

## ABSTRACT

### JÓZSEF MÁRTONFI'S ACTIVITY AS A SCHOOL INSPECTOR AND CENSOR

As the analysis of his activity as school-inspector and censor shows, József Mártonfi played an essential role in the scientific and cultural life of Transylvania between the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. Focusing on the extent of his social network and the responsibility he showed through his work, we have a better picture of an official and a scientist who showed the greatest dedication and honesty in his work of reforming the life in the catholic schools.

Mártonfi accurately knew the regal decrees, which he did not intend to break. But he wanted to exploit all the possibilities offered by the king's orders regarding the Transylvanian youth. Through the letters written to the governor György Bánffy, we get to know the clerk and patriot who considered serving the country his most important assignment. He also expected the same attitude from the others around him. Mártonfi always kept in mind the decrees as a guideline for his actions. These principles he always proudly referred to in his letters were the coordinates of his inspectoral and censorial function.

In the reorganization of education, Mártonfi relied on a double set of principles. Firstly, the education had to serve the interest of the state through educating future useful citizens. Secondly, the education had to be based on utilitarianism, centered on the esthetical idea, because the youth was supposed to be taught that they should keep nothing in their hearts higher than the sciences.

Mártonfi expresses many times his ideas in the discussions with his peers. He supports his arguments with the help of modern pedagogical works. This way he highlights his scientific abilities and his extensive readings.

Mártonfi prepared advisedly the development of scientific and cultural life of Transylvania through the improvements to the Astronomical Observatory's equipment. Same purpose served the introduction of Astronomy into the curriculum of the higher education. He also tried to gain the support of the Bishop Ignác Batthyány for this cause. Mártonfi spent much of his earnings endowing the Observatory, even completely rebuilding after it burned down, to ensure the possibility of future research. He planned to gather young scientists, who would be able to disseminate Transylvania's scientific achievements abroad.

For Mártonfi, the idea of serving the country is visible not only in his teaching; it extends across all areas of his life and activity. He sees the knowledge of the past important in the creation of the present. He wants to serve his country by helping to draft the documents about our history. In his opinion, the history as a science should create its narrative using the auxiliary sciences, as only this way can we get a clearer picture of the centuries past from which we do not have enough documents or resources to inquire.

Researching Mártonfi's censorial activity we proved that, contrary to what was previously thought, he was not appointed censor of the religious books in 1781, but he was assigned with the task to review the non-catholic books brought from foreign countries.

Our research uncovered that the introduction of protestant books wasn't easier at the end of the 18th century either; that is why, in some cases, the interfering of the Reformed Consistorial Council was necessary for the sake of their books. We don't have enough information to see clearly who the censors were after Mártonfi, who had the task to examine the protestant books, or the owners of the books the censors had taken away. The claims of the Consistorial Council were not unanswered, as the Gubernium took measures on every case. If the book did not contain any injurious parts, they would be returned to their owners. We could find proof of one such case where the books were eventually returned.

A part of our conclusions were based on the books we could find in the Teleki Téka Library from Târgu Mureş, redacted between 1780 and 1815. We searched for the existence of an imprimatur, the name of the censor assessing the work and the date of the ratification. It would have been more effective if we could have examined the censorial copy of these works in all cases, but this seems almost impossible, as only a little part of the manuscript survived and can be analyzed. The prefaces gave us complementary information about the circumstances of the editions. The imprimaturs revealed who were the key-personalities of the censorship at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century.

In the Library of the Romanian Academy from Cluj-Napoca we could find among the catholic manuscripts censorial copies, too, which their writer sent to the Gubernium for examination. Through these manuscripts, we can follow the process of examination: we can compare the original copy with the redacted one and see all the differences between them, all these illustrating the way the decrees enforced.