

## ABSTRACTS

**Biborka Ádám**

■ ***First of December in Sfântu Gheorghe***

Keywords: *First of December, commemorative event, ethnic representation, national identity, interethnic relations, symbolic borders and spaces*

In this study we used the anthropological method of participant observation in order to document, analyse and interpret the most important Romanian commemorative event of our times, the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. More concretely, we analysed in depth the example of the event of 2014, held in Sfântu Gheorghe. Due to its geographic situation and historic evolution, the city of Sfântu Gheorghe and its surroundings provide a very special geographical site for this research, in respect of ethnicity and minority-majority relations; hence, this study focuses on a territory which represents a frontier zone in respect of both ethnic and confessional point of view. The detailed analysis of the narratives, discourses, system of symbols and codes of the event of 2014 demonstrates that the local Romanian community has been celebrating this commemorative day with an even growing mediatization. The elite that organises the event uses the majestic atmosphere of the feast to organize marches and to demonstrate its power and institutions, to model the conceptual aspect of the community and to consolidate its identity. As regarding the means and methods, it does not refrain from instigating interethnic tensions, a quarrel of symbols and other elements – as it is reflected in the scandals regarding plaques, anthems, flags, the appearance of the New Right – all organised around this feast.

**Miklós Csapody**

■ ***Amitié amoureuse***

Keywords: *Count Miklós Bánffy, writer, politician, foreign minister, Karola Bornemissza Szilvássy, love, Transylvanian aristocracy*

From the two great loves of the life of Miklós Bánffy, the first was a relationship which lasted for more than fifty years, a kind of “loving friendship”. This relationship has become a romantic tale to which the personality of Bánffy lends a strange halo due to all that which his name signifies within the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of Hungary, Transylvania, and Hungarian culture. This special “literary love story” has become fashionable not only because its protagonists, who are notable representatives of the Transylvanian aristocracy. The most important cause of the interest for this narrative is none other than the Grand Seigneur, the tragic figure of Bánffy himself, an aristocrat who has lost everything in his old age. Although the relationship has certainly been a romantic one, it is not the kind of typical romance in which the beloved woman, of secondary importance, becomes famous due to the love of an important man. Here, we have a relationship between two active people of similar intellectual value, who have supported each other until their death. Furthermore, this love story cannot be regarded as traditional because the careers of both participants is not only “novel-like”, but extraordinary.

**Gyöngy Kovács Kiss**

■ ***“For love” – Brought Before the Law***

Keywords: *Kolozsvár – Cluj, Renaissance, feasts, musicians, prostitutes, fornication, law*

Indoor and outdoor feasts have become increasingly frequent with the spread of the Renaissance way of life in 16th century Kolozsvár – Cluj. These were held at trade fairs, in taverns, and also in private houses, etc. Among their regular participants, we can find the male musicians called “fiddlers” and the women “meretrices” or “fiddler wives”. The study presents criminal lawsuits against prostitutes on the basis of the recorded testimonies, some of them prosecuted not only for fornication, but also for practicing witchcraft.

**Monika Kozári**

■ ***Count Gyula Andrassy and Queen Elisabeth***

Keywords: *Queen Elisabeth, wife of Emperor Franz Joseph I, Count Gyula Andrassy, fulfilled romance or Platonic love*

Count Gyula Andrassy and Queen Elisabeth have first met on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January in 1866, at the Burg, when the Hungarian delegation visited Vienna to honour Elisabeth. Their friendly relationship was established by the work they have done that year to achieve the compromise between Austria and Hungary. Both Elisabeth and Andrassy were well-known people of their time, so they knew a few things about each other before they met. Two fitting, smart and nice-looking people got together. Based on their letters, it is clear that Andrassy had loved Elisabeth, but it isn't known if their relationship was a fulfilled romance, or just Platonic love. This knowledge was very much desired by their peers at the time, and people are still keen to know the truth. After a while, love or lust has become friendship. According to the daughter of Elisabeth, after the death of Andrassy, the queen was mourning her only true friend. Their relationship had an impact on politics from the beginning.

**Aranka Markaly**

■ ***Interest or Love? The Relationship of Imre Thökoly and Ilona Zrínyi***

Keywords: *marriage of convenience, love, politics, Imre Thökoly, widow of Ferenc Rákóczi I, Ilona Zrínyi*

Imre Thökoly is probably one of the most controversial individuals of Hungarian history, who is known not only as a military leader, but also as one of the largest landowners in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as the leader of the outlaws, and an ally of the Turks. Despite the fact that after the death of his father he lost his Hungarian estates, he has managed to become one of the richest noblemen of the period at

the end of the century. This was not only due to his excellent diplomatic and economic insights, since his marriage with the rich widow of Ferenc Rákóczi I, Ilona Zrínyi, also greatly contributed to the increase of his wealth. One of the most controversial issues of historiography is also linked to this fact. Did Imre Thökoly and Ilona Zrínyi marry out of love on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, 1682, or did they merely enter into a marriage of convenience? In this study, I would like to outline the elements of this issue, not to argue in favour of any position, just to highlight the complexity of the topic, providing some additional information and maybe shed new light on the relationship of these two people.

**Teréz Oborni**

■ ***“Your True Love, Gabriel”: The Story of Gábor Bethlen and Zsuzsanna Károlyi***

Keywords: *Gábor Bethlen, prince of Transylvania, Zsuzsanna Károlyi, marriage, correspondence*

The prince of Transylvania, Gábor Bethlen (1613-1629), and his first wife, Zsuzsanna Károlyi (1585-1622), have married in 1605. The two youngsters, both orphans, have been introduced by the prince of Transylvania, István Bocskai (1605-1606). The largest part of their correspondence dates from 1619-21, a period in which the prince has waged war against Ferdinand II (1619-1637), and thus had to be far away from the family home. His wife, Zsuzsanna, started feel ill during this period, and she died in Spring 1622. Their letters written to each other point to strong emotional ties between them, even though we cannot be certain that there was any authentic love between the partners. According to the author, the exchanged letters lead us to believe that Zsuzsanna, although she mostly did not deal with larger political issues, could arrange payments – on her own initiative, or at the request of her husband –, issue

orders to the office-holders of the manors and castles, and could decide in manners concerned with the household and housekeeping. The sincere, intimate tone of the letters indicate strong emotional ties between the spouses.

**Gábor Papp**

■ ***Eternal Marital Love***

Keywords: *Tamás Nádasdy, Orsolya Kanizsai, házastársak, érdekházasság-szerelem, levelezés*

In 1532, immediately after the death of the last male descendant of the most important landowner family of Hungary, the Kanizsais, the ten-year-old heiress, Orsolya Kanizsai, was engaged to the third most prominent politician of the country, the 34 year old Tamás Nádasdy. It was marriage of convenience, which was the usual, rather the exceptional, case in their historical time period and social circle. Nevertheless, this imposed marriage has developed into the first extensively documented love story of Hungarian cultural history. Nádasdy, who was later elected Nador and became glorious on the battlefield, spent little time with his wife. Thus, their deep love for each other found an expression in their correspondence which covered more than a quarter century. Their caring love for each other and their only child, Ferenc Nádasdy, the later “black bey”, who fought the Turks, remains touching even today. The essay also present the career of Tamás Nádasdy.

**Ignác Romsics**

■ ***István Bethlen's Liaisons***

Keywords: *Count István Bethlen, Prime-Minister of Hungary, Countess Margit Bethlen, Countess Andor Pál Széchenyi born Baroness Mária Szegedy-Ensch, love, long lasting attachment*

Count István Bethlen was one of the most outstanding Hungarian politicians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the moment he was elected to Parliament in 1901 until the end of WW II, “making politics” was an integral part of his

life. Between 1901 and 1918 he was a regional politician with peculiarly Transylvanian traits, from 1921 to 1931 he was Prime Minister of Hungary; and subsequently, until 1944, the leading representative of the anti-Nazi and pro-Western political orientation. At the end of 1944 he was captured and in 1945 transported by the Russians to Moscow where he died in 1946. Ignác Romsics, who is the author of the first comprehensive and authoritative biography on Bethlen, deals in his essay with an aspect of the politician's private life: his liaisons of love. Although he is very sceptical about the gossip according to which the young Bethlen had an illegitimate child before his marriage of 1901, he does confirm that from the late 1920s the politician really had a sweetheart: Countess Andor Pál Széchenyi born Baroness Mária Szegedy-Ensch. In spite of their long lasting and known attachment Bethlen did not divorce. After some years his wife, Countess Margit Bethlen accepted the situation and she also found a companion. The article is concluded by citations from Bethlen's letters sent to his lover from the Russian house arrest.

**Attila Süli**

■ ***The Reminiscence of Captain Ferenc Máday from the Mátyás-hussar regiment on the Self-Defence Struggle of Háromszék***

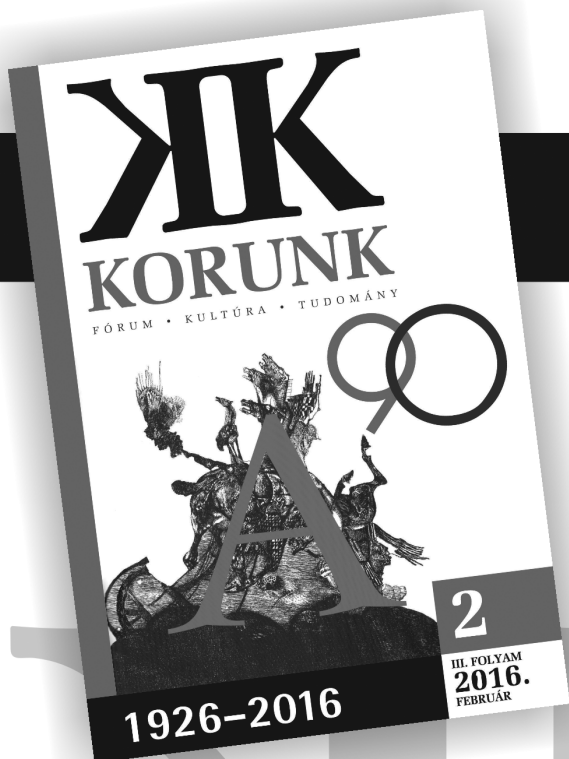
Keywords: *Captain Ferenc Máday, Mátyás-hussar regiment, 1848-1849, self-defence of Háromszék*

At the end of May 1849, Captain Ferenc Máday from the Mátyás-hussar regiment published an interesting diary in the gazette “Marczius Tizenötödike”. This source had hithertonot been used by historians, although the author took part in the fights of the Székely-Camp, and then in the self-defence struggle of Háromszék. Ferenc Máday was born in 1808 in Nagymar of Pozsony county in a Roman-Catholic noble family. He served as sergeant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hussar Regiment, recruited

from Transylvania between 1824 and 1832. After he quit, he lived in Torda. He became member of the political circle formed in Torda county (August 15 1848), and then, at the beginning of September, volunteered to the “Kosuth Lajos” (later 15<sup>th</sup> Mátyás) Hussar Regiment. Although he was an active participant of the fights in the defence of Háromszék, Máday did not write extensively on the military events, because his main aim was to compile a manifesto against the whole political and military leadership of Háromszék.

They, according to Máday, had sabotaged the fights of the Szeklers, while the positive figures of his account were the politicians of the radical opposition. After the repression of the Hungarian War of Independence, Máday made a living as an official in an estate. Living in Buda, in 1867 he has become member of the Honvéd association of the City of Pest. This source is published in its original form as an article from the “*Marczius Tizenötödike*”, with critical footnotes preserving the original names.





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„Az összeállításban szerelem és történelem kéz a kézben jár – miközben testközelbe hozza a magyar história néhány ismert személyiségét a legérzékenyebb pontok megragadásával, érzelmi életük kötődéseinek bemutatásával. Hősei esetenként történelmi párosok, esetenként a „magányos nagyok” közül néhányan, mellettük ismert-ismeretlen kapcsolataik, szerelmeik, múzsáik, feleségeik vagy akár az anonimitásból előtűnő polgárasszonyok a maguk sikamlós és a szerelemhez csupán érintőlegesen (vagy még úgy is alig) kapcsolódó történetecskéivel. Ki kit szeretett – hogyan és miért? A tömb – amely az adott kritériumon belüli, elkerülhetetlenül szűk és esetleges válogatás ellenére is igen színes képet mutat – a história szerelmeinek birodalmában kalandozva, kordokumentumokra, levelezésekre alapozva gyűjt egybe és mesél el néhány történelmi szerelmet – ám valójában magát az életet meséli, hiszen valós történeteket mond el híres emberek szerelemeiről.”

(K. K. Gy.)

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