

## ABSTRACTS

### Zoltán Bartha

#### ■ *Mihály Cserei*

Keywords: *Mihály Cserei, Transylvanian historiographers, 18<sup>th</sup> century, "História" (History)*

One of the most important Transylvanian historiographers in the first part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was Mihály Cserei. He was born in Csíkrákos on the 21<sup>th</sup> of October 1668. During Rákóczi's War for Independence, he was captured and tormented. After 1721, he withdrew from public life, and dedicated himself entirely to his studies. His unfinished "História" (History), written in Hungarian, tells the history of Transylvania in the period between 1661 and 1712. He died in Nagyajta in 1756.

### Vilmos Erős

#### ■ *Zoltán I. Tóth*

Keywords: *Zoltán I. Tóth, Hungarian historiographers from Romania, researches on nationality, University of Budapest*

The study serves as an introduction to the work of Zoltán Inokai Tóth. The author differentiates between three important directions in his career: the researches on nationality, respectively on the social (peasant) questions, his educational and organisational activities at the University of Budapest, and in the Hungarian Historical Institute. Zoltán I. Tóth, who died in 1956 under tragic circumstances, is one of the most outstanding representatives of Hungarian historiography from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Szilárd Ferenczi

#### ■ *László Kőváry*

Keywords: *László Kőváry, Transylvanian historiography, 19<sup>th</sup> century, Kolozsvár, Hungarian Scientific Academy*

László Kőváry was one of the few historians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who made a lasting impression on Transylvanian historiography. His writing career began in the politically tormented decades that proceeded and followed the 1848 Hungarian freedom fights. In these years Kőváry directed his attention to ethnography, but

soon turned to history, genealogy and geography, ultimately ending up as an appreciated economist, insurance specialist and bank manager in Kolozsvár. As an active revolutionary he took the somewhat dangerous opportunity to travel across the land during the war for independence, detailing historic sites never before described. After his early works portraying Transylvanian castles and ruins, old noble families, local legends and customs, he published the History of Transylvania in six volumes, between 1859 and 1866, for which he was awarded by the Hungarian Scientific Academy.

### Gusztáv Mihály Hermann

#### ■ *Lajos Szádeczky and the Szekler Past*

Keywords: *Lajos Szádeczky Kardoss, Szekler history, criticism of sources*

Lajos Szádeczky (Kardoss) (1859-1935) was born in the northern Hungarian Pusztafalu. The study of the Szekler past constituted an important part of his lifework, alongside his historical, biographical and corporation history researches. He approached the topic of Szekler history with a consequent and strict criticism of the sources. This sometimes provoked a hostile attitude of the upholders of the mythical approach to the past of the Szeklers.

### Teréz Oborni

#### ■ *"...quem historiae Transilvanicae patrem merito dixeris..."*

*The Father of the Transylvanian Historians: István Szamosközy (1565/70?-1612)*

Keywords: *István Szamosközy, Transylvania, historiography, Humanism, Rerum Ungaricarum Libri, Rerum Transylvanarum Pentades, Rerum Transylvanarum Hebdomades*

One of the outstanding humanist historians of Transylvania was born in Kolozsvár, and studied at the Heidelberg and Padova University. Returning to Transylvania, he got a job in the regal archives of the Chapter of Gyulafehérvár. The extant fragments from his works prove that he endeavoured to write the history of his age following the best tradition of the humanist historians. The data, stories and descriptions of his works

have been used frequently by the historians in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and continue to provide valuable sources for present historians.

**Ignác Romsics**

■ ***Centuries of Hungarian Historiography***

Keywords: *Hungarian historiography, national histories, Geistesgeschichte, Gyula Szekfű, Bálint Hóman, Volkstumsforschung, Elemér Mályusz, Kulturgeschichte, Sándor Domanovszky*

Hungarian historiography had passed with some delay through the same basic stages that had characterized its West European counterparts. The medieval gestas and chronicles were followed in the 16-17<sup>th</sup> centuries by the birth of the more critical humanist historiography and the partly Magyar language historical literature of the Reformation. Up to 1848, the period of Hungarian national revival, historical studies experienced a qualitative decline although Latin and German languages were replaced by Magyar language. After the fall of the Revolution of 1848-1849 the development of Hungarian historiography resumed its normal course. With the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and that of historic Hungary in 1918-1919 the pre-war social, political and cultural order came to an end. In spite of that historical studies in the interwar period kept level with West European tendencies. The Sovietisation of Hungary after 1945 created a new situation again. Most of the trained historians were fired, some of them even jailed or forced to leave the country. They were replaced by self-trained Marxist oriented *literati* and just graduated young researchers. The result was catastrophic. Historical materialism displaced all other ideological and political orientations and history writing often became a simple propaganda activity. After the 1956 Revolution conditions for historical studies improved significantly. Due to the cultural tolerance in the 1970s and 1980s, the

situation of Hungarian historiography after the fall of state Communism in 1989-1990 did not experienced a dramatic change. Both in themes and personnel, one can witness a stronger continuity than in most of the other former socialist countries. In spite of that the growth of political, methodological, and institutional pluralism opened up new venues, and the cohesiveness of the “guild” has been challenged from different angles.

**Zoltán Vincze**

■ ***The Professorship of Archaeology of the University of Kolozsvár***

Keywords: *archaeology, University Kolozsvár, Béla Posta, Á. Buday, M. Roska, Transylvania*  
Founded in 1899, the professorship of archaeology of the University of Kolozsvár had a nationwide importance in training Hungarian archaeologists. Béla Posta and his disciples (Á. Buday, I. Kovács, M. Roska) have the pioneers of almost every archaeological era. They identified the first Transylvanian Paleolithic site (Csoklovina), proved the Mesopotamian links of the Tordos Neolithic settlement, identified some cultures of the Bronze Age in the Tisza region (Perjámos-Pécska, Felsőszőcs), started the first systematic excavations in Scythian and Celtic cemeteries (Marosvásárhely, respectively Apahida). They discovered Goth (Marosszentanna), Gepid (Mezőbánd), Avar (Marosgombás) necropolises and found the proof of the cohabitation of these migratory populations. The material found in the cemeteries of Kolozsvár and Marosgombás demonstrated that the Hungarian settlers took over Transylvania at the same time with the rest of the Carpathian basin, and the necropolises of Vajdahunyad and Várfalva brought proves for the state organization of St. Stephen. The relics found in graves during the restoration of the churches in Gyulafehérvár and Kolozsvár enriched our national patrimony.

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