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György Gaal

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ABSTRACTS

György Gaal: *The Gyergyai Family settles Kolozsvár. Commemorating Pál Gyergyai, the Founder of a Dynasty*

The Gyergyai family was one of Kolozsvár's (Cluj-Napoca) most important Unitarian families in the 18th–20th centuries. They originated from Seklers' Land, from Bözöd (Bezid), Kibéd (Chibed) and Kissolymos (Şoimoşu Mic). Mihály Gyergyai (16??–?) was granted the rank of “lófő” nobility in 1655 from Prince György Rákóczi II for participating in a war.

His grandson, Pál Gyergyai (1689–1751), came to study at Kolozsvár's Unitarian College. There he was elected senior of the school. He twice married wealthy widows and became an important citizen of the town. With his first marriage he obtained the famous Gyergyai House in the Central Square of Kolozsvár which the family owned until 1875.

He was elected to many positions including as the town's senator. He was also Kolozsvár's deputy to nine sessions of the Transylvanian Diet. Gyergyai represented the interests of the Unitarians in the Town Council and in the Diet. He served as curator of the Kolozsvár Unitarian Congregation and was one of its councilors in very difficult political periods.

The Gyergyai name is preserved in a 1734 Latin description of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Claudiopolis). He and three other members of the Town Council described all the important buildings and copied their inscriptions, the legislation of the town, and the responsibilities of the town-council. They also compiled a history of town's churches and schools, as well as its population and possessions. This was twice translated into Hungarian (1865, 1944), and is considered one of the most important sources of the history of Kolozsvár.

Keywords: Bözöd (Bezid), councilor, family history, Kibéd (Chibed), Kissolymos (Şoimoşu Mic), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) nobility, Transylvanian Diet, Unitarian Church, Unitarian College; Gyergyai, Pál (1689–1751); Gyergyai, Mihály (16??–?)

György Gömöri: *Hungarian Unitarian notes in a Polish Album Amicorum*

Andrzej Lubieniecki senior (1521–1623)'s Album Amicorum in the Czartoryski Library, Cracow, contains a number of inscriptions by Hungarian Unitarians, some of whom visited Raków, the centre of Polish Unitarianism in

the first third of the seventeenth century. Two of the Hungarian inscribers also studied in Leiden, and apart from giving evidence of their knowledge of Latin they also insert in the album translations of biblical passages in Hungarian. These texts differ from the Gáspár Károli (1529?–1592) version of the Hungarian Bible and raise the question whether a separate Unitarian translation of the New Testament existed in Transylvania at the time.

Keywords: Album Amicorum, Cracow, Czartoryski Library, Hungarian Bible, Hungarian Unitarianism, Leiden, Polish Unitarianism, Raków, translation of the New Testament; Károli, Gáspár (1529?–1592); Lubieniecki, Andrzej Sr. (1521–1623)

András Kovács: *The Tomb of Prince John Sigismund*

In the north chapel of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) stand the tombs of Izabella Jagello (1519–1559), widow of King John I of Hungary, and their son János Zsigmond (John Sigismund) (1540–1571), elected Hungarian king János II, and the first prince of Transylvania.

This article describes how these two tombs may have been made in Gyulafehérvár by an as yet unidentified stone carver. The carver was more skilled in carving architectural elements than sculptures, and relied on as yet unidentified models, but in part undoubtedly Polish. Their identification may clarify when the tombs were made. If the dating of 1571–1572 is confirmed, the Gyulafehérvár tomb of the first Prince of Transylvania will be one of the earliest depictions of Polish winged hussars.

Keywords: carving, Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), hussars, St. Michael's Cathedral (Gyulafehérvár), stone carving, Polish winged hussars, tomb; Jagello, Izabella (1519–1559); Zsigmond, János (John Sigismund) (1540–1571)

Sándor Kovács: *Episcopal Consecration or Installation?*

On September 4, 2021 the Presidency of the Hungarian Unitarian Church's Council of Representatives issued an invitation to the “consecration” of Bishop István Kovács (b. 1959).

This article explores the theological background of the use of the terms “installation” versus “consecration” for the name of the ceremony for appointing Hungarian Unitarian bishops. It includes a detailed analysis of written information about every bishop from 1636 through the present, and points out the lack of historical support for the use of the term “consecration” for this ceremony.

Keywords: bishop, church history, consecration, episcopal ceremony, Hungarian Unitarian bishop, Hungarian Unitarian presidency, installation, theological argument; Kovács, István (b. 1959)

Júlia Eszter Andorkó, Sándor Kovács: *The Notes of Miklós Gál II.*

The memoirs of Dr. Miklós Gál (1889–1983), lawyer, lay president of the Unitarian Church (1938–1951), Member of Parliament, are published in 87 typed pages. Shortly before his death, Gál dedicated and gave his notes to his grandson Miklós Gál who then gave a photocopy to the historian Dr. Attila Gábor Hunyadi, who offered it to our journal for publication.

The second part of the memoirs covers events from the 1920's through World War II and the subsequent installation of the Communist regime in 1948.

Being a firm supporter of the Unitarian Church, Miklós Gál held different offices throughout the years. As the supervisor of the Unitarian Torda-Aranyos district he did not support the Mediaș movement (its aim being the replacement of bishop Dr. György Boros (1855–1941)). Between 1938 and 1948 Gál served as the lay president of the Unitarian Church. This decade includes the years following the Second Vienna Award: Southern Transylvania remained under Romanian rule, so Gál organised the Unitarian Church of Southern Transylvania. Upon the arrival of enemy troops in Transylvania, Gál and his family fled to Hungary, having his values and properties lost to the war, to “benevolent” neighbours and to the CASBI (House of Administration and Supervision of Enemy Goods), that confiscated “enemy” assets.

After the Trianon Treaty he felt obligated to do all in his power to help the Hungarian minority, so he became a politician in the Hungarian Party. Throughout his political career he witnessed – and tried his best to ease – the most difficult times for his nation: disfranchisement, injustice, oppression in times of war under the Romanian Kingdom and in times of peace under the Romanian Communist-nationalist regime.

Keywords: Bucharest, Communism, family history, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), memoirs, nationalist oppression, Second Vienna Award, Torda (Turda), Trianon Treaty, World War II; Boros, Rev. Dr. György (1855–1941); Gál, Dr. Miklós (1889–1983), Hunyadi, Dr. Attila Gábor