



 we, HUNGARIANS



MEIRO GOLDWYN-MAYER

A Tale of the Christ

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 **we,** HUNGARIANS

Our values
in the world

| Budapest, 2021 |

Ministerial Greeting



Dr. István Nagy

Minister of Agriculture,
Chairman of the
Hungarikum Committee

Every day, for two minutes we hear about our national treasures in Kossuth Radio's "We, Hungarians" program. They talk about people, landscapes, inventions, historical events, food and drinks, buildings, traditions, and cultural values, without these, we would think of Hungary differently. A significant part of them are considered Hungarikums, which has been ensured by a legal framework since 2012 on the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture. Preserving and passing on Hungarian traditions is a way of life for many. The established Hungarikum movement is like a hobby to thousands, even to tens of thousands of people, and maybe even became a lifestyle in the 21st century. It is similar to what could have belonged to almost everyone a few decades or centuries ago. Because at that time it was general for many people to live next to a grey cattle, to herd the livestock with Hungarian dogs, to play the tárogató, to put chimney cake, acacia honey or fattened goose on the festive table, to sip Tokaji Aszú, Bull's Blood of Eger or plum pálinka. Our thoughts, our values, which we now call Hungarikums, not so long ago may have seemed a shattering, almost romantic dream, because many of them had barely given any sign of life about themselves. Or even if they had, it could have been one of their last. Of course, there were mighty, living examples, which when they got into the same "club" put the bar even higher, bringing their smaller, neglected fellow counterparts with them. The Hungarikum Committee has recognized that the trademark of the Holy Crown embraces and brings these wonders closer to each other and to all of us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Nagy', written in a cursive style.



Our National Character



Zsolt V. Németh

Ministerial Commissioner
for outstanding national values
Ministry of Agriculture

We, Hungarians always spoke and acted in an open and direct manner. Here in Central Europe, we did not have much time to beat around the bush, we had to decide. Grand Prince Árpád chose the Carpathian Basin, King Saint Stephen Christianity. Their descendants protected and strengthened the home country, unequalled supporters of faith sprung from their families. János Hunyadi gave his life for the nation, Ferenc Rákóczi refused Austrian clemency, Puskás Öcsi remained Hungarian. We keep grey cattle free-range, we proceed with the Halas lace from millimeter to millimeter, we make pálinka only from fruits. In our folk dance, the pleated skirt is worn by the girls, the "legényes" is danced by the bachelors. Unequivocal, clear roles. Our national characteristics while enriching Europe also enrich all of humanity. What determines these is the land where we live, our gastronomy, our animals, and our solicitude. Our culture, admired by the world arises from all this collectively, all 15 million of us add our share to this, and the common treasure, common values belong to all of us.

A few years ago, it may not have been so obvious that there is a struggle for values in the world. Millennial truths are being questioned. Our Christian culture, classical family structure, and traditions are in danger. With their attitude to tradition, the nations also chose a future. Future and a way of life that has an impact on everyday life. The intellectual foundation that includes the teaching of the Holy Crown, the Bible of Vizsoly, the noiseless match of Irinyi, the music of Liszt, the model T of József Galamb, the electric locomotive of Kálmán Kandó, the paintings of Csontváry, the cube of Ernő Rubik, and the translucent concrete of Áron Losonczi provide support in keeping the tradition and looking into the future. Each and every one of them is related to the other. This is what we are. We, Hungarians.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Z. Németh' with a stylized flourish at the end.



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Our two hundred treasures





Storing Information on a Pocket-size Device

Marcell János

The micro floppy disc is the landmark invention of a mechanical engineer, Marcell János. This is a hard plastic coated data carrier, that the user could take out from a computer and insert it into another. This device was already registered in 1974, but the socialist computer industry, did not show any interest in the cassette rotary floppy disc. Unfortunately, the Hungarian state did not renew the patent when it expired, so the exclusive rights to production were lost. This was what the West was waiting for and in 1982 IBM and several Japanese companies could legally manufacture their own floppy disc while the inventor helplessly watched from the side. If Marcell János had been given just a single penny after every floppy disc sold, he would have become a multi-billionaire. He still took his place in computer history with the 3-inch floppy disc that was also a paradigm shift, and was way ahead of its time. The inventor was born in 1931 and passed away in 2011 in Budapest.



The Man who Revolutionized Coffee Culture

Ferenc Illy

Ferenc Illy was born in 1892, in Temesvár. After the Great War, he settled down in Trieste. While working in a coffee warehouse near the harbor, he discovered, that vacuum-sealed containers had a better preservatory effect on roasted coffee. Actually, he has found out that the coffee beans kept their original aroma and flavor much longer, since they were stored in a metal box, in an oxygen-free environment. The inventor is also the founder of the family-owned Illycaffé company, which he established in 1933. Today the business is still run by the Illy family. Two years later, he patented his invention, the Illetta, the world's first espresso machine, functioning with hot steam. This method became the foundation of the world-famous Italian coffee culture. Ferenc Illy passed away in 1956, in Trieste.



Seeing through the Wall

Áron Losonczi

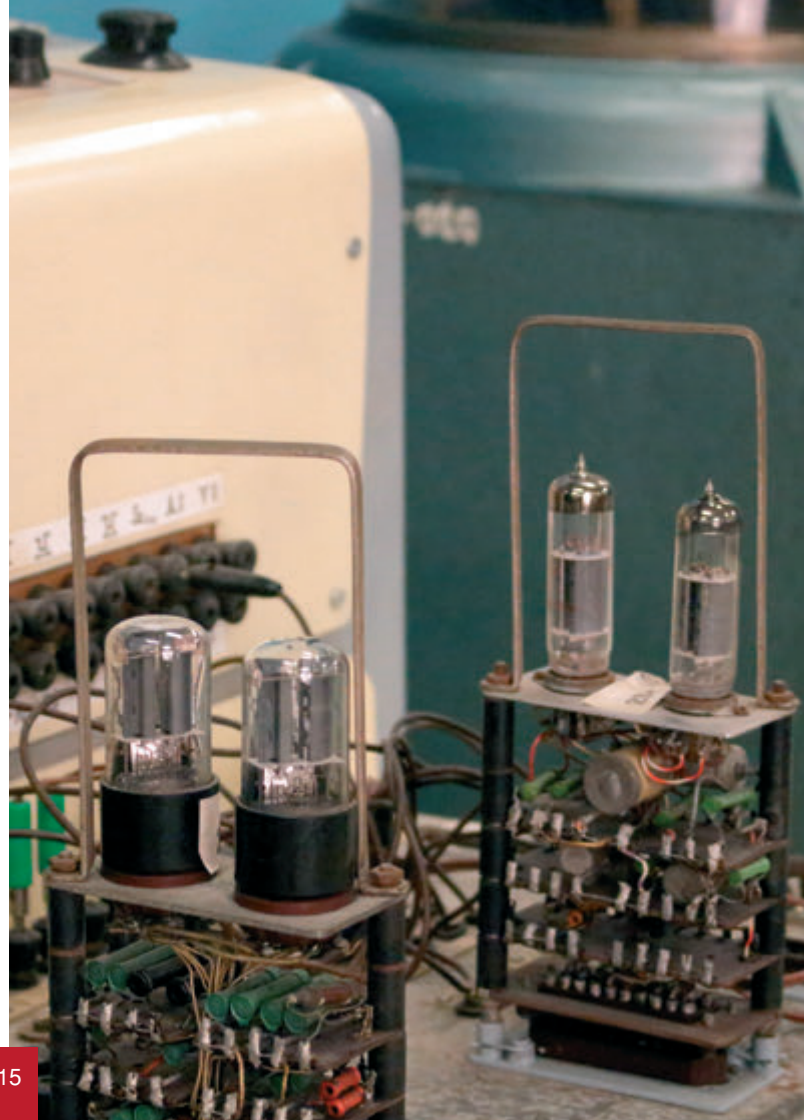
After receiving his university degree, the 24-year-old architect, Áron Losonczi created a wall that people can see through by inventing the light-transmitting concrete, Litracon in 2001 and today he is still adding new features to the original design. The basic concept is that millions of optical fibers are added to the concrete, so a one-piece transparent wall can be put up in various buildings. Several multinational corporations started to manufacture this invention without permission. However, the inventor challenged these companies in court winning the international lawsuits, thus keeping the patent of the translucent concrete with its rightful owner. The product is manufactured in the town of Csongrád and has almost fundamentally reformed the world of architecture and design. The transparent wall also features at the Washington Museum of Architecture's permanent collection. In 2004 the Time Magazine presented the translucent concrete as the "Invention of the Year". An American author wrote a science fiction novel about the colonization of the Mars where Litracon became the settlers' building material on the new planet.



The Founder of the Digital World János Neumann (John von Neumann)

The famous physicist was the student of the legendary math teacher, László Rátz in the Fasori Lutheran Secondary School of Budapest. After getting his degrees he went to Western Europe, then to the United States where during the World War II war he participated in a top-secret American project, building the first nuclear bomb. Later he was also appointed to the Atomic Energy Commission which consisted of five members. In 1952 he had a leading role in the logical design of computers. The fundamental principles of computers such as adapting the binary system, program storing, command system, and memory are known as the Neumann-architecture in the whole world and are used in almost every digital device until today. János Neumann was born in Budapest in 1903 and passed away in 1957 in Princeton in the United States.

The Hungarikum Committee added his life-work to science to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



The Most Famous Hungarian Ferenc Puskás

As his name is brought up doors open, heart-warming memories of sport history come to life, eyes are filled with tears of joy. Puskás Öcsi played his first senior league match in the team of Kispest when he was merely 16 years old. This was the only football club he belonged to besides Real Madrid. When he was 18, he joined the Hungarian national team where he scored 84 goals on 85 matches. One of these was the famous shot to the upper corner with the pullback trick which he performed during the legendary “London 6-3”, Hungary against England. The more than hundred thousand English football fans stood up and applauded the gorgeous move which is known worldwide as the Puskás-trick since then. He was also an Olympic champion, World Cup silver medalist, five times Hungarian and six times Spanish champion, three times European Cup winner. He scored four goals in the final in 1960, which seems to be an unbeatable record. In his memory in 2009, the National Football Association introduced the

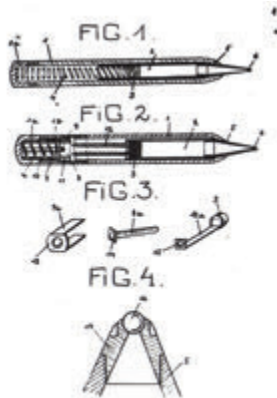
FIFA Puskás Award for the most spectacular goal of the year which Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic also deserved. Ferenc Puskás was born in 1927 and passed away in 2006 in Budapest.

The Hungarikum Committee has added his life-work to football to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Smooth, Efficient Management László Bíró

László Bíró, who worked as a journalist was an excellent observer. He noticed, that the thick ink, which was used in the printing-presses left a clean and smooth residue on paper. Since this ink was not in a liquid form, he fabricated a small, rolling ball on the tip of the writing device. The result was a revolution: as the pen moves, the spinning ball draws a straight line across the paper. Bíró announced his first patent in Hungary in 1938, he named it the stylograph pen. Later he perfected his work in Argentina, where he was invited by the president of the country, thus escaping the war. This new tool, the "biro pen" or simply the "biro" made handwriting smooth across the whole world. Because of the ballpoint pen, its inventor was able to achieve unprecedented fame. László Bíró was born in 1899, in Budapest and passed away in 1985, in Buenos Aires, where he was known as Ladislao José Biro.



El nuevo útil para escribir



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Showing the World in Color

Péter Károly Goldmark (Peter Carl Goldmark)

“Music or science?” - has been the question in the Goldmark family for decades. For Peter, the high school student from Pest, who was born in 1906 the choice was obvious: physics! His professor in Berlin, Dénes Gábor encouraged the talented student who did not sit around with idle hands. For his 20th birthday, he fabricated a 2 1/2 times 1-inch screen on which he managed to receive images electronically. With this newly acquired knowledge, he soon found himself in the United States where he created the first color television broadcast in 1940. During the World War II, he developed a device that was able to jam the German radars. In 1948 he made the miniature screen capable of viewing and examining the human digestive system and the intestines. During his work, he perfected the microgroove gramophone record built a stereo record player for the blind, and created an electronic video recording device. His color TV cameras showed the astronauts of the Apollo-10 mission on their journey to the Moon. In 1977 he received the highest American scientific award, the National Medal of Science from President Jimmy Carter. The Hungarian born “Edison” of mass communication lost his life in a tragic car accident at the age of 71.



Let's Twist Again

Ernő Rubik

If someone's father is an inventor, a pilot, an aircraft designer, and a mechanical engineer, while the mother is a poet, it is hardly surprising that he has unconventional ideas. The colorful world of imagination unites with geometry, logic, and detailed design in Ernő Rubik's brainchild, the Rubik's Cube. This thought-provoking and entertaining logical puzzle moves everyone's minds and fits easily in your palm. With quick, delicate movements, it is amusing to witness how our mind can create order out of chaos, while sorting the colors. Or seeking new challenges is also possible by mixing the blocks, thus creating chaos out of order again. First fabricated in 1974, and patented three years later, one million toys were sold, in Hungary alone in 1980. The first Rubik's Cube Championship was held in Budapest in 1982. The 40th anniversary was celebrated with an interactive exhibition at the Liberty Science Center in New York in 2014. The following year, the exhibition embarked on a seven-year journey around the world. The inventor, Ernő Rubik is also an architect, a sculptor, and an interior designer. He was awarded the Kossuth Prize, received the Order of Saint Stephen of Hungary and was given the Artist of the Nation Award.



Saving the Honour of Europe

The crusade of Andrew II of Hungary, 1217-18

The king inherited this sacred mission from his father, Béla III of Hungary. The old king made a solemn vow to the Pope in 1192 to take up the Holy Cross, however he was unable to accomplish this task, leaving it to his son, Andrew II of Hungary. For more than a hundred years before the attempts to extend sovereignty to the Holy Land ended in failure, thus for Andrew restoring the honour of Christianity was already at stake. On the way there the army traveled on sea and they chose a land route on the way back. The number of knights accompanying the king must have been between 10 and 20 thousand. The Lebanese writer, Amin Maalouf, inspired by contemporary Arabic sources wrote: "There has never been such a bright, orderly, brave and humane enemy that passed here as the mighty and valiant Hungarian King, Andrew II." The English historian, James Ross says: "From an ideological and military historical perspective the enterprise of Andrew II was of major significance. He showed mercy and did not slaughter the fleeing troops and the unprotected inhabitants of Melek Al-Adil Sultan, unlike other crusaders would have done in the same situation. The rulers of the crusader states were his relatives on his mother's side and greeted him like a brother. On the return journey, he made favorable marriage contracts in Armenia Minor, Iconia, and in the Bulgarian Empire. Andrew II of Hungary is the only ruler in the history of crusades who returned to Europe with his army. His successors owned the title "King of Jerusalem" until the 20th century. There is a settlement in Israel called Mi'ilya that is inhabited by a catholic Arab tribe, where everybody's family name is Lajos. This is no coincidence, for they consider themselves the descendants of wounded crusaders of Andrew II who were left behind.



The Perfect Unity of Man, Horse and Arms The Hussar

It is one of those Hungarian words, that is practically known everywhere in the world. Sure, it does not mean the same to them, as to us, but that is not a problem. In some languages, it is translated as fast light-cavalry in their recognizable frogged uniforms, which, according to the Hungarian regulations strikes an unexpected, yet decisive blow on the enemy. For us, the hussars mean a little more: they are fairy-tale figures with mustaches, who riding on their horses go up to the top of the Glass Hill to save their love and to protect their homeland. According to the logic of these tales it is natural that the average footsoldier will become a mighty knight, like the Hungarian Jancsi Kukorica became a general, John the Valiant. János Háy, master of jokes, veteran soldier has countless tricks up his sleeve, while he performs his noble deeds. But there are real, larger than life heroes, like András Hadik and Colonel Simonyi Fairy-tales, folk songs, legends and novels have a solid foundation in reality. And this is no other, then the fighting technique, which has been unique to our nation for thousands of years. It is due to this strategy, that our ancestors reached the Carpathian Basin. Over the centuries, the galloping valiant knight's shoulders were covered with a leopard-skin coat, which was replaced by the hussar uniform, and the bow in his hand was traded for a saber. King Matthias already called his light-cavalry hussars. This military later fought valiantly in Rákóczi's War of Independence, and in 1848 as well. The commanding officer of the hussars' was a father-like, priest-like and teacher-like figure to his men. Anyone who has seen Sándor Sára's film, The 80 Hussars, will never forget it.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian Hussar tradition to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The Land of Milk and Honey

The historical wine region of Tokaj

This region was the first settlement of our conquering ancestors. The findings of Tarcal and Rakamaz are our precious treasures. The 27 villages have 5700 acres of vineyards, that produce Szamorodni and Aszú wines. There is a collection of laws, dating from 1612, which strictly and meticulously defines the winegrowing and winemaking procedures of Tokaj. Interestingly, one of the rules says that one must pay a fine, for using foul language in the vineyard. Ferenc Rákóczi II had financed the nearly one decade war of independence of our nation partly from the income generated by the his estates in Tokaj. Based on a royal decree from 1737, the world's first official wine region was created on the southern volcanic slopes of Zemplén mountain, surrounded by the Bodrog River. Since late medieval times the “wine-inspired” culture has been vivid in Tokaj. Musicians, sculptors, painters, and architects used to fill the courts of the noble landlords here. Nowadays, exhibitions, seminars, and wine tasting events attract people. Every year since 1972, a creative camp for writers is organized, inviting authors and artists alike. In the middle of the 19th century, Sándor Petőfi wrote the following in his travel letters: “In these towns and mountains live Gods of joy. From here, they send their apostoles to the world, with golden flames locked in bottles, to preach to the people, that this land is not the valley of tears.”

The Hungarikum Committee added the historical wine region of Tokaj to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



The Passion of King Matthias The Corvinas

The known world's largest collection of books, the Bibliotheca Corviniana was in Buda in the last decades of the 15th century. It's only rival at that time was the 1000-year-old Vatican Apostolic Library. After the king ascended to the throne in 1458, he started collecting contemporary books and manuscripts immediately. The codexes ordered and bought by him are called Corvinas, since the copies were identified by the Hunyadi family's raven portrayed crest. They were covered with unique, fine leather binding, gold and silver straps and bands and they were also often decorated with diamonds. The subject of the books was primarily ancient classical, philosophical and scientific literature, written and copied in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. At that time their value could be measured in villages and manors, and they are priceless today. "Matthias is dead, the library is lost" – they might have said in 1490 when the king died. The 2500 Corvinas and the several hundred antique manuscripts were squandered by his posteriors, the rest was taken away by the Ottomans who occupied Buda. We must say in their defense that they returned a few of them to Hungary in the 19th century. Today 216 Corvinas are known worldwide, 53 of them have found their way back to Hungary. 49 of them are kept in various Italian libraries, the others are the jewels of Austrian, French, German, English, Belgian, Turkish, Polish, Czech, and American collections. Since 2005 the Bibliotheca Corviniana has been on UNESCO's Memories of the World list.



Sober intoxication

The wine-spritzer

This alcoholic beverage does not knock people out, but invigorates their mood. So, we can wholeheartedly recommend it to all people and all ages over 18. The wine-spritzer is like politics or football: everyone is an expert, but not everyone necessarily thinks about it in the same way. As a matter of fact, we are talking about a mixture of wine and soda water. But what should be the proportion of the ingredients? Let's get something straight, it does not matter! It comes in all shapes and sizes, with a whole bunch of exotic names. Some names are inspired by social roles, like the Concierge, the Landlord, the Tenant. Some by politics, like the Mayor, or the Vice Mayor. One of them, the Krúdy, by the famous writer or by one's economic status, like the Cheapskate, and the list goes on and on. A speciality is the dew spritzer, which consists of a full glass of wine and just a hint of soda water. Not even the type of wine used is written in stone. All of them are equally suitable, the red, the white, Schiller and Rosé, even unfermented grape juice can be used. It probably would not be appropriate to utilize Aszú for this purpose. The first recorded wine spritzer was made in the cellar of András Fáy in Fót in 1842. One of the ingredients, the Seltzer water was invented by the scientist Ányos Jedlik. He introduced the new mixed beverage to his friends, which he called Spritzer in German. The poet, Mihály Vörösmarty was part of the drinking company, and did not like the drink's name, so he immediately changed it to fröccs. He wrote about this miracle in his poem, Song of Fót.

*"The pearls drift skywards in the wine,
Hopefully, no one should contest this right,
All pearls should strive towards the divine,
And leave everything unworthy behind."*

The Hungarikum Committee added the wine-spritzer to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.

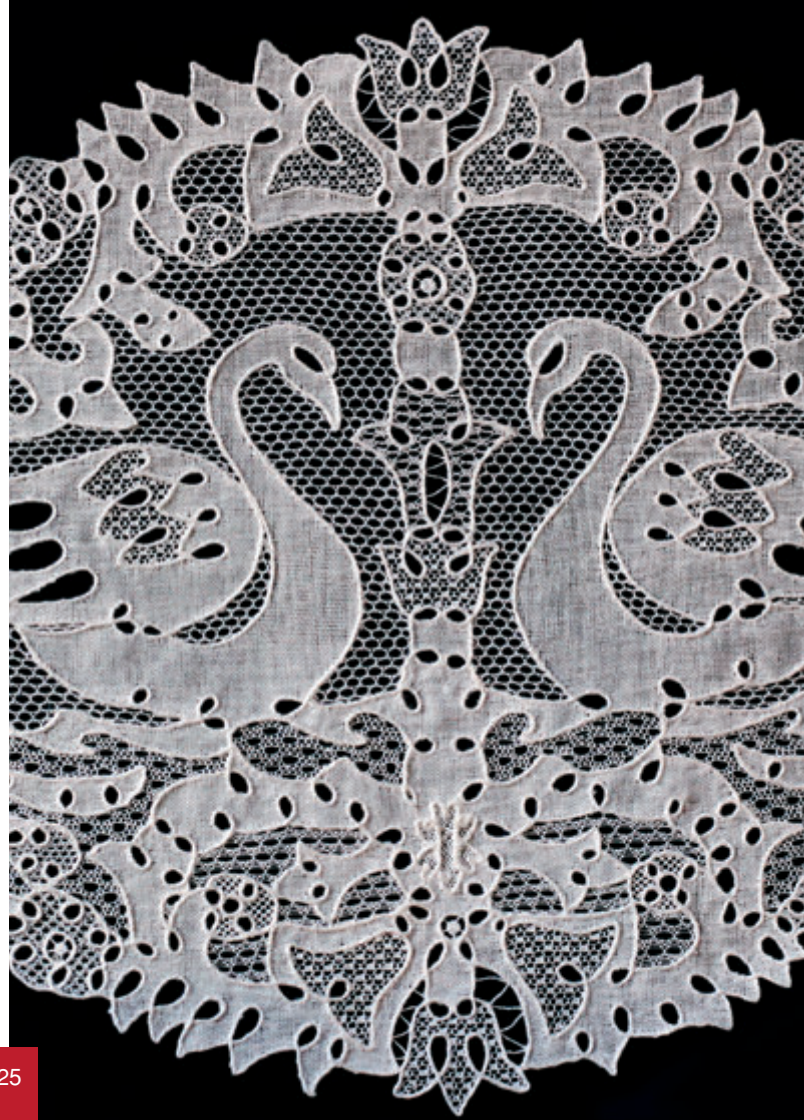


Breathtaking Needlework

Halas lace

Árpád Dékáni, who came from Transylvania, was a teacher at the high school of Kiskunhalas. The local folk costumes and traditional garments had a huge impact on him. He started studying their patterns in 1902. He made drawings about the patterns and later “merged” this heritage with the Art Nouveau style of his age. He showed the results to his family’s female members, who said, sewing this pattern is impossible. However, Mária Markovits, a magnificent artist, who received a gold medal for her work in Paris at the World Exhibition in 1900, returned to town from her studies in Budapest. She took the blueprints in her hand, and based on them she created the Halas needle-lace technique. With this method, sewing artists use 60 different stitching patterns with a delicate, white thread made from line. The motives were emphasized by shading in the one color lace, in order to get a three-dimensional result. The inspiration of the motives came from Hungarian myths, folk tales, and from the beauty of nature. The Halas lace was an overnight success already at the start. Alice Roosevelt, the daughter of the President of the United States at the time, received a custom-made Halas lace fan for her 18th birthday. Ever since then, it has become a protocol gift. Charles IV of Hungary has also worn a sabretache made of Halas lace on his Coronation. Later, such statesmen, like Miklós Horthy, but even Rákosi welcomed the gift, and Queen Elizabeth II, the family of President Bush, and even the Queen of Jordan each came to own one of these masterpieces. When Pope John Paul II visited Hungary, a lace replica of King St. Stephen’s crowning cloak was given to him, as a present.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Halas lace to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Porcelain Empire

The Herend porcelain

The town owes its porcelain culture to the secret recipe of the ancestors and to its geographical location. It was founded in 1826, where the North and South Bakony mountains meet, and a huge quantity of wood, as well as kaolin, feldspar, and quartz were available for the multiple burning processes. Today, the material is heated in modern oven and is later dipped in glaze. Unique patterns are hand-painted onto the artifacts. Herend porcelain first received attention from the general public at the London World Exhibition, in 1851. Queen Victoria admired it so much that she ordered a complete dining set for herself. The design used on this particular collection came to be known as the Victoria pattern and its popularity has been unchanged for one and a half centuries. In addition to honoring tradition, the secret of success is due to continuous innovation. Although there are 64 million patterns and forms in the archives of the Herend Museum, 300 new designs are added each year. There is no traditional or modern interior and kitchen, where the Herend professionals cannot offer porcelain of the right material, form and pattern. Today, Herend is the largest porcelain manufacture in the world, visited by 70-80 thousand people each year. The masterpieces are shipped to 60 different countries. Success is a joint effort of the almost 800 employees, most of whom learned their trade in the vocational school of the “porcelain empire”.



The Hungarikum Committee added the Herend porcelain to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Medicine in Grass, Wood and Water Hévíz

The healing power of the turquoise-colored Hévíz Lake was already recognized by the Romans inhabiting the province of Pannonia. This is not a surprise, since the thermal springs bring thirty five million liter of water to the surface each day, thus the lake renews itself every two and a half days. According to a legend, the Holy Virgin caused the water to burst forth, to heal a crippled child for the praying of his nurse. This little boy later came to be known as Theodosius the Great, who made Christianity the official religion of his empire. Ever since ancient times, the locals used the medicative powers of the lake for therapy and mud baths. From the second half of the 1700s, the aristocratic Festetics family had revived the bathing culture of the lake. Cheerful upper-class social life characterized the region at that time, they provided medical service, a stable, and a bathing house, where even average people were able to enjoy this gift of nature. From the beginning of the 20th century, the Hungarian spirit created the Hévíz healing therapy. The famous medical method, the weight-bath, developed by Dr. Károly Moll, who lived 93 years has been attracting people seeking healing from around the whole world. Anyone, who has been massaged by hot, healing mud or has bathed between pond lilies, surrounded by the forests will be captivated of this wonderful feeling forever.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Hévíz Lake and the traditional Hévíz therapeutic method to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



Alleviator of Pain

János Kabay

If the poppy contains morphine, it can somehow be extracted for medical use, stated the freshly graduated pharmacist. Although scientists have been trying in vain for over 100 years in laboratories of Western-Europe, but what could be a more noble aim, than finding a solution to this riddle. Thus, without having any experience, János Kabay and Dr. Ilona Kelp, who later became his wife, started experimenting in Büdszentmihály, in the corner of Szabolcs county. Within a few years, from the green poppy plant and the dry poppy stalk, he accomplished the full-scale controlled morphine production, revolutionizing the industry. Together with local mechanics and blacksmiths, he established the Alkaloida Chemical Factory in 1927. By the mid-1930s 10% of the world's morphine production came from his factory. With this procedure, farmers did not lose valuable poppy seed heads, as the industry only needed the stalk of the poppy. On the brink of his scientific business success, he died of blood-poisoning, after a hernia operation in 1939. After the expiry of the patent, the Kabay-method has been adopted by all pharmaceutical companies around the world, and is still employed in the manufacture of painkillers.

The life-work of János Kabay, founder of the Alkaloida Chemical Factory has been added to the Collection of Hungarikums by the Hungarikum Committee in 2016.



15th Century invention from the Village of Kocs Horse carriage from Kocs (Kocsi)

At the time when “Proud Vienna suffered sore from King Matthias’ dark array” fast, efficient transportation had to be arranged back and forth between Vienna and Buda. Therefore 6 horse changing stations were set up on the roughly 250 kilometer route. Thus, messengers could take commands, messages, and packages in just a few hours from one city to the other. One of these horse changing stations was in the village of Kocs, where famous craftsmen worked. They had plenty to do. Those who traveled on four wheels used heavy chariots and wagons typical of the age, which were slow, fragile, and uncomfortable. So, the wheelwrights and repairmen decided to innovate the not so perfect carriage. They created a light, fast, and comfortable vehicle, which they named kocsi after the town’s name. Later, English, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Czech, and Serb languages adopted this word. In Turkey and in her region, they still call these carriages “Madjar” which means Hungarian, referring to its origin. Several types of flexible hardwood were sanded together and were used to make the components of the kocsi, while they hardly used iron parts. These wheels, axles and pins absorbed the bumps and shocks of the road and were much more durable than the ones used before. Four people could travel on these coaches including the driver, and there was even room for the luggage. Horses were hitched with chest harnesses so they could move more easily. The kocsi became a success because it could quickly transport people and cargo as well. In a few years, it spread across the entire Western-Europe and in Hungary it enabled affordable, efficient transportation also for people of lower ranks.



“Search, and you shall find” Kürt Data Recovery

When János Kürti patented the technology of repairing the magnetic data storage devices in 1978 he did not even suspect that with his expertise he would shortly go through heaven and hell. As a result of the purchased licences the talented engineer was able to travel to the computer factories of the West and was able to familiarize himself with modern technology. Because the Soviet block countries were blocked from the supplies from the West, people had to learn how to repair their devices themselves. This was necessary until the fall of communism when the open borders facilitated the import of computer parts that could be easily purchased here, too. The seemingly useless knowledge was made valuable by an evolving branch of the computer industry, the data recovery. This particular discipline was based on reparation, in which the Kürti brothers were unbeatable. In 1981 János and Sándor established the KÜRT Information Security and Data Recovery Co., that could cope with even the hardest tasks. For example, they were able to retrieve data from the shattered and burned remnants from the Twin Towers that collapsed in September 2001. The confidentiality agreement signed with FBI does not allow the Company to talk about this commission, but CNN has reported on the assignment. Both George Pataki the Governor of New York at that time and President George Bush expressed their gratitude in the name of the city and the name of the United States.

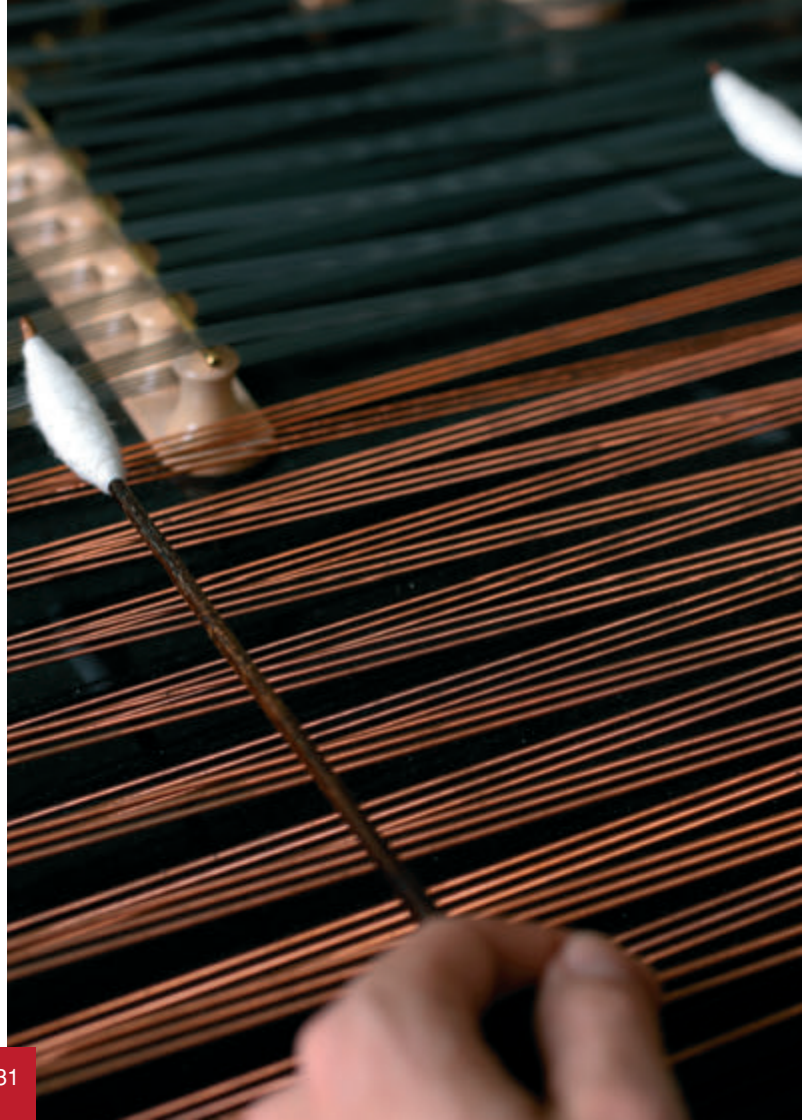
The Hungarikum Committee added the KÜRT data recovery to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



The Instrument of our Soul

The Hungarian dulcimer

When the two pulsating sticks touch the strings, it is almost like the angels smiling from above. The musicians play the magical tunes from the bottom of their hearts. Ferenc Liszt called this modern pedalled dulcimer the Hungarian grand piano. Liszt also welcomed its creator, Vencel József Schunda in the Eternal Hall of Hungarian music. Franz Joseph, the Austro-Hungarian emperor honored the builder, who handcrafted the 10 thousandth piece of this precious instrument by the turn of the century. That age was the period of live music played in cafes, but nowadays the Hungarian dulcimer can mainly be heard at concerts. In Transylvania, many musicians still play it at country weddings, balls, and folk-dance events as music for “dancing”. The instrument is still made by hand. The craftsman starts his work by choosing the perfect wood at the lumber-yard. Although, the tools with which the Hungarian dulcimer is made are more modern, but its soul is the same as it was 100 years ago. Among the people who play the instrument, there are outstanding talents, like Aladár Rácz, classical virtuoso of the 19th century, or a contemporary genius, Oszkár Ökrös. More recently, Viktória Herencsár, founder and President of the Cimbalom World Association (CWA), or Miklós Lukács and Kálmán Balogh are known for their jazz performances, and their student, Bálint Tárkány-Kovács is famous for introducing this beautiful instrument to the younger generation. The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian dulcimer to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2016.



Reassuring Security

The Kuvasz

The Kuvasz is one of our nine national canine breeds. Since herding and shepherding shaped our guard-dogs, this magnificent beast with white fur arrived in the Carpathian Basin with our conquering ancestors. We know this from excavated contemporary graves. His color has a special significance because during a night-time attack the owner could easily differentiate the dog from the predators, such as wolves, bears, or bobcats. Thus, when there was a need for defense, the dog did not make any harm. The world primarily came to know the Kuvasz as the brave attendant of the grey cattle herds that were accompanied by him to the West. Along with beef cattle the shepherds sometimes also traded the Kuvasz at the market. Today the dog's original "profession" has faded, but his elegant, proud posture and confident appearance has made him an excellent home and family guard dog. At the end of the World War II, the raiding and occupying foreign soldiers shot many of these bold dogs who were defending their owner's estates. Thus this noble line of dogs has drifted to the edge of extinction. The re-breeding process started with a few surviving individuals. The dogs that came out of the first litter were called wooly Kuvasz, because the kennel that became world-famous belonged to Dr. Antal Kovács, Head of the Wool Trading Company. The famous Hungarian poet, Kosztolányi writes the following in his poem "My swan dog". "As a forbidding sculpture stretch on the doorstep, our noble guardian, wise, Hungarian Kuvasz."

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd and hunting dogs, amongst them the Kuvasz to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Faithful Affection

The Puli

The Puli is one of our nine national canine breeds. As the old shepherd's saying goes: "There is the Puli, and then there are all the other dogs". His intelligence is incredible, almost as if he could read the human mind. He is a faithful companion, brave and tireless, which is a huge plus for families with children. The Puli is a true member of the family. His original "job description" was to herd the livestock, and in this profession, he accompanied our conquering ancestors' flocks of animals all the way from Asia, to the Carpathian Basin. The visually most striking feature of the Puli, is its twisty, long, corded coat, which is usually black, but brown, white, or grey fur is also common. He feels good in the worst weather conditions and can only be kept outside. He is an excellent swimmer, he can find and guide lost livestock out of swampy areas, in case they wandered away from the flock. There is even a planned Hungarian Moon rover, by Puli Space Technologies, which is named after this dog with dreadlocks. The inventor of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg is the proud owner of a white Puli, called Beast. The dog even has his own social media profile, with more than two and a half million followers. The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd and hunting dogs, amongst them the Puli to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



White Color, Clean Heart

The Hungarian Pauline Order

“My sweet homeland, Hungary you will grow with Paulines and will decline with the same ones,” said Péter Pázmány, the Archbishop of Esztergom in the 17th century. After the destruction of the Mongol invasion, Blessed Eusebius had a divine vision, that later inspired him to establish a monastic order. In 1262, Pope Urban IV received with benevolence the plan of the Pilis mountain’s hermit, and the final approval of the Holy See was given in 1308. Cécile Tormay’s novel, *The White Friar* presents this era in a heart-touching way. Members of the Pauline order wear white robes to distinguish themselves from other wandering hermits. Under the Anjou Kings, under King Zsigmond, and then later under the Hunyadis, the order named after Hermit Saint Paul blossomed and expanded freely. The number of monks had reached a thousand by the 15th century. Their Hungarian roots could be felt in all their whiffles. The Turkish invasion after Mohács, then the dissolving order of Joseph II all caused enormous damage in the life of the Pauline order, but their spirit could not be broken. After the king’s prohibition, their headquarter was moved to Czestochowa, Poland. Today, pilgrimages are regularly led there by Hungarian Pauline monks, there are even motorcycle pilgrimages organized by Brother Botond. The Hungarian founded order is currently doing services in 73 monasteries of 17 countries around the world, not only in Europe but in Africa, America, and Australia as well. After returning home in 1934 and then newly banned in 1950, the life of the Pauline’s started to flourish again in Hungary in 1990.

The Hungarikum Committee added The Hungarian Pauline Order to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Robust Survivor

The Hungarian grey cattle

The puszta landscape of the Great Hungarian Plain would not be the same without this mighty beast. After coming back from the brink of extinction in the 1970s and 80s they started to breed again this successful survivor in the Hortobágy region. They were put to good use in national parks, employed in agriculture to weed out the non-native plants, to fertilize the land in a natural way and to maintain the integrity of the landscape. Extraordinary survival instinct characterizes the grey cattle, they are kept outside free range all year round. In the late Middle-Ages, the Great Hungarian Plain was the breadbasket of Europe. Hundreds of thousands of herds were baffled to the West every year. The cattles were walking 20-30 kilometers a day for months, without losing any weight. The “ox route” led through grassy areas along the rivers. The hajdús, who were armed guards escorting the cattle had to protect the huge herd from the attacks of robbers and wolves along the way. In Nuremberg, at the entrance of the Butcher’s Bridge the statue of a life-size grey cattle has been standing since 1599 reminding the city of the arrival of these animals that saved the people from starvation after a fire. Bovine trade used to be the basis of the Hungarian eco-nomy. At that time the word ‘cattle’ came to embody and become synonymous with wealth. The taste of this beef is unlike any other meat. The unmistakable list of delicacies includes roast beef cheeks, oxtail soup, goulash, stew, ham, sausage, bacon, salami, and even baby food.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian grey cattle to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



Reaching Out for Everybody

The Hungarian district nurse service

This health care service is a unique institution for family care in the world. It was under the patronage of Princess Stephanie and the presidency of Count Albert Apponyi, that the ancestor, the National Stefánia Association was established for the protection of mothers and infants in 1915. This was a much-needed step, as the public health situation of the age required urgent action. Infant mortality and maternal death were high, and on top of that, the tuberculosis was spreading. Pál Heim and József Madzsar developed a preventative system, by organizing the training of midwives. The aim of this initiative was to boost of the birth-rate. They also had to take up the fight against lack of knowledge. Special attention was given to the mothers during their pregnancy. The most pressing priority was to have a professional present at all deliveries. The nurses visited the families in their homes, where they assessed the health and hygiene conditions and provided useful advice. If the mother did not have enough milk, they helped to find a surrogate, and later explained the significance of vaccinations. Today, four thousand graduated district nurses are using modern technology in Hungary. The importance of their work was never questioned by any political system. There has not been an institution like this in the 20-21st century in Hungary.

The Hungarikum Committee added The Hungarian nurse service to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



From Security Guard to Spaceman Károly Simonyi (Charles Simonyi)

He inherited his interest in science from his father, Károly Simonyi Senior who was a Kossuth Prize physicist. Károly Junior, who at that time was only called Karcsi was born in Budapest in 1948. He first encountered computer science in high school. He worked as a night security guard watching over the control room of a Soviet Ural-2 vacuum-tube computer. An engineer who was working there at the time taught the curious student how to use the machine. This inspired him to such an extent that he started writing programs for contemporary computers and the Hungarian state bought one of these from him. From 1968 he had lived and studied in the United States, earning a degree from both Berkeley and Stanford universities. In 1981 Bill Gates offered him a developer job at Microsoft. In 2002 he established his own company. He volunteered to be a space tourist and in 2007 and 2009 he spent altogether 26 and 1/2 days in space what he paid himself. Thus, he became the second Hungarian spaceman after Bertalan Farkas and the first space tourist to leave our planet twice. During his second journey to the cosmos, he sent a message in Hungarian from the International Space Station. He quoted Adam's words from the Tragedy of Man from the 13th scene which is taking place in space:

*"Really what's the aim?
Aim is always the break of a heroic fight,
Death is the aim and life is the struggle,
And man's aim has been this struggle itself."*



Dance, Like They Dance in Szék

The Folk Dance House method

Whether beginners or more advanced dancers, they can all have a good time together at the Folk Dance House. This is a tangible leftover of our ancient heritage in the 20th-21st century. Although this initiative began in Budapest in the 1970s, the roots can be traced back to the turn of the 19th-20th centuries. The musical foundations were laid down by Béla Vikár and János Seprődi, then by Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály. István Molnár collected and put together the dance culture, which could serve as a basis for the next generation. The choreographer, Ferenc Novák was one of them, who took his students to the village of Szék. In this settlement in Mezőség they encountered a live dance tradition, that they wanted to share with everyone. Therefore, on May 6th, 1972, the first Folk Dance House was held in the city with the motto "Dance, like they dance in Szék". From here on, the folk-dance culture started its journey in a legendary community center at Budapest and in the Kassák Club. It quickly spread to the countryside and beyond the present-day borders. This series of events brought joy to people's hearts, by banishing the gray and hopeless world. The movement was started by dancers and musicians, such as Sándor Tímár, Ferenc Sebő, Béla Halmos and Péter Éri. In 1982, the first Táncház (Dance House) festival was held, which has been the biggest event of the year ever since. What is natural binding force in the Carpathian Basin, is a retaining force in the Western diaspora. From Sydney to London and from Toronto to Montevideo the Folk Dance House brings the local Hungarians together in many cities around the world. The second and third generations, who barely speak their native tongue, are connected to the homeland through folk songs, folk dances, and folk music. And the motherland helps this effort via the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program. The Hungarikum Committee added the Folk Dance House method to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



Crying softly in the quiet night

The tárogató

This wind instrument is the embodiment of the Hungarian freedom. According to the Pallas Encyclopaedia, "its sound could be heard in the Battle of Ausburg alongside Lehel's horn, as well as at the outburst of Miklós Zrínyi". Its heyday was during Ferenc Rákóczi's War of Independence, as its sharp and bold sound was noticeable in the battle-noise. On the battlefield it guided the army, and, in the evening, it was played next to the campfires. During the Habsburg oppression, the tárogató fell silent, the freedom-fighter songs could only be listened to most secretly. In the 19th century, some of the braver musicians who were increasingly daring, started to play in public as well. The Sunday Newspaper wrote about the instrument in 1859, and Count István Fáy asked the gypsy performers to learn to play the tárogató, and to include it in their orchestras. In 1894, Vencel József Schunda constructed a concert instrument from the tárogató. Richard Wagner wrote a melody for this particular instrument in his opera, Tristan and Isolde. Between the two World Wars, it was taught at the Hungarian National Academy of Music. Under communism, it was outlawed again by the government. According to the plan all tárogatós in the country should have been collected, but the protest of Zoltán Kodály prevented this cultural scandal. Since the 1990s, the Rákóczi Tárogató Association has been organizing tárogató world-reunions every five years. On this event, foreign musicians also perform, playing Hungarian tunes and melodies, as well as music from their homeland.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Tárogató to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Hungarian Scientist in America

Ede Teller (Edward Teller)

“Everything what I have achieved I can thank to my mother tongue” – declared the 95-year-old physicist. Although he could not set foot on his motherland for 56 years, he spoke Hungarian fluently. No wonder, since in the United States he and his fellow Hungarian scientists were called the “Martians”, who according to the locals spoke an unintelligible language to each other and were very bright and talented. Ede Teller was already teaching quantum mechanics at the George Washington University in the 1930s, and later participated in the Manhattan Project, the secret American nuclear program. His name is connected to the he first successful hydrogen bomb attempt. He saved the United States from catastrophes, because he initiated the closedown of the nuclear power plants that worked on the same principle as the one in Chernobyl. As a result of the wise advice he gave to the President of the United States, military conflict did not break out during the decades of the Cold War. After 1990 he regularly visited his homeland, Hungary. At one point he told journalists: “I feel like I am a reborn Hungarian”. On his first trip home he visited Hungary’s nuclear power plant at Paks where he was satisfied with what he saw and said: “I have no doubt that nuclear energy is extremely important to Hungary as well as to the whole world”. In 2001 he was the first to receive the re-established Hungarian Corvin Chain Award.



The Academic Potter

Zsolnay Porcelain and Ceramics

Vilmos Zsolnay, the factory owner with a flair for arts was a military hero in the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence in 1848. He used his talent to experiment with glazed earthenware and created the beautiful porcelain pottery. Many buildings around the country are decorated with his pyrogranite tiles. The Zsolnay family established their ceramics plant in Pécs in 1852, where they were the first to use the eosin technique that makes the artifacts shine with all the colors of the rainbow. These masterpieces had an overwhelming success at the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873, and also five years later in Paris. The unique glaze and the manual painting make the pots, ornamental pieces, and sculptures special. Ödön Lechner, József Rippl-Rónai and Victor Vasarely have all taken part in making, forming, and painting the porcelain objects. These ceramics can be admired on the Hungarian Parliament, on the rooftop of the Matthias Church, at the Museum of Applied Arts, at the Geographical Institute, at the Palace of Culture in Marosvásárhely and the Town Hall of Szabadka as well. There are also pieces of this art at the Cathedral of Kassa, at the Calvinist church in Kolozsvár and at the Cifra Palace in Kecskemét. At the turn of the century, almost every building that carried Art Nouveau elements in the Carpathian Basin used Zsolnay tiles or roof tiles. The Zsolnay factory was nationalized after 1945. Twenty years later, with the permission of the family, the factory got back the Zsolnay name. After the change of the political system, the Zsolnay brand took its rightful place in the world again, keeping the family traditions and creating ever-lasting treasures. The Hungarikum Committee added The Zsolnay porcelain and ceramics to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



The Independence Warrior who Tamed Fire

János Irinyi

Phosphorus should be mixed with lead dioxide instead of potassium chlorate. Briefly, this is the difference between the “noiseless” safety matches and its predecessors. This was discovered by the 19-year-old János Irinyi after countless experiments and learning from the mistakes of his teachers. He patented his invention in 1836 and sold the rights to István Rómer a medicine and match manufacturing company owner in Vienna. This was how the young nobleman was able to get to abroad for studying. After returning home in 1839, he established the first Matchwood Factory of Pest. On March 15th, 1848 at the outbreak of the revolution he and his brother József participated in writing The Twelve Points and he also served as major in the army during the war of independence. Kossuth, the governor-president of Hungary trusted him with leading the gunpowder and cannon factory in Nagyvárád. After the surrender at Világos, one of the country's best chemists was imprisoned. Later he was released with amnesty, settled down on his estate, and dedicated himself to science. He conducted experiments with soil which he protected from salinization by improving it with plaster. He also managed the István steam mill of Debrecen for 20 years. He passed away in 1895 at the age of 77 in Létavértes, where the posterity salutes him with a bust and a memorial room.

Based on the decision of the Hungarikum Committee in 2015 the works of János Irinyi and the noiseless non-explosive match are to be remembered as outstanding national values.



Nicely “chattering” engine Donát Bánki and János Csonka

In everyday language, the jet disperser is called carburettor. This particular machine element is responsible for the formation of the air-fuel compound in gasoline engines. Donát Bánki and János Csonka first met at the Budapest University of Technology, where they worked together as students and filed several patents. Their best-known invention fundamentally reformed the automobile industry. According to the fable, a casual movement of a florist inspired the idea of the carburettor. The young engineers could see the moment when the girl sprayed the water on the flowers instead of pouring it. The device was originally called “gasifier” and was completed by 1893 making the engine safe, what thus became a well-functioning power machine. The first combustion engines made in the country were produced by the Ganz factory. However, due to former malfunctions the interior secretary had to assure the concerned public and the municipalities, that it is needless to fear of the new engine, there is no risk of fire or explosion.



Magic of Flower Matyó folk art

The region surrounding Bükkalja, and the settlements of the Northern Great Plain were mostly Calvinist. On the other hand, the inhabitants of Mezőkövesd, Tard and Szentistván were ardent Catholics, who deeply respected King Matthias. Many have christened their children Mátyás, to honor the great ruler. The name of the land, Matyóföld might have been a kind, but somewhat teasing title originating from the name. The Matyó people's attraction to beauty can be seen in their folk art, particularly in the embroidery. The masterpieces have many flower patterns. Bright and diverse shades appear in all the colors of the rainbow. They deliberately wanted to be different, by making a visual statement. The world came to know the real Matyó culture at the Budapest Millennial Exhibition, a lot of visitors came from the capital and also from abroad to see this unique Hungarian ethnic group. The most famous embroideress was Bori Kisjankó, a mother of four children. She was often called "the sketcher-of-a-hundred-roses", as she had the magnificent skill of drawing incredible and breathtaking patterns. As she took a pencil in her hands, after a few short minutes, more than 100 roses d flourished in front of her.

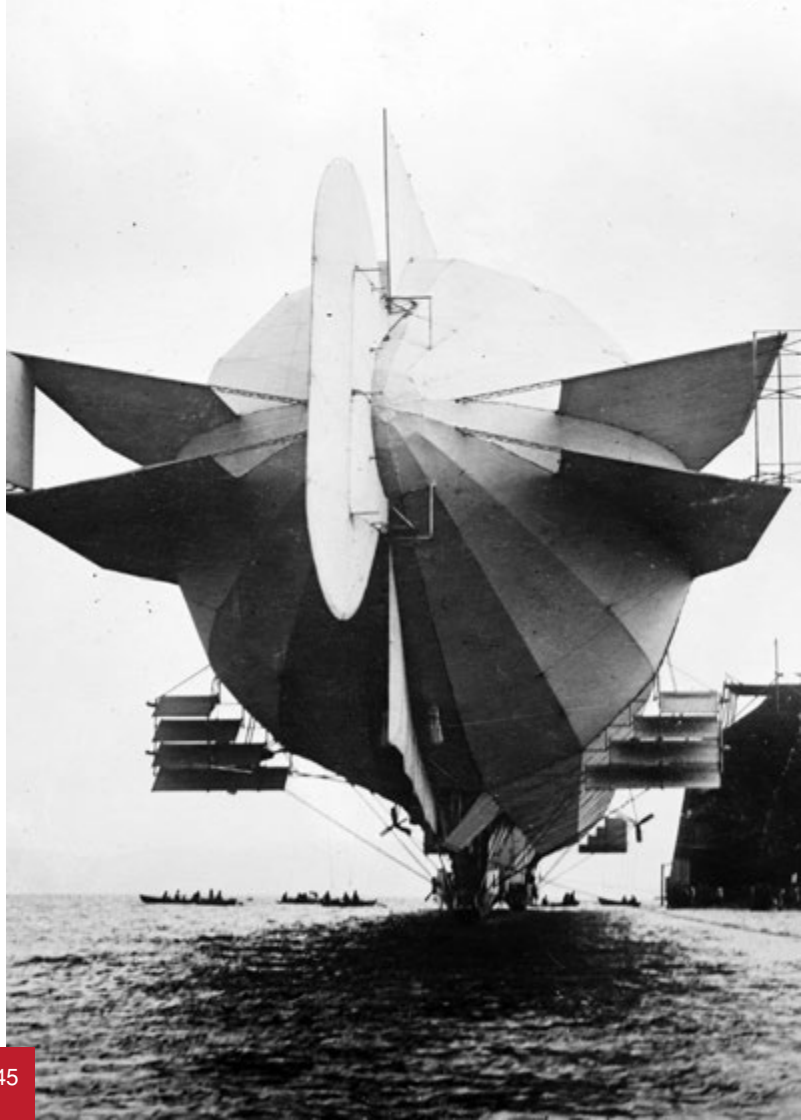
The Hungarikum Committee added The Matyó folk art to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Safe Soaring

Dávid Schwarz

In Vienna they said Nein, In St. Petersburg they said Nyet, in Berlin they said Ja! The inventor, who wanted to renew and improve the construction of the navigable airships was born in Keszthely in 1850. Therefore, he wished to exchange the former fragile material, the rubberized balloon fabric with a stronger and more reliable aluminum plate. With his brilliant concept he approached the Monarchy's Ministry of War, and also the Russian government, but without any success. Since he was confident that it could work, he went to Karl Berg, an aluminum industrialist. The factory owner believed him and from 1895 they worked together on the grid structure of the airship. Dávid Schwarz could not live to see his success, in January 1897 he passed away due to illness at the age of 47. A few months later Ferdinand von Zeppelin witnessed the first successful liftoff. Without hesitating he bought the invention from the widow and patented it right away. Thus, the German soldier and engineer could start the construction of his first own flying vehicle, and based on the plans of Dávid Schwarz the first Zeppelin could take off in 1900.



Nine Olympic Gold Medals Hungarian water polo

Dénes Kemény, the coach of the world's only one two times defending champion, and three times Olympic Champion Hungarian water polo team attributes their success to the thermal water. According to his explanation the hot water spas of the city secured a lead for the local water polo culture that is difficult for the world to catch up with. In the early decades of the sport, players could only train in the summer months in most other countries, while in Budapest the Hungarians could play all the year round in the 25-30 degrees hot thermal pools even when there was freezing cold outside. This is why the sport became so popular and successful in Hungary between the two world wars. The first Olympic gold medalist team with Olivér Halassy, Márton Homonnai and János Németh won several European Championship titles and Olympic gold medals in the 1920s and 30s under the guidance of Béla Komjádi. In the 1950s and '60s Dezső Gyarmati and György Kárpáti won threefive-ring championship titles. In the 2000s Tibor Benedek, Péter Biros, Tamás Kásás, Gergely Kiss, Tamás Molnár and Zoltán Szécsi became triple gold medalists. They also played in one of the most dramatic events of sport history, in the water-polo final of Olympic Games in Athens. After the win of the Hungarian team the broadcaster newsmen, István Hajdú B. broke out in tears at the end: "I have never thought I would burst into tears because of 13 men in swimming trunks."

Based on the decision of the Hungarikum Committee made in 2017 the Hungarian water polo is regarded an outstanding national value.



The Best of the Best 100-member Gypsy Orchestra

When the “first-violinist king”, Sándor Járóka Senior passed away in 1985, immeasurable sadness captured his fellow musicians. Hundreds of people came to his funeral to accompany him on his last journey, and the music was played with abundance of tears. The 100-member gypsy orchestra was born from these tunes. The emblematic figures of the next generation, Lajos Boross, László Berki and Tivadar Mészáros decided that the best musicians should play together not only at such painful events, so they established the National Cultural Gypsy Orchestra Association of Budapest. The rather long name was shortened to simply 100-member gypsy orchestra, which the audience later fell in love with. The best gypsy-musicians came together from different units of catering industry. The world-famous pianist, György Cziffra was also present at the first rehearsals, and became eternal Honorary President of the Association. Ever since then, folk music adaptations from Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály, classical music transcripts from Brahms, Berlioz, Bizet, Strauss and Monti were included in their performances. Thanks to the ingenuity of the orchestrators, the bass was replaced by the Hungarian dulcimer. According to Farkas Nándor Beke, the President of the Orchestra despite the admiration of kings, princes, politicians, and other foreign fans, the band's most important mission is to satisfy the Hungarian audience. If their performance is a success at home, they can rest assured, that they will meet the same success elsewhere.

The Hungarikum Committee added the 100-member Gypsy Orchestra to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



The First Hungarian Bible The Vizsoly Bible

At the end of the 16th century the township of Vizsoly in terms of location could hardly be in a more fortunate position. The Ottoman invasion did not reach this far, it felt the intellectual influence of the nearby Sárospatak College, moreover it was on the busy wine route leading to Poland and Russia. The church reform movements also made a fruitful impact on the town. The New Testament was translated by Gáspár Károli, a dean from Gönc, while his fellow pastors helped him in the translation of the Old Testament. It took them three years to translate the Bible. The workshop of Vizsoly functioned between 1588 and 1599. The work was done without the permission of the Habsburg censorship. This represented a huge risk for all participants, whether they were noble patrons, translators, or wine merchants who smuggled papers or printers. Finally, they could print 800 copies, but only 54 of them survived the vicissitudes of history. 28 copies are preserved in various Hungarian collections, the rest are carefully guarded treasures of foreign libraries. This is no wonder, as the Vizsoly Bible is a Renaissance book rarity, a handcrafted work of art. Its true value can only be appreciated by us, Hungarians, since this is a record achievement in our literature, religion and history of technology. This samizdat publication of its time can also be considered the first symbol of the freedom of the press in Hungary. Sándor Reményik dedicated these lines to the everlasting memory of Gáspár Károli: "Through his patience and humility the words of the eternal God speak to us – in Hungarian."

The Hungarikum Committee entered the Vizsoly Bible to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



Carbon dioxide into the drinking water

Soda-water

The Benedictine monk Ányos Jedlik was born in 1800, in Szimó, Csallóköz. Despite being receptive to the scientific and technological innovations, the young man still chose church service as his profession, but secular life also interested him after his ordination. In accordance with the Benedictine order, he busied himself with prayers, and he worked diligently and conducted scientific experiments. He invented the technology of how to absorb carbon dioxide in water in 1826. One of the key tools to accomplish this was the siphon head, with which the water in the bottle retained its gas content, even after some liquid was sprayed out of it. Due to the high pressure, the uniquely shaped soda siphon can be immediately easily distinguished from any other bottle. Soda-water can be stored for much longer than plain water, and perhaps more importantly, the pathogens of epidemics do not stay alive in carbonic acid. It is excellent to sip soda water in itself, but it is the essential ingredient of wine-spritzer, which can also be thanked to Ányos Jedlik. According to many grandmothers, syrups give off their true flavor by enriching the fruit concentrate with soda-water, but many also store cherry preserves in carbonated water. Bartenders feel grateful to the inventor, being able to use this invention in long-drinks, lemonades and cocktails. Confectioners use it as well, because many recipes begin with an instruction like this: “take two cups of sparkling water.”

The Hungarikum Committee added the soda-water to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



The Unbeatable Champion

Zoltán Magyar

Two times Olympic gold medalist, three times World and European Champion, Universiade winner. He was three times awarded the “Sportsman of the year” in the 1970s, he is also a member of the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame. Although he ended his sporting career at the age of 26 with the series of moves that brought his second Olympic gold medal in 1980, his name is still mentioned at every competition to this day. What he created will have a place forever in the world of gymnastics. The Magyar travel designed by his coach László Vígh, is part of every modern-day exercise. The referees, trainers, reporters and fans still keep talking about Zoltán Magyar, which is no surprise, since the series of movements that gripped between the pommels and enclosed the entire pommel horse was an unprecedented improvement. By the time his fellow competitors learned his moves he and his coach came up with new and original ones, like the Magyar spindle and the leaping travel. Thanks to these movements he won every world competition in pommel horse gymnastics during his adult career between 1973 and 1980. The most elegant gymnast of his age retired unbeaten. After decades spent as veterinarian, he became the Chairman of the Hungarian Gymnastics Federation in 2011. He witnessed Krisztián Berki's pommel horse success at the London Olympics already as sport Director. Zoltán Magyar has been the Athlete of the Nation since 2015 and won the Prima Primissima Award in 2018.



Enriched with Matchstick Noodles

Baja fish soup

According to legend, they started adding matchstick noodles to the fish soup with the aim of increasing its calorie content. The apprentices at the local water mills complained about the food supplies, particularly about the fish soup what they got from their masters for lunch. To satisfy the workers, the miller asked the cooks to knead noodles from the leftovers of the flour, in order to add some carbohydrates. This soup from Baja is an extremely simple dish. The ingredients, water, onions, fish, noodles and spices are cooked together in a large cauldron. All these can be found locally, in Baja. The water and the fish were taken from the Danube or the Sugovica rivers. Many types of fish can be found there, like carp, pike, catfish, mullet, bream, crucian carp and trench. The most common fish soup is made of carp, but according to the gourmands the more fishes boil together, the better the end result will be. Homemade paprika must be used! To the greatest luck of the locals, Kalocsa and Szeged are next door, they both have excellent paprika. Women make the matchstick-noodles at home. The soup is cooked in a traditional cauldron of Baja. It has wide bottom and is narrowing towards the top. The advantage of this particular vessel is that this way the steam, the aroma and flavor of the soup cannot escape as easily, instead they precipitate on the sides, making the dish tastier. It should be preferably made in open-air, above a blazing fire. Baja is the capital of fish soup. The town's fish soup cooking festival made it to The Book of Guinness World Records. In summer, more than 2000 cauldrons are set up in the main square of Baja to cook the famous fish soup. The Hungarikum Committee added the Baja fish soup to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



Traditional Technology

The Hungarian bow of the 9th-11th century

This formidable weapon of war is closely related to the recurve bows of the Eurasian steppe folks. Its length is about 1 or 1,5 meter and it can only be made from natural materials, primarily wood supplemented with sinew and horn scales. Its main task is to shoot as far away and as accurately as possible during hunting or in battle. Everything depends on the quality of the bow, arrow and nerve, the force and experience of the horseman, and also on the skill of the horse. Under ideal conditions, the length of a shot can reach up to 200 meters. From contemporary accounts, we know that at the beginning of the battle, the Hungarian horsemen gained a positional advantage by sometimes approaching and sometimes distancing themselves from the enemy, while defeated it with their storm of arrows. "Lord save us, from the arrows of Hungarians!" – prayed many across Europe according to the legends. The fast and agile Hungarian tribesmen were able to draw their bow and shoot the arrow within seconds. In the 800s and 900s, the Hungarian forces kept military control over the Continent. There were few worthy opponents from Byzantium across Italy and Hispania all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. This military dominance enabled the Árpáds to accomplish the Conquest and establish the Hungarian state that has been existing for more than 1,100 years.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian bow of the 9th-11th century to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



Tiny houses in the huge plain

The Hungarian farmstead

Life on a farm means a traditional lifestyle that adapts to the natural conditions of the landscape, it has its own unique settlement structure, agricultural activities, and transmits its own special tradition. Ranch farming is an activity that is rooted in nature, where people live in harmony with their environment. Farmstead settlements were initially called “accommodations”, where they seasonally stored the harvest and kept the animals. The permanent outdoor life developed later. This way of life is most common in the Great Plain. The town of Hódmezővásárhely has the largest surrounding farmsteads area. After the Great War, the remaining country focused on the intellectual education of the nation. Farm schools, agricultural training institution and reading circles, and choirs were formed. In the second half of the 20th century this traditional form of life could only survive in those parts of the land, where despite the socialist nationalization the farmers still owned some parts of their properties. After World War II, these families were labeled as enemies and they were ignored when it came to development and innovation. By today – with the help of applying on tenders - more and more people are choosing this lifestyle and many return to sustainable farming.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian farmstead to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Krypton into the light bulb!

Imre Bródy

The inventor was born into a wealthy middle-class family in Gyula in 1891. The writer Sándor Bródy and the politician Ernő Bródy were his relatives. After finishing high school in Arad, he studied mathematics and natural sciences, later got a teacher's degree and also earned his PhD. Since Edison's light bulb was far from reliable, he was primarily preoccupied with electric lighting. The filament corroded too fast and the glass bulb had a lot of carbon deposits from the inside because of incomplete oxidization. In 1930 Bródy recognized that instead of nitrogen and argon that were used before it is better to use krypton in the light bulb which is a weaker heat conductor. Thus, while it consumes the same amount of energy the light of the bulb is more effective. He changed the length and diameter of the glowing filament so that the glow temperature would rise without reducing the lifespan of the bulb. His invention was a big hit at the Budapest Industrial Fair in 1936. The krypton bulbs spread all over the world. For this, they extracted the noble gas from the air and produced it in the world's first krypton factory which was built by the United Lightbulb and Electronic Ltd. in Ajka.



National Colors

Gyulai sausage

In Gyula, the first public slaughterhouse started working in 1868. Stuffing sausage had already been popular but from this moment on, it became a family pastime. In the 1930s, András Stéberl, a butcher started the large-scale manufacturing in his sausage factory. He understood, that the saying “Good wine needs no bush” is not always true, therefore he became his own marketing manager. He started sending his strawmen to various meat shops in Budapest and later to other towns, where Gyulai sausage was not sold. These complaining fake customers demanded Gyulai sausage. A few days later, his sales representatives showed up in the same stores, saying that they could deliver the much-desired sausage from Gyula, on-demand. Near the schools, he started handing out product samples to the children, and asked them to take it home to their parents to taste. These colleagues were doing such a great job, that orders soon started coming in, believe it or not, even on postcards. According to the sausage makers, the Gyulai's secret lies in their love and passion, and in the rich microclimate of the Kőrös Valley. The recipe itself is not confidential, we even know, that it contains black pepper. The art of maturation and the art of smoking the sausage is a closely guarded secret of the locals. The 100-year-old walls of the smokehouses give off a unique smell. The quality of the sausages is much appreciated outside the Carpathian Basin, too. The sausages are labeled with a red-white-green vignette, which are the national colors of Hungary. Across Europe this is considered a delicacy, in Hong Kong, it is even used as a pizza topping.

The Hungarikum Committee added Gyulai sausage to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



The Place, Where Time Stands Still Hollókő

The Palóc village and its surroundings, including the castle, have been part of the UNESCO World Heritage since 1987. This is due to the local architectural uniformity, which the locals have been able to preserve for centuries. The houses, the streets, the gardens blend naturally into the landscape. The people are no exception, to this harmony, since they are the ones, who make this image authentic. After all, the visitors are not attending a museum or an exhibit, but a living settlement. The shingled, wooden tower church is not just an accessory for these people, but a place where they can encounter with the Creator. The church in the middle of the village was built from local donations, in 1889. An old sign on the post office building says: Royal Hungarian Post and Telephone Office. A friendly homeowner can take a peek at what is happening on the street from the windows of the carved porches. At Easter, groups of bachelors dressed in Palóc clothes visit the girls, who are wearing pleated skirts and ribbons, to perform local rituals and to show their admiration. In this village, everyone wears traditional clothes. Since Hollókő is the end of the road amongst the mountains, the novelties of the modern world crossed its borders quite late. When the local men started working in the mines of the area in the 1960s, they were still wearing their traditional clothes and they were surprised to see, that the outside world dresses differently. Hollókő is a cultural treasure of the past, which still exists today. Therefore, its value could hardly be underestimated in the 21st century.

The Hungarikum Committee added the old village of Hollókő and its surroundings to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



Prince of Transylvania and King of Poland István Báthory

One of the most successful Hungarian politicians ever. After the fall of Buda in 1541 and Hungary being split into three parts, the Transylvanian Principality remained the true Hungarian state. Báthory was already the advisor and diplomat of the first ruler János Zsigmond, then later, through adventurous ways became his follower in the court of Gyulafehérvár. He had ambitious plans, his ultimate goal was the reunification of Hungary. Starting from the throne of the Transylvanian Principality, squeezed by the Habsburgs and the Ottomans, as a first step he was able to acquire the crown of Poland, one of the powers of the age and with it the title of the Grand Duke of Lithuania. This move made him the rival of Ivan the Terrible, who treated him like an enemy and attacked him, but Báthory defeated the Russian czar with the help of his Transylvanian troops and in 1582 forced him to make peace. The humanist István Báthory ruled his kingdoms from Krakow, the capital of Poland, and is remembered to this day for founding the Vilnius University. Though he could not achieve his ultimate mission he showed a lasting example to his posteriors. "As a child, you were raised in Hungary, in your youth you were educated in Italy and Germany, your valor gained merit in Poland. The whole world admired the magnanimity and shining light of your deeds" – these were the words his loving Polish subjects used to say as a last farewell to Báthory. The Hungarian writer, László Passuth eternalized the age and the person of Báthory in his novel titled "Four winds in Transylvania".



Hospitality, effectively

The legacy of Károly Gundel

Franz Sacher, Cesar Ritz, Auguste Escoffier, Károly Gundel. We can proudly add the name of the famous Hungarian restaurant owner to the line of great European gastronomers. He brought his skills and know-how from home. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, his father János Gundel was the chairman of the Hotelmans, Innkeepers, and Barkeepers Guild of Budapest for 35 years. The young Károly learned the trade in West-Europe, then made the big step in 1910. He rented out the restaurant in the City Park from Ferenc Wampetics and put the Gundel sign above the entrance. Just as Bartók and Kodály collected folk songs, Károly Gundel gathered the Hungarian recipes, food specialties and flavors then started to prepare them in his restaurant and publish them in cookbooks. On the New York World's Fair in 1939, he was responsible for the Hungarian pavilion's official restaurant. "The Gundel restaurant secures more and better promotion to Budapest, than a shipload of tourist leaflets" – wrote the New York Times. The artists of the age went to his restaurant with pleasure, for example Sándor Márai, whose wife Lola provided the recipe of the Gundel pancake. Today the magnificently furnished Art Deco restaurant awaits its guests with gastronomical delicacies, musical experience, and an exhibition of contemporary paintings. In the past decades, many world celebrities have visited Gundel's restaurant and tasted his delicacies, including the Queen of England, the President of the United States, and Pope John Paul II.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the legacy of Károly Gundel to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Better to Prevent than to Cure

Béres drops

The ignorance and despotism have pursued the nascent thought with sword and fire, but the overwhelming will and patriotism were finally able to get over it. József Béres, an agriculturalist, working in the countryside, recognized during his research work, that certain micronutrients sometimes disappear from the soil, due to accessive farming. If these are not replaced, this lack will be felt in the entire food chain, and may appear in humans as a deficiency-disease. To fill this gap, he created a substitute in the 1970s, which replaced the missing essentials. He published his findings, and since the experiments on animals confirmed the positive effect of the dietary supplement drops, he also tried it on himself in a fifty times dose. Seeing the hopeless situation of some people, he started applying the drops in his family first, than on anyone who approached him. This was done illegally at that time, without the approval of the communist one-party system, that also controlled the scientific life. They were not happy, that a farm expert from Szabolcs county poked his nose into high medical matters. Thus József Béres was arrested and put on trial. But he resisted the threats and declined the offer to leave his home county with a Western passport. He stayed and made his case a success. The Béres drops is a public health medicine and a dietary supplement. It plays a significant role in healing the sick, but its most important task is prevention.

The Hungarikum Committee added Béres drops to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



The Broadcast Was Interrupted Bertalan Farkas spaceman

There is not a person in Hungary, who is not familiar with his name. Bertalan Farkas, who was picked from 95 fighter pilots to be a spaceman was born in Gyulaháza. He was 31 years old when he departed from Baikonur onboard the Soyuz-26 spaceship on the 26th of May 1980 at 8:20 PM Hungarian time. The Russian and Hungarian news agencies, the TASS, and MTI informed the world in a joint press release. The Hungarian television reported the start of the first Hungarian space program by interrupting the television broadcast. During the one week he spent in space aboard the Salyut-6 space station he conducted physical and biological experiments. During his stay in the cosmos, he first used the Hungarian developed Pille radiation dosimeter system. Newer versions of these have been still serving the astronauts onboard the International Space Station ever since. When he passed above Hungary two times he took pictures of Lake Balaton and the Tisza river. The expedition landed in Kazakhstan on the 3rd of June. Bertalan Farkas received the highest Hungarian and Soviet awards for his successful mission and is still participating in the popularization of space exploration all over the world. He is one of the 25 founding members of the International Association of Space Explorers. Before the launch, the ground crew wanted to shave his mustache out of superstition, but the cosmonaut from Nyírség did not let them, he only allowed a little trim to his captain Valeri Kubasov. With the space journey of Bertalan Farkas Hungary was the 7th nation to set foot into outer space.



Constant Item on our Holiday Menus

Fattened goose

The goose is the beloved poultry of our nation, and fattening it is an old tradition. The bird stores its secret power in the liver. Its migrating relatives get ready for the big journey ahead by eating as much as they can to stock up some energy for the trip before they leave for Africa. After the newly hatched goslings grow up, they are taken to fattening houses, where they are fed with high-fiber food, most typically corn. According to scientific research, the force-feeding is not at all unpleasant for the animal. The researchers observed, that the goose only accepts food from the person who provides the food regularly. Fattening the goose is a small-scale family activity, that requires skill and experience. It is the farmer's interest, that the bird feel good and have an optimal weight-gain. Obviously, this cannot be achieved by torturing the animal. The anatomy of the geese make them suitable for stuffing, since their cousins in the wild could also swallow big fishes with spiky flappers. Besides its liver, the meat is also a delicacy. The drumstick of the fattened goose is a food fit for kings, and it has a very different and unique place in gastronomy. It is cooked in its own fat, that is what makes the meat so tender, almost melting in your mouth. It barely needs any seasoning. Hungary is currently producing the world's 60-70% of fattened goose liver. It is our agriculture's highest ranked export item, featuring on the menu of elite restaurants. The goose, that is marinated in milk, flavored with garlic, and cooked in its fat is truly a gourmet dish.

The Hungarikum Committee added the products made from the Fattened goose to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Our Tireless Guardian

The Komondor

One of our nine national canine breeds. This white giant beast has been guarding our possessions for thousands of years. He was already standing by and protecting the livestock of our conquering ancestors along the way and he still lives with us today. He is very good at what he does, he has all the skills needed for the job. His imposing appearance, 70-80 centimeters height 50-60 kilograms weight and thick fur sends the message from afar that he is the boss around here. He admirably adapted to extreme weather conditions, he does not even need a doghouse, a sheltered place where he finds shade and is protected from the rain is enough for him. During the day he mostly just lies around and could even seem lazy to the casual observer, but he senses every flutter around him and acts if needed. However, at night he is up and about constantly moving being able to supervise large areas alone. He exactly knows the borders of his territory without the need of a fence, that is why some folks call them “boundary dogs”. The famous Hungarian poet, Sándor Petőfi could not imagine the landscape of the Great Hungarian Plain without the sight of the Komondor. He writes this in his poem Kiskunság:

*“Finally, long after a farmstead appears, large stacks of hay
Crows sit on them, a somber Komondor prowls here and there,
Fields like seas around, on them the blessed wheat,
They lean downwards, because of the heavy seed”*

The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian shepherd and hunting dogs, amongst them the Komondor to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Color World in the Dark

Caves of the Aggtelek karst

This place already provided protection to prehistoric men. However, tourists only started visiting it in the middle of the 18th century. There is lots to see, the different stages and products of karstification can all be observed here. The 25-kilometer long Baradla-cave is considered to be the richest, most spectacular cave system in the northern hemisphere, on our Continent. The general public can walk freely for about 7 kilometers, but there are closed and unexplored sections as well. The Retek-branch of the cave-system is for extreme hikers only and can only be visited with professional guides. This 9-kilometer, 7-hour underground hiking trail involves crawling on your knees and walking on sloppy, wet ground. Illuminated halls of this colorful world welcome the visitors, the chemical processes present all the shades from white to crimson, that painted the stones for millennia. This highly protected environment is home to more than 500 animal species. Most of these are barely visible, but the bats hanging upside down from the rocks are observable for the good-eyed cavemen. Those, seeking cultural experience can even listen to music in the Hall of Giants and the Concert Hall. Many people come here, to the Béke and Baradla to find a cure for their allergies and respiratory problems. Couples, seeking to get married here, and have the dropstones echo their eternal 'yes I do' at their wedding need to reserve their spot, at least one year in advance, because they are completely overbooked.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Caves of Aggtelek karst to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



Conquest Completed

The Battle of Pozsony (907)

In the early 10th century, the Eastern Kingdom of the Franks did not like what it saw in the Carpathian Basin. The Hungarian domain was growing stronger and stronger. The Franks were familiar with this military force from the past decades since the feudal lords who fought against each other often called Hungarian tribes to settle their internal conflicts. They had every right to fear that they might lose control forever over the former Roman, than later Frank territories. According to the Bavarian historic chronicles they wanted to unleash a destructive ultimate attack on the Hungarians. For this purpose, they mobilized almost every army in Western Europe. In the first days of July 907, they started marching along the line of the Danube river to destroy their enemies. One army was traveling on ships while two others moved along the riverbank. But Árpád the head of the confederation of the Hungarian tribes was prepared for the attack. The battle lasted for three days, where Grand Prince Árpád defeated the attacking units one after the other subduing the whole military staff and many fighting church dignitaries. King Louis escaped to Passau. With this victory, the Western border at the Enns river became final, which the foreign armies could only cross only after 120 years in 1030, facing a failure once again. Many sources put the death of Árpád to 907. Because the youngest of his sons Zolta followed him on the throne, it can be assumed that the three older brothers Tarhos, Üllő and Jutas gave their life for their homeland along with their father, Árpád.



The Wonder Medicine of Caring Mothers

Alföld chamomile

When cultivating herbs, the quality of the soil, the quantity of the rain, and the hours of sunshine all play a huge role. The quality of the chamomile that is grown on the Great Plain is excellent, since these conditions are all favorable. The locals have known this since time immemorial, and they also have had documents to prove it since the 16th century. The general public first learned about this at the Brussels World Exhibition in 1911, where the chamomile farmed in the Great Plain won a gold medal. German markets pay a much higher price for the plants that are harvested here, than for those from other places. One of the secrets of success is gathering and sorting by hand. The flower-pickers use specially designed “chamomile-combs” to scan those patches, where the soil is alkaline and no other plant grows. They carry the flowers in bags to the collection points, where the place of origin is confirmed and from there the route of chamomile can be traced back until the customer. Another quality requirement is the high bisabolol-content, that can be utilized in the pharmaceutical industry and in the beauty industry as well. The chamomile can be grown basically anywhere, but the topmost quality comes from the areas neighboring the Hortobágy, where this provides income for a lot of folks.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Alföld chamomile to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



The Turkish Fear It, the World Drink It The Bull's Blood of Eger

The town of Eger and its surroundings can be rightfully proud of their wine. It contains the best of everything, that we want to show of ourselves. All the ingredients are there for a perfect marriage, and it's a match made in heaven. Local law prescribes, that "Bull's blood", or Bikavér must be composed of at least of three different types of dry, red grapes, that were harvested in the vineyards of Eger, and the highest proportion should be Kékfrankos. Christening of the wine dated back to the Siege of Eger by the Ottomans in 1552. According to the legend, during the fiercest fighting, the captain, István Dobó distributed wine amongst the defenders. In the heat of the battle, the soldiers were drinking out of casks, cups, they even used their helmets, or just their bare hands. The red liquid was all over their face, beards. The superstitious enemy believed, the Hungarians were drinking the blood of bulls, bull's blood, and so they are invincible. The habitat is exceptional, one of the most well-known wine regions of the country. The heat of the Alföld, the Great Plain, the climate and soil of the Bükkalja produces outstanding grape, where viticulture has a millennial tradition.

Ever since the middle of the 19th century, this full-bodied, red wine from Eger is called Bikavér. The initial push was given by winemaker Jenő Grőber, who launched Bull's Blood to conquer the world. Today, the Eger wine producers are among the most outstanding ones in the country. Vilmos Thummerer, Tibor Gál, Béla Vincze and György Lőrincz were all awarded "Winemaker of the Year" title.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Bull's Blood of Eger to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Roses out of Bread

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

The most widely known saint from Hungary. Hospitals and churches named after her can be found everywhere all over the Catholic world. Her character sends a message to the world that Hungarians give to the poor, nurse the ones in need and heal the sick. Ceasarius of Heisterbach, a Cistercian monk writes about the Hungarian princess: "Elizabeth the venerable and so kind to God came from a noble family and shined in the mist of this world like a morning star." The third child of Andrew II of Hungary lived for no more than 24 years, but even this short lifespan enabled her to become an eternal role model. Elizabeth was the wife of Louis IV of Thuringia. In her new family everyone looked at her charitable and generous character with disapproval, except for her husband. According to the legend when she was taking bread to the poor in her robe without anyone seeing, and was asked by his brother-in-law, she said she had roses in her apron. God did not abandon this most humble princess and performed a miracle. To the insistent demand of the relative Elizabeth opened her robe, where there were really roses. Pope Gregory IX canonized her in 1235 four years after her death with unprecedented swiftness. Her earthly remains rest in the Saint Elizabeth church in the Marburg. Beside her carved sarcophagus and the unmatched beauty of her golden shrine fresh roses and wreaths with the colors of Hungary symbolize the eternal gratitude of our nation.



Hungarian sabre fencing

The Mathematicians of the Blade

László Radnóti, the sports reporter of the Hungarian radio used the words in the title “Mathematicians of the blade” and he was not exaggerating! On all the Olympics from 1908 to 1964 (except 1920 when the losing countries of the Great War were banned from participating in this sporting event) the Hungarians were the winners of every individual event and except two occasions they won the team gold medals as well. The most successful Hungarian Olympians emerged from this branch of fencing, Aladár Gerevich seven, Pál Kovács and Rudolf Kárpáti six-times Olympic gold medalists. Until 2016 the Hungarian National Anthem was played 24 times to honor our fencers at the Olympic Games. Many could follow live the legendary victory against the Soviets in 1988 or the success of Bence Szabó in Barcelona. But even the youngest could remember the triumph of Áron Szilágyi in London and Rio de Janeiro. Altogether 36 of our fellow countrymen stepped on the highest platform of the podium of the Olympics as sabre fencing champions. Behind these staggering unbelievable numbers, we find true gentlemen, modern-day knights for whom honor, comradeship, and patriotism are unquestionable virtues. They use their weapons not to defeat others, but to show their mental and physical abilities. It was written about Pál Kovács, but is almost true for every classical fencer of ours: “His tactics are primarily built on speed. Fencing is typically a mind game for him, he fences based on his highly reliable and precise techniques. He secures the victory with a masterful strike of the sabre.”



The First Media Mogul

József Pulitzer (Joseph Pulitzer)

He was born in Makó, in 1847. He wanted to be a soldier at all costs, but the Austrian and British-Indian army as well as the French foreign legion refused to enroll him because of his weak physical condition. Finally, the Americans recruiting in Hamburg enlisted him, so at the age of 17 he participated in the American Civil War in the army of the Northern states. In 1867 he was discharged from the armed forces and looked for a job in St. Louis, Missouri. The German Westliche Post daily newspaper hired him as a reporter. Since he was a smart businessman, he soon bought the newspaper that employed him, and even managed to get the town's other newspaper the St. Louis Dispatch. Then by uniting the two he published a paper, titled St. Louis Post-Dispatch. As a next step, he acquired the New York World which was making a loss at that time and he turned it into the most significant newspaper of the country. His method was simple. He processed headline chasing, attention-grabbing tabloid news at a cut-rate price. Later on, he also introduced more newsworthy, more valuable topics. Fact-finding reports appeared in the paper, which engaged the common reader and provided content that really concerned the society. The publication of the first comic series in 1895 was also a big hit. He passed away at the age of 64. Since 1917 - according to his last - will one of the most prestigious press recognition, the Pulitzer Prize is awarded to the worthiest recipient.



When it's Crunchy, it's the Best! The Debrecen Double Sausage

It is a real energy bomb. Perhaps the first street food. As the businessmen at the marketplace of Debrecen wanted a head start for the day, they had a huge feast in the morning, thus they did not need another meal until the evening, even with the hard work of the day. It is first mentioned in the late 1700s, that at the roasters in Debrecen sausages stuffed in guts also appeared next to roasts. At first, it was made of beef and kidney fat, but by the mid-1800s several other fillings were used. There were sausages made exclusively from beef, also from the mix of beef and pork, and to satisfy the Jewish traders, there was the 70% beef and 30% lamb combo, thus confirming to the kosher dietary laws. These historical recipes were the original double sausages of Debrecen. During production, it was not allowed to grind and to mush the stuffing, or to mix in other unidentified ingredients. The thickness of this legendary sausage is 3 centimeters and the length is 13 centimeters. The blend of spices used are still highly confidential. For the manufacturing process, a good quality gut to fill the meat in is essential. The sausage has to make a cracking sound, when you stick your fork into it, as you start the meal. It is probably a good idea to wear an apron as you dig in, because it can get messy. This delicacy was exclusively sold by ladies, who were members of the sausage maker's guild of Debrecen, and it was only available at the markets of this particular town. These women's job was to stuff the sausage, weigh the meat and fry the emblematic double sausage on demand of the hungry buyer. The sausages were always sold in pairs, because if one was smaller and the other would be larger. Using this marketing strategy could make up for the inconsistent size. This way both the seller and the customer were pleased with not only the quality, but the quantity as well. The Hungarikum Committee added The Debrecen Double Sausage to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



The Cradle of Hungarian Music

The Liszt Academy

The National Hungarian Royal Academy of Music was founded on November 15th, 1875, with only five professors and 38 students. The president was Ferenc Liszt and the Director was Ferenc Erkel. One of the iconic tutors of the age was János Koessler, who taught how to compose music at the newly founded institution with minor interruptions between 1882 and 1925. The novelist, Géza Csáth wrote about him: “No other educator has trained so many excellent pupils.” Amongst his students were Béla Bartók, Ernő Dohnányi, Jenő Huszka, Viktor Jacobi, Imre Kálmán, Zoltán Kodály and Leó Weiner. Many of them later also taught at their Alma Mater. Today, the building that houses the Academy is a magnificent palace. It was built between 1904 and 1907, based on the designs of Kálmán Giergl and Flóris Korb. The flooring and paneling was made by the Zsolnay company, the glass windows were created by Miksa Róth. The inner space carries antique, Renaissance, and Art Nouveau elements. Aladár Körösfői-Kriesch painted the breathtaking “The Fountain of Art” composition, and also the two other frescos on the ground floor. The Academy has carried Ferenc Liszt’s name since 1925, and today it functions as a university, where many world-famous musicians have studied or have taught, like György Cziffra, Mihály Eisemann, Annie Fischer, József Gregor, Dénes Gulyás, Jenő Hubay, Lajos Bárdos, Ferenc Farkas, Mária Gyurkovics, Zoltán Kocsis, Gábor Lehotka, Éva Márton, György Melis, Sándor Szokolay, Miklós Perényi, Dezső Ránki, Sylvia Sass, György Solti, Tihamér Vujcsics. The Academy’s Great Hall was renovated in 2013, and it is one of the world’s most significant concert halls.



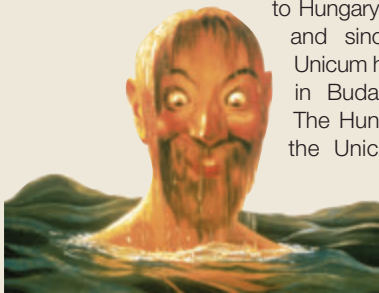
Doktor Zwack, Das Ist Ein Unicum

“Doktor Zwack, das ist ein Unicum” Emperor Joseph II the “Hatter King” exclaimed when he tasted the herb infusion of his court physician, the ancestor of the illustrious Zwack family. The ruler who had stomach complaints was usually not very kind to Hungarians but with his words above he launched a brand that carried the good reputation of our nation all over the world for more than 200 years. For a few decades, it remained a homemade herbal medicinal drink and then full-scale factory production began in Pest in 1840. The Unicum received patent protection in 1883. The people drank it to combat indigestion and to improve their appetite, the trademark cross on the ball-shaped bottle is an allusion to its therapeutic properties. The secret recipe certainly contains medicinal herbs, which at that time doctor Zwack soaked in alcohol to extract the active ingredients and to keep the liqueur fresh. The beverage became extremely successful, it shortly crossed the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and conquered the world. While the factory recovered from the calamities of the Great War, it could not stand up against the communism. After the collectivization in 1948, the family left the country and took the original Unicum recipe with them. The Hungarian Liqueur Industrial Company continued to manufacture its own version of the famous drink, but not according to the original procedure. In 1989 Péter Zwack was able to return

to Hungary set things right in the plant and since then only the original Unicum has been made in the factory in Budapest on Soroksári street.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Unicum herbal liqueur to the

Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



Endless Puszta

Hortobágy

The Hortobágy is the most western contiguous part of the Great Eurasian steppe. It is still possible to live here in the way as our ancestors did. The huge plain is a perfect place, an ideal habitat for plants, animals, and people. Born on the Great Plain, Mihály Szabolcska begins his poem “On the Hortobágy” with the following lines:

<i>“Oh, how beautiful, Oh how beautiful You are, My sweet Hortobágy, You have no lookalike, Across the Earth or worldwide, -Nowhere in our minds.</i>	<i>How I love, Your sincere, undeviating shape, Above the landscape, Flows eternal silence, -Your severe, straightforward confidence.”</i>
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If a today’s wanderer stops at a draw-well, and looks around, buffaloes, ruminating herds of cows, pruning studs or just grazing sheep would be seen in the distance. Of course, first and foremost a sense of calm, peace, and the feeling of timelessness can be experienced, wanderer becomes part of the landscape. The human hand works for today, the fruit of our labor is gone with the wind. Who knows where a farmstead stood in the missing millennia, where the canal flowed, or where this road led? What nature has approved that remained. What nature abandoned, has been lost. Only the distant mirage and the infinite plain are eternal.

The Hortobágy National Park was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999, and the Hungarikum Committee has also added it to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



Vertical Takeoff Oszkár Asbóth

He was born in Pankota in Arad county in 1891. At a young age, he built a rudimentary modified plane from his own motorcycle, then during the Great War, he started playing with the thought of building a helicopter. As a mechanical engineer in the army of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, he participated in designing and developing propellers. He worked together with Tódor Kármán on a vertical take-off aircraft that would replace the scout airships, but the loss of the war ended the work. However, Asbóth continued and after more than 10 years of experiments by 1928 he made a rigid propeller-driven prototype of 120 horsepower, the first AH model. This was able to perform a vertical liftoff with its nine-cylinder engine provided there was no wind. According to his memoirs he altogether accomplished 95 takeoffs with the four completed prototypes, reaching an altitude of 30-50 meters. In 1938 the British Air Ministry bought the rights of the “windmill airship” for 875 pounds. In 1954 the International Aeronautical Federation of Paris honored him with the Paul Tissandier Diploma. Oszkár Asbóth passed away in 1960 in Budapest.



Our Fresh-water Sea Lake Balaton

Every now and then, we see people holding back tears at the balustrade of the Abbey of Tihany. They are not foreign tourists – but certainly they also enjoy the scenery, they are Hungarians who admire the Lake. The view is breathtaking. To the North, above the bay lies the Highlands of Lake Balaton with Balatonfüred at the foot. To the East, amongst the steel-blue waves appear swinging sailboats, with Balatonakarattya in the distance. On the South side of the lake is the Golden coast and Silver coast, with the ferry boat harbor at Szántód. In the West, the exposed water surface reflects the last rays of the sun, the last beams of the daylight, as the sun begins to set. To us, with its dazzling illusion, the Hungarian sea is beyond compare. We always desire to be here, we feel at home on its shores. And what did our famous writer, Géza Gárdonyi think of the Lake? Here is his poem about the Lake Balaton.

*“I will see you again, silver reflection of the sky,
Silver reflection of the sky, beautiful, calm Lake!
The moon contemplates its face in you,
And its starry veil flows above Tihany, until daybreak.*

*I sit down on a stone and pander for a while,
Under a sleeping tree, in the silence of the night.
Maybe I am not even present, I am only dreaming:
Dreaming of the Lake Balaton, with me on its side.”*

Ave Pelso!



Safety in Space

Pille radiation dosimeter system

Pille is a dosimeter, a radiation measurer that was designed and made by the KFKI Atomic Energy Research Institute. Its different versions have been in the cosmos several times. “Pille” means butterfly, so you can guess from its name that its small size, weight, and negligible power demand makes it especially suitable for use in the cosmos. First, Bertalan Farkas took the Pille with him on his journey when he left the planet in 1980. The further developed versions were also successful aboard the Salyut-7, the Mir space station, and on the space shuttles of the United States. It is standard service equipment of the American and Russian sections of the International Space Station, with which they regularly check the harmful radiation that could endanger the astronauts. Károly Simonyi, the Hungarian space tourist conducted experiments with the device in April 2007. The most recent Pille radiation dosage meter was activated by the Russian astronaut Sergey Prokopyev in 2018. The journey that started 40 years ago and will continue for a few years since the Russians have already stated that they will use the Pille dosimeter system until 2024, that is till the end of the operating time of the International Space Station.



The Mighty Prince Ferenc II Rákóczi

There is scarcely any settlement in the Carpathian Basin inhabited by Hungarians that would not have a street or square named after Rákóczi. His person, his character is synonymous with freedom, liberty, and patriotism. As one of the continent's richest noblemen of the time, he could have chosen an easy and carefree life. Italian and French princesses were all striving to win his heart. But when you have such freedom-loving, patriotic ancestors like the Zrínyi, Frangepán, Báthory and the Lorántffy family, when your stepfather is Imre Thököly and you have a family name like Rákóczi you are destined to serve the cause of the nation. As a child, he saw his warrior mother, Ilona Zrínyi defending the castle of Munkács for two full years against the blockade of the Habsburg troops. This taught him a lesson for life. After the siege, he was separated from his family and raised in the Habsburg imperial court, in order to make him a loyal subject, all in vain. As soon as he had a chance, he was looking for ways to secure independence for his country, Hungary. In 1703 he became the leader of the War of Independence and kept fighting for almost 8 years with the loyal support of his armed anti-Habsburg rebels, the kuruc. In the Peace Treaty of Szatmár the Court in Vienna offered him full clemency, but Rákóczi refused to accept this and spent his remaining life in self-imposed exile in Turkey. In 1906 his remains were returned and reburied in Kassa, an event celebrated all over the country. His personality is a favorite theme for artists and writers alike. His portrait by Ádám Mányoki, his equestrian statue by János Pásztor in front of the Hungarian Parliament and Ferenc Herczeg's novel titled "Pro Libertate!" are all worthy cultural monuments of a heroic life.



Maniac Herding Dog

The Pumi

The Pumi is one of our nine national canine breeds. He has wonderful herding skills. He is a fast, agile, forever moving, intelligent animal. This dog's ancestors lived with shepherds for centuries. If he experiences an unusual thing, the dog immediately signals with a bark. This loudness is necessary, as he is a small, light-bodied creature. He does not have a wild, uncontrollable character; you do not need to be afraid of him. When the Pumi sees sheep or birds, he starts to herd them instinctively right away. This dog is also called the Hungarian Terrier. In the past, the dog was often sold together with the flock, thus the breed evolved from the crossbreeding of the Puli and other western herding dogs, which came to our land with the Marino sheep. His fur comes in black, white, gray, and livid versions. The Pumi is a real buddy for children, because his short, curly hair, protruding ears, and his exquisite look gives him adorable appearance. Today, he is considered primarily a sports dog, as his teachability is matchless. He is a sure winner of agility competitions. Outside Hungary, the Pumi is popular in northern Europe, especially in Finland, because they like the close-to-nature characteristics of the breed. But the main reason why this dog is lovable and brings great joy to his owner is his loyalty. Just like the adventurous Bogáncs, Máté Galamb's accountable shepherd dog in István Fekete's novel.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd and hunting dogs, amongst them the Pumi to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The King of the First 100 Years

László Kubala

The Barcelona football club asked its fans on its centenary in 1999, who do they consider the best football player of the club. Stoichkov, Romario, Cruyff and Maradona finished in the first five, but the winner was the Hungarian legend, László Kubala. His 2-meter statue stands on a central spot in the Camp Nou stadium since 2009. The artwork captures the moment when Kubala, swelling of energy swings his right leg to shoot. Today the stadium can take in almost hundred thousand football fans, which is twice the size as it was in the 1950s. The expansion was necessary since the fan base doubled because of the phenomenal play of our fellow countrymen László Kubala. He had an adventurous path to success. He was born in Budapest in 1927 and as a kid played football together with Ferenc Puskás. He escaped from military service by going to Pozsony, where he became a player of the Slovan football club and played at six matches in the Czechoslovak national team. From the military conscription there he returned to Hungary and put on the jersey with the Hungarian Crest on three matches in 1948. After the communist takeover, he went to Italy and put together a football team called "Hungaria" from his fellow countrymen, who also emigrated. The team beat Barcelona, Espanyol, and also the Spanish national team that was preparing for the World Cup. After these victories, the Barcelona football club offered him a contract, where he played for 10 years on 329 matches scoring 256 goals. He is also four times national champion, five times national cup winner, and 19 times Spanish national team player. He was the league captain of Spain between 1969 and 1980 and secured a gold medal for his team at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. László Kubala passed away in 2004 at the age of 74 in Barcelona.



Where the Sun Rises Twice

Torockó

It is difficult to determine whether time has stopped here or it's just passing slower than anywhere else. For sure, the concept of time is understood differently in Torockó due to the peculiar geography of the Székelykő mountain, where one can witness sunrise twice during summer dawns. It is no surprise then that the settlement and its people have a unique identity. Its uniform village architecture has survived due to a reconstruction after a big fire. This beautiful village consists of white houses, big windows, green window shutters, wooden fences, large gates, and a dignified Unitarian church surrounded by walls in the center of the marketplace. Torockó is the only place in the Transylvanian Fehér county where the population is fully Hungarian. Carefully maintained and shining in its old beauty Torockó creates livelihood that can sustain its inhabitants and make the settlement flourish. And they are one of a kind. Mór Jókai wrote his heart-rending, but also upliftingly beautiful novel titled "God is One". The first lines of the book go like this: "There is a blessing on the work of the folk of Torockó. They are a glad and contented folk in their houses who learn, tire, admire, push forward, live in peace, spread light, help others when needed, worship God, love their homeland, and enrich the nation. This is a never-ending story; and let it be so."

In 1999 Torockó received the Europa Nostra Award for keeping its cultural heritage.

The Hungarikum Committee added the built environment of Torockó to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



From family business to world fame Icsi Cosmetics

It all started in the grandparents' house. Mrs. Ilona Molnár, also known as Icsi néni or Aunt Icsi spent the summer holidays of her childhood in the countryside in the 1920s and 1930s. There she could learn the tricks of the trade from her herb expert, natural healer grandmother. She later began experimenting at home with the well-known vegetables, fruits, herbs, and other plants. Thus, she could literally recommend a cure to her friends for a variety of illnesses. Since it was almost impossible to get to cosmetics products in the 50s and 60s, the urban beauticians began to ask, if they could get some of the homemade miracles that cured inflamed, acne-prone, allergic, irritated, and tired skin. So, Aunt Icsi devoted herself fully to work and made so-called problem-solving agents using the active ingredients of at least a hundred kinds of plants. Her basic principle, her mission statement is that there is always a natural solution for all kinds of skin diseases. The plants were cultivated by her or collected in the local forests and fields. Today the Icsi company has its own 20-acre organic farm, where they use not only the extracts, but also all the active agents of the plant. This is the guarantee of high-quality. The manufactory makes its products widely sought all over the world based on its own recipes. In the international markets, the brand's name is Ilike, in English, it is pronounced "I like".

The Hungarikum Committee added Icsi Organic Skin Care Products to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



To the East, to Magna Hungaria Friar Julian

He was the predecessor of the great Hungarian orientalist explorers, who searched for Magna Hungaria, the ancient homeland of the Hungarians. He started his first journey to the East in 1235 based on the legends and chronicles of the Hungarians who stayed behind in Asia and on the more recent report of Friar Otto. His fellow monk set off a few years earlier with the same purpose. On the northern shore of the Black Sea, he got all the way to the Caucasian mountains but fell ill, had to return home, and passed away a few days later. Before his death, he told Julian about his encounter with Hungarians he met on the way, who told him about where others, a larger group of Hungarians might be found. Béla IV of Hungary, who newly ascended to the throne gave all the assistance to Julian to his journey, because he wanted to get into contact with the Hungarians who were believed to be lost for hundreds of years. From the four-person expedition, two turned back halfway and the third companion died while crossing a huge desert. Finally, Julian reached the Volga river and proceeded north on the riverbank, where he finally found what he was looking for, an even understood their language. This was the time when he first heard of the imminent Mongol invasion that was jeopardizing Europe. He brought news of this impending disaster to the king at the end of his 1-and a half year-voyage. The Hungarian author János Kodolányi's novel titled Friar Julian not only takes the reader back to the 13th century, but using the archaic language of the age in the dialogues shows us the impressive life of the traveling clergyman, who was originally born as Györk.



Water, Mountain, Plain

Fertő / Neusiedlersee

Cultural Landscape

The harmonic living together of man and nature is the thing that captures visitors in this environment. The natural organic building system of the Kócsagvár Visitor Center in the village of Sarród and the canals under the small forests look like as if they were standing there since time immemorial. The gardens and parks of the Esterházy Castle of Fertőd highlight the splendor of the building and the view. The quarry's huge entrance might have been the home of cavemen. Behind the endless reed sea of the Lake Fertő, grey cattle herds are grazing on the slopes of the hills of Balf. In the quiet background, peaceful bicyclists are riding on the cycle route. All this is happening at the meet of the westernmost example of the typical Eurasian steppe-lake, Lake Fertő, the Pre-Alps and the Small Hungarian Plain. Various topographical features can all be seen and experienced, like lake, mountain, plain, just within a few miles. This geographical environment creates an unparalleled wildlife. It is the favorite resting place of migratory birds, so hundreds of tourists with binoculars focus their attention on the water and the sky during big waves of migration. The visitors can observe the life in the "reed-lake" on guided boat tours. The inhabitants of the region have also added their own touch to all this, over the past thousand years. The lakeside villages, castles, fishing, animal husbandry, viticulture, theater and music culture, gastronomy, local holidays, and customs together with the natural environment make this place unique in the world.

The Fertő Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001, and the Hungarikum Committee has also added it to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



American Dream

József Galamb (Joseph Galamb)

The engineer and inventor who was born in 1881 into a peasant family of seven children had a stellar career. After his father's early death, his older brother financed his studies. He was educated first in his hometown Makó, later in Szeged and Budapest. He obtained his technical literacy from outstanding teachers in the Industrial Technology Engineering School. In 1901 he was a soldier at the navy in Pula where the then navy officer Miklós Horthy also noticed the talented young man. After finishing his military service, he received a scholarship of 300 koronas from the Hungarian Automobile Corporation and went to Germany to study and to work in car and boat factories. When he heard that there will be an automobile world fair in St. Louis in 1904, he emigrated to the United States. In 1905 Henry Ford offered him a job as a draftsman in Detroit, and soon József Galamb became the chief engineer of the factory. The world's first automobile, the famous T-model, produced on conveyor belt was built predominantly based on his



designs. In 20 years more than 15 million pieces of were sold and there are 100 thousand models still functioning today. The planetary gearbox and the engine with removable cylinder head are also his inventions. József Galamb designed the Ford logo that is still in use today. His boss was so satisfied with his work that his salary was 75 thousand dollars, the same as the US President.



A Wonderful Mistake

Dobos Cake

According to the legend, a confectioner's apprentice accidentally sprinkled powdered sugar into the butter instead of salt. The master, József Dobos did not hesitate to taste the mixture. As he found it delicious, he experimented until he made a light, chocolate flavored, caramel-topped cake. This was a revolutionary novelty in 1884, because until that time heavy, cream-based, layered, ornate sweets were the available main-stream products. The following year, at the first National General Exhibition in Budapest the Royal couple itself, Elizabeth and Franz Joseph tasted the Dobos Cake with satisfaction, and this launched its European career. Ice blocks and special packaging protected the shipments, which were sent to distant big cities. The cakes were made in the workshop in Kecskeméti Street. The recipe was carefully guarded until 1906 by the denominator. Seeing the many weak imitations, its creator decided to hand over the secret to the Budapest Confectioner and Gingerbread Crafts Association and retired. After that, the members of the guild were free to make the original Dobos Cake. Its composition, ingredients, and shape have been determined by the Official Hungarian Food Book since 2017, based on a Ministerial Decree. According to this, "the base is a circular cake, in which there is Dobos-cream between five Dobos-sheets of equal thickness. The top of the Dobos Cake is made with golden brown caramelized sugar."

The Hungarikum Committee added the Dobos Cake to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2019.



The Bell Tolls for Thee Nándorfehérvár, 1456

After the fall of Constantinople in 1453 panic spread in the Christian world. Hungary remained the only defender of the continent against the Ottoman forces heading north. People prayed for the success of the Hungarians in the churches and monasteries. This is why the triumph at Nándorfehérvár, at the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers could turn into one of history's most fabled victories in the world. Mihály Szilágyi defended the fortress and determined the outcome of the battle by a sudden attack at the right time. The people of the Balkan peninsula still sing heroic poems of his brother in law János Hunyadi, who brought the reinforcement troops for rescue. The Crusaders were led by the Italian Franciscan monk John of Capistrano, who after the breakout of a plague heard the confession of the death-sick Hunyadi and then gave the last rites. A few weeks later, Capistrano himself became a victim of the epidemic that was desolating in the military camp. The contemporary historian Antonio Bonfini describes the legendary deed of Titusz Dugovics, a soldier who fought fiercely on the walls, "Since there was no other way, he could prevent an enemy warrior from planting the Ottoman flag on the tower, he grabbed the soldier and threw himself off into the abyss taking the Turkish soldier and the flag with him." Sándor Wágner's painting titled "The self-sacrifice of Titusz Dugovics" is exhibited in the Hungarian National Gallery. The improbable yet gorgeous victory of the outnumbered Hungarian forces is still a popular theme among artists. The memory of the brave battle lives on in murals, paintings, hand-written codexes, literary works and musical compositions. The Apostolic expression of gratitude from the Pope himself, the bell at noon reminds Christianity of the triumph at Nándorfehérvár in 1456.



Praying For The Nation

Millenary Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma

The monastery was established in 996. It is certainly the only building in the Carpathian Basin, that has been continuously inhabited and in which life has never stopped ever since. All through this time, it continued to develop, except for a century of decline, when the sacred walls served as a fortress during the wars against the Ottomans. For the past thousand years, the building has fulfilled the function assigned to it by its founder, Grand Prince Géza, and then by his successor, King St. Stephen. This mission is nothing else, but for the monks to pray every day for the well-being and the integrity of the country in addition to their daily work, in the spirit of their order. The supplication to God is said to this day. In the Middle Ages, Pannonhalma was the Authentication Place of the Kingdom of Hungary, where scholarly monks issued certificates. The Archabbey established schools, and provides ecclesiastical services. Its library holds more than 300,000 books, making it the largest Benedictine book collection in the world. The building-complex, its art-gallery, treasury, and its herb and wine culture make it an outstanding legacy of our country. But with the biggest force its humanity serves the Hungarian nation with its, intellectual, spiritual radiance. The Millenary Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma and its surrounding were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996, and the Hungarikum Committee has also added it to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



The Golden Age of Transylvania Gábor Bethlen

According to the historian László Makkai, “The independent Principality of Transylvania had more princes, than decades... but when we pronounce ‘prince’ with a special emphasis, every Transylvanian thinks of the same person, Gábor Bethlen.” On the turn of the 16th-17th centuries at the time when the Hungarian Kingdom was split into three parts, the Principality of Transylvania was the truly independent Hungarian state. Bethlen spent his childhood and youth under Habsburg and Ottoman pressure, he described this as “living between two heathens”. At a young age, he fought against both for a single homeland in the armies of his predecessors. He got a taste of the intricacies of diplomacy in Prague as he accompanied Zsigmond Báthory when the Transylvanian delegation was negotiating with the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph II. He participated in István Bocskai’s War of Independence, then by pulling extremely convoluted political strings but always keeping Transylvania’s independence in mind the national assembly of Kolozsvár elected him as prince in 1613. The posterity refers to the 13 years of his reign as the Golden Age of Transylvania. Bethlen’s Renaissance court in Gyulafehérvár was characterized by a system of internal orders based on rational principles and by secure state incomes and due to this a powerful army and stable foreign policy. The continent’s major powers of that time all delegated ambassadors and representatives to his court. Zsigmond Móricz, the author of the Transylvania trilogy so wonders about the hero of the books: “I was looking for a national hero whom I can write a novel about, someone who made great things with his people... This is how I settled for Gábor Bethlen. In his character, I instantly found many appealing features. He was an orphan child, a self-made man, and Hungarian to the core in all his endeavors.” Many scientific and literary writings, paintings, engravings, and statues immortalize his personality and deeds, and many institutes proudly carry his name. We can see his portrait every day on the Hungarian 2000-Forint banknote.



GABRIEL BETHLEN D. G. PRINCEPS TRANS.
SYLVANIE. PART. REGNI HVNGARIE. DOMINVS
ET SICVLORVM COMES, ETC.

Resurrection of an Ancient Art

The Kassai method of horseback archery

Black bison, Mangalica pigs with curly fur, long black-haired Racka sheep, horses and other livestock graze in the 40-acre Kassai-Valley, which lies in Kaposmérő in Somogy county. The native Hungarian animals are kept free-range in an area where we can find forests, meadows, streams, barns and stables, nomadic tents, a covered riding hall, a racecourse, a knight's hall, craftsmen's workshops and an organic building compound. This is the birthplace of horseback archery which has been practiced by Lajos Kassai and his team of enthusiasts since 1988. The person who started all this was interested in the legendary bow of our ancestors. He studied it carefully, then using the materials that are available today created the modern version of the bow. The weapon was tested riding on horseback, and from the hardworking practice, a system of use and a path to progress evolved. Seeing this, others got interested in horseback archery and so a Hungarian sport developed that could even make its way to the Olympics in the future. On competitions, the contestants have to hit the targets aiming and shooting forward, backward and to the side, under 20 seconds while riding the horse on the 99-meter-long track. The success requires the wonderful harmony of man, horse, and the bow. Géza Kaszás' movie "The Horse Archer" in 2016 was one of the year's biggest hits in cinemas. More and more people get to know Lajos Kassai's cultural mission all over the world, the sport has been introduced everywhere from Canada to Southeast Asia. For years now there has even been Horseback Archery World Championship as well. Lajos Kassai is also an acclaimed star in China, in Hollywood he is relied on as the expert and trainer of the horse archer scenes. He assisted Matt Damon with his advices in 2017's spectacular movie production "The Great Wall". The Hungarikum Committee added the Kassai method of horseback archery to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



The Pride of the Hungarian Cuisine

Ground paprika from Kalocsa

Its homeland is the district of Kalocsa. This region was once regularly flooded by the Danube river, so the soil is ideal for agriculture, in addition to plenty of sunshine, which helps the plants grow. The present sweet paprika used to be spicy, but its strength was taken away by soaking in water. In the 1930s a lucky coincidence guided the farmers to the sweet variety used today. The seed is rich in oil, which gives it a perfect deep reddish-brown color, a velvety texture, and a special taste. It was previously grown from plants, but in a research institution founded in the early part of the century they managed to produce seeds in the 1970s, which were frost tolerant and could be sown in the fields. These thriving plantlets turn into a beautiful white flower, growing a red fruit on the green stem. These are the national colors of Hungary; therefore, the paprika is called the most Hungarian plant. During harvest time, around September, drying paprika garlands became the ornaments of porches, which the women carefully cut and tied together. Today, these can still be seen on some buildings, but most of the paprikas are machine-dried and then ground in peppermills. The most common wish of Hungarians living abroad from home, and tourists' practical souvenir is the paprika of Kalocsa. It is one of the most popular products of our agriculture, used by world-famous chefs, and it is a special delicacy, that can be purchased in shops as well. However, this spice is one of the main raw materials of our domestic cuisine, goulash, stew, fish soup cannot be made without it.

The Hungarikum Committee added the ground paprika from Kalocsa to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



The Lonesome Painter

Tivadar Csontváry Kosztka

When his paintings were displayed in Paris, Picasso was watching alone his art exhibition long after the closing time. When he finally came out, he said: "I did not know that there was another great painter in our century beside me." But Csontváry's life in the beginning did not head in this direction. He was born in 1853 in Kisszeben, Sáros county. He continued the profession of his father and became a pharmacist. When he was 27 years old, on the back of a prescription he made a drawing of the ox-wagon that was standing in front of the pharmacy. His boss noticed the drawing and exclaimed: "You were born to be a painter!" And then Csontváry himself heard a heavenly voice: "You are going to be the greatest painter of the world, greater than Raphael." He then traveled to Rome to study the classic painters. But he did not feel at home there, it was not his world. For him the treasures of the Vatican were only paintings that reflect an unknown spirit to him, not the reality and he saw it as something alien nature. He worked as a pharmacist until the age of 41, so that he could later become a painter. He traveled across and depicted the Mediterranean, the Balkan peninsula, and Hungary. The Cedar of Lebanon, the ancient ruins, and the landscape of the Tatras are his unforgettable themes. As an ascetic, he lived only for painting. According to the Hungarian poet, János Pilinszky: "The art of Csontváry is a revelation like the created world, an open secret. His colors are vivid they radiate a glow from a source that is impossible to determine they emit innocent omniscience, from the power of human soul."

The Hungarian Soviet Republic took everything from him, he died in miserable circumstances in 1919. Unaware of its value his heirs wanted to sell his pictures as canvas used for horse-drawn carts. Luckily, the architect Gedeon Gerlóczy salvaged these masterpieces for posterity. Today most of his art can be seen in Pécs and in the Hungarian National Gallery.



Intelligent Home-guard

The Mudi

The Mudi is perhaps our least-known herding dog. The breed evolved 200-300 years ago, the Spitz might have been his ancestor. Until the beginning of the 20th century, he was kept almost exclusively by shepherds, the breed was first registered in the 1930s. The dog mostly herded cattle, but shepherds and swineherds also benefited from his alertness. As a work dog, his appearance was next to no significance, it did not matter how the dog looked as long as it could herd the cattle. So, at first glance, this medium-sized, shiny-haired, erect-eared animal may even seem like it is from a mixed breed. Sándor Petőfi also noticed this feature, because he asked his dog, Morzsa to “prick his ear”. It would have been a waste of time to tell this to other shepherd dogs, they are incapable of doing such a trick. The fur of the Mudi can be black, red, brown, ash-grey, or livid. The mixed color versions are particularly sought after, they could be black and white or brown and white. His seeing, hearing, and especially his sense of smell are excellent. This dog is a perfect housekeeper, he signals immediately if anything suspicious happens. The Puli and the Pumi are more ready to act, somewhat more ready to bark and bite than the Mudi. His greatest value is his exceptional intelligence. He is easy to teach and extremely attentive, as he waits for the master's command. That is why he should not be left alone for too long. He loves and even requires care, company, occupation, and game. If he feels the appreciation and love, he will get used to the owner's routine, and the dog will not be intrusive, he will wait patiently for his turn. The Mudi keeps it vividness till the end of his life, children can always count on his company. He allows everything to children, and many times the dog is the one who has to be afraid of the youngster's excessive love.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd- and hunting dogs, amongst them the Mudi to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Obsessed with Safety

Béla Barényi

He was born into an Austro-Hungarian family in 1907. He was not even 20 years old when he dreamt the basic design of the “people’s car” the Volkswagen Beetle. From 1939 to 1972 he worked in the Mercedes-Daimler-Benz factory. He reportedly said this at his job interview: “Gentlemen, you are doing everything wrong here!” He made a new chassis that was shaking less and above all was safer than the ones before. He was the only one to be added to the Automotive Hall of Fame in Detroit in 1944 while he was still alive. After the World War II, his main area of interest was car safety. The concept of the crumple zone is his brainchild what he patented in 1951. This idea still determines the construction of the car’s chassis. He designed a model that had a “core” made of tougher materials thus was less fragile, less breakable, and protected passengers better. This is basically an impact-absorbing structure. He was the one who introduced the crash tests at the Mercedes car safety experimental site. He created and patented more than 2500 various inventions. After the fall of the Iron Curtain he made it crystal clear where his allegiance lies: “I am half Hungarian myself, but after they cut through the barbed wire, my heart fully belongs to Hungary.” In the early 1990s, Mercedes advertised its car safety system with Barényi’s name. The Mercedes official homepage devotes an individual chapter to the life-long work of Béla Barényi. The architect passed away in Böblingen, Germany in 1997. The Barényi Béla road leads to the Mercedes factory in Kecskemét from the M5 te highway.



Wild, Proud and Cheerful

The czardas

It is desirable to think of an inn or *csárda*, since one can just feel good there. With the delicious food and great gypsy music the guests soon feel like dancing. And the dance is... The czardas! In a *Csárda*, people dance the czardas. And what a spin it is! The legs are swinging, the hips are moving, the skirts flutter, the band plays music, and the first violinist performs a virtuoso solo. The sway is initially slow, later it becomes faster paced, then there is a skip, another, finally a really crisp and quick finish. This is a traditional Hungarian folk dance. It is a true picture of us, it is just like us, Hungarians. Its origin dates back to the 18th century, it comes from the verbunk music, as the recruitment of the hussars mainly happened in a public place, like a pub or the marketplace. The czardas is basically designed for pairs, with the man and the woman, holding each other in embrace. When the participants somehow let go of their partner, they still think of each other: they tease, lure, flirt with their mates. This is body language at its best; what is most important, what is less important, basically everything can be communicated with it, through it. Back in the day, village folk with a keen eye was able to tell just after a few steps of the couple, whether it's a match made in heaven and soon there will be a wedding. The rhythm of the czardas is two-quarters or four-quarters. This pulsating and alternating pace makes it very diverse. The dance is widespread throughout the Carpathian Basin, it is truly a dazzling sight in the local costumes, and it is a real captivating feeling to take part in it. Classical composers could not resist the czardas either, Ferenc Liszt, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Johann Strauss, or Vittorio Monti, who composed the most famous czardas, also drew inspiration from this ferocious, festive Hungarian dance.



Budapest

The Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue

In our capital, tour guides do not even need to speak, if they do not wish to. It is enough to show the tourists around on the Fisherman's Bastion, the view basically speaks for itself. The visitors are immediately convinced by the breathtaking view. Is this even possible? There is plenty to see, plenty to talk about, plenty to look up in the history books. Of course, the guide will tell you, that most of today's cityscape in Budapest was built in the second half of the 19th century. Therefore, its unity of architectural style makes it quite special, compared to other big cities. This special position is also due to its geographical location. On the Buda side, a belt of hills with natural lookout points border the city, on the other side lies Pest on a flatland and between the two flows the River Danube. This topography is hard to beat. The medieval structures of the Castle district, as well as the 100-year-old and modern buildings of the Royal Palace, the Hungarian Parliament with the spectacular Danube riverbanks, and panorama opening from there, as well as the bridges over the water are certainly included in the travel books. The Millennium Monument on Heroes' Square, between the museums, the mansion and palaces lining the Andrásy Avenue, the statues of the Kodály Körönd and the underground running below it, which was the second shallow subway in the world, after London. This is how the German writer, Erich Maria Remarque saw our capital: "You are the spring – you are Budapest, where on hot evenings all able-bodied people walk on the banks of the Danube, in the silver moonlight, in the scent of blooming chestnut trees."

Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1987 and 2002, and the Hungarikum Committee has also added it to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



Victory of Culture

Zsolnay Cultural Quarter of Pécs

This special community space has an impact not only on Pécs, or on southern Transdanubia, but also on the cultural life of the entire nation. The ceramic manufactory itself was founded in 1853 by the Zsolnay family, which became world-famous in a few decades. In addition to everyday tableware, the company made ornaments and building materials. In the Art Nouveau era almost all major building constructions ordered tiles, roof tiles, and various other ornaments from the Zsolnay factory. After the Great War, the plant was still able to stand on its feet, but the communist nationalization put an end to a nearly century-long success story. For a while, a cable factory operated on its site. Pécs successfully applied for the title of Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010, so the city gave new interpretation to the 5-acre area for 11 billion Forints, what was financed from European Union and Hungarian governmental funds. Eight historical buildings were renovated, and new ones were erected. The former factory town became a cultural center. 85 outdoor artifacts can be seen again in the area. Today's division of the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter: Artist Quarter, Creative Quarter, Children's and Family Quarter, University Quarter with the Faculty of Arts of the University of Pécs. In these, the visitors can attend concerts, conferences, performances, and exhibitions, and in the Zsolnay Mausoleum, you can pay tribute to the memory of the founders. One of the most significant values is the Gyugyi-collection. These exhibits hundreds of ceramic rarities, including the painted plate made by famous visual artist, József Rippl-Rónai and signed by Vilmos Zsolnay.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter of Pécs to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Long Live the Balance

The gömböc

Out of the 200 turtle species in the world, two have almost a completely identical shell to the gömböc. This particular shape helps the animal in turning back to its belly if, for example, a wave knocks him on his back. This is the property of the first known solid body, which no matter how it is placed always returns to a stable equilibrium position. The possibility of such a solid body was first proposed by the Russian mathematician Vladimir Igorevich Arnold in 1995. The scientist Gábor Domokos and his student Péter Várkonyi have experimented together to find an answer to this dilemma until 2006, when they found – on an exclusionary basis – the shape, that is similar to a sphere and always comes to stop on the same point of equilibrium. This is manufactured by a computer-controlled robot. It was already fabricated from a variety of different materials. The smallest gömböc made was 68 millimeters. In principle, there is no size limit but so far they have not manufactured a gömböc bigger than 50 centimeters since because of the big weight it is prone to scratches and injury that affect its equilibrium. It is not so much an everyday object, it is more of a work of art. It is a sheer delight just to hold the gömböc. Its movement that eases remarkably slow and then finally stops has a calming effect. It brings back memories of the roly-poly toy each of us had as a child. Gömböc became one of the best-known Hungarian words in the world. Two weeks after its publication in a scientific paper, it went viral on the internet in 30 languages including Chinese, where Hungarian spelling was used, with the accented letter "ö". It still receives massive interest today. Numbered copies of the gömböc can be seen amongst proudly exhibited treasures of the most famous Hungarian and foreign institutions.



In Joy and in Grief

Classical Hungarian Songs

This music has been played for at least 200 years, and fills the hearts of the people with consolation, hope, and of course, joy. At the end of the 18th century, the financially more and more independent Hungarian middle-class needed a form of national entertainment. This is the time, when the Neapolitan song from Italy, the Polish polka, the Russian romance, and the French chanson were also born. The source of the Hungarian songs was the verbunk melody, and the Classical music of Vienna. Not so long ago, the tunes of the songs could be heard in almost every public place, in popular plays of the theaters, at restaurants and pubs. Foreigners, who do not speak Hungarian also enjoy gypsy music, often learning the lyrics of our songs. Nowadays, it is a popular genre on stages and an essential part of weddings, dinners, or friendly gatherings. A good violinist knows already from the look of the guest, which melody, which song to play out of the several thousand in his repertoire. Excellent composers such as Béni Egressy, Elemér Szentirmai, Loránd Fráter, and Pista Dankó provided tunes for the literary works and poems of many acclaimed writers, like Sándor Petőfi, Mihály Tompa, Kálmán Thaly, Géza Gárdonyi, Endre Ady or István Tömörkény. Several people have written melodies for Lajos Pósa's poem, "I am Hungarian". The beginning of the poem is one of the most beautiful verses of the genre:

*"I am Hungarian, I was born Hungarian,
My nurse sang Hungarian song to me,
My mother taught me to pray in Hungarian,
And to love you, my beautiful country."*

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Classical Hungarian Songs to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Matured by Noble Mold

HERZ classic wintersalami

The secret recipe was created in 1888 by a tradesman from Budapest, Ármin Herz. This delicacy has been produced ever since according to the original recipe, and today, it is made in Szeged. Only pigs over one year of age are suitable for this purpose, with weighing at least 150 kilograms, and the texture of the meat should be loose and should have typically red color. This is extremely important, because a good quality wintersalami can only be made from excellent ingredients. During the manufacturing process, a special technique of warm boning is used to get the pork off the bone. The softer fatty parts and the sinews are cut off, then it is seasoned with pepper and allspice. The meat is filled into the gut by an equipment, that spares the mixture. This way, the cut slices of the preserved salami have a flawless design, as experts say it is a healthy, good to look at cut-surface. That is followed by the smoking-process. To this workslow-fire must be made of beech wood, which has been desiccated for 2 years, and the process takes nearly two weeks. The hundred days maturation gives its aroma, which is special because of the live mold culture found in the building. This delicacy is one of a kind. Even if one could obtain the original recipe somehow, the particular preparation system and the above-mentioned circumstances for maturation and smoking would not be the same. This way, we rest assured, that this national treasure will remain perfect as it is now, to the greatest delight of Hungarians and people of the world.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the HERZ classic wintersalami to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



“By You was won a beautiful homeland for Bendegúz’s sons” Attila King of the Huns

The writer, István Nemeskürty wrote in the introduction of the rock opera “Attila, the Sword of God”: “The latest historical research revealed that Attila, King of the Huns sought to create the unity of Europe and to this end, he cooperated with the military leaders of the Roman Empire from time to time. He did not set off against Rome, because the Pope went to meet him and begged him to turn back. Raphael's renowned painting in the Vatican captures this event. The basis of these legends is that Christian priests, Byzantine Greek and Roman dignitaries also worked in the court of Attila. Saint Jerome enthusiastically mentions that the Huns sang psalms. Until the 19th century the medieval, early-modern and modern Hungarian court historians, chronicle writers all started the Hungarian history with Attila the Hun. The Attila legends got into the German myths, as well as into the Icelandic one. The myth of Csaba and the Sword of God are the legends that live the most vividly in the Hungarian culture. Accordingly, a shepherd boy followed his limping lamb with a bleeding leg up the hill and saw a sword protruding and growing out of the ground. He took the sword to Attila who considered it to be the Sword of God and regarded it as a symbol of his power. In the Hungarian royal court, Attila's sword was still kept amongst the treasures even during the reign of Béla IV and Stephen V of Hungary.”



Our National Soup

Hungarian Goulash Soup

This is our most well-known dish in the world. “Gulaschsuppe” is on the menu in the better restaurants, accommodations, on cruise ships or ferry boats, and various other inns outside Hungary. But after tasting them a Hungarian person cannot recognize what he has been served, because it is so different from what we are used to. It is safe to say that they mainly use the promising and mouth-watering title, goulash. Perhaps it is worth noting: our national soup is not a kind of stew. Because for example, the dish has to have a thick, velvety-brown broth, in which the vegetables and the meat were cooked. The meat used can only be beef, but from time to time grey cattle can also be used. It should be rich in potatoes, carrots and other vegetables. The taste of cumin, garlic, and onions have to be noticeable. The color scheme is made complete by ground paprika. This recipe was developed at the beginning of the 19th century by the catering industry and also by cookbooks. The herdsmen have been cooking goulash for centuries in cauldrons, on open fire. This meal was a common fare, a sort of staple dish for them, as they lived exposed to nature with the livestock. The seasoning may vary somewhat by region. There is the goulash from Szeged, from the Great Plain, from Hortobágy, and also cauldron goulash or bean goulash.

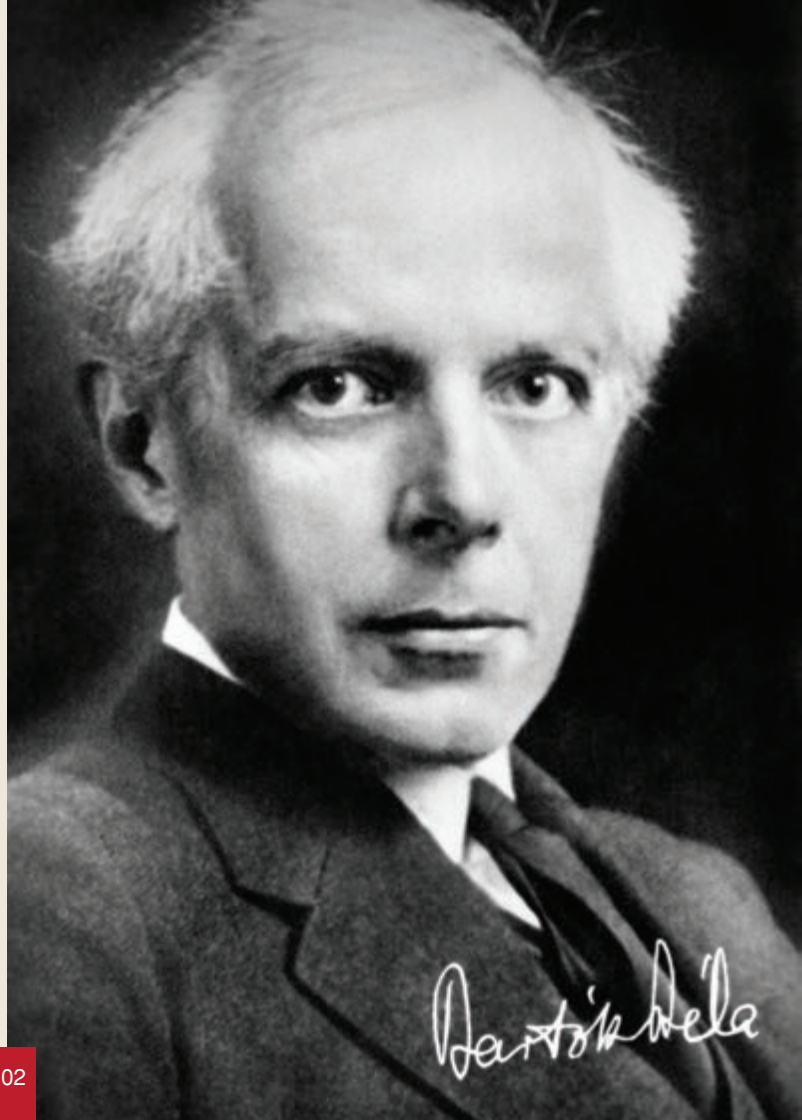
The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian Goulash Soup to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Going Back to the Source

Béla Bartók

The composer, pianist, and folk music researcher was born in Nagyszentmiklós in 1881. He graduated from the Hungarian Academy of Music in 1903 then started to collect folk music with a phonograph and write modern compositions based on the music he gathered. From 1906 on, he continued this effort together with Zoltán Kodály, who was also a composer and folklore researcher. In 1935 as an appreciation for his work in folk music research he was elected a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He said: “My happiest days were the ones I could spend in the villages amongst peasants”. The success of the ballet, “The Wooden Prince” and of the opera, the “Bluebeard’s Castle” made him the leading performer of modern Hungarian composition. From that moment on he performed regularly in the significant concert halls of the world from the United States to the Soviet Union. Bartók’s piano pieces the “Allegro Barbaro” and the “Out of Doors” are outstanding compositions in the genre. After the first performance of his orchestral pieces the “Dance Suite” and the “Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta” he became world-famous. He reached the most radical point in his style of music in “The Miraculous Mandarin”. These works elevated him to the ranks of two of his contemporaries, like Arnold Schoenberg and Igor Stravinsky. The adult Bartók, together with his family joined the only one Hungarian-founded historical denomination, the Unitarian Church. In 1940 he escaped the war by leaving for the United States, where he passed away from leukemia in 1945. His earthly remains were returned to Hungary in 1988, his decorated tomb sets an everlasting memory to Béla Bartók in the Farkasréti Cemetery.



Floral Patterns Full of Information

Kalocsa folk art

The most popular Kalocsa costume is the fancy fabric, which is a hand-sewn material featuring the local flora. Its colorful, cheerful patterns are made for young girls and married women alike. The most common colors are red, pink, and yellow, these vivid, extraordinary colors make the ladies who wear it stand out. The costume's headwear is the embroidered bonnet or the beaded headdress. The next age group's garments are less vivid, its base colors are blue and purple, making it much more restrained, but very elegant. At that time, people were sending messages with their clothing, what everybody had to "understand". This way, people got a lot of information about each other's age, in addition, one could know their marital status, their social roles, one's current job, or travel plans in a blink of an eye. They wore different outfits when going to the market, when visiting someone, and of course when going to the church, but the weather also influenced the choice of garments. Everyone owned a celebration outfit made out of silk, which was highly guarded, so it was only taken out of the closet for extraordinary occasions, for family events such as christenings, first communions, confirmations, or weddings. These expensive clothes were worn by several generations in succession and were highly appreciated by the young girls and women of Kalocsa. The needlework's main designs are roses or other garden flowers. These have recently become fashionable across the whole world. The Kalocsa folk art patterns can be seen on actresses' and singers' clothing, and even on the racing uniforms of Formula 1 pilots or on the gloves of world-star football players.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Kalocsa folk art to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Devoted to God

Saint Margaret of Hungary

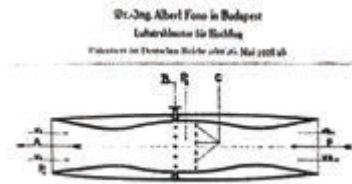
The Hungarian Royal family survived the Mongol invasion in Dalmatia, in a safe, seaside territory. Béla IV and his wife Maria who was pregnant, offered their yet unborn child to the Creator for the liberation of their homeland. And then, the miracle happened, all of a sudden, the enemy unexpectedly retreated to Asia. Thus, Princess Margaret born in Klis, Croatia in 1242 was raised by the nuns of the Dominican order from her age of three. It was in the monastery that she encountered unconditional devotion to God, the spirituality of penance, and the selfless care of the sick and of those in need. She tirelessly emphasized to her fellow convent members not to see the Princess in her, but a humble servant of the Lord. Both the Polish and Czech kings asked her hand in vain. Margaret reminded her father both times that once he was the one who offered her to the King of Kings. God rewarded her prayers and her committed life with miracles. A maid whose life was saved by Margaret gave the following testimony according to the canonization documents: "Margaret was good and acted like a saint, she was an example to us all. She was more humble than us the servants." She also received the ability of foresight. It is proved that she foresaw the Hungarian victory in her father's war against the Austrians for the dominance of Styria. She also foretold the hour of her death to her companions. Margaret passed away at the age of 28 in 1270 in the cloister built by her father on the Island of Rabbits which in her honor is called today Margaret Island. Her life inspired countless writers and artists. Among the writers, Géza Gárdonyi's "Prisoners of God" and János Kodolányi's "Blissful Margaret" novels tell about the age and life of the Saint Princess.



The Pioneer of Jet Propulsion

Albert Fonó

He was also the student of the Budapest Fasori Lutheran Secondary School. Jenő Wigner and János Neumann were his schoolmates. Miksa Bielek, Donát Bánki, and Károly Zipernowsky were his teachers at the Budapest University of Technology. He spoke English, German, French, played the piano, and was an excellent fencer. After graduating, he joined Ganz-MÁVAG, then traveled to various countries in Europe with a government scholarship where he worked as an apprentice. In 1909 he returned home and lived for the rest of his life in Hungary. The mechanical engineer's first invention using the principle of jet propulsion originates from 1915. This brainchild of his was way ahead of its time, and it took 40 years to put the theory in practice. In 1928 he developed the engine of the supersonic airplane moving at high altitudes, which he called air-jet engine. Overall, he patented 46 of his ideas. Among other things, he dealt with transport technology, metallurgy, electronics, and heat technology. He carried out his hydrofoil craft experiments together with Tódor Kármán. He was a corresponding member of the International Academy of Astronautics from 1968. The Hungarian Astronautical Society established an award named after Albert Fonó, which they hand over every year to a Hungarian space researcher. Albert Fonó, the great man of modern aviation, an academic who received the Kossuth Prize was born in 1881 and passed away in 1972 in Budapest.



Tradition and Renewal Hollóháza Porcelain

Hungary's oldest porcelain factory, which has been producing since 1777, was established in Hollóháza because of the kaolin that can be found in the ground and because of the nearby forests that provide wood for heating the furnaces. At that time, it was still known as a glass manufactory, which attracted people who came from the surrounding villages, as well as from the nearby town of Kassa. The factory tried to serve the social needs of the workers, so it built residential houses and a church for them. The employees were grateful for the benevolent attitude of the owners, that is why they have participated in making these artifacts with their heart and soul ever since. Knowledge, skill, and craftsmanship is often passed on within the family, so successive generations can be part of the several hundred years old legacy. The making of porcelain is an art. Among the artists we can find the world-famous painter Endre Szász, graphic artist László Jurcsák, today's graphic designer Béla Bükki or Viktória Hatvany and their designer, interior decorator and decorating colleagues. Their different styles together give the Hollóháza porcelain a unique place in the world. The traditional colors are gold, yellow, and green, the patterns are flowers. Of course, the manufacturing technology has changed over the ages, there is no longer a need to cut out the forest to supply energy for the furnaces, and state-of-the-art tools aid intricate handwork. Artists must pick up and work on an object with their hands from fifty to a hundred times, until it is finally completed. The philosophy of the manufactory is that in addition to shaping exclusive pieces, the Hollóháza porcelain should also be the festive and ordinary porcelain of the Hungarians, with the motto: "Tradition and renewal".

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hollóháza porcelain to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The “Hungarian Dolphin” Alfréd Hajós

The first Hungarian hero of the modern-day Olympic Games gained two victories in Athens in 1896. And it wasn't an easy thing to do. The 18-year-old university student trained in the 27 degree thermal water of Rudas bath in Hungary, and the Olympic swimming event took place in early spring in 10 degree seawater in the Bay of Zea. “I headed off fiercely into the freezing cold water” – wrote Alfréd Hajós in his memoirs. He protected his body against the cold by smearing it with grease. On 100 meters he finished with a body length's advantage with the time of 1 minute and 22 seconds. To honor him the first chords of the Austrian National Anthem, Gott erhalte started, but the Hungarians silenced the orchestra and sang the Hungarian National Anthem, the Himnusz. The 1200-meter swimming event started an hour later. The contestants set off in open sea aboard a steamboat to the signal of a handgun. Hajós won with a huge advantage, and he accomplished the distance in 18 minutes and 22 seconds. The next day the Greek papers called our two times Olympic champion “Hungarian dolphin” and the Hungarian press also sang praises in his honor. At home, hundreds welcomed him in the Keleti railway station. He was an “all-round sportsman” which was not uncommon at that time. He competed in track and field events, played in the first match of the Hungarian League, then later became the coach of the national team. He was remarkably successful as an architect as well, he designed countless public buildings from Pozsony to Kolozsvár. Among his best-known creations, we mention the Aranybika Szálló – the Golden Bull Grand Hotel in Debrecen, the football stadium of Újpest, and the National Swimming Stadium on Margaret Island, which still bears the creator's name today. In the 1924 Olympic art competition in Paris Alfréd Hajós won the silver medal with the stadium design he made together with Dezső Lauber.



A Real World-Star

The Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla

The Vizsla is one of our nine national canine breeds. Their ancestors came to the Carpathian Basin with our people. They were the ones who helped Hunor and Magor during the chase of the miraculous white stag. The Chronicon Pictum which is a medieval history book with pictures illustrates the two brothers in the company of dogs like the Vizsla. This kind of dog has been registered on the international canine breeder list since 1935. The Vizsla is extremely agile, and always happy to complete a given task. Its favorite activity is searching, sniffing, swimming, or bringing back something to his master, whom he is very attached to. They consider themselves a member of the family, they love to be petted and taken care of. Because of their short hair, they can be kept in an apartment, but they must be taken outside for a stroll at least twice a day. It is said, that among the dogs, the Hungarian man formed the Vizsla mostly for his own resemblance. They are resourceful, they like to play and work, since they were originally hunting dogs. Even their name is Hungarian. The Vizsla is one of the best advertisements for Hungary. The World Wide Web is full of native and foreign recordings of the Vizsla's heartwarming kindness, teachability, and victories in competitions. It is no exaggeration, to say that people from America to Australia and from Brazil to Germany are great fans of the dog. Frakk, our national "cartoon dog", is everyone's favorite, maybe secretly even of his adversary, a black cat, called Lucretia.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd and hunting dogs, amongst them the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The King of Highwaymen

Sándor Rózsa

The people at the time said that he was destined to have an unusual life and was born in 1813 somewhere on a farmstead near Szeged. His father was hanged for horse theft, he himself committed his first crime at the age of 23 by stealing two barren cows. He got one and a half year prison for this, but he escaped from the Szeged jail. From then on, he fled, killed, robbed and looted. He has at least 60 crime cases attached to his name. According to a wanted poster, Sándor Rózsa is “small in stature and he is muscular, he has fair hair, his mustache twirled upwards, his eyes are grey, he has a somber gaze, thin face, long nose, wide mouth, healthy, clean teeth, and large ears. He wears a black round hat, dark blue trousers with yellow buttons and a waistcoat or jacket. He travels on foot, horse, and sometimes on a cart.” The outlaw romanticism of the age says he always robbed those, who had plenty and rather gave to the poor. In the times of the 1848-49 War of Independence, he got a safe-conduct from Lajos Kossuth, which was handed over to him by Mór Jókai. Sándor Rózsa fulfilled the request of the governor that included setting up a troop of volunteers consisting of 150 men. His army of highwaymen stood out with their bravery mostly in the south. But the uncontrollable many times brutalizing troops were soon disbanded. After this Rózsa continued his former life and in 1857 he was captured by patrolmen. He was released with amnesty in 1868, but at the age of 55 he was still unable to turn to a law-abiding life. He plotted the first train robbery in Europe. He derailed the train between Kistelek and Kiskunfélegyháza but he was shot in the knee in the ensuing gunfight and once again was captured. He passed away in the jail of Szamosújvár in 1878. The character of Sándor Rózsa inspired countless literary works, exhibitions, films. He is also immortalized by contemporary press releases, court papers, but above all by folk songs, legends, and even by a rock ballad.



The Black Panther Gyula Grosics

The German world champion Manuel Neuer, one of the best goalkeepers today is loved by the public for his brave run-outs. He had someone before him to follow. In the 1950s Gyula Grosics practically played as fourth defender when his fellow players were on the move with the then common 3-2-5 setup. With this, he pushed the defense of the team closer to the opponent's goal line and further away from his. He did not simply shoot out the ball volleyed towards his goal, but often took the ball and immediately passed it up to Puskás and the others who drowned the other team in a shower of goals. Born in 1926 his parents wanted Gyula Grosics to be a priest but when he was 15 years old, he had to substitute somebody in a senior league match in Dorog. After the success of the game, it was obvious the color will stay, but instead of the cassock of the priest, he is going to wear the goalkeeper's black jersey. He got the Black Panther nickname because of his all-black gear. In 1950 he got into the best club of the age, the Honvéd where he was the teammate of Puskás and Bozsik the legends of the Golden Team. He was a member of the Hungarian team that won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Helsinki, and he also played on the "Match of the Century" the London 6-3, Hungary versus England, then a year later the team got the silver medal in the

World Championship in Switzerland. After the World Cup the communist establishment accused him of treason, he got arrested then was released without sentence. He was exiled from Kispest, and could only continue sports two years later in Tatabánya, where he played until 1964. He played in the Hungarian National Football team 86 times. Gyula Grosics the reformer of the play of the goalkeeper, Sportsman of the Nation passed away in 2014.



Efficient Electricity Transmission

The Transformer

The first closed iron core transformer capable of energy transmission was created by Ottó Bláthy, Miksa Déry and Károly Zipernowsky in 1885. The name of the patent was: Innovations with the distribution of electric currents with the help of alternating current inductors. For a casual observer, these devices could seem like metal coils between two wooden disks. The invention enabled the households to use reliable and affordable lighting on an every-day basis. The innovators started their experiments based on Faraday's law of induction in the Ganz factory. First, they fabricated a transformer with alternating currents, then an electricity distribution system based on parallel connection, finally, they arrived at the solution, a structure with a closed iron core. Therefore, the transformed and tamed electricity can travel great distances on a wire with a small diameter all for a low price. Every modern-day transformer uses the principle of the three Hungarian engineers, regardless of what it is used for now and to what aim it was developed and improved later. Without the works of Déry, Bláthy and Zipernowsky electronics and computer science would not be on the current level today. The very word transformer was given to this device by these three gentlemen and has been in use ever since.



Liquid, Sweet Gold, “the wine of kings and the king of wines”

The Tokaji Aszú

The aszú grapes themselves are true natural wonder. Nowhere else does the grape clusters ripe to such perfection. When in September, before the late harvest, the rain makes the peel of the berries crack, and grey mold, called Botrytis attacks the fruit, the taste of the Aszú wine will be magnificent. The moisture evaporates from the damaged part of the grapes on windy and sunny days, but the sugar content stays the same. The noble mold still survives this process, because it receives the necessary fluid in the morning mist, due to the microclimate of the region and the proximity of the Tisza and the Bodrog rivers. During the day the berry shrivels and at dawn, it plumps up, regaining some of its water content. The unique Tokaj miracle cannot be reproduced anywhere else. This variety of fungus is the enemy of all other grapes, but it is an ally of the Tokaj vineyards. Harvest is a delicate process, the grapes need to be handpicked, one by one. This requires serious expertise, because the process takes a long time, as the noble infection spreads from berry to berry. The purple, shriveled Aszú berries, which also look like raisins are harvested, and the rest is left to ripen on the cluster. Once the vine-stocks are empty, winemaking begins, the long maturation procedure starts in the wooden barrels. Here again, the noble mold, that lives on the old walls of the cellars plays a main role. This Hungarian wine has a millennial tradition and it has been a true luxury product, featuring on the tables of kings, czars and emperors. The Sun King, Louis XIV of France hardly wasted his attention on foreign wines, but after tasting the Tokaji Aszú, he could only say, that it is “the wine of kings and the king of wines.”

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Tokaji Aszú to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



The Ambidextrous Genius

Ernő Dohnányi (Ernst von Dohnányi)

There was a natural susceptibility to arts in the family of the pianist, composer, and conductor who was born in Pozsony. His father was the mathematics and physics teacher of the local Catholic high school, he gladly played the cello, once he even performed together with Ferenc Liszt. Perhaps this explains why the young Dohnányi, after graduating from high school applied not to the closer Vienna, but to the Academy of Music in Budapest, where he could become the student of István Thomán, the disciple of Ferenc Liszt. (A few years later Béla Bartók followed the same path and studied here.) Ernő Dohnányi already became renowned as a composer during his university years, earning the praise of Brahms with his piano quintet Op.1, who reportedly said “I could not have composed it better”. Later Dohnányi also started performing himself. When he was younger, he rather played the pieces of others, he only took the courage to perform his own compositions in his elder years. He was considered virtuoso, because he used both of his hands equally while playing the piano. On his concert tours in Western-Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, and the United States the audience gave him a standing ovation. He conducted Kodály’s “Psalmus Hungaricus” and the “Dance Suite” of Bartók on the 50th anniversary of the unification of Buda and Pest. In 1934 he became the head of faculty at the Hungarian Academy of Music. On his 66th birthday in 1943 a Dohnányi-evening was held in the Hungarian Radio. The acclaimed musician himself conducted his piece titled “Symphonic Minutes Op. 36” on a live broadcast. In the same year, he resigned from the governance of the Academy of Music for political reasons. Later he emigrated and finally settled down in the United States. The remarkably versatile and productive composer and performer passed away in New York at the age of 83.



The Center of Europe The Carpathian Basin

Transylvania, the Great Plain, the Highlands, Transdanubia, and the Southern land surrounded by mountains and rivers is a geographical unity that can be immediately recognized from the space. The sea of Slavic and German people ends at its natural borders. From the Verecke mountain pass to the east lies the Great Eurasian Steppe, to the north of the High Tatras lies Poland, Balkan is extending up to the Sava-Danube river line as a continuation of Southern Carpathians, and beyond the Pre-Alps there is Western Europe. Its waters are collected by the Danube, and its largest tributary river, the Tisza. Its pleasant climate is a transition between the continental and Mediterranean weather. The beneficial effect of the four seasons protects and matures its plants to perfection, provides shelter to its flora and fauna, and also its inhabitants throughout the year. The largest ethnic group is the 14 million Hungarians who live here, its area is 325 square kilometer, and its largest city is Budapest. The Carpathian Basin is rich in raw materials, natural resources, and energy, and in basic materials of agricultural and industrial production. Its most valuable natural treasure is its water supply, which makes it a unique place in the world. This is how the renowned poet Sándor Petőfi sees the Carpathian Basin:

*"My country is the beauty of world,
In all of the five continents.
There are not enough words,
to make beautiful compliments.
From the mountains we can see,
Beyond the foams of the Caspian Sea,
And the plain is like it is on the edge of the world,
Because that is how far it goes."*



The Greatest Hungarian Count István Széchenyi

It is no surprise that someone is respected for his excellence. There are some cases when this happens in a person's life. But what happened to Széchenyi is unheard of. His biggest political opponent Lajos Kossuth called him "the Greatest Hungarian". Of course, this could only happen in a gallant and chivalrous age, in the Hungarian Reform Era. And it needed a man, like Lajos Kossuth. To which Széchenyi answered, "You put me upon a pedestal so high that I will not be able to measure up to it". The unprecedented exchange of words took place at the National Assembly in 1842. In retrospect we can declare that Széchenyi was able to live up to the expectations. Without detailing his most commonly known deeds, it can be boldly stated that István Széchenyi was the one who laid down the foundations of modern Hungary. The bohemian count Stefi, the cavalier of the dance balls of Vienna became the heroic military man fighting against Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig, then the truest nobleman and politician who is willing to sacrifice everything for the country. If there is a perfect unity of content and form in art, it is the statue of Széchenyi sculpted by József Engel in 1880. The 4,5-meter-height bronze figure stands on a 8-meter base on the shore of the Danube river at the entrance of the Chain Bridge in front of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Széchenyi is standing in "díszmagyar", the Hungarian nobleman's traditional suit holding the foundation letters of the Scientific Society that he established. The four accompanying allegories around the main statue are Minerva representing commerce, Neptune stands for shipping, Vulcan alludes to industry, and Ceres depicting agriculture. His creed in his diary says: "I will devote all my strength to serve the welfare of my country".

The Hungarikum Committee added the intellectual legacy of Count István Széchenyi to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Presentation with a Twist Prezi

This is a software, in other words, a computer program which was dreamt by Péter Árvai, Péter Halácsy and Ádám Somlai-Fischer in 2009 for teachers and instructors. It breaks with the tradition of moving from one picture to another in the every-day boring presentations. With the help of a map-like overview and being able to zoom in and pull back from various topics it can present the content more easily and more to the point. One must upload the information and details, this way the subject can be presented on screen in its contexts, in an entertaining way. Prezi provides a certain freedom for the user. Instead of monotone slides and texts, it presents the matter in a short musical story that is much easier for the audience to memorize and remember. It can be used in front of audiences of different sizes or in a conference call using digital devices. The online presence enables the users to work collectively and to present the final material. It can be used from the office, from home, or even while traveling. It is available in nine languages including Hungarian. Prezi has more than 100 million users. They belong to a global network community that share their thoughts and accomplish their ideas in this particular manner. At least 360 million presentations have been prepared and delivered with this software, the majority of them are available online and can be used. The tool is operated and developed from Budapest and San Francisco, but Prezi also has an office in Riga, Latvia.



Modern Stone Age

Hive-stones and the stone culture of Bükkalja

More than twenty settlements and their surroundings belong to the "stone culture" of the Bükkalja region. This is roughly a 50-kilometer area in the east-west zone, between Miskolc and Eger. This undulating countryside is full of special shape stones. The rock-slopes and stone towers, which have smaller and larger holes, or deformations, small caves, and caverns are called hive-stones. Their origin is unclear. It is certain, that they were made by human hands by people belonging to the same culture or ethnic group between the 6th and the 16th centuries. There are only theories and assumptions in the absence of written documents, as to why and how they were made. According to the folks of the Szomolya village, they may have kept bees in the holes, which is why they are called hive-stones. Since the first descriptions came from that region this name became widespread. Elsewhere, it has other names, sometimes very exotic names, such as "charn-stone", "dead-window stone" or "dragon-stone". A few generations ago, people of Bükkalja carved out cave-flats, stone sheds, and cellars of the soft limestone. The best-known example of this is the Szépasszony-Valley, where the world-famous Bull's Blood of Eger is matures on a perfect place. A real attraction i Cserépfalu with the hewed flats, stables, and the cellars of Avas, which is also called "Little America". This area is a very good example how humans cohabited with nature and used it constructively, instead of exploiting it.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the hive-stones and the stone culture of Bükkalja to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2016.



The Successful Freedom Fighter István Bocskai Strategist, Prince of Transylvania

The turning of the 16th and 17th centuries is one of the most complicated and convoluted periods of our history. In other ages, one could generally tell who is the friend and who is the enemy, but back then it was really difficult to see clearly. The Transylvanian Principality, a freshly formed state on the ruins of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary was involved in a life and death struggle between the two conquering powers, the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empire. When it was possible, Bocskai used diplomatic channels to further the interests of his country, however he did not shy away from using arms when necessary. He was supremely skilled in using both of them. At first, as a Protestant, trusting in Christian unity, he waged war successfully against the Ottomans. But since the promised Habsburg support never arrived, he was able to use politics in a way that he could make allies with the Ottoman Porte. The Sultan sent him a crown thus acknowledging Bocskai as the King of Hungary. The Prince accepted the crown, but did not fully commit himself to the side of the Ottomans, since his primary objective was the independence of his nation. Since the Parliament of Szerencs also elected him the King of Hungary, he used the title of Prince of Transylvania and Hungary. He led a victorious War of Independence against Austria with the help of irregular Hungarian soldiers, the "hajdús". By 1606 he secured the independence of Transylvania and accomplished the continuation of the Hungarian Kingdom in the lands that remained in Habsburg hands in the country torn into three parts. He has a statue in Budapest on Heroes' Square as the champion of independence and in Geneva, Switzerland on the Memorial of the Reformation as an advocate of Protestantism. The Bocskai suit named after him has been a symbol and embodiment of support for the Hungarian cause since decades.

Based on the decision of the Hungarikum Committee made in 2015, the Bocskai suit is remembered as an outstanding national value.



Real Public Treasure

Sausage from Csaba

The recipe of the Sausage from Csaba is known to everyone, it is not a closely guarded secret. Therefore, let's kick it off with a homemade version. Four different types of spices are mixed with 10 kilograms of meat: 210 grams of salt, 250 grams of ground paprika, 45 grams of cumin, and 60 grams of garlic. The paprika can be sweet, spicy or flaming hot, the cumin can be ground or added as-is. The most suitable meat is pork, more specifically a 3-year-old sow, around 300 kilograms, which has already produced a litter of piglets. Its flesh preserves in the summer and all year round in the gut. All parts of the animal should be used in the meat base, consisting of 70% pork and 30% fat, preferably of belly bacon. Csaba sausage is basically a thick type. The meat is stuffed into the pork's gut, which has a greasy wall and does not allow the stuffing to dry out. Thin sausages are also made, but it is said, that they have to be consumed by Easter, otherwise they will go bad. When the final sausage from last year is eaten in the days before the pig is slaughtered, the farmer notes jokingly, that only much better can be made - and this is literally true, since, with this particular meat product, it is true, the fresher, the better. Of course, the quality also depends on the smoking process. The Csaba thick sausage can only be flamed on dry smoke, and it requires serious expertise. The last crucial issue is its storage. If possible, the sausage strands should be hung up in a mud-brick building or cellar. But definitely in a place, where the temperature and humidity level are constant. Due to its thickness and bright red color, the Csaba sausage can be distinguished from all other types of sausages by just a glance.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Sausage from Csaba to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Giving Direction King Saint Stephen of Hungary

There are characters in history who are reborn from generation to generation in the spirit of every Hungarians. Like our first king, Saint Stephen. Since who could possibly tell, when he/she first encountered his name or first walked on a street, square, or boulevard carrying his name? Maybe it is easier to recall when one first thought about who he was. Since most of those, who live today learnt about Stephen I, who was in great distress between the East and the West and joined the West out of “necessity”. This could not be further from the truth, Saint Stephen King of Hungary was in control of the situation, he knew what he was doing. Neither Rome nor Byzantium established churches and dioceses in Hungary, but our first ruler had done that in his own jurisdiction. He is still the only one to receive the Apostolic King title from the Pope. Thus, the double cross is a true and worthy symbol of our nation. Since as an Apostolic King he founded abbeys and guest houses for pilgrims in Ravenna, Rome, Constantinople, and Jerusalem, he also provided the necessary financial means for maintaining these. Based on the blood contract concluded with the tribal chiefs, he stood proudly on top of a strong and independent Hungary that stands proudly in the center between the East and West with the empowerment of the majority of the nation. He was elected Grand Prince in 997, then King in 1000. On his deathbed on the 15th of August 1038 on Assumption Day Saint Stephen offered his country to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and asked for her patronage for his nation. His mummified right hand is a holy relic, on his Memorial Day the 20th of August the people honor him with a procession at Saint Stephen’s Basilica.



The Worship of Bulbs

Onions from Makó

The region of Makó and the two Békés county villages, Tótkomlós and Békéssámson is the geographical area, where the Makó onions can be produced. A kind of product that has been under protected designation of origin in the European Union since 2009. It is practically impossible to surpass its quality, because the onions are cultivated in a unique way in these 17 settlements. According to one method, the plants grow for not one, but two years until they reach their full potential. The tubers, or young onions are wintered over, which means they hibernate for one season, the following year, they will become large, thick onions with a reddish-orange peel. The local conditions, the rich river deposit of the Maros river, and the extremely hot, dry summers build a crispy, multi-layered peel on the onions. This protective armor will make the onions juicy, tasty, with a strong character. Housewives know that the onions from Makó will make their dishes a real success. Onions, particularly the kind that makes chefs tear up, even cry while chopping them, are a main ingredient in fish soups, stews and goulashes. In 1835, a book on onion growing was published, and at the turn of the century, many people subscribed to the "The Onion Farmer" magazine. The onion's international career began with receiving a prize at the World Exhibition in Brussels in 1888. Of course, the biggest cult of the onion is still in Makó, they practically worship this plant. The open-air exhibition of the József Attila Museum presents the history of the plant in the Onion House, which is the town's cultural community space. Imre Markovecz designed Makó's iconic thermal bath, the Hagymatikum, where the cupola of the building is shaped like an onion.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Onions from Makó to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



The Most Famous Hungarian Actor Ever Béla Lugosi

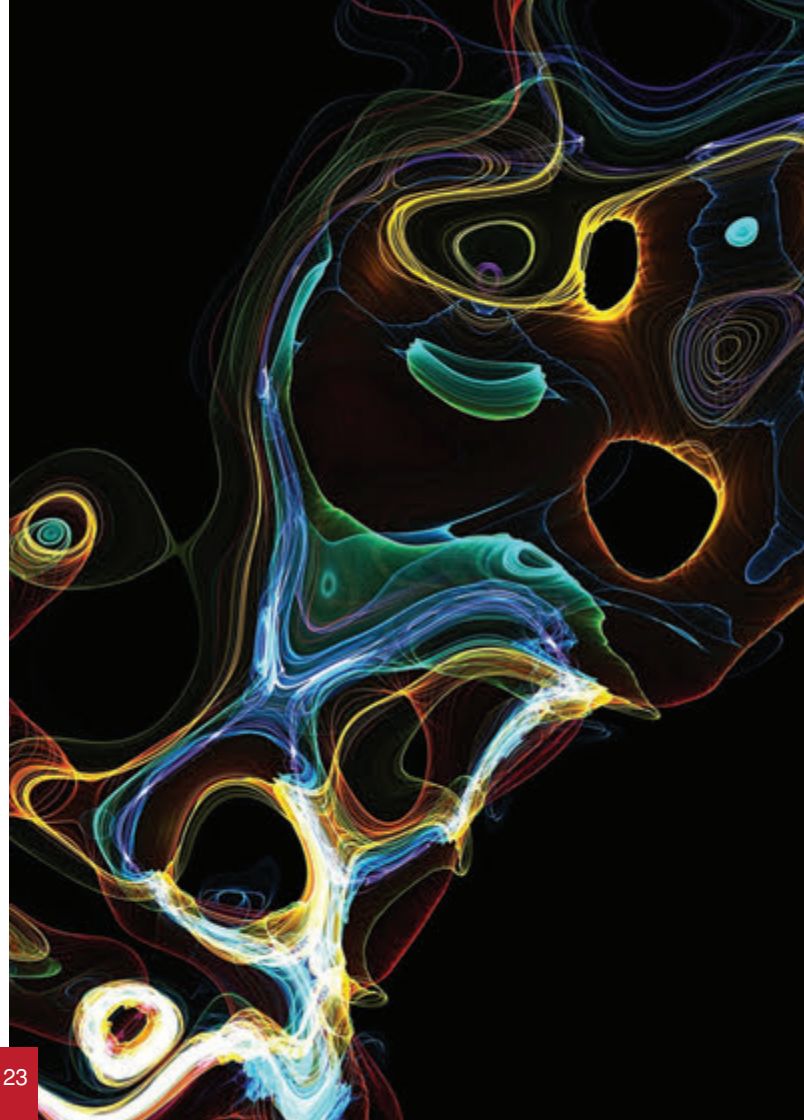
He was registered at birth as Béla Ferenc Dezső Blaskó and was born in 1882 in Lugos in the Bánság region. At the age of 12, he however got bored with the comfort of his home and decided he needed some adventure. First, he supposedly worked as a miner. Maybe it was in those mineshafts where he saw the sparkling gazes in the dark that later made him world-famous. Lucky for him he found his true passion soon. At the beginning of the 20th century he was acting in the theater of Szabadka, but already on the name Lugosi after his hometown. Later he appeared in the acting societies of Temesvár and Debrecen. In 1910 he was member of the theater of Szeged, then three years later in the National Theatre of Budapest. He had wounded in the battles of the Great War several times. He was awarded for his bravery, then got discharged from the army. He then continued his theatrical and started his cinematic career. In 1917 he appeared in the silent film "The Colonel". Altogether he featured in 12 Hungarian movies. In 1919 he had to escape from his homeland. Later he declared: "After the war, I participated in the revolution. It was only later that I realized I fought for the wrong cause." In the United States, he first established a Hungarian acting company then later played the role of the bloodthirsty Dracula on Broadway. A movie and worldwide fame followed the big success of the theatrical performance. In 1931 he became the first superstar of horror movies. In the following decades, he was the one to play every villain figures in American movies. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, his bust can be seen in the Vajdahunyad Castle in Budapest. Béla Lugosi passed away in 1956 in Los Angeles.



Flowing Emotions

Mihály Csíkszentmihályi psychologist

He was born in the former Hungarian port Fiume, also called Rijeka in 1934. He and his family had to escape to Venice when he was ten years old. As he was growing up, he witnessed how many times his hometown changed hands and how many times the form of government changed. In those stormy years he saw broken impoverished masses, but also families, who lived cheerfully in the seemingly hopeless conditions and considered the actual situation only temporary. Their fate was identical, yet they still saw the world completely differently. This made the young man thinking. He wanted to find an answer to the common question, what makes one's life happy and meaningful. During his university years in the United States he found out that money does not necessarily make people content. Research shows that 30% of people feel satisfied and content regardless of their financial situation. He started observing creative people, artists, scientists, athletes, and businessmen to figure out why they dedicate their lives to an activity that might have an uncertain outcome. He discovered that this is some type of euphoria, a kind of ecstasy the experience of creating that raises the person completely from everyday life, from the temporal, from everything unsophisticated. During work, a spontaneous flow captures the person. Time and day-to-day necessities disappear. The mere pleasure of the exciting activity makes one happy. As somebody finds his mission, he also finds happiness. The English and Italian publications of Mihály Csíkszentmihályi are standard works in psychology and business literature of the world. The professor who currently lives in the United States has received the Széchenyi Prize, the Prima Primiissima award, and maintains close relations with the Hungarian culture. His presentations are always packed everywhere in the Carpathian Basin, as we get to know better the flow theory and utilize its positive effects.



A Pendulum Measuring Gravity

Loránd Eötvös physicist

He was born in 1848 into the highest social circles. His father was Baron József Eötvös writer and politician, his mother Ágnes Rosty descendant of an ancient noble family from Transdanubia, his godfather Ágoston Trefort. The young Loránd Eötvös in accordance with the custom at the time started studying law, but out of curiosity he already attended natural science lectures. He ended up earning his PhD in physics in Heidelberg where he visited the classes of the most famous professors of the age including the chemist Robert Wilhelm Bunsen. He received the highest distinction “summa cum laude”. About this, he informed his father in the following manner: “This honor is not easily given to just anyone. In this semester only one other candidate was worthy of it, and as a Minister of Culture, you would probably find it pleasing to hear that he was also Hungarian. His name is Gyula König, a mathematician from Győr.” As he returned home, he started teaching as a university professor and he also began his gravitational measurements and experiments in the Buda Hills and in the courtyard of his house in Pestszentlőrinc. He continued these works with his associates in the region of Újvidék, Szabadka, and Arad as well as in Transylvania and on the frozen surface of Lake Balaton. As a passionate tourist and mountain climber, he traveled through the country during his field research. He designed various measuring instruments as the most famous of these is the Eötvös Torsion Balance. This is a kind of pendulum that can measure gravitational anomalies and can be used to study the Earth's interior. The majority of oil fields in the world were discovered with Eötvös' brilliant instrument. The instruments were prepared in the predecessor of MOM (Hungarian Optical Works). The physicist was the president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences between 1889 and 1905. The most prestigious institute of higher education in the country the Eötvös Loránd University, ELTE bears his name today.



Unbeatable Boneless Broth Tisza Fish Soup

This soup is typically made from carp or catfish, but the more fish it contains the tastier it will be. The thick stock with filleted fish is unlike any other fish soup, because it has been deboned, this way it can be safely spooned and eaten by everyone, without fearing to bite into a fish head or fish bones. But of course, these precious, extremely delicious parts of the fish are not just thrown out and wasted away by the chefs. They are cooked with the onions from Makó on flaming fire, and the result will be a tasty, thick, dark brown broth, which is the starter stock of the soup. This is the soul of Tisza fish soup. The prepared, seasoned fish slices are added at the end, and after it comes to a boil, the delicacy is ready to be served. Onions, salt, water, fish, paprika. These are the only ingredients you need, and of course a little know-how and a pinch of experience. The old Tisza fishermen made it according to the ancient method, that has been passed from father to son. From the collected driftwood they made a fire, and above it hung the cauldron on a hook. They threw in a little bacon, onions, prepared the freshly caught fish, and cooked it all in water, which was drawn from the Tisza. They did not even have to get out of their wooden boat. It is a real, natural dish, no wonder that it is called fish soup.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Tisza Fish Soup to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



Policy of Peace and Prosperity King Saint Ladislaus of Hungary

In the late Middle Ages when the friars educating the future kings wanted to show the figure of an ideal ruler, a role model to the future monarch, they presented them with the image of Saint Ladislaus of Hungary. All the contemporary sources depict him as having an exceptional character, selflessness, patriotism and the defense of the Christian faith guided his deeds. He supported the reign of his father Béla I, his cousin Solomon and his brother Géza I with unprecedented fidelity that was not common at that age. He pushed for and achieved the canonization of King Saint Stephen and Saint Emeric of Hungary in 1083. These are the first two Hungarian Saints and celebrating this occasion the ruler gave amnesty to Solomon who previously turned against him despite his support. He was committed to end the anarchy by enacting strict laws. With these, he primarily protected private property from thieves and robbers. He regulated the collection of the Church taxes and the status of priests also ensuring and balancing the peaceful coexistence of various denominations within the realm. With his 18 years of his reign the period of conquering policy began, which for 400 years until King Matthias in today's term was the Kingdom of Hungary. He negotiated with the Pope, the Byzantine, and the Holy Roman Emperor as equals. The Eastern Orthodox Church honors her daughter, Piroška who later became a Byzantine Empress and took the name Irene as a Saint. The statues and wall paintings that depict Saint Ladislaus adorn churches all across Europe and teach people about his noble actions. One of such deeds of the chivalrous King was the rescue of a local young girl from the burning and pillaging Pecheneg invaders. Another one of his holy acts was miraculously bringing forth water at Szentkút. He passed away unexpectedly at the age of 50 in 1095, his tomb in Várad was a place of pilgrimage until the Ottoman conquest. He was canonized in 1192 his golden shrine is the jewel of the Basilica of Győr.

De coronatione sancti regis Ladislai primi: fratris Beysse filij Bele similiter primi: et de exercitijs eiusdem.



*Abita v̄o morte regis magni: puenit vn̄versa mul-
tudo nobiliū hungarie ad fratrem eius Ladislaum
Et eū cōmuni cōsensu parili voto et cōsona volūta-
te ad suscipiēdū regni gubernacula cōcorditer ele-
gerūt: imo fere magis affectuosissimis p̄cib⁹ cōpule-
rūt. Dēs enī nouerat ipsum esse vestitū p̄sumatiōe*

Scientist of Sensory Perception

György Békésy (Georg von Békésy)

The chemist and biophysicist received the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1961 for his discovery concerning the physical mechanism of stimulating the inner ear, the cochlea. He did most of his research in Hungary in the 1930s and 40s. He finally settled down in the United States after the war where he broadened his field of expertise. Besides hearing he studied the common features of eyesight and generally all organs involved in sensory perception. He spent the first two decades of his life with his family in Germany, Turkey and Switzerland, then at the beginning of the 1920s, one of the most difficult periods in the history of Hungary returned home with his newly earned degree. He worked in the Hungarian Post Office until 1948 while teaching at the University of Budapest. He also became a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. After the World War II, he accepted the invitation of Harvard University with the permit received at home. The prolongation of the permit to stay was not approved by the new Hungarian state, he still remained. He ended up teaching for 16 years in Boston then moved to Hawaii where he passed away in Honolulu in 1972. Similarly to many other brilliant Hungarian scientists he was also asked by the Americans about his secret what made him so successful in foreign countries. György Békésy gave the following answer: "When I lived in Switzerland everything was quiet, predictable and calm. Surviving was not an issue. However, in Hungary life means a constant fight, perpetual strive for basically everything, but that fight did not result in all-out destruction and decay. Sometimes we lose, sometimes we win, but we always survive. One needs challenges to evolve and this is given throughout the whole Hungarian history."



All the Flavors of Nagykunság

The mutton stew of Karcag

The mutton stew of Karcag is only truly original, if the dish contains every part of the lamb. Not only the meat, but the leg, the head, the entrails, and even the tripe is utilized. This is all combined into a stew, over a fire in a cast-iron cauldron, greased with Mangalica pork-fat. The bones must be professionally cut with a saw so that the splinters of bone do not annoy the people during the most delicate occupations, dipping the bread in the juicy sauce. One has to pay close attention, because if the flames lick the cauldron just a few minutes longer than needed, it will be overcooked, which will damage the delicate structure of this work of art. It only needs the most basic spices: salt, ground red paprika, dried paprika, onion, and garlic. Of course, the most important ingredient is the mutton itself, which lives on the primeval lands of the steppes around Karcag. This animal fattens on grass and various other herbs. As the mutton feeds it tramples, treads on the soil, thus preventing erosion, it also fertilizes the land with its own manure. All the blessings of the green lawn, the earth, the air, and the sunlight are in its flesh, as the locals say: "The mutton from Hortobágy has no equal." The eternal truth from our ancestors remains, which says, the cooking of the mutton begins in the stableyard.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the mutton stew of Karcag to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



The Renewal of the Operetta

Ferenc Lehár

He comes from a family of musicians. His father was the choir leader of the Sopron Regiment. At the age of ten, Ferenc Lehár enrolled in the National Music Institute of the capital, and then learned the art of composing from Antonín Dvorák at the Prague Conservatory. When he was twenty years old, he was appointed to the post of conductor of the regiment of Losonc, making him the youngest military music leader in the country. He toured the Monarchy with his men. This is how he met Johann Strauss, Puccini, and the emperor Franz Joseph attended one of his concerts. After his decommission from the army, he began working on an opera, titled Kukuschka, which was presented in 1896. Then, at a ball in Vienna, the ladies gold and silver dresses caught his attention, so he wrote a waltz about those colors, which made him famous in the capital. The following year, the audience could see his first operetta, The Viennese Ladies, and then Der Rastelbinder, which the Hungarian Theater in Pest performed a hundred times. His most popular composition, The Merry Widow, was staged on December 30, 1905. By 1910, it had been performed nearly 20,000 times in four hundred theaters around the world. Of these, a storm of applause blared 416 times at the end of the performance in New York alone. Based on this work five films were made. The Merry Widow brought Lehár world fame and made him a financially independent artist. In three decades he wrote 31 operettas, including another outstanding success, the Count of Luxembourg. He described the secret of his success: "An operetta composer cannot write speculative, heart-wrenching music. And this is a much bigger challenge than people usually think." Ferenc Lehár died in 1948, at the age of 78. The day of his death, October 24, is also the birthday of his life-long fellow composer, Imre Kálmán, since 2002, this day commemorates the Hungarian operetta.



The Embodiment of Independence and Liberty

Lajos Kossuth

Influential relatives and money did not help him along his career and did not obscure his clarity of vision either. He relentlessly criticized the Habsburg oppression. The intellectual effervescence of the first decades of the 19th century was truly his world. With his flawless arguments and excellent reasoning, he created such a system of values that even his political opponents accepted. In the Batthyány government the prince, the baron, and the count worked together for the same objective as the impoverished minor nobility. Opposition, conservative, and members of parliament with no affiliation fought side-by-side for the same common goal. This type of unity was previously unthinkable. In 1848 during the Revolution and War of Independence against the Habsburgs, he came to be the leader of the nation who the Hungarians still believed in even decades after the defeat, whose name became synonymous with the thought of independence and liberty. Lajos Kossuth was born in Monok, close to the Zemplén Mountains in 1802. He studied in Piarist, Lutheran, and Calvinist high schools and colleges in Sátoraljaújhely, Eperjes and Sárospatak. He became a lawyer, a journalist, then a politician. He was a persistent, unconditional believer in progress, general and proportionate share of taxation but above all independence. His powerful parliamentary and recruiting speeches had a major impact during the War of Independence. As the president of the Committee of National Defense, he governed Hungary until the surrender at Világos. During the more than four decades he spent in exile, he actively engaged in politics, kings, heads of the state, including the President of the United States shook received him. He passed away in Turin in 1894. A crowd of half a million people attended his funeral in Budapest in the Cemetery at Fiumei street. The country's main square in front of the Hungarian Parliament one of the highest state award and the main broadcasting station of the national public radio bear his name. His voice is preserved on a phonograph recording.



Dessert from Transylvania

Chimney cake

Its elongated shape resembles a stove tube, a Székely chimney. It has been baked all across Transylvania for centuries. The ingredients of the dough are flour, sugar, fat or butter, eggs, yeast, and milk. The pastry is stretched into long strips after kneading, which are wrapped around the baking tool by hand, in a spectacular manner. Above the smoldering charcoal the raw white dough will turn golden brown in a few minutes from the caramelized sugar, which can be flavored with walnuts, cinnamon, or powdered chocolate. Its length should be about 25-30 centimeters, it is best served fresh and warm. In the land of the Székely's, in the heart of Transylvania, the chimney cake is a special dessert, it cannot be missing from the festive table. By the 19th century, it had become known in almost every Hungarian-inhabited region. People all around the world think of this as a Hungarian delicacy, and for many of them, this is the first thing they want to eat, when they arrive in Hungary. According to its motto the chimney cake is Székely, Transylvanian and Hungarian, all at once. In 1868, the author, Balázs Orbán commemorated the origin of the chimney cake in his book, *Description of Székelyföld*: "As the Mongols approached, the people fled to the mountains and caves. The attackers tried to starve those, who were hiding in inaccessible places, but their own food was also depleted. Then, a clever Székely woman scraped together the remaining flour, mixed it with ashes, and baked huge brioches, which were put on high wooden poles. It was a strong message to the Mongol invaders: "Look, how well we live here, while you have to fast!" The starving enemy was annoyed, so they moved on." They named it *dorong-fánk*, which roughly translated means "doughnut on a stick". But they also mention it in different sources as a "stick roll" or "stick-doughnut". The Hungarikum Committee has added the Chimney cake to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



The Just Defender of the Continent King Matthias Corvinus

Matthias Corvinus who was born in Kolozsvár is similar to Saint Ladislaus as they are both glorious shining stars of Hungarian history. They both became legendary rulers as younger brothers in the family and were able to reorganize Hungary, mauled by internal and external enemies into a successful, and conquering state. Matthias lives on in the hearts of the people as a hero ever since, whose memory comes to life in statues, paintings, reliefs, glass windows of churches, literary works and folk tales across Europe. He proudly professed himself as continuing the legacy of Attila the Hun and the Árpád dynasty. His plans and deeds made him their equal. His number one task, stopping the conquering Ottoman armies was left to him by his father János Hunyadi. He also entertained the vision of liberating Constantinople and possibly even the Holy Land. However, the neighboring western countries usually attacked the Kingdom while Matthias was busy fighting at the southern borders, protecting his country, Europe and Christianity. So, the King had to make peace with the Sultan without accomplishing his goals. For example, he had to stop the siege of Szendrő because the enemy attacked Transdanubia. “Oh, nefarious Germans, what benefit of the Christianity I loose because of you?” Matthias exclaimed rhetorically at the time. First, he had to ensure that the hinterland is safe and well protected before he could set out again to defend the continent. That is why “Proud Vienna suffered sore from King Matthias’ dark array”, and that is why he became the ruler of Silesia and Bohemia. By the last year of his reign, his countries and provinces were the greatest political unit in Europe, financially and diplomatically capable of fighting the Ottoman menace. His goal was to unite the whole of Christianity and liberate the Balkan peninsula thus unifying the whole West. Sadly, he was unable to fulfill this, he passed away in Vienna at the age of 47 in 1490, as they say: “dead is Matthias lost is justice”. Thus, vanished the last great Hungarian king and after a couple of decades the country’s independence as well.



Tibetan Scholar, Buddhist Saint

Sándor Kőrösi Csoma

It all starts out as a typical folk-tale for children. The poor man's youngest son sets off on a journey, then later behind the Tallest Mountain miraculously finds what he was looking for. As a child, Sándor Csoma of Kőrös from the south-eastern tip of Transylvania could very well have heard stories that started like this. The small noble family's son entered the Boarding School of Nagyenyed at the age of 9, where he was a serving student and could study while doing work. He first encountered Hungarian prehistory there. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Göttingen, taking orientalism classes. By the time he got home, he could read and write in 13 different languages. At the age of 34, he started his journey to find the origin of Hungarians in 1819. Travelling through the Middle East and Asia Minor, touching Persia and Afghanistan he reached India in 1822. He would have continued his way to Middle Asia, but he had to stay because of the war. Encouraged by the British government commissioner, he began studying the Tibetan culture. He undertook this project with the intention of finding evidence of the Hungarians' origin among the ancient documents. Over the years, he read thousands of Tibetan books in mountain monasteries. In one of these, he came to know the land of the Uyghurs, of which he writes, "I am perfectly convinced that our ancestors came from this land as autonomous nation, centuries before Christ." He wrote volumes about the history, geography, and literature of Tibet. Amongst other books, he completed the English-Tibetan dictionary, and grammar book in 1827. This was the first English-Tibetan dictionary ever. He sent 50 copies of each of his published works back home, to Budapest. He was appointed as a corresponding member of the Hungarian Society of Scientists. In 1842, at the age of 58, he died of malaria. The Buddhist religion accepted and considers him one of its saints. His tomb in Darjeeling, India is a place of pilgrimage for Hungarians and Buddhists.



Father of the Game Theory

János Harsányi (John Harsányi)

1994 is a golden letter year in the history of Hungarian science. That was the year when economist János Harsányi and chemist György Oláh both shook hands with the King of Sweden as they received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. Harsányi graduated in the Fasori Lutheran Secondary School of Budapest in 1938. He followed the family tradition and studied to become a pharmacist. In 1945 he found shelter from deportation in the Mária street Jesuit monastery in Budapest. He got his PhD at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University in 1947, the title of his doctoral thesis was: Logical analysis of philosophical errors. After he had to leave his job as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Sociology in 1949 and his father's pharmacy was confiscated by the communists, he left the country with his family in 1950. Harsányi went to Australia where he started as an unskilled laborer and got his degree in economics by taking evening classes. He arrived in the United States with a Rockefeller Scholarship where he lectured at Stanford University and earned a second PhD. He was primarily interested in mathematics and then later he turned his attention towards game theory. He received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences together with John Nash and Reinhard Selten in 1994, as the award-giving committee explained: "for his groundbreaking work concerning the balance analysis, equilibrium selection in the theory of non-cooperative games". The method of Harsányi is applicable in many areas including but not limited to private and public affairs, politics, and economics. When receiving the Nobel Prize, he emphasized in his speech that the book of János Neumann who also studied in the Fasori high school was a foundation and inspiration for his work. The creator of the economics of information, János Harsányi passed away in San Francisco at the age of 80 in 2000.

AZ E HÁZBAN MŰKÖDŐ,
HAJDANI ÖRANGYAL GYÓGYSZERTÁRBAN DOLGOZOTT

HARSÁNYI JÁNOS GYÓGYSZERÉSZ
(1920-2000)

KÖZGAZDASÁGI NOBEL-DÍJAS,
AZ MTA TISZTELETBELI TAGJA.

TISZTELETÉRE ÁLLÍTOTTA
A MAGYAR GYÓGYSZERÉSZTUDOMÁNYI TÁRSASÁG
ÉS A MAGYAR TUDOMÁNYOS AKADÉMIA



Champion of Sniffing

The Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla

Its a telling name for a breed, as it uncovers everything. He listens, guards, investigates. This animal can be trusted by its owner, and beside him, there can be no surprises. The Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla notices everything and informs the hunter about it. This dog is a real forest adventurer. Medium-sized, more lean than muscular, with a proportionate body and a truly noble, even royal appearance. The color of his eyes and nose barely contrasts with his light brown, short, dense coat. This fur, opposite to his brief-haired cousin, the Hungarian short-haired Vizsla does not make him suitable for being kept indoors, but he tolerates the cold outside well. He is different from other hunting dogs, “drótos” or Mr. “Wirehair” can be entrusted to carry out all subtasks, that are assigned to him. He searches for the beast, indicates its position, easily finds the killed or wounded animal, or chases the injured animal through land and water. He is a true all-in-one fellow, which humans really value and honour in him. His sensory organs are extremely developed, but his most amazing feature is his infallible sense of smell. He also serves as a work dog at the our Metropolitan Fire Department, where he was named a “bearded odor detector”. He can be taught easily, it not a challenge for him to work together with humans or even other animals. Falconers can mainly accustom their hunting birds with the short-haired Hungarian Vizsla. This dog is a nice, friendly companion, maybe even too much, so he alone is not very suitable for housekeeping as a home-guard dog. But he is a real, candid playmate, and of course a loyal friend of the family, especially the children.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd- and hunting dogs, amongst them the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The Emperor of optical-art

Victor Vasarely

He was born in Pécs, on the Munkácsy Mihály Street in 1906, as an extramarital child of parents from Transylvania and Upper-Hungary. One could not possibly imagine a more adventurous beginning for an artist. The sequel is equally interesting, as the boy, registered as Győző Csiszár after his mother's family name, later adopted his father's surname, Vásárhelyi. The final name of Victor Vasarely, which became known all over the world, emerged in France after his emigration in 1930. A quick career change also fits neatly into the story, as he interrupted his medical studies because he found the vibrant cultural life of the age more attractive. From the age of twenty-one, he polished his skills in various schools and workshops, and became acquainted with the world of modern art, particularly Bauhaus. He arrived in Paris with his own evolved, recognizable style. He boldly used the black and white geometric shapes and patterns, one of the many fruits of this the world-famous zebra motif and its variants. This idea started the optical art, in short op-art, it is no wonder that the artistic profession considers him the greatest master of the 20th century. He considered his early creations "off-road soul-searching". The most significant collections present Vasarely's art to the public as their highly-guarded treasures. He gladly used metal, ceramics, and carpets for his works. His huge 10-12-meter installations are thought-provoking decorations of public spaces and buildings. The Vasarely Museum opened in his hometown, Pécs in 1976. At the same time, the Foundation Vasarely, a magical blend of fine art and architecture, was inaugurated in Aix-en-Provence, France. The artist died in Paris at the age of 90.



The Sweetest Health-Guard Hungarian acacia honey

The huge acacia-trees living in the unique climate of the Carpathian Basin make the Hungarian acacia honey unique. There are no pure acacia forests of this size anywhere else. So if the beehives are placed in such pure acacia forests, they will not find any other flowers and the result will be unblended, unmixed clear acacia honey. It will be a transparent, slightly yellowish, high-sugar content honey that does not crystallize and remains in liquid form for years. And the taste is impossible to imitate, there was never a medicine delicious as this. Because as soon as somebody sneezes or coughs in the family, a diligent housewife or a mom with a mission immediately prepares tea with acacia honey, thus banishing any disease from the family. As a preventive measure, it is also recommended for healthy people, many of whom substitute sugar with honey, putting it in their coffee, lemonade, or even baking cakes with it. One of the easiest ways to consume acacia honey is to spread it on buttered bread. It is really good for breakfast or as a snack. Beekeepers and their families eat a lot of honey and they demonstrably suffer less from respiratory diseases. It is no wonder that they affectionately call them “honeybees” or “bee-maidens” as these hard-working insects are the embodiment of industriousness. They protect the health of families, they also keep hives clean. The buzz of the bees in a summer forest is a wonderful experience. If one sits under a flowering acacia tree and listens silently for a few minutes to the hum of small buzzers, time stops, the brain shuts off, the mind enters another dimension, the soul is elevated.

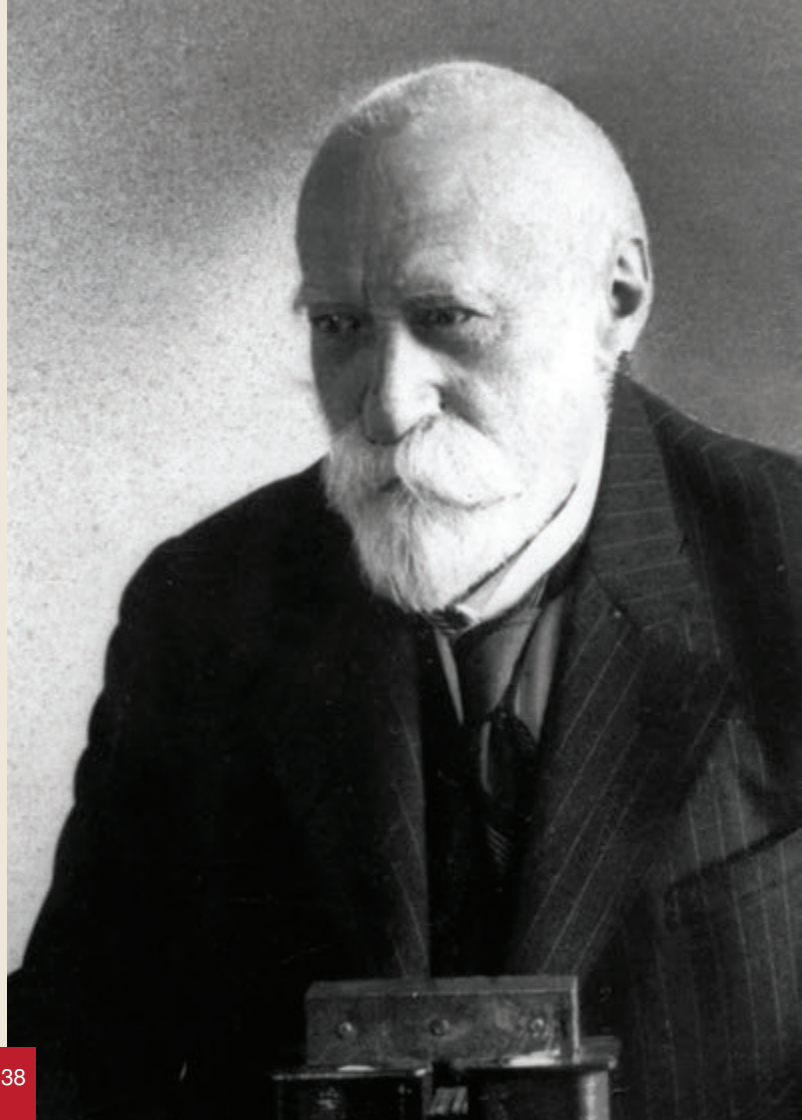
The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian acacia honey to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Measuring Electric Currents

Ottó Bláthy

An outstanding figure of the brilliant technical-skilled generation that shaped our world at the turning of the 19th and 20th centuries. As a colleague of Miksa Déri and Károly Zipernowsky, he participated in developing and building the transformer, but he can also be credited with inventing the first watt-hour meter in 1889 and developing the three-phase turbo generator. During his long life he was a major contributor to scientific and industrial progress, with no less than 96 inventions, most of which were electromechanical innovations. At the age of 22 in 1882, he left the University of Vienna with a degree in mechanical engineering. He went straight to one of the most modern factories of the age, to the Machine Works of the Hungarian Railways. Here he started studying and experimenting with electricity and during these tests, he was first in the world to find a reliable solution for the dimensioning of magnetic circuitry. He presented his results in the Edison Machine Works in the United States where he was received with appreciation. To the invitation of Zipernowsky he became an engineer in the Ganz factory where he modified the machines, thus significantly increasing their performance. His patents were a huge success both at home and all over the world. After the death of the engineer, Kálmán Kandó Bláthy was the one who finished the alternating current electric railway traction device. This phase shifter for trains was purchased by major international companies. He was renowned for his special mental computation skill, for being an outstanding chess player and for having an extraordinary memory. Several technical high schools bear his name as well as a minor planet that was discovered in 2002. Two streets bear his name in Budapest running parallel to each other: one is called “Lightning”, the other one is called “Magnet”.



Romantic Virtuoso

György Cziffra

Those who heard him play immediately thought of Ferenc Liszt. He was born in Budapest in 1921. His father was a musician, a Hungarian dulcimer virtuoso, who taught him to play the piano from the age of four. The composer and conductor Ernő Dohnányi discovered him in 1929. There is film footage recording the performance of the 13-year-old boy, in an ironed shirt, who plays Schubert with deep devotion and sophistication. "Gyuri Cziffra, a prodigy pianist who appeared at the latest concert of the Music Academy" as the subtitle says under the silent movie pictures. He was regarded a prodigy, but he gave extremely successful concerts at home and abroad all in vain, because he also had to work at bars and at nightclubs to support his family. He performed with unrivaled technical bravado, but he also added his interpretation, his own way of presenting the masterpieces. This amazing improvisational talent made him the greatest pianist of the century. Tamás Vásáry recalled, that once entering a smoke-filled, gloomy bar, upon hearing the piano, he asked the waiter: "Who are those two geniuses who are playing four-handed tonight?" And the answer was: "It is only Gyuri Cziffra, always he plays the music here with us". György Cziffra took a bumpy road to fame: the poverty of his family in his childhood, military service, being held captive after the war, imprisonment. On October 22nd, 1956, on the eve before the outbreak of the revolution, he played with thundering applause at the Academy of Music. He fled to Paris a few days later, then world-fame ensued away from home. It is as if Liszt had originally composed the Hungarian rhapsody for Cziffra alone. He was given the French Legion of Honour and the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. He is the honorary president of the 100-member Gypsy Orchestra. György Cziffra died at the age of 73, in 1994.



When He Punched, It Was Instant Blackout László Papp

Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, László Papp. According to all experts alive and dead, these are the unrivaled, unparalleled geniuses of boxing history. The American heavyweight professional multiple times world champions and our László Papp, both in the same sports hall of fame. Compared to them he is “only” three times Olympic champion, a small European boxer. How could he be mentioned on the same page as the big guys? In the United States in the world of show business, the amateur titles do not mean much. László Papp defended his European champion title six times, but this would probably fade in the face of major title fights, in which he was never allowed to participate. His unique ability was that he was a virtuoso in the ring. Using his sense of rhythm, his reflexes and his instincts, he boxed and moved in the arena like a dancer on stage. But when he punched, he was ruthless. “My right hand will get you to the city hospital, my left to the public cemetery. Which one do you prefer?” – he mischievously asked his opponents. But no one was offended by these questions, because most of his adversaries liked his coolness and respected his skills. This is what the four-times European champion, Olympic silver and bronze medalist boxer Pietrzykowski who met László Papp many times and even defeated him once in the ring said about him after the semifinal in Melbourne: “Papp is the best boxer I have ever seen. He is short and muscular with a small black mustache, the fellow is a typical Hungarian character.” By the way, the Polish Pietrzykowski fought with Muhammad Ali in the finals in Rome, so he should know. The biggest covered sports hall in Hungary bears the name of László Papp next to the Ferenc Puskás stadium. The two most significant figures of Hungarian sports history were also good friends, now the two greatest “temples of sport” that are named after them stand next to each other. László Papp passed away at the age of 77 in 2003.



Psychological warfare "Mohácsi Busójárás", a masked end-of-winter tradition

According to a legend, at the beginning of the 16th century, Mohács was occupied by the Ottomans, and the local population was forced to flee. The swampy world of the nearby island was the only refuge, where the enemy could not venture and persecute the people, because it was a completely unmapped archipelago. One evening, a shrewd knight appeared in front of the men sitting by the fire, recommending them to carve out masks, to paint them with animal blood, and to put horns on them. He also told them to bring maces, clubs, clappers, horns. He suggested to dress in sheepskin, to tie a kettlebell on their waist, and stuff their pants with straw. Then, on a foggy winter evening, to cross the Danube, and frighten the invaders. They did everything the way the knight said, the superstitious Ottoman intruders had no idea that people were hiding under the masks and ran away from Mohács. According to the documented history of the busójárás, there is an alternate explanation, it is an end-of-winter, spring-greeting, carnival folk tradition. Its origins can be hundreds or even thousands years. The participants were forbidden to remove the masks so that the identity of the person would stay anonymous. The men did not change their clothes at home, but in secret places, such as the island, and returned to the town by boat. Not even the family members could know, who was hiding under which mask. Everyone shaped, carved, and painted all the accessories themselves. Today, there are nearly fifty busó groups in Mohács, which means roughly 1,200 busós that attend the parades. Thus, almost the entire male population of Mohács takes part in the loud, musical, fiery riot, to the greatest delight of the tens of thousands of visitors.

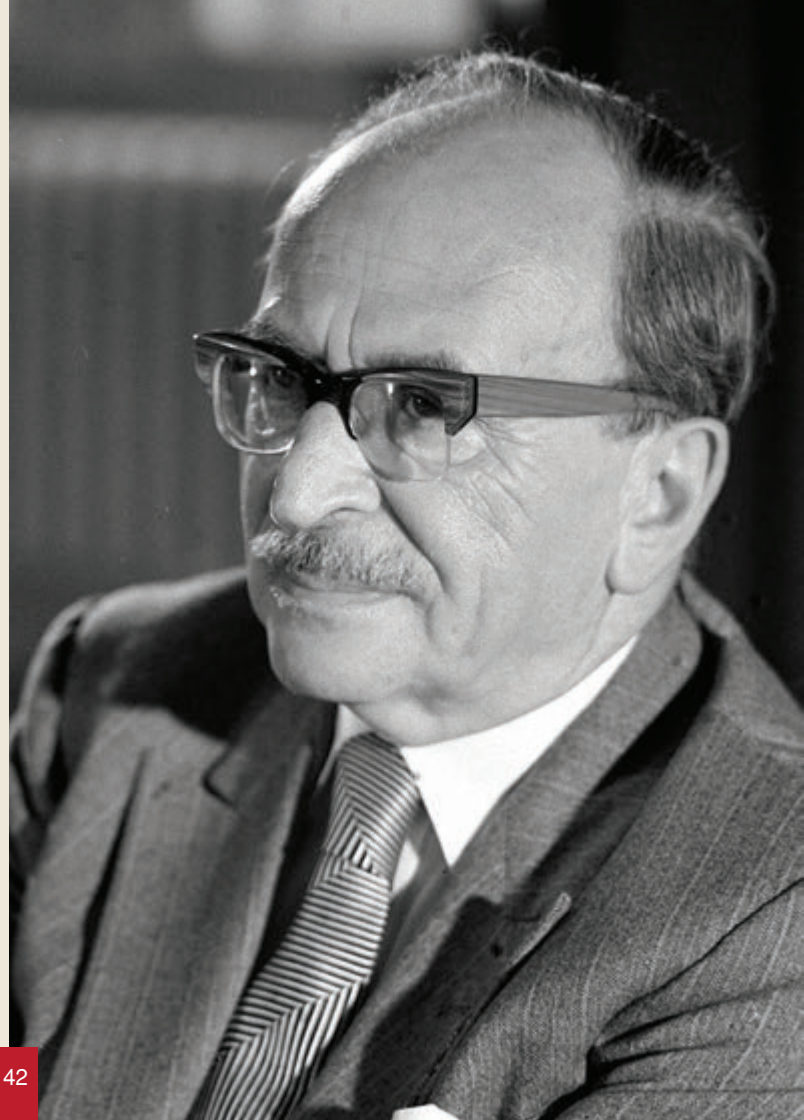
The Hungarikum Committee added the "Mohácsi Busójárás", a masked end-of-winter tradition to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



Sheer Dimensions

Dénes Gábor (Dennis Gábor)

He was born in Budapest in 1900. As a high school student, he was already interested in technology, his first patented invention was a model aircraft-powered carousel. He went to university in Berlin where he attended the the lectures of Albert Einstein. Later back in Budapest while working for the Tungstram lighting company he was the colleague of Imre Bródy, the father of the krypton light bulb. He left Hungary well before the World War II and found a new home in England. The concept of holography was his brainchild already in 1947, but he could only present his theory in practice after the invention of the laser in 1961. Hologram is a three-dimensional picture that shows a unique perspective from every angle. Holography is the method, the science of making such images. Dénes Gábor discovered and developed a way of capturing images that allowed more data to be displayed than any other method before. This is why he named this procedure “holography” because in Greek it means “whole, complete writing”. For his discovery he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971. With holography wonderful works of art are made. We can see holograms in every-day life on safety stickers and identifiers since they are impossible to plagiarize. This procedure is also used in data storing and high-speed photography. Dénes Gábor passed away at the age of 79 in London.



Determining the Exact Shape of the Earth

Imre Izsák astronomer

He developed his theory against the former spherical concept of our home planet, he determined the Earth's precise geoid shape by observing, studying and quantifying 26,244 satellite orbits. He was the first in the world to declare that the Equator is not a circle but rather an ellipse. Imre Izsák was born in Zalaegerszeg in 1929. His father was a geography and biology teacher, while his mother taught mathematics and physics, so it is no wonder that he had an interest in science. He was an excellent student, after graduating he went to the University of Budapest where he studied mathematics and physics. Besides his studies, he worked as an assistant in an observatory established by Miklós Konkoly-Thege, where he later got a full-time job after getting his degree. He was interested in particular areas such as the n-body problem, celestial mechanics, trajectories of rockets and satellites. Due to the limited scientific opportunities in the country, he left his homeland in 1956 and continued his research in the Zürich Observatory. After publishing his research results he was invited to the United States, where he could make his dreams come true. He published his computations concerning the Earth in 1961, which he presented in many university lectures all across the United States and Europe. The Harvard University ordered textbooks from him, the NASA appointed him as chief scientist as an acknowledgment of his accomplishments. In 1965 he was preparing for the conference on satellite-geodesics in Paris, when he had a heart attack and died when he was only 36 years old. A minor planet in space, a crater on the Moon, and since 1992 a complex high school scientific contest in Hungary bear the name of Imre Izsák.



Indestructible Hunter

The "Erdélyi kopó" Transylvanian Hound

This dog is an indigenous Hungarian canine breed, he was the number one hunting dog of the Transylvanian aristocracy. In 1947, the communist officials in Romania out of ideological reasons classified this animal as a wild predator, thus sentencing our indispensable forest companion to death, they also started killing each of these noble dogs they could get their hands on. The international canine association, the FCI, has also officially declared this breed extinct. However, in the 1960s, some purebred specimens were found in the town of Máramarossziget and in the village of Zselyk, with which their breeding could resume. The litters were formally announced and recorded, so the FCI was able to register the Transylvanian Hound once again in 1966. But the population is still not safe, its number needs to be increased, its awareness about the breed needs to be raised - because the dog is an unrivaled hunter and a great housekeeper. This dog breed is tough, persistent, withstands cold or hot weather, his shiny, short hair protects it from the unfavorable climate conditions. He is intelligent, learns easily, and he is also a playful, loyal friend. The Transylvanian Hound is a beautiful animal, his appearance is genteel and balanced. His velvety black coat is adorned with a white vest with a brown border. The long-legged version is about 30 kilograms and the short-legged one about 20 kilograms. Unlike his herding companions, the Transylvanian Hound does not bark unnecessarily. Its lifespan is 14 years. If we domesticated their ancestors and expect them to serve us, we must also take good care of them and ensure their survival. The Transylvanian Hound deserves our love, because they are our old, faithful friends, and our ancient Hungarian dogs, who lived with us through all the joys and sorrows of the last millennium. The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian shepherd- and hunting dogs, amongst them the Transylvanian Hound to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The Greatest of Hungarian Music

Ferenc Liszt (Franz Liszt)

He was born in Doborján, Sopron County, in 1811. His talent soon became apparent, and from the age of six, he gave highly successful piano concerts. His family moved to Paris with the 12-year-old boy so that he could study at the conservatory there. Despite the best recommendations the young Liszt was not accepted by the prestigious institution, because he was not of French national. He proved his suitability with his captivating virtuosity, and he quickly became a favorite of salons and concert halls in Paris and London. He soon met the great composers of the age, Paganini, Berlioz and Chopin. These friendships had a profound effect on his music. The socially sensitive Liszt also took part in historical events, such as the Paris Revolution of 1830, supporting the victims of the Lyon workers' uprising, giving aid concerts throughout Europe for the victims of the 1838 Pest flood, and supporting the establishment of the Pest Academy of Music with substantial sums. In the meantime, he has created an unparalleled life-work: at least 1400 musical compositions can be associated with his name. He wrote mainly piano and organ pieces, but also dealt with church and secular choral works, transcriptions, songs, symphonies and operas. In the 1840s, he became the conductor of the Court Theater at Weimar. In 1875, he was appointed president of the Budapest Academy of Music, which was later named after him. To this day, his work has a decisive importance in the Hungarian musical life. He died in 1886 at the age of 75 in Bayreuth. The year of 2011, the bicentenary of his birth was the Liszt Memorial Year in Hungary. The gateway to our country, the Ferenc Liszt International Airport was named after him.



Symbol of the Hungarian Nation

Hungarian Parliament Building

It is one of the ten most famous buildings in the world on various global travel lists. In his literary masterpiece, *Budapest 1900*, John Lukács writes: "As the symbol of the Hungarian Constitution, the Parliament building must be monumental and resplendent to the eye of our friends and foes alike. Indeed, when Imre Steindl's Parliament was completed in 1904, it was the largest parliament building in the entire world. Otherwise it was an eclectic combination of the Hungarian-medieval, French-Renaissance, Westminsterian neo-Gothic, with a neo-baroque ground plan, and colorful interior. It had no less than 27 gates, 40 kilograms of twenty-two-carat gold were used in its decoration. It has not proved to be a failure. More than 80 years later it still fits very well into the Budapest cityscape; architecturally it has stood the test of time." On October 25th, 1956, tens of thousands of peaceful protesters gathered in front of the Parliament, when communist snipers hiding on the nearby rooftops opened fire along with Soviet T-54 tanks, that used fragmentation grenades on the unarmed crowd. The death toll was in the thousands. St. Pope John Paul II was so amazed by the building on his visit in 1991, that he said the following: "It is my first journey to Hungary, and I can honestly say that I admire not only the natural beauty - we arrived from Esztergom on the Danube - but the beauty and grandiosity of its buildings, especially the place that we are in right now, which is an expression of its sovereignty."

The Holy Crown of Hungary was brought to the dome hall of the Parliament on January 1st, 2000, and has been exhibited there ever since.



”Ora et Labora”, Faith in God and Science Ányos Jedlik

It is safe to say, that he was the true polymath of his age. As a highly educated monk, he stood out in sciences and humanities, he equally excelled in both areas. Loránd Eötvös said goodbye to him with the following words: “Jedlik was born in Szímő, Komárom County on January 11th, 1800, as a child of farmer parents. He learned reading and writing in the village school, and then he continued his studies at the high school in Nagyszombat and later in Pozsony. In 1817, he became a member of the Order of St. Benedict. His unshakable faith in God, his love for science, his never-wavering diligence as a teacher, his good-hearted behavior towards his fellow men, his selfless patriotism are all the traits that shaped Jedlik's character, following the traditional spirit of his order, which developed and strengthened in him.” Ányos Jedlik also studied in Győr and Pest, as a result of which he earned his Ph.D. in philosophy, history, physics, and mathematics. He became the head of the Department of Physics at the University of Pozsony and then at the University of Pest. In addition to teaching, he also conducted experiments. During his work, he invented the soda-water and he was the first in the country to start experimenting with electricity. In his own laboratory, he researched the secrets of electricity, many of which he discovered himself. One of his most important invention was the description of the mechanism of the dynamo, what was six years before the announcement of the German von Siemens of a similar invention. His other world-changing result was the construction of the electromagnetic rotor, which was the first version of the electric motor.



Only in Moderation

Pálinka

According to the law, only those drinks can be called pálinka which are made in Hungary from fruit grown in Hungary. Thus, mashing, distillation, maturing, resting and bottling must also be carried out locally. No other material, not even sugar or honey can be used for making this divine liquid. Maybe some added fruit can be mixed in for "ágyas pálinka", pomace pálinka. The number of fruits suitable for this particular type of brandy is almost endless. Those with high-sugar content are preferable, and have a predestined place after careful selection in the mash. In addition to the most frequently processed candidates which are apricot, pear, plum, cherry, sour cherry, apple, grape and strawberry, almost every pálinka master has his own specialty. They often achieve success in gastronomy and drink tastings and competitions. Chokeberry, elderberry or dogberry pálinka from a dogwood tree have already won such tournaments. However, these are not created in large quantities by the distilleries because of the rarity of these plants. Making your own fruit brandy is legal in Hungary, as it is considered a unique expression of the local soul. Péter Ránki, a farmer believes that his pálinka is a distant message and it comes from way farther than the wild pear tree stands from the mash barrel in his garden. It has a divine origin. The taste and smell given by nature is an ancient point of reference for mankind. The song of the platinum record of the Gyula-based band Magna Cum Laude goes like this: "In the bluish sky of my dreams, on top of my fruit trees, pálinka, my love, surrender yourself to me!"

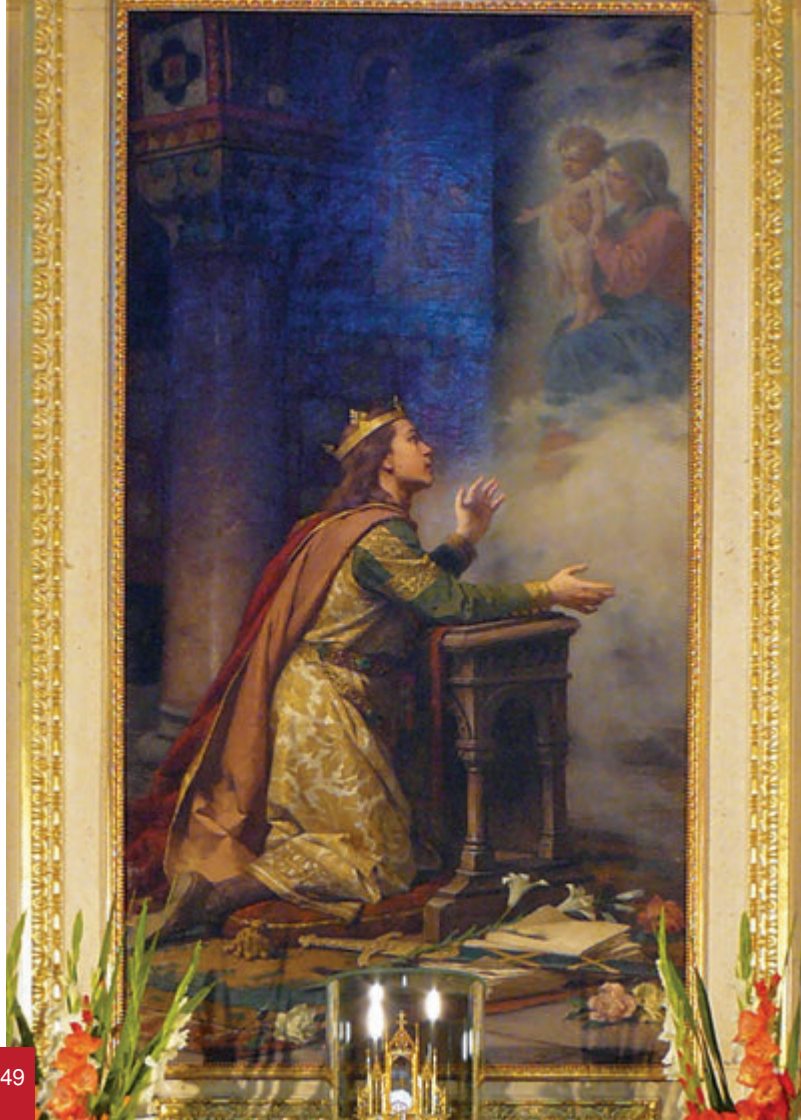
The Hungarikum Committee has added the Pálinka to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Role Model for the Youth

Prince Saint Emeric of Hungary

The first heir to the Hungarian throne, the son of King Saint Stephen and Blessed Gisela of Hungary. The researchers put the date of his birth between 1000 and 1007, the date of his death is certain, 1031. The only adult child of the Royal couple, was prepared by Bishop St. Gellert of Venice for the great mission ahead of him. Even at this age, it was obvious that he was talented, faithful and virtuous. He took part in the governance of the country ever since he was 15 years old. By the time he reached his twenties, he was capable to follow in his father's footsteps. Saint Stephen even wrote him a book titled "Admonitions" to support him on his journey to become a statesman. According to some historians, he was the one who led the Hungarian army at the Battle of Győr in 1030, when the Germans after 123 years dared to set foot in the Carpathian Basin. The leader of the attacking troops was Conrad II, who very much like his predecessors suffered an overwhelming defeat. The aging father was preparing to give up his throne and crown his son, when he received the devastating news. Some sources claim that Prince Emeric died in a hunting accident when a wild boar wounded him. Other accounts speculate that he might have been murdered. Pope Gregory VII canonized him together with his father Stephen and his tutor and spiritual leader Gellert. In the 20th century Bishop Ottokár Prohászka wrote the following "The mission of Saint Emeric is to set an ideal. His example will have an impact for centuries to come and he is of greater service to his nation, if he ensures the sovereignty of virtue than by ruling as an earthly monarch for a couple of years." For the 900th anniversary of his death, a memorial was held in Budapest. The papal legate, six cardinals and hundreds of prelates attended the event from all over the world.



The Grand Prince of Writing

Mór Jókai

Perhaps there is not a single Hungarian home in the world that does not contain a half meter row of Jókai novels on its shelves. In today's digital age he is just as sought after in e-book and audiobook formats. It is no surprise that he became a writer after he had quite a novel and adventurous life himself as it is well documented by another contemporary writing legend Kálmán Mikszáth.

Jókai was born in a middle-class noble family in the merchant town of Komárom in 1825. At birth, he was given the name Móric, but later on in his life, he shortened it to Mór, and that is the version he later used. He did this on the advice of his classmate and friend another giant of Hungarian literature, the poet Sándor Petőfi. They started their career together and even played a major role in the 1848 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence against the Habsburgs. This was when he married one of the celebrated actresses of the time Róza Laborfalvi. After the Surrender at Világos which marked the end of the War of Independence, he had to flee and was forced into hiding. Later he gradually returned to public life first using a pseudonym and then after the thaw his real name. In the following decades he traveled all across Hungary and throughout Europe, he used these experiences as inspiration for his books. He was also a politician and a journalist. In his writings he left almost no aspect of life untouched, so by reading his books we can get an accurate picture of the world in the 19th century. The Heartless Man's Sons, The Man with the Golden Touch, God is One, Black Diamonds, The Novel of the Next Century, Nameless Castle, Ráby the Prisoner, The Two Willows at Nagyenyed, A Hungarian Nabob, Zoltán Kárpáthy, And Yet It Moves, The Golden Age of Transylvania, The Gipsy Baron and By The Time We Grow Old are just some of his most influential works. Mór Jókai, the greatest Hungarian classical writer passed away in 1904 in Budapest.



Another Landmark Institution Founded by the Széchenyi Family Hungarian National Museum

Count Ferenc Széchenyi - the father of the greatest Hungarian, István Széchenyi - turned to the ruler of the Monarchy with a request to allow him to offer his own rarities to the nation in 1802. With the gracious approval of Franz Joseph Carl I, the third national public collection of Europe was established in Pest. It included 11,884 prints, 1,156 manuscripts, 142 maps and copper engravings, other antiques and portraits, as well as more than 2019 gold coins. All this was declared as the property of the nation by the Hungarian Parliament. It was first exhibited in a Pauline monastery and then the treasures were transferred to the university. A decision was made to erect a permanent building and the public was asked to donate for this noble cause. The National Museum was completed by 1847, according to the plans and designs of Mihály Pollack. The building's staircase became legendary the next year, as at the outbreak of the 1848 revolution, according to contemporary accounts, this was the spot where the celebrated poet, Sándor Petőfi recited his inflammatory song against the Habsburg oppression, accompanied by the enthusiastic cheers and applause from the crowd. By the second half of the 19th century, the Museum opened an extremely rich collection to the visitors, while world-class scientific research works were ongoing within its walls. After the turmoil that followed the Great War and the communist dictatorship, the Romanian troops entering the capital without resistance wanted to loot the collection, which was prevented by the brave action of the American General Bandholtz. He chased away the thieves with his horsewhip, and closed, locked, and sealed the door. The precious relic was later donated to the museum. The Hungarian National Museum is the number one exhibition place in the country, it is a symbol of freedom in the heart of Budapest, and a worthy venue for the central ceremonies on March 15th.



The Czardas King

Imre Kálmán (Emmerich Kálmán)

He was born in the town of Siófok in 1882, he was a true child prodigy, he had been able to play the piano professionally at the age of seven. However, he was unable to pursue a career as a musician because of his rheumatic disorder that made him unable to move his arms by the time he turned 18. As a result, he decided to switch majors at the Academy of Music from pianist to composer. He was taught by János Koessler, who came to the Academy at the time of Ferenc Liszt and had educated many world famous musicians since. During these years he met Béla Bartók, Viktor Jacobi, Albert Szirmai and Ferenc Molnár, they advised him to write tunes for the popular songs of the Budapest nightlife. He started writing popular songs, and ended up composing operettas. His first creation, titled “The Tatárjárás”, was put on stage by Vígszínház of Budapest after multiple rejections and became a massive hit. Within a year, the play made its way to Berlin, Vienna, Hamburg, London, Copenhagen, and New York. Since his next operetta, “The Veteran” was another huge success and was performed in the Burg Theater, Imre Kálmán became a respected composer. He was creating one big hit after another, starting with “The Gypsy Band Leader” in 1912 with Sári Fedák as the lead actress. Then he continued till the end of the 1930s with “The Riviera Girl”, “Countess Maritza”, “The Circus Princess”, “The Duchess of Chicago”, “A Kiss in Spring”, and “Empress Josephine”, which were celebrated by the audience. During the World War II, he fled to the United States and later passed away at the age of 71 in Paris in 1953. He has a statue next to the Budapest Operetta Theater and in the Millennium Park in Siófok, where one can sit beside Imre Kálmán and can croon into his ear, “Kolozsvár, what a nice town, I live there near the Szamos river, come, so why hesitate? Come, my angel!”



Hunting Bird Pouncing from the Sky Falconry

This type of hunting is as old as the Hungarian nation itself. Our story of origin begins with the mythical Turul falcon and this bird has been our companion ever since. Many geographical and even family names originate from this tradition. Solymár as the name suggests was the home of the king's falconers. Kerecsend, Madaras, and Madarász villages or Solyom, Solymos, Solymosi, and Solymár family names also have ancient origins. Falconry means training a bird of prey to help catch wild animals and it has not changed a bit for thousands of years. Creating the required tools for falconry is an ancient craft and requires the highest level of craftsmanship. These accessories are usually decorated with scenes and motives taken from Hungarian mythology. Literature, poetry, and painting often takes inspiration from the art of falconry. Here is a segment from Bálint Balassi's poem called Soldier's Song:

*"For honor and good name,
for manhood and for fame,
they leave everything behind –
they give up all they own
nobly, and quite alone,*

*staunch models of humankind –
like hunting hawks they fly
across the smoke-stained sky,
of the wind they one remind!"*

According to the law today's falconers can only hunt pheasants, wild ducks, rabbits, or other small game. The bird catches the animal on the command of his master. The dead animal is then shared by the falcon, the falconer, and by their inseparable companion, the dog.

The Hungarikum Committee added falconry, as living human heritage to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Setting the Basics

János Kemény (John Kemény)

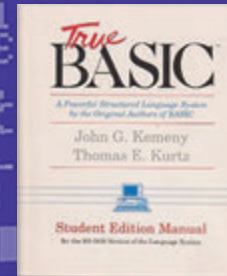
BASIC. It's a basic programming language that is easy to learn and is also an acronym for "Beginners' All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code". In the 1980s most computers had BASIC as a core of their operating systems. This language was designed by Thomas Kurtz and János Kemény in 1964. It could be used on any computer and its easy use contributed to the spread of computers worldwide. Kemény was born in Budapest in 1926, he studied at the Rátz Private School where he sat next to the famous physicist Nándor Balázs. In 1940 he had to emigrate to the US with his family, where he finished high school in New York and continued his studies at Princeton University. In 1945 in Los Alamos he met some of his Hungarian colleagues Leó Szilárd, Jenő Wigner and Ede Teller often called "The Martians" who emigrated under similar circumstances. Later he worked as an assistant lecturer for Albert Einstein. After developing the BASIC programming language he also foresaw the evolution of operating systems and he was a pioneer electronic correspondence as well. He connected his computer with his wife's who worked 200 kilometers

away, thus they were able to exchange emails. As the dean of the conservative Dartmouth College, he allowed the enrollment of women as well as African and Native Americans. His book titled "Man and the Computer" was also published in Hungarian in 1978. He passed away in 1992 in the United States. A plaque commemorates his achievements on the wall of the house he used to live in as a student in Bajcsy-Zsillinszky street 38 in Budapest.



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A Conspiracy for Lovers Hungarian operetta

Mozart was the one who called this genre of music operetta, which translates to short opera. With its light musical world, romance, comedy, happy ending, beautiful costumes, and dancing it became an instant hit. Paris, Budapest, and Vienna became the home for this new style of musical performance in the second half of the 19th century. The first Hungarian operetta was composed by Károly Huber in 1863 and was called “Happy Friends”. At that time Elek Erkel was the conductor of Népszínház or Popular Theater, this was the golden age of the operetta in Hungary. By the turn of the century, such operettas were presented in Budapest, like “Prince Bob”, “Golden Flower”, or “Gül Baba” from Jenő Huszka. The primadonna of the age was the celebrated Hungarian actress, Lujza Blaha. Pongrác Kacsóh liked to use folk culture as an inspiration in his works, the most popular of which was “János Vitéz” or “John The Valiant”. Emmerich Kálmán’s “Countess Maritza” or “The Tatárjárás” and Ferenc Lehár’s “Merry Widow” conquered Hungary, Europe and America as well. The Riviera Princess of 1915 had been a huge success in Vienna and was regarded as a masterpiece among critics. The Viennese papers wrote accolades about the piece. Its typically Hungarian story is very amusing, and almost all of its songs became a hit. Péter Hajmási’s and Pál Hajmási’s scene is the glorious peak of the genre. The greatness of the Hungarian operetta can be owed to brilliant artists, like Sári Fedák, Emma Kosáry, Hanna Honthy, Kálmán Latabár, Kamill Feleki, Róbert Rátonyi, László Csákányi, János Sárdy, Pál Ábrahám, Viktor Jacobi, Albert Szirmai, Lajos Lajtai, Mihály Eisemann and Szabolcs Fényes.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Hungarian operetta to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



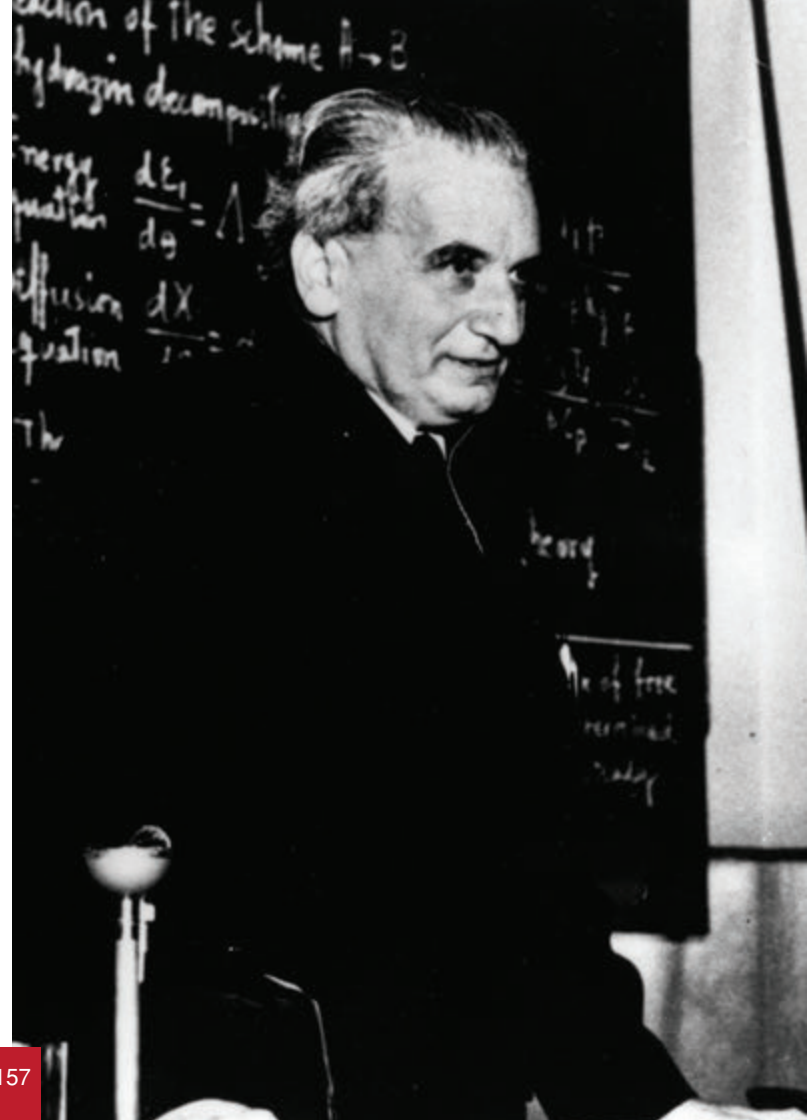
The Magic Pencil Dániel Rátai

Born in 1985, Dani's favorite cartoon as a child was a Polish animated series, titled "The Magic pencil". Later he designed a perpetual motion machine on a piece of paper, and then in the first programming class of the János Neumann Secondary School of Computer Science, he realized that one of his tasks was to draw in 3 dimensions. They led to the creation of LeonarDo's predecessor. The device consists of two special cameras, a special pencil, redesigned shutter glasses, a control box, and a software. The working principle of the system is that the sensors placed on the monitor detect the position of the 3D glasses and the 3D mouse recalling the form of a bird, so the picture can be adjusted to the position of the user's head resulting in a true to life image. With this man is able to create virtual reality. The user can create objects that can be rotated, altered, and analyzed easily. This technology makes the work of engineers, researchers, and doctors run much smoother. In 2005, the Hungarian Association for Innovation asked him to represent Hungary with his invention at the finals of Intel's international competition for young inventors in the USA. He returned home with a total of six awards. It was then that he established his company, which developed the manufacturing technology and completed a prototype of the current product by 2009. In addition to numerous national and international recognitions, the Technical University of Massachusetts named an asteroid after Dániel Rátai.



One of Our “Martians” Tódor Kármán (Theodore von Kármán)

He was the first to receive the highest national scientific award of the United States the National Medal of Science from US President John F. Kennedy in 1963. According to the laudation: “For his leadership in the science and engineering basic to aeronautics; for his effective teaching and related contributions in many fields of mechanics, for his distinguished counsel to the Armed Services, and for his promoting international cooperation in science and engineering.” The scientist acknowledged by the United States was born in Budapest in 1881 and became a US citizen only decades later. Tódor Kármán was considered a child prodigy, he could calculate with six-digit numbers without any external aid, only using the power of his mind. Donát Bánki was his professor at the Budapest University of Technology, Kármán later became his assistant lecturer, then worked in the Ganz factory. During the Great War, he collaborated with Oszkár Asbóth on perfecting the helicopter. Later, he lived in Germany, then from 1930 in the United States. He established the US Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, where he dealt with the theory of turbulence and supersonic flight. He contributed to the success of space exploration by modernizing rocket engines. He is one of the Hungarian scientists who emigrated to the United States, they were called “Martians” by their colleagues at home because of their extraordinary scientific achievements. In 1991 on the 110th anniversary of his birth, the United States issued a 29-cent and Hungary a 15-Forint face value commemorative stamps.



Nobel Prize-winning Spice

Ground paprika from Szeged

It is one of the highest quality sweet-paprika in the world. The weather and the natural conditions of the region of Szeged are perfect for cultivation: the soil is nourished by the Tisza and the Maros river, in addition to a lot of sunshine, but the most important thing above all is the care of the Hungarian people. Paprika as a seasoning and as a medicine was brought to Hungary by the Ottomans in the 16th century. In Szeged, the Franciscan friars started growing the paprika plant first. It is almost impossible to grow this plant in large-scale production. It needs such attention what can only be achieved on small-scale farms, that are typical of this area. After the paprika harvest, the bright white walls of the peasant houses are decorated with the beautiful reward of the fruits of their diligent work, this is the origin of the typical, local paprika garlands. Until the middle of the 20th century, the Szeged ground paprika was inherently strong. For the sweet grind, the spicy parts containing capsaicin had to be removed from the produce. Nobel Prize-winning scientist Albert Szent-Györgyi extracted vitamin C from the Szeged paprika plant. Sweet paprika was refined in the 1940s, and the spice is the basis of traditional Hungarian cuisine. It is an indispensable source of flavor for stews, fish soups, goulashes, paprikashes, roasts, salamis, and sausages. If you want to make sure to give the perfect gift for your friends from abroad it is the best to give paprika from Szeged and you cannot make a mistake.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the ground paprika from Szeged to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2015.



The Poet Sándor Petőfi

An unequaled phenomenon of world literature. He wrote about a thousand poems and narrative poems in his lifetime of 26 and a half years, dated in 68 different settlements of the country. We do not even know the precise number of his travelogs, articles, letters and translations. He was a writer, a translator, an actor, a husband, a father, a revolutionary, a soldier, a traveler, a newspaper editor but primarily he was a patriot with fire in his heart, who foresaw his destiny. His legendary character can never be erased from our spirits. With his writings, he gave direction to his contemporaries and descendants. His spirit can be found in the art of his friend János Arany, in the works of the generations of the literary journal "Nyugat" to the works of László Nagy, Sándor Kányádi or even János Lackfi. The most important day of his life was certainly 15th of March 1848 when he succeeded in the revolution with his fellow revolutionaries, the "Youths of March". The acceptance of the 12 points, the reciting of the "National Song", the printing of these without censorship followed by a crowd of thousands when "the Habsburg governors in the Buda Chancellery turned pale and started to tremble", the release of the revolutionary poet, Mihály Táncsics from prison and the spontaneous performance of Bánk Bán could be magnificent. The lines of Petőfi is a lifelong read for everyone. The children start their journey in the world of literature with "My mother's chicken" and "John the Valiant". Those in love recite "The rosebush trembled when a bird on its twig flew", and ask each other: "What shall I call you?". The "One thought" and "The whole sea has revolted" is for the enthusiastic youth. The "Kiskunság" and "The Tisza" are for those captivated by the Hungarian landscape, "An evening back home" and the "Plans gone up in smoke" are the favorites of calm, peaceful families. Sándor Petőfi was last seen alive in the Battle of Segesvár on the 31st of July, 1849.



“I Will Not Sell Imperfect Products” Törley Sparkling Wine

The home of Champagne is France. And the fact, that it could still become almost Hungarian can be thanked to József Törley, who uttered the title quote. His father was a military officer in the 1848 revolution against the Habsburgs, the young man went to Reims during his studies abroad, where he learned about the science of making Champagne. Returning home, in 1882 he founded his own factory in Budafok, where agricultural conditions were excellent based on the nearby Etyek vineyards. By the beginning of the 20th century, the Törley company was so successful that it already had warehouses in Berlin, Hamburg and Copenhagen, and even delivered sparkling wine to Paris. József Törley was an excellent winemaker and a technically trained specialist, but he also recognized the importance of advertising: he promoted his products with posters, special discounts, and flyers. His main goal was to amaze the upper class with the excellent quality of Hungarian sparkling wine, he paid great attention to the bars and nightclubs. By 1907, he had already sold two million bottles. The factory was the first in the country to use trucks to transport this huge quantity quickly and safely. By that time, the Törley Sparkling Wine was already popular overseas, and the company was proud to be called the “Imperial and Royal Court Supplier”. After the death of the founder in 1907, his brothers continued production, which survived two world wars, revolutions, and the nationalization. Today, the Törley company exports nearly 22 million bottles per year to several dozens of countries around the world. To the production of these bottles the factory already uses basic wines from Lake Balaton, Tokaj, Mátra and the Great Plain.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Törley Sparkling Wine to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2016.



The Master of Light

József Petzvál

The scientist with a Zipser origin was born in Szepesbéla in the regions of Upper Hungary in 1807. He received a degree at the Institutum Geometricum in Budapest in 1829. Then he taught his successors at the universities in Vienna and Budapest. He studied various areas of mathematics and physics but his specialty and passion was light. In the course of his research, he wrote down the equation of the generally curved image plane of an unadjusted optical system, the "Petzval surface". In 1840 he created the portrait objective lens which shortened the exposure time of pictures to less than a second compared to what previously took hours. The objective made from copper and consisting of four lenses created a new genre, portrait photography. These lenses were built into the cameras of the Voigtländer company, with this move it eternalized its name in the history of photography. The new optic of József Petzvál built in 1857 had such light intensity that it was suitable for taking photos of large areas and landscapes. The engineer inventor who created the precursor of today's reflector passed away in 1891. A street in Budapest, Vienna, and Braunschweig, a relief on the wall of the University of Vienna commemorates him. The József Petzval Medal is handed over every year in Hungary and Austria, a museum in his hometown Szepesbéla tells his life story and a crater on the Moon with a diameter of 150 kilometers is named after him.



Wonderful Leftover Törkölypálinka or Pomace brandy

Pomace is the skin, seeds, and fruit fibers left over from winemaking. This is what this special drink is made of, it can satisfy even the most delicate needs. In distilleries, it is said that they can now make, extremely “beautiful”, flavourful pálinka from high-quality pomace. The reason for this is that the grapes should not be excessively squeezed or pressed in wineries, this way there is a specific amount of juice content that has to remain in the berries after wine production, so the taste and alcohol content complement each other and result in an excellent distillate. The unique specialty is the Aszú pomace or Aszútörköly. Where wine culture is highly rated, the farmer will also be confident in making grape pálinka, as this will further increase the product palette of his winery. These drinks could stand proudly next to fruit pálinkas, and due to their better reputation, they are also tasted by those who have not tried them before. Wine lovers are increasingly asking for a bottle of their favorite grape marc pálinka, because they can get a drink with a different appearance but a similar aroma and flavor. According to the pálinka distillery's laws, no foreign material, such as sugar, can be get into the brandy, this Hungarian specialty can only be made from grapes.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Törkölypálinka to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2013.



Aristocrat Swift as the Wind

The Hungarian Agár

His running is an amazing sight. He bursts forth and glides in the air with spectacular speed. For this, he uses each and every muscle of his body. He moves in a wonderful consonance from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail. He is a real racing dog able to run with the speed of even 60-70 kilometers per hour, there is no escape from him. The Agár came into the Carpathian Basin together with our conquering ancestors. There are records of this magnificent creature from the time of Saint Stephen, the first Hungarian King. The Hungarian Agár of today is a result of the taming and breeding process of István Széchenyi, as a result of which thus the Agár abandoned his wild, eastern features. The breed's character became kind and playful. He has a proud stature, an elegant posture, and a wise, friendly gaze. Those who know this dog well say that, if the Hungarian Agár sees a child, he will certainly run up to him to play. He loves to race, but he is far from being aggressive. He has an elongated head, his ear dangles pleasantly, his short hair is usually white or brown with spots of the opposite color. His height is 60-70 centimeters, his weight 20-30 kilograms. He can be kept in even an apartment but is also the beloved companion of hunters. Thanks to his strong bone structure he chases even large games assiduously in the forest. Kept as a hobby dog he is a legendary omnivore, he seizes almost everything that can be eaten, but if he practices his original profession he probably requires a meal rich in energy.

The Hungarikum Committee added the native Hungarian dog breeds and amongst them the Hungarian Agár to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



He Also Came from the Fasori Secondary School Jenő Wigner (Eugene Wigner)

The Nobel Prize winner physicist is one of the Hungarian geniuses, who emigrated to the United States. He received the appreciation in Stockholm “for his contributions to the theory of the atomic nucleus and the elementary particles, particularly through the discovery and application of fundamental symmetry principles”. Jenő Wigner was born in Budapest in 1902 and graduated together with János Neumann as the student of László Rátz in the Budapest – Fasori Lutheran Secondary School. He continued his studies in the Budapest University of Technology and in 1921 he went to Berlin, where he met Max Planck, Werner Heisenberg, Wolfgang Pauli, Albert Einstein, Leó Szilárd and János Polányi. Polányi later became the supervisor of his doctoral thesis. After earning his Phd, he returned to Hungary, but from 1926 he continued his research work in Germany again. In 1933 he settled down in the United States where he took part in the project to develop the atomic bomb. The attack against Japan really devastated him because he trusted in the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology. After an absence of 50 years, he visited his country four times. His first return was for the invitation of the Eötvös Loránd Physical Society that later appointed him as one of its members. He visited the Paks Nuclear Power Plant in 1983. In 1987 he received a doctorate title from the Eötvös Loránd University and the Order of the Flag of the People's Republic of Hungary. On his welcoming in the Hungarian Parliament to his request, a gypsy band played his favorite song titled “Rare is the Wheat, Rare is the Barley” on the music of which the 81-year-old scientist danced the traditional Hungarian dance, the czardas. Jenő Wigner passed away on the 1st of January, 1995 in his home in the United States.



Scientist with a Novel Life

Albert Szent-Györgyi

He was born in Budapest in 1893. He obtained his medical degree in 1917 then joined the army. He was sent to the eastern front where he rescued his wounded comrades risking his own life. With this, he earned the Silver Medal of Military Valor. After the Great War, he became an assistant lecturer at the University of Pozsony. He escaped with his fellow researchers from the Czechoslovakian occupation across the frozen Danube river taking his laboratory equipment with him. Later the Nobel Prize winner Frederick Hopkins invited him to the University of Cambridge. There he discovered a mysterious substance, C₆H₈O₆ which he named ignose which means "I don't know-sugar". Officially, obviously based on the formula, it was called hexuronic acid. He was a passionate motorcycle rider. In 1934 he went on a tour in Europe traveling through Scotland and Spain with a 500 cubic centimeter two-cylinder motorbike. He discovered vitamin C in Szeged in the famous paprika of the town for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1937. According to the legend, he did not like the paprika salad served for dinner, so he took it to the laboratory for analysis. In 1940 he offered the prize to the Finnish nation that was attacked by the Soviets. The medal was later bought by a Finnish industrialist, who donated it to the Hungarian National Museum. In 1944 he engaged in armistice negotiations with the British as the assignee of Miklós Horthy, but the Gestapo learnt of this plot and almost caught him. Eventually, he escaped from Budapest with Swedish support. He returned home through Moscow, but in 1948 he had to leave Hungary for good. Albert Szent-Györgyi passed away at the age of 93 in the United States in 1986.

Based on the decision of the Hungarikum Committee in 2015 the life work of Albert Szent-Györgyi has been added to the Collection of Hungarian Values.



Innovation, Our Heritage

Tungsrám

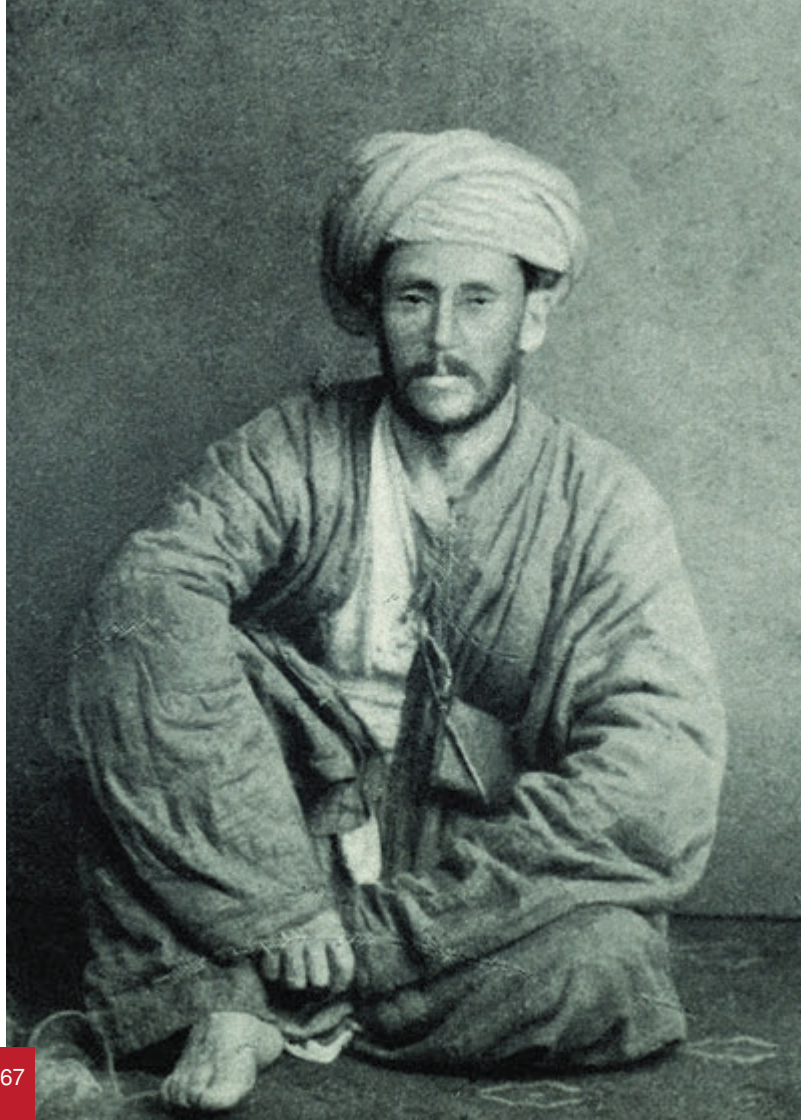
The United Lightbulb and Electronic Ltd. was established in 1896. The legendary brand name “Tungsrám” was registered by the director Lipót Aschner in 1909. This was created from merging the words “wolfram” and “tungsten” the English equivalent of the metal. This chemical element is the base material in the tungsten filament bulbs, which were developed in the factory of Újpest based on the patent of the inventors Sándor Just and Franjo Hanaman. In 1906 the company produced about four million light bulbs. In the following decades, the engineers of the Ltd. worked continuously on the modernization of Tungsrám bulbs, thus the factory remained competitive on the global market. Besides light sources the manufactory constructed switches, ammeters, voltmeters, dynamos, telephones, and other devices used in the electrical industry. In 1937 the factory created his own prototype of the television, which during the first experimental broadcast successfully transmitted a picture of the trademark of the company the letter T enclosed in a circle and an image of Micky Mouse. Under socialism, the Tungsrám light bulbs and radiotubes were considered as one of the few Hungarian products that the country was able to export to the West. In the early period of the change of the political system in Hungary, in 1989 the contemporary Hungarian state sold the factory to the American giant corporation, the General Electric. Nearly thirty years later, the Tungsrám Group, founded in 2018 bought back this light source business from GE, thus the brand returned to the Hungarian as well as the European, Middle Eastern, African and Turkish markets.



Dervish with Disability

Ármin Vámbéry

His book "The Story of my Struggles" can be recommended to everyone with a good heart, not only to those interested in the roots of the Hungarians and in the Eastern world. His example proves that the set goal can be achieved even in the most desperate situation. Vámbéry started from almost hopeless circumstances. In 1832, he was born into a poor Jewish family from Csallóköz, which he had to leave at the age of ten, because his widowed mother could not take care of him. From then on - a child with a limping right leg from the age of three - was forced to live alone. He previously attended an Orthodox Jewish and also a Protestant elementary school, then the Benedictine high school in Szentgyörgy and later in Pozsony. The 1849 revolution was a defining experience of his life, where he saw the tsarist troops defeating the war of independence. That is when his heart truly became Hungarian. Meanwhile, the often starving boy, who lived in cramped conditions as a bed renter, was an excellent student. His thirst for knowledge and passion for books made him extremely educated. By the age of twenty, he was able to read and write in seven different languages. At that time he was a private teacher, therewith he constantly visited libraries and also learnt Turkish, Persian, and Arabic languages and their cultures. In 1857, the extremely talented young man, with the support of the Academy of Sciences, arrived in Istanbul, and after four years of preparation, he toured Central Asia on foot as a Muslim dervish. His main goal was to research the origins of the Hungarians, but his travelogues were also noticed in England, where they celebrated his arrival to the country. Vámbéry offered his knowledge and system of contacts to the British Empire out of his anti-Russian impulse from his childhood, which, according to his information, was able to stop the tsarist incursion in Asia. Ármin Vámbéry died in 1913, in Budapest at the age of 81.



The great storyteller

Kálmán Mikszáth

Whether he is the most outstanding Hungarian novelist can be debated, but that he is one of the first can hardly be doubted. Kálmán Mikszáth was born in 1847 in a noble family in Szklabonya in Upper Hungary. The settlement was later named to Mikszáthfalva, in honor of the great author. He was a journalist and short story writer. His themes were mostly the lives of peasants and craftsmen. The writer was very understanding of the cunning, humorous anecdotes that later made his novels special. His stories made him a real classic, his 40th anniversary as a writer was a national holiday. His best-known works are *The Siege of Beszterce*, *A Strange Marriage*, *The Good People of Palóc*, *The Slovak Relations*, *The Talking Gown*, *St. Peter's Umbrella*, *New Zrínyiász*, *The Young Noszty's Affair with Mari Tóth*, *The Life and Age of Mór Jókai*, *Two Elections in Hungary* or *The Town in Black*. Some of them is social criticism with unparalleled humor about the public life of the 19th century, or his works are just novelized versions of the Hungarian history. Theodore Roosevelt, who was the President of US between 1901-1909 visited Kálmán Mikszáth in his last year of life during his European tour in 1910. At their meeting, the guest said, "I came to Hungary to get to know the country you described, as it captured my heart forever." Kálmán Mikszáth was the Member of Parliament, representing various Transylvanian districts since 1887 for 23 years. If he suddenly needed a good character or story, he mostly found one among the Honorable members of the House.



History under the town

Early Christian Necropolis of Pécs

In the 4th century, the area of Pécs belonged to the region of Valeria in the province of Pannonia in the Roman Empire. The site of the cathedral, which is today's downtown, was Sopianae, the ancient Roman settlement. Thousands of tombs, burial chambers with their buildings and chapels, including the Cella Septichora, were found among the remains, so this part was already a sacred, ritual center. According to research, the Latin city was inhabited by 8-10 thousand people. The first Christian monuments were discovered by archaeologists in this part of the area. So these are not simple catacombs, but they have an invaluable religious and cultural value. The walls of the halls show 1600-year-old paintings that have remained in unparalleled beauty. After careful restoration, their colors and shapes bring the world of late antiquity to life for today's visitors. The 21st-century citizens took possession of this wonderful underground building system again. Not only those who are interested in the art of the ancient past can visit the exhibitions, but the people of Pécs use it as an exclusive venue for conferences, lectures, and other events. The exhibition itself attracts young people with modern lights and interactive technology. The size and richness of the currently excavated area makes it the most significant among early Christian necropolises outside Italy.

The Early Christian Necropolis of Pécs was considered as a place of World Heritage by UNESCO in 2000, and the Hungarikum Committee has also added it to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2012.



The Pacifist Nuclear Scientist

Leó Szilárd

“I think most children come into this world curiously, eager to explore. Maybe that is why I became a scientist, because in some sense I remained a child” - he said in 1960. Leó Szilárd felt responsible for the destructive effects of the power released from nuclear energy. Perhaps that particular belief of a child in him made him write his famous letters. First, he wrote two of them to the US President Roosevelt together with Einstein, then one to Stalin in 1947. In his first letter, he drew attention to the success of the Germans in the field of nuclear fission research and urged an American response. In his second message, he opposed the use of nuclear weapons against people. In his letter to Moscow, he also tried putting the genie back into the bottle, he did everything in order to utilize atomic energy in a peaceful way. The physicist that was born in Budapest in 1898 discovered the existence of a nuclear chain reaction, in other words the possibility of building the atomic bomb. He started his engineering studies at the University of Technology of in the capital, then after the Great War, he continued his studies under Einstein, Schrödinger and Planck in Germany, where he met Jenő Wigner and also János Neumann. He made countless scientific discoveries, in particular, he patented the linear particle accelerator and the electron microscope. In 1933 he emigrated to England then to the United States. After the completion of the atomic bomb and then seeing its destruction, he turned his back on physics. He took a new path, today he is considered as the father of biophysics. Leó Szilárd passed away in California in 1964.



Every Move Counts

Pick wintersalami

The raw material of the wintersalami must come from the meat and bacon of pigs reared exclusively for salami, kept and slaughtered in Baranya, Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Csongrád-Csanád or Hajdú-Bihar counties. These should be the flesh of one-and-a-half-year-old sows with dark red cuts. Grinding is prohibited, a gentle method of removing the meat off the bone is used. After freezing a spicy paste is made, which is stuffed into the gut, dried and then smoked cold for about two weeks. In the “salami tower”, founded in 1976 the noble mold living on the walls and in the air matures more than a million bars of salami, that is three months production. These hanging delicacies will gain their ultimate taste, flavor, and aroma and their texture will gain perfection here. The salami master is the one responsible for its quality (what an enviable profession!) his task is to watch the processes with sly eyes, smelling the sticks, because only impeccable goods can leave this unique sanctuary of the Szeged factory. The process has not changed since 1869, according to Mark Pick's secret recipe. The tools are, of course, modern, but the most important part is that the mutual symbiosis of meat and mold has not changed. The result of this 100-days work journey is a long-lasting, unparalleled delicious wintersalami, which is one of Hungary's pride and joy. It is naturally popular at home, but it is also well-known around the world. The Pick factory exports this Hungarian delicacy to almost 40 different countries.

The Hungarikum Committee has added the Pick wintersalami to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



Healing with Laser

Endre Mester

The vital force of sunlight is known by humanity since ancient times. The medicinal effect of another light, the laser was first used by Endre Mester. He announced his sensational result in the Hungarian Medical Weekly in 1966 which said that low power laser has a bio stimulatory effect, therefore it speeds up the healing process. With his research, he originally investigated the harmful impacts of low-level laser therapy, but he discovered just the opposite. Injuries are healing sooner on the illuminated body parts, pain and inflammation decrease, oedemas contract, and certain immune processes are activated, capillaries are formed. His therapy removed injuries that the previous treatments had no effect on. "The polarized light heals" - he stated. The therapy is completely safe, the patient does not feel pain or the heat and there are no side effects. Along with medicine the beauty industry also uses this discovery effectively. Endre Mester was born in Budapest in 1903. During the World War II, he worked as a surgeon in the "Rock Hospital" underneath Castle Hill in Budapest. In 1956 he publicly stood up for and supported the revolution. After the Soviet intervention, he was not hurt because his expertise was indispensable. In 1963, the at that time only Olympic silver medalist hammer thrower Gyula Zsivótzky fatally fell ill. His life was saved by Endre Mester with a complicated series of surgeries, the athlete "expressed his gratitude" with a gold medal victory in Mexico. Endre Mester passed away in Budapest in 1984.



The Creator of Modern Communication Tivadar Puskás (Theodore Puskás)

“Hallow!” (I am listening!) shouted Tivadar Puskás happily into the receiver as he was testing his latest invention. According to Edison, the shortened word, “Hello” used today, when making phone calls around the world is the result of this conversation. The phone was not his idea, but the people of the turn of the 20th century can be thankful for the telephone exchanger to him, since it was invented by him. It was patented by Tivadar Puskás, in 1892. From the following year, this system was the first to operate in Budapest, which initially transmitted news, language lessons, concerts, and other cultural programs on the existing telephone network to its subscribers. It is, in fact, the predecessor of the radio, as a marble plaque reminds us of the legendary Pagoda of the Bródy Sándor Street building of the Hungarian Radio. The inventor was born in 1844 into a Székely landlord family. He studied as an engineer in Pest, Vienna, and England, then became a representative of the British railway company and later, chief engineer in Transylvania. He was selling and trading train tickets, he was a gold miner in America, and then he came to be an employee of Edison in the United States. Upon returning home, he spread his master’s inventions in Europe. He advanced the telephone exchanges in various territories of the Monarchy together with his younger brother, Ferenc Puskás. In 1893, the news of his death was flown to the world by the telephone exchanger he created, which was the first representative of the electronic media.



“It is Blossoming Right Now on the Streets of My Small Village” The Hungarian acacia

The plant came to Europe from North America. The first intentional afforestation of the continent took place in Hungary in 1750, and acacia was used for this purpose. In the early 1800s, Sámuel Tessedik realized that the sandy, saline lowland soil can be bound and retained by this tree and can even make it more fertile. In accordance with his studies, in the second half of the 19th century, there were 20,000 hectares of acacia forests in Hungary. According to the 1923 Afforestation Act, acacia was planted in areas of the Great Plain, which were unsuitable for other agricultural use. A quarter of today's Hungarian forests are acacia, 60% of the European stock lives here. It has low water content and an extremely hard structure. It is the only wood that can be fired immediately after felling in its raw form. Therefore, it is popular for making tools and it is an excellent building material. It can also be made marketable worldwide by steaming. The processed acacia wood also competes with its tropical counterparts in color and workability. These excellent properties are due to selective breeding of the tree. Today we have more than fifty varieties in Hungary, one of which is the “Pink Cascade” acacia. Its flowers are producing twice the amount of nectar compared to the others, which is why the acacia forests are called “pasture for bees”. It grows extremely fast, it can reach a height of 30 meters, its canopy can be seen from far away. It is a popular shelterbelt and a territory marking tree, signaling the boundary of a road or an estate in the countryside. The “acacia road” usually guides you home, so it is a synonym for a path that leads you to happiness.

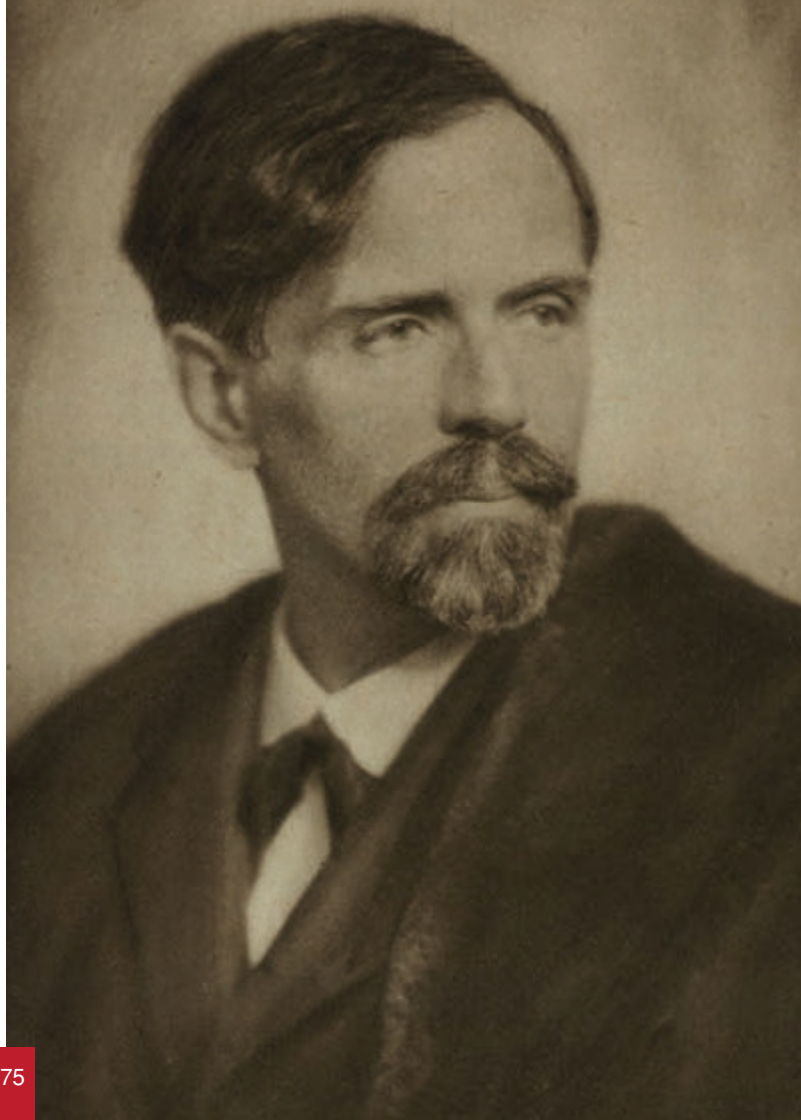
The Hungarikum Committee added the Hungarian acacia to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2014.



"Let the Music Belong to Everyone!" Zoltán Kodály

He knew and understood his fellow countrymen. He was born in Kecskemét in 1882, but his railwayman father was reassigned several times, so the young Kodály lived in various towns like Szob, Galánta and Nagyszombat by the time he was 18. He wrote his doctoral dissertation at the Academy of Music from the stanza structure of the Hungarian folk song in 1906. It was then that he embarked on his famous rural, ancient song recording trips, in which he found a worthy companion in Béla Bartók. He recorded thousands of melodies with his phonograph. In 1926, he edited folk songs in his work, "János Hány". He wrote the following about the performance: "These are gems, only their sockets are mine. As far as I know, the songs of the Hungarian people were performed on the stage of the Opera House for the first time". Since then, the song entitled "A good cavalry soldier" has been known by almost all Hungarians which they like to sing from the bottom of their hearts. In response to his 1932 "Székelyfonó" or "The Spinning Room", the newspaper critics wrote the following: "It is not a real opera, it is just a masterpiece". The melodies of the song, called "Under the Csitár mountains" touched all our hearts. Musicology considers him the world's first folk music researcher. Kodály launched a real movement with choir music. His pedagogical innovation is the Kodály-method: the technique of school music teaching based on relative solmization. The children must learn to read a musical sheet just like they learn to read letters! In 1956, the news of the revolution reached him at Galyatető. After the Soviet invasion, the Communists wanted to authenticate their regained power with his name and asked him to be the head of state. Kodály rejected the offer. He expressed his views on the age in his play "Hymn of Miklós Zrínyi", whose name was not advisable to mention at the time. Zoltán Kodály, the world-famous composer, died in Budapest in 1967.

The Hungarikum Committee added the Kodály-method to the Collection of Hungarikums in 2017.



The Father of Sand

László Almásy

He was obsessed with flying or as it was called at that time, at the beginning of the 20th century, with aviation. He survived two aircraft accidents and the sentence of the Soviet People's Court. He was born in the Castle of Borostyánkő in Vas county in 1895. He was the descendant of a wealthy noble, landowner family. His father was the famous traveler György Almásy, who traveled through Asia and was a founding member of the Hungarian Geographical Society. László Almásy served as a pilot during the Great War on the Italian and Russian fronts. From the 1930s, he mapped the territories of the Sahara desert on behalf of the Egyptian government. He spoke six European languages and several Arabic dialects. The Bedouins trusted him, this is why he was such a successful traveler. The desert folk did not like to speak with outsiders, they, however helped Almásy and even gave him the name "Abu Ramla", which means "Father of Sand". This is how he could discover caves in the middle of the Sahara that had giraffes, gazelles, palm trees, and even swimmers painted on its walls by former civilizations. When the World War II war started he was expelled as a Hungarian citizen. He became a Hungarian soldier again but the German counterintelligence "asked for him" from the Hungarian Defence Forces. He accomplished several impressive operations in North Africa behind British lines on the assignment of Rommel and he was also deployed in the Crimea peninsula in the Soviet Union. In 1944 he participated in rescuing Jewish people in Budapest. The protagonist of the 9 Oscar Award-winning film "The English Patient" is based on his character. In the movie, we can hear the Hungarian folk song "Love, love" performed by Márta Sebestyén. László Almásy passed away in Salzburg in 1951. His statue can be seen in the garden of the Hungarian Geographical Museum in Érd.



In Love with Carbon

György Oláh (George Andrew Oláh)

Nobel Prize winner chemist

He was born in Budapest in 1927. He graduated in the legendary high school of the age, the Piarist Secondary School of Budapest. He continued his career at the Budapest University of Technology where he attended chemistry lectures. He earned his PhD at a remarkably young age when he was 22, then he became the assistant of his renowned professor Géza Zemplén and started working as a lecturer. After Hungarian Revolution in 1956, György Oláh left Hungary and worked in Canada and in the United States. His main area of interest was organic chemistry, he was fascinated by the million forms of carbon. He considered them as the wonderful gifts of nature, what humanity could utilize, but since our planet is running out of fossil energy sources he searched for alternative solutions. This is how he found methanol. He made landmark discoveries in the fields of carbocations and superacids. For his research, he got the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1994. The photo taken of the prize winners is particularly special for us Hungarians, since the economist János Harsányi is also featured on the picture. György Oláh is an Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, he was one of the first to receive the Corvin Chain Award in 2001, the American Chemical Society honored him with the Priestley Medal in 2005 and he was awarded with the Széchenyi Grand Prize in 2011. He passed away at the age of 90 in Los Angeles in 2017, according to his last will he was laid to rest in the Fiumei Road Cemetery in Budapest.



Hungarian Sport to the Olympics!

Teqball

One of the latest world-conquering creations of the Hungarian spirit. In 2013 Gábor Borsányi together with his companions launched a football-based sport. Teqball is basically football tennis that is played on a curved ping-pong table. The main element of this is the table rounded outwards from the middle, which is an outstanding state of the art sporting device, it has won several design awards in the past years. But since in this type of sport the ball used is 20 times heavier than in table tennis, a much durable equipment is needed. The rigid net is also a difference. Teqball tables are made for outdoor use so they can sustain on the sunlit sandy beaches of Copacabana as well as in the freezing cold winter in Siberia. The ball will definitely bounce towards the player from the curved surface and this will happen extremely quickly. The sport can be played in groups or in pair. The players or the teams have to get the ball over the net to the opponent's side and can make contact with it to a maximum of three times with any body part except the arms, of course, most often with their foot or their head. Teqball is perfect for training or competition, it even has it's own World Cup. Moreover, it is included in the official program of the Asian Games in 2022, which is an excellent credential for the Olympics. Outstanding footballers like Neymar, Marcelo, Kaká, Ronaldinho, Puyol, Luis Suarez, Simao Sabrosa, William Gallas, Robert Pires, the Koeman brothers or Osvaldo Ardiles became passionate teqball players. Luís Figo downright said: "Teqball causes addiction!"



God Answered Our Prayers

The Noon Bell

The triumph of Nándorfehérvár was the brightest Hungarian military success, an outstanding event of world history. Half a millenium earlier the people all across Europe prayed from the fear of the Hungarian arrows, but in 1456 they asked God to give us victory. The main Ottoman army of the Sultan headed to the north after conquering the thousand-year-old Byzantine Empire once and for all. Pope Callixtus III believed only in the miracle of God, so he ordered the devotees of the continent in his papal bull to beg God for saving Christianity and to chime the bells at noon. The Holy Father attributed the success to the prayers said at the sound of the noon bell: “We do not doubt, that the omnipotent God allowed us this unexpected victory because of these prayers.” Since then the noon bell is the symbol of good news and expression of gratitude. The sound of the bell invites us to the Angelus prayer every day precisely at twelve o’clock. This was confirmed by Pope Alexander VI in 1566. Hungarian writer, Kálmán Mikszáth writes of this in his novel titled “Women of Szelistye”: “It is certain that this amount of spilled blood, which mostly belonged to the Hungarians had no other noticeable result, only the fact that since then at twelve o’clock at noon the bells chime in every Christian church in the world, just like how the Pope has ordered it to the memory of the triumph at Nándorfehérvár. Since the battle turned to a victory exactly when the sun reached its highest point on the sky. Oh, God, how precious this bell toll is for us...”



The Creator of the Automatic Camera

József Mihályi

He was born in Apatin next to the Danube river in 1889. As a teenager, he helped his father in the family's blacksmith shop, then studied to be a toolmaker. He spent two years in Vienna and then emigrated to the United States in 1907. At his first workplace in the New World, he designed and developed the deep-grooved knob. Using this technology, a particular device or machine could be set up much more accurately. From 1914 he also took part in the development of rangefinders for military purposes. In 1917, he put together an extension for the telescope, which was later used for photographic lenses. In 1920, on behalf of the Navy, he created one of his major inventions, the extended magnifying glass, which helped sharpen photographs. He joined the Kodak company in 1923. In the 1930s and 1940s, he had several patents in the fields of distance measurement, automatic exposure, shuttering, film handling, and film transmission. His new cameras are considered photographic milestones: the first automatic camera, the Kodak Super Six-20, and later the Ektra and Medalist. With these, America was one step ahead of the leading German optical industry. During and after World War II he worked on the construction of military rangefinders, filing several new patents. By the end of the 1940s and the beginning of the 1950s, the characteristic Mihályi-style named after him prevailed in the structure and appearance of the cameras manufactured and marketed in the United States. József Mihályi died in the Kodak company's headquarters on the shores of Lake Ontario in Rochester in 1978 at the age of 89.



Our First Words

The Tihany Abbey

The sacredness of Tihany has been felt by people of ancient times. Perhaps that is why the cathedral and abbey dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Aignan was built by King Andrew I of Hungary on the peninsula rising above Lake Balaton in 1055. The Establishing charter of the abbey of Tihany, which holds the king's signature is our most precious document, a Hungarian language memory inserted into a Latin text. We can read a total of 58 Hungarian words on the nearly thousand-year-old parchment. The list of donations made to the Benedictines includes pear tree, hazelnut bush, Lake Balaton, stone well, and the best-known part of the sentence: 'onto the military road leading to Fehérvár. The Monarch gave properties and ordered people to the abbey to keep the countryside tidy: beekeepers, cowboys or cow herders, winemakers, blacksmiths, stablemen, and the friars' task was to keep and fulfill the vows made to God. Which included the cultivation of the earth and the education of the soul. The founder, King Andrew I rests in eternal peace in the abbey's crypt below the church. The invading Mongols did not visit the area, but the Turkish, Habsburg, and Communist devastation penetrated deep. But there was always a hiding sprout that, by leaping into a stalk, regenerated life within the sacred walls. Ten monks are living in the abbey today. They provide pastoral service to the Baroque complex, teaching and organizing the cultural life of the area. These are the thoughts of prior Richárd Korzenszky, who has led the community for 24 years: "There must be holy places that are above the everyday storms. Tihany serves this need. It is a sacred place for Hungarians".



The King of Madagascar Count Móric Benyovszky (Maurice Benyovszky)

He was born in Verbó, Nyitra County in 1746. After his father's death, he was expelled from his inheritance in his absence, which he tried to redress with weapon. This was considered a violation of sovereignty by the Austrian court and he was exiled from his homeland. Finding refuge at his Polish relatives, he took part in the war against the Russians, where he was wounded and taken captive. Imprisoned in Kamchatka, the governor noticed the educated Hungarian. Benyovszky made the first geographical, ethnographical, and zoological description of the area, but he did not give up the idea of escaping exile. He started an uprising in 1771 with his officers in prison, and returned to Europe by hijacking a ship, bypassing Asia and Africa. He left for Madagascar with a commission of the French king in 1773. He won the trust of the native Malgas of the island and, leaving the French service, accepted the offered royal title. He drafted a constitution for the tribes and sought support in Europe with the plan to establish a modern state on the island. In Vienna, Maria Theresa refused to keep contact from the port of Fiume, and England saw no opportunity in Madagascar as well. On the other hand, he found commercial investors in the United States, but his 1784 expedition from Baltimore only reached to Brazil. The following year, however, he disembarked in Madagascar, where he died in the war against the French. Móric Benyovszky was one of the most significant Hungarian travelers, visiting four different continents. He preceded James Cook with his discoveries in the North Pacific. His memoirs were published in London, which was translated to Hungarian by the great writer, Mór Jókai.



The Best Football Shoes Ever

László Oroszi

Who puts on his shoes, will play football better. This is an equipment that helps the player to perform the best of his skills. The inventor born in 1955 was a goalkeeper. He saw that the shooting opponent makes a mistake when the ball slips on his shoe. Back then this did not bother him due to his position in the team, but later as a coach, he wanted to do something about this phenomenon. He discovered that the more polished the shoes are and the more the ball shines from usage the more imprecise shots and passes will be made. In 1995 he started experimenting with putting softly corded strips on football boots. He stuck lines with different thicknesses on the toe and the sides of the shoes from various materials, which helped in the precise passing of the ball. First, László Oroszi worked at home in his workshop, then in the factory in Martfű where the first prototypes were completed. There, one of Adidas' development directors visited Oroszi and took a few samples with him. According to the final verdict of the court, seventeen years later, the company usurped the shoes of László Oroszi and launched it on the market as their own product. Trezeguet scored the golden goal of the European Championship winning French team in these shoes, overtime. From this time on the great footballers of the age, including Zidane, Del Piero and Beckham have played in these wondrous shoes. The indemnity awarded covered a fraction of the investment made until then, but László Oroszi is constantly developing his invention and is confident that he will soon be able to present the latest versions to the world under clarified conditions.



The Savior of Mothers

Ignác Semmelweis (Ignaz Semmelweis)

Wash your hands thoroughly. This is the simple statement he made, but his colleagues refused to understand. Today, it is almost inconceivable why. Born in Budapest in 1818, the obstetrician, gynecologist, surgeon and university professor, studied medicine in Budapest and Vienna. In the Austrian capital, he observed that mortality due to maternal fever is 10-15% higher at the university clinic, than elsewhere, because after an autopsy practice, medical students and their teachers continue to work in obstetrics without disinfecting their hands. The hospital of the poor next door had midwives, who did not infect the mothers, so there were half to a third less victims. That's why he obligated his colleagues to wash their forearms and brush their nails with calcium hypochlorite at the entrance to the obstetrics department. Although the numbers had improved after introducing handwashing, these measures made him unpopular in professional circles. In 1850, he returned home to St. Roch's Hospital, where he was able to reduce the mortality of maternal fever under less than 1% in six years. He insisted on regular cleaning and ventilating the hospital rooms, and frequently changing the bedding. At the time, his methods were not applied elsewhere. Later, the discovery of pathogens proved his truth for good. Due to his neurological condition, he was taken to the mental hospital in Döbling, where he died in 1865, the circumstances of his death are still unclear. Today public spaces, institutions, including the medical university of the capital are named after him. Sculptures erected, a postal stamp issued in his memory and even an asteroid bears his name, reminds us of his discovery, which has also been added to the list of the UNESCO Memory of the World program.



Seed Stock Stored Plant Diversity Center

One of the most important gene banks in the world can be found on the edge of the Great Plain, where the Hajta stream flows into the Tápíó river. The research work began in Tápíószele, in 1954, under the name of the Variety Collection Department of the National Plant Diversity Experimental Institute. After several reorganizations, the name “Plant Diversity Center” stands above the entrance staircase today. In 1959, the Institute already had a scientific newspaper, called Agrobotany. The first cooled seed storage facility was built on its territory in 1973, and since then it has been operating as a gene bank, meeting international standards. Its experts guard 57,000 varieties of one thousand two hundred plant species, which is more than half of the complete domestic flora. The purpose of the work is to include all Hungarian plants that can be stored under the seed bank’s conditions in the list. This is not an easy task because collectors working in all parts of the country need to have botanical expertise and also be very careful not to damage the seed during the research. The project named Pannon Magbank was granted nearly one million Euros in the European Union’s LIFE + tender. The seeds are cleaned and examined first in the laboratory, then transferred to the zero-degree active storage and then to the -20-degree base storage. This center is the basic Hungarian institution for the conservation of wild and cultivated plant genetic resources. As the natural habitats become smaller and smaller, it is also necessary to secure plants this way, which can be restored to their original environment from these seeds, if necessary.



When We are on the Fly's Side

Ferenc Rofusz

What can a fly see from the world? This is the question that kept the creator busy, who eventually found and presented us the answer. More precisely he had drawn the last three minutes of the insect's life from frame to frame. It flies into a house from the forest, where it is being chased by a man with a fly swatter from one room to another. It manages to find the windows but all in vain, there is no escape through there, then comes the last bang and then it ends up in an insect collection. This black and white silent film is an amazing experience. But it is not actually silent. One of the determining elements is the buzzing, which can be heard almost through the entire film, and the unexpected stop of this sound says everything. "The Fly" won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 1981. This was the first Hungarian production that got an acknowledgement. The golden statue was, however taken over not by Ferenc Rofusz, but by the former director of Hungarofilm, István Dósa in Los Angeles. This caught the organizers unexpectedly and they took back the award in the hotel room of Dósa on the same night, which the director could only receive in person a couple of months later. The Kossuth Prize winner Ferenc Rofusz, Artist of the Nation was born in 1946. At the age of 22, he joined the legendary Pannonia Film Studio as an animation assistant. He worked in the production crews of "Gustavus", "The Mézga Family", "Dr. Bubo" and "John the Valiant". In the middle of the 1980s he lived first in the German Federal Republic, then in Canada. He returned home in 2001. Since then he has been teaching in Budapest and working on his films. In 2017 the American Film Academy elected him amongst its members so now he can also vote in the Oscar nominations.



“Out of Nothing I have Created a New Different Universe”

János Bolyai

According to the former president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences János Szentágotthai: “The genius of Hungarian people – in the field of science – was embodied in János Bolyai to the highest degree.” Bolyai was born in Kolozsvár in 1802. He was taught by his father Farkas Bolyai, who was also a mathematician. The father’s letter written in 1816 to his friend and colleague Carl Friedrich Gauss bears witness to the success of his teaching: “...reaching the age of 9 my son knew nothing, but to speak and write in Hungarian and German, and to play the violin from sheet music... first, I started his education with Euclid, then he got to know Euler, and now not only does he know the first two volumes of my handbook for college lectures completely, but he is also versed in the third and fourth. He appreciates differential and integral calculus, he calculates them with extraordinary skill and ease...” After graduating at the Imperial and Royal Military Academy in Vienna at the age of 21, he wrote to his father: “...I have discovered such wonderful things that I was amazed; ...when you see it, Father, you will know it; now I can say no more, only this: out of nothing I have created a new different universe; all that I sent you by mail so far is a house of cards compared to the tower I have envisioned.” This is called absolute or hyperbolic geometry, which goes against the more than 2000-year-old Euclid’s theorem that was accepted until then. Besides the Technical University of Kolozsvár, countless other institutions bear Bolyai’s name. A mathematics prize, literary works, statues, public squares, a high school contest, stamps, and even a crater on the Moon commemorates him. János Bolyai passed away in Marosvásárhely in 1860.



Olympic Champion and Inventor Sándor Tarics

He reached the top both as an athlete and as an architect. His motto was: "There is no secret, just the straight, honest life." He was born in Budapest in 1913. From 2011 to his death in 2016, he was the eldest living Olympic Champion in the world. The poor boy from Óbuda started playing water polo in the Árpád Secondary School. Then while studying at the Budapest University of Technology, he obtained three Universiade gold medals and an Olympic Champion title on the Games in Berlin in 1936. He was part of the Hungarian national team for seven years, the team won every match he played in. After getting his degree, he also earned his PhD, then in 1948, he got to the United States with a scholarship where he lectured at universities. Furthermore, he started dealing with designing earthquake-resistant constructions in San Francisco. His patents were used in thousands of buildings worldwide, which are now able to resist natural disasters. His method, developed in the 1970s, was able to absorb the seismic waves. The idea was taken by Sándor Tarics from the structure of the traditional Hungarian dessert, the Dobos Cake. On his 100th birthday, he was congratulated by the Hungarian Olympic Committee at his home in California, where he was known by everyone. The license plate number of his car was "Gold 1936", he drove this vehicle until the end of his life. His daughter, Linda, said farewell to the 103-year-old legend with these words: "My father passed away with peace in his heart."



The Instrument of Secrets

The Bogányi piano

The carbon composite is a secret material from which the soul of the piano, the resonant is made. Its manufacturing technology is protected by a patent. That much is clear from the name that it contains carbon fibers. This may not be striking at first glance, but its unusual shape does, which won the Hungarian Design Award in 2018. From the very beginning of the one decade design work, it was clear that this instrument had to be presented to the audience with a new look. Gergely Bogányi, a Kossuth Prize-winning pianist, said that although he wanted to preserve the dignity of the piano, he imagined a state-of-the-art, yet bold object that was a pleasure to play because it sounds magnificent. After all, the ultimate objective was improving its acoustical abilities, which could only be achieved with sophisticated mechanics and more than 50 innovations within the instrument. The prototype was completed in 2014, and the team has been developing the new piano ever since. The following year, the Hungarian government ordered ten Bogányi pianos, which were offered for permanent use to seven Hungarian and three foreign cultural institutions – in Helsinki, Moscow and Munich - so that the music world could become better acquainted with them. "It sounds perfectly from the most intimate to the mighty orchestral sound," said Tamás Vásáry about the instrument after their first encounter. The pianist inaugurated the Bogányi piano that was set up at the Academy of Music with the Rákóczi March. The inventor, Mr. Bogányi simply calls the instrument "the new Hungarian piano".



Our Story-telling Spirit in Pictures Hungarian folk tales

The folk tales are born out of our imagination. Even playing their human characters in real flesh and blood form would be a huge challenge. To show on a film their animals, buildings, landscapes, fairies, devils, plants, and countless other creatures would be downright impossible. For these reasons, it is the best, if we tell or listen to these stories so that they can expand in our minds as intended. But there is one exception that stands beside the rule, and that is the person of Marcell Jankovics. His imagination and professional experience resulted in a cartoon series never seen before in Hungary. Between 1977 and 2011, a hundred episodes were released by a film studio in Kecskemét. Of course, we cannot talk about Hungarian folk tale cartoons without mentioning the name of Gyula Szabó, who narrated 85 episodes and also the music of Kaláka. This melody became so engrained in our culture that our hockey and soccer fans regularly hum it on the viewing area. The 6-8 minutes episodes can be seen regularly on TV since 1980. The series became a major part of the creators' life work, who all got the greatest Hungarian awards for their work. Some of the episodes even got grand prizes in numerous festivals in Japan, China, and the United States. The beauty, humor, cunning, and sometimes slightly prankish and frolicsome nature series shows the spirit, feelings, and character of our nation.

Based on the decision of the Hungarikum Committee in 2017 the Hungarian folk tales are remembered as outstanding national values.



The “Diesel Pope” Ferenc Anisits

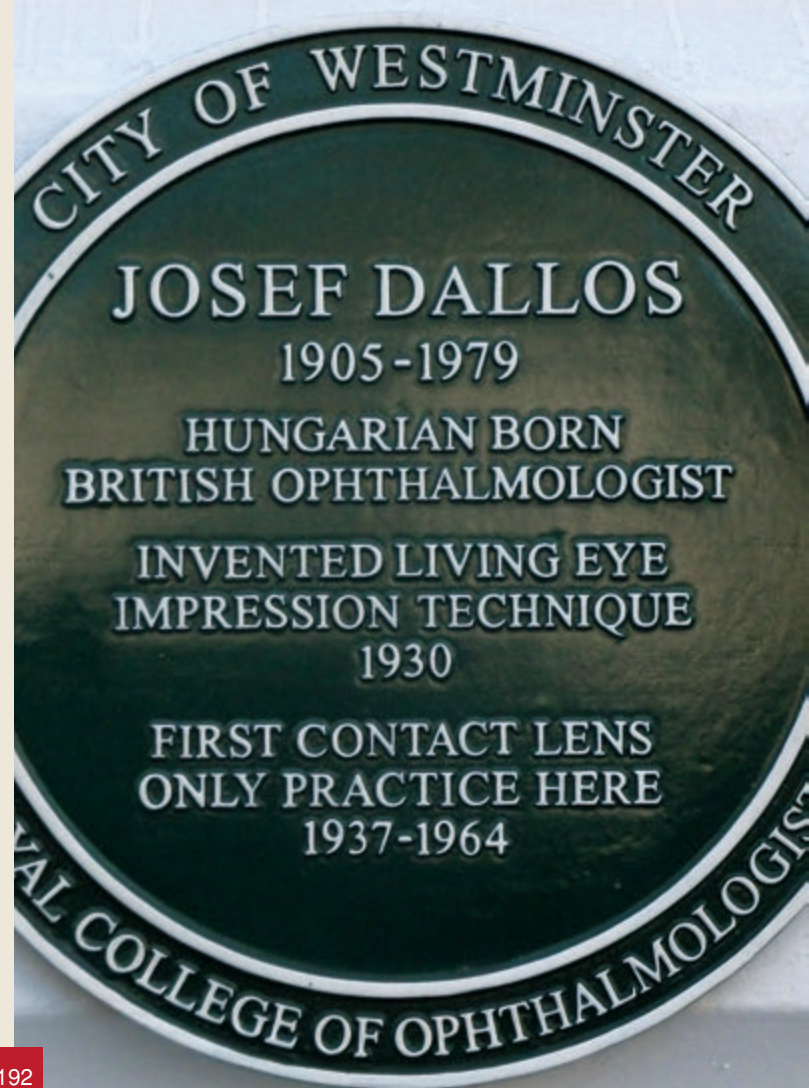
He was born in Szolnok in 1938. His father was a locomotive driver. In his elementary school years, he put together aircraft and ship models and wanted to be an engineer. During the summer days, he helped in harvesting on the fields and secretly drove the tractor, when no one was looking. When he was 18 years old, he was caught and arrested for unauthorized border crossing, later as an untrustworthy individual the communist authorities kept him under surveillance. After graduating, he studied agricultural engineering at the Budapest University of Technology. As student work, he assembled and disassembled trucks. He washed the components down with kerosene and was familiar with every screw of the engine. So, he was able to decide, if the design would work in practice just by seeing it on paper. In 1964 he got tired of police persecution and managed to escape to the German Federal Republic. First, he became the associate at the factory of MAN then at BMW. In 1982 seeing a new type of engine, he was against the opinion of six of his colleagues when stating, that the device cannot be manufactured economically. The first electronically controlled diesel engine was made with his guidance. He created 15 new power sources at BMW introducing the sport diesel category. With this improvement, the company's sales have increased 6-7-fold. His engines won the “International Engine of the Year” award two times, which is considered the “Academy Award of the engineering profession”. Ferenc Anisits, who retired at the age of 60 was greeted on his birthday by members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 2001 he became an honorary citizen of his hometown, Szolnok, in 2014 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.



Invisible Spectacle

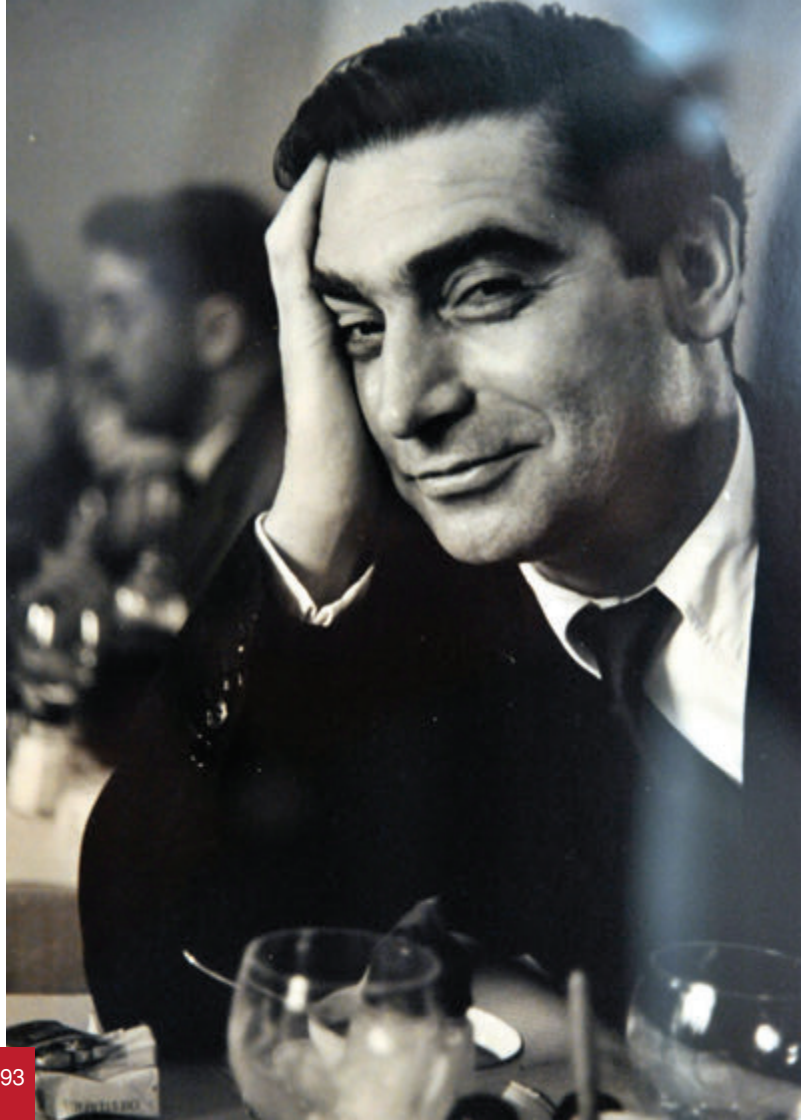
József Dallos (Josef Dallos)

No more eyeglasses! The sensational discovery of the Hungarian doctor. The lens of the glasses are placed on the eyeball - this is how the 8-Hours Newspaper reported the news in 1935. József Dallos was born in Budapest in 1905. After graduating from university, he perfected his invention, the "contact glass" at the age of twenty-five. He discovered the process with which thin glass lenses, exactly fitting to the eye could be made. One, that can be worn all day long. In 1932, he also managed to find a material suitable for flawless imprinting, the Poller's negocoll, which is a seaweed derivative that softens when heated and hardens when cooled. This way, he avoided the disadvantages, the refractive errors of the hitherto simply spherical contact lenses. József Dallos, an experimenter in the laboratory of the Eye Clinic No. 1 in Budapest, made the eye surface sample from copper plate and bent the heated contact lens glass on it. The lens was then cut to size and polished, and the appropriate dioptré was also sanded onto the glass. The first lenses were made in 1929, but it was not until 1934 that the inventor applied for a Hungarian, American, and English patent for his invention, which he called "individual contact glass". He organized the large-scale production of the negocoll for the continuous production of contact lenses. József Dallos died in London in 1979. Since then, the British Contact Lens Association recognizes the bests in contactology with the Josef Dallos Award.



“If Your Photographs Aren't Good Enough, You are Not Close Enough” Robert Capa

He was always in the firing-line. His pictures show us the dramatic events of the big battles of the 20th century. The photographer who was born as Endre Friedmann in Budapest in 1913 was the leading documentary photojournalist of the age. In the 1920s he got acquainted with Lajos Kassák and his artistic movement. Later he studied photography and journalism in Berlin, then he moved to Paris. There he took the name “Capa” which resembles the Hungarian “cápa” (shark) on which name his siblings called him, when they were kids. He did this on the suggestion of Gerda Taro, his life partner at that time, who passed away at a young age and was also a photographer. “I was looking for an American-sounding name that is easy to pronounce in any language” - he said in an interview. He worked in the Spanish Civil War, the Second Sino-Japanese War, on the North African and West European fronts in the World War II, in the First Arab-Israeli War, and lastly in Indochina where he stepped on a mine and died at the age of 40 in 1954. He visited Budapest in 1948 where he recorded on photos the still visible destruction of the war and the world of the commencing communist dictatorship. One great love of his life was Ingrid Bergman. The actress wrote in her autobiography that she met the photographer in 1945, their relationship lasted for two years. Ernest Hemingway, Irwin Shaw, and John Steinbeck were the colleagues and friends of Capa. His photos appeared in the newspapers of the age, and in New York in 2007, 4500 negatives were found in a suitcase that were made by him and Gerda in the 1930s. On the wall of Robert Capa's home in Budapest, Városház street 10 in the 5th district a plaque commemorates the former tenant who became world-famous. Hungary acknowledged his life work with a gold coin and a commemorative stamp.



The Players of Mistakes

The Gergely, Jónyer, Klampár World Champion table tennis team

Or Jónyer, Klampár, Gergely. Or even Klampár, Gergely, Jónyer. Gergely Gábor individual European Champion, István Jónyer individual World Champion, and Tibor Klampár individual World Cup winner, Olympic semi-finalist. These are only the titles they have achieved in singles and based on these all of them could rightfully demand the first place amongst the three of them. But actually, it is impossible to set up a ranking, they are instinctive geniuses. All three are multiple times World and European Champions, and in 1979 they ascended to the top together by winning the World Championship gold medal in the team event in Pyongyang. They beat the Chinese two times in the tournament, their dominance was incontestable. They were determinant players of the world of table tennis in the 1970s. And why is the title “Players of Mistakes”? It is based on a book about them. From this, it turns out that Gergely and Jónyer wanted to be footballers, and Klampár was directly expelled from the sport by his first coach saying that he is untalented. Fortunately, these mistakes were corrected by life. The loose wrist of Klampár, the unprecedented diligence of Jónyer, and the roguish smile of Gergely made these sportsmen legendary after their victories. “All three of them were excellent athletes” - said the team captain, Zoltán Berczik about the champions. István Zoltán Vass reported commentated the miracle on the radio, the TV did not broadcast from the spot. Since then this is still the first and last occasion that a connection with live broadcast was created between Hungary and North Korea.



One Hundred Movies in Hollywood

Mihály Kertész (Michael Curtiz)

He made his first film in Hungary in 1912 and his last in 1961 in the United States. The most famous of these is the 1942 *Casablanca* with Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart, which won three Oscars, including the award for Best Director. The industry considers this movie one of the best films ever. Mihály Kertész was born in Budapest in 1886. After graduating from the Theater Academy in 1912, he could direct the first Hungarian feature film titled "Today and Tomorrow". The contemporary newspapers considered his production "The Exile", made in 1914, "the very first good Hungarian film". The piece was made in Kolozsvár, Torockó, in the Torda Gorge, and along the Aranyos river on the basis of a folk play. One of the main actors was the legendary actress Mari Jászai, of whom this is the only surviving motion picture. He directed 48 silent films at home until 1919, wrote scripts for 5 of them, and he played a role in 4 of them. Ernő Gál predicted a bright future for him on the pages of the newspaper, *Mozihét*, "Cinema Week": "Mihály Kertész will certainly be the first to be recognized abroad and taken to fame, glory and brilliant, well-deserved wealth through the uplifting barriers." During the Hungarian Soviet Republic, he escaped to abroad. He shot 18 films in Austria and Germany between 1920 and 1926, and then he made a contract with Hollywood. He became one of the most successful American directors of the middle of the 20th century, whose mission in life was to entertain others. He was equally successful in all genres, adventure film, western, war melodrama, because he was always striving for perfection. Steven Spielberg sees Mihály Kertész as his role model, who died at the age of 75 in Los Angeles, in 1962.



When the Train Departs

Kálmán Kandó

“The fact that I was Kandó’s colleague can easily give an opportunity for misunderstanding. Kandó was so much above everybody else, that nobody could be his colleague. Co-workers, working with him only had the role to convey his ideas” - said Imre Pöschl, a professor of the Budapest University of Technology. Kálmán Kandó was born in Budapest in 1869 as a descendant of an ancient noble family. He got his degree as a mechanical engineer in 1892. He was first to utilize the high-voltage three-phase alternating current traction in trains and was the developer of the phase converter. He introduced the production of induction engines in the Ganz factory in Budapest. He designed the electrification of the Tellina Valley railway in Italy that was commissioned in 1902. On the 160-kilometer-long alpine route, Kandó had to prove that electricity is better on difficult terrain than steam traction. The source of energy was the hydroelectric power plant on the Adda river. The commission was refused by the other big western companies of the age because of the unforeseeable risk. The Ganz Works undertook the challenge and created an everlasting technical construction. This work brought Kálmán Kandó world fame. He initiated the electrification of the railway network in Hungary. In 1922 he resigned from the managing director position of the Ganz factory so that he could exclusively deal with designing electric locomotives. After the Great War, the world admired how high Hungary, hit by the Treaty of Trianon could get in this field. In 1931 Kálmán Kandó had a heart attack and died at the age of 61. Public squares and statues commemorate him across the country, primary and secondary schools, universities bear his name.



The Father of DreamWorks

Adolf Zukor (Adolph Zukor)

One of our compatriots, who has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He truly earned this honor. His famous saying was “The Audience is always right”, which is also the title of his biographical work. Adolf Zukor was born in Ricse located along the Tisza river in 1873. The boy who lost his parents went to the United States when he was 15 years old to try his luck. He saw the first film of his life when he was 20 and he knew immediately that it was his world. In 1904 he opened his first movie theater, then not long after he established the Paramount Pictures film corporation, which is still operating today. He entered exclusive contracts with the movie stars of the age including Douglas Fairbanks, Rudolph Valentino, and Gary Cooper, thus the company evolved to the greatest film studio of the world. In 1949 he received the Academy Honorary Award. He worked until the age of 90. On his 100th birthday he was honored by US President Nixon, 1,700 people celebrated him on this event. The 100 candles that were on his cake were sold for a thousand dollars apiece. He passed away during his afternoon nap at the age of 103 in Los Angeles. In his hometown, a modern cultural house and a tavern with the favorite dishes of the producer bear his name. His commemorative plaque in the settlement was inaugurated by the Academy Award winner Ferenc Rofusz in 2016. One of the significant sights of Ricse is the monument donated by Adolf Zukor in 1928, the Shepherd Well statue. He also supported long the newlyweds of his village. His birthday, the 7th of January was declared a memorial day by the Hungarian Hollywood Council.



The “Colorist” of Kolozsvár Ferenc Veress

He was born in the “treasure city”, Kolozsvár in 1832. He learned the art of photography at a young age. At the age of twenty, he opened Transylvania’s first “photography and painting studio”. He made photos of such celebrities as Mór Jókai, Mihály Munkácsy or Sámuel Brassai. But at that time, still only in black and white. He was thinking about how to make color photos. He started experimenting. Eventually, he realized that the secret is in the ratio of the different chemicals, in the emulsion in which he developed the pictures. He tested more than five hundred compounds on photosensitive paper. After a good twenty years of study and analysis, he came up with the solution of how to fix colors onto the photographic paper. He presented his method at the Paris World Exhibition in 1889, where he won serious professional recognition. But nothing else. Ferenc Veress did not get to the point to patent his invention, because he could not solve the shortening of the exposure time required for widespread distribution. In 1862, he published the following call in the Ország Tükre newspaper: “Our photographers would do a great service to our country by taking a photo of prominent individuals, who excelled in the fields of science, art, productive industry and commerce and by collecting them in an album would hand them over to Hungarian museums. I have been thinking about this idea in my mind for years and I will start establishing it this year.” From 1881, he taught photography at the University of Kolozsvár. He later founded the Photographic Newspapers, which was the first Hungarian journal on this subject. His last recorded photograph was taken in 1911. Ferenc Veress died at the age of 84 in his home in Kolozsvár, in 1916.



A Mitigation for Fever Gedeon Richter

He was born in Ecséd, Heves county in 1872. He earned his medical diploma at the age of twenty-three and then embarked on a Western European professional study. In 1901, he bought the Pest Sas Pharmacy on Üllői Street, which has been operated by the company ever since. He laid the foundations of the Hungarian pharmaceutical industry in the laboratory of this pharmacy. He mainly made so-called organotherapeutic products, using natural materials mainly of animal origin. Being not only an excellent pharmacist, but also a great merchant, he acted immediately, after seeing the huge interest. In 1907, he built Hungary's first pharmaceutical factory in Kőbánya. The first major success was the Kalmopyrin, patented in 1912. This was followed by additional painkillers, life-saving, and disinfectant agents. Over the next decades, the Richter Pharmaceutical Company inaugurated 100 new medicines on the market. The plant, which was already a joint-stock company in 1923, was one of the first to launch insulin on the market. Its products were available in almost every country on five different continents. The company had ten subsidiaries and 40 offices abroad. By the 1940s, the Richter Corporation became Hungary's number one exporter. The plant had almost completely shut down by the end of World War II, the founder was killed by the Nazis in 1944, at the age of 72. The factory was later nationalized and operated under the name of Kőbánya Pharmaceutical Factory until 1990, when it received back the name Gedeon Richter.



The Land Gave It Back

The treasure of Nagyszentmiklós

The treasure was found by a vine-farmer in a hidden bag during digging a fence on the border of Nagyszentmiklós, in the territory of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1799. The weight of the 23 gold objects was a total of nearly ten kilograms. They include a bowl with handles, a pitcher, a chalice, a bowl and a cup. The treasure was immediately ordered to Vienna by the Austrian emperor, Francis I, where it is still exhibited in the Museum of Art History. There is no generally accepted interpretation of the inscriptions on the objects. Archaeologist Géza Supka considers it to be an ancient Indian text, the turkologist Gyula Mészáros regards it of Turk origin and Dezső Csallány archeologist is certain that it is a Turkish text. Engineer László Pataky, the paleographer Sándor Forrai and Anna Fehérmé Walter, researcher of Hungarian runes see the inscriptions as Hungarian. Kornél Bakay, professor of archeology, identified Greek letters in the Turkish and runic texts. Art historian Gábor Pap does not exclude the idea, that the origin of the gold treasure is of Hun, so we could even call it Attila's treasure. According to him, the figures and motifs have Scythian origin, the continuance of which can be proved in the Hungarian folk art. Archaeologist-historian Gábor Vékony and linguist Erzsébet Zelliger deciphered the sentence on plate number 8, based on runic writing: "the heating of the elderberry fermentation is its own". On plate No. 10 the word "refresh" was found, on bowl No. 15 "forest food" can be read, and pitcher No. 5 said "whey" in runic letters. The collection was on display in Budapest for three months in 2002, on the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Hungarian National Museum. The Hungarian public welcomed the treasure of Nagyszentmiklós with affection, by which it saw the return of the its own past and ancient culture.



The Artist of the Moment

Photographer André Kertész

As a front line battle soldier, he captured the Great War, photographed Hungary in the 1920s, he was welcomed by the art world in Paris, and he was rediscovered by America. His visual language is understood by everyone. His photographs have been admired by the whole world from Japan to Argentina, and you can still see them now, as exhibitions of his works have been held continuously for decades after his death. The photographer was born in Budapest in 1894 as Andor Kertész. At the age of fourteen, he received a camera from his father, which gave him a lifelong direction. He volunteered for World War II to escape the misery of unfulfilled love, where he had already taken his second, tripod-less camera with him. He was wounded in the battle and he was taken in an Esztergom hospital. There he made his first world-famous image of a figure paced deep in the pool, whose body is curiously broken by light. He spoke of the picture in an interview: "We went to the pool every day and once I noticed distortions in the water. When I photographed them, my fellows said "You are crazy! Why are you photographing these?" I replied to them: Why are you asking? Should I only take pictures of girlfriends? This is also part of the world. Well, that's how I photographed the first distortion in the water in 1917, followed by various other pictures later, and the nudes particularly in 1933." Kertész moved to Paris at the age of thirty-one, where he made friends with Picasso, Mondrian, Chagall, Brassai, and Eisenstein. He spent the second half of his life in New York. In 1984, he returned to Hungary as a world-famous artist and visited the locations of his earlier works again. André Kertész died in New York at the age of 91 in 1985.



The Best Firefighter

Kornél Szilvay

During fire fighting it often happened that the water used for extinguishing caused more damage than the fire itself. That is why the dry-extinguishing method was a landmark invention, which the world owes to Kornél Szilvay, who was born in Budapest in 1890. His first method, developed in 1923, was an extinguishing machine that used inactive gas. The new skills were successfully used by firefighters in Budapest in smaller incidents. They employed these fire extinguishers in 1925, when the National Casino was caught on fire. During the fire, valuable Persian rugs and tapestries suffered only minor, repairable damage. Based on this experience, the fire officer designed a high-performance dry fire extinguishing machine, of which the MÁVAG Locomotive and Machine Factory made four pieces. This invention was used in 95 successful deployments within a short period. Of the version further developed in 1929 France, the United States and Canada also bought at the Paris International Fire Show. The main point of the novelty was to create an air and heat-insulating layer of dust or foam on burning or smoldering objects. The substance gets on the fire with high-pressure propellant gas, with carbon dioxide or nitrogen. Szilvay even mixed powdered grit to the compound to achieve greater efficiency. He patented a total of 39 inventions. The mechanical engineer led several thousand operations, one of the most memorable one was the water-damage free extinguishing of the Budapest Basilica's dome fire. Kornél Szilvay, the colonel of the fire department and the former fire chief of the capital, died in Budapest in 1957.

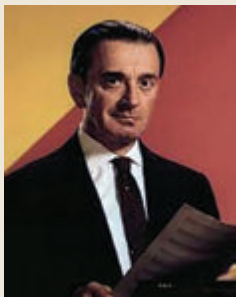


The Musician of Films

Miklós Rózsa

“For a classical music composer the first and most important thing in the movie business is to learn to compose with a stopwatch” - he professed of his profession and we can trust him on this one. He was one of the greatest composers of film history, who besides his career in Hollywood was also faithful to the world of concert halls. In a contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, he stipulated three months of holiday every year to perform on concerts and to teach at the University of Southern California. He worked together with the Korda brothers, Alfred Hitchcock, George Cukor, and Billy Wilder. He composed the music of “The Thief of Bagdad”, “The Jungle Book”, “Quo Vadis”, “Julius Caesar”, “Ben-Hur”, and “El Cid”. He won an Oscar with his compositions three times in 1946, 1948, and 1959. During his 44-year career, he wrote music to a total of 90 films. He was able to grab the deepened lyrical themes just as perfectly as the tension of crime films or the most rousing battle scenes. The impact of the world of Hungarian classical music, especially Bartók and Kodály can be felt in his works. Miklós Rózsa was born in Nagylóc located in Nógrád county in 1907. His father was an industrialist-landowner

who wanted him to be a chemist, but the young man graduated from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music since he also inherited his mother’s musical talent. In the 1930s he was already considered a renowned composer. He wrote the music for the “Hungaria” ballet that was danced in London in 1935. The success of this got him to the United States. After 40 years in 1974, he returned to Budapest where he gave a concert of his works. Miklós Rózsa passed away at the age of



88 in California.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER
P R E S E N T S

A Tale of the Christ
by GENERAL LEW WALLACE



Directed by

WILLIAM WYLER

Starring

CHARLTON HESTON · JACK HAWKINS

HAYA HARAREET · STEPHEN BOYD

HUGH GRIFFITH · MARTHA SCOTT with CATHY O'DONNELL · SAM JAFFE

Screen Play by
KARL TUNBERG · SAM ZIMBALIST

TECHNICOLOR

Camera 65

The Artist of Light

László Moholy-Nagy

He is the embodiment of a classical creator. He worked as a photographer, painter, stage designer, sculptor, filmmaker. At the beginning, he even experimented with writing. He enjoyed the extremely vibrant cultural life of the period between the two world wars. He always found the best creative companions to accomplish all this. He adopted the name of the southern town of Mohol, and Dr. Gusztáv Nagy's surname for himself. After his father left his family, he moved to his uncle in 1910, who took care of the then 15-year-old talent. Serving in the Great War, he made hundreds of drawings of the everyday life of the battlefield. He joined Lajos Kassák's circle as a law student in Budapest, and with its members, he emigrated to Vienna and then to Berlin in 1919. In Germany, he was noticed by the founder of the Bauhaus school, Walter Gropius, who invited him to his educational institution as an instructor. In the 1920s, he worked and created art with Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. In 1931, László Moholy-Nagy designed the "light-space modulator". It is a sculpture made of metal and plastic that transmits and reflects the light radiated onto it to nearby walls, creating colorful drawings on them. He left Europe in the late 1930s and went to the United States at the request of the New Bauhaus school. The artist died in 1946 in Chicago, at the age of 51. In 2006, the Hungarian University of Applied Arts – on the 125th anniversary of its foundation – took on the name, Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design.



The Most Significant Hungarian Film Director István Szabó

He was the first Hungarian director who got an Academy Award for his movie titled “Mephisto” in the category of Best Foreign Language Film in 1982. He could take over the award personally in Hollywood. Ever since his high school years he wanted to become a film director, he was admitted to the Academy of Theatrical and Cinematic Arts at first try. He earned his degree in the class of Félix Máriássy in 1961. He became one of the leaders of the Hungarian new wave, the French filmmakers François Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard had a major impact on his work. He has been a professor at the University of Theatre and Film Arts since 1985. In 1991 he was elected as Deputy Chairman of the European Film Academy. His continuous collaborator was the cinematographer, Lajos Koltai who was also nominated for an Academy Award. István Szabó won more than 60 international



awards with his films. Besides the Award-winner “Mephisto”, his films “Confidence”, “Colonel Redl”, and “Hanussen” were also nominated for Oscars. He was acknowledged with four prizes in Cannes. He received the David di Donatello Award for “Mephisto”, the Award for Best Non-English Language Film by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for “Colonel Redl”, and won a prize at the Berlin Film Festival with two of his movies “Confidence” and “Sweet Emma, Dear Böbe”. “Sunshine” received a European Film

Award in 1999. He also cinematized with great success the novels “Relatives” by Zsigmond Móricz and “The door” by Magda Szabó.



The “Sun Queen” Mária Telkes

Her name is on the 1934 The New York Times list, where the paper collected America’s most successful women. Among film stars, public figures, and athletes, Mária Telkes, who was born in Budapest in 1900 is the only scientist. As the eldest of eight siblings, she earned a degree in physics and then moved to The United States in 1924. In Cleveland at that time, she could almost feel at home, as 100,000 Hungarians lived in the city. In the biophysical laboratory of the local clinic, she made an electric camera measuring the infrared radiation of the brain. During her research in the late 1930s in Boston, she discovered a method of storing solar energy. Using this, she created a solar-powered seawater desalination device for the U.S. military, saving the lives of many pilots forced to catapult during battle. Based on her inventions, she was named “Sun Queen” in the United States. According to a contemporary report by the Hungarian newspaper “Est”, “Dr. Mária Telkes’s “solar machine device” is as revolutionary in technology as the invention of the car was earlier.” She has patented twenty inventions, most of which relate to the use of solar energy. The method known as “cold storage” is also her invention, which is used in the manufacture of modern air conditioners. She applied for the protection of the patent at the age of 90. Mária Telkes died in 1995 in her hometown, Budapest, she was elected to the American Inventors Hall of Fame in 2012.



Rover on the Moon

Ferenc Pavlics

He was born in Balozsamegyes in Vas county in 1928. He graduated from the Budapest University of Technology as a mechanical engineer, then in 1956, he left Hungary with his fiancée and only took his degree with him. In the United States, he designed all-terrain vehicles as a developer at General Motors. Shortly, as part of the Apollo-program, he started engaging in designing vehicles that could travel on celestial bodies. At first sight the world's first lunar rover, the Lunar Roving Vehicle could seem to be only four wheels and a chassis, however, it is much more than that. The first specimen of this collapsible structure took 400 people one and a half years to build. It had to endure the terrain obstacles, the temperature fluctuation, the low atmospheric pressure, and had to withstand gravity, more precisely the lack of it. Its length is 310, its width is 210 centimeters, its weight 200 kilograms. It could carry the payload of 490 kilograms in total, but only on the Moon. According to Pavlics's patent, the four wheels were powered by individual electric motors, the driver steered with a joystick. Its top speed was 18 kilometers per hour. On its first expedition to the Moon in 1971, it covered almost 29 kilometers. In the following year, two more of these were taken to the Moon. The most expensive cars ever made have not returned to Earth, they park on the Moon ever since. Ferenc Pavlics received the NASA Award in 1971.



Just Do Not Ask About My Age! Zsa Zsa Gábor

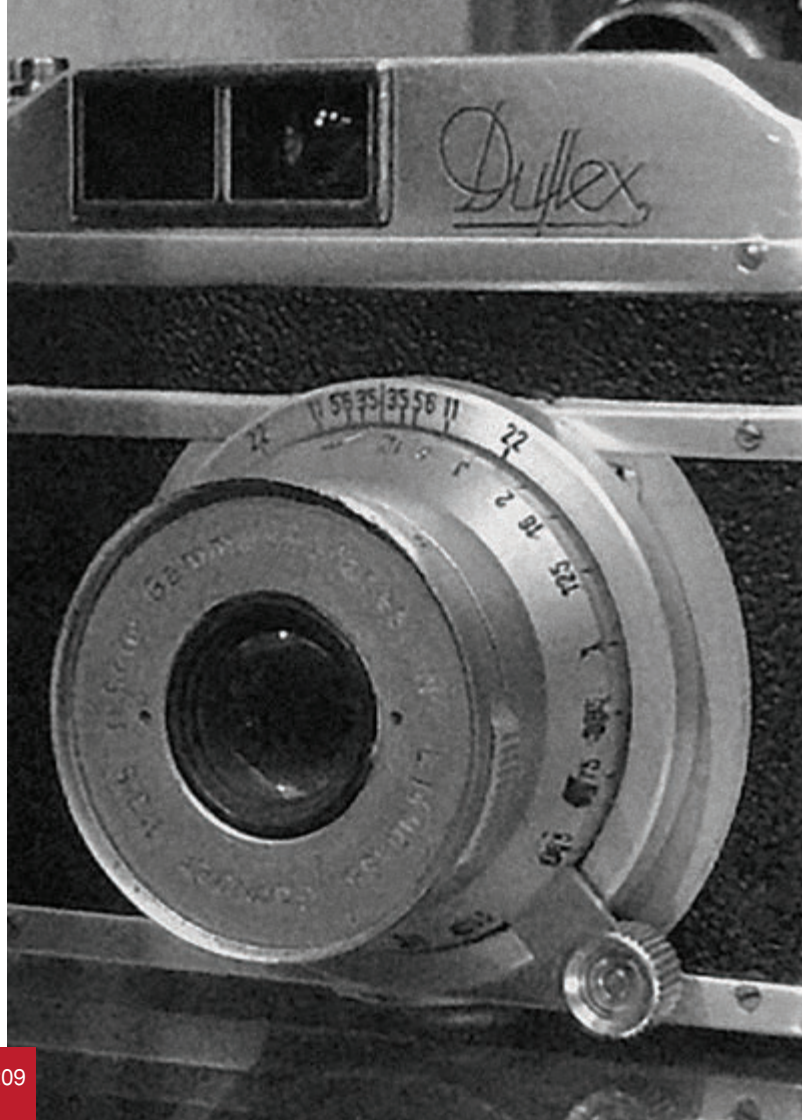
Beauty queen, Golden Globe Award-winning actress, who has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She said the blissful yes at her weddings nine times, but one of these was annulled. By her own admission she literally bought her marriages, she got one from each husband. Hers was one of the greatest Hungarian career stories of the 20th century. She claimed that it's not the age that matters, but how a person thinks and feels oneself. Of course, her husbands helped her in this, because she was always in love, so she was able to stay young. She was born as Sári Gábor in Budapest allegedly in 1917. She got her first name after Sári Fedák and her nickname too, because the famous actress was also called Zsa Zsa by her friends. She was crowned Miss Hungary in 1936 and got operetta roles in the same year. She soon followed her two sisters to the United States, who were also actresses there, where she played in 50 films. She became the favorite of Hollywood immediately with her invasive unrestrained presence. Magazines contended for the actress, everyone followed her even in the age without Internet. Besides her beauty, she was able to seduce anyone with her intelligence. Her only child was from the hotel chain founder, Conrad Hilton. Her husbands included a diplomat, an actor, a businessman, a lawyer, an investor, and an aristocrat. "We get to know a man when we have divorced him" - goes the famous saying of Zsa Zsa Gábor. Her last marriage lasted for 30 years: Frédéric von Anhalt, the playboy, who was 27 years younger than Zsa Zsa stayed with her until her death at the age of 99.



The Stolen Camera

Jenő Dulovits

Born in Ipolyság in 1903, the teacher of mathematics and physics was captivated by the art of photography as a young man. As a photographer, he was a master of backlit exposure, he successfully participated in international exhibitions with his pictures. “I am a lover of Light,” he wrote in his book, titled *Artistic Photography*. But he was also interested in the technical part of the profession. In 1931, he patented the “plasticizer pre-lens”, and nearly thirty years later, the optical lens made of plastic. In 1948, Gamma Fine Mechanics and Optical Works started producing the single-lens reflex camera, the SLR camera he designed. The novelty of the Duflex camera was the installation of a light aperture that automatically narrows to the required value at the moment before exposure. This was a groundbreaking invention, completely unexpected. The technology of the camera made it the first in the world, ahead of the then leading Germans. The Japanese were still not in the game, they only started making cameras later. Nevertheless, the production was stopped, probably under Soviet pressure, on the pretext of economic reasons. About three thousand pieces of this apparatus were made, it is one of the most sought-after items at today’s auctions. At auctions one can obtain one only for millions. Duflex 001 was the treasure of the Hungarian Technical Museum until it was stolen. The prototype later ended up in a Japanese collector’s hands, who refused the offered price of four million Forints, and was not willing to part with one of the top performances of the Hungarian technical history. Jenő Dulovits, who registered 13 patents, died in Budapest in 1972.



The Legend of “the Martians” Hungarians in the United States

The science-fiction writer Isaac Asimov told that there are two intelligent species living on Earth: humans and the Hungarians. According to the legend of “the Martians,” the Hungarians got into the best universities and research institutions in the first half of the 20th century. They were always busted by not being able to speak any earthly language without an accent. They had one trick: they disguised themselves as Hungarian emigrants. Such physicists, like Eugene Wigner (on his Martian name Jenő), Edward Teller (in his native language Ede), Leo Szilárd (originally Leó), or the genius of modern mathematics, John von Neumann (on Mars Jancsi) are all one of them. They all came from the same part (Pest) of the same city (Budapest). On the spot the journalists found the traces of the man, who as a governor of the Hungarian education organized the secret bridgehead of the “Martians”, disguised as a “grammar school”. This person was Baron Loránd Eötvös. These suspicious Hungarians enjoyed being part of a legend. Ede Teller was especially proud of his E.T. initials. János Kemény, the creator of the programming language BASIC added with a slight Martian pronunciation: “It is so much easier to read and write in Hungarian, than in French or English, that the Hungarian kids have more time to study maths.” There is another area that was flooded by Hungarians: the film industry. They realized the enormous potential hidden in the combination of traditional drama and modern technology. Norman Macrae, the editor-in-chief of The Economist noted: The American word “movie” probably originates from the Hungarian word “mozi”. He added cynically: The Hungarians created Hollywood first and only after that the more harmless nuclear bomb.



Our National Treasure

The Holy Crown

It is Europe's only inaugurating crown. While elsewhere the new ruler usually received a headpiece for the occasion, since St. Stephen, only one could sit the Hungarian throne, whose coronation was held by the archbishop of Esztergom with the Sacra Corona. Charles Robert (Hungarian: Károly Róbert) was accepted by the country only after his third inauguration, then with the Holy Crown. This relic was usually been kept in a safe place for centuries, but because of the Turks, the Habsburgs, and then the Soviets, it had to be evacuated many times. Finally, at Epiphany in 1978, it was returned to Hungary by the United States, where it has been kept after World War II. It was then placed in the Hungarian National Museum. Mihály Beöthy and Csaba Ferencz, representing a four-member physicist-mathematician group and art historian Gábor Pap performing the identification work, came to the conclusion that the golden ratio can be detected in the proportions of the Hungarian crown, and the angle of the cross at the top corresponds to the angle of inclination of the earth axis and the celestial equator. According to the research of experts, the crown was made centuries before St. Stephen in a Hungarian goldsmith's workshop, somewhere east of the Black Sea. St. Stephen received this specific crown from Pope Sylvester II. It has been believed since 1790, that the Holy Crown consists of two parts and has nothing to do with St. Stephen and the founding of the state. Members of the Crown Committee: Dr. Zsuzsa Lovag, Éva Kovács and József Péri and goldsmith László Papp confirmed this assumption in 1994. On January 1st, 2000, with a tribute ceremony due to a ruler, the crown was transferred to the Dome hall of the Hungarian Parliament. On July 5th, 2000, St. Pope John Paul II said to the Hungarian nation, "Let it enlighten all of you, what this crown teaches!"



Photo



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