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The 'ars historica' debate in Hungary and Transylvania

Különlenyomat **Az értelem bátorsága**.
Tanulmányok Perjés Géza emlékére
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Argumentum

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In this paper, I will discuss the Hungarian reception of the so-called *ars historica* debate. Therefore, I will provide a brief overview of those texts in which we can find theoretical reflections on the subject and methods of historiography in the Kingdom of Hungary and in the Principality of Transylvania at the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th centuries. I will not dedicate too much space to the generic, international aspects of the debate since these have been widely written about in the relevant literature.[1] I will just quickly reiterate (obviously with inevitable but necessary simplification) that the series of debates over theoretical and methodological issues of historiography developed differently in Italy and France, the two European centers of theoretical reflection on the topic. In Italy, the dominant themes of the debate were the relationship of history to poetry (and to some extent, of history to moral philosophy), the incompatibility of the definitions of history as proposed by Cicero on one hand and Aristotle on the other, and the problem of style (see the treatises of Sperone Speroni, Francesco Robortello, Dionigi Atanagi, Giovanni Antonio Viperano, and others, with the exception of the work of the philosophically oriented Francesco Patrizi).[2] In France, the focus fell on the relationship between universal and national historiography, the conciliation of jurisprudence and historical scholarship and the development of a scientific method (François Baudouin, Jean Bodin, François Hotman). So the Italian authors approached history from the perspective of representation and writing while the French emphasized research. Both schools of thought had followers in Hungary, but the sources of the *ars historica* debate here have not been processed and are published only partially. The broad objective of a projected work of publication would be to study how the genre or genres of historiography and its theories (those asserting literary/poetic, political/propagandistic or scientific aspects) affected and influenced the development of the region's political thinking, its "political lan-

[1] On the 'ars historica' debate see *Girolamo Cotroneo:* I trattatisti dell' ars 'historica'. Napoli, 1971.; *Sergio Bertelli:* Ribelli, libertini e ortodossi nella storiografia barocca. Firenze, 1973. 3–36.; *Donald R. Kelley:* Humanism and History. = Renaissance Humanism. Foundations, Forms, and Legacy. Vol. 3. Humanism and the Disciplines. Ed. *Albert Rabil Jr.* Philadelphia, 1988. 256–258.; *Eraldo Bellini:* Agostino Mascardi, fra 'Ars poetica' e 'Ars historica. *Studi secenteschi,* 32 (1991). 65–136.; *Péter Kulcsár:* Ars historica. = Klaniczay-emlékkönyv. Tanulmányok Klaniczay Tibor emlékezetére. Ed. *József Jankovics.* Budapest, 1994. 119–127.; *Sándor Bene:* Theatrum politicum. Nyilvánosság, közvélemény és irodalom a kora újkorban. (Csokonai Könyvtár. Bibliotheca Studiorum Litterarium, 19.) Debrecen, 1999. 294–308.

[2] Most of the texts referred to have been published in a collection: *Johannes Wolf:* Artis historicae penus, octodecim scriptorum tam veterum quam recentiorum monumentis, et inter eos Jo. praecipue Bodini methodi historicae sex, instructa. 2 voll. Basileae, 1579.