

# Faktum und Fiktion in klimarelevanten literarischen Quellen aus Siebenbürgen im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert. Ein Beitrag zum Interferenzgefüge Literatur - Landeskunde - Naturwissenschaft\*

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## Abstract

### **Fact and Fiction in Transylvanian Literary Sources from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> c. on Climatological Relevant Data. A Contribution to the Interference Structure of Literature, Geography and Natural Science**

*The article deals with the philological and historical aspects of Transylvanian geography. Sources from the 17th and 18th centuries are examined regarding actual and imagined weather phenomena. Several difficulties are described that must be considered for extracting climatological relevant data. It shall not to be taken for granted that any such event would have been unique for it is well known that human memory is deceptive. Obvious exaggerations, as reflected in unrealistic exaggerations of events, must be identified as such in the creation of databases. In order to be able to critically weigh the data, proven calibration procedures are needed, as they have been used in historical climatology for about half a century.*

*In addition to the purely descriptive information regarding the weather of Transylvania, there are indirect data that can be used to obtain further statements concerning the climate. This includes written records of crop yields, notably those of the grain and also the quality of the wine. Through consequences for the society (inflation, famine, impairment of goods traffic, etc.) additional knowledge from historical material can be gained. Weather catastrophes were repeatedly expressed in calls for more piety and penance, as well as in superstition and consequent blame, discrimination and persecution. Likewise, the occurrence of pests (such as the locust infestations, once so common in Transylvania) and epidemics may, to some extent, indicate specific weather conditions.*

*Sources range from handwritten papers and entries (in calendars) to chronicles, so-called cosmographies (such as the one published by Honterus in 1541) and second-hand compilations in which the underlying original sources are often no longer available today.*

**Keywords:** *Literature, History of Transylvania, Climatology, Solar Activity, Signs in the Heavens*

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\* This paper is part of the project "Climate History of Central Europe during the Little Ice Age", funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), project number P 31088.

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