

THEATRE • LITERATURE • ART

PROFESSOR ZOLTÁN GOMBOCZ †

by

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In Dr. Zoltán Gombocz, Professor of Hungarian Linguistics in Budapest University, Hungary has lost one of the finest combinations of Hungarian and Western culture.

A peculiar many-sidedness characterised his whole scientific activity. His researches comprised all the fields of Hungarian linguistics, — phonetics, sound history, accidence, syntax and word history. The results of his comprehensive labours are concentrated in two comprehensive works, — the "*Etymological Dictionary of the Hungarian Language*", which — in collaboration with his friend Professor John Melich — he began to compile in 1914, and which — though still unfinished — is the most exhaustive dictionary of its kind, and his famous monograph on Bulgaro-Turkish Loan-words in Hungarian, published in Vol. XXX. of the "*Mémoires de la Société Finno-Ugrienne*". The latter work threw a new light on the pre-historic wanderings of the Hungarians and on the greatest question-mark of Hungarian folk-lore — the genesis of the Attila legend.

Yet his synthetic mind was not satisfied by purely analytical research. Behind the singular phenomenon he always saw the underlying principle, the psychological background; he could fit each linguistic fact into his admirably consistent system. This synthetic attitude predestined him to be a student of the philosophy of language. His amazing mastery of languages and his exhaustive bibliographic knowledge enabled him to make himself familiar with all the results of foreign methodology and to apply these results to the particular problems of Hungarian linguistics. But he did even more than that: he supplemented these results with researches of his own dealt with in his "*Linguistic Methodology*" ("*Nyelvtörténeti módszertan*", 1922) and in his "*Semasiology*" ("*Jelentéstan*", 1926), as well as in a number of important articles and presidential addresses. Although his whole — purely psychological — philosophy of language is based upon the functionalism of the Geneva school

(Saussure, Bally, Vendryès), he remained open to other foreign influences too. He was of course deeply interested in English linguistics in the work of phoneticians like Miss Soames and Daniel Jones, and in the methodological researches of Otto Jespersen, some of whose views he discussed in the very last article written by him ("*Funkcionális nyelvészemlélet*" = "Functional Aspects of Linguistics": in "*Magyar Nyelv*", 1934).

The same wideness of horizon which characterised his scientific career was also the principal quality of his private life. He never became one-sided or wrapped up in his particular research work. Literature appealed to him almost as much as linguistics; when he was tired, he would read Galsworthy, Baudelaire, or the novels of André Gide. His literary leanings may account partly for his unparalleled style both in his books and in his lectures. That style is a splendid combination of clearness and plasticity, of conciseness and balance, of exactness and expressiveness. Yet his refined aesthetic taste was also interested in art — and particularly in music. And his gigantic knowledge was equalled by his great human qualities. His ease as a *causeur* made him highly popular in the intellectual world of Hungary and in diplomatic circles. Yet his natural gift of kindness and sympathy displayed itself at its best in the Eötvös College, where he was rather a father than a director, interested in all our problems and dilemmas, always ready to help us with kindness and good advice. And it was in the Eötvös College that he summed up his creed, in the inaugural address delivered by him in October, 1934, when he said that "in the life of every scientist there is one decisive moment, when the sacred enthusiasm of the search for truth gets possession of his mind". And his paramount significance consists, not only in his undying scientific achievements, but also in that noble and generous educational activity of his which aroused this sacred enthusiasm in two generations of young Hungarian scholars.

LISZT'S UNKNOWN WORKS

In connection with the performance — at a charity concert arranged in the Houses of Parliament on May 5th by the International Club — of the long-forgotten Rákóczi March of Francis Liszt, Imre Stefániai, professor in the Hungarian College of Music, has informed the public that it is *almost a hundred years since the first performance of this piece* of such importance for the history of music (the performance referred to above having been the second recorded). It was first played by Liszt himself in Pest; and the manuscript contained the following dedication (in Hungarian) written in the master's own hand:

"To my compatriots Count Leo Festetich, Anthony Anglesz, Baron Paul Bánffy, Count Dominic Teleki, Rudolph Edelstein, in grateful and chivalrous remembrance of the month of January, 1890, spent in Pest.

Francis Liszt."

Like all early compositions of Liszt's, this work

too is characterised by its demand for the greatest virtuosity on the part of the performer. Perhaps that is why Liszt did not leave it in its original form, later on transforming it into the piece known to us as the "*Fifteenth Rhapsody*".

Stefániai proposes before the centenary celebrations to be held next year to deal with some *two hundred other long-forgotten pieces by Liszt*. Most of them have been *photographed by him from the originals preserved in the Weimar Museum*. They include *several elaborations of folk-songs*; and it is remarkable to see *how closely they resemble pieces by Bartók*. The "*Csárdás macabre*" is — quite modern. Of this latter piece Liszt wrote to a friend that "*if the professors heard this music, they would be at their wit's end...*"

Liszt's Rákóczi March is to be played on May 29th, at the Europe Concert which will be relaid by the Budapest Broadcasting Service too.

HOLIDAY COURSE FOR FOREIGNERS IN KESZTHELY

A Holiday Course for Foreigners in Keszthely, the most beautiful summer-resort on Lake Balaton, is being organised by the University of Pécs. The lectures commence on the first of August and last till the twentieth of that month, being held in the lecture-rooms of the Agricultural Academy. The language of these will be alternately Hungarian, German, English, Italian and French. Each of them will be translated in an abbreviated form into the other languages. A special course in Hungarian will be arranged for English students. The fee of the whole course is 8 Pengő, Rooms will be booked, if required. The cost of accomodation: board and lodging in a College will be 44—52 Pengő, rooms, in a private-home and meale at the College 54—62 Pengő, board and lodging in the Hotel Hungaria 110 Pengő a week. A reduction of railway fares (50%) will be granted and excursions by boat and motorbus are being arranged at very moderate prices. Ticket at reduced prices are also to be obtained for admission to the beach and to the medicinal-baths of Hévíz. Numerous possibilities for sports: swimming, rowing, yachting, athletics, football. An exhibition of peasant-art will also be arranged. At the end of the course there is a chance to visit Budapest (50% railwayfare-reduction). Applications must be sent in by the 10th of June.

LECTURES

1. Pannonia and the Roman Empire. The develop-

ment and features of Pannonia. — Prehistoric period of Hungary. — Pannonia and Ancient Culture. — The Spirit of Antiquity on Pannonian Soil. — Pannonia and the Roman Empire. — The Dissolution of the Roman Empire and the Migration of Peoples. — The Art of the Roman Provinces. — Roman Relics in Pannonia. — The Relics in Italy from Pannonia.

2. Hungary and European Culture. The Occupation of the Country. — The Mediaeval Hungarian State and Colonisation. — Hungarian Painting in the Middle Ages. — German-Hungarian Cultural Relations. — Relations of Italian and Hungarian Art and Literature. — French-Hungarian Literary Relations. — English-Hungarian Historical Connections. — Classic Culture in Hungary. — The Ethical Idea of Liberty. — The Protection of the Rights of the Hungarian Minorities before and after the War. — Hungarian Bookprinting and Press.

3. Natural Sciences. Life on the Surface of the Skin. — Fermentation and Burning in Nature. — The Development of Animal-breeding in Pannonia. — The Effect of the "Battaglia del grano" on the Export of Hungarian Wheat. — The Regulating Organs of Equilibrium in the Human Body. — Encouragement of Cultivation of Meadows and its purposes in Hungary.

P O L I T I C A L E C O N O M Y

THE FAILURE OF THE "ECONOMIC LITTLE ENTENTE"

The creation of the "Economic Little Entente" has proved to have been a fruitless labour. After a brief experiment trade between Czecho-Slovakia and Rumania had to be reduced for the current year by 30%. Czecho-Slovakia's share of Yugoslavia's exports and imports only entitles her to the fourth place now, whereas before the organization of the "Economic Little Entente" she had held the second place (1931) and the first place (1928—1930) respectively. In 1928 imports from Czecho-Slovakia aggregated 1402 million dinars. By 1934 they had sunk to 417.000.000, a shrinkage of a thousand millions. It is a signal fact that the shrinkage in the volume of exports from Czecho-Slovakia to other countries, Austria, Germany, Italy and Great Britain, was on a much smaller scale. Yugoslav exports to Czecho-Slovakia have on the other hand risen from 344.000.000 to 437.000.000 dinars within the past three years. It is only by the most strenuous efforts that these transactions can be carried out, Czecho-Slovakia's demand for agricultural products being a minimum one. "y"

DECLINE OF FOREIGN TRADE IN DANUBIAN STATES

On the eve of the Rome Conference, the principal object of which is to re-forge economic links between Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Rumania, it does not seem superfluous to review in

figures the foreign trade statistics of the five States for the five years from 1930 to 1934.

	Aggregate foreign trade of the five Danubian States (in thousands of gold dollars)	Trade with each other. Percentage of aggregate foreign trade.
1930	2479	33.48%
1931	1815	29.14%
1932	1154	29.91%
1933	1014	28.01%
1934	1057	27.28%

These figures show not only that the foreign trade of the five Danubian States has fallen off by almost 60%, but also that trade among themselves has shrunk proportionately, almost by 20%. This does not promise much for the success of the coming negotiations. Nothing short of the raising of currency embargos, a return from the system of quotas and compensations to the old basis, the abolishment of prohibitive customs protection, and, above all, the restoration of the capacity to purchase of the agricultural population, will lead to any practical results. The impediments to be removed are very hard to move, for they cut deep into the economic and financial life of certain States, and, moreover, political differences, for the present, stand in the way of any close economic co-operation. It is not likely therefore that the Rome Conference will be productive of any concrete results, but it may pave the way to future negotiations. "y"