

## THE ETHNOGRAPHIC AREAS OF HUNEDOARA COUNTY

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**ABSTRACT:** Hunedoara County 7016 km<sup>2</sup> (3% of the total area of the country) lies in the central-western part of the country, between the Central and the Western Carpathians, in a mountainous area with a lot of valleys. From a historical point of view, it is situated between Transylvania and Banat. The variety of the natural environment and the richness of the cultural elements (artistic, ethnographic, historical) offers ethnographic complexity to the county which has six distinct parts: Momârlan Land, Hațeg Land, Strei Valley, Pădureni Land, Orăștie Land, Mureș Valley and Zarand Land.

**Key words:** ethnographic area; Hunedoara County; folk architecture; folk costumes; folklore; traditions;

Hunedoara County is among the Romanian counties which have outstanding complexity concerning the history and the natural environment. There are remains of our ancient history all over Hunedoara County.

The capital of the Dacian State was in Gradistea Muncelului. The capital of the Roman Dacia was Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and it came to represent the symbol of the cohabitation between the two who were our ancestors.



Fig. 1. The ethnographic areas of Hunedoara County

King Iancu de Hunedoara lived in Hunedoara and a very well-known hero of our people, Avram Iancu rests in peace at Tebea. The green of the forest and meadows in Retezat and Parang Mountains, the cool in Jiu Valley, the ores in Metaliferi and Poiana Rusca Mountains, the water energy on the Big River are the riches inhabitants have been using for a long time.

There are also some particular characteristics in architecture, folk costumes, folklore and folk dances in Hunedoara County.

**1. Jiu valley (Momârlan land)** - corresponds to the origin spring of the Jiu Valley and has had a pastoral character for centuries.



The name „Momârlani” was given to them by the foreign workers who came to this territory to work in the mines in the XIX<sup>th</sup> century.

On their turn, these people who came from other countries were called „barabe” that means „intruders”.

Local people had house surrounded by yards and fences.

The folk costumes is the same as that in

Sibiu County and has red stripes on white fabric.

The songs and dances have strong influences from Hațeg Land and Gorj County.

**2. Hațeg Land and Strei Valley** - surrounded by mountains, with favourable natural conditions which allowed sheep breeding and planting.



Forests have been cut down on a large scale and the villages have taken the lower part of the valley.

Gradually, the old construction materials: wood, straw have been replaced by stone, brick and tiles.

There existed two types of houses in the past: a two-room house and a one-room with a porch house.

The folk costume has specific features such as the hood called by locals „casual”.

Women adorn their head. Carpets have great value in Băiești - Pui Zone and they are made of wool. The furniture is original and proves distinct aesthetic taste.

We can name some popular songs: „Hațeganele”, „Balada lui Bălceanu” and dances „Hațegana” and „Călușerul”

**3. Pădureni Land** corresponds to eastern mountains called Poiana Ruscă, north of Hațeg Land.

Villages are situated on hills or in valleys. Houses have high roofs, two or three higher than houses themselves.

Some houses have closed porches.

The folk costumes are special. Women wear white scarves on their heads and beads.



They also wear a belt and a waistcoat and jacket.

Men wear caps, white shirts and belts and woollen trousers and of course, a jacket.

**4. Orăștie Land** is situated on both sides of Geoagiu and Orăștie Valley.



It has a distinct stone style, different from those made of wood in the neighbour areas.

Houses are made of stone. Crafts are: weaving, wood work, leather.

The folk costume is black and white, especially in the high area of the land.

Popular songs: "Bocetul fetei", „Lele de la Orăștie” and dances: "Călușerul", „Învârtita”.

**5. Mureș Valley** has influences from the surrounding areas.



Traditional houses in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains resemble those in Pădureni land whereas those in the Metaliferi Mountains are smaller thatched-roof houses. There are also wooden churches (Lăpugiu, Tisa, Rădulești) built in the XVII th century. Tisa village was famous for its boats, floating bridges and wooden rafts.

The folk costumes are made of hemp and have rich decorations. Women wear scarves and men wear caps.

Traditional songs: „Bocetul Feciorului”, „Strigăturile”, dances: „Linele”, „Învârtitele” and tradition: „Colindul laic cu duba” (The Laic Carol whit the Drum).

**6. Zarand Land** lies north and south of the White Criș and it is also called „The Land of Crișeni Moți”.



Traditional houses are built of wood and the foundations are tall.

The roof is made of straw and it is high and pointed. The houses have 2 rooms, basements and facades with poles and arcades.

The folk costume is very simple, with plain embroidery.

Women wear black waistcoats made of leather, covered in compact embroidery and men wear a coat made of sheep wool.

Crafts are developed here: potters, whistlers, barrel makers.

Traditional songs: „Cântecelul Iancului”, dances: „Țarina”, „Călușerul”.

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