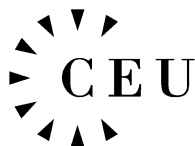


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Edited by
Judith A. Rasson and Katalin Szende



Central European University
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Department of Medieval Studies

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Department of Medieval Studies

Central European University

H-1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 9., Hungary

Postal address: H-1245 Budapest 5, P.O. Box 1082

E-mail: medstud@ceu.hu Net: <http://medievalstudies.ceu.hu>

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20 YEARS OF MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT CEU
JUNE 14–15, 2013

Gábor Klaniczay

Celebrating anniversaries of institutions has two functions. In the first place – revisiting our past, meeting former students, colleagues, recalling past achievements, remembering those who already left us – this is an exercise of self-knowledge, identity, and also of self-reflexivity. Who are we? Where are we now? What have we achieved? Have we reached the goals we originally planned? Second: this is also a stepping stone for thinking about our future – recharging our batteries, gathering new plans, constructing the assets for the next 20 years to come.

It was an immense pleasure to welcome about sixty of our alumni (from among 402 successfully graduated MAs and 72 PhDs) and a dozen of our former visiting faculty for this event, a two day series of academic events, three exhibitions, and five field trips to hidden treasures of Budapest museums. In what follows, I provide a brief overview of this flow of events, which I had the task to coordinate with the help of many student and departmental “helpers.” I thank, above all, the assistance of Teodora Artimon, Katalin Dobó, Zsuzsanna Godány, Eszter Konrád, and Annabella Pál.

Let me start with the three exhibitions. The Octagon Hall of the Monument Building of the CEU was populated for the week of this anniversary with a poster exhibition of successfully concluded research projects of medieval studies alumni, testifying to the academic potential of the new generation of medievalists from our department. We invited our former students for this contest, and we got 23 excellent posters from the following alumni:

Adelina Angusheva (Bulgaria, MA 1994, PhD 1995), Irene Barbiera (Italy, PhD 2003), László Benke (Hungary, MA 2003), Irene Bueno (Italy, MA 2002, PhD 2010), Fabrizio Conti (Italy, PhD 2011), Margaret Dimitrova (Bulgaria, PhD 2000), Lucie Dolezalová (Czech Republic, PhD 2005, habilitation 2012), Dávid Falvai (Hungary, MA 2001, PhD 2006), Frederik Felskau (Germany MA 1999, PhD 2005), Kateřina Horníčková (Czech Republic, PhD 2009), Jelena Jarić (Macedonia, MA 2008), Uladzimir Kananovich (Belarus, MA 1995, Cand. Sci. 1997), Olha Kozubska-Andrusiv (Ukraine, PhD 2007), Vasco La Salvia (Italy, PhD 2006), Benedek Láng (Hungary, PhD 2003), David Movrin (Slovenia, MA 2002, PhD 2008), Giedré Mickunaitė (Lithuania, PhD 2002), Jeremy Mikecz (USA, MA 2009), Marina Miladinov (Croatia, PhD 2003), Petra Mutlová (Czech

Republic, PhD 2009), Iryna Polets (Poland, MA 2008, PhD 2013), Cosmin Popa-Gorjanu (Romania, PhD 2004), Péter Szabó (Hungary, Czech Republic, PhD 2005), Tanja Tolar (Slovenia, MA 2012).¹ The posters, put in final shape by Judith Rasson, have been uploaded to our website and can be reached under the address: <http://medievalstudies.ceu.hu/PublicationsbyAlumni>.

A second exhibition was arranged in the library by Balázs Nagy, a representative sample of the books written or edited by our alumni (according to our documentation 162 altogether, till June 2013). This publication list is also accessible on our website under the address: <http://medievalstudies.ceu.hu/ProjectsbyAlumni>.

The third exhibition was a remake, a renewed presentation of the show *Contagious Middle Ages in Post-Communist East-Central Europe*. This exhibition originally stemmed from a research project of the Medieval Studies Department, relying upon the cooperation of a group of 22 alumni, entitled *Uses and Abuses of the Middle Ages in Central Europe*, from which an exhibition was organized in 2003 (for our 10 years anniversary). Then further material has been assembled and exhibited on the occasion of the large international conference arranged by János M. Bak in March 2005 entitled *Gebrauch und Missbrauch des Mittelalters, 19–21. Jahrhundert / Uses and Abuses of the Middle Ages: 19th–21th Century / Usages et Mésusages du Moyen Âge du XIX^e au XXI^e siècle*. In this second round the help of a further group of students was essential, coordinated by three alumni: Ottó Gecser, Trpimir Vedriš, and Gábor Virágos. In September 2006 an even larger exhibit was organized at the Centrális Galéria of the Open Society Archive, with the present title, curated by Gábor Klaniczay and Péter G. Tóth, with the cooperation of Katalin Dobó and Péter Erdősi. The exhibition has much of its material on a website <http://osaarchivum.org/files/exhibitions/middleages/>. This material also travelled to the U.S., and on the invitation of Prof. Randolph Starn, the canvases made from it were on show at the Townsend Center for the Humanities in Berkeley in 2008. These canvases, completed with some new data, were presented here for the anniversary celebration and assisted by a show of medieval martial arts by the experimental archaeology group of Csaba Hidán (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, Budapest).

The academic program of the festivities began on June 14th, with a day-long set of Alumni Round-Tables. The underlying idea was that in seven fields relating to Medieval Studies, a group of 4–5 selected alumni would chat with 1–3

¹ Where the PhD of the authors is from CEU, we only indicate this title here, and where this title, or a higher one, has been acquired elsewhere, we have also indicated the MA obtained at CEU.

of our professors about the current cutting edge issues within that territory. The following themes and participants were selected:

- *Physical and Cultural Space* (organized by Katalin Szende, Judith Rasson)
 - Olha Kozubska-Andrusiv (Münster University/Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv)
 - Edit Belényesiné Sárosi (National Heritage Board, Kecskemét Regional Office)
 - Judit Majorossy (Ferenczy Museum, Szentendre)
 - Orsolya Réthelyi (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)
 - Péter Szabó (Botanical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno)
- *Material Culture and Social Context* (organized by Alice Choyke, József Laszlovszky)
 - Irene Barbiera (Università di Padova – CEU, Budapest)
 - Dóra Mérai (New Europe College, Bucharest)
 - Magdolna Szilágyi (National Heritage Center, Budapest)
 - Vasco La Salvia (Università di Chieti)
- *Byzantine & Caucasian Studies* (organized by Niels Gaul)
 - Florin Leonte (Harvard University)
 - András Németh (Vatican Library)
 - Nikoloz Aleksidze (University of Oxford/ Free University of Georgia)
 - Zara Pogossian (John Cabot University, Rome)
- *Early Modern Medievalisms* (organized by Marcell Sebők, Tijana Krstić, György Endre Szőnyi)
 - Enikő Békés (Center for the Humanities, Institute of Literature, HAS, Budapest)
 - Gabriella Erdélyi (Center for the Humanities, Institute of History, HAS, Budapest)
 - Péter Erdősi (Atelier, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)
 - Robert Kurelić (University of Pula)
- *Cult of Saints and Other Cults* (organized by Gábor Klaniczay, Volker Menze, Marianne Ságghy)
 - Reyhan Durmaz (Brown University)
 - Frederik Felskau (Cologne)
 - Ottó Gecser (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

- Marina Miladinov (Matthias Flacius Illyricus Theological Faculty, Zagreb)
- *Philosophy, Patristics and Eastern Christianities* (organized by György Geréby, István Perczel)
 - Levan Giginishvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University)
 - Jozef Matula (Palacky University, Olomouc)
 - Eszter Spät (CEU, Budapest)
 - Tamás Visi (Palacky University, Olomouc)
- *Images and Visual Culture* (organized by Gerhard Jaritz, Béla Zsolt Szakács)
 - Kateřina Horníčková (IMAREAL, Krems)
 - Anu Mänd (University of Tallinn)
 - Dragoș-Gheorghe Nastasoiu (CEU, Budapest)
 - Emese Sarkadi Nagy (Christian Museum, Esztergom)

The round-tables provided us with fascinating new insights, critical observations, and inspiring propositions, which have indeed shown medieval studies as a lively, burgeoning field of historical inquiry. The highlight of the evening was a concert by the Pécs-based *Sator Orchestra*, entitled *Creatio. A Modern Approach to Medieval Hymns*. This successful orchestra has been organized by our PhD alumnus György Heidl, an expert in the writings of the young Augustine, currently professor at the University of Pécs. The performers were: Szilvia Bognár – vocals, Júlia Gyermán – violin, György Heidl – acoustic guitar, Zoltán Kovács – double bass, Viktória Szakács – cello.

For the morning of the second day of our celebrations we organized five field-trips to “hidden treasures” of Budapest museums, relying upon the help of alumni who are now in leading positions in these museums. (For technical reasons one of these visits, the one to the Academy Library, took place, in fact, on Friday). The following field trips were organized:

The *Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences* was introduced by Gábor Tóth (Deputy Head of Department, Rare book Librarian), who presented us a precious collection of Latin, Greek and German codices. Among them the highlights were a 2nd-century wooden tablet from Verespatak/Roșia Montană, some 9th–11th-century Byzantine fragments from Gyula Moravcsik’s bequest, Conrad Kyeser’s *Bellifortis*, Lodovico Carbo’s *De divi Mathiae regis laudibus rebusque gestis dialogus*.

In the *Museum of Applied Arts* we were hosted by Zsombor Jékely (Director of Collections), where we were shown medieval ivories, important goldsmith works from the Esterházy treasury, chasubles, and other medieval textiles. Going behind

the scenes, we could visit the Collection of Ceramics, where Italian medieval and early Renaissance majolica objects were prepared for us.

The visit to the Restoration Studio of the *Museum of Fine Arts* was organized for us by Dóra Sallay (PhD 2008, Head of Department of Old Master Paintings), who arranged that András Fáy (Head of the Department of Restoration) would introduce the group into the secrets of art conservation based on the works currently under restoration, including a fifteenth-century German panel.

In the *Hungarian National Museum* Etele Kiss (Art historian at the Medieval Department) introduced the group to the “arcanes” of the museum, showing some of the hidden objects not yet displayed because of their disputed authenticity. Among them there is an aquamanile with a female head and a recently acquired ring, supposedly of King Coloman, with a very curious recent history. This visit thus allowed the participants to discuss some of the authenticity issues related to those objects.

Finally, in the *Széchenyi National Library* Anna Boreczky (art historian) presented us a selection of five codices, among them the famous Cod. Lat. 4: *Apollonius pictus*: the oldest known illustrated copy of a Late Antique adventure story (*Historia Apollonii regis Tyri*), a manuscript made around the first millennium in the Benedictine monastery at Werden an der Ruhr, where the monks added humorous notes to the pictures in the course of the following centuries.

The concluding event, on Saturday afternoon, was the two-voice public lecture on *Latin and Greek Middle Ages*, by Patrick Geary (Princeton, Institute for Advanced Study) and Claudia Rapp (University of Vienna) – the text of which we publish in the present volume.

The lecture was preceded by a representative series of addresses. First John Shattuck, Rector and President of CEU, provided the public a flattering overview of the achievements of the department and the importance of this field for the University, the Central European region, and academic scholarship in general. Then came a sequence of short addresses of the five professors who have served as heads of department: Gábor Klaniczay (1993–1997, 2005–2007), János M. Bak (1997–1998), József Laszlovszky (1998–2005), György Geréby (2007–2010), Katalin Szende (2010–2013). And – as usual – a grand reception, an enjoyment of a series of slides from our long history, pleasurable conversations, food, drink, and dance concluded the event. We are looking forward to the 30th such anniversary in 2023!