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Evidence of Cultural Exchange in German and Hungarian Music and Song in Print

This presentation forms a chapter in a book-length project evaluating the Hungarian poet, Sebastian Tinodi (c. 1505–1556) who chronicled the war between Ottoman, Hungarian and Habsburg forces in the region. My book is framed by the re-conceptualization of Europe in which the West no longer forms a center with the geographic remainder forming a somewhat less developed peripheral region. The new framework offers the opportunity to evaluate and integrate areas heretofore less studied and to come to terms with their great ethnic and linguistic diversity.

Sebastian Tinodi is unique in Hungarian literary history because his are the earliest extant secular songs composed with melodies. Spanning his lifetime we see vernacular secular poetry transformed in its mode of transmission from oral to literate composition and to print all the while continuing to be performed. Hungary bypassed the long intermediary stage of written vernacular poetry intended for performative reception as found in England, France and Germany (See my book, *Re-Membering the Present*) and instead moved from orality almost directly to the printed word. Tinodi was also the first to collect many of his poems into a cycle of songs with musical notation in a printed book entitled *Cronica* published in 1556 thereby providing a variety of audiences with dual means of reception and transmission, ie by listening, or by reading. In my presentation I examine artistic production in this multi-ethnic and multi-lingual region and am able to discover the cultural exchange between Germany and Hungary evident in the media of printing and book production, poetic and musical composition, and musical performance. Thus, regardless of the warfare splitting apart the population in this frontier region, inter-cultural exchange continued. Tinodi's book with its woodcuts and printed musical notation proves that his oeuvre adapts to new performance strategies and participates in pan-European poetic and musical genres.