

# THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE GYULA JUHÁSZ TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE

*The coat of arms was designed and its heraldic description provided by Dr. László Szegfű, college professor, head of the History Department.*

The coat of arms of the Gyula Juhász Teacher Training College is a triangular shield erect. Its upper edge curved, party per fess cintrée. Base is party per pale.


In chief azure two griffins or are borne facing each other. Between them a scene of heavenward rise is depicted: an eagle, armed, with its wings abaisé is holding a youth between its claws and thus raising him heavenward. In his dexter hand youth is holding a drinking vessel to the beak of the eagle. In his sinister hand a blossoming branch of a tree.

Below the line of partition on the sinister side or three vertical pallets gules, on the sinister side gules on a triple mound vert a demi-patriarchal cross argent is issuing from a crown or. Shield is embraced by a laurel branch, tied with a ribbon or, in which the following motto is inscribed: AGES, QUOD, AGIS (Perform your duty.)

The charges in the chief have been modelled on motifs of the golden treasure of Nagyszentmiklós (taken from the inner side of jug No. 7 and from scene No. 2 from jug No. 2), because the coat of arms was created on the 1100th anniversary of the Magyar Conquest and also because this unique treasure, unearthed in our region is to symbolise the intellectual inheritance we are to get acquainted with, cherish and leave it to our successors who follow us. The golden treasure







of Nagyszentmiklós also recalls the fact that Szeged is and will always be one of the intellectual centres of Hungary's Southern Great Plain region.

The charge of the eagle is the most ancient symbol of light and enlightenment, and it also represents the lifter of spirits. Thus the eagle has become the most relevant biblical symbol to express the reviving effect of our work with the young: *renovabitur ut aquilae iuventus tua* (Ps. 103, 5: Your youth is to be revived, like that of the eagle). According to old Hungarian beliefs it was also an eagle that gave spirits to shamans (representing scientists and teachers as well). This representation is in accordance with the myth of Ganymede, the cupbearer of Gods on the mount of Olympus, and thus it is also a reference to the uplifting character of knowledge. On the other hand it also means that the person, who is being raised, is also to act for the benefit of his own improvement and that he is ready to make a sacrifice for it. The offering of a green branch means respect for the superiors (a live legal custom only in Transylvania). The green laurel branch

is a reference to the fact that educators must be models for their students as regards their intellectual and personal life.

The griffins are fabulous heraldic beasts. As early as the works of the Greek Herodotus (4:27) they serve as guardians of gold. This feature on the one hand underlines the fact that we must pay a special attention to our own valuables, and, on the other hand it emphasizes the necessity of safeguarding our own traditions. These creatures have two sides: on the one hand they are related to the earthly sphere with their leonine characteristics. It means the necessity of standing on the ground of realities with both feet. On the other hand the griffins, with their eagle-like features, represent the heavenly sphere. It means that educators are not to forget about their dedication, the training of learned young men and women. At the same time griffins can also symbolize the ancient history and its continuity in the Carpathian Basin, the period before the Magyar Conquest.

The arched line of partitioning is the symbol of the bend of the Tisza River,



typical of the geography of our town; this element in the shield is an indirect reference to the location of the town of Szeged.

Dexter base or evokes the richness and completeness of Life; it is adorned with three pallets gules, a tincture that recalls the colour of blood (Life). Their number, number three evokes the three major areas of education, that is humanities, sciences as well as the skills areas. The tinctures also recall the philosophical notions of sapientia and scientia.

Sinister base is similar to the left lower side of the national coat of arms of Hungary. On the one hand it refers to our own national identity, while on the other it is a reference to the fact that the education we offer meets all-Hungarian standards, that is the demands claimed by Hungarians who live inside and also by those who live outside of Hungary. Thirdly, this section of the coat of arms is an emblem of the fact, that our institution is the oldest state-run teacher training establishment in the entire country.

The laurel branches surrounding the shield from the dexter as well as from the sinister side are reminders of those graduates whose achievements have also contributed to the fame of their institution, and also signify those professors and students who bled for their country in various events of world history.

The motto (devise) is a reference to the general expectation that each graduate from this institution, wherever he or she is to work upon completion of their studies, is to meet the demands of the job and perform their tasks to the full.

The external shape of the coat of arms is a reminder of that of the emblem of the University of Szeged, due to the fact that the two institutions educate their students in similar areas and thus their coats of arms, if the necessity arises, can also be easily alligned in a joint emblematic system.

