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## THE HUNGARIAN MONUMENT PROTECTION FROM 1957 TO 1990 THROUGH THE LENS OF ITS PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL

The nationwide monument protection system was (re)established in Hungary in 1957 and operated uninterruptedly during the previous political system. Even though by now both the profession and its institutional system has been transformed numerous times, the dedicated professional journal, entitled “Monument Protection” (“Műemlékvédelem”), has been continuously published since 1957. It was first published by the Union of Hungarian Architects and from 1960 the National Monument Protection Inspectorate (OMF) had operated as the main publisher until the end of the researched period in 1990. It describes and discusses case studies, theoretical investigations and informs colleagues and the interested nationwide audience about the international norms and trends in that field. This contribution looks at the first circa three decades (1957-1990) of this journal as a basis to investigate the profession in Hungary, its operational scope as well as its national and international status. This investigation contributes not just to exploration of an important historical period through a specialized profession but to understanding of our contemporary built environment and the views and concepts behind them as well. The research process involves analysis of printed materials (such as policies or conference publications) as well as interviews with members of the profession. The current contribution takes into consideration the first 33 years of the publication by looking at both its content, structure and language. Comparative and discourse analysis were conducted to understand both the given period of the Hungarian profession and the role of the journal in question. The aim of the article is to discuss the self-representation of the Hungarian monument protection profession during the researched period (1957-1990) not just by presenting the history of the field but also by investigating tasks and challenges that Hungarian monument professionals identified themselves as re-

sponsible for. "Monument Protection" serves also as a great basis for comparative analysis together with other Hungarian publications or even as a basis for international comparison with alike foreign journals.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE JOURNAL

Monument protection, as a practice, a profession, and a discipline taught on the highest educational level in Hungary had started already in 1846, and was first institutionalized in 1872. However due to historical reasons (such as the World Wars) the nation-wide umbrella institution of the profession, the National Monument Protection Inspectorate (OMF) was established only in 1957. In the same year, the scientific journal "Monument Protection" was established. It has been published uninterruptedly as the professional journal of the field in Hungary despite the fact that both the profession and its national institution have gone through numerous changes and present a very vivid history. Hence, the journal serves as an outstanding mirror of the profession, the national achievements and challenges. Moreover, during the research period between 1957 and 1990, the same person served as the chief editor. László Gerő (1909-1995) was an architect, historian of architecture and an outstanding figure of and for Hungarian monument protection. Among numerous other projects, he worked significantly on the rehabilitation of the (that time uncovered) medieval parts of the Buda castle after World War II.<sup>1</sup> His constant role as the chief editor also ensures the consistency of the journal considering its program. Hence the publication's goals and program has not been interrupted with personal changes and fluctuations due to editor's change. The publisher was also relatively constant in the researched period (1957-1990). Besides the first 3 years when the Union of the Hungarian Architects published the journal, National Monument Protection Inspectorate (OMF) was the main publisher.

"Monument Protection" has been published since its establishment 4-6 times a year, but during the researched period always quarterly issues were released. Unlike the number of published issues in a year, the number of editorial sections within each issue varied over the decades depending on the contemporary circumstances and available materials.<sup>2</sup> Every issue contains a handful research articles about different topics and Reports in a separate section, presenting official regulations and publications. Later in time, this Report section also incorporated laudations of outstanding colleagues who passed away in the given year. Since 1959, News, Publication Reviews and Recommendations serve as separate units within the issues. The title of these sections has varied over the years due to their

<sup>1</sup> László Gerő, *A helyreállított budai vár* (Budapest: Műszaki Kiadó, 1980).

<sup>2</sup> There were other publications of the National Monument Protection Inspectorate, such as the yearbooks between – but not continuously – 1960 and 2007.

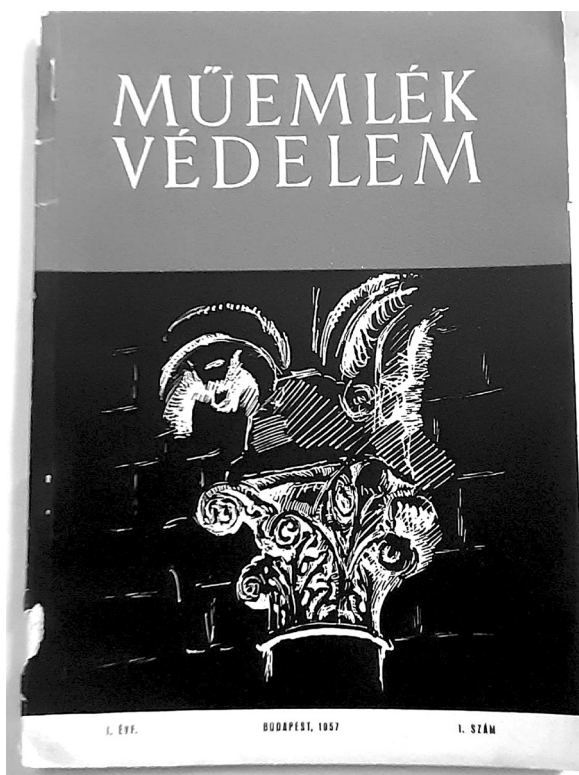


Fig. 1. “Műemlékvédelem” („Monument Protection”), a front cover of the first issue from 1957. Photo: Author

actual content. For instance, the Recommendations were named either Practical Recommendations, Professional Recommendations or “just” Recommendations depending on the content of the articles in this unit. Similarly, the Publication Reviews was named either Book Reviews or Book- and Journal Reviews depending on the genres of introduced publications. During the 1960s, other sections were added such as Report on Foreign Visits / Report on Research Journeys and Readers’ Notes. During this decade there were also specific program-related, short-lived initiatives. One could find f. e. Monument-stop. New program for Drivers and Tourists and Attention! Both provided suggestions and recommendations for the named target groups and aimed at promoting monuments worth-visiting throughout the country. During the 1970s, the Dying Monuments as a separate unit appeared in the issues of “Monument Protection” and from the mid-1980s other new columns were introduced: Short News and Reactions. Hence, only the research articles and the Reports have been the constant, unchanging component

of the journal issues, still the forming variety also gives a sign of the covered topics and the contemporary intentions or main concerns of the professionals behind the journal.

From another point of view, a different categorization can be introduced, based on the topics of the articles. Case studies are the most numerous contributions published during the researched decades (and even today too). These articles introduce specific locations,<sup>3</sup> areas (such as cities or whole counties)<sup>4</sup> usually describing the already accomplished work. Interestingly, the geographical expansion of the introduced topics (or accomplished works) shows a kind of chronological order. We can assume that the Hungarian monument protection institution system, the profession and other outside circumstances influenced the possibility to increase the scope of work and attention of the members of this profession throughout the decades. Numerous case studies do not focus on geographical location but rather on typology<sup>5</sup> or a certain topic within the monument protection profession.<sup>6</sup> It can be assumed that due to the highly specialized character of the journal the influence of everyday politics, short-term issues or non-professional questions appear less in the content of the researched articles. They rather focus on either very specific case studies or major professional issues and typological questions. Only for the current analytical reasons, as no differentiation appeared in the journal, the significant amounts of articles about foreign topics or issues can be named as one content-based type of the publications in the researched journal. These articles usually cover wider geographical ranges such as whole countries<sup>7</sup> or focus on a genre.<sup>8</sup> There are texts that focus on a typological topic<sup>9</sup> and critically analyze it or focus on contemporary issues.<sup>10</sup>

The Reports of the accomplishments of professional organizations (more precisely, departments within the nation-wide umbrella institution),<sup>11</sup> topics<sup>12</sup> and

<sup>3</sup> Géza Entz, „Műemléki kérdések Esztergomban”, *Műemlékvédelem* 1 (1957): 3-6.

<sup>4</sup> László Gerő, „A műemlékvédelmi elvek fejlődése az Osztrák-Magyar Monarchiában és Csehszlovákiában”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 241-244.

<sup>5</sup> László Bérei, „A Fejér megyei köztéri szoborállomány fölmérése”, *Műemlékvédelem* 33 (1989): 224-228.

<sup>6</sup> László Császár, „Régebbi épületek újabb térlefedései”, *Műemlékvédelem* 34 (1990): 169-179.

<sup>7</sup> Anna Zádor, „Múzeumok és könyvtárak az USA-ban”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 32-35.

<sup>8</sup> Miklós Kalmár, „Történelmi városközpontok Ausztriában. (Tanulmányút)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 20 (1976): 181-187.

<sup>9</sup> János ifj. Brenner, „A gráci óváros fejlesztési koncepciója – példa a városléptékű műemlék védelemre”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 300-302.

<sup>10</sup> Géza Barcza, „50 éves a szocialista műemlékvédelem”, *Műemlékvédelem* 11 (1968): 193-199.

<sup>11</sup> Géza Entz, „Jelentés az Országos Műemléki Felügyelőség 1958. évi munkájáról”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 65-74.

<sup>12</sup> Károly Örsi, „Az elmúlt 10 év kertépítési eredményei a műemlékvédelemben”, *Műemlékvédelem* 15 (1971): 129-147.

of scholarly events<sup>13</sup> form the second most numerous content category. From the 1970s these reports also included articles about outstanding individuals as well (on the occasion of their birthdays)<sup>14</sup> or in order to commemorate their life achievements.<sup>15</sup> An important aspect worth stressing is that Hungarian professionals, who worked at the National Monument Protection Inspectorate were involved not just in the international professional discussions, but also taught at the highest, university level. In this way, the continuous knowledge throughout generations could be ensured and direct connections within the profession could form.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, monument protection professionals were closely connected to other professional and scientific disciplines such as ethnographers, geographers and archeologists. Such cooperation and the interdisciplinary aspect of each and every monument protection project were discussed in the researched journal as well<sup>17</sup> regarding identical case studies<sup>18</sup> and on a more general level (f.e. the role of numismatics in monument protection).<sup>19</sup>

The next separate category of the journal content is named Publication Reviews. Within this editorial unit both Hungarian<sup>20</sup> and foreign publications<sup>21</sup> as well as book-<sup>22</sup> and journal reviews<sup>23</sup> can be found. It should be stressed that this is one of the most constant group of articles in the reviewed issues of the journal “Monument Protection” between 1957 and 1990. Interestingly, from the 1970s a kind of self-historiographical trend can be traced. More and more articles published in the journal in this decade, served as literature reviews, introducing various sources for many aspects of the profession such as history of the architecture or archaeological research.<sup>24</sup> Even though the Readers’ Notes unit was

<sup>13</sup> Dezső Dercsényi, Miklós Horler, „Beszámoló az 1964. évi velencei II. Nemzetközi Műemlékvédelmi Kongresszusról”, *Műemlékvédelem* 4 (1964): 193-201.

<sup>14</sup> László Gerő, „Major Máté 70 éves”, *Műemlékvédelem* 18 (1974): 109-110.

<sup>15</sup> László Gerő, „Dr. Péczely Béla (1898-1971)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 15 (1971): 238-239.

<sup>16</sup> Géza Entz, „Dercsényi Dezső és a magyar műemléki topográfia”, *Magyar Szemle, Új folyam* 1-2 (2014): 28-47.

<sup>17</sup> Károly Örsi, „Természetvédelem, erdőszet és műemlékvédelem kapcsolatai”, *Műemlékvédelem* 14 (1970): 85-91.

<sup>18</sup> Csaba Bende, „Közvilágítás a városképben”, *Műemlékvédelem* 21 (1977): 60-64.

<sup>19</sup> Lajos Huszár, „Az érem szerepe a műemlékkutatásban”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 218-224.

<sup>20</sup> Béla Péczely, „Magyarország műemléki topográfiája. V-VI. Pest megye műemlékei. 1-2. Budapest, 1958; Építés- és Közlekedéstudományi Közlemények, I. 1957. (Ismertetés)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 55-56.

<sup>21</sup> László Gerő, „Az UNESCO Features. (Ismertetés)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 12 (1968): 256.

<sup>22</sup> Mihály Köhegyi, „Hajdú Lajos: II. József igazgatási reformjai Magyarországon. Budapest, 1982. (Ismertetés)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 26 (1983): 317.

<sup>23</sup> Erik Fügedi, „900 Jahr Festung Hohensalzburg. Salzburg, 1971. (Ismertetés)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 93-94.

<sup>24</sup> László Borsos, „Adalékok a Pest Megyei Tanács székházának építéstörténetéhez”, *Műemlékvédelem* 19 (1975): 153-156.

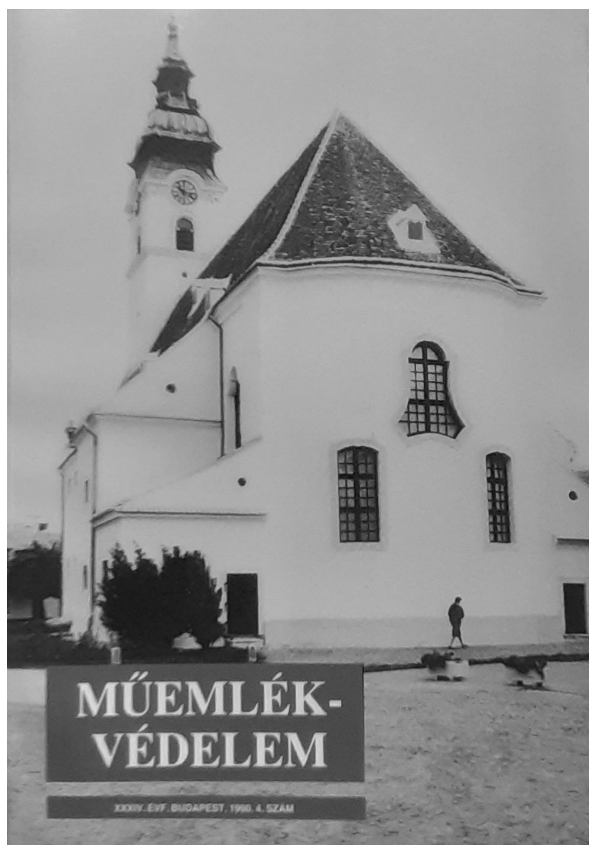


Fig. 2. “Műemlékvédelem” („Monument Protection”), a front cover of the fourth issue of 1990. Photo: Author

only introduced in 1964, the dialogical aspect could be identified even earlier, when certain articles are explicitly engaged in conversation with previous texts.<sup>25</sup> These articles clearly show the intention that the journal would serve as a platform of communication within the professional community (see, for instance, the published discussion about the ruined church in Zsámbék in 1961<sup>26</sup>) and with the general public<sup>27</sup> as well. Hence, “Monument Protection” serves as an outstanding source to analyze the history, achievements and challenges of this specialized

<sup>25</sup> Mihály Détshy, „Válasz Molnár Józsefnek „Eger török műemlékei” kérdésében”, *Műemlékvédelem* 8 (1964): 64.

<sup>26</sup> Jenő Ébner, „Néhány szó a zsámbéki templomról”, Gerő László, „Válasz Ébner Jenőnek”, *Műemlékvédelem* 5 (1961): 186-188.

<sup>27</sup> András Román, „Turisták figyelme! Balatoni tórák?”, *Műemlékvédelem* 11 (1967): 121-124.



profession. The investigation decodes these articles based on their content by analyzing what are the major topics and emphasis regarding the profession. One of the main subjects of the analyzed articles is the nationwide umbrella institution. The following section discusses what kind of information and perceptions were published about the National Monument Protection Inspectorate (OMF). It also researches the named characteristics, issues and challenges that monument protection professionals faced with in the researched period based on the published articles.

#### THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF MONUMENT PROTECTION THROUGH THE ARTICLES OF “MONUMENT PROTECTION”

The nationwide institution system of monument protection that was supposed to harmonize the processes from the local to the highest national level and combine diverse necessary professions was reestablished in 1957 after turbulent years of the post-World War II and the 1956 revolution and freedom fight. The title of the institution was National Monument Protection Inspectorate (OMF)<sup>28</sup> and it operated until 1992. Even at its early stage, monument protection was assigned to fulfill highly complex tasks similar to the later named and defined heritagization.<sup>29</sup> That can be seen in a policy paper as well, in the section 4 at Point H of the government decision numbered 1045/1957, which says:

Cultural Ministry fulfills the cultural policy tasks related to monuments (the utilization of monuments, adaptation of the aesthetics and historical values of monuments at the education and community management, propagandistic activities – and archaeological tasks related to monuments).<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> István Tilinger, „A magyar műemlékvédelem jellegzetességei”, in: *Az Egri Nyári Egyetem előadásai*, ed. Géza Barcza (Budapest: Építésügyi Tájékoztatói Központ Nyomdaüzeme, 1978), 19-26.

<sup>29</sup> Heritagization is the complex process of achieving and maintaining heritage status that is related to the identification, maintenance, safeguarding and popularization of any example of named heritage. It is often accompanied by a certain reinterpretation of the past and modification of memories. The process is realized in territorially and chronologically defined steps and alludes to the character of the remembering community and its values as well. Heritagization leads to a change in the understanding of the given example and the interconnections, interactions and exchanges within and outside the inheritor community. Despite the different emphasis, most understandings of the term share the emphasis on its socialembodiedness, and also points to its certain representation-building and reinforcing role as well (see Susan Ashley, „Re-telling, Re-cognition, Re-stitution: Sikh Heritagization in Canada”, *Cultura – International Journal of Philosophy of Culture and Axiology* 2 (2014): 39-58 and Per Åke Nilsson, „Impact of Cultural Heritage on Tourists. The Heritagization Process”, *Athens Journal of Tourism* 1 (2018): 35-54.

<sup>30</sup> Ágnes Ságvári, *Források Budapest múltjából V./b 1954-1958* (Budapest: Budapest Főváros Levéltára, 1988), 324.

Similarly, the titles of the articles published in the journal of “Monument Protection” in the first year show similar variety, such as *Monument protection issues at the renovations of apartment buildings in Budapest*,<sup>31</sup> *The Hungarian urban landscape*,<sup>32</sup> *The art of decorative objects*<sup>33</sup> and *Monument protection and landscape architecture*.<sup>34</sup> At the early stage the National Monument Protection Inspectorate was consisted of three departments: Department of Planning and Construction, Department of Monument Protection, Department of Science that also points to the complexity of tasks.<sup>35</sup> All three fields of institutional activity can be seen among the contents of published articles as well. The reports about the accomplished construction works,<sup>36</sup> the practical recommendations regarding certain specific monument protection issue or task<sup>37</sup> and articles based on historical research<sup>38</sup> correspond well with the three departments. The interrelatedness of monument protection to many other disciplines and professions was ensured also by the classification of the National Monument Protection Inspectorate under the Ministry of Construction and later Ministry of Construction and Urban Development.<sup>39</sup> Accordingly, uniquely even within the European context, monument protection was an integral part of any construction work and urban development process on national level. The head of the state wide monument protection inspectorate, Ferenc Merényi, pointed to the same characteristic in his ceremonial speech on the centennial of the inauguration of monument protection in Hungary in 1972:

The assurance of legal, institutional, financial, human and tangible possibilities led to the result that today the Hungarian institute for monument protection is (in terms of its status and structure) capable of realizing complex and challenging projects that promote socialism within the economic and social environment. The inspectorate form [of the institute] provides a basis for uniting and controlling the entire monument collection [of the country].<sup>40</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Miklós Horler, „Műemlékhelyreállítások Budapesten a lakóháztatarozások során”, *Műemlékvédelem* 1 (1957): 114-120.

<sup>32</sup> Pál Granasztói, „A magyar városkép”, *Műemlékvédelem* 1 (1957): 7-19.

<sup>33</sup> Gyula Kaesz, „A szép tárgyak művészete”, *Műemlékvédelem* 1 (1957): 96-109.

<sup>34</sup> Imre Ormos, „Műemlékvédelem és kertművészet”, *Műemlékvédelem* 1 (1957): 51-54.

<sup>35</sup> Noémi Viskolcz, „A veszteség gondos dokumentálása. A kulturális örökségvédelem intézményrendszerének változásai a rendszerváltás után (1990–2015)”, in: *Sodrásban képzések, kutatások (1975–2015)*, eds. Sütő Erika et al. (Szeged: Szegedi Egyetemi Kiadó and Juhász Gyula Felsőoktatási Kiadó, 2016), 129-142.

<sup>36</sup> Ferenc Erdei, „A tatai vár helyreállítása”, *Műemlékvédelem* 15 (1971): 80-82.

<sup>37</sup> Piroska A. Czétényi, „Középkori falképek helyreállítása a pesti Belvárosi templomban. (Gyakorlati tanácsadó)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 14 (1970): 239-245.

<sup>38</sup> András Gergelyffy, „A műemlékvédelem múltjából. (Henszlmann Imre és a bélapátfalvi templom)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 11 (1958): 205-210.

<sup>39</sup> Béla Péczely, „Vidéki műemléki bizottságok megalakulása”, *Műemlékvédelem* 2 (1957): 123-124.

<sup>40</sup> Tibor Merényi, „Százéves a magyar műemlékvédelem”, in: *Az Egri Nyári Egyetem*



Besides other operational and administrative units, the Party had “direct” influence in the operation. State representatives intended to protect those reminiscences of the past that served their ideological aims and helped to control the society. Such circumstances led to a kind of selection of what steps could be undertaken and what could not be materialized. Many representatives published writings about socialist monument protection, in which for example discussed “the professional activity that is realized for the bigger public in order to generate the required emotional, ethical and ideological effect.”<sup>41</sup> Others emphasized even the professional superiority of the Eastern bloc. For example, Dezső Dercsényi,<sup>42</sup> wrote in his report about a 20-day long trip in USSR that

Besides the connecting tasks and solutions that are due to our common ideological basis and the socio-historical situation we got to know some methods in certain sub-fields that are worth to follow even in comparison to the most improved Western monument protection examples.<sup>43</sup>

In the analyzed journal articles were dedicated to introduce Soviet monument protection regulations<sup>44</sup> or to analyze protected memories of ideologically driven examples in Budapest.<sup>45</sup> However, it is important to emphasize that these circumstances and tasks characterized the period and such essays not necessary defined the political standpoints of the authors. Still the topic of political and ideological influence was present in the journal as well as in the everyday tasks of these professionals. One of the probably most explicit influences of the contemporary ideology on the work of Hungarian monument protection professionals was the way in which monument buildings had to be utilized as a “mirror [of] the new lifestyle, the socialist message.”<sup>46</sup> Listed buildings are meant to be part of the contemporary urban structure with existing functions. For this reason, their management

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*előadásai*, ed. Barcza Géza (Eger: Heves Megyei Tudományos Ismeretterjesztő Társulat és Országos Műemlékvédelmi Felügyelőség, 1972), 11.

<sup>41</sup> László Császár, „A szocialista műemlékvédelem elvi kérdései”, in: *Magyar Műemlékvédelem 1969-1970 Országos Műemléki Felügyelőség Kiadványai 6*, eds. Dercsényi, Dezső et al. (Budapest: Országos Műemlékvédelmi Felügyelőség, 1972), 77-82.

<sup>42</sup> Dezső Dercsényi (1910-1987) was an outstanding monument protection specialist and art historian, who fulfilled numerous leading positions at diverse units at the central monument protection institution, and published regularly in the *Monument Protection*.

<sup>43</sup> Dezső Dercsényi, „Műemlékvédelem a Szovjetunióban”, in: *Magyar Műemlékvédelem 1959-1960 Országos Műemléki Felügyelőség Kiadványai 2*, eds. Dercsényi, Dezső et al. (Budapest: Országos Műemléki Felügyelőség 1964), 12.

<sup>44</sup> Igor Pavlov, „2055. szovjet törvény a műemlékvédelemről. (Tájékoztató)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 21 (1980): 207.

<sup>45</sup> Pirooska A. Czétényi, „Műemléki védettség alatt álló munkásmozgalmi emlékek a Fővárosban”, *Műemlékvédelem* 21 (1977): 291-292.

<sup>46</sup> Ferenc Sebő, „A Népművészeti Intézettől a Hagyományok Házáig”, *Szín* 6 (2007): 20.

was not limited to documentation, but they have to be adapted to contemporary circumstances.<sup>47</sup> Accordingly, monument professionals ensured their adaptability with certain level of modernization or with changed function.<sup>48</sup> Besides service goals, such as schools or post offices,<sup>49</sup> numerous listed buildings were utilized as locations of free time activities such as motels,<sup>50</sup> so within these state-owned buildings and institutions the society could be directed and controlled in their free time as well. The aim to change the representation of old buildings and practices as being useless and shameful was also due to the country's economic situation and incapability of establishing continuously new buildings and cities.<sup>51</sup>

Although the reminiscences of the past were also allusions to previous ideological or social systems (like feudalism), their appreciation might have led to contradiction. József Révai, the minister of public education at the beginning of the 1950s solved this possible paradox by emphasizing the fact that every monument symbolizes the creativity of the people. This notion spread in many forums as well, such as in the "Museum News," where László Gerő, the chief editor of the researched journal wrote:

The artistic and historical memories were realized by the extensive effort and artistic talent of the working class. Monuments are [...] effective educational tools of the new type of patriotism and the enforcement of the socialist-type national pride.<sup>52</sup>

Accordingly, religious buildings<sup>53</sup> and architectures connected to non-working class units of the society, such as noble architectures,<sup>54</sup> monuments of the national minorities<sup>55</sup> or vernacular structures<sup>56</sup> could be the subject of monument protection as well as numerous articles in the researched journal. The monument professionals creatively adapted the ideological interpretation and this way, they

<sup>47</sup> Piroška A. Czétényi, „Óbuda történeti városmagja és a városrész rekonstrukciója”, *Műemlékvédelem* 21 (1977): 264-274

<sup>48</sup> István Cseh, Sándor Kuthy, „Üzletek műemléképületekben”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 159-161.

<sup>49</sup> Aurél Budai, „Ápolónő képzőiskola egy Ybl palotában”, *Műemlékvédelem* 14 (1970): 216-220.

<sup>50</sup> Ferenc Mendele, „Hollókő műemléki jelentőségű területének védelme”, *Műemlékvédelem* 13 (1969): 201-211.

<sup>51</sup> Zsuzsanna Beck, János Sedlmayr, „Holt műemlékeink helyreállítása és felhasználása”, *Műemlékvédelem* 1 (1957): 37-50.

<sup>52</sup> László Gerő, „Műemlékvédelem társadalmi munkában”, *Múzeumi Híradó* 2 (1951): 29.

<sup>53</sup> Géza Entz, „A soproni Szentlélek-templom újabban előkerült gótikus részletei”, *Műemlékvédelem* 2 (1958): 35-36.

<sup>54</sup> Frigyes Pogány, „Várépítészetünk”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 126-127.

<sup>55</sup> Sándor Bálint, „A szegedi szerb templom”, *Műemlékvédelem* 24 (1981): 156-159.

<sup>56</sup> Anikó Gazda, „Népi műemlékeink fenntartása településeink jellegének megőrzésére”, *Műemlékvédelem* 21 (1977): 91-95.

were able to support the protection of a variety of monuments throughout the country. Even today most of the listed buildings are marked with signs from the researched period, and also in many cases that was the last professional maintenance on the given monument.

The constantly increasing Inspectorate had almost 1200 employees by the mid-1970s. At that time additional departments characterized the operation such as the Construction Department and the Planning and Coordination Department. The latter one was responsible for coordinating social engagement, the international relations and the research and innovations task of the time. These “new” tasks were discussed in the journal as well, for instance by emphasizing that monument profession goals are not profession-specific but universal and social ones<sup>57</sup> or by introducing long-term plans.<sup>58</sup> Among others, the introduction of the National Monument and Museum Month in 1977 was one of the projects that supposed to direct the public attention to preserved monuments.<sup>59</sup> Similar to other Eastern European countries, “back-to-the-roots” initiatives were proposed to rediscover the history and culture of the countryside and to propagate local monuments and sites. Probably the most successful of such initiatives in Hungary started also in 1977 and has existed for decades: Regions, Ages and Museums.<sup>60</sup> This was a network organization, on one hand, that united important cultural sites all over the country, advertised them with a series of publications, and on the other hand, this initiative was also a national competition, with which the public was urged to explore local monuments and landscapes (e. g. parks) all over the country.<sup>61</sup> Many its publications were written by authors of the analyzed journal, and the project itself was discussed in the issues of the “Monument Protection” as well.<sup>62</sup>

Considering the number of reports about international professional events (conferences, workshops etc.) published in the journal between 1970 and 1980 a significant increase (circa 30%) can be seen, showing the developing international relations and networks of the Hungarian professionals. Interestingly, this could be done also because the leadership of the country evaluated monument protection as a possible tool with which the international status of the country can

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<sup>57</sup> Pál Romány, „A műemlék: mindannyiunk közös értéke és a közcélt szolgálja. Üdvözlét a Műemléki Albizottságok XI. országos értekezletének,” *Műemlékvédelem* 25 (1984): 97-98.

<sup>58</sup> Ferenc Mendele, „A magyar műemlékvédelem távlati feladatai”, *Műemlékvédelem* 25 (1981): 5-13.

<sup>59</sup> András Román, „Kastélysors 1945-1987”, *Magyar Építőipar* 9-10 (1987): 453.

<sup>60</sup> The still existing website and more information can be found: <https://www.tkme.hu/magunkrol> [accessed 10 XII 2021].

<sup>61</sup> Judit Lenárt, „Ötesztendő a Tájak-Korok-Múzeumok mozgalom”, *Honismeret* 2 (1983): 8-9.

<sup>62</sup> László Gerő, „Tájak - Korok - Múzeumok. (Ismeretetés)”, *Műemlékvédelem* 31 (1987): 296.

be increased.<sup>63</sup> Besides numerous prestigious international meetings and cooperation in Hungary, in 1972, the third general assembly of ICOMOS was organized in Budapest with approximately four hundred participants.<sup>64</sup> This latter event also encouraged more intensive international relations between professionals and researchers both in the Western and Eastern part of Europe.<sup>65</sup> For instance, the fourth meeting of Comecon countries about the protection of vernacular architectures through unified tools took place in Budapest and Szombathely in 1977.<sup>66</sup> Moreover, the ratification of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention happened in Hungary in 1985, among the first European countries of the Eastern bloc after Bulgaria, Poland and Finland.<sup>67</sup> However, it is important to emphasize that members of the monument protection profession had established international relations even before the 1970s. Representatives of Hungary were present on the formation of the Venice Charter in 1964 and reported about the events in the “Monument Protection”<sup>68</sup>. Analyses of the international documents have been crucial elements of the analyzed journal as well.<sup>69</sup> Similarly, Mohammed El Fazi, the president of the Executive Board at the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO meeting in 1966 pointed out the achievements of the Hungarian profession by saying: “Appreciating the outstanding work done by the Government of Hungary for the preservation, presentation and continued use of monuments and cultural property.”<sup>70</sup> The intensive international relations of the profession were present on personal level as well: more and more invited foreign authors published in the issues of “Monument Protection” too.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>63</sup> János Rainer M., “Magyarország és a világ” in: *A Kádár-korszak 1956-1989*, Rainer M. János, (Budapest: Kossuth Kiadó, 2010), 68-74.

<sup>64</sup> András Román, „Az ICOMOS III. közgyűlése és kollokviuma”, in: *Magyar Műemlékvédelem (1971–1972)*, eds. Dercsényi, Dezső et al. (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1972), 385-401.

<sup>65</sup> Géza Entz, László Gerő, „Műemlékvédelmi tapasztalatok szocialista országokban”, in: *Magyar Műemlékvédelem 1959-1960*, 14.

<sup>66</sup> Endre Füzes, „Tendenciák a magyar falu építészetében és lakáskultúrája alakulásában a második világháború után”, *Agria* 23 (1987): 139-144.

<sup>67</sup> Chronological list of the State Parties of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention can be found: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/> [accessed 10 XII 2021].

<sup>68</sup> Dezső Dercsényi, Miklós Horler, „Beszámoló az 1964. évi velencei II. Nemzetközi Műemlékvédelmi Kongresszusról”, *Műemlékvédelem* 4 (1964): 193-201.

<sup>69</sup> András Román, „Tájékoztató. Az ICOMOS V. kongresszusa”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 362-363.

<sup>70</sup> UNESCO, *Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 72nd session*, 1966, <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001132/113211E.pdf> [accessed 10 XII 2021].

<sup>71</sup> Angelova Rasev, „A korszerű bolgár építészet és a műemlékek megőrzése Bulgáriában”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 80-82. and Heino Widtmann, „Magyar műemlék- védelem osztrák szemmel. Előadás az Egri Nyári Egyetem keretében 1980. augusztus 2-án”, *Műemlékvédelem* 25 (1981): 161-167.

The interconnectedness of research and innovation or practice can be justified by the fact that present-day monument protection issues were widely discussed already in the researched period (1959-1990). For instance, protection was not limited to the given listed building but its surrounding played an equally important role as well from the very beginning.<sup>72</sup> Moreover, legal protection and guidelines were established and ensured by the 1960s, which made it possible not only to protect the given architecture, its immediate surrounding but also to recognize the relevance of the group of buildings or of the whole settlement structures. Such initiative was especially effective where individual architectures might not be evaluated as valuable, but their coexistence represented value.<sup>73</sup> Especially this type of protection made it possible to save street views and even whole settlements.<sup>74</sup> The natural surrounding either in forms of gardens<sup>75</sup> or environmentally protected surrounding<sup>76</sup> formed essential part of the monument protection and acknowledgement as well. Another contemporary, 21<sup>st</sup> century subject was also widely discussed in the articles of the “Monument Protection” issues in the researched period, namely the preservation and management of modern and contemporary architecture. Interesting to point out that both the 30<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Monument Protection Professionals of Hungary in 2021<sup>77</sup> and numerous articles of the “Monument Protection” within the researched period (1957-1990)<sup>78</sup> discuss the topic of protecting architectures from the most recent (post-1945) period.

However, the economic situation of the country, affected by the significant crisis in the 1970s influenced the profession and its umbrella institution, stopping many research activities and investments. The disadvantageous working conditions froze the development of documentation of the monument buildings too. Due to material and housing shortages, valuable buildings were modified

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<sup>72</sup> Ostrowski, W. Szafer, P. and Trzebiwski, W., „A városépítés történetének kutató módszerei”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 247-249.

<sup>73</sup> Géza Barcza, „A területi védelemre vonatkozó műemlékvédelem és egyéb jogszabályok”, in: *Az Egri Nyári Egyetem előadásai*, ed. Barcza Géza (Eger: Heves Megyei Tudományos Ismeretterjesztő Társulat és Országos Műemlékvédelmi Felügyelőség, 1978), 35-43.

<sup>74</sup> Zoltán Polgár, „Védett utcakép Magyarpolányban”, *Műemlékvédelem* 29 (1984): 121-128.

<sup>75</sup> György Péntek, Dezső Szilágyi, „Magyar paraszt- kertjeink”, *Műemlékvédelem* 22 (1978): 342-346.

<sup>76</sup> Antal Csorna, „Bélapátfalva románkori temploma és környezete”, *Műemlékvédelem* 19 (1975): 145.

<sup>77</sup> More information about the conference can be found here: <http://icomos.hu/index.php/hu/rendezvenyek-/orszagos-muemleki-konferencia/xxx> [accessed 10 XII 2021].

<sup>78</sup> Béla Péczely, „Újabb, a mai építészet jelentős dokumentumai közé tartozó épület”, *Műemlékvédelem* IV (1960): 63 and Mihály Kubinszky, „A legújabbkori műemlékek védelmének néhány kérdése”, *Műemlékvédelem* 7 (1963): 90-99.

with cheap materials, quick fixes, and unprofessional techniques or were over-used and demolished.<sup>79</sup> There were no financial and human resources to continue the process of at least documenting the monuments in the country if physical preservation was not possible. The crisis has blocked major projects as well as ongoing constructions.<sup>80</sup> Moreover, many participants offered several complaints about the institutional system to be highly bureaucratic, which slowed down the processes and made the realization of the envisaged projects inefficient or incomplete.<sup>81</sup> The elongated processes can be identified in the analyzed journal as well, just by the fact that the same monument protection project (e.g. about the castle in Tata) is reported (five times) throughout almost two decades. Another specific example can be found in the section of Readers' Notes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of "Monument Protection" in 1983. Zsuzsa Mendöl described vividly the rehabilitation processes at the inner-city of Pécs that prevented numerous monument protection standards due to time- and economic pressures in which the whole blocks of buildings got "reconstructed."<sup>82</sup> In Hungary, the Economic Committee initiated a decree about threatened monuments and palaces in 1981. In that, defining and realizing the adoption of new functions for these buildings were assigned with the necessary fund dedicated to this aim as well. The National Inspectorate of Historic Monuments created a list of those examples that are supported to fulfill touristic functions in the future, including twelve palaces for domestic tourism.<sup>83</sup> This sample also alluded the less advantageous future of the remaining monuments.

## CLOSING REMARKS

In Hungary after the regime change (1989-1990) the state-led central system of monument protection went through numerous restructurings. Partly, due to the fact that many tasks were designated from central state management to local and regional level. For instance, by the *Act LXV of 1990 on Local Governments*, municipalities were assigned with the role of monument protection (§ 107).<sup>84</sup>

<sup>79</sup> András Román, „A műemlék-lakóházak problémái”, in: *Magyar műemlékvédelem 1969–1970*, 315-329.

<sup>80</sup> András Román, „Műemlékvédelem és településfejlesztés”, in: *17. Országos Műemléki Konferencia, red. Román András* (Budapest: Országos Műemlékvédelmi Hivatal, 1993), 11-15.

<sup>81</sup> Géza Tompai, „Területrendezés és fejlesztés és annak műemléki vonatkozásai”, in: *Az Egri Nyári Egyetem előadásai*, ed. Barcza Géza (Eger: Heves Megyei Tudományos Ismeretterjesztő Társulat és Országos Műemlékvédelmi Felügyelőség, 1978), 29-34.

<sup>82</sup> Zsuzsa Mendöl, „Néhány megjegyzés a pécsi belváros tömbrekonstrukcióihoz”, *Műemlékvédelem* 27 (1983): 160-161.

<sup>83</sup> Gézáné Reile, „Műemlékvédelem és idegenforgalom”, *Honismeret* 2 (1984): 3-5.

<sup>84</sup> Act LXV of 1990 on Local Governments, <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?dbnum=1&docid=99000065.TV&mahu=1> [accessed 10 XII 2021].



The strong connection or even continuity from monument protection to cultural heritage management could be realized by the top-level management institution for monument protection: the National Inspectorate of Historic Monuments was renamed to the National Office for the Protection of Historic Monuments in 1992. The next change was to transform it into National Office of Cultural Heritage in 2001, which was followed by the Gyula Forster National Heritage and Asset Management Centre in 2012. It was closed in 2017, when its (already considerably limited) functions were transferred to different ministerial divisions and so-called background institutions. Names of these central institutions clearly show the transformation of the subject from monument to heritage and regarding the tasks and evaluations based on the institutional format from an inspectorate to an asset management center.

It is important to mention that Hungarian professionals in their publications and presentations have always emphasized that dealing with cultural heritage is not a change in their profession but an extra task taken on by many of them.<sup>85</sup> It was even legally ratified in 1997 by emphasizing that monument protection should be contributed in the management of World Heritage examples and National Memorials.<sup>86</sup> Other international scholars identified the same plurality of tasks that are required from monument protection experts by saying: “[T]he expanding roles played by conservation professionals – beyond technical expertise into mediation, facilitation, and embracing stakeholder status – are now widely acknowledged in practice.”<sup>87</sup> Such transformation was realized even though both the subject and the methods of monument protection and heritagization are not the same. As Tamás Fejérdy, conservator and Honorary President of the Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS usually expresses “Every monument is heritage but not all heritage properties are monuments”. This is due to the fact that monuments are always scientifically chosen at national-level whereas a heritage example can be nominated by the inheritor. These transformations as well are assisted by the issues of “Monument Protection,”<sup>88</sup> while keeping the focus on its original field and title.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Katalin Granasztóiné Györffy, „Szellemi örökségünk, a magyar műemlékvédelem”, *Magyar Szemle Újfolym* 3-4 (2013), 80-92.

<sup>86</sup> Act LIV of 1997 on Monument Protection, § 2 (2), <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0100064.tv> [accessed 10 XII 2021].

<sup>87</sup> David Myers, Stacie N. Smith, Gail Ostergren, *Consensus Building, Negotiation, and Conflict Resolution for Heritage Place Management* (Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 2016), 34.

<sup>88</sup> Dániel Thérond, „Igaz-e, hogy még mindig fontos tényező az örökség?”, *Műemlékvédelem* 44 (2000): 265-267.

<sup>89</sup> Pál Lővei, „A határok műemlékvédelme és a műemlékvédelem határai”, *Műemlékvédelem* 50 (2006): 216-222.

This article introduced some of the main topics and characteristics of Hungarian monument protection between 1957-1990, seen from the pages of the journal "Monument Protection". The analysis showed on a methodological level how a professional publication can be adapted for research. Throughout the investigation both the content, the authors and the political and social environment were analyzed in order to understand both the time period and the profession to which the journal is dedicated. From the articles and the complementary research (both literature research and interviews with representatives of the profession) both the chronology of the profession and its nationwide institution could be characterized as well as some of the key features and the main contemporary challenges could be identified. The multiple professions of preservationists being educators, researchers and practitioners resulted in a strong professional community and intense cooperation with the related fields and professions. Similarly, the structure and operation of the nationwide umbrella institute ensured the combination of research and practice by preserving and utilizing previous publications of the field and conducting thorough documentations about contemporary projects. The constant international connections with colleagues from both Eastern and Western countries also supported the high quality of knowledge that was immediately shared among the Hungarian professional community also through the journal in question.<sup>90</sup> Not just the contemporary political and ideological influences challenged the operations but the country's economic situation played a serious role in preventing planned processes from materialization. This focused research exemplifies well that the analysis of a professional journal can provide complex outcomes. Future research can address the reappearing themes and challenges with which members of the profession have to face in a comparative way, or the findings can be compared and contrasted with other national or even international specialized journals for further investigations.

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<sup>90</sup> László Gerő, „A műemlékvédelmi elvek fejlődése az Osztrák-Magyar Monarchiában és Csehszlovákiában”, *Műemlékvédelem* 3 (1959): 241-244.

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## THE HUNGARIAN MONUMENT PROTECTION FROM 1957 TO 1990 THROUGH THE LENS OF ITS PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL

### KEYWORDS:

monument protection, journal analysis, socialist Hungary, state-led nationwide institution, “Monument Protection” (journal)

### SUMMARY

The nationwide monument protection system was (re-)established in Hungary in 1957 and operated uninterruptedly during the previous political system. Even though by now both the profession and its institutional system has been transformed numerous times, the dedicated professional journal, titled “Monument Protection”, has been continuously published since 1957. It was first published by the Union of Hungarian Architects and from 1960 the National Monument Protection Inspectorate (OMF) was the main publisher until the end of the researched period in 1990. It describes and discusses case studies, theoretical investigations and informs colleagues and the interested nationwide audience about the international norms and trends in that field. This contribution looks at the first circa three decades (1957-1990) of this journal as a basis to investigate the profession in Hungary, its operational scope as well as its national and international status.



This investigation contributes not just to exploration of an important historical period through a specialized profession but to understanding of our contemporary built environment and the views and concepts behind them as well. The research process involves analysis of printed materials (such as policies or conference publications) as well as interviews with members of the profession. The current contribution analyzes the first 33 years of the publication by looking at both its content, structure and language. Comparative and discourse analysis were conducted to understand both the given period of the Hungarian profession and the role of the journal in question. The aim of the article is to discuss the self-representation of the Hungarian monument protection profession during the researched period (1957-1990) not just by presenting the history of the field but also by investigating tasks and challenges that Hungarian monument professionals identified themselves. "Monument Protection" serves also as a great basis for comparative analysis together with other Hungarian publications or even as a basis of international comparison with alike foreign journals.

#### WĘGIERSKA OCHRONA ZABYTKÓW W LATACH 1957-1990 Z PERSPEKTYWY BRANŻOWEGO CZASOPISMA

##### SŁOWA KLUCZOWE

ochrona zabytków, analiza czasopisma, Węgry czasów socjalizmu, ogólnokrajowa instytucja państwowa, „Ochrona Zabytków” (czasopismo)

##### STRESZCZENIE

Krajowy system ochrony zabytków (wpisywania budynków do rejestru) reaktywowano na Węgrzech w 1957 roku, odkąd funkcjonował on już nieprzerwanie aż do końca systemu krajów socjalistycznych. Choć do chwili obecnej sama dyscyplina, jak i jej zaplecze instytucjonalne podlegały wielokrotnym zmianom, tak specjalistyczne czasopismo "Ochrona zabytków" ukazuje się na Węgrzech nieprzerwanie. Opisuje ono i poddaje dyskusji studia przypadków i kwestie teoretyczne, a także służy informowaniu środowiska i zainteresowanej publiczności o normach międzynarodowych, jak i trendach w ochronie zabytków oraz dziedzictwa. Roczniki tego pisma stanowią wyróżniające się źródło do wszelkich analiz dokonań, jak i wyzwań dotyczących tej specjalizacji architektonicznej. W niniejszym artykule poddano analizie numery "Ochrony zabytków" z lat 1957-1990, przyglądając się zachodzącym zmianom profesji, między innymi przejściu od ochrony pojedynczych budowli do całych zespołów. Choć w obu kategoriach podejmowano liczne działania, tak dopiero w latach siedemdziesiątych ratyfikowano pierwsze regulacje prawne, których celem miała być ochrona zespołów miejskich. Stąd też, dopiero po tych ustaleniach możliwe było wydajne podejmowanie tego typu działań. W artykule przedstawiono także wpływ międzynarodowych i krajowych polityk na trendy w węgierskiej ochronie dziedzictwa, obserwowane na łamach pisma. W badaniach oparto się na materiałach publikowanych, jak i wywiadach z ich autorami czy architektami-konserwatorami. Przedstawiony tekst może być źródłem materiału porównawczego dla pokrewnych analiz sytuacji w innych środowiskach środkowoeuropejskiego konserwatorstwa tego czasu.