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ABSTRACTS

Sándor Kovács

***Introductory Remarks to the 131st Volume of* Keresztény Magvető**

This article presents a comprehensive overview of the history and evolution of the *Keresztény Magvető* (Christian Sower), a theological and cultural journal established in 1861. It traces the publication's development through various historical periods, including its foundational goals, editorial shifts, interruptions due to political changes, and eventual relaunches. Special attention is paid to the challenges posed by censorship during Romania's communist era, the journal's role in preserving Hungarian Unitarian theological thought, and its contribution to the intellectual and religious life of the region. It also highlights major milestones such as the 50th, 80th, 100th, and 150th anniversaries, the increasing scholarly quality of its content, and its recognition as a peer-reviewed academic journal, as well as the establishment and transformation of the Keresztény Magvető Füzetei (Christian Sower Bulletin) series into monograph-style publications. Ultimately, the journal continues to serve as an interdisciplinary platform for progressive theological research within and beyond the Hungarian and Romanian Unitarian communities.

Keywords: Christian Sower, journal, Keresztény Magvető, theological periodicals, Unitarianism in Transylvania

Ágnes Demeter

Donors of Liturgical Textiles at Kolozsvár's First Unitarian Church in the 16th–18th Centuries

The article focuses on the outstanding people who donated textiles to the Unitarian Parish of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) in the 16th–18th centuries. Through the description of the donors' family and life histories, as well as their donations, we gain insight, not only into the life of the Unitarian community, but also into the culture and art of Kolozsvár. Donations from civic and noble patrons who played important roles in the life of the religious community significantly increased its movable and immovable assets. Based on the Kolozsvár Parish's preserved 17th and 18th-century manuscript account books and inventories of the the article includes when the donations took place, who the donors were and to which social group they belonged.

From the perspective of art history, the examined textiles are valuable pieces. The article does not cover items which have been thoroughly examined by experts. Instead, it provides historical contributions to the study of church textiles. Due to the textiles deterioration, the inventory and cataloguing of the Unitarian heritage is an urgent task for the future.

Keywords: art history, donations, donors, inventories, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), possessions, textiles, Unitarian Parish

Orsolya László

A Historical Survey of the Treasured Artefacts (Klenodia) of the First Unitarian Church of Kolozsvár, 16th–18th Centuries

This article provides a historical overview of the liturgical treasures of the First Unitarian Parish of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) in the 16th–18th centuries. It includes data on the circumstances of the donations and sales of various chalices, pitchers, and plates, assesses the inventory of the parish's liturgical treasures and traces their history from the moment they came into possession of the church community to the time they were lost or sold. These silver items significantly enriched the church's movable and immovable assets. In presenting their history, we can also gain insight into the life of the parish itself.

From the 17th century up to the inventory prepared between 1807 and 1815, various account books and records preserved important data. By examining these documents, we can identify which liturgical items once appeared in the inventories but are no longer owned by the parish today. In addition, we also uncover historical information about the oldest surviving items, which in turn allows us to better appreciate their role in the several-centuries-long history of the church.

The article approaches the subject from a historical rather than an art historical perspective. The focus is therefore on the history of these objects, investigating when, from whom, and why they came into the congregation's possession, and what happened to them over the centuries, not on artistic descriptions nor on detailed analyses of the various items.

Keywords: history, inventories, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), liturgical treasures, possessions, silverware, Unitarian Parish

László Széles

Unitarian Ministerial Careers in the 1950s and 60s in Romania

The article traces the careers of 88 unitarian theology students in the 1950s and 60s Romania, during a period marked by communist repression and state control over every dimension of religion and faith. It includes coverage of admis-

sion and dropout rates, the social and economic backgrounds of students, and the consequences of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution on ministerial careers. Mostly drawing on matriculation records, yearbooks, institutional reports and obituaries, highlighting how personal stories influenced the life of the Unitarian Church from a larger, historical point of view. In every year of the studied period it reveals the significant pressures on both students and faculty. Despite the state's attempts to undermine the university-level protestant education, the Unitarian Faculty managed to preserve its spiritual mission.

Keywords: church-state relations, clergy training, communist repression, dropout rates, enrollment statistics, matriculation books, Protestant Theological Institute, religious persecution, Unitarian Church

Ferenc Kőrösi

The* Vízakna Codex: *A Bible Commentary from Kolozsvár Preserving Early Hungarian Linguistic Heritage

In 1550, Gergely Vízaknai (?–?) became the rector of the school of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). Our knowledge of Vízaknai's life is very limited. We know that he attended the University of Wittenberg and also that he was associated in the 1540s and 1550s with Gáspár Heltai (c. 1510–1574) in the work of the translation of the Bible. However, his date of birth and death, for example, as well as his oeuvre, remain unknown. This makes the so-called *Vízaknai Codex* from 1545–1551, particularly significant, as it contains commentaries on the books of Moses intended for educational purposes and which is perhaps the autograph of Vízaknai. The codex includes commentaries on the third and fourth books of Moses, along with a fragment at the end that pertains to the first book of Moses. Interestingly, the fragment contains not only the commentary (as in the case of the third and fourth books) but also the text of the Vulgate, as well as intertextual and marginal glosses, some of which provide Hungarian translations of specific words. Thus, the codex holds special importance in multiple respects: it offers insights into Vízaknai's life, sheds light on teaching methods of Kolozsvár in the 16th century, and contributes to the understanding of the birth of the Hungarian Bible. This article describes this known but up to now unexamined codex, with special attention to its sources and the characteristics of Hungarian-language glosses.

Keywords: Biblical commentary, Biblical translation, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), linguistic record, Moses, teaching methods, Vulgate, Wittenberg; Heltai, Gáspár (c. 1510–1574); Vízaknai, Gergely (?–?)

László Somogyi
The Sword

The Gospels mostly portray a peace-loving, gentle Jesus, and the religion born from the gospel he preached calls itself the religion of love. In light of this, it is difficult to understand some passages that deal with violence and weapons, and moreover in a context that, at first reading, is considered to belong to Jesus' teachings. Examples include the story known as the cleansing of the Temple, the armed conflict in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus' advice that his disciples obtain swords. Analysis leads us to conclude that these are narratives based on real events that were later interpreted in relation to their own times, and can therefore be considered interpretive recollections. In periods of the Christian congregations' oral tradition, the original context was slowly forgotten and was modified and applied to current circumstances. These congregations were diverse, partly in terms of their composition and partly in terms of their social status, and consequently the interpretative recollections were also passed down in many forms. Eventually, they became sacred writings in a more or less fixed form. The hermeneutical consequence of this is that in the process of reinterpreting the texts that have survived, it is necessary to clearly distinguish the historical basis that can be considered original (if it is possible to establish this at all) from the available biblical text, i.e. from the interpretative memory.

Keywords: biblical text, cleansing of the Temple, conflicts, Gethsemane, Gospels, hermeneutical reading, history, Jesus, swords, violence, weapons

Attila Márk
"Victory Belonged to Progress." The 1876 Unitarian Synod in Árkos

This article reconstructs the events surrounding the 1876 Unitarian Synod held in Árkos (Arcuș), a landmark gathering in the history of the Hungarian-speaking Unitarian Church in Transylvania. Drawing on previously unpublished archival sources, such as parish records, private correspondence, and Mihály Kiss's detailed diary, the article explores the extensive logistical, financial, and institutional preparations leading up to the synod. It also analyzes the theological and political debates within the church, particularly the election of the new bishop, József Ferencz, which symbolized a victory of liberal-reformist currents over conservative factions. The synod also addressed the filling of secular leadership positions, church administration reforms, education policy, and welfare initiatives. With over 150 documented participants and the attendance of numerous dignitaries, the Árkos Synod was not only a major ecclesiastical event but also a socially significant moment for the Unitarian community. The article pre-

sents the synod as a turning point in the modernization of the church, highlighting how religious leadership, community engagement, and political awareness intertwined in 19th-century Transylvanian religious life.

Keywords: 19th century, Árkos (Arcuş), election, leadership, modernization, religious and secular leadership, Unitarian Synod

Tamás Kálnoki Kis

What Was a Theological Qualification from Kolozsvár Worth in 1960s Hungary? Historical Reflections and Diverging Views on the Validity of a Diploma

This article focuses on the personal story of Tamás Kálnoki Kis, and describes the circumstances of a nostrification process. After completing his theological studies in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Kálnoki Kis returned to Budapest and encountered problems with the recognition of his degree. Examining the contemporary cases of other pastors, and comparing their cases with his own degree recognition process, he points out the bureaucratic humiliations he suffered on behalf of the church, or more precisely, on behalf of the leaders of the Unitarian Church in Hungary.

Keywords: case study, conflicts, humiliation, nostrification, oral history, Unitarian Church in Hungary

László Széles

***Mihály Lombard de Szentábrahám,* Cautiones quædam ad historiam ecclesiasticam tenendæ *and István Uzoni Fosztó,* Precautions to Be Observed in Ecclesiastical History**

This article is the review of the volume Mihály Lombard de Szentábrahám, *Cautiones quadam ad historiam ecclesiasticam tenenda*. István Uzoni Fosztó, *Az ecclesiastica historia kornyul megtartando praecautiok*, edited by Mihály Balázs, published by the Hungarian Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). The new appearance is a methodological introduction to an 18th-century work on history of the Unitarian church, more precisely a bilingual publication of the Latin original and its Hungarian translation by Uzoni, which can be read in parallel. Mihály Balázs's introductory study helps the reader to understand the work. This is a publication of an archival source that is indispensable for research focusing on the history of the church, and is the 11th volume in the series of publications of the Hungarian Unitarian Church's Archives and Library.

Keywords: archival source publication, bilingual edition, history of the church, Hungarian translation, introductory study, Latin, review