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THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY THE CRISIS OF PHYLLOXERA ON A HUNGARIAN
RURAL COMMUNITY AS REFLECTED IN THE CASE OF TIBOLDDARÓC

The crisis caused by the epidemic of phylloxera (*phylloxera vastatrix*) was present in Europe since 1863. It had its first appearance in France. In the next 30 years vine pest ruined two third of the territory of European vineyards. Grape phylloxera, originally native to North America, is a very small insect which feeds on the roots of grapevines, making impossible for the root to provide vital substances for the vine stock by blocking the flow of nutrients and water.

In Hungary, vine pest was first detected in 1875, in the outskirts of Pancsova. By the end of the 19th century it had destroyed more than forty percent of the country's viniculture and had caused a serious crisis in the economies of wine growing communities. The wine region of Eger was no exception to this.

This paper focuses on demonstrating the effects of phylloxera's destruction on a small, rustic community, through the example of Tibolddaróc, a wine growing village in the wine region of Eger.

The research is based on mostly primary archival sources, e. g. cadastral sheets, land registers and maps, the documents of county administration, and files of the parish of Tibolddaróc. These documents can be found in the archives of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, and the Archdiocese of Eger.

In my presentation, I would like to introduce the main characteristics of phylloxera in the first place, demonstrating the destruction it caused in Europe as well as in Hungary. Secondly I try to provide an overview of the village Tibolddaróc and its society in the era of the epidemic. Moving on, I present the summary of calculations I have done using the information from the cadastral documents, then I analyze the data and evaluate the significance of this very type of source. In the remaining part of the presentation I intend to speak about the progress of phylloxera in the region, including the methods of prevention and its results in the economy and in society – with the help of the relevant literature and mainly based on the documents of county administration.

Vine pest was one of the most catastrophic crises in the economy of Hungary during the period of dualism. It resulted in decades of economical struggle to the people of wine growing territories. My paper aims to demonstrate the progress of this crisis by focusing on a small rural society trying to analyze how the people of the Hungarian countryside lived through a critical time like the phylloxera.