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ABSTRACTS

László Somogyi: ***The Parables of Consternation***

The article examines some of Jesus' parables from the point of view of reader-response criticism. This includes parables that challenge the listener's moral sense and provoke the listener to rethink what they heard. Typically, these are incomplete stories and are called parables of consternation. Eight parables are discussed, grouped into four pairs: the talents / minas, ten virgins / wedding garment, unjust steward / unjust judge, mustard seed / leaven. The article proposes that crucial elements of these parables do not match the listener's expectations. The elements that disturb the listener and cause confusion include: charging interest in the case of talents and minas, the exclusion resulting from heartlessness in that of the ten virgins and the wedding garment, fraud and injustice in the unjust steward and the unjust judge, as well the worthless things (mustard seed and leaven) that are used to picture holy things. The provocative nature of these parables forces the listener to rethink, reinterpret and complete the stories for themselves.

The article draws the conclusion that Jesus' parables, especially the parables of consternation, keep alive the challenging but still joyful message of Jesus of Nazareth.

Keywords: challenge, consternation Jesus, leaven, minas, mustard seed, parables, talents, ten virgins, incomplete story, unjust judge, unjust steward, wedding garment

Dávid Szigeti Molnár: ***Efforts to Standardize the Unitarian Wedding Ceremony in the 1620's***

The sixteenth-seventeenth century history of the Unitarian wedding ceremony has largely been neglected in research, even though several relevant 17th century texts have been published in the statute collection *Az Unitárius Egyház Rendszabályai* (The Regulations of the Unitarian Church). One of these

texts is the first systematic Unitarian church regulation, the *Disciplina Ecclesiastica* (1626) and its supplement from three years later, the *Institutiones ad Disciplinam Ecclesiasticam necessariae* (1929). Another is the Unitarian bishop Valentinus Radecius' (?–1632) model marriage speech: *De matrimonio tractatus* (A treatise on marriage), the text of which, unlike the previous ones, is only known from the original 1621 print. These documents – in addition to the relevant data that can be extracted from them – carry special significance in the history of liturgy in that all of them support the effort to standardise the Unitarian marriage ceremony (particularly the marriage speech and the oath).

Keywords: 16th–17th centuries, *De matrimonio tractatus*, *Disciplina Ecclesiastica* (1626), *Institutiones ad Disciplinam Ecclesiasticam necessariæ* (1629), marriage oath, marriage speech, Regulations of the Unitarian Church, Unitarian wedding ceremony; Valentinus Radecius (?–1632)

Norbert Nagy: *New Additions to the Life of György Felvinczi*

György Felvinczi (1645(?)–1716) is one of the most mentioned poets from the 16th–17th centuries. He studied at the Unitarian College of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), but after a love scandal he went to serve culture instead of the church. Some researchers say that Felvinczi, who is the writer of the first Hungarian opera, left the Unitarian religion. With the help of new archival sources we can prove that Felvinczi remained Unitarian until his death.

This article offers a short chronological summary of Felvinczi's life and the story of the school drama, as well as newly discovered archival data.

Keywords: archives, Church history, Unitarian College of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Unitarian poet, writer; Felvinczi, György (1645(?)–1716)

János Pál: *1956 and its Consequences in the Career of Theology Teacher Rev. Dániel Simén. A Unitarian Example of State Retribution*

The events of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution were followed with great interest and undoubted sympathy by the Unitarian Church in Romania. The reprisal campaign launched by the Romanian communist authorities in 1957 with the aim of consolidating its power, led to profound changes in the

functioning of the Church in 1959: 17 ministers were convicted and imprisoned, and a network of informers was created through the blackmail and church officials who were compromised or intimidated, effectively ensuring the total subordination and control of the institution.

This paper examines a specific stage in the life of the theological teacher Dániel Simén (1903–1969), a victim of state retribution, and seeks to answer the question of whether or not the actions and behaviour of church officials justified the retaliatory measures taken by the Romanian authorities against the Church, and what were the accusations that were used as a pretext for the state authorities to take offensive action against the Church in connection with the 1956 revolution in Hungary.

The analysis is based on the interrogation reports in Simén's investigation file, the testimonies given against him and the volumes of sermons, by him and other ministers, which form the decisive element of the accusation.

Keywords: 1956 Hungarian Revolution, Hungarian minority in Romania, interrogation reports, investigation files, reprisal campaign, Romanian Communist Government; Simén, Dániel (1903–1969)

János Székely: ***Endre Pál Szabó: a Link Between Two Eras of Hungarian-language Legal Education in Romania***

The Unitarian Pál Endre Szabó (1920–2004) is an important, yet still little known figure in Romanian Hungarian jurisprudence. His career spanned both the period of the disappearance and the resumption of Hungarian-language legal education in Romania. This article provides additional information to his biography. Pál Endre Szabó studied at the Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr (Cristuru Secuiesc) and at the Faculty of Law of the University of Sciences in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). He was a prisoner of war in the USA during World War II, and received his law degree and doctorate from the Faculty of Law and Economics of Bolyai University. He worked as an associate professor at the Bolyai University and later at the Babeş-Bolyai University, and after his retirement he was a lecturer at the Sulyok István College in Nagyvárad (Oradea) for more than half a decade. He was the lay president of the Unitarian Church.

His books on civil procedural law, published in Hungarian, established the Hungarian terminology of Romanian procedural law, which is still in force today.

Keywords: education, Hungarian-language legal education, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), jurisprudence, lay president, lawyer, legal education, Nagyvárad (Oradea), Romanian Hungarian jurisprudence, Unitarian Church; Szabó, Pál Endre (1920–2004), Székelykeresztúr (Cristuru Secuiesc)

Zoltán József Fazakas: ***Imre Mikó (1911–1977)***

Imre Mikó (1911–1977) is one of the most colorful and outstanding representatives of the Transylvanian Hungarian community and intellectuals of the 20th century. His life and career were profoundly influenced not only by his family heritage but also by his profession, the changes of empire that constantly challenged his profession, the successive inhuman regimes of totalitarian states and the tasks arising from his minority status. Until recently, his name was associated with the epithet 'nationality lawyer'.

After graduating from the Unitarian College of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), the young Imre Mikó enrolled at the Faculty of Law of Ferdinand I University, but he was also a student of Unitarian theology. He consciously prepared himself for a career in public life, but he did not give up his ambitions as a writer, teacher and researcher.

Imre Mikó was both a target and a source of surveillance for the Romanian state security services because of his work and his public role. Initially, the Securitate clearly targeted him, and under considerable psychological pressure, he was persuaded to cooperate.

Keywords: author, Hungarian minority, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), lawyer, psychological pressure, Securitate, totalitarian regime, Unitarian College of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Unitarian Church; Mikó, Imre (1911–1977)