



Diana Hay – László Szögi

*An Illustrated History
of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
1825–2025*



MTA BICENTENARY
OF THE HUNGARIAN
ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES

Diana Hay – László Szögi

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Hungarian Academy of Sciences



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Johann Nepomuk Ender: The Coat of Arms of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1834

The “allegorical depiction forming the Society’s coat of arms” was commissioned by the Academy’s founder, Count István Széchenyi, and created by Johann Nepomuk Ender, a Viennese Biedermeier painter.

Delivered to the Society’s assembly hall in the early summer of 1834, it has since remained a distinguishing emblem of the scholarly community, symbolising both its intellectual realm and its institutional identity.



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An Illustrated History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences



1825–2025

MTA



ELTE | RESEARCH CENTRE

FOR THE HUMANITIES



Budapest, 2025

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The endpaper were created using the following photographs: The building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Photograph by György Klösz, 1837–1879. Fortepan / Budapest City Archives, HU.BFL. XV.19.d.1.05.049; The building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Photograph by Tamás Szigeti, 2025.

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Foreword

Gábor Kecskeméti



In 2025, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding. On this occasion, we have prepared this book, which recounts the Academy's two-century history with both precision and clarity. Its rich visual content helps bring the events and developments vividly to life.

An anniversary commemoration should not be limited to ceremonial formalities and rigid conventions. When we began our extensive preparation of hundreds of events commemorating the anniversary of the Academy, along with numerous related publications, we did so in the hope that we might arrive at a new, comprehensive understanding of the history of science in Hungary and the evolving institutional frameworks through which science has been organized over time. This hope has been fulfilled: for the first time, a fundamental historical synthesis has been compiled, covering the efforts and activities of all the Academy's past presidents and secretaries general. Similarly, a comprehensive overview was written about the institution's financial foundations over time, its patrons, and the individuals and social groups who made sacrifices for the advancement of science in Hungary. Several parts of this volume also present the results of original research, including the first systematic summary of specific events and data from the second half of the twentieth century to the present day.

The outcome of the preparations for the anniversary however far exceeded even these initial expectations. It has become clear that anyone who examines the past must also, in some way, understand and evaluate the present, and moreover, discern movements pointing toward the future – including both those that emerge organically from history and those unrealized possibilities the past has left open. What insights can we already begin to see?

Unlike many of the world's other scientific and artistic academies, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (originally the Hungarian Learned Society) was not founded by royal decree but by public donation at the end of the first third of the 19th century. The first pledges to establish and support such a society were made in 1825 by aristocratic and noble members of the Hungarian Diet, and soon spread more widely. The law establishing the Society was

passed in 1827, and actual operations began in 1830. This founding era deeply shaped the institution's early decades. The 1827 Act XI of Parliament, entitled "On the Learned Society or the Hungarian Academy to be established for the cultivation of the national language" stated that the institution was intended "not only to promote the spread of the national language, but also to cultivate all branches of the sciences and the arts." From the beginning, this aim has been closely connected with the cultivation of creative literature, which plays an important role both in refining the language and representing the national culture, as well as with the historical recording and methodical organization of the Hungarian literary heritage. Among the first members elected to the Academy in 1830, we find leading or emblematic figures of at least two generations of Hungarian literature, including national classics whose works continue to shape Hungarian cultural identity to this day. In the decades following its founding, the Academy primarily supported the Hungarian language movement, literature, the humanities, and legal studies, with the overarching aim of expanding Hungarian national culture, exploring the nation's past, and developing the legal framework for national public policy. It was only in the final decades of the 19th century that the natural sciences emerged as an equally important goal: cultivating them in a manner capable of engaging with the international scientific world and establishing their institutional foundations. The now self-evident expectation of pursuing science as a universal endeavour gained greater prominence only in a later period, as a result of efforts that reoriented the Academy to a considerable degree. From that point onward, the dual mission described in the opening sentence of the preamble to the Academy Act, still in force today, became more balanced: "The Hungarian Academy of Sciences was established by the nation to nurture the Hungarian language and to serve science."

The first half of the 19th century in Central Europe was an era of emerging modern nations and national identities, both politically and constitutionally. It is no coincidence that the year of the Academy's founding marks the beginning of a major era in Hungarian history, referred to

as the Reform Era and is regarded as a time of struggle for the modern institutions of the Hungarian state. Many of the scholars who helped shape Hungary's political, legal, and economic framework were members of the Academy. For decades, the Academy was the sole national institution capable of assuming the unique task of shaping Hungary's cultural identity, historical consciousness, and intellectual and artistic traditions. The modern Hungarian nation and the Hungarian Learned Society share a common birthdate and history. From this shared origin stems the Academy's enduring credibility and prestige: for decades, it has consistently ranked as the most respected public institution in Hungarian opinion polls.

In the 20th century, the Academy could not have survived without the annual funding it received from the state budget. Its endowment was depleted by wars and the subsequent inflationary periods. The communist regime later confiscated its lands and buildings without compensation. For a time, it seemed that the Academy would be entirely excluded from organising and directing scientific life, as the Hungarian Communist Party sought to marginalise it by creating a Soviet-style national scientific council. Nearly half its members were stripped of their titles, and its subsection dedicated to the arts was dissolved. In the end, however, the opposite occurred: the purged Academy was reshaped into an entity suitable for functioning as a kind of ministry of science during the decades of communism. This was the era when it established a remarkable research network spanning the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering, with a strong emphasis on basic research.

In 1990, following the transition from communist rule, the Academy also underwent fundamental changes. It rehabilitated the members who had been expelled in 1949 – mostly posthumously – and restored their membership; to embrace the arts, it also established an affiliated institution, the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts. A new law came into effect in 1994, reconstituting the Academy as a public body, thereby granting representation to all scholars engaged in research in Hungary. Since then, its bodies and committees have been formed through the broadest possible professional participation, ensuring the

autonomy of each scientific field. Additionally, the research network remained under the Academy's supervision, and several reform measures were implemented to invigorate its work and enhance its efficiency.

In 2019, the Academy lost control of its research institutes. Despite widespread domestic opposition and significant international protest, the Hungarian government separated the research network from the Academy and since then, it has been seeking ways to operate in a different form.

In the same year, the Academy renewed its mission statement; empowered by new legal provisions, it evaluates and certifies, through application processes, the excellence of research institutions in Hungary. It continues to participate in science governance and administers grant programmes from both its own and delegated funds to support scientific book and journal publishing, professional scientific societies, the organization of international conferences in Hungary, and participation in conferences abroad. Additionally, it promotes the careers of female researchers, supports Hungarian research institutions beyond the borders, awards Bolyai Scholarship to individual researchers through excellence grants, and offers the highly competitive Lendület (Momentum) grants to research groups preparing for the European Research Council's international applications. Thus, life is vibrant not only within the walls of the Academy's headquarters, as the Academy plays a vital role in revitalizing the entire Hungarian research community, providing access to resources, enhancing quality, and shaping career pathways.

The confident, steady force of tireless activity. A conscious commitment to the benefit of the national community. A balanced partnership with international trends in science, scientific organisations, and science policy. These are the defining characteristics of the Academy today. The lessons of its two-hundred-year history all point in the same direction: there is no alternative to consistent, tireless action guided by the professional and ethical standards of science and carried out for the benefit of both the national and the broader human community, and hardly any offer could be more compelling in its value to society.

May 2025

The Precursors of the Academic Movement in Hungary

László Szögi



The word *academy* originally derives from the name of a grove near Athens, where the statue of the Greek hero Academus stood and where Plato delivered his renowned philosophical lectures. The term entered European scholarly discourse from this origin, denoting a “higher school” and a “learned society.”

The movement called *academia* began to spread among Italian humanists in the 15th century, where prominent scholars and artists formed associations to discuss philosophical and various other intellectual matters. Such academies were founded in Florence, Rome, Naples, later in Padua, Venice, and elsewhere. These societies were generally short-lived, as they were tied to the lifespans of prominent individuals; upon their deaths, the groups often dissolved. Nevertheless, their significance was immense, as they introduced the concept of the academic movement to Europe.

“HUNGARIAN OFFSPRING OF PALLAS” – FROM THE 15TH TO THE 18TH CENTURY

The movement reached Hungary in the second half of the 15th century, during the reign of King Matthias, particularly within the humanist circles of János Vitéz, Bishop of Várad and later Archbishop of Esztergom. In 1467, Vitéz hosted renowned Hungarian and Italian humanists, such as Janus Pannonius, Galeotto Marzio, and Regiomontanus, who had been invited to the University of Bratislava, at his palace in Esztergom, forming a society reminiscent of the Italian academies. A similar initiative took place in King Matthias’s court in Buda in the 1470s, when Francesco Bandini, a member of the Florentine academy, moved to Buda and likely shared his Italian experiences. Finally, one must mention the *Sodalitas Litteraria Danubiana*, the first group in Hungary to operate with academic characteristics. Though founded in Vienna by Konrad Celtis in 1497, a branch of the society was soon established in Buda, sometimes referred to as the *Coetus*. These early Hungarian academic initiatives came to an end due to the wars against

the Ottoman Empire. However, Hungarian students studying at foreign universities became familiar with the activities of scholarly societies abroad and, upon returning home, sought to emphasise the need for cultivating the sciences. These individuals, as Tibor Klaniczay called them, were the “Hungarian offspring of Pallas.”

By the 17th century, the academic movement in Europe entered a new phase with state support from emerging absolute monarchies. Cardinal Richelieu founded the French Academy in 1635, which served as a model for many others. In England, the Royal Society was established in 1660. Following Leibniz’s plans, the *Sozietät der Wissenschaften* was founded in Berlin in 1700, and Tsar Peter the Great founded the Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint Petersburg in 1724. By the 18th century, nearly every European country had academies, including numerous institutions in fragmented Germany and Italy. The academies of Jena and Göttingen were particularly influential on Hungarian academic life due to the presence of many Hungarian *peregrini* (students studying abroad).

DOMESTIC INITIATIVES IN THE LATE 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURIES

In the 18th century, increasing recognition emerged in Hungary of the need to establish a scholarly society. The distinguished scholar and polymath Mátyás Bél – who studied at the University of Halle and was elected to the Royal Society in 1735 – proposed the foundation of the *Litteraria Societas Posonii*, a learned society in Pozsony, the capital at the time, envisioning it as an institution embracing all branches of science. Although the proposal reached the monarch, it was never realised. Meanwhile, similar societies had already been founded in Vienna (1761) and Prague (1774) within the Habsburg Empire, yet none had been established in Hungary.

Of the numerous proposals from this period, we will mention only the most significant ones. In 1756, Péter Bod advocated for a society in Transylvania to cultivate the

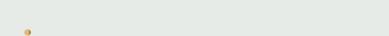


Figure 1. Plato's Academy. Roman mosaic from Pompeii, 1st century

Hungarian language. György Bessenyei, who had joined the Hungarian Guard in Vienna without formal education, began studying with great diligence and founded the *Patriotic Hungarian Society* in 1779. Its members included Benedek Virág, Pál Ányos, András Dugonics, Miklós Révai, and János Batsányi. Although they did not receive royal support, Bessenyei published a pamphlet in 1781 titled *A Humble Proposal for a Hungarian Society*. In 1790, Miklós Révai republished the pamphlet and presented the idea of an academy to the Hungarian Diet which reconvened after the death of Joseph II. Révai tirelessly advocated for the establishment of an academy throughout the 1790s, seeking the support of the newly appointed Palatine Joseph and calling upon members of the Hungarian nobility to back the initiative. The matter was eventually referred to a regular committee, which, at that time, concluded its work without result. It was only resumed in 1825, during the next session of the Diet after a long hiatus. Following the actual foundation of the Academy, Révai's efforts were highly esteemed – indeed, it is no coincidence that the only Hungarian statue on the new Academy building is his.

Among the precursors, one must also mention György Aranka's 1791 initiative to establish a *Hungarian Society for the Cultivation of the Language* in Transylvania. The Transylvanian Diet expressed its support for the plan in principle, and the society began its operations in 1793. Aranka's plans likewise revealed the embryonic concept of founding an academy; however, despite being discussed at multiple sessions of the Diet, it never received official endorsement. Worse still, the re-emerging absolutist regime banned the society in 1820.

By the early 19th century, it had become entirely evident to Hungary's intellectual and aristocratic elite that the establishment of a national learned society – an academy – was indispensable for the development of science in the national language. Professors at the University of Pest, operating under challenging conditions, shared this view. The idea was supported in 1802 not only by scholars in the humanities but also by distinguished scientists such as József Jakab Winterl, Pál Kitaibel, Ádám Tomcsányi, and



Figure 2. The statue of Miklós Révai is the only statue of a Hungarian on the building. It is on the corner of the Academy building facing Széchenyi Square. Sculpture by Miklós Izsó

Sámuel Rácz. In 1809, historian György Fejér, also a professor at the university, published a pamphlet titled *On the Easiest and Most Appropriate Way to Establish a Hungarian Learned Society*. However, under the absolutist rule of Francis I, the Hungarian Diet was not convened between 1812 and 1825, and thus no progress on the matter could be made during the first quarter of the century.



Figure 3. Detail of the tombstone of János Vitéz, Archbishop of Esztergom, in the crypt of the Esztergom Basilica



Figure 4. Title page of Péter Bod's 1766 book *Magyar Athenas* (*Hungarian Athenas*)

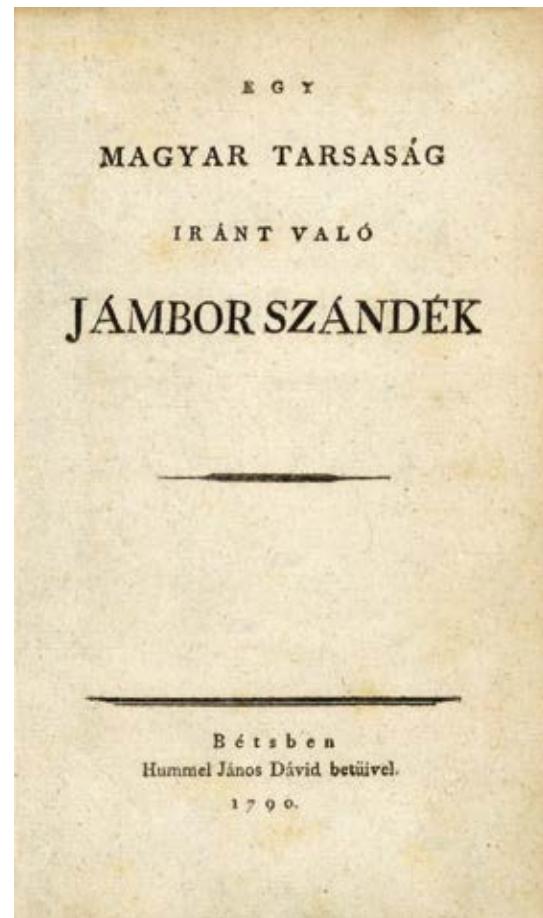


Figure 5. The front page of a draft by György Bessenyei regarding the establishment of a learned society, created in 1780 and printed in 1790



Figure 6. Portrait of Miklós Révai. Work by an unknown painter after Franz Sales Lochbihler (1894)



Figure 7. György Aranka's proposal for the establishment of a linguistic society in Transylvania (1791)

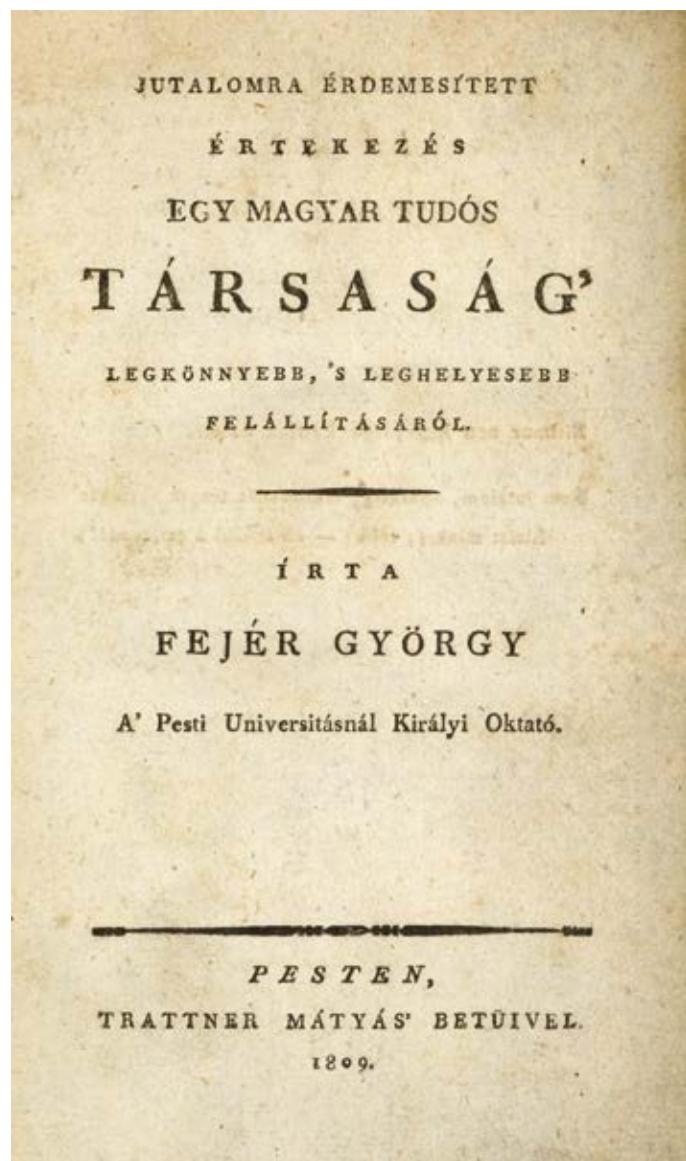
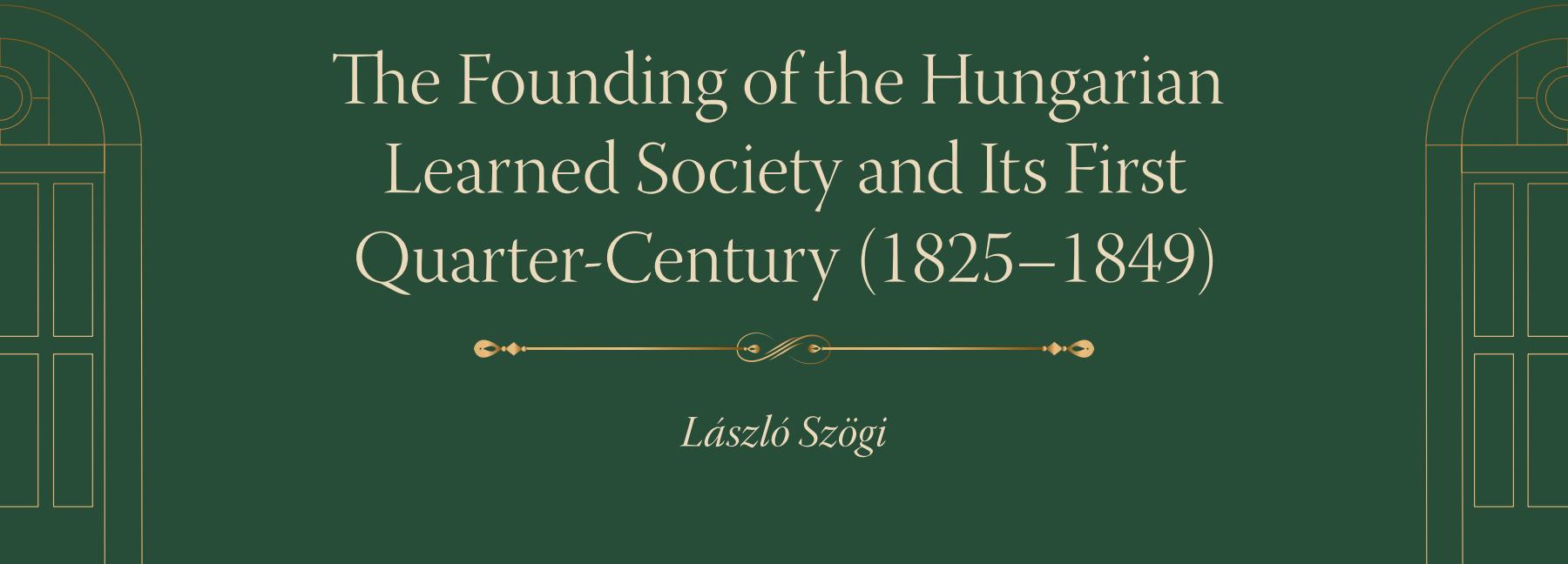


Figure 8. The proposal by György Fejér, professor at the University of Pest, in 1809 for the establishment of the Hungarian Learned Society



The Founding of the Hungarian Learned Society and Its First Quarter-Century (1825–1849)

László Szögi



MAGYAR TUDOMÁNYOS AKADÉMIA



The founding of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is traditionally dated to the district session of the Hungarian Diet held on 3 November 1825, when Count István Széchenyi made his now-famous declaration, known to virtually every Hungarian: "I have no voice here, I am not one of the Greats of the Nation, but I am a landowner, and if an institution is established that promotes the Hungarian language, that aids in educating our compatriots to become Hungarians, I will sacrifice one year's income from my estates." (*A Magyar Tudós Társaság Évkönyvei/Annals of the Hungarian Learned Society*, 1831–1832, Vol. I, Trattner-Károlyi Printing House, Pest, 1833.) Széchenyi's donation – worth 60,000 forints – was of immense significance in contemporary Hungary and inspired similar, though smaller, contributions from other aristocrats: György Károlyi, György Andrássy, and Ábrahám Vay. These four became the founding patrons, each playing an important role in the Academy's early years. The donation attracted wide attention throughout the country, particularly in the small but growing Hungarian-language press. In 1827, the monarch ratified Act XI of that year, which stated:

"Concerning the Learned Society, or the Hungarian Academy, to be established for the cultivation of the native language, the Estates and Orders, in agreement with His Majesty, decree that such a society be founded from voluntarily and freely donated funds as soon as possible, with its permanent seat in the free royal city of Pest." (Hungarian Law Code, Corpus Juris Hungarici, 1740–1835. Act XI of 1827, Franklin Society, Budapest, 1901, 445.)

This raises a question that had also arisen in earlier academic foundations: Should the Academy primarily or exclusively serve the development and use of the national language, or should it foster the cultivation of all branches of science, including the natural sciences? In Western European countries, the exclusive use of the national language had been established as early as the 17th century; elsewhere, this was the outcome of longer struggles. In Hungary, Latin remained the official language until 1844, with all its advan-

tages and disadvantages. In the multi-ethnic Kingdom of Hungary and Transylvania, Latin served as a neutral instructional language, accessible to all ethnic groups. The switch to Hungarian, while patriotic, excluded non-Hungarian speakers from scientific education and became a source of ethnic conflict later. At the time, Hungarian lacked the vocabulary to serve as a full scientific language. Even Ányos Jedlik, a devoted patriot, continued to teach physics in Latin because, as he wrote, the necessary Hungarian terms did not exist. Given this, the emphasis on developing the national language at the Academy's founding is understandable and justifiable – it did not mean that other scientific disciplines were being neglected. Hungarian natural science was still in its infancy in 1825 and only began to flourish in the second half of the century.

In 1826, the founders formalised their donations in writing, arranging it so that only the annual interest on the pledged amounts had to be paid to the institution, while the principal remained in the custody of the donors' families. Széchenyi, always thorough, included a clause outlining what should happen if the institution ceased to exist: "As the transience of human affairs and institutions makes it imperative, I must make provisions for the eventual demise of this now happily born national institution – may Divine Providence, in its wisdom, delay that moment as long as it sees fit to preserve my dear Hungarian nation among the nations." (Hungarian National Archives, OL Archivum Regni N. 36. Lad. A. NB. Academia. No. 2.) In such a case, the funds would revert to the family, but only to be used for another worthy national purpose.

A 26-member committee began drafting the Academy's statutes in November 1827. Its members included the founders, church and secular dignitaries, and respected scholars such as György Fejér, Izidor Guzmics, Ézsiás Budai, Lajos Schédius, István Horvát, Sándor Kisfaludy, Ferenc Kazinczy, Miklós Jankovich, Gábor Döbrentei, and Mihály Vitkovics. Though ethnically diverse Hungary was poorly represented (only Vitkovics, a Serb, was non-Hungarian), the committee did reflect a broad religious and social spectrum. The monarch approved the statutes in



January 1831. Reflecting the political context, they included provisions – at the court's request – that the Academy must refrain from political and religious disputes and be governed by a 25-member Board of Directors. The first members were elected by the Board of Directors, but subsequently always by the general assembly of the Academy. Although this structure fell short of full autonomy, it would be inappropriate to judge it by modern standards. Even with these limitations, the Academy's establishment in 1831 was a monumental step forward, contributing greatly to national development during the Reform Era.

THE ACADEMY'S FIRST STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

The first President of the Academy was Count József Teleki, an alumnus of the University of Göttingen and later governor of Transylvania (1842), who was well acquainted

Figure 9. Relief depicting Széchenyi's speech on 3 November 1825 on the Academy's building. This work by Barnabás Holló was unveiled in 1893

with European scholarship. His donation formed the basis of the Academy's Library. Count István Széchenyi became Vice President out of respect for his foundational role, and Gábor Döbrentei was appointed as Secretary. The Academy's organisational structure was modern for its time, comprising six sections: I. Linguistics, II. Philosophy, III. History, IV. Mathematics, V. Jurisprudence, and VI. Natural Sciences. Initially, 23 of the planned 42 ordinary members were elected, and 12 received salaries. The first general assembly also elected 16 honorary and 30 corresponding members. Writers, historians, and social scientists dominated the early membership, while physicians and natural scientists were fewer. Despite modest financial

means, the Academy received generous support: Archduke Joseph, Palatine of Hungary, donated 10,000 forints, as did Emperor Ferdinand V from his coronation gift. Notably, many smaller donations came from counties, towns, and private citizens, signalling that the Academy's mission had become a national cause, transcending class and religious divides. Public expectations were immense. People hoped the Academy would fulfil a wide range of needs, but the rapidly changing demands of the Reform Era quickly outpaced the institution's capacity. In 1833, the Academy published its first yearbook and launched the *Tudománytár* (Scope of Knowledge) series to disseminate recent foreign scientific achievements. It established ties with foreign academies and elected prominent international scholars as honorary members, including Friedrich Wilhelm Schelling (philosopher), Carl Friedrich Gauss (mathematician and friend of Farkas Bolyai), and Wilhelm von Humboldt (founder of the University of Berlin). In 1833, Sándor Körösi Csoma was elected a corresponding member. He later sent copies of his Tibetan–English dictionary to the Academy and other institutions via the Austrian embassy in London. In the early 1840s, more young scholars were nominated, including Antal Vállás, a mathematician elected as an ordinary member at age 28. He championed the creation of a Hungarian Polytechnic University (now Budapest University of Technology and Economics) and was appointed professor in 1848. After emigrating in 1851, he founded a scientific academy in New Orleans and remained active there until his death. In 1841, President Teleki nominated Lajos Kossuth as a corresponding member, but he was not elected.

The Academy achieved tangible results in its early years. The Academy was responsible for establishing the first set of rules for Hungarian spelling, thereby bringing the language reform debates to a close. The first spelling guide, issued in 1832, applied only to Academy publications but established the modern 38-letter Hungarian alphabet. A dictionary project led by Mihály Vörösmarty was launched, and efforts began to collect and publish Hungarian linguistic relics. As noted in an 1835 source:

"Let the known and yet-to-be-discovered relics of the national language be preserved in a single collection, for in private hands, due to vicissitudes, they may perish – as many likely already have, lost to negligence and the clamour of domestic affairs." (Hungarian National Archives, OL Archivum Regni N. 36. Lad. A. NB. Academia. No. 2, July 2, 1835, Session Minutes 159/1836.)

The Academy undoubtedly achieved impressive results in the fields of linguistics and history, but this could not be said of all other scientific disciplines. Critics called for greater attention to the natural and technical sciences. These tensions affected the Board of Directors, sparking disputes between Secretary Ferenc Toldy (Schedel) and agriculturalist Gusztáv Szontagh. Financial difficulties hampered the realisation of the grand plans, but the accelerating development and differentiation of the sciences also brought the Academy into crisis. It was impossible to satisfy all the new demands, while care had to be taken to ensure that the institution did not end up in the hands of the feudal authorities. The critics of the time were far from right in everything they said. On the one hand, they failed to take into account the conditions and opportunities under which the Academy operated, and therefore set unrealistic expectations. On the other hand, many of the disciplines that needed to be addressed were still very immature in Hungary, and, with a few exceptions, the scholars in these disciplines were not up to European standards at the time, i.e. they could not yet help the institution to function.

SZÉCHENYI'S 1842 SPEECH AND THE ACADEMY'S ROLE

On 27 November 1842, Count István Széchenyi opened the Academy's 11th general assembly in the great hall of the County Hall in Pest with a two-hour speech summarising his views on the institution's purpose. The speech was soon published in print. In it, Széchenyi, reflecting his conservative outlook, argued that the Academy's role



Figure 10. István Széchenyi, the 'second chairman' of the Hungarian Learned Society. Painting by Miklós Barabás, 1836

should be limited to cultivating the Hungarian language – contrary to the broader ambitions of the national reformers. Evaluating the speech is difficult. Széchenyi was correct in recognising the importance of the nationality issue in Hungary, while many reformers mistakenly believed it could be resolved by simply granting civil liberties. The events of 1848–49 would prove this assumption to be a grave error. In the speech, Széchenyi stated:

"It is not enough to write laws in our times; you must also inspire sympathy for them. And if a man will not obey a law which is hateful to him, and by which his nature is abhorred, he may be punished by the strictness of the letter, but it is useless; for it makes a martyr, and this breeds fanaticism. And if all men do not at once obey a law which can only in time, and only by a life worthy of love, lose its misery, is it fitting nay, should we Hungarians, without any cursing without any consideration, cast anathema on those

who fall into such sins? Are we so crystal clear? Let us reach into our bosom and answer honestly: is it fitting, is it lawful for us to do such a thing, who are almost not only negligent in the execution of our laws." (István Széchenyi: On the Hungarian Academy, Pest, 1842. – <https://mek.oszk.hu/01000/01072/01072>)

The speech caused a major stir. Nearly everyone, including Miklós Wesselényi, criticised Széchenyi for it, defending the need for a modern institution independent of state power and committed solely to recognising internationally comparable scholarly achievements. In 1844, a significant group within the Academy – including József Bajza, Pál Balogh, József Eötvös, János Erdélyi, András Fáy, Elek Fényes, Ferenc Kubinyi, László Szalay, Antal Vállás, and Mihály Vörösmarty – began drafting new regulations for a restructured institution. The proposal was published the following year, but by 1848 it had not yet been implemented.

REFORM PLANS IN 1848

Following the victory of the revolutionary movement of 1848, new planning initiatives were launched within the Academy as well. It was the Academy that first proposed the establishment of a 'Hungarian National Public Archives', as increasing reports emerged concerning the destruction of valuable archival materials. The newly won freedom of the press also meant that caricatures of the institution began to appear. These, however, should not be viewed as expressions of mockery, but rather as characteristic signs of a press liberated from its former constraints.

From the perspective of our topic, it is far more significant that the Academy's departments drafted plans for the internal reorganization of the institution. A common

element in all of these proposals was the call for genuine independence, including the withdrawal of the governing rights of the Board of Directors. The new statutes were to be approved first by a general assembly and then by the monarch; however, the convening of this assembly was repeatedly postponed and, due to subsequent military events, ultimately never took place.

After the Hungarian army liberated Pest in 1849, the Academy convened a smaller session on 4 June and resolved that, like many other national institutions in the capital, the Academy would issue a declaration of loyalty to the revolutionary government. This became the last act of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences before the imperial forces reoccupied the capital. From July 1849, the Academy's operations were temporarily suspended.

HAZAI 'S KÜLFÖLDI TUDÓSÍTÁSOK.

(39.)

Pesten, Szombaton, Szent András Hava 12-dik napján 1825.

A' félénk, és a' bátor.

Hogyha haraszt zörög is, félénk megretten azonnal,
Mint, puszták' fia, nyúl zajra futásnak ered.
Bátor, a' mennyörgő eget is, nyilt szemre feszíti. —
Félelem árt. Bárat futja sietve vefzély.

MAGYAR és ERDÉLY ORSZÁG.

Pozsonyi tudósítások szerént Oct. 17-kén az Ország gyülésének 14-ik ülésében választatott az a' Deputáció, melly az 1791-iki Deputációk munkáját megvizsgálja. Az új nagy Deputációnak Elölülőjévé Nagy M. Gróf Cziráky Antal, Tárnok-Mester Ó Excellentiája neveztetett, és apróbb Deputációra felosztatott, a' mint tudriillik a' tárgyak egymástól különböznek, úgymint: a' törvényes dolgokban; az Ország közigazgatásában; a' kereskedés, és váltó Törvényszék dolgában; a' Bányaázságban; a' nevelés és tudományok dolgában; a' Katonaságot illető tárgyakban; a' Commissariatust, és Úrbariumot illető dolgokban. — Ezen apróbb Deputáció a' nevezett naptól fogva folyást munkálkodván, az említett tárgyakat annyira kisejtették, hogy a' Fő Deputációnak már tudósítást tehetnek, melly utóbb ezen tárgyakat az Ország gyülése elejébe terjessze.

(Második Felesztendő 1825.)

Ezen kívül a' Státusok majd minden nap kerületbeli ülléseket tartottak, mellyekben kiváltképpen azon tárgyakról értekeztek, mellyek a' többieknel előbbvalóknak tartat-hatnak; ugymint: a' kereskedés; a' köz adó; a' nemes felkelés; a' pénz dolga; a' nemzeti characternek megújítása, 's a' nemzeti nyelvnek tökélletesítése, 's terjesztése; a' közönséges nevelés, 's a' t.

Különös emlékezetre méltó a' November 3-ikán tartatott kerületi üllés, mellyben midőn a' nemzeti nyelv tökélletesítéséről lett volna szó, és Tudományok M. Nemzeti Akademijának fel-állítása javaltatott volna, olly közönséges felbuzdulás fogta el az egész gyülekezetet, hogy nem tsak a' tárgyat kész örömmel elfogadnák, hanem annak végbe vitelére a' Magyar nagylelkűségnek, és a' Nemzeti méltóságnak örök emlékezetére mindenjárt többen nagy summákat ajánlanának. Melly fényes példákat már is, noha még a' dolog az Országos üllésben elő nem

)

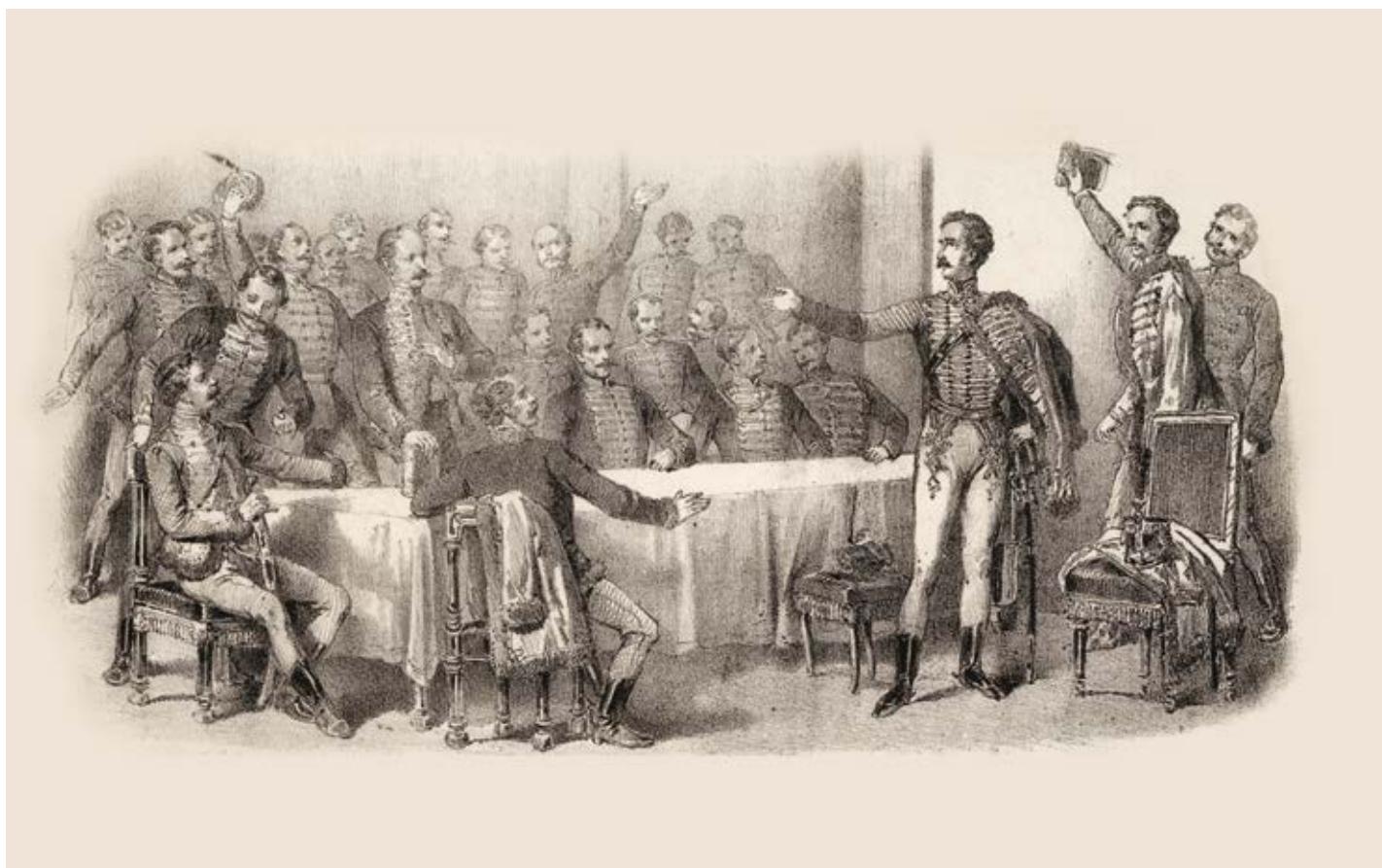


Figure 12. István Széchenyi's address in the National Assembly.
Lithograph by Vinzenz Katzler

Figure 11. A contemporary report on the district meeting held on 3 November 1825, at which the establishment of the Academy was discussed

Alább is isz. prof. Sávayi és Pelső. Vidéki Reichnégyi Ifjúin (c. S. Károlyi) és
Sávai Károlyi adom. Sávai mindenhol a kékkel írta, s a fekete
kez a a felirat mögött illes vagy főrendekben írható, hogy az Osziggyűz-
lésen 1790th és 1807th az egyben gróf Károlyi Rendel által felállított
számos céltörök Sávai Tábori Társaságnak, melynek székhelye Osziggyűz
bőven egyszerűbb annak a Tájedelmeire és Sávára névre, hogy aráni kápolna
az Sávára völgy ki-jelentett völgye, - felállítására, önmagához
egész körvégig oda igyekszik, minden forrásábanak egy-egy törökbeli tiszta
földelme, minthogy nemcsak a többi származási helyen is a Sávai Tábori Társaság felállítására
névre már kiámszán vagyunk vissza is az Osziggyűz földjeivel egy-egy számos
bőc, s amely Sávai törökbeli felállítására vallás környezetben való-
seni a kívánját. - Különösen tiszta, s a Tisztánalma felső
zó Lélekben felenné, meg erőssé, s a Tisztánalma Károlyal is
rendelhető be nyíram, körülkerendő poncoltban.

2^o Hogy ebben a summai és magamnál is elutasítva
szim magánál meg tartalmasan és tartalmasan minden addig meg-
álltak. *Insorafel* minden a ponevan férjem, minden *Succesförszám*
ponenvan férjet. - Ellenben

3^o Ha atar en ar Intereset firsainben et manader
niet vryg leuevoren rustekindnech, adet tellige hasalme rea,
hogy a fudis ~~lare~~ ^{lare} lig Aloransia abet zajam is Maradelsaimon,
Das Varmegyeneb Onderarius Vlopainya, praewijfis omvleue
juridic Almedas, alva samor eisca dominiom et spionvira-
sum appellata ar Cjor hemmre accyptorimaijal egysa leuevoren
niet vryg rehuse - De .

4th Miniboy

4^o Minthogy az emberi dolgozatnak is hozzávetőleg
váltorandóssága, azt mulasztanulj felülvégezze lege, hogy a műfaj
reneszánsz püspöki Nemzeti Tárcával halála után is rendelkezésre
legyel, melyre azonba törvényszpon az Ispán Tábla fonthatalan mű
adja, míg édes Magyar Nemzetséges a Nemzeti orvába meg az
tan fónak tűja. Ittól minden az általánosan nemzeti hozzá-
zásnak akár melyik előre el sem látható ostromnal fogva meg kellene
jönni, azon viszont a kijelölés vagy nyílt összefüggésben fogva
jön az én is successoriún disposíciójától alá, oly ritkán felvállal-
ható minden az által, hogy az többi Magyarnál vagy magánál meg
ne tartalékban vagy tartalékban, hanem az ismét más valamely
ulam vagy általuk hozzávalóval is a Székai Körönvégére hozzá-
re forrásban tartalommal is tartonakat. —

5. Mind aironn Tó Principiumothor híðan Gunnar
dælumæs, mely ek ar Opágo Dýrusaric áæal jílen lettrumbe kíða
gesatlað, nævresæsen megi hérum høgg eoru magaða allt, s. magaða áður
korniangrændr ærjan Túðurinumpris híðan fimm með hævætum
síða fífri ne hólfan, hævum aðsælan Túðurinumpris fylgslæturs
þus Kvarlögum íslasíum eigaðið jarða; ís eitst lava, magið laða
ðæs fylgslæturs.

~~C. B. Bátorfogásra a' Széki Lármagyal a' Széki
személyi kölcsőt levélmené magam kölcsönje. Ismételten. - János
Kund személyi jogi magyobb sorjára is átadandóbban
lárva néve, ezen Fundacionális kölcsőt levélmené a' Személyi
Úri Személyház elöl nevem alá írásával is jöhet profiemonetleg
címzésére. - Holt Dozonyba Borsos Jánosnak 19.000 Forint
1820. b. Szendrőben.~~

60.000 Dfls. a H. J. Thaddeus Kipreale
teken enneel dienmeen, hegg wi
en een adepte ten hof a bolden mits
oef. Stecheny Tzvar in allet aill
2. Thaddeus Kipreale Kipreale 1866 in Szarvashova 19. Jan. alholt 60.000 pp. fo
futanya blets. Stecheny Bela gaf er 4. decemba 1874 in Szarvashova Ben a Ha
ggad. Kipreale teekende en a H. J. Thaddeus waggankjouen 63.000 pp.
sweel. Kipreale teekende en a H. J. Thaddeus Kipreale
teekende. A.

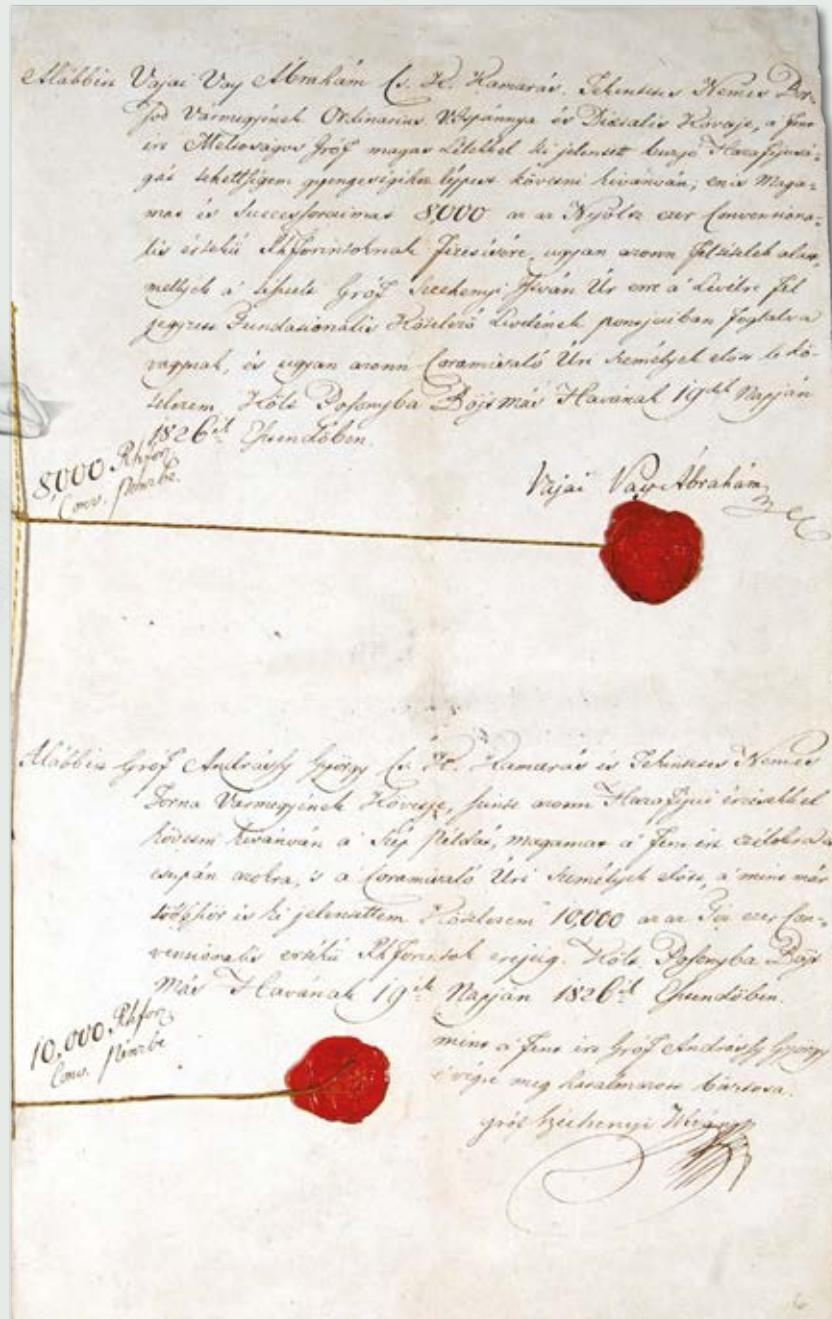
MAVIAZSÁTTEL TANZEGET
Sajó Tschimont

Blötus living
a n. s. akademie dakte. etablis. 1891

Figure 13. Foundation charter for the donation of István Széchenyi, 1826



Figure 15. Portrait of Ábrahám Vay.
Lithograph by Josef Kriehuber, 1847



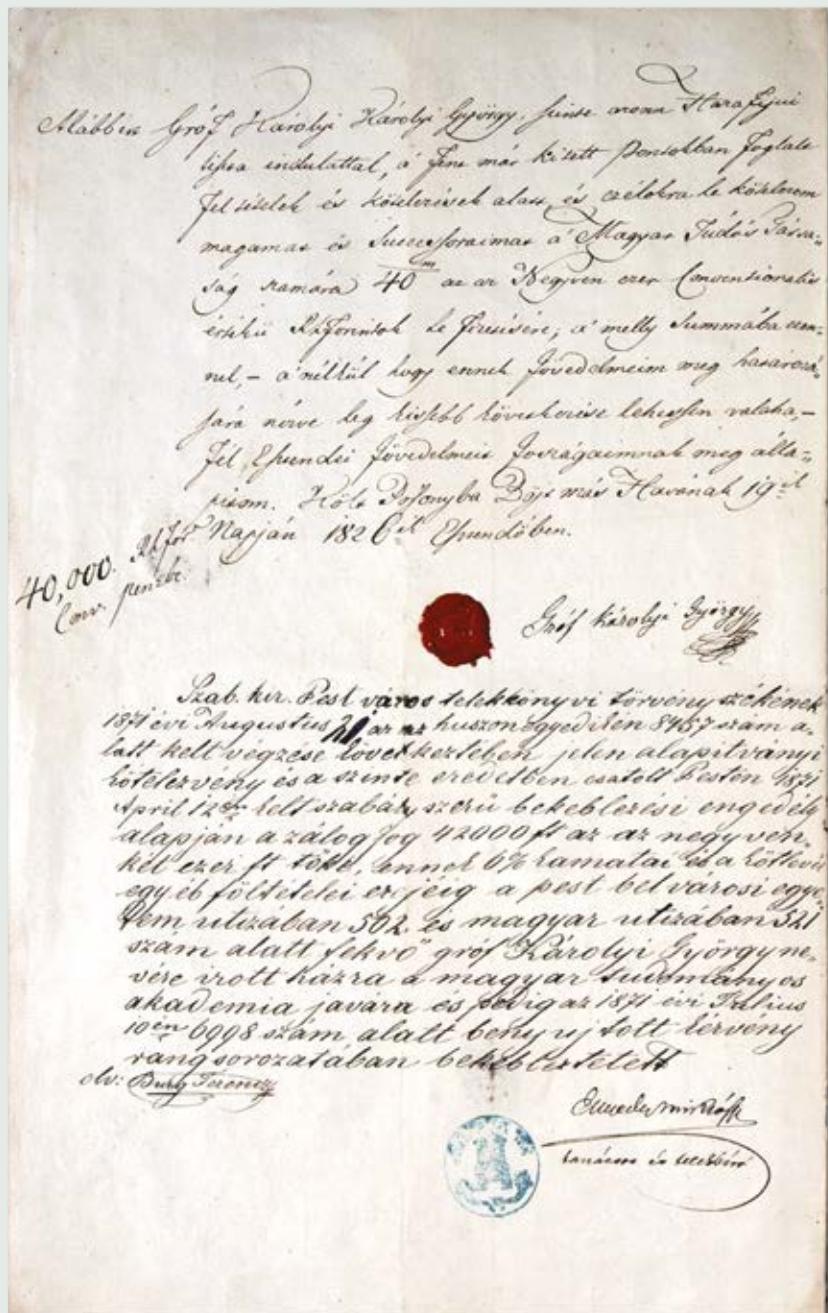


Figure 16. Portrait of György Andrassy.
Lithograph by Franz Eybl, 1842

Figure 17. Portrait of György Károlyi.
Lithograph by Franz Eybl, 1842



Figure 18. Portrait of Miklós Jankovich, art collector and honorary member. Painting by József Pesky, 1823

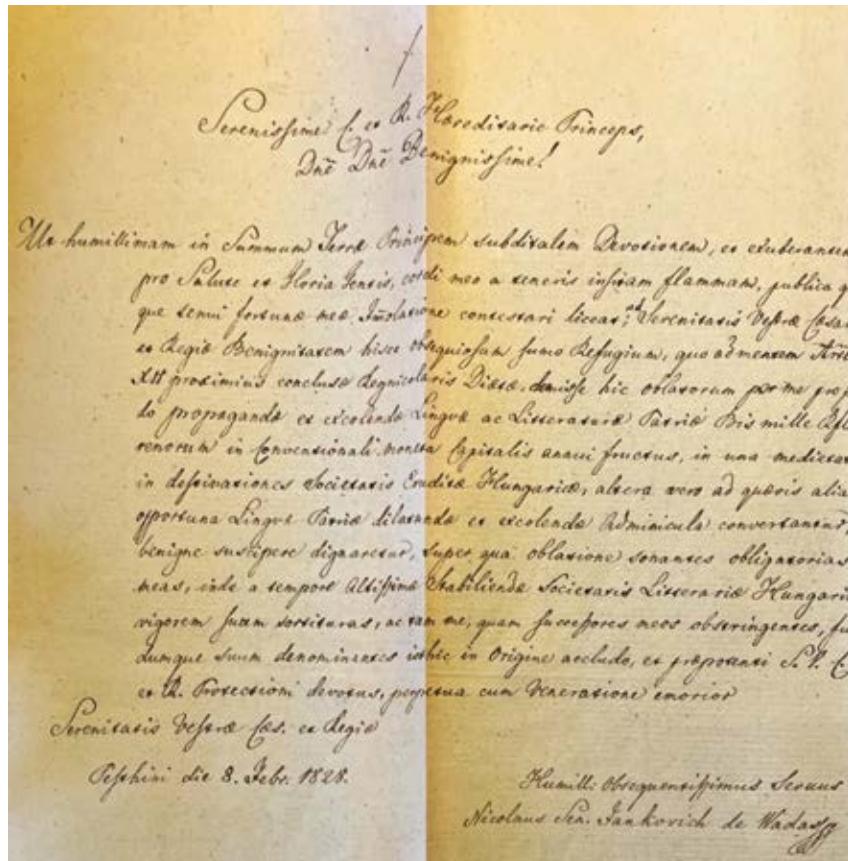


Figure 19. Miklós Jankovich's donation of 1,000 forints to the Academy, 1828



Figure 20. The Nákó House on the Danube bank, where the Academy's first premises were located, 1830

Tajai közzül a tövethető Márkós, Nagyságo, B.-Rózsa, Trifelando, Tánácsos, Tardó, Nemcs és Nemzetes nagy bíz, Lánai hajófiai: ugymint Városi Sello Várdi gróf Zsche, ugyi István, Vajai Vay Ábrahám, Bék-hent-kisalji és Kossuthkossai gróf Andrády György, és Nagy-kisalji gróf Károlyi György László, mire Állatos; nem különben Horváth János Borzoni Püspök, Rózsai György Pécsen, Horváth András, Bánóczi Lajos, Guzmics László, Kör János, Budai Esaiás, gróf Deákffy József, Károly Mednyánszky Lajos, Bartal György Sello-Mester, Schédius Lajos, Bone Ferencz, Horváth István, Kisfaludy Sándor, Lakihegyi Lajos, Jankovich Márkós, Döbrentei János, Szemere László, Cresci Daniel, (Kulcsás János békégetlésére mire meg nem jelenhetően) Károlyics Mihály és Károly László László, mire Eggyüttandáskod. — Mellyben

1

az Melt. előbillel. Itt min,
deped-clött a Tandevszegváros,
Eset megyijére valók Berzéddé,
ben a küldöttekben elbánya,
mi ugyy elmenekeléséig,
sét a Tádombra vörzégsában
mindenfelé apon egyptiákkal tel,
ki erők, melyek előzés a Szajná,
v nem voltak a Themenz partján,

Figure 21. List of the members of the committee preparing the statute, 1828

40.

HAZAI 'S KÜLFÖLDI TUDÓSÍTÁSOK.

A' Tudomány' útja.

Nagy meredek sziklán költötték lakni kilenczen
Lévő Músákat régi pogány Görögök;
Mellyre bajos, tűkés úton vergődnie kellett,
A' ki lakásokhoz jutni leszánta magát.

PESTEN.

Szerdán, Szent András Hava 17^{dk} napján

1830.

A' Magyar Tudós Társaságra nézve hozzánk ezen hivatalos tudósítás érkezett Pozsonyból Nov. 13-dikáról 1830. „A' Magyar Tudós Társaság valóságos feltünése közelít; teljesedve fogja látni a' Nemzet e'beli súrgető kivánságát. Ezen Társaság' tagjai négy rendűek lesznek: Igazgatók, Tiszteletbeliek, Rendesek, és Levelezők. A' Rendesek lakjokhoz képest vagy Helybeliek, ú. m. Pesten, 's Budán és a' két Város közelében élők, vagy Vidékiek, kik Magyar országon és Erdélyben szélyt vannak. Most eleinte az Igazgatókról tudósítatik a' Magyar Haza. Ezek' száma az Első 's Másod Előjülvével együtt huszonöt, 's mint eddig már az ország' négy rendéből ollyanok választattak, kiket érdem vagy születés kedvezőbb karba emelt, 's jutalmokat egyedül a' nemzeti miveltség elésegítéséből nyíló örömben is fellelhetik, úgy fog az Igazgató-Tanács jövendőben is, minden pótás kellene, ollyant venni sorába, kit tiszta hazafiság, tudományok oltalma, a' magyar nyelv terjesztését munkáló buzgóság, 's jobb

karban létel leginkább kitüntet. Azon Igazgatók' nevei, kik a' nemzet' nyelvének felvirágzására nézve ezen új időkörét most megkezdi.

A' Magyar Tudós Társaság' folyamatba indítása végett, ezen említett Igazgató Tanács fogja kinevezni a' Ts. Kir. kegyelmes helybenhagyással megerősített alaprajzból megállított hatalmánál fogva eleinte a' Rendes Tagokat, mellyek száma egy előre huszonhét, választ a' maga esztendőnként egyszer tartandó ülése, 's a' tiszteletbeli és rendes tagok' üléseinek vezetésére Első 's Másod Előjülvét; vigyázni fog a' társaság' tóke-pénzeinek, 's jövedelmeinek pontos rendben tartására, 's a' Tudós Tagok munkálódásait, a' társaságnak általában minden létét esztendőnként a' Ns. Vármegyékkel közli, a' tartandó ország-gyűlésnek pedig mindenkor eleibe terjeszti.”

Figure 22. Press report on the future structure of the Hungarian Learned Society, 1830



Figure 23. Portrait of József Teleki, the Academy's first President. Painting by Miklós Barabás, 1836

Figure 24. The Academy's first statutes, approved in January 1831

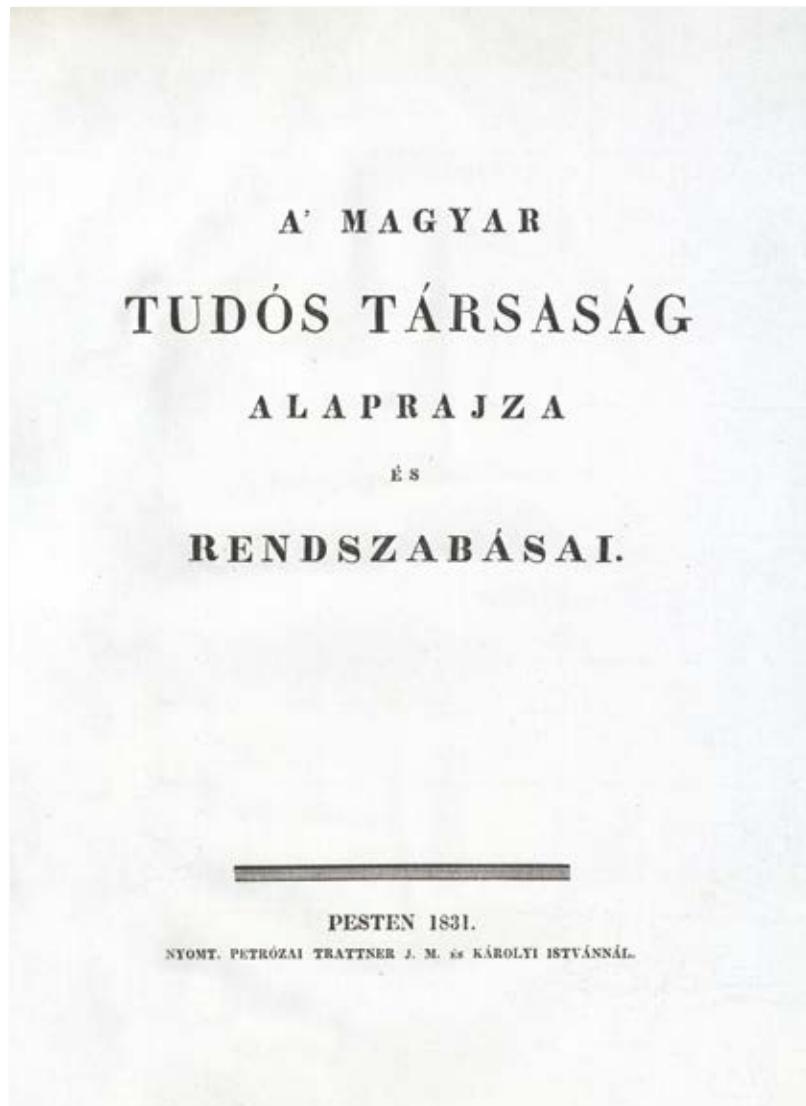


Figure 25. The Academy's first ballot box



Figure 26. The first seal of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences





Figure 27. Portrait of Archduke Joseph, patron of the Academy. By an unknown painter, after Miklós Barabás. First half of the 19th century

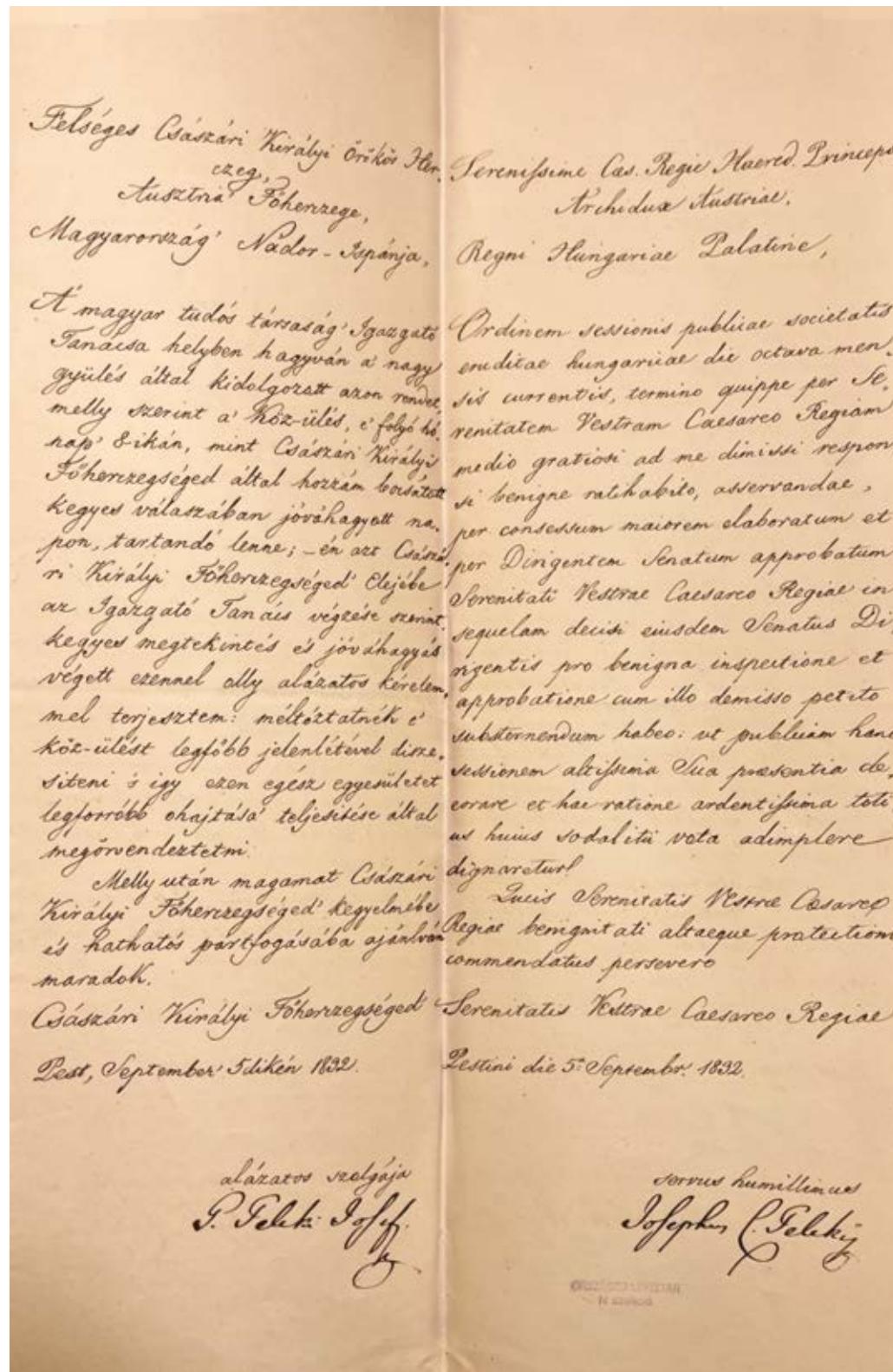


Figure 28. József Teleki invites Archduke Joseph to the general assembly of the Hungarian Learned Society, 1832



Figure 29. Portrait of József Bajza, critic and theatre director, who became an ordinary member in 1832. Drawing by Miklós Barabás

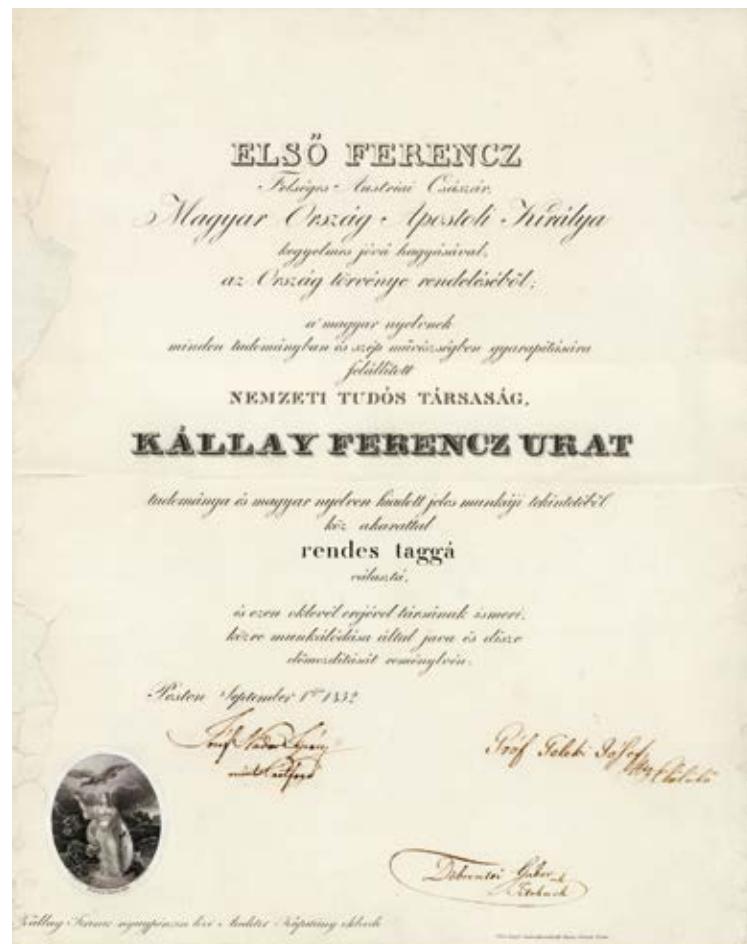


Figure 30. Diploma of Ferenc Kállay, cultural and linguistic historian and ordinary member, 1832

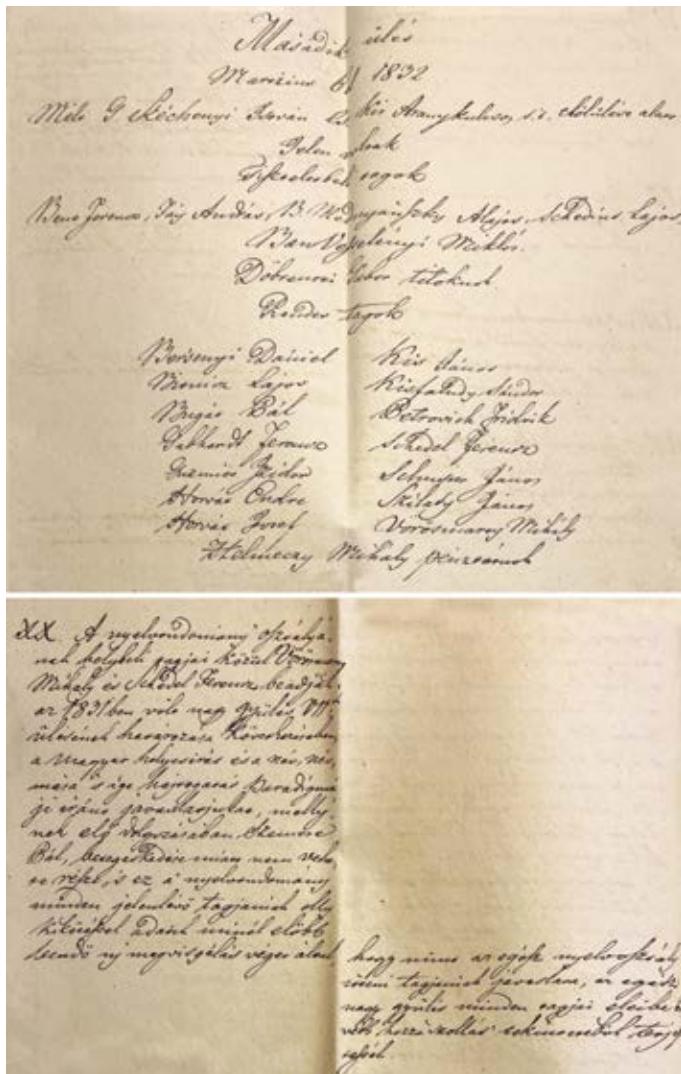


Figure 31. Proposal by Ferenc Toldy and Mihály Vörösmarty regarding the development of Hungarian spelling rules, 1832



Figure 32. Portrait of Mihály Vörösmarty, an ordinary member since 1830. Painting by Miklós Barabás, 1836

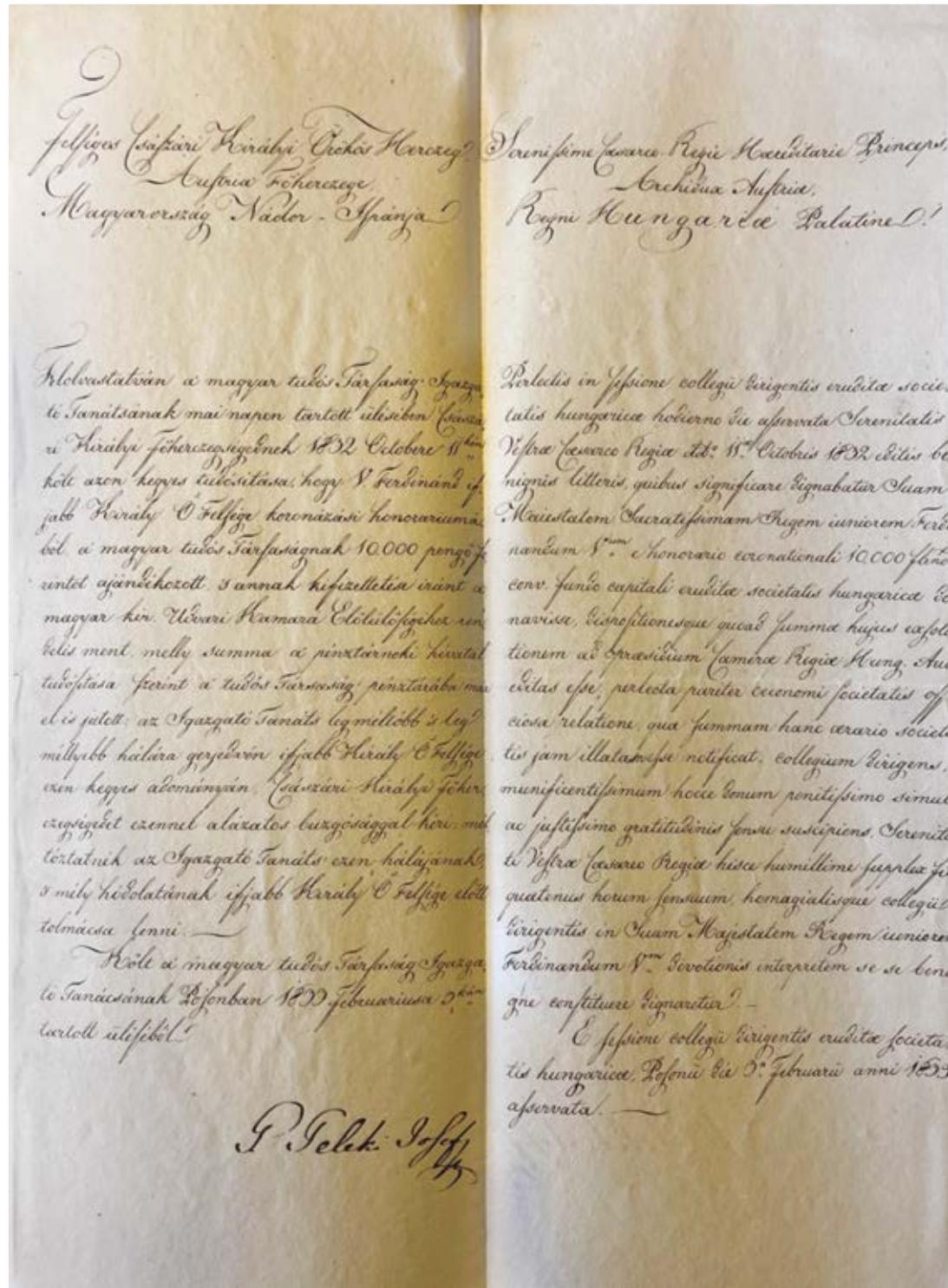
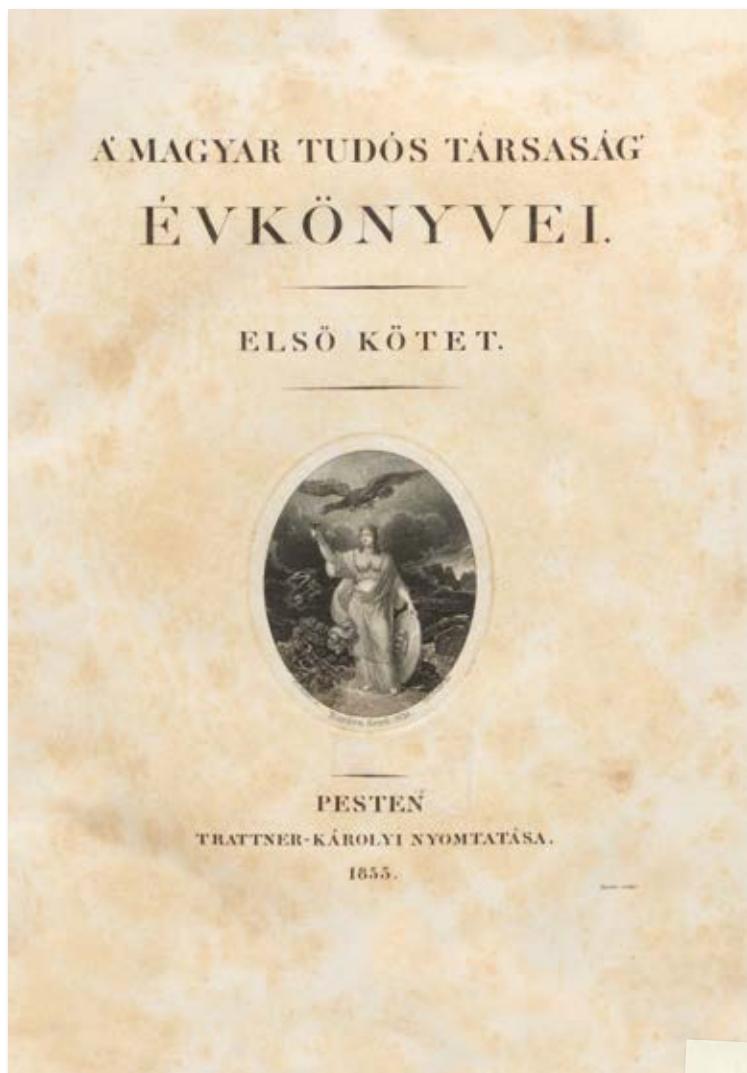


Figure 33. King Ferdinand V the Younger donates 10,000 forints from his coronation gift to the Academy (1833)

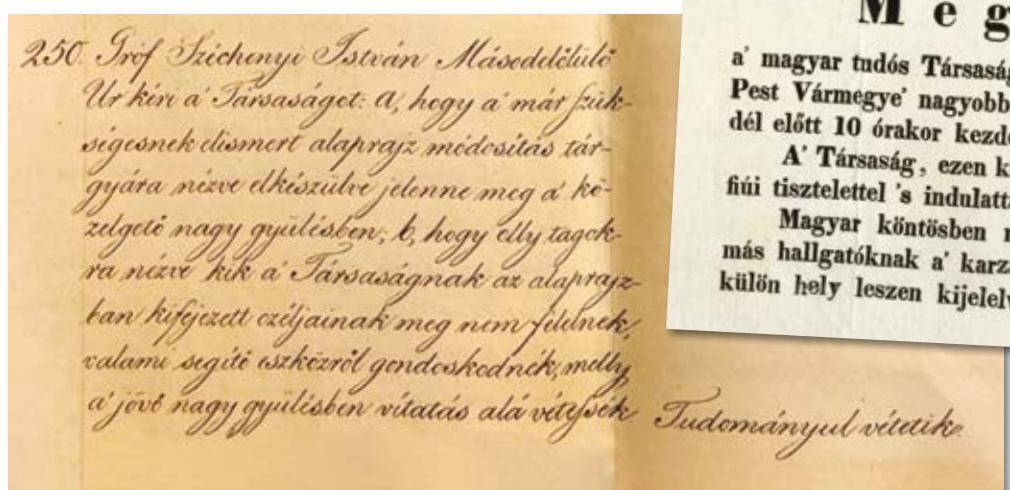


34.

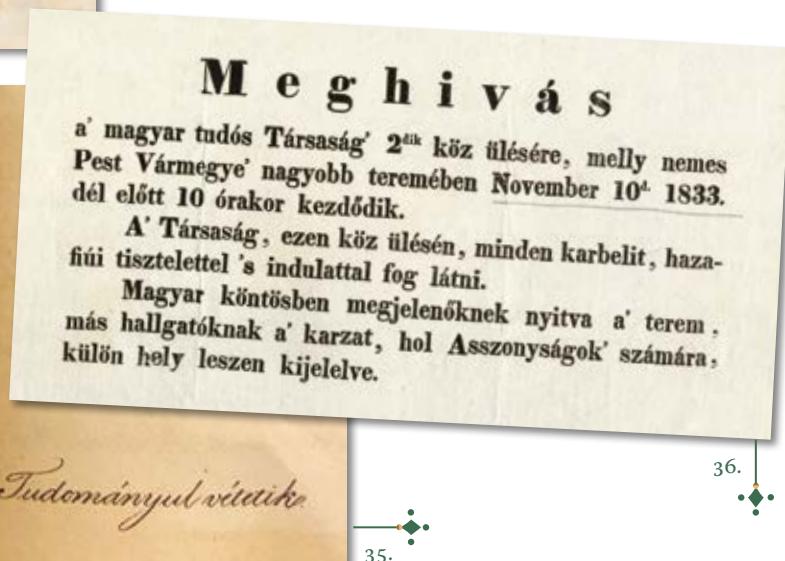
Figure 34. Cover of the Academy's first yearbook, 1833

Figure 35. István Széchenyi's proposal to amend the statutes, 1833

Figure 36. Invitation to the 1833 general assembly of the Academy



35.



36.

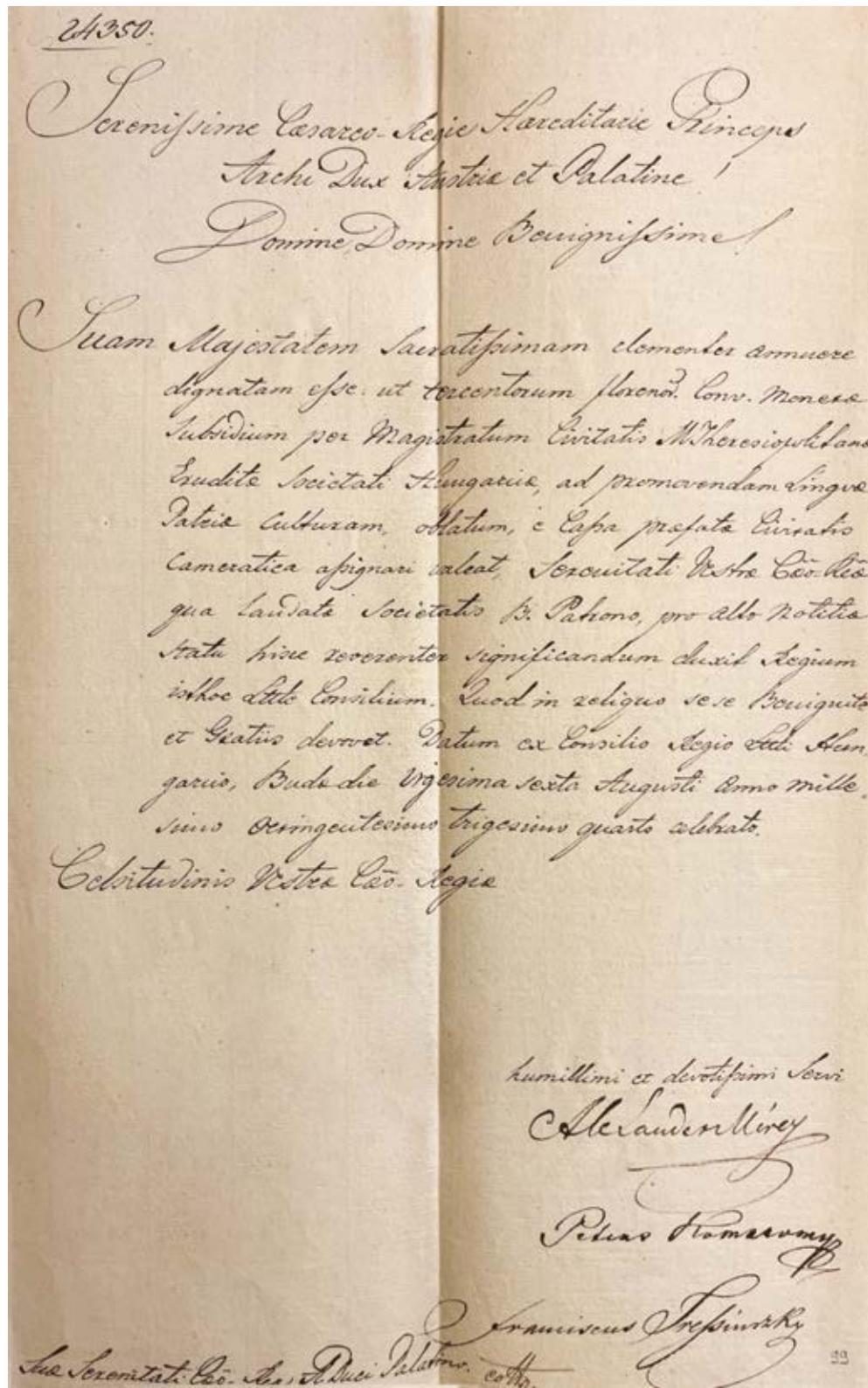


Figure 37. The city of Subotica (Szabadka) donates 300 forints to the Learned Society, 1834

Figure 38. Portrait of Sándor Körösi Csoma. Lithograph by Alajos Rohn after a drawing by József Ágoston Schöfft, 1846



Figure 39. Letter from Sándor Körösi Csoma to Gábor Döbrentei ordering the distribution of fifty copies of his Tibetan-English dictionary (1835)

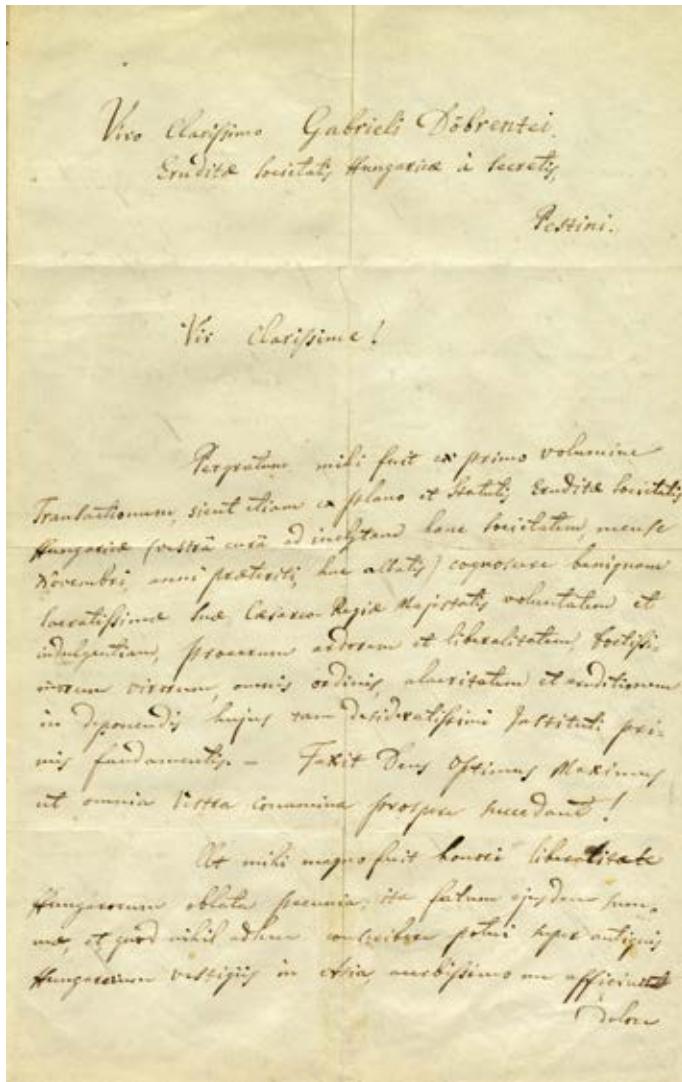


Figure 40. The tomb of Sándor Körösi Csoma with the memorial plaque of the Academy in Darjeeling



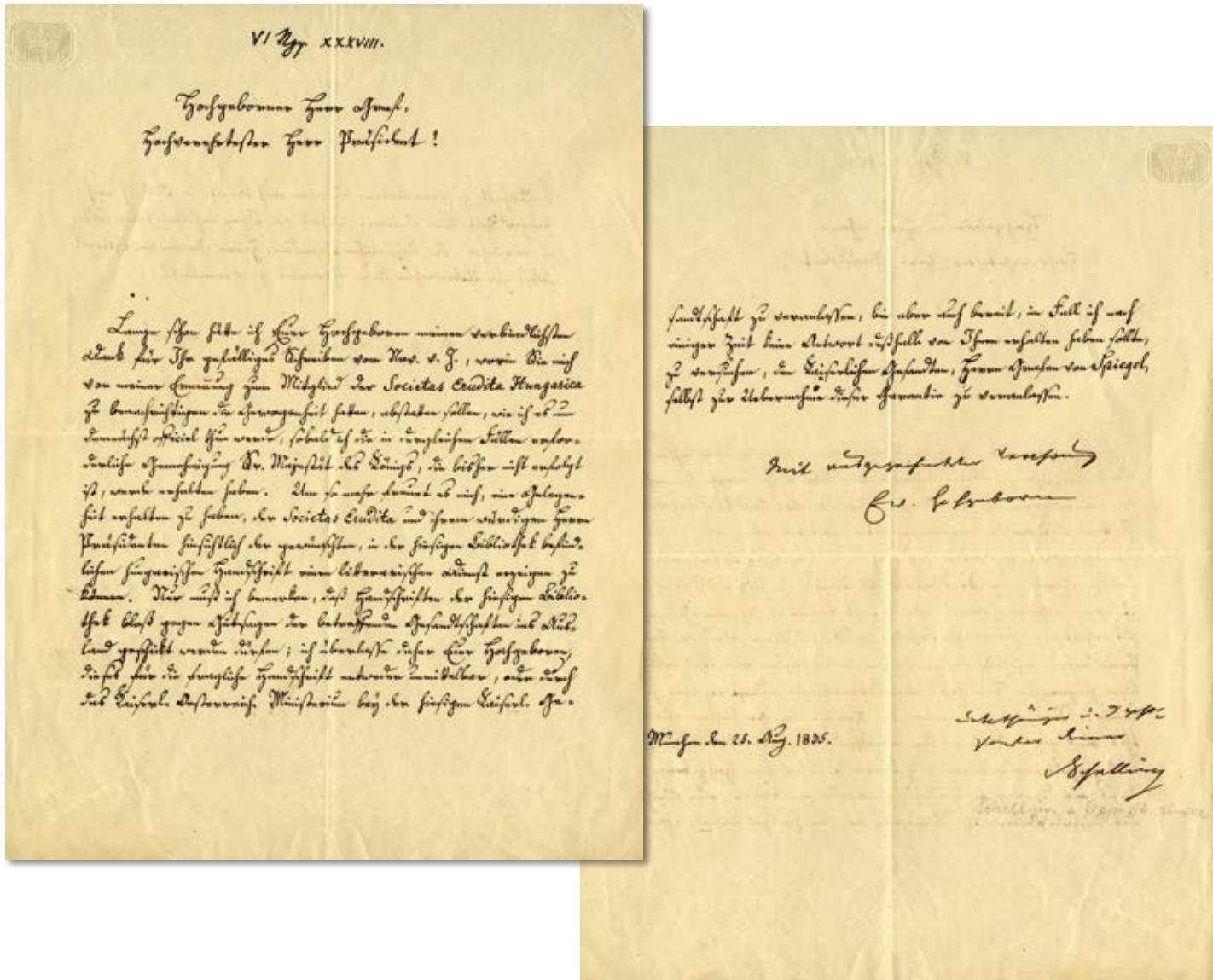


Figure 41. Schelling's letter of thanks to the President of the Academy, 1835

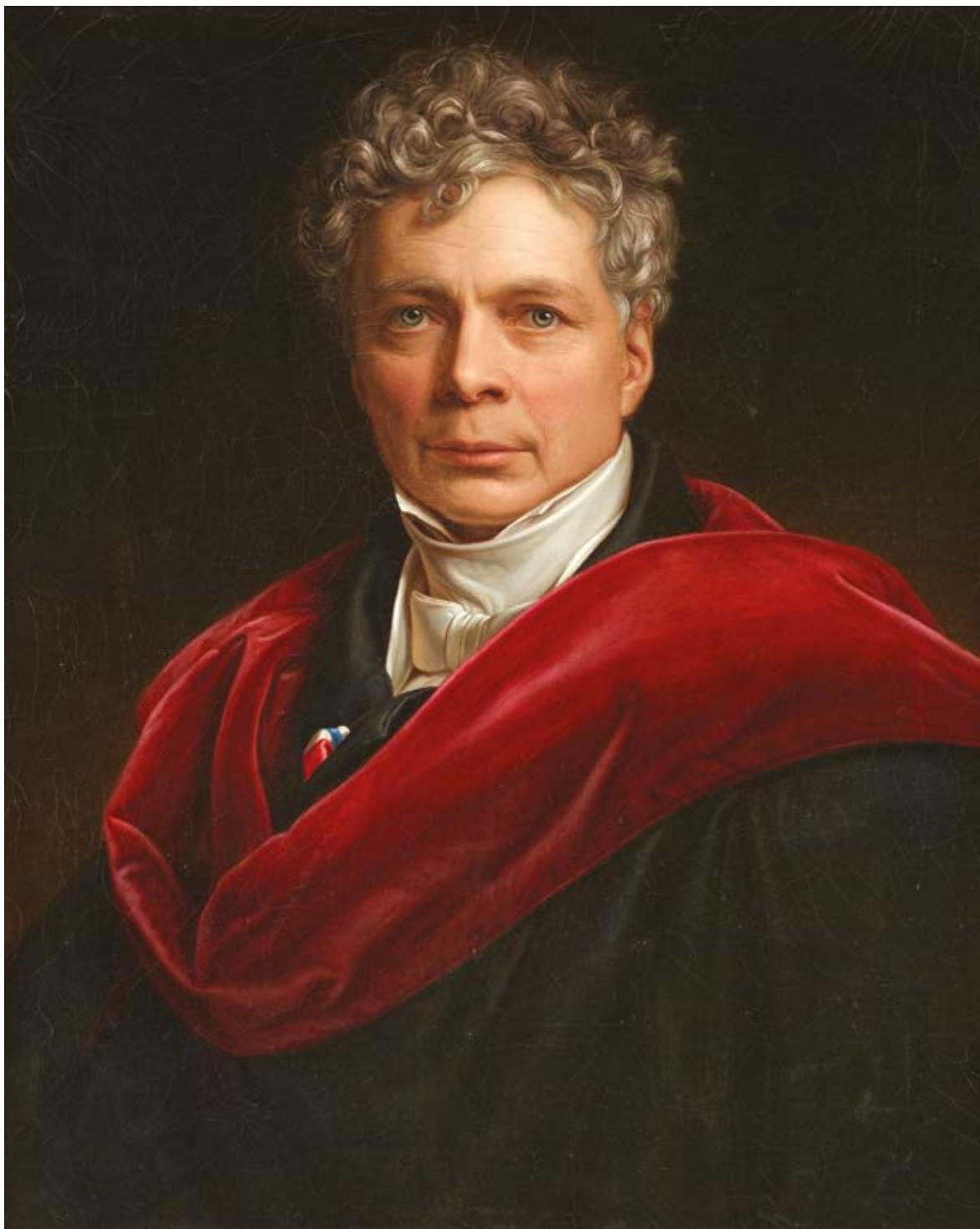


Figure 42. Portrait of the German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Schelling.
Painted by Joseph Karl Stieler in 1835. External member of the Academy from 1834

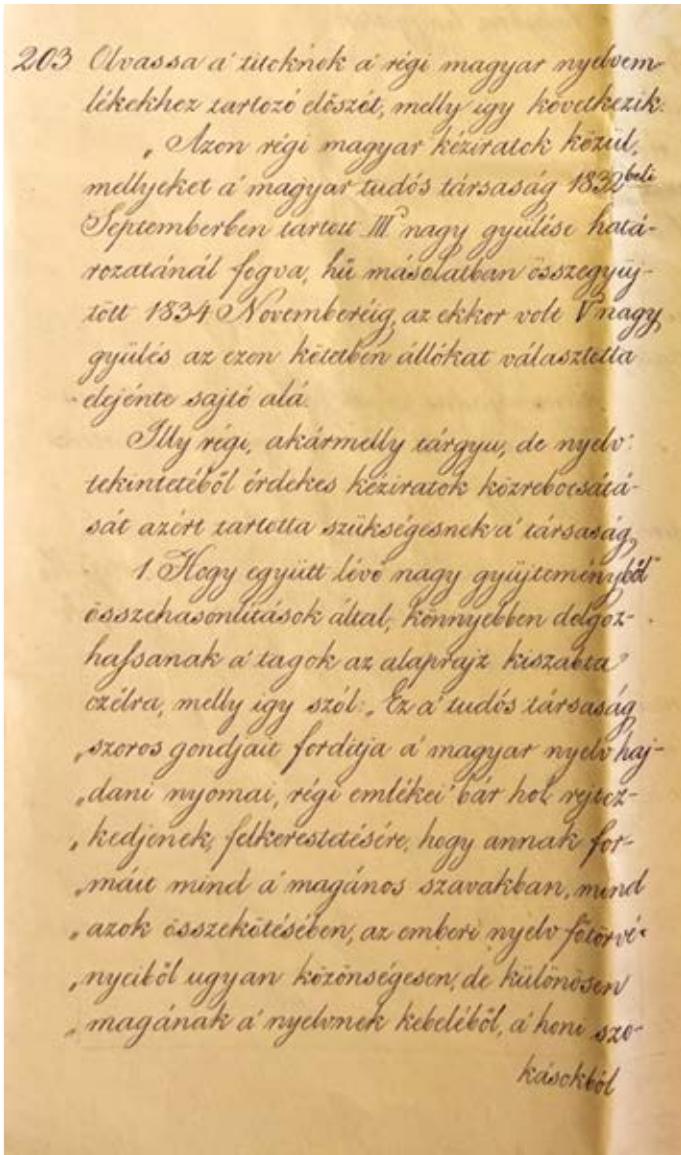


Figure 44. Proposal of the Learned Society for the collection of Hungarian linguistic relics, 1835



Figure 43. Gábor Döbrentei, the Academy's first Secretary. Painting by Mihály Kovács, 1880s



Figure 45. Invitation to the weekly,
so called 'small meetings', 1835

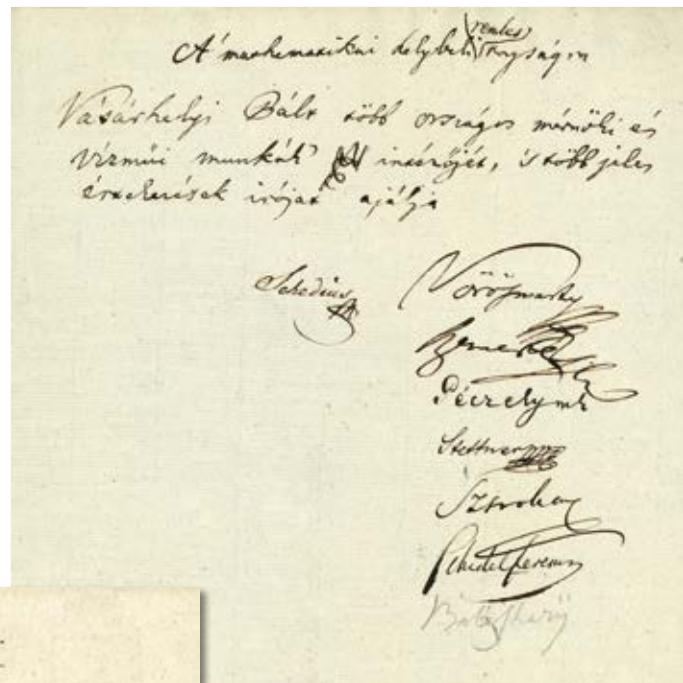


Figure 46. Engineer Pál Vásárhelyi's
recommendation for ordinary mem-
bership, 1838

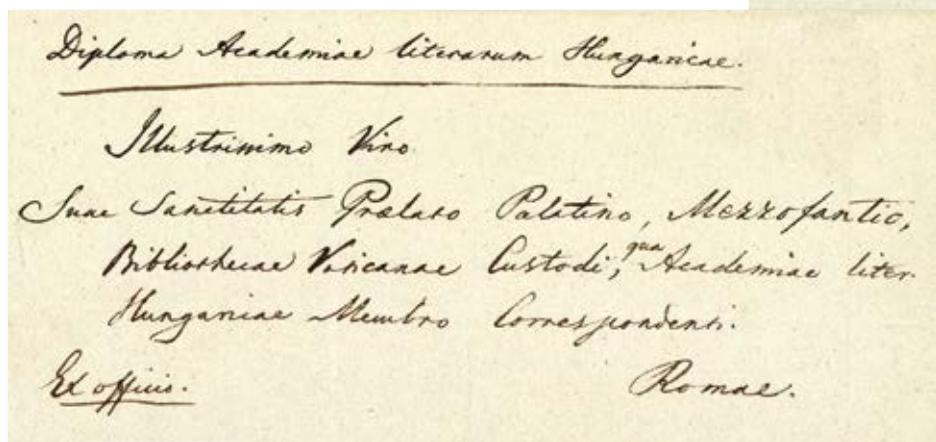


Figure 47. Giuseppe
Gasparo Mezzofanti,
Director of the Vatican
Apostolic Library, is
notified of his election
as an external member,
1837

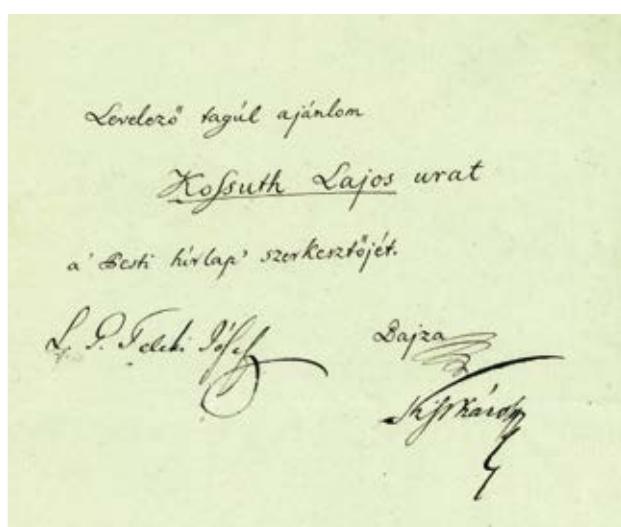


Figure 48. In 1841, Lajos
Kossuth was put forward
for corresponding member-
ship, but the nomination
was unsuccessful

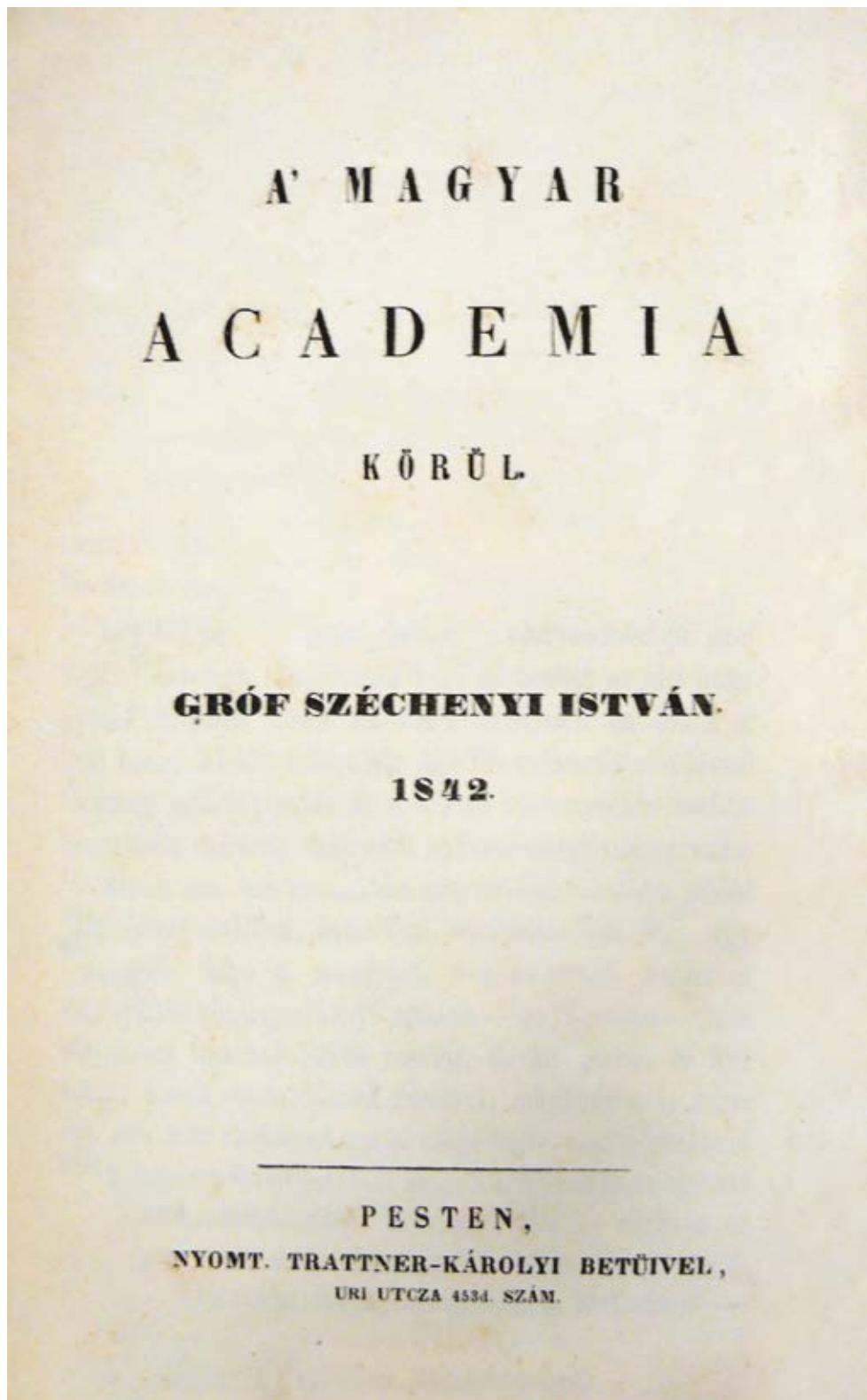


Figure 49. Printed edition of Széchenyi's famous speech, 1842



Figure 50. Obverse of the Vörösmarty chalice, 1842



Figure 51. Reverse of the Vörösmarty chalice bearing an inscription, 1842

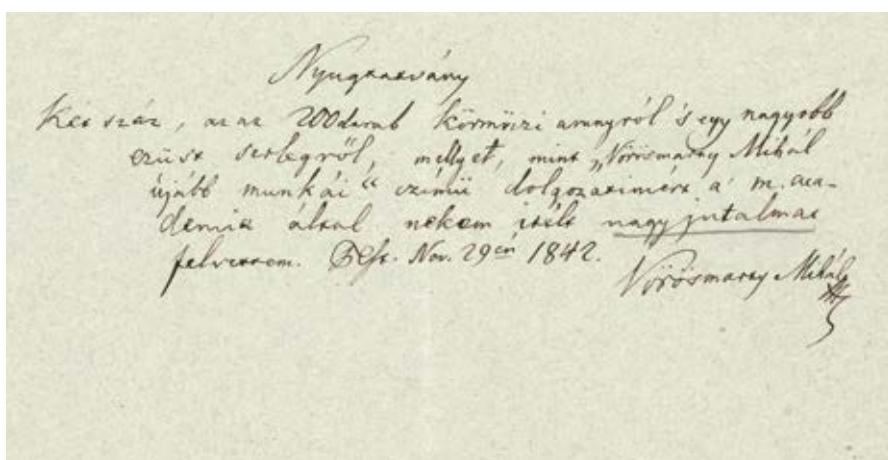


Figure 52. Mihály Vörösmarty's receipt for accepting the award and the chalice, 1842

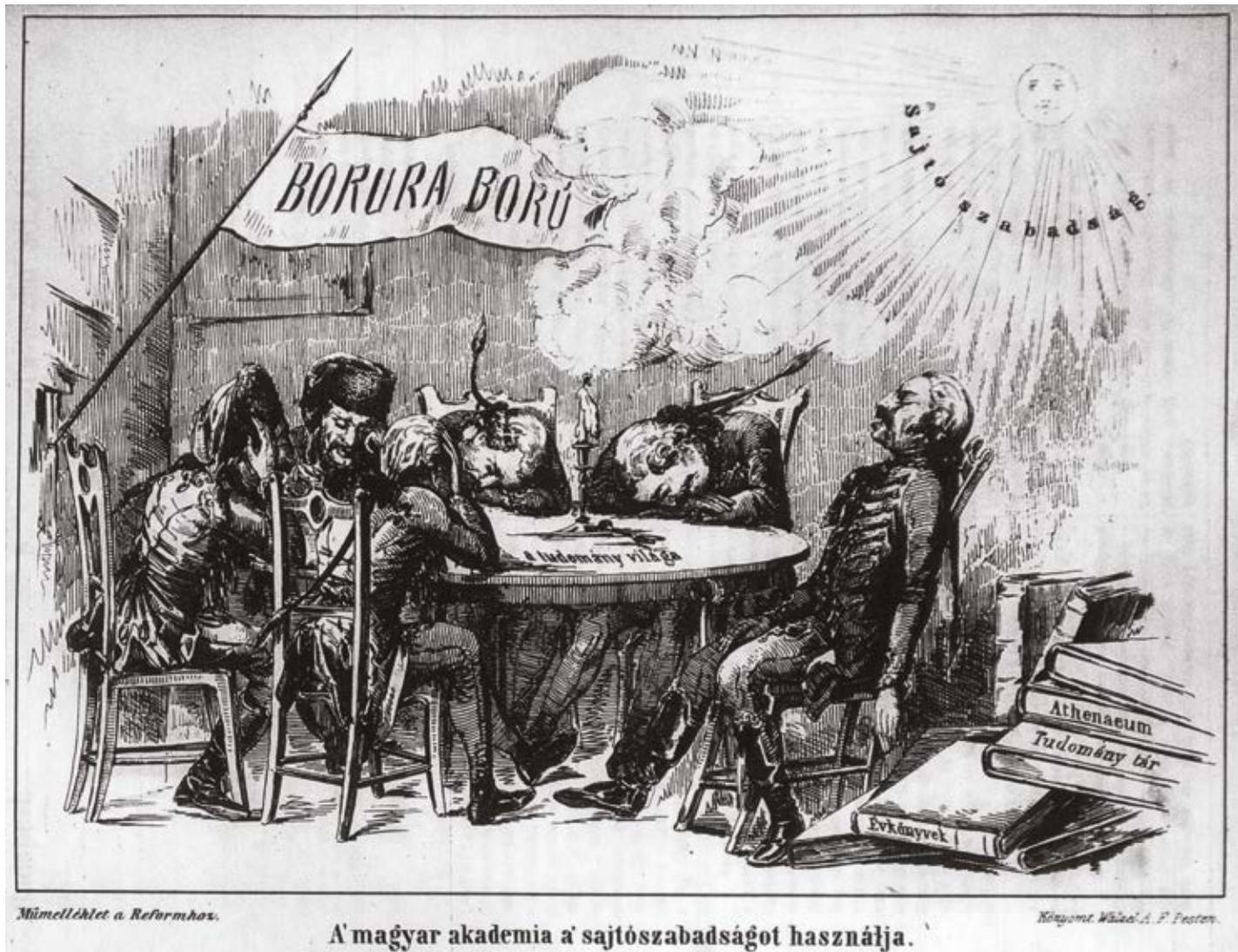


Figure 53. 1848 cartoon in the
Reform newspaper



Figure 54. A caricature by Miklós Szerelmey in the short-lived 1848 issue of the *Dongó* satirical newspaper

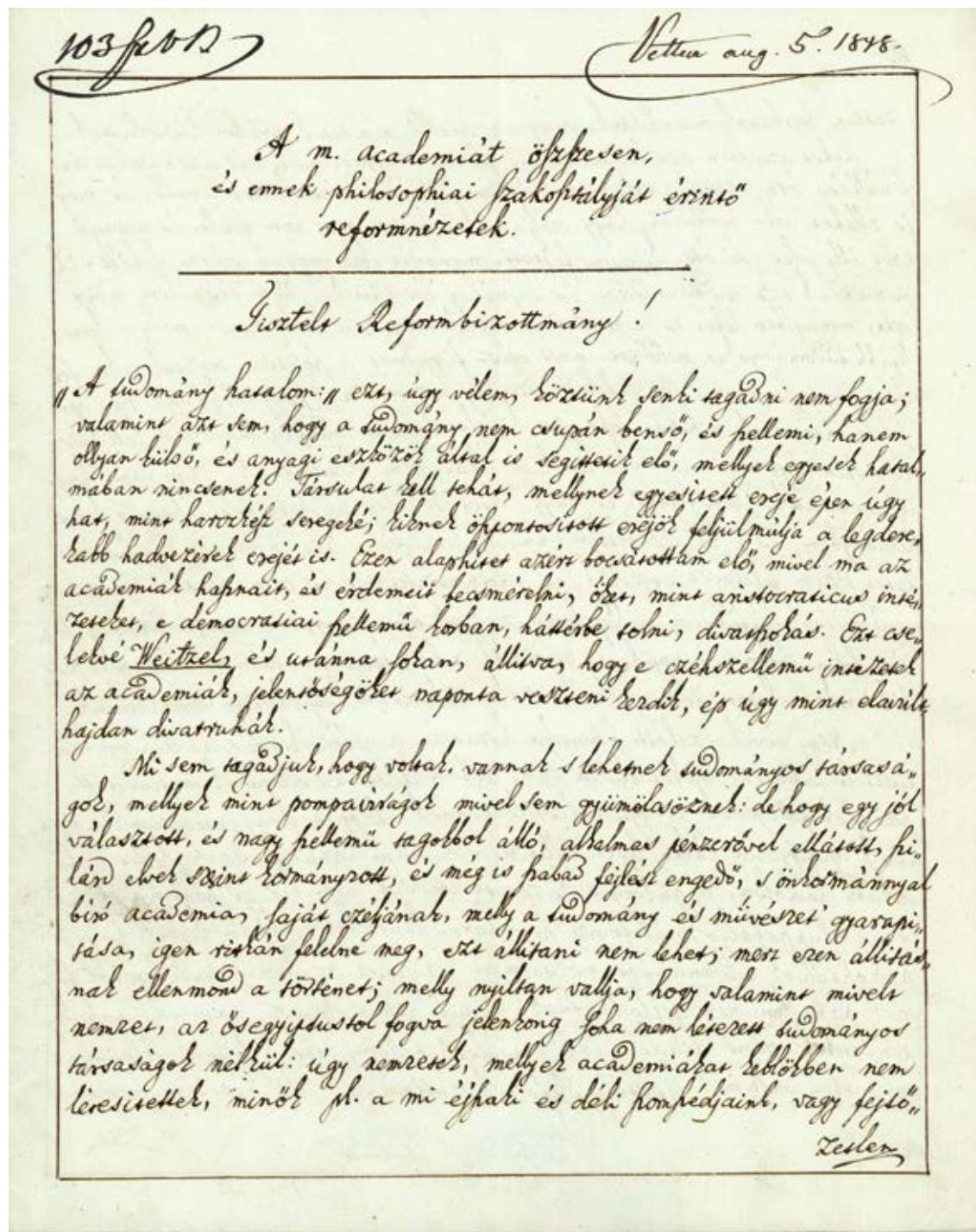


Figure 55. János Hetényi, Reformed pastor and philosopher; ordinary member from 1840; his proposal for the reform of the Academy in 1848

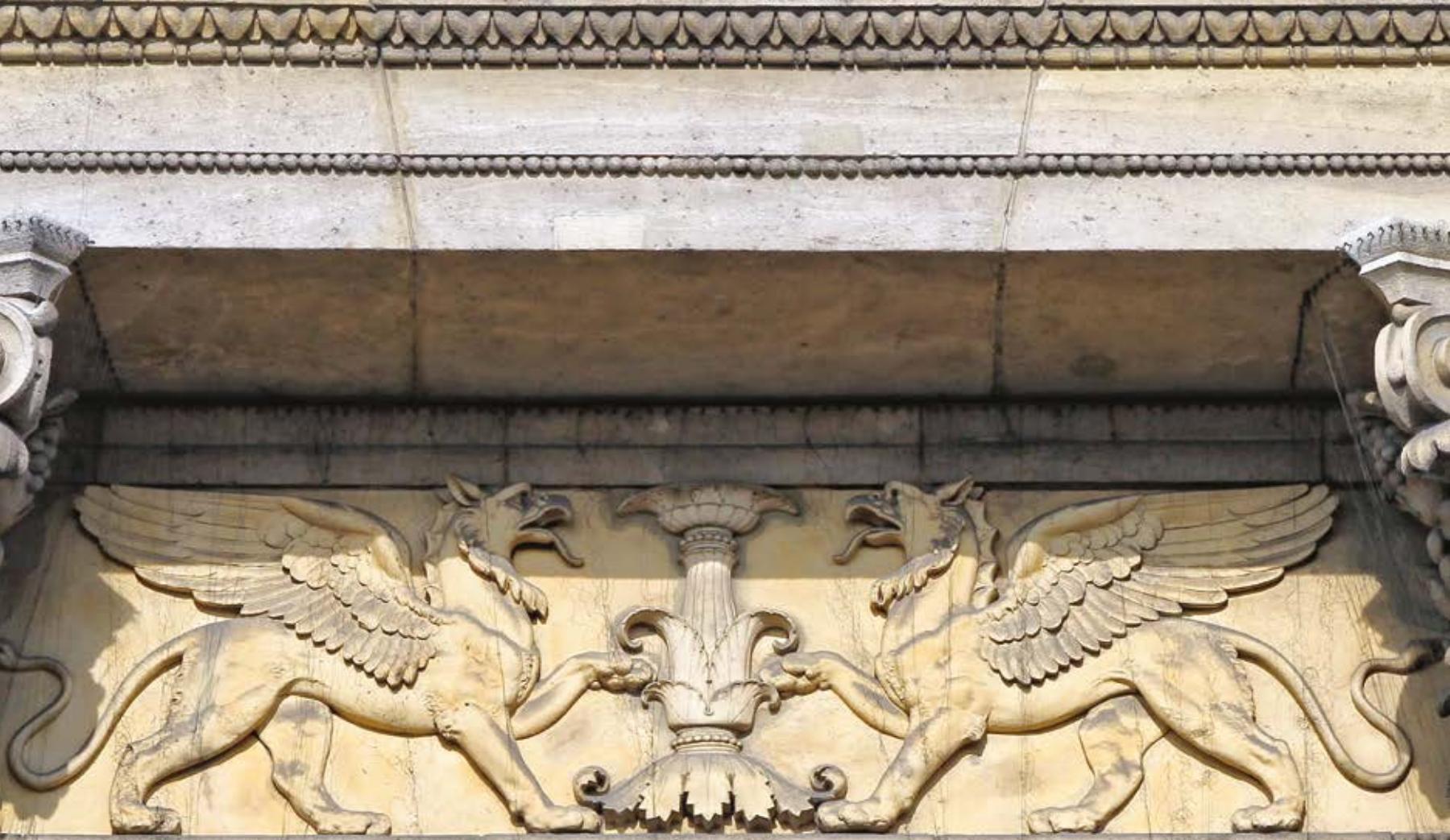
1848.) Ita. f. 1. 1848
Johnson. Visszatérés.
1848. évi Július 20-án körül hí-
varakor kezdetén, hogy csak így elkerül-
jük a tüfekből ölt aratás. Kiválasztás dol-
gozni méri, hogy melyik törököt ölt körül
kifölle leghatékonyabban megbeszélhetőleg,
és ezt kezdetes gyermeklakásoknál vételekkel el-
hagyja végek, kezdetleges latarok, illa-
porban van meg megfejtés. Körzetei közül
nem bár elmaradványai vannak, de ezek semmi ki-
várványt, az alábbiakban szereplőkben
elő sorjábanak megköbbelítéséhez eláll
nem számítanak.

1. dr. M. J. Repressiontól kívül, eredmény-
elhárítás a többi szabadságharcban, szabadságharc-
gyakorlásban, erővel erő fölgy a személyesítésben,
melyi olyanra néz, mint az többi török agya-
nem ilyen minőségi többi olyanok, jelenkor a
járdapagondnagyra ügyelőkkel legalább
három taggal okajtanáni. Repression-
ni, kik a külföldi törökországban kialakított
ügyelők, és a belső törökországban kialakított
felfedezők, rendüggében személyi ügyelők
nemek a törökországban kialakított, ellene-
ségekben lemenekül miniszteri a gyakorlásban
járványt kiválasztandó. Mindekkorának
többsége törökországban kialakított, ellene-

Figure 56. János Balásházy, an agriculturist and an ordinary member since 1830; his proposed changes to the Academy in 1848

From the Defeat of the Hungarian
War of Independence to the
Austro-Hungarian Compromise.
The Decade of Constrained
Operation (1850–1866)

László Szögi



In 1850, it seemed that Count István Széchenyi's pessimism had come true. Following the establishment of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Vienna in 1847, there was a real danger that the neo-absolutist government, seeking to eliminate all Hungarian institutional autonomy, might attempt to merge the Hungarian Academy into its Austrian counterpart. In January 1850, Academy President József Teleki urged the members to commence their work, but many were in internal exile or had fled abroad. Thanks to the intercession of Count György Andrásy, Geringer – the imperial commissioner with full powers over Hungary – granted permission to resume operations, but only under the condition that a commission review the members' activities during the revolution and war of independence, and exclude any who had supported the revolutionary government. To its great credit, the Academy replied with a refusal – a rare act of defiance in those times. In its response to Geringer, it declared: "Since the names, crimes, and degrees of culpability of those who participated in the revolution are unknown – even to the reviewing commission – and as we cannot assume the role of a court, we do not consider ourselves competent to compile a list of those who played a leading or other active role in the revolution." (*The 150-Year History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1825–1975*, Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1975, 88.). Ultimately, Geringer permitted the Academy to hold small assemblies – weekly internal meetings – but forbade it from organising public events. At the same time, the Military Tribunal in Pest investigated members' revolutionary roles and declared only five academicians to be loyal. By this time, the ailing József Teleki could no longer participate in the Academy's affairs, and Vice President Széchenyi was already in Döbling. Leadership thus passed to Count György Andrásy, one of the founders, who acted as de facto president.

Despite these difficult years, the nation did not forget the Academy. Many individuals donated money – large and small – which allowed the institution to publish works for a broader audience. In 1850, the periodical *Új Magyar Múzeum* (*New Hungarian Museum*) was launched, with

the subtitle "Published by several members of the Hungarian Academy." Although more popularising than strictly academic in tone, the journal demonstrated that the Academy was still active and committed to sharing research with the wider public. In 1855, the *Magyar Történelmi Tár* (*Hungarian Historical Review*) was established, with the goal of "advancing the knowledge of historical sources." This important source series continued until World War I. Also among the Academy's notable achievements was the launch, in 1857, of *Monumenta Hungariae Historica* (*Hungarian Historical Memorials*), a four-part source series compiled according to the most up-to-date European editorial standards. Its series titles – *Diplomataria* (Charters), *Scriptores* (Writers), *Comititalia* (Parliamentary Records), and *Acta Exteria* (Diplomatic Records) – represented one of the greatest undertakings in pre-World War I Hungarian historical scholarship. Work on these volumes began under neo-absolutist rule: in 1856, Gusztáv Wenzel was commissioned to survey archives across Hungary, collecting materials that he later published in the *Monumenta* series.

A STATE-SUPERVISED RESTART

Following József Teleki's death, the Board of Directors elected Emil Dessewffy as President in April 1855 and József Eötvös as Vice President. In 1858, the Academy had to adopt a new statute to regain its legal status as a national institution. Under the new statute, the president was to be chosen by the King from among three nominees, and the Governor-General was empowered to appoint new honorary, ordinary, and corresponding members. From this point onward, the official name became the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. On 20 December 1858 – after an eleven-year hiatus – the general assembly reconvened, this time in the National Museum. The event was opened by Emil Dessewffy, a conservative politician but not one aligned with neo-absolutism, marking the beginning of significant changes. As no new members had been elected for a decade, the Academy faced the threat of extinction.



Figure 57. Portrait of Simon Sina, Greek-Austrian diplomat, one of the Academy's main patrons

Consequently, 74 new ordinary, corresponding, and honorary members were elected at once. The Academy thereby rejuvenated itself in both age and composition to an extent never seen before or since. Among the new members were future luminaries in history, literature, and science: Arnold Ipolyi, Ferenc Salamon, Ágost Greguss, Mór Jókai; scientists such as József Szabó, József Stoczek, István Kruspér, and soon after, Károly Than. Ányos Jedlik and János Arany were immediately made ordinary members. János Erdélyi was also elected at this time, honoured for his contributions to the study of folk poetry.

In the years leading up to the Compromise of 1867, financial support for the Academy grew significantly. Replacing the old aristocratic patrons, wealthy members of the Viennese and Pest bourgeoisie offered substantial donations. Church dignitaries – bishops and canons – also joined the list of supporters. The most notable of these was Simon Sina, a Greek-born landowner and diplomat based in Vienna who had been ennobled as a baron. His 80,000-forint donation came with an eloquent letter expressing his hope that the Academy might soon operate from its own worthy headquarters:

“Science is power [...] through its radiant torch, it gradually dispels the mists of ignorance and prejudice in the intellectual and moral world. It cultivates reason, ennobles the heart, leads toward the understanding and appreciation of truth, and simultaneously helps to remedy the ills arising from social shortcomings.” (Simon Sina's letter of donation, Library and Archives of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, RAL 184/1858.)

This ornate sentence is worth quoting to capture the spirit of the age and the sincere enthusiasm that surrounded the Academy's revival as a national institution. In 1861, Ferenc Toldy was succeeded as Secretary by László Szalay, whose tenure brought substantial changes to the institution. Notably, the new leadership rejected romantic nationalism in favour of the unity of national and universal science.

Tehintetés magyar tudós Társaság!

A tudomány hatalom, oly hatalom, mely az
újrat kultúrásai s tudományai által a
telket természet felett virágzik minden
től s több győzelmet s azt mintegy add
szájára tess, más újrat finnyt aravat
szérvitneknél fogva, a szellemi s erkölcsei
vileg tan szintűggy szívtörökben lepzen.
Kint a tudományos s elítételek hősei,
minden ar családot fogni, a szív nem
síti, a Valónak megismerésére s meg
kutatására véd, ugyanamint a tarsa
szalmi húnyokból származó bájkat is
erősölja, s ekip egynél, nemzetet s vég
re ar ejtő emberei nemet azen téhely-
s boldogságra kípes emelni, melyben
az Akadémia erős teremtményeit adomá-
nyai által, ha ezzel kelleleg éni tud
nak is akarnak, e földön részvítene
kivánta. Ez ottól tartatának a tud
ományosat elmerítő orkérök s intéz-
mények mivoltból nemzedéknél, régi
s újabb időkben, mindenkor kor fe
gyelme is különös pártolásra mel
tőknak. Ide sorozható a magyar
akadémia is, melyet akadémikus el-
ső hengerek, bőcs uralkodók helyeslíté

si pártfogelisa mellett tisztelettel, s
melynek alapozásával hagyatlan
most uralkodó felszíges Széjedelmünk is
székhelyesből megérteni mítosz-
tatott. Ezért újra ismét gyarapításá-
hoz kivánunk részünket is járulni, a
régi, hogy az akadémia saját, hozzá
illő lakásból annál hamarabb teljesen
száll, nyolcvanra pengő forintot von-
tunk oly módon, mint azt ide mel-
tik aki alapító tiszteletére tartja.

Mellőzésük a Tehintetés Társaság
a ajánlatomat s ugyanamint abban
örzinte kiválasztomat szívesen fogadni,
hogy e tudományos intézet működését
a nemzet érdekeiben, mentális fejleszté-
séker körözönne!

Különös tisztelettel

A Tehintetés Társaság

Bics Augustus 1858

aláírás szolgája.

Baro Sina Adalbert

Figure 58. Letter from Simon Sina regarding his donation of 80 thousand forints in 1858

In 1859, the Academy commemorated the 100th anniversary of Ferenc Kazinczy's birth with a grand celebration. The following year, it mourned the death of its founder, István Széchenyi. During this period, the Academy's international relations expanded considerably. While it was not yet fully engaged in the emerging international scientific collaborations, it began exchanging publications with foreign institutions and elected numerous world-renowned scholars as honorary members – including Alexander von Humboldt, Michael Faraday, Robert Bunsen, John Frederick William Herschel, François Guizot, Elias Lönnrot and Ernest Renan. Interestingly, Faraday responded with a letter in English, while Bunsen replied in Latin. Around this time, Ignác Semmelweis sent a copy of his book on puerperal fever to the Academy's library.

At that time, the Academy was already in a financial position to provide support for research activities carried out abroad: in 1861, it awarded 1,050 forints to the orientalist Ármin Vámbéry for his oriental expedition. In 1862, the first volume of a project initiated back in 1844 was finally published: *The Dictionary of the Hungarian Language* by Gergely Czuczor and János Fogarasi. The Benedictine monk and jurist-linguist duo created an explanatory dictionary of Hungarian which was a pioneering work in its time.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ACADEMY'S HEADQUARTERS

In the early 1860s, preparations began for a permanent and imposing building to house the Academy. Fundraising had already begun in 1858, and enthusiasm was overwhelming: entrepreneurs, city dwellers, craftsmen, students, and even peasants contributed to the noble cause. Several architects were invited to submit designs, including Miklós Ybl, Imre Henszlmann, and the Prussian court architect Friedrich August Stüler. Ultimately, the Academy selected Stüler's Neo-Renaissance design. The building was completed in 1865 and inaugurated on 11 December of that year. The

President, already gravely ill, could not attend the ceremony, and the following year, József Eötvös was elected to replace him. Following the death of László Szalay, the new Secretary General, poet János Arany, moved into the building, although he only received the Secretary's residence in 1867. It would take several more years to fully furnish and decorate the palace. The list of participants at the Academy's January 1865 general assembly is revealing: the great names of Hungarian literature, the social sciences, and the natural sciences appear together – a rare constellation. Even Emperor Franz Joseph attended the inauguration ceremony, symbolically foreshadowing the new political era to come with the Compromise of 1867.

But this new era would also bring fresh and increasingly complex challenges for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



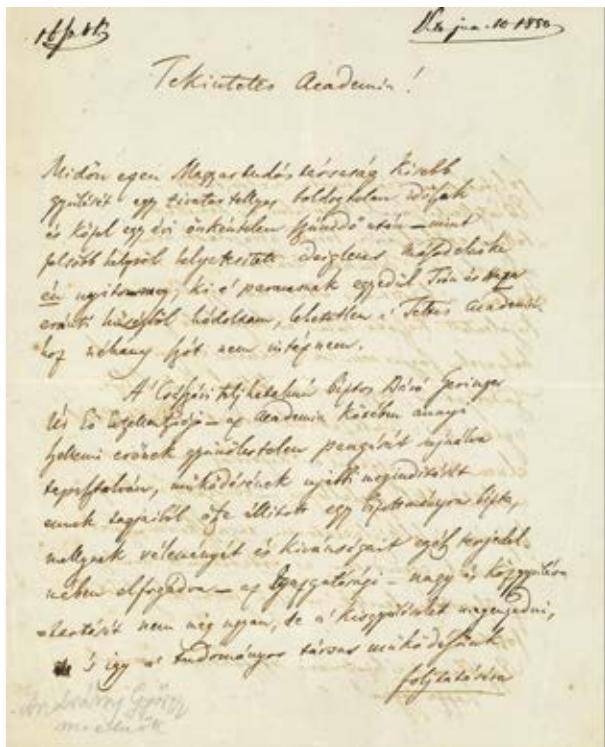


Figure 59. György András served as Vice President until April 1855. Pollák Brothers' Stone Printing Works, 1863

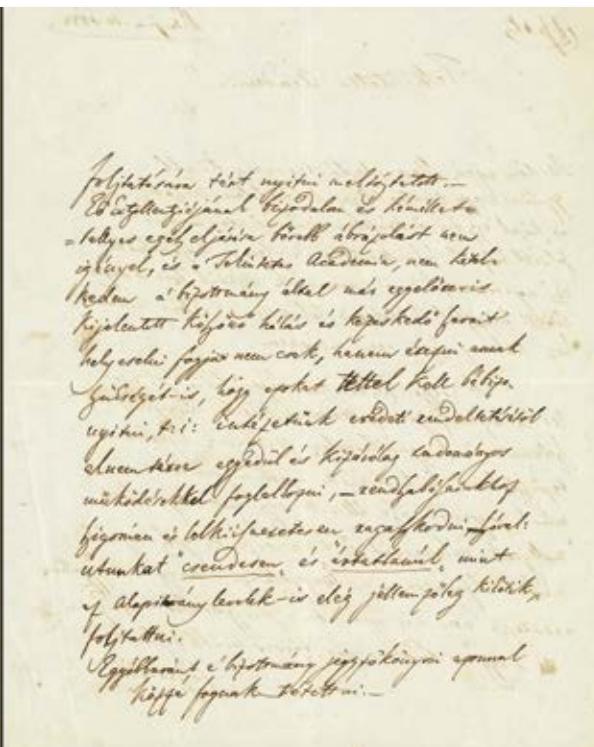


Figure 6o. Letter from György Andrásy to the members of the Academy regarding the resumption of operations, 1850

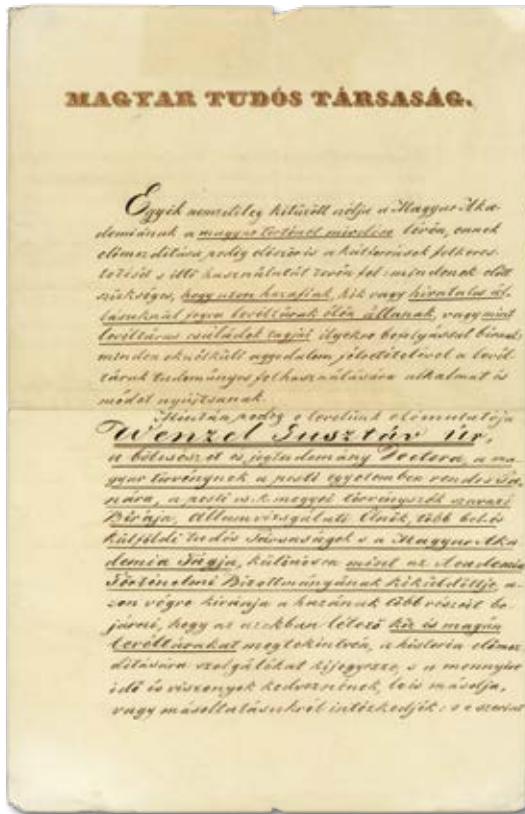


Figure 61. Letter of recommendation from the Academy to Gusztáv Wenzel for assistance with research in public and private archives



Figure 62. Report of the *Pesti Napló* on the launch of the *Monumenta Hungariae Historica* series, 1857



Figure 63. Report of the *Budapesti Hirlap* on the first general assembly of the Academy after an 11-year break, 1858

Figure 64. A detailed account of the 1858 general assembly published in the *Magyar Futár* newspaper in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár)

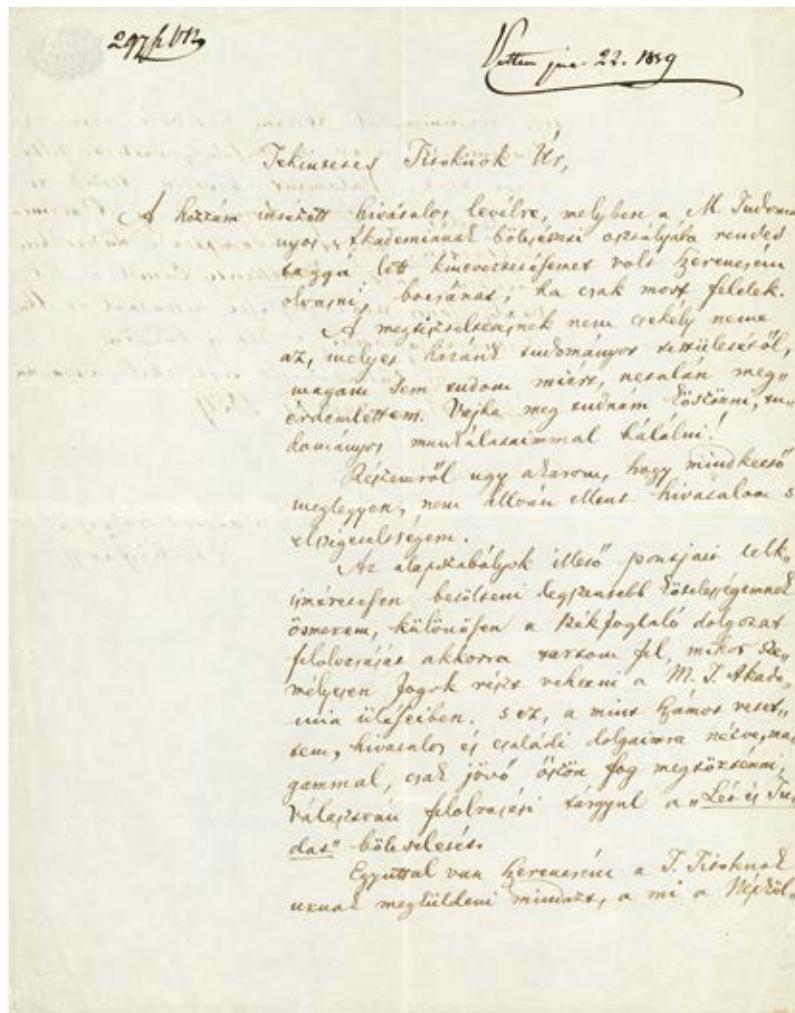


Figure 65. János Erdélyi's letter regarding his election as an ordinary member, 1859

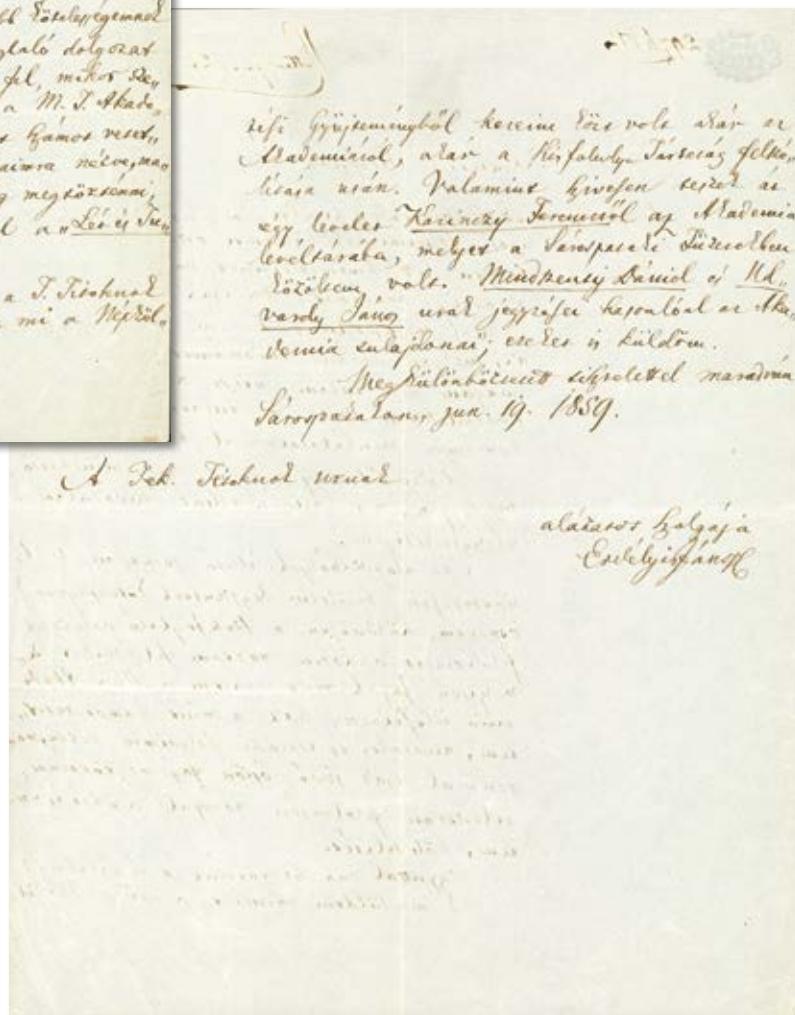


Figure 66. Notification of the Kazinczy Celebration by Ferenc Toldy, 1859

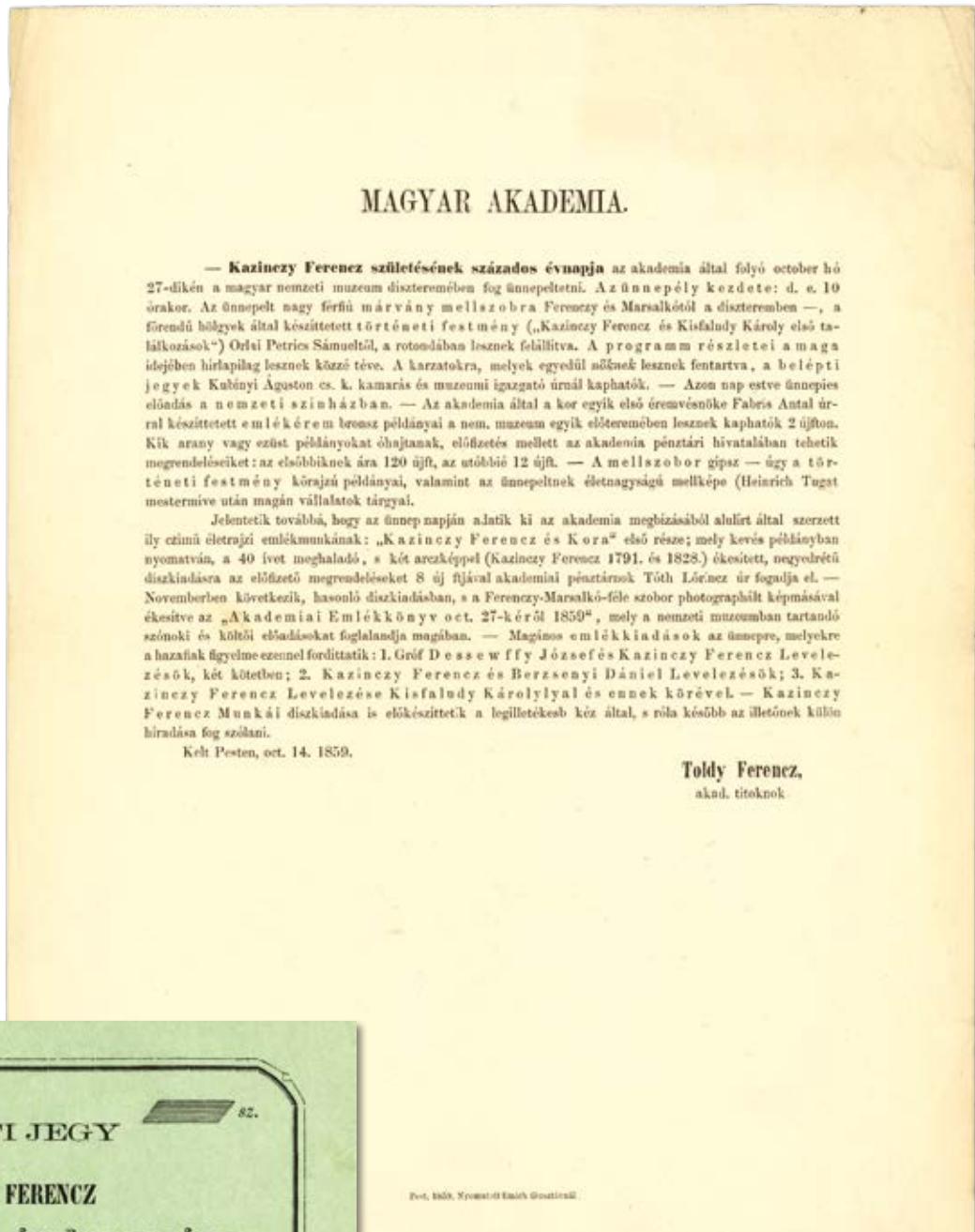


Figure 67. Admission ticket to the Academy's Kazinczy celebration, 1859



Figure 68. Reverse and obverse of the Kazinczy Medal awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Designed by Antonio Fabris, 1859

Figure 69. Celebration of the 100th anniversary of Ferenc Kazinczy's birth, 27 October 1859. Lithograph from the fine art printing house of Károly Werfer, 1860



Figure 70. Portrait of Michael Faraday, a British physicist and chemist who was an external member of the Academy

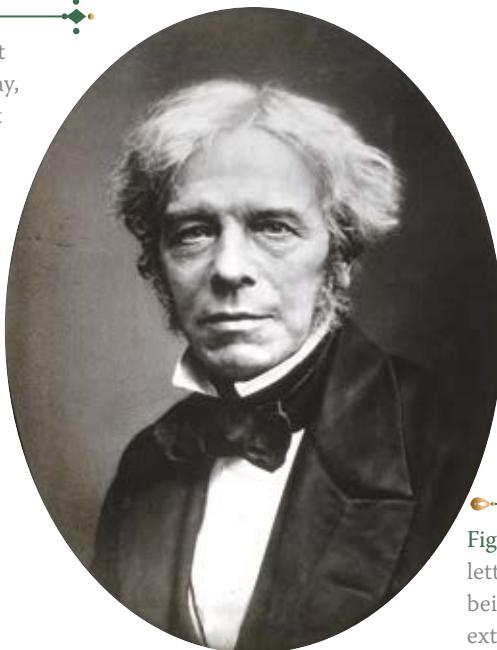


Figure 71. Faraday's letter of thanks upon being elected as an external member in 1859

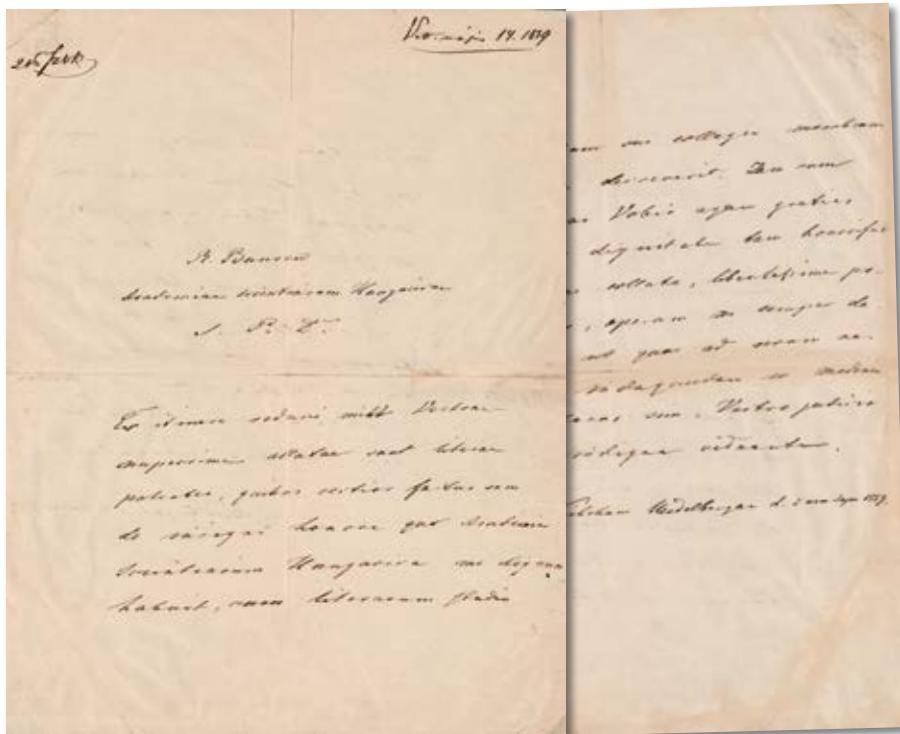
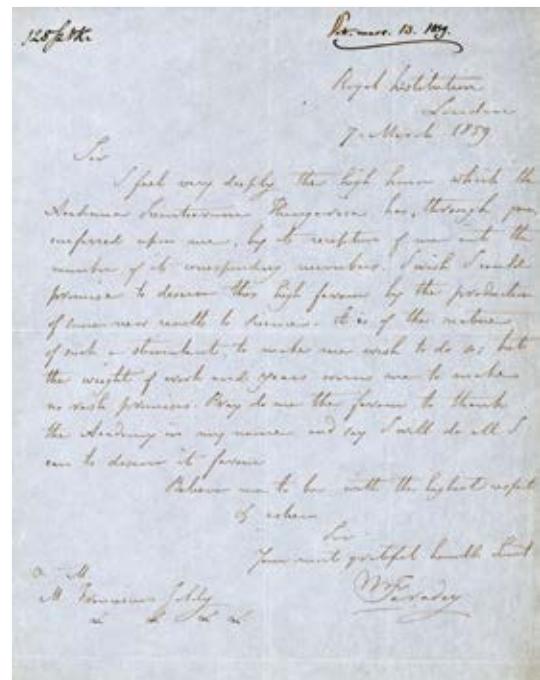


Figure 72. Letter of thanks from Bunsen on his election as an external member (1859)



Figure 73. Portrait of German chemist and external member of the Academy, Robert Bunsen

Ireszám 650

Ívtartó neve és lakhelye
Dr. Lechner Mihály
felszolgálatos műegyetemi tanár

Aláírási-Ív.

Ázon ezéből, hogy a magyar Akadémia egy diszes és tiszességes saját lakra tehessen szert, hogy továbbá vagyonra üregbedvén, tudományosságunk és irodalmunk emelésére bővebb anyagi eszközökről rendelkezessék, aláírtak az alább kitért sommákat ajánlották és fizettek bék a fenn említett ívtartó őrnak, melyeket az Akadémia Igazgató Tanácsa rendelkezése alá bocsátjva ezennel, azokról a pénzütnöki nyugtalványt elvárják.

Hónap	Nap	Év- szám		Akademiai vagyon öreg- bitáre	Akademiai lak építésre
				Ausztr. ért. fl.	Ausztr. ért. fl.
Janu	22	1860	Lechner Mihály	5fl.	5fl.
			Torváth Sándor	-	5fl.
			Borovszky József	-	10fl.
			Fazekas Vilmos	-	34fl.
			Hornáth János	-	10fl.
			Baranyai László M.	-	5fl.
			a Nagyvárosi Szabadiságos Országgyűlés tanácsa	100	
			Kreszay Pál	-	10fl.
			Borsig János	-	10 fl. fürt
			Horváth János	-	3fl.
			Ejrató Károly Károlyi János	-	5fl.
			Gávrona Vilmos	-	2 flor.
			Perusz Ádám	-	5fl. 40kr.
			Mátyás István	-	5fl.
			Drum Sándor Béla	-	5fl.
			Nádasdy János	-	1fl.
			M. Szathmári	-	10.
			Farkas János orvosbátor	5fl. 60kr.	5fl. 60kr.
			Zulch Imre magiszter	-	5fl. 00kr.
MUTÁN TUDOMÁNYOS AKADEMIA ALÁÍRÁSA				Összesen 216fl.	Mihály Lechner
Jegyzések:					
1. Ez a MTA Akadémiai Képviselői Képviselői, vezető mellett 1860-ik Január 15-ig békéltetni kérőt. Posonyba.					
2. A lefizetett összegek, ugyan addig által Pestiára, Táth Lőrincz őrök, Pestre (aritásza, Trautner-küldj. hiz.) általak postán küldeni.					

Figure 74. Signature sheet for donations to the new Academy building, 1860



Figure 75. Certificate of Károly Than's election as a corresponding member, 1860

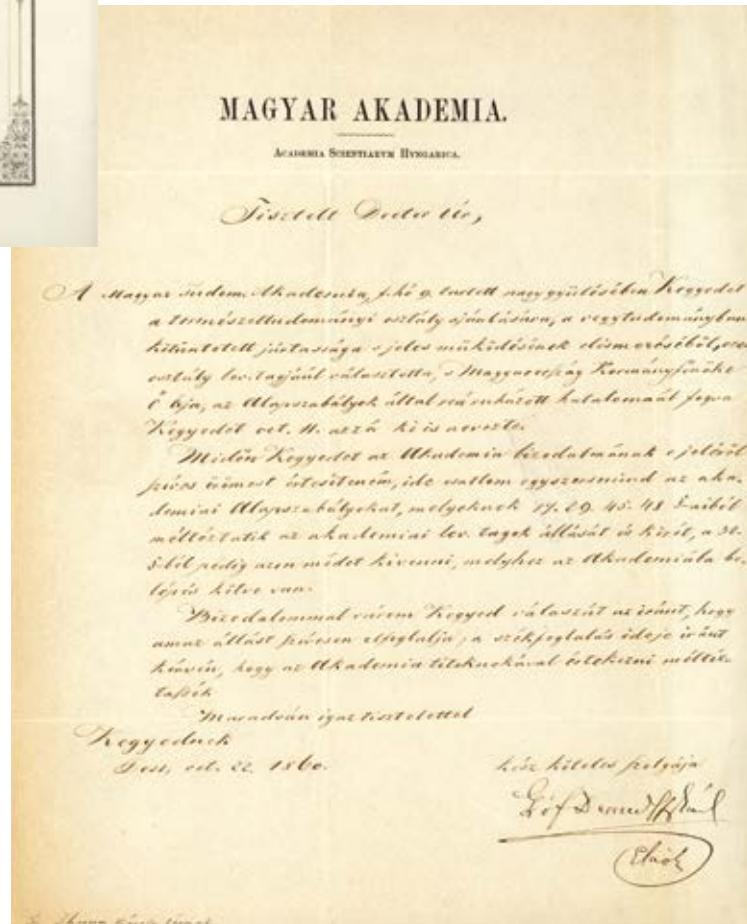


Figure 76. Letter from the President of the Academy to Károly Than, 1860

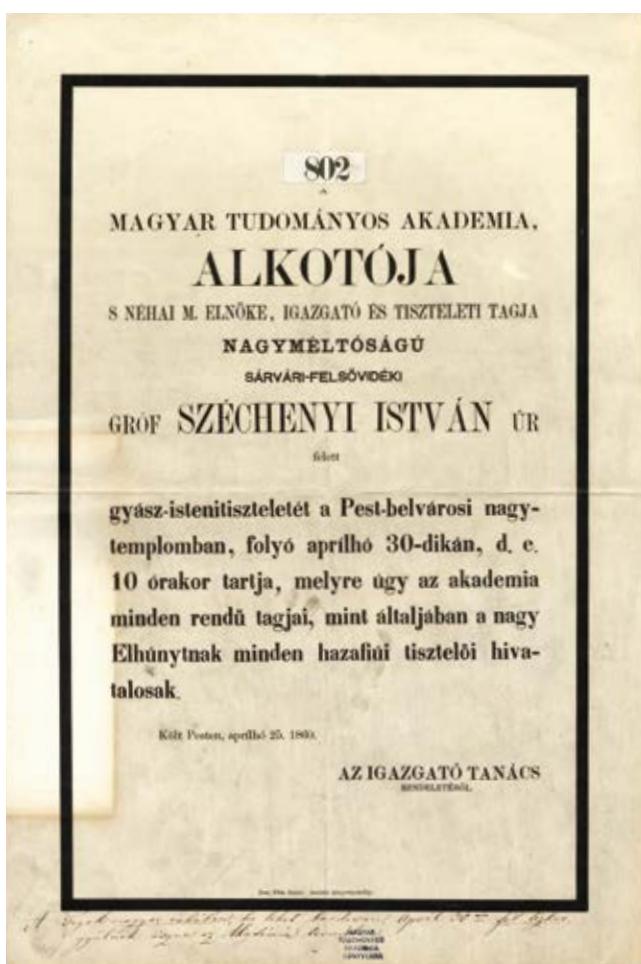


Figure 77. Obituary of István Széchenyi, 1860



Figure 78. Engagement portrait of the obstetrician and gynaecologist Ignác Semmelweis. Watercolour by Ágost Canzi, 1857

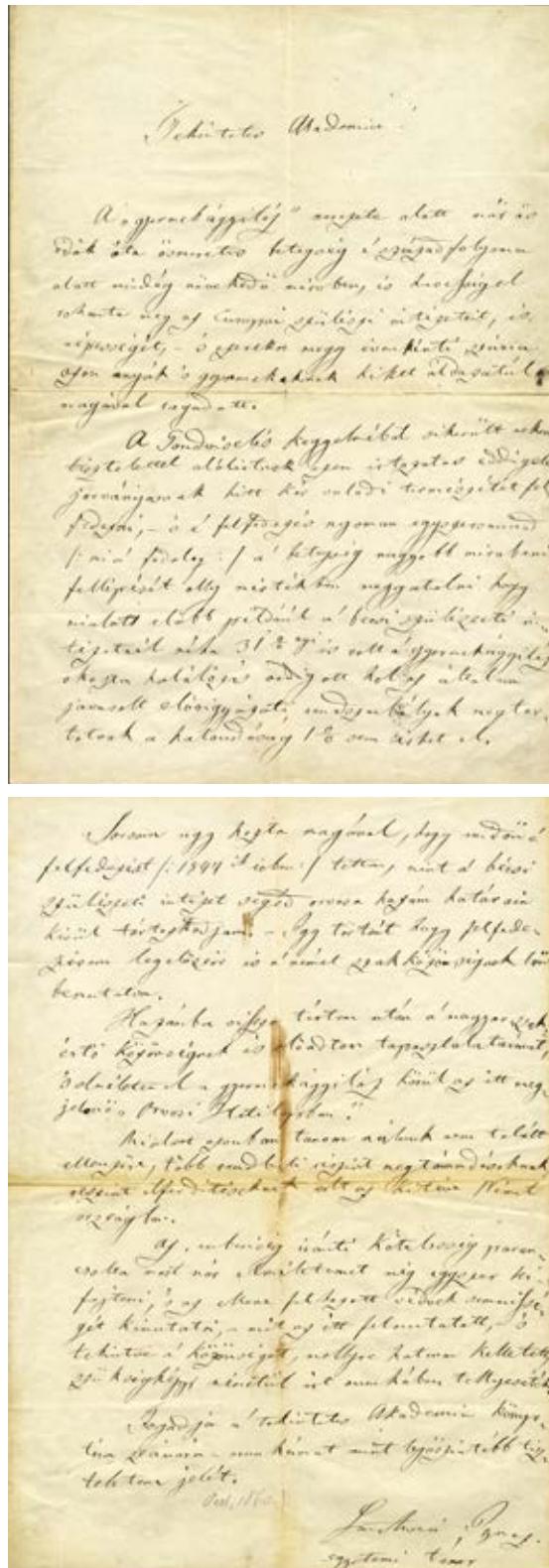


Figure 79. Semmelweis sends his work on puerperal fever to the Academy Library, 1860

80.
•♦•
Knygta.

Sedt környékem, vagy avon 1
forintot, melytől a M. Akadémia
egyletsének határozatban meghoz-
tunk, melyből körönművel felvezet

Pest Aug. október 1861.

1000 Ft.
/

Mind erublter Observations an
brechende Polysialen zit. Schlesinger
Sollas. Beobachtet gefundenen, hingegen
a. epi. Stütze allgemeinigkeits Rücksicht

azaz, aztól kezdve mindegyik
van hozzá, bárminelyik bába,
mindegyik arra teljes öröklésben
hozzávaló egyszerűbbé válik. E
szintén mindegyik bába
s melegházat ar a bába bátorítására
igen akarunk. Helytelen vannak
az öröklési jogok török bátorítására
szorosan. Így a jogok bátorítására
helytelen az napjainkban minden
a török bátorításban mindegyik
bába megszűnik. Körülbelül ekkor
egy jöldömnélküli bátorításban

600, var. 3, 1867

Ernesto Gargallo
Federico Luis

A MAGYAR NYELV
SZÓTÁRA.

A MAGYAR TUDOMÁNYOS AKADEMIA MEGBIZÁSÁBOL

KÖSÖTETTEK

PEST.
EMICH GÜSETAV MAGYAR AKADEMIAI KÖNYVOSZÁLLÍTÁS
1869

81.

Figure 8o. Report by Gergely Czuczor and János Fogarasi on the progress of the *Dictionary of the Hungarian Language*, 1860

Figure 81. Title page of the first volume of the *Dictionary of the Hungarian Language*, 1862

Figure 82. Ármin Vámbéry's receipt for the academic support provided for his Eastern journey, 1861



Figure 83. Imre Henszlmann architect's design for the future headquarters of the Academy, 1861

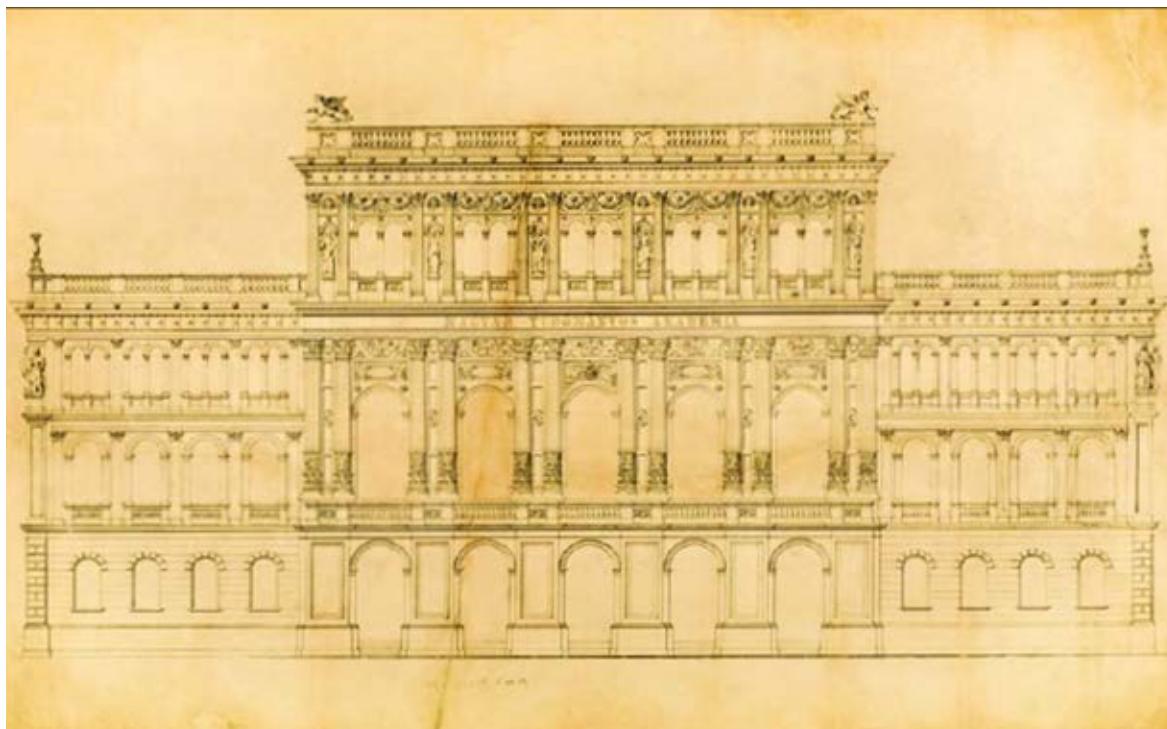


Figure 84. Friedrich August Stüler's design for the headquarters' façade, which was later realised, 1864



Figure 85. Friedrich August Stüler's plan for the new Academy building. Woodcut by Zsigmond Pollák

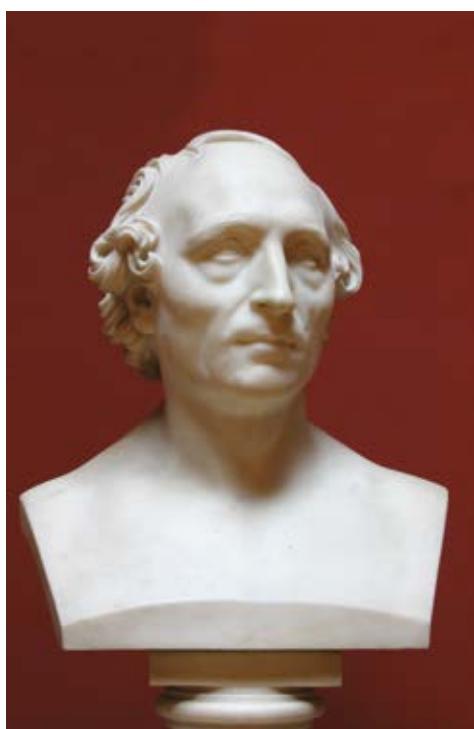


Figure 86. Bust of the German architect Friedrich August Stüler. Sculpture by Miklós Izsó after Hermann Schievelbein, 1865



Figure 87. Portrait of László Szalay, Secretary of the Academy from 1861. Painting by Bertalan Székely, 1864

POLITIKAI HETILAP.

Magyarok hétőn reggeli
szóbeli hír nagy évre.
Előfizetési díja, ahhoz Budapest körben levőben, akár
váliké postai küldés, egész évre 6, idő évre 4, ne-
gyen évre 2 Ft. Egy szám ára 10 Kr. Hirdetési díj 4
háromszoros érték. Helyi külön 50 Kr.

Címer azon emlégeti valitas e hatalom,
quoniam e mensebuse. B. a. v.

**Címkék, hirdetések a diákokn a leg nevesebb városi
hírű hírlevélből és nyilvánosnak a személyesből
(Almásy, 20 sz.), előfizetési plakát, reklámokról
elhírítések a hatalomról (Borszék, 7. szám)**

Először. 1865. **24. szám.** **Pesten, December 11.**

Az Akadémia megnyitásakor.

A magyar Akadémia palotájának történelme mindenjá-
unk előtt ismertes. Miőn az utolsó másfél évtizedben hosszu
veszterplízés közben, összes politikai institúcióban hamva alatt,
a m. Akadémia hif örököse mellett csak már a hazai nyelv
és irodalmi parádázás csillamolt: akkor a szíbádonos nem-
zet e tiszteletben melegénl virrasztotta át az éjszakát, mik
csak ujra meg nem virradt. De a szérfény tiszteleti fényes
oltárár alakította át, s a nép filéreiből palotai épített kö-
rülje, melyre hálás kegyelmet fognak tekinteni késő nno-
kaink is, mint veszélyben forgott legdrágább kincseink men-
tő csapatai.

A palota most készen áll és megnyitásának ma lezájlo-
nnepélye nemzeti tünep a szó legezethib, leghatásibb ér-
telmeben, mely tisztá orommal szítheti minden hazai lelkét,
mert a megráztó eseményt hozott áldozat dús jutalmat átja
szemére előt, a nemzeti tudomány ékes házában megtisztel-
ve. A mi kevésből ez előt csak reménytelen olysájt volt,
most valóság. Az anyagi tüke, melyet hónyi indultattal az
öntudatos áldozatosság gyűjtött, hova tovább stelleni tő-
kévé változik át, mely száz alakban, de ezer áldás képében
visszahátrul a nemzeti.

Csakhogy e kolosztós egymásharántululós láncotá-
tóból hiányzik még egy láncszem, s e hézag kitöltésére meg-
jött az idő.

Mert a magyar Akadémia palotája felépült ugyan; a ha-
zai tudománynak tág és kényelmes háza van, melyben szé-
lesebb alapon működhetik a hár mannyire terjeszkedik, el-
tér bennre meg sokkal; de e ház csonka marad és befeljé-
len mindenidőig, a míg a belső termek kopás falai és a szob-
roknak szánt tűrökfülkék a csarnokokban hárítottan fogják
szegénységtükreit; hágózás lecs és tökeletlen, mik csak a mű-
vészeti diszével nem kereshetek a művet, mely a hazai tör-
ténét egy jelen ivadék felelő vészt rendelői palotájának a
magyar községek jelen teljesítégeinek maradandó emlékül
szolgálni van hivatal.

A palota különböző alakja és díszé, belső terméinek nagy-
mérő arányai és építészeti részletei bármilyen légye-
nek a bármilyen meg közelítő; de e ház csonka marad és befeljé-
len mindenidőig, a míg a belső termek kopás falai és a szob-
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magyar községek jelen teljesítégeinek maradandó emlékül
szolgálni van hivatal.

A továbbiakban a palota különböző alakja és díszé, belső terméinek nagy-
mérő arányai és építészeti részletei bármilyen légye-
nek a bármilyen meg közelítő; de e ház csonka marad és befeljé-
len mindenidőig, a míg a belső termek kopás falai és a szob-
roknak szánt tűrökfülkék a csarnokokban hárítottan fogják
szegénységtükreit; hágózás lecs és tökeletlen, mik csak a mű-
vészeti diszével nem kereshetek a művet, mely a hazai tör-
ténét egy jelen ivadék felelő vészt rendelői palotájának a
magyar községek jelen teljesítégeinek maradandó emlékül
szolgálni van hivatal.

A továbbiakban a palota különböző alakja és díszé, belső terméinek nagy-
mérő arányai és építészeti részletei bármilyen légye-
nek a bármilyen meg közelítő; de e ház csonka marad és befeljé-
len mindenidőig, a míg a belső termek kopás falai és a szob-
roknak szánt tűrökfülkék a csarnokokban hárítottan fogják
szegénységtükreit; hágózás lecs és tökeletlen, mik csak a mű-
vészeti diszével nem kereshetek a művet, mely a hazai tör-
ténét egy jelen ivadék felelő vészt rendelői palotájának a
magyar községek jelen teljesítégeinek maradandó emlékül
szolgálni van hivatal.

Legyen az Akadémia egyszerű teljes emléke jelentő-
nek, és minden a tudomány számára tisztelettel tartja bevonulását
háza, melylyel a nemzet számára megajándékoz, nyíssan meg
azt a hazai művészeti is.

Szép töréről megfeszítésére nem nyilhatik, mint az
Akadémia fölékészítői körül; a nemzetnek viszont a hazai
művészeti felkarolására hálásabb, szébb alkalom, mint ennek
létezésére, nem kínálkozik soha.

A kezdet az Akadémia nagy teremtői illusztráció. Tág falain,
egymás mellett és fölött tizenhat nagyobb négyesig vára a
falfestmény színes öltönyét, hogy a tudomány tünepélyeire
idegyelj közönséget sivár mestrelése által ne szorította.

Hogy e falfestmények tárgyi kizárálag a magyar nem-
zet mivelődése történetéből merítendők, okszertüleg foly a



Figure 88. Report on the opening of the
Academy's new building, published in
the journal *Politikai Hetilap*, 1865

Figure 90. Cover of the Academy's guestbook



Figure 91. First page of the guestbook

Figure 92. Signatures of King Franz Joseph and his children in the guestbook



Figure 93. Statues of Galileo, Descartes and Raphael on the building. Woodcut published by the *Vasárnapi Ujság*

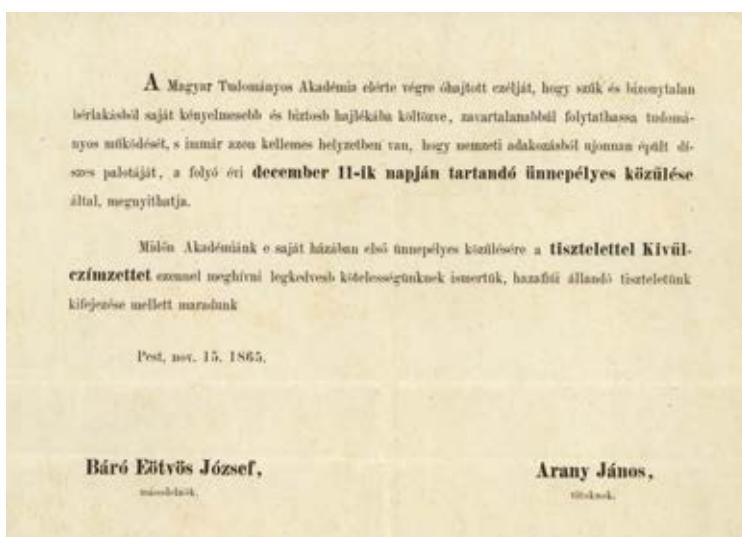


Figure 94. Mór Ziltz's, *Joyful Sermon* delivered at the opening of the Academy building in 1865



Figure 95. Invitation to the 1865 general assembly of the Academy

A magyar tud. akadémia az új palotában.

A m. tud. akadémia palotájának megnyitási ünnepélye műltó prolog gyanánt készítette elajt a fényses királyi napoknak Budapesten.

A magyar tudományos akadémia ez idei nagygyűlése, egyúttal megnyitási napja is volt az új palotának.

Decez. 11-én történt először, hogy a tudományosak ez ünnepét azon palota sugárzó csarnokában ülték meg, melyen a nemzet teljes aldozatkézsége emelt szellemkincsei öreinek.

E palota, mely legidősebbetől kezdve van fejezve a teljes épület nemes arányai a kedvező térvizionok folytán, teljes érvényre juthatnak.

A főhomlokzat előtt tágas tér nyílik,

készítő az embert a nagy terem derült s azért mégis fönsséges pompájára.

A karzatokat, melyeken most nagyszámu, diszes hőlgykesszor foglalt helyet, barnavörös, műrványoszlopok tartják, míg világos színű, lapos oszlopok mesterséges műrványból, a falak ékeségét képezik. A karyatidok, melyeken a terem lapon kupja pihen, fehér műrványból valók, a gazdag aranyozott virágdíszek díszítik a világos színesetű plafonot. Az ajtók a fal tövében elnyúló fedések azon hatalmas mahagoni fa-kocskákból készültek, melyet a Vasárnapi Ujság egyik hű olvasójá s munkatársa, László Károly hazánkba küldött Mexikóból.

E teremben tartották meg az ünnepélyes gyűlést.

érzései s gondolatgazdagsága által mély be-nyomást gyakorolt a jelenvoltakra, kik szív- ból kívántak egészességet a beteg elnöknak a törzsozás előtt. Utána Arany János, az akadémia titkára, adta elő az akadémia multi évi működésének történetét, megható szavakkal áldozván az akadémia elhunyt tagjai emlékezetének is. Ezt követé b. Eöteös emlékbeszéde Szalay László fölött, melyben érzséssel szébb emléket emelt a jeles író, a kitüntetett történetek s államférfinak, a barát a barátnak. Végre Toldy Ferenc, az akadémia egyik legrégebbi s érdemekben gazdag tagja, a magyar irodalomnak a nemzeti életre való befolyásáról tartott egy, irodalomtörténeti adatokkal gazdag illusztrált nagyérdeklő előadást.



A m. tud. akadémia palotájának díszterme. — (Hasde rajza.) — A megnyitási ünnepély 1863. dec. 11.

honnan a szem szabadon legelhet az építészeti stílus szépeinek s a gazdag ornamentika érdekes részletein.

A reggeli tisztára szabott gyűlés határidéjénél már jóval előbb a főbemenet szép faragású tölgylejtői megnyitával s ünnepéien előzött, ünnepelő közönség összölnött a kettős oszlopsorral díszítő előcsarnokba, mely nem annyira pompája, mint inkább a főháznál anyagol gazdag volta s a színegyütlet által eszközök gyönyörűbenyomását. Az oszlopok szürke salzburgi műrványból valók s barnavörös műrványtalajon nyugsznak, míg két vége fehér tiroli műrványból van faragva. Az előcsarnokból a diszes lépcsőhába jutunk, mely aranyozott rostélyával kellemesen fejlődik ki a pécsi sötét műrványból a elő-

Gróf Dessewffy Emil, ki öt évre elköltött kibocsátott s a nemzetbízeth intézet szószata által adta az első lendületet, a már most teljes szépségben befejezett díszépítéster s ki a legnagyobb erdélyi, az akadályok nagy tömegélegyőzve, az általa indítványozott eszme valósításán éjjel-nappal járadonként: fájdalom, megtört egészessé miatt nem elűhköthetett a mai gyűlésben. Az alelnök, b. Eöteös József, ki helyette vezető a gyűlést, a köztisztetlű elnök távollété folötti általános ajánlásokat melegen és ékeszsőlően fejez ki.

Erre következett az üdvözlő „szózat”, melylyel gr. Dessewffy szent-mihályi jószágából fordul az akadémához s melyet b. Vay Miklós olvassott fel. E „szózat”, meleg

az ünnepély — vidám, elmes pohárköszöntésekkel fűszerzett lakoma zárta be.

A díszterem az ünnepélyes alkalommal diszes nemzeti ruhába öltözött közönséggel telt meg. A földesaint egyik emeltebb részén ülték az akadémia tagjai. Jelen volt többi között az ország báborok primásá, Lónyovics s Bartakovics érsekek, Pálker váci püspök, Mailáth György kanonellár, b. Sina Simon, gr. Károlyi István s György, gr. Apponyi György s az igazgató tanács több tagja, káptalanok, városok, iskolák s különdíj tűd. intézetek képviselői, a magyar felső- s alsóház számos tagja stb.

Szóval a tudományosak épült házat műlté dízzsel és fényivel avattak fel a nemzet. Legyen rajta az eg áldása!

Figure 96. Coverage of the opening ceremony in the Vasárnapi Ujság. Woodcut by Károly Rusz, 1863





Figure 97. The square in front of the Academy after 1866. Lithograph by Adam Slowikowski



Figure 98. Portrait of József Eötvös, President of the Academy from 1866 to 1871. Painting by Viktor Madarász, 1874

Figure 99. József Eötvös's clock



Figures 100–101. The Presidium and the Board of Directors of the Academy in a contemporary photograph, 1865



Nagy gyűlés
1865. január 26-án
Mels, gróf Szemereffy Zsigmond által is elnöklésre alak.
Jelen voltak:
Mels, bári 2000 fősök részére meghívottak is.

 Prof. Cziráky János
 Dr. Ferenc
 Dr. Károlyi György
 Kubinyi Ágoston
 Maglai György
 Marosbányi Ármin
 Bánffy Frigyes Károly
 120 gyengi taggal szeged.

 Bánffy Rómer Zsigmond
 Horváth László
 Kubinyi Ferenc
 Lónyay Mányi Kiss. szeged.

 Drany János
 Balogh Pál
 Balog Mór
 Czuczegy György
 Erdélyi János
 Farkas Vilmos
 Fodor János
 Független János
 Frivaldszky János
 Lebhardt Ferenc
 Gyöni Sándor
 Nagy Ágoston
 Hollán Ernő
 Horváth György
 Hunfalvy János
 Jellik Ángyán
 Jókai Mór
 Kiss Károly
 Nádorff Károly
 Polya József
 Pusztafai Ábra
 Szalay Károly
 Szecsődi József, Toldy Ferenc
 Tóth László
 Zsoldos Ignác
 Wenzel Lipót rendi szeged

 Bubán József
 Gulyai Pál
 Horvay László
 Hunfalvy János
 Hunfalvy János

Figure 102. List of participants in the 1865 general assembly



The First Golden Age of the Academy after the Compromise (1867–1888)

László Szögi



The Austro-Hungarian Compromise created the conditions for Hungary to embark on a much more rapid path toward civil transformation. Except for shared affairs, Hungary gained full autonomy, including the ability to shape its scientific policy. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, as a national institution, could not remain unaffected by this sweeping change. For a long time, the Academy had stood almost alone in representing the cultural and scientific aspirations of the Hungarian nation. But with the changing circumstances, a host of new institutions were established, each tasked with cultivating different branches of science. Many Academy officials took on significant roles in political life, leaving them with less time to devote to the Academy itself. President József Eötvös, for example, served as Minister of Religion and Public Education for a second time after 1848 – a role that consumed much of his energy. Numerous academicians also contributed to the operation of newly established educational and scientific institutions.

Just a few key developments illustrate the broader transformation: the University of Pest (then still officially bearing this name) required significant modernisation, including the creation of new departments and clinics and the appointment of new professors. In 1871, the Royal Joseph Polytechnic was founded, becoming a new centre for technical sciences. In 1872, Hungary's second university opened in Kolozsvár (Cluj), featuring, for the first time in the country, a Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in addition to the standard faculties of humanities, law, and medicine. Hungarian also became the instructional language at the Mining and Forestry Academy in Selmecbánya (Banská Štiavnica) and the Agricultural Institute in Magyaróvár (Mosonmagyaróvár). It became necessary to establish domestic higher education in the arts and in commerce (i.e., economics) as well, to mention only the most significant tasks. This also meant the emergence of new centres within the country dedicated to national culture and to several branches of science that had previously been neglected – centres capable of contributing to the cultivation of scientific talent and the training

of future scholars. While this relieved the Academy of certain responsibilities, it also forced the institution to reconsider its role and structure in the changing landscape.

NEW FORMS OF OPERATION

In the autumn of 1867, the general assembly of the Academy established a committee to draft a new statute that would reflect the evolving institutional and social context. It was clear that the nearly exclusive decision-making power once held by the Board of Directors had to be curtailed in favour of a more democratic structure. The new statutes, following extensive preparation, were approved by the monarch in the summer of 1869. The Academy's mission was defined as the cultivation and dissemination of science and literature in the Hungarian language. To achieve this, it could commission and subsidise scientific studies and expeditions, sponsor original works, commission translations of great authors, announce competitions in both scholarly and literary fields, disseminate knowledge through its library, publications, translations, and lectures, and – within its means – offer support to outstanding scholars to continue their research. These responsibilities raise a question that remains relevant to this day: to what extent should the Academy focus on the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and to what extent on research itself? Today, one of the Academy's missions is to communicate the results of scientific research to the public. The question is whether this function can reasonably be projected back onto the second half of the 19th century, with its vastly different social and educational circumstances.

A President and Vice President led the Academy, while the Secretary General handled operational responsibilities. The Board of Directors remained in place, but with a significantly revised role. The Board could now have 24 members, but its duties were limited to financial management and overseeing the Academy's assets. Twelve members were delegated by the Academy itself, while the other twelve were selected from the original founders or



Figure 103. National Assembly in the Ceremonial Hall of the Academy, 1867. Woodcut from *Magyarország és a Nagyvilág*

from individuals whose involvement could benefit the institution – such as patrons or politicians capable of supporting its work. This process, while not grounded in scholarly criteria, was undeniably practical. Membership limits were set at 24 honorary members, 60 ordinary members, and eventually 156 corresponding members. According to the 1869 statute, honorary members were to be selected from “patriotic supporters of science whose inclusion would add to the Academy’s honour and benefit, or from distinguished scholars and writers who had earned merit in science or service of the Academy” (§14, Statutes of 1869). These were domestic, Hungarian scholars. External membership was reserved for prominent foreign scientists.

The Academy’s internal structure consisted of three sections: I. Linguistics and Literary Studies – 12 ordinary and 6 honorary members; II. Philosophy, Social and Historical Sciences – 24 ordinary and 9 honorary members; and III. Mathematics and Natural Sciences – 24 ordinary and 9 honorary members. These numbers would later

change. The President and Vice President were elected for three-year terms and could be re-elected; their appointments required royal approval. After Eötvös died in 1871, Prime Minister Menyhért Lónyay became President. Upon the death of Vice President Antal Csengery in 1880, he was succeeded by the prominent legal scholar Tivadar Paurer. Later, when Lónyay died, Ágoston Trefort – then also a government minister – was elected President and remained in office until he died in 1888. Given their high political positions, these Presidents had little time to directly manage Academy affairs; instead, they served primarily as public representatives. The operational work fell mostly to the Vice President and, especially, to the Secretary General. Even this position underwent a necessary change during this period. János Arany, who served with exceptional conscientiousness – at the cost of his own literary and poetic output – requested to be relieved of the role in both 1876 and 1877. He was not released until 1879, by which time he had already been succeeded in practice

by Jácint Rónay and then by Vilmos Fraknói, who was officially elected Secretary General. Among the many new foreign members, one notable example was Charles Darwin, who was elected an external member in 1872. His major works were translated into Hungarian during these years.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ACADEMY AND THE POLITICAL SPHERE

Having explored the structural reforms, we turn to the Academy's scientific activities, internal debates, and societal relations. Even after the Compromise, there was still a serious shortage of qualified scientists – especially those capable of publishing in Hungarian. As Minister, József Eötvös saw first-hand how difficult it was to find highly qualified professors for the new higher education institutions. He sought to address this through a generous scholarship policy, though this was not a solution that could take immediate effect.

Naturally, high-level politics had an impact on the Academy. Presidents who held government office inevitably brought some degree of political influence into the institution, leading to factional tensions. Yet in a pluralistic society, such dynamics are neither unusual nor necessarily problematic. Tensions arose, for instance, between those emphasising the importance of natural and technical sciences, and those who viewed the Academy's mission primarily as preserving and promoting national culture. Others suspected religious bias: some claimed the Academy had a Protestant majority and might even be "anti-Catholic". No such criterion ever officially existed for membership, and numerous Catholic clergy – including high-ranking prelates – were admitted. Indeed, Vilmos

Fraknói, a canon of Várad and titular bishop, later Secretary General of the Academy and founder of the Hungarian Historical Institute in Rome, exemplified this inclusivity. Internal disputes were also present. One of the most famous was the "Ugric–Turkic War", a heated debate between the German-born linguist József Budenz and the world-renowned orientalist Ármin Vámbéry – born Jewish and later converted to Calvinism – and their respective followers. The dispute, centred on whether the Hungarian language originated from the Turkic or Ugric language families, arguably remains unresolved even today. The Academy also engaged in serious debates on homeland and ethnogenesis research, folk poetry collection, literary originality vs. translation, the divide between high and popular culture, and the role of women in literature, the arts, and science. During this period, the *Czuczor–Fogarasi Dictionary* was completed, an event commemorated by a special medal. When Ferenc Deák died in 1876, his body lay in state in the Academy's main hall, and his funeral became a national event attended by massive crowds. Queen Elisabeth of Austria was present at the funeral – an act remembered by the placement in 1914 of Barnabás Holló's sculpture *Queen Elisabeth at the Bier of Ferenc Deák* in the Academy's entrance hall. A statue of Deák, funded by public donation, was erected opposite the Academy in 1887. Likewise, the unveiling of István Széchenyi's statue in front of the Academy in 1880 was a major national occasion, also marked by the minting of a commemorative medallion.

When Ágoston Trefort died in 1888, his passing symbolised the end of an era – the generation that had fought for the founding of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences before 1848. On the threshold of the 20th century, a new generation would face new challenges in advancing the Academy's mission in a changing world.





Figure 104. Photo of Ferenc József Square after 1872

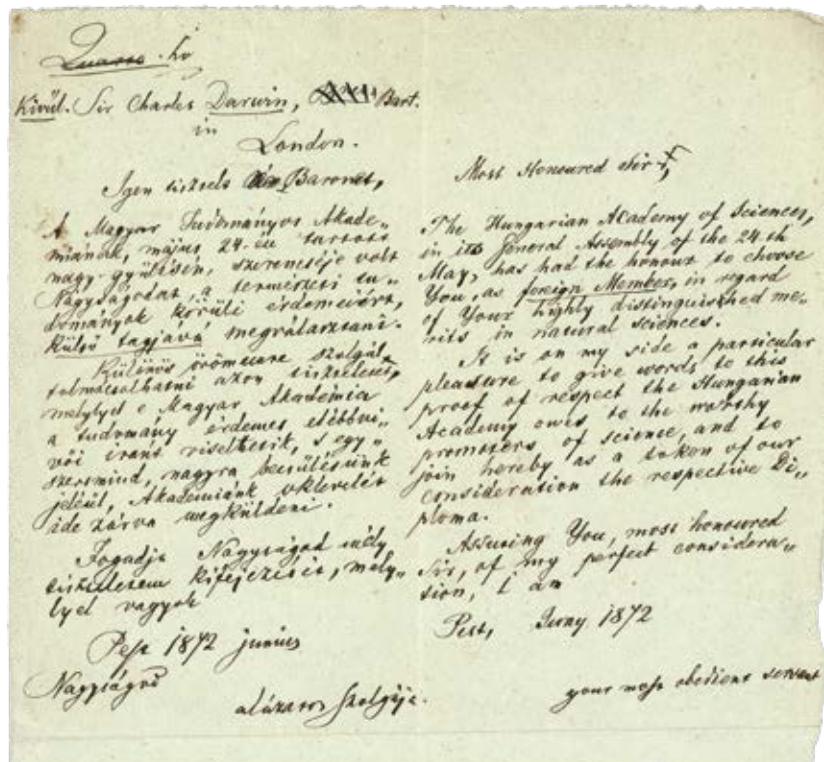
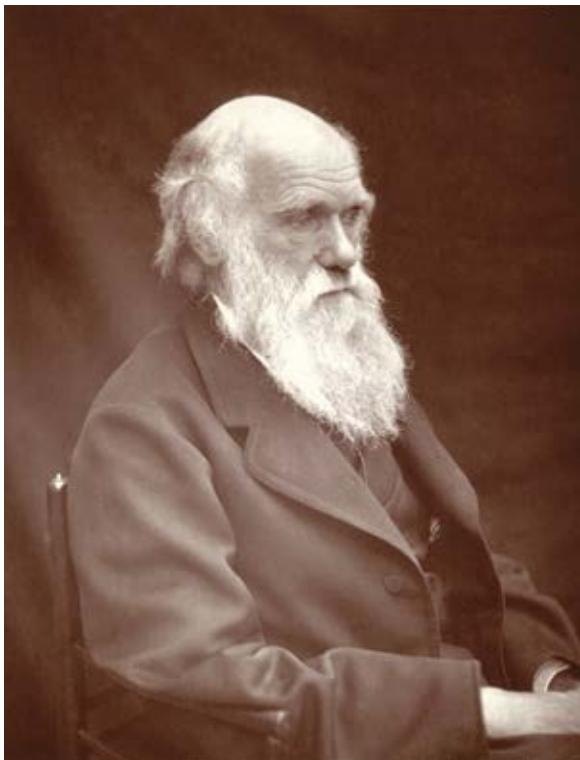


Figure 107. Photograph of Kálmán Szily, who was a corresponding member from 1865 and an ordinary member from 1873. He was Secretary General of the Academy from 1889

Figure 108. Obverse and reverse of the Ferenc Toldy Medallion, 1868

Figure 109. József Petzval's letter regarding his election as an external member in 1873

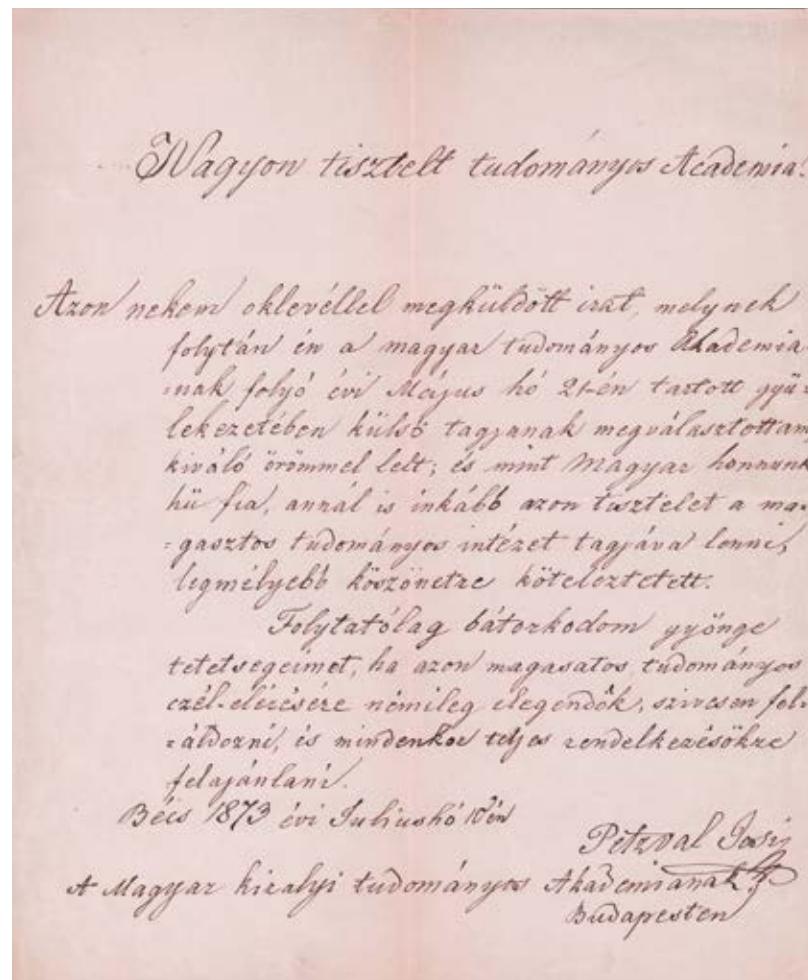


Figure 110. Photograph of statistician Károly Keleti, corresponding member from 1868, an ordinary member from 1875 and a member of the Board of Directors from 1890



Figure 111. Obverse and
reverse of the Czuczor-
Fogarasi Medallion, 1874



Figure 112. Elisabeth, Queen consort of Hungary at the funeral of Ferenc Deák in the foyer of the Academy. Painting by Mihály Zichy, 1876



Figure 113. Obverse of the Ferenc Deák Medallion, 1876



Figure 114. Funeral procession of Ferenc Deák in front of the Academy building



Figure 115. Portrait of János Arany, corresponding and ordinary member from 1858, Secretary from 1865, Secretary General from 1870 to 1879. Painting by Miklós Barabás, 1884

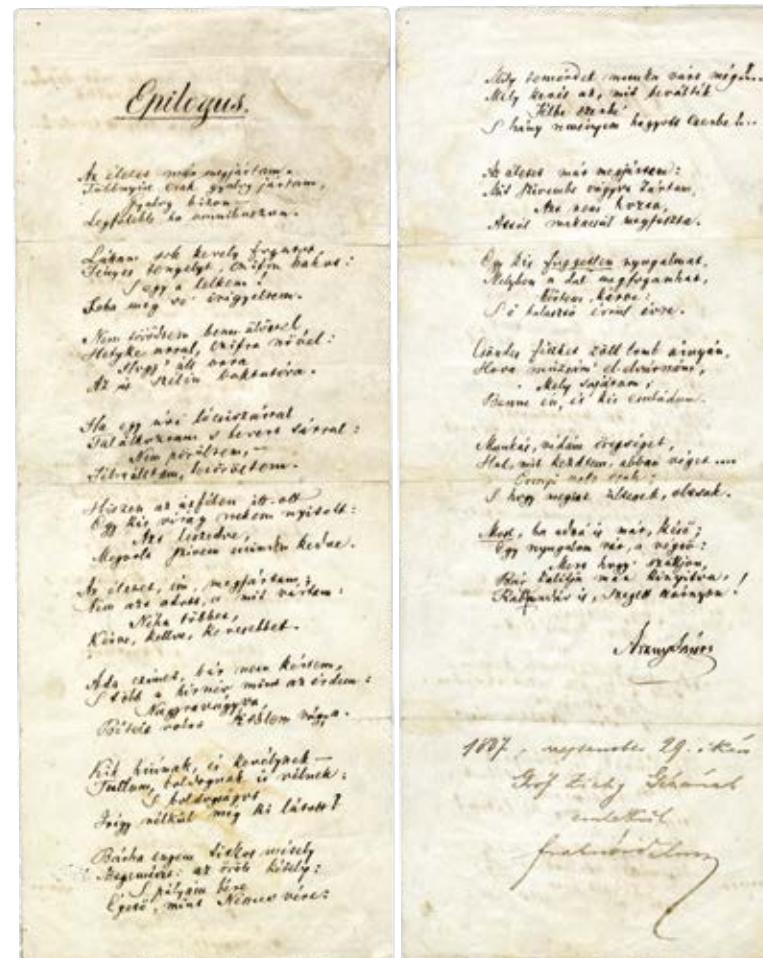


Figure 117. Manuscript of János Arany's poem *Epilógos* in the library of the Academy

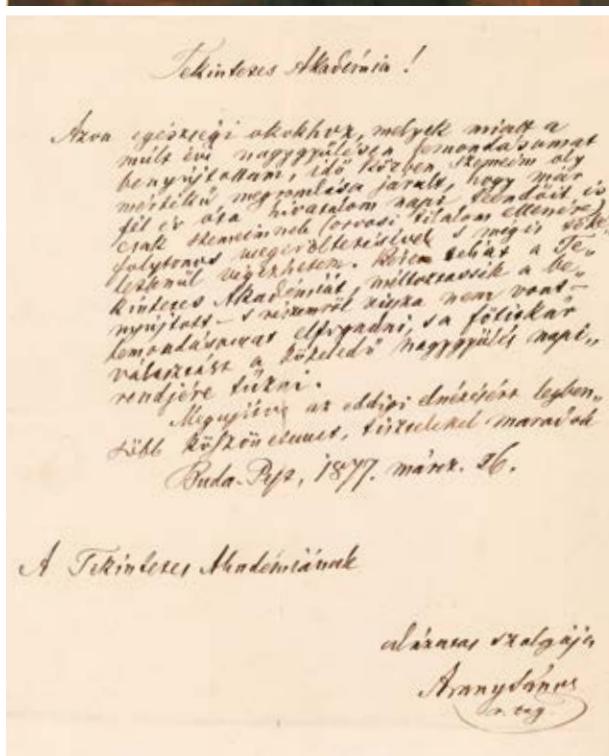


Figure 116. Second resignation letter by János Arany, 1877



Figure 118. Portrait of Menyhért Lónyay, President of the Academy from 1871 to 1884. Painted by Gyula Stetka in 1886

Figure 119. Menyhért Lónyay's proposal for the election of Béni Kállay as a corresponding member, 1877

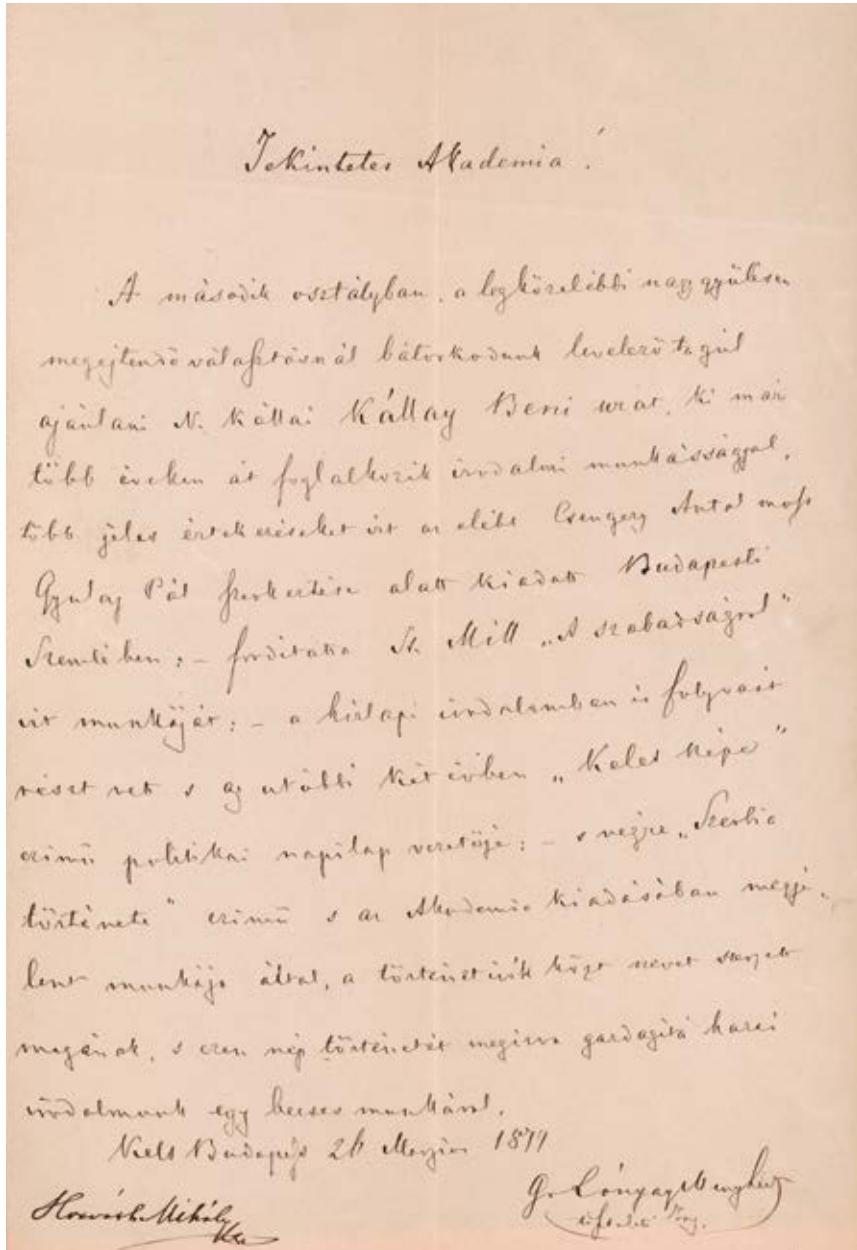


Figure 120. Béni Kállay, Governor of Bosnia and a corresponding member from 1878, ordinary member from 1888



Figure 121. Letter from Ignác Goldziher to Vilmos Fraknói, Secretary General, regarding the publication of his book on the Muslim religion, 1880

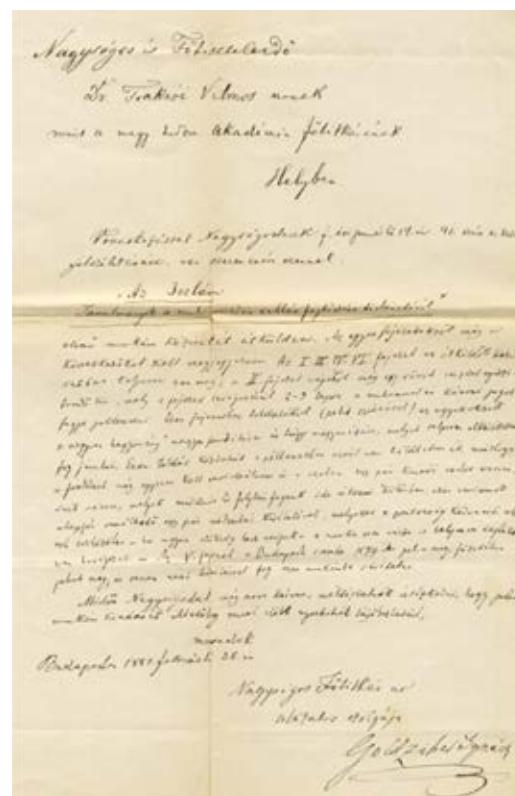




Figure 122. The statue of István Széchenyi on a period photograph

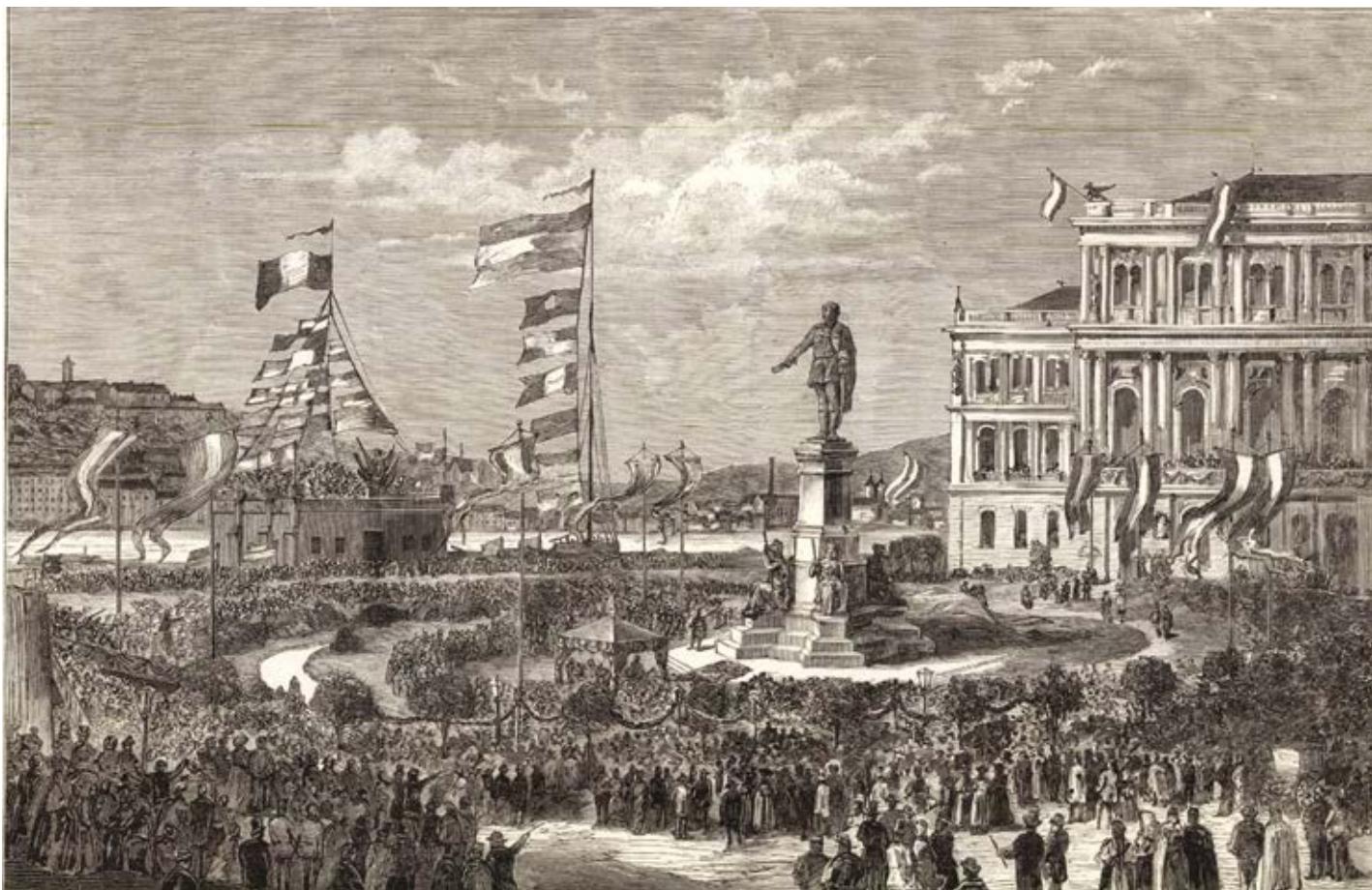


Figure 123. Unveiling of the Széchenyi statue in front of the Academy building. Woodcut by Lajos Rauscher, 1880

Figure 124. Obverse and reverse of the Széchenyi Medallion. Designed by Antonio Fabris, 1880



AZ ÉLŐ SZOBOR AZ AKADEMIAJÁNÁN.

A jó öreg Kazinczy az t. i., aki ott nézi, hallgatja télen nyáron a sok tudományos dolgot az akadémia kisebbik termében.



Előadás előtt nyájas.

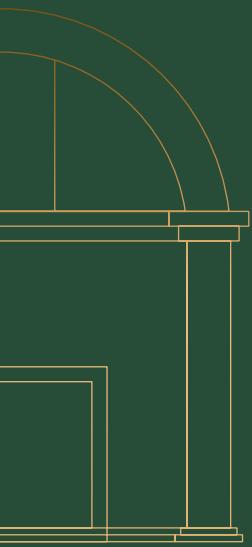


Előadás alatt megnyulik a képe.



Előadás után boldogan mosolyog.

Figure 125. Caricature from the *Borszem Jankó* satirical magazine, 1882



Transformations Prior to and During the First World War (1889–1918)



László Szögi



In 1889, the Academy was required to elect a new leadership. Significantly, for the first time, the presidency did not go to a powerful figure from state administration or a government minister. After several nominated candidates withdrew, the members elected a distinguished scientist, Loránd Eötvös, a renowned physicist whose scholarly authority was unquestionable. Vilmos Fraknói, previously Secretary General, became Vice President, while Kálmán Szily, a physicist and professor at the Technical University, and one of the founders of the Hungarian Society of Engineers and Architects, was elected Secretary General. It was the first time a natural scientist had held this post.

To improve the Academy's public engagement, Szily restructured its publications. The *Yearbook* was discontinued, and the *Akadémiai Értesítő* (*Academy Bulletin*) increasingly took on the form of a scientific journal. In response to the accelerating specialisation of the sciences, the Academy revised its internal structure in 1891. The three existing sections were retained, but each was divided into two subsections: Linguistics and Literary Studies; Philosophy and Social Sciences, and History; Mathematics and Physics, and Natural History. Although this reform pointed in the right direction, it was overly cautious given the pace of scientific development. Eötvös prioritized the pursuit of scientific research over engaging in internal debates related to broader reforms, and it is presumably for this reason that he refrained from undertaking more profound institutional changes.

This brings us to a recurring question: What should be the Academy's primary role? By the late Dualist period, Hungary had developed a comprehensive network of higher education institutions. Alongside teaching, these institutions increasingly embraced research, following the Humboldtian model, often at a faster pace than the Academy, which remained bound by its traditional statutes. Unlike state-funded bodies, the Academy operated through private donations and foundations, limiting its ability to maintain research institutes of its own. Thus, the Academy's principal function became that of a supreme scholarly authority: supporting, organising, coordinating, and eval-

uating Hungarian scientific work. Alongside this, the dissemination and publication of scientific results remained a core responsibility. In this period, the Academy supported the publication of numerous works and journals. Each subsection issued volumes under the title *Értekezések* (*Proceedings*), featuring academic lectures and papers. The *Történelmi Tár* (*Historical Review*) and *Monumenta* series continued, as did important scientific publications such as the *Matematikai és Természettudományi Értesítő* (*Mathematical and Natural Science Bulletin*). The Academy Library became one of Hungary's most valuable collections – thanks in part to donations and an international system of document exchange. At the same time, the Academy's headquarters was increasingly beautified and equipped. One unique initiative involved the creation of commemorative rooms in the Academy building, including the Széchenyi Memorial Museum, the Goethe Room, and later, the Mikszáth Room.

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SCHOLARS AT THE ACADEMY

One of the Academy's highest honours was the Grand Prize, valued at 200 gold forints. Additionally, the Marczibányi Supplementary Prize – worth 50 gold forints – was awarded annually in a different academic field. While a full assessment of each subsection's contributions is beyond our scope, several key initiatives are worth highlighting. Around the turn of the century, it became clear that the now-outdated *Czuczor–Fogarasi Dictionary* needed to be replaced. Work on a new comprehensive Hungarian explanatory dictionary began under János Melich and the young Zoltán Gombócz. The project would not be completed for decades. In linguistics and historical studies, beyond achievements in Finno–Ugric research, significant efforts were made to explore the non-Hungarian sources of Hungarian history. Scholars such as Oszkár Asbóth and Antal Hodinka investigated linguistic and historical issues related to Russian, South Slavic, and Ruthenian popula-

tions. Ármin Vámbéry, Ignác Goldziher, József Thúry, and Ignác Kúnos focused on Turkic languages and relations. Byzantine studies, classical philology, and German studies also saw significant advancement.

The literary scholarship was significantly influenced by Pál Gyulai, the Secretary of Section I, who for a long time was a dominant figure in Hungarian literature and the chief ideologist of the national-populist movement. By the end of the century, however, he faced increasing criticism for his resistance to modernity and rejection of progressive literary trends. In mathematics and the natural sciences, more and more distinguished scholars joined the Academy, including Gyula König and József Kürschák, professors at the Technical University and founders of the Budapest School of Mathematics. Lipót Fejér, later one of Hungary's greatest mathematicians, became a corresponding member in 1908 at the age of 28. Among the geoscientists was Lajos Lóczy, who conducted research from China to across Europe and became a corresponding member in 1889. The eminent Orientalist Aurél Stein was elected an external member of the Academy in 1895, at a time when he was in Kashmir, serving as the Director of the Oriental College at the University of Lahore. In medicine, the Academy's corresponding members included Frigyes Korányi, a pioneer in tuberculosis treatment; Endre Hőgyes, founder of the Pasteur Institute in Hungary; and Ferenc Hutýra, a leading figure in veterinary medicine. Numerous engineers and technical experts also joined during the later Dualist period. Though any list would be incomplete, notable names include Sándor Lipthay, a railway construction specialist, and Károly Zipernowsky, a renowned figure in electrical engineering. Chemists such as Vince Wartha and Lajos Ilosvay were also prominent representatives of the Academy in this era.

Thus, if we consider the composition of the body, it can be said with confidence that a healthy balance among the various branches of science had been achieved, and that the most distinguished scholars of the country had been admitted to the Academy. Among the external members were such figures as Henri Poincaré, the renowned

French mathematician and the first recipient of the Bolyai Prize, who was the first abroad to recognise the work of Lipót Fejér and was later elected to the committee awarding the Bolyai Prize, which carried a monetary value of 10,000 crowns. International scientific cooperation became increasingly important in Europe. In 1900, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences had joined the *International Association of Academies*. International congresses in various scientific disciplines also began to emerge, with Hungarian scholars gradually taking part in them.

Private support for the Academy continued. Mór Wahrmann, a prominent Jewish merchant and entrepreneur from Pest and the first Jewish member of the Hungarian Parliament, bequeathed 10,000 forints to the Academy. The interest from this fund was to be awarded to individuals who made notable contributions to industry and commerce. A commemorative medal was issued for this purpose.

ON THE EVE OF WAR

Politics inevitably cast a shadow over the Academy even during the Dualist era. Prime Minister Kálmán Tisza, leader of the Liberal Party, had been a member of the Board of Directors since 1881 and became an honorary member in 1888. Unsurprisingly, the press offered critiques and even caricatures related to this political presence. While political influence could not be entirely avoided, the Academy largely stayed true to its traditions and avoided politicisation. Indeed, it often acted as a stabilising force against radical ideologies in Hungarian society. When the Liberal Party was defeated in the 1905 elections, and a coalition driven by independence slogans came to power, the Academy's operations were unaffected. Still, this political shift coincided with leadership changes. In 1905, Kálmán Szily – then 67 years old – resigned as Secretary General, followed shortly after by Loránd Eötvös, aged 57, who stepped down from the presidency to focus on research. While these decisions were likely not politically motivated, they



Figure 126. Obverse and reverse of the Mór Wahrmann Medallion. Designed by Anton Scharff, 1892

reflected a generational transition amid shifting historical conditions. Albert Berzeviczy, a jurist, economist, and former Minister of Religion and Public Education (1903–1905), succeeded Eötvös as President. Literary historian and Germanist Gusztáv Heinrich became Secretary General. By this time, the vice presidency changed every three years, as mandated by an 1883 amendment to the Academy's statutes. Previously, Antal Csengery had served as Vice President from 1871 to 1880, and Tivadar Pauler for six years after that. Between then and the end of the First World War, twelve individuals held the post. Ferenc Pulszky, for example, was Vice President during the millennial celebrations of 1895–1897.

Academy leadership before the war faced criticism from radical thinkers of the period for not addressing social or nationality issues more directly. But this critique is only partly valid. Active political involvement was never the Academy's mission. Still, it is worth quoting from a speech delivered by Gyula Kautz at the Academy's general assem-

bly in 1905: "Excessive nationalism weakens our ties with Europe's leading cultural nations. We risk losing their goodwill and the inspiring, motivating influence it brings." (*The 150-Year History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1825–1975*, Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1975, p. 181.)

It was not the Academy but Hungarian politics that underestimated the significance of social and nationality questions. In terms of cultural diplomacy, Hungary fell catastrophically behind neighbouring peoples and nationalities. By the time of the war, the sympathy Europe had shown Hungary in 1848 had turned to indifference, and eventually, hostility. In this respect, the Academy could have done more in the years following the turn of the century, and indeed, it gradually diverged from the original national liberal ideals of its founders.

In the pre-war years, the government increased the Academy's financial support and requested the formation of a *Balkan Committee* to promote Hungarian influence in the Balkans through scholarly means. This was not unique;

the Oriental Academy of Commerce also trained professionals for this geopolitical purpose.

Despite the gathering storm, the Academy continued to operate with regularity. In this period, being named an honorary member was a major recognition – for instance, Kálmán Mikszáth was elected in 1910. The Academy celebrated the 75th birthday of its former Vice President and Secretary General Vilmos Fraknói, issuing a commemorative medallion.

By the war's final year, crisis struck in the form of inflation, coal shortages, and the collapse of operations. Defeat became inevitable. When it emerged that the victorious powers planned to dismember Hungary, the Academy's leadership issued an appeal to all the world's learned societies:

"Millennial Hungary faces a decisive hour. [...] Since she laid down her arms, certain neighbouring peoples have attacked her and now seek to tear away those territories where, thanks to the goodwill of the state-building Hungarian race, their kin had settled and lived peacefully alongside the Magyars, maintaining their language and traditions."

The Academy urged its counterparts to "learn of our nation's solitary plight and, in the name of humanity's intellectual conscience, defend our endangered national existence and culture." (Hungarian Academy of Sciences Archives, RAL 918/1918). Similar appeals were issued by many Hungarian institutions and organisations in these months – alas, to no effect. A new chapter was about to begin in the history of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



Figure 127. Portrait of Loránd Eötvös, President of the Academy from 1889 to 1905. Painted by Ede Balló in 1925





Figure 128. The Presidium of the Academy in 1890. Lithograph by Lajos Elischer, 1890



Figure 129. The Ceremonial Hall
of the Academy, c. 1890

Figure 130. Frigyes Korányi, physician and corresponding member from 1884



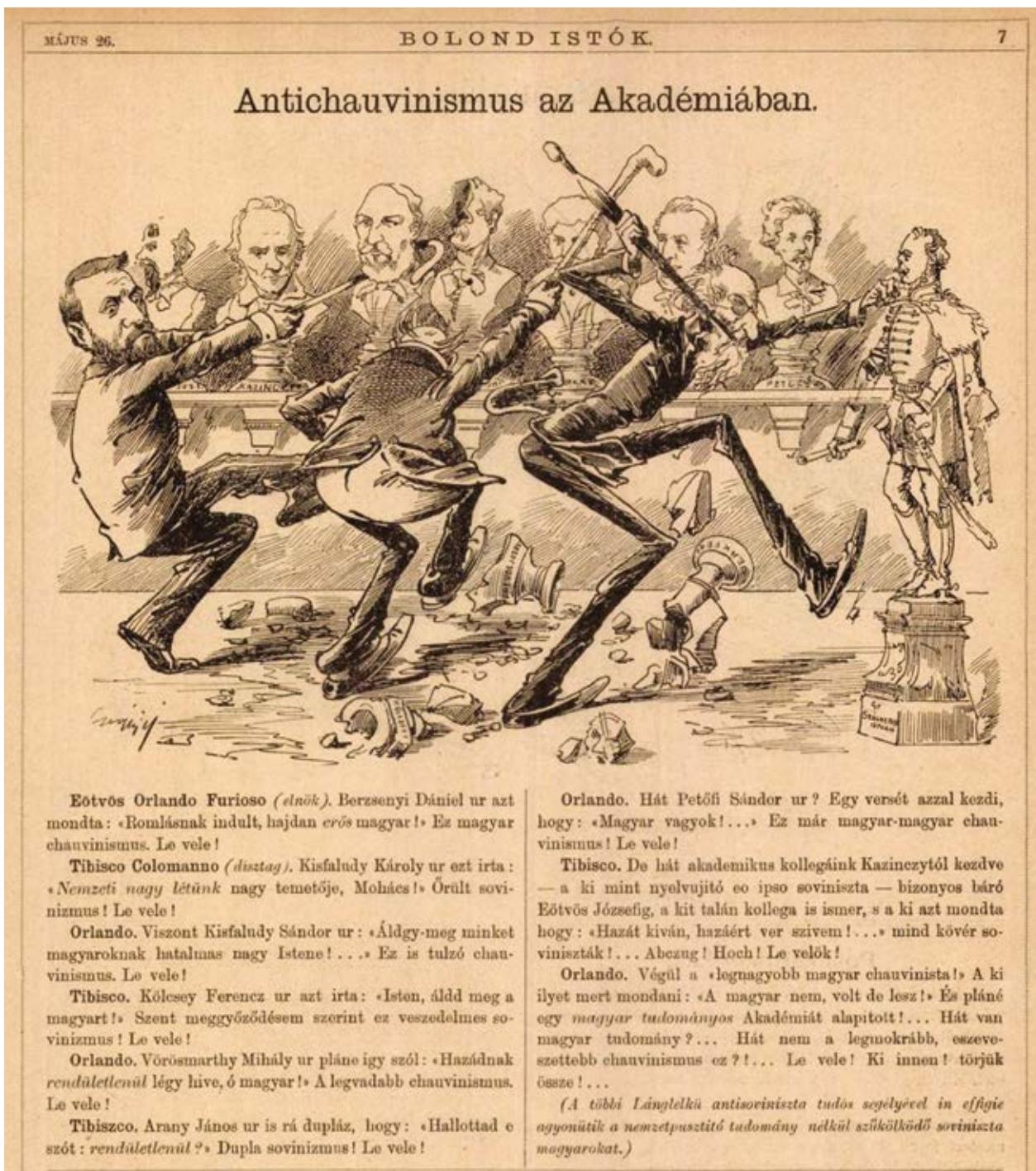
Figure 132. Frigyes Korányi and the doctors of the Internal Medicine Clinic, c. 1890

Figure 133. Pictures of the unveiling of János Arany's statue in the issue of *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1893



Figure 134. Portrait of Károly Zipernowsky, engineer and corresponding member from 1893

Figure 135. Photograph of Ferenc Pulszky, archaeologist and museumologist, Vice President between 1895 and 1897



Eötvös Orlando Furioso (*elnök*). Berzsenyi Dániel ur azt mondta: «Romának indult, hajdan erős magyar!» Ez magyar chauvinizmus. Le vele!

Tibisco Colomanno (*dísztag*). Kisfaludy Károly ur ezt írta: «Nemzeti nagy létünk nagy temetője, Mohacs!» Órult sovinizmus! Le vele!

Orlando. Visszont Kisfaludy Sándor ur: «Áldgy-meg minket magyaroknak hatalmas nagy Istene!...» Ez is tulzó chauvinizmus. Le vele!

Tibisco. Kőlcsey Ferencz ur azt írta: «Isten, áldd meg a magyart!» Szent meggyőződésem szerint ez veszedelmes sovinizmus! Le vele!

Orlando. Vörösmarty Mihály ur pláne így szól: «Hazádnak rendületlenül légy híve, ó magyar!» A legyadabb chauvinizmus. Le vele!

Tibisco. Arany János ur is rá dupláz, hogy: «Hallottad e szót: rendületlenül?» Dupla sovinizmus! Le vele!

Orlando. Hát Petőfi Sándor ur? Egy versét azzal kezdi, hogy: «Magyar vagyok!...» Ez már magyar-magyar chauvinizmus! Le vele!

Tibisco. De hát akademikus kollegáink Kazinczytól kezdve — a ki mint nyelvújító eo ipso sovinista — bizonyos báró Eötvös Józsefig, a kit talán collega is ismer, s a ki azt mondta hogy: «Hazát kíván, hazáért ver szívem!...» mind kövér soviniszták!... Abeszág! Hoch! Le velük!

Orlando. Végül a «legnagyobb magyar chauvinista!» A ki illet mert mondani: «A magyar nem, volt de lesz!» És pláne egy magyar tudományos Akadémiát alapított!... Hát van magyar tudomány?... Hát nem a legnokriabb, eszeveszettebb chauvinizmus ez?... Le vele! Ki innen! törjük össze!...

(A többi Lánglelkű antisziniszta tudós segélyével in effigie agyonütik a nemzetpusztító tudomány nélkül szükölködő sovinista magyarokat.)

Figure 136. Caricature in the satirical magazine *Bolond Istók*, 1895

Figure 137. Award of the Grand Cross of the Order of Franz Joseph to Loránd Eötvös, 1896



Figure 138. Letter from Prime Minister Dezső Bánffy to Loránd Eötvös regarding his award, 1896

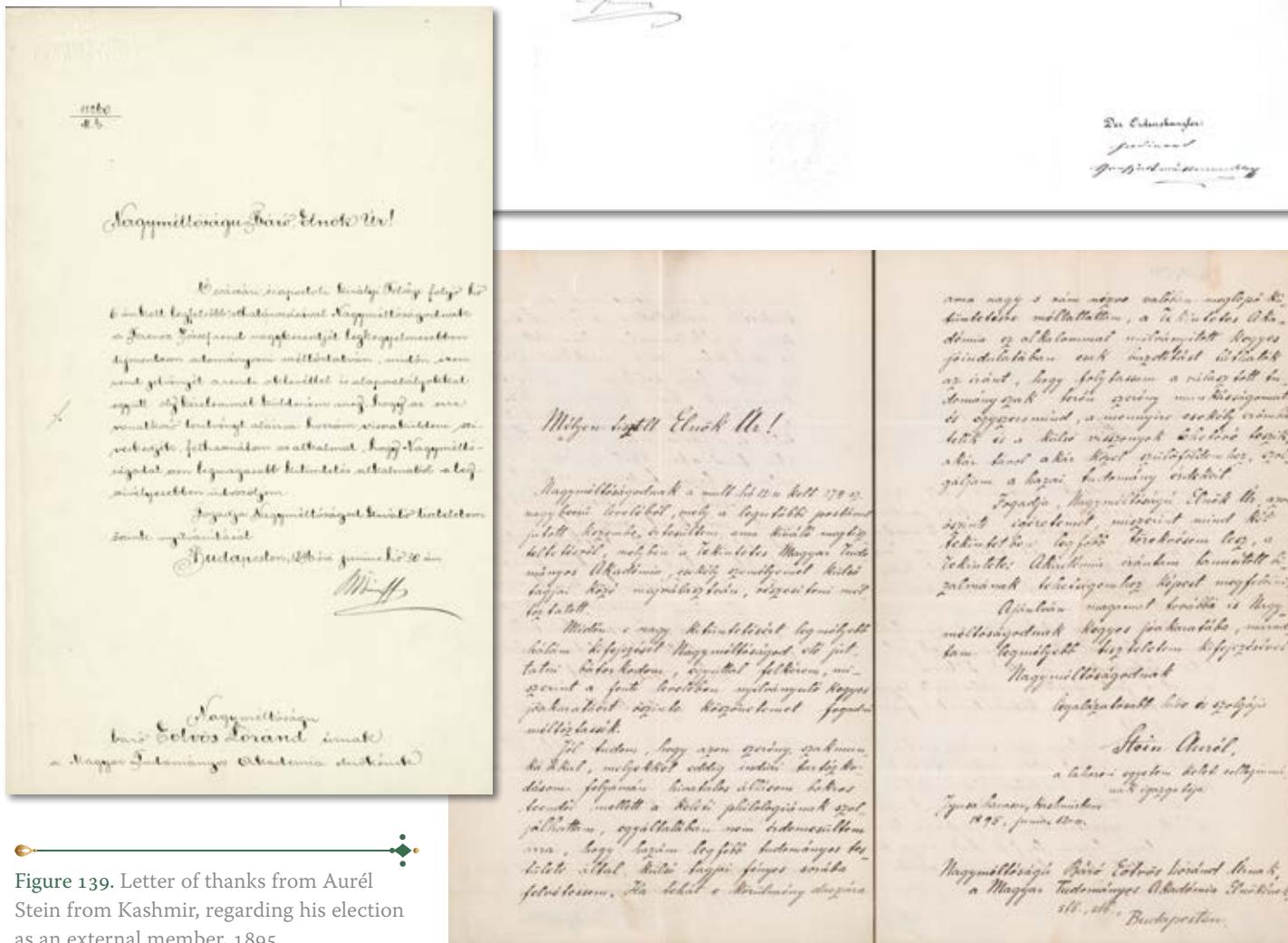


Figure 139. Letter of thanks from Aurél Stein from Kashmir, regarding his election as an external member, 1895



Figure 140. Lobby of the Academy,
c. 1890

Figure 141. Photo of József Szinnyei, librarian and corresponding member from 1899



Figure 142. Photo of Gyula Páuler, historian and archivist, corresponding member from 1870, ordinary member from 1877



Figure 143. The Reading Room of the Academy, c. 1890





Figure 144. The Presidential Council Chamber, c. 1890



Figure 145. Photo of Pál Gyulai, literary historian; corresponding member from 1858, ordinary member from 1867, and member of the Board of Directors from 1883

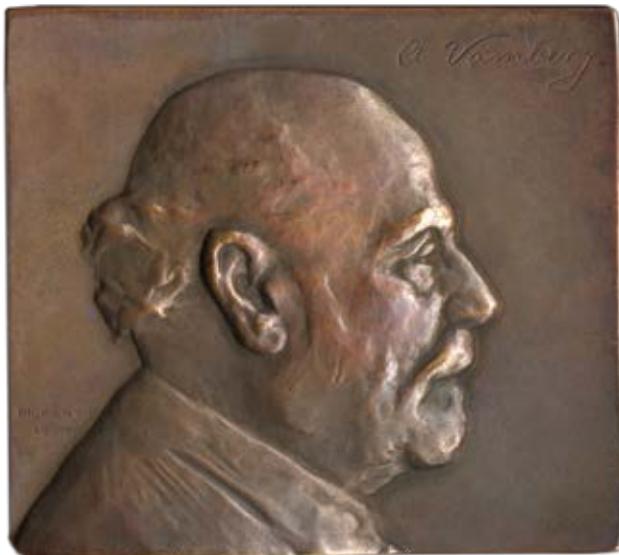


Figure 146. Observe of the Ármin Vámbéry commemorative plaque. Designed by Gyula Murányi, 1900



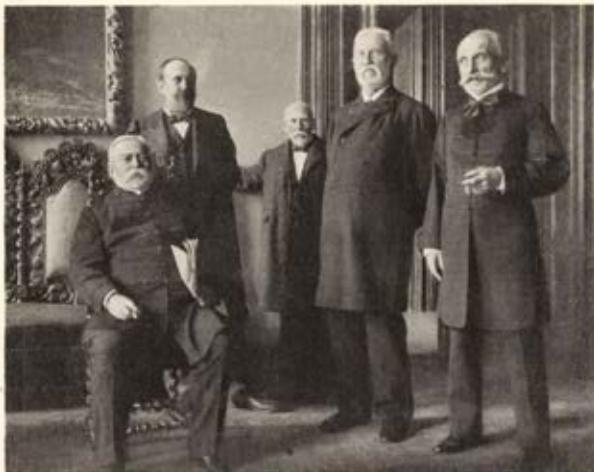
Figure 147. The Goethe Room of the Academy, c. 1900



Figure 148. Room of the Kisfaludy Society, c. 1900



Figure 149. Storage room of the Academy Library, c. 1900



Gyula Pál, Thököly Lajos, György István, László János is Sály Kálmán az Akadémiai ünnepségen az ünnepi szabók része.

Ferenc emlékezésének volt szentelve. Ez az ünnepi köszöntést vasárnap, május 15-ikén tartották, nép számú és dínes honoság jelentében. Az akadémikusok is szívesen jelentek meg, kötött foglalt hódító Berzeviczy Albert vállás- és köszöntőkötő miniszter, mint a kormány képviselője, kih a mostani nagygyűlésen választottak meg tiszteleti tagga. A képviselőház nevében Párvai Dezső elnök jelent meg. Ott voltak az Akadémiai legrégebbi jelöltjei, mint a kitüntetési, a legmagasabb tagozat sorában László János a kollégá, Gyulai Pál és Sály Kálmán. A legidősebb körtük László, ki 1825-ben született a 1863-ban lett az Akadémia tagja; Gyulai Pál egy évre kívül, 1826-ban született s egyike az Akadémia legrégebbi tagjainak: még 1838-ban válasz-

tották meg, Jóval fatalabb nála Sály Kálmán: 1838-ban született s 1866 óta akadémikus. Egyik képünk az Akadémia e Neurortnai együtt történt fel a szükségtől, ahol ülések előtt és után társasági szoktak az akadémikusok. Vélik van Györgyi István, Görgei Ármin tábormarok testvérőce, történeti dolgozatáról ismert író, aki nem tagja ugyan az Akadémiaiak, de néhányik állandó vendége; s Lászlával egy idő. A fatalabb tudós nevénekébe képviselt körtük Thököly Lajos körös pénzügyminiszteri osztályfőnök, a kiváló történetíróvá. Az előrevezetők közül ketten, Gyulai és Sály az ünnepi köszöntés tárgyáról is szerepeltek s a köszöntő örömmel szemből személyük teljes erőst, frissességet.

Az elnöki szabó megtörtént pálmá- és hablombok kört Deák arcuképe függött s az ünnelme, emlékei uralkodott a hálószobában, melyet hárító Eötvös Loránd elnök nyitott meg londítóles leányával.

«Az Akadémia — mondta, — sokat köszönhet Deák-nak. Akadémikánk szomorú évek után azon nemzeti hűségedből hozzában elhagyta az üldözést, amelyet az éppen török hódításnak köszönhet. Az üldözésben meggyilkoltak, melynek dicselkedése vezetőre Deák Ferenc volt, aki nemrémek mint a vezetők, de mint tanítvány, tette a mindekkor legtajánlatosabban a felkelők ellenes harcot. Ilyenkor Sálydejnyi is alkotott, melyben tudományosan vált, rendelkezésre állt magyar műszaki hatalmat. E mai önkormányzatnak ezekről legyen szó. Az a emelik együttműködésre elég nagy arna, hogy figyelmesként teljesen leköse.»

«Beszézik és tudják valamennyien, milyen nagy volt Deák Ferencz tudományára, milyen nagy volt az ő hőszessége, de tudományát, hőszesséjét itt elbont a húszan meg is csak azért becsülik leginkább, mert egyetlen volt: nemzeti pionérünk előmenedéje. Már, megmondjam, hogy a tudományos rangfokozatban a mindenki magasabban állt akadémikus, a mikor ünnepet állnak, húszként hivatalosan olyan nagy elődökre, kik alapvető tudományos igazságokkal gazdagították az emberiséget, míg ilyenkor a hőszégyt tagjaink sorára visszapillantva, a legmagasabbban állják szoktak s a legmagasabbban szoktak nevét hangoztatják, a kik tudományos, vagy irodalmi elérésük mellett, mind hatalnak voltak a legmagasabbak. Az ország frényes palotájában, hol a nemzeti ügyeket emelik választottai és kiválasztottai intézők, az igazságügyi hivatalban, ahol hárító és ügyvéd a jog védelmére kör, kihána a szántóföldön, s ahol a földműves az ők vezető forratai milliók keznyéről készítik el s mindenből, ahol csak magyar ember él és dolgozik: itt is a tudomány és irodalom csarnokában, a mikor a Deák nevét kiejtjük, kell hogy egyszerűen azon szent hőteljesügekre gondoljanak, melyeknek teljesítésével háránknak tartsunk.»

Alkotott többényi látványosaknak kisérte elnöki megszűnés után Gyulai Pál lepette a felolvasások számára készített emelvényre. A köszöntő eljármással üdvözölte az egyszerű fekete stilusba öltözött összetűrőt, kik előzte a meghaltotttagjai fejének hangon, hűtőből szomban mindenkihez szemközére olvasta fel emlékbeszédet Deák Ferencről. Klasszikai tisztságú stilusban írt s a kitűnő író régebbi emlékbeszédeiben minden tekintetben méltó műi en; kibővített belőle az író meghatásosítását, minden Deák általa oly jól ismert s színyre tisztelt alakjára visszamenőként, de ép ügy a kort s exponívül alapozva ismerte a magas stempontból megtörő tulölt és író is. Első részben Deáknak Széchenyivel való viszonyát raj-



Gyula Pál az ünnepségi előadás sorozatban.

Gyula Pál hőszáma előkészítési.



Deák Ferenc előkészítési.

Deák Ferenc előkészítési.

AZ AKADÉMIAI HÁRÚ 15-IKI ÜNNEPI KÖZÜLTÉZMÉNŐ.

Figure 150. Report on the Ferenc Deák Memorial Ceremony, *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1904



Figure 151. Albert Berzeviczy, President of the Academy from 1905 to 1936. Painting by Tivadar Zemplényi, 1905

Figure 152. Letter from Henri Poincaré, the Bolyai Prize-winning French mathematician, regarding his election as an external member in 1906

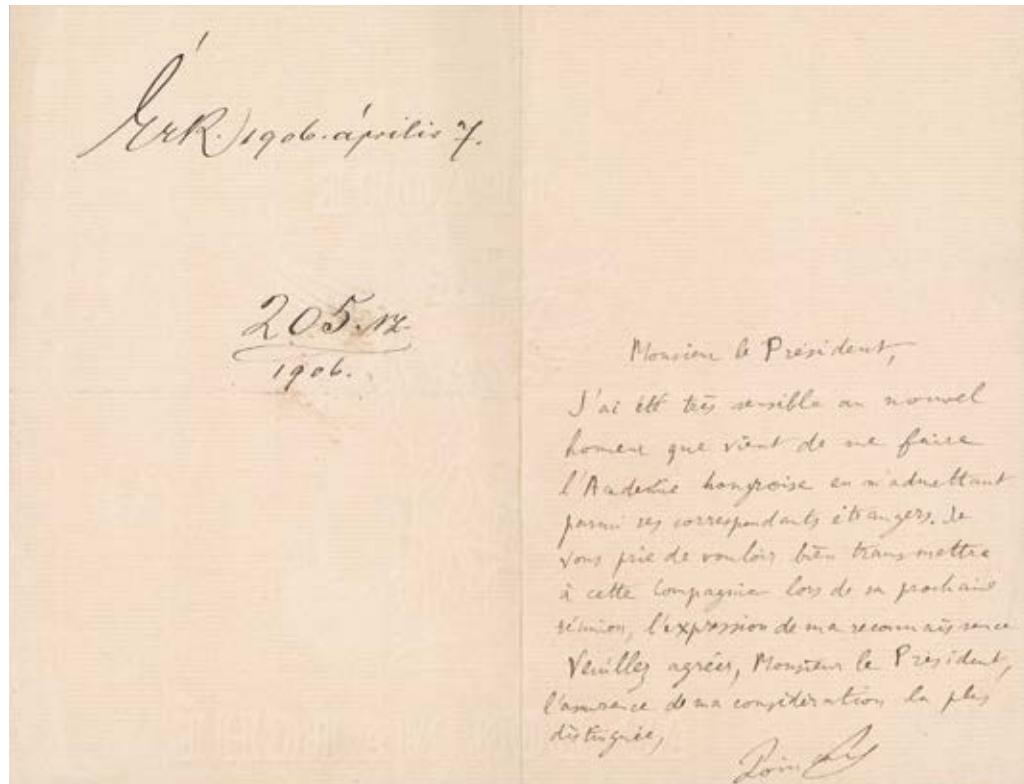


Figure 153. Károly Than, Vice President of the Academy between 1907 and 1908



Figure 154. The Academy's Kálmán Mikszáth Medallion was awarded to mark the 40th anniversary of his literary career. Designed by Gyula Murányi, 1910



Figure 155. Report on the Bolyai Prize, *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1910

Figure 157. Certificate of ordinary membership for the literary historian Zoltán Ferenczi, 1917



Figure 156. The Academy's Bolyai Medal. Designed by Stefan Schwartz, 1910

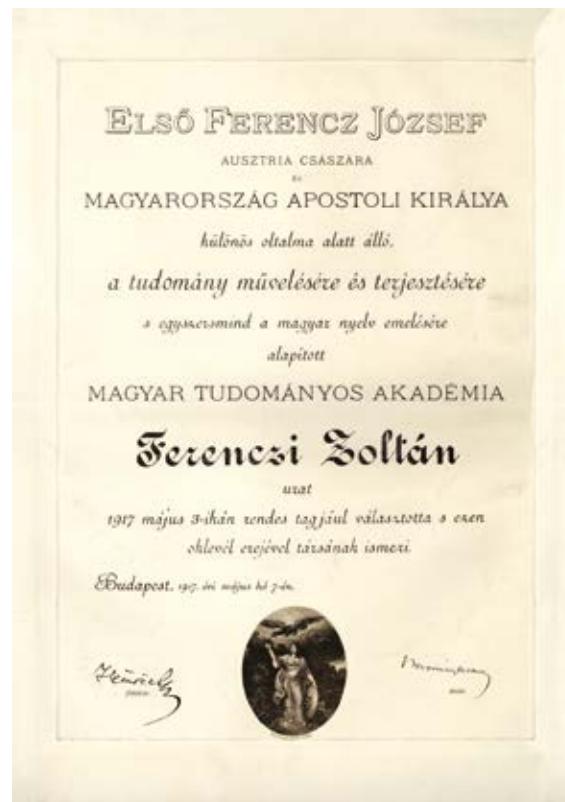




Figure 158. A medallion to mark the 75th birthday of Vilmos Fraknói. Designed by Johanna Blaschczik, 1918

A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia szószata
a növeült világ összes akadémiához.

Az ezeréves Magyarország soradónt⁷ órától Áli,
Mióta önként lerakta fegyverét és haza küldöttje hadsere-
gét, néhány szomszédnép reá tört és testéből ki akarja
szakítani azokat a területeket, amelyekben az államal-
kotó magyarfaj jóvoltából rokonai letelepedhettek és a
magyarsággal vagyesen elhelyezkedve, anyanyelvükkel és
nemzeti szokásainak háborításnál megtarthatották. Mielőtt
védetlen országunk ellen elkövetett merényleteknek ér-
vényt szerezhetteknek, a Magyar Tudományos Akadémia a-
lábbi szószát írták a növeült világ összes akadémiához,
hogy ezek társtalan nemzetük Ugyét megismérjék,
és hogy visszélyeztetett állami életüket és kulturán-
kát az emberi növelődés legfőbb képviselésében megvé-
delmezzék.

- 80c -

A magyar nemzet a legboldogtalanabb euró-ázsiai
népcsaládnak, az indógermán és kínai népcsaládoktól őszak-
ra szorított ural-altáji népeknek Kelet-Európából, Közép-
Európába szekadt, társtalan tagja. Már a korai né-
pek történetében a IX. század végén megjelenik, hún és
avar rokonainak régi országút XI-XIII. századi kronikáink
szerint őrökésg jogán foglalja el. Állandó letelepedésé

országa és népe érdekkében a most önként lerakott fegy-
vert később ismét kezébe vegye és Európát a háború ve-
szedelmével állandóan nyugtalanítja? Ha mind ez nem
szabad, amint hogy csakugyan nem is szabad, akkor a
növeült emberiség szellemi életének legfőbb képviselé-
ben tiltakozó tudományos akadémiáknak tőlünk kért nür-
gés beavatkozása sem lehet meddő és hatástanlan.
Budapesten, 1918 deczember havában.

A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia összes tagjainak nevében:

Herrmann
elnök.

Heinrich
titkár.

F. Haarmay Lajos
az I. oszt. elnöke az II. oszt. elnöke az III. oszt. elnöke.

Károlyi László
az I. oszt. titkára az II. oszt. titkára az III. oszt. titkára

Hevesi László
elnök



From the Aftermath of the First World War to the Communist Reorganization (1919–1949)

Diana Hay



THE SITUATION OF THE ACADEMY AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1919-1920)

The First World War and the revolutions caused major disruptions in the life of the Academy. The political and economic disintegration that followed the war also shook the institution. Its assets in securities and war bonds lost value due to high inflation and the actions of revolutionary governments. Increased printing costs led to a sharp decline in the publication of academic journals and books, while heating and lighting issues limited the number of meetings. Political changes further aggravated this increasingly critical situation.

At the assembly on 25 November 1918, Albert Berzeviczy, President of the Academy, welcomed the end of the war and expressed the hope that the era of peace would be fruitful for science and literature. However, this was not the case for the time being, as the resolutions adopted at the meeting showed that the war's defeat and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire had brought many new challenges to the academic world.

The changed circumstances made amending the statutes necessary, so a committee was appointed to do so at the assembly on 19 December 1918. Unfortunately, however, the following months were not conducive to peaceful scientific work or reorganisation.

Following the proclamation of the Soviet Republic on 21 March 1919, the Academy found itself in a crisis. Albert Berzeviczy gave a lengthy report at the first assembly after the fall of the Soviet Republic, on 18 August 1919. First, the Soviet government seized the real estate assets of the scientific body. Then, it restricted the Secretary General's right to issue orders and seized the headquarters' premises. Berzeviczy also said they were deeply offended by the government's exclusion of them from Loránd Eötvös's funeral. On 14 April, the People's Commissar for Public Education, György Lukács, sent a letter to the Academy informing them that he was suspending its activities, revoking the powers of the President and Secretary General, and entrusting administrative management to the Director of the

Office of the Secretary General. The Council Government aimed to reorganise the Academy, but time was short, and this was not achieved.

On 17 May 1919, the Red Guard moved into the Academy's headquarters, placing machine guns on the balcony. During the counterrevolutionary attempt on 24 June, shots were fired at the Danube monitors from this location, which also caused damage to the building. After the fall of the Soviet government, the Academy regained its property, and the President and Secretary General were reinstated. However, the situation remained difficult, as Budapest was still under Romanian occupation and the political situation was unstable.

Following the events that had taken place, the right-wing conservative regime that came to power in August 1919 sought to hold those who had participated in the 1918–1919 revolutions, primarily those of the Commune, accountable. Thus, Gyula Pekár, who was President of the counter-revolutionary organisation called the White House and Political State Secretary at the Ministry of Religion and Public Education from 1919 to 1921, therefore proposed at the August meeting that the behaviour of the Academy's members during the Soviet Republic should be examined, as some of them might have been unworthy of membership in terms of their national loyalty.

At a closed meeting on 24 November 1919, the Academy discussed the verification of its members. This followed a procedure that had lasted several weeks. As early as August, a fifteen-member Credentials Committee had been set up, with five members from each section. The committee examined the cases of all academics who had played any role during the dictatorship. The committee obtained all the relevant data and articles, interviewed witnesses, and then called the accused members to present their defence. Having completed its work, the committee drew up a report on each case and drafted its motions, which were presented to the meeting. Given the sensitive nature of the report, it was not reproduced but only read out at the meeting. Albert Berzeviczy, the President, informed the meeting that the committee had recommend-

ed the exclusion of seven individuals. Although there is no provision for this in the statutes and rules of procedure, he stated that no body can be deprived of the right to exclude a member who has been declared unworthy. Finally, he recommended that, as with the election of members, the vote should be by secret ballot, with expulsion decided by a two-thirds majority. He also drew attention to the fact that

'we must take into account that we are few in number and can hardly afford to do without any of our intellectual elites; therefore, only in the most serious cases should someone whom the Academy has deemed worthy of election as a member be excluded from our scholarly community' (Akadémiai Értesítő, 1919, Vol. 30, 287).

The meeting accepted the proposals, but, as they were not yet finalised, the business was continued until the meeting on 2 December 1919. At this meeting, Kálmán Szily pointed out that, at the previous session, it had been incorrectly decided that a two-thirds majority was required for expulsion. According to the rules of procedure, an absolute majority would suffice. Therefore, he requested that the decisions of 24 November be annulled, and that the cases of the three academics be put to the vote again. Consequently, Oszkár Asbóth, Bernát Alexander and Adolf Lendl were removed from the list of members at this meeting, and disapproval was expressed in two cases (Radó Kövesligethy and József Schmidt). However, the cases could not be closed at this meeting, and László Éber was excluded on 23 February 1920, followed by Manó Beke on 19 April 1920.

Despite their efforts to conduct thorough investigations, the political sympathies and emotions of the members played a significant role in judging the cases. The expelled individuals were mostly guilty of simply continuing to work in their fields during the Soviet Republic. The uncertainty is also reflected in the fact that the proposals were discussed over multiple sessions, and during the voting process, there were cases where individuals were



Figure 160. Gyula Pekár, writer and politician, corresponding member of the Academy from 1911

Figure 161. Bernát Alexander, philosopher and aesthetician, corresponding member of the Academy from 1892, ordinary member from 1915

Figure 162. Oszkár Asbóth, linguist, corresponding member of the Academy from 1892, ordinary member from 1907

Figure 163. Manó Beke, mathematician, corresponding member from 1914



initially acquitted but were eventually expelled. A notable example is the case of Zsigmond Simonyi, whom the verification committee had proposed for expulsion; however, due to the strain he had endured, he passed away on November 22. As a result, at the meeting on November 24, the expulsion was dropped, and he was remembered with reverence.

None of them were rehabilitated during the period in question, but all of them were subsequently rehabilitated by the Academy. Manó Beke was re-elected as a corresponding member at the 26 April 1945 meeting, as he was the only one still alive at that time. In May 1989, the general assembly decided

"that it was appropriate to honour those who had passed away. Therefore, the Academy deemed the memberships of Alexander Bernát, Oszkár Asbóth, László Éber and Adolf Lendl, who had been excluded for their involvement in the Soviet Republic, to be valid until their respective deaths."
(Akadémiai Közlöny, 1989/8 [8 Dec], p. 149.)

CHANGE OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND REORGANISATION IN THE 1920S

The vindication of the academics had barely been completed when the removal of the Secretary General, Gusztáv Heinrich, stirred up the academy membership. Multiple factors may have played a role in forcing the resignation: firstly, Heinrich was considered too liberal for post-Trianon science policy; secondly, his outspokenness in scientific debates and volatile nature made him enemies, and the cooperation between the Secretary General and the President was disrupted during the revolutions. Heinrich then felt that his conscientious work was a burden, and thus gave up his post with relief.

Jenő Balogh, a lawyer with a strong political background and connections, was elected unanimously as his successor at the joint session – when the President, Vice President and Secretary General were also voted on – on 20 December 1920. This proved crucial in resolving the Academy's financial problems in 1920, as well as after the Vigyázó Estate was inherited. The Academy had in Jenő



Balogh a puritanical and extremely hard-working Secretary General. In 1920, he decided not to take his salary given the institution's difficult financial situation, a decision he maintained even when the Academy was in a better financial position. His attitude was determined by his principled position: "Everything for the Academy, nothing from the Academy".

Jenő Balogh's election marked a continuation of the Academy's traditions from the dualist era and a rejection of the extreme revolutionary and counterrevolutionary currents. As a consequence of this conservative-liberal spirit, the cult of István Tisza emerged alongside the cult of Széchenyi.

Efforts to address the Academy's poor financial situation after the war eventually proved successful. On 1 March 1920, Miklós Horthy was elected Governor. The Academy then requested the Governor's patronage as a scientific institute under the special protection of the King, in accordance with the first paragraph of its unchanged statutes. In 1922, the Academy received an extraordinary state subsidy of 6 million crowns, and in November of that year, Kunó Klebelsberg, the Minister of Religion and Public Education, submitted a bill to the National Assembly for state support of the Academy. This law (1923: Act I, on State Support for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) provided the Academy with 12 million crowns per year from the 1923/24 financial year onwards, with no obligation to account for the funds. The law also sought to assist the Academy by integrating its officials, as state employees, into the total staff of the Hungarian National Collection University, with their salaries paid by the state.

THE CENTENARY OF THE ACADEMY

With the 100th anniversary of the Academy's foundation approaching, preparations began in the spring of 1920 to ensure a fitting celebration. Initial plans were made to write a history of the Academy, but these were abandoned for financial reasons. In 1924, they decided to write a history

of the Academy's century-long impact on the development of various disciplines, to be presented at Academy meetings in 1925–1926. From 1926 to 1928, lectures on 22 scientific fields were published in two volumes entitled *The First Century of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences 1–2* (Budapest, 1926). The descendants of the Academy's founders (Tiborné Teleki, Alice Széchenyi, and Hanna Széchenyi Lajosné Károlyi) supported the publication with donations.

On 3 November 1925, the Academy held a centenary celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of István Széchenyi's generous donation in Pozsony (now Bratislava) to found the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Those in attendance included the Governor, the President of the National Assembly, Kunó Klebelsberg (Minister of Religion and Public Education), Archduke Joseph, and the Mayor of the capital. Nine foreign representatives of governments and academies of higher education delivered greetings. Following the presidential opening address, Jenő Balogh, Secretary General, presented the history of the Academy's foundation, after which there were two further presentations. At the end of the ceremony, the guests and representatives of foreign scientific societies and governments from Austria, Estonia and Finland welcomed the speakers. Emil Setälä, the Finnish Minister of Education, wished the Academy every success in Hungarian.

THE VIGYÁZÓ ESTATE

Count Ferenc Vigyázó died in a Vienna neurosanatorium on 29 July 1928. In his will, he bequeathed the property he had inherited from his parents, Count Sándor Vigyázó and Baroness Zsuzsanna Podmaniczky, to the Academy, in accordance with their wishes, as well as his own property. This made the financially struggling Academy the owner of a vast fortune. At a meeting on 18 August 1928, the Academy's Board of Directors accepted the bequest and set up an economic committee. The committee's first task was to settle the inheritance lawsuits and debts associated with the takeover of the estate. This work primarily fell to



Figure 164. Obverse and reverse of the medallion of Jenő Balogh, Secretary General of the Academy. Designed by Fülöp Ö. Beck, 1924

the Secretary General. Following these settlements, one quarter of the estate went to the heirs, while the Academy acquired 18,000 acres of land in Pest and Somogy counties, three castles (in Rákoskeresztúr, Abony and Nagyberki), a tenement house in Budapest, and 600,000 pengő in securities. At that time, the castle in Vácrátót was given to Marietta Bolza, the niece of Ferenc Vigyázó; it only came under the Academy's administration in 1952, when the Botanical Institute was established. In the press of the time, the question of how the Academy was managing its assets and what it would do with them was often raised. Thus, every year, statements and reports on the management of the Vigyázó Estate were published in the *Akadémiai Értesítő* (*Academy Bulletin*), and it was emphasised that the committee members performed their duties with complete selflessness, without any personal gain or advantage.

The Academy was not free to dispose of a significant proportion of its income. For example, 20% of the inherited property from Zsuzsanna Podmaniczky had to be cap-

italised, 8% had to be given to the poor in three municipalities, and 32% had to be used to publish biographies and historical monographs in memory of the Podmaniczky family. Only the remaining 40% could be used for 'national purposes' as defined by the Academy. This financed the popular publication of classics of Hungarian literature under the title *The Literary Library of the Hungarian People*, including the publication of 5,000–5,000 copies of selected poems by Vörösmarty and Petőfi and letters by Kelemen Mikes. The castle at Rákoskeresztúr was also turned into the Podmaniczky-Vigyázó Memorial Museum by the will.

It was immediately suggested that the income from the Vigyázó Estate could be used to support initiatives beyond the remit of the Academy and to fund scientific research. For instance, Elek 'Sigmund' suggested establishing a state institute for soil science, but the Academy believed that agricultural associations and cooperatives should be responsible for setting up such an institute, not the Academy.

Funds from the Vigyázó estate were primarily allocated to expanding book publishing and supporting the work of new committees. Thanks to this, the Academy founded its folk music subcommittee in 1933, entrusting Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály with the personal responsibility of publishing folk music collections and creating further ones. The Academy also provided a room in its headquarters, known as the 'horseshoe room', for the collection.

THE ACADEMY IN THE 1930S

Funding for research in the natural sciences was lower than expected, as the statutes inherited from the previous century grouped all natural and engineering sciences together in a single Section. This Section had 9 honorary, 24 ordinary and 60 corresponding seats in the Academy, which comprised 250 members.

During this period, the scientific community's work was characterised by conservatism and closed-mindedness. The leadership of the Academy maintained a reserved attitude toward modern literary endeavors and emerging trends in scholarship; however, it did not allow the party politics and ideological struggles of the day to enter its halls. However, they were unable to maintain this for long. On 17 February 1930, at a meeting of the Natural Sciences Section of the Third Division of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Lajos Méhely, an ordinary member of the Academy, delivered a lecture titled *The Degeneration of Our Scientific Life*, in which he criticized Ernő Csíki's work on terrestrial isopods (Isopoda). (After decades of work in zoology, Méhely began writing articles on species biology and anti-Semitism in the 1920s. His writings provoked extended debates with critics, including both journalists and fellow scholars such as Ernő Csíki.) Several of the academicians present at the session deemed the personal and excessively pedantic remarks intolerable, and, led by Géza Zemplén, walked out of the room in protest. Thereafter, Méhely formally demanded redress from the Academy,

claiming he had been unjustly attacked. As the Academy saw no reason to grant Méhely satisfaction, he resigned his Academy membership in December 1931.

Berzeviczy resigned in 1933 after reaching the age of 80 but was re-elected on 11 May 1934 because his successor had not yet been found. At the meeting held on 10 March 1936 to elect the President, Pál Teleki and Bálint Hóman persuaded the academicians to elect Archduke Joseph, who had always taken a keen and conscientious interest in the affairs of the Academy. This was in recognition of the fact that Archduke Joseph had supported the Academy with substantial sums of money and that his ancestors had played an important role in establishing and maintaining the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The election was criticised in contemporary press reports, which said that the Archduke's scientific work did not justify his election. Nevertheless, Archduke Joseph was President of the Academy for the next ten years.

There was also a change in the position of Secretary General. Although Jenő Balogh had been elected for life, he submitted his resignation in June 1934, citing other public activities and family reasons. However, it was not accepted until a year later. At the joint session on 7 November 1935, the literary historian Géza Voinovich was elected Secretary General.

Thanks to good management, the Academy's financial situation had stabilised by the end of the 1930s, mainly due to the prudent use of the Vigyázó Estate. This enabled serious scientific projects that had been abandoned to continue, and copies of the Academy's publications could be distributed to public institutions free of charge or at reduced prices.

JEWISH SCHOLARS AT THE ACADEMY

Intellectual life between the wars was overshadowed by antisemitic discrimination. After the fall of the 1919 communist dictatorship, antisemitism gained strength, partly due to the fact that several prominent leaders of the Hun-

garian Soviet Republic were of Jewish descent. The Trianon Peace Treaty also had serious consequences, with the country losing two-thirds of its territory and large populations of Hungarians being displaced across the border. Many intellectuals (mainly civil servants) who had been stranded abroad moved to Hungary, and many young people came to Budapest to continue their higher education. Due to the oversupply of intellectuals, the significant Jewish presence in higher education was criticised, resulting in the introduction of Law XXV of 1920 (*numerus clausus*). Although the strict provisions of this law were later relaxed, the fundamental principle that only a small percentage of the Jewish population (6%) should be permitted to attend university remained throughout this period. Consequently, many young Jews were forced to study abroad and pursue their academic careers there. This aspiration was also reflected in the election of members of the Academy, with hardly any scientists of Jewish origin being elected (Alfréd Haar and István Möller were elected as corresponding members in 1931 and 1927, respectively).

Following the introduction of the Jewish Laws in 1938, the situation of the Jewish intelligentsia became even more difficult. Although many academicians in the Upper House tried to pass a law exempting Jewish academics, they failed. Following the German occupation, the situation for Jewish academics became desperate, with some resorting to suicide (such as the meteorologist Lajos Steiner and the chemical engineer Nándor Mauthner), while others were sent to concentration camps. The case of the internationally renowned economist Frigyes Fellner (1871–1945) is particularly tragic. From 1903, he was a private lecturer in agricultural policy at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Budapest, having converted to the Reformed religion that year. From 1909, he was an ordinary member of the International Statistical Institute, representing the Hungarian government at its meetings. His scientific work focused primarily on the calculation of national wealth and income, balance of payments issues, monetary policy, finance, and statistics. He played a key role in achieving economic stabilisation during the Horthy

era. In 1927, he became an alternate member of the Upper House as a delegate of the Faculty of Economics, and in 1939, he became an ordinary member. In 1941, upon turning seventy, he requested retirement as of the end of September, but he had already resigned from his Upper House membership on June 9. Following the German occupation, he was arrested and deported to Mauthausen, where he died of starvation in early 1945. (István Hargittai, A Vast White Spot in the History of Hungarian Scholarship, *Magyar Tudomány*, 2013/9. 1035–1045).

THE ACADEMY AT THE END OF THE WAR AND IN 1945

The year 1944 saw many tragic events in the life of the country and the Academy. Following the German invasion on 19 March, only one or two readings were held, and the spring general assembly was postponed, only convening after the Arrow Cross takeover on 15 October. The meeting was poorly attended and therefore not quorate, but it was nevertheless decided – probably at the suggestion of the Academy President, Archduke Joseph Habsburg, who had sworn an oath of allegiance to Szálasi – that the Grand Prize should be awarded to the far-right, antisemitic medical professor, Ferenc Orsós.

By the end of the year, the siege of Budapest had begun, and all academic activities had ceased. The Academy's headquarters found itself on the front line. By the time the siege ended on 13 February 1945, the entire city was in ruins. Bombing had left hardly a house or roof intact, and the retreating German army's destruction of all the bridges over the Danube on 16 January 1945 made transport between the two parts of the city impossible.

On 7 March 1945, János Melich, an ordinary member and one of the oldest members of the Board of Directors and the Academy, invited some academics to meet and elect an Interim President. They knew that President Archduke Joseph had fled to the West to escape the Soviet army. Throughout the world war, he had supported the German



Figure 165. Archduke Joseph, the newly appointed President of the Academy, places a wreath on Berzeviczy's coffin, accompanied by the Secretary General, Géza Voinovich, and Gábor Szalay, Berzeviczy's son-in-law

orientation, and in October 1944, he declared his support for the new Arrow Cross–Hungarist leadership. Those present agreed to elect Gyula Kornis as Interim President. He had visited the academy several times since the siege to offer advice and take action. Kornis was confirmed as President at the joint session held on 28 May 1945. He was accepted by the majority of Academy members because the knowledge and education of the conservative philosopher were universally recognised. As President of the Academy's Second Section, he had also demonstrated his leadership skills. However, it was felt that he could not remain President in the long term because, although he was known to be anti-Nazi – he had been arrested by the Gestapo for three weeks in 1944 – his political past (he had been a leader of cultural policy between the wars) and his links with the Catholic Church (he had been a Piarist monk) made him unacceptable to left-wing parties. So, when the university's disciplinary procedures began, he was forced to retire. He appealed and, although the People's Court

revoked the forced retirement order but, while permitting him to continue in public service, issued a formal reprimand on 10 October 1945. This prompted Gyula Kornis to resign as President on 11 October 1945 and as a member of the Academy on 16 April 1948. (The general assembly of May 1989 also rehabilitated him and reinstated his membership, as it considered his resignation to have been coerced. At the Board of Directors meeting on 30 March, Géza Voinovich himself reported that, after failing to prevent the exclusion proposal, he informed Gyula Kornis this, who then resigned his Academy membership by letter.) At the meeting on 29 October 1945, the academicians unanimously invited the legal philosopher Gyula Moór to temporarily assume the presidency, which had been declared vacant. Gyula Moór had to cope with not only the institution's difficult financial situation after the war, but also the attacks surrounding the Academy's restructuring.

As early as the 1930s, the Academy was criticised for not admitting new intellectuals, and its ageing membership

was widely condemned. At the plenary session on 26 April 1945, Albert Szent-Györgyi proposed that all but the 30 most outstanding members should resign, leaving these 30 to decide who should be recalled and who should be newly elected. However, this proposal was rejected. Szent-Györgyi then resigned from the Academy, but it elected him as an honorary member at its meeting on 30 May. (Until 1949, honorary members were chosen from among pro-science patriots who were expected to support the Academy financially and in public life, or from among eminent scientists and writers who had contributed to science or the Academy.)

At the 30 May meeting in 1945, Gyula Moór proposed setting up a committee to review the statutes and rules of procedure, as none of them contained a paragraph allowing the exclusion of members. After the amendments were approved by the Academy's joint committee on 13 July 1945, Bálint Hóman, Archduke Joseph, and Ferenc Orsós were excluded at the meeting held on 20 July based on this decision.

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

In 1945, of the Academy's three divisions, only one was devoted to the natural sciences, and of its six subsections, merely two belonged to the natural sciences. Consequently, representatives of the natural sciences felt that the modernization of the scholarly body could only be achieved by increasing the weight of the natural and technical sciences and by undertaking new responsibilities. Although 37 new corresponding members were elected at the meeting on 30 May 1945 (whereas in previous decades typically 6 to 10 corresponding members were chosen), this was not sufficient for those striving for renewal.

In the middle of the summer, Szent-Györgyi observed that reforming the Academy from within was impossible, so on 30 July 1945, he and Zoltán Bay established the Academy of Natural Sciences. In the following months, the tensions between Szent-Györgyi and the Hungarian Academy

of Sciences grew steadily. On 5 December, he called a press conference and announced that he had requested his name be removed from the Academy's membership list and explained his reasons for founding the Academy of Natural Sciences. He believed that rebuilding the country was impossible without modern science, yet the spirit of the current Academy was neither modern nor scientific. The Academy then brought a libel suit against him, and Vice President Gyula Moór dismissed his accusations in the 12 December 1945 issue of *Világ*. Moór told the journalist that the Academy had expelled Bálint Hóman, Archduke Joseph, and Ferenc Orsós; at its spring general assembly, it had elected some fifty new members, many of whom had previously been excluded. Finally, Moór said that they had been in constant discussion with the Academy of Natural Sciences but had been unable to reach an agreement on three essential issues. The Academy's leaders were not prepared to split the institution in two; give up the democratic process of electing new members by secret ballot; or accept the idea of having all members resign and then have an 'infallible' person or committee recall the 'real' scientists and found a new Academy. However, the question of membership review remained a constant issue in the years that followed.

At the Academy's meeting on 1 July 1946, Gyula Moór presented an agreement with the Academy of Natural Sciences. According to this agreement, at the next general assembly of the Academy, members of the Academy of Natural Sciences who are not already members of the Academy would be elected to Section III. After this, the Academy of Natural Sciences would be dissolved. The Academy's Section III, which will henceforth be the section of Mathematical, Physical, Chemical, and Engineering Sciences, will be separated from the Biological and Medical Sciences Section, Section IV. It was also agreed that the membership numbers of the Section III and IV combined would equal the total membership of the Section I and II, that the authority of the Board of Directors would be extended, and that membership terms would be limited to three years. Gyula Moór also announced that Albert Szent-Györgyi had writ-

ten to say that his criticism did not apply to the Academy as a whole, but only to certain harmful phenomena. The President had arranged for the lawsuit to be withdrawn. In response, Albert Szent-Györgyi and two of his colleagues requested that their resignations be considered null and void, a request that the meeting gladly acknowledged.

Then, at the general assembly on 24 June 1946, the Academy's new leadership was elected: Zoltán Kodály as President, Albert Szent-Györgyi as Vice President, and Géza Voinovich as Secretary General. The meeting also elected new honorary, ordinary and corresponding members, as agreed. Those who were not previously members of the Academy of Natural Sciences were Samu Borbély, Győző Bruckner, Zoltán Csűrös, László Detre, Jenő Ernst, Pál Gombás, György Ivánovics, Miklós Jancsó, Kálmán Laki, Géza Mansfeld, István Rusznyák, Kálmán Sántha and Brunó Straub F., Antal Tárczy-Hornoch, László Tóth, Imre Törő, and Sándor Wolsky. At the membership election general assembly on 19 December 1946, several of the newly elected corresponding members from the natural sciences were elected as ordinary members. This was necessary because it was the wish of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and because otherwise the newly formed Sections IV (Biological and Medical Sciences) and III (Mathematical, Physical, Chemical and Technical Sciences) would not have had sufficient voting rights (at that time, corresponding members only had voting rights at section meetings).

THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ACADEMY (1947–1949)

In the following years, the Academy was not spared from the political changes in the country, and with the rise of left-wing parties, the idea of politically screening the Academy's membership and electing progressive new scientists to fill the resulting vacancies was raised again. At the Board of Directors' meeting on 25 January 1947, Géza Mansfeld – who had been deported to Auschwitz during the German

occupation due to his Jewish heritage – raised the issue of screening members for political suitability. The Board of Directors then established a five-person committee (József Turóczi-Trostler, István Bibó, Aladár Buzágh and István Rusznyák) to carry out this task, with Mansfeld as chairman. Aladár Buzágh was the only member of the committee who had belonged to the Academy before 1945. At its meeting on 26 April 1947, the Credentials Committee drew up its report and recommended the expulsion of twelve academics: Ernő Nemes Balogh (doctor), Ferenc Herzog (doctor), Béla Johan (doctor), Elemér Császár (physicist), Kálmán Szily (engineer), Elemér Mályusz (historian), István Dékány (philosopher), Gyula Mitrovics and Alajos Dolányi Kovács (statisticians), Henrik Schmidt (linguist), Károly Sipeki Balás and Tivadar Surányi-Unger (economists). The Board of Directors discussed the committee's proposal on 28 April 1947, but even after lengthy deliberations, they could not reach a consensus on the final list. The Board of Directors met again on 10 May 1947. They discussed the report of the Credentials Committee again and decided to initiate the exclusion procedure and notify those affected. For those in whose defense objections were raised, additional proceedings were undertaken to enable decisions to be made with concrete information; yet no further action occurred for a while. At the election meeting for members on 6 June 1947, no one was excluded, and seven new corresponding members were elected: two to Section III and four to Section IV. This increased the number of natural scientists further.

Gyula Mitrovics was the first of the 12 aforementioned members to be expelled. He resigned on 17 July 1947 via a telegram sent to the Secretary General, which was accepted by the Academy at its meeting on 9 December 1947. At the meeting on 23 April 1948, two corresponding members, Károly Papp and Zoltán Vámossy, were expelled for not holding an inaugural lecture since their election in 1920. The statutes had stipulated since 1942 that an elected member must hold an inaugural lecture within three years because "if the elected member does not take a seat, his seat must be filled". The meeting accepted the Board of



Figure 166. The establishment of the Hungarian Scientific Council on 25 February 1949. At the table: the Council's presidium: Academician István Rusznyák; Gyula Ortutay, Minister of Education; Ernő Gerő, President of the Council (standing); Imre Vajda, President of the Planning Office; György Alexits, Secretary General of the Scientific Council; and László Rudas, member of the Council's Social Science Division

Directors' proposal to add transitional measures to the statutes, stipulating that the membership shall be terminated for those who have not communicated any information about themselves since 1945. On this basis, Henrik Schmidt, Károly sipeki Balás, Tivadar Surányi-Unger, Kálmán Szily and György Jendrassik were expelled at the meeting. Jendrassik and Szily were rehabilitated at the May 1989 general assembly; the others were rehabilitated at the May 1991 general assembly.

At the Academy's meeting on 23 September 1948, István Náray-Szabó was expelled based on a court verdict (he was the 36th defendant in the Hungarian Community Trial and was rehabilitated in 1989). At the meeting on 13 April 1949, Alajos Dolányi Kovács was expelled for being convicted of an anti-people crime (he has not been rehabilitated to this day because he prepared the statistical basis for the Jewish laws). No further exclusions took place, but by 1949, all twelve members referred to by the verification committee were no longer part of the Academy, albeit they left at different times and for different reasons.

The last ones (e.g. Elemér Mályusz) became victims of disenfranchisement as consultative members – more on this in the next chapter.

In 1948, following significant amendments to the statutes, 30 new corresponding members were successfully elected at the general assembly held on 2 July. The development of the Academy's membership and its future position were significantly influenced by the fact that in August 1948, the National Assembly established the Hungarian Scientific Council through Act No. XXXVIII. The President of the Council became Ernő Gerő, who was the second-in-command of the Hungarian Workers' Party (the name of the Hungarian Communist Party between 1948 and 1956), while the position of Co-President was given to Minister Gyula Ortutay. Ernő Gerő declared that the establishment of the Council marked a decisive turning point in the development of Hungarian science. From this point onward, scientists would be able to carry out their work with adequate financial support and in close connection with practical life. He also emphasized that planned

scientific activity must contribute to the socialist industrial enterprises, modern agriculture, and the implementation of the Five-Year Plan.

The Scientific Council comprised three departments and 30 members, 17 of whom were Academy members (György Alexits, Rezső Bognár, Aladár Buzágh, Ferenc Erdei, Lipót Fejér, Béla Fogarasi, Pál Gombás, József Jáky, György Lukács, Győző Mihailich, Gyula Ortutay, István Rusznyák, Kálmán Sántha, Brunó Straub F., Sándor Szalai, Géza Zemplén, Miklós Zsirai), and most of them continued to participate in the management of the Academy in the following decades. Following the establishment of the Scientific Council, many believed that the Academy would no longer play a significant role in scientific life.

From the beginning of 1949, the process by which the Communist Party took control in all areas accelerated, and by the end of the year, it had been completed, establishing – following the Soviet model – a new institutional system. As part of this process, in June 1949, the Party Collegium of the Scientific Council discussed a report on the situation of the Academy. The concept of the proposal was developed by Ernő Gerő, but it was presented to the Party Collegium by György Alexits. In his introduction, Alexits

explained that the Communist Party's initial tactic had been to gradually take control of the Academy. However, the situation had now changed as 'progressive' bourgeois scientists were starting to support the Communist Party's programme and frequently requested the Scientific Council's assistance. Another argument in favour of reorganising the Academy was that Sabanov and Gluschenko, two Soviet comrades, had said that while the Soviet Academy of Sciences agreed with the objectives of the Hungarian Scientific Council, it could only recognise the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as the representative scientific body of Hungary. Thus, Alexits concluded that since the renewal of the Academy was also being initiated from within, the simplest solution would be for the Academy to revise its statutes in accordance with the changed circumstances. The final step in this reorganization – driven from two directions but directed by the Scientific Council – was the adoption of the new statutes at the Academy's meeting on 31 October. This meeting also carried out a membership revision, making some academics consultative members based on a list decided by the Hungarian Scientific Council. This marked the beginning of a new phase in the Academy's life, which will be discussed in the next chapter.



Figure 167. Loránd Eötvös, who died on 8 April 1919, was laid in state at the Hungarian National Museum on 11 April. The funeral procession then departed for the Kerepesi Cemetery

Figure 168. Letter dated 14 April 1919 from People's Commissar György Lukács regarding the suspension of the Academy's operations

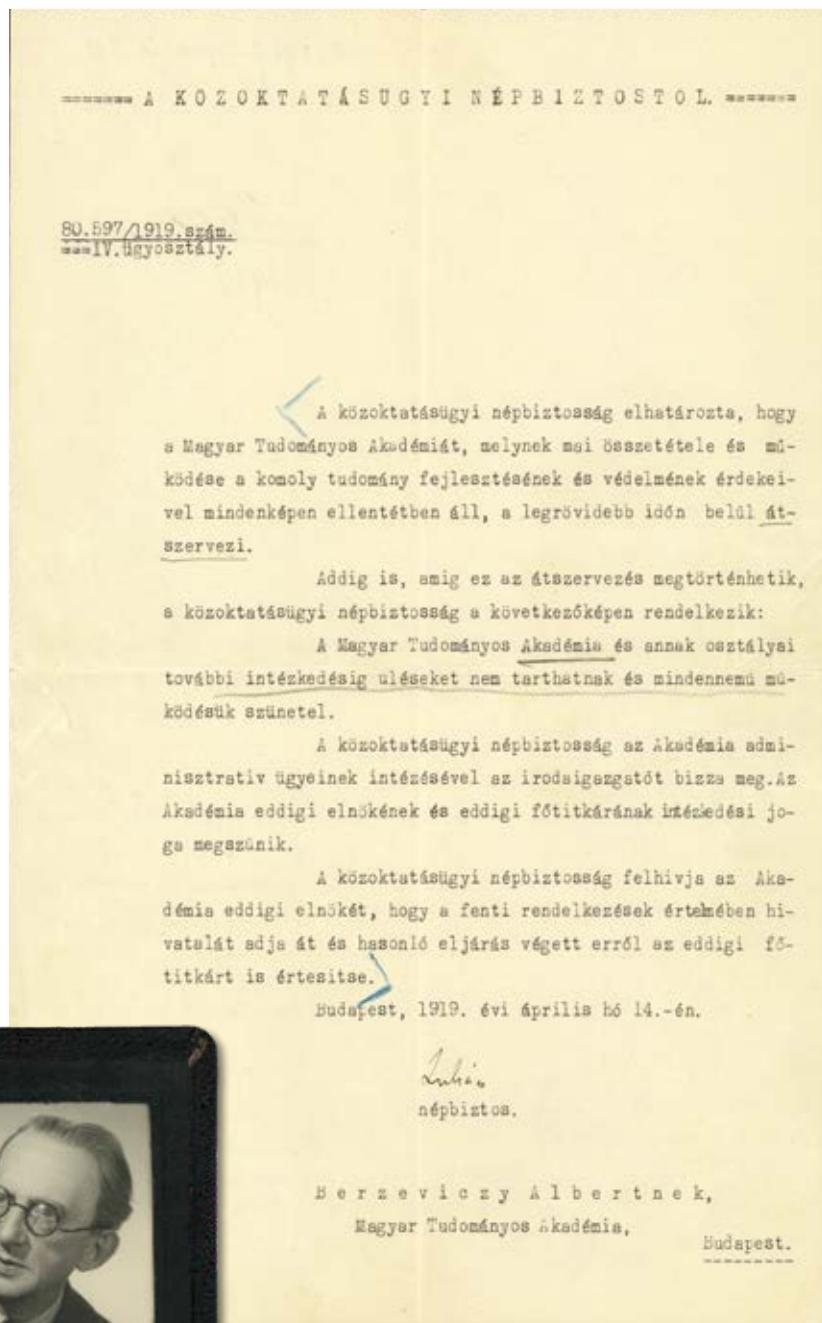


Figure 169. György Lukács' membership card for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1951. He had been an ordinary member since 1949

Figure 170. President Albert Berzeviczy at his desk



Figure 171. Opening of the Academy's Zrínyi celebration on 11 May 1920. Seated at the presidential table are President Albert Berzeviczy, Secretary General Gusztáv Heinrich to his right and Vice President Ferenc Herczeg to his left



Figure 172. Portrait of Aurél Stein,
1890s



Figure 173. Invitation to the ceremonial assembly held on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

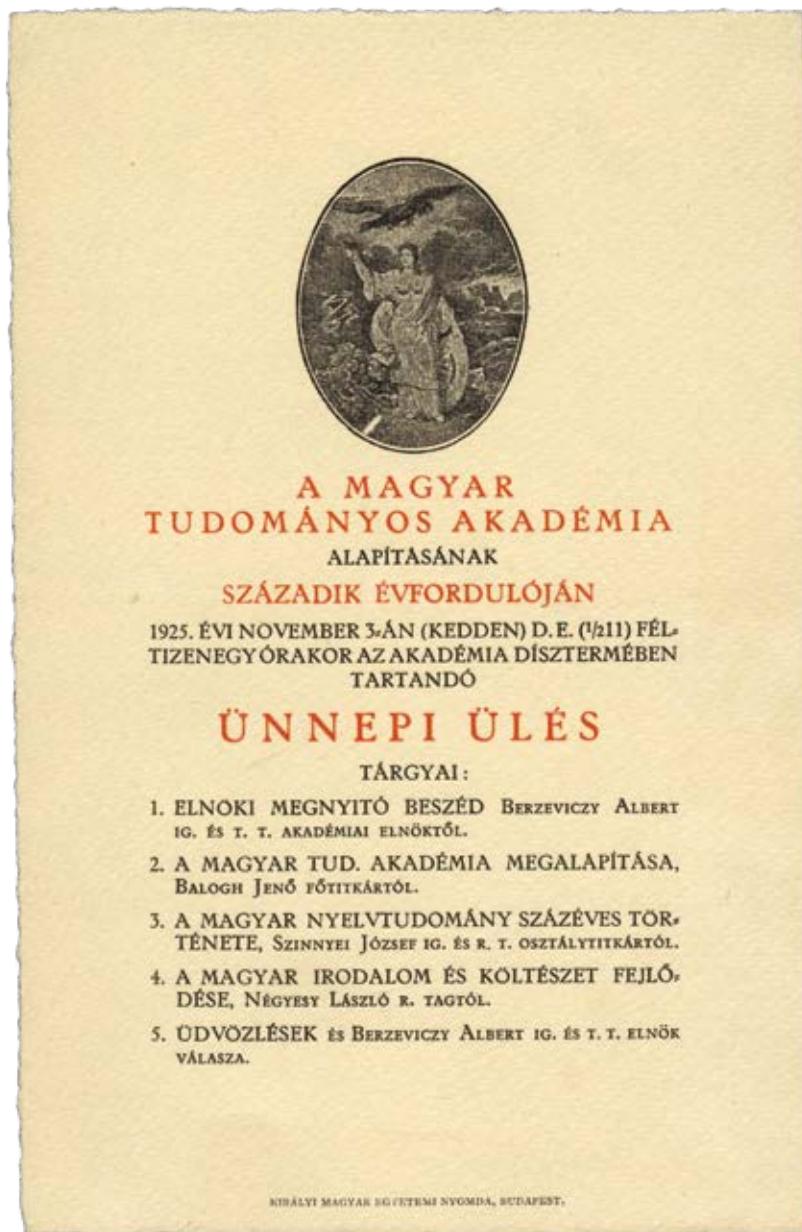




Figure 174. Newspaper article about the 100-year celebration of the Hungarian Academy



Figure 175. A compilation by *Tolnai Világlapja* on the 100-year-old Academy and...



Figure 176.on foreign guests arriving for the anniversary celebrations

Százszáz rendülcsenül
 Legyilkolva el maga való
 Miben ~~magán~~ ^{magán} érdeke
 Az előző az ~~száz~~ száz
 Nély ájol ~~3~~ elnökök.
 Ezen kül a világban e' kint
 Nincs párnáda. Lély:
 Miben vagy verjen az országot
 Is elnök hármas lett.
 Ez a föld, melyen ~~száz~~ ^{az} amig...
 Szép vére fölt
 Ez, melyhez minden fűrészet
 Ez ~~száz~~ eredetilei csukló.
 Itt kündések honítanak
 Ugyekint ~~száz~~ ^{száz}
 Ne érde öppen rabjait.
 Itt Lónyay ~~száz~~ ^{száz} gyárt.
 Négytökéleg, íme honföld
 Visszatérítés.
 Véletlenül, kinevezte
 A hosszú hónap alatt.

Figure 177. Manuscript of the *Szózat* (Appeal). In 1927, the poet's granddaughter, Jánosné Bernrieder (née Ilona Széll), donated Mihály Vörösmarty's manuscripts, library and some personal items to the Academy



Figure 178. Vörösmarty's desk

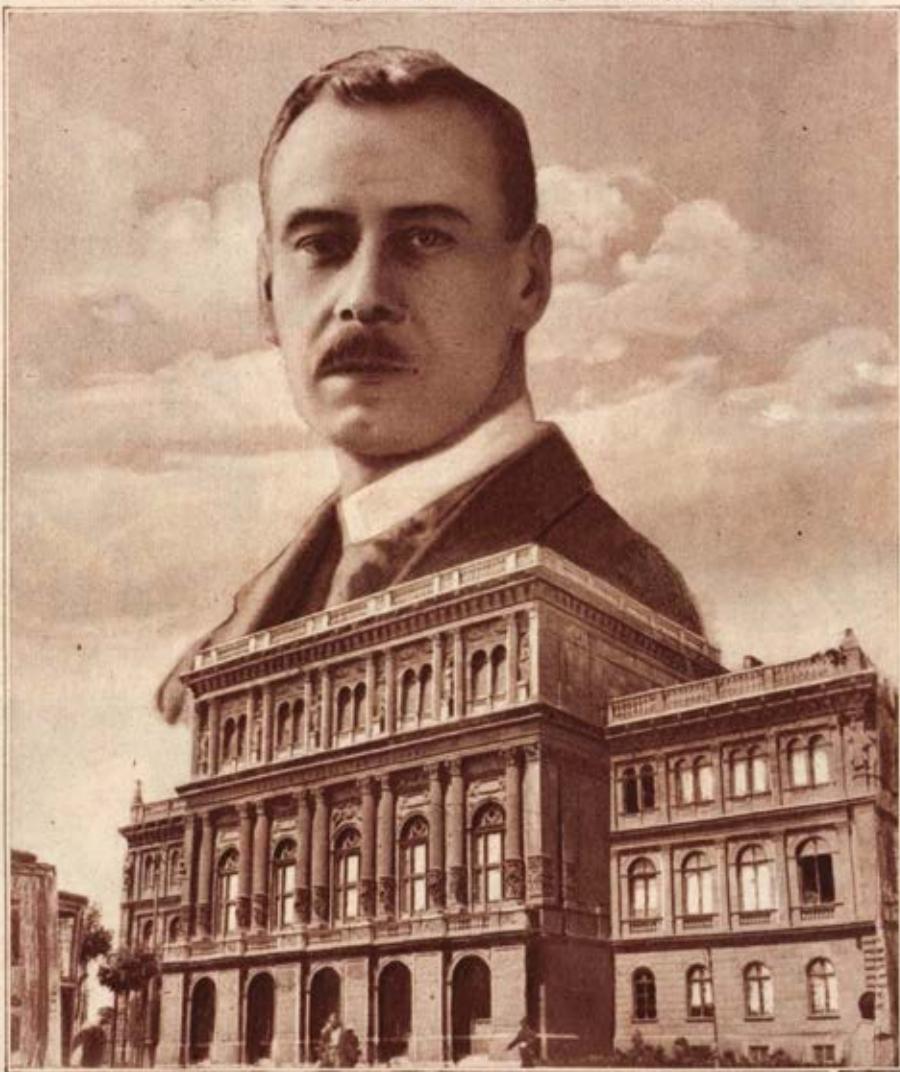
XXX. évfolyam, 34. szám

Budapest, 1928 augusztus 22

VILÁGLAPJA

Megjelenik minden héten szerzői. Előírásból ár a hetenként megjelenő könyvmellékletekkel együtt negyedévre 7 pengő 30 fillér, télvre 14 pengő 60 fillér. Szerkesztőség és kiadóhivatal: Budapest, VII. ker., Dohány utca 12–14. Telefon: József 423–39 és József 423–50. Egyes szám ára – pályaudvarokon is – egy bekötött regényrel és egy ketheterenként megjelenő gyermeklapplal együtt 60 fillér. Ausztriában 1 Schilling és 20 Groschen, Romániában 40 lel, Jugoszláviában 12 dinár, Amerikában 25 C.

Tolnai Világlapjában megjelenő cikkek és képek utánnyomása illes!



A Tudományos Akadémia Magyarország egyik leggazdagabb töldesura lett

Gróf Vigyázó Ferenc páratlan végintézkedése Európa leggazdagabb Akadémiájává tette a Magyar Tudományos Akadémiát. Az elhunyt főur 30 millió pengő értékű vagyonra — amely közel negyvenzer hold földből, nagy bérpalotákból, értékpapírok ből és műköincsek ből áll — a magyar tudomány fejlődését fogja szolgálni. Szedtő prespektívát nyújt a magyar tudományos elnök ez a nagy vagyon és gróf Vigyázó Ferenc neve gróf Széchenyi István neve mellé kerül az Akadémia történetében. Széchenyi megvetette alapjait a magyar tudomány bástyájának. Vigyázó pedig örök időkre gondoskodott arról, hogy az Akadémia anyagi gondoktól mentesen töltsé be rendkívül fontos misszióját.

Figure 179. Cover of Tolnai
Világlapja on the Vigyázó Estate



Figure 180. Dignitaries at the funeral of Ferenc Vigyázó: State Secretary Kálmán Szily, Academician Mihály Szabolcska, State Secretary Pál Petri, Chief Librarian József Szinnyei, Minister of Religion and Education Kunó Klebelsberg, Secretary General Jenő Balogh, Vice President Gyula Varga, and Ministerial Counsellor Antal Denhoff. Rákoskeresztúr, 6 August 1928



Figure 181. On 25 May 1935, the “Count Vigyázó and Baron Podmaniczky Family Museum” was ceremoniously opened in the Vigyázó mansion at Rákoskeresztúr



Figure 183. Archduke Joseph August, President of the Academy, inspects the construction of a new Academy property on the site of the Vigyázó Palace in Budapest...



Figure 184. ...and the completed new building at the intersection of Rákóczi street and Károly (király) boulevard, 1940



Figure 185. The horseshoe-shaped room in the riverside wing of the Academy's headquarters. Béla Bartók worked in the room next to the Reading Room from 1934 to 1940 on the processing on the folk music collection. Later, it served as the workplace for Zoltán Kodály and the Folk Music Research Group until 1970. It is now used by the vice presidents. Photo by Mór Erdélyi



Figure 186. A remembrance of Zoltán Kodály in the former horseshoe room. Photo by Tamás Szigeti, 29 September 2022



Figure 187. On Kodály's birthday, December 16, 1954, Pál Pátzay presented Kodály with the relief he created to mark the 10th anniversary of Bartók's death. Seated: Pál Pátzay and Zoltán Kodály; standing: György Kerényi, Lajos Kiss, and Norma Keleti



Figure 188. The completed Bartók relief and the Folk Music Research Group led by Kodály in the former horseshoe room. Photo by Tamás Fényes, 1960



Figure 189. Prize winners of the Academy in 1929



Figure 190. A session of the International Congress on the History of Medicine in the Ceremonial Hall of the Academy's headquarters, 1929



Figure 191. Bálint Hóman reading his lecture at a meeting of the Hungarian Historical Society, 1930s. Seated at the presidential table: Bálint Hóman, Sándor Domanovszky and Imre Lukinich

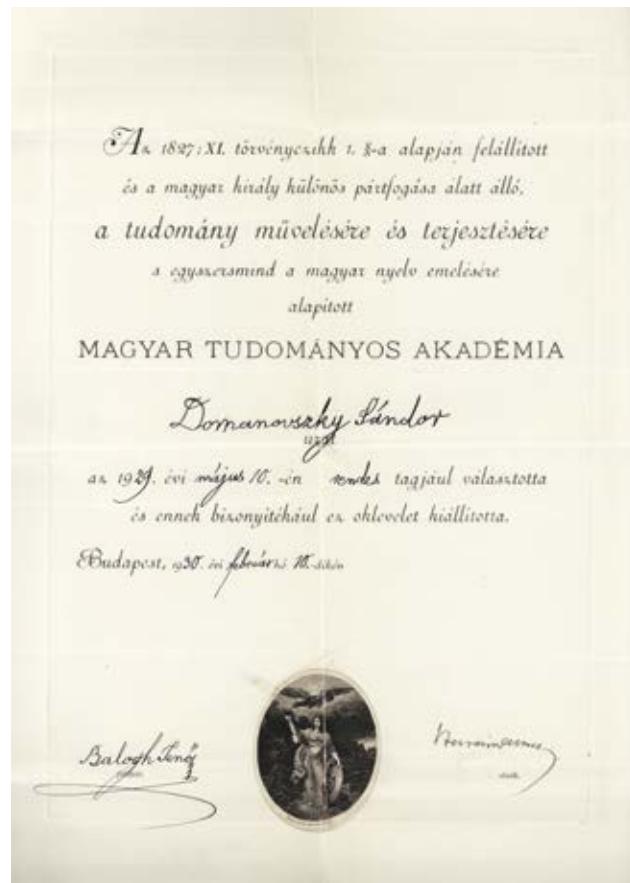


Figure 192. Certificate of ordinary membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences awarded to Sándor Domanovszky on 10 February 1930



Figure 193. Report in the *Képes Pesti Hirlap* on the celebration of Albert Berzeviczy's 80th birthday

Figure 194. On 12 October 1933, the Klebelsberg Memorial Committee was established in Archduke Joseph's palace in Budapest. In the centre stands Archduke Joseph, the patron of the committee, and Bálint Hóman, Minister of Religion and Education, President of the Committee. Next to Hóman stands Catholic priest and former Minister of Welfare Sándor Ernszt; on the left, State Secretary Kálmán Szily and President of the Academy Albert Berzeviczy. In the second row: Academicians Gyula Kornis and Ferenc Herczeg; Bishop of Csanád Gyula Glattfelder; State Secretary Pál Petri and Count Károly Széchenyi. Behind them: K. Róbert Kertész, Ödön Paizs, Elek Petrovics, Secretary Halász, and Academician Sándor Domanovszky



Figure 195. Secretary General of the Academy, Géza Voinovich, at his desk



Figure 196. Béla Bartók was elected a corresponding member of the Academy in 1935, he delivered his inaugural lecture on Franz Liszt. János Melich and József Szinnyei sit on the podium. Photo by Schäffer Photo Studio and Press Office, 3 February 1936

197.



198.



199.



200.



Figure 197. Sándor Korányi was elected an honorary member of the Academy in 1935 and a member of the Board of Directors in 1937

Figure 198. Lajos Steiner, a meteorologist, who took his own life on April 2, 1944, following the German occupation

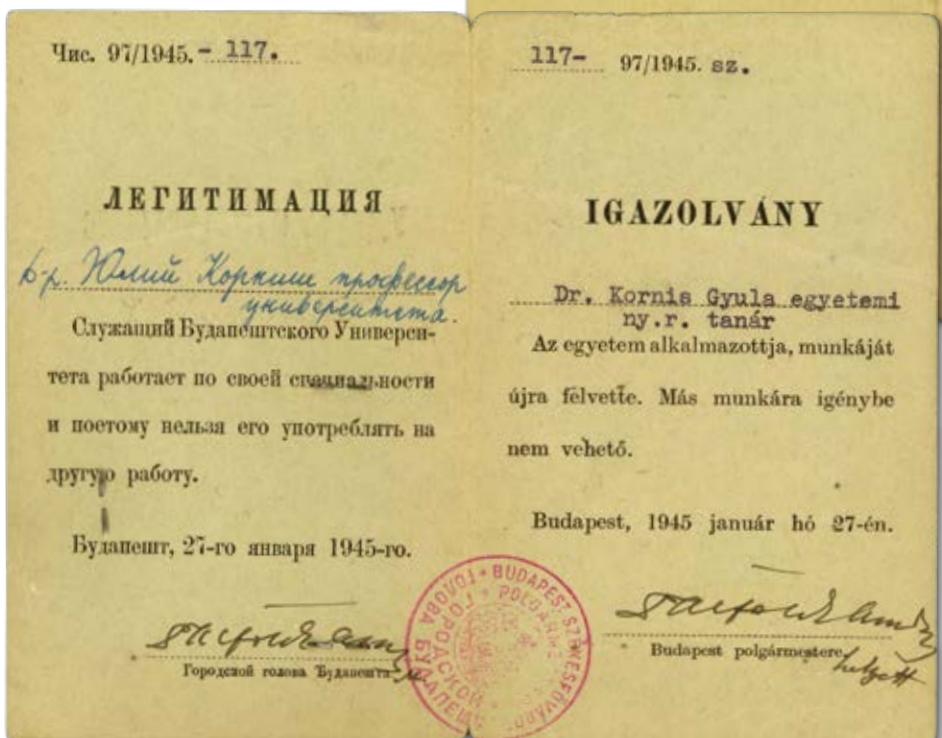
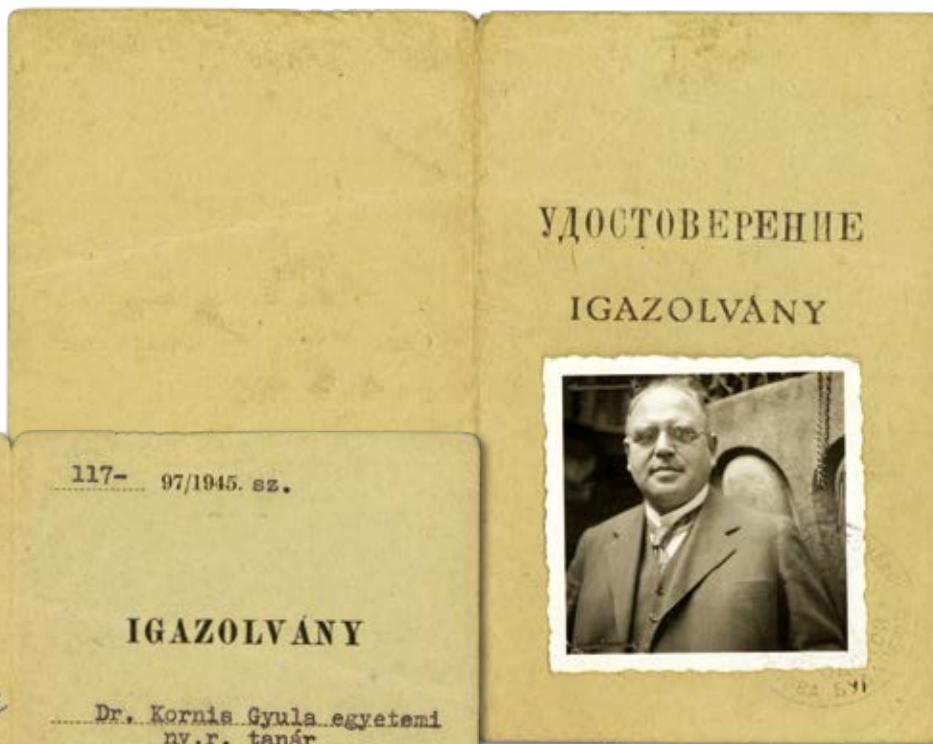


Figure 199. Béla Földes, an economist, died of starvation in the Pest ghetto in 1945 at the age of 96

Figure 200. Frigyes Fellner, an economist, was arrested after the German occupation and deported to Mauthausen, where he died of starvation in early 1945



Figures 201–202. Gyula Kornis' identity card from 1945



1945. márc. 3.
Elso nap a
restauráció
a felboratóban

Első
szoba →
(akkor még
Széchenyi-
Múzeum)



No 6298/184



Képess termi ajtó



Környék: 1945. II.



Figures 203–204. Photographs by Pál Gergely of the Academy in spring 1945, after the war



II. (vörösmarty) lépcsőház
MTA

1945. jan. elején oradt le az
Akadémia - 4. 2. bejárat mellettől
Vörösmartyváros lépcsőház. Ez
vezetett a II. emeleti Vörösmartyba
és a régi (I. em.) Arany-lakásba.



MTA. Elnöki szoba

I. em. (diszterem mellettől)
Elnökelői Tandisztterem

A Lánchíd -
romoknál



A pesti hidfőről
esett a Dunába a
Szechenyi-emeleti Akadémia
(1945. I. 17/18. kör)

(Gergelyi
fölvételei)

Figure 205. Ceremonial general assembly of the Academy on 8 June 1947. Speaker: István Varga; President: Zoltán Kodály; Vice President: Albert Szent-Györgyi; Secretary General: Géza Voinovich



Figure 206. Ceremonial general assembly of the Academy, 8 June 1947. In the row behind the empty chairs sit Academicians Tibor Széki, Zoltán Bay, Sándor Jávorka and Ágoston Zimmermann



Figure 207. The audience at the Academy's ceremonial general assembly on 8 June 1947





Figure 208. Julian Sorell Huxley, Director General of UNESCO, gave a lecture on the organisation and programme of UNESCO in the Academy's Reading Room on 14 June 1948

Figure 209. Audience at Huxley's lecture

• Huxley ekho •

Az Akadémia, amely ezelőtt több 100 ével a tudományok magyar nyelven való művelésének jeliszavával kezdte működését és szigorú falai között csak a tudós viták, ünnepi beszédek összejöveteleit tűrte meg, a hétfői nappal belépett a nemzetközi tudományos szalonok közé: palotájában fogadást rendezett Julian Huxley professzor, az UNESCO vezérigazgatója tiszteletére. A «receptions» mindenképpen műlt volt az Akadémia hagyományaihoz és a nemzetközi szokásokhoz. Megnyílt a főbejárat és a márványcsarnokban Koddly Zoltán elnök, Vetróovich Géza főtitkár, Mansfeld Géza fogadták a vendéget, aki tilkárja, Havet és Ferenczi Edmund kísérőében érkezett. Az épület még magánhordja a haború nyomait, a lift nem jár és az udvar kóhalmaz, de a belső tűzelégető szárnyas ajtók, parkettszék helyreállítvák, a restaurált ülésterem a hegyekre hanyatló nap utolsó sugaraiban ragyog és az össök megmentett képeit felkerültek az óvópincékből a falakra.

*

Egy óra alatt pergett le a ceremónia két felvonása. Az első az ülésteremben játszódott le: Huxley kereszten angolsággal és a számára megsokott atmoszférában vázolta az UNESCO szervezetét és programját. Tárgyilagos, precíz, adatszerű mondaiban nem volt semmi szentimentalizmus, semmi páatosz, nem gesztikulált, nem azonékozt, csupán elegáns alakjának, 40 és 60 közötti ingadozó, szikár fejének gentleman-eihajlásai jeleztek a professzor-politikus emocióját, aki eszményi együttműködésről beszél világrészek nevében. Akadémikusok előtt állván a világ akadémiaiipsairól jellemzéle, az angol tudós társaságok speciális jellegét, a kontinens egyetemes akadémiáját és a moszkvai akadémiát, amely nem csupán honosítási gyülekezete, hanem aktív csúcserve a birodalom tudományos kutatásainak. Régen nem volt ilyen népes ülésé az Akadémiának. Beznák professzor a régi népszövetségi fordítók türeményes készvégére emlékezett módron tolmácsolta szinte szórol szóta a negyedórás beszédet.

Figure 210. Report on Huxley's visit by *Magyar Nemzet*

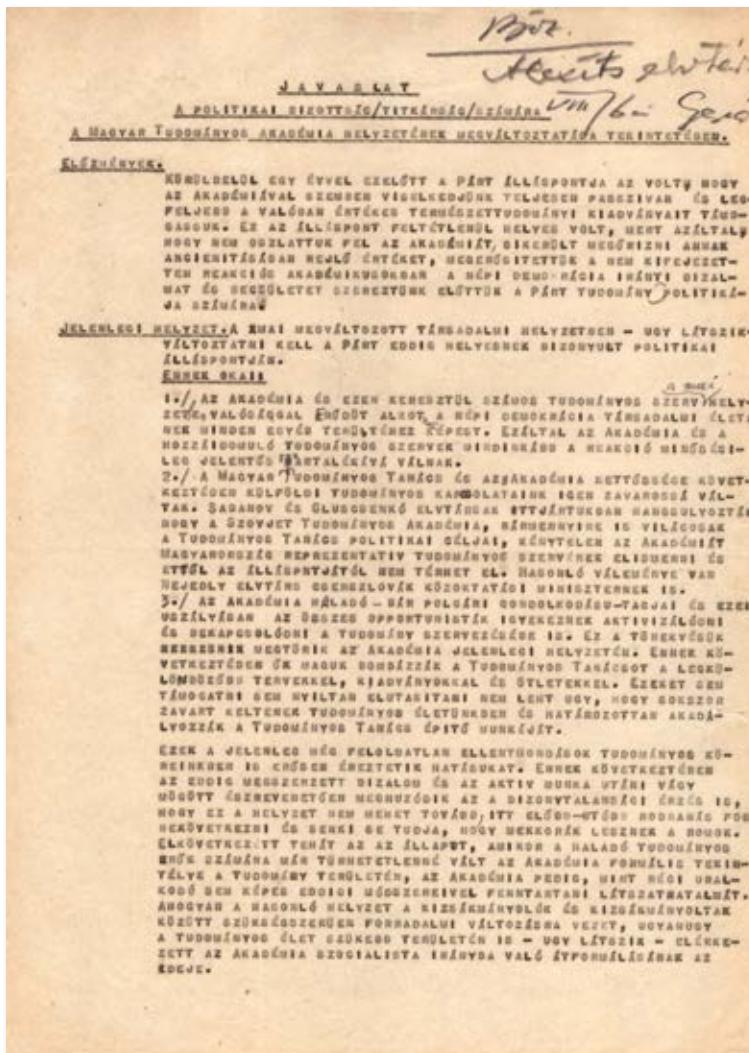


Figure 212. Ernő Gerő's proposal for reorganising the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

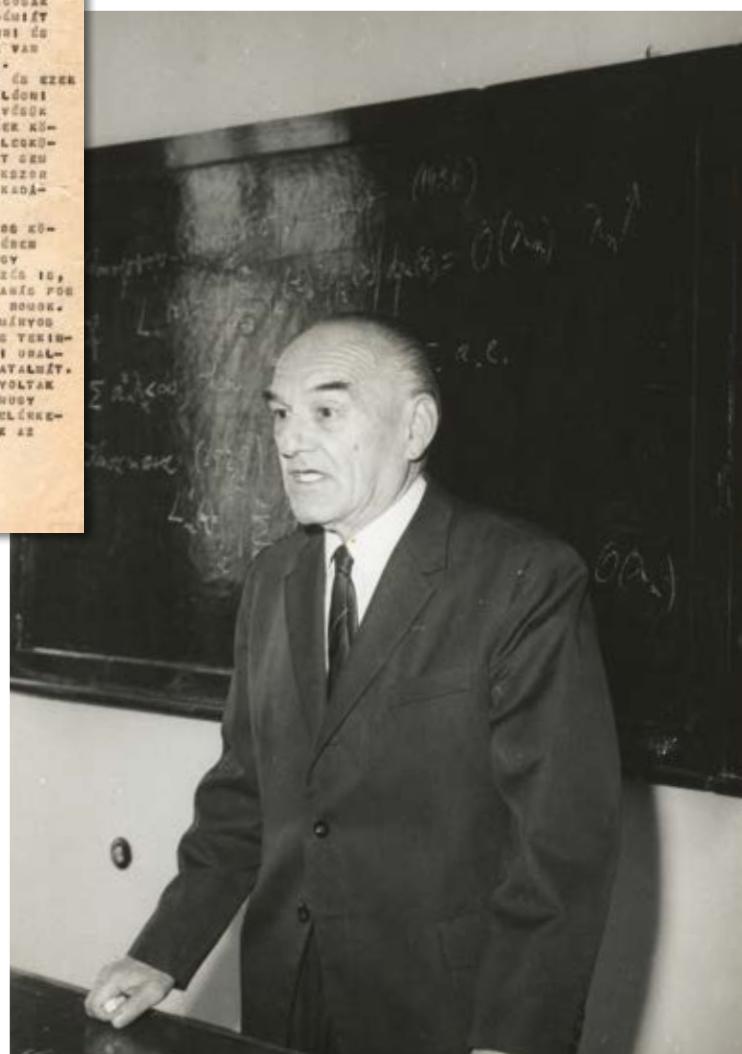
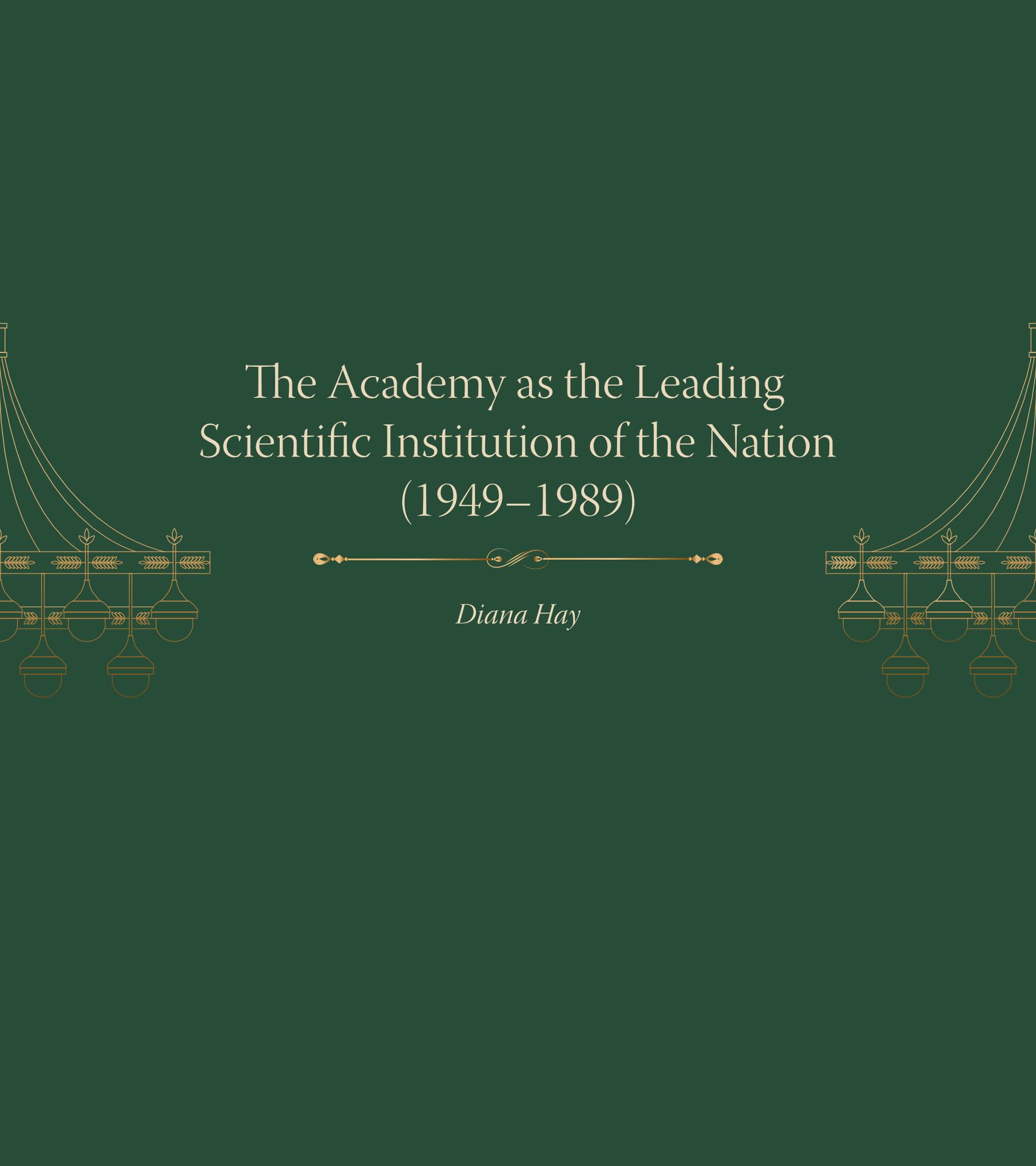


Figure 211. György Alexits, Secretary General of the Hungarian Scientific Council and the first Secretary General of the reorganised Academy, giving a mathematics presentation



The Academy as the Leading Scientific Institution of the Nation (1949–1989)



Diana Hay





THE ACADEMY'S REORGANISATION AND NEW STATUTES

On 15 December 1949, Act No. XXVII of 1949 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was published. The introduction clearly stated that, as the country's highest scientific institution, the Academy has the task of serving the development of a socialist society through science. Once the land, banks, factories and institutions had become state property, the state undertook to provide for the Academy's operating expenses.

The new statutes were adopted on 31 October 1949, while the Academy's old organisational structure and membership were still in place. This meant that an extra chapter on transitional provisions had to be added. The statutes were approved by the Presidential Council on 14 November 1949, and on that basis, the general assembly convened on November 29 to elect the new leadership. Between 31 October and 29 November, the affairs of the Academy were managed by a three-member Provisional Institutional Committee (György Alexits, Béla Fogarasi, and Géza Voinovich). It is therefore not surprising that the statutes adopted in 1949, despite reflecting new principles, still bore a strong resemblance to the earlier ones in many respects, as those who drafted them continued to think within the framework of the old categories.

CONSULTATIVE MEMBERSHIP

One of the most significant changes concerned the categories of membership: alongside ordinary and corresponding members within the internal (i.e. domestic) membership, a new category, consultative membership, was introduced. This fulfilled the demand, voiced since 1945, for a revision of Academy membership to exclude those who had been representatives of the previous era. According to Article 13 of the statutes, 'Those previously elected members of the Academy who were not re-elected at the time of the reconstitution shall become consultative members, unless otherwise

provided for in the transitional provisions.' While they were not completely excluded from academic life, as they were permitted to participate in open section meetings and committee work, they had no voting rights. This disenfranchisement was exacerbated by the fact that while the remaining corresponding and ordinary members received a regular monthly salary after the publication of the Academy Act, consultative members received nothing. As many of them had also lost their jobs or pensions, this had a severe impact on them. At its general assembly in May 1989, the Academy abolished the consultative membership classification and declared the memberships in question to be permanent.

A total of 122 scientists were downgraded to consultative membership, based on a list drawn up after prolonged debates by the Hungarian Scientific Council. Along with additional exclusions approved at the inaugural general assembly on 29 November, and the abolition of the Subsection of Letters and Arts, these measures made it possible to reduce the number of Academy members to the 131 stipulated in the statutes. At the beginning of October, this figure was still 257.

The physicist Elemér Császár was expelled due to a court ruling and has not been rehabilitated to this day. Simon Pap and Gyula Moór, meanwhile, were expelled for political reasons. The membership of András Alföldi, Lipót Baranyai, Zoltán Bay, György Békésy, Aladár Beznák, József Deér, Endre Ivánka, Kálmán Laki, Sándor Márai, Gyula Miskolczy, Oszvald Szemerényi, Tivadar Thienemann, László Tóth, Sándor Wolsky, László Zechmeister and Lajos Zilahy, who had left the country, was terminated. In May 1989, they were rehabilitated by the general assembly, and in 1981, Zoltán Bay was elected an honorary member of the Academy, although his ordinary membership was also restored in 1989. Oszvald Szemerényi and Sándor Wolsky also lived to see their memberships reinstated. Although the Subsection of Letters and Arts was abolished, some of its members remained within the Academy, others were reclassified as consultative members, and some lost their membership due to residing abroad or because they were artists. At the general assembly in May 1989, the members



Figure 213. The Presidium of the Academy elected on 29 November 1949. Seated: Vice Presidents Pál Gombás and Lajos Ligeti, President István Rusznyák, Secretary General György Alexits. Standing: the elected members of the Presidium: Károly Novobátzky, Tibor Erdey-Grúz, Bruno Straub F., György Lukács, and Erik Molnár

of the Section of Letters and Arts were also rehabilitated, and their membership was recognised as ongoing. The 1949–50 issue of the *Akadémiai Értesítő* published the updated list of members, which clearly shows that the composition of the Academy had been reshaped to better align with the political leadership's preferences, by removing those deemed unacceptable to the authorities and replacing them with newly elected members committed to the system, such as Erzsébet Andics and Gyula Hevesi, as well as honorary members Ernő Gerő and József Révai.

THE NEW STRUCTURE OF THE ACADEMY

A new governing body, the Presidium, was established, and from that on it led the operations of the entire Academy. This is evident not only from the fact that the statutes placed it at the top of the organisation and that the general assembly was merely one of its meetings, but also from the fact that, despite the statutes stating that the general

assembly was the Academy's supreme body, even the final versions of general assembly resolutions appeared in the form of Presidium decisions in the following decades. At the same time, it is worth noting that the above also implies that decisions within the Academy were made collectively, and it was not solely the President or the Secretary General who determined the most important matters. The Presidium initially consisted of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary General, the Section Presidents, and five members elected by the general assembly. The composition of the Presidium changed several times until 1990, but this was the essence of the Academy's management throughout. Initially, only honorary or ordinary members could be Presidium members, but this was amended at the general assembly in December 1951 to include Gyula Hevesi, a corresponding member. Initially, the Presidium supervised the work of the scientific sections, but the sections gradually gained more autonomy.

To run the sections, committees of three to eight members were set up from among the party members.

These section committees remained in place until 1970 and were responsible for deciding on most issues.

The right of the session to elect officers and the right of the Grand Assembly to elect members were transferred to the general assembly, composed of the entirety of the Academy's members; however, until 1970, voting rights were held only by honorary and ordinary members.

Based on this, at the general assembly on 29 November 1949, the new President of the Academy was elected: István Rusznyák, who held this post continuously for the next 20 years. The Secretary General of the Academy was also elected at this assembly: György Alexits, who had previously played a significant role in the socialist reorganisation of the Academy as Secretary General of the Hungarian Scientific Council. Some members of the Presidium were also members of the Scientific Council: Béla Fogarasi, Pál Gombás, György Lukács, Győző Mihailich, István Rusznyák, and F. Brunó Straub played a significant role in the reorganization, while others, such as Tibor Erdey-Grúz and Lajos Ligeti, did so as members of the Academy's Board of Directors. The new governing body was marked by a peculiar duality: although its task was to establish an academic organization different from its predecessor, its members, by virtue of their education and intellectual background, remained deeply connected to the old institution and its traditions. It is telling, for instance, that the new Presidium had its official photograph taken beneath the portrait gallery of the former academicians.

The new statutes altered the structure of the scientific sections, which had undergone multiple changes due to the frequent reorganisations that characterised the 1950s. In 1949, the number of sections increased from four to six, with separate sections for biological, agricultural, technical, and medical sciences.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

A festive general assembly was held between 26 November and 2 December 1950 to commemorate the institution's

125th anniversary. Several foreign scholars were invited to the event to showcase the newly reorganised socialist Academy. The celebrations were deeply infused with praise for Soviet (and especially Stalinist) science. This was reflected not only in the content of the lectures but also in the building's decorations. By this time, the restoration of the war damage had been completed, but no fundamental changes had yet taken place. As a result, certain inappropriate remnants of the past were concealed with room decorations in line with the spirit of the era. In the Ceremonial Hall, pictures of Lenin, Stalin and Mátyás Rákosi were displayed in keeping with the Soviet-style personality cult.

THE TOTALITARIAN DICTATORSHIP OF THE 1950S

As previously noted, in the early 1950s, the Academy's work – much like that of the Scientific Council – was under close and continuous control by the Party, ensuring the enforcement of political interests. In the initial period, every major decision by the Presidium, including the election of new members, was backed by decisions made by the Party Collegium. Several members of the Academy's leadership took part in the Collegium's work and prepared the proposals, but decisions on the issues presented were made jointly with Party leaders during sessions held at the Party headquarters. The leadership of the Academy operated under the supervision of the relevant secretary and department of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party (MDP). Although consultation with the Party centre never entirely ceased until 1989, the relationship gradually loosened from 1953 onward, and it was no longer necessary to seek approval for every minor issue.

The Stalinist–Rákosi regime was characterised by a constant struggle against both real and perceived enemies, with a strong emphasis on class warfare. One of the tools used to break these "enemies" was forced relocation. Social groups deemed politically dangerous, such as kulaks,

members of the former political and economic elite, and independently-minded intellectuals, were moved to “designated residences,” far from their homes, often to inhumane conditions, and were typically forced into agricultural labour. This policy affected former members of the Academy, such as Gyula Kornis, as well as relatives of other academicians. In several cases, those affected, or their family members appealed to the Academy’s leadership for help. The leadership did write to the Ministry of the Interior on multiple occasions, but the letters preserved at the Academy do not reveal whether these efforts had any effect.

THE SÁNTHA CASE

The exclusion of Kálmán Sántha was a direct consequence of the intimidation policy mentioned above. Sántha was one of the most outstanding Hungarian neurologists of the 1930s and 1940s. With the support of a Rockefeller Fellowship, he was able to travel to the United States, where he learned the most advanced neurosurgical techniques of the time. Upon returning to Hungary, he quickly rose to become a university professor, head of the neurology clinic in Debrecen, and later dean of the medical faculty. Thanks to his courageous stance, the university clinics were spared from being looted during the final period of the war. Although he held leftist views, Sántha did not join the Communist Party, despite repeated pressure to do so. After the war, however, he played an active role in the newly established Hungarian Scientific Council, contributing to the socialist reorganisation of the country’s scientific life. Before long, though, he found himself increasingly at odds with the direction the country was taking. His independent thinking no longer fit within the emerging dictatorship, and in November 1949, he resigned from his position on the Hungarian Scientific Council.

In 1950, the establishment of a police state and the era of total terror began to take hold in Hungarian political life. In this climate, an attack was launched against

Kálmán Sántha at the University of Debrecen in January 1951. Shortly thereafter, at the 5 March meeting of the leadership of the Medical Sciences Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, András Havas – a longtime Communist physician and member of the section’s leadership – announced that a report had been filed with the Ministry of Health. According to the complaint, Professor Sántha had allegedly stated in a lecture that certain mental illnesses were more common among Stakhanovites. Meanwhile, purges within the Party had also begun. At the 21 April 1951 meeting of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Working People’s Party (MDP), Mátyás Rákosi announced the arrest of the Debrecen members of the March Front – Gyula Kállai, Géza Losonczy, Szilárd Újhelyi, and István Tariska. Tariska had been a trainee at Sántha’s clinic between 1939 and 1943. From that point on, preparations for a full-scale “witch trial” against Sántha were underway even within the Academy. On 1 June 1951, during a public meeting of the Medical Sciences Section, invited speakers condemned Sántha’s conduct. Later, in a closed session, the section voted to expel him. This decision was formally approved by the Academy’s Presidium at its 18 June meeting, under Resolution 2/1951. (The Sántha case has been the subject of several studies. His wife, Klára Majerszky, documented the story, and Tibor Huszár explored the background in detail in a full-length book.)

As early as after 1953, colleagues began exploring the possibility of rehabilitating Professor Sántha. By 1956, with the political climate easing, the situation had changed significantly, and it had also become widely known within the medical community that Sántha was seriously ill. At the general assembly in May 1956, a vote was held to reinstate him, with the justification that, out of a sense of fairness and in recognition of the valuable work he had carried out in the years since, the Presidium should disregard the effect of the previous expulsion decision. Naturally, Sántha did not accept this. After extended correspondence and negotiations, the members of the Presidium finally signed the following circular letter on 1 August 1956:

"The Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has once again reviewed the resolution by which Kálmán Sántha, ordinary member, was expelled from its ranks on 14 July 1951 under Paragraph 17 of the Statutes. Having concluded that the exclusion was made without sufficient grounds, it hereby annuls its previous decision." (AL 3. Elnök [Rusznák] 4/5/1)

However, this rehabilitation came too late for Sántha, as he was already hospitalised by that time and passed away on 12 December 1956.

SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATION

The socialist reorganisation of science and higher education resulted in the abolition of traditional university qualifications (such as the doctorate and habilitation) and the introduction of new qualifications. Following the reorganisation of 1949, the Academy became the country's foremost scientific institution, responsible for the training and qualification of scientists. Decree-Law No. 44 of 1950 introduced the "Candidate of Sciences" degree based on the Soviet model. This was followed by Decree-Law No. 26 of 1951, which introduced the "Doctor of Sciences" degree. This decree also restructured the system of scientific qualifications, meaning that from December 1951 until the end of 1994, the Scientific Qualification Board (TMB) was responsible for managing trainings and awarding academic degrees. From then on, the old titles ('university doctorate', 'private lecturer') could no longer be used; however, the decree gave scientists who had been stripped of their titles the opportunity to apply for a 'Candidate of Sciences' or 'Doctor of Sciences' degree based on their previous work. The TMB's first task was to examine these applications. Over three sessions (14 July, 18 October and 31 December 1952) they reviewed the cases, resulting in 855 scholars being awarded degrees (candidate or doctorate) based on their previous work. This marked the end of a process that began with the establishment of the Hungarian Scientific



Figure 214. Candidate diploma for meteorologist László Aujeszky. Meteorologists received their diplomas either from physical sciences or from geographical sciences

Council and aimed to exclude from the scientific community those scholars who did not conform to the new political system and were not expected to contribute to building socialism. In the following decades, the work of the TMB focused on organising aspirant training and dissertation defences. Although the administrative system underwent several changes, awarding scientific degrees (Candidate of Sciences and Doctor of Sciences) remained the responsibility of the TMB until the end of 1994.

1956 AT THE ACADEMY

In the autumn of 1956, during the first week of the revolution, intense street fighting took place around the Academy's headquarters. The building was hit by two direct shots, but otherwise, no further damage occurred. After the fighting subsided, employees returned to the headquarters for the first time on 30 October. Among them was Sándor Szalai, a sociologist and corresponding member who had been rehabilitated by the Academy that spring after being expelled in 1950 following his conviction in the Szakasits trial. Szalai was released from prison in 1956 and was subsequently reinstated as a member of the Academy. He arrived intending to establish a Revolutionary Committee within the Academy and immediately took steps to draft a proclamation calling on the international scientific community to support the Hungarian fight for freedom. However, the proclamation did not meet with universal approval among the Academy's members, as it had only been discussed over the phone with a few individuals. The next day, a counter-proclamation appeared in *Népszava* – or more precisely, in *Népakarat*, as the paper had split into two on 1 November. Published in the 2 November 1956 issue, the statement questioned the legitimacy of the National Committee and called for a general assembly to be convened to implement the necessary personnel and organisational changes. A supportive telegram in response to the first proclamation arrived almost immediately from J. D. Bernal, the Irish communist physicist and honorary

member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Sándor Szalai had it published in *Népszava* – in the 1 November 1956 issue. The leadership of the Academy responded more slowly: President Rusznyák expressed his thanks in a letter dated 12 January, while Lajos Jánossy conveyed his gratitude at the same time through the press. In April 1957, amid the changed political climate, Bernal was invited to Hungary to see for himself that everything was in order. He spent only a few days in the country, but after his visit – in a tone consistent with the Kádár government's propaganda – he wrote several articles describing how the restoration of normal life was progressing at a good pace following the counter-revolutionary events.

Under the leadership of Sándor Szalai, the Provisional Administrative Committee convened a members' meeting for 3 November, inviting not only the corresponding and ordinary members of the Academy, but also those who had been reclassified as consultative members in 1949. The main goal of the meeting was to ensure the continued functioning of the Academy. The National Committee of the Academy was elected, with Zoltán Kodály as its President and Endre Nizsalovszky as its Secretary. However, Kodály was not present, as he was vacationing in Galyatető, and Nizsalovszky was only able to notify him on 13 November. Although Kodály had initially indicated his willingness to take on the presidency, given the changed political circumstances, he later sent a telegram stating that he would not accept the position after all.

On 4 November 1956, however, Soviet tanks moved in to suppress the revolution. On 7 November, one of the first decrees issued by the revolutionary workers' and peasants' government led by János Kádár reinstated the legal status and leadership of state institutions as they had been before 23 October. At the same time, the revolutionary and national committees were stripped of their authority to take action and were recognised only as advisory bodies. The National Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was still able to convene on 20 November, but that first meeting also turned out to be its last. For a few weeks afterwards, the Academy's presidential duties were

carried out by Vice President Lajos Ligeti, while the responsibilities of the Secretary General were assumed by Deputy Secretary General Géza Bognár. Earlier in November, both the President and the Secretary General had announced their intention to resign at the next general assembly. In the meantime, they withdrew from official duties and took their annual leave.

The Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, elected in May 1956, met for the first time after the revolution on 1 December 1956. At the meeting, the members acknowledged the intention of the President and the Secretary General to resign, as well as the resignation of Presidium member Brunó Straub F. The Presidium ordered all Academy bodies to resume their activities – an interesting minor consequence of this was that the filing process was restarted as of 1 December. However, the political situation remained fluid for some time, and in the following months, the scientific sections continued to discuss the rehabilitation of consultative members. Meanwhile, during January and February 1957, the Scientific Qualification Committee awarded the degree of Candidate or Doctor of Sciences to 53 senior, respected scientists who had previously been denied these degrees for political reasons.

On 26 January 1957, the members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences held another members' meeting, this time convened by the Presidium. They discussed issues related to the Academy's situation and functioning. After a report by Deputy Secretary General Géza Bognár, the meeting requested the attending President and Secretary General to resume leadership of the Academy until the next general assembly, as their involvement was urgently needed to prepare the budget negotiations for the year (since the Academy did not have an approved budget for 1957 due to the revolutionary autumn) and to ensure continuity in administration. Rusznyák and Erdey-Grúz accepted this and returned to work, but while Rusznyák agreed to resume the presidency at the year-end general assembly, Erdey-Grúz did not stand for the Secretary General position again. From 1 February onward, both worked

continuously, and the filings show that on several occasions they stood up for Academy staff who were being harassed by the police. However, the situation only gradually stabilised, and it was not until December 1957 that they dared to convene the general assembly for the election of new officials.

The beginning of the post-revolutionary reorganisation is marked by the 31/1957 Law Decree issued on 7 May 1957, which temporarily suspended the awarding of scientific degrees, followed by the 29/1958 Law Decree that reorganised the Scientific Qualification Committee (TMB). The degrees awarded in 1957 were not revoked, but in 1958–1959, degrees were exceptionally granted to 51 scientists considered important for the socialist reconstruction. The post-1956 reprisals at the Academy were very mild; academicians who took part in the revolution received warnings, and no one was expelled for their involvement – except for Gyula Abay, who was stripped of his consultative membership, a status that by then no longer existed in the statutes.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMY'S RESEARCH NETWORK

On 26 November 1950, at the opening of the ceremonial assembly, István Rusznyák said:

"We have begun building the Academy's own network of institutes. In the long term, these institutes will become the fundamental centres of Hungarian science, focusing on basic and theoretical issues. Currently, we already have institutes for Applied Mathematics, Biochemistry, Agrobiology, an Electron Microscopy Laboratory, and the Central Physical Research Institute is under construction. It is foreseeable that the number of institutes will increase year by year." (Akadémiai Értesítő, 1950, 10)

The establishment of the institute network followed the Soviet model, but the creation of independent research

centres separate from universities was not a uniquely Soviet invention. After 1924, Soviet leaders aimed to catch up with the West economically and culturally, a goal they believed could only be achieved by developing a strong scientific and technical foundation. Accordingly, following the examples of German and French state science policies, they founded large, central, independent socialist research institutes. In Hungary, the organisation and construction of the Central Physical Research Institute began first, as the importance of physics increased significantly in the late 1940s – largely due to the impact of the atomic bomb. The term “Central” indicated a large institute covering multiple scientific fields, the biggest in the country both in staff size and budget support. Shortly after, on paper, the Chemical Research Centre and the Institute of Experimental Medicine were also established, but for a while, these operated within universities and clinics. The construction of independent buildings equipped with laboratories only took place in the 1960s.

The Academy's institute network consisted not only of newly established institutes but also included older institutions brought under the Academy's supervision. Among these were the Biological Research Institute in Tihany, founded thanks to Kunó Klebelsberg, Minister of Religion and Public Education, which was built and opened in 1927, as well as the State and Legal Sciences Institute, the Institute of History, and the Research Institute for Linguistics – all formed from the Teleki Pál Scientific Institute established in 1941.

The establishment of the Szeged Biological Research Centre was realised in the 1960s. After successfully securing an independent Section of Biological Sciences within the Academy in 1962, the opportunity arose to found a dedicated biological research institute. There were intense debates regarding the location, but ultimately, Szeged was chosen. In establishing the institution, Brunó Straub F., János Szentágothai, and István Láng played key roles. In April 1971, Tibor Erdey-Grúz, President of the Academy, ceremonially inaugurated the first completed wing. The newly built Centre's first Director General was Brunó

Straub F. The official opening ceremony took place on 11 October 1973, attended by the former Szeged researcher and Nobel laureate Albert Szent-Györgyi.

In 1956, there were 23 academic institutes, and by 1969, the number had grown to 41 research institutes. This shows that the number of academic research institutes significantly increased over 20 years. The average size of the institutes also grew substantially: in 1950, each research institute had on average 14 employees and a budget of 250,000 forints, while by 1969, the average had risen to 112 employees and a budget of 8,130,000 forints.

THE 1970 REORGANISATION

This growth made it necessary to restructure the Academy's organisation. Until then, the management of the institutes, scientific qualification, and all other work had fallen under the scientific sections.

Already in the 1960s, concerns arose that this organisational structure was inadequate, but the need for reform grew stronger after 1968, when György Aczél, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP), led the preparation of the party's science policy guidelines, and several committees were established to review the management of scientific research. Many academic leaders also participated in this work. It was here that the position was formed – later expressed in the MSZMP Central Committee's science policy guidelines of June 1969 – that is necessary to separate administrative management from the work of the collective academic body.

The supervision of the institutional network became the responsibility of the Secretary General, who was appointed by the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Academy's general assembly. From that point on, the collective bodies – namely the general assembly, the Presidium, and the scientific sections – served only advisory and consultative roles regarding the academic institutes; they no longer had direct decision-making or

directive authority. The Secretary General acted with sole responsibility. Twenty years later, the then Secretary General, István Láng, recalled this period as follows:

*"This operational mechanism is not identical to the institute supervision system of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences' management of research institutes is essentially a unique transition between the Eastern European model and the state supervision model of Western European national research centres. In the latter case, too, a government body appoints the head of the research centre for a fixed term. Thus, although the current supervisory and management mechanism of the Academy's research institutes can be described with many negative terms, I strongly ask those involved not to use the label 'Stalinist model', because, based on what has been said, doing so would only demonstrate their own ignorance." (István Láng: *The Academic Research Network under Review*, Magyar Tudomány, 1990/4, 436)*

The President, as the head of the scientific body, was elected by the general assembly for a fixed term and was accountable to the assembly for his activities; however, his position was confirmed by the Presidential Council of the People's Republic.

In line with this division of responsibilities, Scientific Body Secretariat and the Central Office of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences functioned as distinct organizational entities until 1977. (This is why the 1978 special issue of *Magyar Tudomány* (*Hungarian Science*), titled *Fanyar Tudomány* (*Bitter Science*), featured a caricature of the double-headed eagle on its cover. See image 278, page 206.) Due to personnel reasons and several unresolved issues concerning competences, the cooperation between the academic bodies and the administration was not smooth, and unnecessary overlaps also developed. Therefore, in 1977, the MTA-F Instruction No. 3/1977 (A.K.8.) was issued, which unified the two units into a single administrative organisation and created the position of office manager to coordinate the work of the administrative bodies.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

Preparations began in the early 1970s and, as a result, several key publications on the history of the Academy were published. These included: *One and a Half Centuries of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1825–1975*, *Members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1825–1973*, and István Sötér: *The Eagle and the Chalice; Portraits from the Academy*; and Russian and English-language summaries of the Academy's history, etc.

The commemorations were held not only in memory of the founders, but also to celebrate socialist science policy. On 5 May 1975, numerous political leaders attended the commemorative general assembly: Pál Losonczi, Chairman of the Presidential Council; György Aczél, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Science Policy Committee; and Miklós Óvári, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP). Members of the Academy's honorary members from abroad were also present, as well as representatives of foreign academies with which the Academy maintained relations. In total, 67 scientists from 21 countries attended. At the end of his welcoming speech, Pál Losonczi presented Tibor Erdey-Grúz with the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, which had been awarded to the Academy.

1976 – THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Before 1949, there were no women in the Academy, as university-educated women were very rare at the time. For a long period (until 1961), there was only one female academician, Erzsébet Andics, whose election was due more to the communists coming to power than to women's emancipation. Among those who earned their first scientific degree (candidate, doctorate) in 1952 (855 people), there were only 23 women.

The February 1970 women's policy resolution of the MSZMP Central Committee and the Government Decree

No. 1013/1970 on the situation of women drew the attention of state and social organisations to intensify their efforts to address problems related to women's status.

As a result, in 1973, four new female corresponding members were elected at once: Mária Földváriné Vogl, a geochemist; Klára Garas, an art historian; Zsuzsa Hollán, a physician; and Rózsa Péter, a mathematician.

The 1975 general assembly decided to set up a special Presidium Committee, chaired by Gertrúd Szabolcsi, a biochemist and corresponding member of the Academy. The committee's task was to examine what measures could be taken to change the circumstances hindering women's scientific advancement, as the 1973 statistics already showed that about one-quarter of researchers were women. In January 1976, a symposium was convened for a broad discussion of the topic, with participants including not only members of the Academy but also around one

hundred young female researchers. A brief report on this appeared in *Magyar Tudomány* 1976/4–5, pages 312–313 (Judit Erdélyi, *Debate on the Issues Concerning Women in Scientific Research*). In March 1976, the Presidium discussed a comprehensive proposal exploring various aspects of the situation of women and adopted a resolution. The Presidium emphasised that

*“female researchers do not seek special favours, but rather equal opportunities with men to develop their creative abilities, taking into account their objective biological conditions. The Presidium considers it particularly important that research institutions ensure equal opportunities during the first ten years after obtaining a degree, as this period is crucial for becoming a researcher.” (Presidium Resolution No. 17/1976 on the proposal titled *The Situation of Women in Scientific Research*, Akadémiai Közlöny, 1976/6, 83–85.)*



Figure 215. Photograph of the general assembly of May 1978. Three female academicians are pictured: Magda Radnót, Gertrúd Szabolcsi and Klára Garas

They also recognised that this period coincides with the time of starting a family, so female researchers need support to return to work as soon as possible after childbirth. This requires the development of a broader network of childcare institutions and efforts to ensure that time spent on childcare leave does not represent a break or setback in one's research activity (for example, organising professional trainings, assigning research tasks that can be done at home, short-term foreign scholarships). This led to the establishment of the Academy's Kindergarten a few years later, in 1984.

THE 1980S

On 26 July 1979, Law Decree No. 6 of 1979 of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences came into effect. This law decree clearly defined the institution's governmental nature, as while the 1969 law decree defined the Academy as the highest scientific body of the Hungarian People's Republic, the new law decree qualified it as the supreme scientific authority and also stipulated that the President was accountable not only to the general assembly but also to the Council of Ministers. (The Communist Party assigned a governmental role to the Academy from the very beginning, and this was explicitly stated regarding the Academy's office, as announced by Secretary General György Osztrovszki at the May 1953 general assembly.) Starting from 1980, the President – as well as all other Academy leaders (President, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary Generals, etc.) – were elected for five-year terms so that the Academy's cycle would align with the five-year economic plans. Interestingly, until 1970, the system established in the 1940s remained in place, under which the President and Secretary General were elected for three-year terms. After the 1970 reorganization, the election procedures of the governing bodies remained unchanged, but the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General were already elected for a five-year term.

The Academy's scope of responsibilities also changed, adding the task of continuously monitoring the development of domestic and international scientific life through the preparation of disciplinary situation analyses. These analyses were completed one after another, discussed at section meetings and the Presidium. By the mid-1980s, they were published in a series overseen by the Academy's Institute for Research Organisation.

At the same time, it is evident that ideological pressure eased, as the law decree omitted the provision requiring the practice of social sciences based on Marxist principles. The 1983 Law Decree No. 23 on scientific degrees and scientific qualification also stated that the purpose of scientific qualification was no longer to train researchers with a Marxist worldview, but rather to evaluate effective work carried out in the interest of society and the development of science. After this, some church-affiliated scholars, such as Sándor Scheiber, Tamás Nyíri, and László Márton Pákozdy, were able to obtain scientific degrees.

In the mid-1980s, influenced by the weakening of the Soviet Union and the economic crisis, a reform process began in Hungary, which also led to changes in the Academy's responsibilities. The 1986 Law Decree No. 5 amended the 1979 decree on the Academy, granting it national leadership over the social sciences, replacing the abolished Social Sciences Coordination Committee.

In the field of research funding, a major change occurred when, effective 1 January 1986, based on Resolution No. 30.020/1985 of the Science Policy Committee, the National Scientific Research Fund (OTKA) was established to provide increased support for high-quality basic research. The fund was overseen by the Academy's Secretary General, István Láng, who played a significant role in the establishment of OTKA. This created a grant system in Hungary similar to those in developed democratic societies. The evaluation and ranking of applications were conducted by the Academy's scientific bodies as well as special juries. The separate financial management of the Fund and organisational tasks were handled by the Central Office of the Academy. The effectiveness of the research was also



Figure 216. János Kádár's visit to the Academy on 17 November 1981. Meeting in the Reading Room: Miklós Óvári (Secretary of the Central Committee and member of the Political Committee of the MSZMP), Lénárd Pál (Secretary General of the Academy), János Kádár (First Secretary of the Central Committee of the MSZMP), János Szentágothai (President of the Academy), and György Aczél (member of the Political Committee, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Science Policy Committee)

assessed by the Academy's scientific sections with the cooperation of committees and supervisory bodies.

From spring 1987, reform efforts intensified, and the Party and government sought the Academy's opinion on several issues. In autumn 1987, the Presidium put on its agenda a draft concerning the enhancement of scientific research effectiveness, operational conditions, and the Academy's role in national governance. Even then, the

Presidium declared that concepts for the institution's future had to be developed, along with new legal and operational frameworks. In the following years, this was discussed in several forums, where all the issues that would continue to occupy the Academy and public opinion after 1990 already emerged. Topics of debate included the Academy's role in the changing situation, scientific qualification, relations with universities, and the Academy's research network. Following the resolution of the extraordinary general assembly in September 1988, a committee was established to prepare the law on the Academy, and at the October Presidium meeting, a committee was also appointed to examine the fundamental issues concerning the reclassification and exclusion of academicians.

THE REHABILITATION OF EXPELLED ACADEMICIANS

The appointed committee conducted its investigation over several months; the issue was then discussed within the scientific sections and by the Presidium, and finally, they prepared their proposal.

"The proposal is based on the premise that the rights of those who, in 1949, were reclassified by a general resolution of the Academy as consulting members must be restored. The second category includes those who left the country, and the third includes those who were expelled in 1949. A position must be taken on the dissolution of the Subsection of Letters and Arts. Furthermore, the possibility of compensation should be examined, as well as the rehabilitation of those expelled due to their activities during the Hungarian Soviet Republic." (Resolution No. 12/1989 of the Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Akadémiai Közlöny, 1989/6, 97.)

This proposal has not yet recommended the rehabilitation of the members of the Subsection of Letters and Arts. However, a few weeks later, the wording changed to the following: although the general assembly firmly adheres to the character of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as a scientific public body and does not wish to reinstate the Subsection of Letters and Arts or to elect new members based on artistic achievement, it acknowledges that the members of the Section of Letters and Arts themselves gave no personal cause for their exclusion. Therefore, in order to remedy the injustice committed against them, it annuls their exclusion and declares their membership continuous. (MTA Presidium Resolution No. 25/1989, *Akadémiai Közlöny*, 1989/8, 137.) Finally, the 1989 general assembly rehabilitated not only those who had been reclassified as consultative members in 1949, but also all individuals for whom it was determined that an injustice had been committed. (Resolution of the General Assembly, May 1989)

A megújhodó Tudományos Akadémia ma tartja közgyűlését

A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia a multban mindig az „előkelő”, a „politikától elvonatkoztatott tudomány” művelését tartotta hivatásának. A magyar népi demokrácia hatalmas eredményei most már a tudósok számára is megvilágították az egyetlen helyes utat: a tudománynak is követnie kellett a társadalmi fejlődést. Az Akadémia tagjai is belátták, hogy az Akadémia alapszabályai és szervezete a feudál-kapitalista világ terheit hordozza magán, hogy megújhodása csak akkor lehetséges, ha egész szervezetét átépítik a társadalmi fejlődés és a körigényeinek megfelelően.

Az Akadémia október 30-i összülésén megváltoztatta alapszabályait és újakat fogadott el. Az alapszabáymódosítást több akadémiai bizottság Kodály Zoltánnak elnöklete alatt készítette el. Miután az új alapszabályokat a Népköztársaság Elnöki Tanácsa jóváhagyta, óriási szótöbbséggel új tagokat is választottak, közöttük olyan haladó képviselőt a tudománynak, mint Rudas László, Andics Erzsébet, az orvosprofesszorok közül: Hetényi Géza, Kellner Béla, Geges-Kiss Pál. A mérnökök közül: Hevesi Gyula, Biró Ferenc és mások lettek az Akadémia új tagjai.

Az új alapszabályok hatalmas célokat tűznek az Akadémia elé. „A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia a Magyar Népköztársaság legfelsőbb tudományos intézménye, amely a legkiválogatott tudósokat foglalja magában” — állapítja meg az új alapszabály. Céljául tűzte, hogy az elméleti és alkalmazott tudományok fejlesztésével és általában a tudomány minden eszközével hozzájáruljon a szocializmust építő népek fejlődéséhez, különösen a Magyar Népköztársaság művelődési és népgazdasági feladatainak megvalósításához.

Kimondja az új alapszabály azt is, hogy az Akadémia *tanulmányozza az ország termelőrőit, tudományos tervet készít és figyelemmel kíséri az emberriség tudományos eredményeit*. Ezen felül gondoskodik a tudományos munkák elvégzéséhez szükséges munkaerők és eszközök biztosításáról. Támogatja az Akadémia az egyéni tudományos kutatást, ismeretek terjesztésével működik közre a dolgozó nép műveltségi színvonalának emelésében. Változás az is az újjászervezett Akadémia munkájában, hogy az eddigi négy osztály helyett most *hat osztályban folytatja működését*: nyelv- és irodalomtudományok, társadalmi-történeti tudományok, matematikai- és természettudományok, biológiai- és agrártudományok, orvosi tudományok és műszaki tudományok osztályaiban.

Az új Akadémia magáénak vallja történelmi multjának igazi értékeit, ezt különöleg is kifejezésre juttatja azaz, hogy a megújuló Akadémia igyekszik megtartani tagjai sorában mindenkit, aki eddig tagja volt. De az új szellemet mutatja az, hogy *társadalmi szervek is tehetnek javaslatot tagjelölésre*. Az Akadémia újjászervezése döntő lépést jelent népi demokráciának művelődési életében. Befelvezését jelenti az átszervezésnek a mai közgyűlés és a november 30-i osztálygyűlések, amelyeken az új elnökséget, illetve az osztályelnököket választják meg.

Az újjászülető Tudományos Akadémia nagy példaképe, a Szovjetunió Tudományos Akadémiája nyomán halad. Igyekszik megteremteni a tudomány és a gyakorlat szoros egységet és minden erejét a szocializmus építésének, az ötéves tervnek a szolgálatába állítja.

Figure 217. Article in *Szabad Nép* on 29 November 1949 about the reorganised Academy

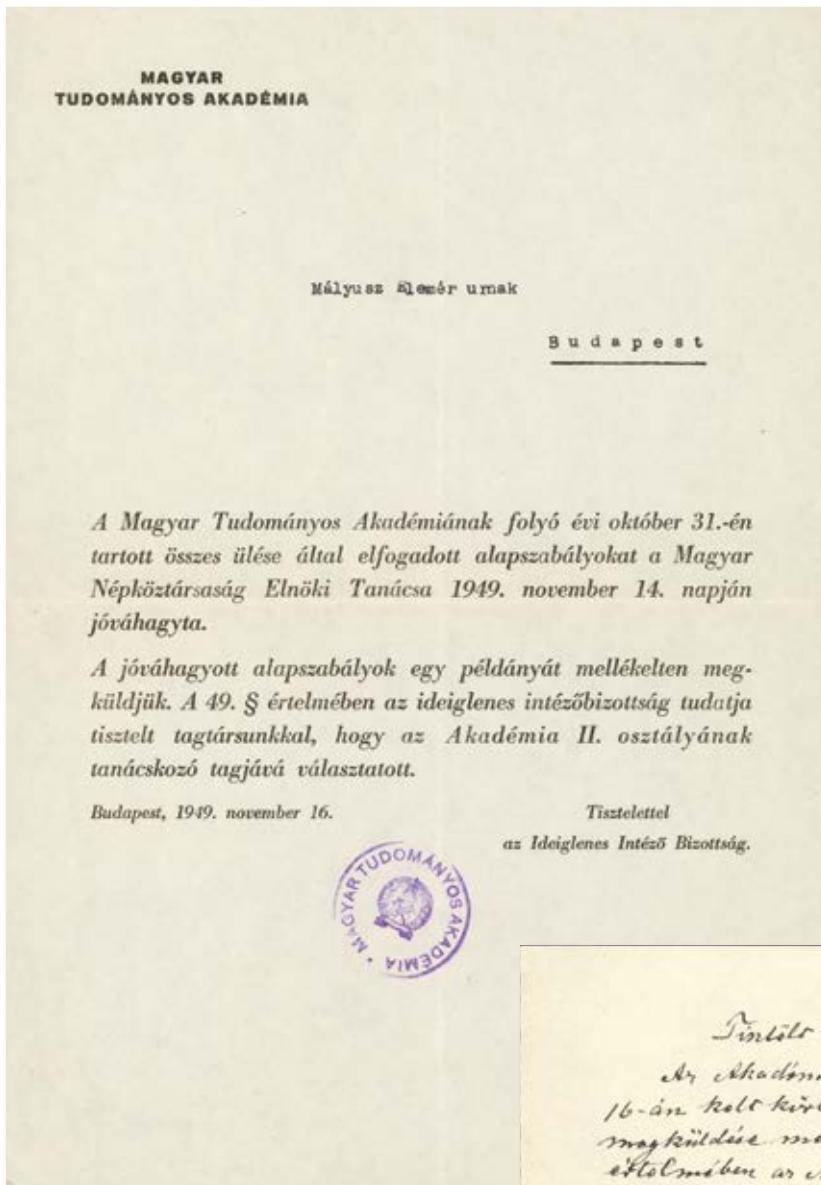


Figure 219. Elemér
Mályusz, c. 1950

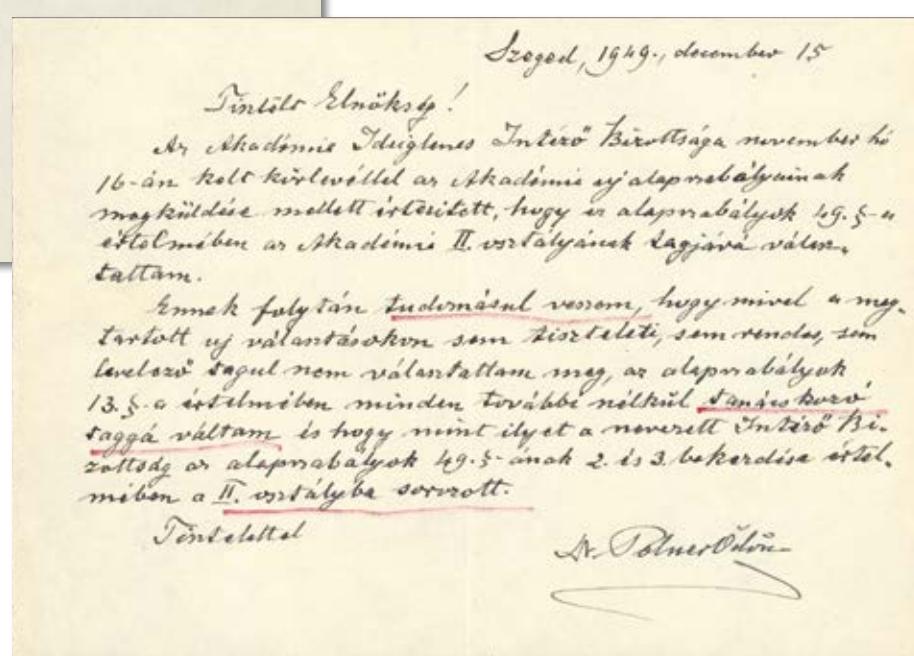


Figure 218. The Academy's Temporary Administrative Committee notifies Elemér Mályusz that he has been elected as a consultative member of Section II (Social and Historical Sciences) of the Academy, 16 November 1949

Figure 220. A letter by Ödön Polner lawyer, consultative member

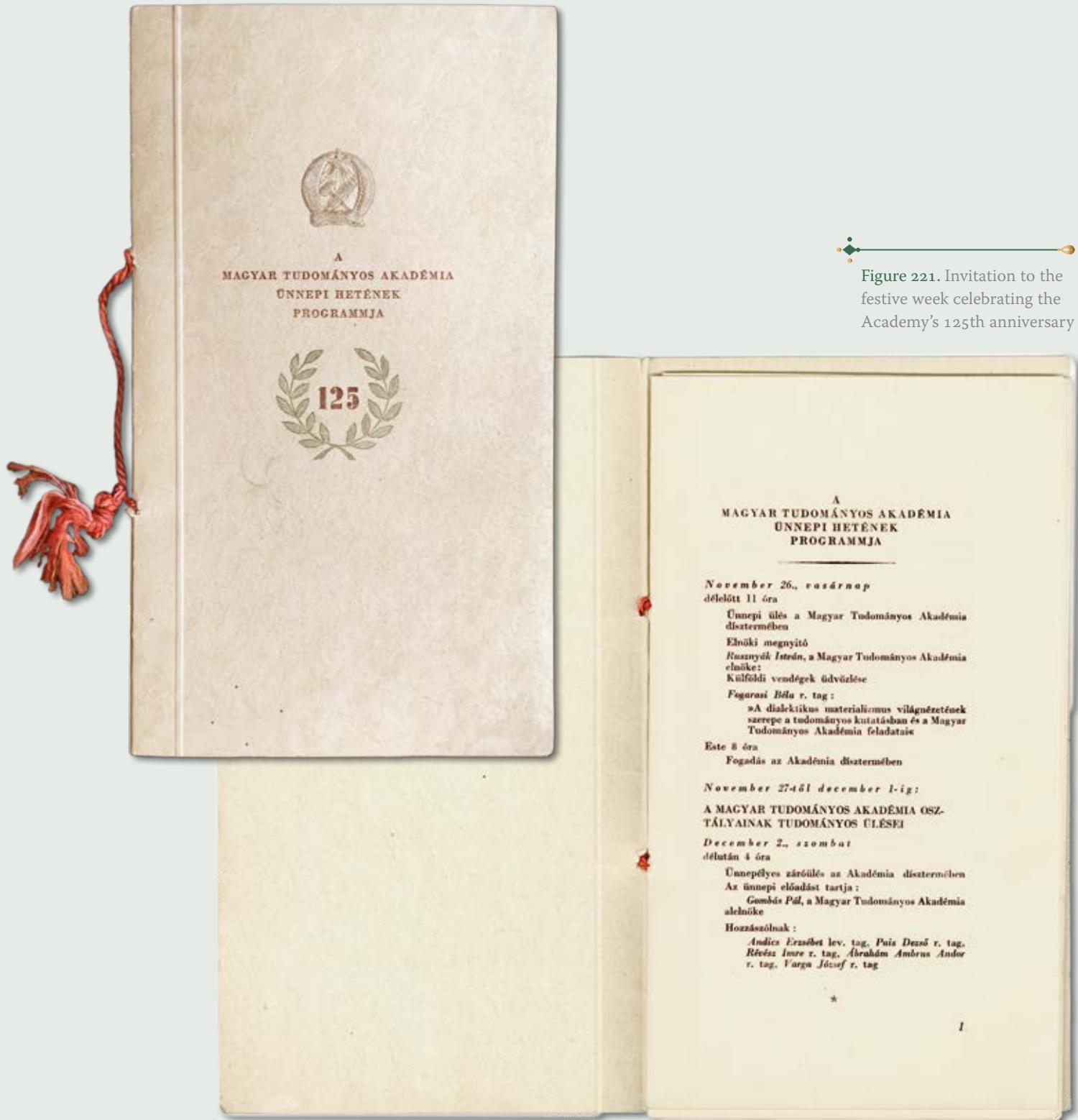


Figure 221. Invitation to the festive week celebrating the Academy's 125th anniversary

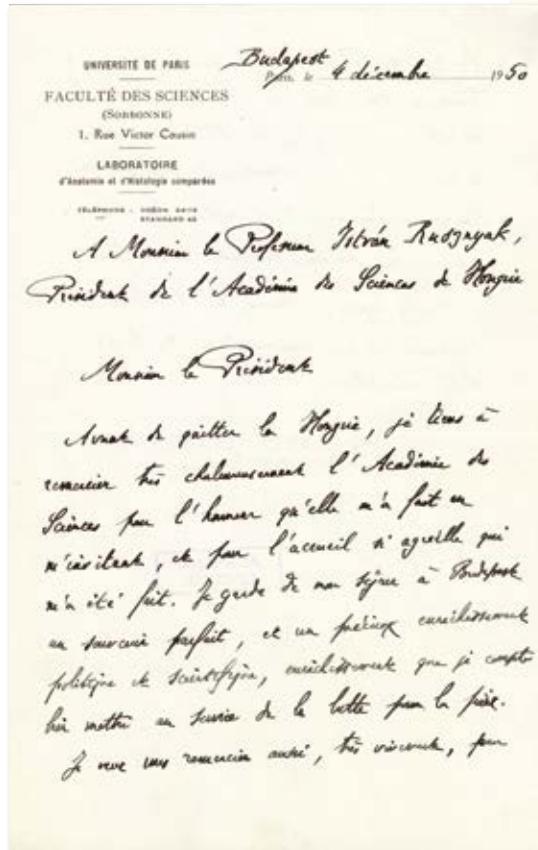


Figure 222. Opening of the plenary session to celebrate the Academy's 125th anniversary, 26 November 1950



Figure 223. A drawing published in *Világosság*, the daily newspaper of the Hungarian Workers' Party, depicting the Academy on its 125th anniversary

Figure 224. Thank-you letter from the French guest, Marcel Prenant, dated 4 December 1950



les nombreux cadeaux que j'ai eu la plaisir de trouver à votre dans ma chambre. A l'occasion du 165^e anniversaire de l'Académie, ils resteront pour moi un témoignage concret de l'amitié que l'on a eue de mon voyage pendant mon séjour.

Très cordialement, Monsieur le Président,

Présentant de mes remerciements et de mes meilleures considérations

Marcel Prenant

Figure 225. A drawing published in *Népszava* depicting foreign guests: Mikhail Dubinin, chemist; Guo Moruo, Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China and President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, archaeologist; Pak Den Ai, Vice President of the Korean Peace Council; Marcel Prenant, French biologist; Konstantin Skryabin, biologist





Figure 226. The Academy commissioned medallions in honour of two world-renowned Hungarian mathematicians who had been members of the Academy for decades: Lipót Fejér had been a member since 1908...



Figure 227. ...and Frigyes Riesz, who had been a member since 1916. Designed by József Reményi in 1955



Figure 228. Photograph of Sándor Müller, chemist and corresponding member of the Academy



Balatonalmádi, 1951 aug. 12

Kedves Tibor !

Juliusi látogatásom folytatásaképpen irok, miután sajnálatos módon nem találkoztam Veled akkor, amikor itt jártál Almádiban.

Talán fogsz emlékezni, hogy apósomat Krayer Gyulát feleségével együtt kitelepítették. Azóta állandóan azon iparkodtam, hogy valahogyan elérjem azt, hogy engedjék meg, hogy kijelölt lakóhelyükéről, Fegyvernekéről, ide kerülhessenek Balatonalmádiba, ahol mégis megfelelő körülmények közzött élhetnek. Eddig azonban sikertelen volt minden fáradásom.

Itt megemlíttettem a dolgot Rusznyák professzornak. Ő a kérésemet ugy látom teljesen megérvá tette, sőt szemrehányást tett, hogy nem szoltam neki már sokkal előbb. De tudod, hogy van ez. Azonban ő most igen kedves módon felhatalmazott, hogy azonnal lépjek Veled érintkezésbe és kérjelek meg arra, hogy kérésem teljesítését szorgalmazzad a BM-ban az Akadémia részéről.

Nagyon hálás lennék Neked, ha sikerülne valamit elérni az ügyben, mert felesleges irnom, hogy mennyire letör az egész helyzet. Bár meg vagyok győződve, hogy ezekután Te ugyis megteszed amit az Akadémia részéről tenni lehet, nagyon kérlek, hogy próbálj valamit elérni, mert ez a helyzet elviselhetetlen. Tudomásom szerint Krayer Gyula ellen nincsen különbsébb kifogás, ami esetét még külön súlyosítaná.

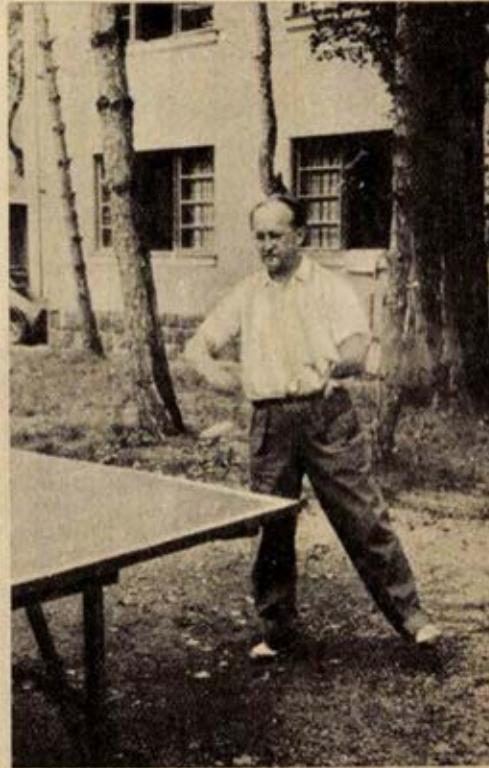
Szívből Üdvözöl

Müller

Figure 229. Letter from Sándor Müller asking for help with his father-in-law's forced internal deportation case

Figure 230. State leaders at the ceremonial opening session of the Academy's plenary meeting: Sándor Rónai, President of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic and member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party (MDP); István Dobi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers; István Friss, member of the Central Leadership of the MDP, 9 December 1951

A tudósok balatoni üdülőjében



Balatonvilágoson, a Magyar Tudományos Akadémia üdülőjében pihen és körben dolgozik a magyar értelmiségek sok kiadó képviselője. Igy látta fotorporterünk a szabadságukat töltő tudósokat. Turán Pál matematikus készül az őszí matematikai hétre, de arért arra is jut ideje, hogy feleségével ping-pong csatát vívjon



Henyey Zoltán mérnök, a műszaki tudományok kandidátusa (balról) Lakó György akadémikus nyelvészsel (jobbról) sakkozik. Kovács K. Pál műszaki egyetemi tanár kibíci...



... de nemcsak mérő íróasztalándi ül és munkájdba melyed

Figure 231. Scientists relaxing at the Academy's resort in Balatonvilágos in the summer of 1956

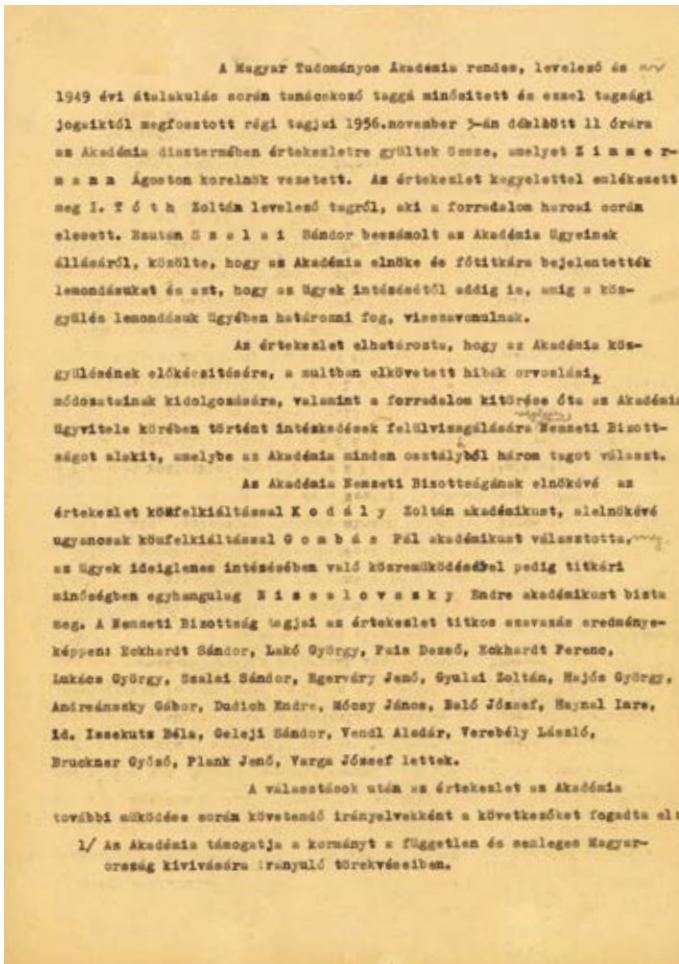
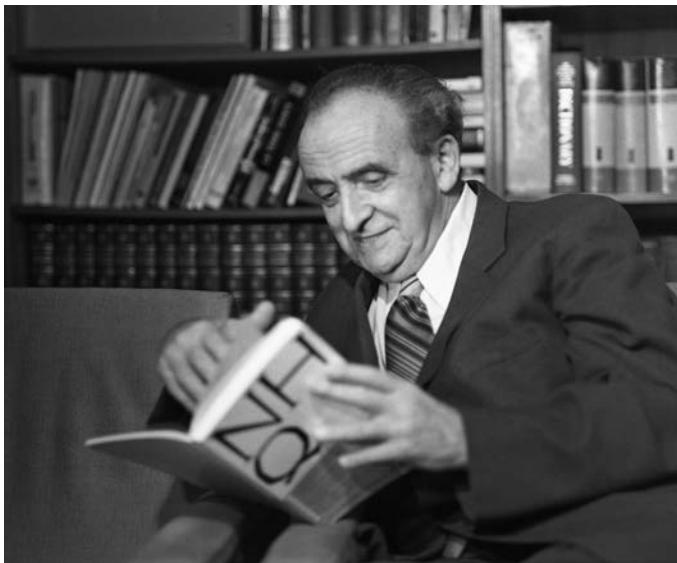


Figure 234. The bust of Academician Zoltán I. Tóth was unveiled by Szilveszter Vizi E. and László Sólyom on 20 October 2006. Sculpted by Tamás Vígh

Figure 232. Sociologist and Academician Sándor Szalai. Photo by Zsuzsa G. Fábri

Figure 233. Radio communiqué formulated at the members' meeting on 3 November 1956

A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia tagjai 1957. január 26-án tagértekezletet tartottak. Megvitatták az Akadémia helyzetével és működésével kapcsolatban az ellenforradalmi események következtében időszorúvá vált több fontos kérdést. Az októberi ellenforradalmi események az Akadémiát sem kerülték el, azonban az Akadémia intézményeiben nem okoztak lényeges kárt.

Az októberi események során néhány akadémikus ideiglenes ügyintézőséget alakított a folyó ügymenet ellátásra, az elnök és a főtitkár bejelentette, hogy a legközelebbi közgyűlésen lemond, addig is visszavonul az ügyek intézésétől. November 3-án egy szélesebb körű tagértekezlet nemzeti bizottságot választott. Ez a bizottság működését a Forradalmi Munkás-Paraszti Kormány rendelete értelmében megszüntette. November 9-től az Akadémia elnöki tiszttét Ligeti Lajos akadémikus, alelnök, a főtitkári teendőket Bognár Géza lev. tag, főtitkárhelyettes láta el.

Az ellenforradalom leverése után az Elnökség először 1956. december 1-én tiltotta össze. Az ülés tudomásul vette az elnök és főtitkár lemondási szándékát és Straub F. Bruno elnökségi tag lemondását. Az Elnökség utasításokat adott az Akadémia valamennyi szerve működésének megkezdésére.

A tagértekezletet Bognár Géza főtitkárhelyettes tájékoztatta az Akadémia 1956. október és 1957. január közötti helyzetéről, a személyi és költségvetési kérdésekről. Az Akadémia vezetése folytonosságának biztosítására és a folyó évi költségvetési tárgyalások jó előkészítésére a tagértekezlet felkérte az elnököt és a főtitkárt, hogy a legközelebbi közgyűlésig ideiglenesen vegyék újból át az Akadémia vezetését. Egyben javasolta a tagértekezlet, hogy az Elnökség az osztályok egy-egy képviselőjét hívja meg üléséire.

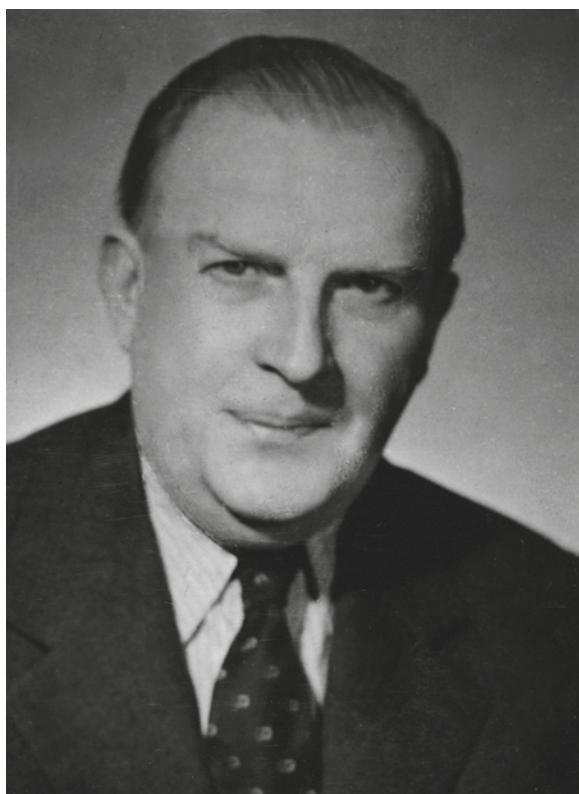


Figure 235. The Academy's official report on recent events appeared in the January 1957 issue of *Magyar Tudomány*

Figure 236. Géza Bognár, electrical engineer

Figure 237. Lajos Ligeti, linguist and orientalist



Figures 238–239. The Academy's headquarters bear traces of bullet damage from 1956 and a record about this from the Financial Department

A diazterem épület körül a körvonalak (kr)

Teljesen elpusztult a környép oblik százalék, kivételes, lehatás
és környéki szüksége 30 műnél az ott megálló tengerpart, a török fal
és vasköntőről leírtakban kívül, gipsz szárnyalat, műanyag és műanyag
kikészítésekben mintegy 30-40-öt körülölelnek. A török többségi parcellá
padló burkolatai oly módonként adódtak, hogy Javításon nem állítottak
helyre, dehát teljesen új parcellákat is felterveztek. Az ornamenteális
falfelületek 80-100-ban voltak péntelen, dinamitkádókban, török színeben
színezve, de több helyen a török színeket is megváltották. Ilyen falfelület
színen. Kisebb műrök, szürkeit szennyezésekkel, mint a mahagoni színükkel, fel
burkolatok és ennek megfelelően színezések az összesítők színeitek.
Az 80-90-as években gyakoribb volt a török falburkolat, melyet teljesen
elpusztult, herceg Javításon helyrehoztak. A színesen
színezésekkel és burkolatokkal húzottak hollók péntelen
és a török színekkel színeztek.

A magok hagyományai a magyar népi zeneben

A lővödök a sarokfali pillér tömegéből felkép a dusaen tagozott homlokzati körülözésből törött ki mintegy a mű-nyi részt az elpusztítottból. Ez az lővöd Galilai szobrot, az alkárok esztályt munkáljának rönt. Ez a lővöd a szentélytől a körülözésről az eszterdai hatalmas hatalmas kivál a statikailag munkálásról valamelyen pillér felnyugodott is elhelyezésen.

A diametrom 4800 milliméter helyreállításnak költsége az először költségekkel megegyezik: 880.000,- Ft.

A szerek bolyíván által ökonott kör hagyomállítás 250.000,- Ft-re van előirányozva.

A diastórem helyreállítás 1957. augusztus 31.-re a székhelybeli boly-

A helyreállítás tervezője M. M. Köröslakatosz Vállalat, főépítész
Dr. Kerecsényi Imre.

Generalkivitelejö: 2M. 44 sm. /llami ſpitäliperi Vällalst

Figure 240. The Secretary General's letter of protest against the harassment of researchers by the police in Martonyásár

Lötö: Russalb etat. *Rex* 7. március 12.
M. 3. 433-7/1957.

B i s z k u B ó l a
beldygymisztér svédorszak,
B u d a p e s t .

A Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Martonvásári Mesőgazdasági Kutató Intézetének igazgatója, Rajki Sándor elvtárs jelenté, hogy rölyg hő 9-én este, a martonvásári rendőrség, a székesfehérvári karhatalom segítségével hárkutatást tartott a Kutató Intézet három kutatójánál. Friedrich Béla tudományos osztályvezetőnél, a neségandásági tudományok kandidátusnál, Kis Árpád tudományos munkatárnál és Elkedi Endre tudományos segédmunkatárnál. A hárkutatás után mindenki mekkorát - néhány más kutató intézeti alkalmazottal együtt - a helybeli rendőrségre kísértek, ott alaposan elverték őket, majd 3 óra mulva hasennegedték. Friedrich Béla osztályvezető, munka törlesztendől kitüntetett kiváló kutató, aki által kitermelte árpafajtával van bevitve az ország tavaszi árpa vetésáterületének több mint két harmada. Friedrich Béla 57 éves, beteges ember, aki az ilyen immunusok elvétességgel járnak. Kis Árpád tudományos munkatárs a fogyaték alkalmával több hét alatt szenvedelme, súlyos sebeket kapott.

Fenti esemény tudományos kutatók körében nagy megitkésedt keltett, ami akadályozza a további nyugodt munkát. A Magyarországi Kutató Intézettel szemben szükséges további megállapítás, továbbá a tudományos kutatók megyug-tatása szempontjából kérés Minister Elvtársat, tájékoztatáson mi többet szükséges a Kutató Intézet tudományos kutatásain- val kapcsolatban est az eljárást. Kérés Minister Elvtársat, hogy amennyiben az Akadémia kutató intézményeivel illetve azok kutatásonnál kapcsolatban ellenséges megállárdás gyanúja merül fel, ugy tájékoztatásra kerül az Akadémia vezetősége, hogy kellő módon eljárhatson. Amennyiben az Akadémia minősé- tájékoztatva a hárkutatások illetve elfogások okiról, ugy nagyon nehézen tudja azok szükségeségről meggyőzni a kuta-tókat.

Stry-Gru Tibor.



Figure 241. In 2017, a memorial plaque was unveiled in memory of the scientists from the Academy's research institute in Martonvásár who were taken away and humiliated in 1957. The plaque was unveiled by Ervin Balázs, Director General of the Academy's Centre for Agricultural Research and former Prime Minister, Péter Boross



Figure 242. Academician Gyula Németh

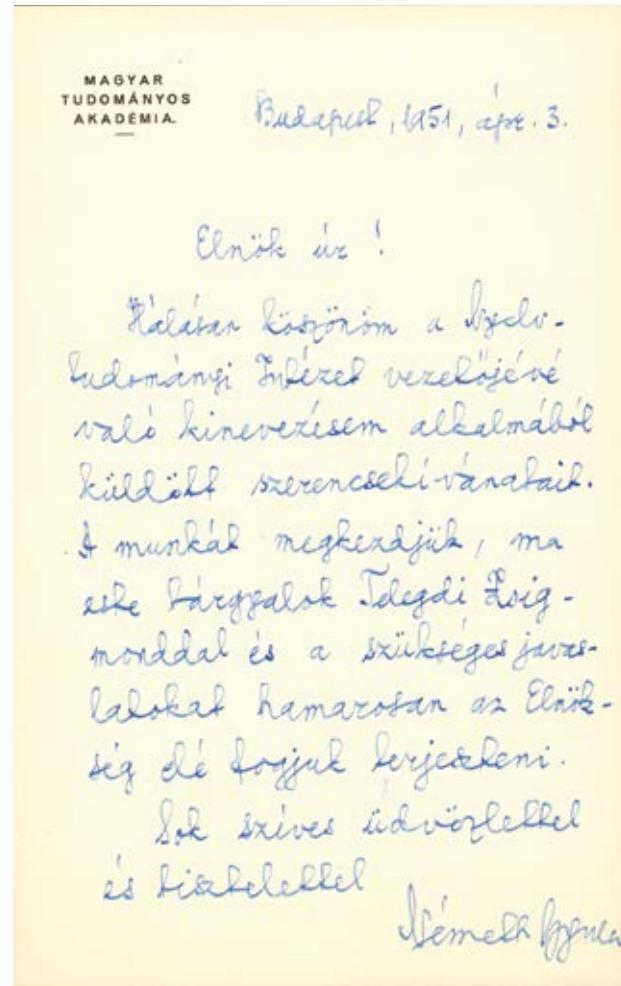


Figure 243. Letter from Gyula Németh on the occasion of his appointment as director

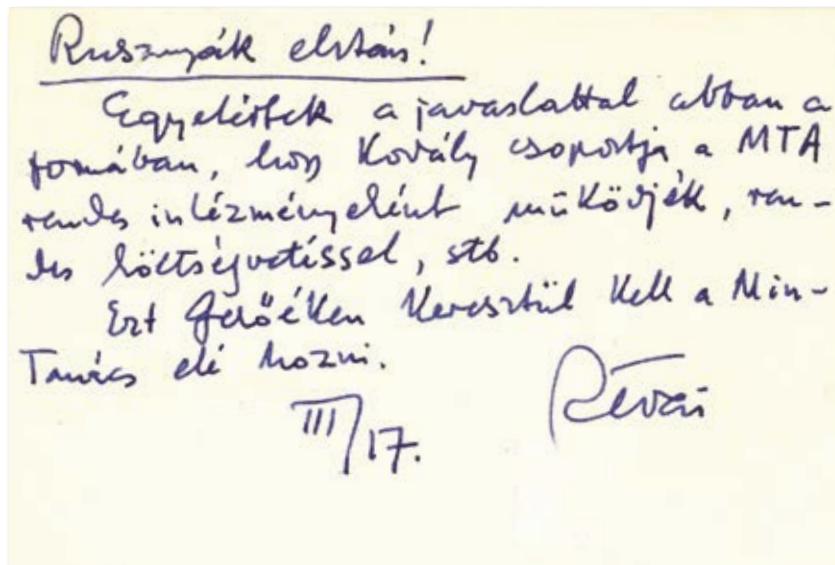


Figure 244. The Minister of Public Education, József Révai, grants permission to organise the Folk Music Research Group

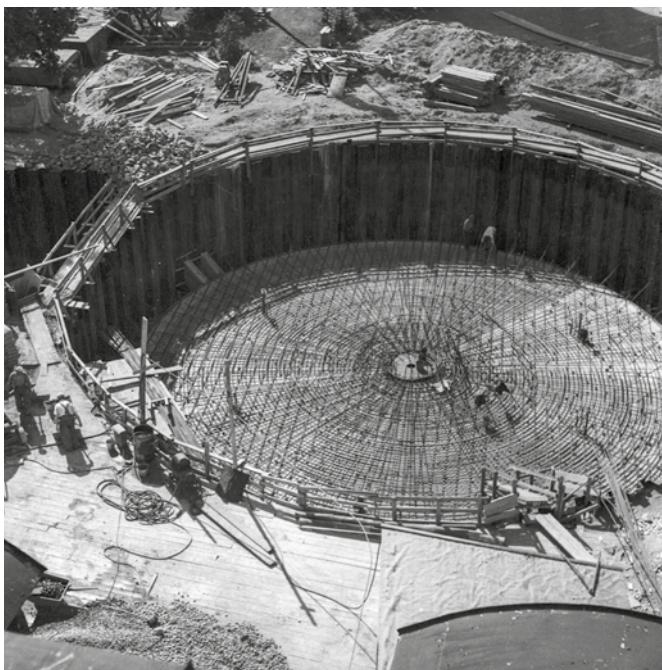
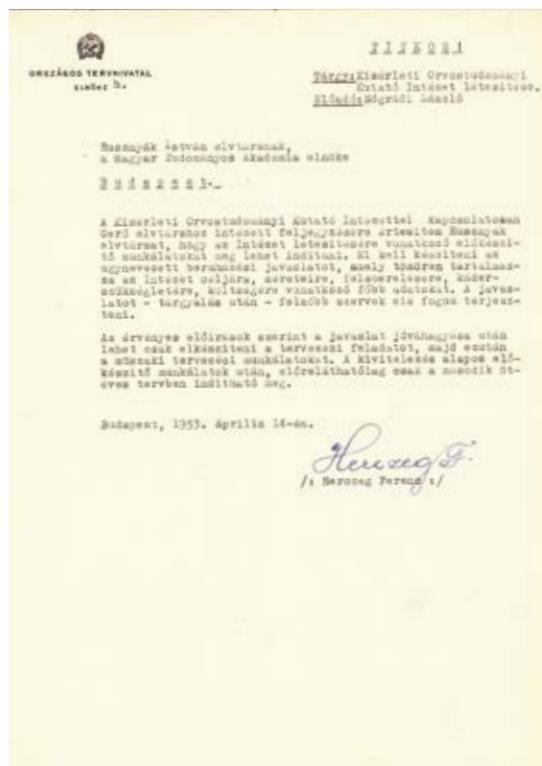


Figure 245. Construction of the atomic reactor at the Central Research Institute for Physics, 1950s...



Figure 246. ...and the completed reactor, around 1967



Figures 247–248. A letter from the President of the National Planning Office from 1953 stating that planning for the Institute of Experimental Medicine could begin, however, the Institute's building on Szigony street was not completed until 1964





Figure 249. Groundbreaking ceremony for the Biological Research Centre (SZBK) on 2 April 1968. President István Rusznyák performs the first shovelling, observed in the background by János Szentágothai (then Secretary of Section VIII of Biological Sciences)



Figure 250. The Biological Research Centre's building in 1973



Figure 251. To mark the 13th anniversary of Hungary's liberation, a delegation of Soviet party and government officials visiting Hungary met with representatives of the Hungarian intelligentsia at a ceremonial session held at the Academy on 9 April 1958. During the interval, the guests conversed in the Scholars' Club. Seated at the table were: N. S. Khrushchev, First Secretary, Central Committee of the CPSU; Károly Erdélyi, interpreter; István Rusznyák, President; and Béla Fogarasi, Vice President. Gyula Kállai, Secretary of MSZMP (in dark glasses). Standing: Ferenc Erdei (Secretary General); Béla Kelen (Secretary of the MSZMP Budapest Committee); and Erzsébet Burchard (Director, Higher Institute for Kindergarten Teacher Training in Kecskemét)



Figure 252. In April 1960, the Academy's Presidium invited three members of the British Academy to visit Hungary: J. W. Robinson (economist), H. D. F. Kitto (Professor of Greek at the University of Bristol) and J. P. Taylor (historian and university professor). On 5 April, the delegation visited the Manuscripts Collection of the Academy Library. In the photograph are: Taylor, József Marticskó, unknown person, Györgyné Kürti, Mrs Robinson, Kitto, Gusztáv Mihályi and Csaba Csapodi (Head of the Manuscripts Collection)



Figure 253. Mikhail Mikhailovich Dubinin (honorary member of the Academy) and Ferenc Erdei (Secretary General) sign the 1959 work plan of the Hungarian–Soviet scientific cooperation agreement. Standing: S. A. Sokolov, Tibor Erdey-Grúz, Éva Baik and Gyula Hevesi



Figure 254. During his 1958 visit, Nobel Prize-winning Indian physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman receives the certificate of his external membership (awarded in 1937) from President Rusznyák



Figure 255. Presidium meeting in Martonvásár, 23 June 1961. Front row: Sándor Geleji, Rezső Manninger, Károly Novobátzky, Elemér Vadász, Erik Molnár, Lajos Ligeti, György Hajós, Tibor Erdey-Grúz and János Mócsy. Second row: Imre Szabó, László Mátrai, Jenő Ernst, Ferenc Erdei, György Szigeti, Géza Bognár, János Antal's wife, Árpád Gerecs and László Csipka

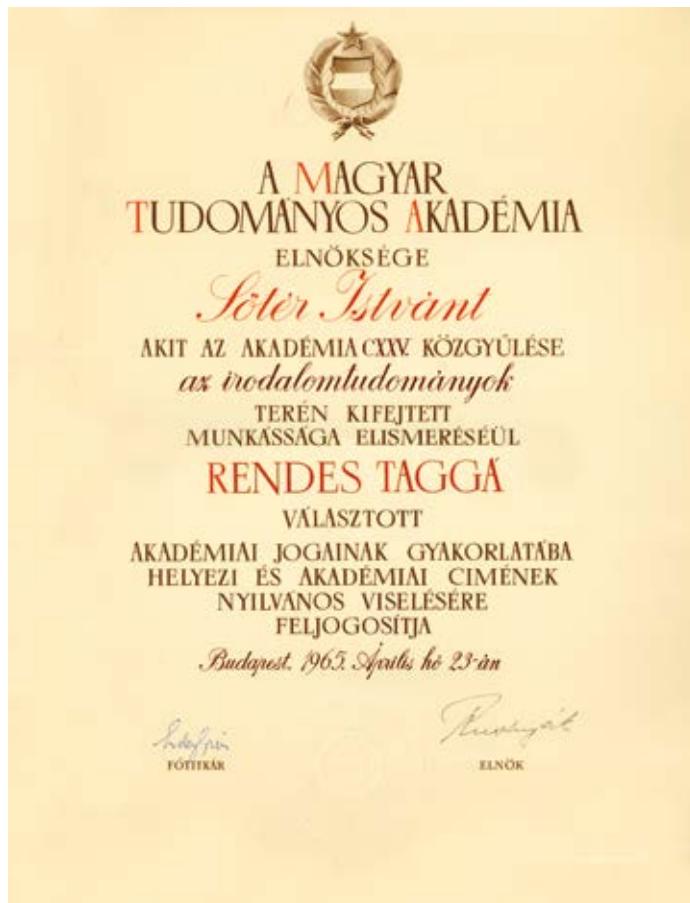


Figure 256. The literary historian István Sótér was elected an ordinary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1965

Figure 257. Portrait of István Sótér



Figure 258. Zoltán Kodály passed away on 6 March 1967. No official obituary was issued, only a family one, as Kodály had insisted on a church funeral, which the socialist state only tolerated before or after official ceremonies



Figure 259. Kodály lay in state at the Academy building...



Figure 260. ...and the people arriving to pay their respects



Figure 261. Honorary member Dénes Gábor delivering a lecture at the ATOMKI (Institute for Nuclear Research) in the spring of 1969



Figure 262. One of the drawings from Dénes Gábor's childhood sketchbook. The sketchbook, which contains drawings of contemporary technical innovations, was donated to the Academy Library by his relatives in 2008

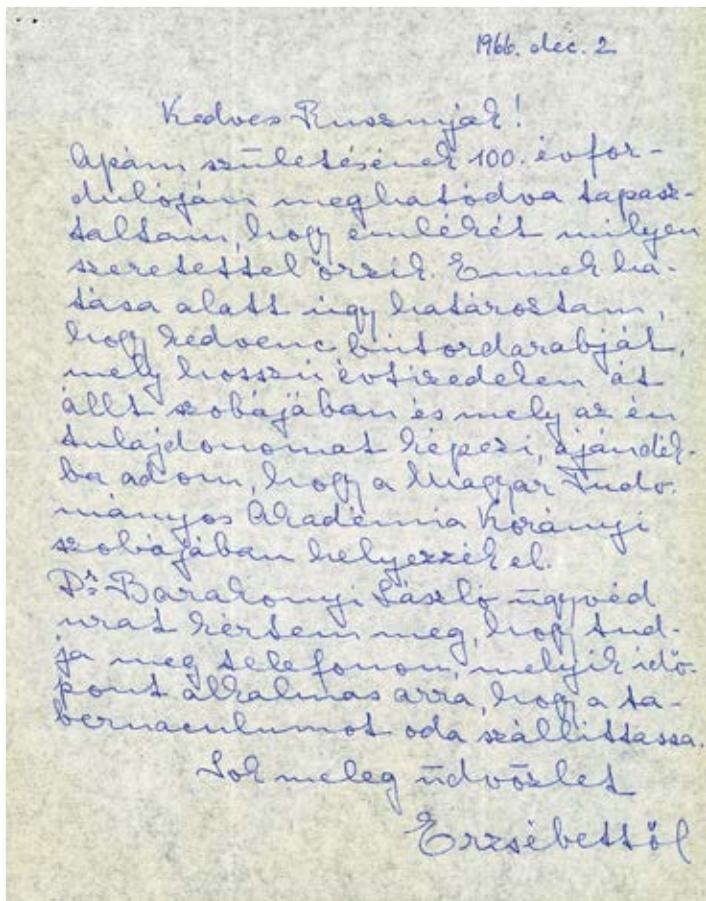


Figure 263. A letter from Erzsébet Korányi stating that she is donating Sándor Korányi's favourite piece of furniture, a tabernacle, to the Academy

Figure 264. The cabinet of Sándor Korányi, an honorary member of the Academy, is located in the music room of the Scholars' Club today





Figure 265. President Tibor Erdey-Grúz in his office. Having served as Secretary General between 1964 and 1970, he remained in the room designated for secretaries general after 1950



Figure 266. The newly elected President, Tibor Erdey-Grúz; the Secretary of the Central Committee of the MSZMP (Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party), György Aczél; and the newly elected Secretary General, Ferenc Erdei, on the closing day of the 130th general assembly, 5 February 1970

Figure 267. The president's office was located on the first floor of the headquarters and was used by the secretaries general between 1970 and 1980





Figure 268. Guests arriving for the 150th anniversary jubilee general assembly: Gyula Kállai, a member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP), and György Aczél, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Science Policy Committee



Figure 269. The presidium of the general assembly



Figure 270. The foreign guests

Figure 271. Pál Losonczi presents the Order of the Red Flag of Labour

Figure 272. The commemorative 200-forint jubilee coin

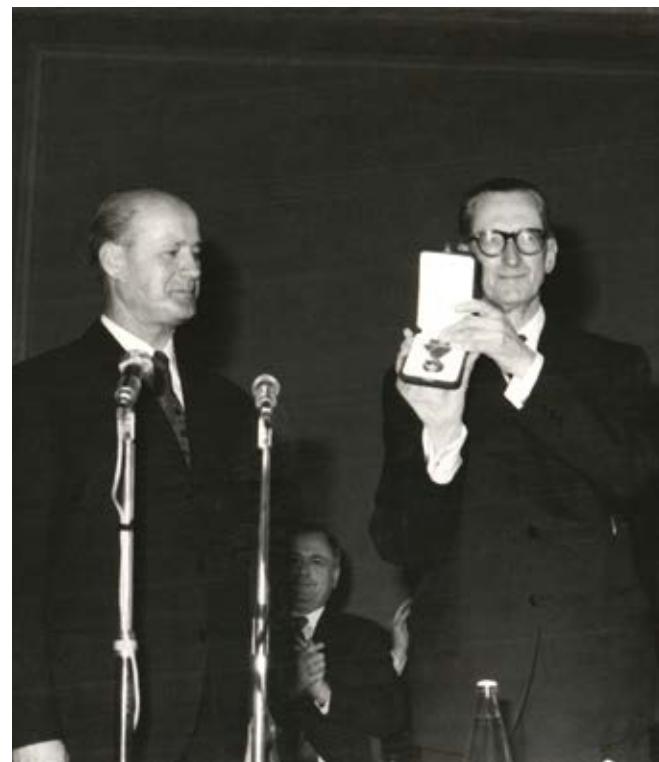




Figure 273. A commemorative sheet featuring stamps issued for the 150th anniversary

Figure 274. A collection of publications prepared for the 150th anniversary





Figure 275. Image of members of the presidium who served between 1980 and 1985: Zsuzsa Hollán (elected in 1976), Brunó Straub F., István Tamássy, Kálmán Kulcsár, Mihály Beck, József Ujfalussy and Pál Tétényi



Figure 276. Obverse and reverse of Buzágh Aladár Award



Figure 277. On the occasion of Lajos Ligeti's 75th birthday, he is congratulated by the leaders of the Academy: Béla Tóth, István Láng, Secretary General Ferenc Márta, Lajos Ligeti, President János Szentágóthai, András Knopp (representative of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party), Lajos Jánossy, and Sándor Kónya

Figure 279. On 19 December 1979, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences held a joint meeting to commemorate the 30th anniversary of its reorganisation. Afterwards, informal discussions took place at the Scholars' Club: Those present included Vice President József Fülöp, President János Szentágóthai (partially visible), György Aczél (member of the Political Committee of the MSZMP and Deputy Prime Minister), Secretary General Ferenc Márta, Vice President Zsigmond Pál Pach, Academician Lajos Ligeti, Vice President András Somos, Deputy Secretary General Béla Köpeczi, and elected presidium member Pál Tétényi

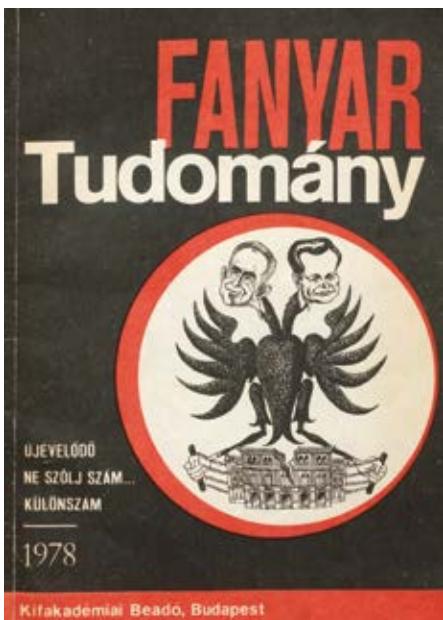


Figure 278. Cover of *Fanyar Tudomány* (Bitter Science)





Figure 280. The participants of the first Soviet-Hungarian space flight – Valery Kubasov and Bertalan Farkas – along with Alexei Yeliseyev, ground commander of the joint mission, and Béla Magyari, trained astronaut, met with leaders of the Hungarian scientific community at the Academy on 17 June 1980. Reception at the Scholar's Club: Valery Kubasov, János Szentágothai, Bertalan Farkas, and Béla Magyari



Figure 281. Lecture in the Reading Room: Secretary General Lénárd Pál, the interpreter, Valery Kubasov, and President János Szentágothai

Figure 282. Academician János Szentágothai demonstrates how the old ballot box works to his fellow academicians, Károly Polinszky and Mihály Simai



Figure 283. In 1986, Zsigmond Pál Pach received the Gold Medal from his former student and President, Iván Berend T.



Figure 284. Obverse and reverse of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Gold Medal. Designed by Tamás Vígh, 1961



Figure 285. In 1988, Béla Bartók's sons decided to repatriate his ashes from the United States to Hungary in accordance with his wishes. Before the reburial, the metal casket was laid in state at the Academy's headquarters



Figure 286. On 3 November 1988, the new building of the Academy Library was inaugurated. In attendance were: György Rózsa (Director General of the Library); Iván Berend T. (President); Imre Pozsgay (State Minister); István Láng (Secretary General); Tibor Braun (Deputy Director General); and János Szentágothai (Academician)

Figure 287. Interior of the reading room





Figure 288. Opening session of the May 1989 general assembly, held on 8 May. Front row, from left to right: Academician and Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár; Vice President Ferenc Márta; Istvánne Szűcs, First Secretary of the MSZMP's 5th District Committee; János Lukács, Secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee; Brunó Straub F., Academician and President of the Republic; and Dezső Keresztfury, recipient of the 1989 Gold Medal

Figure 289. Before the May 1989 general assembly, a conversation at the Scholars' Club: Prime Minister Miklós Németh with President Iván Berend T., and beside him, Academician György Hazai, Director of the Academy Publishing House and Printing Press

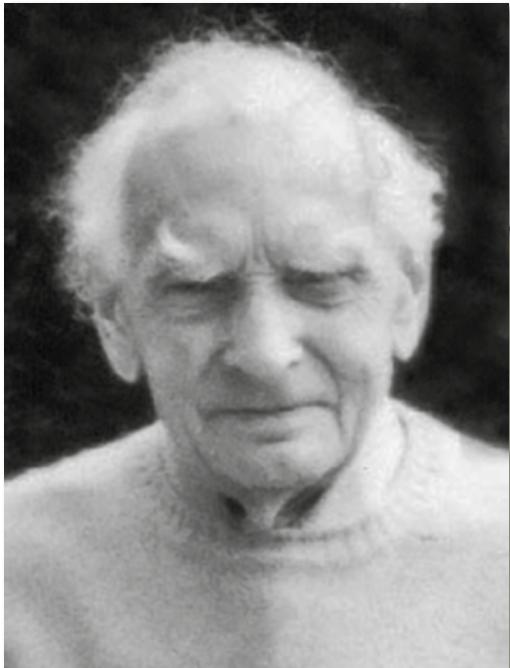
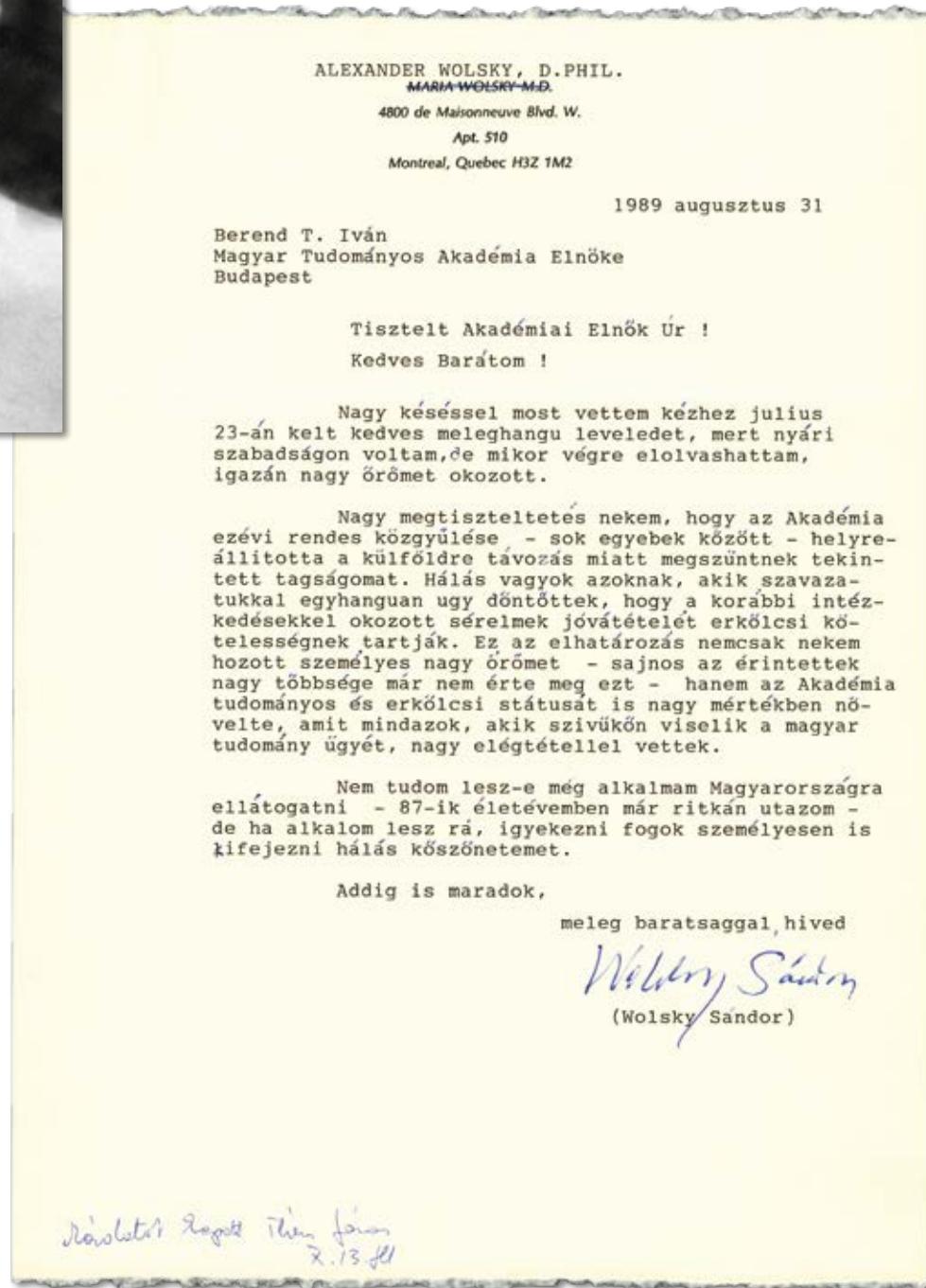


Figure 290. Portrait of Sándor Wolsky

Figure 291. Sándor Wolsky's letter.
He was among those who lived to see
his Academy membership reinstated





After the Regime Change (1990–2025)

Diana Hay



1990 – THE BEGINNING OF A NEW HISTORICAL ERA

Amid the rapidly changing political landscape, instead of pursuing a new law, the Academy turned its attention to revising its statutes. On 6 and 27 February 1990, two extraordinary general assemblies adopted the new statutes, which were approved by the Council of Ministers through Resolution 1044/1990 (21 March). Unlike previous versions, the new statutes included a preamble, which declared the Academy's intention to eliminate the supervisory character imposed during the socialist period and to function henceforth as a self-governing body. The guiding principles also stated that:

"The Academy stands for the enforcement of the constitutional freedom of scientific life, for integrity and democracy in the scientific public sphere, for the recognition of intellectual work and creativity, and the values of science, and for the appreciation of researchers and scholars; it defends the interests of scientific research."

A new membership category called external membership was introduced for foreign researchers who identify as Hungarian and maintain close ties with the domestic scientific community. (Although this is a new form of membership, the term "external member" was previously used for foreign non-Hungarian citizens elected from the founding until 1949. Between 1949 and 1964, foreigners were elected either as external or honorary members; after that, external membership was discontinued, and all non-Hungarian citizens became honorary members.) The new statutes increased the authority of the general assembly and the section meetings, while reducing the powers of the Presidium. A notable innovation was that the general assembly invited two representatives from the universities to join the Presidium. An important step was the limitation of the powers of the elected officials (academic leaders) and the administrative organisation. From then on, the leaders' roles were mostly limited to coordinating and

protocol duties, while the administrative body was tasked with supporting the functioning of the governing bodies.

At the general assembly in May 1990, the report gave the historian President, Iván Berend T., the opportunity to review the history of the Academy.

"Our Academy, throughout its 165-year history – as a striking testament to our turbulent modern history – has experienced the upheavals of 10 political regime changes. Naturally, these, in one form or another, affected domestic science and its institutions as well. However, only the dictatorships and autocratic systems established during the regime changes intervened destructively in the internal life, operating conditions, and organisational structure of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and carried out so-called purges among its membership. This happened after 1849 during the era of absolutism, which nearly rendered our national institution dormant for a decade. It happened again – twice – in 1919 during the Hungarian Soviet Republic, when the Academy's operations were suspended and a complete reorganisation was planned, and later, following Horthy's counter-revolution, when prominent scientists were expelled from the Academy for political reasons, and even giants of world science were driven out of the country. Unfortunately, a similar, though differently motivated, event occurred in 1949, when our Academy was forced into the uniform structure of the Soviet system and suffered devastating political purges that decimated its ranks. Making amends for these actions, if it was at all possible, took many decades. Our new democracy, won through the peaceful revolution, cannot follow the path of dictatorships and autocratic regimes. Clearly, it strives not to weaken but to foster and flourish domestic science, and inseparably within it, the 165-year-old Hungarian Academy of Sciences, founded by Széchenyi. [...] However, we do not wish to oversimplify or paint the past in black and white; we also acknowledge the many achievements of the last quarter-century, a period that has ensured gradual and partial redress for a significant part of the earlier wrongs. It is precisely through this that we arrive at the new chapter of our history not with a

30-kilogram refugee's bundle, but with a valuable cargo for the journey." (*The 150th general assembly of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1990. Iván Berend T: To Preserve and to Change*, Magyar Tudomány, 1990/7, 772.)

The May general assembly was held after the parliamentary elections, and it was successfully arranged with the government to increase the number of academicians, which made it possible to elect 58 new corresponding members. According to the new 1990 statutes, the number of members under 70 years old could not exceed 200, whereas previously the limit applied to those under 75. As part of the ongoing rehabilitation process, several scientists who had been previously sidelined for political reasons were admitted (Béla Gunda, Kálmán Benda, György Győrffy, Lajos Vayer, László Palotás, Gábor Presich – all of whom were exceptionally elected as ordinary members the following year). At its extraordinary session in December 1990, the general assembly declared the external political interference in the election procedures of Barna Győrffy and Pál Csonka to have been illegitimate – interference that can also be substantiated with documentation – and affirmed that the two scholars, who had been nominated for corresponding membership by the competent scientific sections in 1967, are to be regarded as having been elected corresponding members of the Academy at the general assembly session held on 3 May 1967.

At the general assembly, outgoing President Iván Berend T. announced that due to the current political situation, he did not wish to continue his work. He believed that Domokos Kosáry could carry it forward, and after some personal disputes during the assembly, Kosáry was elected President. István Láng was reappointed as Secretary General. Following the successful election, to the complete surprise of those present, Prime Minister József Antall appeared at the assembly and greeted the newly elected leaders. He then outlined the government's science policy plans, stating that he intended to rely on Hungarian science and the Academy, and emphasised the importance of maintaining the research institute network. This statement

did not come as a surprise to Domokos Kosáry, as he later explained that prior to his election, he had consulted the regime-changing parties – the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Alliance of Free Democrats – about their anticipated positions on the operation of the Academy, and based on this, he formulated three guiding principles.

*"The first principle is that no witch hunt should begin within the Academy. If in 1989 we rehabilitated everyone, regardless of how they had entered the Academy, then now, too, we must avoid any form of persecution. Some individuals indeed made it in who should have been chased away at the entrance by the porter with a broomstick – but the majority of the Academy is still made up of genuinely competent professionals." (*Not Founded by Dzhugashvili...*) Interview with János Simkó. 168 Óra, 29 May 1990, 6–7.)*

The second principle was that the Academy and scientific research in general must remain independent of all administrative, governmental, and political apparatuses and influences. The third was that the Academy's research institute network must be preserved, as it represents a significant national asset.

Kosáry viewed his role as a form of service and declared that he would do everything in his power to preserve and further develop the Academy's values and historical traditions. As he put it, "today our task is to preserve and renew our values, continuity and change." (AL 150/b Közgyűlés. Minutes of the May 1990 general assembly, 523–530.)

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ACADEMY AND UNIVERSITIES; REFORM ON SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATION (ATHENAEUM COMMITTEE)

The need to reform the scientific qualification system had surfaced repeatedly over time. As early as the 1970s, concerns were raised that would resurface after the regime change as well – such as the respective roles of universities



Figure 291. The newly elected President, Domokos Kosáry, and Prime Minister, József Antall, are seated at the presidential table of the May 1990 general assembly

and the Academy in postgraduate training (researcher training), the relationship between Hungarian and international systems of scientific qualification, the number and naming of qualification levels, etc.

At its May 1990 general assembly, the Academy expressed support for reform and established committees to work on key areas, including legislation concerning the Academy, the research institute network, and the system of scientific qualification. At the extraordinary general assembly in December 1990, the Academy adopted the idea of a close, institutionalised collaboration with universities in the field of advanced scientific training – referred to as “Athenaeum partnerships”. Based on this concept, an Athenaeum Committee was proposed, composed of delegates from the Academy’s scientific sections and representatives from the universities.

Joint work began in March 1991, and by the April meeting of the Academy’s Presidium, it was reported that the Academy’s committee had been expanded into a National Athenaeum Committee with the addition of ten new members delegated by the Rectors’ Conference, representing the universities. Several universities had already submitted proposals concerning advanced scientific training and qualification, based on which the Committee began developing a system of criteria and requirements.

By the spring of 1993, it had become clear that no separate law would be enacted on academic degrees, and it was also evident that the new Higher Education Act would precede the Academy Act, as the government considered universities a higher priority. The Athenaeum Committee was not mentioned in the Higher Education Act, and Section 80 stipulated that the government would establish a National Accreditation Committee to oversee

academic qualifications. Although the Athenaeum Committee was still included in the Academy's 1994 statutes, its influence rapidly declined, and it was eventually dissolved by the end of the decade.

The Higher Education Act introduced the advanced university doctoral degree (PhD/DLA) as the sole academic degree, along with the habilitation (independent lecturer) title. Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences abolished the Candidate of Sciences and Doctor of Sciences degrees, as well as the Scientific Qualification Committee. A new academic title, the "Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences" (DSc) was created, and the Doctoral Council was established as the body responsible for awarding this title.

Academy of Arts could be established – one that would operate independently from the scientific sections, autonomously and according to its guiding principles.

At the extraordinary meeting in December 1991, the organising committee was tasked with this goal. The group, mostly composed of visual artists, initially supported Kosáry's initiative earlier that month but then declared its independence a few weeks later. On 31 January 1992, they founded the Hungarian Academy of Arts and elected Imre Makovecz as President. Although Kosáry and Makovecz met to negotiate during the spring and both regretted the division that had arisen, they were unable to reach an agreement. Despite this, the Academy's organisational work continued, and at the May 1992 general assembly, the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts was established.

1992 – SZÉCHENYI ACADEMY OF LETTERS AND ARTS

In the 1949 reorganisation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Subsection of Letters and Arts was abolished, effectively excluding artists from the Academy – even though they had played an important role in the life of the scholarly body since its founding. Just consider figures like Dániel Berzsenyi, Ferenc Kazinczy, Mihály Vörösmarty, János Arany, or the painter Miklós Barabás. In 1948, Zoltán Kodály had emphasised this unity when he stated: "It is not only the various branches of science that belong together – and each suffers when it retreats too far into its narrow professional circle – but science and art, too, cannot exist without one another." (Opening address at the 1948 general assembly, *Akadémiai Értesítő*, 1948. 13.)

In 1989, in the context of the broader rehabilitation process, the Academy's Presidium made it clear that it intended to remain a purely scientific institution. Following the election of Domokos Kosáry as President, efforts were made to find a new institutional framework. By the end of 1991, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences proposed the idea that, within the broader structure of the Academy but as a separate, affiliated unit, an

1994 – THE ACADEMY ACT

Since 1988, the Academy had initiated the creation of a new academic law. A key element of the concept was the principle of autonomy – both the Academy's independence as an institution from politics and its structures, the internal autonomy and the autonomy of its research institutes. They considered it essential to regain ownership of the assets, while also recognising the need for state funding to support nationwide research tasks. As later proposals noted, the Academy had received regular state subsidies since 1869.

In 1990, in line with this approach, the statutes were revised, and work began on drafting a new law suited to the changing political environment. At the extraordinary general assembly in December 1990, the principles of academic reform were adopted. In 1991, a brief memorandum titled *Why is a New Academy Law Needed?* was prepared, outlining the background and reasons for the reform (published in *Akadémiai Hírek*, 1991/3). The draft law was first discussed by the Science Policy Committee in 1991, and later, in December, it was approved by the government, but the Parliament did not debate it for a long time afterward. At its meeting in September 1992, the Presidium of the Hungarian

Academy of Sciences concluded that, in the meantime, certain laws and government-level decisions had been adopted which made it necessary to amend the draft legislation before its parliamentary debate. (e.g. issues related to scientific degrees, the affiliated academy of arts, the legal status of secretariat staff, etc.). Finally, in the summer of 1993, the parliamentary discussion of the law took place. The Academy's leadership tried to persuade politicians and accelerate the decision-making process by preparing professional and informational materials. (*Why is a New Academic Law Necessary?*, Pamphlet for members of the Parliament. Budapest, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, May 1993.)

After much back and forth, on 28 March 1994, the National Assembly finally passed Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The law stipulated that within four months after its coming into effect – namely, after 30 June 1994 – an extraordinary general assembly must be convened. Consequently, the extraordinary general assembly met on 26–27 October 1994 and adopted the new statutes. The rules of procedure corresponding to the new law and statutes were adopted at the May 1995 general assembly. Since the Academy Act established that the Academy is a *self-governing public body with legal personality*, it also defined the membership. In addition to the Academy's ordinary and corresponding members, holders of scientific degrees were included, with the law specifying that these non-academician members exercise their rights through representation. Following this, and under the statutes and rules of procedure, 200 representatives were elected from among the Doctors of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to the general assembly. This development successfully broadened the participation of researchers in the Academy's decision-making processes. However, the law still maintained dual leadership: although the Academy was officially represented by the President, the Secretary General was responsible for managing the budgetary chapter and served as the chair of the Council of Academic Research Institutes (AKT). Moreover, the Secretary General exercised the ownership rights belonging to the Academy, albeit with certain limitations.

The Academy received only partial ownership rights over the real estate under its management, as well as the tangible assets and other property necessary for the operation of the institutions housed therein; this portion was designated as endowment property (detailed in an annex to the law). The larger part of the assets – the research network's buildings and their equipment – remained state property entrusted to the Academy.

1997–2014 – NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FUND (OTKA)

The National Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), established in 1986, became independent from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 1 January 1991. From that time on, the position of president was no longer held by the Secretary General of the Academy; instead, Academician Rudolf Andorka served as its independent President. At this stage, OTKA established its own administrative framework and operational system, which was formally codified by the Hungarian Parliament in 1993 through a separate piece of legislation (Act XXII of 1993 on the National Scientific Research Fund). In 1997, Act CXXVI on the National Scientific Research Programmes designated the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as the supervisory body of OTKA. However, this did not affect OTKA's independence; it continued to appear as a separate line item in the state budget. The President of the OTKA Committee was jointly nominated by the President of the Academy and the Minister of Culture and Public Education. During the period from 1997 to 2003, several new initiatives were introduced, including the post-doctoral grant system, large-scale institutional research grants, as well as the renewed research instrumentation programme and the library database programme.

On 25 November 2014, the National Assembly passed Draft Law No. T/1768 on Scientific Research, Development and Innovation, which, effective 31 December 2014, dissolved the OTKA Office with legal succession and repealed the OTKA Act. The programmes of OTKA, the

administration of ongoing grants, and the management of new calls for proposals were taken over by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH).

1997 – DAY OF HUNGARIAN SCIENCE, CELEBRATION OF HUNGARIAN SCIENCE

On 3 November 1997, the Day of Hungarian Science was celebrated for the first time. The previous year, at the World Congress of Hungarian Scientists, a decision was made that Hungary should also commemorate the work of scientists and researchers. The proposal was accepted, and the government declared 3 November the Day of Hungarian Science by Decree No. 55/1997 (IV. 3.).

The day of science focused on the relationship between science and society, and accordingly, a broad range of participants was involved in the celebrations. The events were primarily aimed at professionals, students, and the general public with an interest in science, but also addressed politicians, business leaders, and entrepreneurs, given the high costs associated with research funding. The occasion provided an opportunity for scientists to present their results, while also allowing society's expectations to be conveyed to the scientific community.

From the outset of his presidency, Ferenc Glatz actively sought to involve entrepreneurs and businesses in supporting culture. Among his various initiatives, he advocated the creation of new awards – one notable outcome being the establishment of the Bernát Munkácsi and Imre Steindl Prizes in 1998, made possible through the support of Canadian businessman Peter Munk. In 1997, during the opening ceremony of the Day of Hungarian Science, Imre Somody, CEO of Pharmavit Rt. in Veresegyház, announced the establishment of the János Bolyai Award for Creative Excellence (commonly referred to as the Bolyai Prize). Ultimately, the prize did not become an official award of the Academy; instead, it is conferred by an independent committee chaired by the President of the Republic. The committee comprises 14 additional members, all distinguished

and respected figures in Hungarian scientific life. Half of the members are delegated by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, while the other half are appointed by the founders of the Bolyai Prize Foundation. The first Bolyai Prize was awarded to Tamás Freund in 2000.

Over the years, the series of events celebrating the Day of Science gradually expanded, and today it lasts an entire month. In 2003, the Hungarian National Assembly officially declared 3 November the Celebration of Hungarian Science with the adoption of Act XCIII.

1997 – JÁNOS BOLYAI RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

In 1996, Prime Minister Gyula Horn asked Ferenc Glatz to prepare new guidelines for science policy. As President of the Academy, Glatz undertook a long-term review titled Science Policy in Hungary at the Turn of the Millennium, in which he emphasised the necessity of supporting the scientific careers of early-stage researchers.

By Government Decree No. 156/1997 (19 September), the János Bolyai Research Scholarship was established for researchers under the age of 40 to support the writing of scientific work or the creation of an equivalent research project output. The scholarship provided financial support that enabled researchers to engage in focused scientific work alongside their regular academic positions and salaries.

The evaluation of applications was carried out by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship Board of Trustees, an independent, professionally and scientifically autonomous body established by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The administrative work was handled by the Secretariat of the Doctoral Council. The Board's first chairman was Academician János Gergely. The fellowship was first awarded in 1998, when 350 recipients received the support.

A book published for the 25th anniversary of the János Bolyai Research Scholarship highlighted how effectively it had served its intended goals and documented its achieve-



Figure 293. The first Day of Hungarian Science was organised in 1997. The opening ceremony took place on 3 November in the Academy's headquarters' ceremonial hall. Those on the podium included: Mihály Kókény (Minister of Welfare); Zoltán Gál (Speaker of the National Assembly); Ferenc Glatz (President of the Academy); Bálint Magyar (Minister of Culture); István Bihari (President of the National Technical Development Committee); and Gyula Horn (Prime Minister)

ments. At the 2024 Bolyai Day, it was reported that since 1998, nearly 5,000 researchers have received the scholarship. Of these, 784 have since earned the title of Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and 38 former Bolyai fellows have become members of the Academy.

EFFORTS TO RENEW THE ACADEMY'S RESEARCH NETWORK

Reform I (1992–1993)

The post-1990 history of the Academy was marked by an ongoing struggle over its research institutes. From the late 1980s onward, the Academy made significant efforts to reform and modernise its research network. Nevertheless,

from time to time, voices in the press and scientific community suggested that the research network might function more effectively if it were independent of the Academy or affiliated with universities.

Between 1991 and 1992, these issues were discussed at three Academy Forums held on 5–7 March 1991, 13–14 November 1991, and 29–30 October 1992. The forums were attended not only by academicians but also by researchers from the Academy's institutes, university faculty and researchers, as well as invited guests, including members of parliament. The first Forum focused on methods for evaluating the professional achievements of researchers and research projects, the second addressed issues of research funding, and the third dealt with the current organisational questions of the Academy's research network. At this last forum, on 29 October 1992, President Domokos Kosáry said the following in his opening remarks:

"The first objection we must oppose is the question of why a separate, independent research institute is needed at all, given that it costs money. The answer is simple: all more developed countries have such institutes, particularly independent, full-time research institutes that have been established over the past few decades. To carry out tasks that cannot be performed elsewhere in the same form, for example, within a university department. In Hungary, such research institutes existed even before the Second World War, for example, the Biological Institute in Tihany, established in 1927, and the Teleki Institute, which housed the Institute of History from 1941 onward. [...] Another objection raised is that what we need is not an academic research network, but a Ministry of Research. This notion is not new – it first emerged during the era of the one-party state – and, for some reason, it has recently resurfaced in certain circles. All I can say is that we did not free ourselves from an all-powerful party bureaucracy – one that was also a state bureaucracy – only to see bureaucrats once again placed above scientific institutions. Such a move would be both costly and dangerous. The scientific community knows how to do its work; it doesn't need a doorman to operate the elevator. Over the past two years, we have worked to modernise the Academy's protective framework, shaping it into a system that better supports researchers and responds to their needs. This effort encompasses issues such as professional autonomy, participation in decision-making, and the relatively new concept of the Board of Trustees – on which the Secretary General will elaborate in more detail. [...]

The third mistaken notion – and perhaps the one most prominently on the agenda today – is the idea that the Academy's research institutes should be merged into the organisational structure of universities. This proposal is not new; it previously formed part of the party-state's science policy under the Lázár government. In fact, during the 1970s, the Academy transferred more than 50 research positions to the universities. Try finding them now. Faced with their own difficulties, the universities regarded this as a temporary lifeline – something to help them stay afloat. Those positions disappeared like a glass of water poured

into the desert. It is a fundamental mistake to believe that a well-functioning research institute network should simply be handed over, as if this would automatically lead to progress. This is one of those ill-considered, naive ideas. It is pure naïveté to think that such a move would meaningfully support the universities. First and foremost, these research institutes are difficult – if not impossible – to integrate into university structures. In those rare, exceptional cases where integration is feasible, we will of course take that into account. University-based scientific research certainly needs to be strengthened – but this is not the way to achieve it." Domokos Kosáry, *What Kind of Science Policy Is Needed?*, Magyar Tudomány, 1992/12, 1457–1458.)

Reform II (1995–1998)

After the Academy Act came into effect, the general assembly in May 1995 authorised the Secretary General to begin preparations for modernising the academic research network (Reform II). At the December 1996 general assembly, the Secretary General stated the following:

"Despite all efforts in academic science policy and the willingness of the financial administration to provide support, we cannot expect funding to be maintained even at its current real value. This is why we have long maintained that the research network must be restructured to reflect current circumstances. The process of this transformation is best described as consolidation. Unfortunately, we must acknowledge that the most realistic outcome is to implement a programme aimed at preserving the most important values under more stable conditions." (László Keviczky, *Theoretical Issues of the Consolidation of the Academic Research Network*, Magyar Tudomány, 1997/5, 566.)

At the 161st general assembly held on 15 December 1997, President Ferenc Glatz outlined the Academy's threefold mission: to serve as a workshop of science, a coordinator of scientific research, and an advisor to the nation. The consolidation of the research network was presented by

the Secretary General, who explained that the process aimed to ease operational difficulties while also reshaping the rigid structure of the research network. Based on this framework, the restructuring process began – including institute mergers, the establishment of new institutes, relocations, and the vacating of premises. The general assembly approved the changes and adopted the founding charters of the new institutes. This was the period when, for example, the Research Centre for Earth Sciences was established, comprising three institutes (the Institute of Geography, the Institute of Geodesy and Geophysics, and the Geochemical Research Laboratory). Around the same time, the Institute of Technical Physics merged with the Institute for Materials Science of the Central Research Institute for Physics and vacated its site in Újpest. Before the consolidation, there were 43 institutes; afterwards, the number was reduced to 34. Of these, there had previously been 3 research centres, which increased to 4 following the restructuring.

Reform III (2006–2007)

After Hungary joined the European Union in 2004, science and research entered a new era, prompting the Academy to reconsider its science policy and organisational structure. Following the work carried out and the reform resolution adopted at the general assembly on 30 October 2006, the committee summarised the background and lessons of the reform debate in an article:

“As the largest public body of the Hungarian scientific community, endowed with autonomy guaranteed by the Constitution and the Academy Act, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences shapes its own organisation following the scientific demands of the time, in the spirit of openness that characterises scientific thinking. Just as science has always advanced through the combined drive to honour tradition and pursue renewal, the institutions of scientific life also seek optimal solutions for research and scholarly public life by placing the values of tradition and innovation at the

centre of their efforts. In the past two decades, key milestones in this renewal process – rooted in tradition – have included the adoption of the Academy Act, the new statutes, the consolidation process, and the transformation of the system of supported research institutions. Through these efforts, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences successfully adapted to the challenges of the era, maintaining the high international standards of Hungarian research. At the same time, over the past year to year and a half, it became necessary to intensify the ongoing renewal process – referred to as the reform process – primarily to preserve the international competitiveness of Hungarian science and to enhance its role in innovation.” (Csaba Pléh, György Fábri, László Radácsi, *The Transforming Academy: Background and Perspectives in the Academy’s Reform Process*, Magyar Tudomány, 2006/12. 1511.)

Anti-academy voices have once again grown louder in the press, with many once more pitting the interests of the Academy against those of the universities. In response, György Fábri, the Academy’s Director General for Communications, wrote in *Magyar Tudomány*:

“First of all, it is completely outdated to consider opposition between the universities and the Academy as a default position. The real root of past conflicts can be traced back to a transitional period. At the end of the 1940s, a dual process took place in Hungarian science: on one hand, following global trends, a full-time research network was established, which was an appropriate organizational form for developing Big Sciences projects requiring large-scale instruments and resources domestically. However, on the other hand, this went hand in hand with harsh political pressure that downgraded universities by diminishing their research profiles, stripping scientific qualifications, and imposing the Academy’s authority as a controlling power.” But from the 1990s onwards, the situation changed significantly, and the Academy has done everything possible to foster cooperation. (György Fábri, *The Reform of Universities and the Academy*, Magyar Tudomány, 2006/10, 1266–1267.)

In the spirit of renewal, the Academy announced institute director positions internationally and established international panels to evaluate the applications; funding for supported research groups was distributed through competitive grants; within the Secretariat, a structure better serving the research network was created; and the Academy actively participated in the development of the government's research and development strategy and the New Hungary Development Plan (ÚMFT), consistently advocating for the values of a knowledge-based economy and society.

175TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2000, the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Academy was commemorated, with the 167th general assembly held on 3 November 2000. This was the first time that the Academy scheduled its second general assembly, traditionally held in May, to coincide with the Day of Hungarian Science. At the commemorative session, Ferenc Mádl, President of the Republic, Katalin Szili, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Zoltán Pokorni, Minister of Education, and many other government members and leading politicians were present and spoke. Former head of state Árpád Göncz was also in attendance. In his brief speech, the President of the Academy said:

"The Academy, taking on the role of advisor to the nation, therefore conducts strategic research and offers a new alliance to politics, the media, and the teaching community to build a knowledge-based society." The President also reminded that without goodwill from the government, the Academy cannot exist – an example of this is the role of Palatine Joseph in the period following its founding. (László Szabados, Report on the Academy's General Assembly of November 2000., Magyar Tudomány, 2001/1. 97–98.)

Several scientific works were published for the anniversary, such as the lexicon of the members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which included brief biographies of all

members elected up to that time. Additionally, a series was produced about the history of the Academy's research institutes.

On 4 November 2000, during the celebrations of the Day of Hungarian Science, the renovated János Bolyai International Mathematics Award was presented for the first time to Professor Saharon Shelah for his monograph *Cardinal Arithmetic*.

2003 – WORLD SCIENCE FORUM (WSF)

In 1999, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences organised the first World Conference on Science with the participation of UNESCO and the International Council for Science (ICSU). The conference participants proposed organising further conferences, which led to the first World Science Forum (WSF) being held in Budapest in 2003. After the third meeting, in 2007, Balázs Gulyás, an external member of the Academy, commented on the event as follows:

"From the very beginning, our goal with the Forum was to create a scientific counterpart to the World Economic Forum in Davos, and after this year's conference, I feel that we have surprisingly quickly succeeded. When I think that the first Davos meeting took place in 1971, but its prestige only grew in the late 1980s, I can confidently say that we have been effective. And why do I dare to state this so confidently? First of all, because the co-organisers of the conference were none other than UNESCO, the EU, and the ICSU (International Council for Science). Additionally, some of the world's largest science funding organisations took part, such as the American NSF (National Science Foundation), as well as Japanese, Canadian, and numerous European grant agencies, which clearly demonstrates the prestige of the WSF." (Davos of Science, Magyar Tudomány, 2008/1. 96.)

The central theme of the first meeting was *Science and Society*, and more than 400 scientists, politicians, business



Figure 294. In the 1990s, the Academy started holding a second general assembly each year, timed to coincide with the Day of Hungarian Science. On the morning of 3 November 2000, a ceremonial session was held to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Academy's foundation. Several politicians attended and spoke at the event. Before the session, in the president's office: Vice President Szilveszter Vizi E., Vice President László Keviczky, Deputy Secretary General Attila Meskó, President of the Republic Ferenc Mádl and Secretary General Norbert Kroó were present

leaders, and public figures from 80 countries gathered to discuss the impact of science on everyday life. Its significance was also highlighted by the fact that the patrons of the WSF were Ferenc Mádl, President of the Republic of Hungary, and Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission. The second World Science Forum was held in 2005 under the theme *Knowledge, Ethics, and Responsibility*. In his welcoming speech, Szilveszter Vizi E., then President of the Academy, emphasised that science has the power to improve our world and make our lives more valuable and happier. He also emphasised that scientists have a moral obligation to consider how their knowledge is applied, as the misuse of research findings can cause harm and even lead to tragedy. (Speech by Attila Meskó, Secretary General of the Academy, at the closing session of the WSF, *Magyar Tudomány*, 2005/12, 1584.) The theme of the third WSF in 2007 was *Investing in Knowledge: Investing in the Future*, and the fourth in 2009 was *Knowledge and the Future*.

In 2011, scientists, science policymakers, and global investors in research and development gathered under the theme *The Redrawing World Map of Science*. At the end of the conference, they adopted a declaration titled *A New Era in Global Science* and decided that from then on, only every other meeting would be held in Budapest. Thus, in 2013, Rio de Janeiro hosted the WSF. This conference was held under the motto *Science in the Service of Global Development*. In 2015, the World Science Forum was held again in Budapest. At this event, the dialogue on global sustainability that began in Brazil was continued, and participants demonstrated how science creates new opportunities to advance the United Nations' Post-2015 Development Agenda on sustainability. In 2017, the main topics of the World Science Forum held in Jordan were food security, water, and energy issues. In 2019, the Forum was once again hosted in Budapest, focusing on the ethics and responsibility of science.

2009 – LENDÜLET (MOMENTUM) PROGRAMME

József Pálinkás, President of the Academy, announced the Lendület (Momentum) programme for the first time on 14 January 2009. The programme was created for outstanding young researchers, and in 2011 it was described as follows:

“The Lendület programme is the Hungarian Academy of Sciences’ most successful competitively funded grant scheme for young researchers who demonstrate outstanding and well-measurable scientific performance. Initiated by the President of the Academy, the programme pursued multiple goals: to expand career advancement opportunities for young researchers, to ensure a steady supply of talent, to reduce the emigration of successful young scientists, to support the dynamic renewal of the Academy’s research institutes and research groups, and to enhance their competitiveness. The domestic success of the Lendület programme has now attracted international attention and serves as one of the models for mitigating brain drain.” (József Pálinkás, Valéria Csépe, Tamás Németh, *Excellence, Sustainability, Competitiveness.*, Magyar Tudomány, 2011/11, 1286.)

The initiative of the Academy was supported by Gedeon Richter Plc, TriGránit, the Aquincum Institute of Technology, and the Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists. Beginning in 2011, the Academy extended the programme to universities as well, signalling that it is not the location of the research, but rather the excellence of the researcher that serves as the key criterion for advancement. The success of the programme is also reflected in the fact that in 2013, three young scientists who had been recipients of the Lendület grant – biochemist László Buday, physicist Péter Domokos, and astronomer László Kiss L. – were elected as corresponding members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Since then, several other Lendület grant recipients have also become academicians.

2009 – THE ACADEMY ACT

At the general assembly in May 2009, József Pálinkás, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, reported that as a result of his efforts, in March 2009 the National Assembly had adopted the amendment to the Academy Act (Act XX of 2009 on the amendment of Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. *Magyar Közlöny*, 2009/44, 14057–14065).

“With the amendment of the law, the public legal status of the Academy did not change: it remains a national public institution, a public body of those holding scientific degrees and engaged in scientific work, with its own chapter in the central budget, carrying out national public duties and maintaining research institutes. It confers doctoral degrees, elects its own members, and both members and doctors receive honoraria. The official name of the law remains the Act XL of 1994 on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. [...] A new element in the amended law is that it precisely lists the Academy’s public duties, clearly outlining what the Academy provides to the community in return for taxpayers’ money. There had long been a demand within the research network for the establishment of basic funding, which is also included in the amended law.” (Presidential address., Magyar Tudomány, 2009/6. 733.)

The most significant change introduced by the law was that, from that point onward, the Academy was granted not only the assets of a few buildings and institutions (the core assets as defined in the 1994 law) but also – based on Section 69(1) of Act CVI of 2007 on State Property – the property transferred to the Academy (hereinafter referred to as the property of the Academy). This included all research institute buildings and their tangible and intangible assets, such as intellectual property. Another important change was the restructuring of the Academy’s decision-making framework by the law. From this point on, “The President shall act as the head of the body directing the budgetary chapter regarding the Academy as a central

budgetary institution.” This brought an end to the so-called “dual leadership” of the public body, which had originated in 1970 and was either overlooked or deliberately maintained in 1994, that is, although the President led and represented the Academy, it was the Secretary General who exercised ownership rights over the Academy’s assets.

In his report to the general assembly, the President stated that this law marked the culmination of a reform process that had been underway for years. However, he also emphasised that the Academy’s network of research institutes was in urgent need of renewal, as the institutes were operating under very poor conditions.

2011 – REORGANISATION OF THE RESEARCH NETWORK

In his presidential report at the May 2011 general assembly, József Pálinskás highlighted the severe difficulties threatening the continued existence of the current structure and operation of the research institute network. After being re-elected, he emphasised the necessity of renewing the network and convened an extraordinary general assembly for 5 December 2011. During the summer, the concept for the renewal was formulated, followed by consultations with each institute. By autumn, the composition of the research centres had become clear. In September, the members of the Governing Board reviewed the detailed restructuring plan. Subsequently, the President presented the plan to the Prime Minister and engaged in discussions concerning the Academy’s budget for the coming year. At the end of September, the government submitted the 2012 budget proposal, recommending a 21 per cent increase in the budget chapter allocated to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From October to December, organisational work continued: financial measures necessary to initiate operations under the new structure were undertaken (including administrative consultations, settling treasury and banking accounts, and preparing final reports, inventories, and asset transfer statements). Addi-

tionally, the detailed organisation of the new institutes was defined, with the preparation of organisational and operational rules. Subsequently, the December 2011 general assembly made the decision on renewing the institutional network, including the adoption of the termination and founding acts. Following the assembly, as of 1 January 2012, the previous structure of 38 research institutes and 2 research centres was reorganised into 10 research centres and 5 research institutes.

ACT LXVIII OF 2019

Starting in the summer of 2018, the Academy faced sustained attacks in the press, and the government voiced serious criticism regarding the operation of its institutes, including claims that they were insufficiently effective – highlighting, among other points, that no patents were filed by any of the Academy’s research institutes in 2018. In connection with the 2019 budget proposal, it became clear that the funds allocated for supporting the Academy’s network of research institutes did not appear in the Academy’s budget but were instead assigned to the Ministry of Innovation and Technology. It later emerged that the ministry was already working on the institutional and professional reorganisation of the research institute network. Over the following year, the leadership of the Academy and the staff of the research network struggled unsuccessfully to prevent the separation. In the summer of 2019, the National Assembly passed Act LXVIII of 2019, which, from 1 September, transferred management of the Academy’s research network to a new organisation, the Eötvös Loránd Research Network (renamed in 2023 as the HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network). Subsequently, the Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences issued the following statement:

“The Hungarian Academy of Sciences regrets to note that, despite the unified stance of the domestic and international scientific community and the Academy’s researchers, the

National Assembly adopted the law titled 'On the Amendment of Certain Laws Necessary for the Transformation of the Institutional System and Financing of the Research, Development, and Innovation System,' which deprives the country's oldest, most prestigious, and most trusted scientific organisation – both domestically and internationally – of its research network. It is particularly painful that this was done without substantive criticism or the development of a government strategy regarding the operation of the new system.

Recognising its responsibility to Hungarian science, the Academy will continue to do everything within its power, following the law's implementation, to protect the interests of science and to uphold scientific freedom and the integrity of the scientific community.

Drawing on its international connections, the Academy evaluates the work of research organisations and individual researchers, as well as the status of various scientific fields. It supports the development of new research directions and remains committed to popularising science, promoting the integration of scientific results into education, and advancing science diplomacy.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences represents the entire Hungarian scientific community. Through its regional and cross-border committees, external members, and external public body members, it connects Hungarian scholars wherever they work. It provides a common forum for university, research institute, and industry researchers alike. It offers opportunities for researchers in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to exchange views, methods, and perspectives, to debate, and to coordinate the highest-level evaluation of achievements.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences remains faithful to the spirit of its founder, István Széchenyi."

(https://mta.hu/mta_hirei/az-mta-elnoksegenek-nyilatkozata-109891. Last accessed: 29 August 2024)

In 2024, the leadership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences expressed the Academy's mission as follows:

"The Hungarian Academy of Sciences – in harmony with the founding intentions of István Széchenyi – has been continuously renewing itself for nearly 200 years to serve knowledge, the nation, and universal science. The Academy's goal is to contribute to strengthening the country's position and security, and to improving the living conditions, knowledge, and abilities of the Hungarian people. The Academy's mission stems from its centuries-old traditions, the achievements of Hungarian science, the authorisation granted by the Academy Act, and its assumed responsibilities. The Academy's operation is based on respect for scientific facts, principles, and methods, as well as a commitment to the nation.

- 1. The Academy is a public body that unites and represents the Hungarian scientific community.*
- 2. The Academy preserves and nurtures the Hungarian language and cares for the nation's scientific and cultural heritage.*
- 3. The Academy contributes to creating the conditions for research and represents the interests of Hungarian scientific research.*
- 4. The Academy is the guardian of scientific quality and scientific ethics.*
- 5. The Academy's tasks include expanding the international relations of Hungarian science, showcasing its achievements, and representing its interests.*
- 6. The Academy serves as an advisor to the nation.*
- 7. The Academy communicates the results of scientific research to the society."*

(<https://mta200.hu/mta200/az-akademia-kuldetese-106350>. Last accessed: 29 August 2024)

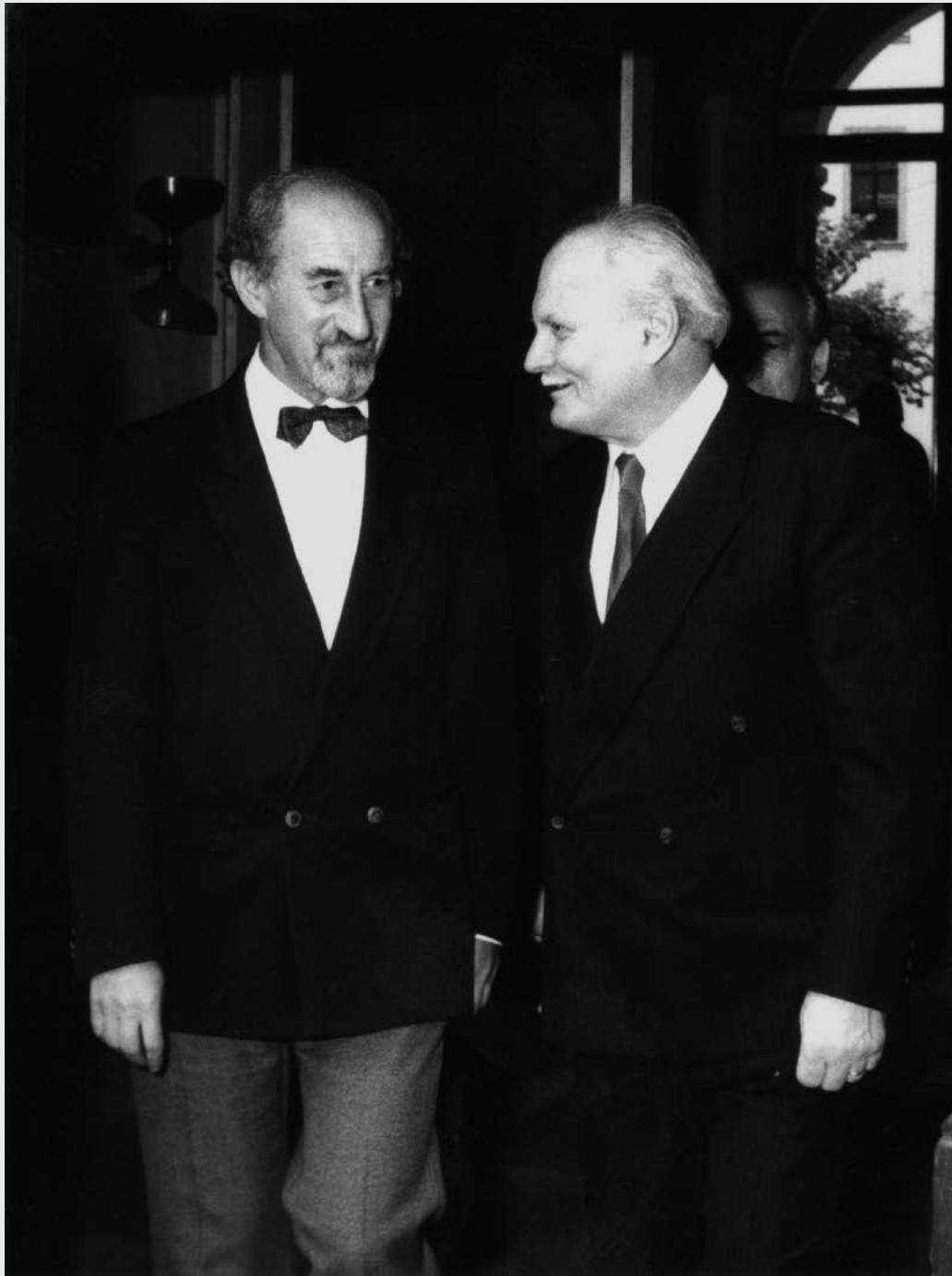


Figure 295. At the May 1990 general assembly, the outgoing President, Iván Berend T., escorts the President of the Republic, Árpád Göncz, as he leaves

Continuing the rehabilitation process, the following scientists became corresponding members in 1990 and ordinary members in 1991.

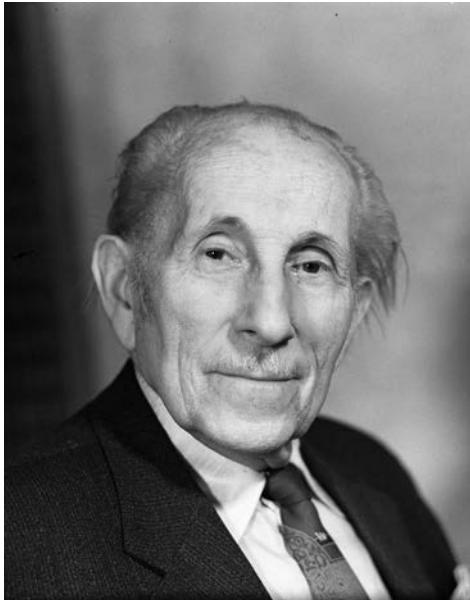


Figure 296. László Palotás

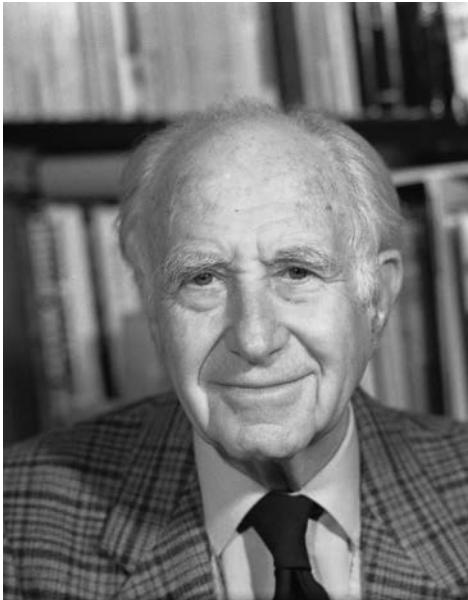


Figure 297. Gábor Preisich

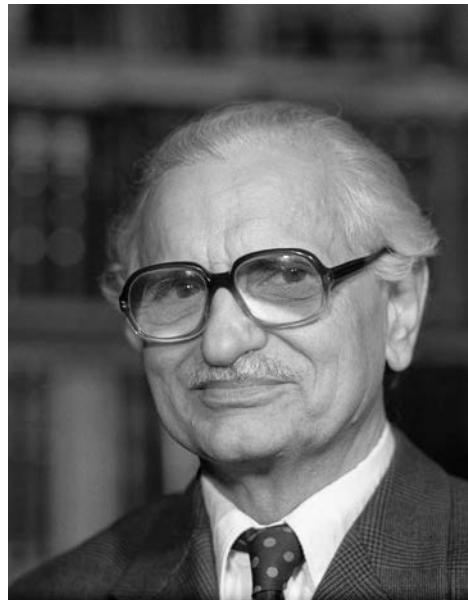


Figure 298. György Györfy

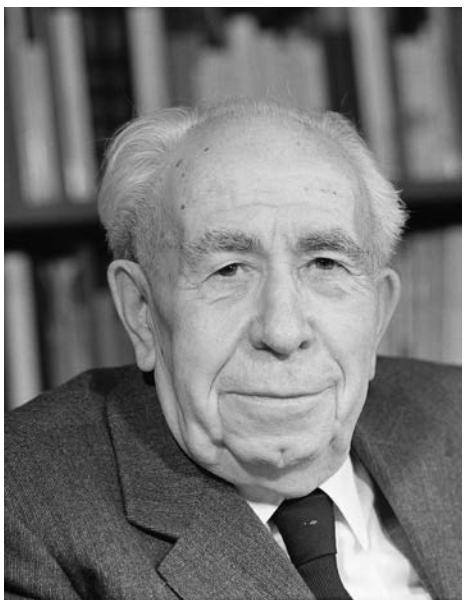


Figure 299. Lajos Vayer



Figure 300. Béla Gunda



Figure 301. Kálmán Benda



Figure 302. On 17 August 1991, Pope John Paul II met with prominent representatives of Hungarian culture and science in the Congress Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on Úri street. Photo by Károly Szelényi



Figure 303. The Pope was welcomed by Domokos Kosáry (President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), István Láng (Secretary General), János Szentágothai (Academician) and László Dankó (Archbishop of Kalocsa). In the photo, the Pope shakes hands with Academician János Szentágothai, with Secretary General Láng in the centre



Figure 304. Visit of Queen Elizabeth II to the Academy on 5 May 1993. The Academy's President, Domokos Kosáry, welcomed the Queen and Prince Philip at the entrance to the building



Figure 305. Domokos Kosáry introduces the Academy leadership to the Queen: Ferenc Mádl (Minister of Culture and Education); Béla Halász (Prince Philip's escort at the Academy); József Ujfalussy; Dénes Berényi; István Láng (Secretary General, shaking hands with the Queen); and Árpád Csurgay (Deputy Secretary General)



Figure 306. On 24 October 1996, Zsigmond Jakó, a historian and professor from Cluj, as well as an honorary member of the Academy, was awarded the *Pro Scientia Hungarica* prize in celebration of his 80th birthday. The prize was presented by Ferenc Glatz, President of the Academy



Figure 307. Founding members of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts in 1992, including Domokos Kosáry and Zsigmond Ritoók, a delegate of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Sitting in the front row: Anikó Kovács (Executive Secretary); Rózsa Polgár; Magda Szabó; Domokos Kosáry; Anna Jókai; Gyula Takáts; Tamás Lossonczy; and László Bartha. Standing behind them: Iván Mándy, György Haiman, József Soproni, Tibor Cseres, András Fodor, György Jovánovics, Ferenc Juhász, Gábor Görgey, István Lakatos, László Lator, Mátyás Domokos, György Somlyó, Balázs Lengyel, István Szabó, Miklós Hubay, Zsigmond Ritoók and György Konrád



Figure 308. Photo from the 1992 general assembly dinner showing Vice President József Ujfalussy and Vice President of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts Mátyás Domokos, as well as Academician Zsigmond Ritoók



Figure 309. The leadership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and members of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts congratulate Domokos Kosáry on his 80th birthday in July 1993. Those present include Mátyás Domokos, Domokos Kosáry, László Lator, Béla Köpeczi, Pál Venetianer, István Lakatos, Miklós Hubay, Béla G. Németh, and György Jovánovics



Figure 310. At the general assembly in May 1995, Nobel laureates György Oláh (Chemistry) and János Harsányi (Economics, 1994) participated. Oláh had been an honorary member since 1990; Harsányi was elected an honorary member in 1995. In the front row of the photo are: János Balogh (recipient of the 1995 Academy Gold Medal), István Bihari (President of the National Technical Development Committee), Ferenc Baja (Minister), János Harsányi, György Oláh and Acting Deputy Secretary General István Teplán



Figure 311. György Oláh and Béla Halász, Vice President of the Academy



Figure 312. The Presidium of the May 1996 general assembly: Secretary General László Keviczky, President of the Republic Árpád Göncz, outgoing President Domokos Kosáry, and Vice President Pál Michelberger



Figure 313. Participants of the May 1996 general assembly. Front row: Mátyás Domokos, Executive President of Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts; László Lator, a member of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts; Istvánne Borzsák; István Borzsák (recipient of the 1995 Academy Gold Medal); Bálint Magyar, Minister of Culture; and István Bihari, President of the National Technical Development Committee



Figure 314. Ferenc Glatz, the newly elected President, and Prime Minister Gyula Horn arriving to greet him



Figure 315. Roundtable discussion on the publication of the book *Environmental Protection and EU Accession* prepared within the National Strategic Research Programme, 20 October 1998. Participants: Károly Kiss (Budapest University of Economics), Miklós Koloszár (Ministry of Finance), Sándor Kerekes (Budapest University of Economics), Ferenc Glatz, István Láng, János Szlávík (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) and József Ángyán (Gödöllő University of Agriculture)



Figure 316. Hungary at the Turn of the Millennium volumes



Figure 317. In 1998, Peter Munk, one of the owners of TriGránit, made a donation to establish two academic awards. One of these was the Bernát Munkácsi Prize, named after the linguist and Acad-emician Bernát Munkácsi (1860–1937), who was the brother of Peter Munk's grandfather. In the photograph: Ferenc Glatz, President of the Academy; Sándor Demján, Munk's business partner; a relative of Munk; and Peter Munk himself



Figure 318. In 2007, the Celebration of Hungarian Science opened at the Város-major Secondary School. On the presidium were: Academician András Patkós, who delivered a lecture entitled *Science and School*; Szilveszter Vizi E., President of the Academy; Csaba Pléh, Deputy Secretary General; Zoltán Pokorni, Mayor of District XII; and Tas Szebedy, Headteacher



Figure 319. As part of the *Students at the Academy* programme, Ágnes Kelecsényi, Head of the Oriental Collection at the Academy Library and Information Centre, showed high school students the treasures of the collection on 13 November 2015



Figures 320–321. During the 2015 Celebration of Hungarian Science, the Academy took science out onto the street. Outside the Academy Headquarters, visitors were welcomed with a telescope demonstration and the *Fizibusz* (Physics Bus). At the front of the bus, visitors could learn interesting facts about light, while the rear showcased the Large Hadron Collider at CERN



Figures 322–323. During the Celebration of Hungarian Science in 2020, Ferenc Jakab gave a lecture titled *What have we learned from the Coronavirus Pandemic?* on 4 November. Due to the pandemic, the lecture was streamed online. Only Secretary General László Kollár, Deputy Secretary General Anna Erdei and the cameraman attended the event in person



Figure 324. On 3 November 2021, at the opening of the Celebration of Hungarian Science, everyone wore masks



Figure 325. A *Women in Science* roundtable discussion was held on 17 November 2021 as part of the Celebration of Hungarian Science. Participants: Enikő Bollobás, Mária Font, Tibor Frank, Krisztina Károly and Mária Bondár



Figure 326. *Women in Science: The Position of Women in Scientific Careers*, a lecture and roundtable discussion held on 16 November 2022 at the Academy Headquarters. The opening remarks were delivered by Enikő Bollobás, Chair of the Academy's Presidential Committee on Women in Research Careers



Figure 327. The János Bolyai Research Scholarship was awarded for the first time on March 22, 1999. On that occasion, 181 young scientists with outstanding achievements in research and development received their certificates in the ceremonial hall of the Academy



Figure 328. Presentation of Bolyai certificates in 2007. In the photograph: János Gergely, the first chairman of the János Bolyai Research Scholarship Board (1998–2006), Attila Meskó, Secretary General; and Sándor Körmendi, head of the Academy Secretariat's Doctoral Council Secretariat



Figure 329. Bolyai Day, 29 June 2011. Csand Blnt, member of the board of trustees; gnes Nmeth Kissn; and Norbert Babcsn, scholarship recipient



Figure 330. At the 2016 Bolyai Day, Sndor Sos and va Plink presented the results of a survey they had conducted among Bolyai Scholarship recipients. va Plink and the session’s presidium: dm Trk (Secretary General); Ferenc Flp (Chair of the Jns Bolyai Research Scholarship Board); Attila Demny (member of the board of trustees); President Lszl Lovsz; and Beta Barnabs (member of the board of trustees and Deputy Secretary General)

Figure 331. As part of the consolidation of the institutional network, Secretary General László Keviczky and President Ferenc Glatz visited the Research Institute for Technical Physics and Materials Science on 2 December 1998, where they were received by the institute's Director, József Gyulai



Figure 332. The new Ecological Research Centre was inaugurated at the Academy's Institute of Ecology and Botany on 3 December 1998. Attila Borhidi spoke about the significance of the new centre



Figure 333. English-language reports on the functioning of the research network



Figure 334. Inauguration and handover of the *István Széchenyi memorial forest*, established to mark the 175th anniversary of the Academy, on 16 October 2000. The President of the Forestry Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Academy President Ferenc Glatz participated



Figure 335. Ferenc Glatz, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the President of the Forestry Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, plant a tree



Figure 336. Presentation of the renewed János Bolyai International Mathematics Award on 4 November 2000. Seated in the front row of the audience is the laureate, Saharon Shelah, who is a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Rutgers University (USA)

Figure 337. The award ceremony presidium: Kálmán Győry, Vice President László Keviczky (who presented the award), Pál Révész, Rolf Jeltsch, and Gyula Katona





Figure 338. The Presidium of the ceremonial general assembly on 3 November 2000: Norbert Kroó, Secretary General; Ferenc Mádl, President of the Republic; Ferenc Glatz, President; Zoltán Pokorni, Minister of Education; Szilveszter Vizi E. and György Enyedi, Vice Presidents



Figure 339. Ceremony to mark the 175th anniversary of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, held on 19 March 2001, in the Grand Hall of the Academy's headquarters



Figure 340. On 16 March 2006, Secretary General Attila Meskó presented the Academy's Youth Awards



Figure 341. The Secretary General is shaking hands with one of the awardees, Gábor Takács, a staff member of the Academy's Research Institute for Linguistics



Figure 342. The Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2007: Kálmán Pannonhalmi, Ernő Marosi, Norbert Kroó, Szilveszter Vizi E., József Hámori, Csaba Pléh, Ilona Banczerowskiné Pelyhe, Ágnes Buka. Back row: Gábor Makara, Pál Michelberger, Domokos Szász, Mihály Beck, László Romics, Ádám Török, József Ádám, Péter Horn, Kálmán Medzihradszky, László Keviczky, Zalán Horváth, Miklós Szabó (archaeologist), Mária Csöndes, Dénes Dudits, Gábor Pálinkás, József Gyulai, János Szolcsányi, Miklós Maróth, Gábor Bakonyi



Figure 343. Leaders of the Academy, including President Szilveszter Vizi E., Vice President József Hámori, Deputy Secretary General Csaba Pléh, and Vice Presidents Ernő Marosi and Norbert Kroó, at the funeral bier of Domokos Kosáry on 4 December 2007



Figures 344–345. A lecture held at the Academy's headquarters during the 2004 and the 2007 World Science Forums (WSF)

Figure 346. Parliamentary discussion during the 23 November 2024 session. The topic was how to better integrate scientific achievements into policymaking worldwide







Figure 347. Tamás Freund, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, welcomes participants to the opening session of the 11th World Science Forum (WSF), held at Müpa (Palace of Arts) on 21 November 2024



Figure 348. On 27 October 2011, the results of the previous year's *Lendület* – Young Researcher Programme awards were presented at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In the photo: László Csaba Szarka, Head of the Department of Research Institutes at the Academy's Secretariat

Figure 349. The first recipients of the *Lendület* ("Momentum") Programme in 2009



Figure 350. Recipients of the *Lendület* Programme in 2011



Figure 351. Recipients of the *Lendület* Programme
in 2022

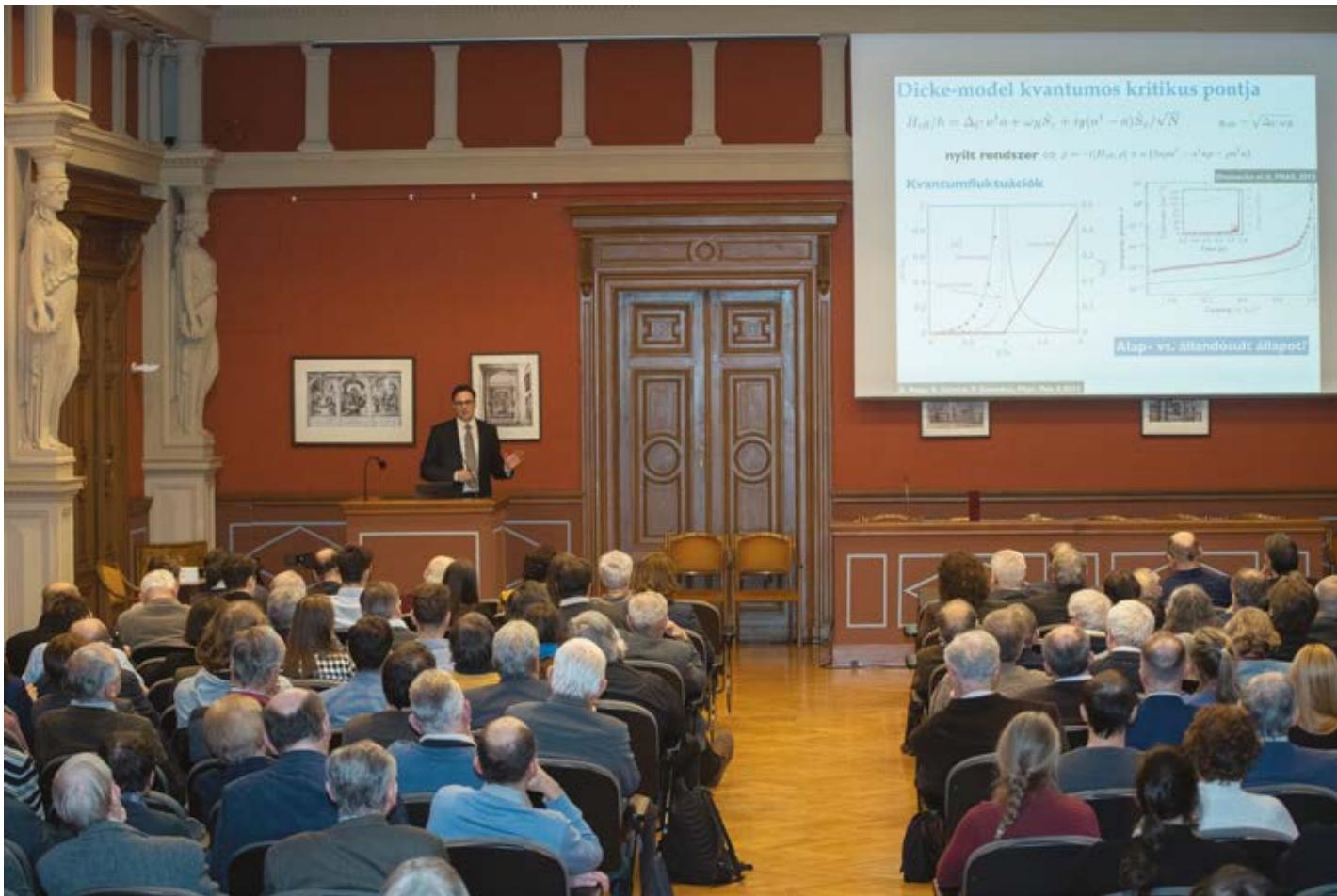


Figure 352. Péter Domokos's inaugural lecture as an ordinary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 29 January 2020...

Figure 353. ...and the inaugural lecture of Dóra Reglődi, corresponding member, on 22 March 2023





Figure 354. In 2010, the Institute of Art History and the Library of the Academy organised a memorial exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death of István Széchenyi, the founder of the Academy. The exhibition was organised by Béla Mázi and András Gergely, an expert on the era

Figure 355. A detail from the exhibition





Figures 356–357.
On 1 March 2011, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences hosted a conference titled *The Red Sludge Disaster: Consequences and Lessons Learned*. As part of the event, two cooperation agreements were signed between the Academy (represented by József Pálinkás) and disaster management authority (represented by György Bakondi)



Figure 358. An exhibition titled *150 Years of the Academy's Palace* opened on 20 October 2015 in the Academy's Art Collection



Figure 359. A lecture about the Academy's building was held during the European Heritage Days on 22 September 2015



Figure 360. In 2015, the Academy Gold Medal was awarded to the mathematician Vera T. Sós. The medal was presented by the then-President and her former student, László Lovász



Figure 361. Founding meeting of the Academy of Young Researchers (*Fiatal Kutatók Akadémia*) on 7 May 2019



Figure 362. To celebrate the 135th anniversary of Béla Bartók's birth, the Institute of Musicology at the Academy organised two exhibitions: *Bartók at the Piano* and *Bartók and His Contemporaries*. The attendees were welcomed by the Academy's President, László Lovász, and the exhibitions were opened by the President of the Republic, János Áder



Figure 363. For the 2016 Celebration of Hungarian Science, the Academy's Library and Information Centre organised an exhibition showcasing the legacy of Mihály Vörösmarty held in the library's collection. In the photo, Antal Babus, Head of the Manuscript Collection and curator of the exhibition, presents the poet's writings to students



Figure 364. A Carpathian Basin secondary school competition organised by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences focused on climate change and sustainability. The final took place at the Academy's headquarters on 4 March 2023



Figure 365. Before the competition, the leadership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the jury members gathered in the President's office. President Tamás Freund; Deputy Secretary General Anna Erdei; astronomer László Kiss; meteorologist and Academician László Bozó, President of the Section of Earth Sciences; environmental psychologist Andrea Dúll, Doctor of the Academy and professor at ELTE University; Erzsébet Piroska Szurdoki, Assistant Professor at the ELTE University Faculty of Primary and Pre-School Education; climate researcher Judit Bartholy, Doctor of the Academy (with her back to the camera); social researcher Zsolt Boda, Doctor of the Academy and Director General of the Centre for Social Sciences of Eötvös Loránd Research Network (with his back to the camera); Tamás Simon; and Gergely Böhm



Figure 366. Meeting of the Presidents of the Academy's
Regional Committees in Pécs, 21–22 September 2023



Figure 367. Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman jointly received the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in recognition of their biochemical discoveries that made the development of an effective mRNA-based vaccine against COVID-19 possible. Katalin Karikó's biography was presented at the Academy on 11 October 2023. On stage were Katalin Karikó and Deputy Secretary General Anna Erdei



Figure 368. On 13 November 2023, Péter Dombo gave a lecture titled *Ferenc Krausz, the Nobel Laureate Snap-shooter of Electrons*. Before the lecture, Ferenc Krausz greeted the audience with a video message



Figure 369. To mark the 100th birthday of Tibor Király, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Academy's Section of Economics and Legal Sciences (Section IX) prepared a special gift: a commemorative folder. On the first page, it features greetings from the President of the Academy and the Chair of Section IX. The second page displays an artistic "family tree" listing the names of those who nominated Tibor Király for membership in the Academy, as well as those who had nominated them – tracing the academic lineage back to the Reform Era. The document also includes the names of individuals whom Tibor Király himself nominated

Presidents and Secretaries General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Diana Hay, László Szögi



In this publication,¹ for the sake of simplicity, we have listed the date of election as the beginning of the term of office. However, we did not specify whether the individual was only appointed until the next general assembly, or if they were possibly re-elected; instead, we indicated the entire duration the office was held. In most cases, we also did not note if there were a few days between the election and the official appointment, as the right to appoint or confirm varied across different historical periods.

PRESIDENTS (1825–2025)

**17 November 1830 –
15 February 1855**

COUNT JÓZSEF TELEKI (Pest, 24 October 1790 – Pest, 15 February 1855). Politician, historian, linguist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Director: 1830, Honorary: 1838).

He studied at the Cluj Reformed Law Academy and the University of Pest. Later, he attended the University of Göttingen for two years. In 1827, he became the Chief Bailiff of Csanád County, then of Szabolcs County in 1830, and from 1832, he was a councillor at the Hungarian Court Chancellery in Vienna. In the meantime, he was elected as the Head Curate of the Reformed Diocese of Tiszamellék and the famous Reformed College of Sárospatak. Along with István Széchenyi, he did the most to start the operation of the Academy and became its first President. His gift of books laid the foundation for the establishment of the Academy Library. In 1842, the Emperor appointed him Governor of Transylvania. After the 1848–49 Revolution and War of Independence, he retired from public life and devoted himself exclusively to the Academy.

**17 April 1855 –
10 January 1866**

COUNT EMIL DESSEWFFY (Eperjes, 24 February 1814 – Bratislava, 10 January 1866). Politician, economist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Honorary: 1855).

He studied at the Royal Academy in Košice and later established a model farm on his estate in Szabolcs County. He first became involved in public life in the county, then became a leader of the moderate conservatives in Pest-Buda. From 1844, he edited the *Budapest Hiradó*, an important conservative newspaper of the time. He also held an office in the Hungarian Economic Association. After 1849, he opposed Hungary's incorporation into the Habsburg Empire. After he was elected President, he did much to build the Academy's new headquarters. He contributed to the work on the regulation of the river Tisza. In 1859, he drew up a plan for the reorganisation of the Monarchy and, as a member of the Address Party (in Hungarian: Felirati Párt), took part in the Diet of 1861.

**18 March 1866 –
2 February 1871**

BARON JÓZSEF EÖTVÖS (Buda, 3 September 1813 – Pest, 2 February 1871). Writer, politician.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1835, Honorary: 1839, Director: 1855). He studied at the Faculty of Humanities and Law of the University of Pest. In 1836–1837, as was the custom of the time, he made a long journey through Western Europe, where he became acquainted with a set of whole new ideologies. While he was elected a member of the Academy, he devoted himself primarily to literature and wrote a series of novels that were famous at the time (*The Karthausian*, *The Village Notary*, *Hungary in 1514*). He was elected a member of the Kisfaludy Society. From 1840, as a member of the Upper House, he took part in the national assemblies and supported the planned reforms. He advocated Jewish emancipation and published in the *Pesti Hirlap* in support of Lajos Kossuth. In 1848, he was appointed Minister of Religion and Public Education, but he resigned in September 1848 and did not take part in the War of Independence. In Munich, he returned to literature. After coming back in 1853, he worked on reorganising the Academy. In 1861, he became involved in political life again and was the only person to be reinstated after the Austro-Hungarian Compromise as a minister in the

¹ More information about presidents and secretaries general of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences can be found in the volume *Presidents and Secretaries General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences*, published in the framework of the MTA200 celebrations, the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and its Library., Ed. Adrienn Szilágyi. MTA–HUN–REN, Budapest, 2023.

same post he had held in 1848. As minister, he played a major role in the enactment of laws on civic reform, popular education, secondary and higher education, and nationality issues. He did much for the emancipation of the Jews, the autonomy of the Orthodox churches and Catholic autonomy.

**17 May 1871 –
3 November 1884**

COUNT MENYHÉRT LÓNYAY (Nagylónya, 6 January 1822 – Budapest, 3 November 1884). Politician. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1858, Honorary: 1861, Director: 1866). He received his doctorate from the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Pest. He was initially interested in economic issues, and from 1843 he participated in the national assemblies, where he belonged to Széchenyi's school. He participated in the drafting of the April 1848 laws. He worked first in the Ministry of Finance and then, in 1849, as State Secretary in the Szemere government. In the autumn of 1849, he fled to Paris, but was pardoned and returned home, where he worked mainly in agriculture. For many years, he was President of the Hungarian Land Credit Institute. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise, he became Minister of Finance in the Andrásy government, and in 1870, the Emperor appointed him joint Minister of Finance. He was the Prime Minister of Hungary for a year from 1871.

**28 May 1885 –
22 August 1888**

ÁGOSTON TREFORT (Homonna, 7 February 1817 – Budapest, 22 August 1888). Politician of education. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1841, Honorary: 1867, Director: 1874). He began his university studies at the Lyceum of Eger and continued at the University of Pest. During the reform era, he was one of the leaders of the Centralist group together with József Eötvös. From 1843, he became a Member of the Parliament, and in 1848, he was State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Trade. In the autumn of 1848, he also emigrated, and from 1850 he temporarily retired from public life. In 1872, he was appointed Minister of Religion and Public Education, a post he held until his death. During his ministry, he did much to improve higher education in Hungary. He reformed teacher training, secondary education and even industrial education.

**3 May 1889 –
27 November 1905**

BARON LORÁND EÖTVÖS (Buda, 27 July 1848 – Budapest, 8 April 1919). Physicist, politician of education. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1873, Ordinary: 1883, Director: 1906). He started his university studies in Pest, then studied in Heidelberg and Königsberg. In Heidelberg he studied under Kirchhoff, Helmholtz and Bunsen. On his return home, he became an independent lecturer at the University of Budapest, then Head of the Experimental Physics Department and Director of the then-established Institute of Physics. From 1894, he was Head of the Ministry of Religion and Public Education for a year, but resigned to continue his research. He popularised nature walks and was President of the Hungarian Carpathian Society. In his research, he dealt with the question of capillarity and then mainly with the subject of gravity. The Eötvös torsion pendulum and the horizontal variometer, named after him, played a major role in geological research and made his name famous throughout the world.

**27 November 1905 –
10 March 1936**

ALBERT BERZEVICZY (Berzevice, 7 June 1853 – Budapest, 22 March 1936). Cultural politician, minister, aesthete and historian. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Honorary: 13 May 1904; Board of Directors: 11 December 1904). He studied at the academy of law in Košice, then at the faculty of law and political science of the university of Budapest, and in 1877 he received a doctorate in political science. He began his political career in his native Sáros County. In 1881, he became a member of the Free Party and from 1910 a member of the National Labour Party. From 1887 to 1894, he was State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, and from 1895 to 1898, he was Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. From 3 November 1903 to 18 June 1905, he was Minister of Culture in the government of István Tisza. From 1910 to 1911, he was Speaker of the House of Representatives. In 1917, he was appointed a Member of the House of Magnates. From 1895 to 1904, he was the founding President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, from 1923 he was President of the Kisfaludy Society, and from 1932 he was President of the Hungarian Pen Club.

In addition to law and economics, his academic research focused on the arts – especially the visual arts – history, politics and education and cultural policy. Of considerable value is his work *The Age of Absolutism in Hungary 1849–1865*, published in four volumes between 1922 and 1937, for the first volume of which he was awarded the Academy's Grand Prize in 1925.

**10 March 1936 –
October 1944**

ARCHDUKE JOSEPH AUGUST HABSBURG (Alcsútdoboz, 9 September 1872 – Rain bei Straubing, Federal Republic of Germany, 6 July 1962). Major General, Governor. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Board of Directors: 21 January 1906 – 26 April 1945; Honorary: 3 May 1917; Expelled: 20 July 1945).

As an Army- and Army Group Commander, he took part in the First World War, fighting heroically and bravely. He wrote and published seven volumes of his war memoirs, *The World War as I Saw It*. In October 1918, as King Charles IV's plenipotentiary in Hungary, he negotiated with Hungarian politicians and appointed Count Mihály Károlyi as Prime Minister (31 October 1918). He then retired to his estate in Alcsút. After the fall of the proletarian dictatorship, he took over as Interim Head of State (from 6 August 1919), appointed István Friedrich's government (7 August 1919) and then Miklós Horthy as Commander-in-Chief of the Hungarian Armed Forces (12 August 1919), but then resigned at the request of the Entente powers (26 August 1919). After Horthy was elected Governor, he sided with him. Member of the Upper House between 1927 and 1944. After the Arrow Cross coup of 15 October 1944, he swore an oath of allegiance to Szálasi, left for the West, and was expelled from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 20 July 1945. After the war, he lived with relatives in the Federal Republic of Germany.

**7 March 1945 –
29 October 1945**

GYULA KORNIS (Vác, 22 December 1885 – Budapest, 17 April 1958). Philosopher, university professor. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 4 May 1916; Ordinary: 18 May 1928; Member of the Board of Directors: 8 May 1934 – 28 May 1945; Honorary: 16 May 1941; Resigned: 16 April 1948; Reinstated: 9 May 1989).

He studied at the University of Budapest and the University of Leipzig, graduating in 1907 with a degree in Hungarian and Latin and a doctorate in Humanities. He became a member of the Piarist Order in 1900 and was ordained a priest in 1908. He was first a teacher at the Piarist High School in Budapest. In 1914, he obtained an independent teaching qualification at the University of Budapest and was a Professor of philosophy at the University of Bratislava from 1914 to 1919, and of philosophy and pedagogy at the University of Budapest from 1920 to 1947. As a confidential adviser to Kunó Klebelsberg, he was State Secretary for Public Education from 1927 to 1931 and one of the owners of the programme for the construction of public schools. He also took an active part in the life of the Academy, giving his thesis in April 1931 on *The Theory of State Objectives and Cultural Policy*. Between 1931 and 1939, he was a Member of Parliament for the governing party, and in 1938, he became Speaker of the Parliament. Member of the Upper House from 1942 to 1944. After the German occupation of the country, he was arrested and interrogated by the Gestapo in May 1944 and imprisoned for three weeks in October. After the Second World War, the People's Court exonerated him with a reprimand. In 1945, he successfully appealed against his forced retirement from the university, but in 1948 he 'voluntarily' retired and resigned his academic membership. In 1951, he was deported to Poroszló, and from 1953, after the deportation was lifted, he lived in Hajdúszoboszló.

His wide-ranging work has covered many areas of philosophy, pedagogy, psychology, philosophy of science and cultural history.

29 October 1945 –
24 July 1946

GYULA MOÓR (Brasov, 11 August 1888 – Budapest, 3 February 1950). Lawyer, legal philosopher. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 7 May 1925; Ordinary: 15 May 1942; when the Academy was reorganised in 1949, due to his political activities his membership was terminated on 29 November 1949; he was rehabilitated by the general assembly of 9 May 1989, and his membership was declared continuous).

He completed his law studies at the University of Cluj, obtaining a doctorate in law with honours in 1913 and an independent teaching qualification in 1917. Between 1912 and 1914, he made two extended study visits to Germany. From 1918, he was a full professor at the University of Cluj (and later at the University of Szeged) and from 1929 at the University of Budapest, where in the academic year of 1945–1946, he was Rector of the University.

During the war, he denounced far-right tendencies, forcing him into hiding during the Arrow Cross regime. In 1945, he began his public career, and in November, he was elected as a Member of Parliament, one of the 12 seats reserved in the electoral law for the country's leading intellectuals and public figures. In the National Assembly, he consistently stood up for civic values and opposed nationalisation, and in 1947, his mandate was illegally annulled. Thereafter, not only the Communist takeover but also his deteriorating health prevented him from engaging in public and academic activities.

He was a prominent figure in the philosophy of law in the period between the two world wars and made a significant contribution to the achievement of European standards in Hungarian legal philosophy.

24 July 1946 –
31 October 1949²

ZOLTÁN KODÁLY (Kecskemét, 16 December 1882 – Budapest, 6 March 1967). Composer, musicologist, folk music researcher, music teacher.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 14 May 1943; Ordinary: 30 May 1945; Honorary: 24 July 1946).³

In 1906, he graduated in Hungarian-German studies at the University of Budapest and received his doctorate with a dissertation entitled *The Stanzaic Structure of the Hungarian Folk Song*. In 1906, he also took a Music Academy examination (he studied composition with János Koessler). In 1906–1907, he made a study trip to Berlin and Paris. From 1905 onwards, he made regular trips to collect folk songs. Under the influence of his musical experiences, his musical language and style were almost complete by 1907–1909. In 1907, he became a teacher at the Academy of Music. It was in the 1920s that he became truly world-famous. In 1923, for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the capital, he composed one of the pinnacles of his creative art, *Psalmus Hungaricus*. Around 1925, he turned his attention to children's choirs and at the same time to the teaching of singing and music in schools. He saw that public music education was unsatisfactory and alienating, so he composed high-quality works for school choirs, inspired by national roots. Through his pedagogical works and writings, he worked to raise a more cultured and meaningful generation of musicians and fought tirelessly to preserve the correct Hungarian language and national traditions in general. From the autumn of 1937, he taught folk music at the Academy of Music. From 1940, he headed the editing of the Hungarian Folk Music Repertory at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which led to the creation of the Folk Music Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1953.

² The 31 October general assembly voted on new statutes and elected a Provisional Institutional Committee (György Alexits, Béla Fogarasi and Géza Voinovich) to take matters forward until the new Academy was established.

³ Article 14 of the 1946 statutes stated that "Internal members shall be ordinary and corresponding. New honorary members shall henceforth not be elected. However, honorary members already elected shall retain their titles and rights." But in 1948, honorary membership was reinstated, and after the assembly of 31 October 1949, Kodály was reinstated as an ordinary member, so that was the date his honorary membership ceased.

**29 November 1949 –
5 February 1970**

ISTVÁN RUSZNYÁK (Budapest, 22 January 1889 – Budapest, 15 October 1974). Physician, internist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 24 July 1946, Ordinary: 19 December 1946, Member of the Board of Directors 1946–49).

In 1911, he obtained a medical degree from the University of Budapest. In 1910, he worked at the Institute of Pathology No. II, then at the Clinic of Internal Medicine No. III, headed by Sándor Korányi, and in 1926, he obtained an independent teaching qualification. In 1931, he was appointed Professor at the University of Szeged and was Director of the Szeged Clinic of Internal Medicine until 1945. In 1945, he was appointed Head of the Clinic of Internal Medicine No. II at the University of Budapest. He was the founding Director of the Research Institute of Experimental Medicine of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1954–1970).

István Rusznyák came from a Catholic intellectual family of Jewish origin. In the summer of 1944, he was deported with his family, but at the intervention of his high-ranking patrons in Austria, he was taken out of the wagon and brought back to Budapest, where he remained in hiding until the end of the war. He joined the Communist Party in 1945 and held many important public positions, serving as a Member of the National Assembly between 1945 and 1947, a Member of the Hungarian Parliament between 1949 and 1967, and a Member of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic between 1949 and 1958. Under the presidency of István Rusznyák, the formerly section-based scientific body became a centralised governing body of Hungarian scientific life, subordinated to the Communist Party leadership, with a separate section in the state budget.

As a medical doctor, he has made fundamental new international advances in the physiological and pathological study of the lymphatic circulation and the pathological investigation of the diseases of the heart, liver, lungs and kidneys.

**5 February 1970 –
16 August 1976**

TIBOR ERDEY-GRÚZ (Budapest, 27 October 1902 – Budapest, 16 August 1976). Chemist.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 14 May 1943; Ordinary: 2 July 1948). He completed his studies at the University of Budapest, where he was awarded a doctorate in 1924. From 1924, he was a trainee, assistant and then Assistant Professor at the institute of Gusztáv Buchböck. From 1928 to 1931, he was a fellow at Fajans' institute in Munich and later at Volmer's institute in Berlin. In 1934, he was habilitated as an independent lecturer at the Budapest University of Sciences, from 1941 he was appointed Honorary Public Extraordinary Professor, from 1946 he was appointed Institute Professor, from 1949 he was appointed Head of the Department of Physico-Chemistry and Radiology at the then established Institute of Physics and Radiology, and in 1950 he became Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. He was Minister of Higher Education from 6 December 1952 to 2 July 1953 and Minister of Education from 4 July 1953 to 30 July 1956.

Tibor Erdey-Grúz became President after a long academic career, having been a board member since 1949 and having served as Secretary General several times (1950–1953, 1956–1957, 1964–1970). He developed and implemented the reform of the Academy and played a leading role in the creation of the network of research institutes.

He has also achieved internationally outstanding results in the electrolytic deposition of metals, ion migration, and the electrolytic study of metallic crystals (the Erdey-Grúz–Volmer equation is one of the fundamental equations of electrochemistry).

**26 October 1976 –
10 May 1985**

JÁNOS SZENTÁGOTHAI (Pestújhely, 31 October 1912 – Budapest, 8 September 1994). Physician, anatomist.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 2 July 1948; Ordinary: 5 May 1967). His original surname was Schimert, which he changed to Szentágothai in the autumn of 1940. On his father's side, he came from a Transylvanian Saxon Lutheran medical dynasty. He graduated from the German Gymnasium in Budapest in 1930 and then obtained a medical degree from the University of Budapest. As a student, he attended the Institute of Anatomy and Cranio-anatomy headed by Mihály

Lenhossék, where he won several anatomical prizes and was appointed trainee in 1935 and Assistant Professor in 1937. In 1941, he spent a year in Basel, and on his return home in 1942, he qualified as an independent teacher. In March 1944, he was called up for military service, first in Budapest and then in the countryside, from where he was taken to Germany in January 1945 on a wounded soldiers transport, and was taken prisoner of war by the Americans. He returned home in February 1946. In 1947, he was appointed Head of the Department of Anatomy and Histology in Pécs. In 1956, he was Chairman of the Pécs Intellectual Revolutionary Committee. In 1963, he was transferred to Budapest, where he headed the Institute of Anatomy at the Medical University until 1977. In 1985, he became a Member of Parliament and a Member of the Presidential Council. In the 1990 parliamentary elections, he was re-elected as a member of the Hungarian Democratic Forum. He retired in 1986 but continued teaching as *Professor Emeritus*. He was an excellent lecturer, and his anatomy classes covered a wide range of subjects, from gastronomy to fine arts.

In his scientific work, he has investigated the underlying structure and function of neural structures in the nervous system. His interests were wide-ranging, and his research into the functional structure of the cerebral cortex, visual system, brainstem, spinal cord and cerebellum has contributed significantly to the understanding of the function of these parts of the brain.

**10 May 1985 –
24 May 1990**

IVÁN BEREND T. (Budapest, 11 December 1930). Historian.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 11 May 1973; Ordinary: 11 May 1979). As a high school student in 1944, he was sent to Dachau concentration camp, from where he was liberated by American troops in April 1945. In 1953, he graduated from the Karl Marx University of Economics (MKKE) in Budapest with a degree in economics and from the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) with a degree in history. From 1953 to 1991, he taught at the Department of Economic History at the MKKE (also from 1990 at the Budapest University of Economics). From 1962 to 1965, he was Dean of the MKKE, and from 1973 to 1979, he was Rector of the university. Between 1988 and 1989, he was a member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. He has been living in the United States since 1990. He was a professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) until his retirement in 2015.

His research interests include the economic history of Hungary and Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, the economic modernisation of underdeveloped European regions and the economic transformation of the region after the regime change.

**24 May 1990 –
9 May 1996**

DOMOKOS KOSÁRY (Banská Štiavnica, 31 July 1913 – Budapest, 15 November 2007). Historian.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 7 May 1982; Ordinary: 9 May 1985). He graduated in History and Latin from the Budapest University of Sciences in 1936. Between 1937 and 1949, he was a teacher at the Eötvös College, between 1941 and 1945, he was Deputy Director of the Institute of History at the Teleki Pál Institute, and between 1945 and 1949, he was Director and Head of the Department of Modern Hungarian History at the Budapest University of Sciences. He was dismissed from his post in 1949, became a bibliographer between 1949 and 1954, and Director of the Central Library of the University of Agricultural Sciences from 1954 to 1957. In 1956, he became Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of Hungarian Historians, was arrested in 1957, and was released on amnesty in 1960. Between 1960 and 1968, he was a Senior Researcher at the Pest County Archives, and between 1968 and 1989 at the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

His research interests include 18th–19th-century Hungarian and universal history. His unique knowledge of the material, his comprehensive international knowledge and his keen theoretical sense have made him one of the outstanding figures in Hungarian historiography.

9 May 1996 –
7 May 2002

FERENC GLATZ (Budapest, 2 April 1941). Historian.
Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 10 May 1993; Ordinary: 7 May 2001).
His research interests include the history of modern European culture, the history of science and the methodology of historiography, natural history and the process of European integration.

7 May 2002 –
6 May 2008

SZILVESZTER VIZI E. (Budapest, 31 December 1936). Physician, clinical pharmacologist.
Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 9 May 1985; Ordinary: 21 May 1990).
He is credited with the discovery of nonsynaptic interactions of neurons, the description of presynaptic noradrenergic and purinergic regulation of excitatory transmission in the nervous system, and the role of the sympathetic nervous system in cytokine production and immune balance regulation.

6 May 2008 –
6 May 2014

JÓZSEF PÁLINKÁS (Galvács, 18 September 1952). Physicist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 18 December 1995; Ordinary: 3 May 2004).
His most important scientific achievements were the detection of the asymmetry of the electron cloud of atoms ionised in atomic collisions, electron capture by electron-electron collisions (Thomas scattering) and electron capture by neutral projectile atoms.

6 May 2014 –
7 July 2020

LÁSZLÓ LOVÁSZ (Budapest, 9 March 1948). Mathematician.
Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 11 May 1979; Ordinary: 9 May 1985).
His research interests include combinatorics, graph theory, complexity theory and computer theory.
Winner of the Abel Prize in 2021.

7 July 2020 –

TAMÁS FREUND (Zirc, 14 June 1959). Biologist.
Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 4 May 1998; Ordinary: 3 May 2004).
His research interests include cortical structure and function, oscillation generation, function in memory processes, the pathomechanisms of epilepsy and ischaemic brain injury, anxiety, addiction, and endocannabinoid signalling.

SECRETARIES GENERAL (1825–2025)

20 February 1831 –
12 September 1835

GÁBOR DÖBRENTEI (Somlószőlős, 1 December 1785 – Buda, 28 March 28 1851). Writer, literary translator, publicist.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Ordinary: 1830).
He began his studies at the Lutheran Lyceum in Sopron, then continued in Wittenberg and Leipzig. Upon the recommendation of Ferenc Kazinczy, he became a private teacher for the Gyulay family. In 1813, he founded the journal *Erdélyi Múzeum* in Cluj. During his travels, he established connections with nearly every Hungarian writer and scholar of his time. After 1817, he also worked on a proposal for establishing a national learned society.

In 1825, he met István Széchenyi, and it was no coincidence that he was elected to the committee responsible for drafting the statutes of the Academy. In 1831, he was elected as the first “secretary” of the Academy, a position that corresponded to what would later be known as the Secretary General.

He resigned in 1835 and later became the director of theatrical affairs in Pest.

12 September 1835 – 21 December 1861

FERENC TOLDY (Buda, 10 August 1805 – Budapest, 10 December 1875). Literary historian, critic. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Ordinary: 1830; Director: 1871).

Born into a German family, his original name was Schedel. He first studied at the Faculty of Humanities, then at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pest. He developed an early interest in both European and Hungarian literature and became acquainted with the most prominent authors of the Hungarian Reform Era. Between 1829 and 1830, he travelled throughout much of Western Europe. He became a member of the Academy as early as 1830 and held the position of archivist. While teaching dietetics at the Faculty of Medicine, he increasingly devoted himself to literature and library science. From 1841, he served as Director of the Kisfaludy Society, and from 1843, as head of the University Library in Pest. After 1850, he began teaching at the Faculty of Humanities in Pest. He served the Academy for nearly three decades and played a major role in helping the institution survive the difficult period following the suppression of the Hungarian War of Independence. His contributions to organising Hungarian literary life and establishing literary history as a scholarly discipline are particularly noteworthy.

21 December 1861 – 17 July 1864

LÁSZLÓ SZALAY (Buda, 18 April 1813 – Salzburg, 17 July 1864). Legal scholar, historian, politician. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1836; Ordinary: 1838).

He completed his studies at the Faculty of Humanities and at the Faculty of Law at the University of Pest. He had a close friendship with József Eötvös and belonged to the centralist group in the political struggles of the Reform Era. He took part in drafting a new criminal code and later worked on the legal foundations of the country's transformation into a civil society. In 1848, he worked at the Ministry of Justice, and afterwards, as a representative of the independent Hungarian state, he was active first in Germany, then in France and England. After the defeat of the War of Independence, he turned his focus to historical scholarship and wrote his famous work *The History of Hungary*.

26 January 1865 – 22 May 1879

JÁNOS ARANY (Nagyszalonta, 2 March 1817 – Budapest, 22 October 1882). Poet, literary translator. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1858; Ordinary: 1858; Honorary: 1879).

He completed his studies at the Reformed College of Debrecen. Coming from a poor family, he rose to become one of the greatest and most well-known poets of Hungarian literature, and a masterful user of the Hungarian language in all its richness. His vocabulary was extraordinarily vast. His name became widely known with the publication of his narrative poem *Toldi* in 1846. In addition to poetry, he also made major contributions to literary translation. After 1849, he taught for a few years in Nagykörös, and following the reorganisation of the Academy, he was elected a member. After moving to Pest, he became director of the Kisfaludy Society and gradually became a leading figure in Hungarian literary life. In 1870, he was elected Secretary General of the Academy, a role he fulfilled conscientiously – even at the expense of his poetic work.

22 May 1879 – 14 October 1889

VILMOS FRAKNÓI (Nyitra, 27 February 1843 – Budapest, 20 November 1924). Historian, Roman Catholic prelate. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1870; Ordinary: 1873; Director: 1892; Honorary: 1917).

His original name was Frankl. From childhood, he was destined for the priesthood and pursued his university studies in Pest. He was ordained in 1865 and later became a professor at the Theological Seminary in Esztergom. He became a member of the Academy at a very young age and, starting in 1875, served as Director of the library of the then National Museum (today the National Széchényi Library). In this position, he developed the library into a true scholarly centre, initiated the preservation of archival and library legacies, and even travelled to Constantinople in connection with research on the Corvina manuscripts that had ended up there. Within the Academy, he greatly contributed to advancing historical research. He was the first to initiate the exploration of Vatican sources related to Hungary. In 1891, he moved to Rome, where he organised Hungarian historical research independently and at his own expense, laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Hungarian Academy in Rome.

14 October 1889 –
27 March 1905

KÁLMÁN SZILY SR. (Izsák, 29 June 1838 – Budapest, 24 July 1924). Physicist, mathematician, linguist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1865; Ordinary: 1873; Director: 1883; Honorary: 1920).

He earned his engineering degree at the Imperial-Royal Polytechnic Institute in Vienna, then became a professor at the Budapest Polytechnic, which had recently been elevated to university status. After his appointment, he was granted a study leave and continued his education at the Polytechnic Institute in Zurich, as well as in Berlin and Heidelberg. At the University of Technology, he first headed the Department of Experimental Physics, and later the departments of Mathematics, Physics, and Analytical Mechanics. From 1879, he served as rector of the university for five years. Beginning in 1880, he held the position of president of the Hungarian Society of Natural Sciences for nearly two decades. When he was elected Secretary General of the Academy, he resigned from his university chair to devote his full energy to academic work and to linguistics, which increasingly attracted his interest. He founded the Hungarian Linguistic Society and established the Dictionary Committee within the Academy to prepare a new Hungarian language dictionary. From 1905 until his death, he served as Chief Librarian of the Academy.

27 March 1905 –
20 December 1920

GUSZTÁV HEINRICH (Pest, 17 March 1845 – Budapest, 7 November 1922). Literary historian.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 20 May 1880; Ordinary: 5 May 1892). He completed his university studies in Leipzig (1863–1864) and Vienna (1865–1866), obtaining a doctorate in Humanities in 1867, a teacher's diploma in 1871 and an independent teacher's qualification in German Literature. He was first a teacher at a grammar school and then, from 1875 to 1905, a teacher at the university of Budapest. From 1886 to 1888, he was Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and from 1903 to 1904, he was the Rector of the university. From 1891 to 1894, he was Vice President of the Council of Public Education. He was a member of the House of Magnates from 1910. He was the founder of scientific German studies in Hungary and the initiator of comparative literary history research.

20 December 1920 –
7 November 1935

JENŐ BALOGH (Devecser, 14 May 1864 – Budapest, 15 February 1953). Hungarian lawyer, politician, minister. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 10 May 1901; Ordinary: 2 May 1912; Member of the Board of Directors: 3 June 1936 – 26 April 1945; Honorary: 29 April 1937; Advisory: 31 October 1949; Rehabilitated: 9 May 1989).

He studied law at the Győr law academy, at the university of Budapest and the university of Berlin between 1885 and 1886. In 1887, he obtained a doctorate in law and political science in Budapest. After a short period of service in the courts, he worked in the Law Preparation Department of the Ministry of Justice from 1891. From 1897, he was a Magistrate Judge. In 1888, he obtained an independent teaching qualification in criminal law and became an independent lecturer in criminal law and procedure at the university of Budapest between 1900 and 1910, and was Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1903 to 1904. From 1910, he was State Secretary for Public Education and a Member of Parliament on the National Labour Party platform. Minister of Justice from 4 January 1913 to 16 June 1917. He then retired from political life. From 1921 until his death, he was the Chief Guardian of the Transdanubian Reformed Church District, between 1928 and 1933, the secular Vice President of the synod, from 1933 to 1951, the secular President of the synod, and then again from 1951 until his death, the secular Vice President of the synod. Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences between 1940 and 1943.

Of particular importance among his academic works are his works on juvenile delinquency, in which he has dealt with the issues of prevention, the causes of delinquency and the detection and prevention of delinquency.

7 November 1935 –
29 November 1949

GÉZA VOINOVICH (Debrecen, 14 March 1877 – Budapest, 20 September 1952). Literary historian, aesthete. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 1910, Ordinary: 1923, Honorary: 1938, Advisory: 1949).

He studied in Debrecen and Budapest. In 1900, he obtained a doctorate in Humanities. In 1905, he married Gizella Szalay, the widow of László Arany, and Voinovich became the caretaker of the Arany estate. Between 1911 and 1914, he was editor of the *Budapest Review*. From 1912, he was a member of the Kisfaludy Society, from 1925 Secretary, later Vice President, and from 1936 to 1952 President. From 1920, he was a member of the Petőfi Society. From 1933 to 1935, he was the Government Commissioner of the National Theatre. Member of the Upper House from 1939.

In addition to conservative literary history studies and criticism, he has published plays and short stories. He published all the works of József Eötvös in 20 volumes, and the first six volumes of a critical edition of the works of János Arany (1951–1953); his notes on these works are of great value.

**29 November 1949 –
2 December 1950**

GYÖRGY ALEXITS (Budapest, 5 January 1899 – Budapest, 14 October 1978). Mathematician.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 2 July 1948; Ordinary: 31 October 1949). He completed his secondary education in Budapest. In 1917, he graduated from high school in Budapest and enrolled at the university of science; in the same year, he was called up as a soldier and sent to the front. During the Soviet Republic, he was active in the Socialist Students' Union. The fall of the Soviet Republic forced him to emigrate, and he went to university in Graz. At first, he was interested in problems of theoretical physics, then his interest turned to mathematics. In 1924, he was awarded a doctorate from the University of Graz.

After returning home, he worked in the Statistical Office and as a journalist for various insurance companies. In 1926, he went to Romania, where he taught for a year in Giurgiu and also lectured as an Assistant Professor at the University of Bucharest. In 1928, he returned to Budapest and took up a post as a civil schoolteacher. In 1937, he became a secondary school teacher.

In 1944, he obtained an independent teacher's qualification in orthogonal functions. For his activities in the resistance movement, he was sent to Dachau in the same year, from where he returned in 1945. He then served as a high school principal for a year and a half, then as Political State Secretary of the Ministry of Religion and Public Education between 1947 and 1948, and then as Secretary General of the Hungarian Scientific Council in 1948–1949, and then as the first Secretary General of the reorganised Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Between 1950 and 1967, he was a Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering of the Budapest University of Technology, and between 1954 and 1956, he was Dean of the Faculty. From 1967, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Mathematical Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and from 1970 to 1972, he was also its Director.

His scientific interests were in approximation calculus, general orthogonal series, Fourier series and orthogonal polynomial series. The approximation method he developed, using Banach space theory, is fundamental to the history of theoretical mathematics.

**2 December 1950 –
14 February 1953**

TIBOR ERDEY-GRÚZ

For his biography, see Presidents (5 February 1970 – 16 August 1976).

Secretary General from 2 December 1950 to 14 February 1953. He resigned earlier, as he was Minister of Education from 6 December 1952 (until 30 July 1956).

**14 February 1953 –
28 May 1955**

GYÖRGY OSZTROVSZKI (Cluj Napoca, 28 March 1914 – Budapest, 15 October 1988). Chemical engineer.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 31 October 1949, Ordinary: 7 May 1976). He graduated as a chemical engineer from the King Charles II University of Technology in Bucharest in 1940 and obtained his doctorate in Berlin. Between 1940 and 1948, he worked as an engineer at the Tatabánya Coal Mines and later as a Ministerial Commissioner. In 1949, he was appointed General Director of the Hungarian State Coal Mines and Head of the Industrial Group of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. He was Deputy Chairman of the National Planning Office from 1950 to 1953 and from 1960 to

1963, Deputy Representative of the Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) in Moscow from 1955 to 1959, and then Deputy Secretary from 1967 to 1970. From 1964 to 1967 and from 1970 to 1980, he was Deputy Chairman of the National Technical Development Committee.

His work focused on the production and use of energy resources and on strengthening the link between industrial research and industrial practice.

**28 May 1955 –
30 May 1956**

REZSŐ BOGNÁR (Hódmezővásárhely, 7 March 1913 – Budapest, 4 February 1990). Chemist, chemical engineer. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 2 July 1948; Ordinary: 30 May 1953). He studied at the University of Szeged and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, where he was an Adjunct Professor, Associate Professor and then Professor at the institute alongside Géza Zemplén. In 1950, he moved to Debrecen, where he became the Head of the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the University, and worked there for the rest of his life, serving as Deputy Rector in 1951–1954 and 1972–1973. From 1956 to 1957, he was Director of the Institute for Pharmaceutical Research. His research in alkaloid chemistry was carried out in close collaboration with the Tiszavasvár Alkaloid Factory, where he solved the problem of rationalising the isolation of poppy alkaloids and the conversion of certain alkaloids into more valuable pharmacones.

**30 May 1956 –
20 December 1957**

TIBOR ERDEY-GRÚZ For his biography, see Presidents (5 February 1970 – 16 August 1976). Academician Tibor Erdey-Grúz resigned verbally on 31 October 1956 and in writing on 9 November 1956, stating that he would formally resign as Secretary General at the next general assembly. In its resolution of 26 January 1957, the general assembly appreciated the reasons which had led the President and the Secretary General to resign, but in the present situation (budget negotiations), it considered it necessary that the previously elected leaders should resume their duties until the next general assembly. He then held office accordingly until 20 December 1957.

**20 December 1957 –
24 April 1964**

FERENC ERDEI (Makó, 24 December 1910 – Budapest, 11 May 1971). Agricultural economist, sociologist, politician. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 2 July 1948; Ordinary: 30 May 1956).

Born into a Reformed peasant family of onion growers. In the autumn of 1929, he studied law at the University of Szeged, joined the village research movement of the Szeged College of Young Artists, and in 1934, he completed his legal studies and became an official of the Cooperative of Onion Growers of Makó and the Countryside. In 1939, he moved to Szigetszentmiklós with his father and brother and lived from onion growing. At the end of the Second World War, he became more closely involved in politics and, as a secret member of the Communist Party, he organised the National Peasant Party. He was Minister of the Interior from 22 December 1944 to 15 November 1945, Minister of Agriculture from 11 June 1949 to 4 July 1953 and 30 October 1954 to 15 November 1955, and Minister of Justice from 4 July 1953 to 30 October 1954. From 1957, he was Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Director of the Agricultural Research Institute and played a major role in the collectivisation of agriculture in 1959. In the early 1960s, he proposed a correction of the cooperative system, which led to the introduction of the possibility of backyard production and the abolition of unit wages. He was also involved in preparing the economic reforms of 1968.

In his sociographic work, Erdei examined the society of the Hungarian peasantry. In his studies, he primarily analysed the society of the market towns of the Great Plain, and paid special attention to the farm areas surrounding the Great Plain cities and the dual residence characteristic of their inhabitants.

**24 April 1964 –
5 February 1970**

TIBOR ERDEY-GRÚZ

For his biography, see Presidents: 5 February 1970 – 16 August 1976.

5 February 1970 –
11 May 1971

FERENC ERDEI

For his biography, see above: 20 December 1957 – 24 April 1964.

20 July 1971 –
9 May 1975

BÉLA KÖPECZI (Aiud (Nagyenyed), Romania, 16 September 1921 – Budapest, 17 January 2010). Historian, literary historian, cultural politician.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 5 May 1967, Ordinary: 7 May 1976). From 1940, he was a member of the Eötvös College and a student of French, Italian and Romanian at the Budapest University of Sciences. In October 1944, he was called up as a soldier, and after training, he was transported with his unit to Germany, where he was taken prisoner of war by the British in 1945. He returned home in the spring of 1946, finished his university studies and obtained a secondary school teaching diploma and a doctorate in Humanities. From the autumn of 1947, he was on a scholarship in Paris for two years, studying at the École Normale Supérieure and obtaining a doctorate from the Sorbonne in 1949. From 1949 to 1953, he was Editor and Literary Director of the Hungária Publishing House, then of the Művelt Nép Publishing House, from 1953 he was Deputy Chairman of the Publishing Council, and from 1955 to 1963 he was Head of the Publishing Directorate. Between 1963 and 1966, he was Head of the Cultural Department of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party's Central Committee. From 1965, he was a Professor at the Faculty of Humanities of Eötvös Loránd University, Head of the French Department, and from 1967, Deputy Rector. Minister of Culture from 25 June 1982 to 29 June 1988.

His research interests include the cultural and ideological history of the 18th–20th century literary trends, 18th century French–Hungarian political, diplomatic and cultural relations, and the life of Ferenc Rákóczi II. One of his greatest scholarly achievements was the editorship of the three-volume *History of Transylvania* (1989) and its publication in foreign languages.

9 May 1975 –
9 May 1980

FERENC MÁRTA (Kiskundorozsma, 12 January 1929 – Budapest, 25 February 2010). Chemist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 4 February 1970, Ordinary: 7 May 1976).

He graduated in chemistry from the University of Szeged in 1953. In 1957–1958, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Chemical Physics of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and in 1961 at the University of Cambridge. From 1953 to 1975, he was a Lecturer at the University of Szeged (from 1963 József Attila University of Science), from 1958 Adjunct Professor, from 1961 Associate Professor, from 1967 to 1975 Head of Department, and from 1967 to 1973 Rector. From 1980 to 1999, he was Director General of the Central Institute for Chemical Research (from 1998, the Centre for Chemical Research).

He has achieved international recognition in the study of the kinetics of thermal and photochemical elementary reactions.

11 June 1980 –
27 June 1984

LÉNÁRD PÁL (Gyoma, 7 November 1925 – Budapest, 21 October 2019). Physicist, politician.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 14 April 1961, Ordinary: 11 May 1973). In 1949, he obtained a degree in chemistry from the Budapest university of sciences. Between 1950 and 1953, he was an aspirant in Moscow. From 1953 to 1978, he was Head of Department at the Central Institute for Physics Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, from 1956 Deputy Director, from 1970 Director, and from 1974 to 1978 Director General. Afterwards, he was Chairman of the National Committee for Technical Development and the National Committee for Atomic Energy from 1978 to 1980 and from 1984 to 1985, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party from 1985 to 1988. From 1957, he taught part-time at the Department of Atomic Physics at Eötvös Loránd University, and from 1971 to 1988 at the Department of Solid-State Physics. From 1988 to 1995, he was a full-time professor at the Department of Atomic Physics.

His research interests included solid-state physics, neutron physics and the physical applications of probability. He played a major role in the construction of the only experimental nuclear reactor in Hungary.

**6 July 1984 –
13 May 1993**

ISTVÁN LÁNG (Mohács, 26 December 1931 – Budapest, 17 December 2016). Agrochemist.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 11 May 1979; Ordinary: 9 May 1985). Between 1950 and 1955, he studied and graduated in agriculture at the Ivanovo Agricultural University in the Soviet Union. Afterwards he worked at the Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, then was Secretary of the Section of Biological Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1963 to 1970, Deputy Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1970 to 1984, and Advisor to the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1993 to 2002. He was the first President of the National Scientific Research Fund Programmes (1986–1991). He has developed principles for the environmentally sound use of biological resources. Under his leadership, several complex research programmes have been carried out to assess the country's agroecological potential, biomass production and the scientific basis for the sustainable development of agriculture.

**13 May 1993 –
4 May 1999**

LÁSZLÓ KEVICZKY (Ráckeve, 2 April 1945). Electrical engineer.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 9 May 1985, Ordinary: 10 May 1993). In 1968, he graduated from the Budapest University of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering, and in 1970 with a doctorate. Between 1968 and 1981, he was a researcher at the Department of Automation at the Budapest University of Technology. From 1981, he worked at the Institute of Computer Science and Automation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, where he was Director from 1986 to 1993 and Research Professor from 1999 to 2002. From 1999 to 2005, he was Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In control theory, he has developed new methods for system identification and parameter estimation.

**4 May 1999 –
3 May 2005**

NORBERT KROÓ (Budapest, 19 September 1934). Physicist.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 9 May 1985; Ordinary: 21 May 1990). In 1958, he obtained a degree in physics from the Budapest university of science. From 1963 to 1964, he was a fellow in Sweden, and from 1968 to 1971, he was Deputy Director of the Unified Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna. From 1958 to 1998, he was a staff member of the Institute of Solid-State Physics of the Central Institute of Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, from 1971 to 1981 he was Head of Department, and from 1981 to 1998 Director. From 1998 to 1999, he was Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Education. From 2005 to 2011, he was Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His research interests are solid-state physics, optics and neutron physics.

**3 May 2005 –
6 May 2008**

ATTILA MESKÓ (Budapest, 23 April 1940 – Budapest, 11 October 2008). Geophysicist.

Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 21 May 1990; Ordinary: 8 May 1995). In 1964, he received an honours degree from Eötvös Loránd University. Between 1964 and 1973, he worked at the Seismological Observatory of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From 1973 he was Associate Professor at the Department of Geophysics at Eötvös Loránd University, from 1980 a Professor, from 1985 to 1999 Head of Department (in the meantime he was an expert at the Geophysical Research Company from 1966 to 1983). Deputy Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences between 1999 and 2005.

The main areas of his scientific research are geophysical data processing and interpretation, and the investigation and practical application of environmental geophysics methods (environmental and sustainability issues).

6 May 2008 –
6 May 2014

TAMÁS NÉMETH (Szombathely, 7 March 1952 – Budapest, 9 May 2023). Agricultural engineer. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 7 May 2001; Ordinary: 7 May 2007). In 1976, he graduated from the University of Agricultural Sciences in Keszthely with a degree in agro-chemistry and agricultural engineering. In 1977, he was employed as a Senior Researcher at the Nutrient Management Department of the Centre for Plant Protection and Agrochemistry of the Ministry of Agriculture. From January 1979, he worked at the Plant Protection and Agrochemical Station of Zala County. From February 1981, he spent a year in the United States of America, in Oregon, as a farm intern. From January 1983, he worked at the Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, where he was Deputy Director from May 1991 and Director from 1997 to 2008. From 2014 to 2020, he was Deputy Rector of the University of Kaposvár, then from 2020 to 2022, he was a Professor at the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and afterwards a Research Professor at the National University of Public Service. His research interests include the study of soil fertility, in particular elements of nitrogen cycling in model, culture tank and small plot experiments, the development of the basis for N fertilisation advice, the application of ¹⁵N techniques, nitrate leaching and modelling of these processes.

6 May 2014 –
7 July 2020

ÁDÁM TÖRÖK (Budapest, 23 October 1952). Economist. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 7 May 2001; Ordinary: 7 May 2007). His research interests include international economics, business economics, and competition and technology policy.

7 July 2020 –

LÁSZLÓ PÉTER KOLLÁR (Budapest, 4 January 1958). Civil engineer. Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Corresponding: 7 May 2001; Ordinary: 7 May 2007). His research interests include load-bearing structures, plastic structures, their mechanics and composites. He has developed a method for modelling the behaviour of high-rise buildings, which is used in stability and earthquake tests.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AL	Archives of the Academy, Budapest
ELTE EKL	Eötvös Loránd University Library and Archives, Budapest
FSZEK BGy	Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library, Budapest Collection, Budapest
MK	ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of Art History, Budapest
MNM KK	Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre, Budapest
MNG	Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest
MNL OL	National Archives of Hungary, Budapest
MNM TF	MNM KK, Hungarian National Museum, Historical Photo Department, Budapest
MNM TK	MNM KK, Hungarian National Museum, Hungarian Historical Gallery, Budapest
MTA KIK	Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (LHAS), Budapest
MTA KIK KRKGY	LHAS Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books, Budapest
MTA MGy	Art Collection of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
OSZK	MNM KK, National Széchényi Library, Budapest

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86. Bust of the German architect Friedrich August Stüler. Sculpture by Miklós Izsó after Hermann Schievelbein, 1865. MTA MGy ltsz. 354

87. Portrait of László Szalay, Secretary of the Academy from 1861. Painting by Bertalan Székely, 1864. MTA MGy ltsz. 15

88. Report on the opening of the Academy's new building, published in the journal *Politikai Hetilap*, 1865. *Politikai Hetilap*, 1865. december 11. 47. OSZK H 866

89. Obverse and reverse of the medallion for the inauguration of the Academy building, designed by Karl Radnitzky, 1865. MTA KIK KRKGY Érmek 59.

90. Cover of the Academy's guestbook. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 11229.

91. First page of the guestbook. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 11229.

92. Signatures of King Franz Joseph and his children in the guestbook. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 11229.

93. Statues of Galileo, Descartes and Raphael on the building. Woodcut published by the *Vasárnapi Ujság*. *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1866. február 11. 65.

94. Mór Ziltz's *Joyful Sermon* delivered at the opening of the Academy building in 1865. MTA KIK 275.771

95. Invitation to the 1865 general assembly of the Academy. MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 817/1-1865.

96. Coverage of the opening ceremony in the *Vasárnapi Ujság*. Woodcut by Károly Rusz, 1865. *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1865. december 17. 648.

97. The square in front of the Academy after 1866. Lithograph by Adam Slowikowski. MNM TK ltsz. 2869

98. Portrait of József Eötvös, President of the Academy from 1866 to 1871. Painting by Viktor Madarász, 1874. MNM TK ltsz. 148

99. József Eötvös's clock. MTA MGy ltsz. 258

100. The Presidium and the Board of Directors of the Academy in a contemporary photograph, 1865. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10.463/1-2 Magyar Akadémiai Album, 1865

102. List of participants in the 1865 general assembly. MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 1865 804/2

103. National Assembly in the Ceremonial Hall of the Academy, 1867. Woodcut from *Magyarország és a Nagyvilág*. *Magyarország és a Nagyvilág*, 1867. november 23. 555. FSZEK

104. Photo of Ferenc József Square after 1872. FSZEK BGy Képarchívum 021452

105. Portrait of Charles Darwin. Photograph of Leonard Darwin, c. 1878. Wellcome Library, London, Voo26272

106. Letter informing Darwin of his election as an external member, 1872. MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 565/1872.

107. Photograph of Kálmán Szily, who was a corresponding member from 1865 and an ordinary member from 1873. He was Secretary General of the Academy from 1889. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10.206. MTA Photos of academic members, 1880/1881.

108. Obverse and reverse of the Ferenc Toldy Medallion, 1868. MTA KIK KRKGY Érmek 181.

109. József Petzval's letter regarding his election as an external member in 1873. MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 667/1873.

110. Photograph of statistician Károly Keleti, corresponding member from 1868, an ordinary member from 1875 and a member of the Board of Directors from 1890. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10.206 MTA Photos of academic members, 1880/1881.

111. Obverse and reverse of the Czuczor-Fogarasi Medallion, 1874. MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei 13.

112. Elisabeth, Queen consort of Hungary at the funeral of Ferenc Deák in the foyer of the Academy. Painting by Mihály Zichy, 1876. MNM TK ltsz. 489

113. Obverse of the Ferenc Deák Medallion, 1876. MTA KIK KRKGY Érmek 92.

114. Funeral procession of Ferenc Deák in front of the Academy building. FSZEK BGy, Képarchívum 010757

115. Portrait of János Arany, corresponding and ordinary member from 1858, Secretary from 1865, Secretary General from 1870 to 1879. Painting by Miklós Barabás, 1884. MTA MGy ltsz. 13

116. Second resignation letter by János Arany, 1877.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 1166/1877.

117. Manuscript of János Arany's poem *Epilógos* in the library of the Academy
MTA KIK KRKGY K 512/7.

118. Portrait of Menyhért Lónyay, President of the Academy from 1871 to 1884. Painted by Gyula Stetka in 1886.
MNM TK ltsz. 2280

119. Menyhért Lónyay's proposal for the election of Béni Kállay as a corresponding member, 1877.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 256/1877.

120. Béni Kállay, Governor of Bosnia and a corresponding member from 1878, ordinary member from 1888. Photograph by Ede Ellinger, c. 1880.
MNM TF ltsz. 867-1933

121. Letter from Ignác Goldziher to Vilmos Fraknói, Secretary General, regarding the publication of his book on the Muslim religion, 1880.
MTA KIK Keleti Gyűjtemény 31.3.

122. The statue of István Széchenyi on a period photograph

123. Unveiling of the Széchenyi statue in front of the Academy building. Woodcut by Lajos Rauscher, 1880. *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1880. május 25. 368.

124. Obverse and reverse of the Széchenyi Medallion. Designed by Antonio Fabris, 1880.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei 11/1-2.

125. Caricature from the *Borsszem Jankó* satirical magazine, 1882. *Borsszem Jankó*, 1882. november 19. 3.
OSZK H 7.730

126. Obverse and reverse of the Mór Wahrmann Medallion. Designed by Anton Scharff, 1892.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei 19.

127. Portrait of Loránd Eötvös, President of the Academy from 1889 to 1905. Painted by Ede Balló in 1925.
MTA MGy ltsz. 166

128. The Presidium of the Academy in 1890. Lithograph by Lajos Elischer, 1890.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 4405/3.

129. The Ceremonial Hall of the Academy, c. 1890
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

130. Frigyes Korányi, physician and corresponding member from 1884.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

131. Photograph of the mathematician Gyula Kőnig, corresponding member from 1883, ordinary member from 1890.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 MTA Photos of academic members.

132. Frigyes Korányi and the doctors of the Internal Medicine Clinic, c. 1890
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 5238 69.

133. Pictures of the unveiling of János Arany's statue in the issue of *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1893. *Vasárnapi Ujság*, 1893. május 21. 359.

134. Portrait of Károly Zípernowsky, engineer and corresponding member from 1893.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

135. Photograph of Ferenc Pulszky, archaeologist and museumologist, Vice President between 1895 and 1897.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

136. Caricature in the satirical magazine *Bolond Istók*, 1895. *Bolond Istók*, 1895. május 26. 7.

137. Award of the Grand Cross of the Order of Franz Joseph to Loránd Eötvös, 1896.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10710 30.

138. Letter from Prime Minister Dezső Bánffy to Loránd Eötvös regarding his award, 1896.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10710 31.

139. Letter of thanks from Aurél Stein from Kashmir, regarding his election as an external member, 1895.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 438/1895.

140. Lobby of the Academy, c. 1890.
MTA KIK, KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

141. Photo of József Szinnyei, librarian and corresponding member from 1899.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

142. Photo of Gyula Páuler, historian and archivist, corresponding member from 1870, ordinary member from 1877.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

143. The Reading Room of the Academy, c. 1890.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

144. The Presidential Council Chamber, c. 1890.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

145. Photo of Pál Gyulai, literary historian; corresponding member from 1858, ordinary member from 1867, and member of the Board of Directors from 1883.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

146. Observe of the Ármin Vámbéry commemorative plaque. Designed by Gyula Murányi, 1900.
MTA KIK KRKGY Érmek 82.

147. The Goethe Room of the Academy, c. 1900.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

148. Room of the Kisfaludy Society, c. 1900.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

149. Storage room of the Academy Library, c. 1900.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 10754 Photos of the Academy's palace, 1890s. Photos by Mór Erdélyi

150. Report on the Ferenc Deák Memorial Ceremony, 1904.
Vasárnapi Ujság, 1904. május 22. 358.

151. Albert Berzeviczy, President of the Academy from 1905 to 1936. Painting by Tivadar Zemplényi, 1905.
MNM TK ltsz. 55.8

152. Letter from Henri Poincaré, the Bolyai Prize-winning French mathematician, regarding his election as an external member in 1906.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 205/1906.

153. Károly Than, Vice President of the Academy between 1907 and 1908.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 Photos of academic members

154. The Academy's Kálmán Mikszáth Medallion was awarded to mark the 40th anniversary of his literary career. Designed by Gyula Murányi, 1910.
MTA KIK KRKGY Érmek 17.

155. Report on the Bolyai Prize, 1910.
Vasárnapi Ujság, 1910. október 23. 884.

156. The Academy's Bolyai Medal. Designed by Stefan Schwartz, 1910.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei 15.

157. Certificate of ordinary membership for the literary historian Zoltán Ferenczi, 1917.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 4405/91.

158. A medallion to mark the 75th birthday of Vilmos Fraknói. Designed by Johanna Blaschczik, 1918.
MTA KIK KRKGY Érmek 66.

159. The "appeal" by the Presidium of the Academy to the world's academies against the partition of Hungary, 1918.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 918/1918.

160. Gyula Pekár, writer and politician, corresponding member of the Academy from 1911.
OSZK Kézirattár Arcke_0174.

161. Bernát Alexander, philosopher and aesthetician, corresponding member of the Academy from 1892, ordinary member from 1915.
MTA KIK D 4489.

162. Oszkár Asbóth, linguist, corresponding member of the Academy from 1892, ordinary member from 1907.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315/3.

163. Manó Beke, mathematician, corresponding member from 1914.
OSZK Kézirattár Arcke_0118.

164. Obverse and reverse of the medallion of Jenő Balogh, Secretary General of the Academy. Designed by Fülöp Ö. Beck, 1924.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei 35/1–2.

165. Archduke Joseph, the newly appointed President of the Academy, places a wreath on Berzeviczy's coffin, accompanied by the Secretary General, Géza Voinovich, and Gábor Szalay, Berzeviczy's son-in-law.
Képes Pesti Hirlap, 1936. március 25.

166. The establishment of the Hungarian Scientific Council on 25 February 1949. At the table: the Council's presidium — Academician István Rusznyák; Gyula Ortutay, Minister of Education; Ernő Gerő, President of the Council (standing); Imre Vajda, President of the Planning Office; György Alexits, Secretary General of the Scientific Council; and László Rudas, member of the Council's Social Science Division.
AL Fényképtár 349.

167. Loránd Eötvös, who died on 8 April 1919, was laid in state at the Hungarian National Museum on 11 April. The funeral procession then departed for the Kerepesi Cemetery.
Vasárnapi Ujság, 1919. április 20. 179.

168. Letter dated 14 April 1919 from People's Commissar György Lukács regarding the suspension of the Academy's operations.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 291/1919.

169. György Lukács' membership card for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1951. He had been an ordinary member since 1949.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2834/91.

170. President Albert Berzeviczy at his desk.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 5070/26.

171. Opening of the Academy's Zrínyi celebration on 11 May 1920. Seated at the presidential table are President Albert Berzeviczy, Secretary General Gusztáv Heinrich to his right and Vice President Ferenc Herczeg to his left.
Vasárnapi Ujság, 1920. május 23. 111.

172. Portrait of Aurél Stein, 1890s.
MTA KIK Keleti Gyűjtemény Cat. Stein LHAS Ms. 39.

173. Invitation to the ceremonial assembly held on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
MTA KIK KRKGY RAL 1700/1925.

174. Newspaper article about the 100-year celebration of the Hungarian Academy.
Az Est, 1925. november 4., front page

175. A compilation by *Tolnai Világlapja* on the 100-year-old Academy and...
Tolnai Világlapja, 1925. november 4. 4.

176. ...on foreign guests arriving for the anniversary celebrations.
Tolnai Világlapja, 1925. november 11. 4.

177. Manuscript of the *Szózat* (Appeal). In 1927, the poet's granddaughter, Jánosné Bernrieder (née Ilona Széll), donated Mihály Vörösmarty's manuscripts, library and some personal items to the Academy.
MTA KIK KRKGY K721/I.

178. Vörösmarty's desk.
MTA KIK KRKGY K 2/118. 23. p. 4. téTEL

179. Cover of *Tolnai Világlapja* on the Vigyázó Estate.
Tolnai Világlapja, 1928. augusztus 22., front page

180. Dignitaries at the funeral of Ferenc Vigyázó: State Secretary Kálmán Szily, Academician Mihály Szabolcska, State Secretary Pál Petri, Chief Librarian József Szinnyei, Minister of Religion and Education Kunó Klebelsberg, Secretary General Jenő Balogh, Vice President Gyula Varga, and Ministerial Counsellor Antal Denhoff. Rákoskeresztúr, 6 August 1928.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 5074/21.

181. On 25 May 1935, the "Count Vigyázó and Baron Podmaniczky Family Museum" was ceremoniously opened in the Vigyázó mansion at Rákoskeresztúr.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2450/86.

182. A caricature from *Borsszem Jankó* satirical magazine depicting the circumstances surrounding the inheritance of the Vigyázó Estate.
Borsszem Jankó, 1928. augusztus 10. 3.

183. Archduke Joseph August, President of the Academy, inspects the construction of a new Academy property on the site of the Vigyázó Palace in Budapest...
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 5074/33.

184. ...and the completed new building at the intersection of Rákóczi street and Károly (király) boulevard, 1940.
Fortepan – Márkus Richárd

185. The horseshoe-shaped room in the riverside wing of the Academy's headquarters. Béla Bartók worked in the room next to the Reading Room from 1934 to 1940 on the processing on the folk music collection. Later, it served as the workplace for Zoltán Kodály and the Folk Music Research Group until 1970. It is now used by the vice presidents. Photo by Mór Erdélyi.
MTA KIK D 45328.

186. A remembrance of Zoltán Kodály in the former horseshoe room.
Photo by Tamás Szigeti, 29 September 2022. photos/mtasajto/albums

187. On Kodály's birthday, December 16, 1954, Pál Pátzay presented Kodály with the relief he created to mark the 10th anniversary of Bartók's death. Seated: Pál Pátzay and Zoltán Kodály; standing: György Kerényi, Lajos Kiss, and Norma Keleti.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 6298/208.

188. The completed Bartók relief and the Folk Music Research Group led by Kodály in the former horseshoe room. Photo by Tamás Fényes, 1960.
MTI Fotó: Fényes Tamás. Nemzeti Archívum, Fotótár, Budapest, AF_NY196005080012.

189. Prize winners of the Academy in 1929.
Képes Pesti Hirlap, 1929. május 15.

190. A session of the International Congress on the History of Medicine in the Ceremonial Hall of the Academy's headquarters, 1929.
Fortepan – Semmelweis Egyetem Levéltára (*Archive of the Semmelweis University*)

191. Bálint Hóman reading his lecture at a meeting of the Hungarian Historical Society, 1930s.
Seated at the presidential table: Bálint Hóman, Sándor Domanovszky and Imre Lukinich.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2445/28.

192. Certificate of ordinary membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences awarded to Sándor Domanovszky on 10 February 1930. The date on the certificate is incorrect: Domanovszky was elected a full member on May 6, 1926. The confusion may have arisen because most of those who gave their inaugural lectures in

1929–1930 had been elected on May 10, 1929.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2445/43.

193. Report in the *Képes Pesti Hirlap* on the celebration of Albert Berzeviczy's 80th birthday.
Képes Pesti Hirlap, 1933. június 13.

194. On 12 October 1933, the Klebelsberg Memorial Committee was established in Archduke Joseph's palace in Budapest. In the centre stands Archduke Joseph, the patron of the committee, and Bálint Hóman, Minister of Religion and Education, President of the Committee. Next to Hóman stands Catholic priest and former Minister of Welfare Sándor Ernszt; on the left, State Secretary Kálmán Szily and President of the Academy Albert Berzeviczy. In the second row: Academicians Gyula Kornis and Ferenc Herczeg; Bishop of Csanád Gyula Glattfelder; State Secretary Pál Petri and Count Károly Széchenyi. Behind them: K. Róbert Kertész, Ödön Paizs, Elek Petrovics, Secretary Halász, and Academician Sándor Domanovszky.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2445/30.

195. Secretary General of the Academy, Géza Voinovich, at his desk.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2/35

196. Béla Bartók was elected a corresponding member of the Academy in 1935, he delivered his inaugural lecture on Franz Liszt. János Melich and József Szinnyei sit on the podium. Photo by Schäffer Photo Studio and Press Office, 3 February 1936.
MNM TF, Itsz. 346/1954 fk.

197. Sándor Korányi was elected an honorary member of the Academy in 1935 and a member of the Board of Directors in 1937.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 5244/115b.

198. Lajos Steiner, a meteorologist, who took his own life on April 2, 1944, following the German occupation.
OSZK Kézirattár Arckep_0209.

199. Béla Földes, an economist, died of starvation in the Pest ghetto in 1945 at the age of 96.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 315 034.

200. Frigyes Fellner, an economist, was arrested after the German occupation and deported to Mauthausen, where he died of starvation in early 1945.
OSZK Kézirattár Arckep_0461.

201– Gyula Kornis' identity card from 1945.

202. MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 4285/18.

203– Photographs by Pál Gergely of the Academy in spring 1945, after the war. Pál Gergely worked as a lawyer in the Secretary General's Office of the Academy and lived in the Academy's apartment building on Arany János street, which gave him the opportunity to take photographs immediately after the fighting ended.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 6298/184., 185.

205. Ceremonial general assembly of the Academy on 8 June 1947: Speaker: István Varga; President: Zoltán Kodály; Vice President: Albert Szent-Györgyi; Secretary General: Géza Voinovich.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 1054/146.

206. Ceremonial general assembly of the Academy, 8 June 1947. In the row behind the empty chairs sit Academicians Tibor Széki, Zoltán Bay, Sándor Jávorka and Ágoston Zimmermann.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 1054/143.

207. The audience at the Academy's ceremonial general assembly on 8 June 1947.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 1054/147.

208. Julian Sorell Huxley, Director General of UNESCO, gave a lecture on the organisation and programme of UNESCO in the Academy's Reading Room on 14 June 1948. Huxley became an external (foreign) member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1948, but in 1960, along with several other foreign members, he was expelled because his views did not align with those of the Soviet geneticists. The Academy's Presidium annulled the expulsion with resolution number 39/1989.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 1054/148.

209. Audience at Huxley's lecture.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 1054/149.

210. Report on Huxley's visit by *Magyar Nemzet*.
Magyar Nemzet, 1948. június 16. 2.

211. György Alexits, Secretary General of the Hungarian Scientific Council and the first Secretary General of the reorganised Academy, giving a mathematics presentation.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2290/167.

212. Ernő Gerő's proposal for reorganising the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
AL 2. Magyar Tudományos Tanács 3/1.

213. The Presidium of the Academy elected on 29 November 1949. Seated: Vice Presidents Pál Gombás and Lajos Ligeti, President István Rusznyák, Secretary General György Alexits. Standing: the elected members of the Presidium: Károly Novobátzky, Tibor Erdey-Grúz, Brunó Straub F., György Lukács, and Erik Molnár.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2290/158.

214. Candidate diploma for meteorologist László Aughezsky. Meteorologists received their diplomas either from physical sciences or from geographical sciences.
AL TMB 5332.

215. Photograph of the general assembly of May 1978. Three female academicians are pictured: Magda Radnót (centre), Gertrúd Szabolcsi (background) and Klára Garas (far right).
AL Fényképtár 2037.

216. János Kádár's visit to the Academy on 17 November 1981. Meeting in the Reading Room: Miklós Óvári (Secretary of the Central Committee and member of the Political Committee of the MSZMP), Lénárd Pál (Secretary General of the Academy), János Kádár (First Secretary of the Central Committee of the MSZMP), János Szentágothai (President of the Academy), and György Aczél (member of the Political Committee, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Science Policy Committee).
AL Fényképtár I. 1069.

217. Article in *Szabad Nép* on 29 November 1949 about the reorganised Academy. *Szabad Nép*, 1949. november 29. 6.

218. The Academy's Temporary Administrative Committee notifies Elemér Mályusz that he has been elected as a consultative member of Section II (Social and Historical Sciences) of the Academy, 16 November 1949.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 6547/66.

219. Elemér Mályusz, c. 1950.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 6408/584.

220. A letter by Ödön Polner lawyer, consultative member.
AL 5. Főtitkár 2/16.

221. Invitation to the festive week celebrating the Academy's 125th anniversary.
AL 150. Közgyűlés 1. dob.

222. Opening of the plenary session to celebrate the Academy's 125th anniversary, 26 November 1950.
AL Fényképtár 1397.

223. A drawing published in *Világosság*, the daily newspaper of the Hungarian Workers' Party, depicting the Academy on its 125th anniversary.
Világosság, 1950. december 2. 8.

224. Thank-you letter from the French guest, Marcel Prenant, dated 4 December 1950.
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 61/5 (827/R-1950).

225. A drawing published in *Népszava* depicting foreign guests: Mikhail Dubinin, chemist; Guo Moruo, Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China and President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, archaeologist; Pak Den Ai, Vice President of the Korean Peace Council; Marcel Prenant, French biologist; Konstantin Skryabin, biologist.
Népszava, 1950. december 5. 6.

226. The Academy commissioned medallions in honour of two world-renowned Hungarian mathematicians who had been members of the Academy for decades: Lipót Fejér had been a member since 1908...
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei, 31.

227. ...and Frigyes Riesz, who had been a member since 1916. Designed by József Reményi in 1955.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei, 32.

228. Photograph of Sándor Müller, chemist and corresponding member of the Academy.
MTA KIK D 3631; DVD.265.

229. Letter from Sándor Müller asking for help with his father-in-law's forced internal deportation case.
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 37/3 (692/R-1951).

230. State leaders at the ceremonial opening session of the Academy's plenary meeting: Sándor Rónai, President of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic and member of the Political Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party (MDP); István Dobi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers; István Friss, member of the Central Leadership of the MDP, 9 December 1951.
AL Fényképtár 1517.

231. Scientists relaxing at the Academy's resort in Balatonvilágos in the summer of 1956.
Művész Nép, 1956. szeptember 2. 3.

232. Sociologist and Academician Sándor Szalai. Photo by Zsuzsa G. Fábri.
MTA KIK D_7690.

233. Radio communiqué formulated at the members' meeting on 3 November 1956.
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 36/1/1.

234. The bust of Academician Zoltán I. Tóth was unveiled by Szilveszter Vizi E. and László Sólyom on 20 October 2006. Sculpted by Tamás Vígh.
Hámori Péter's photo

235. The Academy's official report on recent events appeared in the January 1957 issue of *Magyar Tudomány. Magyar Tudomány*, 1957/1–4. 133.

236. Géza Bognár, electrical engineer.
MTA KIK D 2334.

237. Lajos Ligeti, linguist and orientalist.
MTA KIK D 2795.

238. The Academy's headquarters bear traces of bullet damage from 1956....
Fortepan/Gara 162630.

239. ...and a record about this from the Financial Department.
AL 35. Pénzügyi Főosztály 160.

240. The Secretary General's letter of protest against the harassment of researchers by the police in Martonvásár.
AL 5. Főtitkár (Erdey-Grúz) 23/2 (433/57).

241. In 2017, a memorial plaque was unveiled in memory of the scientists from the Academy's research institute in Martonvásár who were taken away and humiliated in 1957. The plaque was unveiled by Ervin Balázs, Director General of the Academy's Centre for Agricultural Research and former Prime Minister, Péter Boross.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

242. Academician Gyula Németh.
MTA KIK D 3621.

243. Letter from Gyula Németh on the occasion of his appointment as director.
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 62/4/38.

244. The Minister of Public Education, József Révai, grants permission to organise the Folk Music Research Group.
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 54/2/54 - 89/B-R.

245. Construction of the atomic reactor at the Central Research Institute for Physics, 1950s...
AL Fényképtár 3314.

246. ...and the completed reactor, around 1967.
AL Fényképtár 3332.

247. A letter from the President of the National Planning Office from 1953 stating that planning for the Institute of Experimental Medicine could begin...
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 57/7/54.

248. ...however, the Institute's building on Szigony street was not completed until 1964.
AL Fényképtár 3303.

249. Groundbreaking ceremony for the Biological Research Centre (SZBK) on 2 April 1968. President István Rusznyák performs the first shovelling, observed in the background by János Szentágothai (then Secretary of Section VIII of Biological Sciences).
AL Fényképtár 3663.

250. The Biological Research Centre's building in 1973.
AL Fényképtár 3756.

251. To mark the 13th anniversary of Hungary's liberation, a delegation of Soviet party and government officials visiting Hungary met with representatives of the Hungarian intelligentsia at a ceremonial session held at the Academy on 9 April 1958. During the interval, the guests conversed in the Scholars' Club. Seated at the table were: N. S. Khrushchev, First Secretary, Central Committee of the CPSU; Károly Erdélyi, interpreter; István Rusznyák, President; and Béla Fogarasi, Vice President. Gyula Kállai, Secretary of MSZMP (in dark glasses). Standing: Ferenc Erdei (Secretary General); Béla Kelen (Secretary of the MSZMP Budapest Committee); and Erzsébet Burchard (Director, Higher Institute for Kindergarten Teacher Training in Kecskemét).
AL Fényképtár 203.

252. In April 1960, the Academy's Presidium invited three members of the British Academy to visit Hungary: J. W. Robinson (economist), H. D. F. Kitto (Professor of Greek at the University of Bristol) and J. P. Taylor (historian and university professor). On 5 April, the delegation visited the Manuscripts Collection of the Academy Library. In the photograph are: Taylor, József Marticskó, unknown person, Györgyné Kürti, Mrs Robinson, Kitto, Gusztáv Mihályi and Csaba Csapodi (Head of the Manuscripts Collection).
AL Fényképtár 51.

253. Mikhail Mikhailovich Dubinin (honorary member of the Academy) and Ferenc Erdei (Secretary General) sign the 1959 work plan of the Hungarian–Soviet scientific cooperation agreement. Standing: S. A. Sokolov, Tibor Erdey-Grúz, Éva Baik and Gyula Hevesi.
AL Fényképtár 929.

254. During his 1958 visit, Nobel Prize-winning Indian physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman receives the certificate of his external membership (awarded in 1937) from President Rusznyák. Raman was elected a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as early as 1937, but due to the war and the subsequent international situation, he was only able to receive the certificate during his European tour in 1958.
AL Fényképtár 262.

255. Presidium meeting in Martonvásár, 23 June 1961. Front row: Sándor Geleji, Rezső Manninger, Károly Novobátzky, Elemér Vadász, Erik Molnár, Lajos Ligeti, György Hajós, Tibor Erdey-Grúz and János Mócsy. Second row: Imre Szabó, László Mátrai, Jenő Ernst, Ferenc Erdei, György Szigeti, Géza Bognár, János

Antal's wife, Árpád Gerecs and László Csipka. One of the agenda items of the meeting was the *"Report on the situation, problems, and prospects of the Academy's Agricultural Research Institute."*
AL Fényképtár 529.

256. The literary historian István Sótér was elected an ordinary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1965.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2264/13.

257. Portrait of István Sótér.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 2253/591.

258. Zoltán Kodály passed away on 6 March 1967. No official obituary was issued, only a family one, as Kodály had insisted on a church funeral, which the socialist state only tolerated before or after official ceremonies.
MTA KIK KRKGY – Gyászjelentések

259. Kodály lay in state at the Academy building...
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 6298/210.

260. ...and the people arriving to pay their respects.
MTA KIK KRKGY Ms 6298/211.

261. Honorary member Dénes Gábor delivering a lecture at the ATOMKI (Institute for Nuclear Research) in the spring of 1969.
AL Fényképtár 3073.

262. One of the drawings from Dénes Gábor's childhood sketchbook. (The sketchbook, which contains drawings of contemporary technical innovations, was donated to the Academy Library by his relatives in 2008.)
MTA KIK KRKGY K 793, fol. 9v 10. kép

263. A letter from Erzsébet Korányi stating that she is donating Sándor Korányi's favourite piece of furniture, a tabernacle, to the Academy.
AL 3. Elnök (Rusznyák) 95/4/6.

264. The cabinet of Sándor Korányi, an honorary member of the Academy, is located in the music room of the Scholars' Club today.
MTA MGy, Itsz. 503

265. President Tibor Erdey-Grúz in his office. Having served as Secretary General between 1964 and 1970, he remained in the room designated for secretaries general after 1950. The Secretary General's office is located on the first floor of the headquarters building, at the corner of Akadémia street and Széchenyi square.
AL Akadémikus dosszié

266. The newly elected President, Tibor Erdey-Grúz; the Secretary of the Central Committee of the MSZMP (Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party), György Aczél; and the newly elected Secretary General, Ferenc Erdei, on the closing day of the 130th general assembly, 5 February 1970.
AL Fényképtár 1703.

267. The president's office was located on the first floor of the headquarters and was used by the secretaries general between 1970 and 1980.
AL 502. KESZ 100/2 László Heltay's conservation photographs.

268. Guests arriving for the 150th anniversary jubilee general assembly: Gyula Kállai, a member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZMP), and György Aczél, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Science Policy Committee.
AL Fényképtár 1758.

269. The presidium of the general assembly.
AL Fényképtár 1732.

270. The foreign guests.
AL Fényképtár 1744.

271. Pál Losonczi presents the Order of the Red Flag of Labour.
AL Fényképtár 1740.

272. The commemorative 200-forint jubilee coin.

273. A commemorative sheet featuring stamps issued for the 150th anniversary.
MTA MGy

274. A collection of publications prepared for the 150th anniversary.

275. Image of members of the presidium who served between 1980 and 1985: Zsuzsa Hollán (elected in 1976), Brunó Straub F., István Tamássy, Kálmán Kulcsár, Mihály Beck, József Ujfaluassy and Pál Tétényi.
AL Fényképtár 1052.

276. Obverse and reverse of Buzágh Aladár Award.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei 27.

277. On the occasion of Lajos Ligeti's 75th birthday, he is congratulated by the leaders of the Academy: Béla Tóth, István Láng, Secretary General Ferenc Márta, Lajos Ligeti, President János Szentágothai, András Knopp (representative of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party), Lajos Jánossy, and Sándor Kónya.
AL Fényképtár I. 1095.

278. Cover of *Fanyar Tudomány (Bitter Science). Magyar Tudomány*, 1978 (special issue)

279. On 19 December 1979, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences held a joint meeting to commemorate the

30th anniversary of its reorganisation. Afterwards, informal discussions took place at the Scholars' Club: Those present included Vice President József Fülop, President János Szentágothai (partially visible), György Aczél (member of the Political Committee of the MSZMP and Deputy Prime Minister), Secretary General Ferenc Márta, Vice President Zsigmond Pál Pach, Academician Lajos Ligeti, Vice President András Somos, Deputy Secretary General Béla Köpeczi, and elected presidium member Pál Tétényi.
AL Fényképtár 1078.

280. The participants of the first Soviet–Hungarian space flight – Valery Kubasov and Bertalan Farkas – along with Alexei Yeliseyev, ground commander of the joint mission, and Béla Magyari, trained astronaut, met with leaders of the Hungarian scientific community at the Academy on 17 June 1980. Reception at the Scholars' Club: Valery Kubasov, János Szentágothai, Bertalan Farkas, and Béla Magyari.
AL Fényképtár 1165.

281. Lecture in the Reading Room: Secretary General Lénárd Pál, the interpreter, Valery Kubasov, and President János Szentágothai.
AL Fényképtár 1153.

282. Academician János Szentágothai demonstrates how the old ballot box works to his fellow academicians, Károly Polinszky and Mihály Simai. Hámori Fotó
AL Fényképtár I. 1058.

283. In 1986, Zsigmond Pál Pach received the Gold Medal from his former student and President, Iván Berend T. Hámori Fotó
AL Fényképtár 2777.

284. Obverse and reverse of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Gold Medal. Designed by Tamás Vigh, 1961.
MTA KIK KRKGY Beck Mihály érmei

285. In 1988, Béla Bartók's sons decided to repatriate his ashes from the United States to Hungary in accordance with his wishes. Before the reburial, the metal casket was laid in state at the Academy's headquarters.
Fortepan – Gábor Viktor

286. On 3 November 1988, the new building of the Academy Library was inaugurated. In attendance were: György Rózsa (Director General of the Library); Iván Berend T. (President); Imre Pozsgay (State Minister); István Láng (Secretary General); Tibor Braun (Deputy Director General); and János Szentágothai (Academician).
Property of Klára Láng.
MTA KIK

287. Interior of the reading room. Property of Klára Láng.
MTA KIK

288. Opening session of the May 1989 general assembly, held on 8 May. Front row, from left to right: Academician and Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár; Vice President Ferenc Márta; Istvánne Szűcs, First Secretary of the MSZMP's 5th District Committee; János Lukács, Secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee; Brunó Straub F., Academician and President of the Republic; and Dezső Kereszty, recipient of the 1989 Gold Medal. Hámori Fotó.
AL Fényképtár 6444.

289. Before the May 1989 general assembly, a conversation at the Scholars' Club: Prime Minister Miklós Németh with President Iván Berend T., and beside him, Academician György Hazai, Director of the Academy Publishing House and Printing Press. Hámori Fotó.
AL Fényképtár 6449.

290. Portrait of Sándor Wolsky.
Akadémiai Almanach

291. Sándor Wolsky's letter. He was among those who lived to see his Academy membership reinstated.
AL 3. Elnök (Berend) 273 - E-345/1989

292. The newly elected President, Domokos Kosáry, and Prime Minister, József Antall, are seated at the presidential table of the May 1990 general assembly. Hámori Fotó.
Property of Ildikó Láng

293. The first Day of Hungarian Science was organised in 1997. The opening ceremony took place on 3 November in the Academy's headquarters' Ceremonial Hall. Those on the podium included: Mihály Kökény (Minister of Welfare); Zoltán Gál (Speaker of the National Assembly); Ferenc Glatz (President of the Academy); Bálint Magyar (Minister of Culture); István Bihari (President of the National Technical Development Committee); and Gyula Horn (Prime Minister).
Hámori Fotó.
AL Fényképek 1/1997/10.

294. In the 1990s, the Academy started holding a second general assembly each year, timed to coincide with the Day of Hungarian Science. On the morning of 3 November 2000, a ceremonial session was held to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Academy's foundation. Several politicians attended and spoke at the event. Before the session, in the president's office: Vice President Szilveszter Vizi E., Vice President László Keviczky, Deputy Secretary General Attila Meskó, President of the Republic Ferenc Mádl and Secretary

General Norbert Kroó were present. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2/2000/20.

295. At the May 1990 general assembly, the outgoing President, Iván Berend T., escorts the President of the Republic, Árpád Göncz, as he leaves. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 6481.

296. Continuation of the rehabilitation process in the member elections (corresponding member: 1990, ordinary member: 1991). László Palotás. Hámori Fotó. MTA KIK D-10414.

297. Continuation of the rehabilitation process in the member elections (corresponding member: 1990, ordinary member: 1991). Gábor Preisich. Photo by Zsuzsa Fábri G. MTA KIK D-10350.

298. Continuation of the rehabilitation process in the member elections (corresponding member: 1990, ordinary member: 1991). György Györffy. Photo by Zsuzsa Fábri G. MTA KIK D-10342.

299. Continuation of the rehabilitation process in the member elections (corresponding member: 1990, ordinary member: 1991). Lajos Vayer. Photo by Zsuzsa Fábri G. MTA KIK D-10561.

300. Continuation of the rehabilitation process in the member elections (corresponding member: 1990, ordinary member: 1991). Béla Gunda. MTA KIK C 3506_1.

301. Continuation of the rehabilitation process in the member elections (corresponding member: 1990, ordinary member: 1991). Kálmán Benda. Photo by Zsuzsa Fábri G. MTA KIK D-10337.

302. On 17 August 1991, Pope John Paul II met with prominent representatives of Hungarian culture and science in the Congress Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on Úri street. Photo by Károly Szelényi. AL Fényképtár 8373.

303. The Pope was welcomed by Domokos Kosáry (President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), István Láng (Secretary General), János Szentágothai (Academician) and László Dankó (Archbishop of Kalocsa). In the photo, the Pope shakes hands with Academician János Szentágothai, with Secretary General Láng in the centre. Hámori Fotó. Property of Ildikó Láng

304. Visit of Queen Elizabeth II to the Academy on 5 May 1993. The Academy's President, Domokos Kosáry, welcomed the Queen and Prince Philip at the entrance to the building. Hámori Fotó. Property of Ildikó Láng

305. Domokos Kosáry introduces the Academy leadership to the Queen: Ferenc Mádl (Minister of Culture and Education); Béla Halász (Prince Philip's escort at the Academy); József Ujfalussy; Dénes Berényi; István Láng (Secretary General, shaking hands with the Queen); and Árpád Csurgay (Deputy Secretary General). Hámori Fotó. Property of Ildikó Láng

306. On 24 October 1996, Zsigmond Jakó, a historian and professor from Cluj, as well as an honorary member of the Academy, was awarded the *Pro Scientia Hungarica* prize in celebration of his 80th birthday. The prize was presented by Ferenc Glatz, President of the Academy. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 1/1996/4.

307. Founding members of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts in 1992, including Domokos Kosáry and Zsigmond Ritoók, a delegate of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Sitting in the front row: Anikó Kovács (Executive Secretary); Rózsa Polgár; Magda Szabó; Domokos Kosáry; Anna Jókai; Gyula Takáts; Tamás Lossonczy; and László Bartha. Standing behind them: Iván Mányi, György Haiman, József Soproni, Tibor Cseres, András Fodor, György Jovánovics, Ferenc Juhász, Gábor Görgey, István Lakatos, László Lator, Mátyás Domokos, György Somlyó, Balázs Lengyel, István Szabó, Miklós Hubay, Zsigmond Ritoók and György Konrád. Hámori Fotó.

308. Photo from the 1992 general assembly dinner showing Vice President József Ujfalussy and Vice President of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts Mátyás Domokos, as well as Academician Zsigmond Ritoók. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 6673.

309. The leadership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and members of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts congratulate Domokos Kosáry on his 80th birthday in July 1993. Those present include Mátyás Domokos, Domokos Kosáry, László Lator, Béla Köpeczi, Pál Venetianer, István Lakatos, Miklós Hubay, Béla G. Németh, and György Jovánovics. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 7141.

310. At the general assembly in May 1995, Nobel laureates György Oláh (Chemistry) and János Harsányi (Economics, 1994) participated. Oláh had been an honorary member since 1990; Harsányi was elected an honorary member in 1995. In the front row of the photo are: János Balogh (recipient of the 1995 Academy Gold Medal), István Bihari (President of the National Technical Development Committee), Ferenc Baja (Minister), János Harsányi, György Oláh and Acting Deputy Secretary General István Teplán. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 6893.

311. György Oláh and Béla Halász, Vice President of the Academy. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 6859.

312. The Presidium of the May 1996 general assembly: Secretary General László Keviczky, President of the Republic Árpád Göncz, outgoing President Domokos Kosáry, and Vice President Pál Michelberger. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 6991.

313. Participants of the May 1996 general assembly. Front row: Mátyás Domokos, Executive President of Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts; László Lator, a member of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts; István Borzsák; István Borzsák (recipient of the 1995 Academy Gold Medal); Bálint Magyar, Minister of Culture; and István Bihari, President of the National Technical Development Committee. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 7012.

314. Ferenc Glatz, the newly elected President, and Prime Minister Gyula Horn arriving to greet him. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 7365.

315. Roundtable discussion on the publication of the book *Environmental Protection and EU Accession* prepared within the National Strategic Research Programme, 20 October 1998. Participants: Károly Kiss (Budapest University of Economics), Miklós Koloszár (Ministry of Finance), Sándor Kerekes (Budapest University of Economics), Ferenc Glatz, István Láng, János Szlávík (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) and József Ángyán (Gödöllő University of Agriculture). Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 1/1998/12

316. *Hungary at the Turn of the Millennium* volumes (1–3 volumes).

317. In 1998, Peter Munk, one of the owners of TriGránit, made a donation to establish two academic awards. One of these was the Bernát Munkácsi Prize, named after the linguist and Academician Bernát Munkácsi (1860–1937), who was the brother of Peter Munk's grandfather. In the photograph: Ferenc Glatz, President of the Academy; Sándor Demján, Munk's business partner; a relative of Munk; and Peter Munk himself. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 1/1998/3.

318. In 2007, the Celebration of Hungarian Science opened at the Városmajor Secondary School. On the presidium were: Academician András Patkós, who delivered a lecture entitled *Science and School*; Szilveszter Vizi E., President of the Academy; Csaba Pléh, Deputy Secretary General; Zoltán Pokorni, Mayor of District XII; and Tas Szebedy, Headteacher. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2007-es Cd 9648.

319. As part of the *Students at the Academy* programme, Ágnes Kelecsényi, Head of the Oriental Collection at the Academy Library and Information Centre, showed high school students the treasures of the collection on 13 November 2015. MTA KIK 2015 MTÜ Diákok az Akadémián DSC_4273.

320–321. During the 2015 Celebration of Hungarian Science, the Academy took science out onto the street. Outside the Academy Headquarters, visitors were welcomed with a telescope demonstration and the *Fizibusz* (Physics Bus). At the front of the bus, visitors could learn interesting facts about light, while the rear showcased the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

320–321. During the Celebration of Hungarian Science in 2020, Ferenc Jakab gave a lecture titled *What have we learned from the Coronavirus Pandemic?* on 4 November. Due to the pandemic, the lecture was streamed online on the Academy's YouTube channel. Only Secretary General László Kollár, Deputy Secretary General Anna Erdei and the cameraman attended the event in person. mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

324. On 3 November 2021, at the opening of the Celebration of Hungarian Science, everyone wore masks. mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

325. A *Women in Science* roundtable discussion was held on 17 November 2021 as part of the Celebration of Hungarian Science. Participants: Enikő Bollobás, Mária Font, Tibor Frank, Krisztina Károly and Mária Bondár. mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

326. *Women in Science: The Position of Women in Scientific Careers*, a lecture and roundtable discussion held on 16 November 2022 at the Academy Headquarters.

The opening remarks were delivered by Enikő Bollobás, Chair of the Academy's Presidential Committee on Women in Research Careers.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

327. The János Bolyai Research Scholarship was awarded for the first time on March 22, 1999. On that occasion, 181 young scientists with outstanding achievements in research and development received their certificates in the Ceremonial Hall of the Academy. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek Bolyai Ösztöndíj, 1999.

328. Presentation of Bolyai certificates in 2007. In the photograph: János Gergely, the first chairman of the János Bolyai Research Scholarship Board (1998–2006); Attila Meskó, Secretary General; and Sándor Körmenti, head of the Academy Secretariat's Doctoral Council Secretariat. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek Bolyai Ösztöndíj, 2007.

329. Bolyai Day, 29 June 2011. Csanád Bálint, member of the board of trustees; Ágnes Németh Kissné, board secretary; and Norbert Babcsán, scholarship recipient. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek Bolyai Ösztöndíj, 2011.

330. At the 2016 Bolyai Day, Sándor Soós and Éva Pálinkó presented the results of a survey they had conducted among Bolyai Scholarship recipients. Éva Pálinkó and the session's presidium: Ádám Török (Secretary General); Ferenc Fülöp (Chair of the János Bolyai Research Scholarship Board); Attila Demény (member of the board of trustees); President László Lovász; and Beáta Barnabás (member of the board of trustees and Deputy Secretary General). AL Fényképek Bolyai Ösztöndíj, 2016.

331. As part of the consolidation of the institutional network, Secretary General László Keviczky and President Ferenc Glatz visited the Research Institute for Technical Physics and Materials Science on 2 December 1998, where they were received by the institute's Director, József Gyulai. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 1/1998/16.

332. The new Ecological Research Centre was inaugurated at the Academy's Institute of Ecology and Botany on 3 December 1998. Attila Borhidi spoke about the significance of the new centre. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 1/1998/17.

333. English-language reports on the functioning of the research network.
MTA KIK

334. Inauguration and handover of the *István Széchenyi memorial forest*, established to mark the 175th anniversary of the Academy, on 16 October 2000. The President of the Forestry Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Academy President Ferenc Glatz participated. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2//2000/14.

335. Ferenc Glatz, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the President of the Forestry Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, plant a tree. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2//2000/14.

336. Presentation of the renewed János Bolyai International Mathematics Award on 4 November 2000. Seated in the front row of the audience is the laureate, Saharon Shelah, who is a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Rutgers University (USA). Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2/2000/28.

337. The award ceremony presidium: Kálmán Győry, Vice President László Keviczky (who presented the award), Pál Révész, Rolf Jeltsch, and Gyula Katona. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2/2000/28.

338. The Presidium of the ceremonial general assembly on 3 November 2000: Norbert Kroó, Secretary General; Ferenc Mádl, President of the Republic; Ferenc Glatz, President; Zoltán Pokorni, Minister of Education; Szilveszter Vizi E. and György Enyedi, Vice Presidents. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképek 2/2000/20.

339. Ceremony to mark the 175th anniversary of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, held on 19 March 2001, in the Grand Hall of the Academy's headquarters. Hámori Fotó. AL Fényképtár 8371.

340. On 16 March 2006, Secretary General Attila Meskó presented the Academy's Youth Awards. Hámori Fotó. AL fényképtár Cd 2006.

341. The Secretary General is shaking hands with one of the awardees, Gábor Takács, a staff member of the Academy's Research Institute for Linguistics. Hámori Fotó. AL fényképtár Cd 2006.

342. The Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2007: Kálmán Pannónhalmi, Ernő Marosi, Norbert Kroó, Szilveszter Vizi E., József Hámori, Csaba Pléh, Ilona Banczerowskiné Pelyhe, Ágnes Buka. Back row: Gábor Makara, Pál Michelberger, Domokos Szász, Mihály Beck, László Romics, Ádám Török, József

Ádám, Péter Horn, Kálmán Medzihradzky, László Keviczky, Zalán Horváth, Miklós Szabó (archaeologist), Mária Csöndes, Dénes Dudit, Gábor Pálinkás, József Gyulai, János Szolcsányi, Miklós Maróth, Gábor Bakonyi. Hámori Fotó.
AL Fényképtár 7230.

343. Leaders of the Academy, including President Szilveszter Vizi E., Vice President József Hámori, Deputy Secretary General Csaba Pléh, and Vice Presidents Ernő Marosi and Norbert Kroó, at the funeral bier of Domokos Kosáry on 4 December 2007. Hámori Fotó.
AL Fényképek 2007 Cd 1769.

344. A lecture held at the Academy's headquarters during the 2004 and the 2007 World Science Forums (WSF). Hámori Fotó.
AL Fényképek 4/2004/35., AL Fényképek Cd 2007/2.

345. Parliamentary discussion during the 23 November 2024 session. The topic was how to better integrate scientific achievements into policymaking worldwide.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

346. Tamás Freund, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, welcomes participants to the opening session of the 11th World Science Forum (WSF), held at Müpa (Palace of Arts) on 21 November 2024.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

347. On 27 October 2011, the results of the previous year's *Lendület – Young Researcher Programme* awards were presented at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In the photo: László Csaba Szarka, Head of the Department of Research Institutes at the Academy's Secretariat.
MTA kommunikáció

348. The first recipients of the *Lendület (Momentum)* Programme in 2009.
AL 3. Elnöki iratok 2011 3/4.

349. Recipients of the *Lendület* Programme in 2011.
AL 3. Elnöki iratok 2011 3/4.

350. Recipients of the *Lendület* Programme in 2022.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

351. Péter Domokos' inaugural lecture as an ordinary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 29 January 2020...
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

352. ...and the inaugural lecture of Dóra Reglődi, corresponding member, on 22 March 2023.

353. In 2010, the Institute of Art History and the Library of the Academy organised a memorial exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death of István Széchenyi, the founder of the Academy. The exhibition was organised by Béla Mázi and András Gergely, an expert on the era. Property of Klára Láng.
MTA KIK

354. A detail from the exhibition. Property of Klára Láng.
MTA KIK

355. On 1 March 2011, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences hosted a conference titled *The Red Sludge Disaster: Consequences and Lessons Learned*. As part of the event, two cooperation agreements were signed between the Academy (represented by József Pálinkás) and disaster management authority (represented by György Bakondi).
AL Fényképtár 8281., 8273.

356. An exhibition titled *150 Years of the Academy's Palace* opened on 20 October 2015 in the Academy's Art Collection.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

357. A lecture about the Academy's building was held during the European Heritage Days on 22 September 2015.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

358. In 2015, the Academy Gold Medal was awarded to the mathematician Vera T. Sós. The medal was presented by the then-President and her former student, László Lovász.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

359. Founding meeting of the Academy of Young Researchers (*Fiatal Kutatók Akadémiája*) on 7 May 2019.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

360. To celebrate the 135th anniversary of Béla Bartók's birth, the Institute of Musicology at the Academy organised two exhibitions: *Bartók at the Piano* and *Bartók and His Contemporaries*. The attendees were welcomed by the Academy's President, László Lovász, and the exhibitions were opened by the President of the Republic, János Áder.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

361. For the 2016 Celebration of Hungarian Science, the Academy's Library and Information Centre organised an exhibition showcasing the legacy of Mihály Vörösmarty held in the library's collection. In the photo, Antal Babus, Head of the Manuscript Collection and curator of the exhibition, presents the poet's writings to students.
mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

362. A Carpathian Basin secondary school competition organised by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences focused on climate change and sustainability. The final took

place at the Academy's headquarters on 4 March 2023.
 mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

365. Before the competition, the leadership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the jury members gathered in the President's office. President Tamás Freund; Deputy Secretary General Anna Erdei; astronomer László Kiss; meteorologist and Academician László Bozó, President of the Section of Earth Sciences; environmental psychologist Andrea Díll, Doctor of the Academy and professor at ELTE University; Erzsébet Piroska Szurdoki, Assistant Professor at the ELTE University Faculty of Primary and Pre-School Education; climate researcher Judit Bartholy, Doctor of the Academy (with her back to the camera); social researcher Zsolt Boda, Doctor of the Academy and Director General of the Centre for Social Sciences of Eötvös Loránd Research Network (with his back to the camera); Tamás Simon; and Gergely Böhm.
 mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

366. Meeting of the Presidents of the Academy's Regional Committees in Pécs, 21–22 September 2023.
 MTA Pécsi Akadémiai Területi Bizottság (*Pécs Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences*)

367. Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman jointly received the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in recognition of their biochemical discoveries that made

the development of an effective mRNA-based vaccine against COVID-19 possible. Katalin Karikó's biography was presented at the Academy on 11 October 2023. On stage were Katalin Karikó and Deputy Secretary General Anna Erdei.
 mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

368. On 13 November 2023, Péter Dombi gave a lecture titled *Ferenc Krausz, the Nobel Laureate Snapshooter of Electrons*. Before the lecture, Ferenc Krausz greeted the audience with a video message.
 mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

369. To mark the 100th birthday of Tibor Király, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Academy's Section of Economics and Legal Sciences (Section IX) prepared a special gift: a commemorative folder. On the first page, it features greetings from the President of the Academy and the Chair of Section IX. The second page displays an artistic "family tree" listing the names of those who nominated Tibor Király for membership in the Academy, as well as those who had nominated them—tracing the academic lineage back to the Reform Era. The document also includes the names of individuals whom Tibor Király himself nominated.
 mta.hu/Szigeti Tamás

In 2025, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding. This book is one of the publications prepared for the occasion. With few words and many images, it seeks to present the Academy's history with accuracy and appeal. Within this scope, we could not undertake a detailed analysis; however, through well-known and lesser-known paintings, sculptures, medals, and photographs, we have sought to provide a comprehensive picture of the past two centuries. The Academy's leaders, the most notable events, and key documents all appear in these pages, and through them the broader historical changes that shaped the life of the Academy also come into view. The changing forms of illustration themselves reflect the passage of time: in the early 19th century, works of fine art (paintings, sculptures) preserved the likeness of academicians, and documents were handwritten. By the mid-19th century, the first studio photographs and engravings for newspapers began to appear. In the 20th century, black-and-white and later colour reportage photography became available, and by the end of the book, digital photographs have become our sources.

