

THIS IS HOW IT WAS LIKE THE NIGHT OF THE MUSEUMS IN 2014



This year our programs were entitled Night of the Guardians – the Book is Imperishable. We had the most visitors on this night, when we tried to present the fragility of the letter and of the soul, and the rescuing and safeguarding of the values carried by them.

On this night, our knowledgeable colleagues, researchers of the Manuscript Collection guided the visitors through our emphasized exhibition, presenting the most cherished rarities of our library from the 12. century poems of the knight of Kurenberg to the light of Mihály Babits' study. [For details see next article – ed. note.]

We had more than twenty programs, in which the visitors could see the first Hungarian poem, which was bombed around; the Corvina, which was never shown before; books that were forbidden and doomed to be

pulped in 1944; our restorers presented burnt, ragged and moldy works before and after restoring; and the absolute unique piece was that X-ray film, used already once by physicians, that held a recording of Bartók's music, so one could listen to Béla Bartók's piano-play, while looking at a man's spinal column.

We started on the balcony looking at the court with lions with a concert at six o'clock. At seven thirty Al Ghauí Hesna was talking with Évi Fábíán photographer about the conservation of the moment, and at 10 o'clock the uplifting Villon-evening crowned the program, with the participation of Péter Huzella and Pál Mácsai, which filled the house. The Chameleon Jazz Band played forgotten songs at midnight.

We posted up games, with midnight prizes! We started our „book-saving action” entitled *Fahrenheit 451 – (Don't) play with fire! – Save what is savable!* on



Gutenberg, as alive costume-phantasy

the most well-known community portal, and during the night, one could vote on the spot, too. On the community site of the national library more than 700 votes arrived, referring to 98 works; on the spot also more than 300 participant wrote on the wall the title of their favorite „savable” book. From very serious considerations (Bible, the poems of Attila József, Crime and Punishment, One Hundred Years of Solitude, Orwell’s 1984) to lighter, more entertaining works (The Lord of the Rings, Chronicles of Narnia), to volumes known from education also (The Little Prince, The Boys of Pál Street, Winnie the Pooh) countless titles had been written on the four, huge pieces of paper – at first we counted two walls, but they were quickly filled and had to be doubled.

The list:

1. Bible
2. *The complete poems of Attila József*
3. García Marquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
4. Saint-Exupéry: *The Little Prince*
5. George Orwell: *1984*
- 6–7. The complete works of Radnóti;
Tolkien: *The Lord of the Rings*
8. 777 Hungarian folktales

9. Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*
10. Antal Szerb: *Journey by Moonlight*
- 11–12. The complete works of Shakespeare;
Madách: *The Tragedy of Man*
13. Adams Douglas: *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*
14. Ervin Lázár: *The Rectangular Round Forest*
15. Milne: *Winnie the Pooh*
16. Daniel Keyes: *Flowers for Algernon*

Besides the ten lucky players, we rewarded those works also which received the most votes, with a small memorial plaque: „This work received the most votes in the *Fahrenheit 451 – (Don’t) play with fire!* book-saving game of the Széchényi Library.” The works were stored and hopefully will carry the memories of this game for another 212 years.

The quiz entitled *Game in one sentence – 10 sentences from 10 novels* was very popular also. Many players gave correct answers, and the ten winners received their half-a-year-long library cards at midnight. There was a book auction this year, too, where 97 books were sold from 103, which is a very good proportion. The most wanted are still the maps, posters, children’s books and freemasonry related documents. Some well-known



Fahrenheit 451 – (Don’t) play with fire! game of saving books



Klára Csernók and her orchestra

collectors participated in the auction, too. The sum we made we will spend on retrospective enlargement of our collection, so, we also will spend them on auctions.

We offered scenery digitalization, weird collectors' items, saved music scores, Klári Tolnay-memories, „victory and destruction” locations in the Map

Collection; in the retro exhibition we could try out our memory; we could try line drawing techniques at the fashion-exhibition; and we could make photos of ourselves under Babits' lampshade.

Those programs were very popular also which let our visitors into spaces which are very rarely accessible for them. The line-numbers for the guided tours were quickly gone. Our restorers had no brake either; they were teaching adults and children continuously how to bind books, or fold paper-flowers; the reading hall of the Map Collection was filled all the time, too, where visitors of all ages made countless globes.

We took care for our visitors to be able to rest and refresh themselves also – on the terrace on the VI. floor, in the middle of the castle, under the starry sky, where Gutenberg was among us, too, as a living costume-phantasy.

We had more than 4000 visitors on June 21st, to have an insight into the secrets of our Guardians – it was a wonderful night!



Walk in the storage area

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