

## **BOÉR HUNOR**

The Székely National Museum in History of the Hungarian Science and Cultural Life

1875–2000

(Abstract)

The Székely National Museum (Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sf. Gheorghe, Romania) is one of the oldest Hungarian museums and in the same time one of the oldest museums from Romania. The thesis discusses it like a phenomenon of history of institutions. The museum was founded in 1875 and it had been given European fame already before the First World War. It is the only Hungarian scientific institution, which get outside the borders of Hungary in 1918 but it manages to keep its Hungarian character and lives through all major political crisis of the region (1940, 1944, 1949, 1989).

The thesis proposes an overwriting of the canons (the canon concerning the history of institutions as well as the history of science) regarding the museum. The chapters complete the list of its achievements also but evaluate especially its history like an organic whole. The continuity of the institution is due to the social background of the foundation (a special legal, professional and financialorganizational structure). In 1925 his prominent archaeologist Ferenc László is given a memorial service with obituary by V. Gordon Childe. In the next decade the museum is the regional centre of an informal cultural self-government of the Hungarian minority. After this its leaders attempt a number of solutions to assure the increased duties (currently it functions as a regional museum but it is maintained by a single county of Romania).

The thesis warns of the insufficiencies of the concerning canons. These insufficiencies give the institution much trouble through his history and are explainable with the problems of the self-interpretation of the museum, or with the absence of interest of the Romanian and Hungarian (national) canon and the counter-interest of the intermediary centers of the canon formation. However, the lesson is valid: subsidy of the organic institutions is more paying than subsidy of the boom ones, more exposed to the historical changes.