



CONFERENCE REPORT. *IN TABERNA QUANDO SUMUS.
INTERMITTANS DE LA VIE DES ÉTUDIANTS (DIÁKÉLET AZ
ISKOLÁN KÍVÜL), 1450–1750*

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The international conference titled “In taberna quando sumus. Intermittans de la vie des étudiants (Diákélet az iskolán kívül), 1450–1750”, was held from May 21 to May 25, 2024, organized by Speculum Research Group at the University of Tokaj. This conference served as a continuation of the 65th International Congress on Humanism in Tours, where Renaissance-era drinking customs were a central topic of discussion. The 2024 event aimed to delve deeper into the study of student life beyond institutional settings in the early modern period, focusing on the cultural and historical significance of wine.

OBJECTIVES

The conference had a dual mission: first, to strengthen the region of Tokaj’s presence in the global academic discourse on cultural and oenological history, and second, to foster international collaboration within historical research projects related to wine and cultural heritage. By attracting speakers from prestigious institutions – including HUN-REN Institute for Literary Studies, University of Tours (CESR, IEHCA), Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, and Complutense University of Madrid – the event highlighted the international importance of the Tokaj wine region, both as a research site and as a heritage location.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

In total, sixteen presentations were hosted across Tarcál, Bodrogkisfalud, and Sárospatak, with a thematic focus on the non-institutional aspects of

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student life in the early modern era. Many presentations explored literary and historical references to wine, shedding light on student life through documented drinking customs and associated rituals. Among the highlights, Áron Kovács presented data from the Sárospatak Reformed College archives, providing insights alongside well-researched examples from institutions in Bratislava and Vienna. Special mention was given to Alfonso Lombana Sánchez, who explored the influence of Janus Pannonius, discussing the Hungarian humanist poet-bishop's work with a focus on his connections to Spain.

The second major focus of the conference was on the textual and visual sources of historical wine culture. Bruno Laurioux's presentation examined the diverse wine consumption practices of medieval Western Europe across regions, social strata, and religious norms. Marie-Elisabeth Boutroue and Francisco Javier Bran García discussed the evolution of terminology associated with viticulture and winemaking, while Tímea N. Kis's lecture addressed early modern wine adulteration methods specific to the Tokaj region.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

An integral part of the conference experience was the connection to the Tokaj wine culture, which significantly enriched the event. The Tokaj region's welcoming wine houses played a pivotal role, not only in sharing their expert knowledge and traditions but also in fostering an environment conducive to scholarly exchange. These gatherings allowed participants to experience first-hand the region's storied winemaking tradition and enjoy generous hospitality that encouraged meaningful dialogue on shared academic interests.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

In his closing remarks, Allen J. Grieco emphasized the importance of the collaborative relationship between Université de Tours and University of Tokaj, expressing optimism for continued joint research. He announced plans for a follow-up conference next year, which promises to further solidify the partnership between these institutions.



In summary, the conference was a resounding success, combining scholarly depth with the unique cultural backdrop of the Tokaj wine region. The engagement with local winemakers and the academic exploration of historical wine culture underscored the conference's thematic richness, providing an unforgettable experience for all participants.



