

TOPONYMICAL REMAINS OF A PAST SOCIAL CATEGORY: THE BOYARS*

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Abstract: The subject of the present work is the investigation of a limited segment of toponyms, more specifically, the one represented by the denominations in which there is found the appellative *boier*-boyar. The analysed area was also limited, the region of Oltenia providing us with the necessary information.

The three directions of research considered the following aspects:

- a) the internal structure of the denominations;
- b) the quality of the term from the morphological and onomastic point of view;
- c) the frequency that the actual constructions register in the inventory of the place names from Oltenia.

Keywords: boyar, history, toponymy, structure, frequency.

In the present work we are to investigate the toponymical occurrences of the appellative *boier*¹ in the region of Oltenia. We start from the idea that toponymy represents the mirroring² of all the events – more or less important – that

* The present article is part of the research project *Toponymy in Oltenian and Muntenia*, of “C. S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Institute for Research in Social Studies and Humanities from Craiova. (*Historical and socio-economic evolution of Oltenia, reflected in toponymy*).

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¹ In the explanative dictionaries, the term generally refers to the following categories of people: landlords (who sometimes had a high rank in the state), members of the feudal aristocracy, well-off people who had different positions in the administrative departments, and not only (a situation in which *boyar* becomes *ruler*), individuals with aristocratic attitude, habits and pretensions (in the common meaning). Considering the fact that the origin of the names that were the base of the noun *boier* goes often deep into the history, sometimes with centuries back (*Boiereasca* – estate in Gorj, denomination attested in 1694, estate in Olt, attested in 1739, *Boieru Dinu* – hill in Vâlcea, attested in 1893 etc.; the attestation have been extracted from DTRO, vol. I, p. 347, see footnote 9), and the place these specific toponyms occurred and functioned is limited to the village, there can be concluded that the acceptance that these toponyms select is that of “landlord”.

² Iorgu Iordan (in *Toponimia românească*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing, 1963, p. 2) was asserting that the place names can be considered an unwritten history of a people, a true archive, where there is preserved the memory of so many events, happenings and facts from the historic, social, economic, political, psychological etc. life of a human community, which have occurred during the time, and that many times have found an echo, sometimes for a long time, other time permanently and definitively, in the toponymical register.

took place into a limited space, but always having a major impact on the conscience of a collectivity, very often registering the people who experienced, or created the incidents, or the ones who left their mark on the life of a community.

Thus, toponymy proves, in this manner, the faithfulness on addressing “the history of the places, of the people, and of their language”³, “adopting” without discrimination both the rich and the poor, the honest and the deceiving, the beautiful or the ones less attractive, from the physical or moral point of view; nonetheless, as we have already mentioned, there is a condition: the one that they needed to be, in a certain moment of their existence, due to their activity, within the area of interest of the collectivity they belonged to.

If in two of the previous articles⁴ – *Social categories living on the outskirts in the toponymy from Oltenia and Muntenia (I) and (II)* – we have analysed the names of places that have in their structure the names of people from the outlying areas of the society (firstly, their marginal position is an assumed one, the individuals positioning in this area due to their own behavioural choices, some of them including even violent manifestations: *bandit, thief, burglar, outlaw, moocher, convict, robber* etc., while secondly, they are victims of the social constraints, emerging due to the interest of the dominant social classes to prosper⁵: *tax payer, socman, fugitive, needy, sorrowful, oppressed, serf, poor* etc.), our present “actors” enjoyed a privileged status within the old and modern Romanian society.

Having a historic existence⁶ that begins in the Middle Age, influenced, in time, by numerous events and transformations (tightly connected to the relation of the landlords⁷ with the ruler, to the obligations – which in exchange exempted them from paying taxes – they had to him and the foreign powers – the overwhelming taxes to the Porte, for example, made some of the boyars lose, sometimes partially, otherwise totally, their privileges, few times to their social exclusion; on the other side, the organisation and the reorganisation of the Romanian states led to the stratification of this class on several categories, according to their importance⁸ their members had, on addressing the relation with the ruler: great boyars: *ban, chancellor, sword-bearer, court-marshal, cupbearer* etc., second rank boyars: *second sword-bearer, cupbearer, treasurer, high-steward, equerry, water-servant,*

³ Vasile Ioniță, *Nume de locuri din Banat*, Timișoara, Facla Publishing, 1982, p. 7.

⁴ Both published in “Analele Universității din Craiova. Seria Științe Filologice. Lingvistică”, year XXXVIII, no. 1–2, Craiova, Universitaria Publishing, 2016, pp. 20–29 and year XXXIX, no. 1–2, 2017, pp. 19–30.

⁵ Through the physical and fiscal exploitation of a significant part of the population, and through its maintaining into a state of servitude to the state, the boyars, or the monasteries

⁶ In the Romanian states, the boyars’ class initially originated from the leadership of the rural communities (<http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boier> – site accessed on 15.12.2017).

⁷ Later on, the quality of boyar becomes a hereditary right, independent on the existence or not of an estate. (August Scriban, *Dicționarul limbii românești*, Institutul de Arte Grafice “Presa Bună”, 1939, s.v. *boier*).

⁸ *Ibidem*.

lord-steward, purveyor etc., the third rank boyars: *the third court-marshal, sword-bearer, cupbearer, treasurer, equerry, purveyor, provisioner, chamberlain* etc., the small boyars: *chamberlains, bailiffs, cupbearers, guard, cellarmen, chancellor deputies* etc., the couriers and the red-soldiers, the horsemen and the foot-soldiers), the boyars, especially the old families, contributed essentially to the social and cultural evolution of the Romanian Principalities.

The analysis carried out in the present article does not include person names (they can occur in the hypostasis of supplementary denominative elements), positions or ranks (that we considered on other opportunities), but, as asserted in the first paragraph, the generic appellative of *boier*, in its quality of toponym.

In order to have a general view on the investigated subject, there is further presented the material extracted from *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia* (DTRO) – Toponymical Dictionary of Romania. Oltenia⁹, our source of information. It provides a complex image, in which the following situations co-exist: the appellative kept its status of common noun, suffered onimisation and tranonimisation, or it was involved in structural processes that involve both derivation and compounding. Therefore, the considered problems are: the structure, the quality of the term from the morphological and onomastic point of view, such is the frequency that they register in the inventory of the actual place names from Oltenia.

Aria (area) Boierului [v. Criva c. Vârvoru de Jos-DJ];

Balta (pond) Boier Fănică [v. Pârâienii de Mijloc c. Livezi-VL];

Balta Boierului [v. Schitu c. Braloștița-DJ, v. Cârciu c. Văgiulești-GJ, v. Grădinile v.c. Studina-OT];

Balta lu Boier Mișu [v. Cârciu c. Văgiulești-GJ];

Balta Boierească [v. Schitu c. Braloștița, v. Cernelele de Sus c. Cernele m. Craiova, v. Viișoara c. Drăgotești, v. Piscu Sadovei v.c. Sadova-DJ, v. Valea Pojarului c. Bustuchin-GJ, v. Popești c. Valea Mare-VL];

Boieru Dinu [hill c. Românești-VL];

Boier Ghiță [fountain v.c. Mischii-DJ];

Boiereasca [forest v.c. Grecești-DJ, place v. Curtișoara c. Bumbesti, v. Pârvulești, v. Vălari c. Stănești, estate v. Celei c. Tismana, place, hill v. Pojogeni town Târgu Cărbunești, stream v. Piscoiu c. Stejari-GJ, forest v. Mărășești t. Baia de Aramă, v. Ohaba c. Șovarna, hill v. Coadă Cornetului c. Balta-MH, v. Horezu c. Dobrețu, estate and probable t. Balș-OT, village c. Livezi, place v. Chiceni c. Tomșani, v. Bodești c. Bărbătești, v.c. Pietrari, forest, part of a village v. Bălțăteni c. Tomșani, glen v. Foleștii de Sus c. Tomșani, forest v.c. Bălcești, v. Curtea c. Popești, v. Frasina c. Roiești-VL];

Boierelu [place v. Grădiștea v. Linia c. Grădiștea-VL];

⁹ Coordinator, Prof. Gh. Bolocan, PhD., vol. 1 (A–B), Craiova, Universitaria Publishing, 1993 and next.

- Boierescu* [hill v. Curpen c. Stănești-GJ];
Boierești [part of a village v. Lihulești c. Berlești-GJ, village, part of a village, hill c. Crețeni-VL];
Boiericani [part of a village v.c. Radovan-DJ];
Boieriu [hillock-DJ];
Boieroaia [orchard v.c. Băbeni-VL];
Bordeiu (hut) lu Boeru [v.c. Castranova-DJ];
Braniștea (small-wood) Boierilor [v. Jiul c. Țuglui-DJ];
Cișmeaua (well) Boierului [v.c. Oțeșani-VL];
Cișmeaua Boierească [v. Seciurile c. Roșia de Amaradia-GJ];
Cișmeaua de la Via Boierească [v. Negoiești c. Melinești-DJ];
Coasta (hill) Boierească [v. Bârzeiu de Gilort c. Albeni, v. Poiana Seciuri c. Bustuchin-GJ, v. Balotești c. Izvoru Bârzii, v. Izimșa c. Obârșia de Câmp, slope v. Imoasa c. Corcova-MH];
Conacu (mansion) Boierului [v. Castrele Traiane c. Plenița-DJ];
Conacu lu Boieru [v.c. Turburea-GJ];
Conacu lu Boier Filip [v. Ungureni c. Băbeni-VL];
Conacu lu Boier Florea Călugăru [v.c. Daneți-DJ];
Cotu (corner) Boieresc [v. Pieptani c. Călnic-GJ, v.c. Corcova-MH];
Cotu la Boier [v. Curmătura c. Giurgița-DJ];
Cracii (partition) Boierului [v. Gornovița c. Balta-MH];
Cracu Boieresc [part of a hill v. Valea Mare c. Runcu; v. Borošteni v. Frâncești c. Gureni, v.c. Peștișani, v. Dobrița v. Valea Mare c. Runcu, v. Vălari c. Stănești-GJ];
Cracu cu Boieru [v.c. Dobrețu-OT];
Crovu (pit) Boieresc [v. Zegaia c. Prunișor-MH];
Cula (fortified house) Boierească [v.c. Almăj, v. Bodăiești c. Melinești-DJ, v. Govodarva s. Roșia c. Căzănești-MH];
Cureaua (belt) Boierească [v. Bodăiești c. Melinești-DJ, v. Pocolășița t. Novaci-GJ];
Dafinii (acacia) Boierului [v. Spahii c. Turburea-GJ];
Dafinii Boierești [v.c. Sadova-DJ, v.c. Târna-MH];
Dafinii de la Boieri [v.c. Tomșani-VL];
Dealu (hill) Boiereasca [v. Arcești c. Pleșoiu-OT];
Dealu Boieresc [v. Poienița c. Bustuchin, v. Văcarea and v.c. Dănești, v. Măgherești and v.c. Săcelu m. Târgu Jiu, hill v. Pojogeni t. Târgu Cărbunești-GJ, v. Lupșa de Sus c. Broșteni-MH, hill v.c. Bujoreni, m. Râmnicu Vâlcea-VL];
Dosu (backside) Boieresc [v. Găvănești c. Baldovinești-OT];
Drumu (road) Boierului [v. Puțuri c. Castranova, v. Leu s. Zănoaga c. Leu, s.c. Mischiu, v. Vișoara-Moșneni c. Teslui-DJ];
Drumu Via Boierească [v.c. Melinești-DJ];

- Drumu Boierilor* [v. Radomir c. Dioști, v.c. Leu-DJ];
- Drumu Boieresc* [v. Cârbești c. Drăguțești, v. Frumușei c. Licurici, v. Budieni c. Scoarța-GJ, v. Meieni c. Popești-VL];
- Drumu di la Boeraș* [v. Urși c. Popești-VL];
- Fântâna (fountain) Boierescu* [v. Mlecănești c. Mischii-DJ];
- Fântâna Boierului* [v. Filaret c. Giurgița, v. Câmpeni c. Pielești, v. Drăgoaia c. Vârvoru de Jos, t. Băilești-DJ, v.c. Borăscu, v. Podu Grosului c. Bâcleș, v. Mierea c. Crușeț, v. Burila Mică c. Gogoșu, v. Izimșa c. Obârșia de Câmp-MH, v.c. Găneasa, v.c. Izbiceni-OT, v.c. Crângu-VL];
- Fântâna lu Boier Nae* [v.c. Dioști-DJ];
- Fântâna lu Boier Niță* [v.c. Dioști-DJ];
- Fântâna lu Boier Păun* [v. Dealu Aluniș v. Târgu Gângulești c. Berbești-VL];
- Fântâna lu Boieroiu* [v. Bârzeiu de Gilort c. Albeni-GJ];
- Fântâna lu Boierosu* [v. Catane c. Negoii-DJ];
- Fântâna lu Boieru* [v. Braniște c. Daneți-DJ];
- Fântâna lu Boieru Teodorică Lăcușteanu* [v. Locușteni c. Daneți-DJ];
- Fântâna Boierească* [v.c. Almăj, v. Sfircea c. Braloștița, v. Motoci c. Mischii, v.c. Scaiești, v. Beloț c. Sopot-DJ, v. Sterpoaia c. Aninoasa, v. Stănțești-Larga c. Mușetești-GJ, v. Crainici c. Bala-MH, v.c. Cezieni-OT];
- Fântâna de la Boerelu* [v. Valea Grădiștii c. Grădiștea-VL];
- Fântâna di la Prunii Boierești* [v. Găvănești c. Baldovinești-OT];
- Fântâna din Boiereasca* [v. Poiana Gruii c. Gruia-MH];
- Fântâna Boierului* [place v. Amărăști c. Fărcaș-GJ];
- Gardu (fence) Boieresc* [hill t. Vânju Mare-MH];
- Gârnița (Hungarian oak) Boierului* [place v. Stignița c. Poiana Mare-Mh];
- Grădinile (garden) lui Boier Mitu* [v.c. Crușeț-GJ];
- Gropanu (water pit) Boierului* [v. Schitu c. Braloștița-DJ];
- Hududoiu (dale) Boierilor* [v. Cârstănești c. Oteșani-VL];
- Hududoiu Boieresc* [v.c. Fărcaș-DJ];
- Izlazu (pasture) Boieresc* [s. Marinești c. Crușeț-GJ, s.c. Butoiești-MH];
- Izvoru (spring) lu Boier Mitru* [v.c. Crușeț-Gj];
- La Boiereasca* [v. Bobu c. Scoarța-GJ, v. Călineștii de Sus c. Bălvănești-MH];
- La Boierești* [c. Amărăști-VL];
- La Bârciu Boieresc* [v. Negoiești c. Melinești-DJ];
- La Casa (house) Boierească* [v.c. Cernătești-DJ];
- La Casa Boierului* [v. Băroiu c. Tetoiu-VL];
- La Drumu Boieresc* [v. Frumușei c. Licurici-GJ];
- La Dudu (mulberry tree) Boieresc* [v.c. Laloșu-VL];
- La Nucii (nut-trees) lu Boier Vasile* [v. Ruptura c. Voloiac-MH];
- La Pădurea (forest) Boierească* [v. Poiana Gruii c. Gruia-MH];
- La Plantația (plantation) Boierească* [v. Băltanele c. Prunișor-MH];
- La Prunii (plum-trees) Boierești* [v. Becheni c. Roșia de Amaradia-GJ];

- La Râpa (ravine) Boierului* [v.c. Cernișoara-VL];
- La Via (vineyard) Boierească* [v. Tatomirești c. Brădești, v. Mihăița c. Coțofenii din Dos, v. Booveni c. Drănic, v.c. Melinești-DJ, v. Igiroasa c. Prunișor, v.c. Rogova-MH, v. Irimești c. Bălcești-VL];
- La Viile Boierești* [v.c. Corlățel-MH];
- Linia (lane) Boierească* [v. Câlnicu de Sus c. Câlnic-GJ, part of a village v. Cervenita c. Prunișor-MH];
- Livadia (orchard) Boierească* [place c. Bogdănești c. Tomșani, v. Pădurețu c. Băbeni-VL];
- Lunca (meadow) Boierească* [v.c. Fărcășești-GJ, v. Crainici c. Bala-MH];
- Mahalaua (slum) Boierească* [v. Miculești c. Slivilești-GJ, v. Crainici c. Bala-MH];
- Merii (apple-trees) Boierului* [place c. Negoiești t. Baia de Aramă-MH];
- Moșia (estate) Boierului* [v. lake c. Voloiac-MH];
- Moșia Boierească* [v. Aniniș c. Crasna, v. Gornăcel c. Schela-GJ];
- Movila (hillock) Boierească* [v. Bodăiești c. Melinești-DJ];
- Oboru (enclosure) Boieresc* [v. Bălțișoara c. Runcu-GJ];
- Ogașu (way) Boieresc* [v. Peșteana-Jiu c. Bâlteni, v. Deleni and Piscuri c. Plopșoru, t. Țicleni-GJ, v. Lazu c. Malovăț, v. Bâltanele c. Prunișor-MH];
- Palatu (palace) lu Boierescu* [place v. Cucești c. Oteșoiu-VL];
- Pădurea Boierească* [v. Bodăiești c. Melinești-DJ, c. Bălănești, v. Valea Perilor c. Cătunele, v. Pociovaliștea t. Novaci, v. Bobu and Lazuri c. Scoarța-GJ, v. Brebina t. Baia de Aramă, v. Moșneni c. Florești, v. Dănceu c. Jiana, v. Fântâna Domnească c. Prunișor, v. Plopi c. Tâmna-MH, v. Cocorești c. Pleșoiu-OT, v. Benești c. Bălcești-VL];
- Pădurea Boiereștilor* [v.c. Crețeni-VL];
- Pădurea Dealului Boieresc* [v. Văcarea c. Dănești-GJ];
- Pădurea lu Boeru* [v.c. Castranova-DJ];
- Pădurea lu Boier Stancu* [v.c. Făurești-VL];
- Păduricea (small-forest) lu Boier Nae* [v.c. Dioști-DJ];
- Păru (pear-tree) Boieresc* [v.c. Borăscu-GJ];
- Pârâu (stream) Boieroicâi* [v. Motorgi c. Bustuchin-GJ];
- Pârâu Boierului* [v. Crețești t. Târgu Cărbunești-GJ];
- Pârâu Cracului Boieresc* [v. Vălari c. Stănești-GJ];
- Peștera (cave) Boierească* [v. Cloșani c. Padeș-GJ];
- Pietrișu (gravel) Boieresc* [place v. Roșia c. Alunu-VL];
- Piscu (peak) Boieresc* [v.c. Fărcaș-DJ, s. Didilești c. Câlnic-GJ, v. Străchinești c. Grădiștea-VL];
- Piscu Boiereștilor* [v. Nemoiu c. Amărăști-VL];
- Piscu Boierului* [v. Brădeștii Bătrâni c. Brădești-Dj, v.c. Baia de Fier, v.c. Polovragi, peak v. Miroslaveni c. Albeni, munte-GJ, mountain-VL];
- Piscu Via Boierească* [v. Poieni and Sterpoaia c. Aninoasa-GJ];
- Plaiu (field) Boieresc* [hill next to v. Borošteni c. Peștișani-GJ];

- Pluta (poplar) Boierească* [v. Bobu c. Scoarța-GJ];
- Podu (bridge) Boieresc* [v. Meteu, v. Piscani and Tatomirești c. Brădești, v. Bâlta t. Filiași, v. Balota de Jos c. Murgași-DJ];
- Poiana (glade) Boier Dinu* [v. Romanești c. Roșiile-VL];
- Poiana Boierească* [pasture v. Slăvuța c. Crușeț-GJ, v. Pădina Mare c. Pădina-MH];
- Poiana Via Boierească* [t. Strehaia-MH];
- Pomii (trees) Boierului* [orchard v. Negoiești t. Baia de Aramă-MH];
- Poteca (path) Boiereștilor* [v. Lihulești c. Berlești-GJ];
- Poteca de la Dudu Boieresc* [v. Berlești c. Laloșu-VL];
- Poteca pi la Boierescu* [v.c. Sinești-VL];
- Poteca Via Boierească* [v.c. Almăj-DJ];
- Prunii Boierești* [farming land v. Valea lui Pătru c. Scăiești-DJ, v. Bălcești c. Bengești-Ciocadia, v. Ohaba-Jiu c. Bolbești, v. Roșia-Jiu c. Fărcășești, v.c. Glogova, v. Broștenii de Sus c. Plopșoru, v. Gornăcel and Sâmbotin c. Schela-GJ, v.c. Șișești-MH, v. Pleșești c. Roșiile-VL];
- Prunii lu Boier Gheorghe* [v. Ceplea c. Plopșoru-GJ];
- Racu Boieresc* [mountain v.c. Peștișani-GJ];
- Revenicu (narrow-dale) din Ograda Boierească* [stream v. Lupoia c. Cătunele-GJ];
- Runcu Boieresc* [hay field slope v. Pleșa c. Bumbești-Jiu-GJ];
- Saietele Boierești* [farming land v.c. Turcinești-GJ];
- Seciu Boieresc* [v. Urechești c. Drăguțești-GJ];
- Stâna (sheepfold) Boierului* [v. Crângu c. Scundu-VL];
- Sub Curtea (yard) Boierească* [v. Plopi c. Târna-MH];
- Sub Dosu Boieresc* [v. Găvănești c. Baldovinești-OT];
- Sub Via Boierului* [v. Măiag c. Crușeț-GJ];
- Sus la Boieri* [farming land v. Țițirigi c. Voloiac-MH];
- Șanțu (ditch) Viii Boierești* [v. Benești c. Bălcești-VL];
- Șasa Boierească* [stream, it flows into Pârâul Călnic, v. Călnicu de Sus, v. Didilești, v.c. Călnic and v.c. Ciuperceni, valley v. Călnicu de Sus, v. Didilești, v.c. Călnic-GJ];
- Șesu (plain) Boieresc* [v. Socu c. Bărbătești-GJ];
- Șopru(l) (shelter) Boierului* [v.c. Mischii-DJ];
- Târna Boierească* [place t. Novaci-GJ];
- Tâmpa Boierească* [mountain t. Novaci-GJ];
- Tarlaua (land strip) Boierească* [c. Secu-DJ, v. Măzăroi c. Dănești-GJ, v. Arcești c. Pleșoiu-OT];
- Teii (lime-trees) Boierești* [farming land v.c. Orodul-DJ, forest v. Bălcești c. Bengești-Ciocadia-GJ];
- Teiu Boieresc* [v. Bobu c. Scoarța-GJ];
- Tufa (bush) Boierească* [v. Preotești c. Iancu Jianu-OT];
- Uduoiu Boieresc* [v. Bodăieștii de Jos c. Melinești-DJ];

- Ulița Boierească* [v. Maghirești c. Săcelu-GJ];
Ulmu (elm-tree) Boieresc [v.c. Bâcleș-MH];
Vâlcea (glen) cu Nucii Boierești [v. Meteu c. Brădești-DJ];
Valea Boierească [estate v. Bodăieștii de Sus, v.c. Melinești-DJ, valley c. Cătunele-GJ, village, estate c. Malovăț, commune-MH];
Via Boierească [v.c. Argetoaia, v. Meteu, Piscani and Tatomirești c. Brădești, hill v. Foișor c. Drănic, glen v. Almăjel t. Filiași, v.c. Goiești, v. Tencănuș c. Sălcuta, v. Beloț c. Sopot-DJ; v.c. Bălești, v. Peșteana-Jiu c. Bâlteni, v. Bulbuceni c. Căpreni, part of a village v. Ohaba-Jiu c. Bolboși, hill v. Strâmba-Vulcan c. Ciuperceni, hill v. Urda de Jos c. Crușeț, farming land v.c. Fărcășești, hill v. Cămuiești and Glogova c. Glogova, v. Jupânești and Pârâu-Boia c. Jupânești, v.c. Licurici, v. Călugăreasa c. Prigoria, plateau v. Bibești c. Sărulești, pasture v. Baloșani c. Stejari, hill slope v. Fântânele c. Urdari, m. Târgu Jiu, hill v. Cocorova c. Turburea, clearing v. Florești c. Țânțăreni-GJ; v. Corzu c. Bâcleș, plateau v.c. Corlățel, v. Gemeni c. Dârvari, forest v.c. Gruia, v. Dumbrăvița and Oprănești c. Husnicioara, v.c. Pătulele, v. Menții din Față t. Strehăia-MH; v. Benești c. Bălcești, v.c. Cernișoara, v. Fântărești and Măricești c. Fântărești, v. Zgubea c. Roșiile-VL];
Via Boieru [v. Braniște and Locusteni c. Daneți-DJ];
Via Boierului [v. Ghidici c. Piscu Vechi-DJ, farming land m. Târgu Jiu-GJ, field v. Negoiești t. Baia de Aramă-MH, t. Călimănești, v. Crângu c. Scundu-VL];
Via lu Boier Costea [hill slope v. Măiaș c. Crușeț-GJ];
Via lu Boierescu [v.c. Crețeni-VL];
Viile Boierești [v. Benghești c. Benghești-Ciocadia, v. Mogoșani c. Scoarța-GJ, v.c. Butoiești, v. Cervenita c. Prunișor-MH, v. Gănești and Lăcustenii de Sus c. Zătreni-VL];
Zăbranu Boieresc [hill v. Crainici c. Bala-MH];
Zăvoiu (riverside coppice) Boieresc [riverside coppice v. Pietroasa c. Valea Mare-VL].

A first observation which needs to be made, is that, in most of the toponyms, the identity of the boyars is undetermined, only the appellative being most frequently used, to designate them: *Aria Boierului*, *Balta Boierului*, *Bordeiu lu Boeru*, *Braniștea Boierilor*, *Cișmeaua Boierului*, *Conacu Boierului*, *Conacu lu Boieru*, *Cotu la Boier*, *Drumu Boierului*, *Fântâna Boierului*, *Gârnița Boierului*, *Hududoiu Boierilor*, *Merii Boierului*, *Pârâu Boiericâi*, *Stâna Boierului*, *Sub Via Boierului* etc. and less frequently the name and/or the patronym: *Balta Boier Fănică*, *Balta lu Boier Mișu*, *Boieru Dinu*, *Boier Ghiță*, *Conacu lu Boier Filip*, *Conacu lu Boier Florea Călugăru*, *Fântâna lu Boier Nae*, *Fântâna lu Boier Niță*, *Fântâna lu Boieru Teodorică Lăcusteanu*, *Grădinile lui Boier Mitu*, *Izvoru lu Boier Mitru*, *La Nucii lu Boier Vasile*, *Pădurea lu Boier Stancu*, *Păduricea lu Boier Nae*, *Poiana Boier Dinu*, *Prunii lu Boier Gheorghe* etc. If at present we need to resort to documents in order to identify those behind the general term of *boier*, for the

creators of the denominations, it was sufficient the use of the appellative, a sufficiency provided by the contemporaneity with the members of the specific social class, and the fact that, in a village, there was usually one boyar family, whose members used to be well-known by the entire community.

Returning to the three-part constituent that we enounced as the subject of our analysis – *structure, quality, frequency* – it ought to be mentioned that, although in the economy of the place names from Oltenia, the denominations that contain the appellative *boier* are not very frequent (a situation that does not make them be less important, because they represent a significant aspect of the local historic toponymy), they are naturally subjected to the general rules that characterise the way in which the toponyms formed.

Thus, if we consider their structure, we can make, within the pattern, a distinction on two directions – simple and compound – according to the (non)existence of some supplementary constitutive elements, besides the term *boier*:

1. **Simple toponyms**, made of one word, in our case, derived with the suffixes *-easca, -elu, -escu, -ești, -iu, -oia*: *Boiereasca, Boierelu, Boierescu, Boierești, Boiericani, Boieriu, Boieroaia*.

2. **Compound toponyms**, made of two or more words, which are syntactically related through:

a) the nominative: *Balta Boier Fănică, Boieru Dinu, Boier Ghiță, Cișmeaua Boierească, Crovu Boieresc, Dealu Boiereasca, Drumu Via Boierească, Piscu Via Boierească, Ulița Boierească* etc.;

b) the synthetic genitive: *Aria Boierului, Cișmeaua Boierului, Conacu lu Boier Filip, Dafinii Boierului, Hududoiu Boierilor, Pârâu Boieroaică* etc. and analytical genitive: *Conacu lu Boieru, Fântâna lu Boier Nae, Fântâna lui Boier Mitu, Păduricea lu Boier Nae, Palatu lu Boierescu* etc.

c) the accusative with simple and compound prepositions: **cu (with)** – *Cracu cu Boieru, Vâlceaua cu Nucii Boierești*, **de/di la (from)** – *Dafinii de la Boieri, Cișmeaua de la Via Boierească, Drumu di la Boieraș, Poteca de la Dudu Boieresc*, **din (from)** – *Fântâna din Boiereasca*, **la (at)** – *La Boierești, La Dudu Boieresc, La Viile Boierești*, **pi la (around)** – *Poteca pi la Boierescu*, **sub (under)** – *Sub Dosu Boieresc, Sub Via Boierului* etc.

It is well-known the fact that, today, all the names of places bear the status of (local) guiding points, their role being a decisive one on addressing the quotidian life. Nonetheless, a series of toponyms can be identified among them, whose meaning has not yet become opaque, offering us clearly the motivation for their occurrence. From our examples, there can be registered the syntagmas from b) and c); firstly, there is considered the expression of possession (*Dafinii Boierului, Drumu Boierului, Fântâna lu Boieru, Fântâna lu Boier Niță* etc.), secondly, the field placement of an object, in its relation to a person (*Cracu cu Boieru, Poteca pi la Boierescu* etc.) or a palce (*Cișmeaua de la Via Boierească, Poteca de la Dudu Boieresc* etc.). Unlike them, the nominatives registered at a) are impersonal and

lack expressivity, owing to the fact that “the nominative indicates an onimic relation, through which the name of the person becomes the name of the socio-geographic object..., similar to a label. The syntagmas lose their initial transparency, become abstract – a process parallel to the progressive loss of motivation of simple, personal or descriptive names”¹⁰.

Moreover, the *quality* of the analysed term involves a dual distinction, according to 1) the morphological class to which they adhere, and 2) their status in the language, anterior to the formation of the presented toponyms.

1. The inventory of the name register evidences the fact that the appellative *boier* is a component part of the toponyms, both as a noun¹¹ – *Aria Boierului*, *Drumu Boierilor* etc., and especially that of adjective, indicating the belonging of things or geographic objects – *Balta Boierească*, *Cișmeaua Boierească*, *Cișmeaua de la Via Boierească*, *Coasta Boierească*, *Cotu Boieresc*, *Cracu Boieresc*, *Cula Boierească*, *Cureaua Boierească*, *Dealul Boieresc*, *Dosu Boieresc*, *Drumu Via Boierească*, *Fântâna Boierească*, *Fântâna di la Prunii Boierești*, *Gardu Boieresc*, *Hududoiu Boieresc*, *Izlazu Boieresc*, *La Drumu Boieresc*, *La Pădurea Boierească*, *La Plantația Boierească*, *La Prunii Boierești*, *La Via Boierească*, *Linia Boierească*, *Livadia Boierească*, *Lunca Boierească*, *Mahalaua Boierească*, *Moșia Boierească*, *Movila Boierească*, *Oboru Boieresc*, *Pădurea Boierească*, *Pâru Boieresc*, *Peștera Boierească*, *Pietrișu Boieresc*, *Piscu Boieresc*, *Piscu Via Boierească*, *Plaiu Boieresc*, *Pluta Boierească*, *Podu Boieresc*, *Poiana Boierească*, *Poteca de la Dudu Boieresc*, *Racu Boieresc*, *Revenicu din Ograda Boierească*, *Șesu Boieresc*, *Tâмна Boierească*, *Tarlaua Boierească*, *Teii Boierești*, *Tufa Boierească*, *Ududoiu Boieresc*, *Ulița Boierească*, *Ulmu Boieresc*, *Vâlcea cu Nucii Boierești*, *Valea Boierească*, *Via Boierească*, *Zăbranu Boieresc*, *Zăvoiu Boieresc*.

2. On addressing the origin of the appellative, it is divided into:

a) common noun: simple (singular or plural) – *Drumu Boierilor*, *Gârnița Boierului*, *Gropanu Boierului*, *Hududoiu Boierilor*, derived from a group noun – *Boierești*, *Boiericani*, accompanied by prepositions – *Cotu la Boier*, *Cracu cu Boieru* etc.;

b) anthroponym: *Aria Boierului*, *Bordeiu lu Boeru*, *Conacu Boierului*, *Dafinii Boierului* etc.;

c) toponym: *Dealul Boiereasca*, *La Boiereasca*, *La Casa Boierului* etc.

Thus, the general term *boier* is a component part of the toponymical structures, from different positions: common names, or proper person and place names. Nevertheless, many times, its including into a group or another, can be

¹⁰ *Introducerea to Tezaurul toponimic al României. Moldova*, vol. II. *Mic dicționar toponimic al Moldovei (structural și etimologic)*, Part I, *Toponime personale* (under the editorship of prof. Dragoș Moldovanu, PhD.), Iași, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Publishing, 2014, p. XIV.

¹¹ Almost 100% male. The material provides just one example in which there is made a reference to a female: *Pârâu Boieroaică*.

done only after a sui-generis analysis. Between the homonyms *Boierului* from *Gropanu Boierului* and *Aria Boierului*, for example, at the first sight, there is no difference. Only a detailed research can establish that, in the first case, there is a noun, while in the second, we deal with the name of a person. This ambiguity is lost in other constructions, in which the quality of the determinants is either obviously anthroponomical – *Balta Boier Fănică*, *Boier Ghiță*, *Fântâna lu Boieru Teodorică Lăcușteanu* – when they accompany a person name, or toponymical – *La Casa Boierului*, *Sus la Boieri*, *Sub Via Boierului* etc. –, where there is specified the place.

As *frequency*, the names of places in which the word *boier* is, related to the entire Romanian toponymical inventory, on its peripheral area. This type of denominations is especially met in villages and boroughs, being specific to a temporal limited segment from the history of our socio-economic evolution. There can be made few observations on the pattern itself.

1. There is registered a higher frequency of the compounded syntagmas, especially those formed with the genitive and the accusative, more expressive and still keeping the motivation of the name occurrence, to the detriment of the simple denominations, in which the nominative imposes to the toponym impersonal values today. An exception is the toponym *Boiereasca*, the one that registers presences in all the counties from Oltenia. Its etymology – from the adjective *boieresc* (“which belongs to the boyar, lui Boieru, Boieriu” in Romanian, through substantivisation), actually regards an analytical situation (the forest, the estate, the glade etc. that belonged to a boyar, or to a person with the surname Boieru, Boieriu), synthetically expressed, with the suffix *-easca*.

2. If we consider the morphological value of *boier*, we can easily observe that the toponyms constructed with the particular elements *boieresc*, *boierească*, are more numerous than the substantival ones, which often have punctiform presences. This way of expressing possession¹² over an object, through adjectival forms, very many coming from personal names (*Pădurea Cornească*, *Moara Ionească*, *Moșia Chinețească*) are specific to the older periods of time¹³ from the history of real estate evolution from the villages. The qualificative *boieresc* has a higher degree of generalisation, which assures, in our inventory, an important presence; it can refer both to a member, and an entire family, nonetheless marking the statute of a place or of an object, on the field. An extremely conclusive example is that of the opposition *Via Boierului* – *Via Boierească*. Thus, the first toponym appears seldom in few villages from Oltenia, whereas the second registers an increased number of occurrences.

¹² Sometimes, the semantic relation from which the toponym formation starts does not contain the idea of possession, but ideas correlated to it, such as the belonging to a locality or a wider geographic space – see Ion Toma, *101 nume de locuri*, “Viața cuvintelor” Collection, Bucharest, Humanitas, pp. 67–68.

¹³ See *Dicționarul elementelor românești din documentele slavo-române, 1374–1600* (coordinating editor Gh. Bolocan), Bucharest, SRR Academy Publishing, 1981, pp. XXVIII–XXXI.

On the other hand, the relation entopic – determiner¹⁴ can also influence the frequency of certain structures. There are geographic terms that selected, in the process of denomination, a high number of adjectives, and also entopic elements, which are constituted into an inventory with extremely few qualificatives. The ones registered in the basic lexis of the Romanian language belong to the first category, having a great capacity of generalisation: in our case, they are *baltă*-pond, *coastă*-slope, *deal*-hill, *fântână*-fountain, *pădure*-forest, *vie*-vineyard. In the second one, there are found entopic elements whose meanings enjoy a more limited circulation: *gârniță*-Hungarian oak, *gropan*-water-pit, *hududoi*-dale, *revenic*-narrow valley etc. or they are seldom met within a village: *conac*-mansion, *peșteră*-cave etc.

The toponymy does not take into account the social status of people, in the inventory of the place names being often met both people who belong to the superior classes of a society (members of the princely and boyar courts, from administration, church, army etc.), and people from the inferior steps of the social hierarchy. Each name expresses a certain semantic content, communicates a specific piece of information: linguistic, historic, ethnologic, geographic¹⁵, and, for this reason, their research is important, regardless the share they occupy within the system. In the present article, there are analysed the phrases that contain the word *boier*. The analysis was carried out from the perspective of its structure, origin and frequency in the actual toponymy from Oltenia.

¹⁴ With few exceptions – *Boieru Dinu*, *Boier Ghiță*, *Conacu lu Boier Filip* etc. – in the names of the pluri-member places, *boier* appears as determinant, not as determined, positioning on the second place within the toponymic structures.

¹⁵ Anatol Eremia, *Reglementarea și ocrotirea toponimiei naționale*, in “Limba Română”, no. 1–2, 2008, Chișinău, pp. 158–162.