

# **BULLETIN 2005**

National Széchényi Library





#### **BULLETIN 2005**

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Cover 1: Portrait of Ferenc Széchényi by Johann Ender Cover 2, 3: Deed of Foundation of the National Library, dated to November 25, 1802 Cover 4: The Széchényi Family's Coat of Arm

Pictures illustrating the featured articles are representing the art objects of the exhibition: "Pannonian Phoenix".

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NEMZETI KULTURÁLIS ÖRÖKSÉG MINISZTÉRIUMA

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Printed and bound by the **Alföldi Printing Ltd.**Executive director: **György Géza** 

ISSN: 1589-004X

### **CONTENTS**



5	THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
	OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY

- PANNONIAN PHOENIX, OR THE HUNGARIAN 7
  LANGUAGE ARISEN FROM THE ASHES
  - 13 "THEATRE IN THE NORTHERN LIGHT"
  - THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HUNGARIAN 17
    NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS 1921-1944
    - 2 I FOR CREATING MODERN LIBRARY SERVICES
- MEMORIAL SPEECH ON THE OCCASION 23
  OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY'S MOVE
  INTO THE BUDA CASTLE
  - 27 THE MUSIC COLLECTION
    OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY
  - DOMOKOS KOSÁRY A LIFE MEMBER **31** OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY
    - 33 THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY'S DOCTORS OF SCIENCE
  - OUR MOST ATTRACTIVE HUNGARIAN BOOKS 37

# A' TEKINTETES ÉS NEMES MAGYAR HAZÁNAK KEGYELMES ÉS NAGYSAGOS FÖ RENDIEIHEZZ.

#### KEGYELMES ÉS NAGYSAGOS URAIM!

Az Orfzág' boldogságának egyik leg főbb Efzköze a' Tudomány. Ez mentől közönségesebb a' lakosok között, az Orfzág is annál boldogabb.

A' Tudománynak Kultsa a' Nyelv, még pedig a' számosabb részre nézve, a' melylynek sok Nyelvek' tanúlásábann módja nints, minden Országnak született Nyelve. Ennek tekélletességre való vitele tehát leg első dolga légyen annak a' Nemzetnek, a' melyly a' maga lakosai között a' Tudományokat terjeszteni, 's ezek által amazoknak boldogságokat munkálkodni kivánja.

Valamint a' Tudományok, úgy a' Nyelvek is apródonként jutottak tekélletességre, a' melylybenn
már vagynak. Az emberi életnek sokféle szükségei, az elmével véle született nyughatatlanság, a'
vizsgálódás, az érzékenységek által tett tapasztalás, mindenkor újabb újabb találmányokat szültek
a' melylyeknek az előtt se hírek, se nyomok nem
vólt. Mind ezeknek az új találmányoknak, természeti

és

[György Bessenyei:] A humble proposal for a Hungarian society. Vienna, 1790, Hummel János Dávid. 46 p.

# THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY



Between 1999 and 2005, the national library's organisational and operational system underwent continuous major changes. The professional basis of the preceding organisational structure was that the library's own functions and its central library functions were different from one another. Another principle was that maintenance was the national library's main goal, therefore stock protection with its own organisational unit (a chief department) was vital. Although work was logically structured, there were several parallel activities, which relying on the integrated library system (Amicus), could be eliminated. The library established its central services on its own internal library work, resulting in the central service itself (The national bibliography is, to a large extent, the result of cataloguing; the common national catalogue is the main source of inter-library loans; Libinfo reference assistance is based on our own information supply and organisational work.).

According to regulations in force in 1999, we had a professional and a financial deputy director working beside the library's director general. Below them, there were eight chief heads of department and a further level down, 51 heads of department in the hierarchy. One of the main features of the recent changes is a decrease in the levels of decision-making, resulting in a system composed of a director general and directors (Directors are at the head of finance, IT, acquisitions and processing, information supply, special collections, research work, and finally the Library Institute). The second main change is that in addition to co-ordinating the activity of a particular department, a director is responsible for certain projects. For example, the director of acquisitions is responsible not only for the core collection, but also for special collection sites, although their staff have the research director as their direct superior. On the other hand, the research director deals not only with collections, but is also responsible for the full retrospective system of bibliography. The IT director is supposed to be involved in and managing all computer applications and developments, wherever they may take place within the library. Also, in external communications, the portfolios are represented by their directors rather than the director general. Directors constitute the Directors' Board, which is the library's actual decision-making body. Taking theoretical decisions is the job of the Director General's College, assisted by the trade union and the Union of Public Employees.

We consider placing the retrospective national bibliography system and the special collection sites under the direction of one person as an important step ahead, as the basis of bibliographic work may be, to a large extent, the processing of the material in these collections.

Over the past six years, the number of departments has decreased by twenty, while two new ones have been set up (i.e. Hungarian Electronic Library and the Hungarian National Shared Catalogue). The task of the Hungarica Documentation Department has changed dramatically, because with Hungary joining the EU, the notion of 'hungarica' in library documents and Hungarian scholarship requires a new definition. From now on, this Department is to devote its attention to creating a national professional literature database for humanities, a full documentation of the literature related to Hungary and Hungarians in general.

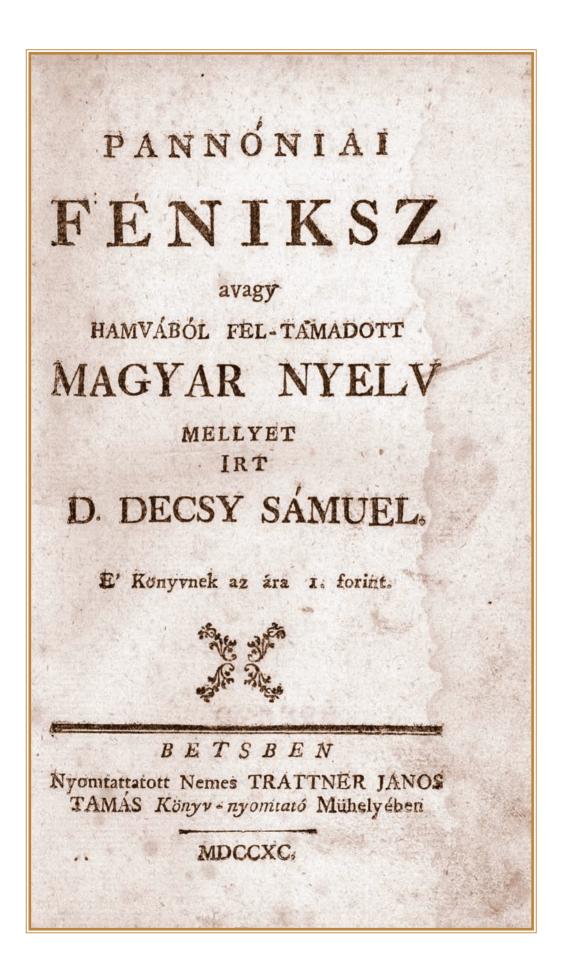
Formulating "Program" as an institution is a vitally important new element, meaning that a professional project in which more than one department is involved will have its own leader (a head of department or the director himself), and the program may be an activity of the European Library History Centre, which co-ordinates book history work in the library, as well as, if possible, in the whole of the country.

The prestige of the national library as a scholarly centre is enhanced by academy research teams active there. Relating library processing to research activities as strongly as possible is a main priority.

We believe that the new library structure enables more effective leadership and management, making sure that in future it will fulfill the combined functions of a modern supply library, a museum of books and a centre of scholarship.

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Sámuel Decsy: Pannonian Phoenix, or the Hungarian language arisen from the ashes. Vienna, 1790, Trattner János Tamás. 274, [12] p.

# PANNONIAN PHOENIX, OR THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE ARISEN FROM THE ASHES

Our Earliest Printed Scientific Books from János Sylvester's Grammar to the Czuczor-Fogarasi dictionary



Organised jointly by the National Széchényi Library and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the exhibition Pannonian Phoenix, or the Hungarian Language Arisen from the Ashes opened on 11 March 2005, presenting the gradual spread of the Hungarian language in sciences, starting with the appearance of the first Hungarian prints in the middle of the 16th century up to the Academy's comprehensive dictionary compiled by Czuczor and Fogarasi, published between 1862 and 1874. The exhibition introduces the process whereby the use and functions of the Hungarian language were extended, the vocabulary of the various disciplines had been established. It shows how by the 19th century, at the time of establishing and with the active co-operation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the disciplines had Hungarian as their only medium.

The history of Hungarian scientific books is very closely related to the spread of the Reformation and book printing. In the decades following the disastrous Battle of Mohács (1526), the Reformation was spreading at a fast rate, focusing on the mother tongue in schools and in book publishing. That is the time when the Protestant usage of language started becoming dominant in Hungary. Over the 16th and 17th centuries, the linguistic features of the North-eastern and Eastern dialects spoken in regions unoccupied by the Turks, were becoming dominant in the newly forming Hungarian language of common people.

From 1536, Hungary always had its own printing houses. In the 16th century they were mostly established by Protestants, and by the end of the century the number of Hungarian prints they had issued was over four hundred. The Reformation attached special importance to having the Bible translated into the vernacular. Therefore, a number of printing houses were set up with this goal as their main mission. The earliest Hungarian print produced in the country is a translation of the Bible, namely János Sylvester's translation of the New Testament (1541).

Due to its unifying effect, book printing was a major step towards the formation of the national literary language. It greatly helped and strengthened the elaboration of the norms of the written language, the influence of writing on speaking. In his *Pannonian Phoenix*, the pamphlet whose title the exhibition borrowed, Sámuel Decsy says that "...the invention of the printing trade was a great heavenly godsend for humankind." "Since this useful trade has emerged from nowhere, sciences have clearly matured and scholars have grown in number."

Grammars and dictionaries are among the most significant early prints, as they had an important role in translation and education, which apart from the lowest levels, was still using Latin. The first systematic language development and prescription efforts in Hungary appeared at the same time as the first printed works: János Sylvester's Grammatica Hungarolatina (1539) was the first to discuss Hungarian grammar. Although he did this in Latin, his main goal was to help language tuition at school. The printed dictionaries and glossaries of the age, the first products of Hungarian lexicography, served similar purposes. Albert Szenci Molnár's 1604 dictionary is outstanding on more than one score: partly because of the encyclopaedic character of its interpretations and partly because of the pioneering Hungarian-Latin dictionary that follows the Latin-Hungarian section. The Prologue to the Hungarian-Latin section is a landmark also in the history of Hungarian orthography, because among other things, Molnár describes the usual methods of representing the sounds in the Hungarian language.

Besides translations of the Bible, dictionaries, glossaries and grammars, István Székely's world chronicle, the first historiography published in Hungarian is also among the earliest scientific prints (Cracow, 1559). Using a vivid style close to contemporary spoken language, Székely's chronicle follows Hungarian and world history from the first day of Creation up to his own age.

The earliest extant mathematics book in print is the so-called *Debrecen Arithmetic* (1577) from the Hoffhalter press. Being a major centre of trade in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Debrecen had a huge demand for such publications mainly in order to help traders. Péter Melius Juhász's *Herbal* (1578) is the first botany written in Hungarian, and is at the same time the first well-edited Hungarian handbook for sciences. The first chapter of the *Herbal* 

is an alphabetical list of plants, which had an enormous significance in identifying "trees and grasses" in Hungarian. The second part is the actual herbal, containing the description and applications of the various plants.

In the series of conscious language development efforts, János Apácai Csere's Hungarian Encyclopaedia (1655) represents a significant stage, aiming at creating the Hungarian language and terminology of sciences, and being the first to give a full summary of contemporary scientific knowledge. The Encyclopaedia was in fact intended to be a textbook for secondary students ('a school book written in the Hungarian language'). Apácai recognised the close relationship between national education and the mother tongue, thus the purpose of his undertaking was that all sciences (school subjects) could be taught in Hungarian. He translated the text of the *Encyclopaedia* mainly from Latin, creating the terminology from almost nothing. In the case of themes close to everyday life (e.g. medicine, zoology, botany, housekeeping and jurisdiction) he coped relatively easily, thus producing simple and easy to follow terminology. More abstract disciplines (e.g. logic, philosophy, mathematics and astronomy), however, were more challenging. In these chapters his language is often clumsy, frequently experimenting with mirror translations of certain terms.

Unfortunately, Apácai's monumental work had no followers, and his attempt stayed rather isolated. For language, the late 17th and early 18th century represent a period of decline: in public life as well as in scholarship, Latin was again gaining ground, the language that after some encouraging signs in the second half of the 16th century, was still the official language of the country. It was the language of administration, jurisdiction, politics and education. Almost completely neglecting the vernacular, the main focus of secondary and higher education was primarily teaching Latin grammar.

From the middle of the 18th century, however, there was a small upturn in publishing Hungarian scientific books, although mainly of textbooks and popular scientific works. Among them, one of the most interesting is a lengthy volume by the pioneer of scientific and popular writing, János Molnár, a Jesuit teacher and writer: *Nine Books of Distinguished Old Buildings* (Nagyszombat, 1760). It is not merely a study of the history of architecture, but is rather a summary of cultural history in which by applying descriptions of the Bible and ancient authors, Molnár introduces famous classical creations like Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babylon, the pyramids of Egypt, the Circus Maximus and the Colossus of Rhodes. In addition, he gives a colour-

ful insight into the culture of the age and the given people, describing their languages and customs.

The linguistic and literary movements of Enlightenment led to great changes in the history of Hungarian scientific language. The beginnings are tied to György Bessenyei and the writers in Maria Theresa's Guard, and gained more ground through literature. Bessenyei elaborated his highly influential educational program in the last years of the 1770s. He saw society's ultimate aim in creating public good or 'public happiness' through science. He argued that the key to science was the language of the 'majority', or in other words, not scholars' Latin, but the whole nation's language, i.e. Hungarian. In order for sciences to spread and become familiar to the country's inhabitants, a civilised and widely used language was required. He claimed that our mother tongue had to be enriched primarily by naming new things. Based on French models, Bessenyei thought to entrust the cultivation of the Hungarian language to a scholarly body, namely to the Academy. These principles are elaborated in his pamphlets: in the 1778 Hungarian Language and in the 1779 Hungarian Spectator, as well as in the Humble Proposal written in 1781 but published by Miklós Révai as late as 1790. Through these works, Bessenyei was the forerunner of the nobility's post-1790 pamphlet literature.

One of the main pieces in this pamphlet literature is Sámuel Decsy's 1790 Pannonian Phoenix, or the Hungarian Language Arisen from the Ashes. Similarly to Bessenyei, Decsy too recommends setting up a scholarly body modelled on foreign societies, and emphasises the role of libraries and book printing in education. "The library and the book printing house are two such useful tools in strengthening sciences without which no well-constructed scholarly society can be stable," he says. In his pamphlets in addition to discussing what is to be done for culture, he also lists what the nation is to do in the field of economics. Besides making the national language official, he attaches great importance to developing agriculture and trade.

In several areas of culture, the tenets of Enlightenment contributed to processes serving the cause of the Hungarian language. Hungarian newspapers were launched inviting competitions to support the cause; in Pest-Buda, and somewhat later in Kolozsvár Hungarian theatre productions were staged, and in education too the Hungarian language was gradually gaining ground. Wide-ranging public attention focused on language led to the establishment of a number of cultural societies, among which the most outstanding was the Transylvanian Language Cultivation Society, organised by György Aranka and active from 1793 up to 1806. "No nation may be enlightened but through its national language," Aranka asserted in agreement with Bessenyei's views. It was on the initiatives of this age that the uniform Hungarian national language was created, in which these societies had no negligible role to play.

Pest-Buda was developing into a cultural centre, while primary and secondary education were gradually switching to Hungarian as their language of tuition. In 1777 Maria Theresa issued Ratio Educationis, the first comprehensive regulation of public education. The intention was to transform the hitherto fragmented school system into a unified organisation, bringing major changes to the content and methods of the curriculum. For example, it extended the range of science subjects and their syllabus, and supported the widening of national-language tuition. Partly thanks to this regulation, from the last third of the 18th century, besides the Latin and German textbooks, more and more modern Hungarian works were also coming out. Through their text-books, outstanding writers of the age, namely Miklós Révai, János Molnár, István Márton and Ézsaiás Budai contributed significantly to spreading the ideologies of Enlightenment. It is to be noted that at the time textbooks and scientific handbooks did not constitute separate genres, as a result of which course books for secondary education also served as handbooks of a discipline, like for example János Molnár's physics (The Beginnings of Physics, 1777) and Ézsaiás Budai's historical works (Ordinary Story, 1808; Hungary's History, 1805), which are at the same time the first modern Hungarian summaries of the given subject.

The linguistic ambitions of the Enlightenment culminated in the language reform, which developed into a comprehensive countrywide movement. Its most spectacular outcome was the unique vocabulary and terminology revival movement in Hungary, unparalleled in the whole of Europe. On top of considerably enriching Hungarian vocabulary, the language reform entailed major stylistic revival efforts.

The development in professional and scientific expression was also spectacular at this time. Numbers of newly published academic and popular scientific works were constantly growing. Their writers and translators had to be highly resourceful in order to render various Latin and German technical terms into Hungarian.

By this time a number of disciplines had won their independent status. For example, that is when Bernát Sartori's *Philosophy in the Hungarian Language* (1772) came out, the first such volume written by a monk in the Minorite Order, who was the first to teach philosophy in Hungarian at the

Arad and later at the Miskolc monastery. This volume is an edited collection of some of Sartori's lectures. Although he devoted a chapter to words and phrases applied in philosophy, the list still features more Latin than Hungarian terms. Ádám Pálóczi Horváth's Psychology, or the Science of the Soul (1792) was submitted to a competition by the Vienna journal Hadi és más nevezetes történetek (Well-known Military and Other Stories). Although in psychology he had no predecessors writing in Hungarian, his word-building and usage forecast the successful innovations of the mid-19th century. The science of statistics also split from geography and state studies. A Description of Europe's Bestknown Countries (1795) is the first Hungarian statistics, written by László Németh, who had acquired the basics of the discipline from Schlözer in Göttingen. In the preface, Németh introduces the statistical theories of his age, then formulates his main purpose, which is to promote education and culture in the national language, and also justifies the need for his new coinages and for Hungarian words not used as widely as they should. This is the time of starting the long struggle for Hungarian as a national language, which to a large extent, was a counter-move against Joseph II's language act (1784) and contributed to the upswing of the Hungarian scientific and literary language. Over the 35 years between Joseph II's death and the establishment of the Academy (1790-1825), several parliamentary sessions and language debates paved the way for the Reform Age and the Academy. On several occasions, the issue of the state language was on the parliamentary agenda, and acts were passed on conducting public administration in Hungarian, on teaching and using the language, but declaring it the state language was no more than a plan with limited success. Article IV of 1805 enables counties to use Hungarian when sending letters and other documents to the king, the court chancellery and the council of the governor-general, which made it urgent to have the Latin terminology in Hungarian and gave rise to the so-called officers' dictionaries. Translating the terminology into Hungarian was initiated by Pest County. The County's 'trail booklet' came out in August 1806, called The Special Words of Official Writing. For review, the manuscript of this booklet had been sent to Miklós Révai, who returned the dictionary to the commission with his detailed comments. As they had accepted several of the famous linguist's suggestions, the 1806 trial booklet came out integrating Révai's modifications. Not only did the publishers take his advice on content, but also observed his principles of orthography.

The printed dictionary is divided into five sections: the first takes account of forms of address in official correspondence: the second gives the wording of various certificates (e.g. the certificate of poverty); the third gives the forms of taking the oath of office. The actual dictionary starts in the fourth chapter, where the Hungarian names for church and secular offices are listed. The printed dictionary was sent to all the legal authorities and to Transylvania's Gubernium so that they should distribute them in all their counties. Incorporating incoming comments and suggestions, the following year an improved version of the dictionary came out. A similar dictionary was issued in Zala County, where Sándor Kisfaludy and Ferenc Verseghy were among its contributors. The Veszprém County version (Notes on using the Hungarian language in public administration and jurisdiction, 1807) was then compiled by Sámuel Pápay, who is also the author of the first literary history written in Hungarian (Introduction to Hungarian Literature, 1808).

The 1825-27 parliamentary session again had the language issue high on its agenda, with the ultimate aim of making Hungarian the state language to be used in every sphere. Only in 1844 did this fight achieve its aim when Hungarian was declared the official state language. However, the 1844 victory was fully realised from as late as 1860 onwards. The strong Germanisation wave following the War of Independence affected the language of public administration as well as that of education, so tuition at the Pest University was conducted in German and Latin. Emperor Franz Joseph settled repeatedly the language issue in a diploma dated 20 October 1860, and finally the 1868 Parliament re-introduced Hungarian as the state language. After the upsurge in the Reform Age, however, even the Germanisation campaign was unable to hinder considerably the development of the Hungarian language of sciences.

This was so primarily thanks to the establishment of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, whose explicit mission was to cherish the language. This was a milestone in the history of the language, as the Academy's founding deed laid down that "this Society's primary duty is to cultivate and enrich the country's language". However, only in 1831 did the scholarly society start its activity in six sections (i.e. linguistics, philosophy, history, mathematics, law and natural sciences). The work of the linguistics section was especially fruitful in the first decade. Of the tasks seen as being ahead of language specialists, regulating orthography was the first to be tackled according to Miklós Révai's principles. The first orthography guide was published in 1832, soon to be followed by a grammar.

Collecting the special terminology of the various disciplines was started at the dawn of the Academy's life. First the vocabulary of mathematics was issued (1834), then that of philosophy within the same year, and finally that of jurisdiction (1834). Equally important was the Academy's Hungarian-German and German-Hungarian pocket dictionaries, which helped contemporary daily practice as well as being of utmost significance to linguistic science, as its vocabulary was a basis of the later extended Academy dictionary and that of the 1838 dictionary of local dialects.

The most spectacular change of the age took place in the technical language of natural sciences, with chemistry undergoing the most dramatic changes. The situation was very favourable for creating the national terminology and nomenclature, as there was no uniformly and widely used technical jargon yet. János Schuster, a chemistry professor at the University of Pest was the first to elaborate the professional language on the basis of systematic principles, which his pharmacist students immediately started to apply. Their essays and studies on medicine and pharmacy appeared with titles that sound weird or incomprehensible today. In coining Hungarian terms, Schuster introduced a system of artificial suffixes for naming various elements and compounds. For example, all metals were given the ending -any, using the analogy of 'arany', the word for 'gold'. Thus, he called copper *rézany* rather than *réz*, iron *vasany* rather than vas, and silver ezüstany rather than ezüst. Sodium was labelled as szikany reminding us of salt, while potassium was hamany, coined from the Hungarian word for ash. This is the time when mercury got its name higany. With non-metals, the word was usually based on the adjective best describing the given element. Thus hydrogen had the names gyúló and víző, i.e. 'something flammable' and 'forming water'. Nitrogen was fojtó, i.e. 'suffocating', oxygen was savító, i.e. 'acidifying', chlorine zöldlő, i.e. 'something green', bromide was bűzlő, i.e. 'stinking', iodine was iboló, a 'disinfectant' and phosphorus villó, i.e. 'flashing'. Chemical compounds had the suffixes -ag and -acs.

Schuster's coinages were slightly revised by the next generation of language reformers. In his medical translations and adaptations, their leader Pál Bugát was more and more active in creating new words and even elaborated a novel system of word building. A summary of Bugát's twenty years' work, *The Vocabulary of Natural Sciences* (1843) contains some forty thousand technical terms explained mostly in Latin and occasionally in German. Most are medical expressions, but there are also a large number of items from other natural sciences.

Besides Bugát, János Irinvi and Károly Nendtvich were also active in creating new words. Their technical language was not very unlike Schuster's in its structure. The major difference was that they made no distinction between metals and non-metals; thus every element was given the -any, or -eny suffix, which had earlier been applied only to metals. In addition, they also coined new names, such as for example köneny for hydrogen, alluding to the lightness of the gas; éleny for oxygen from the word life; and halvany hinting at the light green colour of chlorine. Within a short period, this form of Hungarian chemical language thus became widely used. Nevertheless, contemporary textbooks and professional papers would still give Latin and German equivalents in brackets. The revived language of natural sciences was applied for a relatively long period, until under pressure from linguists and scientists, in the 1870s international terms took over.

In linguistics, lexicography was one of the main areas of the Academy's activity. Based on József Teleki's 1818 competition essay, the idea of compiling "a possibly complete dictionary" was included in the basic deeds. Indeed, at the end of 1834 a little booklet was issued for the internal use of members, then in 1840 the final plan *The Design* 

of the Internal Order of a Large Hungarian Dictionary was published, finally in December 1844 Gergely Czuczor and János Fogarasi were elected to be the dictionary's editors. With interruptions, the manuscript was produced between 1845 and 1861, over two years of which Czuczor spent in prison. Finally, The Dictionary of the Hungarian Language was published in six volumes between 1862 and 1874. After Czuczor's death, the final editorial work was completed by Fogarasi. As soon as it came out, the dictionary was heavily criticised primarily for its etymologies and comparative methods of languages. As followers of "sophistic" (philosophical) linguistics, the editors compared Hungarian words to those in various different languages, and also attributed an equally important role to the Hungarian words they regarded as internal developments. Nevertheless, the "Czuczor-Fogarasi" has become a household name in Hungarian linguistics: it is our first scholarly monolingual dictionary, which gives an insight into the language state of the mid-19th century, especially the Reform Age and the Age of the War of Liberty, including the vocabulary of sciences, trades and regional dialects.

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Ézsaiás Budai: New Hungarian School Atlas. Debrecen, 1804, Ref. Koll. 12 map sheets.



Ida Aalberg (Magda) in Hermann Sudermann's play Home (Heimat), 1904–1905. (Photo by Hélène de Mrosovsky. From the collection of Finnish Theatre Museum)

### "THEATRE IN THE NORTHERN LIGHT"



THE EXHIBITION OPENED in the National Library in October 2005 introduces the 125-year history of the Hungarian reception of Estonian and Finnish drama.

Rarely does an exhibition of theatre history have such a central place in the Széchényi Library's program. This display will testify to visitors the wealth of the special collections, especially that of the Theatre Collection.

The idea of the theatre exhibition came about in the spring of 2003, from the first moment visualised in an international framework. The exhibition created through the intense co-operation of the national libraries and theatre museums of three EU countries, whose languages are all of Finno-Ugrian origin, was first shown in Tallinn in the autumn of 2004, then in a number of Estonian citifies (Tartu, Pärnu, Viljandi and Rakvere), and in the spring of 2005 in Helsinki. The travelling material presents the theatre connections in a series of tableaux executed to a uniform concept. However, in the Buda exhibition halls the display consists of the original documents and objects. As an associated exhibition, the tableaux compiled by researchers in the Estonian National Library and Film Collection give an overview of the Estonian career of Hungarian dramas and musical theatre. As well as on tableaux prepared by experts of the Helsinki University Library - the Finnish National Library, the Finnish Theatre Museum, Helsinki and Tampere Universities and Budapest Finnagora (Centre of Finnish Culture, Science and Business) the history of the reception of Hungarian theatre in Finland could be followed.

I was asked to lead the Hungarian-Estonian-Finnish joint program as a theatre historian and a scholar dealing with Finnish and Estonian culture, literature and theatre. The task was highly intriguing and challenging, although not free of certain difficulties and anxieties. It needs to be admitted that the project would never have been realised without the support of Hedvig Belitska-Scholtz, the head of the Theatre History Collection, without the Collection's and the Library's staff, and above all, without my excellent colleague Magdolna Both's expertise and thorough familiarity with the material.

From the very beginning of the undertaking, we had several special theoretical and practical prob-

lems ahead of us, besides defining the themes, content, classification and selection of the material executing the tableaux, the catalogue and besides finally furnishing and setting up the exhibition rooms and cabinets.

Primarily, keeping an eye on the characteristics of the theatre, drama, theatre history and theatre museology, we had to formulate the concept in which the process of Hungarian-Finnish and Hungarian-Estonian theatre contacts could be and should be presented. Following the collection and analysis of the abundant material and data, we had to combine the theoretical and historical scientific approach with the visual needs of exhibition visitors. "All" there was left after this was to organise the displays, write and edit the texts and documents and think of their best presentation. This was not always easy either, because gathering the manifold genres of a complex branch of art and various documents, artefacts and realia related to a century and a quarter of its history from many domestic and foreign sources, public and private collections, organising co-operation across national borders, and finally managing the forms and stages of the exhibition at the highest standards required much skill, expertise and energy.

At the same time, the project gave us lots of satisfaction, discoveries, the pleasure of philological and historical research, as well as the energies of old and new contacts and joint undertaking. We had the hope all through that we would be able to share with our visitors the main experiences, values and results that theatre history, theatre research and the exhibition itself have offered us.

It has to be said though that "exhibition of theatre history" is a contradiction in terms, as the theatre is the art of the moment, which cannot be preserved in its totality with all its components and cannot be reproduced. Moreover, according to epistemological criteria, even its "history" is impossible to grasp. Documenting the many elements of drama, preserving and processing tangible and textual materials, i.e. the historical research of the theatre, is in a hard position, because collection has often been 'ad hoc', and the quality and quantity of available documents is not always in harmony with the artistic and theatrical value of the production. For recalling a play, a performance documents are not sufficient: it is necessary to re-

vive in some way the subjective components of the event, primarily the audience's experience. On the other hand, it is not so difficult to evoke the joy of an artistic experience or a pleasurable evening at the theatre if the audience (I mean the audience stepping into the exhibition hall from the auditorium) joins the scholar and historian-archivist, bringing along to the exhibition the viewer's creative activity in recalling the past. It is hoped that we can flash up to visitors with an inquisitive mind and a vivid memory the values and highlights of the multicoloured present and past of Hungarian-Finnish-Estonian theatre contacts.

The concept of "Theatre in the Northern Light" is to present the 125 years of theatre contacts, with their stages and themes in three major parts. The first stage, namely that of getting acquainted, is demonstrated in a chronological order from the first Finnish (1880) and Estonian (1922) guest performances to 1949, when Hungarian cultural politics rearranged theatre structure, audiences, and even foreign relations in the field of culture. Chronological presentation clearly reflects that contacts between the three states where Finno-Ugrian languages are spoken have been uninterrupted from the beginnings in the 1870s, with cultural and international politics, changing socio-economic systems, differing traditions and the thought of belonging to the same language family have hardly had any impact on artists' contacts or audiences' reception.

The middle part of our exhibition, which is in a way also its main focus, discusses the Hungarian stage career of the Kalevala, organised according to chronology, genres and types of performances. Following its success with readers in the Secessionist translation of Béla Vikár, the Finnish national epic was first shown on the Hungarian stage in 1940, when it immediately had two different interpretations. First the epic story was put on as a shadow play on the puppet stage, then as a melodrama on the musical stage. The most effective production is certainly that of Károly Kazimir and the Thália Theatre (1969), but there have been highly successful puppet shows (1976, 1984, 2001), a ballet guest performance (1987), and more recently prose and musical adaptations have been staged, which are still on. The most outstanding period of joint Hungarian, Finnish and Estonian theatre history is the turn of the 1960s and 70s, when theatre artists of nations with related languages and mindsets staged the classical values of national culture in new, fresh and boldly successful interpretations in the home countries of those works. This is how the Thália Theatre's guest performances starting in 1970 in Finland and Estonia and

the Tartu Vanemuine Theatre's Hungarian presentation in 1972 of their Madách production (*The Tragedy of Man*, 1971) are placed in the same category.

The third part of the theatre history exhibition is the most varied. Here rich series of productions, many genres and various levels of theatre practice are introduced from the period between 1959 and 2005 on Hungarian stages (inside and outside the national borders), recalling prose, musical, classical and modern dance theatre, puppet and children's productions by Hungarian and guest ensembles, professionals and amateurs and by student drama groups created in novel ways of cooperation. There is an equally wide variety of documents and objects to help in remembering those performances. We have displayed photos taken of productions, which are sometimes of special aesthetic value and historic significance; scenery and costume designs reflecting unique artistic and technical solutions; puppets in a special context; playbills, program booklets and textual sources (e.g. theatre scripts); sheet music recording the music, as well as letters throwing a light on the artists' work and personality, as well as snippets of films and audio documents. Taken together, these documents enable us to recall the creative process and the actual productions. The exhibition catalogue was made in four languages (first in Estonian, then in Finnish, and finally in the bilingual Hungarian and English version), which adds information to the material in the cabinets and on thirty two tableaux. In addition to a review essay about philological issues, the catalogue contains tables with the data of Estonian and Finnish plays and their reception in Hungary (a series of nearly two hundred items of live theatre productions, and a list of usually less acknowledged radio and television pieces and feature films), as well as descriptions of the objects and documents on display. The catalogue enabled us to include some illustrations and to collect the published translations of drama texts.

The exhibition "Theatre in the Northern Light", "Teater pốhjavalguses" or "Sukulaiset parrasvaloissa" [Relatives in the Limelight] has stirred a lot of interest both in Finland and in Estonia, and has proved to be successful both with theatre specialists (in libraries, theatres and museums) and the theatre-going public in general. We sincerely hope that this will be the case in Budapest as well. We hope the material can later leave the confines of the National Széchényi Library. We hope that after closing down the exhibition here, from February 2006 the Hungarian tableaux can be introduced to the public in all those Hungarian towns which are members of the Hungarian-Estonian and the

Hungarian-Finnish twin towns' associations, and where the theatres creating the productions in the tableaux were actually born.

In this way, spectators who once enjoyed the productions will be able to recall their former experiences. We also hope that actors and theatre artists will come and see the fleeting moments and records of their scare work and to face their earlier selves.

The several years of our theatre history project and the related seminars on theatre contacts and history, which have involved many partners and supporters for the objective of preserving, maintaining and creating values, will be genuinely successful if the contacts between Hungarian, Estonian and Finnish theatre and their research continues at a very high level.

Ildikó Sirató ildiko\_sirato@hotmail.com





Jorma Uotinen and Andrea Ladányi in *Powder of Darkness (Pimeyden puuteria)*.

Choreography by Jorma Uotinen, 1990



## ELSÖ FEJEZET.

Mi az Izlés?

§. 1. Az İzlésnek magyarázattya.

Az Ízlés szépet, és rútat érezhető, 's mind a' kettőnek határit, és gráditsait igaz érzékenységink által különböztető tehetség. Ha valami szép'e, vagy nem, mért, és melly ékes, vagy éktelen? az Ízlés maga erejével megítéli (\*) Elsök valának a' Spanyolok, kik embernek e' tehetségét A fon-

János Szép: Aesthetics or the science of good taste from the philosophy of beauty. 1–2. Buda, 1794, Landerer Katalin. [18], 332, [2] p.

<sup>(\*)</sup> Ezt az Ízlést tanétya az Aesthetika, mellyet eleinte mindgyárt szükséges megmagyarázni. Az Aesthetika (Eszthetika) tehát a' jó szlésnek a' szépség' filosofiájábúl fejtegetett tudománnya, melly az Ékes-szóllás, Vers-szezés, Musika, Kép-írás-'s faragás, Épétés, Kertészég, 's töb' e' féle szép mesterségeknek közönséges regulákat szab.

# THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS 1921-1944



For over half a century, professional librarians and bibliographers have from time to time raised the issue, demonstrating criticism and selfcriticism, that there are painful gaps in the systematic research of the printed press. Various concepts have been developed for strategies and methods to address the shortcomings. Raising the issue is usually related to national research and development priorities of a given period, as well as to the ordering of the most urgent tasks facing the national library, which is primarily responsible for the task. Nevertheless, the construction of a full system of bibliography never proceeds beyond the planning stage. This explains what is already regarded as a commonplace in the literature and in presentations, namely that a retrospective national bibliography of the Hungarian press is a "white spot" in our national system of bibliography. That this is a huge shortcoming is hardly debatable, especially if compared to the almost complete records of the bibliography of books (mostly stored in traditional carriers, but also in a continuously growing electronic database). It is obvious that of the typological categories, recording the data of books and then formulating a relatively complete system of bibliography, as well as adding newly emerging units to them, though not easy, is still a much easier job than mapping up the "twists and turns" in series of periodicals, i.e. following their complicated relations and changes.

The significance of ordering the data of periodicals in the national literature is usually seen in their being the research basis for Hungarian press history, as well as the basic information about the existence and appearance of given titles. Let us admit that this professional narrowing down does not consider (as reflected in the planned methods as well) that the details of the national press bibliography, recording dates, may supply indispensable sources for getting to know authors and their work, in the same way as the bodies issuing the editions, with their names and with their occasionally changing objectives and philosophical affiliations given in subtitles. In addition to being a source for the history of the press (and especially in addition to giving information about locations), the missing bibliography would offer primary source material to various branches of historiography and literary history and their professional syntheses.

It is not a proper excuse that the literature of Hungarian bibliography already has a number of published sources in the field, giving information about certain periods, geographical and administrative regions and periodicals in specialised areas, which certainly makes the shortcoming observed less painful. For a uniform recording, all titles of published precedents could be used, however in most cases only as basic or supplementary material, because defining the scope of published data and their detail, and even the points of typological outlining are so very different that their simple transfer would not meet the requirements of a modern press bibliography or authentic stock-taking.

As early as the time when József Fitz was the director of the National Széchényi Library, the duty of current and retrospective national bibliography was regarded as part of the national library's basic functions. Within this framework, in the early 1940s a carefully planned and outlined series under the title of "The bibliography of Hungary's periodicals" was launched. However, because of the war the first three volumes were not followed by others. In the 1950s the plan of a more up-to-date version of the initiative was tabled by Béla Dezsényi ("Ephemerides"), which ten years later the Press History Working Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences discussed and approved as the best of the options available. (It is based on those recommendations that Margit Busa has since compiled her two volumes issued so far.) The continuation, however, has been stalled again. The planned use of the national library's service catalogue as the starting point and the mere copying of the dissimilarly detailed data in each period may only serve as the title material of the national bibliography of the printed press, but will not provide academic results of appropriate quality.

There was another major start in the mid-1970s with a double objective in mind. On the one hand, the revision of the national library's detailed (so-called 'service') periodicals catalogue with the requirements of modern data processing in mind; on the other hand, still in the traditional form, but in a simulated integrated process, the compilation of a retrospective national press bibliography based on periods originating from autopsy data and supplemented with other sources. In 1979, the design of the bibliography was again approved by

the Press History Working Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, directing it into the Academy's research project labelled as "Disclosing, recording and publishing pour historical and cultural relics". Based on the prepared regulations, the work was approaching its ultimate aim parallely from two opposing directions: Re-cataloguing the NSZL's stocks moving backwards from 1976, looked at the period between 1945 and 1975 as its first period, planning that when completed, the bibliography could be compiled from the catalogue data without handling the copies again. (The justification for 1975 being the closing year is that the current press bibliography starts from 1976.) At the same time, they launched the bibliographical recording for the periodicals in 1921-1944, again with the idea that the outcome of the undertaking could also serve as a catalogue - either with all its details or in a simplified form. The reason for choosing this time frame was that the press of that historical period has no authentic recording at all either in its details or in a manuscript form (The 1962 typewritten chronological Széchényi Library catalogue cannot be regarded as such!), while the bibliographical registration of books from the same period was already close to completion (Hungarian Books 1921-1944). Thus the two compilations may complement each other in offering a full overview of the two main types of publications in inter-war Hungary.

However, from the late 1980s, this undertaking suffered major blows, as it often happens in the lives of large libraries. New priorities, as so frequently before, pushed the tasks of re-cataloguing and re-processing off the agenda; the apparently more modern approach replaced the significance of detailed press bibliographies with the need for quick information supply limited to locations. There were a number of further well intentioned, nevertheless harmful changes made whose bottomline is that now even after several decades we are to be ashamed of our bad debts concerning a bibliography of the Hungarian press.

In 2004 the Press History Working Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences again turned attention to the importance of taking stock of periodicals and regarding it as a basic research task. The national library too has again came to understand the significance of press documents, and as a consequence, its own sometimes sadly neglected obligations. Thus, the action plan for 2005 contains the concept of a database covering all types of documents and all periods, including the much-missed national retrospective bibliography of periodicals.

The earlier mentioned compilation to be soon completed under the title "The bibliography of Hun-

garian newspapers and journals 1921–1944", although it applies a method slightly different in its genre, typology and description from the NSZL's new concept.

As far as genres are concerned, it had to be decided whether a national bibliography and/or catalogue or a list of locations was to be prepared. In theory, as it is well-known and has been mentioned before, the added value of integrated processing would be that by recording the timed data elements of each title, the product could be both a brief summary leading to the shelf mark or library location and a national bibliographic stocktaking of quality research, reflecting the periodical's whole life cycle. However, mixing the two would lead to insufficient results in both approaches. By comparison, the National Periodicals Database's location information for foreign journals with the main data required for identification, has an indispensable role for access to and supply of documents, and it provides the same for the continuously uploaded regional Hungaricum titles, the "hybrid" solution the latter applies is by no means sufficient for the Hungarian national bibliography. Therefore, working on the compilation, the main consideration was the bibliographical function, accepting the limitation that processed titles are divided into all their constituent units, but are described with information on its location on the basis of a single autopsy (usually one kept in the NSZL; or if not available, then one from another collection). Naturally, titles and numbers known exclusively from books or other references are also included, with the right indication of the source.

The collection scope of the bibliography is limited to the definition of regional Hungaricum. Typologically, the scope follows the definition of periodicals from before the 1970s, i.e. the definition used in the target period. This means that it includes daily and weekly papers, regularly or irregularly issued journals and periodically published occasional papers. It however, does not extend to what are today regarded as periodicals, namely "periodically issued non-journal type publications" (yearbooks, calendars, etc.) and series. The justification for this is partly that it would be wrong to falsify retrospectively a past age's own typological approach, and partly that it would also be wrong to unnecessarily repeat the descriptions in completed bibliographies for books, which have their own rules of documentation. (Hungarian Books 1921-1944, or Hungarian National Bibliography's pre-1976 cumulation, etc.) It uses different collection criteria for the assessment "threshold" of press products. It would be anachronistic to force mechanically ISSN, adjusted to presentday categories of products, on early 20th century publications (e.g. theatre program booklets, companies' regularly issued product catalogues and reports or photocopied newsletters of schools, etc.) In their own age these types should be seen as periodicals of primary source, not only because of their content, but simply due to the fact that they exist, with their data of issue.

Both in its elements of data and their presentation, this method of processing intended to hit a compromise between the requirements of valid international standards and those of retrospective bibliographical stocktaking. From this point of view, we think that out of the international bibliographical descriptions and of the Hungarian standards based on them, it is the rules related to periodicals that are least suitable for the *bibliographical* (not only for cataloguing purposes) processing of this type of document. The same is true for the presently applied MARC format. Therefore, the circle of

data groups has been widened; all changing data are related to dates; with the exception of those given in the notes all data are searchable through to an index. However, the order, the presentation and the punctuation are different from the standards.

The word processed format has been prepared from the database available in the TEXTAR-program. For its completion, a few earlier inaccessible titles (closed material and stone-printed reports in cases) need to be processed. Including them, the bibliography contains the descriptions of 75 thousand years of some 7,700 periodicals. In its final assessment, we might say that even if it does not yet reach the optimal goals of the NSZL's telematic program, in its modest way, it will hopefully serve as a long missed source of the research of Hungarian press history and culture.

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### 304 X.R. AZELEGYITÉS RÉGULÁJÁROL.

Elegyítés' Régulájától a' Regula CECI, vagy COECI: mellyet, úgy látžik, azért neveztek úgy, mert gyakran Vendégségben lévő Személyek felöl vagyon benne a' Kérdés: és Vendégségben-is Eokták gyakran e' félékkel az emberek magokat múlatni: mert a' Vendégséget, vagy Collatiót a' Németek Zecb-nek, vagy (a' mint mi irnók) Tzecb-nek hívják.

Ezzel miképen kell bánni, ím' e' Példából megfog tetgeni.

Húgan vóltak egy Tsapféken: meg-ittak ott 60 garas árra bort. Ebben minden Férfi fizetett 6 garast: minden Aggony 4 garast: minden Gyermek 2 garast. Kérdés, hány Férfi, hány Aggony, és hány Gyermek vólt?

(1.) Ird-le elöl, hányan vóltak mind ökve? (2.) Ki hány garast fizetett? ird egymás alá középbe; a'nagyján kezdvén, úgy hogy a'legkisebb kám leg-alól essék.

(3.) Hátúl ird, hány garast fizettek mind ögve? (4.) A' leg-kisebb gámot vond-ki a' felette lévő nagyobbakból egyenként: és mindenik Maradékot ird utánna a' maga' gámjának. Ezeket a' Maradékokat nevezzük Hijjának.

(r.) A'leg-kisebb £ámmal (a' mellynek nintsen Hijia) fokkorozd a'leg-elöl irtt Summát, vagy a' Személyek' £ámát: és a' Faftumot vond-ki a' hátúl irtt Summából. (6.) Ezt a' Maradé-kot £aka£d ollyan két'ré£re, hogy az egyik ré£ét az egyik Hijjával, a' málik ré£ét a' málik Hijjával, maradék nélkül el-lehessen o£tani.

[\$.174] vagy REG. AT LIG ATIONIS-rol. 305

(7.) Oźd-el oźtán így külön-külön azokat a' réfeket, vagy darabokat. Mindenik Réfes (vagy Quotiens, ) léfen arra a' Hijjára tartozó Személyek' fáma, a' mellyik Oźtó vólt.

(8.) Ezeket a' Régeseket add-ögve: és a' Summát vond ki a' Személyek' egég gámából, a' mellyet leg-elsöben (n. 1.) le-irtál vólt. A' Maradék légen a' leg-kisebbik Számra tartozó Személyek' gáma.

A' munka a' fel-tett példában így esik: Fizetés. Hijja.

Summa - - 7

Itt minekutánna le-irtam, hogy 20 Személy vólt; 60 garast fizettek; és ki mennyit fizetett: a' Gyermekek' 2 garasát ki-vonom a' felsőkből, így: 2-t 6-ból, marad 4. 2-t,4-ből, marad 2. Ezeket a' £ámokat irom a' lineán túl.

Továbbá a' leg-alsó 2 garassal sokkorozom a' 20-t: lekk 40. Ezt ki-vonom a' hátúlsó 60-ból: marad 20. E' 20-t el-darabolom 12-re és 8-ra: hogy a' 12-t 4-re, a' 8-t pedig 2-re el-okthassam. Ha el-oktom a' 12-t 4-el; jö-ki

György Maróthi: Arithmetic, or the science of numbers. Debrecen, 1743, Margitai János. 377, [7] p.

(7.) OEd-



### BÉVEZETÉS.

### S. 1.

z Ember nyilván testből áll, és lélekből. ő természetét teszik a' testi és lelki tulajdonságok öszveséggel. Az a' tudomány, melly velünk az embernek természetét megesmérteti, a' görög nyelvből Anthropologiának, azaz: Emberesmértetésnek neveztetik. Mivel az emberi természet ennek tárgya - két fő részekből áll, testből és lélekből, kitecczik, hogy lehetetlen másképp' az Embert elégségesen megesmérni, egyébha mint testi, mint lelki ereji és tulajdonsági különkülön szoros vizsgálás alá vetetnek. És így az Anthropologia is két fő részekre oszlik: az első magában foglalván a' testi erőknek és tulajdonságoknak visgálásit, Somatologia, vagy emberi test' tudománnya, a' második a' léleknek erejit és tulaj. donságit adván elő, Psychologia, vagy Lélektudománnya nevet visel.

J. 2.

György Fejér: Anthropology or discovering the human body. Buda, 1807, A Királyi M. Universitás' betűivel. [14], 494 p.

#### FOR CREATING MODERN LIBRARY SERVICES



LIBRARIES ARE TO KEEP PACE with the demands of their readers' growing technical sophistication.

By now, libraries have turned into the main bases of disseminating knowledge ad information. Therefore, they are to offer solutions whereby the increasing amount of information can be handled, their services extended in the computerised world of our age, and their own efficiency is stepped up.

In the comprehensive development plans of the National Széchényi Library for the coming years, modernisation of the readers' service and the strengthening of IT capacities are of high priority. Each year, some small steps are to be taken toward this goal. The records of our *Online catalogue* are continuously growing retrospectively as well, while the *Libinfo* online reference supply system is more and more to our users' satisfaction.

The year 2004 proved to be a milestone in creating up-to-date services. With the assistance of the Ministry of Informatics and Communication, we managed to install the Readers' Professional Work Stations or OPM for short, a system unique and unparalleled from the point of informatics. Although readers have only a hundred terminals at their disposal, individual access, as well as individual storage capacity of 150 MB and a surface they can freely use, in fact, provide each subscriber with their own computer facility. Clients are served by a 200 Gigabyte file server and a 6.8 Terabyte storage server, which is also the storage site of the Széchényi digital library under construction. The system is complete with scanners, printers, digital cameras, CD and DVD writers as accessories. Library subscribers may read our offand online electronic documents through their OPM terminals. At the same time, they can immediately write their papers, prepare their essays; take notes of their readings, as they have various word processing, Excel and other programs for working with databases. Editing pictures and webpages is also possible with unlimited Internet access. Observing copyright regulations, the documents that our readers produce, as well as the visuals and digitised texts they select may be copied on to various carriers (floppy, CD, DVD), may be printed out and are accessible through file transfer protocol (FTP). The unique feature of the system is that readers obtain all those services in one place (catalogues, databases, Internet-sources, electronic documents,

etc.) for which they might need several terminals in other libraries.

The OPM system soon became very popular. Terminals are working to a 100% capacity. Thus, excessive demand is occasionally a problem, especially in the afternoon and in examination and entrance examination periods, when readers might have to wait for some time to have access to a terminal. Naturally, extending the system is on our agenda. However, for easing the pressure, building out the WIFI (wireless fidelity) system in 2005 has proved to be a successful solution. Globally, WIFI has many various applications in public places. but applying it in libraries is a relatively recent development. Establishing cable-free "hot spots" was an attractive option for us, as in this way we could avoid building work associated with laying cables. Some 5 to 10% of our readers use their laptops regularly in the library, with their numbers growing by the day. After the launch of the WIFI system, now in all the reading and public spaces of the institution, our visitors can join the OPM system and the world-wide web, as well as access most of our electronic services simply by applying a network card.

Among our further modernisation plans, there is the establishment of the *RFID* system, using Radio Frequency IDentification for monitoring the safety as well as the location, movement and status of documents, enabling our readers to request items electronically and also to take advantage of the various services provided in various locations in a simpler and uniform system by using their micro-chip-strengthened readers' cards.

The digital future poses a major challenge to us. By reacting instantaneously, mapping out demands accurately, by taking a pro-active attitude and continuously looking for up-to-date solutions we can contribute to the Széchényi Library meeting its national mission and becoming one of the centres and pillars of the information supply of the future. In addition to having a library built on documents, the success of service-orientated library activities is based on this and similar modern IT developments, in which today the National Széchényi Library rightly takes pride.

Ferenc Tibor Tóth ftoth@oszk.hu





## HUNNUSOK HISTÓRIÁJÁ.

§. 1. A HUNNUSOK, A'siából, Balamber (v. Balember) vezérsége alatt, Krisztus Urunk születése utánn a' IV. Századbann, nevezetesenn 374-dik esztendőbenn, jöttek által a' Tanais vizénn Europába. E' víznek Napnyúgoti partjánn lakó Nemzetekenn könnyenn győzedelmeskedtek: de mikor, errébb jövénn, az Alánusokra akadtak, ezekkel sok tsatázások utánn is alig bóldogúlhattak; hanem utóljára tsak ugyan győzedelmeskedvénn rajtok, sokakat közzűlök magokhoz vettek, és úgy mentek a' Gothusokra.

§. 2. A' Gothus Nemzet igen nagy főldet fogott el; t. i. a' Boristhenes vagy Dnieper folyóvíztől fogva, kiterjedtt, Dél feléugyan a' Dunáig, Napnyúgot felé pedig, a' Tiszáig; és így mind az a' főld, a' melyenn most Havasalfölde, Moldva, Erdély, és Magyar Országnak Erdély felől való része fekszik a' Tiszáig, a' Gothusoké vólt: ezennkívűl a' Fekete Tenger mellett is, az Eszakra fekvő Tartományoknak egy része.

2 Meg-

Ézsaiás Budai: Hungary's history to the Battle of Moháts. Debrecen, 1811, Csáthy György. 328 p.

# MEMORIAL SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY'S MOVE INTO THE BUDA CASTLE



Moving into the Buda Castle twenty years ago is history by now. And so are the plans and activities of the preceding 25 years, which on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1985 were crowned by the event that we are commemorating today. It is partly library history, and partly the story of individual careers, our careers made up of the small events of our working lives. It is a story that forms the basis of the years following 1985, establishing the role and significance of the present and future national library.

Besides today's session of commemoration, a scientific study of those years through historical research is required. For those who took part in all or some of this long period, perhaps it is more telling to flash up some of the jointly experienced successes and difficulties that I tried to recall at the session in 2002 held on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library's foundation. Although I am obliged to repeat some of those points, now I will address primarily those participants who got acquainted with the Széchényi Library here in the Buda Castle Palace, those who have become guardians of, contributors to and transmitters of the national collection that looks after the written heritage of Hungarian culture in this complex.

It was at 9 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1984 that, witnessed by reporters and cameras of the Hungarian Radio and Television, we said good-bye to the last reader in the National Museum's reading room, completed in 1847 and opened in 1867. The moment had come that our predecessors and we had been very much looking forward to from the early 20th century: the library was to continue its activity at an independent new location, more suited to its significance and collection. From the beginning of the century, several plans and initiatives had been tabled for solving the problems of the institution, which first had a shortage of storage facilities, and later also of reading space. Let me just recall some suggestions, not even in their chronological order. One was to build covered suspension bridges to connect the Festetich and Esterházy Palaces, the former National Assembly building in Sándor utca (which at present houses the Italian Cultural Centre) and the National Museum. Another idea was to build in the two covered inner courtyards of the Museum. Then after Word War II, giving the former Stock Exchange building, the present Television Headquarters, or the Customs House, the present University of Economics over to the library was also contemplated. Finally in 1959, the decision was made that the Krisztina District wing of the ruined and burnt out Buda Castle Palace was to become the home of the national library. Planning and construction started in 1960, and the ceremonial opening, that we are today commemorating, took place 25 years later, in 1985.

Today we are celebrating that particular day. However, the library's 25 years' history had been marked by continuous planning and preparation. Unfortunately, many of those who had framed and carried out those plans are no longer with us. Also, many of those have passed away who had, often anonymously, left their lasting marks on the operation. On this day, it is the honourable obligation of today's librarians to remember all of them.

It would take too long to list all the decisive work done in the given period. As a reminder, let me pick out some:

- Detailed scientific plans and studies aimed at the outlining predictable solutions of various tasks (e.g. readers' service, reference libraries, bibliographic work, storage and stock protection);
- The design functional of the building;
- Compiling the reference library titles of the some 70 thousand volumes on free shelves, their acquisition, and establishing the order of setting them up;
- Selecting the book conveying system (the socalled telelift) and designing its trajectory.

Through the years, plans, ideas dreams, and even some of the actual work done often proved to be in vain or were modified due to limited financial resources or because of technical progress and changing library functions.

The initially planned system of reading rooms was changed because the special functions of the literature and history library had to be undertaken. Plans for housing the various organisational units were repeatedly changed as a result of corrections and compromises due to diversifications and consequently growing staff numbers. Collecting and arranging the stocks of reference libraries was often interrupted and resumed because of financial problems and the uncertainties of completing the building. Keeping pace with technical devel-

opments, plans for computerisation were also continuously modified (e.g. the then state-of-the-art plan of a mega-machine originally thought to be placed in the huge hall of floor II). Similarly, instead of the planned storage area connecting the two towers and optimising equipment of the storage space within the Castle Hill, due to financial restrictions a traditional storage was realised. All those who were active in this period were obliged almost daily to take new decisions, to rethink and even to start all over again, never losing their professional dedication.

From the early 1980s, as completion was already within sight, urgent tasks based on real needs were growing in numbers. It was still in the closed storage space of the ruined building, working under very poor conditions that we had to establish the final classification and labelling of the reference libraries, whose acquisitions had been interrupted, as well as to supplement the missing items and construct the signs directing readers. This was necessary so that all that was left was to place the 70 thousand volumes on shelves according to these carefully detailed plans. The reference library has been growing ever since, although occasionally affected by a tight acquisition budget, and has been one of the national library's main attractions in the eyes of researchers and readers.

The division of space in the new building, the optimal placement of organisational units to create the best working conditions was no smaller task, therefore led to heated debates. Designing shelf by shelf where to stock the some six million units of the full collection of the time, with regard to future acquisitions, was an equal challenge. In 1985, we managed to overcome these problems. However, we should not forget that the 1960 requirement for space to fill over 50 more years had shrunk to 25 years by the time the library could move in.

The new operation under novel conditions required the preliminary elaboration of a number of regulations, such as the following:

- Outlining the tasks and structure of the new concept book-publishing station to deal with distributing and keeping records of stocks;
- Designing the lending system for internal library activity from closed storage spaces;
- Calculating the time and personnel needs of a uniform control system and information supply, but with regard for the different requirements of core and specialised collection reading rooms;
- Establishing jointly a system of service directors based on heads of department, which in case of problems was supposed to represent the library's management in the evening and Saturday hours of duty and control safe closing procedures;

- A gradual involvement of acquisition and processing unit staff into tasks of readers' information supply, with the intention of improving relations between internal library work and services;
- Placement and moving the then still widely used traditional card catalogues, including readers' and service catalogues and national central location records of the library, as well as making and sorting the full copy of the single-copy socalled Munich catalogue for readers' service;
- Elaborating such passageways within the building that enable readers to move freely, but at the same time also protect the collection.

Rather than being negative, I intend to be objective when admitting that we did all this fully aware of the fact that this beautiful site, the country's second largest building, which was originally erected to house a royal palace, was not going to be an optimal location for the national library, despite the most conscientious design and construction efforts.

Finally, after several decades of dreaming and trying to come to terms with realities, the day of the last major trial preceding the opening had arrived: Early in October 1984, the Széchényi Library started its two-stage move to its first independent home since its foundation. For the full duration of the move, we had a day-by-day, and even an hourby-hour schedule, considering the numbers and suitability of vehicles required for transporting the different types of documents, as well as the daily capacity of the Fősped delivery company, the time, space and staffing requirements of loading and unloading, as well as the best timing of moving containers, furniture, work equipment and machinery. The first stage lasted from October to the end of December, when the material temporarily placed in the two tower stores was transferred to its permanent location. (This material comprised precious books, newspapers and valuable small prints in booklets, termed as "Hell" stored in cases from the 1960s onwards, partly in the Kiscelli site, partly in the Keszthely Castle.) Carefully following the original schedules, after three months, in January 1985 we could start moving all the partial collections, furniture and equipment from six different points in Budapest. And by 31st March 1985, the move was complete!

We left the home of the library, which it had occupied for 140 years, and could enter our spacious bright new palace with a happy feeling of work successfully accomplished. Let us admit that the joy was mixed with a degree of nostalgia, remembering the ice-cold corridors of the National Museum lined with ancient tombstones, the overcrowded workrooms with arches, the beautiful Széchényi Room of the Manuscript Collection the founder's

statue guarding the gate, the old wooden shelves of the current newspapers stocks, the spiral staircase of the reading room, the outdated typewriters, adrema, the monitoring desks of the reading rooms... everything that we had inherited and that represents the national library's traditions, everything that the few rescued pieces and photographs in this newly opening small museum will remind us of.

Picking out certain stages of the way leading to 1985, those who were not actively involved might not feel the weight and the uplifting power of the task we had succeeded in carrying out. And we should never forget that at the same time, the library was meeting all of its basic functions in full. There were no stoppages in enriching the collection (through deposit copies, internal and foreign acquisitions), processing new items, building catalogues, publishing the current national bibliography, the up-to-date re-cataloguing the collection of unique periodicals (which was then still done in a systematic manner), information supply about professional literature, microfilming Hungarian stocks for their protection, protecting and restoring the cultural heritage and managing central services for Hungarian librarianship (e.g. distributing deposit and multiple copies, constructing central catalogues, dealing with inter-library loans, etc.) It was only the readers' service that had to close down for the last three months of the move, namely from January to March 1985. What is more, even in the rush of preparations and during the actual move. we managed to uphold the tradition, which we no longer follow, that all of us, but especially those who supply information and assist readers, get an in-depth knowledge of the operation, history, structure, cataloguing and sign system of the whole library before they take their jobs. As this is a basic prerequisite for quality services, in the same way as before, a series of 3-month consultations assisted newcomers at the beginning of 1985 in getting an overview of the National Széchényi Library's history, networks and operations. At the same time, preparations were underway for organising the opening ceremonies, welcoming the directors of 13 foreign national libraries and compiling the first exhibition, which was to commemorate the national library's "collectors and patrons". Six months after the opening, in the autumn of 1985, also as a result of the organising activities of the library's staff, we opened the comprehensive exhibition that for the first time displayed Hungary's medieval codices kept in 20 domestic and 21 foreign collections, and which for the next four months attracted thousands, waiting patiently in long queues in order to pay their tribute to the Hungarian past and Hungarian culture.

It is my conscious decision not to give any names in the process of recalling the past, as we have no time for a full list, and no criteria for selection. Perhaps never had the community of librarians been so close as in those particular years. Most of the staff were always eager to do the most important and most urgent tasks, with no regard for working hours, holiday entitlements, job descriptions, or the character and weight of the work ahead.

I started out by saying that the events of twenty years ago are history by now. It is possible that everything that I have recalled in a nutshell puts this period of history into a heroic light. Moreover, amid the rapid changes of the present world, not everyone may be able to evaluate the above quoted achievements of twenty years ago and sometimes even earlier as "up-to-date". However, I feel that in the life of an over two-hundred-year old collection, apart from 1802 when Ferenc Széchényi established it, there are no new milestones or landmarks; everything is a worthwhile continuation of the institution's preceding decades and centuries, in which generations of librarians have been committed and proud contributors, as well as conscientious maintainers of the library's traditions and values. Today's celebrations should urge us to further this continuity, because in the course of future decades and centuries, this will always be the most solid foundation of the Hungarian national library and its mission.

Mrs. Lidia Ferenczy lidia.ferenczy@freemail.hu





# A' TERMÉSZETIEKRÖL ELSÖ KÖNYV

A' MOZDULÓKRÓL, 'S MOZDITÓKRÓL.

### ELSÖ RESZ

A' Természeti Böltselkedésnek Ismérete.

Egrelmeröl indictory

A Böltselkedés nem böltseség: mert ez minden láthatandónak, 's láthatatlannak isméretét magában foglallya. A böltselkedés a böltseségré tartó, és annak szeretetével járó igyekezet.

A' Természeti Isméret a' böltselkedésnek olly része, avagy neme, melly a' Természetben lévöknek iáttattyokat, A és

János Molnár: The beginnings of physics. About natural phenomena in six books by a student of Newton's.

Pozsony-Kassa, 1777, Landerer Mihály. [20], 172 p.

# THE MUSIC COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY



In 2002 the World of Libraries commemorated the noble gesture of a Hungarian aristocrat called Count Ferenc Széchényi of making a generous offer, which was to form the basis of the Hungarian patriotic public collection, the Hungarian National Library.

This nobleman's private library had a stock of music scores from the start, and in the course of time more musical pieces were added to it. However, only at the beginning of the 20th century did the plan of an *independent music collection*, separate from the core collection, take shape. It was in 1904 that the library purchased the bequest of Hungary's classical composer Ferenc Erkel (1810–1893). Thus the sudden growth of musical documentation necessitated further fine-tuning of the *Musica* section set up in 1865, leading to a collection of musical manuscripts (*Manuscripta musicalia*) and one of music-related letters (*Epistolae musicae*).

The Music Department became an independent organisational unit in 1924 as a sub-section of the Hungarian national library that collects special documents. Although it did not become a "legal entity" in its own right, it had a national collection scope for all written and audio manifestations of Hungarian music, whether produced as prints, photocopies or audio records.

The Music Department stores some 300 thousand units at present, of which 150 thousand are music prints and 30 thousand are manuscripts of music. The chief source of its growth is the library's entitlement to deposit copies. As stipulated in the founding document, all domestic prints, including printed music scores should have a copy sent to the national library.

The *time frame* of collection is as follows: Manuscripts with music scores from before the 16<sup>th</sup> century are kept in the Manuscript Collection, while printed scores from before the 18<sup>th</sup> century are in the Collection of Early Prints.

The *earliest* coherent partial collection of the Music Collection is the scores of the Bártfa (present-day Bardejov in Slovakia) Basilica of St. Egidius, the so-called Bártfa Collection (1537–1669) which has maintained from the heyday of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century polyphony of singing 2645 works in the form of manuscripts and printed part-singing books. In 1914 the Hungarian state bought for its central

music collection in the library's core stocks the Italian, German and Hungarian masters' sources, which are often unavailable anywhere else.

The National Széchényi Library purchased our most valuable pieces, original manuscripts of *Mozart, Beethoven, Robert Schumann* and *Ferenc Liszt* at auctions, while the world's most remarkable *Károly Goldmark* (1830–1915) collection, comprising not only music manuscripts, but also memorabilia of the Hungarian-born composer, was acquired through a *library swap*.

Our most outstanding 20th century bequest is that of the composer and pianist *Ernő Dohnányi* (1877–1960), whose collection obtained through a donation, poses a major challenge for IT specialists and scholars researching the material. The collection is made up of original music manuscripts, small prints, program leaflets, photos and other realia as well as sound recordings, which as requested by the donors, is to be preserved *as one unit*.

The *collection of musical theatres*, ranging from protected music scores used by early 19<sup>th</sup> century wandering troupes, through the music repertory of the National Theatre and the Popular Theatre in Pest, to the archives of the Budapest Opera House, fills up some 550 meters of shelves. State of the art arrangement, exploration and digitisation of the most valuable layers has been launched recently as a scholarly spin-off of the *full Erkel Collection*.

Of stocks with the same provenance, because of its exceptional source value, special attention is due to the *Esterházy Collection*, which found its way into the Music Collection of the Széchényi Library as a result of the 1949 parliamentary act on stopping entailed property. However, two additional remarks need to be added to this sentence.

- 1. The Esterházy Collection, in the historical way it has been left to us is only *part* of an earlier larger collection, namely of the Esterházy Archives in Tárnok urtca in Buda since the 1920s, which suffered serious damage during the siege of Budapest.
- 2. In the practical implementation of the 1949 entailed property act, the extant parts of the Esterházy Archives were taken over by different public collections. Thus the family letters were transferred into the Hungarian National Archives, keeping the name of the Esterházy Archives, while library-type documents, including letters, books,

maps, theatre scenery and costume designs, as well as sheet music went into the national library's relevant collections.

The most precious group of sources in the Music Collection's Esterházy material is the bequest of Joseph Haydn, who was in the Esterházy family's service for about fifty years, giving a good example of a fortunate historical meeting between an artist and his patrons.

For Joseph Haydn's development, the years (1762–1790) he spent in the court of Nikolaus Esterházy, a prince with inspiring musical taste and European education, were of decisive influence.

Located close to Vienna, Kismarton and Eszterháza, the main scenes of serving the prince and transmitting several of Europe's current trends, provided an ideal background for an artist of Haydn's calibre.

The culture, taste and spiritual character of the four princes following one another placed different responsibilities on the composer, who in the meantime was growing into a European master: After 1790 the relationship between Haydn and the Esterházys was becoming more formal. Nevertheless, not for a second was it questioned that the composer of the London Symphonies, *The Creation* or *The Seasons* would name the princes as the beneficiary of his spiritual legacy.

"Back in 1807, because of the favourable conditions he was offered, Haydn committed himself to leaving his books, printed music, manuscripts and coins to the Esterházy princes," as his biographer Griesinger remembers. This unwritten agreement, that people around Haydn were fully aware of, was a guarantee that the heritage would be maintained and properly looked after. One year after Haydn's death, in the spring of 1810 the 527-piece musical collection was taken to the Esterházy Archives, thus was kept among the most valuable gems of the princely family's sheet music collection. The material survived safely and in good condition the turbulence of history, and is today the most significant group of source for international Haydn research.

By 1959, the 150th anniversary of Haydn's death, resulting from Hungarian and foreign Haydn experts' work in the National Széchényi Library, important scientific findings had already been made, constituting a new chapter in Haydn scholarship. At the time of conferences, concerts, music and record publications and exhibitions, Jenő Vécsey, then head of the Music Collection compiled *Haydn's Compositions in the Hungarian National Széchényi Library* (Budapest, 1959), a still valid handbook and catalogue of the Library's Haydn collection, available in English, German and Hungarian.

One of the scientific sensations of 1959 was discovering in the handwritten materials of the Esterházy opera collection the documents of Haydn as a conductor preparing their performances. Scholarship by Dénes Bartha, László Somfai and Dorrit Révész summarises the basic research of some fifty shelf meters of musical material related to Haydn.

The Eszterháza Opera House opened in 1768, where Prince Nicolaus, the "Bright" expected his conductor to acquire, adapt to the stage and conduct some one hundred Italian operas. Between 1776 and 1790, Joseph Haydn worked on 88 premieres, six new adaptations and the staging of a further ten Italian operas. In the everyday practice of the "theatre factory", handwritten music scores were purchased from Vienna, Dresden or Italy, while the parts were copied under Haydn's supervision, and if required, as a composer he contributed to cuts, additions and transpositions to be made. These are also primary handwritten Haydn sources, often with arias composed and inserted by Haydn, in the Ms. mus.-OE (Manuscripta musicalia - Opera Eszterháza) classification group of the princes' sheet music collection.

Autographs, authentic copies and printed music sheets are supplemented by the so-called *analekta* group with mixed contents, preserving various realia that all reflect contemporaries' respect for Haydn, among them two of his violin strings and the original libretto manuscript of the oratory *The Creation* written by Gottfried van Swieten (Ha. I/1–28).

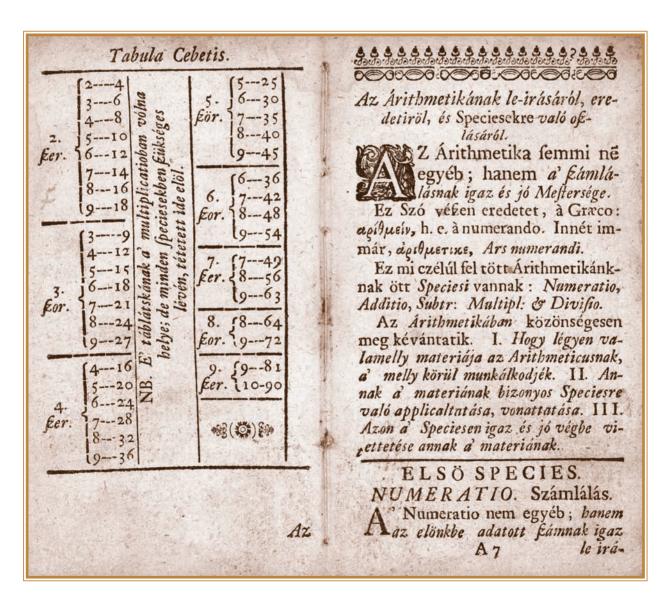
The rich bequest of music and objects is complete with a huge amount of mostly untapped material, which under the sign *Acta Musicalia* comprises mostly the items that, based on their content, the archivist János Hárich separated from the family archives in the 1930s. These 4505 music-related documents are a major source for studying the music and theatre of the Esterházy residence and Haydn's office commitments.

The staff of the National Széchényi Library are fully aware of the huge responsibility of handling these unparalleled music and cultural sources. The computerisation of special collections in the neighbourhood of books, in the 90s put the issue of digitising the Esterházy Collection on a "temporary waiting list". Partly initiated by the Music Collection's staff, the Hungarian Haydn Society was set up in 1996. Building on the Esterházy Collection, it has clearly become the driving force of the Haydn revival at Eszterháza. The eight September Joseph Haydn Festivals so far, and the plan of the reconstruction of the listed Eszterháza castle with the co-operation of several disciplines is the framework to unite the participants of the World Heritage *Eszterháza – Joseph Haydn* program.

The increased international interest in the Esterházy Collection also suggests that in the background of the Joseph Haydn bicentenary events in 2009, the national library's music services should be presented to the world at the highest level of music science and information technology, thus demonstrating and continuing the best Hungarian Haydn traditions of the past.

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Ferenc Tolvay: The science of arithmetic or the five species of computing summarized in short Hungarian rules. Kolozsvár, 1698, M. Tótfalusi Miklós. [12] 83 [1] p.





The honorary title of Life Member of the National Széchényi Library was awarded to Professor Domokos Kosáry by István Monok, Director General on the  $203^{\text{th}}$  anniversary of the library.

### DOMOKOS KOSÁRY A LIFE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY was commemorating its 203<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005. The celebrations were made more memorable by the granting of a new award of excellence, which will be given to outstanding personalities in science, art or the public sphere whose professional work, public activity and financial donations have helped the National Széchényi Library. The first academic to be awarded the honorary title of *Life Member* is Professor Domokos Kosáry.

Professor Kosáry, the former President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, received the prestigious title for his persistent activity inside and outside Hungary for boosting the National Széchényi Library's reputation, for sharing his vast academic experience with the library's scholars and for the dedication and success of the decade he spent at the head of the Corvina Foundation Board.

*Bibliothecarius Emeritus* is a title created in 2000 to acknowledge those scholarly librarians who have spent their whole working lives in the national library. By contrast, the new award is to honour those prominent public figures that support the institution from outside. The fact that each year maximum one life membership is granted is an indication of its high value.

A student at the Budapest Eötvös College, Domokos Kosáry had such masters as Zoltán Gombocz, Gyula Moravcsik, Gyula Szekfű. Starting from 1941 he was a distinguished member of the Pál Teleki Institute. He very much anticipated and supported the changes but soon he was disappointed with the results. In 1949 he was forced to leave the profession altogether. At the time of the 1956 Revolution he was the president of Hungarian Historians' National Commission, for which in 1957 he was arrested and sentenced to four years in prison. Being marginalised and the years of imprisonment proved to be professionally 'fruitful', because these years resulted the *Széchenyi in Döbling* volume,

which was first published in 1981. He received amnesty in 1960.

The main focus of Professor Kosáry's research is Hungary's history in the modern age. One of his major works is Introduction to the Sources and Literature of Hungarian History. He started compiling Introduction in 1951, produced several volumes and still working on it. The wealth of sources and methodology applied in his Civilisation in 17th century Hungary (1980) and Hungary in Europe's Modern Age International System (1985) may serve as models for every historian. In addition to his comprehensive undertakings that bridge full historical periods, his studies about the Görgev issue, or the ones about Kossuth and Széchenyi reflect his ability to analyse eminent historical figures in a precise and objective manner. Professor Kosáry holds the Széchenyi Award, and is member of several foreign academies of sciences.

At the award-giving ceremony, Mária Ormos, a full member of the Academy and historian Gábor Hanák emphasised the Professor's exceptional human qualities. Domokos Kosáry survived dangerous times, historical turning points and intellectual 'infections', but his books always helped him through these turbulences. He is a keenly synthetic thinker, who does not only describe phenomena but is constantly analysing them. Since Professor Kosáry is a man of books, it is not a surprise that he is the first to be awarded the national library's title of honour

Domokos Kosáry has always stayed faithful to history and its requirement of not entering into any compromises for the sake of day-to-day politics. The brief speech he made to thank for the honour comes from a wise old man, whose advice is that "even under the most inhuman conditions we should try and be faithful to ourselves."

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János Apácai Csere: Hungarian encyclopaedia, or a summary of all true and useful wisdom and its introduction in the Hungarian language.

Utrecht, 1655, ex officina Joannis a Waesberge. [40], 487 p.

# THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY'S DOCTORS OF SCIENCE



THE TITLE of *Doctor Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* (DSc) may be awarded to those researchers with academic degrees who have conducted widely acknowledged and outstanding scientific activity, and thus have made major contributions to their discipline.

The present *Doctor Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* title, conferred since 1995, had as its direct predecessor the "doctor of sciences" degree created in the early 1950s.

Let us recall the names of some distinguished scholars who started their careers in the national library and later continued it in other institutions *György Kókay* worked here between 1951 and 1963, *Elemér Hankiss* between 1953 and 1962, *István Fried* between 1973 and 1984, all three of them doctors of sciences in literature. The renowned musicologist *Zoltán Falvy* worked for the library from 1952 to 1961, whereas now a regular member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, *András Róna-Tas* was the head of the Central Catalogue between 1961 and 1968.

Special mention is to be made of the colleagues who devoted almost their entire lives to the service of the national library.

Jenő Berlász (1911–), a historian, librarian, archivist and a doctor of sciences in history (1984), was from 1957 to 1976 a chief staff member of the National Széchényi Library, which awarded him with the distinction *Bibliothecarius Emeritus* in 2000.

His main works include:

- The Thurzó estates in the first third of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (1936)
- Cataloguing manuscripts (1958)
- The economic situation of serfs in Transylvania in the 18th century (1958)
- The library of János Dernschwam (1964)
- Reference books of information supply in historical science (1975)
- The history of the National Széchényi Library: 1802–1867 (1981)
- The original 1948 volume of *Századok* (Editing, 1989)

Gedeon Borsa (1923-) literary historian, bibliographer and a doctor of sciences in literature (1989). His main research interest is keeping international records of 16<sup>th</sup> century prints and early prints. He

has been employed by the National Széchényi Library since 1951. He was the leader of the Old Hungarian Prints Bibliography Editorial Office from 1961. Despite his retirement in 1983, he has been an active worker of the Library ever since. In 1980 he was awarded the Ervin Szabó Medal of Honour, in 1983 the *Golden Degree of Labour*, in 1993 the *Order of Merit - Member Cross*, in 2003 the *Ferenc Széchényi Award*, and in 2004 the *Hungarian Heritage Award*.

His main works include:

- Catalogus librorum veterum usque ad annum 1800 in lingua Bohemica et Slovaca impressorum (With István Käfer, 1970)
- Clavis Typographorum Librariorumque Italiae 1465–1600. I-II. (1980)
- Alte siebenbürgische Drucke. 16. Jahrhundert (1996)
- Writings about the history of books I-IV. (1996-2000)
- Michael de Hungaria's life and a printed editions of his work (1997; English edition in 1998)
- Taking stock of the Nagyszombat Jesuits' College and University Press 1773 (co-author, 1997)

Zoltán Fallenbüchl (1924–2006) archontologist, cultural and cartography historian. He was awarded the *Doctor Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* title in 1996. He had his first job in the Map Collection of the National Széchényi Library as early as 1947. He then worked for the Manuscript Collection from 1969, and retired as chief research consultant in 1984.

His main works include:

- The correspondence of Zoltán Ambrus (1963)
- Hungary's chief dignitaries: 1526–1848. The archontology of court dignitaries (1988)
- Maria Theresa's Hungarian officials (1989)
- The 1738–39 national census of students (1990)
- Hungary's lords lieutenant (1994)
- State officials (of the king and the emperor) in 17th century Hungary (2002)

József Vekerdi (1927–) linguist and a doctor of sciences in linguistics (1979). Research areas: Gypsy ethnographic and linguistic collections, Sanskrit literary translations. He worked for the National Széchényi Library from 1963 to 1995, being the head of the International Exchange Department

from 1973 to 1995. In 2001, the Library awarded him with the title *Bibliothecarius Emeritus*.

His main works include:

- Mahabharata (Selection and the accompanying study, 1963)
- An introduction to Indo-European linguistics (Co-author: Imre Tegyey, 1969)
- The Gypsy folk tale (1974)
- A dictionary of Hungarian Romany dialects (1983)
- "Song of the Lord", Bhagavad-gítá (Translation and epilogue, 1987, 1997)
- Ramayana (Translation and epilogue, 1997)
- Speeches of Buddha (Selection, translation, notes and epilogue, 2004)

Judit P. Vásárhelyi (1950-) doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2005). She has been working in the Old Hungarian Prints Bibliography Editorial Office since 1973, and has been its leader since 1988. She holds the Ferenc Széchényi Medal of Honour.

Her main works include:

- Albert Szenci Molnár: Discursus de summo bono (Critical edition, 1975)
- Albert Szenci Molnár's selected works (Editing, 1976)
- Handbuch deutscher historischer Buchbestände in Europa. Bd. 5. Ungarn (Co-authors: Katalin Rákóczi and Sándor Dörnyei, 1998)
- Old Hungarian Prints III. 1636–1655. (Co-authors: János Heltai, Béla Holl and Ilona Pavercsik, 2000)

János Heltai (1950-) doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2004). He has been working for the National Széchényi Library since 1975. Between 1998 and 2005, he only had a part-time job here, as he was the head of the Department of Old Hungarian Literature at Miskolc University. Since earlier in 2005, he has resumed his full-time job with the national library.

His main works include:

- Data of Hungarian students studying at Heidelberg University in 1595–1621 and of their patrons.
   In: The National Széchényi Library's Yearbook 1980 (1982), 243–347.
- Péter Alvinczi: Addressing Hungary's complaints, and a selection of sermons and letters (Selection, editing for publication, the translation of the title-giving leaflet, compiling the notes and the epilogue, 1989)
- Péter Alvinczi and the Heidelberg peregrines (1994)
- Old Hungarian Prints III. 1636–1655 (Editing, 2000)

The *Fragmenta Codicum* research team, which is supported jointly by the Hungarian Academy of

Sciences and the National Széchényi Library, and carries out the processing of Hungarian codices and fragments of codices as a major national research project, is housed in the Library. Two of its consultants are doctors of the Academy.

András Vizkelety (1931–) is a member of the Academy of Sciences (2005–). From 1957 to 1984, he was responsible for medieval manuscripts in the National Széchényi Library. Between 1984 and 2002, he led the *Fragmenta Codicum* research team. His main works include:

- After the deluge. A selection from the works of the Gruppe 47 German writers' group (Selection, introduction and notes, 1964)
- Beschreibendes Verzeichnis der altdeutschen Handschriften in ungarischen Bibliotheken I-II. (Wiesbaden, 1969–1973)
- "Die Budapester Liederhandschrift". Der Text. In: Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur (Tübingen, 1988)
- Nicolaus Lenau. Werke und Briefe. Bd. 5. (Wien, 1989)
- Mittelalterliche lateinische Handschriftenfragmente in Esztergom (With Edit Madas, Judit Nobilis-Lauf, Gábor Sarbak, 1993)
- The reception of European sermon literature in the Codex of Leuwen (2004)

Edit Madas (1949–) a literary historian and Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2002). Her research areas include medieval literacy, codices, fragments of codices, and medieval Latin and Hungarian literature. She worked as an assistant to the Fragmenta Codicum research team between 1976 and 1993, as its chief consultant from 1993 to 2002, and as its leader since 2002.

Her main works include:

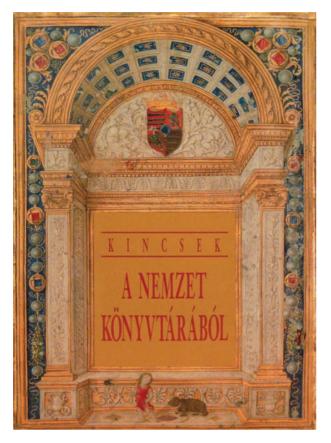
- The silent brother speaks up. A selection from the Anonymous Carthausan's speeches (Selection, text edition, preparation for publication, epilogue and notes, 1985)
- Jacobus de Voragine: Legenda aurea (Selection, prologue, notes and indexes, 1991)
- Book culture in Hungary from the beginnings to 1800 (With István Monok, 1998)
- From the history of our medieval sermons from the beginnings to the early 14th century (2002)
- Sermones de Sancto Ladislao rege (2004)

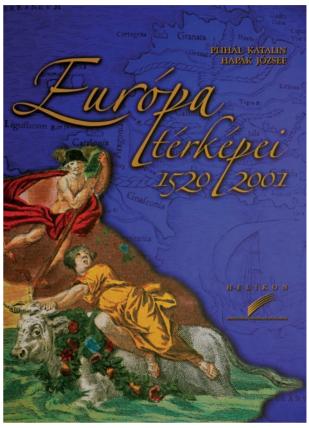
Péter Ekler ekler@oszk.hu

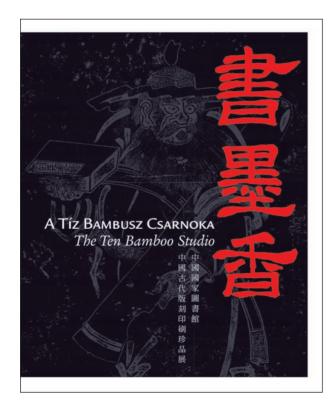




Johannes Amos Comenius: Orbis sensualium pictus trilinguis. The visible world in three languages. Nürnberg, 1669, Sumtibus Michaelis & Joannis Friderici Endteri. [12], 315, [138] p.









### OUR MOST ATTRACTIVE HUNGARIAN BOOKS



THE HUNGARIAN Association of Book Publishers and Distributors organises regularly the competition for the title of the "Most Attractive Book of the Year", inviting publishers of Hungarian works produced inside and outside the national borders.

The competition is run in eight different categories: children's books; textbooks; reference books; scientific works, professional books and publications of higher education; fiction and books for teenagers; art books and albums; bibliophile and other special publications; facsimile, reprint and adapted publications.

The main objective of this annual contest is to honour the books that are of special value to Hungarian book production. The jury does not evaluate content, but examines issues of typography, book design and the quality of printing.

It was in 2003 that the National Széchényi Library first entered one of its publications produced jointly with the Hungarian Book Club, namely the album called *Treasures from the Nation's Library* issued to commemorate the library's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Based on visitors' votes at the 10<sup>th</sup> Budapest International Book Festival, this volume earned the public's annual award in 2003. This has been the first time in the history of the award the library has received this token of appreciation.

Motivated by this success, in 2004 we already entered ten volumes and competed successfully. The exhibition catalogue *The Ten Bamboo Studio*, won a certificate in the category of art books and albums. Our *Old Hungary in Postcards*, published jointly with Osiris, was also honoured with a certificate. Visitors to the 11<sup>th</sup> Budapest International Book Festival and an exhibition at the Veszprém Cultural Centre again voted for the public's award to be given to our exquisite album, the *Maps* of *Europe 1520–2001*, which we jointly issued with Helikon.

In the 2004 "Most Attractive Book of the Year" competition, publications of the National Széchényi Library won further recognition. Two of the eight professional prizes, the public's award, as well as the Hungarian President's special award and the József Antall Memorial Award were conferred on them. In the category of art books and albums, *In the Name of the Raven – Chapters from the History of the Corvinas*, a joint publication with Corvina, received the chief prize as well as President Ferenc Mádl's special award. In the same category, the book jointly published with Osiris, called *Life in Old Hun-*

gary won a certificate and the József Antall Memorial Award. At the same time, *Life in Old Hungary* also received the public's award, meaning that this publication had received the most votes in the Book festival and the Veszprém special exhibition. All this suggests that in three consecutive years, the general public has always considered Széchényi Library publications to be the most beautiful Hungarian books of the year.

In the 2004 competition for the "Most Attractive Book of the Year", the chief prize for bibliophile and special publications went to the *Records of Móric Benyovszky in Madagascar in 1772–1776*, published jointly with Kossuth Publishing House.

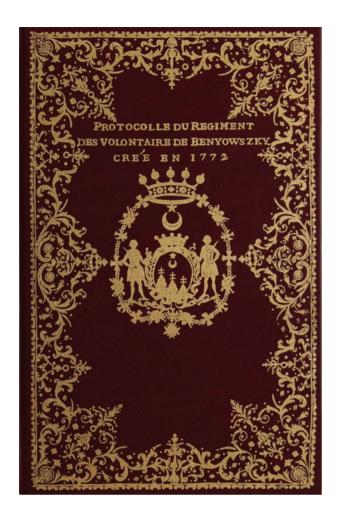
Besides doing their routine work, National Széchényi Library experts are active presenting important works of science to the general public. Special mention is to be made of Katalin Plihál and the staff of the Map Collection, Mária Cseh and the team of the Collection of Small Prints, Orsolya Karsay and her colleagues, the excellent photographers in the Photo laboratory, the specialists in the Hungarian Electronic Library and the editors of visual material. For their research over the past years, our very special thanks go to our external contributors, especially the Sinologist Mária Ferenczy, the ethnographer Vilmos Voigt and the historian János Gyurgyák.

The prestigious awards are given to, and are to a large extent due to all those artists who created the best form for presenting the unchallengeable scientific content deserving of Széchényi's name, as in fact, the "Most Attractive Book of the Year" title is an acknowledgement of their design activities. Primarily, we should thank the typographer László Kiss, the photographer József Hapák, the book design-artist Ilona Kiss, the typographers Anikó Környei and Simon Koppány, the reprographer György Filakowszky, as well as all the unnamed staff members of the Alföldi Printing House who have helped in creating these beautiful volumes.

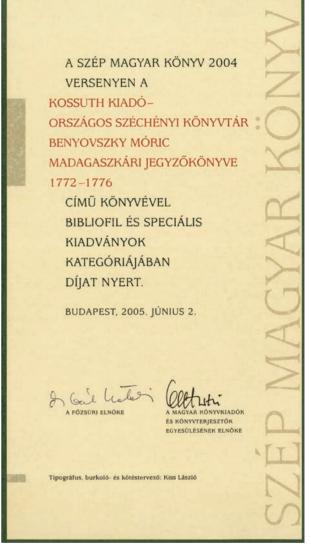
We are proud of the fact that the Hungarian Association of Book Publishers and Distributors and the jury they nominate have for three consecutive years judged that not only in their content but also in their appearance, the publications of the National Széchényi Library have been highly sophisticated, vitally important and truly noble pieces of the Hungarian book publishing heritage and culture.

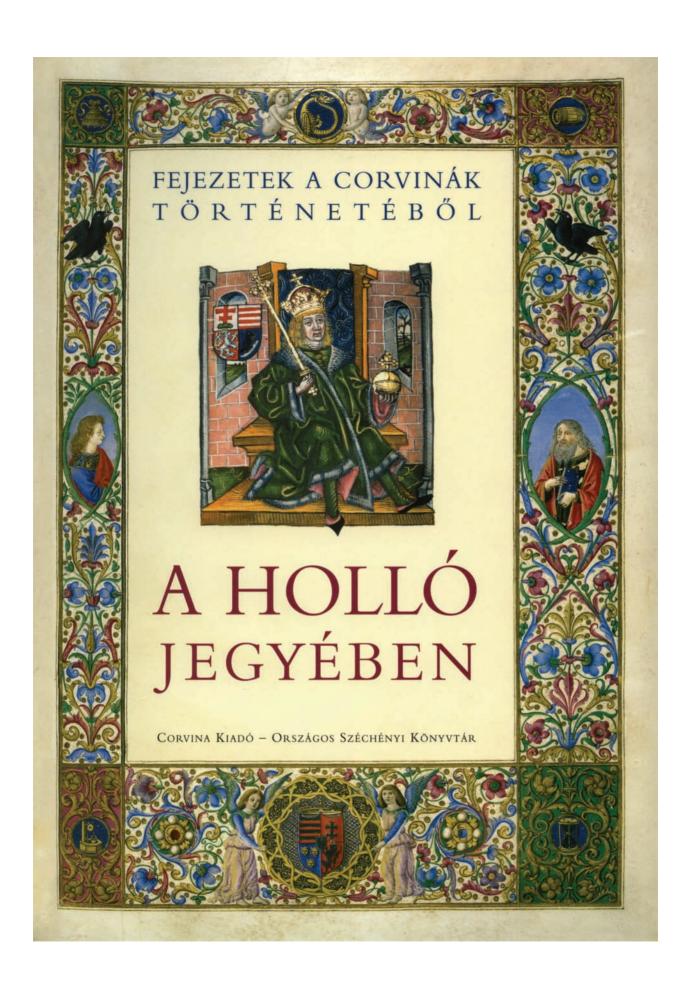
Barbara Kiss barbara@oszk.hu











A SZÉP MAGYAR KÖNYV 2004
VERSENYEN A
CORVINA KIADÓ –
ORSZÁGOS SZÉCHÉNYI KÖNYVTÁR
A HOLLÓ JEGYÉBEN
SZERKESZTETTE: MONOK ISTVÁN
CÍMŰ KÖNYVÉVEL
A MŰVÉSZETI KÖNYVEK
ÉS ALBUMOK
KATEGÓRIÁJÁBAN
DÍJAT NYERT.
BUDAPEST, 2005. JÚNIUS 2.

A FÖZSÜRI ELNÖKE

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A KONYVTENTENTENTÖR
EGYESÜLÉSENEK ELNÖKE

A SZÉP MAGYAR KÖNYV 2004 VERSENYEN A CORVINA KIADÓ – ORSZÁGOS SZÉCHÉNYI KÖNYVTÁR A HOLLÓ JEGYÉBEN

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BUDAPEST, 2005. JÚNIUS 2.

Dod holes

A MAGYAR KÖNYVKIADÓK ÉS KÖNYVTERJESZTŐK EGYESÜLÉSÉNEK ELNŐKE

Tipogrāfus, burkoló- és kötéstervező: Koppány Simon