

## STUDII

Mihály Balázs

Filosofie și teologie în cuvântările publice ale lui János Körömöczi.  
Introducere în istoria speciei filosofice a predicilor unitariene ..... 291

György Papp

Receptarea operei istorice a retoricului Priscus în romanul *Omul invizibil*  
al lui Géza Gárdonyi. Partea II. ..... 319

Gyula Gy. Dávid

Proiecte de gard în fondul Lajos Pákei ..... 354

## ATELIER

Dorottya Fodor

Tost cu cupa Berde ..... 371

## VARIA

Károly Fekete

Ştiinţa care ne transmite vorbele lui Dumnezeu ..... 373

## RECENZII

Tímea Berki

*Az élet átültetett fája. Unitárius Apokalipszis-beszédek a kora újkorból*, SZIGETI MOLNÁR Dávid – DEME Kamilla ed. (Budapest: A kora újkori unitárius prédkációirodalom története Erdélyben és Magyarországon kutatócsoporth – Kolozsvári Protestáns Teológiai Intézet, 2025), 192 pp. .... 383

Csaba Tódor

John F. PETRUCCIONE – PÁSZTORI-KUPÁN István, *The Correspondence of Theodore of Cyrus. The Collectio Sirmondiana* (Washington, D. C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2025), 302 pp. [The Library of Early Christianity, 4–5.] .... 385

Csaba Mezei, jr.

*Antitrinitarianism and Unitarianism in the Early Modern World*, ed. by Kazimierz BEM and Bruce GORDON (London: Palgrave Macmillian, 2024), 397 pp. .... 390

Obituar. .... 394

Rezumate. .... 396

Indexat de Religious and Theological Abstracts.



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# ABSTRACTS

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Mihály Balázs

*Philosophy and Theology in János Körömöczi's Public Speeches. An Introduction to the History of Philosophical Unitarian Sermons*

This article continues the analysis of János Körömöczi's work from the *Keresztyén Magvető*'s 2024/3 issue. It examines how the relationship between János Körömöczi (1763–1836) and philosophy, as explored there, is reflected in his printed works. Since there are no modern editions of these works, this article's interpretations are based on a detailed description of the content, supported by numerous quotations, which lead to new insights into the nature and sources of the texts. These are also suitable for presenting the profoundly philosophical nature of the Unitarian preaching tradition.

The interpretations reveal the deliberate presence of contemporary European intellectual currents. In the 1799 synod greeting, the essentially Kantian (Immanuel Kant (1724–1804)) motivation is significantly modified by the omission of the thesis that the existence of religion can be derived exclusively from the moral nature of man. Another important feature is that, unlike Körömöczi's other source, Christian Wilhelm Flügge (1772–1828), he does not consider irreligiousness to be the most important problem affecting humanity, but rather the persistent strong presence of superstition inherited from the Middle Ages. An analysis of the funeral speeches reveals an important difference: in these, the main danger is already the emergence of irreligious atheists. The conclusion emphasizes that further research may reveal where these texts fit into the development of Kant's reception in Transylvania and Hungary. However, it is already clear that Körömöczi's reflective following of the great Königsberg philosopher will not be a transition to following Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762–1814), and this is explained precisely by Körömöczi's adherence to the strong Transylvanian tradition of rational philosophy of religion.

**Keywords:** atheist, European intellectual currents, funeral speech, irreligiousness, philosophy, superstition, Unitarian sermons; Fichte, Johann Gottlieb (1762–1814); Flügge, Christian Wilhelm (1772–1828); Kant, Immanuel (1724–1804); Körömöczi, János (1763–1836)

György Papp

*The Reception of the Historical Work of the Rhetorician Priscus in Géza Gárdonyi's Slave of the Huns II.*

This article continues the analysis published in *Keresztény Magvető*'s 2024/3 issue, which explores the extent to which Géza Gárdonyi (1863–1922) made use of the surviving fragments of the historical work of Priscus of Panium (?–472?) in writing his novel Slave of the Huns (the Hungarian title: *A láthatatlan ember* / *The Invisible Man*). While the first article focused on the organisation of the diplomatic mission and the uncovering of the conspiracy against Attila, this article centres on the experiences that the Eastern Roman diplomat acquired among the Huns: encounters with prominent figures, participation in diplomatic banquets, depictions of the hospitality of a Hun village, and a series of “minor” vignette-like scenes which, although not essential to the plot, clearly demonstrate that Gárdonyi had an exceptionally detailed knowledge of the extant Priscus fragments and incorporated them into his remarkable historical novel.

Although neither the novel itself nor the secondary literature currently available reveals which edition of Priscus Gárdonyi consulted, it is evident that the diplomatic mission portrayed in the novel (particularly in its first half) forms the backbone of the narrative. Moreover, Gárdonyi even made use of a Priscus-fragment preserved in Jordanes' (6<sup>th</sup> century) *Getica* that did not appear in contemporary editions or translations – although Jordanes himself explicitly stated that the information derived from Priscus. Reading the two texts – Gárdonyi's novel and the fragments of Priscus' historical account – side by side, we can observe how Priscus' objective yet vivid report is infused with life and dramatic tension in the hands of the novelist, and how he captures and animates the compressed intensity of the historian's terse sentences, while remaining faithful to his source within the bounds of artistic licence.

**Keywords:** historical work, literary creativity, novel, *A láthatatlan ember*; Attila the Hun (c. 406–453); Gárdonyi, Géza (1863–1922); Jordanes' (6<sup>th</sup> century); Priscus of Panium (?–472)

Gyula Gy. Dávid

*Fence designs in the legacy of Lajos Pákei*

Fences and gates, which delimit building sites and also serve as entrances to buildings, can be considered incidental products of building design. However, like every small detail, they also contribute to the overall picture of the architectural creation, introducing it, helping us to gradually perceive it, and making a first impression on us when we enter through them. For this reason,

our monument protection laws quite correctly extend their protective coverage to them as well.

Fence design is not a defining segment of Lajos Pákei's (1853–1921) architectural oeuvre, but, like the buildings he designed, they too have their own history, which can help us understand their importance and commit ourselves to their preservation. This article presents a few of these fence stories, thereby commemorating some of them.

**Keywords:** architectural creation, built heritage protection, fence design, gate design, preservation; Pákei, Lajos (1853–1921)

### Károly Fekete

#### *The Science of Helping to Achieve the Word of God*

This article focuses on Botond Péter Koppándi's new book, which presents the “necessary” and “sufficient” knowledge of homiletics in an economical manner. In addition to discussing rhetoric, the book focuses on preaching, presenting it as a complex communication process that takes place in at least four contexts: historical, pastoral, liturgical, and theological.

In striving to fulfill the profession as preacher, the first question everyone should ask themselves is: Who am I as a preacher, and what guiding principle leads me as a preacher? The answer depends on theological trends. We find a whole range of examples of this in the book. The author also discusses the types of sermons and defines the importance and the power of the words in religious communication.

**Keywords:** homiletics, power of words, preacher, preaching, rhetoric, sermons, theological trends; Koppándi, Botond Péter (1974–)

### Tímea Berki

#### *Transplanted Tree of Life*

The latest publication of the research group examining the history of early modern Unitarian sermon literature in Transylvania and Hungary published in 2025 by Dávid Szigeti Molnár and Kamilla Deme makes Unitarian sermon literature visible and accessible to readers, and is the first one in a planned series.

The 17<sup>th</sup> century Apocalypse sermons published in this volume explain verses 1-2 of chapter 22 of the Book of Revelation. Researchers consider these sermons to be a series that offer an allegorical interpretation of the river of the new Jerusalem, the tree of life, and its fruits, and can be interpreted as moral teachings, as spiritual guides encouraging a godly life.

**Keywords:** 17<sup>th</sup> century, allegorical interpretation, Apocalypse, Book of Revelation; early modern sermon literature, Unitarian

**Csaba Tódor**

**Book Review**

The *Correspondence of Theodoret of Cyrus; The Collectio Sirmondiana*, volumes 4 & 5 published in 2025 includes the correspondence of Theodoret of Cyrus (393–457 B.C.) collected by Jacques Sirmond (1559–1651) on a reliable philological basis, with scholarly commentary and a uniform critical apparatus. The textual introduction, critical notes, and English translations are by John F. Petruccione, and a historical / theological introduction is by István Pásztori-Kupán. The joint work of the two authors includes the philological apparatus accompanying the complete critical text, explanatory notes related to the letters, as well as various indexes and a bibliography. The publication is a modern reworking of the Collectio Sirmondiana tradition, based on the tools of digital philology.

The publication is not merely a collection of sources, but also an interpretative work, striving to strike a balance between philological accuracy, fidelity to the original text, and theological comprehensibility. It is a useful resource for researchers in classical philology, theology, church history, and philosophy. It is expected to serve as a fundamental work for further study of the history of Eastern and Western Christianity in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Keywords:** correspondence, critical edition, digital philology, history of Christianity, translation; Pásztori-Kupán, István (1973–); Petruccione, John F. (1950–); Theodoret of Cyrus (393–457 B.C.); Sirmond, Jacques (1559–1651)

**Csaba Mezei jr.**

***Antitrinitarianism and Unitarianism in the Early Modern World***

The volume entitled *Antitrinitarianism and Unitarianism in the Early Modern World*, published in 2024 and edited by Kazimierz Bem and Bruce Gordon, takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining the impact of antitrinitarianism, interpreted as a radical branch of the Reformation, of churches, culture, and public life in Eastern Europe, England, and the United States. One of the book's great strengths is that it draws on hard-to-access Eastern European archival resources in Polish, Hungarian, and Latin that have rarely been published in English.

The volume not only discusses the local impact of certain religious directions, but also takes into account international influences, showing how they were

linked to early modern European and North American theological trends and social and political processes.

The 15 studies stand on their own, but when read together, they provide a much more comprehensive picture of the history of Unitarian thought, church, and liturgy. All of this is woven together in such a way that, in addition to scholarship, there is place for individual voices and impartiality.

**Keywords:** archival resources, anitritarianism, early modern world, Europe, interdisciplinary, North America, radicalism, reformation, religious directions, Unitarianism, United States of America; Kazimierz, Bem (1977–); Bruce, Gordon (1962–)