

CLAUDIOPOLITAN PUBLICATIONS (EXHIBITION)

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The exhibition is a concise but revealing presentation of the history of printing in Cluj from its beginnings to the 18th century.

Structured chronologically, the exhibition presents a series of bibliophile rarities which adds interest to its documentary character.

Together with the fight for spiritual and political ideas in the 16th century a life of books, of printing, was created and the first printing house set up. Printing in Cluj was founded by Georg Hoffgreff, a Saxon from Cluj. As he could not manage on his own, Gáspár Heltai became his associate in this enterprise. A representative of the Reformation and late humanism in Transylvania, Gáspár Heltai was a preacher, writer and printer rolled into one.

The Hoffgreff - Heltai printing house is represented in the exhibition by Heltai's first publication in Cluj, the *Catehismus minor*, 1550, which is the first Hungarian translation of Luther's little catechism. Noteworthy among the exhibits is one of the first printed books by Hoffgreff, *The Chronicle of Tinódi Sebestyén*, Colosvar, 1554. It is a historical work, narrating in verse moments of the history of Transylvania from the first half of the 16th century. The poem is partly transposed on notes.

The exhibition presents mainly religious works, which were the majority of publications printed at that time, the greatest part being translated by Heltai from German to Latin.

Beginning with 1551, Heltai and his collaborators began to translate the Bible, a translation which is shown in the exhibition.

The seventh decade of the 16th century marks the moment when Heltai asserted himself as an editor and writer. The exhibition reveals chronologically this activity.

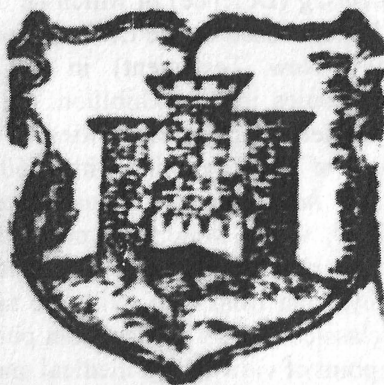
1980
Kalendárius

esztendőre Christus
Urunk születése után.

Az Erdélyi és Magyarországi Egyház szor-
galmatoson irattatott

Kef. n. Ad. alcab

ERDÉLYI EGYHÁZ
KALENDÁRIUS



ERDÉLYI EGYHÁZ
KALENDÁRIUS

Nyomtatott Abrugi György által.

Title page of a 1643 Calendar, printed
at Cluj, with the shield of Cluj Unique edition

In 1565 Heltai edited the great work of Antonio Bonfini, more precisely, the part which refers to King Matthias Corvin, with the title *Historia inclyti Mathiae Huniadi*. A copy of it is displayed in the exhibition.

In addition to these works, the exhibition reveals the collection of religious songs with the title *Cancionale, az az historias énekes* (Cancionale or a Book of Historical Songs), partly transcribed and corrected by Heltai and completed with the romanticised history of the origin and youth of Joannes Huniadi.

We must also note the *Hungarian Chronicle*, printed by Heltai in the latter years of his life, in 1574, a work which was continued after his death, in 1575. It describes historical events in Transylvania and is a Hungarian adaptation of the work of Bonfini.

Transylvanian culture is marked by the presence of the printer Misztótfalusi Kis Miklós, distinguished in the exhibition by his autobiographical work, *Mentség* (Defence) in which he declares himself a follower of the Cocceian beliefs based on the Bible. He printed his *Biblia - Uj Testamentom* (Bible - New Testament) in the Netherlands, in Amsterdam; there are two copies in the exhibition. On account of their typography they can be considered bibliophile rarities.

The printing activity of Cluj beginning with 1660 is displayed by a series of publications: *Ars heraldica* by Pápai Páriz Ferenc or *The genealogy of Mikola László*, works which are currently the subject of Transylvanian historical research. Besides these, there is another work of Pápai - Páriz Ferenc, a physician from Cluj, with the title *Pax Corporis*, 1690, which favours the classical theses of Cartesian philosophy and tries to replace the theological point of view with a medical one.

Printing flourished at the end of the 17th and at the beginning of the 18th century. The exhibition demonstrates the different printing houses in Cluj including the Jesuit one with the work of Massaeus Kreslinger, *Ortus et progressus et sacri ordinis Fratrum Minorum S. Francisci*, 1736. The printing houses of the Reformed Church are represented by works of public law from the 17th century, Samuel Puffendorf's *De officio hominis et civis legem naturalis* for example, printed in the *officina* of the Reformed Church College, in 1773. This work marks a major stage in Public Law, its author being considered one of the main founders of this science.

Let us not forget the collection of *Calendars* printed in the Cluj printing houses of Cluj, in format 16°, between the years 1631 - 1702. Most of them were written by Cristoph and Ioannes Neubart, both of them theologians and astrologers. Kis Miklós was one of the printers of the *Calendars*, demonstrated by calendars of Ioannes Neubart between 1685 - 1702. These are rarities, some of them even unique.

The presentation of some Claudiopolitan printings existing in the collections of the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library invites further research into the field of printing in Cluj, the library being the proud possessor of a rich collection of Claudiopolitan publications as well as evidence of century - old European writing.