

BULLETIN 2015–2016–2017
National Széchényi Library





BULLETIN 2015–2016–2017

National Széchényi Library



BIBLIOTHECA NATIONALIS HUNGARIAE

BULLETIN 2015–2016–2017

Editor-in-Chief: **LÁSZLÓ BOKA**

Editor: **FRANCISKA DEDE**

Editorial staff: **TÍMEA BUDAI-KIRÁLY, LÁSZLÓ HERENDI,**

Layout: **JUDIT VINCZE**

English Translation: **ÁGNES LATORRE**



Contact:

National Széchényi Library
1014 Budapest, Szent György tér 4–5–6.

<http://www.oszk.hu>

<http://www.oszk.hu/konyvkiado>

phone: (+36-1) 22 43 700

fax: (+36-1) 20 20 804

Orders can be placed at:

kiadvanytar@oszk.hu

phone: (+36-1) 22 43 700

fax: (+36-1) 20 20 804



Cover 1: Mihály Biró: *Our troops avert the attack with weapons, our citizens do it with money. Subscribe to the War Loan!* – graphic poster (1917. NSZL Collection of Posters and Small Prints)

Cover 2: John Calvin's (1509-1564) *Institutio Christianae religionis translated into Hungarian* (NSZL Collection of Early Printed Books)

Cover 3: *Hyppolit, the Butler* – film poster (NSZL Collection of Posters and Small Prints)

Cover 4: *Documents and Correspondence from the Legacy of János Arany I–IV.* (NSZL General Collection)



© National Széchényi Library

© Photography **LAJOS KARASZ, PÉTER TÓTH**

The Government Controlling Authority for National Széchényi Library is



EMBERI ERŐFORRÁSOK
MINISZTERIUMA

Published annually since 2002

Publisher: The Director-General of National Széchényi Library

Printed and Bound at Nalors Nyomda

CEO: **GÁBOR SZABÓ**

ISSN 1589-4738

CONTENTS



FOREWORD FROM THE EDITOR.....	7
MEMORIAL YEARS, ANNIVERSARIES	
PROPAGANDA IN WORLD WAR I – research projects, exhibition, conference, publications, accompanying events.....	9
THE 1956 MEMORIAL YEAR	
The 1956 Memorial Year at the NSZL 1956 Institute Oral History Archive.....	14
The Hungarian October. The revolution of 1956 online.....	14
THE SAINT MARTIN MEMORIAL YEAR	
The Saint Martin Memorial Year and the Ernst Codex facsimile edition.....	16
THE JÁNOS ARANY MEMORIAL YEAR	
Exhibition, accompanying events, publishing and restoration projects, institutional cooperation.....	18
“Foreign policy”, restoration program, consortial cooperation.....	21
“Arany, you Gold of Gold!” – János Arany poetry recitation contest.....	21
REFORMATION 500	
The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation at NSZL.....	24
ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITIONS AND CHAMBER EXHIBITIONS	
“As you are sitting in front of me...” – dr. Flóra Kozmutza, Mrs Gyula Illyés was born 110 years ago.....	26
Give me a Biro – László Bíró exhibition, 12 November 2015 – 6 February 2016.....	27
“Memories of my Life” – An exhibition to mark 100 years since the death of Károly Goldmark.....	29
“He offered his treasures to the nation” – Gyula Todoreszku was born 150 years ago.....	30
“The song might not have been forgotten yet” – An exhibition for the bicentenary of the birth of Mihály Tompa.....	31
FEATURED EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, BACKGROUND WORKS	
“Colorful heralds of our black and white treasures” – Hungarian sound film posters 1931-1940.....	34
Film posters reloaded.....	38
Spoiled for Choice – Chamber exhibition of the treasures of the Collection of Posters and Small Prints (24 October 2016 – 3 February 2018).....	40
Hungarians in the Caucasus.....	40
Zichy’s pencil-drawn heroes.....	43
Library Salon IV–VI.....	45
Orientalists at NSZL – The beginning of a new tradition.....	50

THE NSZL PUBLISHING HOUSE	
Tradition and renewal	51
A Home of Arts and Muses: The library of King Matthias Corvinus –	
Workshop and exhibition in the Hungarian Pavilion of the Milan Expo	52
The participation of NSZL at book publishers’ events	53
CONFERENCES, RESEARCH SESSIONS,	
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS	
Jan Hus and Hussitism in the Hungarian culture	56
Taking care of our academic wealth – Research Sessions at NSZL	56
Roundtable discussions on old books at NSZL.....	59
FITA – Young Writers’ Exhibition	59
OPEN DAYS, MEMORIAL DAYS	
NIGHT OF MUSEUMS	
Night of Museums 2015.....	60
Night of Museums 2016.....	62
The golden fund of NSZL, upholder of values - Night of Museums 2017.....	64
NIGHT OF RESEARCHERS	
Night of Researchers 2015	66
Night of Researchers 2016	67
Night of Researchers – 29 September 2017.....	69
FERENC SZÉCHÉNYI MEMORIAL DAY – 2015, 2016, 2017	71
CULTURAL HERITAGE DAYS 2016 – Metamorphosis and Symbiosis	73
PAST AND FUTURE	
15 YEARS OF TRAININGS	
Trainings of the Library Institute for Hungarian librarians abroad (2002-2017).....	74
New trends, new hopes in a world of challenges	78
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
International relations, cooperation, memberships.....	81
2017 – A year of Oriental relations	85
Representing NSZL abroad. Main visits and projects: 2016-2017	88
ZIRC EVENTS.....	90
PERSONALIA.....	93

FOREWORD FROM THE EDITOR



The honorable readers hold in their hands a three-year issue of the herald of National Széchényi Library, our Bulletin. What makes this issue special is that since 2002, when the yearbook series of our institution started, there has not been such endeavor, and that the balance of NSZL (in view of the overload of our colleagues, and the complex and growing tasks with shorter and shorter deadlines) might appear somewhat ambiguous for the outsiders. The expectations of the 21st century, the digitization strategy and the long-term IT development of the institution, in addition to the historical challenge, require inter-institutional cooperation and well-considered grounding steps involving large workloads, structured change of views, and renewing tasks for the staff. At the same time, the question of whether the library is to move from the Buda Palace to another location is still open, and as our nominal budget has decreased even compared to the previous year, it does not provide enough to meet our professional goals on the required level. In the summer of 2016, a Government Decree decided that the library should not move to a new building and should continue its work in its previous location. However, the reconstruction works of the one-time Royal Palace, partly under way and partly in the planning phase, have not provided any details so far about how exactly this step would be realized. For reasons beyond of our control, the harmonization of the so-called Hauszmann-plan, including the reconstruction plans of the F Building and its infrastructure, and the tasks that result from the strategic goals for the whole sector, specified by the great-scale OKR project¹, approved from November 2016, has not been completed. Even under these conditions, the national library pursued to meet requirements and complete its tasks according to its best knowledge and noblest tradition.

The fruits of the background works of the OKR project, launched at the very end of 2016, will only be visible on the long term, and we hope to be able to

report on the (partial) results in our next issue. Much more good news we find when browsing among the main tasks of the previous years from other areas. The past three years are summarized in our publication accordingly. Widening views have been characterizing other leading European public collections, too (including libraries, museums, archives and other cultural institutions) in the past decade, as well as the necessary dilution of the earlier borders of institution and genre. Institutions have been moving towards the so-called hybrid institution form, due to the need for presenting and making available their treasures in the broadest spectrum and exploring and digitizing them in line with the information needs of our age. Anthropological research of cultural heritage and public collections has already proven that by the end of the first decade of the new millennium, these institutions are not only dedicated to collect objects and documents, but also, and primarily to interpret them; therefore these (national and leading) collections can successfully present themselves as non-neutral spaces, a continuous chain of dialogues, prestigious events, accompanying presentations, conferences and other community-building events. NSZL, since its foundation has been functioning like a collection of this sort, a classical library, a renowned research institute, a museum, and in the past 25 years, also a well-located cultural agora-space, and a dynamic publishing house. These tasks give a complex image to the institution, reinforcing its featured cultural-academic character, and complying with the requirements specified by our controlling authority for larger number of visitors/users and income. Our illustrated reports offer a detailed picture of the wide range of these results. Following the structure of the previous issues, also this three-year bulletin, edited by our Secretary of Research Franciska Dede, presents the memorial years (and the accompanying events organized around the anniversaries, prestigious conferences, and main pub-

¹ The OKR project aims at the long-term IT-development of NSZL and, through the National Library Platform, at the strategic renewal of the entirety of the Hungarian library system. The strategic plan was approved by a Government Decision on the 8 November 2016.

lications), institutional co-operation, the traditional NSZL Open Days, and the activities of other areas including the Library Institute, some Special Collections, the Restoration and Binding Department, and the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc under the patronage of the NSZL Directorate of Research.

National Széchényi Library is already 215 years old! Even within this long and successful story in which

it managed to remain the leading place of preservation and provider for the Hungarian written cultural memory, NSZL is looking forward to a serious and grand-scale transformation. In view of that, it is good to stop sometimes and summarize the steps behind us, to see that we have a lot to be proud of and take strength from it.

László Boka
Editor-in-Chief

MEMORIAL YEARS, ANNIVERSARIES

2015

PROPAGANDA IN WORLD WAR I – RESEARCH PROJECT, EXHIBITION, CONFERENCE, PUBLICATIONS, ACCOMPANYING EVENTS



The series of events of the national library entitled *Propaganda in World War I* became one of the largest museum and academic endeavors of the past years. The almost 200 borrowed artworks and of course NSZL's own documents exhibited on nearly 600 square meters, together with the accompanying events, were dedicated to present the process of the Great War that led from the initial enthusiasm of the hinterland to the total deception at the end.

The exhibition of great success, inaugurated in October 2015, was open for six months. It occupied the 5th and 6th floors of our library, extending to the most important galleries: the Corvina Galleries, the Ars Librorum Exhibition Space, and the Relic Space. (The exhibition space was designed and built by Stáb Stúdió under the management of Olga Imre.) During this time, more than 5000 tickets were sold, but that is only an indicative number, as our registered readers could visit considerable part of the exhibition free of charge. The exhibition was complemented by various events as well as a bilingual catalogue and an individual volume with the contributions of the related conference.

Preparation and research

We started to make the preparations for the exhibition at the Directorate of Research of NSZL as early as 2012, in view of the nearing centenary year of World War I. Simultaneously, we carried out a comprehensive research for an itemized reconstruction of the one-time World War I collection of NSZL. What makes that collection unique is that it came into being at the very outbreak of the Great War after a decision of the NSZL management to gather all the material related to the war in Hungary and abroad into one single thematic collection. The size of the huge material is reflected by the fact that in 1922, when the campaign was over,

and the collection was dissolved, it consisted of 176.751 library items. Our goal was to realize the itemized reconstruction of this treasure to have a bibliography of the items distributed ever since in various collections and include it in one single volume. We published the results in Zoltán Oszkár Szóts's work, *The one-time World War I collection of National Széchényi Library*, jointly with Gondolat Publishing House, within the *National Collection* series. The volume was presented to the public on several occasions, including the Festival of Museums in May 2014. For the exhibition, we selected the items belonging to NSZL from this rich and colorful list and our nation-wide unparalleled collection of posters and small prints. Then we added some valuable relics to be borrowed from partner institutions. This phase of the work was concluded by the summer of 2015, when we started to build the exhibition with the sponsorship of the First World War Centenary Memorial Committee.

Exhibition

The choice of the topic for the First World War centenary exhibition was not accidental. The Great War (1914-1918) that ushered in the cruel 20th century of the European history was also a field for the making of the modern propaganda of the new era. This phenomenon can be explained by that propaganda proved to be a



surprisingly novel and efficient weapon during the war, although it was not orchestrated or strongly centralized by the governments, let alone unchanged from 1914 to 1918. Our exhibition explored from various aspects the nature and development of the stirring war propaganda in Hungary. Propaganda, in the words of Richard Alan Nelson, is “a systematic form of purposeful persuasion that attempts to influence the emotions, attitudes, opinions, and actions of specified target audiences”, executed always by the conveying of controlled unilateral messages. Our exhibition studied the support and approval of the war in the hinterland society and the opposing attitudes of the intelligentsia, emphasizing that First World War propaganda can only be interpreted as a complex societal phenomenon. As we offered three approaches of the role of mobilization, censorship and the commitment and possible resistance of the intelligentsia including writers and artists during the war, gap-filling observations of art and literary history were also given room in addition to

the analysis of historians. The commissioned chief curator of the exhibition was historian Iván Bertényi Jr., specialized in World War I, while the art history approach was represented by Anikó Katona, and the literary and press history aspects were added by Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi and the author of this article.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the autumn of 2015, attended by a great number of experts. After the greeting words of Gergely Pröhle, Deputy





State Secretary of International and European Union Affairs, a performance of Béla Fesztbaum took place, and then the audience could get acquainted with the items exhibited in the galleries. During the six months of the exhibition, many guided tours and lectures were held, designed especially for high school students who participated with interest and pleasure. We had special gifts manufactured for the exhibition, with the explicit purpose of targeting all the visitors, including experts,

the youngest generations and tourists. All the captions of the exhibition were bilingual to offer a valuable and comprehensive experience to the tourists visiting the Buda Castle from around the world. The closing ceremony took place in the spring of 2016. On this occasion, we held a roundtable discussion with the specialists on the results of the exhibition and presented the bilingual (Hungarian and English) catalogue. The participants of the event, in addition to the curators,



were idea historian Tamás Gusztáv Filep and historian Miklós Zeidler. The colored hardbound catalogue of nearly 400 pages (edited by László Boka and Iván Bertényi Jr.), with three large essays and 24 thematic blocs, later won the Antall József Memorial Award of the Beautiful Hungarian Book contest of 2016 (the graphic designer of the book, including graphic layout and text formatting was Judit Vincze).

Accompanying events

In January 2016, we held a prestigious two-day interdisciplinary conference with the title *Propaganda – History, Art and Media in World War I*, with 34 guest lecturers including Ignác Romsics and Géza Buzinkay who gave plenary lectures. The conference of three sections was inaugurated by Gáspár Gróh, Director of the Office of the President of the Republic. The edited and selected material of the conference was



published in the autumn of 2016, by the NSZL Publishing House.

While the main exhibition concept focused on the so-called “domestic” propaganda by presenting the various segments of the everyday life in the Hungarian hinterland, we also set up an accompanying chamber exhibition at our Map Collection to offer a glimpse into WWI propaganda worldwide. The chamber exhibition presented the principles of propaganda used by the warring nations, and the image they wanted to depict of themselves. There were political and caricature maps, flyers and posters on display, as during World War I, maps were not only used to show the growing number of extending front lines, but also to make fun of the enemy, and illustrate economical hegemony and imperial endeavors. British, French, German and American maps of propaganda show excellently how slogans, allegories, real or forged stories were used by the warring nations to convince their own hinterland and the neutral states.

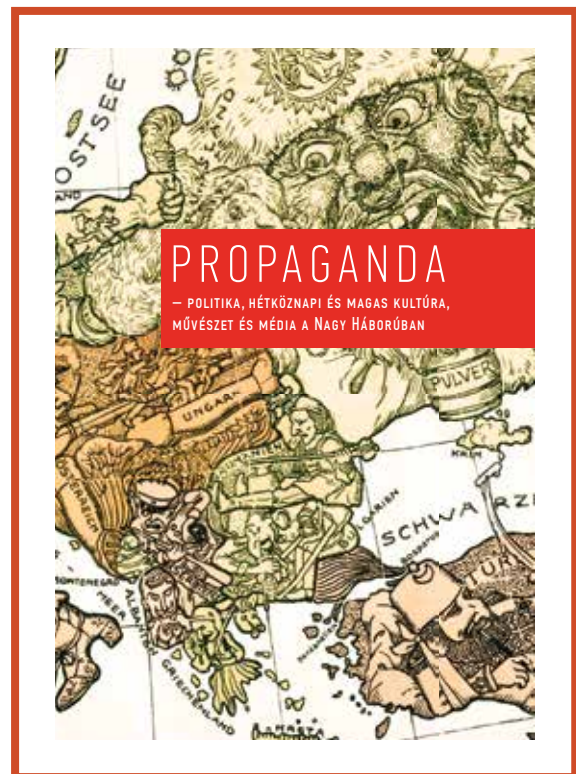
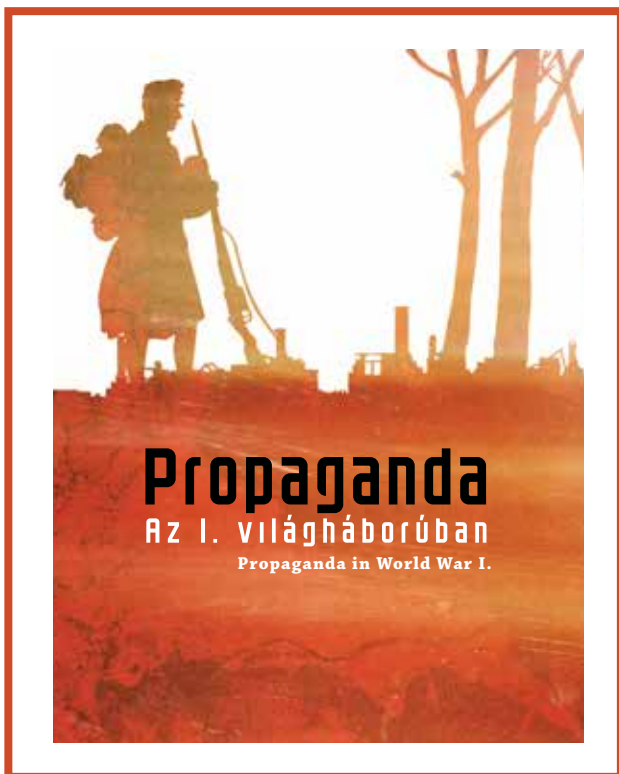
The complete “Propaganda Series” of National Széchényi Library – as referred to sometimes by the press – also offered a comprehensive overview of the entire 20th century. With the help of additional finan-

cial support offered primarily by the National Cultural Fund of Hungary, we set up several accompanying activities, including the 5th season of our monthly literary and cultural dissemination series, Library Salon, with the main theme *Propaganda in the 20th century*. There was great media interest around several parts of the project. A row of reports and interviews was made, including live television and radio broadcasts of Hungarian and international stations. Prestigious weekly and daily periodicals covered our news regularly. As we considered important to present the complex topic of the exhibition throughout Hungary, one week after the closing day several items were already on display in our *In Plural* travelling exhibition. This project, executed jointly with the Hungarian National Museum, started in Székesfehérvár on the 14th of April 2016, and continued also in the year 2017.

Details of the main exhibition can be found at:

http://nemzetikonyvtar.blog.hu/2015/10/17/a_lelkedestol_a_kiabrandulasig_az_elso_vilagaboru_propagandaja

László Boka
boka.at.oszk.hu



2016

THE 1956 MEMORIAL YEAR



The 1956 Memorial Year at the NSZL 1956 Institute – Oral History Archive

The 1956 Institute set up several major projects to mark the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution and freedom fight. The first was the *1956 and Socialism – Crisis and Rethinking* conference organized jointly by the 1956 Institute Foundation and the Károly Eszterházy University of Eger on 8-10 September 2016. For three days, more than 240 historians, sociologists, political scientists and other experts discussed the topic in more than sixty sections. The second project was the edition of the special issue of the illustrated journal *BBC History* published at the end of September with the title *The Hungarian October*. The richly illustrated album of almost 150 pages was published also as an individual volume with twenty-five articles written by our staff (excepting the excerpt of the memoir by ex-ambassador of Great Britain in Budapest Peter Unwin). Our colleagues also carried out the task of text and picture editing.

The 1956 Institute staff members published more than 70 publications for the anniversary, including eight individual volumes of which five ones were written by László Eörsi [*Köbánya 1956 – Armed Resistance in the 10th District.; Armed Resistance in Csepel – 1956; Zugló 1956 – Armed Resistance in the 14th District.; “Unusual Times, Unusual Events” – The History and Myth of Ilona Tóth and Péter Mansfeld; The Budapest Lads in Erzsébetváros*]. The unique historical travel guide by Gábor Tabajdi published by Jaffa Publishing House [*Budapest in the Days of Freedom – 1956*] describes the everyday life of the capital city during the revolution. János M. Rainer published two summaries, [*The Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Introduction*] (Osiris), and Imre Nagy (Imre Nagy Foundation), the latter being the extended and corrected version of the small biography published almost 15 years ago.

Our staff contributed to more than 50 conferences including 16 foreign language events, some of them abroad. They presented papers on 30 commemorative events. 25 exhibitions of different scopes related to the

Memorial Year were assisted by our experts. Our partners included Tatabánya Museum, Hungarian Writers' Association, DUE- Hungarian Embassy in Vienna, Monori Vigadó Cultural Civil Association, Bartók Chamber Theater and House of Arts, Nagykovácsi Civil Association, Eleven Emlékmű [Living Monument] Group, the outdoor exhibition *For Freedom and Independence* of The House of Terror, Institute of Military History, Parliament Museum, Budafok Neighbors' Market, Budapest Lads Memorial Park, and the town councils of the 7th and 8th districts of Budapest.

János Rainer M.
rainer.at.ella.hu

The Hungarian October. The revolution of 1956 online

In 2016, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution of 1956. Two years ago, National Széchényi Library launched a web project to make available for the public an interactive experience of the historical events. The project consists of two major parts: the visual representation of the revolution on photos and footages taken on specific sites that you can locate on a map, and all the audio programs broadcast during the events by Radio Free Europe, together with their word-by-word transcript.

During the revolution of 1956, thousands of photos and footages of various length were made. Their collection, elaboration and publishing have not been concluded yet, and many of them are still unknown for the experts. The project is a result of a thorough research: János Varga has been working for 30 years on the collection and identification of the images recorded during the revolution. To make the collection complete, not only the Hungarian National Film Archive, but also foreign archives must be searched, and the material must be brought to Hungary, a work still under way.

Our compilation is a result of the cooperation between several institutions of the Hungarian public collection network, civil archives, and foreign resources, and we still count on private collections yet to be discovered. The visual material is collected in a database organized by specialized historians. We added GPS-coordinates to the sites identified, so that the audience can follow the events realistically, relating them to the current locations.

The audio recordings of Radio Free Europe broadcast in 1956 entered the collection in the autumn of 2001, on 311 audio cassettes of 90 minutes that contain almost the entirety of the Radio Free Europe programs from

22 October to 12 November 1956. National Széchényi Library digitized and elaborated this material and recorded the contents in writing. The identification of the contributors and editors is still under way, as well as the proofreading of the word-by-word transcript. The audio material is downloadable for free, together with the transcript, and it is ideal to evoke the events of the revolution in exact chronology and reconstruct the information environment that influenced the thoughts and deeds of the people of that time.

László Major, Bea Lukács

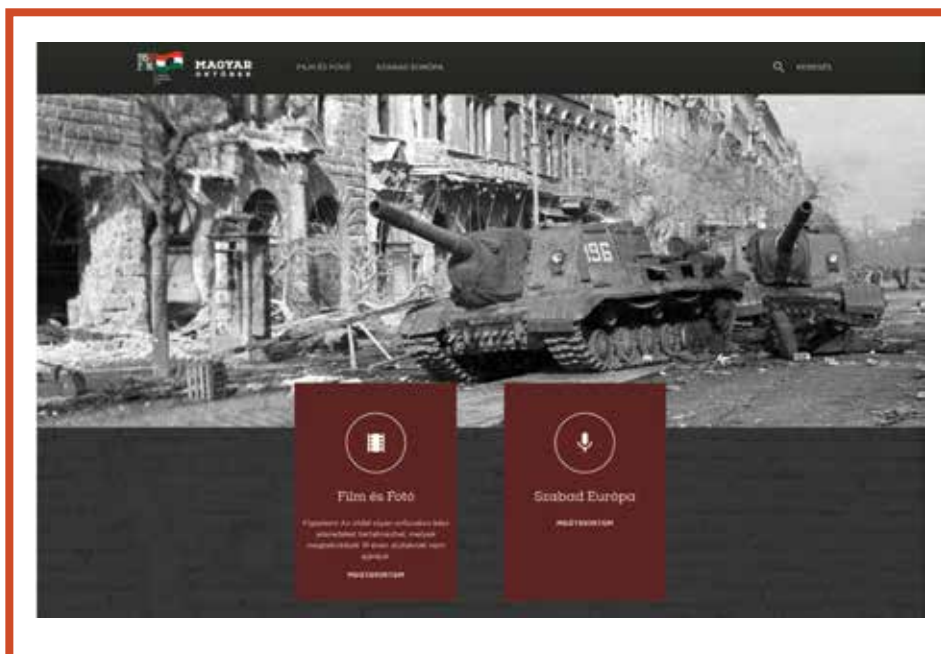
major.laszlo.at.oszk.hu, bealukacs.at.oszk.hu



Mária Gring-Mikecz, newsreader of Radio Free Europe/
The studio of Radio Free Europe in the 1950s. Mária Gring-Mikecz, newsreader



The editorial room of Radio Free Europe in the mid-1950s.
Editors Csaba Skultéty and László László



www.magyaroktober.hu

THE SAINT MARTIN MEMORIAL YEAR



The Saint Martin Memorial Year and the Ernst Codex facsimile edition

Saint Martin of Tours, our late antiquity saint of European relevance was born in 316, in Savaria, Pannonia (today Szombathely). The Hungarian Government declared the 1700th anniversary a Saint Martin Memorial Year (11 November 2015 – 11 November 2016). The two centers of the festive events were Saint Martin's natal town Szombathely, and the Mount of Saint Martin most commonly known as Pannonhalma where a Benedictine monastery was founded by Géza, Grand Prince of the Hungarians in 996, as according to local tradition (and recorded by the *Greater Legend of Saint Stephen*), Saint Martin was born there.

Although there has always been rivalry between Pannonhalma that maintained the cult of the saint for centuries, and Szombathely so proud of its famous son, they coordinated all the cultural, ecclesiastical and academic events of the Memorial Year. A nice example of this joint work was the exhibition *Saint Martin and Pannonia: Christianity on the Frontiers of the Roman World* organized together by the Iseum (Szombathely) and the Pannonhalma Abbey Museum, that presented late antiquity Pannonia and the spread of Christianity with a uniquely rich international material. (There is a Hungarian-English bilingual catalogue of the exhibition). Balázs Déri (ELTE University) and Konrád Dejsics OSB organized a research conference with the title *Martinus pauper et dives – Saint Martin's Legacy* in ELTE University and Pannonhalma (14-15 April 2016.), inaugurated by the dean of the University László Borhy, the current bishop of Tours (successor of Saint Martin) Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin and the abbot of Pannonhalma, Asztrik Várszegi. The contents, edited by the organizers, will be published in the spring of

2018. In the library of the Pannonhalma Abbey, two exhibitions were linked to the conference, under the curatorship of Ilona Ásványi and accompanied by a fine catalogue-booklet (*The Memory of Saint Martin*). The first exhibition inaugurated by László Boka had one single item on display: the *Ernst Codex*, a treasure owned by National Széchényi Library under catalogue number Cod. Lat. 431. with biographies of Saint Martin and the earliest Saint Stephen legends. The second ex-



hibition dedicated to the library's Saint Martin-related 16-18th century books was presented by Ilona Ásványi.

As for books, the most important event of the Saint Martin Memorial Year was without doubt the publishing of the *Ernst Codex* facsimile. The original codex was made in Hungary, probably in Pannonhalma, in the third quarter of the 12th century. Saint Martin's contemporary and disciple Sulpicius Severus wrote several works on the bishop's life with the authenticity of the eye-witness. He also described Gallia and brought notice of the hermits and the activity of Bible translator Saint Jerome in Egypt. The series of biographies, later referred to as *Martinellus*, became an important read of the Benedictine monks from the beginning. The codex also includes the greater and lesser legend of Saint Stephen, who was patron and, together with his son Emeric, frequent visitor of the monastery. The volume, taken

abroad as early as the Middle Ages, was purchased by National Széchényi Library from artwork collector Lajos Ernst in 1934. The fine facsimile edition was published by Pytheas Publishing House as a joint project of NSZL and Pannonhalma, accompanied by an essay collection edited by Balázs Déri.

The Saint Martin Memorial Year was concluded by a grand festive event in Pannonhalma on 11 November 2016, with a Holy Mass celebrated by cardinal Christoph Schönborn, archbishop of Vienna. The events of the year, promoted in Pannonhalma with the slogan “we live in a community”, were summarized by a dynamic documentary film. Then Balázs Déri and Kornél Szovák presented the books published on this occasion: the *Ernst Codex* facsimile and a new translation of the writings of Sulpicius Severus on Saint Martin. On 25 April 2017, a joint presentation of the *Ernst Codex* was held by the Pannonhalma Abbey and National Széchényi Library in our Ceremony Hall filled with guests. The authors of the accompanying essay collection, Balázs



Déri, Konrád Dejcics OSB, Edit Madas, Kornél Szovák and Gábor Thoroczky discussed together the book, then László Kéring and the Praetorius chamber choir performed Gregorian songs of the liturgy of Bishop Saint Martin and King Saint Stephen.

Edit Madas
madas.at.oszk.hu



2017

THE JÁNOS ARANY MEMORIAL YEAR



The Hungarian Parliament and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences declared the year 2017 a János Arany Memorial Year to celebrate the bicentenary of his birth. The Memorial Year was officially inaugurated on the 2nd of March in Nagyszalonta, by the President of the Republic of Hungary János Áder. The national library was the first institution in Budapest to join the initiative with several projects including the presentation of its rich collection related to the poet.

– Exhibition, accompanying events, publishing and restoration projects, institutional cooperation –

The most valuable Arany documents at the Manuscript Collection of NSZL are the two half leather bound volumes of the *Toldi trilogy* donated by the family to the national library (at the time part of the National Museum) in 1899, and the manuscript unit of *The Death of King Buda*. At the beginning of the 20th century, NSZL completed this collection of donations by purchasing several valuable manuscripts preserved in the legacy of Arany's contemporaries, friends and colleagues like Pál Gyulai, Károly Szász, Gábor Egri and Imre Madách, including *The Minstrel's Sorrow*, *Consecration of the Bridge*, *Becky Scarlet*, *Family Circle* and *Duel at Midnight*. It made possible that our exhibition "Others only get their laurels leaf by leaf". *Treasures, Cult, Reception History* under the curatorship of Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi and Mónika Borbély, and inaugurated at the end of April by the President of the Republic, could organize the poet's entire life and work around the *Toldi Trilogy* from his childhood in Nagyszalonta to the years at the Academy of Sciences and Margaret Island. Nearly two hundred manuscripts as well as first and special editions, contemporaneous photographs, drawings, paintings and sculptures, including the works of "Arany's sculptor" Alajos Stróbl, presented the oeuvre and its reception.

We emphasized the exceptional duality of the poet, something the President of Republic also mentioned in his inauguration speech: Arany was characterized by incredible energies and precision both in his poetry and office work. The documents on display proved that as vice-notary of Nagyszalonta, teacher, journal editor,

President of the Kisfaludy Association and Secretary of the Academy, he did his duties with the same care as when he researched sources for his poetry, the most beautiful part of our National Classicism.

The title of the bicentenary exhibition was borrowed from a poem Sándor Petőfi wrote on 4 February 1847 upon reading the manuscript of *Toldi* and sent to Arany, expressing his respect for the still unknown poet and foreseeing the cult we also presented in the exhibition as indicated in the subheading. A manuscript of this poem was exhibited in our event, as Petőfi's younger brother in 1880 left to the national library his notebook with poems from 1847, including this one.

The reception of the oeuvre in literature and fine arts was another aspect we decided to highlight to present the relation of later poets to Arany, as well as the inspiration of *Toldi* and *The Death of King Buda* in works of fine art borrowed from partner institutions for this occasion.

There is hardly any Hungarian poet without a paraphrase or reference to Arany in their life-work: Endre Ady, Mihály Babits, Gyula Juhász, Dezső Kosztolányi, Gyula Reviczky, Árpád Tóth, György Faludy, István Vas and Sándor Márai all make the spirit of Arany live in their emblematic odes and paraphrases. Their relation to the poet is reflected by their poems: for some of them, Arany is an "iron reserve", for others a "silver bridge" or a "golden fund". And finally, the link that leads from him and to him, as Antal Szerb wrote, gained new interpretation with the poems of nearly 100 contemporary writers (who in Krisztina Rita Molnár's words, wear Arany's DNA-chain) published in periodicals and books during the Memorial Year. National Széchényi Library turned to writers' associations within and outside of the Hungarian borders



to ask our poets to submit their works also in manuscript. The Collection of Historical Interviews made video interviews with a row of contemporary poets on the influence of Arany in poetry and translation. The manuscripts as well as the interviews were on display in our exhibition.

*

Several events and activities complemented the exhibition during the Memorial Year, including the Night of Museums with special focus on the anniversary. In addition to the guided tours led by the curators, visitors were also invited to take part in special tours with literary historians László Szörényi and László Boka, poet Krisztina Rita Molnár and musician Dániel Gryllus. They talked about the life-work of Arany reflected in the artworks, manuscripts and first editions exhibited, and added their personal thoughts on the poet. The day concluded with the midnight performance of *Family Circle* by Dániel Gryllus.

After our summer activities, we also prepared an autumn series of five events with the title *Arany (Golden) Autumn*. The first evening, on 15 September, was dedicated to the public rehearsal of *Gilding*, a poetry recital that the Örkény Theatre brought to our library. As the subheading of the title *Poets on János Arany* reveals, it included poems from Arany's time to the present day, by poets who evoked his personality, life-work and spirit. The next event, on 29 September,

was linked to the Night of Researchers. We opened the show-case of the *Toldi trilogy* and presented to our guests the manuscripts more closely, explaining the circumstances of their creation, publishing and characteristics, the handwriting of Arany and how the manuscripts entered our library. Our event of 13 October focused on reception history with two con-





temporary poets remembering Arany with their works on the bicentenary: Lajos Parti Nagy guided a special tour at our exhibition, Krisztina Rita Molnár invited our guests to re-create verses of *Toldi* in a poetry workshop. On the 27 October event of the *Arany (Golden Autumn)* series, Mátyás Stróbl, the grandson of Alajos Stróbl held a presentation of the sculptures the artist made of the poet, sharing family stories and personal memories. The evening was closed with the poetry show of our colleague, performing artist Annamária Sudár: "...*Father of all of us*" – *János Arany, the teacher*".

The October session of our culture dissemination series *Library Salon*, already in its seventh season, was also dedicated to Arany. Our guest, poet, literary translator and university lecturer Ádám Nádasdy talked about his translation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, perhaps the most famous one after Arany's classic. He shared with us his experience of this work of re-creation as linguist and translator. In the second half of the evening, the Teatro theatre company presented the life of Arany with a selection of his poems.

The autumn series of events closed on 25 November 2017 with the final of the National Arany Poetry Recitation Contest and the cultural and craft workshops of the János Arany Family Day. The patron of honor of the Poetry Recitation Contest was poet Sándor Kányádi. Our visitors liked very much both the Contest and the

Family Day that took place in our library that celebrated 215 years of its foundation on that very day.

Our events as well as our exhibition, were accompanied by thematic activities lead by museum educator Erika Andrási, with the participation of nearly 3000 visitors including students.

The closing event of the János Arany Memorial Year at NSZL was planned to be the conference of our regular Research Session at the end of November with topics organized around the bicentenary. In view of the great success, the exhibition was prolonged until the end of the year, but regardless of that, the conference drew great interest with Péter Dávidházi, László Szörényi, and Mihály Praznovszky as guest lecturers. Apart from these renowned literary historians, eleven colleagues of our library presented their results in research, with special regard to Arany's oeuvre, his relations with the contemporaries, image, cult, reception in theatre, music and fine arts.

*

During the Memorial Year, the NSZL Publishing House published several quality volumes related to the events. As early as the inauguration day, visitors could have in their hands the folder with the facsimiles of the most important documents displayed, as well as the facsimile edition of *The Ballads of János Arany Illustrated by Mihály Zichy*, a joint publication with

HAS Library and Information Center and Kossuth Publishers. The bilingual (Hungarian and English) catalogue of the same title as the exhibition, was published by the summer of 2017. Before that, for the Festive Book Week, the anthology of contemporary poets *24 Carats* was published with poems submitted for the exhibition. And within a project of institutional cooperation, NSZL compiled an essay collection with Universitas Publishers and the HAS Institute of Literary Studies (“*Scholars of the nation, write books to honour his name!*”).

NSZL plans to continue publishing books on Arany in 2018, too, including a volume of the correspondence between Arany and Petőfi, the 10th volume of our series *Bibliotheca Scientiae et Artis* with the selected and edited material of our conference, and a new collection catalogue that presents the Arany-documents of Nagyszalonta and the history of the local Arany Cultural Association.

”Foreign policy”, restoration program, institutional cooperation

Apart from our Library’s individual events and activities, one of the most important results of the János Arany Memorial Year was that in 2018, we can take part in the restoration project of the unique documents and manuscripts located in Nagyszalonta. Part of these items was taken there after the death of the poet, and now are in poor condition. In the course of 2017, the Directorate of Research organized several tours to Nagyszalonta for our colleagues to photograph and describe (from restorer and collection aspect) the legacy and prepare its receiving at NSZL. Within the cooperation framework between National Széchényi Library and Petőfi Literary Museum, our restorers will do the cleaning and protection work for the paper-based documents, and the specialists at PLM assume the restoration of other objects and relics. The work at NSZL may end in June 2018, and then the autographs go back to the Arany Palace next to the Truncated Tower, to be kept in the safe-deposits manufactured especially for this purpose. The so-called master copies, together with copies of items belonging to the NSZL Manuscript Collection, will be displayed in the renewing local permanent exhibition.

Another important achievement of the Memorial Year is that the institutions in possession of the most significant Arany-related documents (especially the HAS

Library and Information Centre, NSZL, the HAS Institute of Literary Studies, Nagyszalonta, Nagyköros and Petőfi Literary Museum) signed a cooperation agreement in 2017 about the creation of a central web portal (knowledge base) before June 2018, the end of the prolonged Memorial Year. The central web portal is to include the literary and private writings of the poet, as well as his official autographs (as notary and secretary of the Academy etc.) to make them electronically available for the public and the researchers.

*

In view of these achievements we can conclude that our contribution to the Memorial Year was of high quality and well received. Seven thousand visitors saw our exhibition between April and December 2017 and at least one and half thousand people participated in the related events. These figures prove that our commemoration was worthy of Arany’s memory and cult. We had several types of reprography, educational material and souvenirs manufactured for this occasion, and offered successful museum education activities. In addition to our five publications already on the shelves and the three volumes planned, we gave dozens of radio and television interviews about the Arany oeuvre, promoting the work at NSZL as public collection and research center.

Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi
rozsa@at.oszk.hu

“Arany, you Gold of Gold!” – János Arany poetry recitation contest

National Széchényi Library, in addition to its mission of keeping national memory, pursuing academic research and knowledge dissemination, considers very important to address students in public education, as they are the readers and researchers of the future. In this spirit, we regularly organize competitions for students in Hungary and the historical Hungarian regions of the neighboring countries. In the previous years, we commemorated Ervin Lázár (2006–2007), the centenary of the periodical *Nyugat* (2007), the Renaissance Memorial Year and King Matthias (2008), and the centenary of István Örkény (2012). In 2017, we called for entries for a poetry recitation contest on the occasion of the János Arany Memorial Year.



We borrowed the title of the event from a letter of Sándor Petőfi to Arany of 31 March 1847 that greets the poet with a wordplay of his surname that means “gold”. The logo we used for the promotion of the contest both online and print was inspired by a portrait of Arany made by Petőfi in 1847 and kept in the Manuscript Collection of National Széchényi Library with a signature of Arany. For a motto, we chose the poem *Vanity* by Sándor Kányádi, patron of the contest: “*I dare not wish more just a bench at the metro station Arany János Budapest*” (translation: Andor Derzsi Elekes)

After the preparation works that started in the summer of 2016, we announced the three-tier poetry recital contest in January 2017, on the press breakfast of the *Day of Hungarian Culture*, together with our partners, the Association of Teachers of Hungarian Language and Literature and the Association of Hungarian Readers. The official call for entries was published on the NSZL website’s Arany Memorial Year subpage in March 2017.

In the call for two age-groups (upper school, lower secondary school, or secondary school / main grammar school or vocational secondary school), we asked the participants to bring two entire poems or excerpts of larger works of Arany learnt by heart. One of the poems had to be chosen from our list, the other was of free choice. The compulsory list for the first age-group included excerpts from the 12 cantos of Toldi, and for the second, we compiled ten poems, including

rarely heard ones like *Emlények [Memories]*, *Névnapi gondolatok [Thoughts for a Patron Saint’s Day]*, and *Vigasztaló [Comforting Words]*.

Each school was entitled to enter one student for both age-groups until 9 October 2017. The regional semifinals were held at the following seven institutions, with the support of National Széchényi Library: Ciszterci Szent Imre Secondary School of Buda, Dr. Kovács Pál County Library and Community Space Central Library of Győr, II. Rákóczi Ferenc County





and Town Library of Miskolc, Móricz Zsigmond Town and County Library of Nyíregyháza, Csorba Győző Library of Pécs, Somogyi Károly Town and County Library of Szeged, Vörösmarty Mihály Library of Székesfehérvár.

In the regional semifinals, more than 250 students took part, 48 of whom entered the final held in National Széchényi Library on 25 November, the János Arany Family Day. (Before the semifinals, of course, all the schools organized their own contests which assumes the participation of thousands of students within and outside the borders of Hungary.)

In the morning of the final, we welcomed students, parents and teachers with a buffet breakfast, and then the inauguration ceremony followed. The greeting speech was delivered by Géza Szócs poet, Chairman of the National Library Board and the Hungarian Pen Club. The contest took place in two venues. The chairpersons of the jury for the upper-grade and the secondary school groups were Gábor Csőre, Jászai Mari award-winning actor and Csilla Csorba, curator of the János Arany Memorial Year, respectively.

In the award ceremony, after the words of evaluation of both chairpersons, all the students and teachers were given presents. Then followed the special awards, and finally the three first prizes in both groups: the

winners received summer camp tickets, packages of books and CDs as well as other prizes in an overall value of 2 million forints, thanks to the generosity of the institutions, foundations, publishers, artists and patisseries partnering with NSZL who organized the event with enthusiasm and dedication. The list of the winners is available on our website <http://www.oszk.hu/arany-janos-szavaloverseny/donto>, and you can see some of the performances on our YouTube channel (<http://bit.ly/aranyszavaloverseny>)

The poetry recitation contest of the 2017 *János Arany Memorial Year* was a proof of our conviction that “A poem is something you have to tell.”¹

Annamária Sudár
sudara.at.oszk.hu

¹ *Valaki jár a fák hegyén. Kányádi Sándor egyberostált versei*, Budapest, Magyar Könyvklub, 1998, 6.

REFORMATION 500



The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation at NSZL

In 2017, the entire world commemorated the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a cultural movement of decisive influence that spread quickly in the 16th century due to the wide use of typography.

National Széchényi Library is a keeper of a rich collection of books related to the Reformation, including contemporaneous editions of the works of the first Protestant reformers Martin Luther and John Calvin, their translations dating from the succeeding centuries, and the biblical, theological and devotional literature inspired by their activity. Our collection of printed works and manuscripts of Hungarian Protestantism might be the largest in our country, as the national library has the mission of collecting, elaborating and preserving all the documents of Hungar-

ian language, published in Hungary or authored by Hungarians.

No wonder that the anniversary exhibitions nationwide borrowed a great number of items from our library. Most of them, almost 200, were displayed in the large-scale *Grammar and Grace* exhibition of the Hungarian National Museum, under the careful curatorship of János Heltai. As NSZL was the co-organizer of this grand event, no independent exhibition of ours was set up for the anniversary.

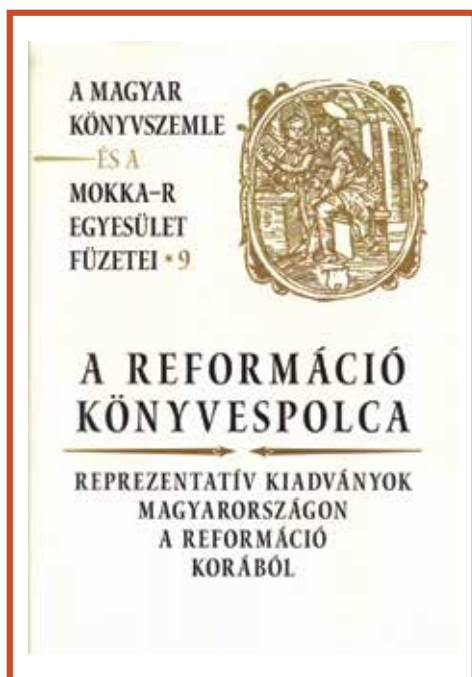
We hosted, however, a book history conference on 16 October 2017, under the title *The Bookshelf of the Reformation. Representative Editions of Books in Reformation Era Hungary*. The successful event was attended by a large audience and presented prints and manuscripts that in terms of edition, book history, typography, bindery and contents, played symbolic role or contributed to prestige during the history of



the Reformation in Hungary and Europe. The books included works of Martin Luther and John Calvin from church and secular collections, and exquisite editions of the most significant psalters, song books, sermon books, devotional and prayer books, catechisms and confessions of faith made under the patronage of Hungarian aristocratic families like the Rákóczi, the Thurzó, and the Ráday.

The contributors of the conference were researchers of NSZL, and staff members of historical Hungarian collections founded in the Reformation Era, all specialized in the Early Modern Period. We had two guest lecturers from the Slovakian National Library of Martin that has several old historical collections, and a colleague from the Central Archives of the Transylvanian Diocese of the Reformed Church. The edited version of the papers will be published by Argumentum Publishing House as the 9th Booklet of Hungarian Book Review and MOKKA-R Association.

NSZL was a co-organizer of *The Memory of the Reformation in Early Modern Period Hungary (Protestant and Catholic Interpretations in the 16th-18th Centuries)* conference held in Debrecen between 18 and 20 of May 2017, together with the Research Institute of



Hungarian Literature and Culture of the Debrecen University and the Renaissance Department of the Institute for Literary Studies at the HAS Research Centre for the Humanities, with their respective faculties of Old Hungarian Literature and the Refo 500 – Refo

RC international consortium. Our lecturers at the conference were Judit P. Vásárhelyi and János Heltai.

The two researchers also contributed with introductory essays of cultural history to the anniversary edition of the revised *New Testament and Psalter* in Gáspár Károli's translation, published by the Hungarian Bible Association Foundation, adjusted to modern Hungarian spelling. A specialty of this publication is that the Bible translations were typeset with the original letters used by Mikós Tótfalusi Kis and the illustrations for the introductory essays were selected from the collections of National Széchényi Library.

The anniversary year was a good opportunity for NSZL to publish, together with Balassi Publishing House a facsimile edition of a fundamental work of the Reformation in Hungary: the first edition of the translation of Albert Szenci Molnár of the *Geneva Psalter*, with the well-known psalms singed until today, and a brief catechism (*Psalterium Ungaricum. Brief Catechism*. Herborn, 1607). The facsimile of this rare book was made upon the copy at the Ráday Library, with an accompanying essay by Judit P. Vásárhelyi.

The volume went in pair with *An Anniversary Sermon* originally published in Heidelberg for the 100th anniversary of the Reformation. The sermon was preached by Abraham Scultetus in 1617, and published in Hungary one year later in the translation of Szenci Molnár (Oppenheim, 1618). The facsimile was made upon the copy at National Széchényi Library, with an accompanying essay of Mihály Imre. Both facsimiles belong to the *Bibliotheca Hungarica Antiqua* series of Balassi Publishing House.

Also on the occasion of the anniversary, NSZL published the essay [*„And What Could I Say Before Thee My Lord” Pál Keresztúri Bíró and the Heavenly Conversation*] of Bernadett Varga. The author analyzes the Protestant meditation of Keresztúri Bíró who was court educator of the sons of Transylvanian Prince György Rákóczi I and court preacher of Prince György Rákóczi II. The work clarifies the origin of the text, enumerates its 18th century editions, and includes a critical text edition.

All the events and publications were sponsored by the Reformation 500 Memorial Committee.

Judit P. Vásárhelyi
 pvj.at.oszk.hu

ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITIONS AND CHAMBER EXHIBITIONS



“As you are sitting in front of me...” – dr. Flóra Kozmutza, Mrs. Gyula Illyés was born 110 years ago

The exhibition “*As you are sitting in front of me...*”, dedicated to the memory of dr. Flóra Kozmutza, Mrs. Gyula Illyés born 110 years ago, was inaugurated on the 7th floor of National Széchényi Library on 1 September 2015.

Apart from the original documents from the NSZL General and Manuscript Collection, unpublished documents from the family legacy and the College of Special Education were exhibited to present the unselfish character of the psychologist deceased 20 years ago and her passion for helping others in her professional and private life. Only altruism explains why it was inevitable for Flóra, a student of liberal arts to choose Special Pedagogy as a vocation for life, why her colleagues called her and István Benedek “the two pages of Szondi” (playfully referring both to a poem of the same title on the medieval knight Szondi, and to psychologist Lipót Szondi), and how the words of French philosopher Guyau, “This being suffers, therefore I love him” inspired Flóra’s becoming a muse.

The exhibition presented the last love letters by Attila József to Flóra Kozmutza, the poem by Gyula Illyés from which the title of this event was borrowed, and an emotional letter of the latter. The journals of Illyés reveal why he did not allow himself include his wife’s name in any poem, and whether there was still any exception of this rule during their four decades of marriage.

The original manuscript of *Tearful*, a movingly beautiful poem by Illyés that describes his last encounter with Attila József in Siesta Sanatorium, had a special place in the exhibition.

The Attila József section included an original photograph of Attila József and a reproduction of the artworks by Melánia Szántó Dombyné inspired by the Flóra poems.

It might be lesser known that Flóra Kozmutza was the first female professor and from 1973 the director of the College of Special Education whose Damjanich Street building complex was founded by her. Our exhibition presented the achievements of Flóra Kozmutza’s professional life as well as her literary activity at Gyula Illyés’s side.

She typed his husband’s manuscripts, kept contact with editors, publishers and a wide circle of family friends including public figures. Our exhibition, based upon the NSZL collections, highlighted the correspondence between Mrs. Illyés and Márta Sárközi (Ferenc Molnár’s daughter, widow of György Sárközi and editor-publisher of the periodical *Válasz* at its new start). After her husband’s death, Mrs. Illyés dedicated herself to arranging the poet’s legacy, and the exhibition presented some of the volumes published at that time.



A photo from the Illyés family: Flóra Kozmutza, Gyula Illyés, and their daughter Mária Illyés

Mrs Illyés, the founder of Hungarian special education psychology, was author of several research publications some of which were now also exhibited. She contributed greatly to the research of the early diagnostics of intellectual disability and fought for the social inclusion of those affected.

One-time disciple of Mrs. Illyés, professor emeritus dr. Ferencné Gereben, former director of the Institute of Special Education Pedagogy and president of the Hungarian Association of Special Educators said these words at the inauguration ceremony:

“As prosaic as the biography data might seem, they prove that being a muse and a poet’s wife was just one of the aspects of Mrs Illyés’s life. She had an outstanding professional career. Whenever she accompanied her husband to travel abroad, she took the occasion to study the problems of mental disability and the service provider systems in that country to try and integrate the experience in Hungary.”

The recognition of this activity is worded by Gyula Illyés in his work [*Respect to Special Educators*]: “The profession of a special educator is to heal by education, and it is a creative work. It is characterized by the same word as mine: vocation. It means that professional knowledge is not enough, and neither is talent. You must be humane and good in character.”

Rita Szűts-Novák

szuts-novak.rita.at.oszk.hu

Give me a Biro – László Bíró exhibition 12 November 2015 – 6 February 2016

When the World Expo of Milan closed on 31 October 2015, some of its programs came to Budapest to add color to the cultural life of National Széchényi Library. It was indeed a useful and successful initiative to take to a broader audience the topics presented in the Hungarian Pavilion, including a unique exhibition dedicated to László Bíró.

But who in fact was László Bíró? Why is his name still unknown to Hungarians, although his most important invention is there in all the drawers and bags of the world?

László Bíró was a real genius of technology history. Born in 1899 and originally named László József



Mrs. Gyula Illyés, 1939. Family legacy

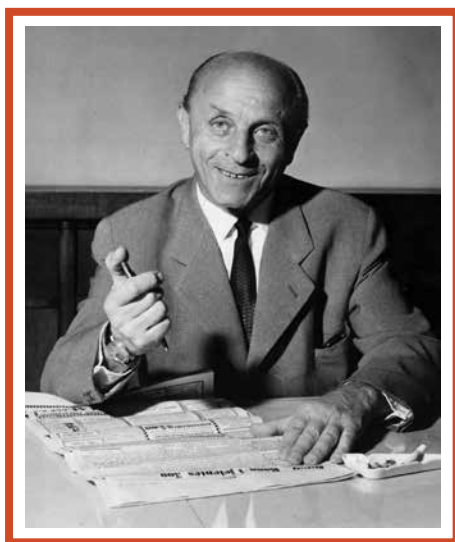
Schweiger, he had more than twenty patents, including the ballpoint pen (biropen), that made his name immortal in his lifetime. Urban legend has it that Bíró, a journalist, on one day observed a ball falling into a puddle of water and leaving a stripe when rolled on. Then he noticed at work that the paint used by the printing press is denser than ink, and it does not smudge the paper. It might have been a combination of these observations that led Bíró to create the ballpoint pen in the 1930s, putting a small ball into the pen that conducted a denser form of ink to the bottom. The movement of the pen kept the ball rolling, and the ink left a trace on the paper. The idea was so genial that Bíró patented it in Budapest in the spring of 1938. However, as in that very year the first anti-Jewish law was enacted, Bíró had to emigrate from Hungary to Argentina (although he and his wife had converted to the Evangelical Church in August). He stayed in Argentina for the rest of his life, for nearly fifty years, and died there in 1985. His birthday, the 29th of September, is the Inventors’ Day in Argentina, and all

the children in that country know his name.

Sándor Rácz and Mária Ráczné Kernya called in the office of the Hungarian organizing committee of Expo 2015 with the idea that Bíró, a lesser known figure of the history of inventions in Hungary, should have a commemorative exhibition in the pavilion. The organizers welcomed the idea, and the László Bíró exhibition was open first in Milan, and then in National Széchényi Library.

The Rácz couple's relation to László Bíró is simple: they are the owners of the Viktoria-R shop of fine pens. Sándor Rácz himself prepared the posters presenting the most important moments of Bíró's life. Some unique objects displayed on the exhibition belong to Mr Rácz's private collection, like a ball-pen of the first ones made according to Bíró's patent at the end of the 1930s.

The posters presented the landmarks of Bíró's life and inventions, including two more world successes: the automatic transmission and the roll-on deodorant. Both changed fundamentally the industry they belong to.



László Bíró with his ballpoint-pen

The objects at the exhibition included original documents related to Bíró as well as pens, especially luxury ones. The artistic pens of the *Montegrappa* and *Tibaldi* brands symbolize how an object of everyday use like a ballpoint-pen can become a piece of art if



László Bíró's personal documents

designed with good taste, manufactured with luxury techniques and displayed accordingly. Pens inspired by *Sophia Loren*, *Salvador Dalí* or *Ayrton Senna* are luxury gifts worldwide, and those who are lucky enough to have them may hold several millions of forints in their hand. The Tibaldi collection boasts a pen with the portrait of István Széchenyi, Montegrappa has decorated one of his precious items with the portrait of László Bíró.

National Széchényi Library, as a keeper of the memory of the outstanding figures of technology as well as book and culture history, was delighted to present this exhibition foreseen to travel to many cities more.

Barbara Ekler Péterné Kiss
barbara.at.oszk.hu

”Memories of my life” – An exhibition to mark 100 years since the death of Károly Goldmark

Károly (Karl) Goldmark (1830–1915) born in Keszthely and brought up in Németerkeresztúr reached the peak of his career when he was already living in Vienna. It was there that he composed six operas, including *The Queen of Sheba* that brought him world fame, *Violin Concerto* still popular today, and *Symphony No. 1* known for the elder generations by its subtitle *Rustic Wedding Symphony*. But Goldmark never denied his Hungarian roots, as he wrote in his memoir at the age of 80:

I have been living in Vienna for sixty-two years, my self-education in arts and knowledge was nurtured by German cultural sources, and I do consider myself German in this sense. However, nothing could extinguish my strong and deeply rooted feelings towards my homeland. One must have a dry and ossified heart not to cherish the land where his cradle rocked and not to remember the sweet childhood memories. In this sense I still cling to my homeland.

It is also due to the composer’s strong bond to Hungary that after his death his legacy was purchased by the Hungarian Government and the rich material is now kept in the Music Collection of National Széchényi Library. When it comes to Goldmark’s compositions, the most valuable part of the collection is of the manuscripts that include the originals of almost the entire life-work. They are not only the most authentic forms of the compositions, but (together with the remaining sketch books) also shed light on Goldmark’s working method. There are also other types of documents in the legacy: family photos, official documents (school certificates and reports), certificates of honor to celebrate the old composer, several letters by Goldmark or addressed to him, and posters and program sheets of the concerts that had special importance for him.

Our centenary exhibition in the catalogue area and the reader’s room of the Music Collection between 8 December 2015 and 5 March 2016 displayed the most interesting documents of the Goldmark legacy, following the thread of the composer’s memoir

Memories of my Life published after his death. This manuscript also belongs to the collection, and it is worth knowing that when Goldmark wrote it, he often refreshed his memory by looking at these very documents. He also mentions them in the description of the related event.

The exhibition paid tribute to the former director of department of the Music Collection, István Kecskeméti PhD. (1920–1999) who personally worked on the elaboration of the Goldmark legacy. He translated Goldmark’s memoir into Hungarian from the original manuscript, and published it in 1980. The second edition of the memoir was brought out in 2017.

Balázs Mikusi
mikusi.at.oszk.hu



A portrait of Károly Goldmark, 1908

“He offered his treasures to the nation” – Gyula Todoreshzku was born 150 years ago

In August 2016, we celebrated 150 years of the birth of Dr. Gyula Todoreshzku (1966-1919), Director of Honor of our library and one of its most significant donators. His collection of 3000 volumes is kept in NSZL since 1920. We organized an exhibition on this occasion, with new results of research and more than 100 items displayed from the unique collection of the remarkable collector. It was a long-due task, as we had not had any similar exhibitions before.



Gyula Todoreshzku and Aranka Horváth

After graduating from the Budapest University of Law, Gyula Todoreshzku started his career as an attorney, but later his passion for collecting books turned into a real vocation. There were precious items already in the first catalogue of his collection (1883), but according to his own words, it was not until 1905 that he started to work at full steam to build up his library with

purchasing 270 titles of the famous József Ágoston collection. Todoreshzku dedicated himself particularly to find the rare or unknown works of the *Old Hungarian Library* and the books missing even from the Károly Szabó bibliography. When Todoreshzku died in 1919, his library had 635 Hungarian language books, 535 foreign language books printed in Hungary and 81 books by Hungarian authors published abroad before 1711, including 222 unknown items for bibliography. There were also 44 incunabula, 26 manuscripts, 83 Romanian, Serbian and Ruthenian works in Cyrillic, 884 Hungarian prints from the 18th century and several rare foreign prints from the 16-19th centuries, as well as significant auxiliary libraries. It can be said that it is a collection of outstanding significance to the present day.

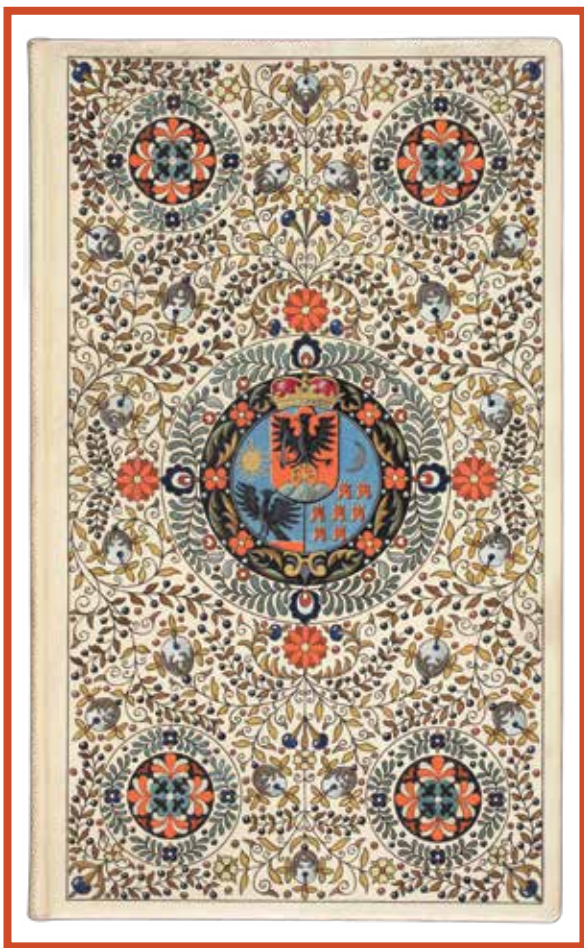
The main purpose of our exhibition was to offer a glimpse into this rich library and its history. There is no room here to list all the selected items, but we can mention some old prints that have only one copy remained, like the fragment of *A lélek könyve [The Book of the Soul]* by Péter Melius Juhász (Debrecen, 1562–1563) and the famous *Szakáts mesterségnek könyvetskéje [Little Book of the Art of Cooking]* by Miklós Tótfalusi Kis (Kolozsvár, 1695). Visitors could also see some rare calendars full of notes added by their 17th century owners, and books with interesting comments like a copy of István Székely's *Chronica ez vilagnac yeles dolgairól [Chronicle of the Illustrious Deeds of this World]* (Krakow, 1559) whose one-time readers wrote cutting remarks of religious debate on the margins.

Another remarkable part of the exhibition was the Cyrillic section set up with the help of the head of the Romanian Department of ELTE, Levente Nagy. It included a Romanian language *New Testament* (1648) and a *Psalter* (1651) both printed in Gyulafehérvár, and the 'Todoreshzku-fragment' from the second half of the 16th century that was the first print in Latin letters and Hungarian spelling in Romanian (soaked out of the binding board of a 15th century volume by Gyula Todoreshzku himself.)

Apart from the contents, the items of the Todoreshzku-Horváth Library also boast a characteristic visual design, due to the owners' effort to counterbalance the poor typographical layout of the old prints with decorous binding. The craftsmen who prepared the bindings of silver coinage, painted parchment, velvet with vitreous enamel and several leather types, were

the most prestigious masters of their time. The identification of the works of Álmos Jaschik, József Galamb, Ferenc Heibling and Richard Zutt is a recent result of research. Todoreszku aimed at obtaining copies both beautiful and complete, therefore, on some occasions, he borrowed copies of the same print from abroad to help completing the scanty books with facsimile pages of similar paper. The exhibition included some examples of this no longer used method.

The people who contributed to the collection were also paid tribute. Gyula Todoreszku's letters and postcards evoked his childhood and steps on his career as a collector. His publications and parts of his famous watermark collection added more details to his portrait.



Painted parchment binding – made by Viktor Akantisz

The display case dedicated to Todoreszku's wife and colleague Aranka Horváth included the donation letter of the widow from 1920 in which, according to her late

husband's will, she left their common collection to the national library. We exhibited also the documents related to the acquisition of the *Kálmáncsehi Breviary*, the most beautiful codex of King Matthias's workshop in Buda, realized with the price of Aranka Horváth's jewelry left to the library and sold as indicated in her last will.

The exhibition displayed items of the life-work of Todoreszku's partner in taking care of the books, Viktor Akantisz, who was a book binder, a restorer, an illustrator, a writer and a translator. This section of the exhibition included a salacious novel, the first catalogue of the Todoreszku-collection, a chess manual, a translated novel, and pictures and book bindings to illustrate his mastery of crafts. Akantisz's person is all the more important as he was one of the first book restorers at the national library.

We hope that this brief summary reveals the importance of the rich and impressive donation of Mr and Mrs Todoreszku to the national library, even if another great collection turned the attention away from it too early and for a long time.

Bernadett Varga

mvb.at.oszk.hu

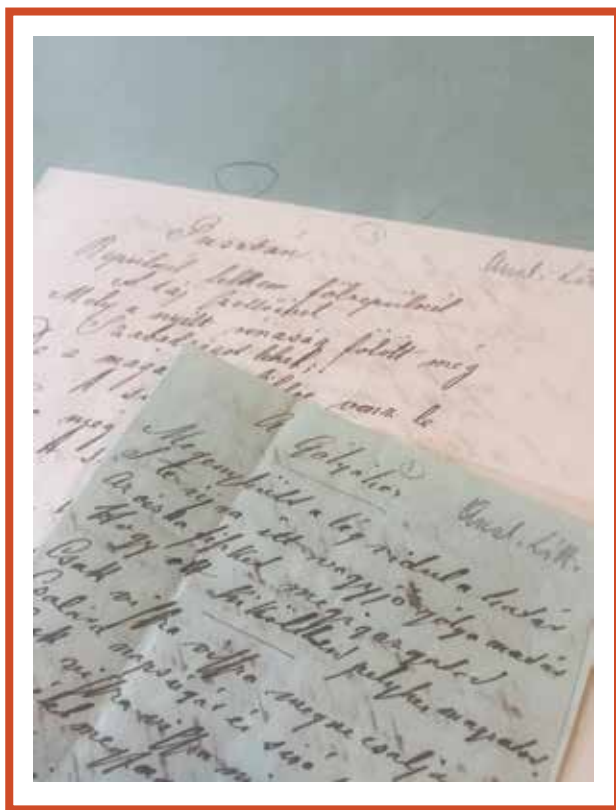
”The song might not have been forgotten yet” – An exhibition for the bicentenary of the birth of Mihály Tompa

Although 2017 was the János Arany Memorial Year, National Széchényi Library commemorated also the bicentenary of another great poet of the 19th century, Mihály Tompa. The exhibition was proposed by Comp-Rend Ltd. and realized with the contribution of Petőfi Literary Museum, the Sárbogárd Diocese of the Reformed Church and the library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Our first undertaking was the exploration and research of related material in the collections of NSZL. We learnt that there are several documents of Tompa not only in the General Collection, but also in each of our Special Collections, mainly among the Manuscripts. Our primary goal was to use these rich resources to present as much as possible of the treasures of National Széchényi Library. And although only a

fraction of the documents found their way into the display cases, the exhibition that started out as a chamber exhibition, finally grew into one of the largest and richest exhibitions of the recent years on the 7th floor.

The exhibition was based upon the following concepts: We wanted to offer an overall picture of the entire oeuvre of Mihály Tompa, avoiding referring to him as the less recognized member of the famous literary triumvirate with Petőfi and Arany (nevertheless, the exhibition made several references to the coinciding Arany-exhibition). At the same time, we intended to draw up the contemporaneous context of Tompa's poetry, as his appearance was a decisive moment of the 1840s, a most interesting period of Hungarian literary history. We presented with the same preciseness the other periods of Tompa's career in the thematic vitrines placed among the chronologic ones. And with a collection of manuscripts from our library, we presented the personal relations and events of Tompa's private life, never disconnected from literature.



Poems of Mihály Tompa: *Pusztán* [On the Puszta] and *A gólyához* [To the Stork], (An. Lit. 6219 NSZL Manuscript Collection)

The first of the 17 display cases showed the books and papers related to Tompa's student years in Sárospatak,

and his debut in literary life, while on the wall behind, you could see memories of his work as assistant teacher in Sárbogárd, some maps of landed properties, and supplements in color of contemporaneous newspapers. The next display case presented letters of the era. The third and fourth vitrines presented Tompa's literary and private life in 1846–47, two decisive years related mainly to the city of Pest (the items displayed were a letter about “a certain Julcsa Szendrey”, the first and second edition of *Popular Tales and Histories*, and an excerpt of *Vasárnapi Újság*, that remembered the famous poetry contest). In this part of the exhibition you could see a copy of a map of Budapest made in 1837, and an original oil painting of Mihály Tompa by an unknown artist, borrowed for this exhibition from the Petőfi Literary Museum. The fifth display case presented a most valuable treasure of the exhibition, the eighth decorative edition of Tompa's *Flower Tales*, illustrated by Irma Demeczky Volf with a silk binding that took almost three months for our colleagues to restore. The sixth vitrine was the first of the thematic ones, dedicated to the revolution of 1848, Mihály Tompa's activity in the freedom fight as a battlefield preacher, and his marriage with Emília Soldos. The seventh display case included illustrations from the Petőfi Literary Museum, a portrait of Tompa by Miklós Barabás, and the original manuscripts of the poems *To the stork* and *On the Puszta*, closely related to the documents from the General Collection exhibited in the ninth case and dated from the early 1850s. These manuscripts were presented together with treasures as the original photographs of Mihály Tompa and Emília Soldos from the NSZL Manuscript Collection, and a decorated memory book of Júlia Rádelyi with an inscription of Mihály Tompa. The tenth vitrine presented a selection of the characteristic newspapers of the 1850s, calendars enriched with Tompa's poems, and issues of the periodicals *Divatcsarnok* and *Déliabáb*. The next two vitrines were once again thematic ones with documents related to the poet's vocation as a Protestant clergyman: texts, letters, death certificates, teachings and funeral sermons were presented here that contributed significantly to the church literature and now belong partly to the Collection of Small Prints. Poems to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kazinczy and the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the Reformed Church's College in Sárospatak (*Remembering Ferenc Kazinczy*, *Remembering Zsuzsánna Lórántfi*), were exhibited in the

thirteenth vitrine, together with the decorative editions of Tompa's works from that period. On the wall behind, you could see Frigyes König's oil painting of Mihály Tompa, borrowed from the Petőfi Literary Museum. The next display case presented the manuscript of the famous quotation "If you change your home country, change your heart as well", together with some letters to Gábor Egressy, and documents related to theatre and amateur plays. Vitrine 15. was already dedicated to the afterlife of Tompa's works and their translations. On the wall, two death notices were placed: a false and the real one, both published by the periodical *A Hon Esti Lapja* (edited by Mór Jókai). In the next vitrine another relic could be seen: the famous *Black Book* with one hundred anecdotes from the Manuscript Collection of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In the last display case we presented the decorative editions of the *Complete Works* of Tompa, arranged for the press by the poet's friends, together with musical pieces composed to his poems, and a copy made by actress Mari Jászai of the poem *Three Cranes*. The last items of the exhibition were the copies of two maps made in 1864 of Hungary and Transylvania, from our Map Collection.

Based upon visitor feedback, the exhibition was worthy of the memory of Mihály Tompa, as celebrated him in a comprehensive way, with a rich material partly borrowed but mostly belonging to the collections of National Széchényi Library.

Ágnes Anikó Patonai, Rita Szűts-Novák
patonaiagi.at.oszk.hu, szuts-novak.rita.at.oszk.hu



Authenticated photographs of Mihály Tompa and his wife, (An. Lit. 6221, NSZL Manuscript Collection)

FEATURED EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, BACKGROUND WORKS



”Colorful heralds of our black and white treasures” – Hungarian Sound Film Posters 1931-1944

The *Hungarian Sound Film Posters 1931–1944* exhibition was inaugurated first in the Rómer Flóris Arts and History Museum of Győr on 4 November 2016. The Collection of Posters and Small Prints at NSZL contributed to the event with the restoration and loaning of more than 100 posters. From 31 May 2017, the exhibition, slightly modified according to the properties of the venue, was open for visitors in the 6th floor galleries of NSZL. As the film posters of that era have not been researched till today, this event of two venues was a real curiosity.

Film posters are commercial and cultural advertisements in one. Their purpose is to call the attention to the film with their art and attract the audience into the cinema. In the sound film era, posters were usually subordinated to the films with the main goal of “selling them”. To achieve that, they depicted the starring actors who were the main reason for people to buy the ticket. Most posters just present the portrait of the stars or a scene, without evoking the atmosphere with a subtler work of art. Graphic artists were expected to follow strict guidelines, and their works reflecting respectable professionalism do not belong to the first line of poster art. They often drew up the sketch after a photo taken during filmmaking, with little room for creativity. On top of that, as movies were only profitable if made within two (!) weeks, the artists had to work fast. József Bakó, movie theatre owner at Tiszafüred deplored the quality of contemporaneous film posters with these words in 1941: “*The majority of large and narrow posters show hardly anything more than the portraits of the leading actors, without any scene or depiction of mood. That is not enough!... It is much more interesting and beautiful if the overall mood of the film is expressed by the poster.*” But there were

posters of higher quality, too, for instance: *Hyppolit the Butler* (1931), Graphic artist: unknown, *The Dream Car* (1934). Graphic artist: Ernő József Deutsch, *Gül baba* (1940), Graphic artist: Markos. *People of the Mountains* (1941), Graphic artist: P. Kiss. Naturally, the relevance and value as source of information of the posters, as well as the importance of their preservation for the future is unquestionable, regardless of their quality of art.



The first feature-length Hungarian sound film, *The Blue Idol* (whose posters have not been found yet) was released in September 1931. The romantic crime comedy set in the Wild West and Hungary was a huge

bust. However, the second Hungarian sound film, *Hyppolit the Butler*, released in the same year, was a box office success very popular till today. Following these first attempts, approximately 360 films were made in Hungary until 1944. Our exhibition presented this successful period, the golden age of Hungarian film-making, with the posters of the movies accompanied by cinema-related objects including a contemporaneous motion-picture camera, and various documents (photographs and drawings etc.)

The first section of the exhibition was dedicated to the beginning of Hungarian sound film production. Apart from *The Blue Idol* and *Hyppolit the Butler*, an iconic success of that era, *The Dream Car* was presented with its poster and a huge table with stamps, a favorite item of the visitors, that evoked Gyula Kabos's famous scene and his sentence that became a catchphrase: "one for the stamp and one for the share". The Happy Peace Times section displayed posters made before 1938. It was a period marked by comedies with mostly similar plot: rich man and poor girl meet, undergo difficulties and misunderstandings, and their story is seasoned by humor and sometimes a popular tune, with happy ending and the most sought for stars of the time. These movies were set in the present time, a bourgeois environment and mostly in Budapest. This was the key to sure success.

From 1939, the motion picture industry was affected by the nearing war. Artists of Jewish descent were not allowed to work, and war was depicted in more and more films. Comedies were slowly replaced by melodramas, a typical genre of the era, of bleak mood and distress. The first successful movie of this period was *Deadly Spring* (1939) featuring for the first time the type of woman who seduces and ruins men. This type was impersonated by Katalin Karády who then appeared in several other films in similar role.

Our exhibition highlighted characteristic film topics of that era. Visitors were invited to see the posters of films belonging to the costume, realist, ethnic romanticist, traditional patriotic and war genres, organized in these categories. The National Film Archive brought us a selection of 15 sound film excerpts that could be seen during the exhibition.

Our well-defined purpose of collecting and presenting the posters was to call the attention to them and inspire further research of both posters and films. Soon there was result. After the inauguration of the exhibition



in Győr, but before it was brought to Budapest, National Széchényi Library was offered to purchase a poster that for a long time had been thought to be lost. It is the poster of *Modern Girls* (1937) made by László Győri Gy. Our colleagues purchased, restored and elaborated it in a very short time, to make possible its display on a special place at the Budapest exhibition. We hope it was not a single occasion, and more posters will be available in the future.

To accompany the exhibition, a beautiful album was published with the same title by the Dr. Kovács Pál County Library and Community Space in cooperation with National Széchényi Library. The first presentation of the volume took place in the Győr Book Salon, within the *85 Years of Hungarian Sound Film* conference. The presentation in Budapest was held on 20 January 2017, the *Day of Hungarian Culture*, at National Széchényi Library. The audience filled our Ceremonial Hall. Out of the 360 films made between 1931 and 1944, there are 300 with known posters, all of which can be seen in the album. If a film had two posters, a large and a narrow one, both can be found in the book. 400 out of the 500 posters presented belong to the largest collection of posters in Hungary, the Collection of Posters and Small Prints of National Széchényi Library, the rest are from the collection of the Hungarian National Film Archive and private collections. Those who saw the exhibition, took interest in looking at the album, as the posters, according to the preface of the editor and creative lead of the book, one of the best connoisseurs of the topic, Dávid Fekete are "colorful heralds of our black and white treasures".

The exhibition was a success both in Győr and Budapest. As I personally guided several tours on behalf of NSZL, I have many experiences to share. One of them is from the Night of Museums, when I made up a quiz for the guests. They had to find out the posters described by short texts taken from catalogue cards prior to the digital era that display these texts together with the title. These neutral descriptions of what is seen on



the posters, sometimes can be really funny. The visitors enjoyed the quiz and sent me answers even weeks after the tour, although by that time I could only offer my appreciation. Some examples of the texts: "Hand of man tries to kidnap girl sleeping in a wide bed, but angry policeman jumps in from above" *I never stole in my life* (1939) Artist: László Győri Gy. "Green man pointing fingers at one side of prison bars, and prisoner with card in his hand, at the other." *Number 28* (1943) Artist: László Muskovszky.

I am not an experienced guide, so I got prepared for each tour separately. You have to speak differently to the young generations with no memories of that era and the elderly above 70 and 80 who lived their youth in it. It was interesting for me to have two tours a day, with these different age-groups. Students



of applied graphics in their twenties were happy to get acquainted with the posters and the thoughts on how to express mood and call attention with images, colors, and letter types. However, when I asked them who Pál Jávör was, and whether they had seen any movie from that era, there was silence. The group of the elderly, however, almost spared me the work of a tour guide, as went enumerating the film titles and the actors' names. I learnt a lot about the ladies' favorite actors and movies, and how they enjoy today remembering the good old days on weekend afternoons when the old movies are on TV. I enjoyed our conversations, but the group's leader might have been worried, as they spent twice as much time on the exhibition as planned!

The closing event of the exhibition was on 7 October 2017, with the last guided tours, a book presentation (Péter Zsolt: *[Do not ask me who I was – In memory of Katalin Karády, The Diva]*), a concert of movie songs performed by Nikolett Gallusz, and a show of Péter Barbinek. The greeting speech of our Director of Research, László Boka, was a playful enumeration of film titles: "Hallo Budapest! Keep Smiling! This is not *The Last Song*, here, *The Dream Car* speeds up to *120 Kilometers an Hour*, although there is *No Entry*. But it is not a *Guarding Post in the Outskirts*, here both *Bence Uz* and *Gül Baba* are welcome, *The Ball is On*, and *One Fool Makes a Hundred*. Sometimes *A Heart Stops Beating...* if a *Salary, 200 a Month fix* is a *Deception for 1 Skirt, 1 Pair of Trousers*, or the *Talking Robe*, although *Ball Dress Required. Pay Madame! Happy Times...* Sorry, *I was wrong.*"

On the closing day, as always when something good is over, we were a bit sad. For me it was a great and exciting experience to study the history of cinema, movies and posters related to the exhibition and the album. And what does remain of the event, what are the benefits for the library? Our restorers, Éva Doubinszki and Orsolya Koppán turned more than a hundred creased and torn posters into beautiful ones of so fresh colors as if they had just come out of the printing press. Our photographers, Ádám Ackermann and Lajos Karasz made images of more than 400 posters for the album and our digital collection. And we discovered some important details, too: for instance, we had been keeping two posters that turned out to be two halves of the same one, and now we finally put them together. It is the poster of *The New Landlord* (1935) Graphic artist: Gehl.

I close this article with the words of Péter Barbinek: "As for the poster exhibition, let me say that all we could see here is amazing."

Ágnes Kopcsay
kopcsay.agnes.at.oszk.hu

Film posters reloaded

In 2016, the Collection of Posters and Small Prints at NSZL contributed with the loaning of more than 100 posters to the *Hungarian Sound Film Posters 1931-1944* exhibition of the Flóris Rómer Arts and History Museum in Győr.

At NSZL, any artwork to be loaned goes first to the Restoration Department where after the evaluation of its conditions, we decide what can be done to make it suitable for display. When the restoration is complete, we issue a document that as part of the loan agreement, describes the conditions of the artwork. When we looked at these posters, we knew that there would be a lot of work to do!

We had 5 months to restore all the items.



During paper mounting, the Japanese paper soaked in starch was put together of many parts.

Printed posters of colors have been used as advertising media for a long time. As they are made for the moment, their material is usually cheap and thin acid-made paper of poor quality. They are of different sizes, but most posters are large, including items of 130 x 100 centimeters. As their storage is not easy, they often get folded, and because of their size and their thin paper of poor quality, they are extremely vulnerable. Acid-made paper sooner or later will break along the

folding lines, and its edges get damaged, which leads to the loss of parts. During the restoration of the posters, we first perform dry and wet cleaning and deacidification. Then we mend the damages, replace the missing parts, and mount the posters on Japanese paper (in old times it used to be cloth) with starch glue.

We had restored more than half of these 106 film posters before, but as some of them were folded for storage, they got damaged along the edges, and now we had to fix them again. The rest had never been treated before, and needed full restoration. Poster restoration needs room, large mounting tables, as well as other tools and materials, and the coordinated work of two specialists. In this case, the task was assumed by Éva Doublinszki and Orsolya Koppán. Due to the large size of the posters, our colleagues rolled them up between sieves in our largest pool.

The same method was used for deacidification. During paper mounting, even the tiniest parts found their place, and the missing pieces got replaced. Thin Japanese paper of large size, put together of smaller parts, was glued on the back of the posters for support. This step was followed by gentle drying under plates of felt and weight. The replacements were retouched with aquarelle paint by Zsuzsanna Tóth, to offer the posters a unified look. Thanks to the successful teamwork, the restoration of the 106 film posters was ready on time. We packed them carefully

for transportation, and then they were put in frame in Győr, according to the guidelines we had discussed earlier with the specialist.

Our restored film posters could also be seen at NSZL, on the exhibition inaugurated on 31 May 2017.

Marianne Érdi
erdima.at.oszk.hu



The Japanese paper was fixed on the back of the posters.



The paper mounting glue was smoothed by a paint roller and a Japanese paintbrush



A mounted poster before drying

Spoiled for Choice – Chamber exhibition of the treasures of the Collection of Posters and Small Prints (24 October 2016 – 3 February 2018)

An integral part of the national library, and yet so unique, the Collection of Posters and Small Prints became an independent division of NSZL in 1935. Our exhibition *Spoiled for Choice* celebrated 80 years of its existence in this form, with a presentation of the colorful variety of its treasures.

It might need an explanation why we waited a year to celebrate the anniversary. The answer lies in the very title: because we were “spoiled for choice”.



A poster of József Bottlik

On one hand, we found difficulties at narrowing down the scope of small prints to be exhibited in this small area. The abundance of treasures can really be confusing when you have to set up a well-considered selection of a collection of approximately 4 million items. On the other hand, some prints originally very interesting in terms of historical context and content, can look somewhat meaningless and bland in a show-case or a display cabinet.

We do hope, however, that our visitors did not notice much of these concerns, and their experience was mainly the abundance of things to look at. Following the motto ‘treasure, value and variety’, chosen by curators Ágnes Kopcsay and Attila Tasnády, the exhibition reflected our collection in variety of time, genre, material, topic and categories.

We exhibited 183 items organized in nearly fifty document categories, all of them small prints with text and image, of one-page and booklet format, big and small, colorful and less spectacular. We presented historical eras from the 17th to the 21st century. Apart from the types of prints still in use today (graphic posters, postcards, obituary notes) there were also coats-of-arms of death, counting slips and guild letters typical in certain historical periods, but now only seen in museums, libraries and other collections. All the exhibited items belong to the Collection of Posters and Small Prints at NSZL.

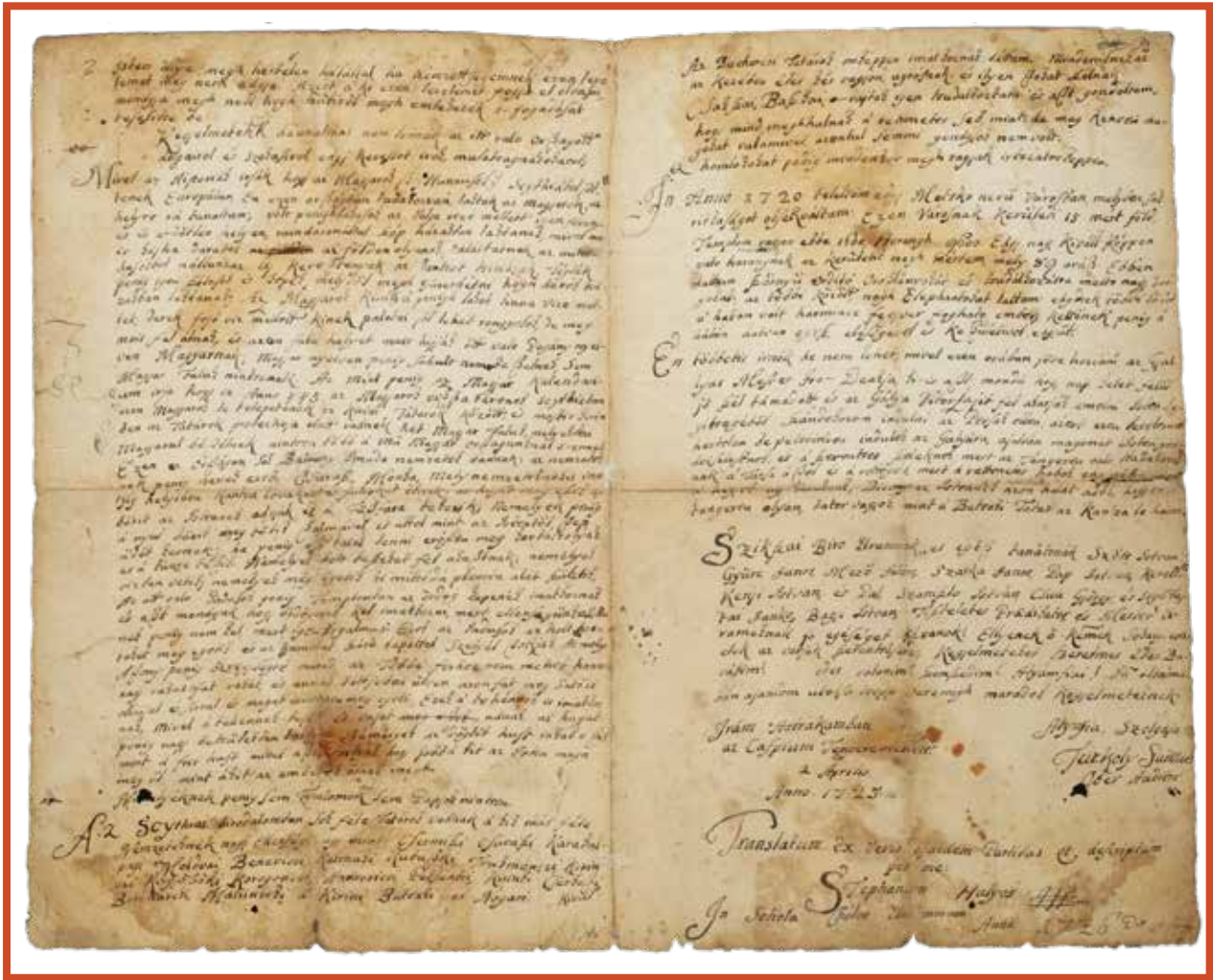
The curators were happy to see that all the visitors who saw these 183 prints, found among them something to remember.

Ágnes Kopcsay
kopcsay.agnes.at.oszk.hu

Hungarians in the Caucasus

Hungarians in the Caucasus – (Re)searching the Caucasian Homeland in 19th Century Hungary, the large-scale exhibition of the national library was held in the spring of 2015. It was dedicated to the idea of Hungarians and their ancient homeland in the Caucasus, an interesting chapter of Hungarian archaeology, national identity and historical consciousness. The exhibition of items from NSZL and several other collections in Hungary and abroad including paintings, maps, manuscripts, photographs and prints, took place in our Ars Librorum Space and Corvina Rooms between April and June 2015. The curator was historian Péter Pál Kránitz, PhD student of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

During the 19th century, a row of ancient homeland theories was published, but unlike the Turkish-Tartar, Finno-Ugric and even Sumerian-Parthian theories dominant since the 18th century, the idea of a Caucasian ancient homeland did not identify the origin of



The first report on Hungarians in the Caucasus. A letter by Sámuel Turkoly, 1724. Astrakhan. NSZL Manuscript Collection

the Hungarians in a language or ethnic group but in a well definable territory: The Caucasus. Nearly all the Caucasian ethnic groups got compared to the Hungarians by historians or laymen like travelers, journalists and scholars of other disciplines affiliated to this thought. The possible Caucasian homeland had a great influence on public thought, inspiring poets like Mihály Vörösmarty and, by the end of the 19th century, fascinating also the lowest strata of society. More than a dozen expeditions set out to the Caucasus from Hungary to find the Hungarians left behind, the peoples related and our ancient homeland.

The first of these endeavors was the 1804 expedition of Gergely Jaksics and János Orlay, followed by several others up to the beginning of the 20th century, including the ones led by János Károly Ógyallai Besse and Count Jenő Zichy. These expeditions had enormous publicity. Zichy's travels, for instance, were regularly

covered by the weekly periodicals on their front page. The Hungarian research of the Caucasus got such a great momentum that dozens of monographs and essays were published on its ethnography, geography, history, zoology etc. The expeditions brought home a vast number of artworks, some exhibited at the end of the 19th century, that are still researchable today in Hungarian public collections like the Museum of Ethnography and the Museum of Applied Arts. As the ancient Caucasian homeland was visually represented in Miklós Szerelmey's 1847 *Illustrated History Album*, and by Carl Wuttke, an artist who participated in the Zichy-expeditions, the idea of Hungarians in the Caucasus made its way to fine arts.

Our exhibition included a letter by Sámuel Turkoy from 1725 that first informed the Hungarian public about the Caucasian homeland and is therefore regarded as the starting point of the idea. Visitors could also



The first depiction of the city of Magyari. Miklós Szerelmey: *Hungarian past and present in realistic drawings with explanatory text*, Pest, 1847. NSZL General Collection

look at the maps used by the first Hungarian expeditions; some manuscripts of the funding of the travels signed by Miklós Jankovich and István Széchenyi; the passport and the handwritten reports of János Besse; the first edition of the epic poem fragment *Magyarvár* [The Castle of Magyari] by Mihály Vörösmarty set in a Hungarian castle in the Caucasus; paintings of Caucasian landscapes by Carl Wuttke and Ferenc Eisenhut; the correspondence between Jenő Zichy's companion Bálint Gábor Szentkatolnai and Géza Gárdonyi on the Caucasian homeland; Karabakh Armenian and other Caucasian weavings and carpets; Mór Déchy's map of the Caucasus, the most detailed such map of highest resolution of that time; photographs of Caucasian Cirkassians and Karachays, Dagestan Avars, Georgians and Armenians – ethnic groups that were thought to be close relatives to Hungarians.

The plethora of material and written items of the exhibition is presented by a Hungarian-English-Armenian trilingual catalogue, a joint publication of NSZL and the Armenian Cultural Centre published in 2016. The 136-page volume of the title *Hungarians*

in the Caucasus – In Search of the Hungarian Homeland in Armenia and the Caucasus was edited by Péter Pál Kránitz who also offers a detailed introductory study of the topic of the exhibition and the catalogue: the idea of Hungarians and the ancient Hungarian homeland in the Caucasus.

In 2017, the artworks presented at the exhibition and in the catalogue were rearranged by the curator for another event. The exhibition *Hungary in Georgia* took place in Tbilisi, the capital of the Caucasian country, in the Zurab Tsereteli Museum of Modern Art, within the framework of the Hungarian Days in Tbilisi.

Péter Pál Kránitz

Zichy's pencil-drawn heroes

The purpose of *Zichy's pencil-drawn heroes*, the exhibition of National Széchényi Library of Mihály Zichy's book illustrations, was to call the attention of our visitors from around the world to NSZL's precious but mostly unknown collection of illustrated albums.

The idea of the exhibition inaugurated in our Relic Space on 15 June 2016 was brought by the library approach of the works of the great Hungarian illustrator Mihály Zichy, deceased 110 years ago. The countless material of Zichy's six decades long career, great part of which he spent in Saint Petersburg as the court painter of the Russian Tsar, reveal the interesting personality of an outstanding artist. In 1891, a lady of Russian descent made a surprising statement to a journalist: in her opinion, Mihály Munkácsy was like the Eiffel tower, while Zichy was only comparable to Saint Peter's Cathedral. Later it could be learnt that her point was how extremely undervalued Zichy was in Hungary. From the 1880s, Munkácsy who emphasized the use of colors, was regarded the Hungarian national painter, while Zichy with his exquisite pencil-drawing technique remained Hungary's "Drawing Prince" (as the title of the 2007 National Gallery exhibition remembered him). He was a master of technique who worked with all kinds of material including oil, aquarelle, pastel, tempera, ink, sepia, charcoal and color chalk, but in terms of theme remained always selective and rigorous.

Zichy made illustrations for literary works by Hungarian authors with the clear purpose of promoting abroad the masterpieces of our national poetry with easy-to-understand pictures. This endeavor shows his patriotism and it is not by chance that Zichy's most beautiful works, apart from the grandiose paintings, are the illustrations for the poems of great Hungarian poets like Arany and Madách. A romantic painter and realist illustrator, Zichy always followed the requirements of the work to be illustrated. He captured the story and the details to express the same content as the author. And although the general practice of the era was to simply attach an illustration to the text, and the conditions for creating artistic publications



Image of a kiss as an illustration for *Demon*, a poem by Russian poet Lermontov

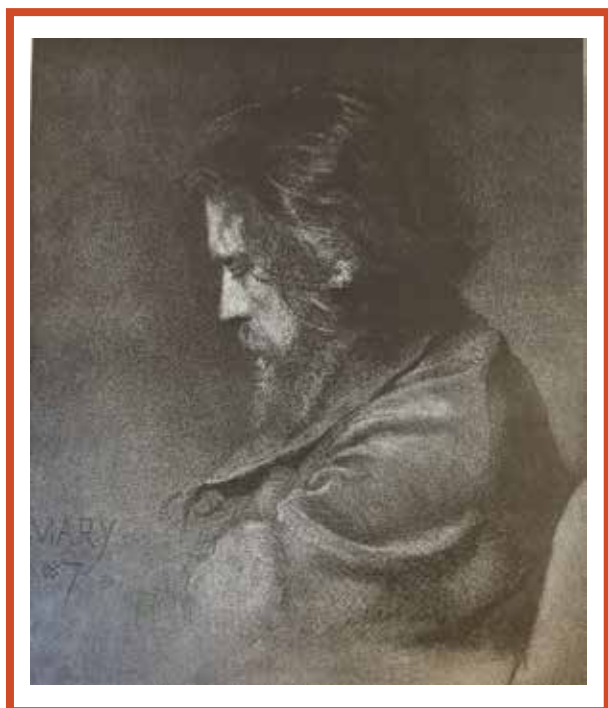
were lacking for long, Zichy in his last great project, the edition of the ballads of János Arany, achieved the so desired typographic unity of illustration and text.

The thousands of drawings Zichy made in the court of the Russian Tsars, including pictures of everyday events like hunting, aquarelle portraits and paintings of court chronicles, endowed him with vast experience and a mature individual technique. The high standard of his impressive illustrated album to celebrate the crowning of Alexander II brought him fame in Russia.

He was a widely read man of letters with a fine taste who himself wrote with pleasure and well. He liked romantic literature and knew the great Russian realists, illustrated the prose of Goncharov, Gogol and Lermontov, and wrote with admiration of Balzac. He constantly added quality books to his own collection he started during his studies in Vienna; on one occasion he spent his last 8 forints on Cervantes's *Don Quixote*.



The decorative album for the coronation of Tzar Alexander II of Russia from 1856



Portrait of Mihály Zichy, by his disciple Mary.

The *Zichy Album* published in Hungarian and German at the turn of the 19th and the 20th century and then in a second edition in 1927 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth, is a gap-filling document in spite of the fact that it does not include all of his favorite works.

In addition to the works of Petőfi, Madách and Arany represented thoroughly in our exhibition, Zichy illustrated the following volumes: Géza Zichy's *The Witch of Leányvár*, Jókai's *The World of Hungarian Tales and Legends* and short story *Unarmed* (in: *Vasárnapi Újság*, 2 February 1902, No. 2.), and Garay's *The Veteran*.

Anita Szarka, Rita Szűts-Novák

nitta.at.oszk.hu;
szuts-novak.rita.at.oszk.hu

Library Salon IV–VI.

In 2014/2015, we presented for the fourth time our literature and culture history series, *Library Salon*, with the sponsorship of the National Cultural Fund of Hungary. This activity of our library is part of the mission we assume in the progress and promotion of the Hungarian culture. The theme of the fourth season was *Crisis and Innovation. Those nineteen-tens...*, related to the centenary year of World War I. We offered our visitors a colorful experience of the various facets of that exciting era full of changes and contradictions. The lectures were always followed by high-standard musical and theatre performances, and our staff set up each evening a small exhibition of our treasures that could only be seen on that occasion.

In the opening evening of the season, *Light and Shadow, the Reviving Cities of the Monarchy*, renowned experts of the field Gábor Gyáni and Noémi Saly gave us an insight into the characteristics of the urban life of the fast-growing cities Vienna and Budapest at the beginning of the 20th century. The focus was on the most typical place of that time's social life, the café, and Bohém Ragtime Jazz Band brought us really into the mood.

The next program was dedicated to the new ideas that appeared at the beginning of the 20th century in some academic disciplines and art. Our first guest, historian of science Judit Mészáros talked about the Budapest school of psychoanalysis, then historian of

art András Bán presented the history of photography explaining how photography became an everyday practice of the average people. The closing performance was an improvisation show of Juli Bácskai's *Pszichoszínház* [Psychology Theatre].

The effervescence of the 1910s theatre and opera life had also a place in our series. Kossuth Award winning director Miklós Szinetár and historian of literature András Veres introduced us into that fascinating world. The monodrama performed by Kossuth Award winning actress Kati Lázár paid tribute to one of the most famous actresses of the Hungarian theatre history, Mari Jászai.

In our December festive event we presented a talk between historian of art Zoltán Rockenbauer and Kossuth Award winning pianist Tamás Vásáry on avant-garde art. The performances that followed brought back to life the one-time art-loving Budapest.

The January program of the *Library Salon* series celebrated the *Day of Hungarian Culture*. Historians of literature Zoltán Kenyeres and András Kappanyos discussed change and unchangingness, literature and modernity, and then a concert was held by the Classicus Ensemble group.

Jászai Mari Award winning actor István Verebes and theatre historian Zoltán Imre talked about the the entertainment world of Budapest in the shadow of the imminent war, and presented the worldwide known genres of Hungarian cabaret and operetta. The musical literary cabaret show that followed just added to the mood: the Márton Rátkai Theatre Workshop presented



Hot Jazz Band



István Verebes

Megint gyermek szeretnék lenni [I would like to be a child again], a play based upon the works of Ernő Szép.

To celebrate International Women's Day, historians of art Tünde Császtvay and Edit Zsadányi explored the changes of women's roles in the turn of the 19th century to the 20th. Their lecture *Shield and Veil* offered a presentation of women's organizations and press publications founded at that time. Singers of the Budapest Operetta Theatre, Attila Dolhai, Anita Lukács, Károly Peller and Szilvia Szendi sang excerpts of *The Czardas Queen*.

Our next topic was the psychology of war. Historian Eszter Balázs described the roles Hungarian writers, artists and scholars assumed during the war, and the new trends of intellectual activity inspired by it. The lecture of literature historian György Tverdota analyzed the anti-war poetry and writings of Mihály Babits. The playful and abstract tunes of contemporary jazz performed by the Dzsindzsa group made the evening unforgettable.

The evening entitled *The Beauty and the Beast* gave an overall picture about how Hungarian artists responded to the chal-

lenges of the turn of century. Culture historian Edit Fabó told about the art of representing the tension caused by lost illusions, historian of art Gergely Barki (known as a 'detective' of his field) presented through the story of a lost and found piece of artwork how the search for these items can influence our understanding of a certain era's art. Finally, the Tóth Evelin Trio brought to us an amazing musical variety of traditional African music, Hungarian folk music and electronic compositions.

The last part of the series, with the contributions of historians of literature Lajos Sipos and Orsolya Rákai, explored the opinions of Hungarian poets and writers of the social and political reality after World War I and the closing peace treaty. Actors from the Miskolc National Theater performed excerpts from Sándor Bródy's *A tanítónő [The Woman Teacher]*.

This closing topic of the fourth season describing the complex and manifold relation between politics and literature served already as a transition to the next season of *Library Salon*, entitled *Propaganda in the 20th century*. The new series was also linked to the centenary year of World War I and the grand exhibition of our library *Propaganda in World War I*. Consequently, it explored the various aspects of propaganda in function especially in 20th century context. The season gained remarkable popularity for its renowned guest lecturers, excellent performing artists, and the actuality of its topic.

The opening lecture of the series, *The anatomy of propaganda, or how we swallow the bait*, was held by



András Kepes

journalist-writer András Kepes. He explained how our behavior is controlled by emotions rather than intellect, and how our dreams, desires, vanity and fears make us vulnerable. This evening's music was brought by Jazzical Trio lead by world-renowned pianist Norbert Kael.

In October, we tried and answer the question of how the irredentist propaganda between the two world wars functioned. Our guide was Miklós Zeidler who explained how propaganda was present in that era's everyday life, how symbols functioned, and who the central figures of built-up cults were. The closing accords were played by Kossuth award winning Hot Jazz Band that celebrated its 30th birthday in 2015.

At the end of autumn we invited one of the Hungarian scholars who have been publishing on the history of Russia and the Soviet Union for the longest time, historian Miklós Kun. He presented the variations of Stalinist propaganda that influenced not only the imperialist thought, but also patriotism and even the Orthodox Church in Russia. Then we saw the monodrama *Pokolbéli világnéző Faludy Györggyel* [*Looking at the World in Hell with György Faludy*] performed by Miklós Turek. The show of Versszínház [Poetry Theater] evoked the adventures of poet György Faludy, a contemporary of Attila József and Miklós Radnóti.

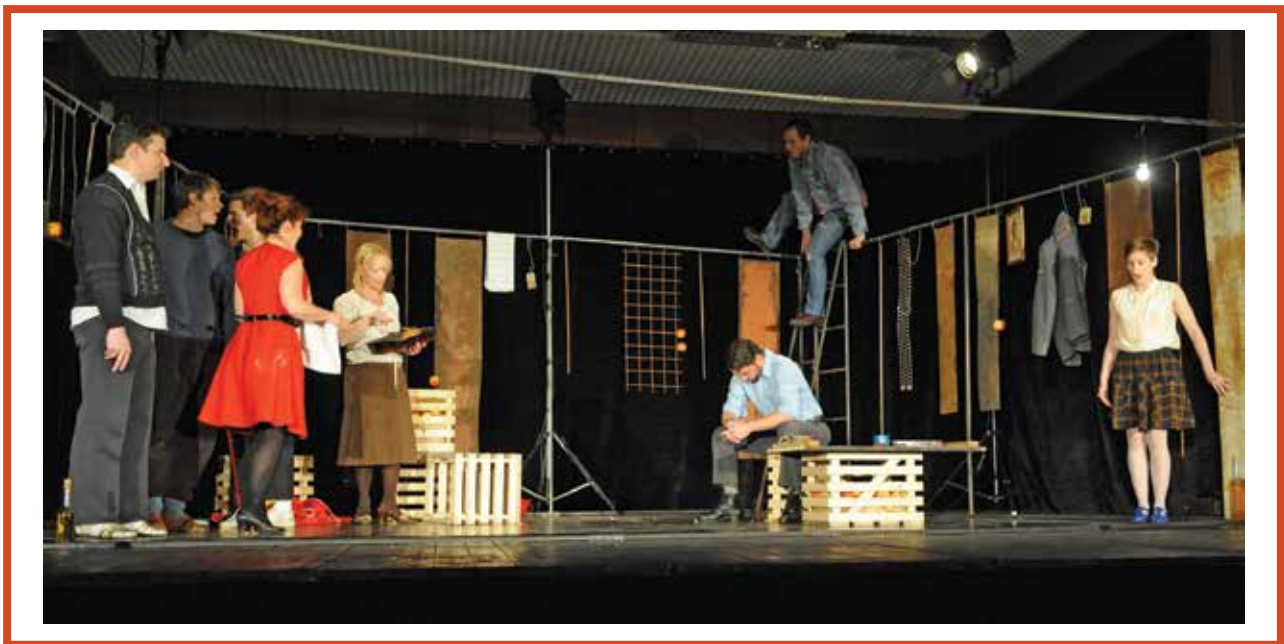
The guest of the year's last event was professor emeritus and Catholic priest Ferenc Tomka who analyzed the relation between church and propaganda, and how during the centuries of their history churches found

themselves in the most diverse statuses of society and politics from total power to total persecution. The lecture was followed by the concert *Provoked Traditions – Music another way...* by Contrasto.

The January evening of *Library Salon* is related traditionally to the *Day of Hungarian Culture*, and its topic this time was “accomplice acoustics”. University professor Magdolna Jákfalvy explained double speech and censorship in theatre, and then the theatrical group of Ódry Színház presented the play *A sütemények királynője* [*The Queen of Cookies*] based upon the powerful script of the iconic Béla Pintér performance.

In our following event, film critic András Réz analyzed the relation between power and motion picture arts. In his interpretation, the institutions of power may forbid, tolerate or support, apply preventive censorship or just induce love and fear. The performance of the Rita Góbi Group, *Memento Mori dance road movie*, presented in the language of dance and movie how memory and time intertwine.

To celebrate International Women's Day, and with the help of the lecturer of the University of West-Hungary Judit Kádár we learnt about how social expectations and norms regarding women had changed between the beginning of the 20th century and World War II, and how women were targeted and used by propaganda. The concert by Viharlámpa Projekt with the title *Az időben eltűnt férfiak* [*Men Disappeared in Time*] and built up by several musical styles also elaborated upon the topic of female roles.



The performance of Ódry Színház: [*The Queen of Cookies*]

When it comes to propaganda, the relation between humor and politics cannot be overlooked. The lecture of historian Róbert Takács on the next *Library Salon* evening focused on the role humor and caricature played in state socialism, presenting famous characters like Reakczy Jóska ('Reactionary Joe') and items like "Jucika's hat". A selection of old footages from our archives featuring *Ludas Matyi* (a satirical journal of the state socialism era) was then presented to the audience.

In May, Children's Day nearing, the most renowned Hungarian expert of the history of children's literature, Gabriella Komáromi explained how the different historical periods left their mark on the sensibility of young generations through literature. At the end of the evening a more cheerful performance of 100 Folk Celsius brought to us *Puff the Magic Dragon* and his friends.

At the end of the season we could not help mentioning the redressed propaganda of the 21st century, so we asked psychoanalyst Annamária Tari to talk about the effects of social media on our everyday lives and consciousness. A worthy ending of the season was the great summer night concert of FunkInfection.

Our series of lectures was a successful deep drilling into the world of propaganda, an approach of the topic from several viewpoints, and a good occasion to present the cultural treasures in our collections.

The theme of the 2016/2017 season of our cultural knowledge dissemination series was *The Body*, and it focused each month on a body part. All the lectures of our guests and featured library treasures were organized accordingly. A novelty of this season was that instead of a chamber exhibition, we presented a *Magic Ball* section with one single exceptional item of our collections that as opposed to previous practice, was taken out of the display case by our colleagues so that the audience could have a closer look.

In the first evening, with focus on the MOUTH, Géza Balázs told about how and by what means the body talks. The presentation was followed by a comedy pantomime sketch by Dániel Molnár, and finally some interesting details of the first edition of *The Siege of Sziget* by Miklós Zrínyi were presented.

In October, guided by the LOOK, we had an interesting conversation with photographer Gyula Czibmal about his own point of view and the moments he made eternal, while on the screen his photo series of artists and their works lined up. In the display case, we presented the photo album of poet Mihály Babits's wife, Sophie Török.

In November, our FEET took us to new paths. Biologist Tamás Vásárhelyi, in his lecture *Let's take our feet in our hands!* explained what incredible and amusing variety is hidden in the shape and function of the limbs, and with a broader perspective he told about the ecological footprint we have left and keep leaving on Planet Earth. Our guests could have a look at Comenius's masterpiece *Orbis Sensualium Pictus*, and the evening was concluded by a Latin dance show.

In December, Christmas nearing, people often think about the tasty dishes the season may offer. This gave us the idea of inviting writer András Cserna-Szabó to prepare on the site a *Black Soup* according to a receipt in the *[Little Book of the Art of Cooking]*, a cookbook from 1695 that we exhibited. The soup was ready by the end of István Váncsa's lecture, and our guests could taste a real specialty.



100 Folk Celsius



Tamás Vásáry's performance

On the new year's first *Library Salon* evening, psychologist Tamás Vekerdy guided us into the mysteries of the HEART. After his lecture *The Art of Loving*, the inspiring tunes of Jazzation entertained the audience, and then the *Magic Ball* revealed autograph manuscripts of the stormy relationship of poet Endre Ady with his muse Léda.

The next event was organized around HAIR. Is hair a status symbol, or a tool of self expression? What has been changed in the past decades and centuries in the way we see it? Our guide in this journey was ethnographer Zsuzsanna Tátrai, whose lecture was followed by the piano performance of Pál Mezei. Out of the treasures of our library, we presented this time *Legenda Aurea* (1488) including the legend of martyr Saint Agnes.

In March, we focused on one of our most complex organs, the BRAIN: neurologist András Csókai elaborated on the topic of why human thinking cannot

be solely explained by the function of nerve-cells. At the end of the evening, a volume of Diderot's famous Encyclopedia was presented to our visitors with a 17th century illustration of the brain.

In our closing event in April, Catholic priest Feri Pál told about the development of spiritual power, and the SOUL that makes us live. His lecture was followed by the chamber concert of the Valaki Alfonz Band. The *Magic Ball* this time brought a special meditational print of the Hungarian devotional life of olden times, the *Booklet of the Heart* written by Jesuit friar Mátyás Hajnal, and published in Vienna in 1629.

Those who missed the events and would like to see them, can find them on NSZL's YouTube channel, for the first time in 2016/2017.

Lilla Sebestyén
sebestyen.lilla@oszk.hu

Orientalists at NSZL – The beginning of a new tradition

National Széchényi Library launched a new cultural history series in 2017 with the title *Orientalists at NSZL*, to introduce the results of Hungarian Oriental studies to the broader audience.

The main goal of the lectures, discussions and book presentations held once a month, on a Wednesday at 5 PM, is to convey updated information to the interested audience of various areas and historical periods, as well as the most recent results of research with the help of Hungarian experts renowned also in the international academic world.

In the first season of the series, Géza Komoróczy looked at the historical role and formation of the intelligentsia and scholars, then Balázs Sudár evoked the poetic and musical culture of Hungary under Ottoman rule.

Finally, Pál Fodor talked about his most recent research of the Ottoman siege of Szigetvár in 1566.

The lectures of the second season mostly elaborated on topics related to the world of Islam and the Near East. Miklós Maróth, in his lecture *Ethics of philosophy and religion in the world of Islam* studied the survival of the Aristotelian and Oriental Christian thought in the Islamic culture. István Hajnal cleared up the common misunderstandings regarding Shiites and Assassins, then Balázs Major presented the new results of archaeological research related to the Crusader castles in Syria. Tamás Iványi analyzed the mystical interpretation and exegesis of the Quran.

As the series of lectures was received well among the specialists and the interested audience, we prepare a third season of *Orientalists* for 2018.

Péter Antalffy
antalffy.peter@oszk.hu



THE NSZL PUBLISHING HOUSE



Tradition and renewal

NSZL as a publisher has been present in the Hungarian book market with its prestigious titles for years now. The library presents about 30 publications annually, based upon its unique collection and the special knowledge of its staff. Individually or jointly with renowned publishers in Hungary and abroad, NSZL offers a wide range of books including facsimile editions, illustrated albums, volumes of conference papers and essays, gap-filling bibliographies and exhibition catalogues. NSZL is also a founder and partner publisher of prestigious periodicals like the 132 years old *Hungarian Book Review*.

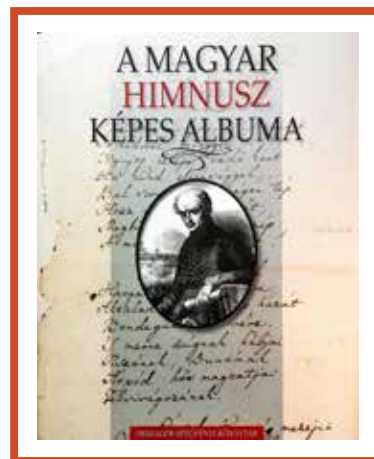
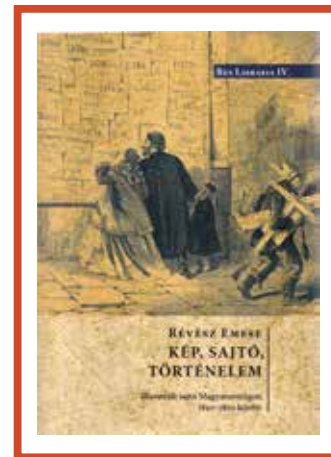
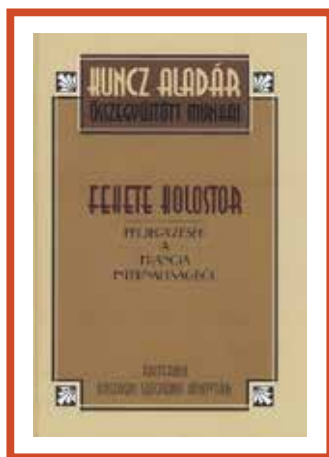
While the primary aim of our activity is to publish the results of academic research, our special library tasks

and Hungarica research require also the publication of facsimile editions of the invaluable treasures of NSZL and an increasing number of bilingual publications, including the present institutional yearbook.

Tradition and Renewal was the title of the rich chamber exhibition on the 7th floor spaces of NSZL that presented our successful publications of the past one and a half decade. The exhibition was set up by the staff of our Secretariat of Research (under the leadership of László Herendi) and was open between March and May 2017. The subpage www.oszk.hu/konyvkiado of the NSZL Publishing House is available since 2016, with our retroactively searchable publications.

László Boka

Head of the NSZL Publishing House



A Home of Arts and Muses: The Library of King Matthias Corvinus – Workshop and exhibition in the Hungarian Pavilion of the Milan Expo

On the request of the Government Commissioner for the Milan Expo, Géza Szócs, National Széchényi Library presented a complex program in the Hungarian Pavilion of the World's Fair in October 2015. The topic was a major chapter of the Hungarian-Italian cultural relations, the Corvina Library.

Both Géza Szócs and NSZL Director-General László Tüske attended the workshop of Hungarian and Italian researchers on 9 October. The event was accompanied by an exhibition of fine copies of Corvinas held in the NSZL collections, arranged by the author of this article. For a couple of weeks, the exhibition was open for the broader audience that could see a short documentary footage on the Corvinas, shot during the previous month by our Web Content Coordination Department, under the management of Annamária Sudár.

The workshop marked the symbolic start of a new chapter in the Hungarian–Italian co-operation in Corvina research. After the greeting words of Géza Szócs, NSZL Director-General László Tüske announced that the national library's Corvina website is about to renew with the purpose of a virtual reunification of the Corvinas of King Matthias's Library now scattered throughout the world. (The reconstruction and modernization of the website is currently under way, as well as the uploading of new content. The task is carried out by the Web Content Coordination Department of NSZL under the management of Annamária Sudár, and together with Ildikó Beöthy and Edina Zsupán.)

The contributors of the workshop, all renowned specialists, held a dialogue of their most recent research. László Csorba offered a general review of Hungarian–Italian cultural relations. Then some important illuminators of the one-time Buda Royal Library were discussed. Mario Marubbi, one of the most excellent researchers of Francesco da Castello of Milan, presented the importance of the master in codex reproduction in Buda. The lecture of Laura-Paola Gniaccolini explained the relation between Giovan Petro Birago, another Italian illuminator less known for Hungarian research, but all the more important, and some Hun-

garian illustrated codices. He attributed the famous Vitéz-Pontificale to Birago. The paper of Hungarian art historian Dániel Pócs was also related to Birago, but focused rather on the provenance research of a beautiful work of Birago's, the Battista Mantuano-Corvina of Budapest, and unveiled misleading pieces of information regarding the history of the Corvina on the book market. The researcher took this occasion to present his amazing finding of the missing pages of the codex. András Németh presented a significant Greek *scriptor*, Johannés Skutariótés, whose activity in Italy was related to the one-time Corvina library. The study of his work can facilitate the understanding of the environment of the Greek Corvinas, the manuscripts related to them, the interconnections between the scholars, and the cultural influences. Árpád Mikó discussed the complex problems of the gilded leather binding of the Corvinas, with subtle remarks on the implicit chronology of the material, and using a new method of style criticism. Gábor Bolonyai explored the contents of the Corvina Library in terms of contemporaneous literary canons, focusing his present lecture on Pindaros. The excellent philologist Concetta Bianca analyzed the connection between Buda and Naples within the topic of the Hungarian–Italian relations that might have influenced the development of the Corvina Library. Edina Zsupán presented the reception of the Corvinas, calling the attention to the genre of Corvina laudation, a phenomenon that greatly determined the picture of the Buda Library in the eyes of posterity including academic research.

The papers of this grand conference of valuable content were published in the *Supplementum Corvinianum* series of NSZL in 2017. The volume also includes Marzia Pontone's detailed description of the two Corvinas held at the Biblioteca Trivulziana of Milan.

Edina Zsupán
manused.at.oszk.hu

The participation of NSZL at book publishers' events

It might not be common knowledge, but National Széchényi Library, in addition to its broad activities as a library, museum and research center, is also present in the Hungarian book publishing market. The national library, due to its complex basic tasks, published several volumes and periodicals during the 20th century, and its presence became more and more significant in the Hungarian book market in the new millennium. The NSZL Publishing House, under the management of István Monok (until 2008) and László Boka (from 2008 to present) publishes an average of 28-30 prestigious publications annually, built upon its tasks related to social sciences, specialized libraries, and the collections of uniquely rich Hungarica collections. Individually or jointly with renowned publishers in Hungary and abroad, NSZL offers a wide range of books including facsimile editions, illustrated albums, volumes of conference papers and essays, gap-filling bibliographies and exhibition catalogues that make up a rich, colorful and high-quality selection for readers and researchers.

The publishing policy of NSZL aims at high standards in form and content. Apart from our individual activity, we cooperate with the most prestigious publishing houses with whom we have been bringing to the audience several successful book series for years now. It is the result of conscious development. The unparalleled collections of our institution and the “grey matter” of our experts and in-house researchers, paired with the fruitful co-operation with our partner publishers, has resulted in a continuous expansion in the recent years. The knowledge of our researchers and the experience of our staff enables us to prepare high-standard academic and educative publications based upon the rich source material of our collections in book, literature, theatre and music history, as well as library science. The NSZL Publishing House is full member of the Hungarian Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, and awarded with several prizes, including the annual Beautiful Hungarian Book award.

The first important publishers' event each year is the *Budapest International Book Festival* in April. During the past years, National Széchényi Library has participated in this festival in different roles: as a member of the “Librarians' Club”, as an invited guest of the Association of Hungarian Librarians, as a special guest presenting on-premises anniversary exhibitions

(including the celebration of 220 years of Hungarian book culture in 2015), and first and foremost as a publisher, with a stand. Until 2016, we shared a stand with other institutions, and from then on, we have been tending an individual stand in the B Building with interesting and beautiful publications, postcards, and posters of ours on display and sale. We have been happy to see the great number of visitors and purchasers.

In May, similarly to the past years, we were present on the *Festival of Museums* with our own stand, in the garden of the Hungarian National Museum. We presented and sold publications, materials, and souvenirs of the library, held book dedications and presentations, and promoted our library services and museum activities. At our tent (awarded a special prize a couple of years ago), we held museum education activities for children. In 2015, we promoted our exhibition *Hungarians in the Caucasus, (Re)Searching the Caucasian homeland in the 19th century*, inaugurated on the 21st of April. In 2016, we held a discussion on our recently published





award-winning volume *Propaganda in World War I*, between historian Iván Bertényi Jr., literary historian Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi, Tamás Gusztáv Filep and Miklós Zeidler. In 2017, we also participated. Our program for children, related to the Festival's framework program, the *Path of Knowledge*, was built upon a literary "find the pair" game, where the participants had to find out which characters said the lines quoted from János Arany's poems. This year we were present on the stage, too: literary historian and critic Beatrix Visy invited reviewer Nikoletta Szekeres to discuss our facsimile edition of *La Fontaine's Complete Tales* published in February.

As in the previous years, National Széchényi Library took part as a publisher in the most prestigious booksellers' event, the **Festive Book Week**. In 2015 and 2016, we chose the cost-effective solution of hiring a joint pavilion with the House of Traditions. Apart from the promotion of our annual programs and library services, we offered discounts for the purchasing of our new and old publications, and the readers could meet our authors. In 2017, as a member of the Hungarian Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, NSZL was already entitled to hire a separate pavilion with more room for presenting its novelties published for the event. In 2015, our joint publication with Gondolat Publishing House *The Hungarica Ex Libris of the Moscow Rudomino Library in Hungarian and International*

Context was dedicated at our pavilion by the author Kornélia Vassné Tóth. In 2016, our authors dedicated two new books for the Festive Book Week: *Power Discourses, Representations of Power in Science and Art* (a new volume of the *Bibliotheca Scientiae et Artis* series published from 2010 jointly by NSZL and Gondolat Publishing House), edited by Csilla Bíró and Beatrix Visy, and *Ex libris and Visual Culture. Modern Hungarian Ex libris* by Kornélia Vassné Tóth, published jointly by NSZL and Kossuth Publishing House. Our Festive Book Week publications in 2017 were: the facsimile edition of Géza Gárdonyi's *The Eclipse of the Crescent Moon I-II* published by NSZL and the Pytheas Book Manufacture; *The Perception of Islam in Bohemia at the Turn of the 16th and 17th Centuries* by Eszter Kovács, published by NSZL and Pázmány Péter Catholic University (the author dedicated this work at our stand); "*Not as it is in use today*". *The signs of narration and literary narrative structures in Mihály Babits's The history of European literature* by Beatrix Visy, published by NSZL and Balassi Publishing House; and *24 Carats – Poems by Contemporary Hungarian Poets for the Bicentenary of the Birth of János Arany*, an unconventional but very successful volume related to the János Arany Memorial Year. A gap-filling publication of ours in the same year was *The Bibliography of Hungary 1712–1860, Supplements*.

Every year, in the eve and inauguration of the Festive Book Week, the Beautiful Book Award is handed over for the most decorative publications of the previous year. In 2015, the illustrated album *Picture the Great War* of NSZL and Osiris Publishers was awarded the Prime Minister's special award, in 2016 our essay volume *Collectors and Collections* was awarded; and in 2017, our bilingual catalogue *Propaganda in World War I* was honored a certificate and the Antal József Memorial Prize.

Also in these three years, and in close partnership with the Municipality of the Buda Castle District, National Széchényi Library was present on the traditional **Hungarian Language and Book Festival** of the first days of September. We welcomed our visitors with in-house programs, a bookselling stand, and several on-stage book presentations. Our main activity in the library building in September 2015 was the free guided tour of our exhibition *The Royal Library – Secrets of the 35 Corvinas, Images, Texts and Films*. In 2016, visitors could have a look at the oldest book printed in Hungary, the *Chronica Hungarorum* of András Hess. Our exhibition *Zichy's pencil-drawn heroes* was also open for visitors during the event. In 2017, on the occasion of the *Reformation 500* Memorial Year, we offered a tour guided by the curators to a chamber exhibition of special book relics, including works of Benedek Komjáti, János Sylvester and Gáspár Károli. The exhibitions “*Others only get their laurels leaf by leaf...*” – *Treasures, Cults, Reception History* of János Arany, *Hungarian Sound Film Posters 1931–1944* and “*The song might not be forgotten yet*” for the Mihály Tompa bicentenary, were also open.

Our on-stage programs were the following: In September 2015, Ferenc Földesi, the Director of Special Collections at National Széchényi Library held a lecture on the Corvinas. In 2016, our publication *Almanac of the Budapest Journalists' Association 1909*, published jointly with Argumentum Publishing House, was presented by Ágnes Széchényi, chief research associate of the HAS Institute for Literary Studies, and the authors of the two accompanying essays of the volume, literary historian László Boka, Director of Research at NSZL and literary historian Zoltán Szénási. In 2017, we had two book presentations: *The Illustrated Album of the Hungarian Anthem*, our joint publication with Argumentum Publishing House was discussed by literary historian László Boka, Head of the NSZL Publishing House and the authors, and *24 Carats – Poems by Contemporary Hungarian Poets for the Bicentenary of the Birth of János Arany* was presented by its editor, literary historian Beatrix Visy, with the participation of Attila Jász and Krisztián Bokor.

The presence of the NSZL staff at the booksellers' events gave opportunity to personal encounters and conversations with those interested in the library. Our stands, tents and pavilions were set up and tended during the events by the staff of the Secretariat of Research.

Tímea Budai-Király
kiadvanytar.at.oszk.hu

CONFERENCES, RESEARCH SESSIONS, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS



Jan Hus and Hussitism in the Hungarian culture

The 600th anniversary of the death of Jan Hus was commemorated in 2015 with a number of events in several European countries, first and foremost in the Czech Republic. On 10 November, also National Széchényi Library held an international academic conference, entitled *Jan Hus and Hussitism in Hungary*.

The conference was part of the two-day series of academic and cultural events related to Hus, organized by NSZL, the Faculty of Humanities of ELTE (Department of Cultural History, Institute of Slavonic and Baltic Philology, Center for the Study of Religion), and the Czech Center in Budapest with the support of the St. Adalbert Foundation for the Research of Central and Eastern Europe and the Hungarian Academy of Arts.

The event was accompanied by an exhibition of Czech and Hungarian bilingual informative posters as a contribution of the Hussite Museum in Tabor and the Czech Center in Budapest, and 16–17 century Hussite prints from the NSZL Collection of Early Printed Books.

The conference started with the lectures of three guest scholars from the Czech Republic (Sixtus Bolom-Kotari, Prague, České akademie věd; Jan Pišna, Prague, Strahovská knihovna; Zdeněk Vybíral, Tábor, Husitské muzeum) who explained what Jan Hus meant for the Czech people in different periods of their history. Jan Pišna's lecture included the presentation of some of the rare Hussite books exhibited during the conference. The Hungarian language lectures that followed summarized the effect Hussitism made on the history of Hungarian culture from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century.

It was an honor for the organizers to have the representatives of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest as guests. The printed version of the conference papers was published in 2017, edited by Eszter Kovács and Andor Mészáros.

Eszter Kovács

kovacs.eszter.at.oszk.hu

HUSZ JÁNOS
és a huszitizmus hatása a magyarországi művelődésben
Ohlas díla Jana Husa a husitství v uherské kultuře

Előadások, hangverseny és tudományos konferencia
2015. november 9–10.

2015. november 9. (hétfő)
ELTE BTK, Múzeum krt. 4/f. 212.
12.00–16.00 Egyetemi előadásorozat

Szilágyi Dezső téri református templom
18.00–19.00 Előadás a huszita liturgiáról és zenéről
19.00–20.00 Ünnepi koncert: huszita és cséhestvér liturgikus énekek | Antonín Dvořák: Tíz biblikus ének

2015. november 10. (kedd)
Országos Széchényi Könyvtár, VI. emelet
9.30 Husz János és kora (kiállítás-megnyitó)
10.00–16.15 Husz János és a huszitizmus hatása a magyarországi művelődésben (tudományos konferencia)

A rendezvény szervezői és támogatói: ELTE BTK (Művelődéstudományi Tanszék, Vallástudományi Központ, Szlav és Balti Filológiai Intézet) Országos Széchényi Könyvtár | Czech Centrum | Szent Adalbert Központ és Kései-Európa Kutatóközpont Alapítvány | Magyar Művelődési Akadémia

Taking care of our academic wealth – Research Sessions at NSZL

The traditional November Research Sessions of NSZL were also held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, related as always, to the Hungarian Science Festival. Following the past years' encouraging experience, all these conferences had a thematic framework in which our researchers found points of connection within their own special fields. The keywords inspired many common ideas, converging and crossing trains of thought, and inspiring discourses.

The main topic of 2015 was the notion and representation of power, a source of inspiration for many participants in terms of space, time and content. Immediately after the lectures, researchers found new points of view for reflection in their own area, academic field and historical era studied, and a dialogue started between the experts of different disciplines, periods and forms of art.

The first day of the conference organized and administered by Csilla Bíró and Beatrix Visy started with the keynote lecture of literary historian Gábor Kecskeméti (HAS Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Literary Studies) who presented the perspectives of power and the intelligentsia in the Early Modern Period. The comprehensive topic created an excellent context for the first day made up by two sessions. The first unit entitled *(Self) realization and (self) representation* included works with Hungarian and international focus on the forms of representation and genre of monarchic, aristocratic and church power mainly in the Early Modern Period.

The context of the afternoon section *Suppression and Resistance, Politics and Opposition in the 19th century* was drawn up by *The Politics of The Death of King Buda*, a lecture by literary historian József Takáts (University of Pécs). János Arany's narrative poem gave chance to the lecturer to touch upon the power phenomena of Arany's era with an insight into Hungarian history. The lectures that followed analyzed specific segments of power in function throughout the 19th century Hungarian history and politics related to different academic disciplines and forms of art.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to the history and art of the 20th century with the main contribution of the individual panel of the 1956 Institute that mostly analyzed the period between 1945 and 1989: *Power and Society: their discourses in Hungary during the second half of the 20th century*. The plenary lecture by historian Éva Ständeisky *The Gate to Power: the intelligentsia in public roles* offered a valuable introduction to the expert discussion that followed.

The closing *(In)prints of Power* section offered an insight into various areas. Apart from literary history lectures that analyzed the representations of power, its possible descriptions in literature and the relation of certain authors to the power structures of their time, there were contributions also on book history (possessors and book plates), photograph history and dance art. The conference was closed by the multimedia lecture (with visual and audio effects) by Ferenc Földesi who presented and interpreted a sound installation in Vienna.

It is also a tradition by now that the written and edited material of the Research Session is published within the *Bibliotheca Scientiae & Artis* series. After the 2015 publication of *Interpretation of Interpretations. Scholar Librarians, Scholar predecessors* edited by Edina Zsupán, now the *Power Discourses. Representations of Power in Science and Art* volume was published for the 2016 Festive Book Week with the essays of our conference edited by Csilla Bíró and Beatrix Visy. The book was officially presented on 18 January 2017 at Nyitott Műhely [Open Workshop], with the introductory words of poet and aesthete Márió Nemes Z. and an inspiring roundtable debate between literary historian Sándor Bene, historian Iván Szegő, poet and aesthete Márió Nemes Z. and Beatrix Visy.

Also the keywords of the 2016 November Research Session offered a great opportunity to place notions and procedures into a new context. The conference *Translation, Interpreting, Interpretation* started with the exploration of the traditional meaning of the words “translation of languages” and “literature”. Topics in this first section covered a broad spectrum from Dante's medieval epics and the fiction and non-fiction literature of the Early Modern Period and the Enlightenment to the translation literature of the second half of the 20th century. They explored the Hungarian language, the source languages of translations into Hungarian, the mutual influence of translations of different times, and the translations of Hungarian literature into foreign languages. The keynote lecture was held by the excellent linguist and literary translator Ádám Nádasdy who analyzed his own translation of Dante in a most entertaining way to explain the basic questions of linguistic situations and environments and the changes of language strata within source and target text. A dialogue was offered immediately by Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi who exposed in her lecture some of the dilemmas of Mihály Babits when translating the *Divine Comedy*. The researchers who followed elaborated upon the translation history of works in their own fields of research.

Two thematic sections were held in the first day's afternoon. The first, *Translation and interpretation in music*, observed the application of a general topic to a specific area, the second presented the relation between *Event and interpretation* with historical examples. As an introduction to the music section, academic László Somfai analyzed Béla Bartók's musical transcriptions – also with regard to the current Bartók Memorial Year –, and organized this remarkable part of the composer's oeuvre

into smaller groups according to the circumstances of their creation and their common artistic features. His contribution was followed by three lectures by the NSZL Music Collection staff presenting three very different possibilities of “translating into music”.

The contributors of the first day’s closing section offered really surprising approaches to the topic. The basic notion of “translation” was broadened by the interpretations of the 1896 Budapest Millennium festivities and their reception in the press, an exchange of letters during the Second World War, and even the Christian-Democrat thought between 1945 and 1989.

The *Myths, Topoi, Commentaries* section of the second day was opened by literary historian György Eisemann. He looked into the 20th century literary and musical reinterpretation of one of the most famous pieces of chivalric literature, *Tristan and Iseult* by Wagner in his opera *Tristan und Isolde*, and drew a comparison between the interpretation possibilities and tools of different art forms. The lectures that followed analyzed the transmission and interpretation of genres, forms and topics, with focus on the environment and the language of transmission, especially in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The *Intermedial Relation of Image and Text* section at the end of the conference discussed the transparency of verbal and visual signs and the relation between them though the analysis of additional meanings and forms of artistic representation. The researchers brought examples of the almost two millennia from Late Antiquity to the 20th century to illustrate the effects of the cultural and intermedial context on artistic transferability with special focus on the anthropological dimensions of language.



The written material of the conference was published as the 9th volume of the *Bibliotheca Scientiae & Artis* series, edited by the organizers and administrators Balázs Mikusi, Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi and Ildikó Sirató.

2017 was a favorable year for the Research Session, as the researchers who participated had the opportunity to present their results and thoughts in two significant topics. As the 200th anniversary of the birth of János Arany in many aspects defined and organized the year’s cultural and academic life, the first day of the conference was dedicated to the poet’s oeuvre. Our guest lecturers were László Szörényi in the morning section, and Péter Dávidházi in the afternoon. László Szörényi interpreted the words of Toldi to Piroska in the grave scene in *Toldi’s Love*, and explored the questions of genre of the poem, and the European textual tradition of which Arany, directly or indirectly, took his inspiration. The lectures that followed focused on specific parts and details of Arany’s oeuvre. Péter Dávidházi, in his paper *Arany and the poetry of crisis* analyzed the situations of crisis within the oeuvre, and studied the roots of the notion with similar expressions in the poems and letters, and the linguistic manifestation of crisis. The lectures of the afternoon were more distant from Arany in time and genre, as they elaborated on the image of Arany in the *Nyugat* generation, the influence of Arany in contemporary poetry, a musical composition of *I lay down the lyre*, the bookplates of Arany, Petőfi and Tompa, and the poetic theory of Arany.

On the second day of the Research Session, we celebrated the 215th anniversary of National Széchényi Library with lectures on our library founder Count Ferenc Széchényi, his relation to his contemporaries, activity as a sponsor, and his collections. The keynote presentation of Ambrus Miskolczy *Ferenc Széchényi and his contemporaries* described the main social, family and cultural aspects of Széchényi’s environment and thought. The papers that followed focused on specific documents and parts of the collections of the vast legacy, offering a picture of the founder’s activity as a sponsor, the binding types of his books, the ongoing reconstruction of his collection, his map collection and the Széchényi family’s interest in music.

(Special thanks to the organizers of the conferences whose reports were used for this summary.)

Beatrix Visy
visy.beatrix.at.oszk.hu

Roundtable discussions on old books at NSZL

Upon the initiative of the Working Committee for Book History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the editorial board of *Hungarian Book Review*, two roundtable discussions were held at National Széchényi Library on 2 March 2016 and 8 November 2016 with the participation of collectors, antiquarians and bibliographers.

The keynote topic was *Thoughts on Bibliography*, an essay by antiquarian Lajos Borda on the bibliographical elaboration of old prints in Hungary and their protection as artworks, submitted by the author to the editorial board of *Hungarian Book Review*. The participants of the first discussion on which the questions of retrospective national bibliography were raised (*Old Hungarian Prints I.–IV.* Budapest, 1971–2012. and Géza Petrik's *The Bibliography of Hungary 1712–1860. I.–IV.* Budapest, 1888–1892, *Addenda 1712–1800. V.–VIII.* Budapest, 1971–1991), were Lajos Borda from the antiquarian profession, Gabriella H. Hubert representing the experts of old books at church libraries, László Szelestei Nagy on behalf of researchers, and Judit Ecsedy, Judit P. Vásárhelyi and János Heltai from the Old Hungarian Prints Bibliographical Editorial Board.

On the second meeting, Lajos Borda met the director of the Collection of Early Printed Books at NSZL Gábor Farkas, and legal expert of monument and artwork protection Péter Buzinkay on behalf of the Forster Artwork Supervision Office. Both discussions were moderated by the Director-General of the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and editor-in-chief of *Hungarian Book Review*, István Monok.

The summary of the discussions and the short version of the comments are available in the 1st issue of 2017 of *Hungarian Book Review*.

Judit P. Vásárhelyi
pvj.at.oszk.hu

FITA – Young Writers' Exhibition

The *FITA – Young Writers' Exhibition* offered contemporary authors (unpublished or with few works published) an opportunity to introduce themselves with a photo, a résumé, and what matters most, with new and original works of poetry and prose. An exhibition of these “ink-stained” manuscripts was inaugurated by writer György Ferdinandy at NSZL on 8 March 2016. The material of the one-month exhibition of thirty-some authors was put up to auction hosted by antiquarian Endre Szőnyi in the 6th floor ceremonial hall of our Library on 12 April 2016. The purpose of the exhibition and the auction was to create a framework for civil sponsorship of literature, a new way of funding and supporting literary projects.



The funds raised at the auction were entirely handed over to the participating young writers and poets.

The auction was preceded by a roundtable discussion on the situation of contemporary young authors in Hungary and the possibilities of their sponsoring. The participants of the discussion of these timely and sensible problems were literary historian László Boka, Director of Research at NSZL, Renátó Fehér (JAK, [József Attila Circle]), Éva Veronika Kalapos (FISZ [Young Writers' Association]) and Tamás Korpa (member of the Presidium of FISZ). The moderator was reviewer and literary historian Beatrix Visy.

These events were worthy of the support of a long list of organizations and individuals: NSZL, FISZ, JAK, Szőnyi Antiquarium, Argumentum Publishing House, KÜRT Information Management and Data Recovery Co. Károly Alexa and the periodical *Életünk*, winemaker Ferenc Séllei, entrepreneurs Lajos Pató and Simon Pató, journalist László Temesi, and last but not least, literary historian László Urbán who had first proposed the idea of this project.

Beatrix Visy
visy.beatrix.at.oszk.hu

OPEN DAYS, MEMORIAL DAYS

NIGHT OF MUSEUMS



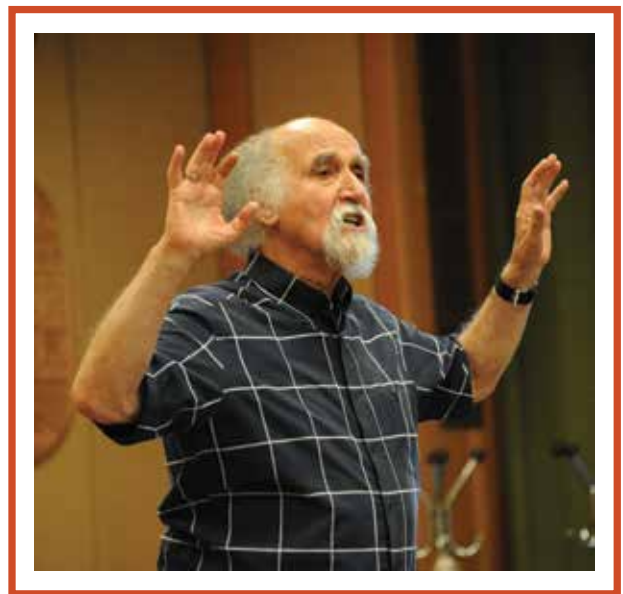
Night of Museums 2015

In 2015, our library organized its programs around the theme of humor, with the title *Humor Cubed*. Our reason to do so was that in the spring of 2015, we had an exhibition with this same title in the lobby of the Collection of Posters and Small Prints. “I do not joke in matters of humor”, humorist Frigyes Karinthy used to say, and indeed, the making and function mechanism of this apparently “light” genre is more complex than we would assume. Therefore, the curators of the exhibition organized the documents into three categories: the first was of the documents funny at the time of their publication, that still make the readers and viewers laugh. The second included items that were made with a serious purpose, but now are rather hilarious. And the third group was made up by items that were meant to be funny at their time, but now only make us laugh because of the contrast between intent and result.

In the theatre show held in the Ceremonial Hall of our library, two great contemporary figures of Hungarian humor entertained the audience: *Humoralist* György Sándor and actor István Mikó. The *Humoralist* is an outstanding and must-know character of the Hungarian scene with a unique individual style. His humor is only comparable to Géza Hofi’s, but unlike Hofi, György Sándor targets intellectual audiences interested and well-versed in arts. His humor sometimes does not make us laugh, it is rather sad. Many of his puns are paraphrases or remind us of famous quotes, his monologues originate from transcripts of theatre plays. His performances are remarkable pieces of prose and poetry. György Sándor in the show of the Night of Museums, [*The University of Not Knowing, or my Selected Improvisations*] held up a crooked mirror to the audience that rewarded him and his decades-long career of intellectual humor with a loud applause.

István Mikó, together with his charming partner, Anikó Szabó, performed a great comedy show with the title [*Gastronomy Pleasures*]. It was a selection of the works

of Gyula Krúdy, Andor Gábor and György Szilágyi, that relied on the talent of the actors rather than the scene or the accessories. The audience that filled the room laughed with tears!



Caricature is the visual form of humor. To present it, we exhibited the caricatures of Henrik Major in the lobby of the Manuscript Collection. Major excelled with his drawings as early as his childhood and published the first caricature at the age of 19 in the satirical magazine *Fidibusz*. His sketches of only a couple of lines marked a completely new trend for the Hungarian artists of the genre. Henrik Major, due to his sense of humor, straightforwardness, and no text or just a pair of lines added to his drawings, became the most popular young artist in the Hungarian press. He signed his works as “Major” or “Sicu” and was employed by all the satirical magazines and many prestigious newspapers. After World War I, he moved abroad, but kept sending his works to the contemporaneous Hungarian periodicals. His drawings, always of high artistic level, became part of the urban mass culture. Major set several records: he obtained fame as the artist to portray most monarchs,

statesmen, public figures and celebrities, and his speed was also legendary, as it did not take him more than 4 minutes to draw a picture.



The purpose of the exhibition was to present Major's versatility as a caricaturist. It focused on his main work *The Panopticon of Henrik Major* published in 1913, that includes the portraits of leading figures of the literary life of that time, and offer a true mirror of Major's art.

Not only the Manuscript Collection, but other departments, too, set up salons related to the theme of humor. The Collection of Old Prints exhibited the works of Galenus, Petronius, Bonfini and Galeotto Marzio. The Music Collection offered a selection of old recordings with the title *The Beginnings of the Cabaret of Pest* and exhibited music sheets of cabaret songs in their lobby. In the chamber exhibition of the Collection of Theatre History of the title *The Cabaret 100 Years Ago, Hacsek and Sajó*, visitors could see popular comedy sketches and participate in a quiz-game of theatre history humor in Hungarian and English. In the reading rooms of the 7th floor, there was an exhibition of old periodicals *From Borsszem Jankó to Ludas Matyi*, as well as a selection of the photographs of József Tóth entitled "Child games of master Füles".

The traditional flashlight-tours to the library's dark stores turned into Caricature-Tours this night.

Perhaps the most famous and colorful guest of this evening, conductor and pianist Tamás Vásáry started his performance at 10 PM and offered his audience an unforgettable musical conversation. Tamás Vásáry

has been presenting his *Beyond the Music...* show for years at the Hungarian Academy of Music, focusing each time on the oeuvre of a different composer. This was the genre he chose for this Night of Museums as well. With his plays and talks he gained the love of the audience...

Although not related directly to humor, two more events are worthy to mention here from the Night of Museums of 2015. Both took place in the Relics Space next to our library's main entrance. The exhibition *The Royal Library – Secrets of the 35 Corvinas in Facsimiles, Images, Texts and Films* paid tribute to the *Bibliotheca Corvina* or *Bibliotheca Augusta* of the Hungarian King Matthias (1458–1490), the first Renaissance royal library in Transalpine Europe. Its richness and beauty served as a representation of the ruler's legitimate power. The exhibition displayed the facsimiles of all the 35 items of the royal library identified as properties of the king, that belong to the collections of National Széchényi Library.



And let's remember the award ceremony of the *Illuminate Your Initials* competition of National Széchényi Library, launched at the beginning of 2015 for elementary school students. The participants were asked to prepare their own manuscript pages for a new codex entitled *A Message to King Matthias*, after studying thoroughly the Corvinas and their decoration. They had to follow the rules of codex illumination and use their own techniques (drawing, ink, tempera, montage, photo montage etc.) to tell a story related to King Matthias. At the ceremony, the management of NSZL awarded the most beautiful works of this contest.

Barbara Ekler Péterné Kiss
barbara.at.oszk.hu

Night of Museums 2016

Our library offered quite a few programs related to the theme of the Night of Museums in 2016: *Heroes, Explorers, Innovators*. Our visitors could see the pencil-drawn heroes of Zichy (in the albums illustrated by the artist), the Heroes' gallery of theater history, maps of Hussar officer János Lipszky, and the drawings and photographs made by 'forced explorers' Pál Rosti and Károly László in Mexico. A chamber exhibition paid tribute to Miklós Zrínyi, a "Discover the Library" quiz game entertained the guests, there was a textile exhibition of Noémi Szeredi Ambrus "Telltale textiles – textile tales", and a real book auction on an imaginary Treasure Island. We offered several guided tours as well as literary and musical performances.

A highlight of the Night of Museums was the Móric Benyovszky memorial evening, jointly organized with the Committee of the 2016 Benyovszky Memorial Year and the Benyovszky Association.

The relation between Móric Benyovszky and National Széchényi Library dates back to 2004, when on the proposal of the Benyovszky Association, the 1772-1776 Madagascar journals of Benyovszky were published as a fine facsimile edition by NSZL and Kossuth Publishing House. The book included the

original text handwritten by Benyovszky in French, its transcription in modern French, and the Hungarian translation. An excellent preface and afterword was added by professor Vilmos Voigt. The volume was received well: it won the Beautiful Hungarian Book 2004 award both in the category of bibliophile and special publications, and earned recognition on the Frankfurt International Book Fair.

The Benyovszky Association had been founded some years earlier to keep the memory of Móric Benyovszky alive. Its members are academics, researchers, public figures, artists and people who cherish the traveler's memory within and outside the Hungarian borders: Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, France, USA and Madagascar. The purpose of the Association is to emphasize what can be learnt from the life of Benyovszky, a hero whose experience and knowledge of the four continents is much more extended than that of most of his critics.

But who in fact was Móric Benyovszky? He was one of the most famous adventurers of the Hungarian history, a world traveler, a sailor, a soldier, and the first European ruler on the islands of the Indian Ocean. Although in the past centuries there were uncertainties regarding his date of birth and activities, related research has by now corrected the



Noémi Szeredi Ambrus's exhibition: *Telltale textiles – textile tales*



Portrait of Móríc Benyovszky

inaccuracies and it can be stated that he was born on 20 September 1741.

The controversial but widely admired life-work of the Europe-famous world traveler who only lived 45 years is regarded as a remarkable part of 18th century history. Slovaks consider him their own, Poles look at him as their national hero. Benyovszky was a registered entrepreneur of the French royal house, and his proclamation as well as his chess problems have been preserved in Russian collections. However, this man of the world was first and foremost Hungarian, as proved by academic research and his own notes.

The Móríc Benyovszky Memorial Committee was set up in October 2015 under the patronage of Géza Szőcs and Péter Hoppál, and the associate presidency of György G. Németh. The year 2016 marks the 275th anniversary of the birth and the 230th anniversary of the death of Benyovszky. On the memorial evening of the Night of Museums, words of greeting were delivered by the consul of honor of Madagascar, Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard, then the president of the Benyovszky Association, György G. Németh held a lecture and presented the documentary film *In the Footsteps of Benyovszky Around the World*. At the end, Tibor Nagy

Magnus performed the songs of the future *Benyovszky musical*, and unplugged authentic Madagascar tunes were played by Rivelis Tahinasoa from Madagascar.

The program of the Benyovszky Memorial Year in NSZL continued on 26 September with the international Benyovszky conference and exhibition. The event was attended by the ambassadors of the countries of importance in Benyovszky's life, and the descendants of his family living in Hungary and the USA.

After the conference, excerpts of the new Hungarian musical based upon Mór Jókai's Benyovszky-biography were staged for the first time in the gala evening at Pesti Vigadó. *Benyovszky, Lover of Freedom* is a musical created by the well-known and prestigious trio of Tibor Nagy, Iván Bradányi and Zsolt Pozsgay, and its official first performance is foreseen to take place in Magyar Színház in 2017.

Barbara Ekler Péterné Kiss

barbara.at.oszk.hu

The Golden Fund of NSZL, upholder of values – Night of Museums 2017

Following our practice of the previous years, the national library also in 2017 joined the nation-wide event of the Night of Museums, and opened its doors to the visitors until 2 o'clock in the morning, offering a wide range of activities. Apart from the traditional programs we have each year, there were special ones related to our current exhibitions and Memorial Years.

The bicentenary of János Arany in 2017 was commemorated also in the Night of Museums. Special guided tours were held on this occasion at the grand exhibition "*Others only get their laurels leaf by leaf...*" – *Treasures, Cults, Reception History* with curator Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi, literary historian László Szörényi, Director of Research László Boka, poet Krisztina Rita Molnár, and the founder of the Kaláka band, Dániel Gryllus. Visitors taking part in these unique guided tours could learn not only about the objects exhibited, but also the guides' personal relation to János Arany (for instance, Dániel Gryllus played his favorite poem *Family Circle* on a zither placed in the middle of the exhibition space). But János Arany inspired much more activities this night. A slide show entitled *Golden Slides* was presented for children and grown-ups from the collection of Ferenc Bíró. A recorded lecture of Mátyás Stróbl explained Alajos Stróbl's statues of János Arany, under the title "*A man on this earth will settle for less, if he is able to hold back his wishes*". And walking on the corridors, you could meet surprising figures, as Dániel Molnár's costume fantasies evoked the characters of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* reminding us of János Arany's Shakespeare translation and the date of 24 June. Scary visitors might have even seen the ghost of Hamlet's father lurking behind a corner. And those seeking adventure and thrill were invited to a *Night in Helsingor* game in search of Shakespeare's heroes; playing and investigating, or doing a playful investigation, they had to find the correct answer to a row of questions.

Apart from János Arany, our library paid tribute also to Mihály Tompa, another great Hungarian poet born 200 years ago. Several guided tours of the current Tompa exhibition were held in the 7th floor catalogue space.

Visitors were also invited to the guided tours of the national library's grand exhibition *Hungarian Sound*

Film Posters 1931–1944. The tours led by curator Dávid Fekete, film historian Márton Kurutz and librarian Ágnes Kopcsay revealed secrets of the golden age of Hungarian sound film and the exhibited contemporaneous posters. The exhibition displayed small and large color posters, a motion-picture camera from the early 1930s in the center of the gallery, and several other objects. The historical era was evoked by the concert of the 30 years old Hot Jazz Band with musical pieces from the famous movies of Katalin Karády, Gyula Kabos and Pál Jávör.

And music was not over yet. The Budapest Chamber Orchestra, formed by the musicians of the State Opera Theatre, played Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, much to the audience's pleasure.

Colleagues at the library's Special Collections and workshops prepared their own activities for the Night of Museums. The Collection of Posters and Small Prints, apart from the film posters at the grand exhibition, also presented the contents of their *Spoiled for Choice* selection of prints. The Map Collection staff organized various lectures, including *The Golden Fund of our Maps* on the maps of the collection of Count



Ferenc Széchenyi, and *Our Treasures of the History of Astronomy* on the history of constellations. Visitors could participate in workshops where they learnt how to prepare globes and tried their knowledge in quiz games. The Collection of Theatre History and the Music Collection also had a lot in store for visitors in the mood to play. While in one corner of their common reading room a quiz play of the relation between János Arany and theatre took place, in the booths of the other corner, lovers of animation films like *Pom Pom's Tales*, *Mirr-Murr the Cat*, and *Frakk, Terror of the Cats*, could try and recognize the tunes composed by Zsolt Pethő deceased a year ago. The Library Science Library prepared real surprises of literary history for the interested audience: manuscripts, including a recently discovered one of Endre Ady were presented this night. Guests interested in the electronic manuscript collection and the disk shelf, could get a glimpse into the secrets of the digitizing work of the library within the program *From the Shelves into the Cloud*.

Traditional library walks have always been very popular among our visitors, and this applies especially to the walks held once a year in the Night of Museums, with the title *Adventure Tour in the Dark Library Stores*. On these occasions, visitors looking for adventure discover the library by flashlight that illuminates not only the shelves but also some interesting items of literature and press history. The tour leaders this year guided the groups through some episodes of the history of periodicals from the 1500s to the present day.

Another thrilling experience was the auction "*The vault is open, whose bid is the best?*" that took place for the fifth time now. Bidding was open for old and new publications offered on a friendly price by staff members and friends of the library, including children's books, popular literature, newspapers, maps, posters and items of surprise.

And we had of course our usual workshops of craft. Restorer, museum guide and toy maker colleagues invited our guests from late evening until midnight to prepare János Arany minibooks and booklets, and put together small and large puzzles with Corvina motifs. On this day, as accustomed in the Night of Museums, we gave 50 % discount of the yearly library use for each new registration. Between the events, visitors could taste Fragola ice creams, Hungarian monkey bread and the wines of the Jackfall Wine Manufacture.

The activities of National Széchenyi Library for the Night of Museums were designed in the hope that our guests would have a great experience and come back to us later as regular library users.

Franciska Dede
dede.franciska.at.oszk.hu



NIGHT OF RESEARCHERS



Night of Researchers 2015

In 2015, it was the tenth time that Europe's largest event of science dissemination was held to show the audience in an entertaining and popular way the world of science, sometimes thought to be mysterious and far from everyday life.

In Hungary, as well as throughout Europe, it is the last Friday of September (in 2015, the 25th), when researchers introduce themselves and the process of getting to know the secrets of "life, the universe and everything".



If anybody, it is Gergely Barki who researches his topic with a clear purpose of uncovering secrets. He is a real detective of art history. We announced his lecture with the title *WANTED! Modernism is Lost – Undiscovered Works of the Hungarian Fauvists, Cubists and the Eight*, and indeed, the presentation offered an amazing report of the paintings of the artists referred to in the title. We learnt that the beautiful works we know today are only the tip of the iceberg, as there is a great number of lost, destroyed and undiscovered items, not to mention those undocumented. Gergely Barki's investigation aims at finding these works, often masterpieces of the artist. Newly discovered paintings

can greatly change our previous view on the art of a certain era. Barki has found many works previously thought to be lost. His lecture included stories of these lost and found artworks, like the world-famous case of Róbert Berényi's *Sleeping Lady with Black Vase*. The painting that depicts Eta Brauer, the second wife of Róbert Berény (1888-1953) was probably made at the turn of 1927 and 1928, and is considered a major work of the artist, member of the Eight.

On Christmas 2009, Gergely Barki went to the cinema with his daughter to see *Stuart Little*, and in a scene of the film, in the background of the living room of Hugh Laurie and Geena Davis, he suddenly discovered one of the most important works of the Hungarian avantgarde, a black and white reproduction of which he had seen earlier in an exhibition catalogue of 1928. It took five years and a long and persevering correspondence to him to get the painting back to Hungary.

"One more question" – said Lieutenant Columbo, detective of the Los Angeles Police Department in the TV-show every time he turned back from the door. And so did Farkas Gábor Farkas, Head of Department of the Collection of Old Prints at NSZL in the Night of Researchers, when he asked: What happened near Mohács on 29 August 1526? Was it an unfortunate accident or murder? Farkas shared his ideas in a presentation of the title *Louis II of Hungary, Investigation of an Unusual Death*. The tragedy of Mohács is a topic that still arouses incredible emotion. The reason is more complex than we could resolve it in a short presentation, so Farkas Gábor Farkas only looked at a small detail: the circumstances of King Louis's mysterious death. In his opinion, the issue was burdened with politics at the very time it happened, which led to intentional bias and lies.

Farkas Gábor Farkas thoroughly analyzed what could be learnt of witness evidence, the on-site visit and the coroner's report. What had the anthropologist

to say? And the detective who led the investigation? How was the accusation of murder brought up, where exactly was the crime scene, and who could be the main suspects? What could be the role of a suspected instigator, and how was this person related to a marriage contract? The audience was given an exciting and complex description that may raise further questions.

been in Canada for decades, and that the owner wants to donate it to the National Library? Zoltán Baróthy in his presentation gave an answer to all these questions.

Barbara Ekler Péterné Kiss
barbara.at.oszk.hu



Bertalan Székely: *Finding the Corpse of Louis II of Hungary*

The whereabouts of the manuscript of Endre Ady's *After Rain in May* were not known for a long time, but then in 2013, a Canadian owner donated it to National Széchényi Library. Zoltán Baróthy from our Manuscript Collection told the audience about the origin of this manuscript. As it is not common today to discover a sought for and provenly original manuscript of Ady, it is worthy to take a closer look at these pencil-written sheets, and we might want to see the circumstances of the making of the poem.

After Rain in May was first published in the periodical *Nyugat* on 1 July 1908, and six months later in the volume *On Elijah's Chariot*. Literary history often refers to it as "Ady's most beautiful hymn to life". It could be written in the natal village of the poet, Érmindszent, but also in a hotel room in the buoyant, modern Paris. What arguments support one and the other theory? The place where the poem was written could greatly modify its interpretation... Who kept the manuscript for such a long time? And what happened to it after all, between 1908 and 2013, when we suddenly learnt that it had

Night of Researchers 2016

This year's activities of National Széchényi Library for the Night of Researchers took place at the Map Collection on 30 September, with the title "*From the Cloth of the World to Digital Maps*".

The event introduced the audience into the world of maps. Maps are essential tools of orientation that have undergone several changes during the centuries, and by now have almost entirely moved into the virtual space. Today, when we go for a walk in the forest, carry a smartphone equipped with GPS in our rucksack, instead of the good old tourist map. Lectures in this evening were held on the

basics of cartography, on the advantages of maps and their future. We pointed at the major milestones in the thousand years' history of maps, with focus on the user needs that led to their continuous improvement from clay tables to digital maps. Visitors got acquainted with our *Földabrosz (Cloth of the World)* educational blog on map history, and some special original prints of cartography.

The following lectures were delivered on the Night of Researchers:

- Krisztina Oláh: *Maps in the Digital World*

The lecture presented the basic concepts of cartography, the technologies and their place in everyday life. How can these technologies be used by laymen and professionals, and what can be foreseen for them in the future?

- László Pászti: *FÖLDABROSZ (CLOTH OF THE WORLD) – NSZL's New Blog on Cartography Science: A Blog Presentation*

The educational map history blog of the Map Collection at National Széchényi Library started in April 2016. We summarized our work and results achieved.

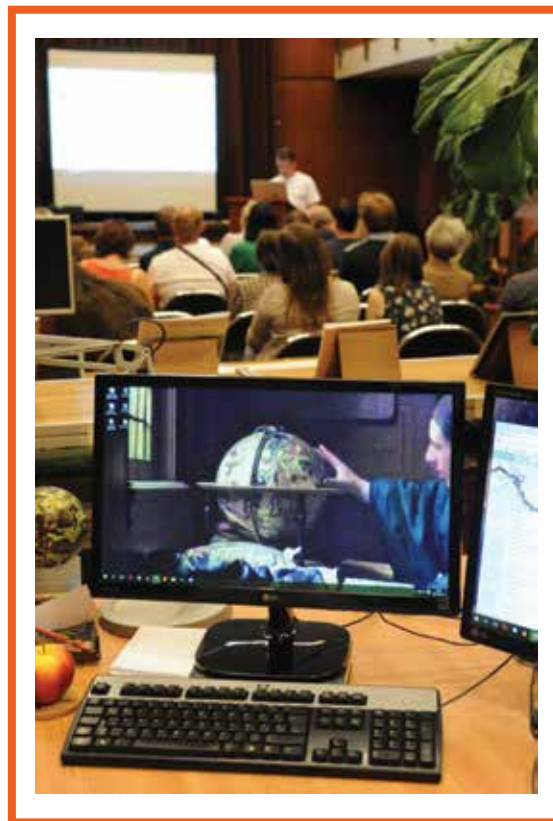
- Krisztina Oláh: *The Practical Side of the Use of Maps: The Needs that led to the Development and Accuracy of Maps. From the Beginnings to Route Planning in the Public Transport of Budapest*

A sketch of roughly four thousand years of map history was outlined for the audience in this lecture with emphasis on the crucial points that influenced the development of cartography. We looked at the user needs that led to the continuous improvement of maps from clay tablets to digital maps.

- György Danku: *Guided tour in the Map Collection, with an Outlook to Map Printing and Other Interesting Details*

Apart from the works on permanent display in the rooms of the Map Collection, visitors could see some precious items of the maps presented in the previous lectures. The tour ended with a show of old map printing techniques that offered guests a unique experience.

László Pásztí
paszti.laszlo.at.oszk.hu



Night of Researchers – 29 September 2017

Each year, on the last Friday of September, in Hungary as well as throughout Europe, researchers can introduce themselves and their results to the interested public. Although the word “research” for most people evokes the world of natural sciences with laboratories, pipettes and test-tubes with colored liquids, there are important research projects going on in the field of arts, philology and social sciences, too.

National Széchényi Library organized its program for the Night of Researchers of 2017 along two main lines: on one hand, guided tours and roundtable discussions were held related to the current exhibitions, and on the other, as a new idea that might become a tradition, we presented various collections, salons and workshops in playful and educative ways.

The audience could visit the exhibitions during the whole length of the evening, but those taking part in the adjoined events were in for a special experience. On the exhibition for the bicentenary of János Arany “*Others only get their laurels leaf by leaf...*” – *Treasures, Cults, Reception History*, curator Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi not only guided a tour, but within the program *Opening the Display Case*, offered a more detailed presentation of the *Toldi trilogy* manuscript unit. Visitors of the Mihály Tompa exhibition “*The song might not have been forgotten yet*”, were invited to a roundtable discussion on the poet’s oeuvre, where curators Anikó Ágnes Patonai and Rita Szűts-Novák, together with literary historians József Takáts and Gábor Vaderna talked about Tompa’s works and their influence in the Hungarian literature. The third exhibition of National Széchényi Library *Hungarian Sound Film Posters 1931–1944* was presented this time by a special tour guided by editor and reviewer György Nemlaha. Those participating in the Night of Researchers, could also see the exhibition of the first edition of Shakespeare’s complete works “...

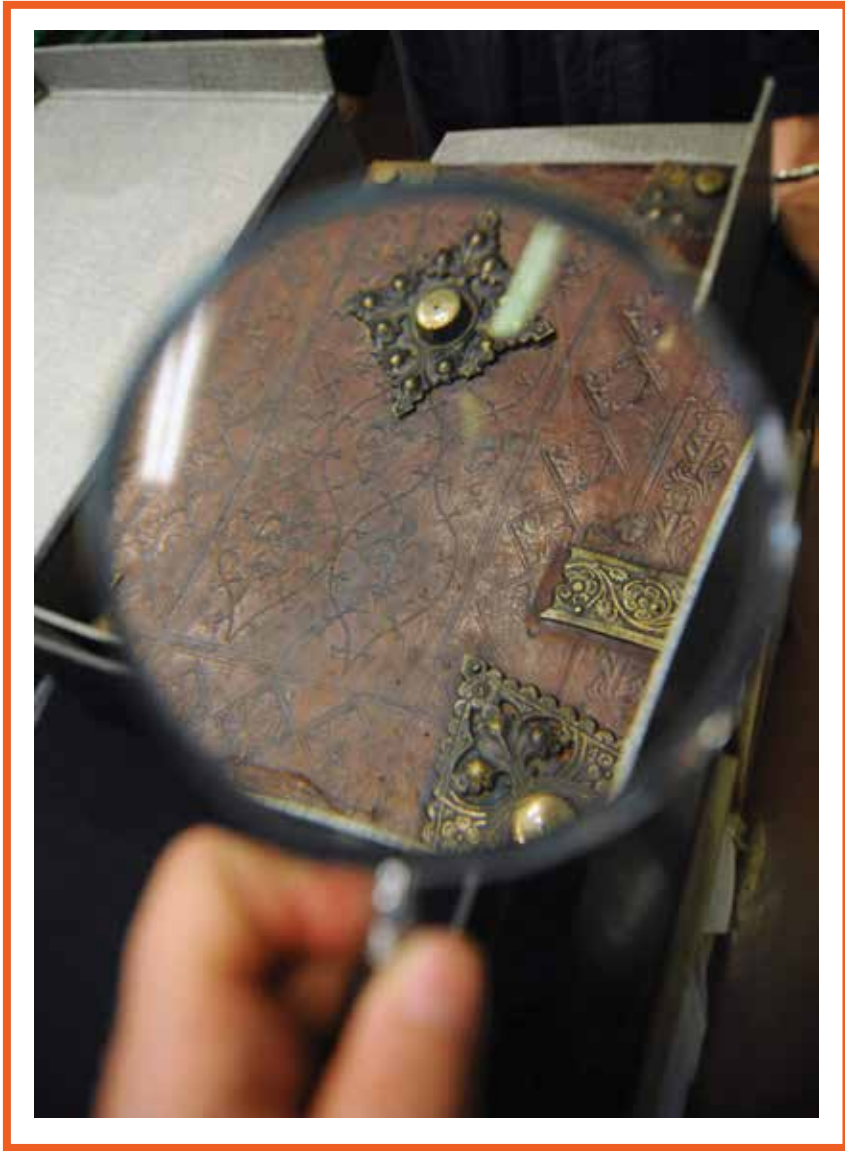

Let it be faithful to idea and form, yet free...” on the lobby of the Collection of Theatre History, before its official inauguration.

Two special collections and workshops of the library were presented to the visitors in this Night of Researchers. Groups of 15 participants could learn about book bindery in our restorers’ workshop. The “*Investigation in the Restorer’s Workshop*” show was very popular among the guests who were introduced into the secrets a book binding or board can reveal.

This year, our highlighted Special Collection was the Map Collection. It welcomed the audience with several events, like the chamber exhibition *World War I on Maps* with manuscript maps, Turkish and Russian posters, plays, paper models and stamps. Visitors could take part in a guided tour of the Map Collection, and attend a lecture on the secrets of the sky.

Franciska Dede

dede.franciska.at.oszk.hu



FERENC SZÉCHÉNYI MEMORIAL DAY – 2015, 2016, 2017



On 25 November 2015, from 9 am, the award ceremony of the Ferenc Széchenyi Memorial Day took place in the Ceremonial Hall on the 6th floor of our library. After the inauguration speech of Director-General László Tüske, we heard some words from the recipient of the 2014 Széchenyi Medal, Balázs Mikusi. Then László Tüske announced that this year's Széchenyi Medal was awarded by the Research Committee's unanimous decision to the head of the Library of Book History and Library of Information, Ilona Hegyközi. The laudation speech of Ágnes Rácz detailed the activity of the awardee as expert, library supervisor, collection organizer, author of publications and specialized translator, and reminded the audience of her earlier honors and decorations. Ilona Hegyközi, as the laudation pointed out, is not only an excellent expert, but also a modest and understanding colleague.

After Ilona Hegyközi's words of appreciation, László Tüske announced that NSZL elected its life member the excellent literary historian and bibliographer, retired professor István Käfer. The handout of the certificate was followed by the laudation speech of László Boka that described István Käfer's long and productive relation with NSZL. In the 1960s, Käfer was the Slavist expert of the edition of the first volume of *Old Prints of Hungary*. Slavistic studies in Hungary owe to him among other results, the introduction of the term "biblical Czech". His activity at the Slavistics Institute of the Péter Pázmány Catholic University is also of great importance. Students appreciate his classes as well as his modest and friendly character.

Then the NSZL long-service awards were handed over to our colleagues with the cooperation of Labor Union secretary Ádám Ackermann. Director-General László Tüske first congratulated our 10 years' colleagues András Elter, Krisztina Hegedüs, János Heltai, Róbert Németh, Ferenc Imre Tóth, Ágnes Tóvizi and Edina Zsupán. The 20 years long-service prizes were awarded to Ágnes Balogh, Krisztina Z. Regenhart Fehérné and Tünde Méry. The 25 years' long-service awards went to Gergely Ballagó, Éva Rezi Csirmazné and Zoltán Dvor-

nitzky. The 30 years' awards of 2015 were given to Tibor Bojtos, András Drevenka, Eszter Fazokas, András Juhász, Tibor Miklós, József Patócs, Beáta Reisingerné Kutor and Éva Rózsáné Kelemen. We had a 35 years' colleague, György Üрге, and two 40 years' NSZL staff-members: Pál Horváth and Péterné Kókay.

The award ceremony of the 2016 Széchenyi Memorial Day was inaugurated in our Ceremonial Hall on 25 November at 9 am. After László Tüske's words of greeting, the 2015 awardee Ilona Hegyközi gave a presentation about the *IFLA Trend Report* of 2013, a document already discussed in several countries by the librarian profession. The document lists five significant trends that restructure our information environment. The first is that the new information technologies enhance but at the same time restrict the circle of those with access to information. The second is that online education makes global education more democratic and changes it drastically. The third is that in the age of online communication, the boundaries of private life and the protection of privacy have to be redefined. The fourth trend is that in a network society there are new opinions and groups emerging. And the fifth trend is that the new technologies transform the global information economy (shared economy; distance work, distance healthcare).

Then Director-General László Tüske announced that the awardee of the Ferenc Széchenyi Medal in 2016 is typography historian and bibliographer Judit Vizkeletyné Ecsedy PhD, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The laudation speech by Judit Vásárhelyi Pojjákné described the career of Judit V. Ecsedy who started to work at NSZL in 1971, first as an international procurer of books and English language representative. Her most excellent work is without doubt the *Letters and Decorations of Old Hungarian Printing Presses*, (Hungaria Typographica), whose four volumes completed by now categorize and present the letter sets and typography decorations of the printing presses in Hungary from 1473 to 1700. They help to find out whether an old print was produced in Hungary, and to define the data of prints that are fragmentary or do not have place or press indi-

cated. Judit Vásárhelyi also reminded the audience that the awardee apart from being an outstanding expert, is also a kind and friendly colleague.

After Judit V. Ecsedy's words of appreciation, director-general László Tüske handed over the long-service awards of NSZL for 2016, with the cooperation of Ádám Ackermann. The 10 year's award went to Tímea Andrásiné Boros, Réka Csentei, Marianna Andrassy Eleőd-né, Gábor Gondos, Krisztina Haralyi, Dezső Kalcsó, Edit Madas, Anikó Patonai, Tamás Schirilla, Balázs Sebestyén, Ildikó Sirató and Sándorné Sugai. Our 20 years' colleagues were Tibor Gerlecz, Tímea Jakab, Éva Patakiné Bagi, Júlia Sárköziné Tóth, Ferenc Szentgyörgyi and Anikó Szécsényi. The awardees of the 25 years' prize were István Elbe, Dániel Kiss, Anna Sóti Mucsi, Júlia Zsuzsa Szendrei, Enikő Szijártó and Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy. The 30 years' long-service awards went this year to Lujza Erdélyi, Ferenc Földesi, György Lukács and Marianna Subicziné Huszák. There are two colleagues who have been working at NSZL for 35 years, Veronika Erdős and Tiborné Gazdag Tiborné, and we were proud to celebrate the four colleagues who have been with us for 40 years now, Magdolna Both, Gábor Kiss, Katalin Kovács and Szilvia Szilágyiné Bánfi.

The celebration of our traditional Széchenyi Memorial Day in 2017 started on 24th November at noon. Director-General László Tüske greeted the audience and our guest of honor Count Kálmán Széchenyi, and gave a short update of the IT and architecture issues of NSZL. We learnt that the projects are under way and the funds have already been allocated for both the development of NSZL's IT infrastructure and the architectural plans of the archive store to be built most likely in Piliscsaba, the deep store for service next to building F, and the refurbishing of building F's interior. After a four hands duet composed by a Széchenyi family member and performed by the pianists of the NSZL choir, the speech of Kálmán Széchenyi followed. Our guest of honor emphasized that NSZL is a keeper of our national cultural heritage, and that Hungary in the second millennium would greatly benefit from NSZL's becoming a significant center of cultural life. Count Ferenc Széchenyi, the founder of the library, was a devoted Christian, so it would be desirable if the national library functioned today also as a keeper and disseminator of Christian values, our guest of honor added.

The event continued with more piano compositions of Széchenyi family members performed by István Kassai.

There were eleven composers altogether in the Széchenyi family, and the works of six are known to the present day, so the audience could enjoy the compositions of Felicia, Lajos, Andor, Franciska, Ödön and Imre Széchenyi. After the concert, the awardee of the Széchenyi Medal of 2016, Judit V. Ecsedy gave a presentation about the printing press of the Castle of Keresd founded during the rule of Prince Mihály Apafi I (1683–84), that produced *Historia de rebus Transylvanicis* by Farkas Bethlen. The printing of the work ended on page 832, and it was not until the 18th century that a title page and a preface was added to it by Gottfried Schwarcz. Today, 32 copies of it are known, but the manuscript, probably owned one-time by the Rákóczi family, is lost.

After the presentation, László Tüske announced that the awardee of this year's Széchenyi Medal is Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy from the Department of National Location Coordination and Document Supply. In his laudation speech, Head of Department Péter Paulik, a former disciple of the awardee, described her professional career and added that Tokaji Nagy, who has been teaching library information at the Library Institute's trainings for associate librarians since 2008, is an excellent expert with a gift of empathy. To honor this year's awardee, the NSZL choir performed Zoltán Kodály's *Greeting on St John's Day*.

The words of appreciation of Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy were followed by the handover of this year's long-service awards by the Director-General with the cooperation of Ádám Ackermann. The 10-year's award went to Lajosné Bánkeszi, Mihályné Csulák, Dalloul Zaynab, Adrienn Kekk, János Kiss, Csaba Kricsfalussy, Jolán Mann, Annamária Sudár, Csaba Tímár, Bernadett Varga and Ferenc Vasbányai. Our 20 years' colleagues were Gyöngyi Bleicher-Majláth, Luca Hanák, Zita Kovács-Burda, László Pásztai, Anikó Pinkert, Erika Zita Szabó and Alex Szilas. The awardees of the 25 years' prize were Judit Papp, Edit Repkényiné Nagy and Ilona Szanyi. There were two colleagues who have been working at NSZL for 30 years: Márta Rigó and Zsuzsanna Tóth. The 35 years' long-service awards were given to Marianne Érdi and József Szabó. And last but not least, we celebrated our colleagues Ágnes Feimer, Ágnes Frank and Ágnes Rác who have been staff members of NSZL for 40 years now.

Attila Endre Csobán
acsoban.at.oszk.hu

CULTURAL HERITAGE DAYS 2016 – METAMORPHOSIS AND SYMBIOSIS



In 2016, National Széchényi Library joined for the second time the Cultural Heritage Days of the Carpathian Basin, and on this occasion, we invited visitors to take part in historic walking tours to get to know the building.



The main entrance (only the Atlas statue remained as original)

After the severe damages of World War II, and long decades of reconstruction works, the Krisztinaváros wing of the Royal Castle became the new home of National Széchényi Library. The library started functioning in this building in 1985, with interior spaces remodeled in the style of Socialist Realism, a look they keep till today.

Our national library is about to renew again, which involves the entire reconstruction of the building. During the project, the interior spaces might regain their original look, but it will not be easy to reconcile the changes with the functions of the library. Could a modern, 21st century library work in a reconstructed historical environment?

The visitors who joined our hourly walking tours, were looking for answers to this question, and learnt about the amazing history of the building. They were allowed into spaces that keep memories of the original Royal Castle, and working places of the library usually closed from public view.

Although the annual Cultural Heritage Days are primarily meant to present the *built* cultural heritage, the organizers of the related activities at NSZL wished to call the attention to the national library's work as

a keeper of Hungary's *written* culture. Therefore, on this occasion, an exhibition on the 7th floor displayed a row of decorated books restored with the support of the Prime Minister's Office, accompanied by a slide show that summarized this work.

Apart from the walking tours of building history, we offered our visitors two temporary exhibitions of our library's treasures. On the 5th floor we presented the albums illustrated by "Hungary's drawing prince" Mihály Zichy, and on the 6th floor, they could see rarities from the library of the renowned Hungarica collector, Gyula Todoreszku, including exceptional items of the history of book binding.

István Elbe
elbe.at.oszk.hu



The original look of the main staircase (Krisztinaváros wing of the Royal Palace)

PAST AND PRESENT

15 YEARS OF TRAININGS



Trainings of the Library Institute for Hungarian librarians abroad (2002–2017)

The Library Institute of National Széchényi Library started to build a training network for Hungarian librarians in the neighboring countries in the academic year 2002-2003, upon the initiative of our colleagues abroad. Since 2007, when the cultural government approved the Concept for Development of Hungarian Libraries in the Carpathian Basin (<http://ki.oszk.hu/content/hatarontuli-koncepcio>) until 2011, thanks to the regular and calculable state support, this activity continued according to the plan, with a total of 535 participants from 97 institutions.

In May 2013, the VII. World Conference of Hungarian Librarians, organized by National Széchényi Library, the Library Institute and the Library of the Hungarian Parliament, confirmed the need for trainings in the 6th point of its recommendations: “The professional training for librarians in their Hungarian mother tongue shall be continued in the training centers already created in the neighboring countries, and at the same time, new sites, institutions and training topics shall be involved.”

In the spring of 2014, having these concepts in mind, and with the support of the Hungarian National Cultural Fund, we successfully applied for funds to continue the program *Trainings of the Library Institute for Hungarian librarians abroad* in the second half of 2014 NKA 3504/01405, and completed 13 trainings on 8 sites for 200 participants. The Quality Assurance forms filled in at the end of each course provided answers of what topics the participants wished to study in the future. In view of these suggestions and the capacity of our partner institutions we drew up another plan for 2015/2016, whose implementation was enabled by another successful application for the *Trainings of the Library Institute for Hungarian librarians abroad* program (NKA 3504/01418). We held 15 courses for 266 Hungarian librarians on ten sites, including two new partner libraries in Téglás (Carpathian Region)

and Párkány (Upper Hungary). The funds awarded covered the trainer fees and the costs of travel and accommodation.

In the summer of 2016, with the support of the Cultural State Secretariat of the Ministry of Human Capacities, we could start planning for another two semesters in the 2016/2017 academic year, continuing with the program as per the strategy and the participants' suggestions. Following the recommendations of the World Conference, we added more topics and sites. We selected trainers from among colleagues who had taken part in the accredited courses of the Library Institute, and invited renowned specialists of the librarian profession. The staff at our Department of Education and Human Resources invited the trainers, coordinated the schedules, organized travel and accommodation, and documented and promoted the trainings. The participants were recruited by the partner institutions. In this academic year we once again had ten sites, including new ones in Komárom (Komarno) and Gúta (Kolárovo), and completed 16 courses for 235 librarians. Among the newly suggested topics, the most popular one was children's library education.

Our fall semester started in the library of Selye János University, Komárom (Komarno). The director of the library, Dór Egyházi had been a guest of our Library Institute as a winner of the scholarship *Connecting Library*, and when he learnt about our trainings, chose as a topic the methods of building relations between libraries and their partners. The trainers of this program were Rita Péterfi, the deputy director of the Pest County Library in Szentendre, and Ferenc Vidra Szabó, library expert. The purpose of the training was the development of the organizational culture of the participants, in order they can be more efficient in their workplace. With the help of the new information obtained and the development of their skills, librarians will be able to better communicate the values of their institution to the world, better cooperate with their controlling authority and other organizations, improve the services of their library applying the methods learnt, and measure the expectations and

satisfaction of their clients. As this training is especially tailored for groups of colleagues who work in the same workplace, the purpose was perfectly achieved in the university library.

Our October trainings started in the recently reorganized Library and Cultural Center of Lendva (Lendava). The topic was the use of modern information transfer methods in literary sciences and history, and we invited Tünde Téchy, retired Head of Department of the Budapest Szabó Ervin Library to share experience. Information on literature, literary science, and literary history is one of the most sought for areas of a librarian's work from the client side, and the existing knowledge must be completed with the most advanced sources. The participants of the training were given insight into the newest sources of information available in libraries on paper and online for the areas related to literature; they could see examples of how the readers' requirements can be worded for the electronic databases, how search can be designed and how the tools can be used securely.

For the staff members of the Bod Péter County Library in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), upon their own request, we organized a three-day course of library quality assurance with library expert Ferenc Vidra Szabó. The training introduced the participants to planning, organizing and implementing library assessment and self-assessment processes in line with the requirements of the Common Assessment Framework approved by the member states of the European Union. Ferenc Vidra Szabó presented the assessment of the features and results of a library, and brought practical exercises for planning the management, strategy, and resources of process implementation, and the assessment of the results of these, relevant for the users and society.

With the cooperation of the Library Institute's training partner in Nyíregyháza, we organized a two-day training entitled *Color-Space/Collection-Library* in another new site of the Carpathian Region, the District Library of Nagyszőlős (Vynohradiv). The purpose was to show librarians how to build a space that represents unity for a community diverse in language and religion, with members who have different concepts of majority and minority. The training brought specific examples of libraries becoming sites of strengthening, renewing and transferring culture, workshops of identity, places for cooperation, partnership, integration and knowledge transfer (reading and inviting

to read, plays, presentations, lectures, competitions, exhibitions, concerts, craftsmanship, clubs, etc.); sites for user training and off-school education; places for building databases of local information and recording local knowledge; and meeting points for generations. The program presented how to assess requirements, and bring them into harmony with possibilities; how to enhance spaces both physically and virtually; and how to create the conditions for the projects and keep them on track. The trainers were researcher Ilona Vraukóné Lukács PhD and Enikő Gosztonyi Head of Department, both delegated from the Nyíregyháza County Library.

The October trainings continued in the Fórum Minority Research Institution of Somorja (Šamorín), where Barbara Payer, staff member of the HAS Library led a one-day training for our local colleagues with the title *Promoting Libraries on the Internet*. Online social media is one of the popular surfaces for promoting libraries today. In order libraries can address all generations, and reach everyone via the best suited channel, librarians must be acquainted with the different user generations from digital natives to digital immigrants. The training presented the online surfaces useful for libraries, and the role social media plays in the world of culture. Some specific cases of Hungarian and international good practices helped participants to adjust the function of their library to the changing use of the internet.

At the end of October, a series of trainings extending to the whole academic year was dedicated to children's library education. The first site for this project was the Kájoni János County Library of Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), where the course was led by Klára Budavári, retired children's librarian of the Budapest Szabó Ervin Library. Librarians play an essential role, and they can do a lot for children's enjoying reading and becoming frequent users of the library. The training presented the long decades' successful work of children's libraries in Hungary, and involved the participants in educational plays that they will be able to teach the children who visit their library. The course included an array of methods and useful ideas to be applied in the everyday practice. The participants were given guides to low-budget educational activities of crafts, and they themselves could prepare small gifts and promotional material on the spot.

A detailed report of the training can be found on the Kájoni János County Library's website: <http://>

konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro/hu/nd/430/gyerekek-a-konyvtarban--szakmai-kepzes-hargita-megyei-konyvtarosoknak.

The last event of October took place in Pélmonostor (Beli Manastir), with the topic of library marketing and focusing on the relation between libraries and tourism. The training was led by Judit Kóródy, the director of the library at Hungarian Telekom. The program intended to transfer marketing techniques that work well in the business life, so that participants can design and promote the services of their own library, and apply these techniques in the development of the services and communication with controlling authorities and clients. During the training, participants were shown possibilities of adapting marketing approach, methods of customizing services, tools for enhancing client experience, and were introduced into the importance of client feedback analysis.

The last training of the fall semester was held in the town library of Ipolyság (Šahy), another new site of our program, under the title *Libraries and Bibliotherapy*. The trainer was bibliotherapist Éva Bartos PhD, retired director of the Library Institute. To strengthen and develop the culture of reading, the training inserted in the librarians' work a procedure that has been present in the international practice for long. It offered a brief theory and history of bibliotherapy, prepared the participants to lead bibliotherapy groups, and invited them to gain more competence in mental hygiene by including practices of self-knowledge, group leadership, communication and empathy.

A report of the training was published in the felvidek.ma website, on the page (<http://felvidek.ma/2016/11/fo-cel-hogy-egy-szakmai-nyelvet-beszeljunk/>).

The first training of the spring semester took place in March, in Nagyszőlős (Vynohradiv), and was led once again by our colleagues from Nyíregyháza, researcher Ilona Vraukóné Lukács PhD and Head of Department Enikő Gosztonyi. The title *How Librarians Shape Their Library* refers to that the training offered our colleagues of the Carpathian Region a presentation of the personality traits usually expected from a librarian. The training started with a self-knowledge test and its assessment. Participants with the same traits then formed small groups to find out the level where they place themselves compared to the basic requirements towards a librarian, and presented specific situations of the librarian-librarian and librarian-user relation.

After the first occasion in the fall semester, we returned in April to our second Transylvanian site, Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), with our presentation of children's library education, once again with Klára Budavári.

As our lecturer was invited to the Day of Hungarian Librarians in Romania, on her way back she stopped in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), where she taught the librarian colleagues how to make a giant soap bubble.

The next site for our training of children's library education was the Town Library of Pélmonostor (Beli Manastir), at the beginning of May. As a beautiful example of cross-border cooperation, colleagues from the Mohácsi Jenő Town Library of Mohács also attended the program.



The one-day training in Lendva (Lendava) held in May, focused on equal opportunities in the library, with the lead of Éva Bartos PhD, retired director of the Library Institute. The program prepared the colleagues for the implementation of conditions for equal opportunity access to the library. Colleagues reviewed the problems raised by physical disability and disadvantages resulting from social, ethnic and minority status. They studied the causes and consequences of the situation of the affected groups and social strata, and worded the professional and quality requirements for ensuring library services for them. The program emphasized the need for cooperation with government and civil organizations, societies and foundations.

The spring session of the bibliotherapy training was held in the Vojvodina Hungarian Cultural Institute of Zenta (Senta), with Éva Bartos PhD and psychologist Judit Horváth. The one-day training of preparation, with its special methods, was linked to the Cultural

Institute's accredited vocational course in Serbia that provides assistance in the education of both disadvantaged and highly talented children.

Children's library education, the most popular topic of this academic year, was brought also to Muzsla (Mužla) of the historical Upper Hungary, with Margó Luzsi, the children's librarian at the Bródy Sándor County and Town Library of Eger. During the training, participants learnt how to create a delightful environment for children in the library with tales, rhymes, plays and the librarian's friendly personality. The numerous participants of the group performed the plays, tales and rhymes as their own experience, and at the end of the day returned home refreshed in soul.

This event was also characterized by cross-border cooperation, as the group included colleagues from the Helischer József Town Library of Esztergom.



Another training site in the historical Upper Hungary was Gúta (Kolárovo), where we reviewed a new aspect of the library marketing topic of the previous semester: the design of promotion material for a library. The lecturer was once again Judit Kóródy, the director of the library at Hungarian Telekom.

A detailed report of the training was broadcast by the Gúta Town Television: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOhmZcHZcec&feature=youtu.be>.

The last training of 2017 spring took place in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), where Tibor Sándor, director of the Budapest Szabó Ervin Library and Béla Takáts, deputy director of the Verseggy Ferenc County Library and Public Cultural Institute of Szolnok held a two-and-a-half-day course on how to publish local culture and history information on websites. The program was dedicated to the broadly interpreted method of writing local history and the role of libraries in disseminating local information. Participants got acquainted with the most frequently used methods and tools, and could see various types of publications on local news and history. Particular emphasis was given to the publication in print and online of the bibliographies of local culture and history as well as the factual databases with special role among library services.

With the use of the funds awarded, the Library Institute renewed its website that presents with multiple search options the training program in the neighboring countries: <https://konyvtarakhataroknelkul.hu/>; the participants of the trainings were given notepads in a folder, calendar cards and leaflets with the help of the organizers at the local partner institutions.

As shown by this article, the Training Network of Hungarian Librarians in the Carpathian Basin, thanks to the support of the Cultural State Secretariat of the Ministry of Human Capacities and as a continuation of the previous tenders of the National Cultural Fund, not only remained, but also expanded. According to the answers we received on the Quality Assurance forms, Hungarian librarians in the neighboring countries find professional and moral support in the trainings provided in their mother tongue. We are optimistic regarding the future: in August, we were awarded once again the support of the Ministry to organize trainings including our program for Hungarian librarians abroad.

Ágnes Hangodi
hangodi.at.oszk.hu

NEW TRENDS AND HOPES IN A WORLD OF CHALLENGES



The IT infrastructure and the library-specific applications of National Széchényi Library are about to renew. This is more than a simple continuation of the previous changes, as during the recent years almost everything that we have thought about libraries for centuries have been questioned. The complex and special services of a national library (ISBN-identification, collection of obligatory copies, setting up a national bibliography and a national catalogue, etc.) urge us to rethink and redefine the structure, staff organization and related IT services of National Széchényi Library.

Within this paradigm shift, the new opportunities offered by information technology have radically and globally changed the habits of publication, communication and access. Electronic media have been added to the traditional ones, and apart from the carefully authenticated products of professional editorials, now the works of basically anyone can go public. As film and photo technologies have become available for everyone, the production of new digital media is not restricted to film studios and professional photographers. Contents get multiplied by new creations like online forums, e-mail correspondences and digital legacies. The world wide web, as a significant carrier of our culture, as well as its valuable content is yet to be professionally elaborated. The amount of data grows exponentially. And what to collect? These trends invite us to rethink the scope of collection of a national library and draw up a new e-service legislation.

The amount of contents that cannot be processed by institutionalized workforce, makes it timely to involve external human resources (crowdsourcing) and use machine data processing with simple identification mechanisms or more complex artificial intelligence. The leading-edge provider is Google: users of the new digital world ask complex questions in a one-window browser and have a good chance to get relevant answers. Is this a help or a competition for libraries?

The format of library description and data links is far from trivial: the MARC language, even enhanced to more than two thousand description fields, cannot deal with the variety of data links. New standards of cataloging (RDA), new formats of data exchange (i.e. BIBFRAME), and new data models and description philosophies (like FRBR) are being built. The related pieces of information are available for all the subsystems which facilitates specialized use and the creation of commonly used and enhanced namespaces. Librarians thus find a rich store of intelligent and rational processes and semantic links. Software tools earlier called Integral Library Systems have been enhanced, and the cataloging and providing of digital contents as digital library, web archive, periodical editor is a common feature of the new generation Library Services Platforms. Copyright management is getting redefined, and librarians seek to apply also in Europe the freedom of the US copyright.

The revolution of access changes everything. Internet availability makes it possible anywhere and for any participant of the library life, publishers, editors, scholars, readers and catalogers, to do whatever they need. Neither the service, nor its use is locally bound. Technology can be used for anything on any platform and anywhere, provided there is internet access. There are new possibilities of work organization, unimaginable before: regardless of their location, users can access all the treasures of mankind created digitally or made digitally available.

And where has been the Hungarian national library and its e-service directorate in this process, during these years?

However desirable the continuity of our basic services might be, maintaining them is getting ever harder. We have been keeping running an outdated and hardly manageable infrastructure with old software solutions (an emergency subsidy was transferred to us by the Ministry of Human Capacities in 2015-16). Third-party partners worked for us without getting paid, our staff works hard to endure with low sala-

ries and poor environment. Our websites have been partly renewed, but several web services are still to be updated. Our digitization service runs in outdated hardware and software environments. Our digital library (MEK) and its related services (EPA, HUMANUS, etc.) are available as before. Systems in all areas are due to undergo a planned and well-financed renewal, as we cannot expect everything from the efforts of our devoted staff.

In addition to maintaining business as usual, we have been constantly preparing for the future. We started a regular workshop on a monthly basis for the developers of our existing software and the library IT experts to discuss how to modernize the existing services. We invited third party companies and renowned experts of specific areas to discuss namespace and statistics questions. We took part in study tours to several European libraries (in Prague, Madrid, Copenhagen, Rome, Leipzig, Frankfurt am Main, Vienna and Luxemburg) to get acquainted with their best practices and be partners in achieving our goals. We invited the most important library system developers who presented on one-day events and workshops their results under continuous development. OCLC is a global association of libraries working for the libraries' comprehensive access to information that runs the world catalogue (WordCat) and the virtual authority file (VIAF) and believes in that "what is known has to be shared". Ex-Libris is the developer and provider of one of the most comprehensive cloud-based library systems. Monguz Ltd. is the most significant Hungarian library system provider. @cult is the developer of the library system with the most advanced data management that applies the latest Bibframe, RDA és FRBR standards and Linked Open Data. The Future of Libraries Is Open – FOLIO initiative built an open source modular framework in which developers, providers and libraries all can customize their systems, and freely handle deployment, development and modification issues.

In December 2016, twenty Hungarian libraries signed a declaration of willingness expressing the "need for the use of a common new generation cloud-based library platform". Within this framework, libraries will cooperate to achieve, related to National Széchenyi Library's IT renewal, a cloud-based solution available and open for all types of library. The build, upload and maintenance of nationwide services will be a joint project.

By the period 2016-2018, the Hungarian Government allocated a significant financial framework in great part through the Governmental Information-Technology Development Agency (KIFÜ), to enable the integrated renewal of these systems by the total replacement of outdated hardware and software. The installations enabling the efficient work of the staff and readers of NSZL are about to renew: we will have considerable storage capacity, a modern digitizing workshop, new infrastructure for the event and exhibition galleries, as well as new institutional structure and services.

In the first half of 2017, the cooperating libraries drew up the requirements for the planned library system, and the public tender was announced. The most suitable provider will be chosen at the beginning of 2018, and then the detailed requirements described in the project will have to be met within 12 months from the signing of the contract. These requirements, in addition to the traditional library tasks, include a great number of novelties like the comprehensive integration of digital and electronic contents, the elaboration and providing of new content types, copyright-based access, and many more functions that are essential in a 21st century library system. Besides, we hope that our new structure will include breakthrough innovations that on one hand leverage new semantic relations (ontologies, relational dictionaries, new formats of data exchange, artificial intelligence etc.), and on the other, benefit from the consortium cooperation structure that facilitates the involvement of institutions as well as other participants like publishers, authors, researchers, students, interested readers, etc. in a system that can be enhanced openly.

Related to this system, our digital framework will also renew, offering to all types of institutions the opportunity to join. The Hungarian Internet Archive, envisioned more than ten years ago, may also be built. Web harvesting and web archiving will allow the collection and preservation of the documents of the digital era, and prevent them from disappearing. The project will be part of our larger library system, facilitating the sharing of tasks and the more comprehensive provision of the treasures explored.

The most important feature of our systems is openness and the willingness to share. We seek to open source all the individual developments to make

them available for the global librarian community. According to our plans, everyone will have access to the system through a very complex and sophisticated authorization and evaluation structure. All the phases of the elaboration, loaning and digitization workflow, as well as the results, can be shared by the cooperating institutions and third-party contributors. By providing copyright information, publishers and copyright owners will be able to build an access network in which the treasures, so far difficult to access, will be easy to identify and provide. The network will include traditional publications as well as the articles, audio material, lectures and websites of the academic scene. The system offers the freedom of choice and expansion. With its modular build, all the participants will be able to choose the most suitable workflow, and the flexible parameters will facilitate

customization and configuration to meet any individual requirement. The cloud-based system spares the work of IT deployment for the users and allows them to build their own collections and workflows with custom design and special features, characteristic of each institution and individual collection.

The future of libraries is open. Not only NSZL and Hungarian libraries, but also libraries worldwide are in the process of finding their place in the new digital era taking shape. Participants must work together to involve the users in the creation of this change. This can ensure the development of a modularly built, complex structure in which both developers and providers can realize their individual plans.

Miklós Lendvay
lendvay.miklos.at.oszk.hu

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



International relations, cooperation, memberships

It is of utmost importance for NSZL to be a member of international organizations, and be actively present in them. International cooperation helps us in our everyday work with databases, continuous exchange of information and experience, and the possibility to participate in workshops and conferences. The events organized among others by CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries) and CENL (Conference of European National Libraries) and their annual regular meetings offer excellent occasion to build and maintain work relationships with partner institutions abroad.

We received guests from international organizations: in October 2015, the head of the International ISSN office Gaelle Béquet held talks with NSZL deputy director János Káldos in our library. After getting acquainted with NSZL, Ms Béquet met Hungarian ISSN coordinators to share experience.

Our neighbors...

Our relations with the neighboring countries cover several specific areas.

Within the framework of cooperation agreements, we regularly exchange researchers with the national libraries of Kolozsvár (Cluj), Praha and Turócszentmárton (Martin) among others. The co-operation is facilitated by mutual visits and conferences.

On 10 November 2015, a conference on Hussitism was held in National Széchényi Library with ELTE University and the Budapest Czech Centre as co-organizers. The international conference on the influence of Hussitism in Hungary was accompanied by an exhibition of posters provided by the Budapest Czech Centre.

National Széchényi Library loans documents on a regular basis to libraries and museum institutions abroad. In the course of 2015 and 2016, the treasures of our collections could be seen in the exhibitions of partner institutions in Eisenstadt, Betlér, Berlin and Münster.

Farther away...

Apart from its relations with the institutions in the nearest countries, National Széchényi Library also seeks to present the heritage of countries and nations farther away, and transmit the values of less known cultures to the Hungarian audience. In these terms, several exhibitions and events were organized during 2015-16 in the Hungarian National Library.

In April 2015, Turkish craftsman Ahmet Sacit Açıkgozöglü presented the Ottoman tradition of book bindery and decoration. The master started his studies of calligraphy in 1995, and took up Ebru painting in 1998. At present, he is a teacher at the Art History Faculty of Marmara University and the Traditional Turkish Art Faculty at Mimar Sinan University. He had several classical Ebru exhibitions in Turkey, UK, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. His lecture in Budapest was jointly organized by the Yunus Emre Institute and National Széchényi Library.

The main topic of master Açıkgozöglü's presentation was the difference of the techniques of Ottoman and European book bindery and decoration. We could learn how the Kubur, a special cylindrical box is made.



The Kubur is covered by *ebru* and leather, and is mainly used to the storage of writing tools. Master Açıkgozöglü also presented the *Murakka*, a special form of book decoration made of ribbon strips cut of *zemin* and *battal* type *ebrus* and inserted between calligraphy patterns or miniatures. We also had a look at the *ebru*

akkase technique which creates a calligraphic, miniature or flower pattern by the repeated soaking of the same piece of paper.

In the first half of 2016, and within the framework of the April Budapest Art Week Festival, the *Jewish Manuscripts and Ceremonial Objects* exhibition was inaugurated in National Széchényi Library. The ex-



hibition emphasized the importance of the common language and literature that makes a link between Jewish communities throughout the world with the mission of passing on the knowledge of Jewish traditions and history. The traveling exhibition of the selected material of the Jerusalem Israel Museum was opened by the director of the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archive, Zsuzsanna Toronyi. Words of greeting were delivered by NSZL director-general László Tüske and the ambassador of Israel State in Hungary, Ilan Mor.

In June 2016, NSZL received the delegation of the Chinese National Library, and an agreement of cooperation was signed by the two institutions. Our Chinese colleagues visited partner libraries in Budapest and the towns of Visegrád and Esztergom. At the end of the program, NSZL director-general László Tüske had dinner with the guests and the director-general of the Library of the Hungarian Parliament Szilárd Markója, deputy director of Ervin Szabó Library, Péter Dippold, and the president of the National Library Curatorium, Géza Szőcs.

In the autumn of 2016, the cooperation with colleagues at foreign libraries took a new momentum, as National Széchényi Library received several official requests for visits and librarian study tours.

Copyright issues of orphan works is a current topic both in domestic and international field. Conse-

quently, we had several experts from abroad who arrived to Hungary to consult with their colleagues in this matter.

In August 2016 a grand delegation from the Estonian National Library arrived. After they presented their institution, a lecture and a dialogue followed with the participation of NSZL colleagues.

In October, two staff members of the Lithuanian National Library were received by the e-service director at NSZL, Szabolcs Lendvai. Rita Pikūnaitė and Ringailė Bakienė are chief librarians at the information technology department of the Lithuanian partner library, and their specialty is the elaboration of orphan works.

Apart from consultations and study tours, we received also visits of the highest rank in the autumn of 2016 that laid the foundations for later exchanges of experience and joint projects.

In November, the director of the Bulgarian National Library Krasimira Stoycheva Aleksandrova and her deputy Marchela Mihaylova Borisova visited NSZL. The program of the guests was organized jointly by the Budapest Bulgarian Cultural Institute and National Széchényi Library. On the occasion of the visit, a cooperation agreement between the two libraries was signed on a ceremony attended by the director of the Bulgarian Cultural Institute Olga Popova and the ambassador of the Bulgarian Republic in Hungary, Biserka Benisheva.

In December 2016, NSZL received delegations from Kazakhstan and Belarus.

The two colleagues of the Kazakh National Library in Astana brought a rich donation of books that was added to the collection of NSZL's International Book Corner.

The deputy director of the Belarus National Library Alena Dalhapolova donated a fine Francysk Skaryna series to our library, and presented the life-work of Skaryna and the history of Belarus typography in a lecture of great interest. We also learnt about the past and present of the Belarus National Library that now makes the Skaryna facsimile series available for several European libraries and holds international conferences and exhibitions to mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of Belarusian typography.

National Széchényi Library facilitates individual research projects, too. This year, we welcomed two British researchers of Hungary-related topics.

BBC contributor Stephen Coates worked at the Sophie Török archive of NSZL during the summer of 2016. As the head of the X-Ray Audio project, he studies the audio material recorded on X-ray plates during the Cold War, and carried out research at the Manuscript Collection of NSZL for the new edition of his book on the topic. Together with photographer Paul Heartfield, he documented the early items of this peculiar sort of audio recording in the Babits and Sophie Török legacy.

Another British researcher to pay visit to NSZL during the autumn of 2016 was Shakespeare-expert prof. Ewan Fernie from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. As the topic of his current research and book being written is the relation between Kossuth and Shakespeare, he arrived at our library to see Kossuth's unique book-case of the shape of Shakespeare's house. The British Shakespeare-expert was amazed by the story of this piece of artwork that would then featured in his book published in 2017 by Cambridge University Press.

International exhibitions at NSZL

As the guest of honor of the 2016 Budapest International Book Festival was Slovakia, an exhibition was

set up in NSZL with the title *On the Two Sides of River Danube – Slovak-Hungarian and Hungarian-Slovak Dialogs in Translation Literature*. This event of the Bratislava University Library included also a book show of the Slovak-Hungarian translation literature.

In the autumn of 2016 an exhibition of paper and book history was brought to NSZL by the National Library of Taiwan, preceded by mutual visits and a cooperation agreement. In April 2015, the director of the National Library of Taiwan, Shu-Hsien Tseng, arrived to Budapest to sign the interlibrary agreement, and in 2016, as the guest of honor of the Taiwan International Book Exhibition (TIBE) was Hungary, the director-general of NSZL, László Tüske paid visit to the Taiwan National Central Library.

After these encounters, on 15 October 2016, the exhibition *The Imprint of Civilization – The Amazing Journey of Books* of the National Library of Taiwan was opened in National Széchényi Library. The exhibition of paper and book history, with plenty of interactive elements, presented a special segment of the oriental culture, telling the story of “books” before the invention of paper in the language of the 21st century. The process of paper preparation and the techniques of binding and imprinting were also featured.

After the inauguration ceremony, a thematic Taiwanese evening was opened by the Head of Depart-



Ewan Fernie (Shakespeare Institute) with the Kossuth book-case exhibited at National Széchényi Library.

ment of Cultural Diplomacy of the Ministry of External Affairs, László Vizi, and the Head of the Taipei Representative Office in Budapest, Wen-Lung Tao. We were glad to have with us prof. Max K. W. Huang, researcher of modern history at Academia Sinica, who held a lecture on Sinology in Taiwan. Then we

enjoyed traditional Taiwan tunes performed by Taiwanese musicians living in Hungary, and tasted the flavors of a gastronomy tour together with our guests.

Barbara Simon-Reitzi



2017 – A year of Oriental relations

As in the previous years, National Széchényi Library also in 2017 was actively present in the international scene. In line with our professional rank, we signed several new agreements of cooperation with more opportunities to take part in expert discussions, conferences and workshops.

Due to our membership in international library organizations, also this year we could share experience with partners abroad.

The annual spring conference of CENL was originally planned to Ankara, but due to the terrorist attacks some months prior to the event, was finally relocated to London. The main topics of the conference were new library building strategies, the circulation of digital material and copyright. National Széchényi Library was represented by Director-General László Tüske.

In August 2017, László Boka, NSZL's Director of Research, took part in the annual meeting of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) in Wrocław, Poland. The topic and title of the conference was *Libraries. Solidarity. Society*. During the six days, László Boka had the chance to take part in a row of lectures, presentations of posters and exhibitions, among which we highlight the special section of IFLA “500 years of Belarusian Book Printing” to which our Library was distinctly invited.

The annual seminar of CERL in 2017 was held in Amsterdam on 27 October, where our library was represented by László Boka. This year's topic was how to make more visible the “hybrid” collections of books, artworks, museum objects and archive documents. Galleries, museums and archives attending the seminar introduced their integrated research services.

In addition to its existing membership in international organizations, NSZL signed several cooperation agreements for future goals and plans. We are especially proud to turn towards the values and spiritual treasures of the Oriental culture. We keep the good relations with our neighboring countries: this year we received researchers from Cluj and Prague among others.

Towards the East...

May 2017 marked the start of preparing the agreement of cooperation between the National Library of Turkey and National Széchényi Library. The agreement was signed in a ceremonial event in Ankara, where Director-General László Tüske represented our library in the Prime Minister's delegation. In November, we were glad to welcome in Budapest the delegation of Turkey led by Zülfi Toman, and accompanied by the Hungarian ambassador in Ankara, who also advocates for a stronger cultural bond between the two countries. During the negotiations, important topics were discussed including the role of national libraries in the digital transformation, and the possible joint publication of Turkish and Hungarian translations. The renowned researcher of manuscripts, Bayoğlu Servet, was also a member of the delegation, and appraised the bibliographical and cultural value of our Turkey-related collection. At the end of the talks, the parties agreed that the cooperation may bring promising possibilities for both libraries in the future.

In the same month, to mark 25 years of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Hungary, our library hosted the presentation of Nemat Kelimbetov's book *Don't want to lose hope*. The event was inaugurated by Sándor Lezsák, Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament and author of the preface of the book. Mr Lezsák called for a further enhancement of the good diplomatic and cultural relations between the two countries.

In September, to celebrate 500 years of Belarus book printing, the *Documentary Heritage in the Central European Region: Conservation, Research and Promotion* conference was held in Minsk, where Miklós Lendvai, Director of E-services represented National Széchényi Library.



Signing the Agreement of Co-operation in Ankara

NSZL, together with the Embassy of Belarus, plans to present the second volume of the facsimile edition of *The book heritage of Francysk Skaryna* in 2018. The first volume was presented in our library in December 2016.

Between 8 and 11 November 2017, as a member of the official delegation of the Moroccan–Hungarian Joint Economic Committee, our Director-General László Tüske paid a visit to Morocco. The agreement of the two national libraries worded in English, Hungarian and Arabic was signed in Rabat, on 9 November. Upon the acceptance of our invitation by the Moroccan partners, we are looking forward to receiving them in the spring of 2018 to continue with our cooperation.

Relations with China...

In April 2017, National Széchényi Library, Shandong Huaban Publishers Ltd. and the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Society jointly organized a presentation of the illustrated album *Collection of Shandong Han Dynasty Stone Rubbings*.



The delegation of the National Library of Turkey at NSZL

On the event, Géza Szócs, Chairman of the Hungarian PEN Club and the National Library Board, greeted the audience. A short documentary film presented the making of the rubbings, and then translators Erika Yu-Barta and Éva Kalmár spoke about the book.

On 22 May, a Chinese-Hungarian poetry evening was held by the Hungarian PEN Club, National Széchényi Library and the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Society, with the presentation of Jidi Majia's volume *I the Snow Panther*. Géza Szócs, and Jidi Majia poet of nuosu descentance, prominent figure of contemporary Chinese



Nurbakh Rustemov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Hungary, Sándor Lezsák, Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament, Mukusheva Raushangul, Kazakh language teacher at the Altaistics Department of the Faculty of Humanities of Szeged University, and István Kiss, Director of Sonart Publishing House



The signing of the agreement of cooperation between the National Library of Morocco and National Széchényi Library in Rabat.



The delegation of the Cultural Ministry of China at NSZL

poetry, Rector of the Lu Xun Literary Academy and the Deputy Chairman of the Chinese Writers' Association, greeted the audience. The book was presented by Géza Szócs, Péter Rácz József Attila Award-winning poet, literary translator and Yu Zemin literary translator.

In June, a Chinese delegation visited our library, led by Zhu Qi, Deputy Director-General of the Office of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Culture of China. Géza Szócs, Chairman of the National Library Board and László Tüske Director-General of National Széchényi Library welcomed the guests. During the Prime Minister's visit to China in May, both countries expressed their commitment to cooperate on government, local, institutional and expert level within the *One Belt – One Road* strategy. In our talks with Mr Zhu Qi, we discussed the possibilities of institutional cooperation, with special regard to the agreement of cooperation with the National Library of China, signed last year.

In October 2017, we received a delegation from the Zhejiang Local Chronicles Office. The group of 6 researchers is specialized in documents of history and

Chinese local history. After the exchange of professional views, the delegation was guided through the building of the library, and then the staff at the Map Collection presented them our selection of China-related maps.

The year concluded with the exhibition *Cultures and Generations: Founders and Heirs of Chinese and Hungarian Modern Art* organized jointly by National Széchényi Library, the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, the Xu Beihong Art Committee and the Sino-European Foundation. On the inauguration ceremony, attended by the State Secretary of Culture Péter Hoppál and the Ambassador of China in Budapest, we could enjoy a piano concert of talented young musicians and Gergely Bogányi.

Our plans for 2018 include a "Wall of the Nations" to display the publications donated to our library by international partner institutions.

Szilvia Lengyel, Eszter Konrád

*konrad.eszter.at.oszk.hu
lengyel.szilvia.at.oszk.hu;*

Representing NSZL abroad. Main visits and projects in 2016-2017

Between 15 and 19 February 2016, Director-General Dr. László Tüske paid a visit to the National Central Library of Taiwan, where he was received by Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng. In addition to the bilateral talks and the new possibilities for cooperation (included in the Framework Agreement previously signed by the parties in Budapest in the spring of 2015), Dr. László Tüske held a presentation with the title *The tasks of a national library in a Central-Eastern European country at the turn of the 20th and the 21st centuries*, and participated in the Taipei International Book Fair of 2016, as a member of the Hungarian delegation coordinated by the Balassi Institute. This book fair is the second largest in Asia after the one of Beijing, a gateway to the Far East book market. In 2016, Hungary participated as guest of honor.

Between 7 and 9 April 2016, the conference *Audio-visual Data: From Acquisition to Metadata* was held in Prague, with the participation of heads of department Bea Lukács and Dr. Balázs Mikusi on behalf of NSZL. The papers of the conference offered a comprehensive overview of gathering, preserving and delivering audiovisual documents in public collections, with special emphasis on the preservation and digitizing of celluloid films. Apart from the experts from the V4 countries, lecturers from Germany, Norway and Finland took part.

Between 2 June and 31 May 2016, on the conference *Libraries V4 in the Decoy of Digital Age* in Brno, Szabolcs Dancs from NSZL and Brigitta Jávör from the Library Institute presented their papers. It is a tradition for the V4 countries to discuss each year the new developments of the library profession in the region. The facts discussed on this conference were of practical use for the current projects at NSZL as they were not only taken into account at drawing up the professional priorities and aspects of our planned library service improvements but were also considered when NSZL worded its suggestions for the UNESCO on the preservation of document heritage.

On 13 and 14 June 2016, in Luxemburg, the biannual meeting of the EU Member States Expert Group

(MSEG) on Digitization and digital preservation took place. NSZL has been representing NSZL in the experts committee managed by the European Commission since 2013. On these biannual meetings, the digitizing policies and projects of the member states are discussed, in view of the directives of the European Commission. Also Europeanna gives regular account of its operation and current developments.

At the end of November 2016 and in December 2017, we participated again in the conference series *Semantic Web in Libraries (SWIB)*, with Miklós Lendvay as our representative. These annual conferences were launched upon an initiative in Germany, and today count with significant international participation. They focus especially on linked open data (LOD) generated in libraries and related institutions. The main topic of the conference of 2016 in Bonn was the practical application of linked data and applied dictionaries (schema.org, foaf stb.), while on the Hamburg event of 2017, the main emphasis was on sharing and linking data, with international good practices, existing software and user devices. Within the call for tender of the National Library Platform, NSZL surveyed the requirements of Hungarian libraries, which contributed greatly to specifying the directions of the open source FOLIO platform.

On 15 and 16 May 2017, the annual meeting of the Consortium of European National Libraries (CENL) was held in London, hosted by the British Library. NSZL was represented by Director-General Dr. László Tüske, among forty-seven directors from other libraries of thirty-three countries. The meeting included professional and financial reports, thought-provoking presentations and discussions of topics like namespaces, author and publication copyrights and digital publishing. The featured topic of 2017 was the transformation of library spaces, presented within the panel *Transformative Library Spaces* by the directors of libraries recently built or renovated.

Between 15 and 17 May 2017, and related to the Warsaw National Book Festival, the conference of the V4 countries on the sociology and popularizing of reading was held with the title *Implementing the educational, social and scientific projects in the realm of pro-reading policies*. On behalf of NSZL, Director of Research Dr.

László Boka held an English language presentation on the prestigious conference organized by the Polish National Library and the Cultural Ministry of Poland, with the participation of experts (university lecturers, book publishers, book distributors and library directors) from the V4 countries and other parts of the world including the USA and the Baltic countries.

On 29 and 30 June 2017, Director-General Dr. László Tüske, as a member of the Prime Minister's delegation, signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the Turkish National Library in Ankara. The document opened a new chapter in the existing relation of the two institutions with the cooperation between collections and researchers.

Between 22 and 24 August 2017, the largest conference of the librarian profession (IFLA) was held in Wrocław, Poland. On the event of more than 3400 participants, there were five representatives from Hungary, including Dr. László Boka on behalf of NSZL, who in addition to the specialized events, also attended the annual CDNL conference of the congress. In this latter, the Directors-General or their deputies from the national libraries regularly discuss the main issues of the profession, as well as their annual programs and projects. As usual, the events of the congress concluded with the General Meeting of IFLA, where also NSZL has the right to vote.

On 25 October 2017, the annual conference and seminar of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) took place in Amsterdam. In 2017 the hosts were the Rijksmuseum of Amsterdam and its library, and the Amsterdam University. The day after the seminar, the annual general meeting was held in which NSZL was represented by Director of Research Dr. László Boka. The membership of NSZL, in the so-called cluster system, represents also 15 Hungarian church libraries with valuable stock of old books. From 2017, the president of CERL is Mr Kristian Jensen from the British Library.

Between 8 and 11 November 2017, Director-General Dr. László Tüske visited the National Library of the Moroccan Kingdom. The legal basis of the visit was the regular meeting of the Hungarian-Moroccan Joint Committee of Economy. The new building of the Moroccan National Library with new library technology installations was open in 2008. In the spirit of mutual relations, our Director-General invited Director-General Abdalilah al-Tahani to Budapest.

Between 4 and 6 December 2017, the events of the Hungarian Days in Tbilisi took place under the patronage of Anikó Lévai. National Széchényi Library was represented by Director-General Dr. László Tüske. In the framework of these events, and upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, MANK Nonprofit Ltd. organized an exhibition entitled *Hungary in Georgia* in Tbilisi to present the history of the relations of the two peoples. The exhibition, with original and reprint objects, was based upon the previous *Hungarians in the Caucasus* exhibition of NSZL.

László Boka
boka.at.oszk.hu

ZIRC EVENTS



2015

This year was about wine and beer production in the Zirc Abbey. As the theme of the Night of Museums in Zirc was wine, the Memorial Library celebrated it with an exhibition on the history of the Cistercian order's viniculture in Hungary. Wine played an important role in liturgy, and was also a product the abbeys took to the market. Citeaux, the first Cistercian monastery, is a leading producer of French quality wines, and was made rich as early as the 12th century by its burgundy vineyards. Several sources confirm that in the 14th century, the Citeaux monastery regularly supplied the court of the Pope of Avignon with wine. Consequently, there was an endeavor to plant vineyards in the surroundings of most Cistercian monasteries. In Hungary, the abbey of Bélaháromkút (today Belpátfalva) and Cikádor (today

Bátaszék), played an important role in the development of the medieval viniculture of Eger. The Cistercians of Zirc took their share of wine production when the order was re-founded in the 18th century. They had vineyards first in Badacsony and Somló, and then, by the unification of Pilis and Pásztó supervised by Zirc, acquired estates in Eger and Tokaj. At the exhibition, several wine labels were presented.

Where the climate was not suitable for wine production, abbeys took up beer brewery. As early as in the Middle Ages, a main activity of the monastery of Henrichau (today Henryków, the re-founder of the Abbey of Zirc) was beer brewery, so it is not surprising that in the 18th century, beer culture was implemented in Zirc with a new brewery functioning from 1734 until





the middle of the 19th century. Monks revived this tradition in August 2015, with the opening of the Abbey Manufacture of Zirc, and for this occasion, the Memorial Library published the history of beer production

in Zirc. Also a beer poster exhibition was presented with the cooperation of the Collection of Posters and Small Prints, that included a selection of the posters of Hungarian breweries.

2016

As the Memorial Library has been cooperating with *Magyar Grafika* for a long time, it was natural for it to serve as one of the venues for a traveling exhibition on the periodical's 60th anniversary. The exhibition inaugurated by Péter Maczó, brand designer of *Magyar Grafika*, was open between 28 April and 13 May, and became popular among local typographers.

Together with the Mixed Choir of Zirc, we had been looking for a chance to use the exceptional acoustics of the library's ceremony hall, and now held a concert on 23 April. The successful event of the title *Singing Library, an evening tour on the pages of books and the wings of music*, had an audience of 200 guests. Between the parts of the concert, the director of the library presented books from our collections.

It was in 1953, that National Széchényi Library took the Zirc Memorial Library under its patronage. Several manuscripts were taken to Budapest at that time, including ten codices, among them a volume made in the 15th century with two

works in Latin: a collection of sermons of Johannes Herolt, a Dominican friar of great influence of the 15th century, and a bestiary. Anna Boreczky presented the latter with these words: "The Bestiary is built upon a series of animals shown one after the other. The text units for each animal usually consist of two parts: a description of the characteristics and behavior of the





creature, and a moral that presents the features of the animal's nature to follow or discard as analogies of God and the devil, or a man of virtue and sin." The Bestiary

of Zirc is decorated by pen drawings, and there are Croatian and Hungarian words added to it by Brother Thomas, a Minorite friar of the 15th century who lived in the southern part of the historical Hungary. This points at that Brother Thomas used the book for preparing his own sermons. Due to the presence of Hungarian words, the Bestiary of Zirc is not only a document of culture history, but also a relic of language history. Its facsimile edition was jointly published by the Cistercian Abbey of Zirc and National Széchényi Library, and presented on 13 October in Zirc. The invited contributors were greeted by Árpád Dékány abbot Sixtus and

László Boka. The volume and the bestiary as a genre was discussed by Vilmos Csányi and the editor of the book, Anna Boreczky.

2017

For the Night of Museums, the Memorial Library prepared a special exhibition of the history of honey made by friar orders, especially the Cistercians. Both the Benedictine and Cistercian orders played an important role in spreading apiculture in the Carpathian Basin. The exhibition displayed old books on apiculture from our collections, and dedicated a separate showcase to Saint Bernard, the patron of beekeepers.

Between 14 July and 1 October, our exhibition *The Biblical Works of Rembrandt van Rijn* was open to visitors in the Baroque Room of the library. We presented 58 engravings of the collection of private collector Thomas Emmerling who says: "Art collection is a passion, but to share its results with people and invite them to discuss is a proof of the collector's responsibility to society." The Baroque furniture and book bindings of the library offered an excellent environment for Rembrandt's art. The exhibition was inaugurated by governing provost Bernát Bérczi, and seen by thousands of visitors during the two and a half months.



Gábor Németh
gnemeth.at.oszk.hu

PERSONALIA



PERSONALIA 2015

The most creative stand: On the 20th Night of Museums, in a contest of 112 nominees, the stand of National Széchényi Library won the award of the most creative and original museum design. The work was designed and executed by **Lilla Sebestyén**, our colleague at the Secretariat of Research.

Bolyai Plaque: On 2 June 2015, the Bolyai Day, in the Ceremony Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS), young researchers who reached the most outstanding academic achievements during their scholarship, were given honor. 15 of them were awarded the Bolyai Plaque, including **Balázs Mikusi**, Head of the Music Collection at NSZL. The awards were handed out by László Lovász, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Among the three sample presentations representing three main areas of research, this year it was Balázs Mikusi whom the Research Scholarship Curatorium of the Academy asked to contribute. He represented Humanities and Social Sciences with his paper „*What did Haydn collect? The reconstruction of a composer's collection of music sheets*” that resumed the most important results of his 3 years' research.

Szinnyei József Award: On 20 August 2015, **Szilvia Szilágyiné Bánfi**, researcher at National Széchényi Library, was honored the Szinnyei József Award for her long-lasting and outstanding achievements in library sciences.

Széchényi Ferenc Memorial Medal: the medal was awarded to **Ilona Hegyközi**, Head of the Library of Library Sciences, on 25 November 2015.

Hungarian Heritage Award: On 19 December 2015, the cultural and intellectual heritage of Tamás Varga, teacher of mathematics, Balázs Varga literary historian and Domokos Varga writer was honored with posthumous accolade. Balázs Varga PhD was staff member of NSZL between 1977 and 1984.

Title of Doctor of the Academy:

Gábor Sarbak successfully defended his HAS doctoral dissertation *Declarationes constitutionum. Gergely Gyöngyösi and the constitution of the Paulite Order (Editio critica commentariis)*.

Krisztián Ungváry successfully defended his HAS doctoral dissertation *The Balance of the Horthy regime. Discrimination, social policy and anti-Semitism in Hungary 1919–1944*.

PhD:

Judit Papp, after successfully defending her doctoral thesis *Past and present. „Life scenes” from the 20th century. Evaluation for stock protection of the oeuvre of photographer Károly Escher and his legacy of film negatives in the Photograph Collection of National Széchényi Library*, received the PhD title. The thesis was written at the Doctoral School of the Hungarian University of Applied Arts.

Erika Garadnai, after successfully defending her doctoral thesis *Examination of the text relation system of the religious debate in Upper Hungary*, received the PhD title. The thesis was written at the Doctoral School of Literary Sciences of the Miskolc University.

Ágnes Anikó Patonai, after successfully defending her doctoral thesis *Attempts at (re)creating the national tragedy: Mór Jókai's historical dramas in the 1850s*, received the PhD title. The thesis was written at the Doctoral School of Literary Sciences of the Faculty of Humanities of the Pécs University of Sciences.

Farewell...

József Vekerdi, linguist, Indologist, literary translator, researcher, awardee of the Dayawati Modi Vishwa Sanskriti Samman Award, Bibliothecarius Emeritus and Széchényi Awardee of NSZL, passed away on the 28th of September 2015. We shall keep his memory in our hearts.

Jenő Berlász, historian, librarian, Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Honorary Lecturer of the Budapest Corvinus University, life member and Bibliothecarius Emeritus of our Library, awardee of the Hungarian Heritage Award, Citizen of Honor of the 9th district of Budapest, passed away on the 6th of December 2015. His funeral was held on 28 December 2015 in the Farkasrét Cemetery. His memory will live on.

PERSONALIA 2016

Erdődy Award: The Erdődy Award for contemporary achievements in literature, theatre and literary science was handed over on 9 February 2016 at the Institute of Literary Sciences. This year's awardee was **Beatrix Visy**, researcher at the Secretariat of Research of National Széchényi Library, for her new volume [*Surrounded by Words*].

Bibliothecaria Emerita: The award ceremony of the title Bibliothecaria Emerita took place on 29 April 2016. The award was handed over by László Tüske, Director-General of NSZL, to **Lídia Wendelin Endréné Ferenczy**, retired staff member of our Library, for her devoted life-work.

Markusovszky Award: **Dr. Sándor Dörnyei**, Bibliothecarius Emeritus of our Library, received on 4 May 2016 the Markusovszky Lajos Award of *Orvosi Hetilap* [*Medical Weekly*], for his essay *The contemporaneous press on the illness and death of Semmelweis* published in this periodical. In the previous week, he also received the certificate of merit as member of honor of the Hungarian Association of Medical History for the compilation of indispensable bibliographies for the research of the history of medicine and pharmacy.

Juhari Zsuzsanna Award: the Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge and the Scientific Journalists' Club awarded a certificate of merit to the *Földabrosz* [*Cloth of the Earth*] blog run by our Map Collection staff since April 2016.

Balázs Mikusi is Vice President of IAML: the International Association of Musical Libraries (IAML), upon the members vote, elected its Vice President for the period 2016-2019 Balázs Mikusi, Head of our Musical Collection, to honor the active and constructive work he has been carrying out in the different committees of the organization.

Szinnyei József Award: on 18 August 2016, **Lajosné Bánkeszi**, Honorary Director of the Library Institute, received the József Szinnyei Award for her professional achievements.

Family-Friendly Workplace Award: on 19 July 2016, the State Secretariat of Family and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Human Capacities awarded National Széchényi Library with the Memorial Medal and Certificate that entitle it to use the "Family-Friendly Workplace" name as the only library in the Public-Sector Institutions category.

Cross of Honor Award: the Józsefváros Town Hall honored National Széchényi Library on the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution of 1956.

Awardee of the Day of the Hungarian Language: on 13 November 2016, on the Celebration Gala of the Day of the Hungarian Language, **Kornélia Vasné dr. Tóth**, researcher of our Library, was among those awarded in the Language Essays contest, and received the prize in the Celebration Hall of Pesti Vigadó.

Széchényi Ferenc Memorial Medal: the award was given on the Széchényi Memorial Day of 2016 to **Dr. Ecsedy Judit Andrásné Vízkelety**, historian of typography and bibliographer.

PhD: **Edina Zsupán** successfully defended her doctoral thesis *The Wolfenbüttel Group of Corvinas*. The thesis was written in the Ancient Studies Program of the Doctoral School of Linguistics at ELTE Faculty of Humanities.

Farewell...

Ferenc Levente P. Hervay OCist historian, librarian, teacher, holder of the of Fraknói Vilmos Award and the Széchényi Award, passed away on 8 February 2016. His funeral was held on 12 February in Zirc. His memory will live on in our hearts.

Józsefné Szeibert née Margit Szikrai certified accountant, former staff member of National Széchényi Library, passed away on 10 February 2016, at the age of 85. Her funeral was held on 7 March 2016, in the cemetery of Dunakeszi. We shall keep her memory.

Gyula Somogyváry librarian, teacher of religion and Hungarian language and literature, former staff member of National Széchényi Library, passed away on 28 February 2016. His memory shall live with us.

Magdolna Párkai Lászlóné Tőkés librarian, former staff member of National Széchényi Library, promoter and active participant of the modern specialized catalogue reform, holder of several awards, passed away on 15 February 2016, at the age of 85. Her funeral was held on 26 January 2016 in the cemetery of Sződliget. We shall keep her memory.

Magda Zimányi, founder and board member of MEK (Hungarian Electronic Library) Association, retired scientific contributor of the Institute of Particle and Nuclear Physics of the HAS Wigner Research Center of Physics, former Head of the Computer Network Center, passed away on 26 March 2016, at the age of 82. Her funeral was held on 21 April 2016, in Budapest. Her memory will live in our hearts.

Jenő Schwarcz, librarian, our former colleague passed away on 18 April 2016, at the age of 71. He worked at several libraries and was the director of the House of Culture in Pilisborosjenő before entering National Széchényi Library. He worked at NSZL for ten years until his retirement as staff member of the Centre of Surplus Books and the Book Processing Department. His funeral was held on 5 May 2016 in the cemetery of Pilisborosjenő. His memory shall live with us.

Mária Lászik, former music librarian of our Music Collection, passed away on 4 May 2016, at the age of 88. She worked for ten years at NSZL, assisting readers and researchers in our Collections of Theatre History and Music, and participating in the preparation of the fast catalogue of unprocessed musical manuscripts. She was presbyter of the Evangelical Church Community of Újpest and served for thirty years as its notary. She was leader of the Lutheránia Choir for decades. Her funeral was held on 1 June 2016 in the Megyeri Street cemetery of Budapest-Újpest. We keep her memory in our hearts.

Márta Ákom, former Head of the Periodical Processing Department at NSZL, passed away on 20 October 2016, after a serious disease, at the age of 75. After graduation, she first worked in the library of the

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and then at the Municipal Archives of Budapest. From 1976, she worked at NSZL until her retirement. She contributed greatly to the re-catalogizing of our periodical collection. Her memory will live on.

PERSONALIA 2017

Hungarian Heritage Award: the judging committee of the Hungarian Heritage Award of Hungarian Heritage and Europe Association honored the method of restoring parchment codices developed by the Restoring Laboratory of National Széchényi Library with the Hungarian Heritage Award. The prize was handed over to Ildikó Kozocsa Beöthyné and Marianne Érdi. The restorer colleagues who worked in the Corvina project of 25–30 years ago (Ildikó Kozocsa, Ágnes Ádám, Lászlóné Ballagó, Mária Czigler †, Ildikó Csillag, Csilla Farkas, Ágnes Kálmánné Horváth, Zsuzsanna Lente and Györgyi Szlabey, restorator at the University Library) all deserve to be honored for this parchment restoration method, now worldwide used. Congratulations to our colleagues!

Beautiful Book Contest of 2016: on the contest of the Hungarian Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, in the category of knowledge dissemination, our publication Iván Bertényi Jr. - László Boka (ed.): *Propaganda in World War I* was honored a certificate. The volume also won the Antall József Memorial Prize. The graphics and the page-setting were made by our colleague Judit Vincze. In the category of scientific, specialized and higher education books, the volume *The Hungarian revolution of 1956* authored by the Head of the 1956 Institute, János Rainer M, was honored a certificate. The awards were handed over on the opening day of the 88th Festive Book Week and the 16th Children's Book Days at Petőfi Literary Museum.

Szinnyei József Award: On 19 August 2017, **Zoltán Nagy**, retired staff member of National Széchényi Library, Chairman of the Technical Librarian Section of the Hungarian Librarians' Association, was honored the Szinnyei József Award on the occasion of our National Day.

Széchenyi Ferenc Memorial Medal: the award was handed over on the Széchényi Memorial Day of 2017 to

Erzsébet Tokaji Nagy, from our Department of National Location Coordination and Document Supply.

PhD:

Fanni Hende successfully defended her doctoral thesis *Political representation in the Hungarian Parliaments between 1687 and 1765* and received the PhD degree. The thesis was written at the Doctoral School of History Science at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

Zsolt Szebelédi successfully defended his doctoral thesis *Linguistic analysis of György Szerémi's Epistola* and received the PhD degree. The thesis was written at the Doctoral School of Linguistics of Pázmány Péter Catholic University.

Eszter Konrád successfully defended her doctoral thesis *The Representation of the Saints of the Mendicant Orders in Late Medieval Hungary*. The thesis was written at the Medieval Faculty of Central European University (CEU).

Farewell...

Ilona Sarolta Zágonyi, retired staff member of National Széchényi Library passed away on 30 January 2017, at the age of 90. After spending her entire working life in the national library at the Book Processing Department and the Department of Reader and Customer Service, she also contributed to the work of the Acquisitions and Stock Registry Department during her retired years. Her funeral was held on 6 March 2017, in the Farkasrét Cemetery. Her memory shall live with us.

Klára Pesthy Endréné Palotás, retired staff member of the Centre of Surplus Books at NSZL, passed away on 24 February, at the age of 74. She worked for 36 years in the same department of the national library as title describing librarian. We keep her memory in our hearts.

Zsuzsanna di Gléria Somorjainé, retired staff member of the Book Processing Department, passed away at the age of 76, after a long illness she bore with dignity. She had been working for our Library from 1984, and after retirement, contributed as a substitute for years. She took part in the retrospective conversion of card catalogues as a core member of the final works. From 2012 to November 2016, she worked as a volunteer. Her funeral was held on 16 June 2017 in the Farkasrét Cemetery. Her memory will live in our hearts.

Béla Nyíri cameraman, staff member of NSZL, passed away on 14 June 2017. He was a staff member of the Collection of Historical Interviews from its foundation until his retirement after 30 years. He contributed as a cameraman to hundreds of life interviews, and on nearly one hundred occasions recorded the moments of importance in our library. After retirement, he continued to visit us every week to help colleagues. His funeral was held on 8 August 2017 in the Óbuda Cemetery. His memory shall live with us.

Mária Meszleny Dr. Györgyné Tremkó, our former colleague, passed away on 2 December 2017, at the age of 82. She worked at NSZL for more than twenty years, in many areas and leading positions. Several specialized periodicals published her articles, and she was an active member of the Hungarian Librarians' Association. After retirement, she wrote a novel inspired by history, summarizing the memories of her family. Her funeral Mass was held in the Mindenszentek Parish Church of Farkasrét, on 18 December 2017. We keep her memory in our hearts.