

In Memoriam Judit Perjés-Bakay

1941–2011



The death notice formally says that the Museum Chief Counsellor, decorated with the Cross of Distinction of the Republic of Hungary, lecturer at the Restoration Department of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Chief Restorer of the Hungarian Textile Museum, Hungarian National Museum and the Budapest History Museum, passed away with tragic unexpectedness. Her death was tragic indeed, because she left us unexpectedly, trustful of life, full of plans, preparing to perform tasks, bravely meeting lesser or greater challenges posed by life, and in awareness of the many things still to be done here.

She was a friend to all ambitious and decent people, a committed supporter of all noble aspirations aimed at preserving values and tradition. An inexhaustible fountain of ideas, she assisted in training new generations of professionals by consistently passing on her experience. Unbroken and always on her guard, she took a great share in preserving artefacts and carrying out preparatory conservation of exhibits.

The goal and purport of her life was to collect and preserve all that constituted the cultural heritage of her nation. This awareness drove her from collection to collection, workshop to workshop, in which such endeavours awaited competence. A strong believer in the protective strength of the community, she helped colleagues living outside Hungary's present borders write and arrange application papers. Wherever she went, her shared her knowledge, plans, and the joy she

felt at jobs accomplished. She was always ready to work; after a brief consultation, the small glass of cleaning agent was extracted and the conservation of folk leather artefacts or leather bindings with Gothic and Renaissance ornamentation in the Franciscan Library at Csíksomlyó, Transylvania, commenced.

As though she had a presentiment of the end of her earthly existence, she doubled her activity in the preparatory work of the archaeological and urban historical exhibition at the István Molnár Museum at Székelykeresztúr. As participant and lecturer, she never missed a Conference of Transylvanian Hungarian Restorers for Further Education. Her studies and professional statements in letters provide valuable source material for us.

We respected and admired her deep faith, her trust in the Virgin Mary of Csíksomlyó, where she made a pilgrimage each year to draw strength and ask for Her blessing on her family and her nation.

We know and feel inside and outside the borders that we Hungarians lost a great soul, a fine person and good friend, and an outstanding teacher. It is our personal and communal duty to nurse and pass on her professional legacy, moral stature, commitment to her nation and international prestige.

*Éva Benedek, conservator
Csíkszereda*