

ZIRC EVENTS



2015

This year was about wine and beer production in the Zirc Abbey. As the theme of the Night of Museums in Zirc was wine, the Memorial Library celebrated it with an exhibition on the history of the Cistercian order's viniculture in Hungary. Wine played an important role in liturgy, and was also a product the abbeys took to the market. Citeaux, the first Cistercian monastery, is a leading producer of French quality wines, and was made rich as early as the 12th century by its burgundy vineyards. Several sources confirm that in the 14th century, the Citeaux monastery regularly supplied the court of the Pope of Avignon with wine. Consequently, there was an endeavor to plant vineyards in the surroundings of most Cistercian monasteries. In Hungary, the abbey of Bélaháromkút (today Belpátfalva) and Cikádor (today

Bátaszék), played an important role in the development of the medieval viniculture of Eger. The Cistercians of Zirc took their share of wine production when the order was re-founded in the 18th century. They had vineyards first in Badacsony and Somló, and then, by the unification of Pilis and Pásztó supervised by Zirc, acquired estates in Eger and Tokaj. At the exhibition, several wine labels were presented.

Where the climate was not suitable for wine production, abbeys took up beer brewery. As early as in the Middle Ages, a main activity of the monastery of Henrichau (today Henryków, the re-founder of the Abbey of Zirc) was beer brewery, so it is not surprising that in the 18th century, beer culture was implemented in Zirc with a new brewery functioning from 1734 until





the middle of the 19th century. Monks revived this tradition in August 2015, with the opening of the Abbey Manufacture of Zirc, and for this occasion, the Memorial Library published the history of beer production

in Zirc. Also a beer poster exhibition was presented with the cooperation of the Collection of Posters and Small Prints, that included a selection of the posters of Hungarian breweries.

2016

As the Memorial Library has been cooperating with *Magyar Grafika* for a long time, it was natural for it to serve as one of the venues for a traveling exhibition on the periodical's 60th anniversary. The exhibition inaugurated by Péter Maczó, brand designer of *Magyar Grafika*, was open between 28 April and 13 May, and became popular among local typographers.

Together with the Mixed Choir of Zirc, we had been looking for a chance to use the exceptional acoustics of the library's ceremony hall, and now held a concert on 23 April. The successful event of the title *Singing Library, an evening tour on the pages of books and the wings of music*, had an audience of 200 guests. Between the parts of the concert, the director of the library presented books from our collections.

It was in 1953, that National Széchényi Library took the Zirc Memorial Library under its patronage. Several manuscripts were taken to Budapest at that time, including ten codices, among them a volume made in the 15th century with two

works in Latin: a collection of sermons of Johannes Herolt, a Dominican friar of great influence of the 15th century, and a bestiary. Anna Boreczky presented the latter with these words: "The Bestiary is built upon a series of animals shown one after the other. The text units for each animal usually consist of two parts: a description of the characteristics and behavior of the





creature, and a moral that presents the features of the animal's nature to follow or discard as analogies of God and the devil, or a man of virtue and sin." The Bestiary

of Zirc is decorated by pen drawings, and there are Croatian and Hungarian words added to it by Brother Thomas, a Minorite friar of the 15th century who lived in the southern part of the historical Hungary. This points at that Brother Thomas used the book for preparing his own sermons. Due to the presence of Hungarian words, the Bestiary of Zirc is not only a document of culture history, but also a relic of language history. Its facsimile edition was jointly published by the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc and National Széchényi Library, and presented on 13 October in Zirc. The invited contributors were greeted by Árpád Dékány abbot Sixtus and

László Boka. The volume and the bestiary as a genre was discussed by Vilmos Csányi and the editor of the book, Anna Boreczky.

2017

For the Night of Museums, the Memorial Library prepared a special exhibition of the history of honey made by friar orders, especially the Cistercians. Both the Benedictine and Cistercian orders played an important role in spreading apiculture in the Carpathian Basin. The exhibition displayed old books on apiculture from our collections, and dedicated a separate showcase to Saint Bernard, the patron of beekeepers.

Between 14 July and 1 October, our exhibition *The Biblical Works of Rembrandt van Rijn* was open to visitors in the Baroque Room of the library. We presented 58 engravings of the collection of private collector Thomas Emmerling who says: "Art collection is a passion, but to share its results with people and invite them to discuss is a proof of the collector's responsibility to society." The Baroque furniture and book bindings of the library offered an excellent environment for Rembrandt's art. The exhibition was inaugurated by governing provost Bernát Bérczi, and seen by thousands of visitors during the two and a half months.



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