

# THE PÉCS MISSAL

## OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF THE FACSIMILE EDITION



The four surviving copies of the Pécs Missal (1499) together with the two editions of the Esztergom Missal (1495 and 1498) are particularly valuable items in the series of 15<sup>th</sup> century mass books that were used in Hungary. Both missals were compiled in Venice with the fonts of Johannes Emericus de Spira. Experts were delighted that Schöck Ltd. – in cooperation with the National Library – brought out a facsimile reproduction of the Pécs Missal at the end of 2009. This bibliophile edition designed primarily for collectors was based on the Pécs Episcopal Library's parchment copy, the missing pages of which (CI and CXII) complemented the NSZL's parchment copy (Inc. 989).

Singer Beáta Müller opened the book presentation held in the assembly hall on the sixth floor of our library on 2 February 2010 with a performance of Catholic folk-songs from Moldova and Csíksomlyó. László Boka, Director of Academic Affairs at the National Library, gave a short opening address, highlighting the decisive role of the facsimile reproduction for both cultural history and education in general. The

high-standard publication with brass-studded leather binding was

presented in a decorative box by István Monok, President of the Cultural History Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and former Director General of the National Library. Thereafter the liturgical background to the missal was explained (making reference to symbols of the feast of that day, The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple) by Gábor Sarbak, researcher of the HAS-NSZL Res libraria Hungariae research group.

The study volume that is part of the ornate publication relates about the career of Zsigmond Ernuszt, Bishop of Pécs (financial supporter of the Missal's publication), the local peculiarities of the liturgical instructions in the Pécs Missal, and the history of the surviving copies, as written by Tamás Fedeles, József Török and Éva Pohánka respectively.

This intimate and welcoming event was rounded off with an informal discussion, where those in attendance were able to handle and examine several copies of the valuable publication.

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The presentation of the valuable reproduction ensued in a pleasant atmosphere.