

## ABSTRACTS

**Gusztáv Mihály Hermann**

■ *The Case of Mór Jókai and the Szekler Chronicle: A Story on the Border of Fiction and the Exploration of Facts*

Keywords: *Mór Jókai, Szekler chronicle, The Castle of the Idols, The Viceroy*

The author analyzes the relationship between historical reality and two novels of the most prolific writer of Hungarian Romanticism, Mór Jókai. In his novel entitled *Bálványosvár* (The Castle of the Idols), published in 1882, he explores the content of the Szekler chronicle, presenting the early history of the Szeklers, forged in the 18th century, as fact. In the novel *A kiskirályok* (The Viceroy), published in 1885, he already writes ironically about persons falsifying history for profit and about those deceived by their forgeries. Some hints in this novel suggest that at the time he had already reconsidered the Szekler chronicle as being a forgery also. The article's author believes that archaeologist-historian Nagy Géza, director of the Székely Nemzeti Múzeum (Székely National Museum) of Sfântu Gheorghe (Sepsiszentgyörgy) might have contributed to this change in attitude sometime between the publishing dates of the two novels.

**Idikó Horn**

■ *Zsigmond Móricz, the Amateur Historian*

Keywords: *Zsigmond Móricz, Gábor Bethlen, Erdély trilogy, the Principality of Transylvania*

In his *Erdély* trilogy, Zsigmond Móricz commemorated Gábor Bethlen, who brought peace and restored his country after a long period of war. The author's goal was to create a new image for Bethlen, which could serve as an example for post-Trianon Hungarians. He paid attention to historical accuracy, and researched the subject for roughly one and a half decades. He amassed a large library that contained all the important literary works and historical sources. He consulted historians and archivists, gaining plenty of advice and additional information. The planned locations of his works were visited by him personally, and he found the accurate depiction of the 17th century Hungarian language very important; he included many origi-

nal texts, almost word for word. Móricz's trilogy was considered a huge success, and it drew the attention of historians, writers and the cultured readership to 17th century Transylvania. The Gábor Bethlen-image he created plays a significant role in Hungarian historical consciousness to this day.

**Péter Kasza**

■ *Hungary in 1526: Krúdy and his King Novels*

Keywords: *Gyula Krúdy, Mohács, Hungary in 1526, king novels*

Between 1926 and 1931 Gyula Krúdy has dedicated three novels to the decisive events around 1526. Although the first novel, entitled *Mohács*, is the most popular, it is worthy to read and investigate all three works as a whole, since it is obvious that Krúdy's intention was to write a trilogy about the "damned" year, 1526. The most important figure of the novels is Queen Mary, who is in close connection to all Hungarian Kings of this period. Louis II is her husband, John Szapolyai is her would-be-fiancée, and Ferdinand I is her brother. In all the three novels, we see the events through Mary's eyes and from her point of view. But the real protagonist is the tragic year, 1526, considered as the fall of the old Hungarian Kingdom and the dawn of a new period, that of the Habsburg-era.

Although Krúdy was a novelist and not a historian, he made ample preparations before writing his novels by reading the most relevant and up-to-date literature (i.e. the works of Pál Jászay, Tivadar Ortvay and Vilmos Fraknói), and in some cases he followed them word by word. On the other hand, however, he wrote a novel, therefore he gave ample room to fantasy in his works, e.g. in the scene in which a certain fictitious Knight Crudy (the alter ego of the writer) escorts the disguised Queen Mary to the cathedral of Székesfehérvár to take part at the burial ceremony of King Louis, where Mary was not present in historical reality.

**Teréz Oborni**

■ *"I Have Been Writing the Summary of Eger Castle": Historical Information on the Heroes of Gárdonyi's Novel*

Keywords: *Géza Gárdonyi, siege of Eger Castle, 1552, historical heroes*

One of the most famous Hungarian historical novels is *Egri csillagok* (Eclipse of the Crescent Moon) written by Géza Gárdonyi in 1899. It covers the story of 1552 siege of Eger Castle, where nearly two thousand defenders repelled the attack and defended the castle successfully against the Ottoman army. The captain of the castle was István Dobó (around 1505-1573), who – in return for the victory – received donations and the title of baron from King Ferdinand I. Then he came to Transylvania as the voivode of Ferdinand in 1553. Later on, following the time when he served again the Kingdom of Hungary, he was charged of conspiracy against King Maximilian and imprisoned in 1569. Although he denied the charges, historical sources point to a different theory. It is almost proven that he had a close relationship with the Transylvanian court of John Sigismund, and he was likely to go over to that side. This paper aims to briefly introduce the historical back-ground of the siege of 1552 and to highlight the role of István Dobó throughout his career, based on historical sources. It also provides additional background information about Isabella, the Hungarian Queen, and Gergely Bornemissza, the most famous defender of the siege in Eger Castle.

**Ignác Romsics**

■ ***The Message of Hollóidő***

Keywords: *István Szilágyi, Hollóidő (Age of the Raven), Transylvania, 16th Century* István Szilágyi, a native and also current resident, of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), is an outstanding master of Hungarian prose. He attained international recognition with his 1975 novel *Kő hull apadó kútba* (Stones Falling Down a Dying Well). His next novel, *Agancsbozót* (Antler-Thicket, 1990) proved to be less successful, while the third one, *Hollóidő* (Age of the Raven), published in 2001, earned the author the Kossuth Prize, the highest award given to artists in Hungary. Set in the late 16th century, *Hollóidő* guides us to an imaginary town called Revek located in southern Hungary and dominated by the Ottoman Empire. The main characters of the novel are pastor Lukács Terebi, the town's enigmatic schoolmaster, Illés Fortuna, and an even more mysterious youth, the Student, whose

real name is never revealed, but about whom the novel suggests that his father must be Master Fortuna. Through these three characters, the author illustrates three patterns of human behavior. Pastor Terebi symbolizes the acquiescence to foreign domination while Master Fortuna advocates the armed fight against it. However, neither of them seems to achieve much. Acquiescence does not pacify the enemy, while violence only breeds violence. We conform to the oppressors even when we rebel against them. The young boy's struggle to become an educated, free thinker seems to be more fruitful, but we do not know if it is really successful. However, one thing seems certain: being able to rule one's own realm, however small it may be, is of vital importance to men.

**László Veszprémy**

■ ***Fiction and Reality under King Stephen***

Keywords: *Károly Kós, Builder of a Nation, historical novel, King Stephen, Hungary, 11th Century, fiction and reality*

This historical novel of Károly Kós deals with the subject of the life and rule of the first king of Hungary, who reigned between 1000-1038. King Stephen had been canonised a mere 45 years after his passing, and he has become a myth and a hero by the 1100s. He is a role model for kings even in modern historiography, and therefore the mission undertaken by the writer is a courageous one indeed. Kós's writing had provoked tremendous interest and a number of critical comments upon its publication. His character was different from the traditional saintly picture of a king known from legends, and became a living human person, full of conflicts, doubts and personal tragedies. Kós took great pains to follow the historical sources available to the contemporary writer, and no inaccuracies could be labelled as faults of his, as historians debate the process of the creation of Hungary's state and church organisation even to this day. This essay analyses Kós's novel based on his use of real and accessible historical elements. My conclusion is that, in spite of minor anachronisms, Kós had handpicked with utmost care and proportionality the reliable components of historical remembrance that made up his now classic novel.

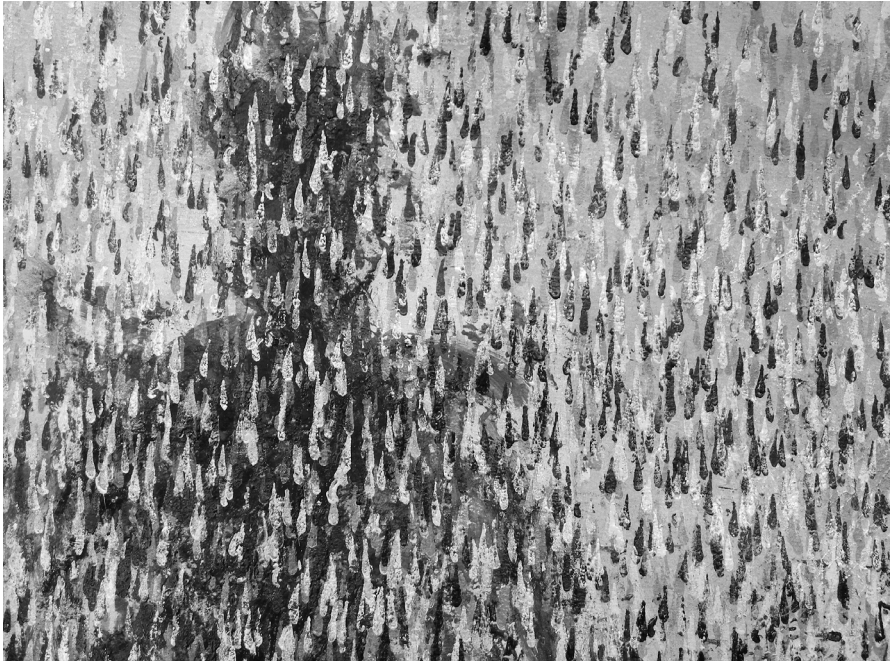
**Attila Zsoldos**

■ ***Shamans and Kings***

Keywords: *Sándor Makkai, Táltoskirály (Shaman King), 13th century, Transylvania, Hungarian history, Béla IV*

The historical novel of Sándor Makkai, the *Táltoskirály* (Shaman King) (1934) is set during the reign of Transylvania by Prince Béla, the future king Béla IV (1235-1270). However, the novel is at least as close to the debates of the 1930s in political and public life, in which Makkai himself has participated as the bishop of the Reformed Church of Transylvania, as to the times of Prince Béla. Most conspicuously, the novel includes

several political commentaries which could serve as a basis for reconstructing the discourse of the 1930s on actual topics. At the same time, the novelist is remarkably well informed on the epoch of András II, with up-to-date historical knowledge on the subject. The historical subject itself must have been very attractive for a Transylvanian novelist. It offered a possibility to present an alternative to András II (1205-1235), traditionally viewed as a “bad king”, in the figure of his own son, Béla, for the rise of the Kingdom. And, at least as significantly, this alternative was a Transylvanian one, both in geographic and spiritual sense.



## SZÁMUNK SZERZŐI

A lapszámot szerkesztette:  
**Kovács Kiss Gyöngy**

**Bodonyi Bettina** (1991) – mesterképzős hallgató, Eszterházy Károly Főiskola, Eger

**Bogdán László** (1948) – író, Sepsiszentgyörgy

**Csillag István** (1976) – képzőművész, Csíkszereda

**Dani Erzsébet** (1968) – egyetemi adjunktus, PhD, Debreceni Egyetem

**Fodor János** (1989) – doktorandusz, BBTE, Kolozsvár

**Di Francesco, Amedeo** (1946) – irodalomtörténész, egyetemi tanár, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

**Gömöri György** (1934) – költő, irodalomtörténész, London

**Hermann Gusztáv Mihály** (1955) – történész, PhD, egyetemi docens, BBTE, Székelyudvarhely

**Horn Ildikó** (1963) – történész, az MTA doktora, egyetemi tanár, ELTE, Budapest

**Kasza Péter** (1974) – történész, PhD, egyetemi adjunktus, SZTE

**Korpa Tamás** (1987) – költő, Debrecen

**Kovács Kiss Gyöngy** (1960) – történész, PhD, főszerkesztő, Korunk, Kolozsvár

**Markó Béla** (1951) – költő, politikus, Marosvásárhely

**Mester Béla** (1962) – filozófiatörténész, PhD, tudományos főmunkatárs, MTA

BTK Filozófiai Intézet, Budapest

**Oborni Teréz** (1960) – történész, CSc, tud. főmunkatárs, témacsoport-vezető

MTA BTK TTI, egyetemi docens, ELTE, Budapest

**Pomogáts Béla** (1934) – irodalomtörténész, az MTA doktora, Budapest

**Romsics Ignác** (1951) – történész, az MTA rendes tagja, egyetemi tanár, Eszterházy Károly Főiskola, Eger

**Szász Zoltán** (1940) – történész, CSc, tudományos tanácsadó, MTA BTK TTI

**Szegedy-Maszák Mihály** (1943) – irodalomtörténész, az MTA rendes tagja, professor emeritus, ELTE, Budapest

**Varga Gábor** (1948) – író, vegyész-mérnök, Nagyvárad

**Veszprémy László** (1958) – történész, az MTA doktora, igazgató, HM HIM

Hadtörténelmi Intézet, Budapest

**Zsoldos Attila** (1962) – történész, az MTA levelező tagja, tudományos tanácsadó, témacsoport-vezető, MTA BTK TTI, Budapest

TÁMOGATÓK



nka

Nemzeti Kulturális Alap



BETHLEN GÁBOR  
Alap



MAGYAR KULTÚRA  
Alap



Priebeň & Co. s.r.o. Ltd.  
Csaj-Nagoya



VISIT CLUJ  
www.visitcluj.ro



Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia



CONSILIUL JUDEȚEAN  
CLUJ



Ministry of Culture of Romania



Ministry of Culture of Romania

AFON

„Sok fró álma a példaadó nagy történelmi regény megírása, sok történész rémálma pedig ezek olvasása. Móricz Zsigmond megélte mind a kétfajta álmot. Amikor már jó ideje gyűjtötte az adatokat Bethlenről szóló könyvéhez, az általa imádvá megvetett korai ideáljához, Jókaihoz fordult. De úgy járt, mint a kutatótt korszakokról szóló regényeket olvasó történészek jó része, nem bírta elviselni az általa megismert múlt és az írói fantázia között feszülő fájó különbségeket: »Mikor történelmi regényhez nyúltam, elővettem az *Erdély aranykorát*, de harminc-negyven oldal után letettem. Nem tudom olvasni. Nem elég, hogy teljesen légből kapott, hogy történelmi gyökerei csak olyanok, mint a pipafüst vékony csíkja, amely odafent hodrokká s felhőkbe terebélyesedik, de azért csak dohánnyfüst marad s nem valóságos felhődzés.«

(Horn Ildikó)

ISSN 1222 8338



9 771222 283304 1 500 8

5 LEU  
500 FT

ISTORIE – ROMAN (ISTORIC)  
HISTORY – (HISTORICAL) NOVEL