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ABSTRACTS

István Ledán M.

A Homiletical Approach to the Antitheses of the Sermon on the Mount

This paper explores a homiletical reading of the Antitheses in the Sermon on the Mount, focusing on themes such as anger, divorce, false statements, retaliation, and hatred—behaviors that disrupt personal and communal wholeness. Interpreting Jesus’ teachings as a restoration of divine intention, the study argues that the overarching goal of the law is the renewal of community and humanity through love. While primarily concerned with homiletical application, the analysis is grounded in careful exegetical reflection. Emphasis is placed on the necessity for preachers to adapt their message to the specific contexts of their congregations, while consistently underscoring love as the central principle of both the Law and the Prophets.

Keywords: Homiletics, Sermon on the Mount, Antitheses, community renewal, Christian ethics, contextual theology, preaching

Dániel Miklós

Robert C. Dexter's 1940 Visit to Transylvania and Hungary

This article examines the 1940 visit of Robert C. Dexter, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the American Unitarian Association, and his wife Elizabeth to Romania and Hungary during a broader European field study focused on the plight of World War II refugees. In Romania, the Dexters investigated both the general conditions of refugees and the status of Hungarian Unitarians in Transylvania. Their stay in Hungary was marked by more direct efforts to assist specific refugee groups. Drawing primarily on digitized records from the Unitarian Service Committee archives, this study reconstructs the Dexters’ humanitarian engagement and assesses their role within the broader context of transatlantic religious and refugee aid networks during the early years of the war.

Keywords: Robert C. Dexter (1887–1955), World War II, humanitarian aid, refugees, religious diplomacy, Unitarian Service Committee

János Pál

In the Service of Communist Power. The Agent Activities of Pastor Ferenc Sebe

This study investigates the complex and controversial dual role of Ferenc Sebe, a Unitarian minister and senior church official in communist Romania,

who also served as a Securitate agent under the codenames “Alexa” and “Ambrus Géza” for nearly three decades. Drawing on archival documentation, the paper explores Sebe's recruitment, his activities within the state security apparatus, and the implications of his collaboration for the Unitarian Church and its internal dynamics. Through an analysis of Sebe's reports, task assignments, and evaluations by his superiors, the study illustrates how the communist regime sought to infiltrate and control religious institutions, using loyal insiders like Sebe to monitor, influence, and report on clergy and congregants alike. Special attention is given to the strategies of influence and intelligence gathering both within Romania and internationally, particularly in relation to foreign religious contacts and events such as IARF congresses. The paper also considers the extent of suspicion or awareness within the church about Sebe's role, and how trust in him was maintained—or subtly eroded—over time. Ultimately, the case of Ferenc Sebe exemplifies the morally ambiguous position of clergy caught between institutional loyalty and political coercion under totalitarian regimes.

Keywords: Ferenc Sebe (1915–2000), Securitate, communism, Romania, religious surveillance, clergy informants

Tímea Berki

Anecdotes and Biographies of Sámuel Brassai

The Hungarian writer Mór Jókai (1825–1904) in his lecture held after his election as a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences dealt with the humour of the Hungarians, but he was also the one who published in his magazine *Üstökös* an ironic portrait of the scientist Sámuel Brassai and his controversies. Interested in botany, the scientist from Cluj becomes the character of an anecdote about the “prikulics” (a gnome-like figure in Hungarian folklore), and this narrative is perpetuated during his life, but also afterwards, in biographical writings. This study, written on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the researcher Katalin Olosz, wishes to be a congratulation and a connection to her activity as a folklorist. Furthermore, the anecdote as a folklore genre becomes interesting in relation to humour, irony, professional career of Sámuel Brassai and related biographical literature, but also in the context of its appearance and functions, and involves a narrative problem, too.

Keywords: Sámuel Brassai (1797–1897), Hungarian folklore, anecdotes, cultural memory