

ABSTRACTS

Noémi Zsuzsanna Both

■ *Portraits of Imreh István*

Keywords: *István Imreh, historian, Hungarian School of Historiography in Cluj*
István Imreh (1919-2003) stood among the better-known and highly regarded Transylvanian historians and sociologists of the last century. Alongside figures such as Zsigmond Jakó, András Kiss, Elek Csetri, József Pataki, Samu Benkő, and Ákos Egyed, István Imreh was recognized as a member of the Hungarian historiography school in Transylvania. This article features nine tributes authored by nine individuals reflecting on his life and contributions. These commemorations were inspired by both public and private photographs curated by myself. Each author shares a personal connection with István Imreh, with some belonging to his innermost circle. It is my hope that through these photographs and tributes, a glimpse of István Imreh's multifaceted personality will emerge. The inclusion of subjective perspectives and the presentation of multiple viewpoints are deemed crucial, especially when illuminating not only the scientist's scholarly achievements but also his exemplary human qualities.

Iván Zoltán Dénes

■ *The Concept of Great Hungarian and Small Hungarian Politics*

Keywords: *Gyula Szekfű, historian, portrayal of Rákóczi, interpretation of Hungarian liberalism, portrayal of Gábor Bethlen, concept of Great Hungarian and Small Hungarian politics*
Rákóczi in Exile 1715-1735 was a monograph authored by Gyula Szekfű (1883-1955), a Vienna archivist and Hungarian historian. Published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest in 1913, the work sheds light on Ferenc Rákóczi II. (1676-1735), a figure previously enshrined in Hungary's symbolic national pantheon. Rákóczi, a prince of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, held estates in Northeastern Hungary, and

served as the prince of Transylvania. He led a revolt advocating constitutionalism against Habsburg absolutism from 1703 to 1711. Considered the Hungarian and Catholic counterpart to William of Orange, the Silent (1533-1584), who spearheaded the Dutch revolt against the Spanish Habsburgs, Rákóczi's significance underwent reevaluation through Szekfű's analysis. The enduring essence of Gyula Szekfű's evolving portrayal of Rákóczi, spanning the period from 1913 to 1940, became intricately linked with the controversy ignited by his work on Rákóczi. Throughout his defense, he forged a self-image and crafted a historiographic and historical narrative that exerted a profound influence on his entire subsequent body of work. The scandal surrounding his depiction of Rákóczi constituted a pivotal experience for Szekfű, one that he struggled to reconcile and from which he inferred victimization, characterizing critical reviews of his work as assaults. Based on this inference, Szekfű constructed a historiographic framework and formulated his interpretations of Hungarian history. Ostensibly, he sought to resolve within them the political discord between opposing systems of memory, yet he did so at the expense of categorizing and preempting any other potential interpretations.

Vilmos Erős

■ *István Szabó (1898-1969)*

Keywords: *István Szabó, folk history, peasant history, social history*

The above writing aims to provide a comprehensive overview of István Szabó's historiographical oeuvre, beginning with his works on the history of Debrecen and the Great Hungarian Plain, spanning through his studies in folk history, and culminating in his seminal contributions to peasant history and social history. In addition to examining his scholarly endeavors, the writing also offers a biographical overview highlighting the key moments in István Szabó's life. The author primarily presents István Szabó's body of

work through a thematic and structural approach. For instance, he begins with Szabó's findings on the history of the peasantry, tracing them from the Middle Ages through the early modern period and into the 19th century, encompassing the era of capitalism. According to the author's perspective, Szabó's views essentially aligned with a third way concept, rooted in populist ideology. In numerous studies on peasant history, Szabó elucidates Hungarian development as transitional between Western and Eastern European social formations. Within the article, the author highlights the role and concepts of István Hajnal, alongside the contributions of populist writers, the "Domanovszky school", and scholars like Elemér Mályusz, whose perspectives closely resonate with the aforementioned ideology.

Gábor Gyáni

■ ***István Hajnal's Unconventional History Writing***

Keywords: *István Hajnal, way and technique of writing, sociological interpretation of historical evolution, habitual versus causal method of organizing society*

István Hajnal was a pioneer in the field of social history in Hungary during the 1930s and 1940s. He also engaged with conventional political and diplomatic history, but his significant scholarly achievement was to establish social history on a firm sociological theoretical foundation. Hajnal began his professional career by researching medieval writing practices and later delved into discussions about medieval university education, particularly focusing on writing instruction. For him, the skill and artistry of writing were not merely elite practices but contributed to the rational organization of society as a whole. This perspective led him to attribute significant importance to social relationships in both shaping and propelling historical evolution. Informed by contemporary German sociologists, Hajnal maintained that there existed two fundamental

methods of organizing social life over time: the so-called habitual and causal methods. The habitual principle of organizing social life, exemplified primarily by medieval (mostly French) estate relations, laid the essential groundwork for subsequent European development. This groundwork proved crucial for the advent of industrialization and capitalism, which could not have emerged without the profound influence of medieval European evolution within the context of habitual social organization.

András Kiss

■ ***Zsigmond Jakó (1916-2008): Survival, Compulsion, Creation***

Keywords: *Zsigmond Jakó, Transylvanian historiography, archival research, source collections, source publications*

Zsigmond Jakó was one of the most prominent figures in Transylvanian Hungarian historiography during the second half of the 20th century. His comprehensive source collections and publications, based on archival research, as well as his works on the history and cultural history of Transylvania, hold significant importance in filling historical gaps. This tripartite study analyzes his archival work, university teaching activities, and his research and writing endeavors.

György Kövér

■ ***A Brief Portrait of Sándor Domanovszky (1877-1955)***

Keywords: *Sándor Domanovszky, cultural, economic and social history, Essays on the history of Hungarian agriculture*

Sándor Domanovszky was born in Nagyszeben and attended grammar school and university in Budapest. As a grammar school student, he had history teachers such as Sándor Márki and Sándor Mika. At the university, he considered himself a disciple of Henrik Marczali, László Fejérpataky, and Gyula Lánoczy. At the beginning of his academic career, he showed interest in medieval chronicles, a passion he pursued throughout his life. After

fifteen years of teaching in grammar schools, he assumed the position of professor of cultural history at Pázmány Péter University in Budapest. As he articulated in his autobiography, he saw his mission as “training well-educated young scholars in Hungarian economic and social history”. His extensive work as a scholar-founder is particularly evident in the fifteen-volume series *Essays on the History of Hungarian Agriculture*, published between 1930 and 1943. He gained recognition primarily as the editor of the official papers of the Hungarian Palatine Archduke Joseph, as the author of his biography, and as the editor of the five volumes of *Hungarian Cultural History*. Following his forced resignation, his chair for cultural history was abolished.

Péter Molnár

■ *Jenő Szűcs, or “National” Historiography from the Perspective of Regional Comparison*

Keywords: *Jenő Szűcs*, “national” historiography, regional comparison

The study examines the career of Jenő Szűcs, one of the most prominent Hungarian medievalists of the second half of the 20th century. Since the outset of his career, Szűcs has been exploring the timing and reasons behind the divergence of Hungarian society and other Central and Eastern European societies from the developmental trajectory of Western Europe. The study evaluates the historian’s diverse responses to this inquiry, spanning his early research in urban history, his later writings on medieval forms of ethnic consciousness, and his synthesis attempts towards the conclusion of his career.

Rudolf Paksa

■ *Elemér Mályusz*

Keywords: *Elemér Mályusz*, Middle Ages, German *Volkstumskunde*, everyday life of the society

Elemér Mályusz (1898-1989) was born into an old, Lutheran family with intellectual, bourgeois and noble roots.

As a representative of the Protestant and pro-independence approach, Mályusz criticised Gyula Szekfű’s Catholic-Habsburgian interpretation of Hungarian history. Mályusz therefore turned his attention not to the culture of the elites but to the everyday life of the society, especially the middle classes. With his broad knowledge from the Middle Ages up to 1848, he was able to draw colorful tableaux of the data-poor Hungarian Middle Ages. However, his anti-Communist and anti-Semitic prejudices and his abrasive nature caused him many issues. In the 1930s he adapted the German *Volkstumskunde* to Hungary, but criticised German imperialism. After 1945, he was temporary sidelined, but returned to the forefront of historical scholarship, to become one of the most influential Hungarian medievalists of the second half of the 20th century.

Ignác Romsics

■ *Dominic Kosáry (1913-2007)*

Keywords: *Dominic Kosáry*, bibliography on sources and literature of Hungarian History, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

A defining figure of Hungarian historiography in the 20th century, Dominic Kosáry was born at Selmechánya (Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia). He graduated in history and Latin at Péter Pázmány University of Budapest, where he was a member of Eötvös Collegium, as well. He received his doctorate in history in 1936 (*The Görgey Question and Its History*). He then made study strips to France (1936-37), England (1938-39), and the United States (1941). In 1941 he was appointed the first vice-director, then in 1945 director of the Institute of History of the Teleki Institute, where he was founding editor of *Revue d’Histoire Comparée*. At the same time, he served as history professor at Eötvös Collegium. As substitute for Gyula Szekfű, from 1946 he taught at the Department of Modern Hungarian History at Pázmány University, as well. After the communist takeover in 1949,

he was deprived of all three posts. Between 1950 and 1956 he worked as librarian. During these years he produced a major reference work, a bibliography in three volumes on sources and literature of Hungarian History. In 1956-57 he collected hundreds of documents concerning the revolution, including written testimonies. Because of that he was arrested and imprisoned. He was released on amnesty in 1960. He carried on his research work first as archivist, and later as researcher at the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In the years of 1970's and 1980's he published several outstanding monographs including *Culture in 18th-century Hungary*, 1980 and *Széchenyi in Döbling*, 1981. He dealt with theoretical and methodological problems as well. In 1982 he became corresponding member, in 1985 full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In May 1990, after the political change, he was elected president of the Academy, a post he held for two terms till May 1996. He was instrumental in working out the new, democratic bylaws enacted into law by Parliament in 1994. This ensured its scientific and financial independence. For the author of this essay, Dominic Kosáry was the last of a great generation of intellectuals whose passing has left a gaping chasm behind them.

Gábor Ujváry

■ ***Bálint Hóman and Hungarian Historiography***

Keywords: *Bálint Hóman, historian, monetary history, Gyula Szekfű*

In recent years, Bálint Hóman's figure has become much more widely known for his qualities as a historian. Gábor Ujváry's study characterizes his work from the latter perspective, which rightfully earned him extraordinary recognition during the interwar period. His books and essays are often cited to this day, and although time has passed over them – as is the case with almost every historical analysis that has seen the light of day a hundred years ago – in many respects, some have proven enduring. Among these are his 1916 work on Hungarian monetary history during the Árpáadian era, as well as his 1921 volume on the economic history of King Charles Robert's reign. Moreover, his methodological writings contain numerous observations that remain thought-provoking to this day. His most famous work, the jointly authored *Hungarian History* with Gyula Szekfű, has educated generations, and although many of its assertions have been nuanced or refuted since, it remains regarded as the most cohesive and beautifully written synthesis of Hungarian history up to the early 20th century.

SZÁMUNK SZERZŐI

A lapszámot szerkesztette:

Kovács Kiss Gyöngy

Both Noémi Zsuzsanna (1990) – történész, PhD, muzeológus, Székely Nemzeti Múzeum, Sepsiszentgyörgy
Csáki István (1978) – grafikus, Frankenthal

Dénes Iván Zoltán (1946) – eszmetörténész, DSc, Budapest

Erős Vilmos (1960) – történész, az MTA doktora, egyetemi docens, Debreceni Egyetem, Történelmi Intézet

Gyáni Gábor (1950) – történész, az MTA rendes tagja, BTK Történettudományi Intézet, Budapest

Kiss András (1922–2013) – levéltáros, történész, Kolozsvár

Kovács Kiss Gyöngy (1960) – történész, PhD, főszerkesztő, Korunk, Kolozsvár

Kövér György (1949) – történész, az MTA rendes tagja, professor emeritus, ELTE BTK, Budapest

Molnár Péter (1967) – történész, filozófiatörténész, habilitált doktor, tudományos főmunkatárs, ELTE BTK, Budapest

Paksa Rudolf (1981) – történész, PhD, Budapest

Romsics Ignác (1951) – történész, az MTA rendes tagja, professor emeritus, Eszterházy Károly Katolikus Egyetem, Eger

Ujváry Gábor (1960) – történész, CSc, főiskolai tanár, intézetvezető, VERITAS Történetkutató Intézet és Levéltár, Budapest

TÁMOGATÓK



Nemzeti
Kulturális
Alap



BETHLEN GÁBOR
Alap



Hungarian American
Coalition



Petőfi
Kulturális
Ügynökség



MAGYAR
KULTURÁÉRT
ALAPÍTVÁNY



MÉHES GYÖRGY - NAGY ELEK
ALAPÍTVÁNY

„[A történész] igazi feladata nem az, hogy minden veszedelmet mindenáron elkerüljön, hanem az, hogy a kutató felelősségével, tisztességével végezze munkáját. Meghajoljon az igazság előtt. Ne hajoljon meg, csak az igazság előtt.”

(Kosáry Domokos)

ISSN 1222 8338



9 771222 283304 2 4004 10 LEJ 950 FT

PORTRETS OF HUNGARIAN HISTORIANS
(20TH CENTURY)
PORTRATE DE ISTORICI MAGHIARI
(SEC. 20)