

Kristóf Guti Országh and his place in the Hungarian aristocracy of the 16th century

The Guti Országh family has been present in Hungarian history since the 14th century, with members of the dynasty holding very high offices since the 15th century, from the middle of the reign of King Sigismund of Luxemburg, one of them being Mihály Guti Országh, palatine of King Matthias I.

Thus far, there is no comprehensive work dealing with the significance of the Guti family, their political and military role, the genealogy of the family and their dynastic relations with other aristocratic families.

My work is intended to light this dark area on the stage of Hungarian historiography of the Middle Ages and the early modern age.

I intend to follow the history of this aristocratic family in detail from the founding of the dynasty, from gentry to aristocracy, to the title of Baron, until 1567. After that time, when the line ended with the death of Kristóf Guti Országh, I examine the further fate of their estate and the descendants of the female line.

The examination of the role of the Guti Országh family will extend to their participation in social life and politics, the development of their land tenure, their relationship with the court in Vienna and the respective monarch, as well as with the aristocracy of the Hungarian Kingdom.

In addition to the detailed presentation of the family and their relationships, I present Kristóf Guti Országh as a key figure who – uniquely among his ascendants – held most royal offices and the most important offices at court in one person.

The friendly relations he maintained with Ferdinand I, King of Hungary and Holy Roman Emperor, as well as his private correspondence with palatine Tamás Nádasdy lead the reader into hitherto uncharted territories.

The aim of my paper is thus to present in a comprehensive way the historical significance of one of the most prominent and most distinguished aristocratic families in Hungary in the Middle Ages and the early modern age, the Guti Országh family.

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