

**THE ORGANS OF THE REFORMED DIOCESE FROM
ERDŐVIDÉK - EXAMINATION PAPER ABOUT
THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANS¹
- PART I -**

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MOTTO:

*“Humans need to read, sing, preach, write and rhyme,
and where he nourishes and assists this,
we have to let the bells to chime,
and every organ to hoot,
and every tinkler to clang.”³*

SUMMARY. When choosing the theme of my research, I was guided by the desire to get to know and investigate the organ, as a musical instrument, and by the affection and love for my homeland. I thought that I would choose a theme and a searching area, that has been infolded only in the slightest extent, and which constitutes an important piece of the history of Erdővidék and of the reformed diocese from Erdővidék. Many researchers surveyed the organs of Transylvania⁴, among others Dávid István published his results too. With my work I would like to complete this research of great dimensions, especially the part referring to the reformed churches from Erdővidék, and to correct the occurrent false informations, and confirm them with authentic data.

Keywords: organs, history, Reformed Diocese, Erdővidék, Bardoc, Barót, Bibarcfalva, Bodos, Bölön

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³ Buzogány, Dezső – Ósz, Előd – Tóth, Levente, *The historical cadaster of the reformed congregations of Küküllő (Târnava)*, Publisher Koinoniai, Cluj-Napoca, 2008. p. 551. (henceforth: Buzogány-Ósz-Tóth: The historical cadaster of the reformed congregations of Küküllő (Târnava).

⁴ Binder Hermann, Geréd Vilmos and Kovács László Attila.

About the Reformed Diocese from Erdővidék



*The map of the reformed congregation from Erdővidék.
Made by Fehér Csanád*

Erdővidék is the historical region of eastern Transylvania, and the northwestern part of Covasna County, which is located in the southernmost part of the eastern Carpathian Mountains, in the northern part of Barcaság (Țara Bârsei). Baróti Mountains (Munții Baraolt) border it in the east, in the north and northeast by the south-Harghita Mountains, in the west by the Persányi Mountains (Munții Perșani) and in the south from Nagyajta-Bölon (Aita Mare-Belin).⁵

From the townships of the Baraolt Basin – already in the 13th century – Andrew II of Hungary, in his donation letter from 1211, mentions for the first time Barót, (Baraolt), Nagyajta (Aita Mare) and Miklósvár (Micioșoara). This period is almost identical with the sedentation of the Székely community in this region.⁶ The basin of Erdővidék, surrounded by high mountains, was difficult to approach from

Udvarhelyszék (Scaunul Odorhei) and Háromszék (Trei Scaune), which facilitated the organisation of the settlements in separate administrative territories. So, this way, in the 14th century, the Bardoc fiúszék (scaunul filial Brăduț) was founded, which belonged to Miklósvárszék (Scaunul Micioșoara) and Udvarhelyszék (Scaunul Odorhei). The third administrative territory of Erdővidék was a little part of the Felső-Fehér Shire (comitatul Alba de Sus), which was composed by Felsőrákos (Racoșul de Sus), Ürmös (Ormeniș), then by Ágostonfalva (Augustin). The name Erdővidék, which contracted the three, above-mentioned administrative territories, appeared for the first time in the 17th century, in a census from 1614, ordered by Bethlen Gábor.⁷

Benkő József wrote about the origin of the name Erdővidék, and its borders, in his *Filius Pusthumus* from 1770, as follows: „it's surrounded and enclosed with big mountains, so much so that the mountains Hagymás (Hășmaș)

⁵ Kisgyörgy, Zoltán, *Erdővidék*. Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), 1973. 7–8.

⁶ Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*. (ed. Buzogány Dezső, preed. Csáki Árpád és Demeter László), [The Institution from southeastern – The Association of Gaál Mózes], Press of Kis Miklós from the Reformed Congregation from Transilvania, Kolozsvár, 2004. 8. (Henceforth: Benkő, József: *Filius Posthumus*.)

⁷ Idem. p. 9.

and Rika - from which in the east can be approached Háromszék (Trei Scaune), in the north Csík (Miercurea Ciuc) and in the west Udvarhelyszék (Scaunul Odorhei), - spread to even one mile. (...) It can be noted, that between these mountains is located Felső Rákos (Racoşul de Sus) too, but this village [doesn't] belong to this shire. Furthermore the villages Ágostonfalva (Augustin), Ürmös (Ormeniş) and Magyaros (Măgheruş) belong to the county Fejérvár, and they are blocked by the Olt River from Erdővidék.”⁸

After the reformation, with the exception of Barót, almost the whole Erdővidék switched over to the reformed belief. In the course of the 17th century, the reformed churches started to prevail in the area, but in Felsőrákos (Racoşul de Sus), Ürmös (Ormeniş), Nagyajta (Aita Mare), Bölön (Belin), and Vargyas (Vârghiş) remained – to this day - strong Unitarian communities. In the 18th century, because of the occupancy of the churches by the count Kálnoky Ádám, lord in Miklósvár (Micloşoara), much of the population Miklósvár (Micloşoara), but mainly the servants on his land, rejoined the catholic belief.⁹

Our present-day churches almost cannot be imagined without an organ. We must know that the congregation against the volition of the priests purchased the first organs in our churches. Among others, it's attributable to this, that the organs in the reformed churches of Transilvania appear almost two centuries later after the reformation, however, the evangelicals acknowledged it already in 1709 as a liturgical instrument at the synod of Rózsahegy (Ruzomberok). From the reformed community, only the braver and wealthier communities purchased organs. Against the volition of the bishop and of the holy orders, the Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) church from Háromszék (Trei Scaune) in 1753, then the congregation of Köpec (Căpeni) from Erdővidék in 1756 purchased for the first time musical instrument for the church. The synod of Bögöz (Mugeni) from 1761 looked askance at the fact, that the reformed congregations are buying organs for themselves: „*We contemplate with sore at the congregation from Háromszék (Trei Scaune), that the singing with organs – introduced by the congregation from Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), - enthralled other congregations too, and now in all four congregations the number of organs started to increase.*” The synod couldn't and didn't want to prevent the spreading of the organs, but regulated their procurement method.¹⁰

⁸ Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*. 39.

⁹ Idem, p. 40.

¹⁰ Dávid, István, *Organ monuments in Transilvania*. Polis Publisher, Kolozsvár–Balassi Publisher, Budapest, 1996. 19–20. (Henceforth: Dávid, István, *Organ monuments in Transilvania*.); Máthé, János, *A The history of the reformed congregation from Magyarhermány*. Actual Print kft., Barót, 2004. 38. (Henceforth: Máthé, János: *The history of the reformed congregation from Magyarhermány*.)

Benkő József, the most authentic historiographer priest from Erdővidék, tells about the fact, that in around 1761, in the reign of the bishop Borsnyai Lukáts János, how the reformed congregations of Transilvania started to buy organs. In spite of the objection of the bishop and the church leaders, the organ spread in Háromszék (Trei Scaune) and Erdővidék.¹¹ In this, the Saxon organ builders were instrumental, because they brought from Germany the specialized knowledge needed for building organs. The organ, yet in this period too, was a kind of status symbol, hence the wealthier reformed congregations from Háromszék (Trei Scaune), despite of the prohibitions, didn't want to drop behind other Hungarian and Saxon congregations, and started purchasing organs.

As I mentioned before, in Erdővidék the congregation of Köpec (Căpeni) built for the first time an organ in 1756, which was followed by the congregation of Erdőfüle in 1761. Towards the prevention of the spreading of the organs, and to assert the hurtfulness of the musical instrument, the dioceses from Háromszék (Trei Scaune) (*Ecclesiastica Communitas from Háromszék*) made a complaint to the High Authority of the Church (*Generalis Synodus*), wherein they formulated the followings:

“Just like the mind of a restless man, who cannot have sweet dreams until he gets what he sees at others, even if he makes more damage, we are experiencing and contemplating with sore at the congregation of Háromszék, because with the introduction by propria autoritate of one congregation of the singing with organs, other congregations got enthralled too, and by now, in all four congregations, the organs started to increase, which could lead to the following inconveniencies:

1mo. The listeners are not buying organs at their expense, but from the money of the congregation, and this way when a renovation of the Church, it's Tower, or it's Bell it's necessary, they have to beg for money, when it would be better for the congregation to save that money for bigger necessities.

2do. Schoolmasters, who have been ministered praiseworthy until now, but didn't learn to play the organ, are now being discharged, and this way they are increasing the vacancies against our old Privilegium, and the Rescriptums of our Madam.

The Communitas finished:

1. Henceforth the congregations cannot buy organs with the money of the congregation, but if they want to buy, they have to contribute commonly, and have the organ done ex private sumptu.

¹¹ Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*. p. 91.

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2. *If one congregation buys an organ, that cannot discharge it's minister, just because he can't play the organ, but they have to hire an organist, give him salary and a house, so that he can work leasurly.*

3. *Because the organ is a lightly resolvable musical instrument, if it starts to resolve in one of the congregations, they cannot repair it with the money of the congregation, they have to hire a craftsman on their own expense, because the disassembling and assembling of the organ can be costly.*

The complaint of the Háromszék Communitas was approved, expanded and made mandatory by the Generalis Synodus for the congregations in Transilvania, so that they act according to the above quoted recommendations.¹²

Against the volition of the High Authority of the Church, all the congregations of the Reformed Diocese from Erdővidék purchased organs consecutively. Hereinafter I tried to formulate the story of these wonderful musical instruments.

The History of the Organs of the reformed Diocese From Erdővidék:

1. Bardoc (Brăduț)

One-manual organ, with 8 registers, front played, with mecanical windchest
Builder: Kolonics István in 1883 as his 169th masterpiece.

Organ frame: One sectional (25) classical facade.

Disposition: Manual: C–f” 54 sound

Principál	4'	
Quint.	3'	
Csucs fuvola	4'	
Octav.	2'	
Mixtúra	3 rows	1½'
Flotaomábilis	4'	
Coppel	8'	
Portunál	8'	

¹² Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*. p. 91–92.



BARDOC
– KOLONICS ISTVÁN, 1883. –

The history of the organ: We cannot find authentic data for the time when the first church of the Bardoc congregation was built, but we can assume that it was around 1700.¹³ According to Benkő József Bardoc (Brăduț) was the branch of the Száldobos (Doboșeni) congregation, and became a separate congregation from 1710.¹⁴ The organ was always a beloved instrument of the congregation, which presumably was already built and used in the first church. A contract of building a tower remained to us from the 3th of July 1758. In 1767, the church was renovated.¹⁵ In the course of the next 100 years, the church was almost ruined, that the congregation was forced to build a new one, which was finished and consecrated in 1851. They moved here the

old organ too, which also showed the ravages of time, and Abásfalvi Balázs Mózes master from Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc) was entrusted with it's reparation. Abásfalvi finished renewing the organ in the 14th of April 1854.¹⁶

The church built in 1851 was strucked so many times by natural disasters (landslip, bolt), that the authorities had to close it in 1876. It is conceivable, that the organ was destroyed too in the disaster. In 1880 – a bit far from the earlier one – started the construction of the new church, which is standing today too, and it was successfully finished in 1882.¹⁷ Kolonics István built his 169th organ in this church.

About the reparations or renovations of the organ built by Kolonics in 1883, I didn't find any memorial in the archives. It is possible, that during the world wars, the pipes of this organ, similar to the other organs from Erdővidék, were requisited and used for military purposes. We can learn from the Presbitery Protocol, which was opened in 1931, that in 1975 they asked the organ repairman

¹³ Magyari, Hunor – Szántó, Tünde, *The churches of the Reformed congregation from Erdővidék. Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc)*, 2009. 9. (Hereafter: Magyari–Szántó, *The churches of the Reformed congregation from Erdővidék.*)

¹⁴ Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*, p. 149.

¹⁵ Balázs, Zoltán, *The past and the present of the reformed congregation from Bardoc.* <http://www.erdovidek.ro/egyhaziBardRef.php> (Viewed: 2010. 05. 02.)

¹⁶ Antal, István, *The transilvanian people of the reformed congregation from Bardoc.* The edition of the Dr. Fábrián László Association, Barót, 2009, p. 117.

¹⁷ Magyari–Szántó, *The churches from the Reformed Diocese of Erdővidék* 9.

Crișan György from Nagyvárad (=Oradea) to fix the musical instrument made by Kolonics. Crișan arrived at the congregation with his associate Szabó Gy. Sándor, they examined the state of the organ, and made the following bid for the Presbitery:

The whole disassemblance, cleanup and repair of the organ, the cleaning and repair of every pipe, the air-tightening of the blowers and of the air-ducts, the regulating of the tracker action and of the keys, and the tuning and intoning of the whole organ was 2.500 lei. The 25 pieces of front pipe was completely missing from the organ,¹⁸ which preparing and replacement cost 7.500 lei. From the inside of the organ were missing 42 pipes, which installing needed another 3.400 lei and the leathering of the windbag another 1.000 lei from the congregation. In addition to the 14.300 lei price for the repair, the congregation had to pay the accommodations of the two-organ technician, and one "blustering day-labourer", which helped the technicians. The repairing started in first part of June 1975, and was finished in 15th August. Next to according a one-year guarantee, the presbytery accepted the offer made in the 15th February of 1975, and paid a 3.000 lei advance for Crișan.¹⁹

I couldn't find a memorial in the archives of the congregation, about the repair of the organ after 1975. The organ of the Reformed Congregation from Bardoc it's usable today too, and it's in a very good state. According to the priest in the near future, they want to upgrade the organ with an electro-pneumatic action.

2. Barót (Baraolt)

One-manual organ, with 4 registers, short octaves, with mechanical windchest.

Builder: unknown in 1865

Organ frame: three sectional (9–9–9)

Disposition:²⁰ Manual C–c''' 45 sound

Nagy dugott 8'

Kis dugott 4'

Nyolcad 2'

Félnyolcad 1'

¹⁸ The front pipes could have been missing because of requisitions.

¹⁹ The Archive of the Reformed Congregation from Bardoc I/31. pp. 408–409.

²⁰ Dávid, István, *Organ monuments in Transilvania*. p. 53.



Barót (Baraolt)

– unknown master, 1865?–

The History: The majority of the population from Barót was catholic by the end of the first part of 1900's. Thanks to the industrialization, in the centre of Erdővidék, which was slowly becoming a city, the reformed believers settled in from the neighboring villages. Today, the number of the reformed exceeds twice the number of catholic believers.

The documents mention for the first time the reformed believers from Barót in 1680, and in 1770, they reckoned up only 36 reformed believers, who must have gathered in the house of priest Cserei József, for the worships. The catholic congregation from Barót didn't welcome the new "stranger" reformed believers and the priests who went there to minister. This emerges clearly from the following words of Benkő József: "Once,

when Tsernátoni Márton priest from Bodos was there to minister, he was beaten up, and threatened on his way home, so that he'll never return to Barót to minister..."²¹

Cserei József decided, that he would build a church for the reformed believers from Barót, and in the 7th march of 1782, he asked personally for a church building permit from the Regal Gubernium of Transilvania²². In 1783, they consecrated the first reformed church of Barót.²³ Barót was the branch of Bodos until 1867, and then became the branch of Olasztelek (Tălișoara) until 1901. After the turn of the century, the number of the reformed believers and families attracted here by the industrialization, increased so much, that it became a Mother Congregation, and hereby it could choose its own priest, Kovács Sándor.²⁴

The currently useless organ with 4 registers was supposedly built in 1864-65 in the church built by Cserei. We can find a reference to this date in the presbyterian minute book from the 8th of January 1865, from which we can learn, that "our finished organ isn't paid", because from the money meant for the organ, mr. Zathureczky László paid another debt. Therefore, the Consistorium entrusted Benkő János and Rác János, to go to the believers of the congregation and ask for other donations so that they can pay the organ.²⁵

²¹ Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*, p. 135.

²² Gubernium: a major administration division in Transilvania under the Habsburg domination between 1691 and 1867.

²³ Krizbai, Imre, *The reformed congregation from Barót*. <http://www.erdovidek.ro/egyhazi/BarRef.php> (Viewed: 2010. 05. 20.)

²⁴ Magyar-Szántó, *The churches of the Reformed Congregation from Erdővidék*. p. 11.

²⁵ The Archives of the reformed congregation from Barót, I/12, p. 20-21.

In the 21st of May 1887 the reformed-evangelical church from Barót and the organ builder from Brassó, Nagy József entered into a contract to rebuild the organ made in 1865.²⁶ The congregation decided in the 7th of April 1885 to entrust Nagy József with the building of a new organ, and to build in the usable parts of the existing organ into the new organ. Because of lack of money, the building and the handover delayed until November 1887. They organized a gathering, which was led by Zathureczky Gábor, Zöld Sándor, Bartha József, Kovács György and Antos József vezetésével, and they gathered 246 forint and 82 krajcár. The price of the organ was 255 forint and 40 krajcár. The congregation from the school fund covered the difference.²⁷

For the handover they invited Hegyi János expert and Jakab Dénes and Bartha József adepts, who examined the internal structure and the sonority of the musical instrument. The three invited stated that the organ was built according to the contract, and proposed „to thank and acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Nagy József organ builder.” After granting the motion, the presbytery established and paid the accommodation of the two assistant for 21 days (1 forint 50 krajcár daily) and reimbursed the travelling expenses of Hegyi János (5 forint).

In the minute book of the presbytery meeting convoked in the 24th of May 1903, we can read that Csioflek Miklós organ and harmonium builder from Brassó (Braşov) was in a tranzit in Barót, where he visited the priest, and made a reasonable offer for the repair and cleaning of the church organ. Csioflek guaranteed that he would finish by Pentecost. Regarding to the expenses of the repair, they agreed with the organ builder in 30–40 corona. The church cashier said, that “The church doesn’t have any money for the repair”, so they started a gathering. The priest “invited the gracious heart to donate for achieving a noble and saint goal”, and they started the gathering at the meeting amongst the members of the presbytery.²⁸

In 1917, the metal organ pipes were taken for military goals along with the smaller bell of the church. After this, the metal pipes were substituted with wooden pipes.²⁹ In the years of 1920, they asked Kós Károly to make the plans of a bigger church. The architect fulfilled the request, but the building operations didn’t start because of the global economic crisis. In 1933, the congregation built a community centre, a so-called “reformed cultural centre” on the plot bought downtown, which was transformed into a church in 1947, and later they built a tower next to it, based on the plans made by Debreceni László. The old small church was sold to the Baptist Church, which is using it today too.³⁰

²⁶ The Archives of the reformed congregation from Barót, I/12, p. 69.

²⁷ Kese, Jenő, *Dates for the history of Barót city. II. volume*. Manuscript, The Archives of the reformed congregation from Barót, p. 344.

²⁸ The Archives of the reformed congregation from Barót, I/13, p. 58–59.

²⁹ Kese, Jenő, *Dates for the history of Barót city. II. volume*, p. 344.

³⁰ Magyarai–Szántó, *The churches of the Reformed Congregation from Erdővidék*, p. 12.

In 1948, the organ was moved from the small church into the new one, where “it was set by reformed parishioner Balázs Béla handyman from Barót”. They redeem a few metal pipe register for the organ, but the congregation cannot enjoy its decaying sonority for long, and soon they retire it. In place of the organ, they make the service on a harmonium borrowed from the Evangelic Church, which then is changed to an electronic one.³¹

In 2nd July of 2006 the current church of the congregation – designed by Levein de Putter – was consecrated, they started the reconstruction on the old church to build a parish.³² The remained parts of the “old” organ were transferred to its current location, in the upper circle of the new church, where it's waiting for restoration.

3. Bibarcfalva (Biborteni)

One-manual organ, with 7 registers, front played, short octave, with mechanical windchest.

Builder: Balázs Mózes in 1855.

Organ frame: Five sectional (6–4–7–6–4) historical facade.

Disposition: Manual: C–c” 45 sound

Principál

Nyolczad

Erdei fuvola

Fedett fuvola

Vájt fuvola

Mixtur

Ötöd

³¹ Kese, Jenő, *Dates for the history of Barót city. II. volume*, p. 344–345.

³² Magyarai–Szántó, *The churches of the Reformed Congregation from Erdővidék*, p. 12.



Bibarcfalva
– Balázs Mózes, 1855 –

The history of the organ: In Bibarcfalva, in the place of the present-day church, there was a medieval zion in the 14th century, from which only remained the walls of the craft, with a mural portraying Saint Ladislaus. The mural perpetuates a scene from the the battle in Csernátton (Cernat) from 1368, when the Hungarian troops heroically repulsed the kun and besenyő troops. In 1762 was the first transformation and expansion of the Zion. In 1794, using the plans made by Sáfrány Ferentz, they built a tower next to the church, and in 1897 after building the aisle, the building gained its current shape.³³

From the inventory minute book made in 1799 we can learn, that the interior and the furniture was in ruins. Also in this minute book is stated “we have in this church a bad organ, with four mutations, without paint” The repair of the church started quite early, in 1800, but there wasn’t any memorial referring to the state of the organ.³⁴

The next time when the congregation is showing tendency to repair the organ is in 1843, and they organize a gathering. The register of collecting the donations says “240 rebus forint”, but the repair didn’t take place. It’s possible that the musical instrument was not repaired at all, because in 1855, for a 450-forint expense, the congregation had made an organ with “6 mutations”, about which builder unfortunately we don’t have any authentic data.³⁵ Perhaps Dávid István used this same source, because we can read the followings in his book: “The current organ is with short octave, with 7 registers, supposedly it’s from 1855, and its builder is unknown.”³⁶

In the course of my research I’ve found a script in the minute-book of the presbytery meeting held in 28th January of 1855, in pursuance of which the presbytery authorized Bartha József school master, Gáspár Ferenc judge and Bertalan Sándor judge, to find and ask a master for “The noble and saint

³³ Magyari–Szántó, *The churches of the Reformed Congregation from Erdővidék*, p. 14–15.

³⁴ *The history of the evangetic-reformed Congregation from Bibarcfalva*. From the story written by Borsay László in 1906, a copy was made by Molnár Béla in 1943.– which can be found under D/56 in the Archives of the reformed Congregation from Bibarcfalva. The Archives of the reformed Congregation from Bibarcfalva., IV.a, p. 5.

³⁵ The Archives of the reformed Congregation from Bibarcfalva., IV.a, p. 7.

³⁶ Dávid, István, *Organ monuments in Transilvania*. p. 56.

congregation of Bibartzfalva” who will build an organ for the congregation. The commissioners have found and asked Balázs Mózes³⁷ organ builder to fulfill the task. A proof is the acquittance about the acceptance of advance, which literally contains the followings::

„Acquittance

About those 100. Százpengő Hungarian forints, which I accepted as an advance from mr. Gáspár Ferenc the judge of the reformed-evangelic congregation of Bibarcfalva for the organ building, and which I acknowledge and attest on Bibarczfalva, 17th February of 1855.

*Balázs Mózes
Organ builder³⁸*

I could not find other organ building contracts or other documents about the organ building, but based on the quoted text, and compared with the outlook of the organ built by Balázs Mózes in 1860 in the Unitarian Church from Homoródkeményfalva (Homorod-Chemenfalău), it may be hypothesized that it's his work.

In the presbytery meeting held by the priest's house in 23rd September of 1866 there was present as a guest Kolonics István organ builder. The presbytery ordered from Kolonics an organ with 6 variations, next to paying 400 forint, and conveying the existing organ. The Kolonics offer for the content of the new organ, summarized in 16 point, contains the followings: Principal 4 feet, 49 sounds made of zink; Octave 2 feet, 49 sounds, also made of zink, Kvinta 1 and ½ feet, 49 sounds; Mixture 1 feet 2 row; Copula Minor 4 feet, 49 wooden sound; Copula major 8 feet wooden piped with 49 sounds and Tremula. The keys of the console were supposed to be made by wood, and wrapped in white bone. The exterior painting of the organ is white, with gilded ornament. The deadline for finishing the building was guaranteed by the master until the end of May 1867. The contract stipulated: *„the organ promised for more the 400 forint will only be transported by the congregation to Kézdivásárhely when the new organ is ready to use.”* Therefore, in the 16th point of the document the congregation specifies that:

„The master is responsible for the new organ for 10 years, and if the congregation doesn't like the new organ, the master has to take it back without any expense, and to put the old organ back to its place.”³⁹

³⁷ Balázs Mózes organ builder built organs between 1845. and 1870. in Transilvania. He built 5 organs aside from the one in Bibarcfalva. DAVID István: *Organ monuments in Transilvania*. 184.

³⁸ Archives of the reformed Congregation from Bibarcfalva., I/16. the prebytery minute-book from 28th january 1855.

³⁹ Archives of the reformed Congregation from Bibarcfalva., I/16. The presbytery minute-book from 23rd september 1866.

I couldn't determine if the organ promised by Kolonics was finished or not. Kolonics promised the building of an organ with 6+1 registers (Tremula) and 49 sounds⁴⁰. Currently the church has an organ with 7 registers, 45 sounds, without tremula, which was built in 1855⁴¹.

When I was there, I couldn't determine the foot numbering of the organ registers. Unfortunately, the congregation can't enjoy its sounding because of the absence of a chorister and the false sounding of the organ.

4. Bodos (Bodoş)



Bodos

– Kolonics István, 1865 –

One-manual organ, with 6 registers, front played, short octaves, with mechanical windchest.

Builder: Kolonics István in 1865.

Organ frame: One sectional (17) classical facade.

Disposition: Manual: C–c” 45 sound

Mixtura 2 rows 1’

Octáv 2’

Kvinta 1 ½’

Kopel 8’

Flota minor 4’

Principál 4’

The history of the organ: Bodos was one of those settlements of Erdővidék, which during the reformation first switched to the new doctrines. Its neighbor settlement is Nagybacon (Băţanii Mari), which acknowledged and accepted the reformation of Luther, which soon spread in the surrounding villages: Kisbacon

(Băţanii Mici), Szárazajta (Aita Seacă), Bibarcfalva (Biborţeni) and Bodos (Bodoş). We can't find any memorials, of how did Bodos's population switched to the reformed belief. The village had three churches over the times. We don't have exact data about the location of the first church, but according to assumptions it was somewhere in the midpoint of the road between Bodos (Bodoş) and Bibarcfalva (Biborţeni). The second church was in the village, but in 1788, in the letter addressed to the “*Regal Gubernium*” the congregation asked a build permit for a new church. The second church collapsed because of a landslip and became unusable. The location of the third, - and currently used –

⁴⁰ Idem.

⁴¹ Dávid, István, *Organ monuments in Transilvania*. 56.

church, was pointed in the southern height of the village, and was consecrated in 1794, “to be the House of God through centuries, and to preach the beliefs of the congregation from Bodos for centuries”. The first organ of the church is mentioned for the first time in 1824. Perhaps, it was an organ which blowers a strap was pulled. About this, we can read in a minutes-book of a reception of a ringer from 1824, according to which the person entrusted with the tolling “had to pull the strap of the organ” too. In the „*Conscriptio*” made in 1837 by Bartha Sándor and Szárazajtai Incze József it’s written the interior and exterior build of the church, and its state: „*The organ is placed in the eastern part [of the church], and it’s painted to blue.*”⁴²

By 1852 the sounding of the organ was damaged so much that the congregation was forced to repair it. Perhaps, the repaired organ wasn’t able either to satisfy the needs of the congregation, because the general meeting decided in 1860 the building of a new organ.⁴³

In 5th march 1860, the congregation from Bodos had a church meeting, and they set on the items of the agenda “to buy a new organ instead of the old and decays organs or to repair the existing one”. After the approving from the church meeting, they adjudicated to collect bounties. In the 17th November of 1861, they established a commition for supervising the fund collecting. The members of the Commition: Budai József, Fábián Márton, Dávid József és Józsa Péter, who undertook the collecting of the money necessary for the organ building. The list of the givers and the correct amount of their donation can be viewed in the file named Organ buying causes opened in 1860 in the Archive of the Bodos Congregation marked under the C.7/15.⁴⁴

The general meeting from the 1st October of 1864 decided, based on the collected amount of money, to ask Kolonics István organ builder from Kézdivásárhely (=Târgu Secuiesc) for building a new organ with 6 registers. The price for the new organ was set to 600 Forint, half of which, 300 forint was paid in advance, and the remained 300 forint was paid after the organ was finished.⁴⁵

In the contract signed in 23th October of 1864, Kolonics engaged to build a “*six variations organ*”. Reffering to the structure of the organ, the followings can be read: Az orgona szerkezetére vonatkozóan a következők olvashatóak: principal 4 feet, 45 sounds (42 pipes from zink, in the bass pipe from 3 woods); principal octave 45 sounds from zink; kvinta 1½ feet, 45 sounds from zink; 1 feet, two rows mixture from zink, copula 8 feet with wooden pipes,

⁴² *The history of the reforme congregation from Bodos*. The archives of the reformed congregation from Bodos. p. 6–9.

⁴³ Dávid, István, *Organ monuments in Transilvania*. p. 56.

⁴⁴ The archives of the reformed congregation from Bodos, C.7/15.

⁴⁵ The archives of the reformed congregation from Bodos, T.23. 152.

flota minor 4 feet also with wooden pipes. The organ's console was made from white bone; *"the overtones"* were made from black wood. The congregation asked the blower with *"one swipe and wind chest"*. In reference to the organ body, the contract stipulates a painted one, with gilded ornaments. In addition, it was added to the contract – against the resolution from 1st October 1864 – that by the 1st of October 1865, the congregation will send 400 forint by post to the address of Kolonics István from Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc). The remained 200 forint will be paid to the builder or its family within 2 years after the assembling of the organ in "january" 1866.⁴⁶

The old organ was sold by the church for 40 forint to the greek-catholic church from Zalánpatak (Valea Zalanului). The organ was repaired the the local chorister in 1910, then in 1915, namely by Gáspár Albert for 160 and 50 corona wage. In 1918, the military purchased the zink organ pipes. They carried zink pipes which weight 23 kg and 30 dkg, for which the church got 442, 70 corona. In 1930 the interior and the exterior of the church was renovated with the organ. At the festivity of re-consecration the renewed church, Kovács Sándor deanery said the following words: „In the years of 1929 and '30 the congregation from Bodos went through some major changes. The church, the tower, and the fences were repaired. The slight white tower next to the white church it's like a laughing child in the arms of his mother. (...) The useless organ was repaired for 55.000 lei, and ornamented with front pipes. This repair, this purity shouts with mute words: This church is the House of God!”⁴⁷

According to the priest, the organ was repaired and cleaned for the last time in 1970 by the chorister from Felsőrakos. We don't have knowledge if in the past 40 years the church organ was repaired. Currently its sounding is a little false, but the congregation is still using it.

5. Bölon (Belin)

One-manual organ, with 6 registers, front played, with mechanical windchest.

Builder: Nagy József in 1881.

Organ frame: Three sectional (9–9–9) classical facade.

Disposition: Manual: C–f” 54 sound

Principál	4'
Salicional	8'
Rezgőfuvola	8'
Quint	2 ² / ₃ '
Mixtur	3 rows 2'
Kisfuvola	4'

⁴⁶ The archives of the reformed congregation from Bodos T.23. 153–155.

⁴⁷ *The history of the reformed congregation from Bodo*, p. 9–10.



Bölon
– Nagy József, 1881 –

The history of the organ: Bölon, the southeast settlement of Erdővidék, is located on the right side of the Olt River. Its habitants form a strong Unitarian community since 1557, the number of the reformed believers doesn't reach 200 souls in the presence either.⁴⁸ In 1770, Benkő József wrote the followings about the reformed people in Bölon (Belin): „Bölon has a very few reformed believers, the majority of its population is Unitarian.”⁴⁹ The reformed Bishop, namely Csulai György, mentioned the reformed church from Bölon for the first time in 1653. This church was enlarged in 1712, when it gained its present shape.⁵⁰

The congregation built its first organ in 1816. In the settlement from 4th June of 1816 – made between the principals of the congregations and the organ builder – we can read that the Reformed Congregation from Bölon „agreed with Mr. Boldizsár Tamás organ builder in a new, five variations organ, for 450 german forints, and for aprox. 64 liters of wheat...”. The congregation agreed, that „after the organ it's finished and they bring it to the congregation to set it up, until it's done, the Congregation will feed” Boldizsár Tamás organ builder. Boldizsár assured the principals, that he doesn't have any other work except this one, and he won't accept new ones until this one is finished. The deadline of finishing the organ was Saint Martin's day⁵¹, settled by the committee. The organ builder got 50-forint advance, to facilitate the beginning of the working.⁵²

The first resurrection of the church took place in 1851.⁵³ According to our knowledge hereinafter they didn't repair, or transform the organ. The cause of the organ was not brought up until 1881 in the Reformed Congregation from Böloni.

⁴⁸ Magyar–Szántó, *The churches of the Reformed Diocese from Erdővidék*. p. 20.

⁴⁹ Benkő, József, *Filius Posthumus*. p. 141.

⁵⁰ The official homepage of the Reformed Congregation of Bölon:
http://refbolon.5mp.eu/web.php?a=refbolon&o=7wcx0Aigu_ (Viewed: 2010. 05. 24.)

⁵¹ The Day of Saint Martin is celebrated by the popular custom on 11th november. Szent Márton Napját a népszokás november 11-én ünnepli. Saint Martin from Tours, missionary born in Pannonia was burried in Tours, above his grave they built a zion.

⁵² The archives of the reformed congregation from Bölon, C.7./1816.

⁵³ The official website of the reformed congregation from Bölon:
http://refbolon.5mp.eu/web.php?a=refbolon&o=7wcx0Aigu_ (Viewed: 2010. 05. 24.)

The contract about building the next organ for the congregation was signed between the principles in 25th February of 1881 in Brassó (Braşov) and between Nagy József organ builders. In the contract we can read that „*the evangelic-reformed congregation from Bölön needs a new organ...*”. Referring to the structure of the organ they agreed in a one-manual, 6 variations musical instrument. Its blower was asked to be put in the bolster of the organ frame, which could be pumped with a pedal. About the organ frame they wrote the followings: „*The interior part of the console is covered with polished walnut, the exterior part [of the console] is painted with light skyey oilpaint, the keys are made of white bone and ebony tree, the variations names and measures are written by letters under a thick glass.*” After the descriptions of the organ they agreed in the value of 800 forint. The dead-line of finishing and delivering the organ was set by Nagy József to 31st July of 1881. According to the document, when they signed the contract, the principles of the congregation paid 200 forint advance for the organ builder. The payment of the second part was set for 1st June. At that date, they pay another 150 forint for Nagy József. The remained amount will be paid after the delivarence and setting up of the organ. The old organ was included in the price in 100 forint value, and this was deducted from the total price. „*Nagy József master guaranteed a 5 year old warrant for the organ, within this period he’s obligated to correct every failure occurred.*” Nagy József organ builder and Tőkés Miklós, Nagy Teréz, Nagy Tamás, Antal Albert the commissioners of the church, and Tana Sámuel and Barabás Károly witnesses, signed the contract.⁵⁴

In September 1918, the commissioners of the National War department Ministry arrived in Bölön too, to requisite the organ pipes. From the organ made Nagy József they took 17 pieces principal with 4 foot, and 10 pieces of the Quint pipe 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ foot, their total weight was 29.5 kg.⁵⁵

In 1945 priest, Nagyobb Péter made the following appeal to the congregation: „*I ask fondly every member of my congregation to donate a trifling amount to support the congregation, so that we can repair the church organ, which has now two useless variations, and because of that the organ is barely singing, by the organ repairmen Magyar Árpád.*” The priest, Pál Tivadar chorister, and Nagy András school principle with 1000 lei per head opened the donation. During the offerings, they gathered 28.170 lei.⁵⁶

Magyar Árpád made the last repair of the organ from this above-mentioned amount, supposedly.⁵⁷ On the organ repaired after the II. World War they didn’t make any repair.

⁵⁴ The archives of the reformed congregation from Bölön, C.7./2.

⁵⁵ The archives of the reformed congregation from Bölön, C.7./3.

⁵⁶ The archives of the reformed congregation from Bölön, C.7./35/1945.

⁵⁷ The official homepage of the reformed congregation from Bölön:

http://refbolon.5mp.eu/web.php?a=refbolon&o=7wcx0Aigu_ (Viewed: 2010. 05. 24.)

In 2004, the congregation started the renovation of the collapsing church building, which was mostly regretted without fail by the organ. During the renovations, almost 80% of the building was rebuilt; the upper circle – where the organ was placed – was demolished. Incompetent workers moved the organ downstairs, and the organ got totally destroyed. The original (lightblue and gilded) colour was painted bourdon, so that it fit to the new interior of the church. Today, the organ built in 1881 by Nagy József is useless; it is furniture in the church.

Translated by Inczefi Gyöngyvér

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