation with their renovated lidos easily accessible on safe bicycle tracks.

Rich fauna and flora of the local forest offer a nice place for successful hunting or collecting mushroom.

The river Oder divides Krosno into two parts: the lower historic centre and the upper administrative and living centre. The two quarters are connected by the formidable bridge built more than a hundred years ago. The port located on the bank of the river – together with the Piastowski Fortress and the esplanade – form a port-fortress complex.

A great pedestrian precinct is located in the upper part of the town – the 11th Regiment Square. With its lake, waterfall, pathways and benches, this spa-

acious green square is an ideal venue for various cultural and tourist events.

We expect everyone, who wishes to spend the holiday in the beautiful Polish countryside. Visit us, and feel the atmosphere of this legendary milieu and its thousand years of history. We await you in Krosno Odrzańskie and its neighbourhood.

Urząd Miasta w Krośnie Odrzańskim
ul. Parkowa 1, 66-600 Krosno Odrzańskie
Phone: 068 383 5017, fax: 068 383 5122
E-mail: sekretariat@krosnoodrzańskie.pl
www.krosnoodrzańskie.pl





Cultural events in Karcag

Kováts Mihály Memorial Days – wreathing, procession of hussars, commemoration	<i>Kováts Mihály Primary School</i>	May 12 th – 14 th
11th sheep cooking contest	<i>Kálvin street, Museum Park, Kossuth square park</i>	June 26 th – 28 th
18th Cultural days of Nagykunság	<i>Karcag</i>	August 20 th – 23 rd
Exhibition of Kuman needlework and bobbin lace	<i>Déryné Centre of Education and Youth</i>	August 19 th – September 11 th
Kunság Cultural Festival – meeting of junior folklore ensembles of twin towns	<i>Déryné Centre of Education and Youth</i>	August 20 th
Procession of harvestmen	<i>Karcag city centre</i>	August 20 th
Concert of the band "Ismerős Arcok"	<i>Kossuth square</i>	August 20 th
Fireworks	<i>Kossuth square</i>	August 20 th
Karcag Feast of Bread – Meeting of millers, baking and cooking contest of miller dishes, exhibition book presentation	<i>Szélmalmi Guest House</i>	August 21 st
Harvestmen ball	<i>City Coliseum</i>	August 21 st
Hunters' Day of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County	<i>Museum Park and the area near the Barrack</i>	August 22 nd
Contest of fishermen	<i>Brick Factory Lake</i>	August 23 rd
Exhibition of Lajos Luka, master of wickerwork	<i>Győrffy István Nagykun Museum</i>	August 23 rd – September
1st World Meeting of Kumans	<i>Zuglóger- Erzsébet garden</i>	September 26 th – 27 th
15th Karcag Horsemen Days	<i>Zuglóger</i>	October 10 th – 11 th

www.karcag.hu



Information of Public Interest



Local Authority

5300 Karcag, Kossuth tér 1.
Tel.: (59) 500-610
E-mail: phkarcag@ph.karcag.hu
www.karcag.hu

Ambulance:

5300 Karcag, Zöldfa u. 48.
Tel.: (59) 311-803 ill.104

Police Station

5300 Karcag, Kossuth tér 1.
Tel.: (59) 500-250 ill. 107

Fire Brigade

5300 Karcag, Madarasi út 2.
Tel.: (59) 503-111 ill. 105

Gábor Kátai Hospital and Clinic

5300 Karcag, Zöldfa u. 48.
Tel.: (59) 507-111

General Practitioners' Offices

5300 Karcag, Széchenyi sugárút 27.
Tel.: (59) 311-233

Pharmacies :

Oroszlán Gyógyszertár

5300 Karcag, Kórház u. 4.
Tel.: (59) 503-222

Kígyó Gyógyszertár

5300 Karcag, Horváth Ferenc u. 1.
Tel.: (59) 503-015

Berek Patika

5300 Karcag, Kiss Antal u. 3.
Tel.: (59) 312-448

Betánia Gyógyszertár

5300 Karcag, Szabó József u. 14.
Tel.: (59) 314-277

Railway Station

5300 Karcag, Vasút u. 101.
Tel.: (59) 311-110

Bus Terminal

5300 Karcag, Széchenyi tér 5.
Tel.: (59) 311-052

Post Office

5300 Karcag, Széchenyi sugárút 4.
Tel.: (59) 311-214

Petrol Stations:

MOL

5300 Karcag, Madarasi út 13.
Tel.: (59) 400-028

No. 4 expressway, tel.: (59) 312-315

OMV

5300 Karcag, Madarasi út 61.
Tel.: (59) 311-800

Cuman-Oleum Kft.

5300 Karcag, Szivárvány u. 2/A
Tel.: (59) 314-422

István Györfly Museum of Great Cumania

5300 Karcag, Kálvin u. 4.
Tel.: (59) 312-087
E-mail: karcagimuzeum@kun-land.hu

Déryné Cultural and Youth Centre

5300 Karcag, Dózsa György u. 5-7.
Tel.: (59) 503-402
E-mail: info@derynekarcag.hu
www.derynekarcag.hu

Csokonai City Library

5300 Karcag, Dózsa György u. 29.
Tel.: (59) 503-152
E-mail: vcsk@mail.vcsk.hu
www.vcsk.hu

TOURINFORM Office

5300 Karcag, Dózsa György u. 5-7.
Tel.: (59) 503-225
E-mail: karcag@tourinform.hu



Kun-Mediátor Travel Office
5300 Karcag, Táncsics körút 15.
Tel.: (59) 401-049
E-mail: kun-mediator@kun-mediator.hu

Windmill
5300 Karcag, Vágóhíd u. 22.
Tel.: (59) 311-411

Windmill Inn
5300 Karcag, Vágóhíd u. 1.
Tel.: (59) 312-954

Sándor Kántor 's Pottery House
5300 Karcag, Erkel Ferenc u. 1.
Tel.: (59) 312-087

Great Cumanian Folk House
5300 Karcag, Jókai u. 16.
Tel.: (59) 312-087

Graveyard-keeper's House
Északi temető, Külterület 3.
Tel.: (59) 312-967

Exhibition of Medical and Pharmacy History
5300 Karcag, Széchenyi sugárút 45.
Tel.: 30/4577-309

Mill with Millstones
5300. Karcag, Kisújszállási út 18.
Tel.: (59) 311-252

Studio of Sándor Györffy
5300 Karcag, Széchenyi sugárút 56.
Tel.: (59) 503-382

Sports Services Centre
5300 Karcag, József A. u. 1.
Tel.: (59) 311-954



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Information of Public Interest

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|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The Cumanian Memorial Place | 13. Cumanian Farmhouse | 27. Gábor Áron Grammar School, the Secondary School of Health Studies and Students' Hostel | 37. Kálvária Hill | 47. Bus Terminal |
| 2. The Reformed Church | 14. Town Hall | 28. Orthodox Greek Church | 38. Windmill | 48. Market Hall |
| 3. The Country Flag | 15. Heroes of the First World War | 29. Great Cumanian Millennium Monument | 39. Reception House | 49. Fire Brigade |
| 4. Cumanian Pieta | 16. Victoria Well | 30. Town Thermal Bath and Spa | 40. Zádor Bridge | 50. Police Station |
| 5. Kossuth's statue | 17. The Statue of Gyula Németh | 31. Kátai Gábor Clinic Hospital | 41. Mill with Millstones | 51. Kun-Mediátor Travel Agency |
| 6. Nagykun Reformed Church Elementary School | 18. Synagogue | 32. The Cemetery Caretaker's House (partly underground) | 42. Cumanian Riding Arena | 52. Nimród Bio Hotel & Bio Restaurant |
| 7. Johann Calvin's relief | 19. Catholic Church | 33. Déryné Cultural and Youth Centre | 43. Sámuel Szentannai Vocational Secondary School for Farming, the Secondary School and the Dormitories | 53. Sárgaház Restaurant |
| 8. Ticket House | 20. The Bust of Saint Stephen | 34. Tourism office | 44. The Research Institute of the Agricultural Centre of the Debrecen University | 54. Orthovis Ltd. |
| 9. István Györfly Great Cumanian Museum | 21. Post Office | 35. House of Handicrafts | 45. Székely (Transylvanian) Gate | 55. Kun-Sped Ltd. |
| 10. The Bronze Statue of István Györfly | 22. Museum of Pharmacy and Medical History | 36. Csokonai Town Library | 46. The Railway Station | 56. Kerekcipő Ltd. |
| 11. István Mándoky Kongur's relief | 23. Morgó Country Tavern | | | 57. rinoceros Graphical Studio |
| 12. Sándor Kántor's Potter House | 24. Court | | | |
| | 25. Karcag Youth House | | | |
| | 26. Old People's Home | | | |