



**Companion to the History
of the Neo-Latin Studies
in Hungary**

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INTRODUCTION

“Quod legerent omnes, quondam dabat Itala tellus,
nunc e Pannonia carmina missa legit.”

Laus Pannoniae by Janus Pannonius (1434–1472)

It is the pleasure of the organisers of the 13th IANLS (International Association for Neo-Latin Studies) conference to be hosts of Neo-Latin scholars of the world in 2006, in a country where the tradition of using Latin language goes back over one thousand years. Due to the founder of our state, King St. Stephen, representatives of the Benedictine reform movements settled in Hungary before the first millennium. They brought with them the language of Western-European Christianity. Since a significant part of the products of our national culture in various areas was created in Latin for centuries, it is also about half thousand years ago that scientific exploration, classification and publication of these documents began. Thus, beginnings of Neo-Latin philology in Hungary date back to the 16th century. This publication aims at informing the reader about this process, its development, and different periods.

Latinity originating in the Middle Ages has always been an essential factor in the history of Hungarian culture. Unfolding of the literature in our native language is inconceivable without “the school of Latinity”. Movements in the age of the Reformation that fostered the development of national languages were nourished by the approach of humanism to language and literature to a great extent. This common language of international relationships remained a living language for long – important products of our cultural life were produced in Latin until as late as in the 19th century. Hungary was the last country in Europe to stop using Latin as an official lan-

guage in 1844. The last newspaper of our continent in Latin, the *Ephemerides Posenienses* provided connection with European intellectual life until 1838. It was not only humanities but areas of natural sciences as well where Latin made participation in international professional life possible. Many of our fellow countrymen could become honourable members of scientific societies in big European towns through the Latin language. Therefore, it is clear why philological activities concerning sources in Latin have a prestigious past.

In the first part, an overview is given of the history of Neo-Latin studies in Hungary. Tendencies and processes are outlined and characteristic examples are given. The sign → denotes persons on whom there is an entry in part 2, in the encyclopaedia. This is where most important biographical and bibliographical data is collected with special emphasis on works pertaining to Neo-Latin studies.

The place names of historical Hungary are the Hungarian versions. In the case of place names that are located outside the current borders of Hungary, the country for which they belong now and their name in the language of the given country can be found in the index. In multinational Hungary a town was often known by several names; in such cases these are also given, e.g. Kolozsvár (Romania) = Cluj-Napoca, in German Klausenburg.

Budapest, 29 June 2005

The editor