

## SUMMARIES



## *Report on the activity of the National Széchényi Library in 1959*

In 1959 the National Széchényi Library made important progress in attaining its aims the guiding principles for which were laid down by the decisions brought in 1958. Despite numerous difficulties slowing down the work it can be stated that, with some exceptions, the library achieved its objectives.

The rich collections of the Library were naturally accessible to the public, but in addition, the Library continued to function as the centre for various library services, library science and methodological work in Hungary.

The most important achievements of the year were the following: the collections of the Library were enriched by important quantities of new material; the long expected rules, regulating the Library's collection field, were set up; a great part of the old catalogue was transitionally re-catalogued; the number of readers increased; a re-organization of the bibliographical work took place; the central co-ordination of library science research in the country was initiated; international exchanges and inter-library loans increased in volume; international relations developed satisfactorily; the scientific work of the Library's collaborators improved and an upward trend was noticeable in the Library's publishing activity.

The new structure of the Library, formulated a year ago, was strengthened, the Library's budget was increased, the employees of the Library grew in number and its technical equipment was enlarged by Xerograph and Vari-typer equipment and by a modern micro-film-camera.

The main difficulties, as in the past, centered around the extreme shortage of space. The planning work concerning the Library's future new home in the former royal castle continued to be one of the salient points in the Library's work in 1959, several study tours abroad were undertaken in this respect. Despite the increase in the Library's budget allocated to acquisitions, the sum did not prove to be sufficient and only small credits could be expended upon binding and repair. The growth in the number of readers and material, and the increasingly important new tasks incumbent upon the Library caused certain lacks of staff.

The following events, taken from the reports of the single services, should be particularly stressed.

### *Department I.*

*Acquisitions* increased, the work became more uniform. Important quantities of Hungarica material were acquired from abroad by purchase and exchange, and increased emphasis was given to acquiring the most important literary works of the neighbouring countries. Certain problems had to be cleared up with regard to the acquisition of certain types of Hungarica material, and difficulties were encountered concerning the new system of inventories and the handling of duplicate copies. The most important achievement of the *Processing Division* was the photographic reproduction, in card-form, of the former so-called Munich-type catalogue; the cards were inserted into the General Reader Catalogue. The revision of the systematic catalogue was continued. An important event in the field of bibliographical activities was that from 1959 onwards the *Bibliographical Section* of the Library had taken charge of the editing of the Hungarian national bibliography, thus catching up arrears. Despite various impediments, the work on the retrospective national bibliography was continued. A growth was experienced both in the number of visitors to the Library and the works consulted. The Library's *Reader and Reference Service* displayed lively activity; it furnished bibliographical information to inquirers at home and abroad in numerous cases. The shortage of stack-space continued to cause grave difficulties.

## Department II.

The *Periodical Division* of the Library increased its acquisitions of Hungarica periodicals, it prepared a new catalogue of foreign periodicals in the Hungarian language not yet acquired, it was also responsible for the editing of the Repertory of Hungarian periodicals and continued its activity concerning retrospective bibliographies. An increase in the number of readers was registered. The *Music Collection's* work centered around the organization of the Haydn Year in 1959. Numerous commemorative bibliographies and other works were edited by its collaborators. The Library's *Theatre-Division* was engaged in processing lately acquired collections, the *Geographical Section* worked on the processing of old atlases. The *Division of Posters and Smallprints* was mainly engaged in the editing of several special bibliographies commemorating the anniversary of the Soviet Republic of 1919.

## Department III.

In addition to its current work, the collaborators of our *Manuscript Collection* worked on the catalogues of the Library's modern Latin and modern German manuscripts; considerable time was devoted to a general bibliography of manuscripts and to an union catalogue of Hungarian manuscripts. The *Collection of Old and Rare Books* continued the processing of incunabula and miscellaneous old material. Some precious items, guarded by the above two sections, were exhibited at the International Book Fair in Leipzig. The three museum-type libraries in the country at Keszthely, Gyöngyös and Zirc, functioning as special collections under the supervision of this Department, registered a considerable growth in the number of their visitors. The *Microfilm Service* was provided with modernized equipment in 1959 and thus was well able to comply with increased demands made on it by the public.

## Department IV.

This Department is the centre of inter-library services. It includes the *Book Distributing Division*, which distributed almost 100,000 items of surplus book material among 127 Hungarian libraries. The *Hungarian Service of International Exchange* functions as national Exchange centre; in this capacity, and also as the operator of the Library's own exchanges, it significantly increased the volume of its exchanges in 1959. A growth in the work of the *Inter-Library Loan Service* was experienced: the number of loans, domestic and foreign, increased considerably. The re-organization of the national *Union Catalogue Service* was begun, the number of answers to enquiries received multiplied. Amended rules regulated the distributing work of the *Copyright Deposit Service*.

## Department V.

The Centre of Library Science and Methodology, as the fifth main Department in the National Library's structure, began its functions in 1959. Its *Division of Library Science* carried out a survey concerning research work in Hungary in this field, co-ordinated the work already begun, re-organized documentary work and paid increasing attention to enriching the collections of its special library. The *Division of Methodology* extended its advisory activity to all Hungarian scientific libraries and carried out numerous investigations and analyses in the interest of improving the work of the Hungarian public libraries. The *Educational Division* conducted several extension training courses for librarians.

In the course of 1959 the National Library strengthened its ties with the libraries of other socialist countries. A general increase in the exchange of persons and publications

was experienced. Representatives of the Library participated in the FID Conference at Warsaw and attended three regional classification meetings, co-operated with UNESCO and IFLA and took part in the Berlin conferences dealing with early printed books and subject catalogues, respectively.

Details regarding the activity of the single services are shown in the accompanying tables.

*Additions to the collections, by source, in 1959*

1.

	By Purchase	By Gift	By Exchange	By Copyright Deposit	Total
Books (volumes) .....	4,572	8,376	4,374	32,756	50,078
Periodicals current (vols.) and not current (pieces) .....	953	670	424	2,078	4,125
Manuscripts (pieces) .....	10,396	97			10,493
Music (pieces) .....	362	644	90	892	1,988
Posters, playbills (pieces) .....	857		4	21,827	22,688
Smallprints (pieces) .....	1,234	59	4	32,299	33,596
Maps (pieces) .....	216	110	2	132	460
Microfilms (pcs) (800 frames) .....	478				478
Educational diapositive slides (pcs) (50 frames) .....		129		139	268
Filmstrips (pcs) (6 frames) .....	203				203
Photographic plates (pcs) .....	44				44
Gramophone records (pcs) .....	68		2	169	239
Standards (pcs) .....				4,936	4,936
Other documents (pcs) .....	7,364	46	26	2,333	9,769
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,749</b>	<b>10,131</b>	<b>4,926</b>	<b>97,559</b>	<b>139,365</b>
Special provincial collections .....	65	3,026	—	116	3,207
Of which:					
Books .....	31	2,989		24	3,044
Periodicals .....	34	27		92	153
Other .....	—	10		—	10

*Additions to book collections, by language\**

2.

Hungarian	12,806	Danish	9
Russian	1,104	Finnish	170
Serbian	92	Macedonian	1
Slovenian	32	Chinese	19
Polish	416	Dutch	17
Czech	242	Albanian	9
Slovakian	157	Swedish	32
Bulgarian	85	Lithuanian	2
Roumanian	355	Esthonian	25
Greek	10	Norwegian	6
Modern Greek	1	Ukrainian	48
Latin	1,114	Cheremiss	2
Croatian	84	Mordvinian	1
Hebrew	17	Chuwash	1
French	937	Zyrian	3
German	2,790	Votyak	2
English	1,702	Esperanto	1
Italian	140	Armenian	3
Spanish	105	Multilingual	590
Turkish	19	Total	23,149

\* The figures in this table include only the books proper; brochures, lecture notes, reprints and acquisitions of the provincial special collections have not been distinguished by language.

*Statistics on number of visitors*

3.

**Users of reading-rooms**

	Readers			Items used		
	1957	1958	1959	1957	1958	1959
<b>Premises of:</b>						
Reader Service .....	24,437	39,109	43,651	68,471	106,644	119,820
(Researchers) .....	(3,920)	(6,638)	(5,886)			
(Univ. students) .....	(9,354)	(15,878)	(21,626)			
(Others) .....	(11,163)	(16,593)	(16,139)			
Periodicals Division .....	15,769	24,392	24,923	61,471	93,036	108,188
(Researchers) .....	(5,051)	(7,209)	(7,343)			
(Univ. students) .....	(3,490)	(5,198)	(5,040)			
(Others) .....	(7,228)	(11,985)	(12,540)			
Special Library Science						
Collection .....	977	1,352	376	3,588	4,984	1,509
Old and Rare Books						
Division .....	1,118	1,234	1,124	4,226	5,743	4,525
Manuscripts Division ...	1,640	2,282	2,258	21,880	19,879	17,610
Music Division .....	663	1,932	1,817	3,947	8,353	8,900
Theatre-History Division	1,273	1,171	1,239	151,520	65,314	84,220
Map Division .....	365	437	547	3,108	10,223	9,497
Division of Posters .....	270	484	733	62,193	160,500	270,180
Microfilms Division .....	166	686	1,022	378	4,270	5,354
Division of Confidential						
Material .....	—	533	1,323	—	2,656	8,178
Special collections at						
Gyöngyös .....	831	597	763	3,163	2,306	2,024
Keszthely .....		129	130		496	376
Zirc .....	226	160	82	902	329	152
	47,735	74,498	79,988	384,847	484,733	640,533

## Processing and Distributing work of the Book Distributing Division

	Performance		Plan	
	Titles	Volumes (copies)		Volumes
1. <i>Processing</i> : nationalized library material (former KEO)	29,100	70,822		(48,555)
Surplus copies .....	42,830	50,918		(60,300)
Total	71,930	121,740		(108,855)
of which:				
Simplified entries .....	71,930	6,925	(57,350)	(8,355)
Simplified classification .....	—	52,133	—	(66,355)

	Number of books and periodicals transferred		
	Titles	Volumes	Pieces
2. <i>Distributing</i>			
Libraries:			
National Széchenyi Library .....	6,622	7,325	802
Budapest libraries .....	21,742	26,454	3,552
County public libraries .....	11,710	13,980	1,037
Provincial and other libraries .....	26,213	30,489	1,550
Provincial museums .....	585	780	2,341
National Széchenyi Library —			
Exchange Service .....	248	755	52
State Book Distributing Enterprise	3,837	3,977	—
Kultura Hungarian Trading			
Company for Books and			
Newspapers .....	152	317	—
Total	71,109	84,077	9,334

*Inter-Library loans in 1959*

1. Requests received:		
a) from Budapest .....	4,427	
b) from the country .....	3,394	
c) from abroad .....	1,326	
Total	9,147	
2. Requests sent:		
a) Domestic .....	5,722	
b) Foreign .....	7,572	
Total	13,294	
3. Requests fulfilled:		
I. Printed works and films on loan		
a) Works from abroad:		
(for Budapest) .....	1,838	
(for the country) .....	1,355	3,193
b) Microfilms on loan from abroad:		
(for Budapest) .....	19	
(for the country) .....	10	29
c) Works sent abroad .....		572
d) Items from domestic libraries to domestic libraries through our intermediary service .....		3,794
Total:		1,844
		5,638
II. Microfilms, photo-copies:		
a) From abroad:		
(for Budapest) .....	1,318	
(for the country) .....	485	1,803
b) Sent abroad: .....		586
		2,389
c) Items from domestic libraries to domestic libraries through our intermediary service .....		701
Total:		3,090
Total number of requests fulfilled:		8,728

*Statistics on international exchanges**1. Number of items exchanged*

(The figures include exchanges under cultural agreements, exchange of official publications, of duplicates and the own exchanges of the National Széchényi Library)

Country	Sent abroad				Received from abroad			
	Books	Periodicals			Books	Periodicals		
		Total no. of issues per annum	No. of titles	No. of volumes per annum		Total no. of issues per annum	No. of titles	No. of volumes per annum
Soviet Union .....	5,779	9,620	371	499	5,008	10,723	396	524
Peoples' Democracies	6,572	25,917	387	1,498	4,979	26,450	617	940
Other .....	2,791	11,713	132	385	6,241	22,448	420	850
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,142</b>	<b>47,250</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>16,228</b>	<b>59,621</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>2,314</b>

*2. Turnover in packages*

Country	Sent abroad	Received from abroad
Soviet Union ....	112	4
Peoples' Democracies .....	298	1,318
Other .....	727	3,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>4,420</b>

*3. Turnover in gifts*

Country	Sent abroad Books	Received from abroad	
		Books	Periodicals
Soviet Union .....	32	23	—
Peoples' Democracies	173	293	—
Other .....	1,026	1,107	15,384
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>15,384</b>

4. *Distribution of Hungarian publications among domestic libraries* 3,311 copies

5. *Number of letters written:* 1,971 pcs.

6. *Packages* 13,512 pcs.

## *Foreign relations of the National Széchényi Library in the years 1958/59*

I. GOMBOCZ

Certain developments can be registered in the field of the Library's international relations in the period that has elapsed since the publishing of our former report in the 1957 year-book which applied to the years 1953—1957.

The policy of acquisitions from abroad has been directed more resolutely towards purchase and exchange of Hungarica material, though some difficulties ensued regarding the exact definition of the type and category of publications to be procured. An increase in the amount of foreign currency has been made available for purchases, but with regard to publications not obtainable through the ordinary trade channels, the Acquisition Division of the Library increasingly relied upon international exchanges, operated by the Hungarian Exchange Service functioning within the Library. It is interesting to note that approximately 57 per cent of the material obtained from abroad came from international exchanges.

The Hungarian Exchange Service had begun to build up a nation-wide register in card form, incorporating every library and institution with exchange partners abroad. Numerous exchanges, not fitting into the National Library's own activity were passed on to the proper Hungarian libraries. All central forms of exchanges (exchanges under the country's cultural agreements, exchange of duplicates and official publications) increased in volume and quality: altogether 64,000 items were sent abroad and 97,000 items received.

The Inter-Library Loan Section, a central service equally operated by the National Library, moved into more spacious quarters in another part of our building; under the more favourable circumstances it improved its work in many respects: new countries with new libraries and institutions, at home and abroad, were contacted, backlogs eliminated. 9,147 requests were received by the Section in 1959, 95 per cent of which were filled.

In its capacity as the country's bibliographical centre, the National Széchényi Library increased its activity. The reference service and every special collection (periodicals, manuscripts, music division) received numerous inquiries from abroad. About 90 important bibliographies or information of another type were submitted to foreign inquirers.

A noticeable progress was made in the field of the exchange of persons, though in this regard a higher figure would have been desirable. About 160 visitors from abroad examined the treasures of the National Library or studied the work of the single collections. The majority of our visitors came from the socialist countries. The numerous tourists on sight-seeing in the provincial libraries (Keszthely, Gyöngyös and Zirc) under the supervision of the National Széchényi Library are not included in this figure.

Some of our principal collaborators made study tours in the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union, others travelled in various European countries, inspecting new library buildings and equipment. Several members of the Library's staff followed special studies abroad and numerous study excursions to neighbouring countries for larger groups of staff members were also organized.

The Library increased its co-operation with the Libraries Division of Unesco, concluded contracts with it with a view to organizing a regional exchange conference in Budapest in 1960 and publishing the Bibliography of Hungarian Bibliographies under the auspices of Unesco. Collaborators of the Library attended ISO, FID and IFLA Conferences, participated in regional classification meetings, attended the Berlin meetings of the socialist countries where early printed books and subject catalogues were discussed, helped organize the Haydn Year (as evidenced by the then published catalogues on the Library's collections of Haydn manuscripts), exhibited old manuscripts and books at the Leipzig Book Fair, etc. The National

Széchényi Library became a member of the International Association of Music Libraries. Numerous collaborators of our Library published articles in foreign periodicals on literary subjects, on librarianship or library science.

To sum up: despite some shortcomings it may be concluded that the international relations of the National Széchényi Library showed a marked development in the two years under review.

## *Some facts about the work of the Educational Division of the Centre of Library Science and Methodology in 1959*

E. BESENYEI — I. PAPP

In its work concerned with professional training and extension training, the Educational Division has been keeping two basic principles in mind: 1. the realization of the unity of political and professional knowledge; 2. the close relationship of theory and practice in library work.

In the first year of its operation, the Centre's Educational Division had taken over and improved training methods already in progress at that time. The basic field of its activity, as seen in the foregoing, is training and professional extension training. The *training* is being carried out on three levels. Librarians who attended the university, but the degree they obtained was not from the Faculty of Librarianship, participate in a 2-year high-grade course; in the future this form of training is to be included in the university's curriculum. It is yet to be decided whether the post-graduate course for librarians with high-school diplomas not from the Faculty of Librarianship is equally to be included in the university's instruction plan, or else is to be taken care of by the Educational Division of our Centre. Despite several attempts, the question of the training of librarians with medium-grade qualifications has not yet been satisfactorily solved, yet the need for librarians with good medium-grade training is growing day by day. The aim for this type of training, at present, is doublefold: firstly, to increase the professional knowledge of persons already working in libraries, secondly to ensure the systematic replacement of librarians with medium-grade qualifications. The instruction plan and different organizational questions are only in an initial stage, but the short time that has elapsed since this type of training has been called into existence has proved that the creation of a library school would be the basic condition for successful training. The lower-grade training course for librarians is still in the stage of organization; in this respect certain obstacles must still be overcome.

A form of professional *extension training*, recently organized, can also be stated to have been successful. Various courses were started for librarians working in public and scientific libraries, but in order to make possible the working out of a uniform system for this type of training, a survey of the situation regarding the qualifications of librarians actually employed is absolutely necessary. Official measures pertaining to required qualifications in this field are expected shortly and these will provide the long-expected basis for the proper organizing of professional extension training courses for librarians.

## *The problem of co-ordinating national and international standardization in the field of library economy and documentation*

P. LÁZÁR — G. BARTA

As a consequence of the rapid development of library economy and documentation, increased demand arises for library standardization which again brings forth the development in standardization. This process began on a national basis, but later—within the framework of ISO—it broadened on an international scale. The question of the relationship between national and international documentary standardization was first raised at the 1959 FID Conference in Warsaw.

Standardization has to overcome numerous objective (imperative, systematic) and subjective (incidental, not systematic) difficulties before it will become possible to establish rules or fix guiding principles acceptable to everybody concerned on the one hand, and on the other, before practice will actually be regulated by standards.

The following main obstacles stand in the way of the unity of documentary standardization and national and international practice (starting from the direction of the systematic towards the incidental difficulties):

1. Legal contents and power, compulsory or recommendatory character of standards (legal inertia);
2. Linguistic deviations (linguistic inertia);
3. Differences in the stage of maturity of the cultural levels, especially in library economy and documentation (developmental inertia);
4. Relations to other fields of standardization (general standardization inertia);
5. Tradition, habit (intellectual inertia);
6. Financial consequences of establishment of standards (economic inertia);
7. Systematic planning and scheduling documentary standardization (documentary standardization inertia).

It is apparent that parallelly with promoting international standardization the obstacles of an incidental character must be removed first. A long-term programme of international standardization could do much to improve the skillful planning of library and documentary standardization. This programme should take into account all the results of national standardization hitherto achieved, as well as manifested or latent demands for national standardisation (f. i. the requirements of under-developed countries).

There is not much hope for overcoming systematic obstacles to standardization, as this is a much more complicated problem. But some of the systematic deviations do not affect the basic unity and proper co-ordination of international and national standards, which fact is best proved by a comparison of ISO recommendations with the Hungarian national standards.

## *Photo-composing methods*

T. TOMBOR

Due to the rapid progress of the printing trade in recent years the type-layouts, the photo-composing systems have been developed.

In the first part of his guide, written specially for librarians, the author discusses the

historical background and in this connexion points to the important pioneer activity in this field by our countryman, Jenő Porzolt. Porzolt built the first photo-composing machine in 1894, which served as the basis for further experimentation and research throughout the world. Parallel with the activity in this domain by the Russian, V. A. Gassiev, the work of another Hungarian, Ödön Uher, can be considered to have been of prime importance.

In the second part of his study, the author describes the following three groups of photo-composing systems, adding important bibliographical information: *a*) conversion of traditional type-setting into photo-composing (Intertype Photosetter and "Monotype"); *b*) New photo-composing methods ("Lumitype" and "Linofilm"); *c*) Earlier types of semi-automatic photo-composing machines ("Hadego" and "Hohlux-Typofot").

The third part of the study deals with the importance of photo-composing systems and investigates future possibilities. It has become evident that electronics will find access into the printing trade to an ever increasing extent. The use of photo-electric cells in modern printing has become a significant factor, simplifying and speeding up printing procedures. It is certain that photo-composing will revolutionize the technique of text transfer, and undoubtedly electronics will contribute to the acceleration of this process.

## *Mechanical information retrieval based on the collation principle*

G. OROSZ

The paper discusses the application of the standard Hollerith-machines for information retrieval based on collation. Collation is a type of information retrieval which is applied for uniform coordinate indexing or for optical punched cards (Sichtlochkarte).

As many Hollerith cards are prepared for each document as descriptors selected for characterizing the document. Three zones are delimited on the cards. The first zone (A) includes the document number, the second (B) the code number, symbolizing the descriptor. The remaining larger part (C) can serve as space for marking in the bibliographical data of the document.

This card collection can be stored in three different ways: either in order of sequence (the cards are stored in groups according to the descriptor markings, and within the groups, arranged according to document numbers), or partly ordered only (cards stored in groups as mentioned above, but without order within the groups), finally, they can be stored at random.

As to selection, the latter method is the one least determined by conditions and thus the most general case. Therefore, the process of selection was drawn up to apply to this case in first line.

Outlines of the selection method:

1. the sorter searches the card collection according to the descriptor markings of the subject of the reference question;
2. the sorter orders the selected card groups in succession according to document numbers;
3. the collator collates the ordered groups.

The general solution is applicable for proceeding in the first two cases (with partly and fully ordered card collections), where certain steps can be omitted.

## *The blind and the book*

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille.

I. NAGYDIÓSI

Libraries for the blind present numerous problems, it is, therefore, necessary to investigate the origin, development and present status of this special type of library. Attention must also be given to initiatives which are aimed at a revolutionary change in the relations of the blind to the book.

This paper, occasioned by the 150th anniversary of the birth of Louis *Braille*, the founder of the system of reading and writing for the blind, is discussing the questions mentioned above.

The *Braille* system opened up extraordinary vistas in the field of educating the blind. The adaptability of the system to the peculiarities of the languages of the different nations, its development and technique made possible the spreading of the *Braille* book and brought new-type libraries into existence. Books for the blind have numerous distinguishing features: they are larger than ordinary books, they are expensive to produce and all visual effects, such as illustrations, colours, etc., must be avoided. These factors determine selection, acquisition and the lending policies in the libraries for the blind. Experiences in this field abroad have been studied and all circumstances carefully considered that help promote understanding the special status of these libraries.

A central lending library for the blind has been in existence in Hungary for the last sixty years; it is subsidized by the state and functions independently, as part of the Association for the Blind. Another significant library for the blind is maintained by the National Pedagogical Institute for Blind People and five regional libraries in the country, with a total stock of approximately 2,000 volumes, are also operated.

The central lending library's 2-floor book-stack holds about 1,000 works (6,000 volumes). About 1,400 volumes are used monthly by approximately 600 to 700 visitors. An international loan service is also operated. The greatest part of the book material consists of belles-lettres, but natural and social sciences, as well as political works are also represented to a fair extent in the collection.

The so-called „talking books” deserve attention; gramophone records or tapes are used to transcribe the texts. There are no significant developments in our country in this field at present, it is hoped, however, that on basis of experiences abroad some headway will be made soon.

Mention should be made, in this connexion, of modern experiments made lately: persons whose sight has been reduced almost to blindness are helped to read by certain visual impulses aroused in them or normal written texts are made accessible to them by the sense of touch by means of special reading devices. All these experiments will find their final form in the “talking machine”, and it can be established that also in our country considerable progress has already been made in the realization of this project.

## *Books in Hungary. 1945—1960.*

An exhibition.

D. KERESZTURY

The article describes the book-show held in honour of the fifteenth anniversary of Hungary's liberation. Every aspect of the Hungarian book was shown here for the first time: the exhibition embraced book publishing, librarianship and book distribution alike. In all the three domains a great development took place during the last fifteen years. Both the growth in book production, and the development regarding quality were clearly illustrated. As befitting the importance of the event, the exhibition was held in one of the most splendid public halls of Budapest, the ceremonial hall of the National Museum. Although emphasis was laid only upon the most important stages of this vast development, the exhibition showed, in a worthy manner, one of the most remarkable achievements of our cultural revolution; the new Hungarian book.

## *The scriptors of the library of King Matthias*

K. CSAPODI

Since more than two and a half centuries historical scholarship has been interested in research on the world-famous Corvina library of King *Matthias*, but so far only the present author (in an earlier study on the Florentine scriptor *Petrus Cenninius*) has raised the question exactly what types of handwriting could be discerned in the Corvina-codices, who were the scribes known by name, and what relations did they maintain to the royal court in Buda. The handwriting of a codex, the person of the copyist is of as great an importance, as the printer of a book and the type he used. By comparing the styles of writing of various codices important information affecting not only the history of the Corvina Library, but also of 15th century books and libraries in general may result.

By comparing the styles of writing of the Corvina-codices preserved in Hungary and of other codices represented by various reproductions (photostats, microfilms, etc.) this study attempts to establish the personality of at least those scriptors, whose name is known either by their signatures on the codices or by other references. The limitations of the study are accounted for by the fact that no examination could be made of Corvina-codices, the handwriting of which could not be compared to that of scribes whose name or hand was known to the author, nor was it possible to study codices of which there was no reproduction available, finally, the study does not extend to codices touching upon not yet clarified questions on the history of writing in Hungary.

The study lists alphabetically, with references, 1) the copyist's name, 2) known biographical data, 3) bibliographical particulars (author, title, year of completion, provenance, call-number, and consulted literature) of the Corvina-codex copied by the scriptor in question, whether signed or unsigned, or only attributed to him as his work. As the nomenclature for different styles of writing of the 15th century has not yet been entirely cleared up, the listing indicates the style of writing of the single codices and scriptors respectively. This study intends to prove how necessary it is to make research into 15th century history of writing; these investigations may help in examining 15th century codices in the libraries of the world with special regard to the Corvina. The complete solution of the question still requires many years' work and co-ordinated co-operation in the various domains of Corvina research.

*Additional material to Vols. I-III. of „Régi Magyar Könyvtár”  
(Old Hungarian literature) by K. Szabó*

Old Hungarian books of the National Széchényi Library, bibliographically not yet described.

J. FAZAKAS

A bibliography on old Hungarian literature appeared toward the end of the last century (*Szabó Károly: Régi magyar könyvtár. 1—3. köt. Budapest 1879—1898.*). It contains the description of works in Hungarian, of works in a foreign tongue that appeared in Hungary, and of works by a Hungarian author published abroad, which appeared in the period from 1473 to 1711. Since the time of the publishing of K. Szabó's valuable work there have emerged many hitherto unknown old Hungarian books, the recording of which has always been considered to be an important task of Hungarian bibliographers. The bibliographical quarterly, *Magyar Könyvszemle*, published such descriptions regularly up to 1931. In addition, other periodicals also contributed to the publishing of this material, and numerous data appeared in printed catalogues, various bibliographies and other books. It was Hiador Sziripszky who made an attempt at collecting the scattered material before World War I: *Appendix ad I-II. operis Caroli Szabó Régi Magyar Könyvtár —Bibliographia Hungarica Vetus... Adalékok Szabó Károly Régi magyar könyvtár c. munkájának 1—2. kötetéhez.* Budapest 1912. However, the numerous old Hungarian books discovered during the last half-century require a new summing-up, even more, the publishing of a new, corrected and up-to-date bibliography on old Hungarian books. On the initiative of the National Széchényi Library, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has already taken the first steps in this direction, and there is hope that the planned edition of the bibliography will get under way as soon as possible. In beginning this series of bibliographical descriptions of unknown old Hungarian books in the holdings of the National Széchényi Library, we wish to contribute new material to this important bibliographical enterprise. These bibliographical descriptions are to be continued in the successive volumes of our yearbook.

*Identification of a defective copy of a 16th century book  
of pericopes on the basis of Hans Sebald Beham's woodcuts*

E. SOLTÉSZ

To establish the identity of an old printed work not bearing an imprint, or of a defective copy, is generally a complicated, difficult task. The comparison of the printing types is a fairly lengthy matter, besides, in the case of 16th century publications or later ones, satisfying results are not always obtained, because identical types were often used simultaneously by a number of printing offices. It is often preferable to examine the illustrations and the typographical ornaments in order to find information as to the identity of the work, though with this method, too, one must take into account that the illustrations of popular works were copied all over Europe, and that even woodcut-blocks could have found their way into the working-stock of other printing-houses. But in general most presses had their own peculiar

woodcuts, not used in the same form elsewhere, and for this reason, familiarity with the illustrations and ornaments facilitates the determination of the printer of certain fragmentary publications or of those without imprints.

The illustrations have given the clues to the identification of a defective 16th century book of pericopes of the National Széchényi Library (call-no. RMK I. 361 a.). The woodcuts of the book illustrate the text of the gospels in neat composition, with a fine space-effect and realistic character-drawing. They are the replicas (sized cca 26×27 mm) of that series of illustrations, which were cut by Hans Sebald *Beham* for *Luther's* translation of the *New Testament*, published by *Herrgott* in Nuremberg, in 1526.

The graphical work of H. S. *Beham* was well known in Hungary. Our 16th century calendars, without exception, used or imitated his illustrations of the months. There exist two copies of his miniature *New Testament* illustrations in 16th century Hungarian publications: one series was applied by the *Heltai* Press in Kolozsvár (Cluj), the other by the *Hoffhalter* Press. The illustrations in our defective book correspond to the woodcuts of the *Hoffhalter* Press. These were first used by *Rafael Hoffhalter* in Vienna in his edition of the *Breviarium Strigoniense* (1558). This eminent printer, expelled from Vienna, brought the blocks along with him to Hungary. In 1574 his son, *Rudolf Hoffhalter* used the same woodcuts to illustrate *György Kultsár's Postilla*, printed in Alsólendva. Concluding from the woodcuts, therefore, the defective book of pericopes must have been made by the *Hoffhalter* Press. Its printing types also correspond to those applied in *Hoffhalter* prints.

As the date of publication of the book of pericopes could not be determined on basis of the woodcuts and types which were in use for several decades, we had to consider and examine every 16th century edition of the gospels and epistles which the *Hoffhalter* Press might have used for the printing of its little book. According to the structural and textual collation of the various 16th century books of pericopes it could be established that the *Hoffhalter* publication was based on the second edition of the gospels and epistles of the printing office in Kolozsvár, and to all probability, was published after the death of *Rafael Hoffhalter*, in Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), sometime around 1569.

An examination of the condition of the woodcuts leads to the same results: gradual signs of wear and tear of the blocks can be observed on the illustrations of the three *Hoffhalter* publications with the identical woodcuts. The illustrations of the *Breviarium Strigoniense* published in 1558 are still undamaged in general, the ones in our book of pericopes are already more worn, but those in *Kultsár's* book printed in 1574 show yet more serious injuries of the blocks used for these illustrations.

## *The library of Miklós Istvánffy*

E. BERLÁSZ

The study is an attempt, interesting also from a methodological point of view, at throwing light on the contents and fate of a dispersed 16th century private library. In the National Széchényi Library the author found three codices dating from the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries (call no. Fol. Lat. 3606/I—III.). It was established from the super-ex-libris (or supra-libros) on the bindings that originally they belonged to the library of the great Hungarian humanist, historian, and statesman *Miklós Istvánffy* (1538—1615). This discovery induced the author to search for the library of *Istvánffy* about which so far nothing has been known in the literature on Hungarian cultural and library history.

In the introductory part a detailed description is given both of the external appearance and of the contents of the three *Istvánffy* codices. It is proved that the three volumes were a

part of that immense collection of manuscript source-material, now lost or lying hidden, on the basis of which Istvánffy wrote his work "*Historiarum de rebus Hungaricis libri XXXVIII*", printed by Antonius Hieratus in Cologne in 1622. The author draws conclusions from the humanist way of life of the Istvánffy family and of Miklós Istvánffy himself: his education at the court of great Hungarian humanist prelates, his studies at the universities of Padova and Bologna, his activity at the court and chancellery of the Emperor Rudolph in Prague over several decades; all that contributed to his erudition and bibliophilism, and to the formation of his library.

The second part of the study presents the results of the author's research.

Ever since the beginning of the 18th century, the existence of a sometime Istvánffy library has been recorded by historical literature, but it had never been attempted to clear up its destiny. Investigating the holdings of historical material in the great Hungarian libraries, the author succeeded in discovering five other manuscript volumes besides the three mentioned above, which undoubtedly belonged to Istvánffy's library. Two of them turned up in the National Széchényi Library itself: a volume containing copies of source-material (Fol. lat. 2275), formerly part of the collection of Count Ferenc Széchényi, and an autograph portion of Istvánffy's great work "*Historiarum...*" (Quart. Lat. 2316), coming from the former library of the Counts Apponyi in Nagyaappony. The other three volumes are: a colligation of Greek patrological works in the Budapest University Library (F. 28), an autograph book of poems with Istvánffy's own verses in the library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (M. Irod. Irók 4-r. 241), and a so-called styliionarium, used by Istvánffy during his activity in the chancellery, now in the library of the Archdiocese at Eger (Y. IV. 55).

Only traces of further four Istvánffy codices (the manuscripts of Ferenc Forgách: *Rerum Hungaricarum sui temporis commentarii*, Giovanni Michele Brutus: *Magyar história*, János Decsi (*Decius*) de Baranya: *Magyar história*, Antonio Bonfini: *Rerum Ungaricarum decades*) were discovered, the volumes themselves could not be found. The manuscript of Forgách's work disappeared from the library of the Dukes Esterházy in Eisenstadt probably only as late as World War II.

Not even traces were left of the numerous manuscript volumes used by Istvánffy for writing his great work, which, in all certainty, formed part of his library. Yet it was surely no small collection. The volumes containing only copies of documents could be put at two hundred at least. The situation is the same with the printed books of Istvánffy's library. One can point to the works on the basis of which he composed his history, but not one of the books turned up so far. We have evidence of the purchasing by Istvánffy of certain classical romances (the works of Heliodorus and Achilleus Tatios respectively), but these books, too, could not be traced.

The author states that Istvánffy's library was probably located on Croatian territory, in the castle of Vinica, county Varaždin, that having been the centre of the vast family estates; though it is possible that the library or part of it was housed in another manor, in Paukovec, county Zagreb.

The famous library was broken up after the possessor's death in 1615. Having no male inheritor, he bequeathed most of his collection (probably all the printed books, and the theological manuscripts) to the Jesuit college of Zagreb; and it seems, he left the historical manuscript source-material to his three daughters and his sons-in-law. The discovered codices mentioned above came into our national collections by way of the successors of Croatian and Hungarian aristocratic families, such as the *Draskovics*, *Keglevich*, and *Lipcsey* families.

Finally, it is stressed that the task of reconstructing the Istvánffy library is still far from being complete. Yugoslav and Hungarian researchers will have to continue following up tracks indicated so far.

## *Hungarian newspapers in the European region of the Soviet Union in the period 1917 to 1921*

L. TERBE

In continuation of the bibliography published in the 1958 volume of the National Széchényi Library's yearbook (258—284 pp.) entitled "*Szibériai magyar lapok*" (*Siberian newspapers in Hungarian*), this article actually is the bibliography of newspapers printed in the Hungarian language which appeared in the European region of the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1921.

Hungarian workers, poor peasants and members of the intelligentsia who became prisoners of war during the first World War, formed party organizations and participated in every movement of the Russian proletariat in the time of the Great October Socialist Revolution. They also organized internationalist regiments for the struggle against counter-revolutionaries, to uphold the achievements of the revolution and the power of the councils. With a view to enlightening the masses of the prisoners of war and promoting their revolutionary education, furthermore, to urge them on to armed struggle, the party organizations of prisoner of war camps in certain towns published Hungarian newspapers with the support of the Russian town council and party organization. The masses of the Hungarian prisoners of war looked to the revolution for their liberation and many of them went over to the side of those fighting for the power of the councils, mainly on the basis of the propaganda exercised by the party organizations through the newspapers. The revolutionary newspapers were read with keen interest by all the prisoners of war, as this was the only source of information open to them at such distances from their homes.

In the time between December 1917 and October 1921 altogether 44 different Hungarian newspapers appeared in the various towns of Russia: 30 in Siberia and Turkistan, 14 in the European region. The author accompanies his description of the Hungarian newspapers published in the European region with many annotations, both regarding form and text. The Moscow *Vörös Újság* (Red Paper) appeared in 12,000 copies, the Penza *Világszabadság* (World Liberty) in 20,000 copies. Owing to the return home of the prisoners of war, by the autumn of 1921 these newspapers gradually ceased to be published. At the same time in every country where greater masses of these former prisoners of war settled down, there began to appear Hungarian communist newspapers: in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Roumania. The revolutionary newspapers that appeared in the Hungarian language in Russia played an important rôle in preparing the ground for communism in Hungary in 1919; they offer very interesting source material to researchers on the history of Europe.

The greatest part of the single issues of these newspapers perished. The bibliography enumerates the issues of the individual titles that are still extant, and also mentions where they can be found in the Budapest collections.

In view of the fact that the Hungarian and German revolutionary press underwent parallel stages of development in Russia, in his opening chapter on press history, the author indicates the more important revolutionary newspapers in the German language in the period under review: there were altogether 12 titles in German. He also indicates the titles of communist newspapers in the Hungarian language that were published in Austria, Czechoslovakia, in the United States of America, Yugoslavia and Rumania in 1921.

## *Following up the National Library's prohibited material in the time of the Horthy-régime*

G. MARKOVITS

The article briefly outlines the most important characteristics of publishing policies during the Horthy-régime, from the defeat of the Hungarian Soviet Republic in 1919 until the liberation in 1945. The basic material for the study was furnished by material of the National Library termed confidential in the period under discussion.

The author describes the first decrees of the White Terror-régime against the freedom of press directed at the destruction of publications issued under the Hungarian Soviet Republic and indicates the most important measures put into force over the twenty-five years' period of the counter-revolutionary fascist dictatorship. A selection of the most characteristic books, periodicals, and other kinds of small-prints suppressed during this time (H. *Barbusse*, J. *Fodor*, A. *József*, A. *Zweig*, etc.) is also discussed.

The Horthy-régime began with the burning of books and terminated with the ill-famed paper-mills of M. *Kolosváry-Borcsa*: events characteristic of the whole cultural policy of the era. Every kind of measure was resorted to in order to suppress progressive literature.

The censorship of the press made itself more or less constantly felt. One of the suppressing measures had been the revocation of mailing rights from the works of exiled left-wing writers and communist authors residing abroad, from anti-fascist literature, even from the outstanding works of the progressive-minded bourgeois authors. Many progressive books were officially confiscated, the left-wing press was practically prohibited. The multiplication of libel cases in the thirties is a well-known fact.

It appears from the article that one of the chief aims of the cultural policy of the Horthy-régime had been the suppression of communist press and literature, but all that served the aims of humanity, progress and true culture, was equally persecuted.

The article is based exclusively on information found in documents; its statements are supported by the attached illustrations.

## *Peraudi's two printed letters of indulgence in the Hungarian National Archives*

G. BORSA

Numerous rare broadsides, dating back to times before 1526, are preserved in the special collection of documents of the Hungarian National Archives. From among these the author is now describing two letters of indulgence, published by Raimundus *Peraudi*, who was one of the most fervent supporters of the proclamation of indulgence in the interest of warfare against the Turks.

One of these broadsides was already made known in the literature of early printed documents (*Einblattdrucke des XV. Jahrhunderts*, Halle a. S. 1914, Nr. 1143). It was described on the basis of a Hannover copy, up to then held to be a unique one. The article, therefore, is concerned with Johann *Siebenbirter* in first line, in whose name the form was made out in 1490. *Siebenbirter* was Grand Master of the Order of St. George of Austria; the study reveals

the relations of *Siebenbirter* and of this Order to Hungary, which are mainly connected with the towns of Wiener-Neustadt and Kismarton (Eisenstadt, Austria).

The other broadside resulted from *Peraudi's* activity in organizing the indulgence on the occasion of the Jubilee Year 1500 of Germany. The type used shows that this broadside was made by the press of Hieronymus *Höltzel* in Nuremberg. The date filled in was 26 October 1500, which meant that actually this broadside could qualify, as an incunabulum. But the historical background which is more exactly defined in the study proves that the correct date of filling in the form was 26 October 1501 and that it could have been printed, at the most, a few weeks before this date.

## *Suggestions for the popularization of books in eighteenth century Hungary*

G. KÓKAY

Public education was one of the most discussed problems of the age of enlightenment in Hungary. The periodical *Mindenes gyűjtemény*\* (issued with a view to popularizing science) published several propositions in 1798 and in 1799, remarkable because they had been dealing with the problems of the cultural education of the people, especially that of the poor peasant. The most important personality among the authors of the articles was Ferenc *Kovács*, a country engineer with literary interests, burning with passion for Voltaire and for the enlightenment in France. His suggestions were aimed at the development of the Hungarian national language and literature; he held that the basic condition to achieve these ends was the improvement of the cultural education of the people. In order to achieve his aims he fought for the improvement of the elementary school-system, for the publication of good books of public interest at cheap prices, and for the development of reading-interest among the people. F. *Kovács* recommended many practical solutions. One of his articles dealing with the historical and social reasons of the cultural backwardness in Hungary, and urging the liberation of the bondsmen, was censured, when published. However, the text is known in its whole as the blotted part was later on inserted by somebody into one of the copies of the *Mindenes gyűjtemény* belonging to the collection of the National Széchényi Library. The propositions of F. *Kovács* stirred up vivid interest; several contemporaries discussed, approved and completed them. Unfortunately, the reforms could not be realized during the reactionary period following the suppression of the Jacobin movement in Hungary.

\* (roughly translated: MISCELLANIES)

## *Two inscriptions in the former Klimó library*

F. HERNÁDY

The two inscriptions on marble tablets formerly in the *Klimó* library (György *Klimó* was bishop of Pécs in the 18th century) are now placed at the entrance of the present University Library in Pécs. One of them commemorates the event when the library was declared

public in 1774. This news was received with great interest and praise by *Klimó's* admirers and friends both at home, and abroad. Though contemporary notices on this occasion mentioned also other dates for the event, the year, as figuring in the inscription, seems to be the most probable date. The other inscription is actually a regulation for the use of books in the library, the text being almost completely the counterpart of an inscription in the Vienna National Library. It is believed that this text originates from the printed rules found pasted into the books of Francesco *Vargas Macciuca*, an 18th century Neapolitan jurist and bibliophile.

## *Kármán's letter to Count G. Festetics on the "Urania"*

I. KOSTYÁL

One of the most important Hungarian periodicals in the age of enlightenment, the *Urania* was published during the years 1794—1795, in the final, most critical decade of the 18th century. The circumstances concerning the foundation, edition, publication and the cessation of the *Urania* had already been cleared up in detail by the thoroughgoing research of literary historians. The results had been summarized by R. *Gálos* in his monograph on J. *Kármán*, but there still remained some open questions or insufficiently supported statements. The author's aim is to solve some of these problems, on the basis of hitherto unpublished documents, found by him in the archives of the *Festetics*-family in Keszthely.

An autograph letter by J. *Kármán* is of decisive significance; it is published in full length in this study. The facts of the letter are supported by quotations from letters of J. *Péteri Takács*, P. *Balogh* and J. *Nagyváthy*. The study volunteers very important new data testifying to the already accepted view that the *Urania* had really been edited by J. *Kármán* and G. *Pajor*; furthermore it proves that J. *Kármán* was the actual editor. The author also answers the up-to-now unsolved problem: who subsidized the periodical. As contrasted with the view of R. *Gálos*, the author holds that it was not the *Ráday*-family, but G. *Festetics*, who had very good reasons to keep his incognito. The author tries to evaluate the role of the freemasons and he ascertains that they must have exercised a great influence in the publication of the periodical. From J. *Kármán's* cited letter it seems obvious that above all J. *Kármán's* death caused the cessation of the *Urania*.

## *The background of editing the works of Ferenc Kazinczy (1831—1960)*

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth

M. BUSA

In investigating the background of editing the works of Ferenc *Kazinczy*, interesting new data come to light reflecting upon the whole of the history of book-publishing in Hungary. The second centenary of the birth of the writer and translator Ferenc *Kazinczy*, who

was a leading personality of the Hungarian literary life of his age, was celebrated in 1959. This anniversary occasioned our present study, discussing the background of editing those of his works that appeared in book-form after his death. Owing to the large extent and significance of *Kazinczy's* literary activity over more than half a century, the appreciation of his works will be published in two studies of which this is the shorter one; the first study, which will be longer, is to be devoted to revealing the circumstances surrounding the publication of the writer's collected works, edited by himself, when he was still alive.

In acquainting the reader with the great man's works published after his death, the best method seems to be to introduce them individually. Thus, in keeping with the original publishing plan of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, a separate chapter each is devoted to such of his works as *Poetai munkák* (Poetical works), *Utazások* (Journeys) including *Erdélyi levelek* (Letters from Transylvania), *Pályám emlékezete* (In memory of my career) and *Fogságom naplója* (Diary in prison). The fate of publishing the *Kazinczy* correspondence is also discussed.

It is to be mentioned here that the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was the first editor of the author's handwritten literary remains. A plan for publishing *Kazinczy's* works was set up in 1834, but owing to financial difficulties, this enterprise had to be abandoned in 1839, at a time when only the third volume had left the press. After this date the entire task of publishing his works was left to private publishers, who had but the material gain in mind; this meant that the plan of publishing *Kazinczy's* literary remains in their entirety had to be given up and only works that afforded good reading were allowed to appear. This is explained by the fact that due to changes in the literary taste of the public which gradually took on a popular tendency after the writer's death, the classical works of *Kazinczy* did not hold a promise for material profit and public appreciation. Under these circumstances the works of *Kazinczy* appeared in about fourteen kinds of book-series of varied contents, with belletristic and general educational tendencies. As no private publisher showed any interest in the correspondence, this part, as the only one among his literary remains, after an interval of several decades, was again included in the Academy's publishing programme. Thus, the collection including 5,933 letters, was published as a single series of 23 volumes. Regrettably, a critical edition of *Kazinczy's* works has not been published up to the present day.

## *The publicistic activity of Lajos Kossuth in exile*

B. DEZSÉNYI

One of the points not yet sufficiently clarified by literary historians is the question of publicistic literature in Hungary in the 19th century. Undoubtedly, *Kossuth* the world-famous leader of the Hungarian revolution and of the war of Independence was the greatest of all publicists of that century in our country.

While we are fairly well acquainted with the press activity of *Kossuth* in the first half of the century, a philological approach to the extensive propaganda work he exercised for almost over half a century abroad (England, United States of America, France and Italy) following the suppression of the Hungarian War of Independence of 1848-49, has not yet been attempted, and what is more, not even a sketchy outline of this work is known.

This study cannot be intended to remedy the omission, it merely volunteers information in order to help outline and systematize—solely from the viewpoint of publicism—the literary activity of *Kossuth* in the period from 1849 to 1894, with particular emphasis on the literary forms he used in his political struggle, the variants and development of these forms, as reflected by his work.

*Kossuth's* activity can be divided into three definite periods: his propagandistic activity in England and the United States in the interest of suppressed Hungary; his campaign at home against the Compromise of 1867 and finally, his activity as reflected by his work *Iratok az emigrációból* (Writings in exile) which was aimed at helping to create a country making for a community of East-European and Danubian peoples. In the first period his activity took the form of a series of *political articles* for English and American newspapers (in 1851 *Kossuth's* writings created such a stir in the American press that was equalled only by the movement against negro slavery some ten years later; in fact, *Kossuth* became the "sensation" of the American newspapers, which at that time, in the middle of the 19th century, began to assume a very wide circulation). In the second period he made use of a so-called *open letter*, regularly sent to the Budapest papers from Italy. In the third period of *Kossuth's* activity as a publicist, he availed himself of the literary form *Iratok* (Documents); he did not intend these documents to serve as his memoirs, and not even as a collection of his articles and speeches—as was then and is even now believed—,these writings represented a polemic, publicistic work.

A noteworthy fact about *Kossuth*: he was the founder of the daily newspaper *Pesti Hírlap* in 1841; as first in Hungary he introduced in his paper the political leading article. The three literary forms described above and created by *Kossuth* greatly contributed to the enrichment of the publicistic literature in the second half of the 19th century. Besides his greatness as a politician, *Kossuth* was the first outstanding personality in the history of the Hungarian press.

