

ABSTRACTS

Dávid Molnár: *The Calvinist-Unitarian Church Debates (1615–1648)*

When the Transylvanian Diet of 1630 recognized the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Unitarian religious minorities in Székely Land, Transylvania, one of the results was the increase in debates concerning local church buildings. As a consequence, peace between the denominations of the area of the Székely and Saxon Dioceses was more fragile than elsewhere, however the debates quickly spread to the counties too. The Calvinist-Unitarian church debates are known to us almost exclusively from Calvinist sources, while the Unitarian sources have remained unexamined. This paper relies on sources available in the Kolozsvár (Cluj) Archive of the Hungarian Unitarian Church to observe the events from the Unitarian perspective and demonstrate the Unitarian stand taken in particular debates. This paper concludes that the Reformation in Cluj cannot be examined on terms that have so far been customary. This is because the leaders of the Unitarian Church supplicated so often to the Prince of Transylvania for resolution concerning issues of peripheral congregations that this can only mean that the periphery was as important for them as the center. It may be no accident that the great years of Unitarian book publishing (1632–1636) overlapped with the period between the enactment of the 44th Article of 1630 and the forceful church occupation of Tamás Nemes in 1636. This is the period when the Unitarians still had hope, and the prince had not yet realized that the domestic political factors of Transylvania that were established by the institution of *Recepta Religio* in the 16th century (and had maintained order) now changed in the beginning of the second third of the 17th century, after the Peace Treaty of Borosjenő.

Keywords: minor pars, Székely Land, church debates, *Recepta Religio*

Andrea Gönczöl: *A Unitarian in Saint Augustine's Garden in Milan. The Conversion of András B. Losonczi*

The paper gives a unique approach to the story of András B. Losonczi's conversion. Losonczi is the author of the Latin language work *Arma militae* in 1740 translated into Hungarian with the title *Vitézségünk fegyvere* (The Weapon of our Valour) in 1743. Losonczi gives a forceful presentation of his conversion and vision rarely seen before in the literature of religious debates, thus giving a unique perspective to the prophetic voice in his work. In the introductory part he gives an account of his prior seven years spiritual and intellectual flurry that got him to such an abyss that he was trembling from distress. However he turned to God with a repentant heart and, gaining God's ears, he was given two unambiguous messages. The peculiarity of his treatise is that the author comparing himself to Saint Augustine, considers the first observed words of the Holy Scriptures as the message of God. It looks like a similar event happened to András Losonczi to the one given account by Saint Augustine in the 12th chapter of the 12th book of his *Confessions*, and that the Unitarian author recreates, with some modification, and makes relevant again the much earlier story. It is important to note that the *Confessions* as a literary pattern is handled in a very inventive way almost without example in Hungarian self-revealing and confessional literature.

Keywords: conversion, Augustinus, *Confessions*, message of God

Sándor Selinger: *GIS Database of the Late Inner-Solnok Unitarian District and its Settlements*

The goal of this paper is to outline the changes of the Inner Szolnok Unitarian District and its congregations between 1571 and the first part of the 17th century. The author analyzes the spatial unfolding of the changes, evaluating also the changes of the Transylvanian administrative districts. The paper uses a number of maps created using a Geographic Information System (GIS is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of geographical data) using data available from historical sources concerned with Unitarian history to show the changes. The paper examines 75 settlements (towns) mentioned in Unitarian sources. For 54 of these, there is evidence both

of their having Unitarian congregations in the 16th century, as well as for the length of time their congregation existed. For the each of the other 21 towns, there was either no evidence of a Unitarian congregation, or the there was no record of the duration of the existence of its Unitarian congregation.

Keywords: administrative districts, Unitarian congregations, Unitarian districts, Inner Solnok District, Transylvanian Unitarian Church

László Péter: *Soccer and Religion. Some Theoretical Considerations*

This paper deals with a dominant phenomenon of the postmodern society from a sociological viewpoint, soccer. While reflecting on the nature of the phenomenon, it seeks its possible connections with religion. The paper argues that due to its practiced rituals/rites, and the role it plays in society, soccer is closely connected with religion. The author gives a theoretical approach supported by empirical examples. The first part the article focuses on the possible connections between soccer and the institution of the church, then it examines in detail soccer as a ritual/rite. The paper concludes that nowadays soccer as a rite represents a world view, expresses an ethos, gives a group identity, strengthens collective conscience and transmits symbolically a collective identity towards the entire society, just like religion. Its practice encompasses several religious-like elements (prayers, repeated actions, rigid rules, specialized establishments).

Keywords: soccer, religion, ritual/rite, society, symbol

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