

FOREWORD

Saints, Feasts, Pilgrimages, Confraternities – Heilige, Feste, Wallfahrten, Bruderschaften is the title the author has given to this collection of his essays published in English and German in recent years in various places: journals, Hungarian and foreign volumes of studies and conference papers. They have been brought together here in a single volume. Now, appearing side by side they perhaps offer additional insights into the religious culture of Hungary in the 18th to 21st centuries, giving an idea of its diversity and richness and at the same time extending the research to many new topics and approaches.

They mark the areas in which the author has worked in recent years in the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Szeged, and since 1st July 2013 also as researcher and head of the MTA-SZTE Research Group for the Study of Religious Culture. The chapters of the volume correspond to those areas. The twenty-seven studies it contains have been grouped in five main chapters: 1. *Ethnology of Religion / Religiöse Volkskunde*, 2. *Feasts, Festivals / Feste*, 3. *Pilgrimages / Wallfahrten*, 4. *Máriaradna / Maria-Radna* and finally 5. *Confraternities / Bruderschaften*.

Szeged, 15th August 2014, on the feast of Saint Stephen, first king of Hungary

Gábor Barna