

**Exhibition of 16–18<sup>th</sup> Century Manuscripts in the “Lucian Blaga”  
Central University Library,  
*Homo Scribens: Memory Culture and the Typology of Writing in the  
16–18<sup>th</sup> Century***

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The exhibition was organised on the occasion of the conference entitled *Memory and Devotion in the 16–18th Century* initiated by the Department of Old Hungarian Literature and was meant to offer illustrative support to the theme of the conference.

The exhibition opened in the Special Collections department of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, draws the visitor’s attention to manuscripts, printed publications with marginalia belonging to memoir literature.

53 exemplars were exhibited, original manuscripts and copies, as well as illustrative materials. The material was organized in three categories.

The first category included: chronicles, diaries, memoirs in chronological order, presenting the genres of the memory-literature in general. Among them I would like to stress the importance of János Szalárdi’s *The Siege of Oradea*,<sup>1</sup> which offers important data about the events of the year 1662. In this category György Wass’s diary<sup>2</sup>, the memoirs of Ferenc Szakál<sup>3</sup> (1657–after 1726) and György Rettegi<sup>4</sup> (1718?–1786) were exhibited. The latter represents faithfully the opinion of the middle nobility in Transylvania regarding the historical events immediately following the instauration of the Habsburg regime in the province.

The second category of documents focused on the classics of the Transylvanian memoir-literature. In this category were exhibited János Kemény’s, Miklós Bethlen’s, Mihály Cserei’s and Kata Árva Bethlen’s autobiographies. János Kemény’s (1607–1662) *Historia*<sup>5</sup> and *Biographia*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> No. 11.

<sup>2</sup> No. 19.

<sup>3</sup> No. 20.

<sup>4</sup> No. 21.

<sup>5</sup> No. 24.

are the copies of the same work made in different periods. The exemplar entitled *Historia*<sup>2</sup> is a copy made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; the note on the inner cover of the manuscript ("Ex libris est Sigismundi Enyedi ab A(nn)o 1756.") reveals the possessor's name. The *Biographia* was copied in the year 1807.

From Miklós Bethlen's works three handwritten copies<sup>3</sup> were exhibited, compiled in the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first was the count's *Autobiography*, a colligate made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, comprising Miklós Bethlen's biography, as well as some of his works.

Another example worth mentioning was a copy from 1770 having a manually decorated title-page, a note by the illustrator ("Franciscus Domokos De Also-Tsernaton"), as well as the ex-libris inserted by the later owner ("B. Horváth J.").

Mihály Cserei's (1668-1756) work, *Historia*, written in exile at Braşov presents the historical events that happened in Transylvania between 1661 and 1712. The work outlines the profile of the protestant, pro-Habsburgic writer as well. The item No. 30. of the annex is a copy made by "Petrus Istvánffi de Csik Sz Király". Beside the owner's note it contains a "will" referring to the destiny of the manuscript after the owner's decease. In this will Péter Istvánffi bequeathed the manuscript to his son, László Istvánffi, and, if he was detained from home on account of his military service, meanwhile the owner would be Péter Istvánffi's brother, Tamás Istvánffi.<sup>4</sup>

Kata Árva Bethlen wrote *The Description of Her Own Life*<sup>5</sup> from 1744 till her death (1759). Towards the end of a life full of vicissitudes she wrote her autobiography which presents the drama of a

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<sup>1</sup> No. 25.

<sup>2</sup> No. 24.

<sup>3</sup> No. 27. Count Miklós Bethlen, *Önéletírása* (Autobiography), *Sudores et cruces Nicolai Bethlen*, s.l., 19<sup>th</sup> c.

No. 28. Miklós Bethlen, *Művei* (Works), s.l., 1770.

No. 29. Miklós Bethlen, count, *Élete* (His Life), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.

<sup>4</sup> "Ezen tulajdon kezemmel le irt Collectiok történhető halálommal. Ha természet szerint valo fiam Istvánffi László Katonai Tiszti hivatallya miatt ide haza nem lehetne, addig is legközelebb Kedves Testvérem, Istvánffi Tamásra szállyon Legalis Haeressio szerent." (These collections copied by myself, when I happen to die, in the case my son, Istvánffi László should not be at home because of his service as an officer, should pass to my dear brother, Istvánffi Tamás, according to legal succession.)

<sup>5</sup> No. 32. Kata Bethlen, *Életének rövid le írása* (The Short Description of Her Life), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.

woman, who had lost two husbands and five children. To these tragedies were added the interconfessional conflicts within the family. Because of her Protestant religion, in which she firmly persisted, her catholic relations bereft her of the two children born from her first marriage. This autobiography was first published in 1762. The exhibited copy, transcribed by Péter Bod<sup>1</sup>, has fewer pages than the published variant.

The third group of the exhibited documents was formed of calendars in which the possessors made various notes referring to their personal and family life. These notes were mainly devised according to the typology of diaries.<sup>2</sup>

An 18<sup>th</sup> century owner of the *Calendar for 1551* by Eberus Paulus<sup>3</sup> informs us on the pages of this publication about the birth of his daughter: „Hoc die nascitur Anna Tetsi circa horam noctis Iam, Anno 1760”. In another calendar we can find the name of the institution in whose possession the copy used to be: “Tanacze” (that is, “the Council’s”).<sup>4</sup>

The notes of the politician, Mihály Cserei can be found in several of the exhibited calendars.<sup>5</sup> The notes refer mainly to the

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<sup>1</sup> Péter Bod (Felsőcsernáton, 22. February 1712. – Magyarigen, 3. March 1769.): ecclesiastical and literary history writer, Kata Bethlen’s court chaplain.

<sup>2</sup> No. 34. Eberus Palulus, *Calendarium historicum*, Vitebergae, 1551.

<sup>3</sup> No. 34. Eberus Palulus, *Calendarium historicum*, Vitebergae, 1551 (vol. IV.).

<sup>4</sup> No. 41. *Kalendárium az 1632-es esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1632), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

<sup>5</sup> No. 45. *Kalendárium az 1690-es esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1690), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

No. 46. *Kalendárium az 1691-es esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1691), Lőcse, s.a.

No. 47. *Kalendárium az 1692-es esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1692), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

No. 48. *Kalendárium az 1693-as esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1693), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

No. 49. *Kalendárium az 1694-es esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1694), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

No. 50. *Kalendárium az 1695-ös esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1695), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

No. 51. *Calendarium az 1697-es esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1690), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

No. 52. *Calendarium az 1698-as esztendőre* (Calendar for the Year 1698), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

possessor's personal life, usual activities and journeys, which are revealed on these calendar pages.

All these manuscripts belonging to the genres of memory-literature are important historical sources as they speak of the cultural and social life of the centuries they were written in, enabling us to investigate these aspects of the past more thoroughly.

*Hic incipit catalogus:*

1. István Székely, **Krónikájának folytatása 1558–1601** (The Continuation of His Chronicle 1558–1601), s.l., s.a.
2. Sebestyén Borsos, **Krónikája Erdély történeteiről 1490–1584** (Chronicle of the Events in Transylvania 1490–1584), s.l., XVIII.sz.
3. Ferencz Mikó, hidvégi, **Erdélyben maga életében történt dolgokrul írt historiája 1594–1613, Bíró Sámuel folytatásával, 1613 augusztus végéig** (Chronicle of the Events That Happened during His Life in Transylvania 1594–1613, Continued by Sámuel Bíró to the End of August, 1613), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
4. Sebestyén Borsos, **Krónikája Erdély történeteiről 1490–1584** (Chronicle of the Events in Transylvania 1490–1584), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
5. Mihály Toldalaghi, **Követségi naplója és jelentései Bethlen Gáborhoz** (His Embassy Diary and Reports to Gábor Bethlen), s.l., 1627.
6. Count László Rhédei, **Naplókönyve 1653–1656** (Diary-book 1653–1656), s.l., 1653–1656.
7. György Lipcsei, **Naplófeljegyzései** (Diary Notes), s.l., 17<sup>th</sup> c.
8. István Enyedi, **II. Rákóczi György fejedelem veszedelmeiről 1657–1660** (On the Perils of Prince György Rákóczi II 1657–1660), s.l., 1720–1743.
9. Dávid Rosnyai, **Diáriuma 1667-től** (Diary from 1667), s.l., 17<sup>th</sup> c.
10. **Description exacte des royaumes de Hongrie et Dalmatie, etc. : et gravees en cuivre par Gaspar Bouttats, Anvers, 1668.**
11. János Szalárdy, **Várad ostroma. 1662** (The Siege of Oradea. 1662), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
12. Dávid Rosnyai, **Diáriuma 1667-től** (Diary from 1667), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
13. Anna Bornemissza, **Gazdasági naplója 1667–1672** (Economic Diary 1667–1672), s.l., 17<sup>th</sup> c.
14. Imre Thököly, **Naplója 1676–1678** (Diary 1676–1678), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
15. Gáspár Gönc–Ruszkai Kornis, **Naplója 1678–1683** (Diary 1678–1683), s.l., 1678–1683.

16. József Inczédi, **Emlékirata 1688–1710** (Memoirs 1688–1710) s.l., 1688-1710.
17. Mihály Apaffy II, **Diarium de anni 1690–1694**, s.l., 19<sup>th</sup> c.
18. János Komáromi, **Diariumja és Experientiáji 1697. okt. 8. – 1705. szept. 13** (Diary and Experiences 8. Oct. 1697. – 13. Sept. 1705.), s.l., 1856.
19. Georgius Wass, **Diarium Viennense 1698–1702**, s.l., 1698-1702.
20. Ferenc Szakál, **Naplója 1698–1718** (Diary 1698–1718), s.l., 1847.
21. György Rettegi, **Emlékirata 1718-1777** (Memoirs 1718–1777), s.l., 1718-1777.
22. János Ikafalvi, **Vegyes naplójegyzetei 1747–1759** (Miscellaneous Diary Notes), s.l., 19<sup>th</sup> c.
23. István Tekerőpataki Gáborfi, **Naplója 1744–1764** (Diary 1744–1764), s.l., 1744-1764
24. Prince János Kemény, **Históriája** (Historia), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
25. Johannis Kemény, **Biographia**, s.l., 1807.
26. Johannis Kemény, **photography**, s.l., s.a.
27. Count Miklós Bethlen, **Önéletírása** (Autobiography), **Sudores et cruces Nicolai Bethlen**, s.l., 19<sup>th</sup> c.
28. Miklós Bethlen, **Művei** (Works), s.l., 1770.
29. Count Miklós Bethlen, **Élete** (His Life), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
30. Mihály Cserei, **Históriája** (Historia), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
31. Mihály Cserei, **Históriája** (Historia), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
32. Kata Bethlen, **Életének rövid le írása** (The Short Description of Her Life), s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
33. Péter Bod, **Narratio de vita**, s.l., 18<sup>th</sup> c.
34. Eberus Palulus, **Calendarium historicum**, Vitebergae, 1551.
35. Eberus Palulus, **Calendarium historicum**, Vitebergae, 1571.
36. Eberus Palulus, **Calendarium historicum**, Vitebergae, 1559.
37. Eberus Palulus, **Calendarium historicum**, Vitebergae, 1551.
38. Cluj-Napoca, **lithography**, s.l., 19<sup>th</sup> c.
38. **Erdélyi Kalendárium, 1798. esztendőre** (Transylvanian Calendar for the Year 1798), Szeben (Sibiu), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.
39. **Erdélyi Kalendárium, 1800. esztendőre** (Transylvanian Calendar for the Year 1800), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.
40. **Erdélyi Kalendárium, 1797. esztendőre** (Transylvanian Calendar for the Year 1797), Szeben (Sibiu), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.
41. **Kalendárium az 1632-es esztendőre** (Calendar for the Year 1632), Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), s.a.

42. **Kalendárium az 1678-as esztendőre** (Calendar for the Year 1678),  
Lőcse, s.a.
43. **Kalendárium az 1681-as esztendőre** (Calendar for the Year 1681),  
Lőcse, s.a.
44. **Kalendárium az 1692-es esztendőre** (Calendar for the Year 1692),  
Lőcse, s.a.
45. **Kalendárium az 1690-es esztendőre** (Calendar for the Year 1690),  
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Hic explicit totum !