

NEWS FROM ZIRC



In 2010 the historical Antal Reguly library in Zirc again awaited its visitors with a colourful variety of programmes. Alongside library research, a range of diverse events, museum programmes, quality exhibitions and professional presentations greeted those making the journey to Zirc.

“painting & landscape”

Between 1 April and 1 June 2010, the foyer of this historical library held an exhibition of selected works by young painter Barnabás Földesi. Földesi dressed classic landscape paintings in new coats, thus attending to the questions articulated by classical ancestors, yet giving his own interesting perspectives through independent and separate creativity. Földesi expressed his feelings and the exhibition's concept thus: “I paint classic landscapes and also abstract paintings. In my interpretation, ‘classic’ means a defined and finished language of painting, a style with certain preservable elements which I don't refer to, I don't quote, but rather I use to redefine the problems of painting. These preservable elements are in some ways the problems themselves, with which the Dutch landscape painters, Károly Markó, or the smaller masters of the 18th century were engaged. They are suitable motives for the pictures' titles, light, stereotypical themes, and canonical sections. Evoking these elements is not my primary goal, rather they function as a familiar background for my works - in front of which,

if you like, I re-enact the most important moments from the history of painting. With this I do not mean to say that classic design elements are necessary to deal with the major problems of painting, but rather that at present this is where I feel the most comfortable – it is my task for the future to discover what they can be replaced with. In addition, it is not only designs that I borrow from the old masters, but also specific qualities such as the routines of handling materials, the usage of tones and harmonies of colour, and highlighting the brilliance of light through colours. I am not working to develop a unique trademark, I am interested in discovering the possibilities that are hidden in the classical forms of classical landscape paintings. Having said that, the parts of this vast wealth of material that come my way, and are spontaneously selected by my personal interest and admiration, may well create a unique style for me.”

This successful exhibition presented the artist's creations and experiments of the last seven years, and was the first time they were exhibited in one collection.

Presentations in the Baroque Room

The series of lectures in the historical library entitled “Presentations in the Baroque Room” sought to promote scientific and quality literature, primarily targeting locals with an interest in culture. The programmes presented by famous invited lecturers focused on anniversaries and exhibitions. The overall programme title derives from the library's baroque room, where the presentations are held. This room comfortably accommodates 50 people and is regularly filled. In 2010 – in connection to ‘Poetry Day’ and also to his own exhibition – local artist Barnabás Földesi discussed his relationship with classical paintings, while Péter Baksa, a local historian from Győr, acknowledged Poetry Day by presenting a valuable lecture on the Catholic poets of the 20th century. Erzsébet Schiller, lecturer of the Humanities Faculty of the Lorand Eötvös University (ELTE) and József Jankovics, the Deputy Director of the Hungarian Science Academy's



Installation from the Count István Széchenyi memorial exhibition.

The autographed copy of ‘About Horses’, dedicated to the National Library, and the coins of Antal Ilyés and Ferenc Lebó.

History of Literature Institute, presented the latest volume of the collected works of Pál Ányos, the 18th century poet born in Nagyesztergár, near Zirc.



Wine evening in the baroque room of the historical library.

Count István Széchenyi Memorial Exhibition

As part of the commemorative year for the 150th anniversary of István Széchenyi's death, a noteworthy exhibition was opened on 21 September in the historical library of Zirc. This was made possible thanks to the cooperation of a public collection – the National Library – and a private collector, Dezso Egervölgyi. The former enriched the exhibition with the first and second publications of the works of István Széchenyi, contemporary journals, and valuable documents; the latter with his rich collection of statues, coins and posters, all contributing to the exhibition's success. The organisers' intentions were two-fold: firstly, they wished to represent the vast career of the Count with the aid of his works and articles; secondly, they sought to give a broad representation of the cult that developed after his death, which was supported by posters, statues, plaques and coins, including the works of Zsigmond Kisfaludy Stróbl, Miklós Borsos and Róbert Csíkszentmihályi. For one section of the display the works of Széchenyi were represented in thematic order, but his most significant works were shown individually and separately, accompanied by coins and artefacts. The exhibition had three unique volumes from the primary collection of the National Library, which were autographed by the Count himself: the first being dedicated to the National Library – founded by his father – and the other two to Pál Eötvös respectively András Fáy. Other unique items on display included the series of coins commemorating the founding fathers of the Hungarian Academy of Science, and also the statue of Béla Domonkos. The exhibition was opened by László Boka, Director of Academic Affairs, who discussed the life achievements of Széchenyi, acknowledging not only the

well-known and well-respected creator, politician, and author, but also reflecting on the individual who professed and felt responsible for his own beliefs, and who very deeply experienced the doubts and anxiety of human nature. This opening was followed by Dezso Egervölgyi, who introduced to the large audience the organisers, including the author of this article and his concept for the exhibition. László Boka mentioned in his speech that, among the many virtues the Count possessed, his belief in education, his persistence for maintaining principles, and the importance of having personal conviction to overcome the impossible and its limitations should definitely be emphasised. With this praise he

announced the exhibition's motto to the audience, with words that can be found in the admonition written by István Széchenyi to his son, Béla: "...patriotism is in making sacrifices". The exhibition was open to the public until 31 December.

Wine and Literature

To celebrate the Autumn Night of the Museums, the institution welcomed the public with an exciting evening of viniculture. The evening fell on Márton Day (Martin) – when tradition dictates that new wine is to be first tasted – and this year it was celebrated in style and in the spirit of István Széchenyi's thoughts on viniculture. The event welcomed the Borbély Family Winery of Badacsony, who provided high-quality wines for tasting, as befitting the thoughts of Széchenyi. Badacsony has long been connected with Zirc, since the founders of the Cistercian order – who also established the historical library – had their largest vineyards in this region. The winery's chief winemaker, Tamas Borbély, introduced the region and the rules of wine tasting. During the tasting – and in relation to the exhibition – the director of the historical library and writer of these lines quoted Széchenyi's thoughts on Hungarian wine, the production of wine and the commerce of wine. Just as with other topics, the Count was able to share enduring thoughts on this subject too; in the 'Világ' (World) journal he wrote many pages on the topic, in his diary there are amusing entries recalling his adventures with wine, and he also refers to the precious nectar in his admonitions to his son Béla. Those attending the evening once again proved that moderate wine consumption and literary thoughts go perfectly hand in hand.

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