

## „UGLY BOOK IS A SACRILEGE”



*The National Széchényi Library paid tribute to the life and works of three printer-typographers, Imre Kner, Andor Tevan and György Haimann through a smaller memorial exhibition in 2014. The occasion was the 70. anniversary of Kner's death, the 125. anniversary of Tevan's birth, and the 100. anniversary of Haimann's birth.*

Imre Kner, Andor Tevan, György Haimann – three names that changed the Hungarian book-art tendencies of the beginning of the 20. century, three typographers who had been colleagues, relatives and friends. Imre Kner and Andor Tevan had been colleagues and friends, who besides meeting personally often exchanged letters; György Haimann was himself a Kner pupil, he grew up in Kner's press. Their expectations towards themselves, the high standard of quality, proportion and harmony manifested in the work of all three book-artists, from official printed matter and advertising material through series of books to the beautiful bibliophil publications.

We borrowed the title of our exhibition from a gift bookmark of the Kner Press. The exhibition presented the very first publications of Imre Kner, the model-collection entitled *Flying Pages*; typographical creations made in different styles; his award-winning opuses; his outstanding series of world literature: *Literarum Hungaricum*; his portfolio containing the letter- and book-ornament model kit, dedicated to the NSZL and engraved by Lajos Kozma; and his model pages made in the press school of Leipzig. The display cases of the two typographers were connected by letters, photos, model pages, special bookmarks illustrating their relationship and the small collection of letters of Krisztina Voight: *100 letters*. The materials presenting the beginning years of Andor Tevan's oeuvre were also a representation of the literary life of the time, happening in the New York coffeehouse. It was exhibited his successful and still outstanding work: every piece of the bibliophil series called *Amateur*, and the volumes of

the Tevan-library which counted 213 books. The rich oeuvre of György Haimann was represented by many award-winning bibliophil volumes; few exceptionally beautiful publications published in one or several copies; gifts, meant to family members or friends, which contained poems (for example Sándor Márai's *Wolfmeadow*) or fragments of literature. Besides many other publications we could look at the specialties of the minibook presenting the beauties of the profession of typographer; and the bibliophil publications of the Hungarian College of Applied Arts.

Imre Kner was physically annihilated by the unfair and cruel regime; Andor Tevan could not continue his profession; they nationalized his press of a big past, and soon enough expelled him, too. Only György Haimann was given the chance to unfold his talent in book art, writing and typography, and to commemorate in an honorable way his masters.

Besides the presses of Kner and Tevan, several smaller presses (for example Amicus, Farkas Ferenc Bisztrai, Genius, Hungarian Review Association, Officina, Rózsavölgyi, Sacelláry, Táltos) had contributed also to the establishment of the modern Hungarian book art. They did not attend only to the needs of the few looking for amateur publications, but paid attention to make their books of a higher standard accessible to the wider and less well-to-do public too. They published also facsimile editions. Besides the external form the content was important also: they presented contemporary Hungarian and foreign literature and supported the efforts of modern art. The Hungarian Bibliophil Association, established in 1920, had served the art of book besides its publishing activities also through the systematic organization of thematic exhibitions in order to present bibliophil publications.

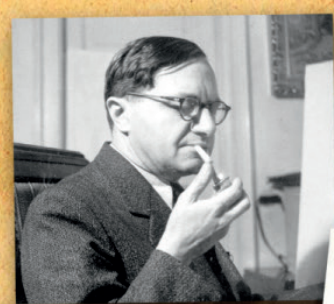
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# SZENTSÉGTÖRÉS A CSÚNYA KÖNYV,

MEGTAGADJA HIVATÁSÁT,  
ELEVE LERONTJA AZT A  
HANGULATOT AMELY A  
TERMEKENY, ÉLVEZETES  
OLVASÁSHOZ SZÜKSÉGES  
AZONA KÖNYVÖN AMELY  
NEK ROSSZ PAPIRJA NYÓ  
MÁS A CSÚNYA KÖTESE MEG  
LÁTSZIK MESSZIRŐL HOGY  
NEM KEDVES GYERMEKÉ  
IROJÁNAK, CSAK FEJŐS  
TEHENE KIADÓJÁNAK.  
NE BÍZZ BENNE NE HIGY  
NEKI NE VEDD MEG AZ  
ILYEN KÖNYVET, I  
MAGYAR OLVASÓ!

*Pevan*  
NYOMDA



## SZENTSÉGTÖRÉS A CSÚNYA KÖNYV

KIÁLLÍTÁS AZ ORSZÁGOS SZÉCHÉNYI KÖNYVTÁRBAN  
A VII. SZINTI KATALÓGUSTÉR BEN

2014. JÚNIUS 13 – 2014. SZEPTEMBER 13.

BELÉPŐDÍJ: 400.-FT, BEIRATKOZOTT OLVASÓKNAK INGYENES

A KIÁLLÍTÁS A KÖNYVTÁR NYITVATÁRTÁSI IDEJÉBEN LÁTOGATHATÓ

