

## 90 TOWNS



Commemorating the ninetieth anniversary of one of the saddest moments of modern Hungarian history, an exhibition called *90 Towns* was organised on the seventh floor of our library between 11 May and 12 June 2010. The panoramic view of ninety annexed towns on postcards placed in the showcases and quotations from the writings of famous writers and poets helped us remember the tragedy when the country lost a significant part of its architectural cultural heritage and a third of its Hungarian citizens.

In connection with the exhibition, art historian Dr. László Lisztóczy, president of Jenő Dsida Circle of Friends in Eger, gave a lecture entitled *Trianon in Hungarian Poetry*, at 11am on 4 June, the anniversary of the peace dictate. He quoted poets who gave heart-rending voice to their feelings about the loss of their homeland, and the places attached to favourite memories of their youth. Gyula Juhász mourned Szabolca (*Szabolca*), Máramarossziget (*Sighetu Marmatiei*) and Nagyvárad (*Oradea*), where “an Ady sang. And Hungarians

announced a tomorrow.” Dezső Kosztolányi painfully remembered Szabadka (*Subotica*), “where the train will not take you anymore.” The lecturer also talked about those who wrote poems of survival in the annexed territories, and proclaimed reconciliation on a higher spiritual level, “on the summit”, while “they called to a gentle war, always for ourselves, never against others” (Áprily, Dsida). The solemn atmosphere of the event was enhanced by a recital of the above-mentioned poems by actor Tamás P. Ungvári.

The curator planned the exhibition with the intention of contributing to replacing the superficial image of Trianon in the minds of the public, which is often based on empty words, by encouraging empathy in the people of today with what was seen in the exhibition, so that instead of forgetfulness, indifference, or, in the worst cases antipathy, the sense of national togetherness would get stronger. The ninety towns shown by the postcards represent an integral part of Hungarian cultural history, and the cradle of our intellectual heritage. The sentiment guiding the

Annexed towns on postcards. Silent Memento





Kiállítás az Országos Széchényi Könyvtár VII. szintjén  
2010. május 11 - június 12.

90 város

„Szeretnék néha visszajönni még,  
Ha innen majd a föld alá megyek,  
Feledni nem könnyű a föld ízét,  
A csillagot fönn és a felleget,  
Feledni oly nehéz, hogy volt hazánk,  
Könnyek vizét és a Tisza vizét,  
Költők dalát és esték bánatát;  
Szeretnék néha visszajönni még...”  
Juhász Gyula



exhibition was expressed in harmonious lines by László Cs. Szabó and Sándor Márai: “Say Várad, I say Janus Pannonius. Say Kolozsvár and I say Gáspár Heltai, Misztótfalusi Kis, and Apáczai Csere. Say Enyed and I say Pápai Páriz, Ferenc Benko, and Sándor Szilágyi. Say Vásárhely and I say Bolyai. Say Brassó and I say Honterus.” (Cs. Szabó: *Transylvanian Towns*) “We say ‘Kassa’, and we see young Kazinczy in the Main Street walking hurriedly with Bacsóányi and Baróti Szabó to start a review. ‘Kassa!’ we say again, and Déryné’s silver voice jingles. [...] ‘Lőcse!’ we say, and Gábor Dayka comes to mind. ‘Eperjes!’ we say, and Henszlmann, Pulszky,

Kerényi and Albert Berzeviczy answer this secret call.” (Márai: *Eternal Upper Hungary*).

In a letter to his son, Frigyes Karinthy formulated the following basic thought still valid today: “One day you will hear about one of the painful wonders of the world – somebody whose arms and feet have been cut off will feel the pain of the fingers and toes that are no longer there for a long time. When you hear “Kolozsvár”, “Transylvania”, and “Carpathians,” you will know what I mean.”

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