

'How others see this region...'
(Miklós Radnóti, *How others see....* Transl. Ország-Land, Thomas)

Geography and Environment in the Cultural History of Hungary

DEAR READER! | Human history is decisively influenced by our environment. Our thematic issue consists of articles that discuss geographical and environmental questions of the cultural history of Hungary. Our intellectual journey in time and space begins with the Hungarian prehistory and ends with 19th-century horse races. Kitti Kovács examines the correlation between the designations of Maeotis (the Sea of Azov) and the fluctuation of its water level from the antiquity to the middle ages. Pál Szabó helps us to understand the place of Scythia in the worldview of ancient authors; in his imaginary navigation he has included sources that were overlooked even by Zoltán Gombocz's monumental collection. After searching Scythia, we head to the Carpathian Basin where we stop first at Lake Balaton. The fluctuation of the water level of the Hungarian See is analysed by Tamás Vajda. This question becomes even more fascinating, if we consider the situation of Tihany Abbey: it might have been an island in the middle ages depending on the water level. The articles of Péter G. Tóth and Viktória Varga take us to the Hungarian Great Plain, and Ádám Bede presents the legends and myths about the mounds in the same region. The history of the Ottoman Empire and that of the Hungarian Kingdom are strongly connected. This is why the article of Lajos Rácz on the connection between the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the climatic changes at the beginning of the 17th century could find its right place in our thematic issue. Finally, we arrive in the 19th century: the eager audience of the horse races is revived and the importance of Hungarian horse breeding is highlighted by the article of Maja Kósa. Our thematic issue is completed with the works of Éva Teiszler, Szabolcs Felföldi and Gábor Mórocz.

We hope you will enjoy reading it our issue:
MIKLÓS HALMÁGYI, editor



Special thanks to Richárd Szántó, Szabolcs Polgár, Erzsébet Galántai, Ágnes Tóthné Horváth, Lajos Rácz, László Koszta, Éva Révész, Tibor Szőcs, László Mód, András Simon, Ferenc Sebők, László Marjanucz, Sándor László Tóth, Sándor Papp, Szilvia Kovács, Zoltán Serfőző, Péter Kis and Ferenc Piti.