

## The Society of History and Archaeology in Southern Hungary and the first museum in Timișoara. I. 1872–1891

**Nicoleta Demian**

*History Department*

*The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara*

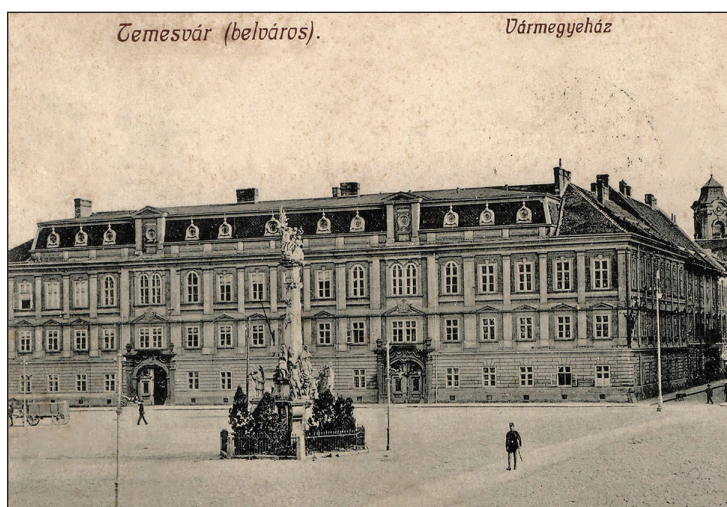
*nicoledemian@gmail.com*

At the initiative of the remarkable man of culture Zsigmond Ormós (1813–1894), the prefect of Timiș County (**Fig. 1**) and a group of enthusiastic intellectuals, on July 25, 1872, at 10 o'clock in the morning, personalities of public and scientific life met in the great hall of the Prefecture to establish the Society of History and Archaeology in Southern Hungary. The proposal to establish such a society had appeared in January 1872 in the monthly journal of the Cenad/Csanád Diocese, *Történelmi Adattár* (TOMA 1996. 218–220).

After the approval by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in August 1872 of the Society's Statutes on September 7, at 10 o'clock in the morning, in the same hall of the Prefecture building (**Fig. 2**), they held the general assembly of official constitution with the participation of a large audience (TOMA 1996. 220–221).



• **Fig. 1.** • Zsigmond Ormós (1813–1894), portrait by György Vastagh (1885)



• **Fig. 2.** • The Prefecture Palace where in July and September 1872 they held the meetings for the establishment of the Society of History and Archaeology

County; lawyer – Imre Vargics, dr. At the same time, they elected a 18-member steering committee (TOMA 1996. 223). The Society had three types of members: founders, honorary members and contributors (BERKESZI 1908. 199). (**Fig. 3**)

• **Fig. 3.**

The diploma of membership of the Society of History and Archaeology of the priest Ferenc Bilszky (Timișoara, September 7, 1872) (NMB History Collection)



Both by the Statutes, which aimed at the establishment of an archaeological historic museum, which emphasised that the Society became the owner of all the objects of archaeological and historic interest, either donated or acquired, and by the activity and declared intentions of the Society's members, we can consider that in 1872 they laid the basis not only of the first scientific historic society in this region, but also of the first museum in Timișoara. It is important to mention that the first heritage items entered the Society's inventory this year: fragments of Roman mosaic donated in the autumn of 1872<sup>1</sup>.

In 1885, by merging with the Museum Association (also founded at the initiative of Ormós in 1879), the Society changed its name to the Museum Society of History and Archaeology in Southern Hungary (MSHA) (MEDELEȚ – TOMA 1997. 36), carrying out its activity until after the World War I. (Fig. 4) The Museum Society of History and Archaeology was run by a president and a director; the chief secretary was at the same time the custodian of the museum and the editor of the Society's publication, being assisted by two deputy secretaries. The Society also had a treasurer and a legal adviser (BERKESZI 1908. 201).

In my opinion, in the Society's fifty-year activity (1872–1922)<sup>2</sup>, we can distinguish two periods. The first period, between 1872, the year when the Society was founded, and 1891, the year when the

<sup>1</sup> Inventory Register I, p. 1, no 1: a fragment of a mosaic from Sarmizegetusa, donated by a student from Timișoara; no 2: 3 pcs. mosaic, from *Viminacium* (today, Kostolac, Serbia), donated by Péter Despinics, dr. See EMLÉKKÖNYV 1873. 74, 75.

<sup>2</sup> After the end of the World War I and the integration of Banat within the Romanian state, in the context of changing the national administration in Timișoara and Banat, both MSHA and the museum underwent major transformations. On December 24, 1921, the museum became the property of Timișoara town hall (MEDELEȚ – RĂMNEANȚU 2003. 17), by the decision of the Society of History and Archaeology in Timișoara, which was to operate independently of the museum. Although reorganised at the beginning of 1922, then in 1925 and 1928, the Society of History and Archaeology failed to be an active presence in the interwar cultural-scientific life in Timișoara. It has contributed financially to some of the museum's scientific research and documentation activities.



• **Fig. 4.** • The representation of History and Archaeology on the seal of the Museum Society of History and Archaeology (by Stefan Schwarz) (NMB History Collection)

Museum Palace was inaugurated, was a pioneering period defined by the search for solutions, while overcoming difficulties, attempts to place the activity of the Society and its museum in a normal setting. The first two decades of its existence are marked by Zsigmond Ormós' efforts to provide the Society's museum with a site and to transfer its own collections to it. The second period, between the inauguration of the Museum Palace (1891) and the years succeeding the World War I (until 1922), is marked by the activity of István Berkeszi dr., the Society's secretary and the museum's custodian. Numerous premieres emphasised the activity of the museum, which became an important cultural institution in the city and region.

In this article I shall deal with the first period of time (1872–1891) focusing on the history of the museum in Timișoara and presenting the work of Ormós, secretaries and custodians, the story of the museum's first headquarters and some important donations for the development of the museum heritage.

### Zsigmond Ormós, the museum's founder

A distinguished figure of the political and cultural life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Banat, Zsigmond Ormós (February 20, 1813, Pecica/Pécska, Arad County – November 17, 1894, Budapest) was a politician, art critic, historian, writer, collector and patron (MIKLÓSIK – KAKUCS 2013. 9–117). After the elementary school studies in Pecica/Pécska, he attended the high school in Timișoara, then studied Philosophy in Szeged and Law in Oradea/Nagyvárad. As early as 1834, when he was appointed to accompany the Timiș County delegation to Dieta in Pozsony (now Bratislava), he came into contact with liberal ideas, to which he remained faithful throughout his life (PATZNER 1895. 82–84, 89). He entered public administration at a young age, and served as a notary's assistant to later become prefect of Timiș County (1871) and the city of Timișoara (1875). His extraordinary six-decade long career ended in 1889, following his pension request. He took part in the events of the Revolution of 1848–1849, which led to a sentence of four years in prison in the Bastion of the Timișoara Fortress. He was released after nine months of detention, yet harassment by the authorities continued in the following years (PATZNER 1895. 101–102).

Between 1857 and 1860, a period of time spent in Italy, Austria and Germany, Ormós laid the foundations of his collection of paintings and began collecting antiques and coins, in a few years becoming a knowledgeable collector, a *connoisseur* (PATZNER 1895. 104). In 1861 he was chosen as a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in the department of Philology and Arts. In May 1872, he was awarded the small cross of the Order of Saint Stephen, and in 1883 he was awarded the middle cross of the Order of Leopold (VENDE – BERKESZI – BELLAI n. d. 224). He was the founder, protector and president of numerous scientific and cultural groups in the county and city he was governing.

The secretaries of the Society and the museum custodians (see the Annex) (Fig. 5, 6, 7 and 8)



• Fig. 5. • Jenő Szentkláray (secretary from 1872 to 1874) (NMB archive)



• Fig. 6. • János Miletz (custodian from 1874 to 1879, secretary from 1876 to 1879) (NMB archive)



• Fig. 7. • István Pontelly (secretary and custodian from 1880 to 1887) (NMB archive)



• Fig. 8. • István Patzner (secretary and custodian from 1888 to 1901) (NMB archive)

At the beginning there was a separation of the patrimony acquired by the Society for the museum. The documents and books were kept by the Society's secretary while archaeological finds and coins were kept by the museum's custodian. Subsequently, this separation was waived as the secretary was both the custodian and editor of the *TRÉ*, assisted by a deputy secretary.

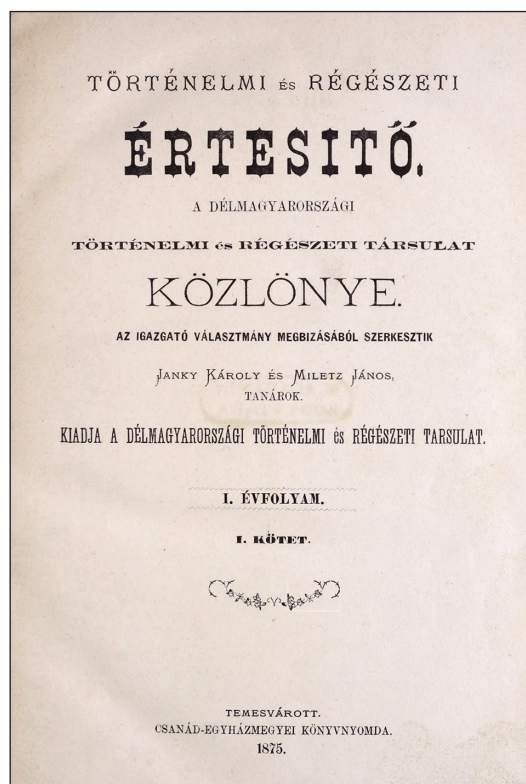
Analysing the table and notes in the Annex, one can notice a factor that has negatively influenced the activity of the Society's secretaries and custodians in terms of continuity and stability in the first two decades of existence. The frequent transfers to other towns following the appointments to various positions forced secretaries and custodians to resign from their positions in the Society<sup>3</sup>.

The secretaries were also responsible for the the publication of the SHA. Thus, in the first two years of SHA's activity two yearbooks were published (*Emlékkönyv*): in 1873 (edited by Szentkláray Jenő) and in 1874 (edited by Károly Janky). The year 1875 marks the publication of the Society's Bulletin, *Történelmi és Régészeti Értesítő*, (Fig. 9) which was published uninterruptedly until 1917. Between 1875 and 1884 they published no. I–X from the old series, and starting with 1885, when the Society changed its name and Statutes, the new series of this publication began. They published no. I–XXXIII until 1917. Four notebooks were published in an annual issue, except for the years when, instead of some notebooks, studies of some members of the Society were published separately.

### The museum headquarters

In the early years, in the absence of an appropriate space, smaller museum objects found temporary shelter in a room of the Palace of the Roman Catholic Diocese in Timișoara, courtesy of bishop Alexandre Bonnaz<sup>4</sup> (BERKESZI 1908. 199), while large objects were placed in the Prefecture Palace. As a result, the efforts of prefect Ormós to secure his own space for the museum began. Thus, in March 1873, the Timiș County Prefecture acquired by auction (27,601 forints), the Wellauer House on Lonovics street no. 8 (today Augustin Pacha street) located on the east side of the Prefecture Palace, in its immediate vicinity (ORMÓS 1888. 58).

In 1876, the SHA received two rooms in the Wellauer House (one-storey building) to house its collections (*TRÉ* II: 4. 1876. 203, 213): the first room housed Roman antiquities, ancient inscriptions and sarcophagi, and the second, the rest of the objects, including a part of the numismatic collection (*TRÉ* III: 2. 1877. 95–96, *TRÉ* III: 3. 1877. 136). The Timișoara Museum first opened its doors to the public on May 24, 1877, to display the exhibition of archaeology and numismatics (*TRÉ* III: 3. 1877. 145). A second



• Fig. 9. • The first issue of the Bulletin published by Society of History and Archaeology (1875)

<sup>3</sup> Within the Society, the secretaries and custodians were carrying out their activity as a secondary activity, those between 1872 and 1891 being – with a few exceptions – priests who carried out pedagogical activities or teachers. In fact, these professional categories (the intellectual and clergy) also had an important share among the SHA/MSHA contributing members (BALLA 2008. 183–184).

<sup>4</sup> Alexandre Bonnaz (1812–1889), a Roman-Catholic Bishop of Cenad (1860–1873); imperial adviser; founding member of the SHA; decorated with the Iron Crown Order, I class. He became well-known for his philanthropic activity, his charitable donations exceeding two million forints (PETRI 1992. 179–181).

step was taken by the Prefecture in 1880, when it assigned the Wellauer House as the final decision of the SHA to organise a museum while retaining its ownership (ORMÓS 1888. 58).



• **Fig. 10.** • The Museum Palace (the building in the middle) on Lonovics street, built according to a project by architect Jakob Klein

Palace, in two rooms temporarily assigned to this storage. Some of the museum's display cases have reached the corridors on the first floor of the Prefecture and the *lapidarium* has been temporarily placed in its courtyard (TRÉ NS III: 1. 1887. 37–38, MEDELET – TOMA 1997. 41).

The Museum Palace<sup>6</sup>, built between 1887 and 1888 in the German Renaissance style, was completed in 1888. The construction works were carried out by János Bonn from Timișoara (György Marinkovics also collaborated), the carpentry works – by the

Yet the precarious condition of the building demanded a new building, that would better serve the purpose of the Museum headquarters. The Prefecture allocated a large sum for the construction of the Museum Palace (a total of 30,972.96 forints), according to a project by architect Jakob Klein<sup>5</sup>. (Fig. 10) In March 1887, the old Wellauer House was already demolished and the new one was under construction, based on a project approved by the Ministry in the summer of 1886. It was already in January 1887 when the museum's objects were packed and transported at the disposal of the MSHA's director, Zsigmond Ormós jr. in the building of the Prefecture



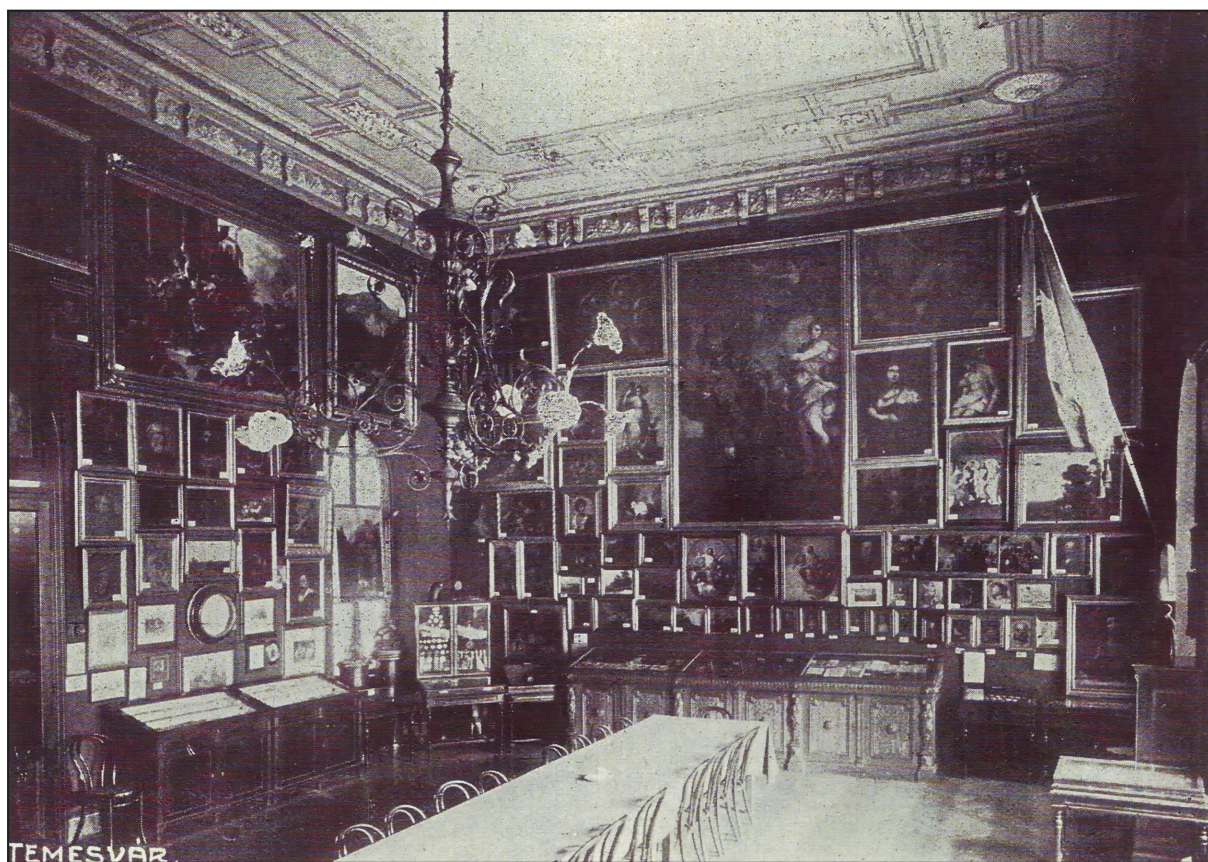
• **Fig. 11.** • The statue of Athens, facade detail

<sup>5</sup> Jakob Klein (1855–1928), architect and builder; architectural studies in Budapest and Vienna; after a period of time spent in Chernivtsi, from 1886 he settled in Timișoara, where he worked until the end of his life (PETRI 1992. 945); MSHA member since 1886.

<sup>6</sup> Currently, the building is the headquarters of the Romanian Academy Library, the Timișoara branch.

well-known company of Martin Gungl & Sons from Timișoara, and the artistic metal works were made in the workshop of Leyritz & Burghardt from Timișoara, especially by the latter. The marble of various colours used for the steps and floors inside the building and for the decoration of the facade were provided by the well-known Johann Bibel from Oravița, an architect and owner of mines and quarries. The building – provided with a basement, ground floor and first floor – features a 2.25 m statue of the Athena goddess on its facade, made in the terracotta and brick factory in Wienerberg, near Vienna (ORMÓS 1888. 59–60). (Fig. 11) The Palace, beautiful from an architectural point of view, proved insufficient from the very beginning for the collections gathered in Timișoara, and the lack of space became a chronic problem in the following decades.

The poor health of Ormós postponed the museum's festive inauguration yet it opened to the public on November 17, 1889. Although ill, Ormós visited the museum a few days after its opening stepping into a building he had wanted for more than two decades. The scholar expressed his satisfaction with the way the museum's collections were exhibited, among which the art gallery is significantly important (MEDELET – TOMA 1997. 46).

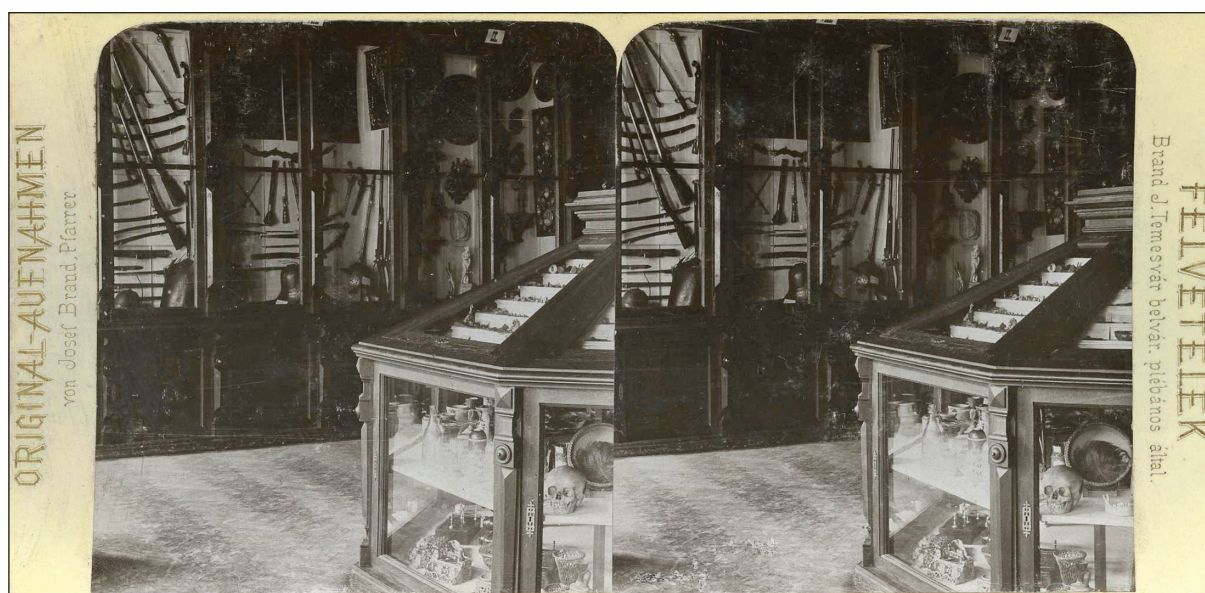


• Fig. 12. • The Museum Art Gallery (NMB archive)

The museum was open every Sunday morning from 10 to 12. One could visit the collections of archaeology and ancient history, including the *lapidarium*, located in the basement and in the hall on the ground floor of the building, as well as the art gallery in the large hall of festivities on the first floor. (Fig. 12) The admission to the public was free and visitors could purchase the complete catalog of the art exhibition at an affordable price (TRÉ NS V: 4. 1889. 193).

Although open to the public since 1889, the festive inauguration of the museum took place on August 29, 1891 (*TRÉ NS VII: 4. 1891. 83, PATZNER 1891B*), on the occasion of the great Industrial-Agrarian Exhibition taking place in Timișoara<sup>7</sup>. Zsigmond Ormós was elected lifelong president of the MSHA, and enjoyed a well-deserved recognition of his role in setting up the Society and the museum.

In this context I must mention the fact that the 16<sup>th</sup> section of the Industrial-Agrarian Exhibition was organised inside the Museum Palace, comprised of three sub-sections: archaeological objects, old art objects and the 'documentary' sub-section<sup>8</sup>. The archaeological collection of Eduard Rittinger from Vršac, including tools used over the millenia, discovered in Vršac, museographically presented by Felix Milleker, won the golden medal of the exhibition. At the request of its owner, the Rittinger collection remained on display in Timișoara for a while and after the end of the exhibition. Pieces from the Ormós collection, awarded with a diploma of merit, were also exhibited (*MEDELET – TOMA 1997. 48–49*). (Fig. 13)



• **Fig. 13.** • Exhibition in the Museum Palace, stereoscopic photo made by the priest Josef Brand (the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century)

### The museum heritage and special donations

The first objects entered the Society's patrimony in the autumn of 1872, as I stated above<sup>9</sup>. This statement is confirmed by the lines written by János Miletz on the first page of the museum's first general inventory register on September 18, 1879: "This register contains all those antiquities, objects of art and monuments which, starting with 1872, respectively since the establishment of the Society [of History and Archaeology

<sup>7</sup> The large-scale event held between July 19 – October 4, 1891, which was attended by 3.000 exhibitors, grouped into 17 exhibition categories, was a success, being visited by 277,273 persons. Emperor Franz Joseph I visited the exhibition on September 17, 1891 (*HÉRI 1973. 185–186, 193*).

<sup>8</sup> For the list of exhibitors and exhibits see *PATZNER 1891A. 73–81*.

<sup>9</sup> See above, note 1.



from the Southern Hungary] have reached the archaeological museum, partly through donations and in part through acquisitions<sup>10</sup>.

During these years, some important collections or special artifacts have entered the patrimony of the Timișoara museum, especially through donations. I'll mention a few of these. In November 1872, the Roman Catholic bishop Bonnaz donated 202 *denarii* from the monetary hoard discovered in Covășânt (Arad County) (EMLÉKKÖNYV 1873. 58–68), these being the first Roman coins in the museum's collection.

Then, there is the great donation of antiquities made by general Anton von Scudier<sup>11</sup> on October 30, 1873, consisting of several Roman and Medieval epigraphic and sculptural monuments from Titel and Caransebeș (MEDELEȚ – TOMA 1997. 16). This donation marked the beginning of the museum's *lapidarium* in Timișoara.

On April 30, 1879, the first Egyptian antiquities donated by the priest Emil Folly of Follimonov<sup>12</sup> entered the museum's collection in Timișoara: a coffin face representing a woman head, made of sycamore wood (ANĐELKOVIĆ – DEMIAN 2016. 95 no 43) and a *shabti* statuette (ANĐELKOVIĆ – DEMIAN 2016. 42 no 25), discovered in Giza, near the pyramids<sup>13</sup>.

In 1880 the museum's collection included the manuscript of a monumental work, *Magyar nemes családok* (5,059 folios in six volumes), written by István Bogma of Nebojsza (1793–1854), a civil servant of the Timiș County for almost 40 years, about the Hungarian noble families. The manuscript was donated by the author's successors who hoped that the manuscript would be published by SHA (TRÉ VII: 1. 1881. 21–23).

In 1881, the Roman Catholic priest Augustin Weber donated some objects brought by him from Mexico, which caused a real sensation at their presentation: the silver pen of the former secretary of Emperor Maximilian, *pater* Augustin Fischer; three small Mexican silver coins from Puebla, used as baptizing tokens; a huge 1866 „puros” cigar and a silver one peso coin<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> The museum's first Inventory Register in Timișoara, 1872–1921, written in Hungarian; continued until 1933, written in Romanian. It is preserved in the historical archive of the NMB.

<sup>11</sup> Baron Anton von Scudier (1818–1900), a general in the Austro-Hungarian army, since 1869 the military commander of the fortress in Timișoara, the general military commander of Banat between 1871 and 1878 (PETRI 1992. 1801).

<sup>12</sup> Emil Folly of Follimonov (1842–1898), a high Roman Catholic prelate, rector of the Catholic Seminary in Timișoara (1887–1892), papal prelate (1888), commander of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre (1889). Between 1892 and 1894 he was a member of the MSHA steering committee; in 1894 he resigned from the MSHA (ANĐELKOVIĆ – DEMIAN 2016. 126).

<sup>13</sup> The items had been purchased by Folly in the summer of 1876, during a trip to Egypt (ANĐELKOVIĆ – DEMIAN 2016. 113–114).

<sup>14</sup> Augustin Weber (1833–1909), a native of Banat, was field chaplain of the Austrian Volunteer Corps, who accompanied Archduke Maximilian I of Mexico, who ruled the Second Mexican Empire between 1864–1867. After Maximilian's tragic end, he returned to Banat, as he was priest at Sântana Nouă, Pișchia and Săcălaz. He was a SHA/MSHA member from 1872 until his death in 1909. His decorations, related to the Mexican episode, left to the museum by will, reached the collection between 1912 and 1914: the Imperial Mexican Order „Maria de Guadalupe” (knight rank) and the French decoration of the Mexico expedition (dated 1862–1863) (TOMA – DEMIAN 2010. 227–240).

Starting with the spring of 1889, Ormós, retired from public life and aware of his age, began donating his collections to the museum in batches. Thus, in April 1889 Ormós donated the valuable Cesnola collection, consisting of 52 items from the great collection of Count Luigi Palma di Cesnola<sup>15</sup>, a few letters and the book about the Cesnola collection published at Sankt Petersburg in 1873. The items, discovered by Cesnola in Cyprus in 1870, became the property of Ormós in 1874 through Francesco Lambertenghi, the Italian consul in Timișoara, then at Trebizond (today, Trabzon, in Turkey) (*TRÉ NS V: 2–3. 1889. 98, MEDELEȚ – TOMA 1997. 47 and note 325*).

At the general meeting on May 23, 1889, custodian Patzner announced that Ormós had donated: 208 older and newer paintings; 30 statues and copies of famous statues; a collection of 91 gems and cameos; 20 jewels; 14 albums of drawings and sketches; 45 valuable miniatures; 113 numismatic items; 655 scientific journals; 129 books; 33 packets of documents referring to personalities or historical events from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 933 autographs of some personalities (*TRÉ NS V: 2-3. 1889. 107*). Donations continued in the following years too. Thus, in May 1893, Ormós's donations included over 800 items, 1,200 books and magazines, 1,500 documents, and of the 251 paintings and objects of the art gallery, over 200 were donated by him (*TRÉ NS IX: 2. 1893. 120*).

Regarding the valuable numismatic collection of Ormós, consisting of 9,424 gold, silver and bronze coins and medals<sup>16</sup>, it was purchased by the museum in 1895, a year after the death of Ormós, for 4,500 forints (*DEMIAN 2018. 269*). Through this acquisition, the patrimony of the museum in Timișoara also included 235 gold numismatic items (*PATZNER 1896A. 47–57, PATZNER 1896B. 104–109*), among which there were also special items discovered in Banat.

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The second period of time, between the festive inauguration of the new Museum Palace (1891) and the outbreak of the World War I (which will be the subject of another paper), represented for the MSHA and its museum a period of development and consolidation of the results obtained in the first two decades of existence and entry into the professional sphere from a museological and scientific point of view. This evolution might not have been possible without the activity of István Berkeszi, dr.<sup>17</sup>, about whom Ioachim Miloia (1897–1940), the director of the Museum in Timișoara in the interwar period, used to say in 1928: “the kind-hearted curator, Dr. Berkeszi, the most active and devoted leader in the past of the museum” (*MILOIA 1928. 85*). Deputy secretary since 1892, then secretary and custodian of the Museum since 1901, for three decades Berkeszi worked with beneficial results for the development of the museum and its transformation into an important cultural institution. As the museum's custodian, with a modern museological vision, he carried out a laborious and competent activity involving organization and inventory of its collections. He constantly enriched the museum's heritage and his scientific contributions cover areas such as cultural history, pedagogy, archaeology and numismatics.

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<sup>15</sup> Count Luigi Palma di Cesnola (1832–1904), general, American consul at Larnaca in Cyprus between 1865 and 1877. He carried out archaeological excavations in several places in Cyprus discovering many antiquities. He sold most of his collections of antiquities at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, whose first director he was starting with 1879 (*DAMILANO 2014. s.v. Palma di Cesnola, Luigi*).

<sup>16</sup> The numismatic collection of Ormós, although famous at the time and the most valuable of his collections, is still the least known. Its structure is presented for the first time at *DEMIAN 2022 (forthcoming)*.

<sup>17</sup> István Berkeszi, dr. (1853–1922), professor, historian and archivist; between 1888–1911 teacher at the Theoretical High School (Realschule) in Timișoara and then principal between 1911 and 1919. MSHA member starting with April 1890. *Temesvári Hírlap XX: 76, 4. April 1922, 3, PETRI 1992. 121–122, MIKLÓSIK-KARUCS 2013. 188–190*.

After World War I, the museum underwent a turbulent history during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, two relocations of its headquarters, World War II, the inherent losses, the numerous reorganisations influenced the institution and its heritage. The existence of five inventory registers in the 150 years of the museum's existence represents an additional argument for the troubled history of this institution. This year, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum's foundation, not under the best auspices, we would like to honour the work of our predecessors by remembering the beginnings, the hardships and success, and the museum's people, the pioneers of their time.

## ANNEX

• **Table 1.** • The SHA/MSHA secretaries and museum custodians between 1872 and 1891<sup>18</sup>

Society secretaries/ museum custodians	Period of time	Activity	Deputy secretaries	Period of time
<b>Szentkláray Jenő</b> <sup>19</sup> secretary	1872–1874	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he drafted the SHA Statutes and designed the SHA seal</li> <li>• he is the editor of the SHA <i>Emlékkönyv</i> annuary in 1873</li> <li>• he took care of the SHA archives and library</li> </ul>	<b>Janky Károly</b>	1873–1874
<b>Despinics Péter</b> <sup>20</sup> custodian	1873–1874	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he dealt with archaeological objects and coins</li> </ul>		
<b>Janky Károly</b> <sup>21</sup> secretary	1874–1875	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he is the editor of the SHA <i>Emlékkönyv</i> annuary in 1874</li> <li>• the <i>TRÉ</i> no. I editor in 1875 (with Miletz János, the museum's custodian)</li> </ul>		

<sup>18</sup> The table referring to the Society secretaries and the museum's custodians was drawn up on the basis of the information contained in the minutes elaborated within the frames of the SHA/MSHA monthly meetings and the Society's lists of members published in the *TRÉ* between 1875 and 1891.

<sup>19</sup> Dr. Szentkláray (Nedić) Jenő (1843–1925), priest, professor of philosophy at the Higher Gymnasium in Timișoara, editor of the *Történelmi Adattár*; historian, later a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and a honorary member of the Academy in Belgrade. The founding member and the first secretary of the SHA. Settled in Törökbecse (today Novi Bečej) in 1873, he repeatedly sent some prehistoric archaeological objects discovered in the area to the Society's museum: at Borjas (today Bordoš), Toba, Novi Bečej. In 1902 he was elected a honorary member of the MSHA (MIKLÓSIK-KAKUCS 2013. 167, 171, 202–203).

<sup>20</sup> Dr. Despinics Péter (1837–1915), a lawyer from Kovin, collector and amateur researcher, elaborated the SHA Statutes together with Szentkláray Jenő in 1872. His departure from Timișoara to Budapest in 1874 led to the transfer of the entire collection of the museum to the newly appointed custodian, Miletz János (MEDELET-TOMA 1997. 18–19).

<sup>21</sup> Janky Károly (1842–1902), a Piarist priest and teacher in Timișoara since 1872. In 1875 he resigned as secretary following his transfer to Sighetu Marmăției as the director of the Catholic Gymnasium there (*TRÉ* NS XVIII: 4. 1902. 122–123).

Society secretaries/ museum custodians	Period of time	Activity	Deputy secretaries	Period of time
<b>Miletz János</b> <sup>22</sup> custodian secretary	1874–1879 1876–1879	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he organised the museum's collections</li> <li>• he arranged the museum for its opening in 1877</li> <li>• he re-organised the exhibition of archaeology and numismatics in 1879</li> </ul>		
<b>Pontelly István</b> <sup>23</sup> secretary and custodian	1880–1887	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he scientifically re-organised the museum lapidary, the Roman antiquities department, the library and the department of Prehistory in 1882</li> <li>• he organised the collection of numismatics in 1886</li> </ul>	<b>Varjassy Árpád</b> <sup>24</sup> <b>Benedek Albert</b> <sup>25</sup> <b>Patzner István</b>	1880–1885 1886–1887 1886–1887
<b>Patzner István</b> <sup>26</sup> secretary and custodian	1888–1901	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the organisation of the library and archive</li> <li>• the collections' organisation and exhibition in the new Museum Palace</li> </ul>	<b>Nyári József</b> <sup>27</sup> <b>Számek György</b> <sup>28</sup>	Jan.–Sept. 1888 1888–1892

<sup>22</sup> Miletz János (1841–1902), teacher at Realschule in Timișoara since 1871. On December 20, 1879, he resigned, leaving to Budapest (PETRI 1992. 1272). Prior to his resignation, he handed the entire patrimony over, under the supervision of a committee, to Pontelly István, who succeeded him (TRÉ VI: 1. 1880. 37–38).

<sup>23</sup> Pontelly István (1840–1898), Benedictine monk, professor at the Higher Gymnasium in Timișoara since 1878. He was a member of the Society since 1879 until his death in 1898. Following his appointment as a priest in Freidorf (near Timișoara), Pontelly resigned as secretary at the end of 1887. He had published several studies in TRÉ, notably the one about dating Roman earth ditches from Banat. In 1881 he studied the Roman roads in Banat together with Téglás Gábor, Torma Károly and Márki Sándor (MIKLÓSIK-KAKUCS 2013. 200).

<sup>24</sup> Varjassy Árpád, architect, director of the Technical School in Timișoara, SHA member since September 1879. In 1885 he resigned as secretary as he was appointed as school inspector in Arad (TRÉ NS I: 2. 1885. 91).

<sup>25</sup> Dr. Benedek Albert, professor at the Realschule in Timișoara, a SHA member since 1877. He took care of the inventory of prehistoric objects and art objects. In 1887 he was accepted to resign as secretary following his departure from Timișoara (TRÉ NS II: 1. 1886. 47, TRÉ NS III: 2. 1887. 109).

<sup>26</sup> Patzner (Perényi) István (1860–1907), a Roman Catholic priest and teacher at the Higher Gymnasium in Timișoara, member of the SHA since 1884. He has published several studies in the TRÉ, most notably the one referring to the life and activity of Ormós Zsigmond, *Id. Ormós Zsigmond emlékezete* (PATZNER 1895). In March 1901 he resigned as secretary following his appointment as the director of the Catholic High School for girls in Timișoara. He was elected as honorary member of the MSHA in 1901 (MIKLÓSIK-KAKUCS 2013. 197–198).

<sup>27</sup> Nyári József (?–1889), a Piarist professor, MSHA member since September 1887. He took care of the coins in the museum's collection. He resigned as deputy secretary following his transfer to Kecskemét (TRÉ NS IV: 3. 1888. 143).

<sup>28</sup> Dr. Számek György, a Piarist professor, MSHA member between 1888 and 1892. He took care of the coins in the museum's collection. In the autumn of 1892 he resigned as a deputy secretary and from the MSHA, following his departure to Cluj (TRÉ NS VIII: 4. 1892. 241–242).

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## Abbreviations

AnB – Analele Banatului, Archaeology-History, Timișoara

BHAB – Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica

MKÉ – Múzeumi és Könyvtári Értesítő. A Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Főfelügyelőségének és Országos Tanácsának hivatalos közlönye, Budapest

MSHA – The Museum Society of History and Archaeology in Southern Hungary

NMB – The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara

NS – New Series

SHA – The Society of History and Archaeology in Southern Hungary

TRÉ – *Történelmi és Régészeti Értesítő*, Temesvár