

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE OF THE
HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**



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HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



BUDAPEST 📍 2019



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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S WELCOME



“I wrote this when the sky was still serene...” Mihály Vörösmarty, our illustrious 19th century poet wrote the poem, whose first line I have quoted, in a period when Hungarian intellectuals were pondering over all that was important for their community. It is a pessimistic poem, and if we read it today it refers to the fact that our daily work and activity is influenced by a number of factors that disable us to act upon the inner logic of our profession.

The tasks of libraries have remained unchanged only in the broadest sense, i.e. exploration, collection development, processing, publication and service, whereas the tools we use to carry out these tasks and the skills we need to perform them, have considerably changed. The supporting authorities of libraries, in our case the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, have always expressed their expectations about what kind of activity we should currently focus on. However, the MTA Library and Information Centre, and may I also quickly add the Archives, have also performed important national duties. Duties which were assigned to our library by the direct order of the National Assembly of Hungary, and which put us in a financially dependent position on the Hungarian Government. In the course of carrying out our duties, the General Assembly of MTA, i.e. all Hungarian researchers holding at least a doctoral degree, have a say in what we do via their institutions, and we are obliged to meet all expectations. Let me reflect here on the pessimistic poem line I started with. Recently there has been a dissonant relationship forming in a manifolded and complex way between the ones whose expectations we are supposed to meet by supporting their work.

According to the latest Strategic Plan of the MTA Library and Information Centre, we intend to become the library of Hungarian sciences in the nearest future. This decision was made by following one of the Janus-faced directions of the librarian world, the one shaped by today's digital tendencies. It is the increasingly technology focused nature of the world that has enabled us to turn in this direction. In order to collect all the results of Hungarian science, we cannot avoid going digital. It has become one of our prominent national duties to

collect the digital copies of Hungarian handwritten and printed scientific heritage, including contemporary results as well, the latter entailing the documentation and preservation of the works of Hungarian scientists living in any part of the world. However, in order to do so, it is particularly important for us to make the results of international research widely accessible to Hungarian communities. It is the responsibility of our library to provide cost effective access to these for research hospitals, universities and research communities. Since the 1960s the MTA Library has been one of the pioneers to facilitate the evaluation of Hungarian scientific performance, based on international standards. By now it has not only become one of our statutory obligations, but our department responsible for the analysis of scientific efficiency has also grown into a Centre of Excellence of the European Union.

The MTA Library as an institution has been playing a role in the most important movements of today. Providing open access to publications for the entire society may become the basis of citizen science in the future. There are many arguments in favour of libraries turning into museums, places of recollection. The recollection accumulating in our library for the past nearly two hundred years is not only the recollection of cultural communities once living in the Hungarian Kingdom, but of many other ethnic groups of the world, too. Besides European handwritten and printed heritage we hold works of Central Asian, Chinese, Tibetan, Turkish, Arabic and Persian groups as well. Not only does our Library process these works, but we also conduct scientific research about them, and make great efforts to disseminate and exhibit these treasures so that cultural memories become widely known.

Poet Mihály Vörösmarty ends his poem with these words:

“Ask then the aging, wrinkled prostitute/ What has she done to her unhappy sons?”

We hope that the scientists of the forthcoming generations will find with content that the Library has taken advantage of its opportunities and we have not wasted the goods entrusted to us. We would also be glad to see that our supporting authority together with the ones directly influencing our work think of the Library in a responsible manner, keeping the fact in focus that we, together, will have to account for what we have done to posterity.

Budapest, 10th July 2019

István Monok



🌿 THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences founded in November 1825 and its library established six months later were both brought to life by patriotic generosity to advance the educated Hungarian society. The founding charter of the Learned Society of Hungary defines its primary objective as fostering the Hungarian language by supporting the production and translation of new, relevant scientific and literary works, finding, acquiring and publishing Hungarian and Hungary-related manuscripts and supporting linguistic research. Further ideas included opening linguistic tenders, offering publication awards and issuing manuscripts, journals and almanacs. All this had required a library to be founded.

On March 17, 1826, during the course of the Diet in Pressburg (now Bratislava, Slovakia), the representative of Szatmár had presented the Lower House with the wish of Count József Teleki (1790-1855), who later became the first president of the Academy, to donate their family library of 30,000 volumes to the Scientific Institution of Hungary. The Statutes included in the record of the Diet explains why the Learned Society needs its own library as follows.

“In order the future Learned Society will be able to promote the national language and so that it can perform its duties effectively, it is to be supported by a great amount of literary aid, particularly by sizeable collections of books. Despite the undeniable fact that both the National Museum and the Library of the Royal University of Sciences of Pest abound in means of this sort, the former, due to its primary function, collects mainly items relating to Hungary, while the latter, facing a lack of funds, is restricted in its financial means, thus leaving a great deal to be desired in the enormous field of human knowledge. Primarily for this reason, but also in order to promote the common good, and as a sign of our sweetest love for our homeland, the undersigned parties of interest have decided to offer and devote their significant library to the Society mentioned earlier and to all citizens of this country.”

The library along with the Academy became operational in 1831, while the Teleki Library was acquired by the Society only in 1844 since the Academy did not have enough storage room so the collection had to remain at its original location at Szervita Square until then. When



Library interior with open shelves from the 1890s

its classification works and catalogue had been completed, the library finally opened its gates to the members of the Academy and to other scholars at 3 Petőfi Sándor Street at the Trattner-Károlyi House. Hungarian poet Mihály Vörösmarty wrote his ode, *Thoughts in the Library* for this particular occasion commemorating the library's opening on December 23, 1844. The first Chief Librarian was Pál Hunfalvy (1821–1888) appointed by the Teleki family in 1850. By this time, the catalogue of the Teleki-collection had been completed as well. The first *Directives* issued by General Secretary Ferenc Toldy, outlined the terms and conditions for the operation and use of the library, the collection of which, by then, consisted of between 50,000 and 60,000 volumes. Under

the leadership of the chief librarian, a new standardised catalogue system was set up.

The year 1865 brought significant changes for the library when the current building of the Academy had been built by the design of Friedrich August Stüler (1800–1865). The new building was able to provide the library an ample location and all the necessary technical background. The library's comprehensive collection was established by the purchase of foreign books and journals and the participation in exchange programmes with different scientific societies and academies as well as the introduction of the deposit copy system. The Department of Manuscripts had been set up shortly after the establishment of the library, but it did not become an independent department until 1865 under the leadership of archaeologist and art historian Flóris Rómer (1815–1889).

The Library Committee was also established in 1865. Its first chairman was Ferenc Toldy and its members included János Arany, József Budenz, Cyrill Horváth, Pál Hunfalvy, Ányos

Jedlik, Tivadar Pauler, Ottó Petzval and Gusztáv Wenzel. The library's collection policy was first defined in 1869 under József Eötvös in office as the Secretary of Education. According to this, the library's collection scope included publications by foreign learned societies and institutions along with the most prominent scientific journals, dictionaries as well as books on linguistics and literary history besides encyclopaedias, reference books and monographs.

The period of steady growth and development was over when World War I started. Exchange programmes were cancelled, the library stocks became worthless due to post-war inflation, and publishing activities that had been providing grounds for the exchange programmes were on an all-time low. Development was impacted seriously by the lack of money and the wartime environment. Even receiving the donation of the Ferenc Vigyázó legacy in 1929 could not fully compensate the loss, however it consisted of a rich collection of 17,000 books including some rarities. Despite enormous efforts made by the library, it could not preserve its former quality standards. Fortunately, the collection only suffered minor damages during World War II and after the renovation of the building, work could be resumed immediately. Following the restructuring in 1949, the library had become the ultimate research background for the Academy.

After many decades of planning and waiting, a second, internationally renowned special collection, the Oriental Collection was assembled and opened in 1951. For us, Hungarians, the East had always been more than just a geographical idea due to our shared sense of Eastern ancestry. In the 19th century, oriental research was a booming business all over Europe, which motivated Hungarian scholars to scientifically explore the subject. The Oriental Library was opened on the ground floor of the palace and it became the most prominent Oriental collection throughout Hungary. Its layout and the Oriental interior of the reading room are the work of Turkologist László Rásonyi, who was also the director of the Collection between 1951 and 1961.



In 1981, the library was the first in Hungary to launch a computerised topic and citation monitoring system along with scientometric research services. The scope of duties and the expansion of the collection from the 1960s on raised the need for an independent library building. After many failed plans, the Academy's apartment block at 1 Arany János street (built in 1863-64) had been transformed into a new library building between 1985 and 1988. The new location was publicly opened in November 1988 but special collections remained at the original Academy location.

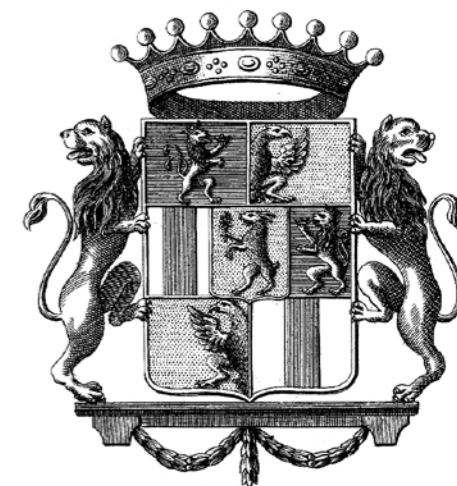
Over the following decades, libraries and the way they work changed considerably due to the internet and information technology gaining more and more significance. The library launched its online catalogue in 1992 and especially since 2000, a vast amount of electronic content has been published as print media started to decline in significance. Through the EIS programme and individual subscriptions, we have been able to provide access to several



*The commemorative plaque
of the library's foundation,
made by János Marschalkó
(1818-1877)*

international online databases at our reading rooms. Our current main objective is to develop our collection through the acquisition of more and more relevant electronic resources besides traditional documents and to serve the Hungarian scientific research and culture in a way that is true to our founders' principles.

In 2012, two large-scale programmes were launched under the Academy's supervision: the Electronic Information Service (EIS) and the Hungarian National Scientific Bibliography (MTMT), both operating as individual departments within the library. Scientometric researches are conducted by the Department of Science Policy and Scientometrics. These structural changes justified the alteration of the institution's name to MTA Library and Information Centre (MTA LIC).



C. LADISLAUS TELEKI

Vive Deo Patriae et Litteris.

Ex libris of László Teleki



THE COLLECTION

The Core Collection

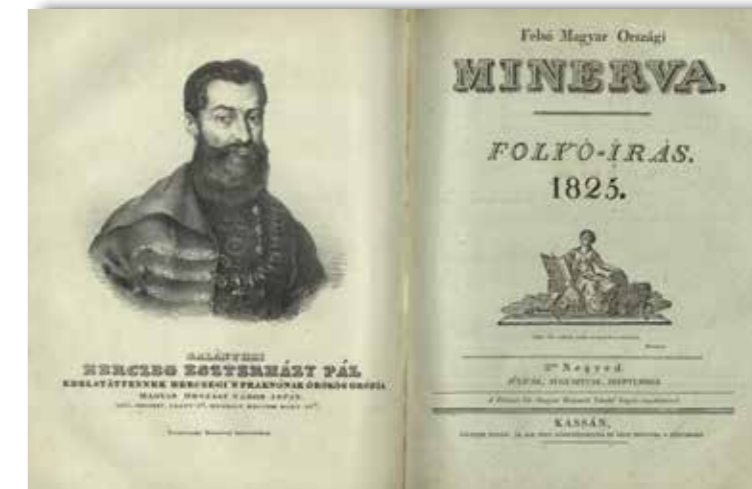
A collection of printed books and periodicals

Over the last two centuries, the collection of the MTA Library and Information Centre grew to have 2.3 million volumes through direct purchase as well as building up fruitful exchange relations with other national and international scientific institutions, academies and partner libraries. The first almanac of the Academy was sent to international learned societies in 1833 with the following accompanying text:

“We are sending you the first almanac of the Hungarian Learned Society with our hope to involve the entire mankind in a joint company of science and art lovers.”



The document exchange programme that followed had served scientific and cultural purposes from the beginning, but its primary goal was to help raising awareness of the Hungarian scientific achievements abroad. By today, these numbers have considerably decreased but we still exchange documents with several significant institutions. These exchange programmes helped us a lot in managing to build up a rich collection of journals and have a multilingual book collection of scientific monographs featuring a number of exciting rarities. The core collection includes monographs and full collections of periodicals published in the Hungarian Kingdom or in Transylvania after 1850, or elsewhere in the world after 1800.



The first issue of Upper Hungarian Minerva, 1825

The MTA Library and Information Centre, which also acts as a national library of science has been building a reference collection of ancient history, classical languages, world literature, linguistics and orientalism. The scope of collection also includes publications of foreign science academies, works related to the history of science, reference books and encyclopaedias in human and social sciences. The publications of Hungarian research institutes are also part of our collection. Just like their great predecessors, many donors, including but not limited to József Arnóth, Gábor Korvin, Anton Schindling, William J. McCormack, enrich our collections today with their valuable book donations. The printed book collection accessible in our Main Reading Room adds up to more than 1.5 million volumes, while the current periodicals amount to 1,000 titles. Users are helped to search for items by Open Access Catalogues.

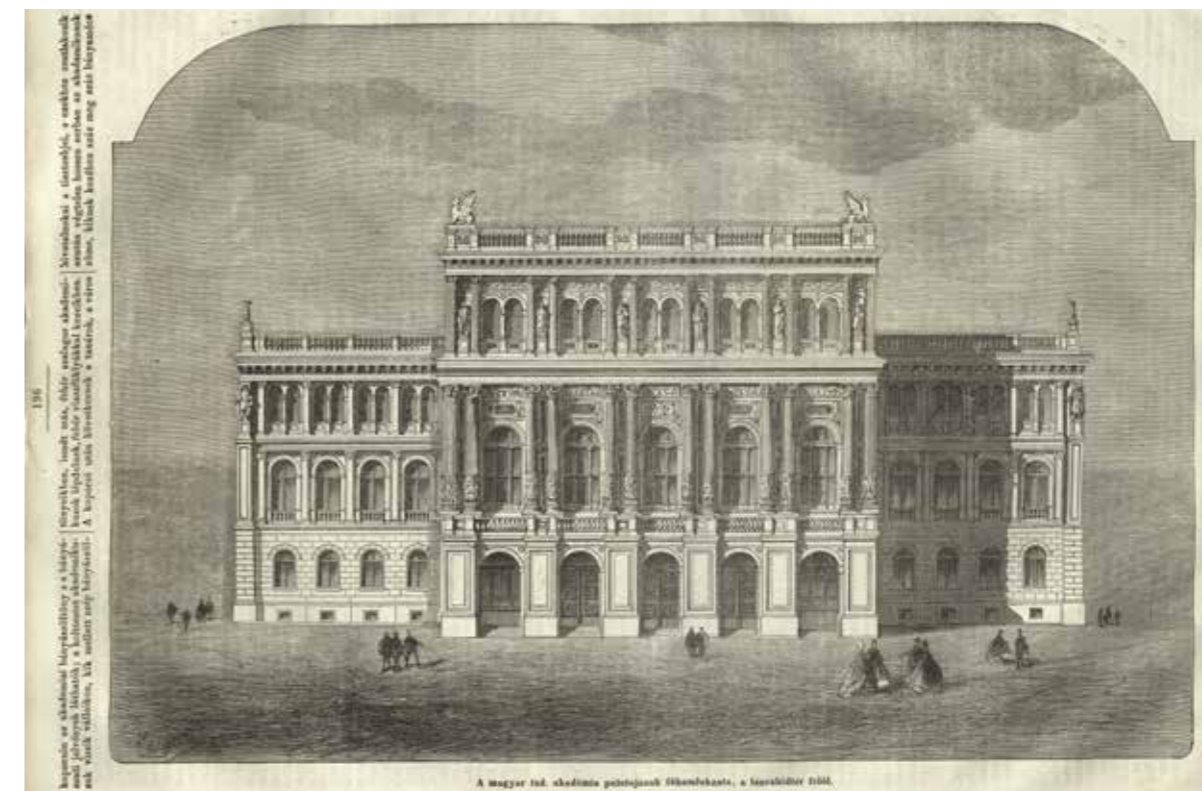


The digital collection, E-resources

We often showcase the most precious pieces of our collection both at exhibitions and on various websites. In our digital collections, we exhibit the works of great scholars, manuscripts and letters by famous poets with rich illustrations and scientifically accurate, multilingual texts. Among others, we have the following digital compilations: the legacy of János Bolyai, Miklós Radnóti, Alexander Csoma de Kőrös and Sir Marc Aurel Stein, respectively, and the water-colour paintings of Thomas Ender of Upper Hungary. Our electronic library includes several international online databases, among others *EBSCO*, *JSTOR* and *Project Muse* – through which tens of thousands of high-quality international full-text scientific journal articles are available for scientific research. Our users can access Hungarian e-publications in *Arcanum DigiTheca* (ADT) and *SZAKTÁRS* e-resources (publications of academic textbook publishers). We also provide access to bibliographic database subscriptions such as *WoS*, which helps researchers with reference and citation data. Most of the electronic resources accessible in the library are provided by the Electronic Information Service (EIS) programme, beside which we also subscribe to compilations specially relating to our scope of collection, e.g. *Brill's New Pauly*, *L'Année Philologique*, *Wiley's Collection of E-books on Ancient History*, *the Encyclopaedia of Islam*, *Gale Literary Sources*. *M[e]TAK*, our meta search engine enables our users to search data in the catalogue, in the e-collections and in open-access parts of the repository simultaneously.

Visiting the Library, Trainings for users, *Book a Librarian!*

We aim to facilitate digital literacy and successful scientific research by providing a comprehensive and detailed introduction to our library's collections and services. Groups of university students accompanied by their teachers are welcome to visit us to attend trainings on how to use the library or a lecture on research methodology. These trainings include useful practical guidance as well as an introduction to the resources relating to the group's interest. Other groups interested in our treasures and services are also welcome to visit us, following prior consultation. Our online platform *Minerva* provides assistance to users on how to use the library by allowing them to search for the science fields of their interest. We have trainings on how to use our integrated catalogue or the latest online databases. Our *Book a Librarian!* Service offers a one-to-one consultation opportunity to the ones needing help in their first steps of research on literature.



The Sunday Gazette, 23 April, 1865

Collection of Manuscripts and Rare Books



The history of MTA Library's manuscript collection goes back to the year 1826 when library founder József Teleki donated the 600 volume-collection of his family library to us. The Learned Society of Hungary was established to foster the Hungarian language, and to this end the General Assembly of 1831 ordered all old Hungarian manuscripts to be collected and copied. As a result of this, the Academy received nine Hungarian codices, which became the first items of our oldest, Hungarian Codices collection, consisting of 84 items altogether today. The most finely illustrated codex of this collection is the *Érsekújvár Codex* copied by Dominican nuns on Margit Island during the battle of Mohács. Besides records of the written

language, manuscripts written until the end of the 18th century also make part of this collection.

The most mysterious piece of our manuscripts collection is the *Rechnitz Codex*, which we received in 1838 from the Rechnitz (Burgenland, Austria) library of the Batthyány family. The mystery lies in the fact that nobody knows who, when, where and in which language wrote this work. Many claim that it is a forgery; there have been attempts to decipher it, with the result that it might have

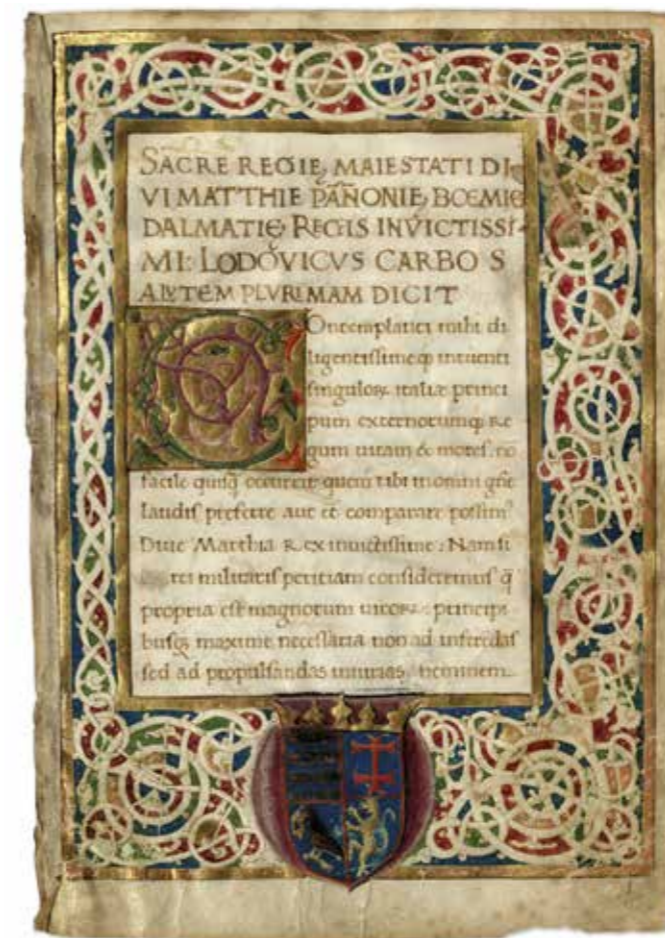


The Rechnitz Codex

been written in Ancient Hungarian or Dacian or Ancient Vedic, but none of these theories have been proved so far.

Latin Codices, the other group of our codices contains 108 items, including a small number of Greek codex fragments. The largest collection development occurred in 1928 when Count Ferenc Vigyázó left his entire fortune, including his 1,700 volume-library containing 73 codices, to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The most illustrious piece of the Latin codices collection is *De divi Mathiae regis laudibus* written by the Italian humanist Ludovicus Carbo, purchased for the Learned Society by founder József Teleki in 1840. This work had once been part of King Matthias' famous library, the Bibliotheca Corviniana.



Ludovicus Carbo: De divi Mathiae regis laudibus, Ferrara, (1473-1475)



The Verespatak Tabula

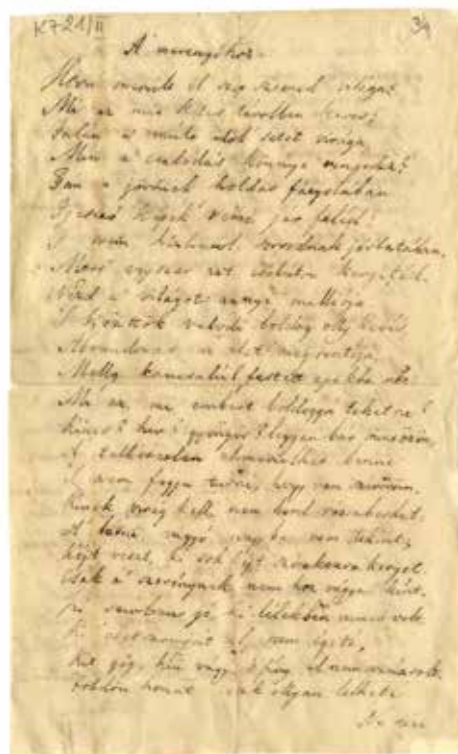
The oldest item of the manuscripts collection is the the *Verespatak Tabula*, an 1,800 year-old wooden tablet from the 2nd century A.D. found in Verespatak (Roşia Montană, today Romania) containing a work contract in Latin.

Our most valuable literary heritage from the Age of Enlightenment include works of Mihály Csokonai Vitéz, Ferenc Kazinczy and Dániel Berzsenyi. Almost all significant pieces of the oeuvre of the ‘Master of Széphalom’ (i.e. Ferenc Kazinczy), and most of his correspondence make part of our collection of manuscripts, together with manuscripts of *To the Hungarians* and *As winter approaches* of the ‘Hermit of Nikla’ (i.e. Dániel Berzsenyi), just to mention two of his most well-known poems.

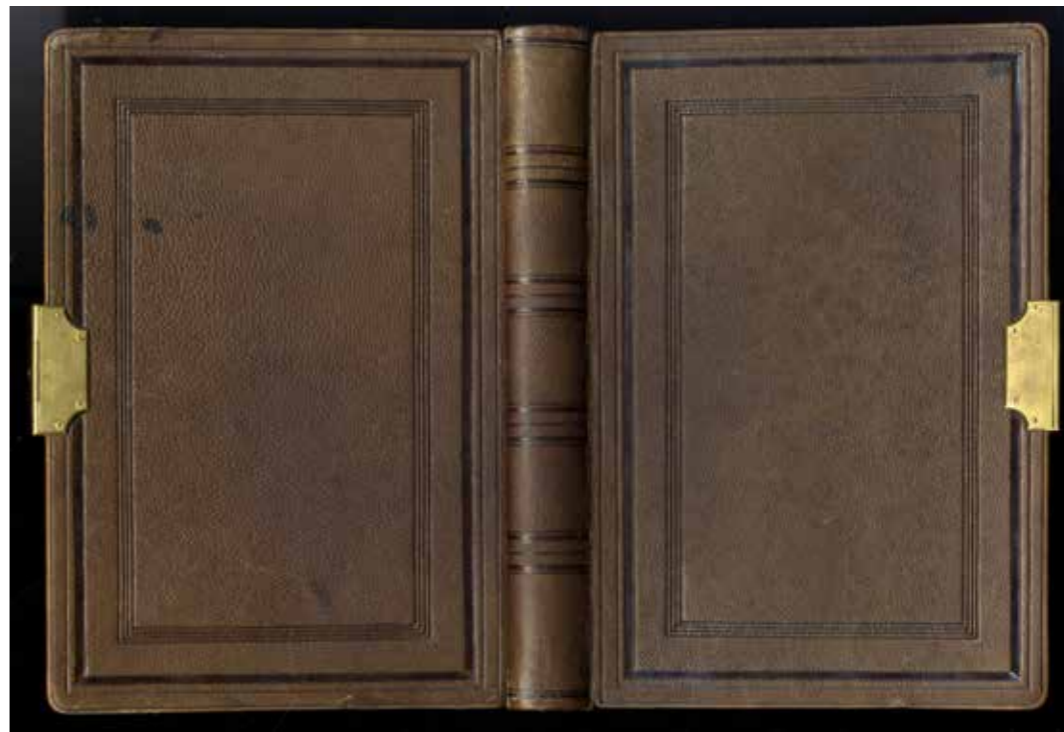
The hand-written legacy of Count István Széchenyi, the founder of the Learned Society, was bought by the Academy in 1875, and includes such prominent pieces as the autographs of *Credit*, *World and Stage*.

Poet Mihály Vörösmarty had strong ties to the Academy, and today we have the honour to keep the manuscripts of his *Appeal*, *To the Day-dreamer*, *Prologue*, *On Mankind*, *The Old Gipsy*, *Csongor and Tünde* and *Thoughts in the Library*, – a part of his legacy.

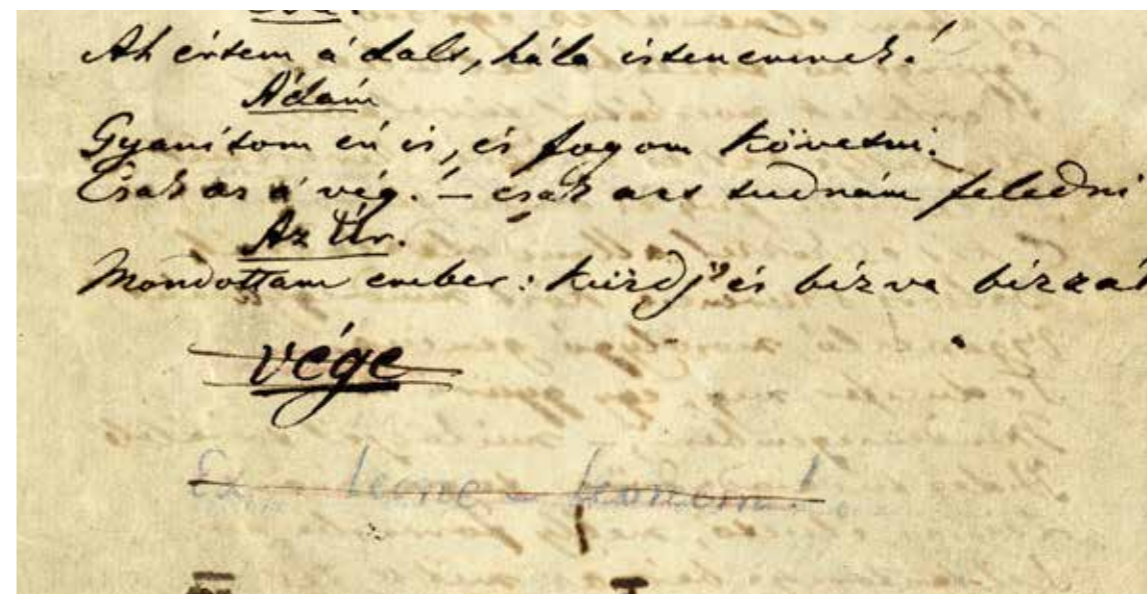
The extensive correspondence of Ferenc Toldy, the second secretary of the Academy and also a major organizer of the Hungarian Reform Era literature provides us with a comprehensive view of the cultural life of this period.



The manuscript of Mihály Vörösmarty's *To the Day-dreamer*



The cover of János Arany's ‘Buckled book’



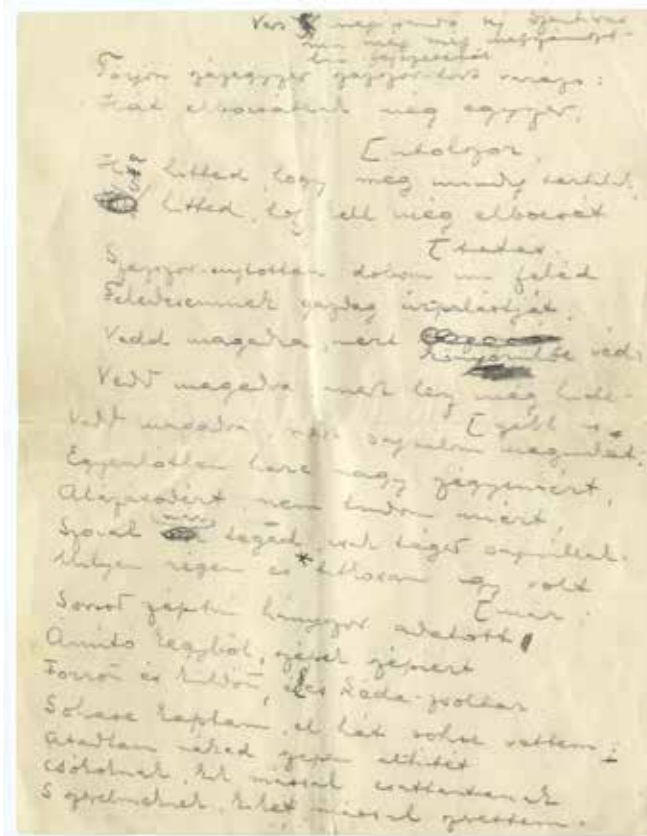
The manuscript of Imre Madách's *The Tragedy of Man*

Between 1865 and 1879 it was János Arany who served first as Secretary and then as Secretary General of the Academy. We have several of his manuscripts, among others his correspondence with poet Sándor Petőfi, the manuscript of *The Bards of Wales* and his 'Buckled' book (Kapcsos könyv).

Imre Madách's *The Tragedy of Man* also belongs to our collection. The manuscript itself of the *Tragedy* is priceless, but it also contains hand-written corrections and suggestions of János Arany, who took care of it.

When we think of our 20th century literary legacy, we have to mention our collection of poet Endre Ady's works first, containing the autograph of *A graceful message of dismissal* closing down his love period for Léda.

Almost the entire legacy of Péter Veres, Dezső Kosztolányi, Lőrinc Szabó, János Pilinszky



The manuscript of Endre Ady's poem:
A graceful message of dismissal

and Miklós Radnóti, respectively, belong to our collections, including Radnóti's *Notebook of Bor* found in the pocket of the poet at the exhumation of the mass grave at Abda where he had died a martyr's death.

The legacy of Gyula Illyés is especially valuable for us because in 2013 we received nearly all the books, photographs and AV material of the poet together with his manuscripts. This is our fullest literary legacy.

Our manuscripts collection contains mostly Hungarian items but we also have several valuable foreign language documents. We own the world's 4th largest Goethe collection, the so called Boldizsár Elischer Collection, which contains 40 Goethe autographs, all of which had been hand-written or signed by the German genius.

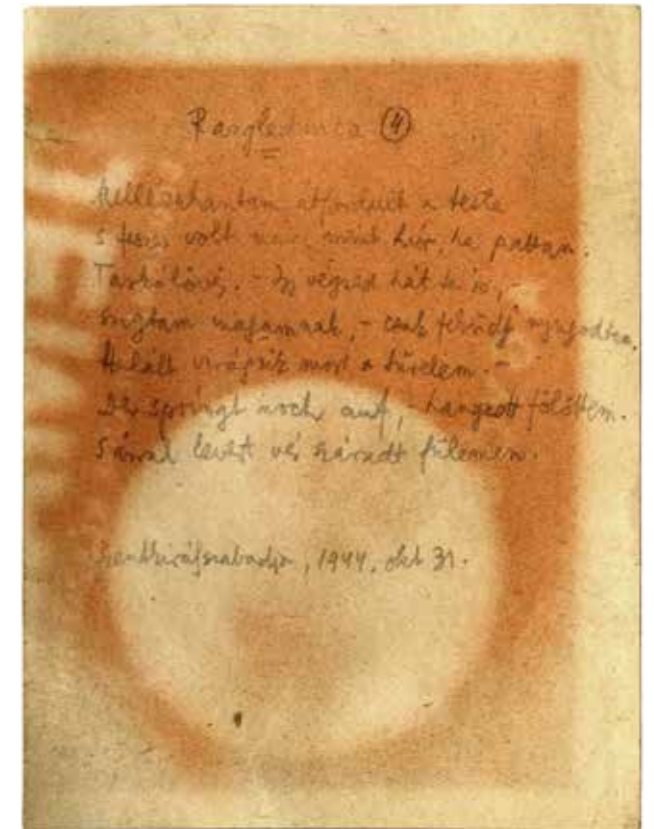
Once we have talked about our literary legacy, we cannot avoid mentioning the legacy of scientists. We preserve several manuscripts of János Bolyai, the founder of non-Euclidean geometry, the most precious one being a first edition copy of his outstanding work *Appendix*, whose title page was prepared by his father, Farkas Bolyai, and another copy whose front page was made himself, and which also contains marginal notes, corrections and geometrical shapes added by the author. This latter copy of the *Appendix* was included on the list of the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2009.

Loránd Eötvös served as the chairman of the Academy from 1889 to 1905. The greatest part of his legacy was donated to our manuscripts collection, and one of the items, a brochure called *The Small Original Eötvös Torsion Balance*, published in 1928, was also included on the list of the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2015 together with two other documents.

We have several letters and manuscripts of world famous 20th century Hungarian and foreign scientists and scientists of Hungarian origin, e.g. János Neumann, Zoltán Bay, Nobel-prize winners Jenő Wigner, Albert Szent-györgyi, Albert Einstein and Werner Heisenberg. The childhood sketch book of Nobel-prize winner Dénes Gábor, the inventor of holography, was donated to our Library in 2008.

In respect of social sciences, the legacy of Art philosopher Lajos Fülep and that of iconic Hungarian political thinker István Bibó also form part of the manuscripts collection of our library.

The ones wishing to gain a first-hand experience of the literary policy of the Kádár-era cannot avoid visiting our manuscripts collection either, where they have the



The manuscript of the last poem of Miklós Radnóti, from his 'Razglednicas (4)' found in the Notebook of Bor

opportunity of studying the extensive legacy of György Aczél, István Király, István Sótér and Péter Nagy, respectively.

In May 2015 the Manuscripts Collection got hold of philosopher György Lukács's manuscripts and correspondence, formerly taken care of by the Lukács Archive.

Applications submitted for the proposals of the Academy before 1949 and their critical evaluations are also preserved by the manuscripts collection, just like Hungary-related award certificates and other resources copied from the stocks of foreign libraries and archives with the support of the Academy's Committee on Historical Sciences.

The Old Academic Archives with their 120 thousand documents contain files relating to the daily operation of the Learned Society and other administrative issues of the Academy from the foundation to the reorganization of the Academy in 1949, and the old records of the Library can also be found here. This collection can be searched partly with the help of a card catalogue, and the record and index books of the time will also provide assistance to users to find their way around this collection.

One of the largest and continuously growing collection currently amounting to 20 thousand volumes is that of PhD and academic dissertations, of which the documents received by the Library's Repository after 2013 are available to users in a full-text version.

Another group of documents worth mentioning consist of manuscript maps from the 18th and 19th centuries, a collection of codex and print fragments, a collection of coins with the faces of academicians, writers, poets and other artists, and a collection of particularly valuable manuscripts removed from the old library classification system.

Old and rare books

The core of this collection is made up by incunables (i.e. material printed before 1501) and old Hungarian books printed before 1711. Most of the incunables (409 works) were donated to the Academy by the Teleki family. Count József Teleki kept acquiring new items to develop the core collection, e.g. he purchased the library of linguist Ferenc Kresznerics, thus adding 88 *incunabula* to the existing collection. As a result of donations made by people and institutions the collection had grown to 500 items by the end of the 19th century, and the first printed catalogue of it was prepared in 1886 by Árpád Hellebrant. During the following years, due to the last wills of György Ráth and Ferenc Vigyázó, respectively, the collection more than doubled, and its current order was prepared by Csaba Csapodi (1910–2004) after the

prophetas in babilone. Quia hec dicit dñs ad regem q̄ sedet sup soliu dauid ⁊ ad omnē pplu habitatorem urbis hui⁹: ad fratres vestros qui non sunt egressi vobiscū in trāsmigratōne. Hec dicit dñs exercitū. Ecce mittā in eos gladiū et famē et pestem: et ponā ros quasi ficus malas q̄ comedi non possunt eo q̄ pessime sint: et p̄sequar eos in gladio et in fame et in pestilentia. Et dabo eos in vegetatiōne uniuersis regnis terre in maledictionem ⁊ in stuporem ⁊ in sibilū ⁊ in opprobrium rūdīs genitib⁹ ad quas ego eieci eos: eo q̄ non audierunt verba mea dicit dñs que misi ad eos per seruos meos prophetas de nocte cōsurgens et mitto: et non audistis dicit dñs. Vos ergo audite verbū dñi omnis trāsmigratio quā emisi de iherusalē in babilonē. Hec dicit dñs exercitū deus isrl ad ahab filiū thulie ⁊ ad sedechiā filium maasie qui p̄phetant vobis in nomine meo mendaciter. Ecce ego tradā eos in manus nabuchodonosor regis babilonis: et p̄cutiet eos in oculis vestris. Et assumetur eē eis maledictō omni trāsmigratōni iude que est in babilone dicitū. Donat te domin⁹ sicut sedechiam ⁊ sicut ahab quos fecit rex babilonis in igne: pro eo q̄ fecerint stulticiam in israhel et mechati sunt in uxores amicorū suorū: et locuti sunt verbū in nomine meo mendaciter qd̄ non mādau eis. Ego sum iude⁹ et testis dicit dñs. Et ad seneiā neelamiten dices. Hec dicit dñs exercitū deus israhel. Pro eo q̄ misisti in noīe meo libros ad omnē pplm qui ē in israhel et ad sophoniā filiū maasie sacerdotē et ad uniuersos sacerdotes dicens: dominus dedit te sacerdotem p̄ ioiade

sacerdote ut sis dux in domo domini sup omnē virū arcepticiū ⁊ p̄phetantē ut mittas eum in neruū et in carcerem. Et nūc quare non inceptasti iheremiam anachoritem qui p̄phetat vobis? Quia sup hoc misit in babilonem ad nos dicens. Longū ē: edificate domos et habitate: et plātate ortos ⁊ comedite fructus eorū. Legit ergo sophonias sacerdos librū istū in aurib⁹ iheremie prophete. Et factum est verbū dñi ad iheremiam dicens. Mente ad omnem trāsmigratiōne dicens. Hec dicit dñs ad seneiā neelamiten. Pro eo q̄ p̄phetavit vobis seneias et ego nō misi eū: ⁊ fecit vos cōfidere in mendacio: idcirco hec dicit dñs. Ecce ego visitabo sup seneiam neelamiten ⁊ super sementem eius. Nō erit ei vir sedens in medio ppli hui⁹: et non videbit bonū qd̄ ego faciā p̄lo meo ait dñs: quia p̄uaricatiōne locut⁹ ē adūsus dñm. **XXX**
Hoc verbū qd̄ factū est ad iheremiam a dño dicens. Hec dicit dominus deus israhel dicens. Scribe tibi omnia verba que locutus sum ad te in libro. Ecce tū dies veniūt dicit dñs: ⁊ cōuertā conuertiōne ppli mei israhel et iuda ait dñs: et cōuertā eos ad terrā quā dedi patrib⁹ eorū et possidebūt eā. Et hec verba que locut⁹ est dñs ad isrl et iudā: quoniā hec dicit dñs. Vocem rectoris audiui⁹: formido: ⁊ nō ē pax. Interrogate ⁊ videte si generat malculus. Quare ergo vidi omnis viri manus supra lumbū suū quasi parrurietis? Et cōuertē sunt uniuerse facies in auruginē. Ve quia magna dies illa nec est s̄sis ei⁹: tempusq; tribulatiōnis est iacob: et eē ip̄o saluabitur. Et erit in die illa ait dñs exercitū contectam iugū eius de collo tuo: ⁊ vincula eius

Second World War. We are proud to own the second largest collection of incunables in Hungary, consisting of nearly 1200 items, 5 of which are unique, i.e. they can only be found at our library, while 6 other *incunables* are made especially valuable by their being complete or being regarded as a real rarity. Incunables can be searched by using our electronic and card catalogues.

Some of the most important acquisitions of this collection include the library of Imre Jancsó purchased in 1850, the 2400 volumes Hungarica collection of György Ráth, and the old Hungarian books of the Vigyázó library. In our classification system the Old Hungarian I, II, III and IV groups were created for old Hungarian and Hungary-related books, of which we have 6,600 currently.



János Thuróczy's *Chronica Hungarorum* (*Chronicle of the Hungarians*) printed in Brünn (Brno, Czech Republic) by Konrad Stahel and Matthias Preinlein on 20 March, 1488



The view of Buda in Hartmann Schedel's *Liber Chronicarum* (*Book of Chronicles*), aka *The Nuremberg Chronicle* printed by Anton Koberger on 12 July, 1493

The Library started to transfer printed material from its closed stacks to the collection of Old and Rare Books in 1954, removing all material printed before 1800 abroad or before 1850 in Hungary, which require special care. Nearly 1,200 antiques (i.e. material printed in Roman-style letters) from the period 1500 to 1550 form a special group of this collection. Books of historical value, e.g. the ones made especially valuable by the person who formerly owned them or books bearing the autograph of the previous owner also form part of this collection. Furthermore, items of previously independent collections, e.g. those of the Széchenyi Museum or the documents that used to be part of the Bolyai Collection belong to our Old and Rare Books Collection now, just like particularly richly illustrated books or volumes with valuable binding.

We have nearly 18,000 items in this collection today, which can be searched with the help of our electronic and card catalogues (both by alphabetical and chronological order).



The Oriental Collection

At the time of founding the Collection, it was László Rásonyi (1899–1984) who selected and collected the Oriental material from the old divisions of the Library of the Academy. In addition to contemporary monographs, the collection was augmented with antique and 17th–18th-century East-related books as well as works written in Oriental languages. The collection also includes the most comprehensive Hungarian collection of periodicals of Oriental studies along with unique manuscripts. The acquisition of periodicals started in the 19th century and by now, we have a complete series of the most prestigious journals. Over the history of the Oriental Collection spanning half a century, its collection has continuously grown via purchase, international exchanges, and donations now amounting to 250,000 volumes of books, 1,200 various periodicals and more than 15,000 manuscripts and block prints. The reading room allows access to the most important handbooks and periodicals on the ancient and modern East, which are immediately available for reading.



Sir Marc Aurel Stein



Alexander Kégl



Ignaz Goldziher



Bust of Alexander Csoma de Kőrös made by Barnabás Holló

Some rarities our continuously growing collection includes are the incunables of Ibrahim Müteferrika, an Ottoman printer of Hungarian origin; several documents of the early eras of Arabic-script book printing, and some unique examples of Oriental travel literature published in Europe over the centuries.

Among the manuscripts, there are not only curiosities of historical importance and sources on the history of science but also illuminated codices of great artistic value. The



The manuscript of the Mishnah

oldest manuscript is the *Mishnah*, also known as *Codex Kaufmann*, which contains the traditional Jewish law in its 2nd-century form written in Hebrew.

One of the most precious gems is the *Haggadah* from 14th-century Catalonia. Among the Persian manuscripts the earliest work is a collection of tales, the *Kalilah wa Dimnah*, from the bequest of Alexander Kégl (1862–1920). Furthermore, the Oriental Collection owns four manuscripts of the famous Persian epic poem, the *Shahnameh* as well. Another collection of tales from 1451,

the *Ferej bad esh-shidde*, can be found in our Turkish collection, as well as a 1542 manuscript of *Tarih-i Üngürüs*, a source for Hungarian history, which is the only known existing copy

that was written by the author himself. One of our most precious Arabic manuscripts is the *Takhmis al-Burdah*, a rare example of book art in late Mamluk Cairo, created in the 1440s. It contains the most famous ode of praise for the Prophet Muhammad. The Csoma Collection (included on the list of the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2009) is the core of the Tibetan Collection, which is unique in size across Central Europe, containing more than 6,000 items of Tibetan manuscripts and block prints. The most prominent documents of this collection are the so-called Alexander books compiled by Buddhist monks at the request of Alexander Csoma de Kőrös (1784?–1842), the founder of Tibetan studies, addressing his questions regarding Tibetan culture and religion.

The collection contains the legacy of several outstanding Hungarian orientalists. One such collection is the invaluable correspondence of the illustrious figure of European research on Islam, Ignaz Goldziher (1850–1921) containing more than 13,000 letters written to the scholar. The collection of Sir Marc Aurel Stein (1862–1943) is also internationally renowned; the bequest of the world-famous archaeologist and explorer of Central Asia includes his private library, manuscripts, maps, and over 8,000 photographs taken by him.

It has always been an important aim for the Oriental Collection to show its invaluable treasures not only to the readers but to the wider public as well. In order to do so, its staff organize exhibitions, prepare digital presentations and publish facsimile copies of manuscripts. Extensive international relations enable the Collection to participate in international library projects and organize conferences on topics related to the Orient.



Detail of the Kaufmann Haggadah

The Academy Archives

Since its foundation, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has taken good care of the paperwork and records related to its activities. The corpus of the items written between 1825 and 1949 is known as the Old Archives of the Academy and is to be found at the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books available for research.

In 1949, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was reorganized. Complying with the institution's tradition and the practice in other Socialist countries, the Board of the Academy decided to set up an independent Academy Archives (presidential resolution no. 48/1963), which eventually became part of the frameworks of the library on 1 January, 1964. Its task was to collect, process and preserve the documentation of the Academy following 1949. Pursuant to the Academy Act in 1994 and the Act of Archives in 1995, the Academy Archives is today a public archives.

The Academy Archives mostly preserves the records of the central corporate and official bodies of the Academy, which defines the fond classification of the stacks. After the reorganization in 1949 the Academy became the national managing authority of scientific life instead of operating only as a small-scale scientific body, which new role required financial,



Tarih-i Üngürüs

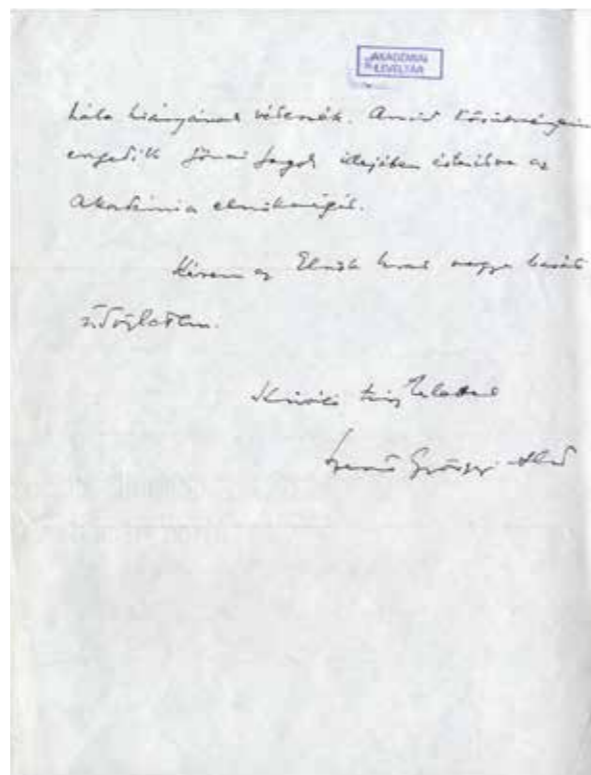
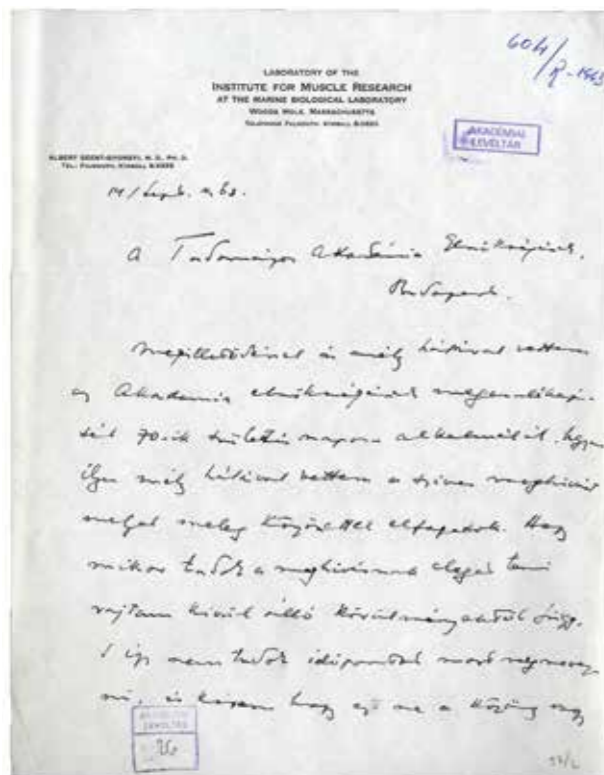


An ornated page of the 15th century manuscript of Firdausi's epic poem Shahnameh



An illustrated book on the Buddhist hell





A letter of Albert Szent-Györgyi written to the Presidium of the Academy on 14 September 1963

legal and organizational departments to be set up. These departments first operated under the supervision of the Office, later taken over by the Secretariat of the Academy, therefore the fonds of the fond groups were created by following the logic of this departmental organization.

The Academy has always operated through its scientific sections, which preserve the records of the committees managed by them, respectively, together with the records of research institutes from the 1950s and 60s.

Unfortunately, only a minor percentage of research institute records falling within the Academy Archives' sphere of competence is actually located in the Archives, most of this material is preserved by the institutes themselves. However, several documents relating to the research network are preserved in the office and department sections. The Archives also preserves general assembly and other management meeting minutes, and the legacy of some scholars (received as part of institution records). The Academy Archives owns an 8,233 piece-collection of photographs and 1,024 audio tapes, too.

PROMOTING RESEARCH

Supporting Open Access Publication

One of the most important objectives of the MTA Library, in accordance with the Academy's open access resolution, is to support open access publication. We strive to conclude national open access agreements in the frame of the Electronic Information Service National Programme (EIS), and by operating repositories to facilitate the online publication of researchers' results. Our digitization projects provide online access for the general public to public domain. The Open Journal System software assists the publication of open access journals, while Open Conference Systems supports the publication of proceedings. Materials providing information on alternative access devices enhance the use of free-access copies of scientific literature. To the same end we operate a common search interface of the Hungarian Scientific Bibliography (MTMT), national repositories and online periodicals.

DOI Registration

As members of two registration agencies, we are able to provide DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) for journal articles and books, as well as for research data and collections. DOIs are individual permanent identifiers several services are based on, e.g. finding copies of open access, fee-based articles in the repository.

Citation, impact, publication

Our IT Department has offered citation and impact factor analysis for researchers in all areas of science since 1980. Researchers may request their publication lists to be integrated in the Hungarian Scientific Bibliography (MTMT), which collects and preserves the bibliographic and citation data of Hungarian scientific publications, and which provides full-text access to articles by means of its direct contact with repositories.

Electronic Information Service National Programme

The Electronic Information Service National Programme (EIS) is the coordinator of online information database subscriptions for Hungarian higher education and research sector institutions and for public collections of Hungarian items operating within and beyond the borders of Hungary. The strategic objective of EIS is to provide scientific and public interest contents to higher education institutions, research institutions, special and public libraries, archives, museums and public administration institutions. As of 2019, 240 Hungarian institutions including 25 transborder ones benefit from the national programme.

EIS has acted as the administrative body of database acquisition since 2001, ensuring access to nearly 60 databases for the institutions in 2019. Since 2012 the National Programme has operated as part of MTA Library and Information Centre, and since 2019 it has been working

as an independent directorate of the Library. The central budget of the National Programme is granted by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH), while all members are obliged to contribute to the programme financially in order to gain access to databases.

Besides providing specialized literature for institutions, EIS also supports publishing activity by concluding open access agreements with international publishers to enable institutions subscribing to the journals of the publisher to publish studies already accepted by them in an open access way, without further costs and administration.

EIS is the developer and operator of COMPASS database, a search interface that provides up-to-date information on scientific databases accessible in Hungary. With the help of COMPASS researchers and users get information on which institute has online access to an article, journal, book or database in the country.





Hungarian National Scientific Bibliography

The aim of establishing the Hungarian National Scientific Bibliography (MTMT) was to create a multi-purpose national bibliography database in Hungary. It is a publicly accessible and trustworthy register of scientific and intellectual works of Hungarian researchers and research institutions, which can be analysed by bibliometric and scientometric tools. The data of this system can be used for institutional accreditation, procedures of doctoral programmes, applications for and assessments of programmes and for statistical purposes as well.

Research institutes and individual researchers are responsible for the registration of their own publications, and at the time their works are published, they enclose descriptions of the works registered. It is also the research institutes' obligation to maintain and manage the data registered, while individual authors take care of the scientific content of the publications, having also an opportunity to provide a description of their own works. The Bibliography is supervised, coordinated and supported by the MTMT Department of MTA Library, while the work of research institutes joining the network is supported by MTMT administrator librarians.

The scientometric use of the database is enhanced by a register of the bibliographic and classification data of the publications as well as a scientific citation indicator. The database also provides information on the proposals funding the research and the current open access state of publications. Scientific classification and journal prestige indicators also help users in searching for relevant content.

MTMT is an important tool of scientific literature research, containing not only publications but the data of papers published in them as well. Bibliographic descriptions and links ensure that users get access to the electronic version of publications they are searching for.

Science Analysis

The library's Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics is the national centre for science, bibliometrics, research evaluation and monitoring. In a similar way to foreign centres of science analysis, it provides services in line with research works. Its primary focus is to provide information for the Academy's decision makers and evaluation bodies, leadership forums, organisations and institutions in need of professional analyses, scheduled examinations and data provision. It also performs duties of national and international relevance.

Research evaluation and research monitoring of academic and higher educational research



The key responsibilities of the Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics include bibliometric evaluation, structural analysis and follow-up of Hungarian scientific performance. The analyses are carried out using methods of cutting-edge international standards and best practices by processing a wide scope of data sources and under the constant supervision of the quality of the sources used.

Science politics and science sociology monitoring

The Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics provides a constant analysis and evaluation of MTA's science policy toolkit and the efficiency, output, short- and long-term impacts of the research funding programmes.

International (EU) research programmes

As part of its renowned research activity, the Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics regularly participates in European research projects and consortiums.



Quality assurance, expertise: “translational scientometrics”

This leg of the Department's work supports the Hungarian K+F+I (R+D+I) institutions using research and professional background to provide expert advice, professional opinion, quality assurance and dissemination.

International cooperation: MTA Library's Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics and the Leuven University's Centre for Research and Development Monitoring (ECOOM KU Leuven) set up a joint research team under the name of “Structuring and Classification in Science”. The main objective of the group is to add value to three modern fields of research in scientometrics, i.e. developing bibliometrical methods for scientific information provision, working on bibliometrics-based science classification models, and conducting research on the new methods of mapping science. Leuven University's Centre for Research and Development Monitoring is a key player of international scientometrics.

Industry – academy relations, contract research: The methodological and knowledge base of MTA LIC's Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics has proved to be applicable in respect of a fruitful cooperation with market operators and in contract research and services

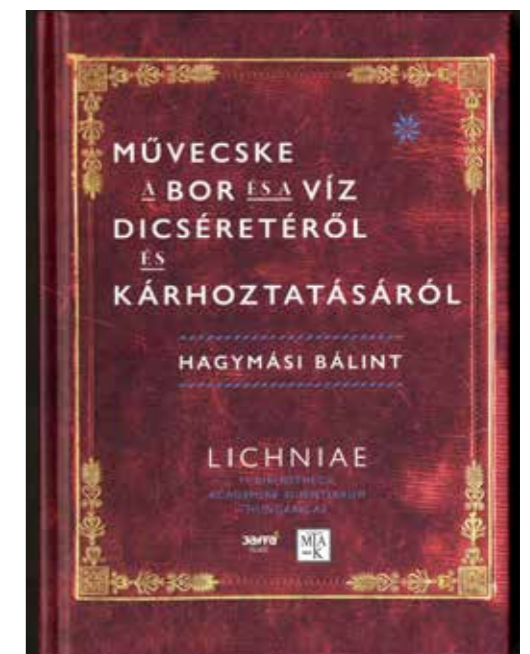
as well. A good example for this is our cooperation and strategic partnership with the research institute of Scitec Nutrition (Scitec Institute), effective from 2018. Our role is to process and analyse the scientific publications on sports nutrition the Institute's products are based on, we identify directions and trends and regularly communicate about them with the Institute. This type of cooperation model is planned to be extended to further operators of the market in the future, and we also intend to submit joint applications for proposals with potential partner institutions.

Higher education activity: The Library's Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics has also used their professional and research know-how to serve Hungarian higher education purposes. In cooperation with the University of Szeged we launched Scientometrics major as part of the Librarian Sciences – Information Technology Master's Programme. In order to facilitate studies, our Department of Science Politics and Scientometrics is going to set up a specialized library of scientometrics in Szeged in 2019 to serve as a flagship in this field.



PUBLISHING BOOKS

Our Library has been eager to make both the scientific sector and the wider public aware of our unique collection since our foundation. In order to do so, we publish series, e.g. the *Catalogues of the Manuscript Collections*, the *Oriental Manuscripts in the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences*, the *Publications of MTA Library*, as well as legacy catalogues, catalogues relating to certain languages, and we also publish the latest results of scientific research conducted in the library. We have recently decided to show our most valuable treasures to the public in facsimile editions. Our *Lichniae* series includes the Hungarian translations of long-forgotten foreign language manuscripts and publications, supplemented by explanations and interpretation.



EVENTS AND PROGRAMMES

We regularly organize temporary exhibitions to bring the library's valuable and rich collections to life and present the library's national cultural heritage to a wider audience. Our Agora programmes, round-table discussions and book launches aim to reinforce the role of the institution as a cultural public space and intend to bring science closer to society.



