

Aegyptus et Pannonia VI.



Acta Symposií anno 2019

B U D A P E S T

Aegyptus et Pannonia VI.

Acta Symposii anno 2019

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AEGYPTUS ET PANNONIA VI.

Health and Life in Ancient Egypt. Mummies in Focus

Proceedings of the Conference held 27-29th

August 2019, Budapest

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INTRODUCTION TO THE “HEALTH AND LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT” CONFERENCE-VOLUME

Dr. Hedvig Győry PhD

Earlier readers of *Aegyptus et Pannonia* will surely be surprised by this volume. It has been more than 10 years since we organised our last conference for the fifth volume, and the theme has changed completely. Therefore, as an introduction, we would like to briefly summarize the recent events and the activities we have carried out in the professional field. This is also the reason for the structural change: the conference presentations will be followed by detailed articles resulting from the work of our Society.

The Hungarian-Egyptian Friendship Society and the Ancient Egyptian Committee

The Hungarian-Egyptian Friendship Society (HEFS) has been a non-governmental organization operating since 1995, which strives to acquaint and promote Egyptian culture; scientific activities and research are essential elements among its objectives. We discuss actual and earlier Egyptian topics from historical, artistic, literary, touristic or even economic points of view in our lectures. We also organize other programs according to the demand of situations and suggestions of our members. Thus, in the recent period our programs included Egyptian days and festivals, workshops, excursions, experience reports, public meetings and quizzes, as well as literary and photo competition. We also share other news and curiosities on our website and in our radio programs. Our activities are carried out partly in collaboration with other organizations, as was the conference organized in 2019 “Health and Life in ancient Egypt. Mummies in Focus”, presentations of which are published in this volume.

Particular emphasis is placed in our efforts to raise awareness of ancient Egyptian monuments, which is why an independent Committee (Ancient Egyptian Committee / AEC) has been set up to coordinate this. It plays a key role in the life of the Society and has done much work both in dissemination and research in recent years.

Part of our work is aimed at pupils who are taught ancient Egyptian knowledge through competitions in a playful way. There were also children’s classes and lectures in schools and community places (often called house of culture in the Hungarian language). Here, we primarily work through manual skills to develop on visual culture. We have been writing out fine art competitions (drawing/painting, puppet, digital

storytelling) for years. In the last two years, an adult category was also launched for the competition at the public's request, and we have organized some exhibitions with the paintings in Hungary, but had already a children's drawing/painting exhibition in Cairo. The committee has published a book on several occasions, most recently with children's drawings/paintings about the ancient Egyptian myth on the Eye of the Sun, and the next such volume is processed. Our radio programs belong also to this activity; there we present various faces of ancient Egypt and report on the latest news ("On the field of the Pharaohs"), resp. we draw attention to exhibitions in Hungary ("From Exhibition to Exhibition").

In the research field, the Ancient Egyptian Committee was initially involved in the excavation and reconstruction works of the Isis Temple in Szombathely (Savaria), focusing primarily on the religious, social, lifestyle, and artistic aspects of Egyptian religious cults. In co-operation with the archaeologists of the Savaria Museum in Szombathely and the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest, it also organized five international conferences. At that presentation, national results, discussion of controversial cases, and lectures on international professional results took place. A significant part of the lectures appeared in the form of articles in the volumes of *Aegyptus et Pannonia*, founded by AEC, representing the diversity of relevant scientific researches.

The medico-history research group

Already in the early 1990s, we contacted the Semmelweis University II, Clinic for Internal Medicine. With the support of the then director, Professor János Fehér, we published several publications in the *Orvosi Hetilap* and other Hungarian medical / medico-historical periodicals. In 2003 under the auspices of the Kriterion Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca, the book "Health and Lifestyle in Ancient Egypt" was published with the assistance of a biochemical researcher at the University. Besides the articles, lectures were also given on request.

The medico-history research group in the AEC was established with such antecedents in 2010 to examine herbs of ancient Egyptian medicine that can still be used currently in today's life, in the knowledge that ancient Egyptian science has reached such a high standard that it has become an outstanding and exemplary professional skill for the surrounding peoples, and later became one of the cornerstones of modern medicine — through the mediation and further development of Greek and Roman and then Arabic medicine. A significant part of the substances used in prescriptions are of vegetal origin, so reviewing and examining their effects and the data on them may provide new uses for current pharmacology. In this field, we collaborated primarily with researchers from the Semmelweis University of Medicine, under the direction of Professor Anna Blázovics.

A few years ago, I was also invited to contribute to the work of the editorial staff of *Kaleidoscope, Journal of Culture, Science and Medical History* at the Semmelweis Uni-

versity. Last year a lecture was given with the staff of the University and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the Science Day of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. We thus also maintain an excellent relationship with Professor Judit Forrai, who headed the Institute of Public Health at Semmelweis University, and with the Life Sciences and History Working Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences under her leadership.

Over time, we contacted the HNM Semmelweis Museum of the history of Medicine, which also houses some Egyptian medical material, and the mummy of Zoltán Arányi, whose mummification method raises questions concerning the afterlife of this practice. Documents on this topic were encrypted for the conference, published in this volume.

Initially, our goal was to present international results to Hungarian people, which is why we have given several lectures inside and outside the Society on herbs known and used in ancient Egypt, from the point of view of phytotherapy, aromatherapy, and other medico-historical topics, some of which are summarized in our *Egyiptomi Füzetek* (Egyptian Booklets). We aimed to make aware as many people as possible of the newly acquired pieces of knowledge; at the same time these lectures provided us opportunity for a kind of summary and systematization, for reviewing the still immature results, and for expanding the professional consultation.

After years actively pursued in-depth research on *materia medica*, we have found interesting, even currently valid discoveries in the case of figs, sycamore, Christ's thorns, or coniza. In doing so, we collaborated with the Institute of Pharmacognosy at the Semmelweis University and the Hungarian Free Radical Research Society (Magyar Szabadgyök-Kutató Társaság), also involving pharmacist students at the University, focusing on free radical researches. It has led to a significant change in attitudes and approaches. Our research has yielded results that are as valuable from a medico-historical point of view as from a medical point of view, because they may provide solutions to broaden boundaries in the field of pharmacognosy and to discover newer therapeutic indications. It has been proven that the use of the ingredients listed in ancient Egyptian recipes studied so far can be proven to be effective drugs even today. One of our articles¹ was awarded the Lajos Markusovszky Prize by the *Orvosi Hetilap* (Medical Weekly, May 2017). The student, we worked with, took also a 2nd place prize for her work made for the rector's competition in the frame of the Scientific Students Body (TDK).

Scientific publications were thus produced and the need for wider dissemination of the results arose again. The idea of a public meeting or dissemination conference

1 Katona, Júlia – Győry, Hedvig – Blázovics, Anna: „Azon orvosságok kezdete, melyeket a májra adnak”. [The beginning of the medicaments given for the liver]. *Orvosi Hetilap* 157/48, 2016, 1926-1933.

was raised, where ancient Egyptian medicine could be approached from a historical, cultural, ethnographic and pharmaceutical historical point of view, while drawing attention to the diverse uses and health-preserving and improving roles of these plants. In the course of these researches, the study of the contemporary treatment of the liver came to the fore again, which is also reflected in the current volume, building on our previous results. In the course of this investigations, it was suggested that it would be worthwhile to follow the *jns.t* / anise identification more thoroughly. The results of the researches can be found in this volume, significantly expanded compared to what was presented at the conference. Another direction of research is the mineral analyses, which we recently launched with the participation of Dr. Klára Szentmihályi.

The year 2018 then gave our research team a new impetus and members. In addition to phytotherapy and pharmacognosy, there was an anthropological direction, as can be seen from our article in the volume, which is an expanded material for the 2019 conference presentation. At the same time, we have relaunched the series of *Aegyptus et Pannonia* scholarly symposia with a new direction: mummy research. That year namely, a PhD student Enikő Szvák, who has been investigating the Egyptian mummies of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, asked us to help with our expertise in ancient Egyptian culture by participating in the research of these mummies. We already made some insight into this field as we have continually monitoring the publications concerning ancient Egyptian mummies, but made some practical steps only in 1996, with the help of Ildikó Pap, the than director of the Anthropological Department, when a publication was issued for the 90th centenary of the Hungarian excavation at Gamhud, Middle Egypt. It included the human remains kept in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, taken out from the coffins published at that time.²

We have now embarked on a much wider range of activities, as indicated by our joining to the Nephthys Project. The new, exciting topic added new colour to the palette of our research team, and brought our earlier conference plan to the forefront. It was a natural consequence of organizing this conference together with the Hungarian Museum of Natural History. Still, since there are also ancient Egyptian monuments in the Hungarian National Museum's Semmelweis Museum of Medical History in Budapest, we wanted to draw attention to them as well. The fact that this conference remained not just a plan is due to the active participation of the two partner-institutions, and also to the National Cultural Fund (NKA), which not only made possible to organize the conference, but also contributed to the publication of this volume. We received further help from Ibisz Bt.

² Győry, Hedvig, *Az első magyar ásatás Egyiptomban, 1907. Válogatás a gamhudi ásatás anyagából, 1997.* [The first Hungarian Excavation in Egypt, 1907. Selection from the material of the Gamhud excavation. 1997]. Budapest 1998.

The Nephthys Project

Enikő Szvák

The Nephthys Project was launched in the fall of 2018 as part of a PhD dissertation. The aim of the research is a comprehensive series of studies on Egyptian human and animal mummies and mummy remains kept in Hungary. A particularly important aspect is to implement a multidisciplinary investigations that involves the least invasive procedures possible.

The research began with the biological anthropological reconstruction of the Egyptian mummy collection preserved in the Anthropological Department of the Hungarian Museum of Natural History. Based on the preliminary results, the investigation of the pathologically most promising pieces continued with industrial CT examination, electron microscopy and 3D digital microscope analyses. Radiocarbon dating was also performed, aiming to get a more precise age-determination of the mummies. We wanted to learn the age of death, the possibility of diseases, general health conditions, and materials used in mummification for the deceased individuals, and the period from which the remains originate.

In the course of our research, we found that not only human remains, but also the organic and inorganic chemical analysis of the materials used for mummification can add a lot of new and exciting information to our knowledge about mummies. Thus, the identification of mummifying substances is also treated as a priority area during the project.

We are also experimenting with new procedures. Our goal is not only to realize a multidirectional research, but also to advance in the field of innovation in the future. Therefore, we also performed non-destructive ion beam studies on mummy remains with the help of ATOMKI employees in Debrecen. The preliminary results of the procedure are encouraging, and it is believed that the method may be suitable for a preliminary assessment of the bones at a later stage. This could make further chemical analysis on remains in future safer and easier.

The project resulted in several conference-presentations and professional posters at renowned national and international conferences. These successes gave us the chance to find new research partners and bring new mummy remains under investigation. Currently, the research material of the project includes the remains of the Egyptian human and animal mummies of the HNM's Semmelweis Museum of Medical History and the Török Aurél Collection in the Eötvös Lóránt University, Budapest, as well as the fish mummy of the Déri Museum, Debrecen.

Some of the test series have been completed, and other ones are still ongoing, as the evaluation of the results is. The first scientific publications were scheduled for 2020, which is unfortunately severely hampered by the limitations due to COVID-19.

With the scientific conference we organized, we want to create a tradition. We want to encourage renowned international researchers to participate in the mummy conferences held in Hungary every few years to become an integral part of the circulation of the Egyptian mummy research. In our opinion, it is essential to maintain old professional relationships and make new acquaintances also for the sake of research and to increase our professional knowledge. To maintain the research's smoothness, from time to time, the partial results available to us should be presented to the general public and the narrower profession in the framework of scientific lectures and professional posters. It makes it easier to clarify the issues before the publications appear, so we also organized a mummy workshop on one of the afternoons of the "Health and Life" conference. We presented our results in front of a forum of excellent researchers.

We are pleased to announce that there are currently more than twenty Hungarian and international institutions and more than thirty colleagues working free of charge for the success of the research. We hope that this number will get higher over time and that even more will join us.

At present, we hope that our relatively recent research will stand the test of time and enrich the positive image of Hungarian anthropologists and researchers abroad as a long-term project.

Health and Life in Ancient Egypt conference

In 2012, our conference "Cultures and Therapies. Ethnography and Science" failed due to financial reasons, so it was a special pleasure for us to successfully apply in 2018/2019 for an international conference with the Hungarian Natural History Museum and the HNM's Semmelweis Museum of Medical History. The conference entitled "Health and Life in Ancient Egypt. Mummies in Focus" was held in August 2019. Its program could be followed on the conference's website to make it available to those interested.

The conference was preceded by a press reception organized by the Hungarian Natural History Museum, for which a separate promo spot was created. The participants of the conference were greeted by dr. Ildiko Pap PhD, the honorary director of the Department of Anthropology of the Hungarian Natural History Museum and dr. Gábor Tomka, the deputy general director of the Hungarian National Museum and the Egyptian Embassy. In the introductory speech the three organizing institutions presented their respective research and plans. During the lectures, we enjoyed the hospitality

of the two partner institutions for three days. An exhibition was also organized in the Semmelweis Museum of Medical History in honour of the conference, which was presented to the participants by the museum staff on the occasion of a reception. During the conference, lectures, a poster section and two workshops were held, which provided opportunities to get to know the new results more thoroughly, also on the situation of the research in ancient TB, and discuss the issues that arose during the research of the examined mummy material in the Museum. Many of the presentations were held as introduction to discussions and consultations, which provided an opportunity for exchanges of professional experience.

The program ended with a visit to the Egyptian exhibition in the Museum of Fine Arts and another one to the Holy Right preserved in St. Stephen's Basilica. It was also possible to visit the periodical exhibition "Gold of Mexico" and try out the "Escape Room" of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Acknowledgement

The publisher of this volume would like to thank all the organizations and individuals, who made possible the conference and the publication of the volume, as well as the speakers and the volunteers involved in organizing and conducting it, who contributed to the success of the conference by their work.

We want to emphasize the work of Krisztina Scheffer and Enikő Szvák, who not only contributed to the lectures, but also took part in eliminating many of the pitfalls of the organization process.

We also say special thanks to the members of the Scientific Committee: Prof. dr. Rosalie David (University of Manchester), dr. Dina Faltings (Heidelberg Universität, Sammlung Ägyptologisches Institut), dr. Győry Hedvig PhD (HEFS), Prof.dr. Salima Ikram (American University of Cairo), habil. dr. György Pálfi (University Szeged, Anthropology Chair), dr. Ildikó Pap PhD (Hungarian Natural History Museum), Prof. dr. Wilfried Rosendahl (Reiss Engelhorn Museum), Stephanie Zesch (Reiss Engelhorn Museum), habil. dr. Albert Zink (Eurac Research), who took part in the scientific preparation of the conference.

We want again thank the authors of this volume for their professional contributions, and also for their patience and cooperation.

Also, special thanks for Hedvig Király for her assistance in editing work, and for Almamag Bt's work in graphic editing and for its understanding and flexibility during these times burdened with COVID-19.

We then are greatly indebted to Rosalie David in Manchester for her invaluable help by proofreading almost every article in the volume, despite her many other tasks and the situation in Manchester, severely affected by the virus.

We hope you will be as happy to read this volume as the AEC has released it.

ZOLTÁN ARÁNYI (1856-1862), THE MOST FAMOUS CHILD MUMMY FROM HUNGARY

Krisztina Scheffer

HNM Semmelweis Museum of the History of Medicine, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract

The founder of Hungarian pathology, Lajos Arányi conserved the body of his son, Zoltán – who died as a child – with the mummifying procedure he worked out. The date and circumstances of the child's death have been unknown so far, nevertheless these questions are now answered by deciphering a letter preserved and written by his father. It is also an open question, how the mummifying was done. Some new data are present-

ly deduced by the above mentioned letter of Lajos Arányi and his diary, all preserved in the HNM Semmelweis Medical History Museum,¹ and from the perceptions made during the restoration.

KERESZTELVEÁL Certificatum de baptismo	
A születés helye, éve, hava, napja Locus, annus, mensis, dies natiuitatis	Budapest, 1856 jan. 21.
A kereszteleés helye, éve, hava, napja Annus, mensis, dies collati baptismi	Budapest, 1856 jan. 24.
név nomen	József Zoltán
anyja mater	H
apja pater	
teljes neve, vallása, foglalkozása nomen, religio, conditio	ARÁNYI Zoltán József c. p. professio RECHÉNYI József Jósa JOACHIM Etc.
születésének helye, ideje, okai Locus et tempus, natiuitatis	
lakóhely domicilium	Pest Károlyi u. 17.
A kereszteleés helye, neve, vallása, foglalkozása Nomen, Patrocinium, eorum religio, conditio	Wagner Andorás lelkész Dr. Kovácsy József lelkész Dr.
A kereszteleés más neve de hivatalos Nomen et officium baptizantis	Szigetváry Andorás pász. loci
Polgármester Adustratus	

1. Introduction

Zoltán Arányi, nicknamed Zolika, was born on January 21st, 1856 in Budapest as the child of Lajos Arányi and Johanna Joachim. (Figure 1-3).

Lajos Arányi (1812-1887), professor of medicine and archaeologist, was an outstanding figure in the history of Hungarian culture. After studying law and art history he turned

Figure 1. Baptismal certificate of József Zoltán Arányi (inv. XI/1. - 78.140.1)

1 All the pictures in the article are in the possession of the Hungarian National Museum's Semmelweis Museum of Medical History.



Figure 2. Rosenthal, Davis Constantin (1820-1851): Arányi Lajosné. Arányi's wife, born as Johanna Joachim (1824-1883), mid-19th century, oil on canvas, 87 x 70 cm. (inv. VIII/1-85.24.1)

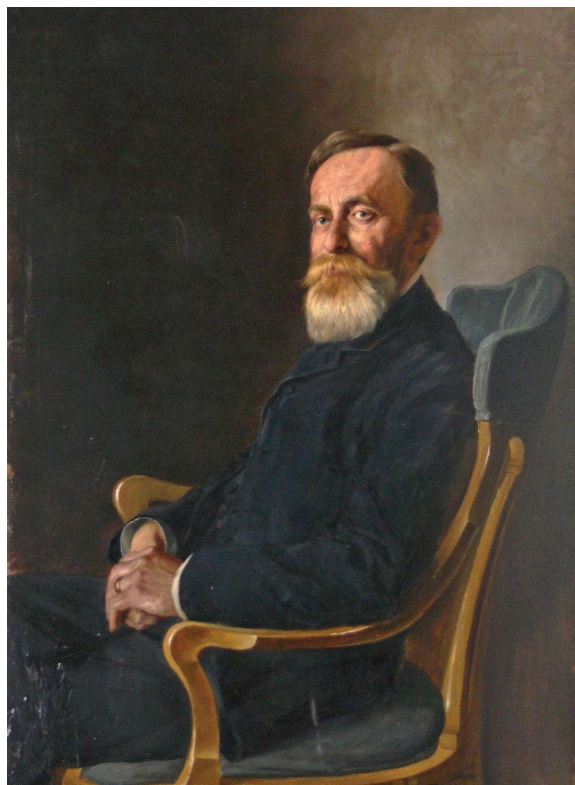


Figure 3. Antal Zilzer (1860-1921): Lajos Arányi (1812-1887), late 19th century, oil on canvas, 130 x 90 cm. (VIII/1-65.201.1)

to medicine as a result of the cholera epidemic of 1831. After completing his studies, he became a teaching assistant to Professor Ferenc Bene at the Medical University in Pest. He deepened his medical knowledge with lectures at the universities of Padua and Vienna. Returning from Vienna to Pest, as a student of Karl von Rokitansky (1804-1878), a Viennese professor, he was the first to practice pathology in Hungary as a science. His work was the first autopsy textbook in Hungarian, for which work he has created and collected the special expressions and words of that field in the Hungarian language. As a lecturer, he participated in the work of the Budapest Medical University for almost 30 years. The medical faculty set up the first pathology institute at its own expense, procured and prepared a number of waxy and plaster products for demonstration purposes, and equipped the institute with about 3,500 pathology preparations through its many thousands of autopsies.

In recognition of his work, he was elected a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1858.²

² REGÖLY-Mérei 1962; MAGYARY-KOSSA 1929; GYÓRY 1936; Kárpáti 1965.

2. Zolika

Lajos Arányi wrote about the birth of his little son in his diary (inv. XI/I 2000.41.1):

“Monday, January 21st

2/4 3 [2,30 PM] After lunch my son was born and named Paris, whom I almost foretold as Hortensia.

I was not so happy for either Árpád or Hortensia and I love this baby at such an early age, because of my former children I cannot be proud. Give the Almighty that what I prophesy to you, be fulfilled and Paris will become an extremely virtuous and humble man.

23th January

My unbaptised son of Paris was baptized to József and Zoltán.”

The loving father’s hopes were not fulfilled: the little boy died in 1862 at the age of six. Lajos Arányi notifies his elder son called Béla by the letter below (Figure 4a-d). He starts in Latin language, follows in children’s manner: Hungarian with his son’s special words and in the way as the small boy pronounced the words, then after a Latin wish, he finishes the letter in the contemporary Hungarian language.

Transcription of the letter:

Translation of its text

Pestini, die 28. Mart. 1862. (Epistola 2. Aprilis)

Quali literae tuae latino exaratae idioma-te gaudio me percellebant, tali tequoque percellere volui inopinata laetitia, transmittendis nimirum brevissimo temporis intervallo desideratum a te (et a me utique perquam comprobatum) dictionarium latinum. Ast homo proponit, Deus disponit, quoniam nimirum nullisper locorum – LACK - praescribendum habui, eumque nisi septimana praeterlapsa adquirre poteram.

Satagebam te, fili mi, jam prius de circumstantiis libri, vel potius librorum horum notum reddere, sed casus certus inopinitus me silere jubebat. Ut hunc casum tecum rite communicare valeam, de drama-te certo, Viennae, ante complures annos edito te informare debei (Sic!). Dramatis huius nomen esse „Filius perditus”. Nomen hocce equidem tecum in nulla exis-

Pest, March 28, 1862 (letter sent on April 2nd)

As happily as your letter in Latin filled me, I wanted to give you the same unexpected joy of sending you soon the Latin dictionary you asked for (and which I also considered very good). But man plans, God does, because I wasn’t in any place in Pest – LACK – I booked, and I was only able to get it last week.

I would have informed you earlier, my son, of the fate of this book or rather these books, but a certain unexpected event forced me to listen. In order to properly communicate this event to you, I need to introduce you to a certain drama that has been published in Vienna for several years. The title of the drama was ‘The Lost Boy’. You have nothing to do with this title,

tit relatione, id tamen tui interest, quod drama dictum ea ratione exaratum sit, quod, lector aut vero spectator illius iam sapidissime ridere, jam acerbissime flere constringatur. Tentato adeo ego quoque modalitatem dicti dramatis imitari, et tibi lacrymas, mox risus, moxque fletus elicere.

Halljuk:
Édes Bélám!

*Én bugyii csöpredét már oppolába (oskolába) járot, de csat attor ha medbernet, vagy ha tét (:két:) bidit (kiflit) adnat, az oppolába méd med nem tanultam az abcét, de edd csép énetet tudot, ez így med:
Lópoëne menni
Lópoëne menni
Mert a tibi csat
Mert a tibi csat
(:ezt a tudós Akadémia sem érti:)*

Tattson tudda már edész Eruropát, med edész német orcsádot., de én méd csat panova (spanyol) orcsádot tudom, méd is acsonda (azt mondja) az a csunya Tattson hod én ottsoha vadot-eh! mer nem tudda a ottsoha Tattson hod mitor én előcsör taptam a nebemnapjára csütemént, attor ed mados csétről (székről) leecstem, attor a bal oldali látidedem (látidegem) gyöterén edd ér medputtant (megpukkant) mint az a piritusba medlláthatod, mert a ré papa eltette az ecsemet ezér bótam (voltam) skulavi, vagyis bandzsa – aztán pógyógyútam, de egy ticsit ottoba maratam, mert az érrepedésen tibül (kívül) edd tis bizset is izsadt ki az agybelőm (agyvelőm) csép tsittsa bizset három tanálval,

but you should know that the said drama was written in such a way that the reader, or rather the viewer, would be forced to laugh tastefully and to cry bitterly. So, I'm also trying to imitate the manners of that drama and make you tears, laughter, and crying again.

(Translated by Dr. László András Magyar)

Listen:
My Sweet Béla!

*I already go to oppola (school) in buggy, but only if I am beaten or given (: two :) bidits (croissants), I haven't learnt the alphabet in oppola yet, but I know a little song and it's like this:
Lópoëne go
Lópoëne go
Just a tibi csat
Just a tibi csat
(: the Academy of Scientists does not understand this either :)*

Tattson (Taksony) already knows the whole of Europe and the whole of Germany, but I only know a panova (Spanish) country, even that ugly Tattson says I'm stupid-eh! Because he does not know, the foolish Tattson that when I first got a cake for my name day, I fell from a high chair, then a vein burst at the root of my left optic nerve, as you can see in the spirit, because Dad took my mind; that is why I was skulavi, that is swivel-eyed – then I recovered, but I remained a little stupid because in addition to the vascular rupture, my brain also sweated out my brain with nice clean water with three spoons, as much as I always got for taste from my dad for coffee every day.

mint mennyit mindéd tútulúba (kóstolóban) taptam az ie papától minden nap a távéből. Folyó hó 18-án iden rettsettem (reszkedtem) mert hided lelt, nem ettem kereret (kenyeret) a puttsa (puska) csem tellett, de más nap udráltam jó ízúen ettem, ittam, borlebest is pattam (kaptam) med bidit (kiflit) 20-án reddel éneteltem mint sottom(szoktam) hamicsan, de hangocsan, mint edd batter (bakter) lőböldöztem a fa puttsából a dandról egy edd edész nad tédlát madam ledobtam, de nem jól cséloztam, mert a latatosnéat nem találtam a pejére (fejére) csak mellette esett le a tédla, az ie mama medatart tesarbesen berni de mettsánt (megszánt) mert rettsettem mert tudod rám jött a hiadegrázás? aztán a borlebest tiotáltam, aztán csépen elaluttam elaluttam, az ie papa elment dél után tizenórákor (két órákor) tanításra, az ie mama med a tertbe, én is elsöttem (elszöktem) a terbe, méd pedid a paradicsom tertbe, hol angyalnak soroztattam be madamat és előbb ministrálot az Úr Ittsennek mint te édes Bélám minden fetete rebenendád dacsára érted imáttozó öcséd.

Arányi Zoltán

†Requiescat in pace, aut potius oret pro nobis erit enim jurata dogmata santre religio mit qua puer innocens 6 annorum probubiliium angelus, et fons tutelararis noffer.

Ha egy éves korában fejére nem esett volna, akkor jeles ember válhatandott belőle, mert angyali jó szíve és fölötte jó kifejődött veleje vala, de mi haszna, ha törődve volt agya, mint a megrázatot alma s évek óta magában hordá a kora halál (volta-

On the 18th of this month I shivered enormously because I was cold, I didn't eat bread, I didn't need a rifle, but the next day I jumped, I ate it with good taste, I drank, I also got a croissant with wine soup. On the morning of the 20th I sang as I used to, false but loudly like a railway guard. I shot from the wooden rifle from the gang all the day, I then threw a brick, but I didn't aim well because I couldn't find the head of Lakatosné, only the brick fell next to her, mama wanted to beat me properly, but she plowed me because I was shaking?, then I poured out the wine-soup, then I fell asleep nicely then dad went to teach at two o'clock in the afternoon, my mom went to the garden, I also escaped to the garden and even to the tomato garden, where I have enlisted myself as an angel, and I minister to the Lord God earlier than you, my sweet Béla, in spite of all your black reverend. Your brother praying for you,

Zoltán Arányi

†He shall rest in peace, or rather pray for us, the six years old innocent boy will namely be according to the holy religious teaching probably angel, and source for our protection.

If he hadn't fallen on his head when he was one year old, he could have become a great man because he had an angelic good heart and a good soul above it, but what was it good for if his brain was as smashed as a shaken apple and had car-

képpen a savós gutaütésnek magvát – ha fölnőtt volna, ügyefogyott butácska teremtés vált volna belőle s így én megnyugszom a mindenható akaratában – Ő adta, Ő vette, légyen áldott Ő szent neve. Ámen

ried early death, the seed of whey stroke – if it had grown up, it would have become a useless foolish creation and so I resign myself to the will of the Almighty – He gave it, He took it, blessed be His holy name. Amen

Válaszolj, vigasztald bús jó Anyádat, hozd föl az említett argumentumot. Írj egypár sort hugaidnak és Öcsédnek is, de bizonyosan.

Answer, comfort your sad good Mother, and bring up the mentioned argument. Write a few lines for your sisters and your brother as well, but for sure.

Ezek után áldását és ölelését küldi szívből szerető atyád, Lajos

*[on the side of the letter:]
After that, your loving father, Lajos, is sending his heartfelt blessing and embrace.*

Csókol mama és testvéreid, Rosenthalék, nagy papáék

Kisses from mom and siblings, Rosenthals' and grandfathers'

3. Embalming process

The father, as the best embalmer of his age, also wanted to protect his son's body from extinction, as he had done so far with more corpses. Using his own embalming procedure, he mummified the bodies of Archduchess Zsófia, Miklós Wesselényi and others. He describes the procedure in detail in his diary, on the occasion of embalming the corpse of Baron Sándor Palocsay (1820-1856) on January 24th.³ That's how he writes in his diary:


January 29: I start embalming Baron Sándor Palocsay.

January 31: We are ready with the balm that happened like this:

1. *“solutio arzentis kali” 100 (hours) the body soaked*
2. *“solutio corrosivi spirituosa” 12 hours soaked head. (This little 20 must!)*
3. *“Copal” 1 f 36 x pounds needed 3 ? for bandage*
4. *bandage 90 cubits 60 cubits thin 30 cubits wide*
5. *shirt, pants bandage together 6 f*
6. *10 servings of „fragrant grass” from our garden*

³ MAGYARY-KOSSA 1929; NAGY 1862.

Spiriti die 28^{ae} Mart 1862
 (Quintola 2^{ae} Aprilis)



Fili mi delectissime!
 Quae litterae tuae Latinae exaratae idiomate gaudio me
 percollebant, tali te quoque posse illis inopi-
 natae laetitiae, transmittendis nimirum bre-
 vissimo tempore interuallo desideratione a te
 sed a me utique pinguiam comprobatione) elicitis.
 manium latinum, est homo propterea. Deus
 elapsit, quoniam nimirum nullius locorum
 praescribendum habui, quinque nimirum lapsos
 septimanae proterlapsa adquire poteram -
 Sabagebam te fili mi iam prius de eorum.
 stantibus tibi vel potius librorum horum no-
 tum reddere, sed casui certis inopinatus me
 sidere iubebat, ut hunc eadum tuum isto eunu-
 ricare valeam, de dramate certo, siquis ante
 complures annos edito, te informare debet;
 dramatis huius nomen est: filii perditus
 nomen hoc Equidem tecum in nulla exipit
 relatione, id tamen tui in scripto, quod drama
 dictum ea ratione exaratum. sit, quod lecto-

Figure 4a. The letter from Lajos Arányi to Béla Arányi, page 1. (Simmelweis University Archives, personal documents, 308, Lajos Arányi, 1862)

aut vero spectator illius iam sapidissime ridere, iam
 acerbissime flere constringatur, Tentabo adeoque ego
 quoque modalitatem ducti dramatis incitari, et
 tibi laetissimas nunc rivas, neque fletus elicere
 habebit.
 Edeas Belam!
 En baggi cojvedet mor appolaba (Lakolaba) jaret,
 de coar attor ha modboret, vasy ha tet (kety)
 bidit (kijit) adnat, ar oppolaba med mod nem
 tanultam ar a beot, de edel coj eneket tradat,
 ee ijj med: Lajossine menni } (est a tudor
 Lajossine menni } Arkadimie
 Meot a tibi coar } (om eiti)
 Meot a tibi coar }
 Tattor tudta mai edee Crisoprat, med edele
 nemet presadot, de en med coar panora
 (spanjel) presadot tudom, med is acoonda
 (art mondja) ar a csunya Tattor tud en ottoba
 vadot ok! mer nem tudta a ottoba Tattor
 tud mitor en elvisor taptam a nebernapjain
 na csuement, attor ed mados coetriol (vok,
 vol leestem, attor a bal eldali hatidodam
 (latidogom) gyoterei edd er modputtant
 (megputtant) mind art a piritusba medlak
 hatod, mer ac ie papa elotto ar evemet

Figure 4b. The letter from Lajos Arányi to Béla Arányi, page 2. (Simmelweis University Archives, personal documents, 308, Lajos Arányi, 1862)

Undoubtedly, we can say that the embalming of Zolika Arányi, who died 153 years ago, was done very carefully by his father, as the body is still in excellent condition.

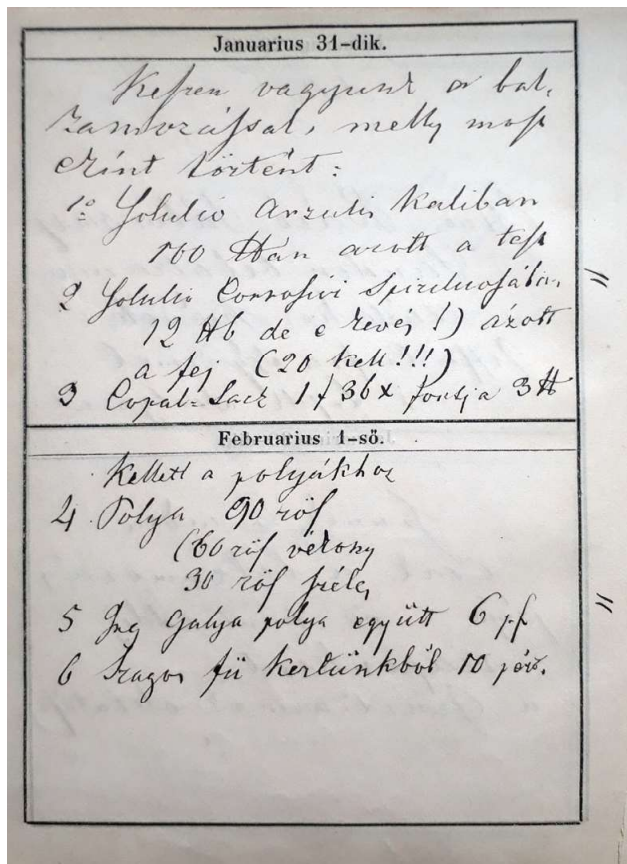


Figure 5. Lajos Arányi's diary (inv.no. inv. XI/I 2000.41.1)

4. Afterlife of the mummy

Until the death of the child's father, the mummy (Figure 6-11) sat at his desk in his study. After the death of Lajos Arányi, Zolika's body was preserved by the family, then in 1925, it was donated to the Institute of Pathology of the Budapest Medical University, from where it was transferred to the Semmelweis Museum in 1969. After its inclusion, the condition of the body was assessed and restored. During the restoration, some technical traces of embalming were also recorded, however, the internal examination of the mummy, in the absence of suitable equipment, could not be carried out without destruction, so no scientific analyses can refer to the method.

The restorer, Zoltán Szalay, carried out the conservation and restoration works in the spring of 1969, and wrote a detailed Restoration Report, which can be found in the Archives of the Semmelweis Museum. It describes the condition of the mummy and the observations made on it during the restoration as follows:

Technical traces and other data observed during restoration:

The scalp is cut and sutured in the sagittal direction.

The hair is smeared with oil dye, the hair falls out after the oil dye is removed. Therefore, the oil dye cannot be removed from this and so the hair looks fluffy. On the left side of the forehead there is a horizontal cut painted red. Probably an injury was marked that way.

The face was painted with oil paint, which wore off the face in some places, gave the face a sick look, obscured many details.

There is a taffeta ribbon around the neck with traces of paint. The tape was used to cover the polishing left uncovered by the dress.

The upper body was covered with a patterned velvet dress at the top. Underneath is a shirt that continues in the form of coveralls like ruffled trousers at the bottom. Next, we were able to count five layers of bandage covering the body on the chest – we could not have uncovered an additional part without injury.

On the right arm, just below the velvet, the skin is visible without a bandage. It could be well stated that the skin does not deteriorate, it is in good condition.

He has gloves on his left hand in a ragged condition. The original canning was probably not successful and therefore only one hand was put into the glove. This is also supported by the fact that there are bare bones in both fingers of the glove. Her waist is tied

with string. The velvet was covered in a thick black-brown tar-like material from the left shoulder to the lap, and at the back from the left shoulder to the right shoulder, completely covering the velvet patterns. Lined with waxed linen inside. Resin spots over knees.

The trousers of the above-mentioned shirt continue with a ragged ruffle at the bottom above the knee with a thick resinous puncture. The rest are inactive with mould stains. Thick crochet wool stockings on the leg. There is no bandage under it. Leather shoes on the feet.

Separate from the squash, originally made of red velvet, between the velvet and the lining there was a cotton-like filling. The velvet is perforated and the seams are flattened. The wig consists of four parts.

All indications are that the dress is a dead dress. The velvet is lined with waxed canvas, the shoes are bigger than they need to be.



Figure 6. Zoltán Arányi (inv.no: 92.86.1)

There has been made no further investigation on the mummy since this time.

5. Plans for the future

It is an interesting question if Lajos Arányi mummified the other persons the same way or if there are changes and if so, in which direction. During decades, he was active in

this field. Further research is needed to know where his mummifying process originates from, and why he started this profession. The substances used for embalming, mentioned in Arányi's diary, require further research, because they do not appear in contemporary Hungarian and Austrian pharmacopoeias under this name.

Detailed photos:



Figure 7. Zolika with dimensions

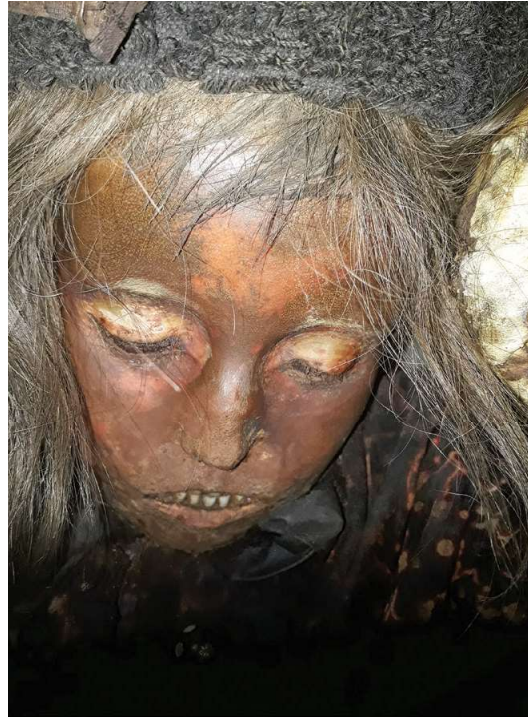


Figure 8. His head



Figure 9a-b. His left hand with glove



Figure 10. His right-hand



Figure 11. The feet

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