

FERENC SZÉCHÉNYI MEMORIAL DAY – 2015, 2016, 2017



On 25 November 2015, from 9 am, the award ceremony of the Ferenc Széchenyi Memorial Day took place in the Ceremonial Hall on the 6th floor of our library. After the inauguration speech of Director-General László Tüske, we heard some words from the recipient of the 2014 Széchenyi Medal, Balázs Mikusi. Then László Tüske announced that this year's Széchenyi Medal was awarded by the Research Committee's unanimous decision to the head of the Library of Book History and Library of Information, Ilona Hegyközi. The laudation speech of Ágnes Rácz detailed the activity of the awardee as expert, library supervisor, collection organizer, author of publications and specialized translator, and reminded the audience of her earlier honors and decorations. Ilona Hegyközi, as the laudation pointed out, is not only an excellent expert, but also a modest and understanding colleague.

After Ilona Hegyközi's words of appreciation, László Tüske announced that NSZL elected its life member the excellent literary historian and bibliographer, retired professor István Käfer. The handout of the certificate was followed by the laudation speech of László Boka that described István Käfer's long and productive relation with NSZL. In the 1960s, Käfer was the Slavist expert of the edition of the first volume of *Old Prints of Hungary*. Slavistic studies in Hungary owe to him among other results, the introduction of the term "biblical Czech". His activity at the Slavistics Institute of the Péter Pázmány Catholic University is also of great importance. Students appreciate his classes as well as his modest and friendly character.

Then the NSZL long-service awards were handed over to our colleagues with the cooperation of Labor Union secretary Ádám Ackermann. Director-General László Tüske first congratulated our 10 years' colleagues András Elter, Krisztina Hegedüs, János Heltai, Róbert Németh, Ferenc Imre Tóth, Ágnes Tóvizi and Edina Zsupán. The 20 years long-service prizes were awarded to Ágnes Balogh, Krisztina Z. Regenhart Fehérné and Tünde Méry. The 25 years' long-service awards went to Gergely Ballagó, Éva Rezi Csirmazné and Zoltán Dvor-

nitzky. The 30 years' awards of 2015 were given to Tibor Bojtos, András Drevenka, Eszter Fazokas, András Juhász, Tibor Miklós, József Patócs, Beáta Reisingerné Kutor and Éva Rózsáné Kelemen. We had a 35 years' colleague, György Üрге, and two 40 years' NSZL staff-members: Pál Horváth and Péterné Kókay.

The award ceremony of the 2016 Széchenyi Memorial Day was inaugurated in our Ceremonial Hall on 25 November at 9 am. After László Tüske's words of greeting, the 2015 awardee Ilona Hegyközi gave a presentation about the *IFLA Trend Report* of 2013, a document already discussed in several countries by the librarian profession. The document lists five significant trends that restructure our information environment. The first is that the new information technologies enhance but at the same time restrict the circle of those with access to information. The second is that online education makes global education more democratic and changes it drastically. The third is that in the age of online communication, the boundaries of private life and the protection of privacy have to be redefined. The fourth trend is that in a network society there are new opinions and groups emerging. And the fifth trend is that the new technologies transform the global information economy (shared economy; distance work, distance healthcare).

Then Director-General László Tüske announced that the awardee of the Ferenc Széchenyi Medal in 2016 is typography historian and bibliographer Judit Vizkeletyné Ecsedy PhD, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The laudation speech by Judit Vásárhelyi Pojjákné described the career of Judit V. Ecsedy who started to work at NSZL in 1971, first as an international procurer of books and English language representative. Her most excellent work is without doubt the *Letters and Decorations of Old Hungarian Printing Presses*, (Hungaria Typographica), whose four volumes completed by now categorize and present the letter sets and typography decorations of the printing presses in Hungary from 1473 to 1700. They help to find out whether an old print was produced in Hungary, and to define the data of prints that are fragmentary or do not have place or press indi-

cated. Judit Vásárhelyi also reminded the audience that the awardee apart from being an outstanding expert, is also a kind and friendly colleague.

After Judit V. Ecsedy's words of appreciation, director-general László Tüske handed over the long-service awards of NSZL for 2016, with the cooperation of Ádám Ackermann. The 10 year's award went to Tímea Andrásiné Boros, Réka Csentei, Marianna Andrassy Eleőd-né, Gábor Gondos, Krisztina Haralyi, Dezső Kalcsó, Edit Madas, Anikó Patonai, Tamás Schirilla, Balázs Sebestyén, Ildikó Sirató and Sándorné Sugai. Our 20 years' colleagues were Tibor Gerlecz, Tímea Jakab, Éva Patakiné Bagi, Júlia Sárköziné Tóth, Ferenc Szentgyörgyi and Anikó Szécsényi. The awardees of the 25 years' prize were István Elbe, Dániel Kiss, Anna Sóti Mucsi, Júlia Zsuzsa Szendrei, Enikő Szijártó and Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy. The 30 years' long-service awards went this year to Lujza Erdélyi, Ferenc Földesi, György Lukács and Marianna Subicziné Huszák. There are two colleagues who have been working at NSZL for 35 years, Veronika Erdős and Tiborné Gazdag Tiborné, and we were proud to celebrate the four colleagues who have been with us for 40 years now, Magdolna Both, Gábor Kiss, Katalin Kovács and Szilvia Szilágyiné Bánfi.

The celebration of our traditional Széchenyi Memorial Day in 2017 started on 24th November at noon. Director-General László Tüske greeted the audience and our guest of honor Count Kálmán Széchenyi, and gave a short update of the IT and architecture issues of NSZL. We learnt that the projects are under way and the funds have already been allocated for both the development of NSZL's IT infrastructure and the architectural plans of the archive store to be built most likely in Piliscsaba, the deep store for service next to building F, and the refurbishing of building F's interior. After a four hands duet composed by a Széchenyi family member and performed by the pianists of the NSZL choir, the speech of Kálmán Széchenyi followed. Our guest of honor emphasized that NSZL is a keeper of our national cultural heritage, and that Hungary in the second millennium would greatly benefit from NSZL's becoming a significant center of cultural life. Count Ferenc Széchenyi, the founder of the library, was a devoted Christian, so it would be desirable if the national library functioned today also as a keeper and disseminator of Christian values, our guest of honor added.

The event continued with more piano compositions of Széchenyi family members performed by István Kassai.

There were eleven composers altogether in the Széchenyi family, and the works of six are known to the present day, so the audience could enjoy the compositions of Felicia, Lajos, Andor, Franciska, Ödön and Imre Széchenyi. After the concert, the awardee of the Széchenyi Medal of 2016, Judit V. Ecsedy gave a presentation about the printing press of the Castle of Keresd founded during the rule of Prince Mihály Apafi I (1683–84), that produced *Historia de rebus Transylvanicis* by Farkas Bethlen. The printing of the work ended on page 832, and it was not until the 18th century that a title page and a preface was added to it by Gottfried Schwarcz. Today, 32 copies of it are known, but the manuscript, probably owned one-time by the Rákóczi family, is lost.

After the presentation, László Tüske announced that the awardee of this year's Széchenyi Medal is Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy from the Department of National Location Coordination and Document Supply. In his laudation speech, Head of Department Péter Paulik, a former disciple of the awardee, described her professional career and added that Tokaji Nagy, who has been teaching library information at the Library Institute's trainings for associate librarians since 2008, is an excellent expert with a gift of empathy. To honor this year's awardee, the NSZL choir performed Zoltán Kodály's *Greeting on St John's Day*.

The words of appreciation of Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy were followed by the handover of this year's long-service awards by the Director-General with the cooperation of Ádám Ackermann. The 10-year's award went to Lajosné Bánkeszi, Mihályné Csulák, Dalloul Zaynab, Adrienn Kekk, János Kiss, Csaba Kricsfalussy, Jolán Mann, Annamária Sudár, Csaba Tímár, Bernadett Varga and Ferenc Vasbányai. Our 20 years' colleagues were Gyöngyi Bleicher-Majláth, Luca Hanák, Zita Kovács-Burda, László Pásztai, Anikó Pinkert, Erika Zita Szabó and Alex Szilas. The awardees of the 25 years' prize were Judit Papp, Edit Repkényiné Nagy and Ilona Szanyi. There were two colleagues who have been working at NSZL for 30 years: Márta Rigó and Zsuzsanna Tóth. The 35 years' long-service awards were given to Marianne Érdi and József Szabó. And last but not least, we celebrated our colleagues Ágnes Feimer, Ágnes Frank and Ágnes Rác who have been staff members of NSZL for 40 years now.

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