

16TH AND 17TH CENTURY CZECH AND SLOVAK BOOKS FROM THE COLLECTION OF VIENNESE CARDINAL MIGAZZI

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Abstract: *This research identifies XVIth-XVIIth century printings that entered the initial collection of the library belonging bishop of Transylvania, Batthyany Ignac, following the purchase of the personal library of Viennese Cardinal Christoph Migazzi. Before being sold, these books to the collection were inventoried in a catalogue that is preserved in the collection of Batthyaneum Library. For the moment, we only dealt with the books' printing place, focusing on the Czech and Slovak areas. We introduced works that subsume under proposed research in the final Annex.*

Keywords: cardinal Migazzi; library; Czech and Slovak area; printings; Batthyány Ignác; Dániel Imre; catalogue

In Europe, the 18th century was coeval with a period of political, administrative, ecclesiastical and cultural changes. The Habsburg rulers – in particular, Empress Maria Theresa and Emperor Joseph II – diminished the power of the local Roman Catholic Church through the transformations they envisaged, going so far as to abolish the affluent monastic orders.

It was during this period that Christoph Anton, Count of Migazzi, carried out his activity. Born in Trento, on 14 October 1714, Migazzi was to become Bishop of Vác and Cardinal of Vienna¹. He opposed the reforms launched by Maria Theresa and Joseph II, which led to his falling out of grace with the Court. By selling his library, which was one of the most beautiful and the richest in the capital of the Empire, he secured an income that would enable him to survive at the Viennese court after having been pressured by the imperial authorities to relinquish one of his dignities: the episcopacy of Vác. His library connects us with an important

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¹ Migazzi passed away in Vienna, on 14 April 1803. See Fr. Loidl, M. Krexner, *Wiens Bischöfe und Erzbischöfe*, Wien, 1983, p. 66-67; Eva Mârza, I. Mârza, *Biblioteca Migazziana Viennensis (Sugestii pentru o reconstituire)*, in “Anuarul Institutului de Istorie «A. D. Xenopol»”, 1995/XXXII, p. 239;

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christoph_Anton_Migazzi or <http://www.deutsche-biographie.de/sfz63293.html> (accessed on 25 July 2015). See also, with some reservations, the information regarding Migazzi's life and activity in Ileana Dârja, *Fondul Migazzi. Surse documentare*, Alba Iulia, 1998, p. 10-11. See also I. Mârza, *Slovenské tlače z Migazziho knižného fondu ako súčasť Batthyanea z Alba Julie (17.-19. stor.)*, in *16. Storočie v zrkadle knižnej kultúry*, Banská Bystrica, 2012, p. 203-210; it should be noted, however, that the focus of that particular study is neither on the Czech space, nor on 16th-century printings, and that the 17th century is merely tangentially approached therein.

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personality in the ecclesiastical and cultural life of Transylvania: Count Ignác Batthyány (1741-1798). Through his scientific and cultural concerns, which he pursued even after becoming Bishop of Transylvania, Batthyány managed to ensure that Transylvania and the city of Alba Carolina/Alba Iulia would have an important place on the scientific map of the Empire.

In keeping with the tradition of the Enlightenment and following certain models, Ignác Batthyány, Canon of Eger (1767-1780) and Bishop of Transylvania (1781-1798), founded, over the course of time, a library, a scientific society, an astronomical institute and a printing house in Alba Carolina. Because of his limited financial resources, Bishop Batthyány managed to set up only the astronomical observatory; he laid the foundations of the scientific society, but it is still unclear whether it actually functioned; he bought the printing house of the Jesuits in Cluj, which he eventually relocated in Alba Carolina; last but not least, he established the library that bears his name: the Batthyaneum. Still in existence today, this library was, we believe, the most important cultural space the bishop had envisioned and created.

In keeping with his lifelong penchant for books, Batthyány travelled accompanied by his library to various localities where he resided for longer or shorter periods of time, such as Ják, Eger, Sibiu and Cluj, eventually settling in Alba Carolina. It is known that he also kept books in his residences from Vințu de Jos, Bonțida, Beba, etc. Up until the time when the bishop moved to Alba Carolina the books that he had brought with him to Transylvania, these volumes, including the library he had purchased from Cardinal Migazzi, had been stored in one of his houses in Sibiu. We know that the prelate was driven by an ardent desire to acquire books, both personally² and through agents³, who included people he had specifically entrusted with this mission or students who studied abroad. Dániel Imre was one of these.

Dániel Imre was born at Elisabethopolis/Dumbrăveni (Sibiu County) on 16 May 1754⁴, in a wealthy Armenian family, whose relatives resided in the other important Armenian city in Transylvania, Armenopolis/Gherla (Cluj County)⁵. The

² A good example would consist in the two manuscripts received from the headship of the Evangelical Church in Braşov: *Catalogus concinnus librorum manuscriptorum bibliothecae Batthyányanae* exaratus per Robertum Szentiványi, Szeged, 1958, no. 83, no. 189.

³ The purchase of a more consistent lot of manuscripts and incunabula that had previously belonged to St. Jacob's Church in Levoča (Spiš), to the library of the Dominican convent in Košice or to the plebany in Bardejov, Slovakia. V. Eva Selecká, *Stredoveká Levočská knižnica*, Martin, Matica Slovenská, 1974, passim; Eva Selecká Mârza, *A középkori Lőcsei könyvtár*, Szeged, Scriptorum Kft., 1997, passim.

⁴ I. Fazekas, *A Bécsi pazmaneum magyarországi hallgatói 1623-1918 (1951)*, Budapest, 2003, p. 308, no. 1864; S. Ferenczi, *A Gyulafehérvári (erdélyi) főegyházmegye történeti Papinévára*, Budapest-Kolozsvár, 2009, p. 217.

⁵ The information on Dániel Imre's family was presented, in part, at the conference *Petru Maior și prietenii* (28 February - 1 March 2014, Reghin, Mureş County). See Biblioteca Batthyaneum, LXX/55, 16 February 1784.

acquisition, the books were noted down in a catalogue that is preserved at the Batthyaneum and that was discovered relatively late, in the 1960s, by Jakó Zsigmond. Based on the research he undertook, Professor Jakó established that the purchase had taken place in 1782. In the catalogues that had preceded the discovery made by Professor Jakó, the catalogue in manuscript of Migazzi's library was recorded under the title *Catalogus Bibliothecae ... Tomi 3. Ms in fol.* This was the case of both the catalogue edited by Cseresnyés Antal, from 1824 until 1826¹⁰, and of the subsequent catalogues, edited by Beke Antal¹¹ and, respectively, by Szentiványi Róbert¹². Professor Jakó entitled the catalogue *Catalogus Bibliothecae Christ. Card. à Migazzi*, as attested by his handwriting, on the inside of the first cover.

The catalogue that contains Cardinal Migazzi's books consists of three volumes, reflecting, most likely, the way in which these books were arranged in the cardinal's library. The first volume has several theological sections: I) *S[ancta] Biblia, Testamenta, Evangelia*, etc. (p. 1-80); II) *Scripturae, S[ancti] Interpretes* (p. 1-110); III) *Theologi dogmatici, Scholastici* (p. 1-169); IV) *Patres Scriptores Ecclesiastici*, etc. (p. 1-80); V) *Concilia, Canones*, etc. (p. 1-156); VI) *Theologi Morum* (p. 1-36); VII) *Ascetici, Concinatores*, etc. (p. 1-163). The second volume comprises I) *Historia Sacra* (p. 1-208); II) *Ritus Ecclesiastici* (p. 1-31); III) *Historia Profana* (p. 1-196); IV) *Historia Rei Litterariae* (p. 1-77). The third and last volume is composed of: I) *Philosophi, Philologi, Medici*, etc. (p. 1-130); II) *Oratores, Poetae et qui dicuntur Humanistae* (p. 1-203). For each of these sections, page numbers start at one. Each of the three volumes specifies their respective domains; thus, we find *Conclauae primum pro Scientiis Ecclesiasticis*, with the seven classes mentioned above, *Conclauae Secundum pro Historia*, with four, and *Conclauae Tertium pro Scientiis Prophanis*, with two classes. On the right-hand side of the catalogue, the reference number of each volume is mentioned: it consists either of a single letter, from A through Z, or of a double letter, AA to JJ, accompanied by an Arabic figure, from 1 to 10¹³. Among the books purchased from Cardinal Migazzi, there were also titles known today as the *Codex Aureus*, the *Codex Burgundus*, David's Psalter, etc. The Migazzian catalogue includes manuscripts and printings, the earliest work dating from the 9th century, while the latest were produced in the years that preceded the purchase of the library. This catalogue was written by two individuals and one of the handwritings has been

¹⁰ Cseresnyés A., *Conscriptio Bibliothecae Musei Batthyányani facta annis 1824-1826*, vol. II, p. 459, reference number K5 II. 11-13.

¹¹ Beke A., *Index manuscriptorum Bibl. Batthyanianae*, Károlyfehérvár, 1871, no. 86.

¹² Szentiványi R., *Catalogus concinuus librorum manuscriptorum Bibliothecae Battyányanae*, Ed. 4, Szeged, 1958, no. 635.

¹³ Biblioteca Batthyaneum, XI, 13-15. See also Eva Mârza, I. Mârza, *op. cit.*, in "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie «A. D. Xenopol»", 1995/XXXII, p. 239-250; Ileana Dârja, *op. cit.*, p. 16-17.

library were authored by Gregorius Coelius, Josephus Augustinus Panormitanus and Eusebius Nieremberg; the work written by Josephus Augustinus Panormitanus belongs, indeed, to the present-day fund, but the year of issuance is 1721, not 1691. It may well be the case that these works were registered under different titles than those we looked up, which might explain why we were unable to find them at the particular time when we conducted our research.

From among the works printed in the Czech area (29), we have so far managed to identify 15 in the present-day fund. All of these 15 identified works were printed in Prague from 1648 to 1700; of the unidentified works (14), 1 appeared in Olomouc and 1 in Brno, while the remaining 12 saw the light of print in Prague. The identified books featured such titles as: a New Testament in Old Czech from 1677, the work *Theologia radicalis* by Ioannes Sbogar, which also exists in the editions of 1708 and 1725, the *Small Catechism* by Petrus Canisius, the Annals of the House of Habsburg by Venceslau Czerwenka and Bartolomeu Christelli's Zodiac. As regards the works that could not be identified in the present-day library fund, 7 of these were identified using certain databases, while the other 7 were impossible to detect in any of these databases¹⁸.

This research ought to be pursued further, starting from Batthyány's first librarian, Dániel Imre, whose name has been mentioned several times in this study. At the time when the books were purchased from the cardinal, Dániel made a series of notes on the Catalogue containing Migazzi's books. In addition to this, at the Batthyaneum Library there is an Index of all the books bought from the cardinal, organized alphabetically¹⁹, not by domain, unlike the Catalogue that came from Vienna. Its presumed author was Dániel Imre and its compilation required leafing through each individual book and correctly transcribing the title, which was not the case of the Catalogue comprising the books bought from Migazzi, where we found titles that had not been correctly written down. The Index was compiled in Sibiu, after the arrival of the books from Vienna. This information proves that prior to their relocation into the library from Alba Carolina, some of Batthyány's books, surely those acquired from the cardinal, had been housed in Sibiu. Our previous research on Dániel's activity in the service of Bishop Batthyány has led us to believe, however, by comparing the ductus, that he was not the author of this Index. Still, regardless of the individual who compiled it, this must have been an extremely painstaking effort. In the future, we will have to attempt to match the

¹⁸ See the Appendix.

¹⁹ The reference number of this Index is XI-26. However, the register of the Batthyaneum Library features an altogether different work at this reference number. Still, because the work itself, that is, the Index, has no title and the word *Catalogus* is barely legible on the spine, we have decided to refer to it as the Index.

