

Foreword

The present volume of Papers in English and American Studies continues a long tradition in the publishing and research activity of the English Department at József Attila University. Studies in iconography, emblematics and symbolic imagery have been in the focus of academic work in the Department since the early 1980s, resulting in an international conference on Renaissance emblematics in 1984, the proceedings of which were published in the second issue of PEAS (*Shakespeare and the Emblem*, ed. by Tibor Fabiny, Szeged: József Attila University). Members of the English, the Comparative Literature and other departments of modern philology joined efforts to participate in the publishing of the series *Ikonográfia és Műértelmezés* (Iconography and Interpretation), initiated in 1985 by József Pál.

The international conference "Iconography East and West" was organized in June 1993 in Szeged by the English department, the Szeged Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Society for Modern Philology. The conference aimed at reviving contacts and establishing new cooperation among scholars of East-Central Europe and those of the Western countries, as well as mapping out new perspectives and methodologies in iconographic studies. A collection of papers presented at the conference have been published recently (*Iconography East and West*, ed. by György E. Szőnyi, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995). The present volume contains papers that concentrate on theoretical issues, case studies in the fields of Medieval, Renaissance and orthodox iconography and applied iconography. It is our hope that this collection will help students of iconography to further their studies and to work out new research opportunities.

My special thanks are due to György E. Szőnyi, formerly my professor and now my colleague in Szeged, without whose organizational efforts and enthusiasm this conference would have never taken place. As the principal host of the conference and the editor of the first volume of papers, he gave me professional support in preparing this publication.

I am also indebted to Annamária Hódosy who gave me invaluable assistance in the editorial work.

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Attila Kiss