

Lectori salutem

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND CHANGES CHARACTERIZED the activity of the Institute of History since the publication of the previous volume of the *Chronica*. The most sorrowful was the death of Prof. Gyula Kristó, correspondent fellow of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was not only a world-famous scholar of Hungarian medieval studies but also an outstanding colleague and a great friend.

Our academic achievements, on the other hand, are best documented by the studies and reports published in the present volume. The overall objective of the *Chronica* is to provide a snapshot on the current research activity of the fellows in the Institute. Thus, we publish the most recent theories and results of research on the East. Its significance is accentuated by the fact that the Department of Medieval World History organized the first international conference focusing on the history of the Eurasian steppe in the Middle Ages. Two additional articles concentrate on medieval studies, both pertain to urban history. One of them reveals the new findings from medieval Anjou, while the other discusses the social standing of the poor through the example of a medieval Hungarian town.

Two further studies lead us from the Middle Ages to the early modern period, though they represent wide temporal and spatial horizon. One of them deals with translations of the Bible, while the other holds up a mirror to the life of a Hungarian renegade during the Turkish occupation of Hungary.

There are studies in the volume debating twentieth-century history. They also cover a wide range of topics. Firstly, the political pursuits of the Hungarian minority is being analyzed through the investigation of the circumstances of the foundation of the Hungarian Party in the early 1920s. Secondly, the comparison of soldiers' memoirs and the contemporary war propaganda shed a particular light on World War II. The collection, analysis, and evaluation of such special source material proved to be of primary importance since it provides a unique opportunity for reconstructing events from the point of view of front soldiers.

Mediterranean studies is among the preferred fields of research in the Institute of History, particularly, in that of the Department of Modern World History. The results of a many-decade research published by the fellow of the Institute reveals the inducements of Arab nationalism with special regard to *Algeria*.

Last but not least, we have launched a new section entitled *Theses* in our annual. From this volume onwards, we intend to publish the short summary of recently defended doctoral (both PhD and DSc) dissertations. We hope that these résumés reveal the academic activity of the Institute from a different angle.

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