

IMRE GRÁFIK: HISTORISCHE
EREIGNISSE/FAKTEN UND DAS
NATIONAL-GEDENKEN. ODER GROSSE
GESCHICHTE – KLEINE GESCHICHTE

Im Beitrag werden solche Ereignisse der neuzeitlichen ungarischen Geschichte behandelt, die beweisen, daß die große Geschichte – mit Rücksicht auf die genaue Kronologie der Ereignisse – die lokale Geschichte im Nationalgedenken überschrieb. Das an der ungarisch-jugoslawischen–(slowenisch)–österreichische n Dreiländergrenze 1989 stattgefundene „Treffen der Freundschaft“ wurde um etwa 3 Monaten früher abgehalten, als das später weltberühmt gewordene Ödenburger Pan-europäisches Picknick! Der Revolutions-rausch brach am 23. Oktober 1956 3 Stunden früher in Debrecen als in Budapest aus! Der Rote Sterne, die Rote Fahne fielen gegen 2 Uhr Nachmittag beim Eingangstor der Waggonfabrik zu Debrecen in den Staub. Gegen 6 Stunde knallte dann das mörderische Lini-enfeuer das erste Mal in der Kossuthstraße.

JÁNOS HORVÁTH: ERNŐ PESOVÁR (1923–
2008), DER CHOREOGRAF

Der kurze Beitrag macht die choreografische Tätigkeit von Ernő Pesovár bekannt, die er beim Tanzensemble Ungaresca zwischen 1959–1979 ausgeführt hatte. Während dieser Periode schuf er 48 Tanzwerke, derer bedeutender Teil zu hervorragenden Werken der ungarischen Tanzkunst geworden ist. Im Beitrag werden neben der Analyse der Werke auch die Gedanken von Pesovár zitiert, die in verschiedenen Studien erschienen. Die fachkundigen Beurteilungen der an der Jury der Festivals teilnehmenden Fachmänner kommen ebenfalls vor. Etliche seiner Choreografien gilt als Anleitung für die Choreografen. Mit seiner einzigartigen Sehweise, mit seiner Bildung breiten Sehkreises schuf er den schöpferischen Pesovárschen Stil.

ANNAMÁRIA HOLLERNÉ MECSÉRI:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN
THE LIFE OF THE 50-YEAR-OLD SMIDT
MUSEUM (2018–2021)

The Smidt Museum in Szombathely celebrated its 50th anniversary in October 2021. Within the context of this event, the paper presents the half-century history of the museum since the opening of the new wing. In these four years, the online space has brought the institution closer to its visitors than ever before, but it has also faced unprecedented challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic. The paper describes the new opportunities offered by the new environment, the museum's activities in the field of public education and outreach, the tasks related to the care of the collection and its presence in the community.

CSILLA KEPPEL: TO THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE
SMIDT MUSEUM IN SZOMBATHELY

The Founding Act of the Smidt Museum, i.e. the agreement between Dr. Lajos Smidt and the City of Szombathely and Vas County, is a legal document dated 1968, after which the Smidt Museum was opened on 1 October 1971, after a professional arrangement involving the country's most eminent experts. Fifty years ago, the private collection of Lajos Smidt, the former hospital director and chief surgeon, became a public property, consisting of artefacts and historical documents, unique in the country. After the golden and silver age of the museum, it still gives staff many tasks to organize and process. For the founder and his successors, who have managed the museum, adherence to the scientific foundations has been of the utmost importance. The renewal of the Smidt Museum's permanent exhibitions between 2009 and 2012 was also preceded by a major research effort involving specialists from national museums. This jubilee paper is based on extracts from the presentations made by specialists at the museum's scientific conference on 28 October 2021.

JÁNOS KISS: MY MEETINGS WITH
WRITER ÁGOTA KRISTÓF (1935–2011)

Ágota Kristóf, the world-famous writer, spent her childhood and youth in Kőszeg and Szombathely. In 1944, at the age of 9, she moved with her family from Csikvánd to Kőszeg. She graduated from the Kanizsai Dorottya State Primary School in Szombathely. The world-famous writer lived in Neuchatel, Switzerland for more than 50 years, since her defection in 1956. Her best-known novel, “The Big Notebook”, set in the city of K., has been translated into 40 languages. She wasn’t recognized and acknowledged in his homeland until much later. She was awarded the Kossuth Prize in 2011. The author of this article, János Kiss, knew her personally. He shares his memories of their encounters with the reader.

PÉTER MARKÓ: SHIPBUILDING ON THE
HIGH SEAS

In 1932, the Austrian philosopher Otto Neurath found a powerful metaphor for the compromise between optimistic activists and the inevitable passivity of the globally adrift when he said that we are like sailors “who on the open sea must reconstruct their ship”. The interpretation of this metaphor and the tracing of its destiny has been present throughout much of the 20th century’s history of theory. By the end of the 20th century, this maritime image had found competition in the Icarus motif, which was embodied in an observation that people are now not only mobilized for the sea voyage, but are also taking to the skies. One sometimes suffers from the fear that the aircraft on board of which mankind is flying into the future will take off before the technicians have installed the landing gear for landing.

IMRE GRÁFIK: A LITTLE-KNOWN
VOLUME OF SEMIOTIC STUDIES EDITED
BY PÉTER JÓZSA

It is Péter Józsa’s personal merit that under the auspices of the Semiotic Working

Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, he considered it important to document the semiotic-based approach of Hungarian research in a volume of studies published in English, the language of international scholarship. Not to overestimate the publication, since neither in the work of Péter Józsa, nor in the history of Hungarian (and international) semiotics is this volume of studies the most outstanding achievement, but its documentary character is greater than is considered by the scholars of semiotics, especially the younger generation.

GÉZA BALÁZS: THIS IS HOW WE READ.
ESSAY ON THE MANY WAYS OF READING

There are three types of reading: information seeking, knowledge enhancing and “just for pleasure”. The latter, in particular, is in crisis. Traditional reading is essentially material, linear, while digital reading is immaterial, scanning. The theoretical framework of this phenomenon is given by technological determinism (McLuhan). The changed, “technological” reading leads to a new kind of reception and acquisition of knowledge. Accelerated reading technology does not lead to an increase in experience, since the human brain’s capacity for absorption cannot be accelerated, and acceleration is accompanied by losses on the other (emotional) side (Tamás Freund). The arguments in favor of digital reading are flawed: it is not necessarily environmentally friendly: paper is certainly not environmentally destructive, and reading on a screen is different (and not more convenient) than reading on paper.

ÁGOTA DÉNES: “JUST DON’T LET THEM
FIND OUT I CAN’T DO ANYTHING!”
“MEKK ELEK”, THE HANDYMAN –
A SEMIOTIC APPROACH

This paper attempts to present some possible semiotic dimensions of the animated series “Mekk Elek the Handyman”, produced nearly 50 years ago. The text of the puppet show,

peppered with language games, the music played on the Hammond organ, the puppet characters brought to life by the animators, still provide children and adults with moments of fun. Master Mekk, a favorite of generations, has taken on a life of his own over time. He can be found in the form of ornaments and utensils, but also as a sculpture. The theme music of the series has been on telephone ringtones since the 1990s. The stories of the handyman goat, which rhyme with Hungarian reality, are still relevant today: “Mekk Elek” has become a symbol of a man who touches everything but does nothing.

ENDRE TÓTH: MOUNT ST VID AND ITS CHURCH

The Church of St Vid was built on an earlier mountain settlement, probably already existing in the Carolingian period. Based on the name of “Vid”, the veneration of the saint came to Hungary not from the imperial lands and Bohemia, but from the Slovene–Croatian territories. This could have been facilitated by the Héder ethnic group of Styrian origin who owned the castle, or it could have been introduced by the Croatian–Slovenian population of the area as early as the 9th or 10th century. The chronological relationship between the castle and the church, which was already standing in the first half of the Árpád Era, may be established by further excavation.

ZOLTÁN PÉTER BAGI: THE CAREER OF ALESSANDRO RIDOLFI AND THE BATTLE OF SZOMBATHELY IN 1605

At the end of September 1605, the hajduk and Turkish Tartar troops led by Gergely Némethy crossed the left bank of the Rába again and defeated the cavalry rifle unit led by Alessandro Ridolfi at Szombathely. This essay will examine two closely related topics. On the one hand, it is important to answer the question: how did Ridolfi, a nobleman of Florentine origin and related to the Medici

family, come to lead the cavalry rifle unit? On the other hand, a new source provides an account of the unit's defeat at Szombathely and its subsequent fate.

FERENC TÓTH: BARON FERENC TÓTH (1733–1793) ON THE CONTROL OF THE PLAGUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The pandemic of our time has highlighted the experiences from epidemics of earlier times. Based on the documents of the last mission to the Middle East of Baron François de Tott (1733–1793), a French diplomat of Hungarian origin who is interred in the cemetery of Tarcsafürdő, a village in the former Vas County (now Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Austria), this study shows how, in the era before the discovery of vaccination, methods to control epidemics were being researched outside Europe. Documents in the manuscript archives of the French Academy of Medicine in Paris show how Eastern medicine was used to combat the deadly disease in the late 18th century.

ANTAL HORVÁTH: LAND CONSOLIDATIONS IN VAS COUNTY, 1949–1956. Part 2

The Hungarian Workers' Party, as the sole holder of power, wanted to make agricultural production more efficient by performing a socialist transformation in agriculture. It was as part of this forced transformation work that the land consolidations began in 1949. During this period, the land consolidations was intended to meet the interests and needs of the state farms and cooperatives; at the same time, it destroyed the peasantry's production security and its centuries-old traditions connected to land. It became a means of limiting the kulak class and a major resource in creating cooperatives. Using mainly archival sources, the author examines the land consolidations in Vas County and their effects. It presents, in chronological order, the contradictions of the imposed land

consolidations, the reactions of the peasantry, the role of the land consolidations in the creation of cooperatives. The data presented in the paper provide an opportunity to make comparisons between individual years, national results, and between the districts and municipalities of the county.

IMRE GRÁFIK:
HISTORICAL EVENTS/FACTS AND
NATIONAL MEMORY. BIG HISTORY –
SMALL HISTORY

The study deals with events in modern Hungarian history that testify to the fact that the great history has superseded local history in national memory in terms of the exact chronology of events. The “Friendship Meeting” on the Hungarian–Yugoslav (Slovenian)–Austrian triple border in 1989 took place about 3 months earlier than the later world-famous Pan-European Picnic in Sopron! In 1956, the revolutionary frenzy broke out in Debrecen on 23 October 3 hours earlier than in Budapest! The red star and the red flag, fell to the ground at the entrance gate of the Debrecen Wagon Factory at around 2 pm. And at around 6 p.m., the first murderous volley was fired in Kossuth Street.

JÁNOS HORVÁTH:
PESOVÁR ERNŐ (1923–2008), THE
CHOREOGRAPHER

This short essay describes Ernő Pesovár's choreographic activities, which he carried out between 1959 and 1979 with the Ungaresca Táncegyüttes Dance Group. During this period he created 48 dance works, many of which are outstanding works of Hungarian dance art. In addition to analyzing the works, the essay also quotes Ernő Pesovár's thoughts, which have appeared in various studies as well as the expert assessments by the festivals' juries. Several of his choreographies is used as guides for choreographers. It was his unique vision and his broad-minded culture that created the “Pesovár style” of creation that is still followed today.

DR. BAGI ZOLTÁN PÉTER (1974) történész, levéltár-igazgató, Győr Megyei Jogú Város Levéltára, Győr

PROF. DR. BALÁZS GÉZA (1959) nyelvész, néprajzkutató, egyetemi tanár, ELTE Bölcsészettudományi Kar, Mai Magyar Nyelvi Tanszék, Színház- és Filmművészeti Egyetem, Budapest; Partiumi Keresztény Egyetem, Nagyvárad; a Magyar Szemiotikai Társaság főtákará

DR. BARISKA ISTVÁN (1943) történész, ny. levéltárvezető, Kőszeg

BIRÓ ZSOLT (1969) fordító, tanár, Szombathely

DÉNES ÁGOTA (1968) tanító, mesterpedagógus, okleveles alkalmazott nyelvész szakos bölcsész, Csöglei Általános Iskola, Csögleg

DR. GRÁFIK IMRE (1944) néprajzkutató, ny. múzeumi főtanácsos, Szombathely

DR. HOLLERNÉ MECSÉRI ANNAMÁRIA (1985) történész–muzeológus, intézményvezető, Smidt Múzeum, Szombathely

HORVÁTH ANTAL (1948) ny. pedagógus, Kőszeg

HORVÁTH JÁNOS (1944) ny. koreográfus, Gyöngyösfalu

DR. KEPPEL CSILLA (1977) történész–muzeológus, Szombathely

KISS JÁNOS (1950) ny. tanár, címzetes iskolaigazgató, a Kőszeg és Vidéke rovatvezetője, Szombathely

MARKÓ PÉTER (1953) szociológus, művelődésszervező, Sárvár

DR. NAGY ZOLTÁN (1952) néprajzkutató, Budapest

DR. TÓTH ENDRE (1944) ny. főosztályvezető, Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest; docens, Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem, Bölcsészettudományi Kar, Történettudományi Intézet, Régészeti Tanszék, Budapest

DR. TÓTH FERENC (1967) tudományos tanácsadó, Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont Történettudományi Intézet, Budapest