

ABSTRACTS

László Csibi

■ ***Untold Stories: The “Little Hungarian World” in Film and Television Memory***

Keywords: *“Little Hungarian World”, oral history, distorted memories, documentary and television products*

Film and television coverage of the “Little Hungarian World” following the Second Vienna Award remains incomplete. The media products, mostly funded by Hungary, usually portray the period between 1940 and 1944 in a one-sided manner, resulting from the lack of an unvarnished and honest confrontation with our own history. The question arises: if we try to understand this phenomenon based on the available audiovisual productions, how distorted will our perception become? Is it possible to create a media product about this subject without nationalistic overtones and, if so, how? In this paper, I begin to reflect on this question primarily as a filmmaker who has produced a documentary on this subject. In 2015, in our film *Sweet Transylvania, We Were Here*, we attempted to reconstruct the brief period of Northern Transylvania’s return to Hungary based on oral history collections. I now aim to examine this phenomenon through the lens of available audiovisual products, complemented by the interviews collected for our documentary. This examination will focus on the following keywords: Second Vienna Award, the relationship between Hungarians from the Homeland and those from Transylvania, anti-Semitism, regime change, and sense of identity.

János Főcze

■ ***The Passing of the Front and the Beginnings of Postwar Transition in Szépvíz/Frumoasa (1944-1945)***

Keywords: *Szépvíz/Frumoasa, (1944-1945), multiple transitions*
Szépvíz/Frumoasa is located in the eas-

tern part of Transylvania, in the historical region of Szeklerland – nowadays central Romania. In September 1944, the inhabitants of this settlement had to endure the passing of the front with the retreat of the German and Hungarian armies and the advance of the Soviet and Romanian armies. Following a notable intermezzo under Soviet military administration, the rule of the Romanian Kingdom was (re)instated. This study explores the history of this period from a micro-historical perspective, covering the multiple transitions at the local level from September 1944 to 1945, based on archival sources, available literature, and oral history interviews.

Péter Illésfalvi

■ ***A Lesser-Known Episode of the Battle of Torda/Turda: The Battles of the 1st Mountain Field Reserve Brigade in the Gyalui/Gilăului Mountains in September 1944***

Keywords: *September 1944, Battle of Torda/Turda, 1st Mountain Field Reserve Brigade*

The 1st Mountain Field Reserve Brigade, established by the Royal Hungarian 1st Mountain Brigade based in Beszterce/Bistrița at the end of August 1944, participated in the so-called Battle of Torda/Turda between September 13 and October 8, 1944. This forgotten unit covered the right flank of the 25th Infantry Division and the 2nd Armored Division, which were fighting in the main direction, in the Gyalui/Gilăului Mountains. The brigade, poorly equipped and lacking vehicles, fought both regular and irregular Romanian units, as well as Soviet rifle troops, on extremely difficult terrain. By mid-October 1944, the brigade was almost completely decimated in the unequal struggle, but the steadfastness of its soldiers contributed to preventing the attackers from encircling the Hungarian 2nd Army’s forces fighting at Torda/Turda from the west.

Szabolcs Kovács

■ ***“It Was a Mistake to Do This, Because the Romanians Will Take Revenge on the Local Hungarians”: Ethnic Conflicts in Nagysármás/Sármaşu in the Autumn of 1944***

Keywords: *Nagysármás/Sármaşu, World War II, ethnic conflicts*

On 23 August 1944, Romania changed sides in the Second World War, abandoning the German alliance and declaring war on the German Reich. The Hungarian political leadership subsequently joined in a plan for an offensive against Southern Transylvania, aimed at closing the southern Carpathian passes to the advancing Soviet troops. The operation was carried out in several waves, the first being a joint German-Hungarian offensive launched on 5 September in what was, in fact, the territory of Southern Transylvania. In my study, I examine how the advance of the front line affected the power dynamics in the ethnically mixed settlement of Nagysármás/Sármaşu. According to my preliminary hypothesis, the power relations between the two ethnic groups in the village, which was almost equally populated by Romanians and Hungarians, shifted depending on which administration (Romanian or Hungarian) was in control. However, the Jewish population in Nagysármás/Sármaşu faced continuous discrimination, and the events during the Hungarian occupation led to a tragedy. The mutual grievances endured poisoned Romanian-Hungarian inter-ethnic relations for decades.

Artur Lóránd Lakatos

■ ***The Survival of Hungarian-Language Higher Education in Kolozsvár/Cluj (1944-1945)***

Keywords: *World War II, University of Kolozsvár/Cluj, Soviet occupation, Hungarian Popular Union, Dezső Miskolczy, László Buza, intellectual history*

This paper addresses the final months of the Ferenc József University of Kolozsvár/Cluj during the closing

stages of World War II. In this period, due to Soviet occupation, a distinct administration was established, separate from the Hungarian state administration, preceding the re-installation of Romanian state administration in March 1945. The university's leadership chose not to follow the evacuation order and kept the institution in the city. This decision raised several issues, including the role of the university in Hungarian cultural life in Transylvania. The article explores the university's relationship with the Red Army officials, its interactions with the Romanian political and cultural elite of the era, and its complex engagement with the Hungarian minority elite in Romania regarding the development of future strategies.

János Kristóf Murádin

■ ***In the Shadow of Tragedy: The Abduction of Transylvanian Hungarian Civilians into Soviet Captivity in 1944***

Keywords: *Transylvanian Hungarian civilians, Soviet captivity, September-November 1944*

The study addresses the capture of Hungarian civilians by Soviet troops in Northern Transylvania during September-November 1944. Approximately 20,000 Hungarian men and boys were forcibly taken. The ages of those captured ranged from 14 to 70 years. They were deported to several forced labor camps in the Soviet Union. The duration of captivity was typically four years, but in some cases, it extended to 8-9 years. The prisoners were compelled to work under harsh conditions in various mines or logging operations. During the summer, they participated in agricultural work on nearby Soviet kolkhozes. Due to the severe working conditions, acute food shortages, and lack of medical care, the prisoners became extremely debilitated. One-third of them died in captivity.

This aspect of our contemporary history was a taboo subject during the

Communist era. Only the 1989 Revolution brought about significant change in this regard. This study aims to provide an overview of this tragic event, based on the author's two decades of research. The source material for the study includes archival data, specialist books, studies, memoirs, data and articles published in contemporary press, as well as interviews with survivors, most of which were conducted by the author.

István Ravasz

■ ***Military Operations in Szeklerland in 1944***

Keywords: *Szeklerland, 1944, Szekler Border Defense Forces, Szekler Border Guard, Eastern Carpathians*

The author meticulously tracks the series of military historical events that occurred in Szeklerland from the last decade of August 1944 to the first decade of September 1944 with almost neopositivist objectivity. The study presents the Hungarian troops stationed in the region at that time, including the Szekler Border Defense Forces and the Szekler Border Guard, the battlefields in the Eastern Carpathians, and the remnants of German troops retreating to the Hungarian border. Given the length constraints of an article in a journal, which do not allow for an expansion of the topic to all of Transylvania, readers can refer to the author's book, *Erdély ismét hadszíntér – 1944* (Budapest, 2002), published by Petit Real Könyvkiadó as part of their Militaria series, for detailed information on the rapidly evolving political events and decision-making processes following the Romanian switch of allegiance, the reorganization of the Hungarian 2nd Army, its southern Transylvanian offensive, subsequent withdrawal, the one-month-long Battle of Torda/Turda, and the battles in the Marosvásárhely/ Târgu Mureș-Szászrégen/Reghin region, as well as the causative connections leading to the forced evacuation of Szeklerland and, eventually, all of Transylvania.

Ignác Romsics

■ ***Contest for Transylvania***

Keywords: *Second Vienna Award, 1940, Romania, Hungary, Transylvania, Paris Peace Conference, 1946*

After the Second Vienna Award of 1940, which divided Transylvania into a Hungarian and a Romanian part, a contest started between the two countries for gaining control of the whole region. In order to reach this goal, both countries joined the alliance system of Nazi Germany and in June 1941 entered the war against the Soviet Union. After the battle of Stalingrad, the strategies of the competitors started to change. The two rivals realized that Germany would lose the war, and therefore the peace, including the settlement of territorial disputes and border changes, would be shaped by the Allies. Although they continued to fight on the side of Germany, they prepared for the victory of the Allies. In this new phase of the race, Romania proved to be more successful. In August 1944, she turned the tables on the Wehrmacht while Hungary continued to fight on Germany's side. Despite the successful Romanian volte-face, the future of Northern Transylvania which had belonged to Hungary since 1940, was still undecided. The armistice agreement with Romania signed on September 12, 1944 stipulated that "Transylvania or greater part thereof should be returned to Romania, subject to confirmation at the peace settlement". The dispute was settled in 1945-1946 by the victorious Allied Powers. The United States and – less firmly – Great Britain and France favored "an adjustment of the Hungarian-Roumanian frontier in Transylvania along ethnic lines which would transfer a small strip from Arad to Szatmár/Satu Mare to Hungary". The Soviet Union, however, stubbornly opposed any modification of the post-1920 borders, including even symbolic changes. This meant that the final decision taken by the Paris Peace Conference in the Fall of 1946 accom-

plished the restoration of the pre-war frontiers. The race was won by Romania.

László Ropolyi

■ ***From Philosophical Posts to Post-Philosophies***

Keywords: *post-philosophy, postmodern, post-truth, probabilism, virtuality, personality, thinking and thinking of, debates*

Human life has been fundamentally changed by the appearance and extended use of the internet. Culture and society have also undergone a significant transformation caused by the emergence and formation of a third form of human existence, the so-called web-life. In the process, philosophy is also being transformed. This paper provides an analysis of some fundamental philosophical methodologies with a special emphasis on their cognitive and communication components. Based on these considerations, a so-called post-philosophical perspective for philosophical praxis is proposed as a reasonable philosophical reaction to the hard difficulties of post-truth problems.

József János Szabó

■ ***The Hunyadi Position and the Árpád Line***

Keywords: *World War II, Eastern and North-Eastern Carpathians, Szeklerland, circular fortifications*

The fortification of the Carpathians was always a crucial factor in the country's defense. This was also the case between the two world wars, when the fortifications in the North-

Eastern and Eastern Carpathians were constructed in four phases.

The first phase, in 1939, was aimed at securing the right flank of the Wehrmacht attacking Poland at the request of Germany, as well as defending the borders in the North-Eastern Carpathians following the return of Subcarpathian Rus. The second phase, in 1940 – after the second Vienna Award – focused on fortifying the Eastern Carpathians. The third phase, in 1943, involved the construction of circular fortifications in Szeklerland, covering the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Carpathians.

The fourth phase of the Carpathian fortifications began in 1943. According to the Kállay government's plan, the Hungarian Army was to hold the Carpathian line until the Anglo-Saxon forces arrived in the Carpathian Basin. This plan led the Hungarian military leadership to develop the valley closures into defensive positions. Thus, the fortification system established to protect the Carpathian Basin was completed, with the Árpád Line being only a part of it. The Red Army was unable to breach this line, only managing to bypass it from the south.

■ ***Minutes on the Maniu Guard's Massacre in Szárazajta/Aita Seacă on September 26, 1944***

The minutes document the atrocities committed by the Maniu Guard against the Hungarian population of Szárazajta/Aita Seacă on September 26, 1944.

SZÁMUNK SZERZŐI

A lapszámot szerkesztette:
Kovács Kiss Gyöngy

Bognár Zalán (1983) – történész,
PhD, egyetemi docens, Károli Gáspár
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Csibi László (1978) – filmrendező,
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Főcze János (1991) – történész,
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Illésfalvi Péter (1970) – hadtörténész,
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TÁMOGATÓK



„Az 1940. augusztus 30-ai második bécsi döntést, amely Erdélyt kettéosztotta Magyarország és Románia között, egyik fél sem tekintette véglegesnek. A magyarok Dél-Erdély megszerzésére, a románok Észak-Erdély visszacszerzésére törekedtek. Ennek érdekében közel három éven át, amíg Németország háborús győzelme bizonytalanná nem vált, versenyt futottak Hitler kegyelért...”

(Romsics Ignác)

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