

# ABSTRACTS

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***A Hungarian Unitarian Student in Detention.  
Elek Kiss's Letters from Camp Frimley (May 17 – June 28, 1915)***

The First World War changed the destinies and crushed the careers of many foreign civilians who lived in Britain in 1915.

Elek Kiss (1888–1971), the former bishop of the Romanian Unitarian Church, was among those civilians who were interned behind the barbed wire at the Frith Hill P.O.W. and Enemy Alien Internment Camp, at Frimley, in Surrey county.

The camp, commonly referred to as Frimley, was a forty-acre outdoor camp housing civilians as well as Austrian and German prisoners of war. It was bisected by a public road, on one side the military prisoners, on the other side were the civilian internees. Elek Kiss, a Hungarian Unitarian student of Manchester New College, Oxford, was a civilian internee at Frimley in May and June of 1915. Among his comrades he mentioned in his journal the names of several German prisoners including many Jews.

Kiss's seventy-page archive contains the letters destined to his fiancé. It is most probable that he never sent these letters, but kept them and brought them back after his release. They then disappeared into oblivion for several decades until, fortunately, an anonymous person sold them to the Archive of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church.

This paper presents a short introduction to the life of Elek Kiss and publishes his authentic Frimley letters. As far we know this is the sole Hungarian language documentation about the internees' life at Frimley. The English language diary written by the well known painter George Kenner (1888–1971), who was an internee at Frimley at the same time, coincides in many aspects with Elek Kiss's letters, both as a confessional and as a descriptive representation.

Keywords: Elek Kiss, Unitarian Church, war prisoner, Camp Frimley, World War I, George Kenner, journal, letters

**Andrea Hevesi: *New Findings About the Sources of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Unitarian Hymns (Amendments and Observations)***

This paper discusses the Unitarian minister Miklós Bogáti Fazekas' (1548–1592) paraphrases of the psalms and the source materials for the 17<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian hymns. The aim is to point out that the Bogáti psalms, which are known from Antitrinitarian sources, were popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian communities – in contrast to what has been stated in the secondary literature previously. The moderate use of the Bogáti psalms as the basis for Unitarian hymns can be explained by other theoretical reasons detailed in the paper and summarized here.

The 17<sup>th</sup> century Hungarian translations and adaptations of the psalms of the great Polish poet, Jan Kochanowski (1530–1584) were brought to light through the works of Géza Papp (1915–2013). By examining these translations poetically and rhetorically, it becomes clear that they have special characteristics that are only rarely used in the old, i. e. 16<sup>th</sup> century, Hungarian literature, for example: use of anaphoric and cataphoric structures, acrostic summarization, frequent line overlappings, apo koinu constructions, and last-verse harmonizations are typical attributes of the translations.

The examination of these 17<sup>th</sup> century translations of the psalms and of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian hymns written by unknown author(s) show these same characteristics.

Based on the detailed examination included in this paper, it can be stated that the translations of Kochanowski's psalms and the Unitarian hymns by the 17<sup>th</sup> century author(s) must have been the work of the same person, whose identity remains unknown. It is clear though that he applied poetic techniques that are in many aspects different from those used by his 17<sup>th</sup> century contemporary authors and translators of psalms.

Keywords: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Unitarian Hymns, Miklós Bogáti Fazekas, Jan Kochanowski, poetic techniques, unknown author(s), psalm translators

**Elek Rezi: *The Socio-ethical Aspects of European Immigration Dilemmas***

For a few years now European public opinion has been concerned with the problem of immigration. The introduction of this paper examines the background and circumstances of immigration and its presence in Europe and identifies its political, social, religious aspects. The paper covers the dilemmas of European

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immigration and the socio-ethical aspects to cope with this timely and difficult problem in European society. The conclusion proposes that we must demonstrate solidarity toward the refugees, and that the Christian refugees must find home in Christian Europe, but toward the economic refugees the European societies must be careful and furthermore, immigration and its circumstances need to be very important issue for the world religions dialogue.

Keywords: immigration, immigration theory, European immigration, dilemmas, trafficking, demography, Samuel P. Huntington, world religion dialogue.

**Sándor Selinger: *The Evolution of the Former Outer Szolnok–Kővár Unitarian District and Its Congregations***

This paper presents the evolution of the Greater Szolnok–Kővár Unitarian District and its congregations between 1571 and the first part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The spatial unfolding of these changes are analyzed, as well as the changes of the Transylvanian administrative districts. A Graphical Information System (GIS), together with data from Unitarian historical sources, are used to create a series of maps showing these changes over time.

The paper examines thirty-one settlements (towns and villages) mentioned in Unitarian sources. For sixteen of these, there is evidence both of the existence of Unitarian congregations in the sixteenth century, including the length of time these congregations existed. For each of the other fifteen towns, there was either no evidence of a Unitarian congregation, or there was no record of the duration of its existence.

Keywords: 1571, 17<sup>th</sup> century, Outer Szolnok–Kővár Unitarian District, settlements, congregations, Graphical Information System