

JÓZSEF SZINNYEI AND FERENC SZÉCHÉNYI AWARDS BESTOWED ON OUR COLLEAGUES



On 20th August 2008, three of our colleagues received József Szinnyei and Ferenc Széchenyi awards. The József Szinnyei award may be bestowed on librarians for their outstanding achievements over a long period of time and for their activity, creativity and initiative. The Ferenc Széchenyi award, in turn, recognizes the high-quality theoretical or practical contribution of public collections' experts who have developed and applied new methods.

Dr. Ágnes Salgó Wojtilla, the retired head of the Collection of Old Prints received the József Szinnyei award as a recognition of her professional attainment. As a strong and unfailing representative of the library's spirit, she had a rich and satisfying career in the National Széchenyi Library. Her lifework reflects a combination of a love of books, dedication, commitment and a keen interest in classical scholarship. Her professional dedication was always focused on protecting national treasures, informing readers, following in the footsteps of bibliophiles and bibliographers (e.g. Sándor Apponyi) and preserving their traditions for future generations. Even today, she is doing research into the way antique Greek and Roman literature lived on in the 15th-16th centuries.

Dr. Judit Vásárhelyi Pojják was awarded the Ferenc Széchenyi award for her retrospective bibliographic research highly acclaimed inside and outside Hungary. She has been working for the National Széchenyi Library since 1974, leading the Editorial Office of Old Hungarian Prints (today: 15th-18th

century Book-History Department) since 1989. She is the editor of *Old Hungarian Authors I. From the Beginnings to 1700* (2007). This internationally important academic undertaking, that contains biographical and professional data for over six thousand hungarus authors, is the continuation and completion of the data collection Borbála László Wix (1926–2002) and her team had started (and prepared for printing). Doing research into the lifework of Albert Szenci Molnár, Judit Vásárhelyi has made a major contribution to literary history too, for which she received the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Ferenc Kégli, the retired head of the 19th-20th century Book-history Department received the József Szinnyei award for his work on book, library and bibliography history and for developing the retrospective national bibliography. He had been employed by the Retrospective Bibliographical Department (today: 19th-20th century Book-History Department) of the National Széchenyi Library from 1988, acting as its head from 1998. The Department is responsible for providing missing information and completing the Hungarian national bibliography. Ferenc Kégli contributed to the post-1988 volumes of retrospective national bibliography of *Magyar Könyvészet 1921–1944*. He has published his research findings in several papers and is still active in editing the series *Nemzeti Téká* [National Storehouse.]. In 2005, he compiled his bibliography of local biography collections into one volume. Ferenc Kégli is a conscientious colleague, a true bibliographer in the classic sense of the word.



Ferenc Széchényi medal



József Szinnyei medal