

## István Orosz

### **Imre Mikó – President of the Hungarian Historical Society**

*Keywords: Imre Mikó, Hungarian Historical Society, Hungarian historiography, travelling conferences*

Count Imre Mikó, founder of the Transylvanian Museum Society, was elected as president of the Hungarian Historical Society in 1867. As a president, Mikó set as a goal before the Historical Society the cultivation of historiography on a higher level, as well as the popularization of scientific endeavours. As a Transylvanian, he manifested a marked interest towards the history of the neighbouring nations of the Hungarians, while trying to establish this spirit within the Society. The fact that the first travelling conference of the Hungarian Historical Society was held in Kolozsvár is also due to the person of Imre Mikó. He returned to this conference on next year's general meeting, an occasion on which Count Mikó argued on basis of the history of Transylvania for the thesis that the political unity of the Hungarian provinces has already manifested itself in the past, even while this region was torn away as many as six times from other Hungarian territories. As a president and a historian, Imre Mikó repeatedly called attention to his conviction according to which history plays a major role in the formation of consciousness for national communities.

## Mihály Péter – Mária H. Péter

### **The Activity of the Medical Department of the Transylvanian Museum Society**

*Keywords: Transylvanian Museum Association, Medical Department, scientific meetings*

The Transylvanian Museum Society was founded in 1859 at Kolozsvár (Cluj). In 1861 became necessary the separation of the scientific meetings to historical and natural science departments. In 1876, they started publishing a journal entitled *Értesítő (Bulletin)*. Because of the fast development of the science in 1906 this department was split in two separate departments: Medical and Natural Science. The I. World War and the change of domination interrupted the activity of the Society. In 1922 the activity were restarted. The new change of domination (1944) the activity of the Society was forbidden in 1950. The activity was restarted only in 1990. The residence of the Medical Department was moved to Marosvásárhely (Tg. Mureş), and the naming was changed in Medical and Pharmaceutical Department. The main activity of the Department was the organisation of scientific meetings, extension curses, annual conferences in different Transylvanian towns. Statistical data are given. Whole activity were published in the *Értesítő*. The Department has contributed not only to the development of medicine and pharmacy, but also to the improvement of the quality of health care, and to the public healths education.

## Sándor Pál-Antal

### **The Travelling Conferences of the Transylvanian Museum Society between 1906 and 1943**

*Keywords: Transylvanian Museum Society, travelling conference, medical congress, sectional talk, scientific forum, Hungarians from Transylvania*

The travelling conferences of the Transylvanian Museum Society look back upon a past of more than one hundred years. The travelling conferences, medical congresses and scientific conferences organized within the confines of the Society contributed in a great measure to the raising of the standards pertaining to Hungarian scientific life in Transylvania. Scientific assemblies and special exhibitions, cultural programs and excursions favoured, at the same time, the members' deeper familiarization with the historical past, natural endowment, as well as the social and medical problems of the region. The travelling conferences were widely regarded as joint celebrations of the Society and Transylvania, and furthered the conscience of community in the Hungarian people cast in a minority situation after the First World War.

From 227 sectional talks held at the 18 travelling conferences, 125 (45%) were in the fields of the humanities and history, 75 (27%) in the area of the natural sciences, 45 (16%) were medical, and 32 (12%) concerned jurisprudence and social sciences. The distribution according to scientific sections of the 197 papers published in the annals is as

follows: 90 – 58 – 26 – 23 (46 – 29 – 13 – 12%). Adding the scientific addresses held at the medical congresses and medical postgraduate courses to the sectional talks, we come up to a number of 454, of which 222 (48,9%) scientific addresses had a medical subject matter, and from the 337 addresses published in the annals, a number of 166 (49,2%) were also in the field of medical science. The travelling conferences secured a framework for the Hungarian intellectuals from Transylvania in making their contribution to the cultivation of science and the spreading of their scientific and professional results.

Through the travelling conferences, the Transylvanian Museum Society broadened its scientific and scientific propagation activity, as these conferences offered an opportunity to harmonize scientific activities, popularize the Museum Society and propagate science in the widest possible circle. Complementing their function of assemblies for the popularization of science, the travelling conferences also became scientific forums and cultural manifestations with high standards.

## György Gaal

### **Transylvanian Scientific Booklets**

*Keywords: Transylvanian Museum Society, Hungarian scientific periodical, Transylvanian Scientific Booklets, literary, historical, ethnographical topics*

The »Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek« (Transylvanian Scientific Booklets) was started in 1926 as a collection of extracts from the first Hungarian scientific periodical of Transylvania after World War I, »Erdélyi Irodalmi Szemle« (Transylvanian Literary Review). These booklets of 20–30 pages dealt mostly with literary, historical and ethnographical topics. The editor of the review and of the collection was Lajos György. In 1930 he quitted the »Szemle« and restarted the periodical of the Transylvanian Museum Society, the »Erdélyi Múzeum« (Transylvanian Museum) which also published studies of natural sciences. From now on the collection published mostly extracts from this review, but there were included some studies published elsewhere, too. Beginning with 1941 Attila Szabó T. is the editor up to 1947 when both the review and the collection were prohibited. Up to this moment 208 booklets were published. In 1990 the Transylvanian Museum Society restarted its activity, and the review as well the collection were activated again. In this collection in the period 1991–2007 there were published 51 booklets. But these booklets are rarely extracts, they are in most cases large studies or even dissertations (Ph. D. theses). So the extent of the booklets is very often over 100 pages. The Transylvanian Scientific Booklets with its 259 numbers can be considered the most important scientific collection of the Hungarians from Transylvania. The bibliography of the collection and the complete list of contributors is published.

## Gyöngy Kovács Kiss

### **The History and Role of the Erdélyi Múzeum in the Hungarian Scientific Life of Transylvania**

*Keywords: Erdélyi Múzeum (Transylvanian Museum), annuary, European and Transylvanian tradition*

The annuary of the Transylvanian Museum Society (Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület) was founded in 1874 and lead by Henrik Finály, professor of linguistics and history. Chronologically, the history of the annuary may be divided in seven, from the point of view of concept and form quite distinctive and yet related periods. The annuary has mainly published studies in social and human science and several articles in the field of natural science. Since its existence the annuary assumes two aims: to present the activity of the society's departments and publish studies written by domestic and foreign authors. The publication acts like a forum offering specialized information that combines European and Transylvanian tradition with topics from the field of interethnic dialogue, self-knowledge and preservation of heritage. Editors-in-chiefs of the annuary: Henrik Finály (1874–1882); Lajos Schilling (1884–1887); István Hegedüs (1888–1890); József Szinnyei (1891–1893); Lajos Szádeczky (1893–1905); Pál Erdélyi (1905–1917); Lajos György (1930–1939); Attila Szabó T. (1941–1947); Samu Benkő (1991–1994); Elek Csetri (1994–1998); Árpád Antal (1998–1999); Gyöngy Kovács Kiss (1999–).

## Emese Egyed

### **Historical Literature in the Erdélyi Múzeum (Transylvanian Museum)**

*Keywords: Transylvanian Museum, literature, European context – local culture, studies, essays, book reviews, reading sessions*

The review *Erdélyi Múzeum* was established in 1874, in Kolozsvár/Cluj, publishing studies and articles from various disciplines in Hungarian language. Being forced multiple times to cease its appearance for shorter or longer periods of time during the course of its history, the review appears now regularly, publishing studies, essays and book reviews in the field of human disciplines. By doing so, it contributed considerably to researches and studies in the field of literature: it published studies regarding the book and manuscript collection of the academic society in Transylvania, the *Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület* (Transylvanian Museum Society), as well as studies revealing the European context of the local literature and culture. Especially significant are the thematic issues of the review, dedicated to Sándor Petőfi, Miklós Wesselényi, István Széchenyi, János Baranyai Decsi, or the Transylvanian Enlightenment. The present paper analyses also the connection between the studies published in the review and the reading sessions organized within the *Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület*, as well as the book series of the *Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület*, the *Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek* (Transylvanian Scientific Booklets).

## Katalin Olosz

### **The Transylvanian Museum Society and the Transylvanian Museum Activity Concerning Folklore (1859–1948)**

*Keywords: Transylvanian Museum Society, Transylvanian Museum, folklore, folk poetry, reading meetings, Romanian-Hungarian folkloric interchanges*

The Transylvanian Museum Society was founded in 1859. The society's statutes, never proposed to research folklore, but the interest for the folk poetry was all the time present, with various intensity, in the society's activities as well as in reading meetings or in the society's papers. In the Transylvanian Museum, there were published many articles related to folklore, which can be categorized into five thematic groups such as: 1) collecting activities, 2) the theoretical, conceptual and methodological topics, 3) the historical view on folklore phenomena, 4) the transition genre between folklore and literature, 5) the review of the Romanian folk poetry and the Romanian-Hungarian folkloric interchanges. This paper review the achievements on that five domains and it reasons on the fact that the folklore-orientation was more emphatic in the society's history when ethnography was taught at the University in Kolozsvár (Cluj), near the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and during the 40's in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Elek Csetri

### **Lajos Kelemen, the Transylvanian Museum Society's Historian-Archivist and Zsigmond Móricz**

*Keywords: Lajos Kelemen, historian, archivist, Zsigmond Móricz, writer, The Great Prince*

The author presents how in the second half of the 1920s Lajos Kelemen, a historian an archivist from Cluj, assisted the Hungarian writer, Zsigmond Móricz, to write his novel entitled *A nagy fejedelem* (*The Great Prince*). The novel is part of a cycle of novels dealing with the history of Transylvania. In 1926 the writer, who visited Transylvania, met Kelemen personally and consulted with him. Kelemen also provided useful historical data later on. These data, on the one hand, refer to the characters of the novel (to Prince Gábor Báthory and to several minor characters), and on the other hand, also helped the writer to be able to depict the Transylvanian landscape, to use the archaic Hungarian language of the 17<sup>th</sup> century adequately, and to present contemporary customs and cultural life.

## Ildikó Veres

### **Béla Varga, the Philosopher**

*Keywords: Béla Varga, philosopher-theologist, Sándor Tavaszy, Sándor Makkai*

This study is aimed at throwing light on two major areas of Béla Varga's philosophy, a prominent member of the Kolozsvár school of thought, philosopher-theologist. On the one hand his answers regarding existence, meaning and values are sought. In this respect emphasis is put on the cognitive activities of the spirit. On the other hand it is also examined how the covert general connections mentioned above are concretised in the interpretation of individuality, soul and belief. Comparison with other contemporary theories (Sándor Tavaszy, Sándor Makkai) concerning beliefs and Christian fate are also distinctly emphasised.