

Abstracts

Fábián, Borbála

The network of street lighting in a Hungarian city in the second half of the 19th century

Street lighting in 19th-century Hungary was the privilege of cities. Since only a few maps were preserved which show the location of streetlamps, it is hard to reconstruct the complete network. The lists of streetlamps, which provide information about the location of the lamps are also few in number. From the city of Baja in Southern Hungary, four lists and a map are known from the second half of the 19th century. In the first, 1857 list 87 streetlamps are counted, whereas in 1863, with the introduction of oil lamps, their number rose to 200. The map was drawn around 1887 (onto a map made in 1860). The 202 lamps were put in similar places (and streets) as previously, in 1863. The four lists also reflect the changes in the structure of the city. The operation of the network was gradually expanded in time as well: in the 1850s, streetlamps were used only between November and March (in wintertime), whereas, with the introduction of oil lamps, it was possible to use them throughout the year. Streetlighting aimed to ease transport during the night and to enhance security in the city.

Kacziba, Péter

Centre and periphery in diplomatic relations

The article, by using the method of longitudinal sampling, aims to uncover the central and peripheric participants of the diplomatic sphere, as well as their order. The results are based on the modelling of the network of foreign representatives, the averaged degree centrality data of networks, and the presence of the sovereign states emerging in the examined period, showing a hierarchical system of diplomacy, in which the central states are those possessing the largest capacities, whereas, on the periphery, we can find geographically, politically and economically isolated countries. The article concludes that diplomacy is still one of the most important international spheres of interaction, in which efficient and active representation advances the central actors, all the while conserving the isolation of the representatives of the peripheric countries.

Kriston, Dorottya

News about Hungary in the diplomatic correspondence between Venice, Ferrara, Rome, and Mantua (1490)

By publishing excerpts from 28 letters written immediately after the death of King Matthias of Hungary (between 5 May and 13 December 1490), held in the Archives of Modena and Mantua, the study aims to highlight that examining the correspondence between the Italian city-states in periods when Italy was involved in Hungarian diplomatic matters can be fruitful to both *Hungarica* research and Hungarian studies in information history. Following the death of King Matthias, the news of the succession of the throne were important to Ferrara, Naples, Milan, Venice, and also to Mantua due to Matthias' active involvement in Italian politics and because of the bride of John Corvinus, Bianca Maria Sforza. The amount of Hungary-related news was unsteady, it varied from a couple of lines to complete reports. The reliability of the informants was also rather questionable. The article concludes that in Italy there was an information network that revolved around the news from Hungary, which not only transmitted new messages, but constantly reflected on older information by confirming, refuting, or complementing them.

Molnár, Péter

Kinship interactions: The route of news in the personal correspondence between Charles V, Ferdinand I, and Margaret of Austria from the middle of 1526 to the beginning of 1528

After the battle of Mohács, the Habsburgs found themselves at crossroads. While the head of the family, Charles, dwelling in Spain, would have preferred the successful ending of the war against the League of Cognac, Ferdinand, who ruled the Danubian provinces of the dynasty, wanted to avoid losing the crown of Hungary and Bohemia. Due to the long distance, Charles could influence his brother only by 'remote control.' Provided that the Habsburg brothers received their messages within 2–3 weeks – as András Giró-Szász stated – it is surprising to what extent did Ferdinand diverge from the expectations of his brother after the battle of Mohács. Upon examining the critical edition of the letters, we can conclude that the letters of Ferdinand reached Charles in two months on average, and this interval could increase since Ferdinand was delayed due to political reasons. A statistical analysis of the correspondence between Ferdinand and Margaret of Austria makes the study complete.

Nagy, Andor

The social network of peregrinating students from Braşov based on occasional prints (1650–1750)

The article examines the members of the Saxon patrician families of early modern Braşov who visited foreign universities between 1650 and 1750 and aims to

reconstruct their networks of relationship/friendship based on occasional prints. The study also highlights that only a systematic and thorough source research and the use of (more traditional) control sources can provide ample information in this respect. By using the methods of network analysis, the goal of the research is to reconstruct the relationship network of the peregrinating students from Braşov and emphasise the relevance of these results for the social history of the region.

Varga, Lujza

‘The bloodless battle of modern times’: Opportunities for advocacy at the centre of the League of Nations

The League of Nations was established to replace secret diplomacy and war as a method of conflict management, uniting all states: to connect former networks in a large centre and to resolve tensions between them. However, in the frame created by the League, personal networking continued to be as necessary as qualification and aptitude.

Hungary was admitted to the organization in September 1922 but had set up a Hungarian Secretariat alongside the League in February 1921 to carry out initiatives, to obtain and disseminate information on the League, and to mediate between the League and the Hungarian government. Thus, the enforcement of Hungarian interests took place through this office.

The other main line was the Hungarian delegation to the meetings of the General Assembly, which consisted of politicians, diplomats, and experts. They can be divided into four groups: the general delegates, who, in addition to Hungarian issues, were well acquainted with the operation of the League, its employees and the delegates of the other states; professionals who came to discuss a specific issue and thus had special knowledge and were acquainted with the international professional and political guard working on the topic; or, in special cases, the Prime Minister or Minister of Foreign Affairs. The fourth group consisted of cases where no discussion was expected at the meeting, in which case the Geneva or Bern leader was usually entrusted with the representation.

Vida, Bence

Connectivity and fragmentariness: the problems of reconstructing the social network of Miklós Bethlen, the Chancellor of Transylvania

The article presents the analytical methods of social networks through the correspondence network of Miklós Bethlen (1642–1716), the Chancellor of Transylvania. After surveying the historiography of Social Network Analysis, the study enumerates the most frequent themes which may bring up relevant problems for historical studies within the paradigm of network analysis. The applicability of centrality measures and the question of structural holes are discussed along with how a historian can grapple with the dynamics and temporality of social networks within the methodology of network analysis inspired by structuralism, which stresses the

processes of transition, focusing on the personal relationships between the individuals making up the network.

W. Somogyi, Judit

Cyphering groups in late medieval and early modern Italy

From the 14th century on, in the diplomatic practice of the Italian centres of power the practice of cyphering gradually became a commonly used method of written exchanges. Those who participated in these exchanges and were directly or indirectly responsible for producing the cyphered texts – to secure the safety of the information – consciously chose not to reveal their identities (and their relationships), therefore, identifying them poses numerous challenges. The article focuses on these enclosed cyphering groups, their structure, and operation, as well as the possibilities of identifying their members and their roles in producing cyphered messages, using 14th–16th-century code keys preserved in Italian archives, which provide information about the person and the activities of the members of the cyphering groups.