

ON THE UPCOMING CATALOGUE OF OLD HUNGARIAN BOOKS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE TRANSYLVANIAN MUSEUM SOCIETY AND THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF CLUJ

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Abstract: The present paper presents the work-in-progress catalogue of old Hungarian books belonging to “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca (BCU Cluj): of this ongoing work, I present here the catalogue of the books printed between 1484-1630. The material is, therefore, organised chronologically, following the principles established in the first retrospective bibliography of old Hungarian books by Károly Szabó, the first librarian of the University Library in Cluj and of the Transylvanian Museum Society, whose (old) book collections are currently preserved at BCU Cluj, while for the copy-specific descriptions, I myself formulated a set of criteria. From the time span under scrutiny, I counted 425 titles in 522 volumes, a number which comprises the duplicates, but does not include all fragments of books – many of them still unidentified – that will be inserted in the catalogue after the processing of the entire collection of old Hungarian books. During the cataloguing process, I attached particular importance to provenance research. Beside the institutional provenance (Library of the Transylvanian Museum Society – University Library of Cluj), this also comprises previous book owners, since I consider that book history is inseparably connected to the history of their use, which can be uncovered only by identifying the former possessors. Such details bring significant contributions to intellectual history, revealing intellectual networks active in Transylvania between the 16th and the 19th centuries.

Keywords: Old Hungarian books, provenience, library history, catalogue.

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Institutional libraries holding old Hungarian books (*régi magyar könyvek*, since Károly Szabó, conventionally abbreviated as RMK) have histories of varying lengths. Knowing and understanding these histories is crucial in mapping and exploring these collections. The creation of a separate catalogue for the old Hungarian books is not merely a necessity; it is also an indication of the library's prestige and richness, an enhancement of its reputation, and a guarantee of the professional handling of the holdings. The University Library of Cluj (officially known as the Lucian Blaga Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca, henceforth referred to as ULC) currently holds 1436 + 13 BRV + ?RARE old Hungarian book titles. In accordance with Károly Szabó's definition, the books in question were published prior to 1711, were written in Hungarian, by Hungarian authors, or were published in Hungary. Based on our estimates, over three-quarters of the RMK collection was previously held by the Transylvanian Museum Society (Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület or EME, henceforth referred to as EME).¹ The objective is not merely the preservation of the old Hungarian books; it is also to facilitate their professional exploration and accessibility. This is the only means by which they can become a valuable component of the cultural heritage. The fundamental method for achieving this objective is the publication of specialized catalogues. A number of libraries in our region have already published catalogues of the old Hungarian books in their holdings.² However, it is regrettable that the former EME collection, now housed in the University Library of Cluj, has not yet been made public.

Among the relatively late-established public libraries (those founded to serve the public interest, namely that of preserving the community assets and of making them widely accessible), the EME library stands out as one of the oldest public libraries, with a remarkable history. The establishment of the institution represents the realization of Count Imre Mikó's ambitious dreams, whose initiative and generous donations inspired many people in Transylvania and abroad over the second half of the 19th century. His dedication to the organization resulted in the accumulation of a considerable amount of public assets, which served as the foundation for the various collections held by the Society. These were instrumental in advocating for the establishment of Hungary's second university (in 1872) in

¹ Gábor Sipos provides a historical overview of the EME library. The final two phases of the library's history are closely linked to the University Library of Cluj. For further details, see Gábor Sipos, *Az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület könyvtárának története = Az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület gyűjteményei* (The History of the Transylvanian Museum Society's Library = The Collections of the Transylvanian Museum Society). Ed. *ibid.*: EME, Cluj-Napoca, 2009. 11–68. A recently published monograph on the history of the University Library in Romanian: Győrfi, Dénes: *Bibliotheca Universitatis Claudiopolitanae. Evoluția instituțională și practici ale lecturii în Clujul universitar, 1872–1945*. (Bibliotheca Universitatis Claudiopolitanae. The Institutional Evolution and Reading Practices in Cluj, the University Town. 1872-1945) (Cluj-Napoca: Argonaut, 2019).

² Most recently, Róbert Oláh, *A Tiszántúli Református Egyházkerületi Nagykönyvtár RMK-katalógusa* (The RMK Catalogue of the College Library of the Transtibiscan Reformed Church District) (Debrecen: TREGY, 2021).

Cluj. The establishment and expansion of the collections were made possible by two key factors: the donors' contributions and the institution's commitment to its principles and moral obligations, which were constrained only by financial limitations. The library of the EME also offers insights into the reading and collecting habits of the Transylvanian people, as it initially expanded almost exclusively through such donations. In later years, the library also bought and exchanged books.³ It is well documented in the scholarly literature that EME's library was originally founded on Count József Kemény's library, who donated his collection in 1841 to a national museum in Transylvania that had yet to be established. Subsequent donations were made by Sámuel Kemény and József Teleki, whose library is presumed to have contained a number of "incunabula" as well.⁴

We can therefore argue that the Society had owned a library prior to its foundation.

Contrary to expectations, the first librarian was not Sándor Mike, who oversaw the Kemény collection, but rather Károly Szabó, a schoolmaster at the Reformed Grammar School of Nagyszalonta (Salonta).⁵ Szabó was appointed as the librarian on 26 November 1859, at the

³ An album listing the donors to the EME (not only those who contributed to the library) was being prepared by Károly Szabó, Sámuel Brassai, Ferenc Szabó and Henrik Finály. Each donor would have a dedicated page, in alphabetical order, detailing the items they had donated. The album was not intended to be bound; instead, the pages were to be stitched between two covers in a manner that would allow for future expansion. The donations deemed to be the most valuable were itemized: "Kölcsi Kende Kanutz – *Heltai Chronika, 1575*"; "gr. Lázár László – *Sylvester János Újtestamentum* ('New Testament'), 1541; *Károlyi Gáspár Újtestamentum* ('New Testament'), 1687 (*Apafi példánya volt* ['used to be Apafi's copy']); "br. Nopcsa Ferenc – *Thuróczi-krónika, 1488*; *Legendae sanctorum regni Hungariae (incunabulum)*". The majority of the album's "raw material" can be found in the National Archives of Romania in Cluj-Napoca (KvÁlt Fond 298, 94: *Fișele alfabetice de la care provin diverse obiecte muzeale, cărți, documente*) ('The alphabetical files that contain the origins of museum objects, books, documents'). The text of the draft and some of the pages from the album are part of holdings of the University Library of Cluj. One example is the document created by Károly Szabó: *Czecz Antal. 64 kötet könyv, legnagyobb részben magyar irodalmi munkák; közöttök Heltai Gáspár Kolozsvártt 1574. nyomtatott Cancionáléjának, melynek Péczelen a gr. Ráday-könyvtárban lévő példányát eddig egyetlennek ismerték, teljesen ép példánya.* [64 volumes of books, mostly Hungarian literary works; among these, a wholly intact copy of *Gáspár Heltai's Cancionale*, printed in Cluj in 1574, a volume whose only surviving copy was believed to be the one in the Ráday library in Pécel.] (ColDoc 176/1861.83).

⁴ Sipos, *Az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület könyvtárának története*, 11–13. The current framework for the time limit of incunabula has been globally accepted since Hain: they are prints published up to December 31, 1500. In the 19th century, the time limit of incunabula was defined in various ways, which explains why no incunabula from József Teleki's library was found in the present-day incunabula collection of the University Library. Nevertheless, we believe that one volume did indeed originate from there: Inc. 70, possessor: *Em. Teleki, Viena, 1813 Xbi*.

⁵ The latest tribute to Károly Szabó's work: *Szabó Károly-emlékkönyv* (Writings in Honour of Károly Szabó), ed. Szőnyi, Éva, OSZK – Gondolat Kiadó – Magyar Könyvtárosok Egyesülete, Budapest, 2020. See his biography in this volume: Szabó, Sándor: *Szabó Károly (1824–1890), a bibliográfusok nagy triászának első tagja* (Károly Szabó, 1824–1890, the first member of the great triad of bibliographers), 25–37.

inaugural meeting of the Museum Society. Imre Mikó had previously attempted to invite Károly Szabó to Transylvania.⁶ Szabó ultimately accepted the position of librarian at the end of 1859. He informed Imre Mikó of his decision on 5 December 1859:

“Your Excellency, Count, Museum President! Your Highness!

I am deeply honoured to reply to the official letter addressed to me on 26 November from the inaugural general assembly of the Transylvanian National Museum, informing me of my appointment as librarian of the museum. It is my solemn duty to express my sincerest gratitude for this honour and privilege bestowed upon me.

I am well aware of the difficulty, especially at the outset, of the task with which this office entrusts me. I deeply feel the weight of the moral responsibility which my office entails: I am entrusted with not only the faithful and careful preservation of the nation’s intellectual treasures, but also their most purposeful and useful handling. Moreover, I am aware that the nation may justly expect and demand of the person whom it entrusted with the handling of these treasures to continue their study. The expectation is that the fortunate person in this position must repay a debt of gratitude to the national literature through dedicated and sustained efforts: I have therefore undertaken a rigorous self-examination before accepting this office, which is an honour for me, an opportunity to advance my work, but also a great responsibility.

With enthusiasm and optimism, as someone whose fortunate destiny has led them to the field most suitable for their desires, I hereby dedicate myself to the task that has been set for me, hoping that my strength and ability will grow and improve through continuous work and practice. With an open heart, I hereby pledge to faithfully and efficiently fulfil my duty, considering this commitment to be the guiding star of my life. As consider that the highest reward for my efforts is the confidence the nation has expressed in my literary work. I am deeply grateful for the encouragement and motivation it has given me and I hope that through my continuous work, I may be fortunate enough to deserve and repay their trust fully.

With pure intent and firm determination, I willingly offer my strength and talents to the service of this national institute which was established under your Excellency’s zealous leadership, though the noble sacrifice of the enthusiastic patriots of Transylvania. I pledge to contribute to the future and the elevation of national science, to the power of the spirit and the moral strength of the nation, whose revival I heartily desire. I consider it my sacred duty to promote it in the sphere of my vocation, in accordance with my talents.

I hereby commend myself to the favour of your Excellency, and to the highly esteemed members of the museum society, remaining at your service with the deepest respect

Your Excellency’s humble servant, Károly Szabó, mppr. In Nagy-Kőrös, on December 5, 1859.”⁷

Károly Szabó began his work at the EME library in March 1860.⁸ He was responsible for organizing, overseeing, and enriching the collection, and he also created the library’s first

⁶ In February, 1858, Imre Mikó offered a teaching post in Nagyenyed (Aiud) to Károly Szabó, who had been teaching in Nagyszalonta (Salonta) for three years. See S. Szabó, 32–33.

⁷Unpublished, location: ULC, Special Collections, Col. Doc. 172/1859.73.

⁸ See Károly Szabó’s letter to the EME board, 20 January 1860. According to the letter, his teaching duties in Nagy-Kőrös prevented him from moving to Cluj-Napoca sooner (ULC - Col. Doc. 176/1860, 48.

catalogues: “under his leadership, it [the EME’s library] grew into one of the country’s most significant public collections.”⁹ In Nagykőrös, during the organization of the school’s library, Károly Szabó had already come to recognize the necessity of treating the old Hungarian books separately, as incunabula, in accordance with the practices observed abroad. Consequently, the principles for the collection value of old Hungarian books were established during this period. The material of the EME library made it possible to refine these principles: his interest in old books became his passion in Cluj, resulting in the first, second, and - in part - third volume of the *Régi magyar könyvtár* [Old Hungarian Library], in which he published the (partial) results of his work.¹⁰ It was under him that the inventory, processing, and enrichment of the library’s old Hungarian book collection began. It continued to grow - initially alongside the library of the University of Cluj, eventually merging with it -, over the past 160 years under the guidance and oversight of directors and scholarly librarians who followed in Károly Szabó’s footsteps. Several must be mentioned by name: Zoltán Ferenczi, Pál Erdélyi, Farkas Gyalui, and Lajos Kelemen, who initially served as a per diem librarian of the EME and subsequently as a university library employee, can be considered one of the most significant preservers of Transylvanian written heritage. During his tenure, Kelemen was responsible for overseeing the old Hungarian book collection.

The old Hungarian books in the EME library were (also) initially arranged according to format. The collection was reorganized in its current form after 1907, following the relocation of the library to its new (present) building. They follow the order defined by Károly Szabó: the volumes are arranged in chronological order, then in alphabetical order by printing place, then by author. We must note that the collection was not separated according to the collection interest of the RMK I–III. The card index was also continued in accordance with the methodology established by Károly Szabó. The intention to publish it in the form of a printed catalogue is not new and while there are many reasons for the delay, it is a constant source of frustration. After the regime change, we witnessed not only an ideological shift in the world, but also a transformation in technology, with an increasing emphasis on the creation of online catalogues. The introduction of the old books in such catalogues was also a priority in this process. The RMK collection of old books was recorded by Judit Kolumbán, and as a result of her ten years of work, the online catalogue of the library now contains approximately 85-90% of the material. The creation of the principles to describe the volumes, along with the recording of the data represents a significant undertaking for a single individual. Listing the

⁹ Gedeon BORSA, “Magyar könyvtárosok: Szabó Károly (1824–1890)” (Hungarian Librarians: Károly Szabó, 1824–1890), *Könyvtáros* 6 (1956): 104.

¹⁰ Before the publication of the RMK volumes, he wrote a series of articles on his research on the Old Hungarian Book: *Az erdélyi közkönyvtárak régi magyar könyveiről. Az erdélyi muzeumi könyvtár régi magyar könyvei (1536–1711)* (On the old Hungarian Books in the Transylvanian Public Libraries, 1536–1711), in *Az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egylet Évkönyvei* (Annales of the Transylvanian Museum Society), 1868–1870, 33–72; 113–146; 1871–1873, 76–92. These are also greatly helpful in determining the provenance of the volumes. For a list of Károly Szabó’s further writings, see Ferenc Kégl, see *Szabó Károly-émlékkönyv* (Writings in the honour of Károly Szabó), 188–252.

volumes in an online catalogue, however, also served a more distant objective: the publication of a printed catalogue, a goal that the library has consistently advocated for. The introduction of the data into the online catalogue represents a significant advancement, as it enables a comprehensive overview of the majority of the holdings. It constitutes a fundamental starting point, completed by the notes created during the cataloguing process, which are not published online: the descriptions of possessor entries, transcriptions of or at least the indication of additional handwritten notes. This catalogue builds upon Judit Kolumbán's previous work: I am continuing the project in consultation with her, building on her previous research as a foundation.

As a first step in surveying the material, the RMK descriptions were extracted from the online catalogue, a total of 1441 titles. However, these do not include the old Hungarian books from the rare book collection, the volumes not yet transferred to the RMK from the patrioticum collection of old books; moreover, two boxes of unidentified fragments and the old Romanian books from the collection of the RMK and the RMNY (early Hungarian prints), the latter representing 13 titles. Including these, we estimate that there are approximately 1500 book titles within the library's old Hungarian book collection. From the perspective of the catalogue, we are definitely dealing with a considerably larger number of volumes, as multi-volume works, duplicates need to be described individually, with their own distinctive characteristics. Once the raw material was assembled, the editing principles were established to clarify the process. Together with Judit Kolumbán, we proposed that, in case of certain adaptations, we should follow the structure of Károly Szabó's RMK volumes. Thus, the material of the RMK, volumes I–III, is organized in the aforementioned order: the year of publication, the place of publication, then the volumes in alphabetical order. In the absence of an author, works are classified according to the first word of the title, irrespective of the articles. In accordance with Károly Szabó's established practice, volumes with no year of publication are placed at the end of the respective century; similarly, books printed in unknown locations are placed at the end of the respective year.

Item descriptions are preceded by a serial number, and duplicates are given a separate serial number. Item descriptions will have two parts: the title description and the item description.

The items in the catalogue are listed in alphabetical order by author (where there is no author, the first word of the title is used, without an article). The author's name appears in small capitals and the first word of the title in capital letters. The format of the authors' names is based on the system of the RMNY. The format of non-Hungarian names follows the practice of the *Deutsches Bibliographie*, VD 16 and VD 17 (for German authors), the catalogue of old Romanian books of the University Library and the catalogue of old Romanian books of the Habsburg Empire, and the transcription conventions of national bibliographies for other languages. In the transcription of titles, abbreviation of titles, and marking of titles from other sources, we adhere to the principles of the RMNY. The names of the intellectual contributors specified in the titles are highlighted in capital letters. In accordance with the standard practice of RMNY, translations are listed by the name of the translator, rather than that of the author. The title is followed in a new paragraph by the colophon details, which include the place of

publication - as indicated on the print -, the year of publication (where the Latin numerals are always converted to Arabic numerals), and the name of the printer, which is always presented in the nominative case. The next paragraph contains the data regarding format and size: we only specify the format, regardless of size, followed by the number of pages and leaves. We include fascicle numbers only in the case of fragments or highly incomplete copies. We use [] to indicate unnumbered pages/leaves. In accordance with the RMNY abbreviations, graphic illustrations and bookplates are provided after the page/leaf number, separated by semicolons.

The national bibliographical references (RMK, RMNY, Sztripszky, Apponyi, BRV, VD 16, VD 17, EDIT) are presented in a new paragraph. In the case of the volumes belonging to the BRV (old Romanian books) collection, we provide the University Library's own BRV-catalogue shelf marks as well; these are (also) used to create the item (BRV-BCU).

The structure of the description of the copy is as follows:

In establishing the criteria for the description of the copies, the catalogues of Erzsébet Muckenhaupt, András Emódi, József Kurta, and others were consulted as sources of guidance, and we follow the system developed based on these.

A The condition of the copy, where we indicate its incompleteness or defects. Lost or inferred sheets are provided in [].

B The description of the binding: material, decorations, condition, age. If the spine includes an author, title, or year, these are provided here, transcribed letter-by-letter, with the used abbreviations, and in italics. We use Marianne Rozsondai's book in trying to identify Hungarian historical bindings.¹¹ The marking and identification of the decorative elements is also based on her work. In order to provide the most comprehensive description and identification of foreign bindings, we have consulted a database covering the German language area (<https://www.hist-einband.de>). More recent bindings (from the 19th and 20th centuries) are noted, if indicated (e.g., binding by Antal Czecz, György Hants, etc.). In the case of identified bindings, we indicate their originality and the identified binderies, referencing the source of identification.¹²

C Provenance data in reverse chronological order. We start with the description of stamps and old call numbers (preferably linked to the owner), followed by information on the acquisition, information from external sources, where available. The source of the information is provided in parentheses following the names of the donors or vendors. Our information in this regard comes from the following: the book of acquisitions (*Beszerzési könyv*) kept by Károly Szabó between 1866 and 1872 (recording purchases and exchanges of volumes) and the book of

¹¹ Marianne Rozsondai, *A magyar könyvkötés a gótikától a művészkönyvekig* (Hungarian Bookbinding from the Gothic to the Art Books), MTA Könyvtár és Információs Központ (Budapest: Kossuth Kiadó, 2019).

¹² It is primarily the work of Hajnalka Ilyés Bartha, *A kolozsvári Egyetemi Könyvtár tulajdonában levő Temesvári Pelbárt és Laskai Osvát-művek kötéseiről* (On the Bindings of the Works of Pelbartus de Temesvár and Osvát Laskai at the University Library of Cluj), EM, 1997/1–2, 236–245.

proceedings (*Jegyzőkönyv*),¹³ a series of articles published between 1868 and 1873 in which he provides a summary of the old Hungarian book holdings of the EME library, including the provenance of each volume. We also use Pál Erdélyi's register of acquisitions (*Gyarpodási osztálynapló*) kept from 1905 to 1942, which comprehensively documents donations, exchanges, and purchases. The *Erdélyi Múzeum* (Transylvanian Museum) journal published the accounts of the general assemblies and the reports made by the various department heads on a regular basis. In the case of the library, all acquisitions (donations, purchases, exchanges) were meticulously documented in the librarian's report (*Könyvtárnoki jelentés*). Additionally, donation lists were published on a regular basis. In principle, the provenance of all old Hungarian books received up to 1873 and between 1905 and 1942 is known. Documents regarding the expansion of the EME library are also kept in the archives. We have examined these materials, and we intend to use the data from such documents, together with the pertinent information from Lajos Kelemen's diaries. There is of course some information overlap, for example the donor lists, registers, letters, purchase/sales receipts found in the archives and the series of articles published by Károly Szabó. In such instances, we cite the source published in print. In the case of the copies exchanged with the Hungarian National Museum (today: National Széchényi Library) or the library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the stamps applied to the volumes serve as the primary evidence for the exchange. We will provide no further corroboration of this fact, even in the case of additional documentary evidence. External sources are provided in parentheses after the information on origin given in italics (BK Beszerzési könyv 'Book of acquisitions', EME-Évk. – Szabó Károly cikksorozata 'Károly Szabó's series of articles', GyN – *Gyarpodási osztálynapló* 'register of acquisitions', EM – Erdélyi Múzeum folyóirat 'the Erdélyi Múzeum journal', KvÁlt – Kolozsvári Állami Levéltár 'the National Archives of Romania in Cluj-Napoca', KL – Kelemen Lajos naplói 'Lajos Kelemen's diaries', etc.).

A description of the University Library stamps after 1945 (Biblioteca Universităţii Cluj 'University Library Cluj', Biblioteca Universităţii Cluj-Napoca 'University Library Cluj-Napoca', Biblioteca Centrală Universitară „Lucian Blaga” Cluj-Napoca 'Lucian Blaga Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca') is not provided, except in cases where the relevant volume was acquired by the University Library of Cluj.

All information pertaining to the provenance and previous ownership are given in separate lines.

¹³ Location records: *Beszerzési könyv* 'Book of acquisitions' – OUC Special collections – Col. Doc. 105. To the best of our knowledge, no such diary exists for the preceding or later years. Károly Szabó kept a separate record of potential book exchanges, where he documented the books that were offered for exchange by and for various institutions or individuals. These lists include several old Hungarian books as well. Some of the preserved lists include: *Ibid.*, Col. Doc. 152. In addition, a separate record of the exchanges was also kept: *Jegyzőkönyv Az erd. muzeumi könyvtár eladott vagy becserélt többszörös példányairól* (Register of the Sold or Exchanged Multiple Copies of the Transylvanian Museum Library), OUC Special collections, no call number. In the case of exchanges, the more valuable volumes acquired, such as the old Hungarian books, were included in this book of records.

D Other entries and marginalia: these are published in full only if they contain names, place names and/or years. Otherwise, only their content, language, and age are mentioned. Here, we also describe rubrication, decorations, and drawings.

E For colligate or composite volumes, we indicate the item number of the first part and, in the case of the first part, the item numbers of all parts. If one of the parts does not belong to the collection interest of the RMK, it is also briefly described.

F In cases where the copy was published subsequent to the RMNY, and for volumes published after 1670, the most significant literature and editions are identified.

The last line of the entry is the present call number of the copy.

In preparing the catalogue, we have placed great emphasis on identifying the mode of acquisition and on investigating the provenance in as much depth as possible. The only way to uncover the required information is to try to unravel its past. Every book has a history which is closely linked to what the book represents now and in previous centuries. The history of books is inextricably linked to the histories of their readers. Their significance is evident in the context of the sociology of reading, the history of mentalities and cultural history. Thus, it may also facilitate the reconstruction of former libraries. The first step is to determine the institutional provenance of the books. These include two large groups, the EME and the University Library of Cluj (including its predecessors). In addition to their provenance, the mode of acquisition is also revealed in most cases. It is therefore possible to reconstruct the old Hungarian book holdings of the Society. Moreover, it is possible to gain some insight into the former libraries of prominent figures from the aristocratic and intellectual spheres (Mihály Toefeus, Mihály Szathmári Pap, Apafi, Rhédey, Cserey, etc.). Furthermore, in the instances in which readers left their handprints in the books, it becomes possible to identify which volumes were read by contemporary or near-contemporary readers, as well as which volumes were the most popular in the subsequent decades following their printing.

Another significant area of focus was the description of the bindings. A comprehensive account of the bindings was not the original intention; rather, the intention was to provide a brief mention of the original bindings. As the work progressed, however, we encountered additional original bindings that, for the sake of thoroughness, required more than a mere note of their originality. We thus returned to the items previously described, re-examined the original bindings, and tried to identify where and when they were bound, and by whom. This, of course, slowed down the process significantly, but we will nonetheless present several illustrative examples below.

The following section will present the results of the records produced thus far for the period spanning from 1484 to 1630. This study is a continuation of a work published in 2023.¹⁴ In the aforementioned article, I analysed 418 book titles in 504 copies, which constitutes less than a third of the total. These 504 copies included the duplicates, the volumes belonging to

¹⁴ *Certamen X.*, Emese Egyed, László Pakó, Attila Weiss, (eds.) (Cluj-Napoca: Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2023), 29–53.

the collection interest of the BRV, but only part of the fragments. Among the fragments, a few pieces have been identified by us, one of which is, much to our delight, unique. The fragments include seven incunabula, which also belong to the collection interest of the RMK. We have so far recorded 12 unicum copies from this period. In the past two years, this number of copies (504) has grown by another 18 volumes: seven new titles and eleven duplicates. Most of them (12 volumes: five new titles, seven duplicates) will be transferred to the repository of old Hungarian books. It is the result of exploring the library's patrioticum holdings¹⁵ that these volumes, which either arrived with older acquisitions, or had not been identified as old Hungarian books, could be located and transferred to the RMK collection. The volumes were transferred from the branch libraries of the University Library (in our case, from the library of the Department of Hungarian and General Linguistics of the Faculty of Letters) and from the library of the Reformed Kún Grammar School in Szászváros (Orăștie). We identified the remaining six titles as fragments. Although not a unique title, fascicles E and F of the *Evangéliumok és episztolák* (Gospels and Epistles) volume printed in Vizsoly between 1591 and 1593 constitute unicum fragments that complete the copy also preserved in fragments in the National Széchényi Library. This is the only instance in which the institutional provenance of a fragment can be accurately determined, as the fragment in question has survived alongside a letter from Sándor Ferenczy, the librarian of the Kún Grammar School in Szászváros (Orăștie). He sent the volume to the director of the University Library for identification on 6 June 1912. This is also fortunate, as in this case, the data of the fragment's carrier book is also provided, together with its complete provenance. The fragment was retrieved (by soaking) from the binder board of Della Porta Giambattista's *Phytognomonica*, published in Naples in 1588. The volume was previously owned by Balázs Kamuti and subsequently donated to the library of the grammar school in Nagyenyed (Aiud) by Klára Fekete, historian János Bethlen's wife, in 1667. It was then relocated to Szászváros (Orăștie) in 1730. It is evident that the volume was brought to Hungary relatively quickly and was bound at the end of the 16th century.

The other identified fragments have not yielded the same results: the carrier volumes, the date of retrieval by soaking, and the provenance of these fragments remain unknown.

Among the fragments, an intriguing discovery was made: a one-leaf print (in 3 copies), which represents the first printed recipe in Hungarian: Hoffmann, Illés *Az electuariumnak, az az terjeknek hasznarol*, as well as *Az vörös ihrnak hasznarol*, which was printed in Debrecen before 1617 by Pál Rheda. These probably come from the same binder board, which Vilmos Fraknói describes in the journal *Magyar Könyvszemle* (Hungarian Book Review) in 1878:¹⁶ 25 copies of Illés Hoffmann's "wound and eye healing" recipe were soaked from the binding plate of a 1616 volume printed in Debrecen, though no further details for identification are available.

¹⁵ I am grateful to my colleague Mária Kovács for her work.

¹⁶ Vilmos Fraknói, *Könyvtáblákban fölfedezett XVI. és XVII. századbeli magyar ősnymtatványok* (16th and 17th century Hungarian incunabula discovered in binder boards), *Magyar Könyvszemle* (Hungarian Book Review) (1878), 293–294.

Including the newer titles, 445 of the 522 volumes can be demonstrated to have originated from the EME library, while an additional 15 volumes are presumed to have been part of the EME collection.¹⁷

The most straightforward case of identification is when the Society's stamp and/or inventory number is applied on the volume: we found 409 such books. They include the stamp and/or inventory number of the Society. The inscription and the shape of the stamps also changed over the years. The first period saw the use of a wide, oval-shaped stamp bearing the inscription "Erdélyi Múzeum Könyvtára" ('The Library of the Transylvanian Museum'), then the same inscription with a rounder shape (from the time of Zoltán Ferenczi's directorship). Subsequently, a newer inscription ("Erdélyi Múzeum-Egylet Könyvtára" 'The Library of the Transylvanian Museum Society') was applied, and finally, during the directorship of Pál Erdélyi and until the dissolution of the Society, the seal with the inscription "Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Könyvtára" ('The Library of the Transylvanian National Museum') was used. On 1 August 1891, the newly appointed director, Zoltán Ferenczi initiated the book of acquisitions (*Szerzemény-könyv*), which was also the start of shelf numbering; this practice was continued and refined by Pál Erdélyi, who is considered to be the first modern director of the library. From 1904 onward, a separate register of acquisitions (*Gyapodási osztálynapló*) was kept for the old Hungarian books until 1943. This details the provenance of the volumes, the means of acquisition (donation, purchase, exchange), as well as their shelf numbers. Thus, shelf or inventory numbers from the Society are only present in the RMK volumes only from the mid-1890s onwards. In addition to the 406 copies already included in the EME library, a few other volumes were also incorporated into the collection.

Among the colligates or composite volumes, we counted 14 copies that also belonged to the EME library. In such instances, only the first item of the colligates bears the institutional markings (the former EME-library call number and stamp). All subsequent items carry, by definition, the institutional provenance of the first item. Furthermore, we identified 13 volumes without stamps or shelf numbers; nevertheless, it can be demonstrated or at least strongly assumed that they were formerly part of the EME's holdings: the old stickers with the EME call numbers were preserved,¹⁸ the EME library had only one copy of each book, their provenance can be determined based on Károly Szabó's series of articles,¹⁹ or archival documents reveal the mode in which they were acquired. Among these, several are incomplete copies and fragments that have been removed from binder boards; of these, five

¹⁷ To provide a sense of scale, we cite from Lajos Kelemen's diary entry of 31 January 1938: "Today we counted the material in the three cabinets and found that there are 1525 volumes in total. About 100 of these belong to the University Library, the rest to the Museum. However, the Museum also owns a copy of at least 2/3 of the University's volumes. There are also 36 unnumbered volumes from the last 20 years. Around half of these belong to the University. There are 208 duplicates and other multiple copies. There are 103 calendars from the RMK, a quarter of which are unica." Lajos Kelemen, *Napló II (1921–1938)* (Diary II, 1921–1938), s. a. r. Péter Sas, Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület (Cluj-Napoca, 2018), 929.

¹⁸ BMV 690, BMV 1731.

¹⁹ BMV 320/I, BMV 523a.

contain Károly Szabó's handwritten identification and notes.²⁰ A calendar fragment was soaked and donated to the EME by Zoltán Ferenczi (BMV 231). In one case, an archival document provides data to clarify the provenance.²¹

Besides these, we strongly suspect that the copies of the former library of the EME may have been the ones indicated by Volumes I–III of the RMK, for lack of other sources. In the Special Collections of the University Library, we still use the copy of this register that was also utilized by Károly Szabó and his successors, in which they introduced additions, corrections, and clarifications. We found 13 such volumes among the old Hungarian prints without an institutional mark.²²

It is possible that the calendar fragment preserved in the binding of György Hancz (Hantz) in Cluj-Napoca, which was soaked out by Farkas Gyalui in the summer of 1901, may also have been part of the collection of the EME.²³ We can presume that the volume donated by Domokos Pap²⁴ also enriched the EME library. In his library report presented at the annual general assembly of the EME and published in 1904, Pál Erdélyi references 11 prints and 6 manuscripts as donations from Domokos [Gyallai] Pap. It is plausible that this was one of the prints in question.

The remaining 77 volumes are believed to have been acquired by the University Library. Of these, 44 can be identified as belonging to the holdings of the University Library or its predecessors (a stamp or shelf number; we included here the colligates where only the first item bears ownership marks). In the case of 15 volumes, there is no institutional stamp/shelf number. However, in one instance, just like during the process of identifying the institutional provenance of the EME books, a university library copy was manually entered into Károly Szabó's bibliography: a Königsberg print from 1563.²⁵

Of the previously identified fragments, which were retrieved by soaking in the 1960s in the bookbinding workshop of the University Library, two prints from Heltai's printing press are noteworthy. These were published in 1553 and were recovered from a 1559 copy of the

²⁰ The calendar printed for 1581 in Bártfa (Bardejov) – BMV 696, the 1603 calendar from Nagyszombat (Trnava) – BMV 1337, the calendar fragments of 1608 from Keresztúr (Hostie) and 1612 from Kassa (Košice) – BMV 1419, BMV 1489, the calendar fragments donated by Lugossy József to the EME, BMV 1483, BMV 1727, BMV 1805.

²¹ BMV 1818a - Lajos Eötvös's donation to the EME, 1869. KvÁlt 298/241.

²² BMV 812 – RMK III/732; BMV 1112 – RMK III/857; BMV 1535 – RMK III/1156; BMV 1618 – RMK III/1238; BMV 1613 – RMK II/396; BMV 1614 – RMK II/396; BMV 1656 – RMK III/1278; BMV 1650 – RMK II/411; BMV 1652 – RMK II/413; BMV 1648 – RMK II/409; BMV 1683 – RMK II/414; BMV 1811 – RMK I/568; BMV 1449 – RMK II/336. – Next to two of the items (BMV 812 – RMK III/732, BMV 1811 – RMK I/568) the text *Erd. Múz.* ('Transylvanian Museum') was added later, but not in Károly Szabó's handwriting; this means that they were included into the EME library after 1890.

²³ BMV 297 – flyleaf: "Soaked from a binder board in the summer of 1901 by Farkas Gyalui."

²⁴ BMV 1579/a. Inscription by Lajos Kelemen on the front binder board: "Pap Domokos ajándéka, 1903." 'Gift from Domokos Pap, 1903.'

²⁵ BMV 369 – RMK III/508.

Vitae patrum coming from the library of the grammar school in Segesvár (Sighişoara). One of the fragments comprises the B, C, and D sheets of Heltai's *Catechismus minor* (Cluj, 1553; RMNY 100).²⁶ Another one is a fragment of a previously unknown Donatus grammar.²⁷ As one of the sheets of the fragment contains the colophon,²⁸ its identification was not difficult. Donatus's Latin grammar was published on numerous occasions, and now we can add an old Hungarian book to the list of its published versions. These have been entered into our records as copies of the University Library of Cluj.

A total of seven volumes were identified at the conclusion of our examination, the institutional provenance of which was not ascertainable. These volumes have been catalogued as copies of the University Library of Cluj.

The ratios in question reflect the operational and collection methodologies of the two libraries in question: Following the establishment of the University of Cluj and the University Library in 1872, the EME library and the University library became symbiotic. The EME library was tasked with collecting old books of historical interest, while the University Library concentrated on collecting contemporary literature. The University Library's collection of older books was primarily expanded during periods when the EME was unable to do so: from 1918 to the Vienna Award, and, subsequently, from the Second World War (and the nationalization of the 1950s) until the present day.

The volumes of the current holdings of the University Library were analysed by institutional provenance, according to their modes of acquisition. At this stage of the investigation, we can only ascertain the manner in which 277 volumes were procured – donation, exchange, purchase, deposit – and through whom – donor, vendor, etc. (this applies to both institutions, the EME and the University Library): 141 volumes were donated to the library, 52 were exchanged, 78 were purchased, and 8 were imported.

The scale of donations and purchases can be linked to well-defined periods for both institutions. As previously stated, the EME had a library prior to its establishment. Many books from the collection interest of the RMK came from József Kemény's collection. The books we have examined thus far, published up to 1630, include 13²⁹ prints from the library of József Kemény. This fact serves to illustrate the significance of the Kemény collection for the EME library, which can be defined as its foundational element. There are also 5 volumes from the collection of Samuel Kemény in the period examined so far. The donation of 21 volumes by

²⁶ A fragment of the same work was retrieved by Zoltán Ferenczi and donated to the EME (MBV 231). However, the newly discovered document is considerably more comprehensive than the previously known one, of which not a single sheet was preserved.

²⁷ *Aeli Donatii Donati viri clarissimi De Octo partibus orationis methodus.*, Clavsenbvrği, 1553, Heltai. – Not identical with RMNY 107.

²⁸ IMPRESSUS Clausenburgi Transylvaniae in Officina Casparis Helti, Anno MDLIII.

²⁹ There are 14 such volumes: the volume known as the *Hoffgreff-énekeskönyv* ('the Hoffgreff Songbook') (Cluj, 1554, RMNY 108, RMK I/348) was transferred from József Kemény's library to the possession of Gusztáv Szénfy, the composer; the Transylvanian Museum Society bought it from his heirs, as Károly Szabó writes.

Count Imre Mikó is particularly noteworthy among the donors, the value of which is significantly enhanced by the fact that 9 of these volumes were previously part of the Aranka collection.³⁰ The identification of Mikó's former volumes is facilitated, in the majority of cases, by the ex libris that was inserted into the books. Imre Mikó is also regarded as the patron who donated incunabula: among the old Hungarian books, Osvát Laskai's *Sermones dominicales...*, published in 1498 in Hagenau (RMK III/39) is also included in this category.

Among the family libraries donated to the EME, we must also mention Count Domokos Teleki's library in Gernyeszeg (Gornești). In his 1877 library report, Károly Szabó noted that the estate, which also included a portion of the former Ráday library, had resulted in the addition of 154 volumes to the collection of old Hungarian books. Of the works published prior to 1630, five were found to have traces of provenance. Four of these are known to have been part of Eszter Ráday's library: István Székely's chronicle (Krakow, 1559 – RMNY 156), Tamás Félegyházi's *Loci communes* (Debrecen, 1601 – RMNY 874), János Debreczeni's *Christianus suspirans* (Debrecen, 1615 – RMNY 1081), Miklós Gyarmati's *Keresztényi felelet Monoszlói Andrásnak* ('Christian response to András Monoszlói') (Debrecen, 1598 – RMNY 830); and not from Eszter Ráday's library, a rarity: Péter Pázmány's *Öt szép level* ('Five pleasant letters') (Graz, 1609 – RMNY 980) written to Péter Alvinczi.

In the first period of the EME, from its establishment until the foundation of the University of Cluj, there was a notable inclination towards the donation of books: the library

³⁰ As we know, the Aranka collection was originally purchased by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with the help of Count Imre Mikó in 1856. The most important parts of the correspondence with Ferenc Toldy, the "secret keeper" (i.e., secretary) of the Academy, which began in 1855, were published by Elemér Jancsó, without mentioning the source: *Gróf Mikó Imre ismeretlen levelei* (Count Imre Mikó's Unknown Letters). *Szellem és élet* (Spirit and Life), 1943/1-2, 76-89. (Imre Mikó copied these in his *Leveleskönyvek* 'correspondence book' - 1855-1864, 14 volumes, our excerpts are from this source: KEK Ms. 3567). From the exchange of letters between Toldy and Mikó, we can ascertain that on 1 August 1856, the Academy sent the sum requested for the collection, 1000 pengó forints. In November of that year, Mikó appeared to have made progress in his efforts to establish the Transylvanian Museum, thanks in part to Toldy's assistance. Encouraged by this, he asked Toldy on 19 November that the Academy, once the purchase price had been reimbursed, transfer the Transylvania-focused collection to the society that was to be established. On 24 November 1856, József Eötvös informed him in the name of the Academy that his request had been accepted: "Your Excellency formulated your wish in a letter dated to 19 November regarding the surrendering of the Aranka collection that has been obtained by us due to your good offices. For the Academy, the purpose of acquiring it was to save it: as Transylvania will not cease to be ours in spirit: and, thus, we gladly surrender this material possession as a first sign of the bond that unites us in a brotherly embrace with the future partner institution." (KEK – Ms. 3567/IV, 19v–20r). On 5 December 1856, Imre Mikó wrote to Toldy: "(...) The subject of the first, that is, that the historical committee will recommend that the Academy cedes the Aranka collection with my reimbursement of the established purchase price of 1000 forints - by the official notification of the highly esteemed Academy on the same day, and by the encouragement of the esteemed Secretary, was confirmed with a very gratifying result to me. [He has put a mark here, and at the bottom of the page we find the addition:] which is why I include the respective 1000 forints below." (KEK – Ms. 3567/IV, 28v).

received donations from many individuals, sometimes even only one or two volumes. In addition to the founders, the names of Transylvanian nobles are also found among the donors of the EME. For example, Baron Franz Nopcsa, supreme comes of Hunyad County and palaeontologist, has two incunabula registered in the material processed so far (*Legendae S[an]cto[rum] Regni Hungariae...*, Strassburg, 1484 k., RMK III/61; the 1488 Augsburg edition of Thuróczy's chronicle, RMK III/15), or the Counts Lázár, Domokos Teleki, etc. Given the demands of their social status and office, donations were a necessary component of their activities. Citizens of Transylvania also rushed to enrich the collections of the newly established Transylvanian museum. It is precisely these "small" donations that demonstrate the profound impact of Imre Mikó's vision for the museum. His appeal resonated deeply with many individuals across Transylvania, inspiring a surge of support and contributions towards the establishment of the museum: we registered 12 volumes from István Incze (medical doctor, surgeon from Cluj), all of which were once part of the library of Mihály Szathmári Pap (1737–1812), scholar and Calvinist professor;³¹ Ferenc Benkő, legal counsellor,³² Károly Ködöböcz, schoolmaster from Kraszna (Crasna) (Heltai's *Agenda*, Cluj, 1559), Miklós Miklós, burgomaster and Calvinist priest from Torda (Turda) (Péter Szenci Csene's bilingual, Hungarian-Latin creed, the *Confessio fidei...*, Debrecen, 1616), Miklós Nagy, a clerk from Szilágysomlyó (Șimleu Silvaniei) (János Draskovich's translation, a mirror for princes, the *Horologium* – Graz, 1610), Károly Rittner (the 1605 Basel edition of Calepinus's dictionary) – just a few of those we can name.

Among the donors of the 20th century, the names of Géza Kuun and Sándor Borbély are worth mentioning. The very rich library of the linguist and orientalist was added in 1906, and four volumes of his ex libris from the period of our interest were found. The library of the Unitarian schoolmaster and principal³³ at the teacher training school of Székelykeresztúr (Cristuru Secuiesc) was donated to the EME library in 1915 by his son, a surgeon in Cluj. In 9 of the volumes, we found the stamp with the inscription *id. Borbély Sámuel gyűjteménye* ('the collection of Sámuel Borbély senior').

In the collection processed so far, we have found only one donation received after 1940: a gift from Géza Ambrus and his wife, Gizella Deák of Csehédfalva (Cehețel), a Heltai printing house product from 1591, the *Magyar aritmetica* (RMNY 665).

The donations received by the University Library are consistent with the distribution of volumes between the libraries of the two institutions over the observed period. We found two donors, both of whom contributed to the University Library's collection of old books in

³¹ The Szathmári Pap and the Incze family were linked by kinship: István Incze's great-grandfather, the Calvinist deacon Mihály Incze of Nagybacon (Bățanii Mari) and Mihály Pap Szathmári were co-fathers-in-law.

³² The composite volume (colligate) of 18 pieces of 16th and 17th century prints belonging to Ferenc Benkő, a schoolmaster from Nagyenyed (Aiud), was donated to the EME by his son with the same name. According to Károly Szabó, the colligate was taken apart and bound piece by piece. - EME Évkönyvei (EME Yearbooks), 1861–1863, vol. 2, 157.

³³ Miklós Kelemen, *Borbély Sámuel (1842–1915)* – <http://tudastar.unitarius.hu/UNEL-2000/20056/15.pdf>.

1938. Lajos Kelemen, in a gesture of his “gratitude and commitment” to his employer, the University Library, donated János Zsámboky’s Bonfini edition (Basel, 1568). The Marțian brothers from Naszód (Nășăud) also gifted three volumes to the University Library in 1938: a copy of the same Zsámboky volume, István Szamosközi’s 1596 Padova edition of *Annalecta lapidorum*, and a Coresi print, the Romanian translation of the Gospel published in 1561 in Brașov. The latter constituted a highly valuable donation of approximately 900 volumes of books published between the 17th and 19th centuries. It represented one of the most significant contributions to the University Library’s collection of old Romanian books (as well).

It is likely that the ongoing processing will yield the names of several additional donors.

On several occasions, Károly Szabó compiled lists of duplicates from the entire EME library, using them for exchanges with other institutions. He did the same for the old Hungarian books. After Károly Szabó’s death, there is hardly any trace of this practice (this is obviously not due to a lack of intention/practice, but rather to the finite number of old books: many of the copies that were discovered during this fruitful period boosted by Károly Szabó’s work, were ultimately incorporated into institutional or private library collections).

Among the books published up to 1630, the EME received 11 volumes through exchange within Transylvania: seven by exchange with the Reformed College of Kolozsvár (Cluj), and one volume each was obtained from the Unitarian grammar school of Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc) and from the Batthyány library. In one instance, we also know which volumes were exchanged. In a transaction with the Reformed College of Kolozsvár (Cluj) on 3 May 1862, Szabó procured for the EME Peter Pécsváradi’s debate book (RMNY 1427), printed in Debrecen in 1629, Mihály Apafi’s portrait and Anna Bornemisza’s coat of arms, and gave 19 volumes in exchange.³⁴

Two volumes were exchanged with Elek Filep, a name already known from the list of donors. A greater number of exchanges were conducted with the Hungarian National Museum (presently known as the National Széchényi Library). We discovered stamps bearing the inscriptions *Másodlat a M. N. Muzeum Széch. Orsz. Könyvtárból* (“duplicate from the Hungarian

³⁴ *Jegyzőkönyv...* In this book, the volumes available for exchange or purchase were catalogued by the individual or institution in question. The value of the book was established with the help of the board. The list of books acquired in this manner was not included here; only the more valuable acquisitions were indicated. If it was not an exchange but a purchase, it was recorded. Additionally, the *Jegyzőkönyv* contains several envelopes bearing Károly Szabó’s handwriting. One such envelope provides precise details regarding the exchange with the Reformed College, including the date, the volumes exchanged, and the names of the artefacts. In the *Jegyzőkönyv*, there are few old Hungarian volumes offered for exchange or sale by the EME, but a few do occur. For instance, on 8 August 1860, Count Sándor Teleki was sold 23 works for cash, including a copy of *Compilatae Constitutiones ...*, Cluj, 1669, from G. Torma’s (?) library for the sum of 1 forint and 1 kreuzer. He was also sold János Bethlen’s historiography, s.l., 1663, from József Kemény’s library for 1 forint and 2 kreuzers and János Kászoni’s *Rövid igazgatása Nemes Magyarországnak ...* (A Brief Report on the Legal Customs of Hungary), Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), 1647, a copy from the Torma library, sold for 1 forint and 2 kreuzers. Károly Szabó wrote at the end of the list that the money was received, and that he would use it for binding.

National Museum's Széchényi Library'), *A M. N. Múzeum Könyvtárából* ('from the library of the Hungarian National Museum') in 39 volumes. It is evident that these were not all exchanges; they could have been gifts to the EME library. In his 1878 report to the general assembly of the Society, Károly Szabó states that in 1877, EME's collection of old Hungarian books increased by 32 volumes, with duplicates from the Hungarian National Museum (now the National Széchényi Library). In 1880, he presents the increase from the previous year, noting that he selected 39 old Hungarian volumes for the Society from the same collection.³⁵ The book of acquisitions (*Beszerezési könyv*) and the book of proceedings (*Jegyzőkönyv*) clearly show the exchange transactions of the EME.

To illustrate the nature of the University Library's exchanges during the period under discussion, we present the following example: Coresi's Psalter (Braşov, 1570 RMNY 275) was received by this means from the university library of Csernovic (Cernăuți) in the summer of 1943.

Among the acquisitions made during Károly Szabó's leadership, the purchase of two substantial family libraries merits particular attention: the Csáky and the Farkas Cserei libraries from Kraszna (Crasna).³⁶ In the material processed up to 1630, no volumes from the Csáky library were identified. However, the inclusion of the Cserey library resulted in the acquisition of five old Hungarian books that previously belonged to it. These are all rare 16th-century editions: Mátyás Dévai Bíró (RMNY 78), Gáspár Heltai (a unicum copy of the 1550 edition of his *Catechismus minor* published in Kolozsvár, RMNY 86), István Székely (RMNY 19/63), Péter Melius Juhász (RMNY 259) and István Werbőczy (RMNY 307) – volumes by perhaps the most renowned authors of the period have changed hands with the purchase of the library in Kraszna (Crasna).

Purchasing volumes became frequent in the subsequent years. The library strived to acquire the old Hungarian books that were found and offered for sale. Zoltán Ferenczi, the director of the library who succeeded Károly Szabó, made several purchases during his tenure. It was through his efforts that one of the 1614 editions of *Practica aritmetica* printed in Debrecen, (RMNY 1063), a practical book containing multiplication tables and tables calculating interest rates, was acquired. At the time of purchase, it was the only known copy in existence. It was Zoltán Ferenczi who procured Albert Szenci Molnár's Latin grammar printed in Hanau in 1610, for the library (RMNY 995). The purchase of old Hungarian books reached a particularly high level of intensity during Pál Erdélyi's tenure as director. The register of acquisitions (*Gyarapodási osztálynapló*) started in 1904 is a valuable resource for tracking such acquisitions (the register was kept between 1904 and 1918 and again from 1941 and 1943). A total of 69 publications were purchased for the EME library during the examined period, with the exception of Farkas Cserey's library in Kraszna (Crasna). The majority of the volumes were purchased between 1904 and 1916. A review of the sellers indicates that they were in contact

³⁵ Károly Szabó, *Könyvtári jelentés* (Librarian's Report), EM, 1879/5, 74; *Ibid.*, EM 1880/4–5, 144.

³⁶ See the announcement of the District Court of Zilah (Zalău) on the sale of the Cserey library, dated 6 August 1860, as well as Károly Szabó's report to the board of the Society on the purchase of the Cserey library: (KEK: Col.Doc 176/1860/189–190 and *ibid.*: 1860/201).

with numerous antiquarian booksellers located in various places: from Cluj to Budapest, from Munich to Zagreb. The names of three antiquarian booksellers from Budapest are documented in the register of acquisitions (*Gyarápodási osztálynapló*): Ágost Dobrovcszky, Dániel Kun and Gusztáv Ranschburg. They purchased volumes from antiquarian booksellers including Karl Hiersemann in Leipzig, Mirko Breyer in Zagreb, Friedrich Roh Rachel in Linz, but also from György Szelinszki, a paper and book vendor based in Vienna.

During this period, the library received four incunabula from the collection interest of the RMK. These included the 1488 Brno edition of Thuróczy's *Chronica* (RMK III/16), formerly housed by the monastery of Mikháza (Călugăreni)³⁷ and purchased by the EME from Imre Lukinich; the *Legendae sanctorum Regni Hungaria...*, Strassburg, cca. 1484 – RMK III/61); a volume of Pelbartus de Temesvár (Hagenau, 1500, RMK III/55) bought from Iulian Marțiantól³⁸ (Naszód, Năsăud). From the antiquarian Dániel Kun, they purchased two incunabula (*Missale secundum chorum alme ecclesiae Strigoniensis*, Velence, 1486 – RMK III/11 and Michael de Hungaria: *Sermones dominicales...*, Strassburg, 1490 – RMK III/23). Furthermore, seven volumes of Pelbartus de Temesvár published between 1501 and 1511 were incorporated into the corpus of early prints. These were purchased from antiquarian book-sellers Karl Hiersemann from Leipzig and B. Haas from Munich, as well as Gusztáv Ranschburg, a book vendor from Budapest, and Sámuel Kun. Purchases from private individuals were not uncommon either, with several cases of one or two volumes being acquired in this way.³⁹

Three volumes are known to have been purchased for the University Library: all three were bought in 1923 from Grigore Crețu, a schoolmaster from Bucharest.⁴⁰ These are old Romanian prints that are also part of the RMK collection interest.

We have identified one publication originating from the monastery of Mikháza (Călugăreni)⁴¹ and three from the library of the Franciscan monastery of Dézs (Dej)⁴² among the

³⁷ Lajos Kelemen, *Napló II.* (Diary II), 951. See also: Réka Kovács Bányai, *A mikházi ferences kolostor ősnymtatványai* (The Incunabula of the Franciscan Monastery of Mikháza), *Certamen VII: Előadások a Magyar Tudomány Napján az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület I. szakosztályában* (Certamen VII: Papers Presented on The Day of the Hungarian Science in Transylvania at the I. Department of the Transylvanian Museum Society), Emese Egyed, László Pakó, Emese Sófalvi (eds.) (Cluj-Napoca, Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, 2020), 361–372.

³⁸ Military officer, historian, honorary member of the Romanian Academy. The EME purchased several old Hungarian books from him. His extensive collection was donated to the university library by his family.

³⁹ For the names of donors, individuals facilitating exchanges and vendors, see the Annex below.

⁴⁰ Sbornic slavonesc, Braşov, Coresi, 1569 – BRV 15 (RMNY 261 – BRV 15); Psaltirea românească, Braşov, Coresi, 1570 – BMV 16/1 (RMNY 275 – BRV 16); [ČETVOROBLAGOVĚSTIE – Tetraevangel slavon], [Transilvania], [Lavrentie?], 1582 - BRV 34a (RMNY 520a - BRV IV/11).

⁴¹ Michael de Hungaria, Köln, 1501 - RMK III/62. Its provenance is revealed by the inscription on the flyleaf. *Con[ven]tus Michaz*. The volume has a university library shelf number from 1969.

⁴² András Monoszlóy, *Apologia*, Nagyszombat (Trnava), 1588 (RMNY 620), István Gönczi, *Panharmonia*, Vizsoly, 1599 (RMNY 863); Szent Biblia (Holy Bible), Bécs (Vienna), 1626 (RMNY 1352). – see also: Edina Gordán, *A dési ferences rendház könyvtárának régi állománya* (The Old Stock of the Franciscan

volumes processed thus far. The latter were given to the University Library as an “unknown donation”; their provenance is indicated by inscriptions and the stamps of the Franciscan monastery.

In addition to the institutional history of the old Hungarian volumes, the question of their historical provenance is equally or even more fascinating. In order to facilitate the work of researchers attempting to trace a volume or an owner, ownership entries are always provided, while other entries are indicated.

The catalogue will include several indexes. In addition to author, publisher and place name indexes, an index of printing locations, printers, and fragments is planned, as well as an institutional provenance guide. Photocopies of the original local bindings (if not all, at least those that have survived in a better condition and are considered important from the owner’s point of view) will be included as an appendix to the catalogue.

Finally, here are some examples of how the item descriptions in the catalogue will look.

Among the incunabula, we have chosen the 1488 Brno edition of János Thuróczi’s *Chronicle*, a copy that was purchased by the Transylvanian Museum Society. The book was preserved in its original German Renaissance style binding, and was formerly part of the monastery library in Mikháza (Călugăreni). Its inscriptions suggest that it was used by readers in Transylvania during the 17th century; however, the precise circumstances of its arrival in Transylvania remain uncertain.

Thuróczy, János: *Chronica Hungarorum*.

Brunensi; 1488. 20. Martii; [Konrad Stahel et Matthias Preinlein]. 2° [168] f. ; and 1.

RMK III/16, GW M14782, INC-BCU 81.

A Incomplete, page 160 is missing. Place for initials empty, letters inscribed later; engravings not coloured.

B Restored, paper board, four raised bands, dark brown, Renaissance-style German leather binding, two metal clasps. The metal clasps were replaced with new leather straps. The decoration of the front and back covers is identical, very faded on both.

C. Shelf number: BCU 2110/1960

(stamp) ENMK

Former copy of the Franciscan monastery of Mikháza (Călugăreni), purchased by the EME from Imre Lukinich between 1900 and 1902.

(f. 2r) *Hic liber est generosi D[omi]ni Nicolaj Kovacsioctz de Buzin 1670 11 Novembris.*

D. Marginalia, pen tests, drawings from several hands (Lat., Hung., 16th, 17th century). (f. [115r]) *Anno Domini 1671 9 Martij*

(f. [135v]) *Ex Szent Demeter S: G:* (in Kovacicz’s writing)

([3. back-r] 1696. *Die 3tia Novembris estve született Miklós S. Theophilus Napján. Ezek alatt az jegyek alatt, és az Vizön jegy alatt.* (‘Miklós, born on November 3, in the evening, on the day of

Monastery’s Library in Dézs), MTAK, Budapest, 2019. (A Kárpát-medence magyar könyvtárainak régi könyvei) (The Old Books of the Hungarian Libraries of the Carpathian Basin).

S. Theophilus. Under these birth signs [here 3 signs are drawn] and under the sign of Aquarius.’)

1697. *Die 23 Xmbris estve születétt Jóseph S. Dágób: napyán. Ezek alatt az Jegyek alátt, [két csillagjegy] és a bika jegy alatt.* (‘Jóseph, born on December 23, in the evening, on the day of S. Dagobert. Under these birth signs [two signs] and under the sign of Taurus.’)

1699. *Die 9nar Júny Született Ersebeth, az az pünkösöd harmad napyán, S. Gebhard napyán az rák[na]k jegye alatt. Ennek kereszt apya pater maga az ki keresztelté Köszenyesj parokhjaban Lakó pater Imbré Ur[am], Kereszt Anya pedig Páldinj Jánosné Rácz Mária Asszony. Josephet patér Csik Szent Martonj keresztelté ugyan maga is Kereszt apya ö keg[ye]lm[e] pater Marton Urnak, ugyan Kereszt apya Kozmassi parochiában lako pater Lákátos Ur[am]. Kereszt anya pedig Csik Szent Simoni Cyrjék Iánosné Asszonyom. Keresztelték pedig Csik Sz. Martonba az Mihály Deák Ur[am] hazánál dé. Miklost s Ersebethet Magyar Sakódon. És Miklosnak pedig Kereszt apya Mikházy Kalastromban lakó pater Iános Ur[am] ugyan maga ö k[e]g[ye]lm[e] keresztelte, Kereszt Anya pedig fen meg irtt Paldiny Iánosné Asszony[om].* (‘Ersebeth, born on June 9, on the third day of Pentecost, on the day of S. Gebhard, under the sign of Cancer. The godfather is the very priest who baptised the child, Father Imbré living in the parish of Köszenyes, her godmother is Mária Rácz, János Páldini’s wife. Joseph was baptised by the Father from Csíkszentmárton, who is also the godfather of Father Marton and Father Lákátos, who lives in the parish in Kozmás. His godmother is the wife of János Cyrjék of Csíkszentsimon. Miklós was baptised in Csíkszentmárton at the house of scribe Mihály, and Ersebeth was baptised in Magyarzsákod. Miklos’s godfather is Father Iános from the monastery of Mikháza, who also baptised the child, and his godmother is the above-mentioned wife of János Pandiny.’)

BMV 11

Among the earliest Hungarian-language publications, Gábor Pesti’s translation of the New Testament was donated to the EME’s library, which was previously (also) owned by Mihály Szathmári Pap.

NOVUM Testamentum seu quattuor evangelioru[m] volumina linqua Hungarica donata, Gabrielle Pannonio Pesthino interprete. Wij Testamentum magijar nijeluen. (‘New Testament in the Hungarian language’).

(Bechbe) (‘in Vienna’); 1536. XVII. die Mensis Julii = Zent Iakab huanak tiizenheted napijan ‘on the 17th day of Saint James’s month’; Ioannes Sijngrenius; Ioannis Metzger bibliophole expensis = Metzger Ianos kewltsegeuel ‘at the expence of Ianos Metzger’.

8°; 243, [3] f.; init., grav. RMK I/6, RMNy 16.

B. Leather binding with coloured flyleaves, 19th c. Decorated gilt spine, a red and green label with the text: *Uj testamentom.* (‘New Testament’) *Ford. Pesti Gábor, Bécs 1536.* (‘Translated by Gábor Pesti, Vienna 1536’). Trimmed during the rebinding. Red engraving.

C. Shelf number: BCU 56597/1969

(stamp) EMK

Previous call number: EME RMK I. Hung. 1b

Dr. Incze József adománya (néhai Szathmári Pap Mihály könyvtárából). ('Dr. József Incze's donation. From the library of the late Mihály Szathmári Pap'). (EME-ÉVK., 1868/70, 35.)

(f. [8]) *Sum possessor huius librij Martin[us] Tot, Anno D[omi]ni 1647. Die 26. Martii.*

D. Sporadic marginalia (Hung., 17th c.)

BMV 140

Among the unicum books in the EME's stock, we highlight Gáspár Heltai's *Imádságoskönyv* ('Prayer book'), which used to be part of the Aranka collection purchased by Imre Mikó.

[Heltai Gáspár – transl.: Imádságok a hét napjaira] [Kolozsvár; 1570–1571; Heltai] ('Gáspár Heltai – transl.: Prayers for the seven days of the week. Cluj; 1570–1571; Heltai').

12°; [92+?] f.

RMK I/347; RMNY 289.

A unique incomplete copy. Missing sheets: (!)1, 8, B8, H1, K2+? f.

Leather binding, red base, hard flyleaves with black-and-white pattern (18th/19th century). On the spine, on a brown and black label: *Heltai G. Isteni dicséretetek, Kolozsvár 1570–1575.* (G. Heltai God's praises. Cluj 1570–1575). In a pasteboard box.

(stamp) EMK

Previous call number: EME RMK I. Hung. 14th c. Unicum.

Egyetlen példány a gr. Mikó Imre adományából, az általa megvett Aranka-gyűjteményből. ('A unique copy from c. Imre Mikó's donation, from the Aranka collection purchased by him.')

(EME-ÉVK., 1868/70, 45.)

Imre Mikó's donation (KvÁlt 298/17 – registers)

Magyar Nyelvmívelő Társaság ('Transylvanian Society for Cultivating the Hungarian Language'), József Benkő (RMK I/347; Új M. Múzeum 1854/I) (f. D8r) *En Francisci Josa* (18. c.)

With several endnotes (Hung., written by Sámuel Birta – see BMV 455)

F. *Heltai Gáspár imádságos könyve (1570–1571)* ('Gáspár Heltai's prayer book, 1570–1571'), bev. tan. ('introd. study'), s. a. r. Balázs, Mihály, Cluj-Napoca, Unitarian Church of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca, 2006 (Az Erdélyi Unitárius Egyház Gyűjtőlevéltárának és Nagykönyvtárának Kiadványai 5. - Publications of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania's Archives and Grand Library 5).

BMV 460

Péter Pázmány and Péter Pécsváradi are prominent figures from the era of religious debate. This latter's response to Archbishop Pázmány's book published in Vienna in 1626, is a volume procured through exchange by the EME library. It has been preserved in its original binding, with annotations indicating the names of several previous owners.

Péter Pécsváradi: Pecs-Varadi Peternek, varadi lelki pasztornak feleleti Pazmany Peter- nek, esztergami erseknek ket könyvetskeire, mellyeket az Szent Irasrol es az Anyaszent- egyhazrol irt, es Bihar var-megyének dedikalvan MDCXXIX kibocsatott. ('The responses of Péter Pécsváradi, pastor from Várad to the two books by Péter Pázmány, archbishop of Esztergom written about the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Church, and dedicated to the county of Bihar, published in 1629.')

Debreczenben ('in Debrecen'); 1629; Rheda, Peter. 4°; [16] p., 888 (recte 892) p., [39] p. RMK I/579, RMNY 1427.

B Paper board, four raised bands, brown, leather binding from Debrecen. For the binding, they used the pages of István Milotai Nyilas's *Az menyeyi tudomány szerint valo irtovany...*, Debrecen, 1617, printed by Pál Lipsiai (RMNY 1132). The floral pattern plates are gilded, and the front and backboards are identical. The first roll on the boards has an acorn-floral design (Rheda-g8), while the second a soutache design (Rheda-g4), applied twice vertically. On the large central panel, there is an ornate rosette, surrounded by a pattern of single tools with acorn-floral design and crowned heads. The spine is embellished with a square of single tool crowned heads. Gilded, gauffered engraving. Label glued to the spine, with a handwritten note: *Pécsváradi Péternek Feleleti Pázmány Péternek*. ('Péter Pécsváradi's responses to Péter Pázmány.') *Debrecen, 1629*.

C (stamp) EMK

Previous call number: EME RMK I. Hung. Q. 95.

Példányunk csere útján került a kolozvári ref. collegium könyvtárából. (Our copy was obtained by exchange from the library of the Reformed College in Cluj.) (EME-Évk., 1868–70, 69.)

(cl.) *Ignác Istváné, mk.* ('owned by István Ignác, mppr.'). 1838. 21. *Maii*.

(inside the front binder board:) *Ignác Istváné, mk. 1824* ('owned by István Ignác, mppr., 1824.')

(inside the front binder board:) *Ex libris Michaelis Junioris Dioszeghi de Deés. Comparatis a D[omi]na Susanna Váradí Den. 60. A[nn]o 1745. die 14. Augusti*.

BMV 1845

The surviving copy of the Bonfini edition, printed by János Zsámboky, preserved in its original binding, was donated by Lajos Kelemen to his employer, the University Library on 3 January 1938, upon his retirement.⁴³

Zsámboky, János, Antonii Bonfinii Rerum Vngaricarvm decades qvatuor, cum Dimidia. Qvarum tres priores, ante annos XX, Martini Brenneri Bistriciensis industria editae, ... multis in locis emendatiores. Quarta vero Decas, cum quinta dimidia, nunquaem antea execusae loan. Sambuci Tirnaviensis ... opera ac studio nunc demum in lucem proferuntur. Una cum rerum ad nostra usque tempora gestarum Appendicibus aliquot quorum seriem uersa pagina indicabit. Accesit etiam locuples Rerum et uerborum toto Opere memorabilium Index.

⁴³ Lajos Kelemen retired from the University Library on January 3, 1938. See *Napló II.* (Diary II.), 925.

Basileae; 1568, Oporinus.

2°; 12 p., 923 p., [7] f.; ins., init.

RMK III/570, VD16 B 6593.

A Incomplete, missing pages: title page, p. 1-2, p. 11-12; p. 1–2. Damaged pages: p. 3–12.

B Paper board, five raised bands, dark brown, worn 17th century (?) leather binding, with signs of restoration. The edges, the upper and lower parts of the spine reinforced/replaced with brown (artificial) leather. The binder boards are framed by palmette and floral-tendrill rolls, with a lozenge-shaped, Moorish-style ornament in the central panel formed by the floral corner ornaments, in the corners, impressions of a twisted tendrill single tool. The ornamentation of the front and back boards is identical.

C. Shelf number: BCU 1-BMV/1939

Ex libris BCU

(inside the front binder board.) *Bibliotecii Universității din Cluj, în semn de recunoștință și devotament.* ('to the University Library in Cluj, as a sign of gratitude and devotion'.) *Cluj, 3 Ianuarie, 1938.* (Cluj, January 3, 1938). *Ludovic Kelemen, arhivar pensionar.* (Ludovic Kelemen, retired archivist).

(p. 236) *Kádár, József* (19th c.)

(p. 247) *Kádár, József* (19th c.)

(p. 237) *Tatrosi mp.* (18th c.) (18th c.)

(p. 3.) *Ex libris Georgii Jása de Csik-MindSzent, Anno 1720. die 25 Januarii.*

D Sporadic marginalia (Lat., Hung., 16th, 17th, 19th c.)

BMV 430 doublet

A copy of the "German Bonfini" was donated to the EME library by Imre Mikó, and subsequently catalogued as part of the collection of old Hungarian books.

Bonfini, Antonius: Des allermechtigsten Königreichs inn Ungern warhafftige Chronick und anzeigung wie das anfang auff und abgang genummen ... durch Anthonium Bonnfinium inn dreysssig Büchern imm Latin beschreyben, vnd yetzt durch Hieronimvm BONER Schultetis zu Colmar inn diss volgende Tütsch bracht ...

Zu Basel by Ruprecht Winther, im Jahr 1545. (Geduckt inn der loblichen Stat Bern ... bey Mathia Apiario ...)

2°; [6], 380 f.

RMK III. Addenda 5207, VD 16 B 659.

B Original Late Gothic parchment binding, wooden boards, tailband, intact metal clasps, created at an unspecified workshop in Regensburg (vase with flowers, roll identifier 130487m: <https://www.hist-einband.de/werkzeugdetails.html?entityID=130487m&L=1>, budding stem single tool identifier 129710s:

<https://www.hist-einband.de/werkzeugdetails.html?entityID=129710s&L=1>)

The ornamentation of the front and back boards is different.

C (stamp) EMK

Ex libris: ENMK

Ex libris: Count Imre Mikó

(inside the front binder board) *Ex libris Johannes Raphael Hengel SS. Thl.giae ...* (17th c.)

(inside the back binder board) *Ex libris Fr. Antonii Mariae de Hengel Canonici I. Senioris ad D. V. Eystadii Consiliiarii ecclesiastici* (16th c.)

BMV 191

The University Library preserves two copies of an Old Church Slavonic edition of the four Gospels for liturgical use, printed in Transylvania. One was acquired with Grigore Crețu's library, while the other was probably donated. We have chosen to present the latter:

[ČĚTVOROBLAGOVĚSTIE - Tetraevangel slavon]

[In Transylvania] ; (1582) ; [Lavrentie?].⁴⁴

2^o; 1⁸–13⁸, 16⁸–25⁸, 26⁶, 27⁸–29⁸ = [214] f.; orn., color. Incorrect fascicle numbering: 16 after 13, instead of 14.

RMNY 520a, BRV IV/11, BCU–BRV 4.

A Incomplete, missing parts: leaves 3 and 6 of fascicle 24 (recte: 28)

B Restored – probably monastic, 18th century,⁴⁵ probably from Transylvania, brown leather binding, the original leather of the binder boards preserved, rich, gilded blind tooling. The outer corners are ornamented with a palmette roll, the centre frame is created using lily-shaped single tool. The front cover is very worn, perhaps identical to the back cover. The Moorish-style, lozenge-shaped central frame of the back cover shows Mary with the infant Jesus on her lap, flanked on either side by winged angels. Above Mary's and the angels' heads: *MP OY* (Maria Theotokos). The corner plates, also decorated in Moorish ornamentation, depict the four evangelists with Greek inscriptions. Metal sheets on the lower and upper parts of the central frame: above, a IHS monogram with a radiating pattern; below, Mary sitting on a crescent on a wreath of light, holding the Child.

On the spine: *Evangeliiar slavonesc.* ('Slavonic book of Gospels')

C. Shelf number: BCU 26BRV/1929.

A lugosi ortodox egyháztól, Iosif Popovici közvetítésével. ('From the Orthodox church of Lugoj, through Iosif Popovici's mediation.')(BRV – BCU 4)

D (...) *A lugosi Cecovan Pătru vásárolta és a lugosi szent egyháznak adta (...) avgust 7 7177 [1669]* ('Purchased and donated to the Holy Church in Lugoj by Cecovan Pătru on August 7, 7177 [1669]') (For a comprehensive transcription and translation of the entry from Slavonic into Romanian, see BRV-BCU 4).

BRV 34A

⁴⁴ According to the Romanian scholarly literature (BCU-BRV, Mareș), the year of printing was around 1574. They believe that the year 1582 in the colophon refers to a planned second edition. Their main argument: the watermark on the paper, and the entry dated to 1576 in the BRV 34a copy.

⁴⁵ A similar binding is described similarly (featuring a photograph) by Virgil Olteanu: *Din istoria și arta cărții. Lexicon.* (From the History and Art of the Book. Lexicon). Ed. Enciclopedică, Bucharest, 1992, 225.

Annex

Index of the acquisitions of the Transylvanian Museum Society and the University Library. The year indicates the year of acquisition and the number before it refers to the number of volumes.

Donations

- Ambrus, Géza, chief administrator of the Hungarian State Railways and his wife, Deák, Gizella, Cluj – 1 (1943)
- Benkő, Ferenc, legal counsellor, son of Ferenc Benkő, schoolmaster in Enyed (Aiud) – 4 (of which 3 survived) (1862)
- Bíró, József – 1 (1862)
- Bolics, Imre László, Father Superior at the Minorite monastery in Nagyenyed (Aiud) – 2 (1871)
- Borbély, Miklós – 1 (1865)
- Borbély, Sámuel, principal – 9 (1915)
- Bornemisza, Károly, supreme comes of Szolnok-Doboka County from 1890 – 2 (186?)
- Böhm, Mihály, assistant librarian, EME – 1 (1893)
- Czecz, Antal, landlord, botanist – 1 (1854)
- Eötvös, Lajos, librarian (Ráday library, library of the National Museum, library of the Vienna Court Library) – 2 (186?)
- Ferenczi, Zoltán, library director (EME-EK) – 1 (1894)
- Ferenczy, Sándor – 2 (1913)
- Filep, Elek, attorney, Mihályfalva (Boarta) – 2 (1880) Gál, Miklós – 1 (1860?)
- Gál, Miklós Sándor – 1 (1913)
- Dr. Incze, István, physician – 12 (186?)
- Kelemen, Lajos, archivist, cultural historian – 1 (1938 – to the University Library)
- Kemény, József, Count – 13 (1841)
- Kemény, Sámuel, Count – 5 (1843; 186?)
- Kolosi, Antal, Roman-Catholic priest from Szilágysomlyó (Șimleu Silvaniei) – 1 (1867)
- Ködöböcz, Károly, schoolmaster of the Reformed boy's school from Kraszna (Crasna) – 1 (186?)
- Kuun, Géza, linguist, orientalist – 4 (1906)
- Lázár, László, Count – 1 (1860?)
- Lázár, Miklós, Count – 2 (1860)
- Lugossy, József, linguist orientalist, schoolmaster and librarian of the Reformed College in Debrecen – 4 (186?)
- Martjan, brothers – 3 (1938 – to the University Library)
- Mátray, Ernő, philosopher – 1 (1870)
- Miklós, Miklós, Reformed pastor from Torda (Turda) – 1 (186?)
- Mikó, Imre, Count – 21 (1860–1872)
- Nagy, Miklós, burgomaster from Torda (Turda) – 1 (186?)

Nopcsa, Ferenc, supreme comes of Hunyad County – 2 (186?)
 Ötvös, Ágoston, physician, historian, corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences – 1 (186?)
 Gyallai Pap, Domokos, journalist, editor, history teacher at the Unitarian College of Kolozsvár (Cluj) – 1 (1903)
 Dr. Papp, Árpád, lawyer, Brassó (Braşov) – 1 (1900)
 Révai, Pál, Reformed pastor from Nagybacon (Băţanii Mari) – 1 (1878)
 Rhédei, Klára, Baroness, wife of István Radák, Baron – 3 (186?)
 Rittner, Károly, clerk from Szilágysomlyó (Şimleu Silvaniei) – 1 (1860)
 Rónay, Jácint, Benedictine schoolmaster, Grand Provost of Pozsony (Bratislava), natural scientist, writer – 1 (1 book in 2 volumes) (186?)
 Ruttká, Ferenc – 1 (1906)
 Schilling, Lajos, historian, university professor, secretary of the EME – 1 (1916)
 Simon, István – 1 (1916)
 Dr. Szabó, György, Roman-Catholic priest, professor of theology – 4 (1917–1918)
 Szabó, Károly, historian, the first librarian of the EME – 5 (186?)
 Szentkereszty, György, Baron – 1 (1912)
 Szentkirályi, Gábor, sub-prefect of Torda County – 2 (186?)
 Teleki, Domokos, Count – 5 (1866) (of which 4 from Eszter Ráday's library)
 Timár, Károly, Economic Association of Transylvania – 1 (1871)
 Torma, Károly, Doctor of Philosophy, archaeologist, university professor – 1 (187?–188?)
 Torma, Miklós – 1 (1878)
 Tóth, Vilmos, Unitarian schoolmaster – 1 (1902)
 Vajdahunyadi Konvent (the convent of Vajdahunyad/Hunedoara) – 1 (1863)
 Végh, Sámuel – 1 (1878)
 Veress, Endre, historian – 1 (1899)
 Veszely Károly, provost-parish priest, schoolmaster – 1 (1869)
 Total: 140

Exchanges

Batthyaneum Library, the – 1 (1913)
 Csernovic (Cernăuţi) University Library – 1 (1943)
 Filep, Elek – 2 (186?)
 Kolozsvár (Cluj), Reformed College of – 7 (1862, 186?)
 Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum – Országos Széchényi Könyvtár (Hungarian National Museum – National Széchényi Library – 39)
 Ranschburg, Gusztáv – 1
 Székelykeresztúr (Cristuru Secuiesc), Unitarian Grammar School, of – 1
 Total: 52

Purchases

Adorján, Jenő, language teacher, Kolozsvár (Cluj) – 1 (1911)
 Biás, István, archivist, local and family historian, Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) – 1 (1907)
 Borbély, Béla – 1 (1912)
 Breyer, Mirko, antiquarian bookseller, Zágráb (Zagreb) – 6 (1912)
 Creţu, Grigore, schoolmaster from Bucharest – 3 (1923, UL)
 Cserey, Farkas, library from Kraszna (Crasna) – 5 (1875)
 Dobrovsky, Ágost, antiquarian bookseller, Budapest – 2 (1906)
 György, Gábor – 1 (1912)
 B. Haas, München – 1 (1914)
 Karl Hiersemann, antiquarian bookseller, Lipcse (Leipzig) – 3 (1914)
 Kun, Dániel, antiquarian bookseller, Budapest – 19 (1913)
 Kun, László, Szászfenes (Floreşti) – 1 (1911)
 Kun, Sámuel – 3 (1907)
 László, Gyula, schoolmaster, Kőhalom (Rupea) – 2 (1906)
 Lehmann, Róbert, lawyer from Kolozsvár (Cluj) – 1 (1919)
 Lukinich Imre, historian, schoolmaster – 1 (after 1902)
 Marţian brothers – Iulian and Liviu, Naszód (Năsăud) – 2 (EME, 1905)
 Szentgercei Nagy, Géza, schoolmaster, Roman-Catholic Grammar School, Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) – 1 (1911) R
 Ranschburg, Gusztáv, antiquarian bookseller, Budapest – 8 (1906, 1913)
 Rohrachner, Friedrich, antiquarian bookseller, Linz – 3 (1912)
 Rosenthal, Jaques, antiquarian bookseller, München – 1 (purchased by Zoltán Ferenczi for the EME library) (1897)
 Sárdy, Lőrinc, banker, member of the EKE board, Kolozsvár (Cluj) – 1 (1911)
 Schilling, Lajos, secretary general of the EME, department president – 1 (1916)
 Simon, István – 1 (1916)
 Sölytöri, Károly – 1 (1913)
 Szelinski, György, Imperial and Royal University Bookshop, Vienna – 1 (1904)
 Werner, Mihály – 1 (1908)
 ? – 1 (1891) (purchased by Zoltán Ferenczi for the EME library)
 Total: 73

Imports

Franciscan Monastery of Dés (Dej) – 3 (1965)
 Franciscan Monastery of Mikháza (Călugăreni) – 1 (1969?)
 Reformed Kún Grammar School in Szászváros (Orăştie) – 2 (196?)
 Total: 6

Translated from Hungarian by Fazakas Noémi.