

## 2017 – A year of Oriental relations

As in the previous years, National Széchényi Library also in 2017 was actively present in the international scene. In line with our professional rank, we signed several new agreements of cooperation with more opportunities to take part in expert discussions, conferences and workshops.

Due to our membership in international library organizations, also this year we could share experience with partners abroad.

The annual spring conference of CENL was originally planned to Ankara, but due to the terrorist attacks some months prior to the event, was finally relocated to London. The main topics of the conference were new library building strategies, the circulation of digital material and copyright. National Széchényi Library was represented by Director-General László Tüske.

In August 2017, László Boka, NSZL's Director of Research, took part in the annual meeting of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) in Wrocław, Poland. The topic and title of the conference was *Libraries. Solidarity. Society*. During the six days, László Boka had the chance to take part in a row of lectures, presentations of posters and exhibitions, among which we highlight the special section of IFLA "500 years of Belarusian Book Printing" to which our Library was distinctly invited.

The annual seminar of CERL in 2017 was held in Amsterdam on 27 October, where our library was represented by László Boka. This year's topic was how to make more visible the "hybrid" collections of books, artworks, museum objects and archive documents. Galleries, museums and archives attending the seminar introduced their integrated research services.

In addition to its existing membership in international organizations, NSZL signed several cooperation agreements for future goals and plans. We are especially proud to turn towards the values and spiritual treasures of the Oriental culture. We keep the good relations with our neighboring countries: this year we received researchers from Cluj and Prague among others.

## Towards the East...

May 2017 marked the start of preparing the agreement of cooperation between the National Library of Turkey and National Széchényi Library. The agreement was signed in a ceremonial event in Ankara, where Director-General László Tüske represented our library in the Prime Minister's delegation. In November, we were glad to welcome in Budapest the delegation of Turkey led by Zülfi Toman, and accompanied by the Hungarian ambassador in Ankara, who also advocates for a stronger cultural bond between the two countries. During the negotiations, important topics were discussed including the role of national libraries in the digital transformation, and the possible joint publication of Turkish and Hungarian translations. The renowned researcher of manuscripts, Bayoğlu Servet, was also a member of the delegation, and appraised the bibliographical and cultural value of our Turkey-related collection. At the end of the talks, the parties agreed that the cooperation may bring promising possibilities for both libraries in the future.

In the same month, to mark 25 years of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Hungary, our library hosted the presentation of Nemat Kelimbetov's book *Don't want to lose hope*. The event was inaugurated by Sándor Lezsák, Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament and author of the preface of the book. Mr Lezsák called for a further enhancement of the good diplomatic and cultural relations between the two countries.

In September, to celebrate 500 years of Belarus book printing, the *Documentary Heritage in the Central European Region: Conservation, Research and Promotion* conference was held in Minsk, where Miklós Lendvay, Director of E-services represented National Széchényi Library.



Signing the Agreement of Co-operation in Ankara

NSZL, together with the Embassy of Belarus, plans to present the second volume of the facsimile edition of *The book heritage of Francysk Skaryna* in 2018. The first volume was presented in our library in December 2016.

Between 8 and 11 November 2017, as a member of the official delegation of the Moroccan–Hungarian Joint Economic Committee, our Director-General László Tüske paid a visit to Morocco. The agreement of the two national libraries worded in English, Hungarian and Arabic was signed in Rabat, on 9 November. Upon the acceptance of our invitation by the Moroccan partners, we are looking forward to receiving them in the spring of 2018 to continue with our cooperation.

### Relations with China...

In April 2017, National Széchényi Library, Shandong Huaban Publishers Ltd. and the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Society jointly organized a presentation of the illustrated album *Collection of Shandong Han Dynasty Stone Rubbings*.



The delegation of the National Library of Turkey at NSZL

On the event, Géza Szócs, Chairman of the Hungarian PEN Club and the National Library Board, greeted the audience. A short documentary film presented the making of the rubbings, and then translators Erika Yu-Barta and Éva Kalmár spoke about the book.

On 22 May, a Chinese-Hungarian poetry evening was held by the Hungarian PEN Club, National Széchényi Library and the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Society, with the presentation of Jidi Majia's volume *I the Snow Panther*. Géza Szócs, and Jidi Majia poet of nuosu descentance, prominent figure of contemporary Chinese



Nurbakh Rustemov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Hungary, Sándor Lezsák, Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament, Mukusheva Raushangul, Kazakh language teacher at the Altaistics Department of the Faculty of Humanities of Szeged University, and István Kiss, Director of Sonart Publishing House



The signing of the agreement of cooperation between the National Library of Morocco and National Széchényi Library in Rabat.



The delegation of the Cultural Ministry of China at NSZL

poetry, Rector of the Lu Xun Literary Academy and the Deputy Chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association, greeted the audience. The book was presented by Géza Szőcs, Péter Rácz József Attila Award-winning poet, literary translator and Yu Zemin literary translator.

In June, a Chinese delegation visited our library, led by Zhu Qi, Deputy Director-General of the Office of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Culture of China. Géza Szőcs, Chairman of the National Library Board and László Tüske Director-General of National Széchényi Library welcomed the guests. During the Prime Minister's visit to China in May, both countries expressed their commitment to cooperate on government, local, institutional and expert level within the *One Belt – One Road* strategy. In our talks with Mr Zhu Qi, we discussed the possibilities of institutional cooperation, with special regard to the agreement of cooperation with the National Library of China, signed last year.

In October 2017, we received a delegation from the Zhejiang Local Chronicles Office. The group of 6 researchers is specialized in documents of history and

Chinese local history. After the exchange of professional views, the delegation was guided through the building of the library, and then the staff at the Map Collection presented them our selection of China-related maps.

The year concluded with the exhibition *Cultures and Generations: Founders and Heirs of Chinese and Hungarian Modern Art* organized jointly by National Széchényi Library, the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, the Xu Beihong Art Committee and the Sino-European Foundation. On the inauguration ceremony, attended by the State Secretary of Culture Péter Hoppál and the Ambassador of China in Budapest, we could enjoy a piano concert of talented young musicians and Gergely Bogányi.

Our plans for 2018 include a "Wall of the Nations" to display the publications donated to our library by international partner institutions.

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