

ABSTRACTS

Szabolcs Czire: *Jesus Praying by Night*

We see the practice of nocturnal prayer incorporated in the daily prayer-rite of Early Christianity. The primary focus of this study is how this practice arose and how it evolved in the Biblical era. There are two topics of major importance in the rabbinic age regarding the practice of prayer: the intention of formalizing prayer, and the endeavor to define the rules for appropriate words. There was no prayer book in the biblical period, though the main practices were present before the age of destruction of the second Temple. The study discusses some of the evolutionary dimensions of this practice, such as the cosmology with heavenly creatures, connection of the sleeping patterns and nocturnal religious activity, and the legitimization of fixed daily prayer by rooting the practice in the Bible, and also by reinterpretation of sacrifice. Though the ritualized practice of nocturnal prayer could be found mainly in the later cultic settings (e.g., the Qumran community), the study argues that the practice of nocturnal prayer was not uncommon within the Second Temple period, and thus, in the case of Jesus.

Keywords: historical Jesus, nocturnal prayer, nighttime rituals, regulating prayer, heavenly creatures, celestial bodies, Qumran Hymns (Hodayot), cosmic watch, apotropaic prayers, anthropology of sleep, segmented sleep, Shema liturgy, sacrifice

Bálint Kristóf Bandi: *Demographics in Torda County's Unitarian Villages in the First Third of the 18th Century*

The demographic studies concerning the early modern history of Transylvania shed light on only one segment of the whole picture, due to the fragmentation of the relevant historical sources, as well as the limited scope of the censuses regarding the taxable population.

Fortunately, there is significant information concerning the state of demographic attributes during the first third of the 18th century. The censuses (conscriptiones) ordered by the central government in the first decades of the

18th century are suitable for analysing the ethnic distribution of the population at the level of individual settlements.

This article explores the demographic conditions in Torda County's Unitarian villages during this period, using both these censuses, and other sources, mainly ecclesiastical ones. It should be emphasized that this type of research is only a drop in the ocean in terms of the complexity of the issue. However, hopefully its results can contribute to a deeper understanding of the demographic conditions of 18th century Transylvania.

Keywords: 18th century, census, demography, early modern period, ecclesiastical records, ethnicity, population of Torda county, Principality Transylvania, Transylvania, Unitarian Bishop Records, Unitarianism

Beáta Bordás: *The Unitarian Church from Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc), an Outstanding Project of Architect Lajos Pákei*

In order to commemorate 100 years from the passing of the renowned Transylvanian architect Lajos Pákei (1853–1921), this study presents one of his greatest accomplishments, the Unitarian church from Székelyudvarhely, focusing on the description of the newly discovered original plans drawn by the architect himself, but also analysing the role of this building in Pákei's oeuvre.

During his career, Pákei projected more than a hundred buildings (among them, high-priority public buildings) and several funeral monuments or sculptural decorations, becoming the most important Hungarian architect from Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) at the last quarter of the 19th century and around the turn of the 20th century. One of his main professional interests was finding the ideal layout and style for the newly built Unitarian churches, resulting in seven churches which were constructed according to Pákei's plans and seven others remaining only on paper. In addition to these, he also projected the Roman-Catholic parish church from Dicsőszentmárton (Tárnăveni), and – presumably – three other Unitarian churches. This long string of Unitarian churches starts from the first project for the monumental church in Bölön (Belin) dating from 1891, and finishes in 1917, with the plans for the church from Brassó (Braşov).

The Unitarian parish from Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc) was established only in 1872, and following a long preparation period, the small community decided to build a church only in 1891. After two failed attempts to project and construct the church, in 1901 the Unitarian Church commissioned Pákei to draw the plans for an imposing building. In April 1902 he finalised the

design, and miraculously, the original folder containing all the floor plans and drawings for the facades survived, being rediscovered last year during the church's renovation. Based on these plans the study describes the architectural features of this building, which was erected between 1906–1908 by a local constructor, Benjámín Fekete. The church's layout resembles the initial plan for the church from Bölön (Belin) (1891), combining the central and longitudinal plan, but after this building, Pákei started to design churches with central plan. For the main façade of the church from Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc), Pákei merged elements of the Italian Renaissance and Classical Greek architecture, resulting in an imposing and balanced outlook, which harmonises well with the simplified interior.

Keywords: Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc); Unitarian; Transylvanian churches; 19th–20th century architecture; Pákei, Lajos

Attila Márk: *The 19th Century Founding of the Sepsibodok (Bodoc) Unitarian Church*

The Sepsibodok (Bodoc) Unitarian Fellowship which belongs to the Kálnok (Calnic) Unitarian Church has its roots in the Calvinist Church of Sepsibodok. This article focuses on the events from the 1870's, when the Sepsibodok Calvinist congregation had to choose a new minister. The previous minister, Farkas Zayzon wanted to return but meanwhile four other ministers applied for the job. The article, based on archival documents, details the illegalities of the process which resulted in Lajos Vass becoming the new minister. Those members of the parish who were unhappy with the results and the illegalities of the process became the founding members of the Bodok Unitarian Community. They reached out to Dániel Ütő, the Kálnok Unitarian minister who helped them establish their new parish.

Keywords: 1870's, archives, Sepsibodok Unitarian Fellowship, Kálnok Unitarian Church; Ütő, Dániel; Vass, Lajos; Zayzon, Farkas

Alexandra Anita Erdődi: *About the Source of a Körmöczi Manuscript*

János Körmöczi (1762–1836) translated into Hungarian the anonymous German work *Fürstbürger Phosphorus oder Die Allerweltpfaffenharlekinade. Eine komische Geschichte aus der Sphäre des Mondes* (*A comical story from the sphere of*

the Moon). In a 1981 article, Győző Rácz (1935–1989) wrote that the author was Johann Friedrich Ernst Albrecht (1752–1814), which has been confirmed by recent research. The setting for the text's 500 stanzas is a principality on the Moon where clergy from Earth answer many questions. For example who created the world, how can someone be saved, etc. This Hungarian translation is a part of a composite volume which also includes translated texts by Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762–1814), Thomas Paine (1737–1809) and Ignác Martinovics (1755–1795).

Keywords: clergy, creation, creator, German, moon, salvation, translation; *Fürstbürger Phosphorus...*; Albrecht, Friedrich Ernst; Fichte, Johann Gottlieb; Körmöczi, János; Martinovics, Ignác; Paine, Thomas; Rácz; Győző

Tamás Kálnoki Kis: *Remembering Reverend István Dobai of Vargyas (Vârghiş)*

Rev. István Dobai (1899–1938) served the Vargyas community from 1930 until 1938. The article publishes his last known letter, written to his friend, Sándor Szent-Iványi (1902–1983). Dobai attended high schools in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc), Székelykeresztúr (Cristuru Secuiesc) and Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). In the latter city he obtained a diploma from the Unitarian Theological Institute and the Kolozsvár university, Faculty of Letters. At the Unitarian Theological Institute he befriended Ferenc Balázs (1901–1937), László Iván (Jancsi) (1900–1938) and Sándor Szent-Iványi. They were well known for their work ethic, and, being poor they tutored other students. Dobai, along with Balázs and Szent-Iványi, were prominent members of The Eleven. His first published volume, *Your Messiah (Messiásod)*, appeared in 1922.

Dobai's last letter offers a glimpse into his last years: his intellectual curiosity, his scientific plans, his opinion about the turmoils in the church, and his medical history.

Keywords: The Eleven (a Tizenegyek), Kolozsvár, Székelykeresztúr, Székelyudvarhely, Unitarian Theological Institute, Vargyas (Vârghiş); Balázs, Ferenc (1901–1937); Dobai, István (1899–1938); Iván (Jancsi), László (1900–1938); Szent-Iványi, Sándor (1902–1983)

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