

# ANNUAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE 2009/2010



According to a decision by the Academic Committee, the timing of the Conference that closed 2009 and opened 2010 was “both a break with tradition and the creation of a tradition” in that the conference days fell on both sides of the turn of the year. The cause was simple and prosaic (but at the same time very gratifying): many colleagues expressed their desire to present the results of their latest research and new methods and viewpoints to our academic audience. And because the invited panel chairmen could barely have decided on a single overall theme that would be suitable for every topic, lecturer and point of view, more than forty lectures remained after the initial review of the topic proposals made by the applicants. In the end, the lectures were organised into five panels and over the two days of the conference we tried to bear our original goal in mind as far as possible that the panels should not take place at the same time, so that (almost) everybody would have the opportunity to listen to their colleagues’ presentations. Besides this, the Annual Conference was also enhanced by well-known guests and panel chairs, and plenary lectures by visiting speakers: in connection with the afore-mentioned decision, in January we had the privilege of hearing Professor Mihály Szegedy-Maszák’s impressively extensive review regarding the temptations of and obstacles to producing inter-art studies.

So what are we talking about? Science or art? The science of the arts and the art of the sciences... The National Library with its collections and experts made a step towards presenting classical perfection during the conference at the turn of the year in an original and complete sense of *Ars Scientiae et Scientia Artis*.

On the December day there was a panel chaired by Péter Kulcsár entitled *Book culture in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age*, which was followed by the *Cultural History through the centuries* panel presided over by Mihály Zichy. The experience provided by both panels ranged from enjoying the introduction of

sources to collectively contemplating questions connected to profound (or difficult) questions of philology, history of reception and effect, cult philology and micro-philology. On the second conference day there were three panels: *Music – Theatre – Private Literature, Research in Science of the Arts; Renaissance and Ancient Hungarian Literature*; as well as *Book History* and *Library Science*. László Szelestei Nagy, Lídia Ferenczyné Wendelin and the author of this article also acted as

the chair, leading rich and varied lectures illustrated in different ways. The audiences were presented with a very wide variety of academic methods, approaches and results, and the limited length of the lectures created an opportunity to raise serious interest in these academic topics, stimulating a real desire to find out more.

Every colleague who spoke at the conference proved to be thoroughly prepared and performed the tasks they had set themselves with great success, for which we are grateful.

We are glad to say that many came to hear the lectures during the conference and we hope that both the wider intellectual public and our colleagues arriving from partner institutions will show a lasting interest in the academic life, work, and achievements of the national library.

In 2010, for the first time, a study publication with a selection of the lectures given was compiled and edited under the coordination of the Directorate for Research and Academic Affairs in light of the results and experience of the Annual Conference, now in its tenth year. This volume is the first in a new series for which we have chosen the title *Bibliotheca Scientiae et Artis* on the basis of the previous year’s academic and organisational experience, thus expressing the openness and richness with which we would like to present our work and values not only to the National Széchényi Library’s internal community but also to its external audiences.

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