

ABSTRACTS

Biborka Ádám

■ ***A Worthless Civilian Device?
On the Minority SafePack***

Keywords: *Minority SafePack initiative, comprehensive legislative package, national minorities*

This study aims at briefly presenting the history and background of the Minority SafePack initiative. It seeks to highlight why a comprehensive legislative package at European level would be needed for the protection of persons belonging to national minorities. It is equally dealing with the background, reasons and the long-term impacts of rejecting such a comprehensive legislative package by the European Commission, for the national and linguistic minorities in the European Union in general, and especially for the Hungarian minority in Romania de facto. The study also looks at the remaining options for the initiators to make their claims heard at European level.

Csongor János

■ ***Preservation of Cultural Values and Informal Tolerance in State Socialism: The Memory of Anikó Bethlen***

Keywords: *Countess Anikó Bethlen, state socialism, Securitate*

The main character of this study is Countess Anikó Bethlen from Târgu Mureş, who started to collect ethnographic pieces in the late 1960s, once she realized the importance of safeguarding the diverse cultural heritage of Transylvania that was about to be lost due to the gradual emigration of those belonging to non-Romanian communities, in particular of the Germans and the Hungarians. Her file of informative surveillance, which

is currently preserved in the Archives of CNSAS, illustrates that she was constantly observed by the Securitate during the 1970s and the 1980s. Countess Bethlen was subjected to operative surveillance, which means that the secret police used informants to collect information about her and her activities, listened her phone calls and home, retained her private correspondence, and provoked her with anonymous letters. She was warned by the local branch of the Securitate in Târgu Mureş, in 1981, for allegedly carrying out a “hostile activity against the regime”. However, the secret police monitored rather her relations abroad than her activity of collecting.

Ambrus Miskolczy

■ ***László Teleki, Envoy of the Romanian Boers of Fogaras/Făgăraş at the Diets in Kolozsvár/Cluj***

Keywords: *László Teleki, liberal reform movement, Diet, coexistence of nationalities, 19th century*

Paradoxically, one of the most conservative jurisdictions, the Romanian province of Fogaras/Făgăraş, elected one of the most radical figures of the Hungarian liberal reform movement, Count László Teleki, as its ambassador to the Diet. This also illustrates the dialectic of the situation: the liberals pursued a policy of modernising reform with a disaffected electorate, seeking to strengthen the constitutionalism of the order to transform it into a modern constitutional system of representation, while bargaining with an imperial leadership that itself was tactical in its adherence to imperial absolutism. At the beginning of the 1840s, the press in Kolozsvár/Cluj proclaimed a

liberal policy of social reform, and proposed bills that, if passed by the ruler, would set a precedent for the reformist opposition in Hungary to pursue further reform policies. But by 1846 Transylvania had become the scene of a conservative counter-attack. The liberals were isolated. This explains László Teleki's radicalism and tendency to pessimism. But Fogarasi's experience confirmed that it was still possible for nationalities to live together after the horrors of the civil war of 1848-49.

János Kristóf Murádin

■ **„Everything for Transylvania!“
At Home and in Emigration: the
Life of Count Béla Teleki**

Keywords: *Count Béla Teleki, politician, 20th century, Transylvanian Party, emigration*

The study offers a short summary of the life and political activity of Count Béla Teleki, one of the most important Transylvanian politicians from the middle of the 20th century. Teleki's political career reached its peak at the time when Northern Transylvania was regained by Hungary after the Second Vienna Award. Starting from 1941 he was the president of the Transylvanian Party, the dominant Hungarian political party in Northern Transylvania. In October 1944 he was captured and deported by the Soviet Army. After a short time, Teleki was persecuted by the Secret Police of the new Hungarian Communist Regime too. In 1947 he left Hungary, and starting from 1951 he lived in the United States until his death on 7th February 1990. During the decades of his life in emigration, he carried on a great correspondence with the leading personalities of the Hun-

garian emigration in the West. In this way, Béla Teleki became one of the central personalities of the Hungarian emigration in the Western World. This study summarises Béla Teleki's life and his political activity from the perspective of his most important aim: to preserve the idea of Hungarian Transylvania.

Teréz Oborni

■ **The Forgotten “Tacitus of Transylvania” – Chancellor János Bethlen (1613-1678) of Bethlen and Keresd**

Keywords: *János Bethlen, Chancellor, 17th century, Rerum Transylvanicarum libri quatuor... ab a.1629 usque ad a. 1663*

Descended from one of the most prestigious and wealthiest families in Transylvania, the Bethlen family of Bethlen and Keresd, János Bethlen was a leading figure and politician in Transylvania in the mid-17th century. Many of his contemporaries accused him of disloyalty, based on the fact that Bethlen had served each of the princes who succeeded to the Transylvanian throne in rapid succession in the years 1657-1661. Bethlen also became famous as a historian with his work *Rerum Transylvanicarum libri quatuor... ab a.1629 usque ad a. 1663*, written in 1662-1663, whose first publisher, József Benkő called the author “the Tacitus of Transylvania”. Historical sources suggest that the main aim of Bethlen's political activity was to ensure the survival of his country, the Principality of Transylvania, and to survive the campaign launched against it by the Ottoman Empire between 1658 and 1661. Chancellor János Bethlen proved to be a prudent, rational and level-headed politician who always put

the public interest before his individual goals and served his country well.

Pál Pritz

■ ***Pál Teleki***

Keywords: *Count Pál Teleki, Prime Minister, Jewish question, suicide, 20th century*

Hungarian history in the 20th century produced three aristocrat and one plebeian statesmen. This ratio also reflects the fact that, for a long time, the aristocrats were the leading force in the nation. On the other hand, Teleki's and later Bethlen's rise to power was far from being a natural consequence of the Hungarian history of the time. It is the German question, not the loss of the war, that explains the decline of St. Stephen's Hungary.

The collapse was compounded by the fall of the revolutions. The Christian middle class claimed the leading role in the counter-revolutionary resurgence. The election of the governor brought a resounding victory for Miklós Horthy, representative of the Christian middle class, and a heavy defeat for his rival, the aristocratic Albert Apponyi.

It is within this framework that the study examines the life and work of Pál Teleki. It places his attitude towards the Jewish question in a holistic context.

Ignác Romsics

■ ***The Prime Ministership of István Bethlen 1921-1931***

Keywords: *Count István Bethlen, significant politician, Prime Minister, Hungary, 20th century*

Count István Bethlen was one of the most significant politicians of 20th Century Hungary. From the moment he was elected to Parlia-

ment in 1901 until the end of World War II "making politics" was an integral part of his life. Between 1901 and 1918 he was a regional politician with peculiarly Transylvanian traits; in 1918-1920 he was a major organizer of the counter-revolutionary forces and then a leader of the Hungarian peace delegation; from 1921 to 1931 he served as prime minister of Hungary; and subsequently, until 1945, he proved to be the leading representative of the anti-Nazi and pro-Western political orientation. In his essay, Ignác Romsics who produced the most comprehensive biography on István Bethlen, analyses his ten years premiership. The author states that Bethlen is rightly considered the architect of the so-called Horthy regime. He successfully tackled a whole host of problems of crucial importance to the consolidation and stabilization of the regime. He managed to pull the economy out of the deep crisis after 1920 in little over half a decade. He stabilized political life, which was very confused during the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary time in 1918-1920. The created political regime assumed authoritarian character typical of that of most other countries in the region. Secondary and higher education maintained high standards, while public education also improved. New universities were built in Szeged and Pécs, replacing those left behind in the areas lost in the Trianon peace treaty, Kolozsvár/Cluj and Pozsony/Bratislava. The most important aim of his foreign policy was revision of this treaty. By means of skillful diplomacy, he secured to return to Hungary the Pécs area occupied by Yugoslavia, while Sopron and its

surrounding district were returned by Austria as a result of the plebiscite of December 1921. His foreign policy success was a treaty of friendship with Italy in 1927 too, although it had little immediate impact. The conditions for further border revisions were created only by the end of the 1930s. Facing the social consequences of the Great Depression, Bethlen resigned in August 1931. He died in 1946, in Soviet captivity.

Mihály Sebestyén

■ *Sámuel Teleki – in Hindsight*

Keywords: *Count Sámuel Teleki, Chancellor, Transylvania, Teleki Téka, bibliophilia*

Based on his personal relationship with Sámuel Teleki, as he worked for nearly 40 years in the Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mures library founded by Sámuel Teleki (1739-1822), the author feels that he developed an intimate working relationship with this versatile and educated Transylvanian aristocrat of the Enlightenment period. He treats it as a fact that within half a century after the change of regime and empire in 1690, by the middle of the 18th century, the Transylvanian nobility had been incorporated into the Habsburg Empire, becoming dependent of the Court. It is in this atmosphere that the official, who has always been faithful to his Protestant roots and upbringing, grows up and works his way up the official ladder: to archbishop, governor's councillor, vice-chancellor and then chancellor of Transylvania, based in Vienna.

He amassed a vast multilingual library, the encyclopaedic nature of which was clear to his contemporaries. Not only did he acquire the legal and state documents,

historical and geographical works necessary for the exercise of his profession, but he was also interested in mathematics and physics, the methods of bibliophilia, and the publications of the scientific academies. Unfortunately, his library did not grow for a good half century after his death, and its museal character became more and more apparent.

Ágnes Szalai

■ *Teleki Mihály, “the Forefather of All Later Teleki of Szék”*

Keywords: *Count Mihály Teleki, 17th century, Transylvanian aristocrat, controversial perception*

The name of the Teleki family and their involvement in public life are undoubtedly well known in Hungarian history. One of the most prominent members of the family was Mihály Teleki, the Transylvanian politician of the late 17th century who established the family's wealth and prestige, but his activities and reputation were fraught with controversy. Starting his career at the court of György II Rákóczi, Teleki chose to commit himself to the side of Mihály I Apafi, serving several Transylvanian princes due to the turbulent political circumstances. The aim of the study is to give a brief overview of Teleki's career, who rose steadily through the political ranks and held many national offices, and of his related acquisitions of property and court. In the course of presenting his career, I will also discuss how his contemporaries and historiography evaluated Mihály Teleki's activities, and I will also explore Telek's motivations and thus nuance the ambivalent image of him in historiography.

Zsombor Tóth

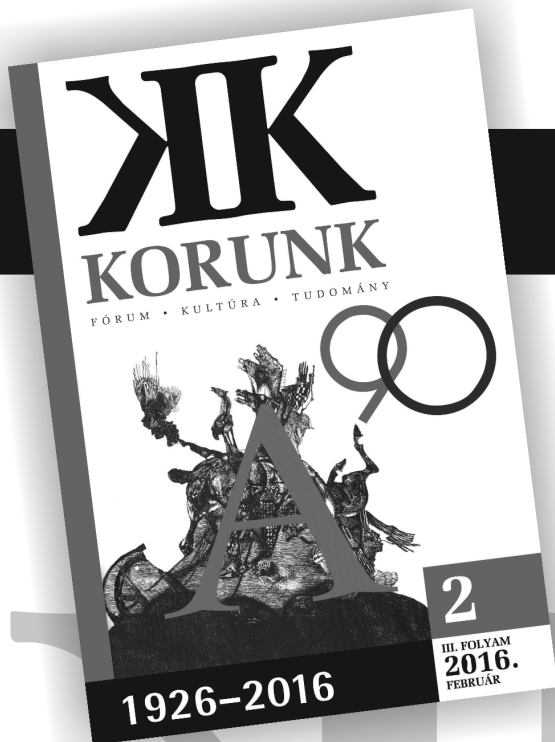
■ *The Memorable Christmas of 1716 at Bethlenszentmiklós: The Eyewitness Account of József Dienes Hermányi as a Textologist (A Case Study)*

Keywords: *Count Miklós Bethlen, Christmas of 1716, first editing of Miklós Bethlen's manuscripts, József Dienes Hermányi*

Despite an outstanding political carrier, Count Miklós Bethlen (1642–17116) concluded his life in prison in Vienna, and he never returned to Transylvania. During this unwanted stay from 1708 to 1716, he produced a consistent corpus of manuscripts containing his memoirs, prayers, and several pieces of his impressive correspondence. After the Count's death on October 27, 1716, all his manuscripts had been first sequestered by the imperial administration, and then they were only partially given back to his son and heir, József Bethlen. This paper proposes a case study reconstructing a key moment in December 1716, when

some of the original manuscripts had been released and delivered to József Bethlen. With a focus on József Dienes Hermányi (1699-1763), and his eyewitness account, this case study considers a possible scenario for the destiny of the manuscripts that came into the possession of the heir. The Christmas of 1716 appears to have been a crucial moment as it coincided, most probably, with the first editing of Miklós Bethlen's manuscripts. As the young Dienes Hermányi was seeking the favours of his patrons, the members of the Bethlen family, he would have been the ideal candidate for transcribing and copying the original manuscripts of Miklós Bethlen under the supervision of János Lukács Borosnyai (1694-1760), the tutor of Miklós's grandson, István Bethlen. It is safe to say that the Christmas of 1716 marked the entrance of the Bethlen manuscripts into the scribal culture and publicity of 18th-century Transylvania.





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(Sebestyén Mihály)

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