

Réka Lengyel

Miklós Révai's knowledge of the history of medieval Hungarian literature

Miklós Révai (1750–1807), a Piarist monk, teacher, poet, journalist, and historian of language and literature, was engaged in the history of the Hungarian language and literature on a scientific level since his stay in Vienna in 1777. He collected ancient Hungarian language sources, which he managed to publish later as a professor at the Department of Hungarian Language and Literature at the University of Pest. His *Antiquitates literaturae hungaricae* (1803) contains the text of the oldest Hungarian language sources with the author's explanations and commentary. Révai also compiled a literary history material for university students, which was only published after his death, in 1833. In this work, *Magyar deáki történet* (*The History of Hungarian Literature*) he devotes considerable attention to the presentation of medieval Hungarian literary phenomena. It discusses, among other things, data on the Hunnic language and culture, the Székely runic script, and then enumerates the most important Hungarian literary works according to chronological order and genre. In the lecture, I present the sources of the knowledge provided by Révai, comparing the data provided by him with materials published in other Latin and Hungarian language literary history handbooks and lexicons of the period.

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Réka Lengyel (1980), is research fellow at the Department of Eighteenth-Century Studies of the Institute for Literary Studies, Research Centre for Humanities of the Hungarian Research Network. Her research interests include eighteenth-century Hungarian literature, Renaissance literature, Italian and Hungarian Neo-Latin literature, Petrarch's Latin works. The title of her doctoral dissertation is: 'Petrarca, the soul guide. A reappraisal of *De remediis utriusque fortunae*' (2012). She prepared the new text edition of László Székely's 18th-century translation of *De remediis* (in collaboration with Csilla Bíró and Ágnes Máté). She published several studies on Petrarch and *De remediis* in Hungarian and Italian. In the last ten years, she has mainly conducted researches on the 18th-century Hungarian literature, published studies and edited several volumes and text editions.