

# SELECTION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY'S THEMATIC ONLINE SERVICES



Over the past four years a number of thematic installations<sup>1</sup> have been created by the National Széchényi Library. Below, we provide a short introduction to some of the multimedia web-pages, and also to the virtual exhibitions that generally deal with smaller-scale topics. The common characteristic of these services is that they are all based primarily on the collections of the National Library.

## FERENC ERKEL - WEBPAGE

<http://erkel.oszk.hu>

The content dedicated to Ferenc Erkel was created in 2010 to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth. The website will be fully completed over the next few years and aims to become a reference point both for scientific research and education. The prime objective of the initiative ("Research Room") is to promote the digitization of important documents; to make much of the *Erkel estate* accessible online and to be a collection site for the various academic publications and conclusions regarding these works. Each piece of Erkel's oeuvre is shown individually on a separate sheet, processing not only information from *Dezso Legány's* useful list of Erkel's work, but also incorporating results from other new and important research of recent decades. In this way, the launching of the webpage brings about a fresh and constantly renewable list of works, with free and instant access. In addition, the constant uploading of information makes many pages of manuscripts, the most important contemporary editions of Erkel's works, and the librettos of theatrical pieces accessible. Our goal is to assist scientific research by simplifying the accessibility of high-quality digitized copies of national treasures. The "Study Room" is an installation which serves as a continuously growing collection of materials to support providers of education and all interested users.

## ISTVÁN ÖRKÉNY - WEBPAGE

<http://orkenyistvan.hu>

The webpage paying homage to the oeuvre of István Örkény was created in spring 2009 following an agreement

between the *Örkény family* and the National Library. In addition to the most important texts from Örkény's works, this continuously expanding website contains multimedia elements, bibliographies, pictures obtained from the Örkény family's and the National Library's rich collections (manuscripts, posters, private photos, etc), audio-recordings, parts of films, and many other items of interest. The website – with the support of the Theatre History Collection – gives an account of the history of the reception of Örkény's works, of the career of the playwright, and of his premiers both in Hungary and abroad.

## TALES OF MÁTYÁS (MATTHEW) –

<http://matyasmesek.oszk.hu>

Close to 200 folktales – the collections of Ildikó Kriza and Rozália Kóka – and *Galeotto Marzio's* stories of Mátyás can be read on this multimedia webpage, which is not exclusively aimed at children. The inspirational motives of the digital collection's design originate in the Corvinus decorations and initials, which are housed in the National Library. In addition to the bibliography of selected literary works and the historical study on Mátyás Hunyadi, you can also listen to several tales as performed by actor *László Helyey* or by the finalists of the tale recital competition for schools outside of Hungary. In the galleries you can find miniatures and cuttings relating to Mátyás Hunyadi as well as *Marcell Jankovich's* illustrations of the tales.

## NYUGAT (WEST) JOURNAL, 1908 –

<http://nyugat.oszk.hu>

This steadily expanding anniversary website (2008) presents the history of the legendary literary journal with the aid of rich textual context and multimedia elements. It introduces the oeuvres of the creators (editors and authors) who chose the journal as their forum, providing a short biography and description of their career, in addition to a selected bibliography of their works and various literary pieces discussing them. The website's images are mostly sourced from the Manuscript Collection's archive and listed photographs, first edition volumes, and sections of prin-

<sup>1</sup> The 'Significant Dates' content and the Bálint Balassi virtual exhibition were launched by the Neumann-House; since January 2007 they have been managed by the National Library.

ceps editions and manuscripts digitized, including unique documents and the title pages of several issues of the journal. The recordings available on the site include archive audio recordings of the authors, recitals by famous performers of the so-called 'Nyugat' poems, and even the musical versions of these poems. Also of interest are the performances by the finalists of the poetry recital competition, held for secondary schools in 2007 to pay tribute to the Year of Nyugat.

#### **SIGNIFICANT DATES – <http://jelesnapok.oszk.hu>**

This impressive service provides useful information and fresh ideas relevant to a broad range of educational fields. It refers to noteworthy dates from the calendar, national celebrations, global and religious festivals, important dates from folk customs, historical and literary anniversaries, world celebration days, and other significant Hungarian and international days. The website supplies its wide range of users with practical knowledge about the history of civilisation via more than 1500 feast pages containing nearly 16,000 items – including literary and scientific texts, references, pictures, and multimedia materials.

#### **SEVEN TIMES HAYDN: VIRTUAL EXHIBITION <http://haydn.oszk.hu>**

This website is the virtual edition of the memorial exhibition held in the National Relics Hall in the early summer of 2009. The compilation, illustrated with pictures and music scores, guides the visitor through Haydn's oeuvre and is centred around seven topics: the innovator, the musical conductor of the court, the humorist, the believer, the private man, the celebrity, the collector and, finally, the encore.

#### **THE VOICE OF KOSSUTH: VIRTUAL EXHIBITION <http://mek.oszk.hu/kiallitas/kossuthangja/>**

This virtual exhibition was organised in 2008 to celebrate the public release of the rare recordings from two phonograph-cylinders, which are housed in the library's Music Collection. The cylinders were used to record Lajos Kossuth's speech when unveiling the monument dedicated to the martyrs of Arad. Alongside the study on the website you find not only the transcribed version but also Kossuth's personally handwritten script of this speech. In addition, amongst many ancient photographs, you can view the Kossuth's portrait photograph from the time of the famous recording.

#### **BÁLINT BALASSI: VIRTUAL EXHIBITION <http://mek.oszk.hu/kiallitas/balassi>**

This multimedia service was prepared with state-of-the-art, paper-based text transmission, and aims to facilitate the comprehension of 16<sup>th</sup> century texts, remembering that melody and text formed a tight unit in old Hungarian literature. The sung versions of certain poems, bearing in mind that many of Bálint Balassi's poems are texts composed for the tunes of 'hit songs' of the age, can help us prepare for a deeper understanding. The menu point entitled 'Poetry of Bálint Balassi as an Inspiring Source' offers 30 poems, including some which can be a basis for observing the phenomenon of evocation.

#### **ERVIN LÁZÁR: VIRTUAL EXHIBITION <http://mek.oszk.hu/kiallitas/lazar/>**

This virtual exhibition was prepared in cooperation with upper primary and secondary school pupils. It is commemorated to the memory of the author who died in 2006, and uses the already digitized works of Ervin Lázár together with the illustrations prepared by the students using various techniques.

**Annamária Sudár**  
sudar.annamaria.at.oszk.hu