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Cepraga, Theodor

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THE DYNAMICS OF CLOPOTIVA VILLAGE A CARTOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

Theodor CEPRAGA

Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest
theo_cepraga@yahoo.com

1. INTRODUCTION 63
2. METHODOLOGY 64
3. PRE-MAPS DATA 65
4. CARTOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCES 67
5. CONFIRMATION THROUGH LOCAL PARTICULARITIES AND TOPONYMY 69
6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS 72
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 73
8. REFERENCES 73

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The Dynamics of Clopotiva Village. A Cartographical Analysis

Theodor Cepraga

Dinamica satului Clopotiva. O analiză cartografică. Studiul îşi propune să analizeze dinamica spaţială a satului Clopotiva din Ţara Haţegului începând cu data atestării documentare şi până în prezent. Analiza evidenţiază rolul factorilor naturali, istorici şi culturali precum şi procesele ce stau la baza dinamicii spaţiale a acestei aşezări. Pentru perioada medievală au fost utilizate informaţii extrase din monografii, documente istorice şi alte studii de specialitate, iar începând cu secolul XVIII, pe baza hărţilor disponibile s-au folosit tehnici GIS pentru a determina modificările morfologice ale satului. Rezultatele au arătat faptul că satul a apărut iniţial la sud-vest de poziţia actuală, evoluând apoi către Râul Mare şi terenurile agricole. Studiul îşi propune de asemenea să realizeze un model de analiză a dinamicii spaţiale a aşezărilor umane din Ţara Haţegului.

Cuvinte cheie: Clopotiva, Ţara Haţegului, dinamică spaţială, toponimie, cartografie.

The Dynamics of Clopotiva Village. A Cartographical Analysis. The study aims to analyse the dynamics of Clopotiva, a village in Haţeg Country, from the date of its first documentary mention until present. The analysis points out the role of the natural, historical and cultural conditions together with the processes influencing the dynamics of this settlement. Information extracted from monographies, historical documents and other specialised studies were used for the medieval period, and starting with the 18th century, GIS analysis was applied to the available cartographical documents in order to highlight the morphological transformations of the village. The results showed that the village appeared initially south-west of the actual location, developing towards Râul Mare and the agricultural fields. The study also aims to create an analysis model for the dynamics of the settlements in the Haţeg Country.

Keywords: Clopotiva, the Haţeg Country, dynamics, toponymy, cartography**.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Clopotiva is located in the south-west part of the Haţeg Basin, on the right side of Râul Mare, right at the point where the river makes his way out of the Retezat Mountains. The Haţeg Country, especially Clopotiva, has always represented a key point in understanding the social processes and transformations undergone by the Romanian people in Transylvania. Considering the Hungarian, Turkish, Austrian and Austro-Hungarian rule which totalled almost 900 years in Transylvania, together with a social mix of people including Saxons and Székelys [1], Clopotiva kept a somehow untainted Romanian way of life. This distinguished character for an intra-Carpathian settlement attracted geographers, historians and sociologists who studied the village with different purposes.

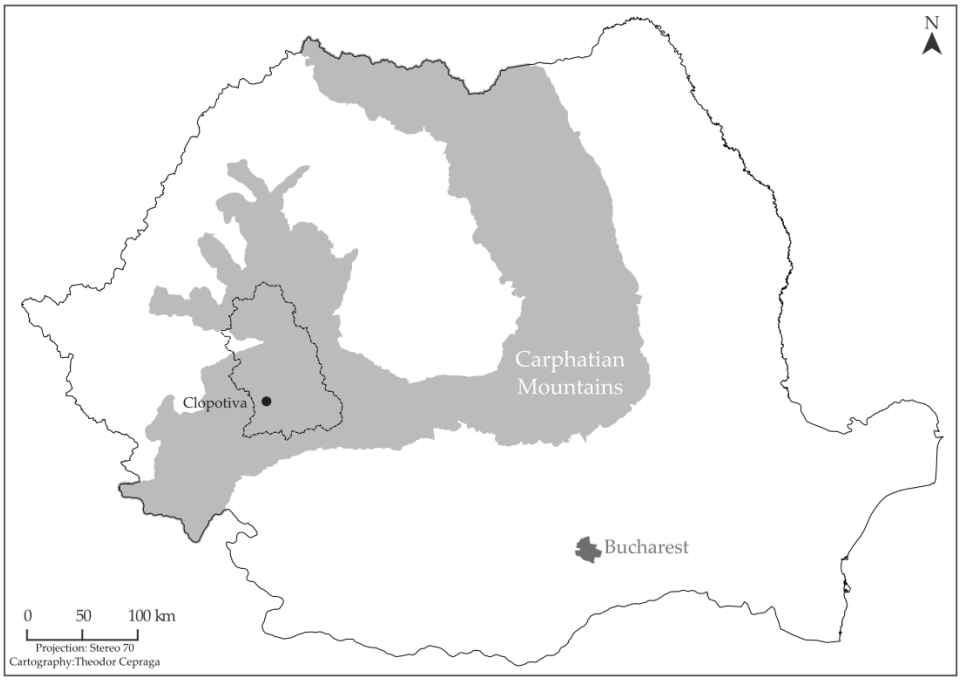

Figure 1. Location of Clopotiva in Hunedoara County

Ovid Densuşianu (1915) with a study regarding the particularities of the language [2] and Romulus Vuia (1926) with an ethnographic examination [3] could be considered the first researchers in the Haţeg Country. Ion Conea (1940) is the first one who put Clopotiva on the map of the Romanian academic research, when he completed his sizable study "*Clopotiva: un sat din Haţeg*" [4]. Even though he was a geographer, the purpose of the study was a sociological one and so was the approach. This becomes clear considering that Dimitrie Gusti, the reputed Romanian sociologist, was the head of the initiative. Having a starting point, anthropologists continued the research in Clopotiva and in 1958, ascribed to Ştefan Marius Milcu and Horia Dumitrescu, appeared "*Cercetări antropologice în Ţara Haţegului: Clopotiva*" [5]. Historians like Radu Popa (1988) and

Adrian Rusu (1997) completed studies on the Haţeg Country in the Middle Ages [6] and the history of the church, respectively [7]. Nicolae Popa (1999, 2000) wrote about human and economic geography of the Haţeg Country, highlighting subjects like toponymy, development and tourism in the area [8-9]. The present study provides information about the dynamics of Clopotiva considering the natural conditions, the evidences provided by the historical documents and the cartographical representations of Transylvania.

2. METHODOLOGY

The information with regard to the historical events and the environment was processed in order to highlight the dynamics of the village in time. The already existing information on toponyms was confronted and updated through field work in the village. Between the 1st and the 3rd of May 2014, the already known information regarding natural conditions, toponymy and parts of the village were updated throw direct observation and discussions with the locals. The cartographical documents used in the research were the *Josephinische Landesaufnahme* (1769-1773) and the *Specialkarte* (1884) together with the limit of the built-up area of Clopotiva valid in the present days downloaded from the National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration. Data provided by the Haţeg Country Dinosaur Geopark but also newly created shapefiles were used to map different aspects like toponymy, divisions of the village and particularities like the gates of the village (*vraniţele*) (Table 1). All the data were analysed in the electronic format and then georeferenced using ArcGIS 10.0. A polygon shapefile representing the built-up area from each of the maps was created in order to clearly represent the morphological transformations of Clopotiva starting with 1770 until present. The transformations were highlighted by overlaying the two created shapefiles and the official one from the National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration. A satelitary image of Romania from 2005 was also used to compare data and results. QGIS 2.0.1 was used to create the maps which suffered graphical readjustments in Inkscape 0.48.4.

Table 1. Shapefiles used to map the dynamics of Clopotiva

Shapefile	Type	Source	Projection
churches	point	2005 satelitary image	Stereo 70
gates (*vranițe*)	point	field work	Stereo 70
parts of Clopotiva	point	field work	Stereo 70
level curves	polyline	Hațeg Country Dinosaur Geopark	Stereo 70
national and county roads	polyline	Hațeg Country Dinosaur Geopark	Stereo 70
rivers	polyline	Hațeg Country Dinosaur Geopark	Stereo 70
streams	polyline	field work and 2005 satelitary image	Stereo 70
forest	polygon	Hațeg Country Dinosaur Geopark	Stereo 70
1884 built-up area	polygon	*Specialkarte*	Stereo 70
1769-1773 built-up area	polygon	*Josephinische Landesaufnahme*	Stereo 70
2014 built-up areas	polygon	National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registrastion	Stereo 70

3. PRE-MAPS DATA

3.1 Natural conditions

Even though the subject of the research belongs to the field of human geography, we should not elude the physical conditions which have influenced the evolution of the settlement. As the Romanian geographer Ion Conea says, the village is located "in the mouth" of the biggest river which makes its way into the Hațeg Country from the Retezat Mountains; [4] namely Râul Mare. As the map clearly shows, (Figure 2) the level curve which marks 500 meters of altitude comes through the middle of the built-up area of Clopotiva. Practically, the village stands right at the foot of the mountain, where the slope lowers its gradient. Clopotiva also stands between forest and the arable land having access to both of them in almost no time. The most important natural aspect which we consider to have had the biggest influence on the growth of the village is the stream network which flows from the eastern side of the village towards Râul Mare. Other streams were added to the natural network by the inhabitants, but the map shows only the natural flows. According to various historians and archaeologists, including Gooss and Ackner, the water resources attracted romans from Sarmizegetusa who erected an aqueduct to transport the water to the newly built city [4]. Unfortunately the evidence from the Roman period is parsimonious, the research being conducted only through remains of buildings, mortuary monuments and other inscriptions.

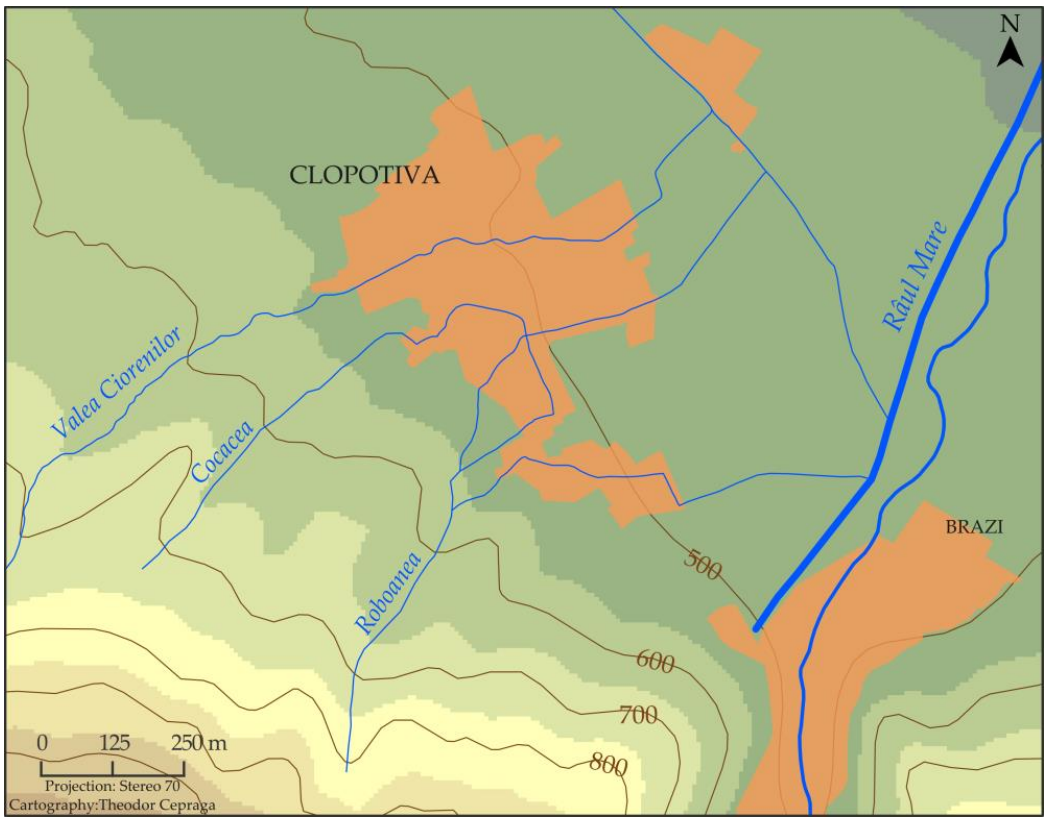

Figure 2. Natural conditions in which Clopotiva developed

3.2 Historical documents

The first evidence from the Middle Ages with respect to Clopotiva is a document from 1360 where the priest Zampa and a peasant Baya, the son of Buz of Clopotiva (*Baya filius Buz de Clapatiua*) [10] are mentioned. The document mentions them as members in the chair of judgement of the Haţeg district in which, at that time, figured 12 knezes, 6 peasants and 5 priests. As of the 15th century, the number of documents in which Clopotiva is mentioned increased, thus appearing as reference to some local noblemen such Bakocz and Pogány [4]. Originally, Romanians like Băcuţ and Pogan adopted the Hungarian name to satisfy the Hungarian king expectations. These appear to be the strongest families which controlled the entire village and parts from others [11].

Although Clopotiva was never part of a valley knezat it maintained its influence in the region through its nobility [6]. The noble families of Clopotiva are always mentioned in historical documents like *homo noster* (men of the king) or *commetaneus* (neighbours) [4]. Considering the more powerful families like Kendeffy (originally Cândea) or the Densuş noble family who ruled the valley knezates North and West of Clopotiva, the appellative used in the historical documents for the nobles clarifies their status in the Haţeg Country. Another key aspect revealed in the 17th century is the division of the village in two parts: *Nagyklopotiva* (Big Clopotiva) and *Szaczál-Klopotiva* (has the meaning of Small Clopotiva in the Romanian toponymy) [4]. It is not clearly mentioned whether the division was a spatial one or just naming for parts of a unitary village, but

nowadays we can still talk about a unitary settlement which has parts of it denominated individually.

3.3 "The Fight for the Church"

This quote belongs to Ion Conea who gave this name to the conflict that occurred in the 18th century when the Orthodox Christians had a quarrel with the Calvinists Protestants. If the Catholic Church had not manifested its influence in the Haţeg Country, the Protestant Church, through the noble families who adopted the Calvinist reform, would have transformed the ordinary life of the village [7]. The Protestants used the same church as the Orthodox and had their religious service only after the Orthodox finished theirs, usually turning the religious icons on the blank side. In time, the Protestants started to hurry up the Orthodox to finish their service, causing a deep upset for the peasants. The conflict broke out in 1759 on the occasion of the bishop's visit in Clopotiva. The Orthodox rose to fight the Protestants, encouraged by the bishop's indignation, but with no success. After a decade of fights and grief, the local noble man, Ioan Pogány, offered in 1770 a part from his lands in the built-up area of Clopotiva to the Orthodox, to build a new church in order to end up the conflict [12]. The area is clearly depicted on the first smaller scale map of Transylvania, the *Josephinische Landesaufnahme,* which was designed during that period (Figure 3).

4. CARTOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCES

The first relevant cartographical document, the *Josephinische Landesaufnahme,* was commissioned by the Austrian Emperor Joseph II and was drawn between 1769 and 1773 [13]. The scale of the map is 1:28800 offering the first detailed view of the Transylvanian villages. Clopotiva appears as a compact, agglomerated village with its two churches clearly marked, especially the new one, in the western side of the village (Figure 3). The relation between the village and the river which flows east of Cloptiva is clearly marked through the presence of two watermills. The direction followed by the main street is almost the same with the one from the present. This means that from this point (1769-1773) all the events that changed the morphology of the village took place around a stable line, the old main street. An argument which comes to demonstrate that the west side of Clopotiva suffered the biggest changes in the following century is the complete dissolution of a semi-circular street located south of the middle stream.

The *Specialkarte* is the second cartographical evidence taken into consideration. It was realised in 1884 at the scale 1:75000 (Figure 4). It is clearly noticeable that the village extended to the east towards the arable lands at the expanse of the western side of Clopotiva which started to disappear. The space where the semi-circular street mentioned above used to be is completely transformed together with many households which were relocated in the eastern side. Also, the southern part of the village known as *Săcel* (Szaczál-Klopotiva) started to develop away from the slope of the mountain, towards the east (Figure 5).

Figure 3. Clopotiva in the *Josephinische Landesaufnahme* (1769-1773) Figure 4. Clopotiva in the *Specialkarte* (1884)

The cartographical analysis is concluded with the comparison between the built-up areas from the previous centuries and the one from the present. The village continued to extend towards east due to the new county road which emerged in the 20th century continuing the trend from the previous century when the locals wanted to be closer to Râul Mare and the arable lands. But in the same time, the proprieties located east from the old main street of the village (*Uliţa Mare*) began to concentrate close to the street following its direction, especially in *Săcel*. We believe this occurred in order to save space for agriculture near the inhabited place and for greater accessibility. The northern part of the village is the most stable even now because the owner of the lands north of Clopotiva is the Orthodox Church which established the cemetery west of the road and some agricultural activities on the eastern side. The west part continues its dissolution in the present days in conjunction with the disappearing of some toponymics and memory places (Figure 5).

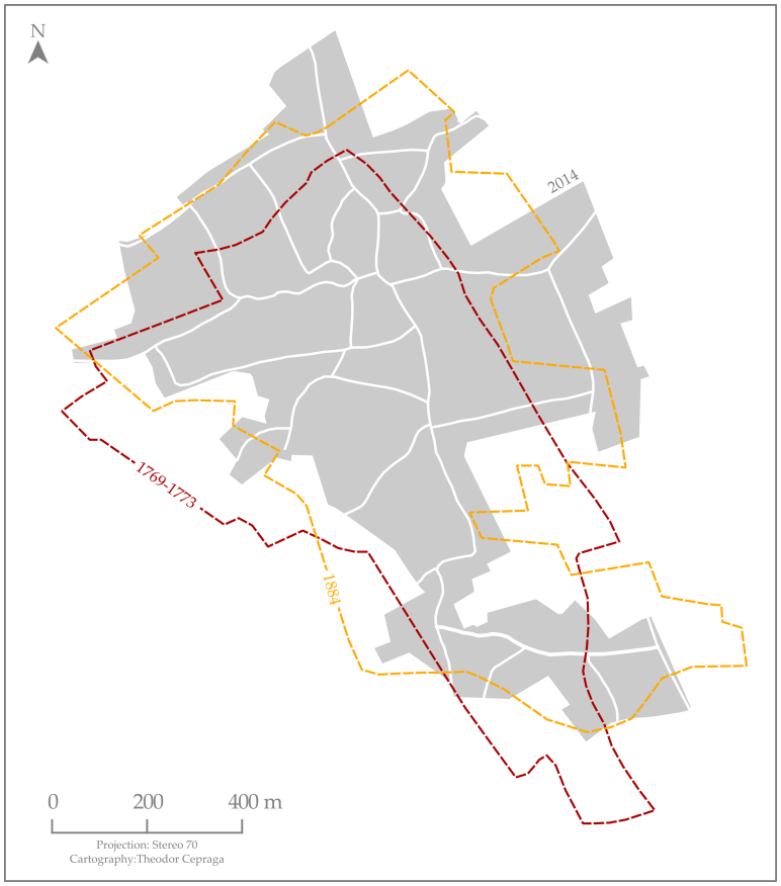

Figure 5. Evolution of the built-up area of Clopotiva

5. CONFIRMATION THROUGH LOCAL PARTICULARITIES AND TOPONYMY

The transformations that occurred in Clopotiva in the last one hundred years are confirmed by a local particularity which refers to the location of the gates that marked the limits of village (*Vraniţe*, into Romanian). They were situated at the extremity of the village in various points, positioned in such a way so as not to let animals get away during the night or to let them come back from the pasture in the daytime [4]. They disappeared during the communist period [14] when the agriculture was fully controlled by the state, but their position can still be remembered by the aged people [15] (Figure 6). Because the gates can be considered the limit of village at that time, it is very easy to observe that the village moved from west to east, from the mountains to the arable land, the same fact being revealed by the cartographical documents.

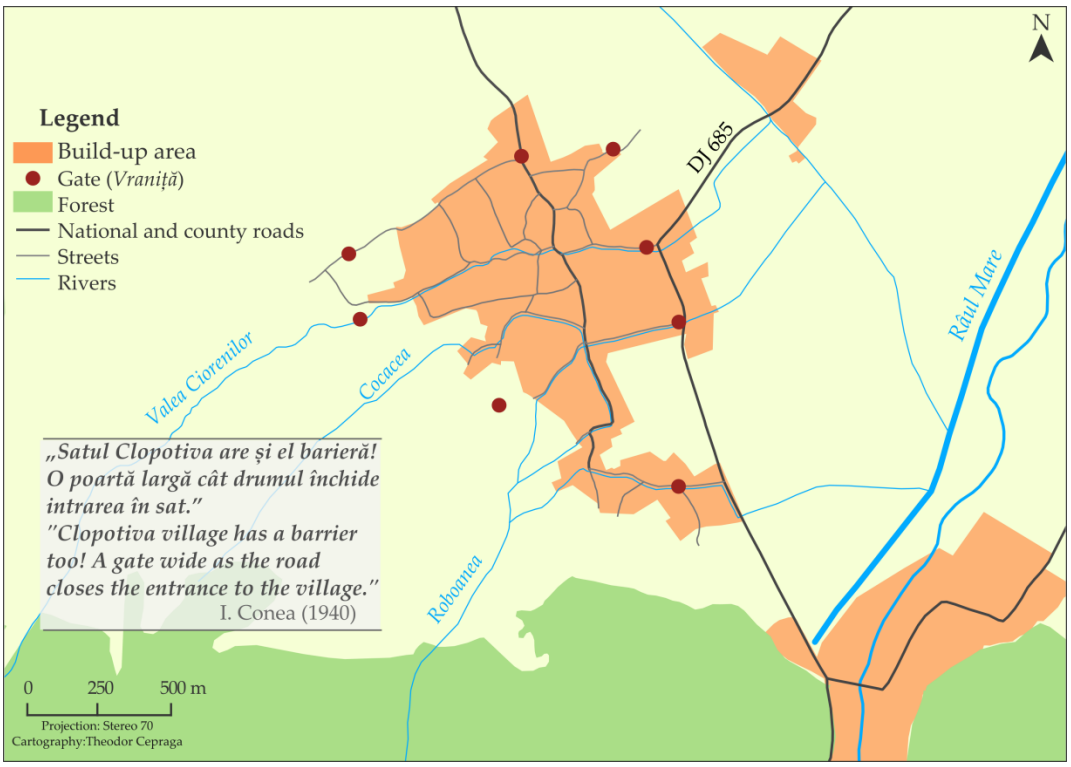

Figure 6. The position of gates (*vraniţe*)

The toponymy plays a crucial role in understanding the transformations of Clopotiva through different periods of time. Ion Conea (1940) has identified 37 odonyms [4] but unfortunately, due to what we consider to be a typography error, only 31 of them have been printed but none of them with its correct position within the village. Today, through field work and talks with the locals a number of 11 odonyms were put on the map (Figure 7). This shows that more than 70 % of the odonyms have disappeared in 70 years. As the map shows (Figure 7), in the west side of the main old road, only hydronyms which passed into odonymy have survived until today together with three important landmarks: *Uliţa Bisericii* (meaning Church Street), *Calea Ohăbii* (way outside of the village now, marking the road to the closest village) and Gura Bălţi (meaning the mouth of the bog) [16]. This comes to confirm the dynamics of the village from west to east, from the woods towards the new road and to a greater accessibility to arable land, already stated above. Almost all the streets that connect the old main road with the newly built road in the east side of Clopotiva have a name, three of them being anthroponyms, one denominating an occupation of the peasants or a land possession (*Valea Ţărinenilor*) and one took its denomination from the name of that part of the village (*Valea Săcelului*). Two of these odonyms have given the name of streams which flow parallel to the street showing their importance in the village's memory [16].

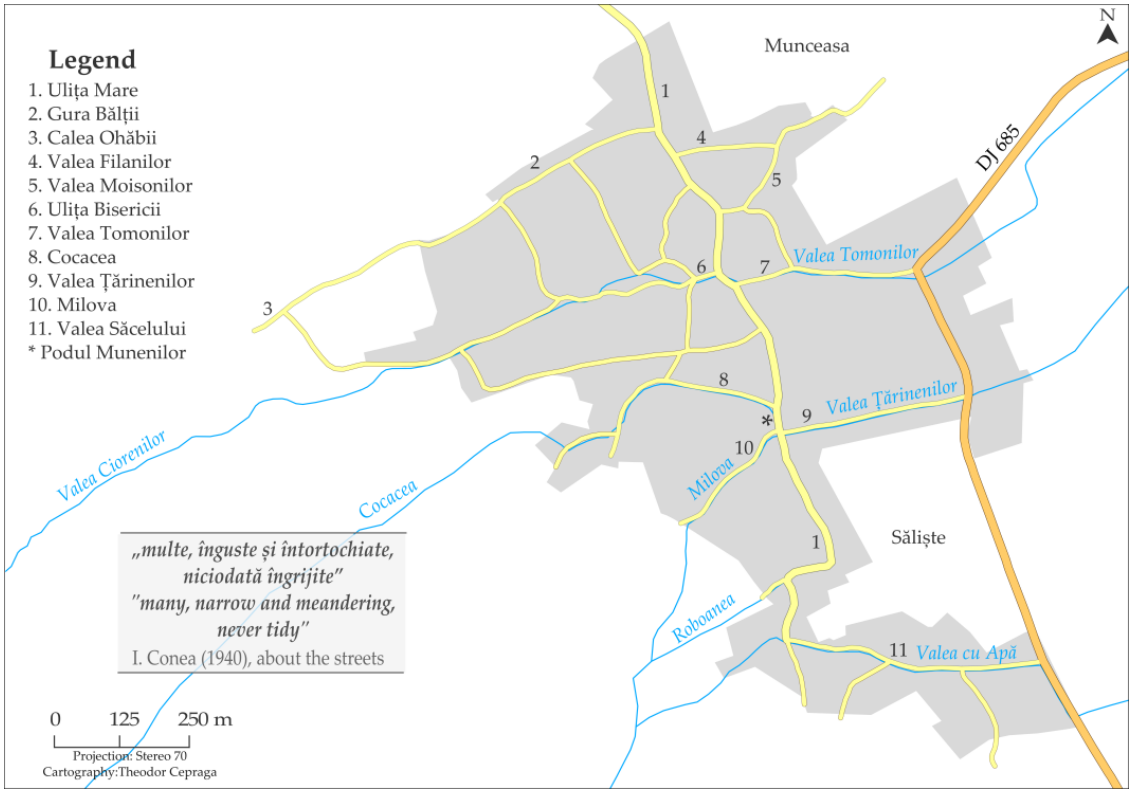

Figure 7. The current toponymy of Clopotiva

Ion Conea (1940) mentioned that the village was divided into four parts (Lătureni, Cioreni, Cocacea and Săcel) [4]. Săcel, meaning small village in the Romanian toponymy is surely the same part of the village mentioned in the historical documents as *Szaczál-Klopotiva* with Cioreni, Cocacea and Lătureni representing *Nagyklopotiva.* Nowadays, the name of Cocacea has disappeared as part of the village (the hydronym is still present) and it was replaced with the appellative "the Centre" [16]. The reason for this can be the dissolution of many streets from this part of the village and in the same time the position next to the old church and many crossroads from Clopotiva transmitted the idea of centrality to the inhabitants (Figure 8). Ion Conea (1940) also heard the toponym *Sălișteа* (meaning a place which was formerly inhabited) [4] in the western side of the Clopotiva and in its south-eastern part. This comes to confirm the transformations occurred in the west and the reorganization of the households in east.

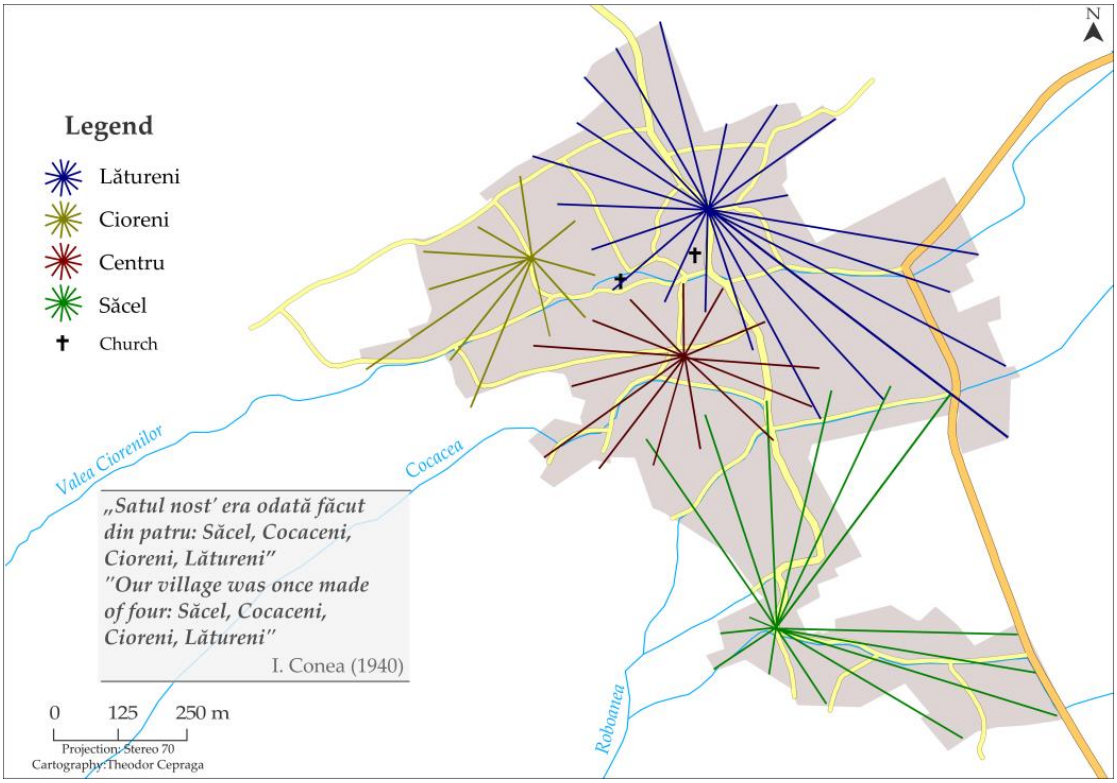

Figure 8. The parts of Clopotiva and their denomination

6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The natural conditions, the historical and cartographical documents, all correlated with Ion Conea's unique study can be used to unravel the dynamics of Clopotiva. The information presented here leads us to the conclusion that the initial built-up area of the village was somewhere westward of what is today Clopotiva, near the forest, at the foot of the mountain. Before 1630 when Clopotiva is mentioned under two names (*Nagyklopotiva* and *Szaczál-Klopotiva)*, one part of the village "swarmed" towards south forming *Szaczál-Klopotiva* (Săcel today) while the other started its movement towards west. In time (surely until 1770 when the *Josephinische Landesaufnahme* was commissioned), the two parts united in a single piece and continued to move towards west, as mentioned above. Considering the information offered by the historical documents, we can only assume the causes of this dynamics: feudal misunderstandings between the local nobleman which triggered the "swarming", together with the fight for better resources and accessibility.

The study can be used to investigate farther the historical geographies of the Haţeg Country by applying the same methods in other villages from the area. Geographers and scientists can use the methodology presented here to establish a pattern for the development of the settlements in this region, known for its untainted Romanian way of life compared to the rest of Transylvania.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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[16] INFORMER: MIHĂILONI P., 86 years old, born in Clopotiva.