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ABSTRACTS

András Kovács: *The Transylvanian Pilgrims of El Camino. Corbels of the Sanctuary of Homoródjánosfalva (Ionești, RO)*

Homoródjánosfalva, a village first mentioned in 1448, lies along the River Homorodul Mare in the former county of Udvarhelyszék ('Sedes Udvarhely'). Its parish church, today Unitarian, is certainly of medieval origin. It is generally suggested in the art historical literature that the church was constructed in the 13th century (and is thus originally Romanesque) and was expanded around 1522. Architectural details visible today, however, offer no support for this almost 140-year-old hypothesis. The Gothic structure of the church and the exclusively late Gothic details all point to the early 16th century and in no way support a Romanesque origin for the nave. The details of the sanctuary provide a more precise dating: a sanctuary equal in width to the nave is a late Gothic phenomenon.

The third and sixth shields of carved corbels of the sanctuary are the well-known insignia of pilgrims: the pilgrim's staff with the pilgrim's satchel, hanging from the staff and the pilgrim's scallop (*Pecten Jacobaeus L.*). This sea scallop used throughout the Mediterranean region as a drinking vessel by pilgrims, later became one of the attributes of St James the Greater. The shell adorns the hat of the saint when shown as a pilgrim, and pilgrims seeking his grave at Santiago da Compostela purchased scallop badges, which became an eloquent symbol of their piety. The patrons of the church, known only from their carved coats of arms, may have begun the late Gothic refashioning of the church at the beginning of the 16th century to commemorate a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrim's accessories may also have served to ward off evil.

Botond Koppándi: *The Homiletics of the Funeral*

Most ministers consider funerals to be the hardest task in their ministry. There are many questions raised by this sad event in the life of a congregation: certain theological questions need to be addressed, faith issues come up very often, and so very deep pastoral skills are absolutely demanding in order to be a good minister for the bereaved.

The study addresses the main issues of the funeral, mainly from a Homiletical perspective, but also addressing the Pastoral and the Liturgical side of the ministry, too. It talks about the preparation of the funeral as a pastoral act, the funeral itself as a liturgical action, but most of all, it gives a clear understanding of what a pastor should do in terms of crafting the funeral sermon. It is addressed especially to the ministers and the students who are struggling with the finding and preparation of “the right” text and words which are suitable to speak about a life which needs to be esteemed and celebrated. Others may find words of hope and comfort in the theology of the death as viewed from a Unitarian perspective.

János Pál: *Paradigm Change in Minority Fate. The Economical Organisation in the Unitarian Church between 1920–1940*

Before 1920 the social and economical problems were present with a lesser emphasis in the church life. After Trianon this view changed substantially. Because it has lost its meaning as a result of the discriminatory politics, the Church was enforced to lean on its followings in an increasing mode. But the discriminatory politics weakened the economical power of the Hungarian community too. The pauperization of his followings and the grave economical situation obliged the church to involve in the organization of the economical life. Besides the church's interest a similar importancy had the aim of keeping the national identity.

In this activity we can detach two periods. The first period started from 1920 until 1930. This period contained the first stream of Romanian state's discriminatory measures; the church's and the Hungarian minority's economical position loosing. This was the reappraisaling period regarding to the role of the Church and ministers in the Hungarian minority society and the clarification of the following strategies.

The second period contained the putting in practice of economical strategies and the successful institutional construction.

The church's economical organization activity was motivated by national, social, theological, moral and pragmatcal factors.

Besides this, an important role had the existing traditions, the ministers who studied in foreign universities, and the Hungarian society's material and moral solidarity.

György Gaal: Árpád Gyergyay – Medical Scientist and Curator of the Unitarian College

The Gyergyai family settled at the very beginning of the XVIIIth century at Kolozsvár/Cluj, its members were leading personalities of the town-council and of the Unitarian Church. The first physician from this family was Árpád Gyergyay Sen. (1845–1881) who made the first experiments in Transylvania connected with blood coagulation and transfusion. Árpád Gyergyay Jr. (1881–1952) was born after his father's premature death. He studied at the Unitarian College and also became a physician, one of the first otolaryngologists. The short history of the Medical Faculty from Kolozsvár and of Otolaryngology in Hungary is presented. Gyergyay started his otolaryngological activity at the Department of Surgery. He was promoted privatdocent in 1912, and in 1913 he founded the first Department of Otolaryngology in this town. He participated at international congresses presenting his discoveries in the field of Laringology as well of Audiology. In the period of 1920–1940 he worked at his private sanatorium. In 1940 he was promoted full professor of Otolaryngology and dean at the returning Hungarian University. He was a specialist of international fame. His wife was also Unitarian. They participated in the life of the Unitarian Church. Gyergyay was elected curator of the Unitarian College in 1932.

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