NSZL – SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM/SYMPOSIA, 2014



The Scientific Symposium organized annually in two panels and several sections has started fifteen years ago, and it takes place successfully every year ever since. Since 2000, the conferences wanted to give account consistently of the achievements of the scientific research happening in the library. In the last five years, we collected the best of these in volumes and published them in the series called Bibliotheca Scientia et Artis, maintained by Gondolat publishing house together with the NSZL. We invite every year prestigious international lecturers to the conferences, because we consider it important to pay attention to state-of-the-art challenges connecting different fields of sciences, as well as to collaborations with the illustrious academicians and representatives of universities.

Space relationships, space formations

The annual Scientific Symposium held in the National Széchényi Library on January 27, 2014 studied the subject matter of "space" and "place" through materials safeguarded in NSZL collections and through tendencies of the institutional research. The choice of the subject matter was legitimized by the recently intensified interest of the Hungarian scientific community in the matter of interdisciplinary trends of the space theory. This resulted in aspects of multilayered approaching in the fields of art-history, science of literature, science of theater, psychology, as well as architecture and urbanism.

Thus, the Scientific Symposium from January approached the subject matter of space from different angles, accentuating artistic, cultural and literary spaces and places, respectively studying space presentations and representations in works of art. The symposium included lectures about fictive or real locations, geographical territories, cities, streets, (mental) maps, institutions as locations, as well as art criticism which utilizes findings of the literary-scientific discourse regarding space-theory and approaches the interpretation of works of art from the point of view of space and time.

The first section [Space relationships and literature], reflecting on the program of the scientific consultation,

applied the theoretical results and view points of the "space revolution" to authors or to literary works, analyzing the motifs and components of closed spaces, urban space, traveling, movement in space and landscape as space-composition. The section was opened by the discourse of our invited plenary lecturer Kornélia Faragó, professor at the University of Újvidék (Novi Sad). The lecture emphasized the dominant, determining aspect of spatial thinking as opposed to temporal experiences. The second section started with the guest lecture of Péter György [Expanding space formations | had examined space in interdisciplinary, geo-cultural contexts, in connection with the themes of different forms of art and fields of science. Lectures in library-science, book publishing, historical representation, small graphics, digital cartography, science of music and theater described the accentuated role and validity of space-theoretical and space-poetical approaches in contemporary thinking.

The success of the first part of the Scientific Symposium is due to the unitary theme, which strengthens common thinking: lecturers, themes of lectures, raisings of question and answers constantly and sometimes in masterly manner, completed and inseminated each other.

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Interpretation of interpretations. Savant bibliothecarius, savant predecessors

The National Széchényi Library organized on November 24, 2014 its Scientific Symposium for the academic year of 2014/2015. This was part of the program-series called The *Celebration of the Hungarian Science*, organized by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This time also the program was focused around one theme: the sources or the examination of interpretations and chains of interpretations originating in the primary processing (librarian work) of sources.



Detail from the conference in November

The conference was successful and a good turnout. Many participants came from the library and from outside also because the theme is an eternal question for experts of public collections and researchers working directly with sources. It was a great pleasure that the lecturers presenting case-studies took their examples from the materials of the NSZL, furthermore from the complete spectrum of the collected periods, from medieval times until today. As a curiosity, the participants could look at the original Lossai Codex dated from the beginning of the 16. century. Anna Boreczky presented the codex in her lecture.

The plenary lecture of our guest lecturer, literary-historian, Géza Szentmártoni Szabó opened the conference. He presented an excellent example of source-identification done using different methods, in connection with his recent Janus Pannonius-discoveries.

The guest lecturer of the afternoon symposium was Márton Szilágyi, literary-historian, who presented the problematic of different interpretations originating from ordering. He used the Kazinczy legacy as example.

The written, edited version of the lectures of the conference will be published by the NSZL and the Gondolat publishing house. This year the seventh volume will be published. The last three volumes of the series were presented by Attila Buda literary-historian, as the closing event of the conference. The high standard Symposium achieved its goals successfully, giving us a vivid and versatile image of the connection between sources and interpretations, regardless of time.

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