

# FIUME: EXHIBITION, SYMPOSIUM AND LITERARY EVENING



On 8th May 2009 the National Széchényi Library opened the “*Hungarian memories of Fiume*” exhibition based on Csaba Skultéty’s rich and varied private collection related to present-day Rijeka. Our institution has been familiar with Csaba Skultéty’s commitment to saving and collecting the cultural heritage for a long time, as in 1998 the Borda antiquary bookshop compiled a list of recommendations from his collected rarities under the

was started by a lead-in text taken from the contemporary press or from the books displayed.

According to the collector’s and organisers’ intentions, Fiume’s significance in cultural history as outlined by the exhibition was further explored in a small scholarly symposium and a literary evening. Chaired by István Maróti, in the afternoon of 28th May 2009 Imre Rész, Ilona Fried, Csaba Kiss Gy. and András Hadik gave papers on Fiume’s history,

cultural and art history, built heritage and its emphatic role in Hungarian literature. The presenters underlined that although the exhibition followed Fiume’s cultural wealth and heterogeneous traditions, the collector’s relics and memories did not only make the life of the city, its citizens with their fates and frequently unclear ambitions tangible, but that they also showed us how this port city with its unique milieu and radiance was definitively integrated into the totality of Hungarian cul-



The rich and varied material arrives in “sea chests”

ture. The symposium was followed by an excellent and memorable evening of music and literature. It is an infrequent move for a collector to offer for purchase his exhibits to a public institution. At the same time, it is a rare opportunity for the National Library to extend its stocks thematically. Besides the well-deserved success of the exhibition, the related events and their positive professional reception, it is the fortunate coincidence of these two intentions that is hoped to leave a lasting mark on our library’s life. In the next section, you will read the curator Andrea Benkő’s introduction.

title “*Old views of Pest and Buda and other rarities*” as the first item in the shop’s “*Hungarian Collectors*” series. The exhibition documenting the trilingual Fiume’s history, trade, world shipping, social life and schools introduced the Hungarian past of this special city through books, journals, maps, cuts, postcards, three-dimensional pictures and photos. In the display designed by curator Andrea Benko, in addition to the thematic groupings and inevitable chronology, the presentation of the age and venues of a hundred years ago was completed by such everyday objects as school reports, theatre posters, shares, invoice letters and ship schedules. Each section

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