

“Benedikt Bor”, Benedict and Bankó in Halych around 1210

In the historiography of the Grand Duchy of Halych and Volhynia, written mainly in Ukrainian and Russian, we often come across a Hungarian person of rank named *Бенедикт Бор* whose name hides two different persons, in the author's view. The first part of the name may be taken to refer to a certain Benedict, appearing as Governor in the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle, identified in Hungarian historiography with Benedict, Korlát's son, Voivode of Transylvania, also bearing the title Duke (*dux*), who was exiled from Hungary around 1209. In the author's view, the Halych governor cannot be identified with the Transylvanian voivode; rather, he must have been a different person of the same name, one who became Count (*comes*) of Bodrog at the time when Andrew II came to the throne. This latter Benedict, who became Count of Újvár in the autumn of 1209 and Count of Ung in 1214, was probably Governor of Halych between the late autumn of 1210 and early spring of 1211. Benedict the Bald (*Бенедиктъ Лысы*), fleeing from Halych to Hungary in the late 1210s, trying to shun Mstislav Mstislavič, can be assumed to be identical with the Benedict just mentioned. The second part of the name we started with, on the other hand, can be associated with a Hungarian person of rank mentioned under the name *Banko* (*Банко*) in the same Chronicle. This person turned up in Halych in the course of a military event taking place in late summer or early autumn of 1211 and was Count of Bihar at the time. A Hungarian chronicle of the fourteenth century mentions this person as the assassin of Queen Gertrude under the name *Bank banus de genere Bor*, a story that is less than fully authentic. The validity of the name form *Banko* in the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle is supported by the fact that the name of this person of rank occurs more often as *Bankó* (< *Bán* + *-kó*) than as *Bánk* (< *Bán* + *-k*) in Andrew II's charters. The emergence of the name *Бенедикт Бор* must be due to the erroneous assumption that the Hungarian name *Bánk* is identical with *Benedek* (*Bánk* ~ *Bankó* = *Benedek* < Latin *Benedictus*).

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