

## EDITORIAL PREFACE



It is unusual to start with an editorial preface since the 2002 launch of the Bulletin... But the year ending now was also unconventional in the history of the NSZL, and most probably it will be remembered as such in more than one sense. The institution is drawing the balance of a complex and challenging, but also extremely successful, year abounding in spectacular results achieved by the national library and its whole staff. The reason why I mention the staff separately is because the institution was in an almost hopeless financial situation and in a troublesome, transitory institutional-political environment, adrift for long months as a ship „without a captain,” when neither an assigned director general nor a responsible financial manager was available to head it. While at the beginning of the year we thought this situation temporary, the crisis persisted for several months on end, and the „crew”, seemingly, remained without captain and partly without „upper deck-ratings.” There were assigned managers, but as far as their daily tasks were concerned, they were left to their own devices. This provisional state ceased only in the second half of the year, when a period of new planning could finally begin.

Now, when summarizing the year, we realized that we were closing a very rich period, for during these long and trying months we completed many colorful and complex assignments. Our institutional messenger is giving account of all these, since the goal of the publication (as its title indicates) is to report the events of the NSZL, to present the last year of the institution, and to offer an insight into the rich cultural life of our library. The periodical illustrates that the NSZL, besides its basic function as a library and research center, is also a significant museum space and a successful publishing house, as well the synthesis of these – in accordance with 21. century demands and expectations. We think it justified and modest to mention with some pride the rich program

the NSZL offered to guests, readers and visitors, who besides our regular librarian services could participate in spectacular and memorable exhibitions, exciting conferences, innovative, community-building and character-developing lectures, round-table discussions, book presentations, literary-cultural program series, delivered mostly to packed houses. This year also saw plenty of successful institutional collaborations and scientific discoveries. We commemorated important anniversaries, as always, and celebrated a range of events. Our guests included such personages as Zoltán Kocsis, Kati Lázár, Tamás Vásáry, Ernő Marosi, Péter György, Ignác Romsics, István Margócsy, Pál Mácsai, Zoltán Rockenbauer, Miklós Szinetár, Ági Szalóki, and many others.

You may read about all this, and more, in this publication.

Finally, I think there are two reasons why all these achievements became possible: the rich collections of the NSZL on the one hand, and its expert teams on the other. In other words, the abundant, unique collection, and those who handle it, guard it, preserve it, research it and present it, including their assistants – the *Collective*, with a capital initial, of the NSZL. That the imaginary ship was able to proceed between the Scylla and Charybdis of financial and professional insecurity during the best part of the year; that the crew knew what to do and did it; it is due to this happy conjunction – the collections and all those who connect to these on every level: the complete staff of the library. Let this publication be a promising sign of the collaboration reflected in the efficacy of the institution. We hope to make use of these favorable auspices in the year 2015 also, when we will need to gather our strength for the execution of the „double move” as our director general termed it, and the maintainer expects us to do.

Christmas, 2014

The Editor