



## Relationship of the location and landscape forming at the farming orders

Veronika MAGYAR

Department of Landscape Planning and Regional Development  
Faculty of Landscape Architecture  
Corvinus University of Budapest  
e-mail: veronika.magyar@uni-corvinus.hu

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**Abstract:** Special position and activity is related to each order, so they landscape forming activity is different. The position influenced their scope of activities, including their impact on the landscape. The orders, which settled in a large free areas, had significant donations, their main activity was the farming, so their impact on the landscape was outstanding. In Hungary, the three main farming orders are the Benedictines, the Cistercians and the Premonstratensians. They settled down in solitary, uninhabited places, they lived for God, but for their livelihood they had to cultivate. Thanks for their farming the landscape constantly changed and formed.

**Keywords:** special position, impact of the landscape, tree main farming orders, flourishing agriculture

### 1. Introduction

Religion plays a central role in the human's life. Over the centuries more and more religions and orders appeared. Religious centers, necessary buildings for the exercise of religion, and other structures have been established in order to ensure their livelihood, and they changed, formed the landscape. What they established and created in the scenery is permanent, and make an impact in our days, so the image and character of the landscape is define and effects. That special position and activity is related to each order. Some particular orders dealt with ministering,

teaching, grooming, but there were those, in which the arable farming was dominant. The order, beside the obligatory religious action, the arable farming was very important for them. The farming and the landscape forming are in a tight context with each other, and I going to write about this connection.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

I used a two-step method in my research. In the first step I made a historical research in this topic to deal with it thoroughly. I studied the literature of the order's history and formation, their appearance in Hungary, in particular the farming orders. I chose to I have more place for the sample area, because so I can demonstrate actually the relationship between the landscape forming and the agriculture. It was followed by the second step. The research followed in this the map collection and in the archival for the pilot places, to prove the description with visual material.

## **3. Results and discussions**

The settlement of some orders and during the following centuries, one aspect was to ensure their livelihoods. The settlement of the orders is area specific. There is a Latin proverb: "Bernadus valles, montes Benedictus amabat, oppidia Franciscus, celebres Ignatius urbes.", so Benedick liked the mountains, Bernat liked the valleys, Francis the cities, and Ignac liked the big cities [1]. The position influenced their scope of activities, including their impact, on the landscape. A great emphasis was laid on the farming, and the adapting to the conditions, and onto its maximum utilisation. The agriculture, the grape- and fruit growing, the animal farming or the fishery enjoyed priority depending on the orders or conditions. The farming orders settled in a large free areas, had significant donations, their main activity was the farming, so their impact on the landscape was outstanding. They settled down in solitary, uninhabited places, they lived for God, but for their livelihood they had to cultivate.

In Hungary, the three main farming orders are the Benedictines, the Cistercians and the Premonstratensians. Not only their farming was successful, but the landscape was also changed. And the Pauline and the Basilian should also be mentioned [2]. St. Benedict's wish was that his followers settle down on a place, and make their environment human, as a result, the Benedictines cultivated the land across Europe, drained swamps, made purposeful farming, created flourishing agriculture. St. Francis of Assisi and his brother had brotherly relationship with the nature, but they

did not want to convert it, just to live in it, praise God for it [3]. “But the servants of the Church were not only the providers of spiritual goods. They were educators, leaders of the people at farming too... They destroyed forests, dried out marshes, dug channels... Villages were generated.” – wrote Menyhért Érdűhelyi [2].

The Premonstratens settled down bleak and lonely places. Trees were destroyed, lands were dug to be able to do farming on it. As in their writing it is said, they made flourishing agriculture with hard work, each monastery was transformed in to paradise [4]. Their works were the creation of garden, draining of swamps, use the water of springs and streams, the granges were formed farther of the monasteries, and then they expanded into villages, agricultural towns [3].

The watchword of abbeys is “Cruce et aratro” at the Benedictines, that is with “a cross and with a plow”. The Benedictine monasteries established flourishing agriculture during a short time all over Europe. Townships and villages were born at the foot of monasteries [3]. The centre of the national Benedictine order is Pannonhalma, which is the earliest founded monastery. It was founded by Grand Prince Géza in 996, but that work was finished by St. Stephen [5]. The farming was on the St. Martin’s Hill and the surrounding area from 11<sup>th</sup> century, at bottom of the slope and in valleys there was arable cultivation, three-crop rotation was applied while on slopes there were vineyards [3]. For the order to be able to do farming, it also was necessary to destroy forests. On a 1680 depiction (*Figure 1*) the monastery’s building is well discernible. The depiction was made after the expulsion of the Turkish, and accurately reflects the fact, that during the occupation the area was completely deserted the nature took control of the area. The settlers broke up virgin lands again, but the growing population prompted them to make many great cultivated areas.



Figure 1: The abbey in 1680 (Benedictine monastery on St. Martin-Hill) [7]

Especially the forests' clearing was severe in the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. The new lands were taken away from forests, pasture, fields and completely useless areas. The names show this as well: Old Pines, Forest bottom, Flat, Little Field. The grapes were replanted, and planted them to new areas. The wine-growing was the main occupation in this area. The pace of development was fast. The cultivation methods and pace were adjusted to the needs and capabilities [6]. Some houses surrounded the abbey at the foot of the mountain, and in the surroundings and in the hills there are fields. The settlement due to the presence of the order, because the viable places have strength to modulate the settlement, which would suffer from the shocks, but did not disappear, but re-populated, and they were blooming again duly for the presence of the order [6]. The appearance of a settlement means a considerable change in the landscape, as the settlement appears a new landscape element, the load of the landscape grows furthermore, the numbers of people living there were growing, their livelihoods had to be ensured, so the new land had to be taken into cultivation. The following representation is the first military survey (*Figure 2*), it was made in 1784. It can be seen how much development and transformation had been in this area. The settlement was continued to grow, in the hill the viniculture was carried on, and while in the surrounding areas there are fields, and on the not arable, steep slopes there was woods. In the Benedictine observed the development of the fishponds. The river, at the foot of the mountain, was inflated in several places.



*Figure 2: Pannonhalma and its neighbourhood in the first military survey [8]*

The second military survey was made in this area between 1846-47 (*Figure 3*). The areas of the viniculture were grown, this shows, that this area was suitable for this agriculture. The damming were continued to increase, because the number of the abbey increased constantly, so that more produced food was needed. The 1880 survey (*Figure 4*) shows that the area of the vines was reduced, but it defines the landscape still. The damming disappeared, a swampy, moorland area took shape on its place. The landscape changes show that other values came into the foreground. Today, in Pannonhalma the farming activity is minimal besides the teaching (growing herbs, lavender plantation).

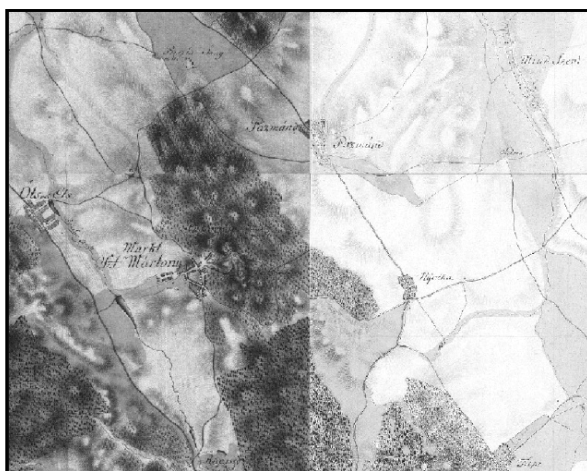


Figure 3: Pannonhalma in the second military survey [9]

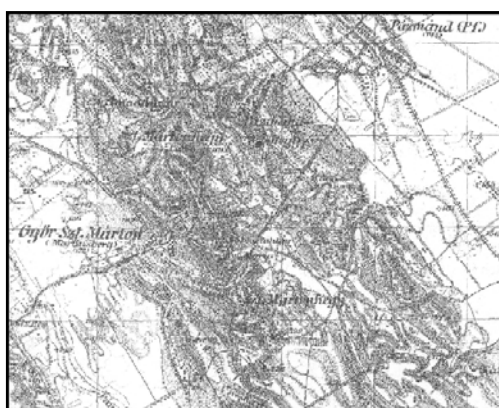


Figure 4: Pannonhalma in the third military survey [10]

The members of the Cistercian order established flourishing agriculture everywhere, contributing to the reviving of the tillage and the fruit- and grape cultivation, raising the quality [11]. The agriculture of the order was successful, because they organised the possessions better, they pre-planned the utilization of soil compared to the feudal farming. They worked themselves, and their life and their future depended on the success of their work. They made farming subunits, *grangias*. In those places, where the climatic and soil conditions allowed, vineyards were established. The gardens were created both on flatlands and the hilly country, on the hillsides they made terraces which eased the cultivation [12]. The centre of the Hungarian male Cistercian life is Zirc. King Béla III founded the abbey in 1182 [13]. From the beginning the agriculture was significant and dominant; the continuous change of the original landscape was the result of that. At first in the place there are only the monastery and the soil, that became cultivated, because the forests were fall, the lands gird the remained forest. But in the ages of 1780 the settlement appeared, it was due to the presence of the order, because the viable places have power to modulate the settlement, which suffered from the shocks but did not disappear, but were re-populated, and they were blooming again duly for the presence of the order [6]. But the abbey's donations were in Bakony, Fejér county and Mezőföld too. On each area they adapted to the local conditions, so they cultivated and shaped the landscape.

The Pauline had a lot of privileges. They had many estates; they had a flourishing farming neighbourhood of the monastery, especially before Mohács. In Bánfalva, the order had a big wood that was donated by the leaders' Sopron city, to the Pauline able to build. The forests were exterminated, marshes were drained to the monks could farm. Village was generated around the monastery [14].

#### **4. Conclusion**

Great St. Basil wrote in her book, *Life rules* I. that: "First of all /we have to choose/ farming, because it provides the food for our existence..." [15].

As you can see the orders' activity and its settlement is closely connected to each other, and through this change their impact on the landscape changed. Trough the demonstrated domestic and foreign example it can be seen, that farming and landscape forming are connected to each other, but its significance, his measure change continuously. Initially the aim was, the interest of the assurance of the self-sufficiency, the more land was feature of under cultivation, this activity in the case of the Cistercian was well organized and planned, for all works had the aim and its way. The initial changes were the biggest changes in the landscape, because, where earlier forest or barren was, the monastery was built, and they made tillages. In the

course of the centuries the landscape changed, because the habits, the values and the order it-self working was transformed, so the farming, what was the main source of living, was sidelined onto 20<sup>th</sup> century, the neighbourhood was populated duly for the processes of urbanization, and other revenue sources provided the living for the order. The agricultural landscape characteristics disappeared by today, in some places its traces can be found, the 21<sup>th</sup> century shaped and formed values and landscape took it over.

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