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# ABSTRACTS

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## **Botond Koppándi: *The Youth Service and Its Possibilities***

The article explores the challenges faced by the church regarding alternative worship services, especially those for the youth and the young adults. The main questions of the article are: what kind of liturgy would be suitable for the young people who are living in this post-modern, digital world? How could the gospel be communicated in a form that is attractive to those who perceive the world in a very specific way? Does the church have anything to say to those who love to live in a virtual, internet-led world? The author is confident about the role of the Unitarian church in reaching the young generation, and offers some ideas which could lead to building a liturgy meaningful in the 21st century. He gives examples from the Transylvanian youth services and American Unitarian Universalist services, and concludes that youth services are likely the pioneers of any future liturgical renewals of the church.

Keywords: youth worship, inductive preaching, alternative liturgies, Next Homiletics

## **Károly Székely: *The Literary Work of Sándor Székely and the Literature of the Era***

The first part of the article focuses on Sándor Székely's biography discussing his ancestry, upbringing, education and his travels to Vienna. The research also seeks answers to the fascinating question of what kind of role the contemporary literary forums (i.e. Kazinczy's circle, later the Auróra circle) gave Sándor Székely, and, in accordance to this, in what respect he considered the sense of literary taste represented by his early publications (bearing the characteristics of epic poetry) to be authentic. The second part of the article deals with Székely's writings in the period after his return from his Vienna study tour, when he shared an important role in organizing the church and school life of Torda, then Kolozsvár, often cultivating community genres (treatises, sermons, and hymns). The article also discusses Székely's contributions to the reform of the Unitarian Hymnal. Based on Sándor Székely's public presence, the occasional nature and the mes-

sage value of his writings, we may conclude that his activities coming under his different roles were mainly supposed to serve local cultural and community needs.

Keywords: Sándor Székely, Unitarian Hymnal, literature, epic poetry

**Claudia Elferdink: “*The Religion in the Last Chapter Will Shock Him.*”  
*The Life and Theology of the Rev. Margaret Brackenbury Crook***

A pioneering British woman minister, a groundbreaking biblical scholar and a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Margaret Brackenbury Crook is virtually unknown today. This biographical study sets out to uncover her life and work. From being among the first women ministry students at Manchester College, Oxford 1917, to the thwarting of her pioneering woman’s ministry when she moved to America in 1920, her life experience contributed both to her scholarship and to her remaining unknown. Then finding herself unexpectedly on the faculty of Smith College, Miss Crook developed a reputation as a Biblical scholar. After thirty-three years, Margaret Crook’s early commitment to women’s agency foreshadowed her writing on women’s role in religion. With retirement in 1964 she wrote her breakthrough book, *Women and Religion*. This book opened religious history and biblical interpretation to a feminist critique. She also offers a theology of an inclusive God-Emergent who seeks mutuality with women and men before feminist theology was even acknowledged. Margaret Brackenbury Crook has been recognized posthumously by feminist scholars, including Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, for identifying the andocentric nature of Biblical texts.

Keywords: Margaret Brackenbury Crook, feminist theology, biblical scholar, woman’s ministry

**Jenő Murádin: *Sebastian Shakirov, Painter (1893–1966)***

The paper reflects on the life and work of Sebastian Shakirov (1893–1966) a painter with Russian origins who settled in Nagybánya. Shakirov was born in Kazany. During the First World War he was taken as a prisoner of war by the Austro-Hungarian Army. He never returned home but settled first in Diód and

later in Tövis. It was here where he started to paint. He was living for a while in the Zsil Valley, finally finding his home in Nagybánya where he became a member of the Nagybánya Artist Colony.

In 1928 he married Maria Labina, a local functionary who was a member of the Unitarian community. Through her and through readings he got acquainted with Unitarianism and became a devoted adherent. Being a prolific painter he had numerous exhibitions in different parts of the country, some in Kolozsvár hosted by the Unitarian Church.

His paintings made prior to settling in Nagybánya have great document-value. He traveled to places along the Maros River, the Zsil valley and the Danube where only a few painters of the 20th century painted. He was a pioneer in working up themes of mining life, and industrial and distressed areas. These themes were well suited to his meditative and sad temper. The art colony influenced him in his landscape painting.

Keywords: painter, Shakirov, landscape painting, Nagybánya Artist Colony

### **Gyula Dávid: *Layouts and Drafts. The Legacy of Lajos Pákei (1853–1921)***

The paper commemorates Lajos Pákei, the senior architect of Kolozsvár, through the findings of ongoing research exploring Pákei's architectural layouts and drafts. The research was carried out in two locations: in Budapest at the Hungarian Museum of Architecture and the Gyula Foster National Office of Cultural Heritage; in Kolozsvár at the Archives of the Hungarian Unitarian Church. In Budapest 140 layouts and drawings and 250 items were discovered. The Archives in Kolozsvár hosts more than 800 drawings and written material. The author also reflects on the future demands which the evaluation and processing of this extensive documentation requires.

Keywords: Lajos Kelemen, layouts, drafts, architecture