

NIGHT OF RESEARCHERS



Night of Researchers 2015

In 2015, it was the tenth time that Europe's largest event of science dissemination was held to show the audience in an entertaining and popular way the world of science, sometimes thought to be mysterious and far from everyday life.

In Hungary, as well as throughout Europe, it is the last Friday of September (in 2015, the 25th), when researchers introduce themselves and the process of getting to know the secrets of "life, the universe and everything".



If anybody, it is Gergely Barki who researches his topic with a clear purpose of uncovering secrets. He is a real detective of art history. We announced his lecture with the title *WANTED! Modernism is Lost – Undiscovered Works of the Hungarian Fauvists, Cubists and the Eight*, and indeed, the presentation offered an amazing report of the paintings of the artists referred to in the title. We learnt that the beautiful works we know today are only the tip of the iceberg, as there is a great number of lost, destroyed and undiscovered items, not to mention those undocumented. Gergely Barki's investigation aims at finding these works, often masterpieces of the artist. Newly discovered paintings

can greatly change our previous view on the art of a certain era. Barki has found many works previously thought to be lost. His lecture included stories of these lost and found artworks, like the world-famous case of Róbert Berényi's *Sleeping Lady with Black Vase*. The painting that depicts Eta Brauer, the second wife of Róbert Berény (1888-1953) was probably made at the turn of 1927 and 1928, and is considered a major work of the artist, member of the Eight.

On Christmas 2009, Gergely Barki went to the cinema with his daughter to see *Stuart Little*, and in a scene of the film, in the background of the living room of Hugh Laurie and Geena Davis, he suddenly discovered one of the most important works of the Hungarian avantgarde, a black and white reproduction of which he had seen earlier in an exhibition catalogue of 1928. It took five years and a long and persevering correspondence to him to get the painting back to Hungary.

"One more question" – said Lieutenant Columbo, detective of the Los Angeles Police Department in the TV-show every time he turned back from the door. And so did Farkas Gábor Farkas, Head of Department of the Collection of Old Prints at NSZL in the Night of Researchers, when he asked: What happened near Mohács on 29 August 1526? Was it an unfortunate accident or murder? Farkas shared his ideas in a presentation of the title *Louis II of Hungary, Investigation of an Unusual Death*. The tragedy of Mohács is a topic that still arouses incredible emotion. The reason is more complex than we could resolve it in a short presentation, so Farkas Gábor Farkas only looked at a small detail: the circumstances of King Louis's mysterious death. In his opinion, the issue was burdened with politics at the very time it happened, which led to intentional bias and lies.

Farkas Gábor Farkas thoroughly analyzed what could be learnt of witness evidence, the on-site visit and the coroner's report. What had the anthropologist

to say? And the detective who led the investigation? How was the accusation of murder brought up, where exactly was the crime scene, and who could be the main suspects? What could be the role of a suspected instigator, and how was this person related to a marriage contract? The audience was given an exciting and complex description that may raise further questions.

been in Canada for decades, and that the owner wants to donate it to the National Library? Zoltán Baróthy in his presentation gave an answer to all these questions.

Barbara Ekler Péterné Kiss
barbara.at.oszk.hu



Bertalan Székely: *Finding the Corpse of Louis II of Hungary*

The whereabouts of the manuscript of Endre Ady's *After Rain in May* were not known for a long time, but then in 2013, a Canadian owner donated it to National Széchényi Library. Zoltán Baróthy from our Manuscript Collection told the audience about the origin of this manuscript. As it is not common today to discover a sought for and provenly original manuscript of Ady, it is worthy to take a closer look at these pencil-written sheets, and we might want to see the circumstances of the making of the poem.

After Rain in May was first published in the periodical *Nyugat* on 1 July 1908, and six months later in the volume *On Elijah's Chariot*. Literary history often refers to it as "Ady's most beautiful hymn to life". It could be written in the natal village of the poet, Érmindszent, but also in a hotel room in the buoyant, modern Paris. What arguments support one and the other theory? The place where the poem was written could greatly modify its interpretation... Who kept the manuscript for such a long time? And what happened to it after all, between 1908 and 2013, when we suddenly learnt that it had

Night of Researchers 2016

This year's activities of National Széchényi Library for the Night of Researchers took place at the Map Collection on 30 September, with the title "*From the Cloth of the World to Digital Maps*".

The event introduced the audience into the world of maps. Maps are essential tools of orientation that have undergone several changes during the centuries, and by now have almost entirely moved into the virtual space. Today, when we go for a walk in the forest, carry a smartphone equipped with GPS in our rucksack, instead of the good old tourist map. Lectures in this evening were held on the

basics of cartography, on the advantages of maps and their future. We pointed at the major milestones in the thousand years' history of maps, with focus on the user needs that led to their continuous improvement from clay tables to digital maps. Visitors got acquainted with our *Földabrosz (Cloth of the World)* educational blog on map history, and some special original prints of cartography.

The following lectures were delivered on the Night of Researchers:

- Krisztina Oláh: *Maps in the Digital World*

The lecture presented the basic concepts of cartography, the technologies and their place in everyday life. How can these technologies be used by laymen and professionals, and what can be foreseen for them in the future?

- László Pászti: *FÖLDABROSZ (CLOTH OF THE WORLD) – NSZL's New Blog on Cartography Science: A Blog Presentation*

The educational map history blog of the Map Collection at National Széchényi Library started in April 2016. We summarized our work and results achieved.

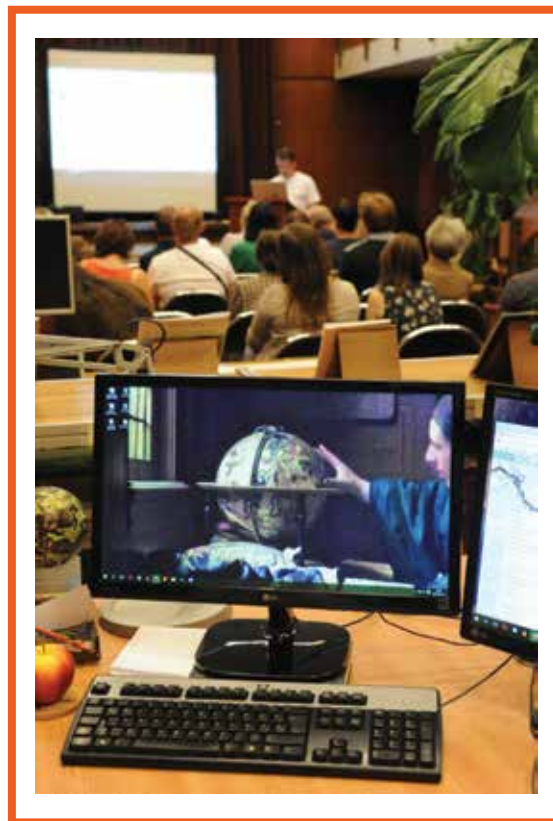
- Krisztina Oláh: *The Practical Side of the Use of Maps: The Needs that led to the Development and Accuracy of Maps. From the Beginnings to Route Planning in the Public Transport of Budapest*

A sketch of roughly four thousand years of map history was outlined for the audience in this lecture with emphasis on the crucial points that influenced the development of cartography. We looked at the user needs that led to the continuous improvement of maps from clay tablets to digital maps.

- György Danku: *Guided tour in the Map Collection, with an Outlook to Map Printing and Other Interesting Details*

Apart from the works on permanent display in the rooms of the Map Collection, visitors could see some precious items of the maps presented in the previous lectures. The tour ended with a show of old map printing techniques that offered guests a unique experience.

László Pásztí
paszti.laszlo.at.oszk.hu



Night of Researchers – 29 September 2017

Each year, on the last Friday of September, in Hungary as well as throughout Europe, researchers can introduce themselves and their results to the interested public. Although the word “research” for most people evokes the world of natural sciences with laboratories, pipettes and test-tubes with colored liquids, there are important research projects going on in the field of arts, philology and social sciences, too.

National Széchényi Library organized its program for the Night of Researchers of 2017 along two main lines: on one hand, guided tours and roundtable discussions were held related to the current exhibitions, and on the other, as a new idea that might become a tradition, we presented various collections, salons and workshops in playful and educative ways.

The audience could visit the exhibitions during the whole length of the evening, but those taking part in the adjoined events were in for a special experience. On the exhibition for the bicentenary of János Arany “*Others only get their laurels leaf by leaf...*” – *Treasures, Cults, Reception History*, curator Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi not only guided a tour, but within the program *Opening the Display Case*, offered a more detailed presentation of the *Toldi trilogy* manuscript unit. Visitors of the Mihály Tompa exhibition “*The song might not have been forgotten yet*”, were invited to a roundtable discussion on the poet’s oeuvre, where curators Anikó Ágnes Patonai and Rita Szűts-Novák, together with literary historians József Takáts and Gábor Vaderna talked about Tompa’s works and their influence in the Hungarian literature. The third exhibition of National Széchényi Library *Hungarian Sound Film Posters 1931–1944* was presented this time by a special tour guided by editor and reviewer György Nemlaha. Those participating in the Night of Researchers, could also see the exhibition of the first edition of Shakespeare’s complete works “...


Let it be faithful to idea and form, yet free...” on the lobby of the Collection of Theatre History, before its official inauguration.

Two special collections and workshops of the library were presented to the visitors in this Night of Researchers. Groups of 15 participants could learn about book bindery in our restorers’ workshop. The “*Investigation in the Restorer’s Workshop*” show was very popular among the guests who were introduced into the secrets a book binding or board can reveal.

This year, our highlighted Special Collection was the Map Collection. It welcomed the audience with several events, like the chamber exhibition *World War I on Maps* with manuscript maps, Turkish and Russian posters, plays, paper models and stamps. Visitors could take part in a guided tour of the Map Collection, and attend a lecture on the secrets of the sky.

Franciska Dede

dede.franciska.at.oszk.hu

