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SIBIU & ITS SURROUNDINGS

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

keyword: MULTICULTURALISM



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sibiu, one of the past capitals of Transylvania is part of a land that has a particular cultural development. Inside Transylvania existed and still exists different ethnic, religious and cultural groups that during the cultural and historical formation of the region kept their identity.

The common history of this groups with their traditions, their heritage made what it is historically speaking Transylvania, a reality that even today it can be traced and discovered.

Sibiu is the spiritual center of the Saxons and also of the Romanians. Today it is one of the places that preserves best the Transylvanian heritage through it's patrimony, both mobile and immovable, but mainly through its intangible heritage.

Researchers from Sibiu have studied our intangible heritage bringing back to life important elements. We have to mention the work of Karl Jickeli who started the first collections and had the first works in the domain (middle of the 19th century) and also Cornel Irimie the founder of ASTRA Museum who took into consideration as an important aspect in organizing the museum, the intangible heritage.

Today we have to mention the important work of ASTRA Museum, of Brukenthal National Museum but also of Friedrich Teutsch Institute.

CULTURAL ETHNIC GROUPS

keyword: DIVERSITY



CULTURAL ETHNIC GROUPS

Romanians, Saxons, Hungarians, Szeklers, Armenians, Jews, Gipsies but also Cumans ethnic groups that developed in Sibiu and around Sibiu, some of them are not active today.

Christians – Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, Lutherans, Protestants, Unitarians, Neo-protestants and Mosaics are all religions represented in Sibiu and around Sibiu.

The majority are the Romanians. The most important impact brought by a ethnic minority group is the one brought by the Saxons. Today we have cultural elements brought by all the ethnic groups that are still physically exist.

LANGUAGE

keyword: NO NI MĂ LA EL – local speaking

OMULE, UITĂ-TE LA EL – Romanian language

MAN, LOOK AT HIM – English language

O HOMEN, OLHE PARA ELE – Portuguese language

LANGUAGE

The active presence of such many ethnic groups brought to Transylvania and of course to Sibiu lots of linguistic particularities. We have German or Saxon words that become regional Romanian words. It is the case of Hungarian words.

The researchers are saying the Romanian language spoken in Sibiu area is the closest to the traditional Romanian language a Latin language. To this we have the Saxon language, which is today a historically spoken German language (isolated from the main German speaking area) and the Hungarian language. All of these, brought together formed a local type of Romanian as the Saxon language and of course a local type of Hungarian. Also they melted together.

a te puțuli (German origin) – a te infrumuseța – to embellish yourself;

troacă – trough;

gheșeft – bargain;

fain – fine;

chipeș – handsome

PLACENAMES

keyword: SIBIU – HERMANNSTADT – NAGYSZEBEN



PLACENAMES

In Sibiu area all of the places have at least three different names, a Romanian one, a German one and a Hungarian one. Sometimes they have different meanings. Some of them have also a modern Romanian name and a historical one or even a German name and also a Saxon one.

SIBIU (latin Cibinium) – Hermannstadt (the city of Hermann) – Nagyszeben (the big city) – Kirmizisehir (the red city)

CISNĂDIE – Heltau – Nagydisznod;

DUMBRĂVENI – Ibasfalau – Elisabethstadt – Eppeschkorf – Erzsebetvaros;

BAZNA – Baussern – Bazna;

CRISTIAN – Grossau – Keresztentsziget (insula Gerardi);

MICĂSASA – Feigendorf – Mikeszasza;

NOCRICH – Leschkirch – Ujegyhaz;

PĂUCA – Tornen – Pokafalva;

RAȘINARI – Stadtedorf – Resinar.

FOOD

keyword: EAT – DRINK – LOVE



FOOD

Sibiu it is an official candidate for European Gastronomical Region in 2019. This information shows how much we value and understand our culinary heritage. As everything else in our region, the local food have different cultural influences. From old Dacian and Roman infos to pure Romanian cuisine, to Saxon sweets or Ottoman dishes, to Hungarian, Gipsy ideas.

Sibiu is the region that brought to the Romanian table, the potato. In the 18th century, Samuel von Brukenthal, than governor of Transylvania tried the first cultures of potatoes near Sibiu on its mansion in Avrig.

If you say Sibiu you say cheese. The most renowned cheese makers from Romania are from Sibiu. They are so emblematic the Vodafone made even an ad with a cheese maker as main character.

*cheese from Jina,
wine from the Tarnave area,
bread from Hosman,
hencles from Altina,
gingerbread from Boarta,
syrup from Alma Vii,
cabbage from Mosna,
pigs from Bazna.*

TRADITIONS & DANCES

keyword: the EASTER SPLASH



TRADITIONS & DANCES

Around Sibiu everybody is dancing. One of the main way to transmit our believes, our traditional philosophy around Sibiu is through dancing. We are dancing in Agnita masked like primordial beings to announce the New Year. We are dancing around Sibiu to welcome the afterlife into a ritual called “Nedeea”. We are dancing in Sadu to baptize on St. John Day all the men called Ion (John) in what is known as “Udatul Ionilor” (Soaking Johns). We are dancing in Cisnatie or in Medias to welcome work and the products that kept our communities alive and rich. The dancer of the weavers is one of the oldest still living Saxon dances and it is performed at any important local occasion. Also we have to mention the Armenian processions in Dumbraveni organized around the Easter.

Speaking about Easter, in Sibiu we have a very cheerful tradition that is transmited from generation to generation from a Saxon past to a Romanian present. Each Easter, the children are gathering in small packs and they are going to their girlfriends which are splashed with perfume or water.

The urban traditions are kept alive through fairs that maintain in the collective memoir the stories of our beautiful and important past. Each year in Sibiu we organize a Medieval Festival and each year we are organizing a potter’s fair in remembrance of the old medieval tradition of the fairs. In 2012 Sibiu declared the Baroque Year to revive our local baroque heritage.

ANIMALS

keyword: SHEEP, BUFFLES & CHEESE



ANIMALS

People around Sibiu had and still have a special relations with their animals. The rocky hills of Sibiu made vast agriculture impossible. That is why the domestic animals were so important for the people around Sibiu.

The most important intangible heritage that remained it is the transhumance. Even today the shepherds from Sibiu areas are taking their flocks and go on long distances around all over Romania and beyond and return around Sibiu for the summer. In Poiana Sibiului and Jina the moment in which the sheep are coming back or leaving the region is celebrated even today.

Lots of tradition with religious sources have animals in their display. We are eating pork for Christmas and lamb for Easter but more important is how these animals are sacrificed.

The Mongols brought to Transylvania the Asian buffalo and this majestic animal is still today a symbol of the rich history of human and animal around Sibiu. The vibrant relations between human and nature has an excellent image through the way how the people around Sibiu are connecting with their animals.

LUDIC

keyword: HANDBALL

LUDIC

In 1921 a teacher of physical education, Wilhelm Binder, went to Berlin and brought to Sibiu a new sport. In the same year he organized at Brukenthal Collegium a first game. That is the first game of handball ever played in Romania. Sibiu is the founding city of the most successful team sport in Romania. Being five time world champions it is a proof of the importance of this game in Romania.

The first players, the first referees, the first trainer as well the first national champion were all from Sibiu. The Saxon Wilhelm Binder today is considered the founding father of handball in Romania.

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

keyword: STONE – WOOD – METAL



TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

The most important way of understanding our intangible heritage is through the existing historical crafts. In our days, around Sibiu we can still discover little workshops that carry on the way of life preserved here.

In Tarnavioara (Copsa Mica) the town hall and a local NGO from Sibiu last year developed a project that qualified over 60 local craftsmen from carpenters to masons to blacksmiths. The blacksmiths are all from the Roma community.

In Apos another NGO alongside with Szeklers craftsmen brought back to life a local tile workshop. They produce now tiles of a very good quality that is bought even by museums for restoring traditional houses. A similar workshop exists in Cisnadioara specialized in bricks.

In Brateiu the vibrant local Roma community developed many local blacksmith workshops. They are excellent gutter makers, searched all over Romania and beyond.

In Floresti, today there is a barrel workshop. It exists since 19th century in the same family.

In 2004 in Sibiu a tradition was revived. The Lutheran parish of Sibiu alongside with the town hall reopened the Journeymen House. Located in the historical center of Sibiu, in the oldest house of the town, the House gathers each year craftsmen from all over Europe and with different crafts. From French to Czechs, from carpenters to bakers, from Swiss to Luxembourgese, from blacksmiths to florists.



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When you are coming to Sibiu you are not only visiting monuments and museums, you are not only reading about our great historical events, you are living our traditions, you are discovering that Sibiu and its surroundings are a living proof of cultural times that shaped Europe.

*Project
partner
logo*

Questions welcome



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Thank you!



Questions welcome



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