

ABSTRACTS

Zoltán Bicsok

■ ***“In the Service of Mars and Pallas”: The Two Elevations in Rank and the Three Variants of the Henter Family Coat of Arms of Sântionlunca/Sepsiszentiván***

Keywords: *Henter family, elevation to baronial rank, variants of the coat of arms, seals*
The elevation of two branches of the Henter family to baronial rank occurred within a very short period – just a decade (1744, 1754) – likely due to David I's influence at the imperial court, during which the prestige of the entire family increased significantly. In both cases, the baronial title was conferred for the same reason: in recognition of their military and cultural merits in the service of Mars and Pallas. Their expanded baronial coats of arms were in fact designed according to a single iconographic concept: the primary figure is the family's traditional heraldic animal (the crane), symbolizing vigilance, while the secondary elements are attributes of the two ancient deities (the sword and the quill). In the first, more stylized version of the coat of arms (1744), these attributes appear independently; in the second, more naturalistic version (1754), they are held in the paws of two rampant lions.

Ádám Erdész

■ ***The Shifting Boundaries of Historiography and Memory Politics in the Work of Historian Sándor Márki***

Keywords: *Sándor Márki, historiography, memory politics*

This study examines the historical perspective of Sándor Márki (1853-1925), considered one of Hungary's leading historians at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The central question addressed is how the relationship between professional scholarship and national identity developed within Márki's historiographical oeuvre. In seeking an answer, the study first considers the roles Márki fulfilled as a historian: he was simultaneously a university professor, textbook author, writer for both the scholarly community and the general public, and a historian with an extensive network of connections. At the same time, he was a constant participant in events related to memory politics. In the historiography of the period, these roles were not necessarily distinct, and the variety of roles shaped the historian's mode of expression. Márki's historiographical *ars poetica* emerges from his works on historiography and the

philosophy of history, providing insight into how explicitly formulated principles are reflected in the content and textual construction of his writings.

György Gaal

■ ***The First Transylvanian Botanical Garden***

Keywords: *botanical garden, university, surgeon, gardener, Cluj/Kolozsvár*

This study outlines the definition and general history of botanical gardens, then examines the struggle of the Cluj/Kolozsvár Medical-Surgical Institute, founded in 1775, to secure a suitable site for a botanical garden. The earliest document dates to 1811, when Professor Mihály Incze began teaching botany. He received promises from both the Transylvanian government and Vienna to provide an appropriate plot, but he died in 1836 without having established a garden. In 1837, the Institute was reorganized, and its newly created department for introductory studies – covering botany, physics, and chemistry – was led by Professor István Joó, who continued the effort to establish a garden until 1848, also without success. During the period of Austrian Absolutism, the Institute was able to rent the Seminar Garden of the Catholic Church on Monostor Street in 1854. Under Professor Joó's direction and with the assistance of a gardener, this plot was transformed into a botanical garden. The study presents this approximately 8,000 m² garden, including its layout and furnishings. The garden was closed in 1872, upon the opening of Cluj/Kolozsvár University, and the Mikó Garden became the new high school botanical garden. This study is the first to present the history of this earliest Transylvanian botanical garden.

Judit Hammestein

■ ***Ally or Threatening Power? Sándor Márki's Writings on Russian-Hungarian Relations***

Keywords: *Sándor Márki, Russian-Hungarian relations*

This study analyzes the works of historian Sándor Márki on Hungarian-Russian relations, written between 1877 and 1913. The author examined the topic within the contemporary international context, including the Eastern Question and the rivalry between Russia and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Márki was the first to provide a comprehensive overview of the interactions between the two peoples and the knowledge available about Russia. Particularly valuable are his analyses of the relationship

between the Principality of Transylvania and Tsarist Russia, as well as his discussions of the alliance between Francis II Rákóczi and Peter the Great. According to the study, Márki's writings were marked by biases stemming from a romantic-national perspective, most evident in the pathetic praise of Hungarian successes and hostility toward minority aspirations. At the same time, he demonstrated a critical stance, for example, by criticizing the state of Hungarian historiography or Rákóczi's diplomatic idealism. His texts present a contradictory image of Russia: they reflect contemporary stereotypes of Russian "barbarism" and backwardness, as well as fears of Pan-Slavism and expansionism, while simultaneously raising the possibility of an alliance with Russia that could offer hope for liberation from Habsburg rule. The study highlights that Hungarians' attitude toward Russia has always been dual: Russia could be perceived simultaneously as a threatening and an allied power.

Gusztáv Mihály Hermann

■ ***Szekler Pride in the Four Years Following the Second Vienna Award***

Keywords: *Szekler pride, Second Vienna Award, Attila the Hun, Prince Csaba*

This article forms part of a broader research project examining the entire history of the Szekler origin myth. The author begins with the premise that, following the Second Vienna Award (1940), the Szeklers responded positively to the changed geopolitical situation, in which Transylvania once again became part of Hungary. At the same time, given the Szeklers' expectation that the state would respect their distinct traditions and unique history, the Hungarian government sought to accommodate this demand. However, it also pursued a strongly centralized administration: most officials, police officers, and military personnel were brought in from Hungary, and their relationship with the Szeklers was not without tension. Despite this, the local population welcomed measures aimed at addressing the region's underdevelopment and isolation. They also embraced the widespread promotion of the Szekler origin myth – the Hun origin of the Szeklers – and the symbolic cult surrounding historical (Attila the Hun) and legendary (Prince Csaba) figures associated with it. Legends from the era of the Hun Empire and the subsequent turbulent periods were widely disseminated, sometimes presented as historical fact, while research grounded in authentic sources from this

period and their critical evaluation was marginalized.

Róbert Hermann

■ ***The First Modern Synthesis of the Revolution and War of Independence: Sándor Márki's Millennium Summary***

Keywords: *Sándor Márki, synthesis, 1848-1849 Revolution and War of Independence*

This article presents Sándor Márki's summary of the 1848-1849 Revolution and War of Independence, the tenth volume of the millennial series *A magyar nemzet története* (The History of the Hungarian Nation). Márki's work represents the first modern synthesis of the revolution and war of independence, predating Gyula Szekfű's later, harsh critique of the existing historiography. The author emphasizes that Szekfű was mistaken in claiming the topic had not been addressed, as he overlooked significant works such as Márki's. Márki faced considerable challenges: much of the political and military documentation was held in Vienna, and the events of the war were still recent, with many participants still alive. Nevertheless, he completed the substantially longer-than-planned work – 22 sheets – in an exceptionally short period of six and a half months. His research made use of the Csányi archive in Arad, resulting in particularly thorough chapters on the events in Transylvania. Márki's synthesis broke with earlier traditions, for instance, by rejecting the periodization based on constitutional law, instead distinguishing between the revolution, the self-defense struggle, and the war of independence. He critically analyzed the dethronement of the Habsburgs and the roles of the leaders of the struggle, particularly Kossuth and Görgei, and did not accept the charges of betrayal against the latter. Márki also addressed the nationality question and the diplomatic precedents of Russian intervention in detail. According to the author, Márki's work far surpassed the efforts of contemporary amateur writers and contained a richer factual basis than Szekfű's later summary, making it a work deserving of renewed attention.

Katalin Mária Kincses

■ ***Was Sándor Márki a Cult Follower? The Rákóczi Biography***

Keywords: *Sándor Márki, Francis II Rákóczi, Hungarian historiography*

The accusation that Sándor Márki's monumental three-volume biography of Francis II Rákóczi was shaped by the cult-like

perspective of historian Kálmán Thaly, resulting in a distorted view of the Rákóczi cult, was first articulated by Gyula Szekfű in his monograph *A száműzött Rákóczi* (The Exiled Rákóczi). Later, biographers of Francis II Rákóczi, Béla Köpeczi and Ágnes R. Várkonyi, adopted this assessment when they wrote and published their own biographies of the prince in 1955, 1976, and 2004, although Ágnes R. Várkonyi in 2004 largely exonerated Márki from the earlier charge of creating a biased, false, or distorted image of Rákóczi.

This study seeks to refute Szekfű's and 20th-century historiography's claims regarding Márki's cult-like portrayal of Rákóczi by outlining Márki's oeuvre and political perspective and by providing a very concise, referential discussion of the circumstances surrounding the writing of the Rákóczi biography and an analysis of the work itself.

Gyöngy Kovács Kiss

■ *Houses and Residents of Cluj/Kolozsvár*

Keywords: *Cluj/Kolozsvár, Early Modern period, urban bourgeoisie, buildings, patrons*
This study presents the material and intellectual growth of the city of Cluj/Kolozsvár and its citizens, as well as its architectural development from the Middle Ages to the late 19th century, highlighting the role of the urban bourgeoisie in the process of prosperity. Cluj/Kolozsvár, a free royal city, became a "treasured" city through its residents' diligence and self-driven development. Its heyday came in the second half of the 16th century, when the settlement was referred to as *Transsilvaniae civitas primaria*. The article introduces several emblematic buildings of Kolozsvár – the Wolphard-Kakas, Vicei, Újhelyi, and Tauffer-Szábel houses – and their builders and residents.

Alpár Miklós

■ *The Visit of Mór Jókai to the Salt Mine of Praid/Parajd (1853)*

Keywords: *Mór Jókai, salt mine, Praid/Parajd, travel culture, travel literature, Transylvania*
In May 2025, the salt mine of Praid/Parajd was flooded by the Corund Creek. The most vulnerable area proved to be the old mining site, where a small mining village had existed in the 1850s. This site had been visited in 1853 by the towering figure of Hungarian literature, Mór Jókai, born 200 years earlier, in 1825. The study traces Jókai's travel route, the public interest in natural history at the time, and aspects of his visit to this particular Transylvanian salt mine. Based on Jókai's concise travel

writings, the similar account of his companion Kálmán Lázár (1827-1874), and other, more detailed mid-19th-century descriptions by authors such as Johann M. Salzer (1823-c.1903), János Hunfalvy (1820-1888), František Pošepný (1836-1895), and Gábor Téglás (1848-1916), it is possible to reconstruct mine visits of the era in detail. These sources reveal that travelers at Praid/Parajd were typically guided by salt mine officials, who pointed out features both on the surface and underground – where the scale of the mine chambers was conveyed through echoes and the light of burning bundles of straw, and where, during working periods, the traditional methods of salt extraction could be observed.

Péter Sas

■ *"The Házsongárd Veil": The Poetics of the Cluj/Kolozsvár Cemetery*

Keywords: *Cluj/Kolozsvár, Házsongárdi temető, sírfeliratok*

The article conveys the message articulated by publicist and writer Miklós Krenner: "Where is the Házsongárd veil, and what does this term mean? A veil that covers and beautifies, as the Transylvanian imagination once described it when it called the veil a beautifier? The true, old citizen of Kolozsvár would like to preserve the Házsongárd cemetery, which is both a forest and, with its nearly five-hundred-year-old past, in fact a museum, with all its old stones and ancient trees."

According to cemetery monographer János Herepei: "There is no Hungarian land in this world more beautiful, richer in memories than this piece of land!"

The inheritance of our ancestors – who expressed their Hungarian identity through their epitaphs even after death – is of national significance. Public attention should be paid not only to those who gained individual fame through prominent offices, leadership roles, or aristocratic origins, but also to those who lived quieter lives.

As a meeting place of life and death in Kolozsvár, the Házsongárd Cemetery carries an important message for both those who believe in eternal life and those who fear death. The inscription once nailed to the cemetery gate has proclaimed the same truth since time immemorial: "There is no death, only life!"

Mihály Sebestyén

■ *Contribution to the 20th-Century History of the Călugăreni/Mikháza Franciscan Monastery*

Keywords: *Călugăreni/Mikháza Franciscan Monastery, Fântânele/Gyulakuta, mill, lawsuit, Count Lázár, family*

This article examines a 20th-century legal case concerning the Călugăreni/Mikháza Franciscan Monastery, which centered on securing the order's revenues during the Romanian land reform and a period of declining income. Based on reports from three daily newspapers, the author reconstructs the lawsuit, which involved a centuries-old customary right according to which all Saturday income from the mill at Fântânele/Gyulakuta belonged to the monastery. There is no written documentation of the agreement between the Lázár county family, the former owners of the mill, and the monastery, but tradition traces it back over 300 years.

The Lázár family, financially strained by the land reform, sold the mill in 1925 to Viktor Wolf, Jenő Lőte, and Lajos Lőte. The monastery sued the new owners, and both the Székelyudvarhely court and the Marosvásárhely appellate court ruled in favor of the Franciscan order. The courts recognized the customary right that had existed for more than three centuries and obliged the owners to continue paying the Saturday toll. The case became moot in 1948 with the dissolution of the monastic orders.

István E. Szabó

■ ***Sándor Márki's Social Connections in Cluj/Kolozsvár (1893-1913)***

Keywords: *Sándor Márki, historian, university professor, Cluj/Kolozsvár, social connections*

This study examines the work and career of Sándor Márki, one of the defining figures of university life in Cluj/Kolozsvár, with particular attention to his relationships with the cultural elite. He was an active member of Transylvanian society, especially in Cluj/Kolozsvár, and a leader in professional, social, and ecclesiastical organizations, shaping the city's public life.

Márki kept an extraordinarily detailed diary for over fifty years, from his time as a young university student until his death. The entries provide a unique insight into the intellectual and social life of his era in Cluj/Kolozsvár. In addition to university professors, the diary frequently mentions judges, doctors, and civil servants, while

artists, military officers, and senior church leaders also appear. Márki maintained lively connections with prominent members of the Transylvanian aristocracy as well.

The aim of this study is to trace and synthesize these connections to reconstruct the network of university professors. As a defining figure in the local society of Transylvania and Cluj/Kolozsvár in particular, Márki's diaries serve as a kind of mirror of the city, offering a rich and detailed portrayal of intellectual and everyday life in Transylvania and its capital, Cluj/Kolozsvár.

Szilárd Toth

■ ***The Collapse of a Career and a World-view: The Romanian Occupation and Sándor Márki's Final Years in Cluj/Kolozsvár***

Keywords: *Sándor Márki, professor, Cluj/Kolozsvár*

Sándor Márki, a professor in Cluj/Kolozsvár, spent more than a quarter of a century living, teaching, and mentoring in the city. This period marked the peak of his career and the height of his social recognition. These Cluj/Kolozsvár years were the most fulfilling of his life. Throughout his career, Márki never lacked professional and social acknowledgment, but during this period he experienced particular joys: in 1911 he received an invitation to the University of Budapest, which he regretfully declined; in 1912 he was elected a full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; in the 1914/1915 academic year he was appointed rector of the University of Cluj; and in 1918 he was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Leopold. However, this sequence of successes came to an end with the conclusion of World War I. At Christmas 1918, the Romanian army entered Cluj/Kolozsvár, initiating a period of persecution for the city's university professors, including Márki: harassment and humiliation by the Romanian military, financial difficulties, the university's occupation by Romanian authorities, the failure of efforts to establish a new university, and the threat of expulsion accompanied by total loss of property. For Márki, not only his career but his entire worldview collapsed, and ultimately, broken, he too chose emigration.