

## OBITUARY

### Lajos Lőrincz (1935–2010)

Lajos Lőrincz, an internationally known legal expert, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and professor emeritus of law, passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2010, at age 75.

With the death of Lajos Lőrincz, the Institute for Legal Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences lost one of its most illustrious scholars, a renowned teacher at the Law Faculty of the Károli Gáspár University of The Reformed Church and the Corvinus University's Faculty of Public Administration (the former College of Public Administration) and a revered mentor of generations of academics.

After graduating from the University of Szeged, Lajos Lőrincz became a researcher of the Institute for Legal Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences upon the invitation of the then deputy director of the institute, Professor István Kovács, who was first his professor, then his fatherly companion, and Lajos Lőrincz remained faithful to the institute for more than five decades. Professor Lőrincz's association with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was long and fruitful; he was elected to be a corresponding member of the Academy in 1990, and in 1998 he becomes a full member.

Following the beginning of the 1990s, Lajos Lőrincz fulfilled several assigned academic positions, to name just a few, he was the President of the Council of Doctors, Vice-President of the Section of Economics and Law of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, whereas lately, he functioned as a member of the Presidium of the Academy. Lajos Lőrincz brought all his responsibilities to a creditable and correct conclusion.

He was attached to István Kovács not only because of Debrecen, the homeland and the University of Szeged, where István Kovács lectured, while Lajos Lőrincz was a university student, but also because of the fact that they bore a considerable resemblance to each other as for their mentality. The former Kovács-student evolved to be a master throughout the years himself as well, and currently several generations of scholars in administrative law consider themselves to be Lőrincz-students. Similarly to his master, Lajos Lőrincz was a genuine school-founding individual, therefore, in the recent years the students surrounded him at the same table in the same study, just as formerly István Kovács had been surrounded by Lajos Lőrincz, Attila Rác, Lajos Ficzer and others.

The career and life course of Lajos Lőrincz testifies eloquently to the responsibility of those, who sit behind teacher's desks in any educational institution. Teachers, may they work at a simple village primary school or at a prestigious university, need not only impart their knowledge to students, but they also have to endear learning and the subjects to the students. As we know straight from Lajos Lőrincz, as a schoolboy, he wasn't keen on learning or going to school, it was only later that the excellent teachers of the secondary school in Debrecen familiarised him with the pleasure of learning and reading as well as recognised the interested and talented student and his attraction towards history and literature. Merely few people may know that Lajos Lőrincz not only wrote, but also published poems in his youth.

His scholarly career began in the Institute for Legal Studies. He obtained the title of candidate of sciences due to his dissertation on the state control of scientific research at the age of 33, and 11 years later, due to his essay titled "The Limitations of Public Administration," he became a doctor of sciences, and after a further period of 11 years, he was elected to be a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The research work of Lajos Lőrincz was related to administrative law for more than half a century. His life-work was always marked by European outlook thanks to his knowledge of languages and scholarships abroad. He was a legal scientist whose theoretical research always took the real circumstances, the condition and the problems of Hungarian public administration into consideration, therefore, it is not accidental that he dealt with issues of the reform of public administration in a number of his works. After the beginning of the 1970s together with István Kovács, he directed the research program titled "A Complex Scientific Enquiry into the Development of Public Administration," the direction of which was later taken over by Professor Géza Kilényi. During the recent years, he elaborated the conception of the reform of local government organizations in Hungary.

As a scientist, Lajos Lőrincz was reputed not only in Hungary, but abroad as well, namely, such a prestigious university as the Aix-en-Provence in France conferred the title of doctor *honoris causa*, and as an international recognition of his scientific work he was appointed to be the Vice-President of the International Institute of Public Administration in Brussels. Past the age of 70, having disposed of specific assignments related to university administration and others in scientific life, Lajos Lőrincz devoted the vast majority of his time to lecturing at university and scientific research. As a result, during the last five years volumes by Lőrincz were published on an annual basis, whereas, in certain years even two books appeared.

It is difficult to retain one's composure, when we remember that the old and amiable colleague, who had shown us and taken pride in the volume of essays published on the occasion of his 75th birthday by the Professors of Károli Gáspár University of The Reformed Church as well as had spoken about his plans and conceptions with youthful enthusiasm, has departed this world. Lőrincz Lajos leaves wonderful memories and a corpus of very valuable scholarly works.

V. L.