

ABSTRACTS

Tamás Túri: *Contexts of a 17th Century Unitarian Commentary on the Book of Revelations*

This paper is about *Conciones vetustae ex Apocalypsi* (Old sermons from Revelations), a Unitarian manuscript written in the 17th century. The manuscript contains a series of 9 sermons interpreting the Book of Revelations' 22. 1–2. The work, in Hungarian, is available at the Romanian Academy Library in Cluj (catalog: MsU.732.). This paper investigates the theology of the sermons. In summary it seems that *Conciones vetustae...* may change our perception of Unitarian commentaries on the Apocalypse, because hitherto we have only known Nonadorant and Sabbatarian texts, but MsU.732 contains elements of a Socinian Christology, too. This aspect of the work is interesting because it uniquely juxtaposes the nonadorant concept of Palaeologus (c. 1520 – March 23, 1585) (about the history of salvation and resurrection) with the Socinian Christology (invocation and adoration of Christ), and with Socinian ethics (e.g., the life of Jesus as an example of true Christian behaviors).

The second part of the paper investigates the genre of the text. The sermons are part of a bigger cycle, in which characteristics of tracts and sermons simultaneously occur, therefore, the text might also be seen as a piece intended for devotional purposes. The rhetorical horizon of the sermons resides between the protestant orthodox (dogmatic, minimum delight, didactic role of *exemplum*) and Puritan (biblical confirmation, clear structure, intelligibility) preaching ideal, wherein the *didascalicum* (didactic) plays an important role as *primarium genus* (the primary form). It is remarkable that the part of *application* exhorts the audience by the moral, a method through which *docere* (teaching) can amplify the *movere* (application) effect of the text and *movere* also amplify the *docere* effect. Moreover, the text also reveals an interesting and varied use of inter-confessional sources (for example: *Biblia Tigurina*, Ludovicus Granatensis, Seneca, St. Augustine, Andreas Hondorff etc).

Keywords: Commentary on the Apocalypse, Book of Revelation, Unitarian preaching, rhetoric of Unitarian preaching

Dávid Molnár: *Valentin Radecke – 17th Century Unitarian Teacher and Bishop*

Valentin Radecke (?–1632) was a teacher in the Unitarian college of Kolozsvár from 1605, and bishop from 1615. He is the author of a number of works which have been brought into focus by recent research (*Disciplina Ecclesiastica, Der kleine Katechismus, Geistliche Gesänge, Apologia*). There is a confessed gap in our knowledge about his first decade in Kolozsvár. He was supposed to steer Transylvanian Unitarians away from Ferenc Dávid's tradition (from nonadorantism), however, his church policy significantly contributed to the almost complete survival of the plurality of Unitarianism.

This paper offers an overview of his career until his appointment as bishop, building on previously unknown letters and other new records. The letters were sent to Radecke by German and Polish Antitrinitarians (Georg Ludwig Leuchsner, Paweł Szoman and Ioannes Ferberinus). They were discovered in the Archives of the Polish Unitarian Church, and copies of them are included at the end of the paper.

Keywords: Valentin Radecke, nonadorantism, Antitrinitarians, Georg Ludwig Leuchsner, Paweł Szoman, Ioannes Ferberinus, Dávid Ferenc, letter

Béla Botond Jakabházi: *Components of Clergy Health and the Challenges Posed by Countertransference¹ Phenomena in Pastoral Care*

In companies, institutions and organizations the health and well-being of the workforce is very important for overall success. This is even more so in the case of churches, where the well-being of the ministers is one of the many reliable signs of how the institution is functioning. Focusing on protecting and enhancing the health of ministers in the church leads to a more successful and authentic way of spreading the good news and helping people in distress and crisis. Ministers encounter many problems and pitfalls in their work of pastoral counseling, and pastoral care in general, as does any other mental health professional.

This paper deals with one of the major causes of minister's poor mental health: countertransference. In order for the minister to remain in touch with all

¹ countertransference: the redirection of a psychotherapist's feelings toward a client – or, more generally, as a therapist's emotional entanglement with a client

the unresolved conflicts and needs, he/she must be aware of the interferences from the past and present, which consciously and unconsciously interfere with the counseling and pastoral setting. It is important to avoid superimposing personal needs, motifs and conflicts on the verbal and non-verbal messages the minister conveys to the parishioner or client. In order for the minister to deal with the countertransference phenomena, self-monitoring, supervision and personal therapy are of paramount importance.

Keywords: clergy health, stress, physical and mental health, countertransference, supervision

Péter Somogyi: *Identifying the Treasure Trove of Byzantine Coins Found in Firtos*

One afternoon in early July 1831, they spread the news in Firtosvávalja (Hargita county) that children guarding cattle found coins of gold in István Bálint's land situated in Firtos, the mount rising above the village. Driven by the gold rush, people from Firtosvávalja and the surrounding villages invaded the place, digging for weeks for coins. The news spread and the competent authorities, otherwise very slow, soon conducted an investigation. On August 18th two clerks from Marosvásárhely arrived to find out the number of coins and the persons owning them, for according to the law, the State Treasury was entitled to own one third of these kinds of discoveries.

Neither the peasants, nor the clerks were aware of the historical importance of the coins, and therefore did not pay much attention to the coins themselves. Twenty years passed before the Transylvanian historiography paid attention to the importance of the findings. It became evident that the discovery was Transylvania's largest treasure from the time of the Migration, consisting of 5-6th century Byzantine gold coins, soliduses, and so called tremissises. Meanwhile the historians gave a good account about the coins that were held by the priests, officials and landlords, who had bought them from the peasants. However, they relied only on secondary, confusing sources regarding the exact place of the findings.

This paper describes the findings of the research done by comparing the minutes (*Investigatio*) of the afore-mentioned investigation with the earliest land records from the Székelyudvarhely Land Office. It also includes results of investigations using a metal detector in the identified area.

Keywords: Transylvania, Székelyland, Firtosvávalja, Firtos, Byzantine, coins, gold coins, trove, identification