## Erdélyi Múzeum 2025/3

#### Séllei Nóra

## Woolf, Mrs Dalloway, and The Hours: Intertextual Games Multiplied

Keywords: Virginia Woolf, modernism, biography, intertextuality, adaptation

Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours* (1998) and Stephen Daldry's film adaptation (2002) have had a fundamental effect on our image of Virginia Woolf because they make Woolf's modernist texts substantially more accessible. After a brief overview of some elements of Virginia Woolf's reception history, the article analyses the narrative, symbolical and plot elements of *Mrs. Dalloway* that are evoked and re-interpreted in Cunningham's novel and Daldry's film. The interpretation of Cunningham's novel points out the similarities with, and differences from Woolf's narrative technique, the interrelationships between the three plotlines, their cultural background and further intertexts. Regarding Daldry's text, in turn, as a multiple intertextual palimpsest, the author argues that the editing technique of Daldry's film (the three closely knitted plot lines) make this film adaptation much more "Woolfian" than Cunningham's novel is.

#### Csörsz Rumen István

### A Midsummer Night's Dream and Hungarian Poetry

**Keywords**: William Shakespeare, János Arany, translation, intertextuality, history of Hungarian poetry

A Midsummer Night's Dream was János Arany's (1817–1882) first completed translation of Shakespeare, a work he developed in several stages since the 1840s. The Hungarian text reached its final form in 1863. Since the play had not previously been translated into Hungarian, Arany could not rely on earlier versions, as he could with Hamlet, for example. As a play unique even within Shakespeare's oeuvre, it likewise abounds in experimental solutions, linguistic and stylistic play in its Hungarian rendition. Arany (surely consciously) drew many of his rhymes and poetic lines from the Hungarian literary language of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, incorporating elements of both elite and popular poetry of the time. The troupe of amateur craftsmen takes on a distinctly Hungarian character, and Arany also adapted the verse form to Hungarian tradition, using twelve-syllable rhyming couplets. This study examines the phenomenon of 'cultural translation' from the perspective of the history of poetic form.

## Kányádi András (

## The Venetian Encyclopaedist: Casanova's Letters

### Keywords: Casanova, Enlightenment, Encyclopaedia, Correspondence, Sciences

Giacomo Casanova was born three hundred years ago, and on this occasion, a comprehensive selection of his letters is being prepared for the Téka series at the Kriterion publishing house. We publish the preface, accompanied by four letters, to demonstrate the versatility of the writer, who is justly famous for the adventures he wrote about in his memoirs. The documents of his philosophical, scientific, economic and mathematical interests relate the Venetian seducer to his contemporaries, the French encyclopedists.

## Török Zsuzsa

The Editor and the Ghostwriter. Flóra Majthényi and the Periodical Virágcsokor

Keywords: adolescence, girlhood, nineteenth-century, periodicals, editorial role, niche market This paper examines an extremely short-lived periodical titled Virágcsokor (Bouquet of Flowers, 1862) and the editors behind its production, Flóra Majthényi (1837–1915) and later, as ghostwriter, Lajos Urváry (1841–1890). The article begins with an assessment of Majthény's life and poetic output over the course of her career, in order to address the fundamental questions about her decision to take on the editorial role. The study argues that Flóra Majthényi's editorial involvement was a truly remarkable endeavour because of the very fact that she saw a market niche. Nevertheless, her concept of a magazine for adolescent girls was pioneering but ultimately premature. Based on a close reading of the journal and the surviving correspondence of some of Majthényi's contemporaries, this study provides evidence that although the periodical was published under her name, Majthényi in fact made a negligible contribution to the journal, leaving the editorial tasks to her male colleague, Lajos Urváry. Her case study highlights the limitations of the 'editor' as a unifying concept for a periodical produced through an apparent female editorship mediated by a strong male presence.

## Korondi Ágnes

## Saint Jerome, the Auctor in Late Medieval Hungarian-Language Manuscripts

**Keywords:** late medieval Hungarian-language manuscripts, Saint Jerome, medieval sermons, references to Jerome

The paper examines the image that the late medieval Hungarian-language codices conveyed to their female readers about Saint Jerome through quotations taken from his works (or from writings attributed to him) with references to his name. The quotations came from the Latin texts selected for transposition into the vernacular. Since translators often omitted source references from the vernacular texts, the mention of Jerome's name in the translation next to a quotation indicates the importance of the Church Father as an author and the familiarity of Hungarian readers with his name. Analysing the references to Jerome in the Old Hungarian manuscripts, one can conclude that for the readers of the corpus, the Church Father was primarily an ideologist of virginity and monastic life, secondarily a Bible philologist, a Hebraist, and thirdly a teacher of unquestionable authenticity who formulated unassailable truths on diverse theological topics.

#### Németh Boglárka

The Enregisterment of Szekler Dialect in the Discourses around Áron Tamási's Ábel Trilogy Keywords: enregisterment, Szekler (Székely) dialect, characterological figure, Áron Tamási, Ábel trilogy

The article examines the main patterns of the enregisterment of the Szekler (Székely) dialect identifiable in the public discourses surrounding Áron Tamási's *Ábel* trilogy. Reflections on the trilogy and its protagonist, as formulated in the literature on Tamási, in contemporary literary journalism, in Tamási's essays on his own works, in digital media contents, and in Hungarian educational materials, usually interpret and present Ábel's speech patterns as authentic Szekler dialect usage, while Ábel himself is often portrayed as an exemplary Szekler characterological figure. The most common observations regarding Ábel's language use include generalizations about his implicit, allusive, "sly", verbally competitive, bantering style, and about these being Szekler pragmatic traits. These features are predominantly regarded as being special and enjoyable, however, in some cases they are assessed as burdensome, difficult language.

## Workshop

## Büky László

## "What a Sad World This Is!" - On Melancholy-Related Words in the Poetry of Mihály Babits

In the language use of Mihály Babits and other poets associated with classical modernism, the frequent appearance of the adjective *melancholic* (*bús* in Hungarian) is particularly striking. The *Comprehensive Dictionary of the Hungarian Language* provides a wide range of meanings for the word. This study examines words modified by *bús* that correspond to these meanings. These modified words help to reveal aspects of the poet's worldview that reflect early 20th-century *spleen*, weariness of life, loneliness, and existential pain.

**Keywords:** Mihály Babits, meanings of the adjective  $b\acute{u}s$ , words modified by  $b\acute{u}s$ , frequency of the adjective  $b\acute{u}s$ 

#### Kázmér Miklós

# From Hermannstadt to Calcutta – The Life and Work of Leopold von Fichtel, Naturalist, Micropalaeontologist

Keywords: micropalaeontology, foraminifera, history of science, Transylvania, 19th century

Two pioneers of micropalaeontology, the Transylvanian Leopold von Fichtel (1770-1810) and the Bavarian Johann Carl Paul von Moll (1735-1812) had been attracted to the scientific glamour of Enlightenment Vienna at the turn of the 18th and 19th century. Both engaged in collecting and arranging specimens for the imperial Natural History Museum. Fichtel was collector for the museum in both Europe and India, and bought major collections at auctions for the museum. Their joint work, the richly illustrated *Testacea microscopica* (1798, 1803) was probably one of the most important early studies on microscopic unicellular animals, the foraminifera. The high quality, very modern description of each species and the exceptional quality and beauty of copperplate illustrations made it suitable for erecting the first major genera. Two hundred years later a modern revision, based on the original collection preserved in the museum, showed the exceptional quality of the original work.

#### Máthé-Farkas Zoltán

### The punishment for anger is the sword. Analysis of the metaphor in Job 19,29b.

**Keywords**: laboratory translation, background metaphor, analysis of metaphor, semantics. In my paper, I make a laboratory translation of Job 19,29 and then examine the microstructure of this three-part poetic line, using a pre-developed method. Then, the analysis of the aforementioned metaphor of Job 29b will be carried out, namely by exposing the background metaphor and then analyzing the semantic meaning-creation of the metaphor. Presumably, this writing will succeed in pointing out the need for laboratory translation and metaphor analysis as a workshop activity before biblical text interpretations. And the method shown here may even help in the translation of metaphors and translation criticism.

Gudor Noémi Gothic Spatiality in Mór Jókai's Hétköznapok Keywords: Gothic Romance, Spatial Turn, Gothic Spatial Constructions, Mór Jókai

The investigation of Hungarian horror narratives remains a largely unexplored area within the historiography of Hungarian literature. Although a comprehensive account of their influence has yet to be fully established, it is evident that the Anglo-Saxon Gothic novel and the German *Schauerroman* exerted a significant impact on the development of Hungarian prose traditions in various forms. The present paper attempts to interpret Mór Jókai's novel *Hétköznapok* (Weekdays) from the perspective of the Anglo-Saxon Gothic novel tradition. The presence of the Gothic romance sub-genre is not only provided by the characters or the story of the novel, but also by the spaces that evoke the archetypal settings of the Gothic prose tradition. The mechanisms of the Gothic novel tradition become perceptible in Hungarian terms through spaces, characters, tropes and motifs.