



SUMMARY OF ISSUES, 2013

2013/1.: TAMÁS PÁLOSFALVI: *The Vitéz and the Garázda Families. Thoughts on the Origin of the Slavonian Humanists.* The present paper examines the family relations which connected to each other the leading Hungarian humanist prelates of a Slavonian origin in the second half of the 15th century. It contrasts the surviving charter material with historical myths which have prevailed so far, and comes to the conclusion that John Vitéz, bishop of Várad and later archbishop of Esztergom, was not a member of the Vitéz family in the county of Körös in Slavonia, and he was not even called Vitéz in his lifetime. It seems to have been John Vitéz of Kamarca, bishop of Veszprém, and a leading intellectual figure in the latter part of the 15th century, whose family name later passed on to the archbishop of Esztergom. Alongside the Vitéz of Kamarca family, the paper also reconstructs in detail the history of the Megyericsei and Garázda families, and, while refuting false identifications and family relationships, proposes some points where connections between the families examined were indeed possible.

GYÖRGY LACZLAVIK: *The Várday Family of Somogy County in the 16th Century.* Pál Várday archbishop of Esztergom (1526–1549) and royal governor (1542–1549), was one of the most influential and significant politicians of his age. The paper tells the story of his gentry family in Somogy county, which was not mentioned earlier in the professional literature. Instead of gaining land properties, Várday helped his family with official positions. His younger brother, Tamás Várday became Chief of Justice, and after his premature death, he supported his nephew also called Tamás. Even though he put much energy into his education, the boy did not make the career planned by his uncle. The family was not able to emerge from its earlier state, and almost 35 years (1583) after the death of Pál Várday, it became extinct in the male line.

ATTILA MÁRFI: *History and Documents of the Hamerli Family of Pécs.* The study is about the fate of the Hamerli family, which played a significant role in the history of Pécs in the civil age beginning from the 18th century until the middle of the 20th century. The settlement of the family of Swiss and Austrian origin, the founding of the family, making the fortune, the fate of their enterprises (glove-making, engine factory, iron-foundry, ironmongery, catering, other careers of family members), their position in the society of Pécs, and their economical and cultural supporting role unfolds in the study. The author also examines the civil strategies used by the generations following each other.

2013/2.: RICHÁRD HORVÁTH – TIBOR NEUMANN – NORBERT C. TÓTH: *„Put the Icing on the Cake”. Past, Present and Near Future of the Programme Titled the Secular Archontology of Hungary.* The aim of the project going on for several years is to reveal and assemble the most complete possible name lists of the barons, prelates, county authorities, castellans and other members of the court in the medieval Hungary. The volume working up the period between 1301 and 1457 was published in 1996 (by Pál Engel), the period between 1000 and 1301 (by Attila Zsoldos) in 2011. The authors of this study are working on the period between 1457 and 1526, which is

expected to be published in 2015. The justifiable changes in the new volumes are listed in the article: the county sheriffs, suffragan bishops, the most important professional literature referring to each fortification are going to be parts of the new volumes, although the court knights and youngsters are excluded. The study gives an example of the future work: the data of the palatines, the archbishops of Kalocsa-Bács and the functionaries of Pozsega County are published.

BÉLA PÁLMÁNY: *New Methods – New Possibilities. New Methods of Prosopography and its Connection to Traditional Genealogy, Archontology – Based on the Hungarian Parliamentary Almanacs of the Period of Reforms.* The author's book on the career of the participants of the Hungarian Parliament during the Period of Reforms was published in 2011. The present article first discusses the British parliamentary elite as an example, and then through the overview of the traditions of the Hungarian parliamentary almanacs, it gets to the methodological review of the recently finished monumental work. In connection with the publication, the author describes his methods and points out the difficulties of this type of research.

ELEK SZASZKÓ: *Contribution to the History of Krassó County, the Medieval Archontology of the County (1319–1439).* The study discusses the archontology of Krassó County in the South-Eastern part of medieval Hungary. The functioning of the county can be traced only until 1439. New facts (mainly making corrections to the years of functions, although in some cases a new name is added to the list of bailiffs) could be added to the already existing facts referring to bailiffs and vice-bailiffs researched earlier by Pál Engel. The sheriffs missing from Engel's works are included and their number also became cleared. Similarly to the majority of the Hungarian counties, the county functioned with four sheriffs.

MÁRTON GYÖNGYÖSSY: *An Unicorn or a Wolf? Once Again About the Use of the Coat of Arms of the Szapolyais.* The author gives a review of the professional literature on the use of the coat of arms of the family, first of all concentrating on the different interpretations of the two long known heraldic emblems of the family; the relation between the wolf and the unicorn and their chronological order. In his earlier study the author argued for the primary of the unicorn, while Éva Gyulai for that of the wolf's. Tibor Neumann – defining the formerly unknown ancient coat of arms of the family (a half cart-wheel and an arm holding a naked sword) – endeavoured to prove the primary of the wolf. Gyöngyössy – his arguments are based on the two Szapolyai tombstones and numismatics – constantly believes that the unicorn precedes the wolf; probably it can be regarded as a mother coat of arms. It is possible that the mother of the Szapolyai brothers came from the Perneszi family, who used a unicorn in the coat of arms. The author disproves Tibor Neumann's supposition with two arguments: the wheel, as a stamped signature on certain coins deriving from Nagybánya cannot be in connection with the ancient coat of arms of the Szapolyais, since the type can be traced after the Szapolyai bailiffs in Nagybánya as well. It was also

customary in the era to show the whole coat of arms in stamped signatures and not only a part of it.

TIBOR NEUMANN: *About the Use of the Coat of Arms of the Szapolyais. A Response to the Study of Márton Gyöngyössi.* The author repeats his earlier statement: the use of the wolf in the Szapolyai coat of arms can be traced from 1461, while the unicorn only from 1486. He argues that there is no proof that the unicorn – except for the flag of the tombstone of István Szapolyai and the dinars in connection – has ever been depicted separately: the unicorn seal from the year 1495 entered into the professional literature as a mistake from the 18th century, its real existence has never been proved. According to the author's assumption István depicted the unicorn on his dinars, because probably he himself – and not his brother – gained it as a coat of arms extension between 1477 and 1486, supposedly together with the count title of Szepes. This could justify why he liked the unicorn better, than his brother. He accepts Gyöngyössi's arguments that the wheel, as a stamped signature on the coins of Nagybánya cannot be connected to the ancient coat of arms of the Szapolyai family. At the same time he calls the attention to some minor oversights and uncertainties from the earlier professional literature that can also be traced in his debate partner's writing.

2013/3.: According to the introduction of editor Eleonóra Kovács, the thematic issue puts one topic in the centre: namely people who left their social class, sometimes broke norms, or thanks to their abilities they could be regarded as exceptional and outstanding personalities. These people were eagerly seeking new ways. What kind of questions did they encounter? What solutions did they find and what impression did their fates make to the social environment?

ÁDÁM ERDÉSZ: *Way to the Middle-Class. The Rise of the Márki family.* The family of the historian Sándor Márki is blessed of good abilities and dauntlessness. The study outlines the rise of this middle-class family; it shows the progress from financial, educational and social point of views. The ancestor of the family, János Márki was a bailiff of the Count Almásy family in Sarkad. Following the life of his descendants it can be fairly well pointed out what ways opened up for the rising civilians. Beyond reconstructing the family history, you also have the opportunity to get to know the mentality and the spirituality of the family members.

ELEONÓRA KOVÁCS: *'Words in Vain' Júlia Apraxin's (Wife of Count Artúr Batthyány) Attempt to Make her Way Among Intellectual Artists.* The paper writes about an aristocratic woman, who wishes to become an intellectual artist, but after a short experience turns back to her original social environment. The most prominent years of her career are the ones between 1860 and 1864; these are the years when she had been part of the Hungarian literal and theatrical life. In her case the cultural interferences worked not only by means of her aristocratic 'multi-racial' family, but also as a result of her social connections with members of different social groups.

CSABA KATONA: *'The Most Interesting Princess in Europe' – a Woman Breaking Social Norms at the Turn of the 19th-20th centuries.* Clara Ward, the American millionaire woman who became known for totally declining and violating social norms and conventions, who left her aristocratic husband for Jancsi Rigó, the leader of a gypsy band. Who was she actually? Was she a vanguardist of women's rights, someone who proclaimed emancipation, a conscious thinker? Or was she a slave of her own desires, who died as a woman without illusions? The paper aims not only the interpretation of her life, but also makes an interesting methodological bypass in the field of source criticism.

CSABA T. REISZ: *Family Relations of the Painter Andor Dudits.* Andor Dudits (1866-1944) was a famous artist of his age, one of his main works is the historical series of seccos in the palace of the National Archives of Hungary at the Bécsi kapu Square (Budapest). This study gives an overview of the

almost completely unknown family background of the artist, his supposed or real roots, ancestors and relatives. The Croatian origin Dudits family has possessed Hungarian and other noble titles since the 16th century. Although the relationship between this family and the painter is not yet proved, it was part of the family beliefs. Through marriage connections the family's gentry line entered into family relations with the assimilating Jewish middle-class in the end of the 19th century. The paper unites the virtues of the classic genealogical works and the advantages of the modern research techniques.

2013/4.: **DIANA IEGAR:** *Development of a Rumanian Origin Noble Family in the 14th-15th Centuries (The Bilkei Family).* The paper discusses the situation and development of a medieval Rumanian elite family living in the territory of the Hungarian Kingdom, in Transylvania and its surroundings (mainly in the Counties of Bereg, Ugocsa and Máramaros) using the history of a random family as an example. It describes the development of the Rumanian origin Bilkei family from the Bereg kenez status in the 14th century through the full right nobility until the beginning of the 16th century and endeavours to examine the unique social behaviour of the family.

ELEK SZASZKÓ: *The Seal Usage of the Szeri Pósafigs. Remarks on the Coat of Arms of the Bár-Kalán Clan.* The author revises the work of József Csoma published in 1904 by discovering new data. Despite of the methodological problems of Csoma, Szaszko sees the following statement referring to the Szeri Pósafigs' coat-of-arms as proved: one of the noble families of the medieval Southern-Plain used a rearing lion that emerges from a crescent moon as its coat of arms. It has to be mentioned that it is ambiguous whether this coat of arms can be the same as the one used by their former clan, the Bár-Kaláns in the 13th century. He offers two hypothetical solutions: first he mentions the possibility of the coat of arms reconstruction describing a crescent moon, and then he gives arguments well-known from the professional literature for the lion in the coat of arms.

RÓBERT TÖRÖK: *Béla Kempelen, the Entrepreneur of Family History.* After publishing his earlier article the author stumbled on new facts – first of all brochures and correspondences – which obtain an insight into the business background of Béla Kempelen, the heraldist, the 'merchant', the entrepreneur who directed a family history office. Researchers of the topic have long ago suspected that the creation of the family history works is in connection with the business activities of Kempelen, yet nobody has discussed the matter in detail so far. The study primarily deals with that part of Kempelen's life which can be connected to his professional activities.

GÁBOR MIKÓ: *First Mention of the Tombstone of King Andrew I.* According to tradition the tombstone ornamented with a cross in the crypt of the Abbey of Tihany belongs to King Andrew I., the founder. The so far existing only data that refers to him unquestionably derives from 1807. The author discovered a formerly unknown chronicle entry (Chronicle Gregoriánczi) from the middle part of the 17th century referring to the sepulchre. Even if it cannot be proved with this entry that the slabstone actually covered the tomb of the founder, in any case it testifies that the legend which connected the slabstone with the tomb of the founder of the monastery was *not* made up by the monks who moved back to Tihany in the 18th century. It dates back much longer, at least to the early times of the modern era.

BÉLA VILMOS MIHALIK: *Two Daughters of the Canon? Contributions to the Family History of Ferenc Szengyeli.* The study summarizes the family history of an ecclesiastical person of Torda County from the 16th century. It presents the 15th century ancestors of parson, later Transylvanian canon Ferenc Szengyeli. It also discusses the life of his daughters, which was not at all unique during the era. The descendants of the two daughters of the canon completely fitted in among the members of the Transylvanian lower nobility; the (illegitimate) origin of the two women was registered only because of possessory rights. On the other hand the descendants were also integrated into the protestant circles in a short time.