

SZÉCHÉNYI MEMORIAL DAY, 2014



The celebration of the founding of our library, that became a tradition, happened this year also in a loving and intimate atmosphere, on November 25th, starting at 11 o'clock, in the sixth floor reception hall of our library. (After the two so-called „open days” from January and June, the anniversary of the founding of the library is primarily the co-worker's celebration.) After the tunes of the hymn, János Káldos, assistant director greeted those present in the name of Dr. László Tüske, director general. It was today, 212 years ago – he reminded us – that the founder of our library, Ferenc Széchényi handed in his declaration of grant in favor of the Hungarian nation in front of József Lányi, official in charge of the court chancellery of Vienna, into the archives of the chancellery. King Francis I. reinforced the declaration by dating it on November 26. The original version of the founding deed was on display this year also with the occasion of the celebration.

After the short opening speech, in concordance with the traditions, last year's winner of the Ferenc Széchényi Memorial Medal presented his/her customary lecture. Ágnes Rácz, head of the Collection Organization Directorate gave an extensive lecture entitled: *Building plans of the Széchényi Library in the Palace District of Józsefváros, in the first part of the 20. century.* The lecture started with the official observations of the national committee regarding the tightness of the place, in 1880; then presented Imre Szalay's suggestions and István Nyírő's building plans; after that described the plan of using the three buildings located near the National Museum (National Riding Hall, the Festetics- and the Esterházy-palace) as well as the possibility of buying the Károlyi-palace; then mentioned the new construction plans from 1954, which was also cancelled, and instead the library got supplementary buildings.

After the very informative and well-illustrated lecture, János Káldos announced that the Ferenc Széchényi Memorial Medal winner of 2014 is Dr. Balázs Mikusi, head of Music Collection. After the festive announcement, he expressed his appreciation of the award-winner as great colleague and hard working specialist doing important scientific work. He was born in 1972; he absolved the Dániel Berzsenyi Gymnasium; he graduated in the Ferenc Liszt University of the art of Music in 1998; and he obtained his PhD here also

in 2009. The same year he became head of the Music Collection at the library. He started to study the collection, spending hours in a row, every day in the storage area. Under his management, the Collection got richer in the last years with valuable pieces, organized important anniversary exhibitions regarding, for example, the Haydn-legacy and the Erkel-legacy. The digitization of the sound-material is an on-going project, and we build important scientific relationships. The Music Collection cultivates a good relationship with national and international fellow institutions, again. It was emphasized also the fact that our young director of Music Collection discovered and presented to the world an unknown, original Mozart-fragment which lurked in our library. Balázs Mikusi underlined in his acknowledgments that the discovery was not a one-person achievement, but of the whole community of the Music Collection, and this important award is the gratification of the work of the whole Collection. The NSZL Choir, directed by Mária Eckhardt, performed three Mozart-nocturnes in honor of the celebrated.

Following this, Ádám Ackermann, secretary of the NSZL Union presented the prizes for the co-workers of the library based on the length of their service: 10 years of membership prize was given to Eszter Amberg, Csilla Bíró, Péter Ekler, Tünde Zita Herczeg, Beatrice Lillin, András Nagy, Gabriella Szabó, Judit Szabó, Csilla Szepesi and Zsolt Zachár. 20 years of membership prize was offered to Barbara Péterné Ekler Kiss, hostess of the celebration, Domokos Dániel Kis, István Hovánszki and András Székely. 25 years of membership prize went to Erika Havasi, Eörs Kállay, János Paizs, Ildikó Türmer, Márta Szmrtnik Szilasiné and Gergely Vitányi. 30 years of membership prize was presented to Ágnes Honffyné Felhő, Cecília Jossáné Tóth, Ágnes Marosán, Ágnes Pap, Tamásné Schirilla and Irén Zádóczy. Three of our colleagues received 35 years of membership prize this year: Andrásné Barnás, Zsófia Borsa Györgyné and Gáborné Kovács. The celebrations ended with the singing of the *Szózat*, then János Káldos together with a few members of the direction, laid a wreath on the Ferenc Széchényi sculpture in the reception stairway.

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