

PREFACE

Every book has its own story, and that is the case here. There are often coincidences that set a process in motion and bring about an unexpected but gratifying result.

The history of the Polish and Hungarian peoples is very similar in many ways. The circumstances surrounding the establishment of their countries, the persistence of their frontier position on the eastern borders of Western Christianity, the attacks and threats to their statehood, culture, and religion have all strengthened the sense of belonging. This has been further enhanced by the way they have supported each other in their struggle for freedom, although in my opinion the scales tip in favour of the Poles in this respect.

A special Polish-Hungarian relationship can be observed throughout the history of both countries. This relationship has had its emotional elements (the desire for freedom for example), and it is more objective elements, such as the personal union of the two countries coexisting under one ruler.

Like the two countries and the two peoples, their institutions devoted to the study of history have enjoyed close relations over the decades, although the intensity of this has varied. On the Polish side, one of the important players in this process was Professor Stanisław A. Sroka, who was mentioned in the memoirs of the legendary former head of our department, Gyula Kristó, as someone with whom he had several fulfilling professional discussions.¹

Both Professor Sroka and his colleague László Koszta, former head of our department and a man who unfortunately died prematurely, did in-depth research on the history of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary. They particularly focused on the great amount of archival material on the towns in the mountainous regions of Lower and Upper Hungary,² and their common interest brought them close on a personal level. Professor Sroka even eulogised Koszta at his funeral. This personal connection led to further contacts, and the effect of these can be seen in the fact that Sroka's writings are regularly included in the commemorative publications for his former colleagues.³

¹ Gy. Kristó, *Érték és értelem – Önéletírás korrajzzal*, Szeged 2016, p. 118.

² S.A. Sroka, *A középkori Bártfa és kapcsolatai Kis-Lengyelországgal*, Budapest 2016.

³ S.A. Sroka, "Magyar professzorok a krakkói Jagelló Egyetem 'Artes Liberales' karán 1487–1526 között" [in:] *Szent Márton és Benedek nyomában. Tanulmányok Koszta László emlékére*, eds. T. Fedeleš, Zs. Hunyadi, *Fontes et libri*, vol. 3, ed. of series S. Papp, Szeged–Debrecen 2019, pp. 431–441; idem, "Ismeretlen kapcsolatok a Homonnay Drugeth család és a lengyel nemesség között a 16. század első felében" [in:] *Urbs, Civitas, Universitas. Ünnepi tanulmányok Petrovics István 65. születésnapja tiszteletére*, eds. S. Papp, Z. Kordé, S.L. Tóth, *Fontes et libri*, vol. 1, ed. of series S. Papp, Szeged 2018, pp. 254–258.

Continuing along this path, we have revitalised the links between our institutions, incorporating early modern research, with a particular focus on the Ottoman conquest of Hungary. Besides Professor Sroka, the driving force and starting point of these efforts is Gellért Ernő Marton, a member of the Research Group of the Ottoman Age. (Here we should note the remarkable contribution of his mentors in Jagiellonian University, namely Katarzyna Kuras and Tomasz Pudłocki, through their support and help from the background concerning Gellért E. Marton's studies and research in Krakow since 2015.) He is keenly interested in Polish history and was a key figure in the organisation of our joint workshop in Krakow, the antecedent to this volume. This was in the spring of 2019, the last "year of tranquility" before the pandemic. It was our mutual intention to continue immediately afterwards in the spring of 2020, as the Krakow conference had proved to be a very useful professional forum. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone this for the time being, but we hope to meet again soon, this time in Szeged.

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The forthcoming volume is an edited, annotated, and finalised version of the papers presented at the conference. It is a great accomplishment that most of the authors managed to complete their manuscripts within the deadline set at the closing session. The meticulous and laborious technical work of editing has been performed by Gellért Ernő Marton with his usual consistency and precision.

The articles outlined below take a chronological look at the major chapters of our shared history, the result of deep investigations related to the basic research of each author. As can be seen from the topics, a great deal of space has been devoted to Hungarian-Ottoman, and by extension 20th-century Polish-Turkish, relations.

The MTA–SZTE Research Group of the Ottoman Age (Eötvös Loránd Research Network) in Szeged, which was founded almost four years ago, focuses on medieval and early modern Ottoman-Hungarian and Habsburg diplomatic history based on international examples. It has been greatly inspired by the influential research and publications of Dariusz Kołodziejczyk, who has written about Ottoman, Crimean Tatar, and Polish relations.⁴

I, myself, have worked on a special area of Hungarian-Ottoman relations, publishing the sultan's appointment documents and princely confirmation diplomas used for the confirmation of the Transylvanian voivodes and princes in the period of 1528–1606.⁵

That work can be seen as a precursor to the current project. In it, the texts of the peace treaties between the Ottoman Empire and the medieval Hungarian state, or

⁴ D. Kołodziejczyk, *Ottoman-Polish Diplomatic Relations (15th–18th Century): An Annotated Edition of 'Ahdnames and Other Documents*, Leiden–Boston–Köln 2000; idem, *The Crimean Khanate and Poland-Lithuania: International Diplomacy on the European Periphery (15th–18th Century): A Study of Peace Treaties Followed by Annotated Documents*, Leiden–Boston 2011.

⁵ S. Papp, *Die Verleihungs-, Bekräftigungs- und Vertragsurkunden der Osmanen für Ungarn und Siebenbürgen. Eine quellenkritische Untersuchung*, Wien 2003.

later the Vienna-based Habsburg Monarchy that replaced it in eastern diplomacy, are processed from the first examples in the 15th century up to 1739.

In this volume, the members of the research group from Szeged are presenting the results of their own partial research for the most part. The Polish contributors have enriched the content mainly with elements from the thousands of years of common history between Poland and Hungary.

Chronologically, the first paper is an excellent study by Ryszard Grzesik, “The Polish and Hungarian Historical Tradition in the Hungarian-Polish Chronicle.” This deals with one of the most important sources of Polish-Hungarian relations in the Middle Ages, the so-called Hungarian-Polish Chronicle. The author has done thorough philological work and is fully familiar with the literature on the subject. His excellent knowledge of Hungarian also allows him to understand Hungarian historiography, while his interest in the subject is shown by his previous writings on the subject. As he notes, research into the history of the chronicle is a true Central European enterprise. In his opinion, the text was originally written in medieval Slavonia. In terms of content, it is linked to the history of the Polish and Hungarian dynasties, while at the same time it shows some events that may be connected to the Great Moravian Empire. Thus, the study of the chronicle is the result of a joint professional collaboration between Polish, Slovak, Croatian and Hungarian researchers, who have all been in contact with one another.

The second study, “Serbia and Hungary in Theodore Spandounes’s work *On the Origin of the Ottoman Emperors*,” deals with the history of the Ottoman Empire in connection with a particular source. Piotr Wróbel analyses the historical work of Theodore Spandounes, a Venetian soldier with Greek roots, who described the rise of Ottoman power. The author was in direct contact with the family of the Serbian despot Đurađ Branković (1427/29–1456), because his mother was a descendant of the Byzantine Imperial Kantakouzene family, as was the case with the wife of the despot. At the same time, Spandounes also had a good relationship with Branković’s famous daughter, Mara, who was the wife of Sultan Murad II (1421–1451). The work has serious value as a source, especially in relation to Serbian-Ottoman events, but according to Professor Wróbel, it is not as accurate for the events related to Hungary. This historical source adds important information about the turn of the 16th century, a period when the Serbian state lost its independence and even its status as an Ottoman vassal state. The study is a good example of how the historical tradition of a country with a long history, such as medieval Serbia, could have influenced late medieval Central European historiography through Spandounes’s chronicle.

Unfortunately, only a few Hungarian historians have explored the Polish aspects of Hungarian history in sufficient depth, despite there being a great need for this. A particularly exciting period in this respect is the reign of Stefan Batory as king of Poland, but it can even be stated that the entire Jagiellonian, Szapolyai and Báthory eras of the 16th century are also of interest. I am convinced that these three dynasties established such an intimate relationship with one another and that the links seem to have been built on their earlier relationships so closely that one might even consider this one long, continuous period. Starting from this broad theme, Dominik Kadzik in

“The Political Career of Gáspár Bekes and Ferenc Wesselényi in Poland-Lithuania during the Reign of Stefan Batory” has highlighted how people, mostly soldiers from Hungary as well as Transylvania, who entered the service of King Stefan were integrated into contemporary Polish society.

Although the election provisos of Henryk Walezy (Henri de Valois), who was elected before István Báthory, stated that he could not give Polish offices to foreigners, this could not be completely enforced in the case of Báthory. The paper reviews the Polish careers of two well-known figures in Hungarian history, Gáspár Bekes and Ferenc Wesselényi, and shows how useful Polish-Hungarian cooperation could be on common topics. An example of this on the Hungarian side comes from Stanislaus Nisovski, who was the advisor to Isabella Jagiellon, the widow of the Hungarian King, John Szapolyai, who was Queen of Hungary and Governor of Transylvania before her son came of age.

A few years ago, I published a monograph on István Bocskai’s movement in 1604–1606. This was the first time that the Hungarian Estates took up arms to defend against perceived or real threats to their religious interests and their freedom. During the work on this monograph, I discovered that several very important Polish factors had hardly been touched upon in Hungarian historiography. This is particularly unfortunate, because Gábor Báthory, who later became Prince of Transylvania (r. 1608–1613), was presumably already dreaming of obtaining the Polish crown at Bocskai’s court in Kassa (present day Košice in Slovakia), which Bocskai himself, the Hungarian and Transylvanian Prince, had also desired. The purpose of my study (“Transylvania’s and Poland’s Participation in the Struggles between the Moldavian Voivode Family, the Movilās, and the Wallachian Voivode Radu Șerban”) was to show how the rulers of the two Romanian voivodeships, Wallachia (in Romanian: Țară Românească) and Moldavia (in Romanian: Moldova), became involved in the events in Hungary, and how the rebel Hungarian Prince Bocskai tried to support the Movilă (Mogila) ruling family, which was acting in concert with him. During the Fifteen Years’ War, known as the Long Turkish War (1591/93–1606), Wallachia and Moldavia changed sides several times and had become vassals of the Ottoman sultan by the end of the war. The famous family of Moldavian voivodes, the Movilās, at one time held both Romanian Voivodeships. Jeremiah ruled in Moldavia, with Simion in Wallachia, but the latter was dethroned by the Porte. At the time of Bocskai’s uprising, a new voivode, Radu Șerban (r. 1602–1611), ruled in the Wallachian province and maintained good relations with the Habsburgs. Overthrowing Radu Șerban was in the common interests of the rebellious Hungarian prince and the Movilās, and they sought to achieve this primarily through diplomatic means. Later in the fratricidal war between the Movilās, the Poles intervened on the Moldavian succession issue, in opposition to the Hungarians.

The next entry, “Ego-network of István Bocskai in the Light of His Correspondence (1576–1598),” is similar to the above thematically. It was written by Krisztina Juhász, whose dissertation topic is the exploration and analysis of István Bocskai’s correspondence throughout his life. The period examined in this study encompasses 134 items and concerns Bocskai’s youth before he came to prominence in the po-

litical life of Transylvania. Bocskai rose to the most important military position in Transylvania, the Commander-in-chief of Várad (present day Oradea, in Romania; in Hungarian: Nagyvárad, in German: Großwardein), through the support of the Báthory family. Since Bocskai was the brother-in-law of István Báthory's brother, Kristóf, and for a time the guardian of the young Prince Sigismund Báthory (r. 1581–1602) as his uncle, it is not surprising that his relationship with the Polish chancellor Jan Zamoyski was also very significant.

Gellért Ernő Marton's contribution is closely linked to the peace negotiations that took place in the 17th century on the Hungarian-Ottoman border of that time, namely Gyarmat and Szőny (now the stretch of the Danube between Komárom and Esztergom on the border of Slovakia and Hungary). In this study "Three Hungarian Diplomats' Emissary Diaries – A Comparative Analysis of Emissary Diaries of János Rimay, Gáspár Tassy and Mihály Tholdalagi in the Context of the 1627 Peace Treaty of Szőny," he has analysed the three surviving diaries related to the first peace negotiations in Szőny. The paper focuses on the peace negotiations, primarily by analysing the circulation of information. It should be stressed that the system of peace negotiations at the Hungarian borders at that time was established during the Long Turkish War, and the most famous negotiation was the one at the mouth of the River Zsitva on the Danube (Zsitvatorok 1606). It was also at this time that they established the system of how preliminary agreements (*temessük* in Turkish) were finalised and ratified, how they were passed on to the rulers, and what kind of diplomatic missions were responsible for carrying out this important task.

The next paper is "The Habsburg and Transylvanian Aims Related to the Campaign of the Ottomans against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1634)," by János Szabados, discusses an affair that had an impact on Poland, Hungary, the Habsburgs, and the Ottomans. In 1634, Sultan Murad IV ordered Prince György Rákóczi I (r. 1631–1648) to participate in a campaign against Poland, but this came to nothing. Understanding Ottoman military logic, it is certain that similar orders went to the rulers of both Wallachia and Moldavia as well as the Crimean Khanate. Although it is not known exactly which group of Ottomans wanted the war, we do know that the former Pasha of Buda, Murteza, was against the plan. The author mainly used archival material from the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, which made it possible for him to study the reactions of the decision-makers of the Habsburg Monarchy. Their reaction was to send a diplomatic mission immediately to Istanbul to dissuade the Sultan from attacking. Eventually, a war did break out, but on the Persian front thousands of kilometres to the east instead of on the Polish front.

The next entry is by Hajnalka Tóth, "Thirty Years in the Service of the Habsburgs. Insight into the Devoted Work of the Turkish Dragoman (Interpreter) Johann Adam Lachowitz (1678–1709)." The author is a colleague at the Department of Medieval and Early Modern Hungarian History in Szeged, and a permanent external member of the research group. At some point, any researcher of diplomatic relations in this period starts to take an interest in individuals who facilitated diplomatic relations through their service despite not being the main decision-makers. One such person was the nearly completely forgotten Johann Adam Lachowitz, who served for a long time as

an interpreter while also carrying out a minor but important diplomatic assignment. This article uses the example of Lachowitz to illustrate the way in which interpreters were trained and the network of contacts in which they operated. Lachowitz began his career with the help of his mother, an influential courtier, who provided him with the assignment as an interpreter. It is a legitimate question to wonder why he is not remembered in the historical literature. Perhaps the most obvious answer is that his contemporary, Michael Talman, would go on to found a dynasty of interpreters in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, casting a shadow over his equally talented but less fortunate colleagues.

It is generally believed that the Austro-Hungarian Empire was a common homeland for a wide variety of nationalities and religious groups. However, Kamil Ruszała's study "Fellow Citizens or Aliens? Galician Refugees during the First World War in Hungary" points out that not everyone was an equally favoured child of the common homeland. Masses of people fled to the interior of the country from the area of the Eastern front during the First World War to avoid the fighting, but they were not all equally welcome. Although the title of the study refers to the reception and settlement in Hungary of the refugees in general and the problems associated with this, the author has focused his research mostly on the Orthodox Jews of Galicia and Bukovina. He concludes that refugees were not properly supported in Hungary and were seen as foreigners. A careful reading of the study reveals that the situation of Orthodox Jewish refugees was no better in the Austrian and Czech territories of the Monarchy that they preferred. The question arises whether the Hungarian effort to relocate the refugees in Hungary to the Austrian territories as soon as possible may have been due to the characteristics of the dual state and the fact that the refugees were not originally from the Kingdom of Hungary.

During the Second World War, Poles relived the experience of their country being under foreign military occupation again after a few decades of independence. This caused a mass exodus that has been a crucial factor in Polish-Turkish relations. The fate of Polish refugees in the Ottoman Empire stretches back for centuries. The role of the refugees of the Second World War is identical to that of the members of earlier refugee waves, in that they played a major role in Ottoman and Turkish modernisation efforts. During the Second World War, Poles played a major role in Turkish aircraft design and construction, for instance. An overview of this can be found in Karolina Wanda Olszawska's article, "Polish Contributors to the Modern Turkish State."

Two of the studies depart from the traditional historical approach in their topics, but both are useful in the field of historical research. The first of these is a paper by Gergely Brandl of the University of Szeged which introduces us into the ongoing philological issues of the Latin editions of the Hungarian/Habsburg–Ottoman peace treaties, "Suggestions on an Editorial Guideline of the Latin Language Peace Treaties between the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empire Based on an 18th-century Case Study." The author has dealt in general with Latin written records about witch hunts in the 18th century in his doctoral dissertation, and has recently published a volume of legal sources from the court proceedings. His study is a very elaborate set of principles for publishing the Latin ratifications of the Habsburg-Ottoman peace treaties.

In addition to a theoretical introduction, the work presents a guideline with numerous details that offers suggestions ranging from the headings of the documents, through the standardisation of transcriptions, to the creation of notes.

The study by Nóra Szisz, “The ‘Storms and Turns of History’: Emigration Narratives in the 20th Century in Polish and Hungarian History Textbooks.” This examines the current issue of migrants and compares approaches in Polish and Hungarian secondary school textbooks, drawing on considerable international literature. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, there was a great deal of emigration to the New World from both the Polish territories and the Kingdom of Hungary. The powerful effect of this can still be seen today in the United States, for example. The descendants of Polish immigrants are clearly present in the culture of their new homeland and in all areas of government. The paper of Nóra Szisz confirms that the role of Polish emigration to their new homeland is much more profoundly reflected in Polish textbooks.

To conclude this preface, I would like to emphasise that the structure of this book and the content of the studies in it show that Polish and Hungarian historiography have a great deal in common, a result of their similar histories. The Krakow workshop, as I mentioned above, is the outcome of a fortuitous turn of events. However, looking at the work that the departments of the two universities have been engaged in during their decades of cooperation, it does not in the end seem to be a coincidence that this new opportunity has been seized to re-establish their cooperation. The content of the volume was finalised in March 2020, and since then only technical editing has been performed.

To conclude this introduction, I would like to thank our Polish colleagues for their kind hospitality in Krakow. We look forward to welcoming participants to Szeged once it is possible. At the same time, we thank them for the acceptance of our publications in their prestigious and respected journal of history, *Prace Historyczne*.

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