

SOUTHERN GERMAN BAROQUE AND IMMIGRATION TO SATHMAR (ROMANIA)

"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism (ROMANIA)

Maria.Bostenaru-Dan[at]alumni.uni-karlsruhe.de

Abstract

The first court architect of the county Károlyi in NW Romania after the immigration of the Swabians was Josef Bittheuser, originary from Würzburg, Franken, Germany. The city of Würzburg displayed the splendour of Baroque under the Schönborn family of prince-bishops, the main architect of whom was Balthasar Neumann. The fascination of the architecture of the home city of Josef Bittheuser was in line with the Swabian immigrants who came from a region where land was owned by monasteries and were deeply religious and built new churches, the only built works of Josef Bittheuser which remained.

Keywords: Károlyi, Josef Bittheuser, Balthasar Neumann, Würzburg, Swabian.

1. INTRODUCTION

1711 the Sathmar peace was closed in today's NW Romania. A plate by the artist from the Baia Mare colony Aurel Pop remembers this through a plate on the wall of the art museum, which was raised on the place of the deposit where the peace was signed (Fig. 1a). Following the peace, the count of Károlyi, the headquarters of whom were in today's Carei/Nagykároly/Großkarol, thought of repopulating the area, which was depopulated by previous wars. For this he brought as first German Swabian colonists from Oberschwaben (Upper Swabia) starting 1712, when the first colonists arrived. Another plate remembers their coming (Fig. 1b). The villages were founded successively, the oldest being Urziceni/Csanálos/Schinal. The village of Foieni/Mezőfény/Fienen will have the 300 years anniversary since the settlement of the Swabians in 2020 with a row of events. These two villages were the most beloved by the colonists. The colonists were Roman-Catholic, and the region they came from was characterised by ownership of land through monasteries. Today these monasteries with their churches and libraries build the Upper Swabian Baroque Route (buildings between 1629-1793, about half built before 1712). Some of them in Baden-Württemberg, where the area belongs today, are administrated by Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg (State Castles and Gardens Baden-Württemberg). Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg administrates also other Baroque buildings and gardens. One of them is the palace in Bruchsal, recently renovated again after the burn down in the WWII bombings, for which we reviewed two books about [1], [2]. There is however another connection between the Swabian colonists in Sathmar county and the palace in Bruchsal. Many of the churches and also other buildings of the Károlyi counts in the villages of the colonists and in the main cities were built by the architect Josef Bittheuser. Josef Bittheuser was an architect from the city of Würzburg, in Bavaria, another land as Baden-Württemberg. Josef Bittheuser lived (1755–1828). Balthasar Neumann lived (1687-1753). Thus when Josef Bittheuser was a child, many of the buildings of Balthasar Neumann might have already shaped the city of Würzburg. The book by Grimm presents the atmosphere of the city that times [3]. Also Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen, which is the corresponding institution for State Palaces, Gardens and

Lakes administration in Bavaria administrates a number of Baroque buildings and gardens, including the palace of Nymphenburg in Munich. However, in this paper we will concentrate on Balthasar Neumann and the image of Würzburg and Bruchsal, where he built.



Fig. 1. Plate for Sathmar Peace. Photos: M. Bostenaru

3. METHODOLOGY

The research involved literature and archive research, involving both the research of the buildings and of the population for whom and by whom the buildings were built. The historical context has been seen in correlation with the style, as an economically stronger environment led to richer decoration and larger sizes in the German part. An important part of the research involved field work and seeing the analysed buildings on site. Photography from relevant angles has been performed. Since after the immigration of Swabians the power of the Károlyi counts expanded, we used mapping to display the locations of relevant built contribution.

3. BALTHASAR NEUMANN IN BRUCHSAL AND WÜRZBURG

The book by Grimm [3] describes the ups and downs in the life of the architect, when funding for the ambitious projects was available or not, but also the genial solutions for the staircase in Bruchsal and for the shape of the pilgrimage place in Vierzehnheiligen, for example. In Bruchsal, the church of St. Peter (Fig. 2) was not damaged by war being situated on the periphery of the city. In the Bruchsal palace (Fig. 2), the contribution of Neumann was the staircase which solved a difficult situation [3]. [4] includes plans of both buildings with contribution of Balthasar Neumann in Bruchsal, in a collection of historical plans.



Fig. 2. Balthasar Neumann in Bruchsal: St. Peter church (top), Bruchsal palace and staircase (kind permission of SSG BW) 1731- (bottom). Photos: M. Bostenaru.

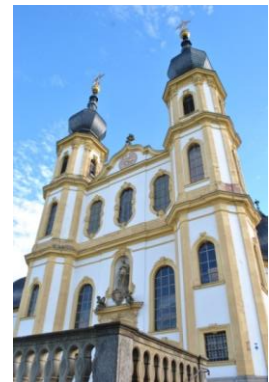


Fig. 3. Balthasar Neumann in Würzburg: top: Käppele church (1748-1750), middle: Schönborn chapel on the side of the Würzburg dome (1721-1724), bottom: Dominican church Würzburg (1741-1744). Photos: M. Bostenaru.

Construction activity in Bruchsal and Würzburg (Fig. 3) started in a coincidence also after 1711, since the princely bishops of Speyer lived till then in Mainz and Trier, namely in "the so called Schönborn time (Johann Philipp 1605–1673 bishop of Würzburg, Worms and archbishop of Mainz was the founder of the power line), the time of the same family of princely bishops as in Bruchsal, namely by princely bishops Johann Philipp Franz (brother of Damian Hugo who commissioned Bruchsal palace) and Friedrich Karl von Schönborn." [2]. The reign of the Schönborns had ups and downs, it was interrupted, when the buildings of Balthasar Neumann were considered too expensive [3]. Photography of palace Würzburg (1720-1744) [4] is not allowed. The palace is since 1981 UNESCO world heritage. Although damaged by bombing in the war, markant places such as the staircase or the chapel of the prince-bishops remained undamaged. This is why in [5] the restoration is not included like in the books on Bruchsal [1] and [2].

4. JOSEF BITTHEUSER FROM WÜRZBURG IN SATHMAR

Josef Bittheuser's birth is documented by the Peter and Paul church in Würzburg [6]. The first design was the enlargement of the reformed church in Carei (Fig. 4). The new Swabian villages needed churches, and some of them were designed by Josef Bittheuser. Such one is the church in Foieni/Mezőfőny/Fienen, a drawing of the church in Foieni (1785) by Josef Bittheuser can be found at <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/en/MOLTervtar/8176/> and the contemporary views are presented in Fig. 4. Other churches kept of him are those in Moftinu Mare (Fig. 4), one of the largest in the comitat, and in Petresti (fig. 4) or in Sandra (1781), a drawing of which can be seen here <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/en/MOLTervtar/8215/>. Further, he designed the chapel of Holy Trinity in the periphery of Carei, a drawing of which can be seen here <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/en/MOLTervtar/8120/>. Not for all churches of the Sathmar Swabians the architect is known. For example the first Baroque church in Carei is the Greek Catholic church (1737–1739). Also the church in Urziceni burned down and was reconstructed one century later. The memory of it is kept through the pictorial and sculptural representations of the patron of firefighters, Florian. The orthodox church in Carei was also from that period.



Fig. 4. Reformed church in Carei enlarged by Josef Bittheuser (1746 – 1752) (top)
Church in Foieni (1785) by Josef Bittheuser (middle top) Church in Moftinu Mare

(1797) (middle bottom) and in Petresti (1786) (bottom) by Josef Bittheuser. Photos: M. Bostenaru.



Fig. 5. Episcopal palace in Sathmar by Josef Bittheuser (1803), later transformed.

Apart of church buildings, Josef Bittheuser designed also other buildings, and in transformed map the Episcopal palace in Sathmar survives (Fig. 5). After the immigration of the Swabians, the Károlyi count family extended to other locations in Hungary [7]. Fig. 6 shows a map with all Károlyi locations and the works of the architects, and Fig. 8 shows the palaces in Budapest. Before Miklos Ybl became the court architect of the Károlyis, Josef Bittheuser was it, as he built

according to Hungaricana archives also at other locations of Károlyi branches, ex. Fót

(https://maps.hungaricana.hu/en/search/results/?list=eyJxdWVyeSI6ICJTWk89KGJpdHRoZXVzZXIpIn0&page=2&per_page=20). These results are available from the National Archives of Hungary, the Károlyi fund. Károlyi József (1768-1813), one of those under whom Swabian immigration happened, had 3 sons, the careers of whom helped to establish these branches: One of the sons, Károlyi István, established the branch of Fót, near Budapest. To this contributed that more Károlyi got merits in the 1848 freedom fight. Károlyi Lajos funded the branch in Tótmegyer (Palárikovo, today Slovakia) [8] while the oldest brother, Károlyi György, built in Fehérvárcsurgó. All of them had numerous children who contributed to the spread of the family and of the castles (Fig. 7) [8]. According to Bara [6], the only remaining staying buildings of Josef Bittheuser are churches, apart of those shown also a chapel on the periphery of Carei.

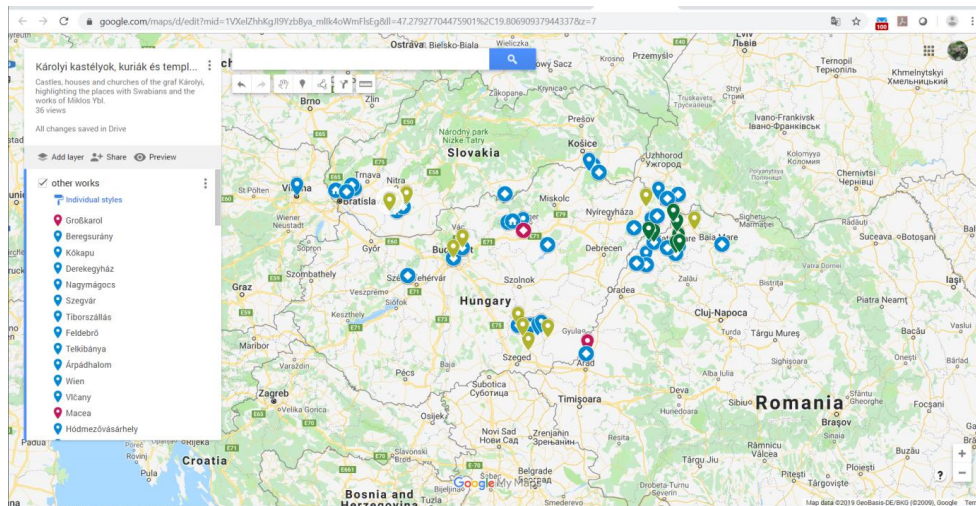


Fig. 6. Map of the properties of the Károlyis (red:in German inhabited places; with house symbol: designed or converted by Miklos Ybl, light green designed by Josef Bittheuser, not built, dark green buildings by Josef Bittheuser). See interactive map at

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1VXelZhhKgJI9YzbBya_mIk4oWmFlsEq&ll=47.42495267266949%2C20.004925299999968&z=8

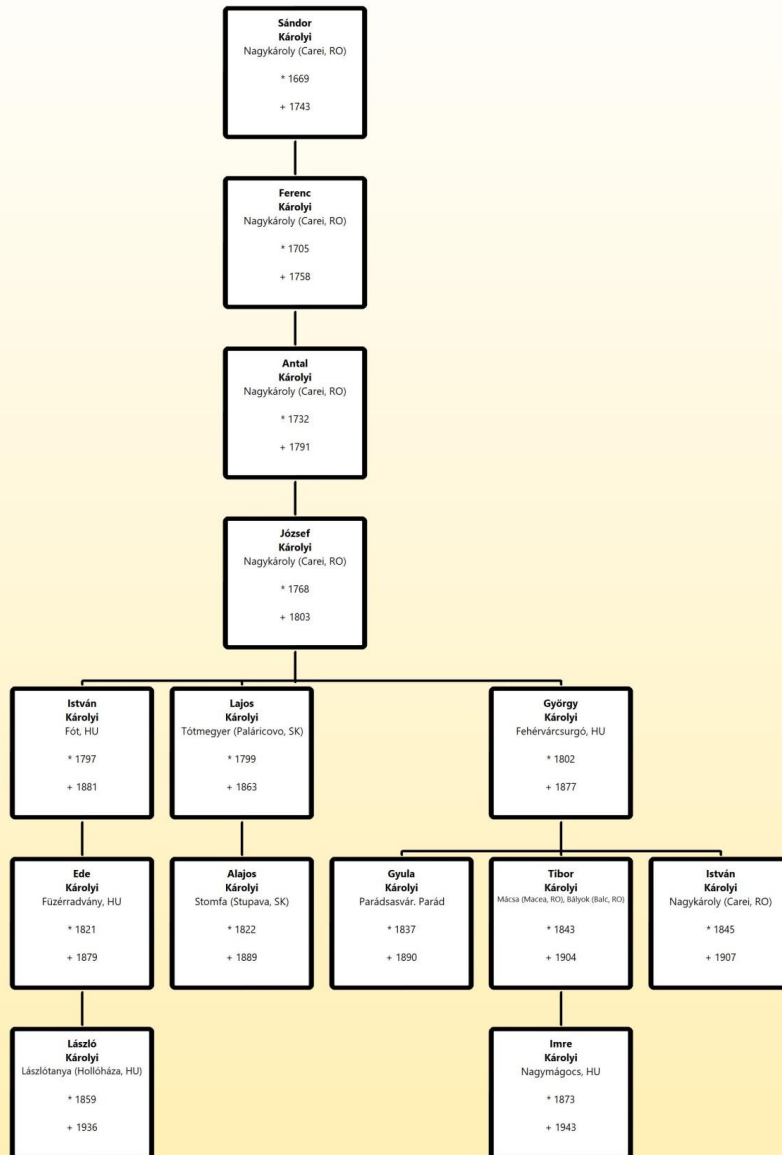


Fig. 7. Locations of the castles built by descendants of the Károlyi family, after [9].

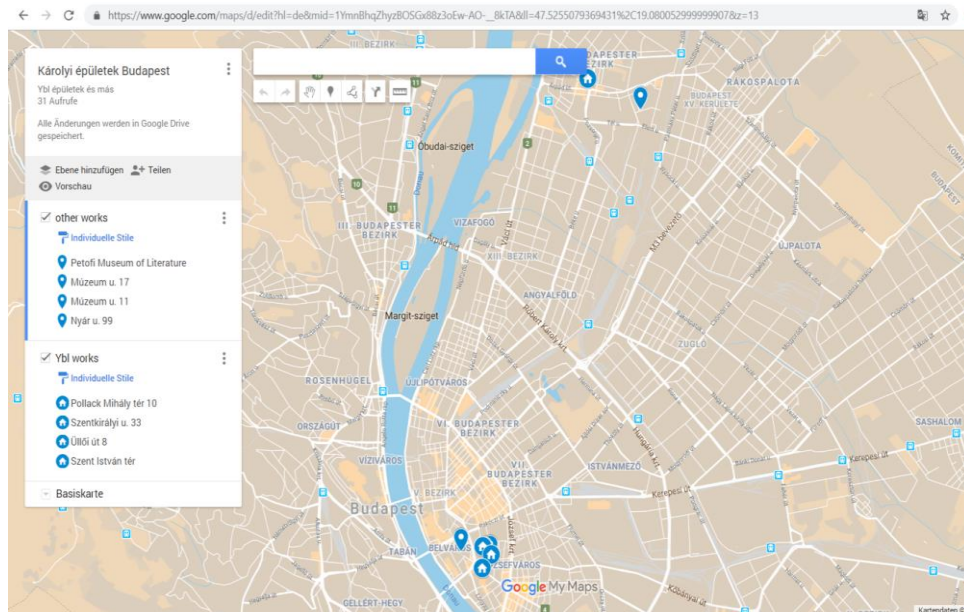


Fig. 8. Map of the palaces of Károlyis in Budapest. See interactive map at <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1YmnBhqZhyzBOSGx88z3oEw-AO-8kTA&ll=47.5255079369431%2C19.080052999999907&z=13>

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Josef Bittheuser was not the only foreign architect called by the Károlyi counts. The Roman-Catholic church in Carei was designed by Viennaise architect Franz Rosenstingl, and there is a similar church in Vienna. Later on, the Károlyis took as court architect Miklos Ybl, the greatest Hungarian architect, who redesigned some of the buildings of Josef Bittheuser which were damaged by the 1834 earthquake. Among these buildings it the reconstruction of the Golden Hirsch hotel in Carei, initially designed by Bittheuser [10]. In both cases of the analysed architects, the investor in the palace and church buildings played a major role in assuring the command of the work. Even if church persons, the investors in Würzburg were also princes.

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