

ABSTRACT

This study presents an investigation of 163 sundials which can be found in Transylvania (as of 1 September 2020).

We begin by presenting some basic notions about sundials necessary to understanding their use: a short history, the structure of sundials (the gnomon, the dial, the hour lines), how they are used, longitudinal correction and the equation of time.

We then present the general characteristics of Transylvanian sundials, according to these basic notions.

The third part presents the sundials found in each of the 16 districts of Transylvania, along with a short history of the buildings on which they can be found. It also presents 30 sundials which today don't exist, but of which we have knowledge (texts, pictures).

The fourth part is a database of the presented 193 sundials, containing data concerning their precise location (GPS coordinates, and address), their technical data (dimensions, etc.), and the description of the digits on the sundial.

The purpose of this work is to raise awareness concerning forgotten values which are sometimes in danger of disappearing, and also to revive the culture of sundials, a culture which was once alive and thriving in Transylvania.

This book should also serve as a guide for the specialist responsible for restoring old churches or other buildings whose history shows evidence of sundials

This is the first work of its kind in Hungarian, and aims to be comprehensive and complete (as of 1 September 2020, and with the exception of some sundials held in museums).

Compared with the last work in this field in Romania (and in fact, the sole one: Dan UZA, 2014 - presenting 106 sundials), this study deals with 57 more sundials identified since then, and another 30 sundials, which have since disappeared.

This is also the first study containing a database of the 193 sundials in Transylvania.