

I. Introduction

1. The Importance of this Research

The importance of the scientific work of Lajos Kelemen was well known to his contemporaries too. Some of his students later became his colleagues and they gave a detailed analysis of his working methods and emphasized the importance of his career as an archivist and a historian. His activity on these two fields has a basic character and it surely will represent a lasting value in the future too. When publishing the source material he laid the theoretical and methodological foundations but besides this he also taught by his personal example. The professional and human values represented by him in the future may become part of the self-consciousness of the Hungarians from Transylvania.

According to the philosophical interpretation of Sándor Tavaszy, the Romania of the 1920s, offered the Hungarians from Transylvania the possibility to find the meaning of their fate, the art of renewal. In the circumstances of a forced change of paradigm of the scientific life – paraphrasing Sándor Tavaszy – Lajos Kelemen realized, that the calling of his life was simply the art of continuing his work, and he was able to do it so successfully that he can not be avoided even today.

If we want to give the summary of his life and work in one short sentence, we can say, that it was spent in the service of the community. He contributed in a decisive way to the publication of the results of the research work done in the field of local history, of the history of culture and art and carefully adapted those publications to the social and professional requirements of the new era, so that they could be spread in a wider circle. He gave the rank of auxiliary science to some studies, which formerly were not really appreciated. All his personal, individual interests were submitted to this idea: the service done for the benefit of the community. Attila Szabó T. also remembered, and reminded us to this most important characteristic and in the same time the teaching of Lajos Kelemen: “The death of the body means an end only for the selfish, who live for themselves, but a life generously spent in the service of the others, with all its richness remains embedded into the moral, social, cultural and scientific life of the community.”

2. Suppositions, hypothesis

a.) He was convinced that the history of Transylvania cannot be written in the pretentious way demanded by him without the necessary source of material and without its thorough knowledge and elaboration. He laid the new basis not only of the research of history of art, but generally speaking that of the history of culture too, by insisting on the importance of the research work done in the archives and then by using the results of this work.

His activity is not characterized by synthesis, although he proved in more than one work that he did not lack the capacity of doing it. The importance and value of his work lies in creating the possibility for others to do the work of synthesis. As a faithful steward he gathered in the archive of Transylvania the important documents and sources which he considered indispensable for a really complete work awaiting for others sometimes in the future.

b.) He contributed in a decisive way to the publication of the results of the research work done in the field of local history, of the history of culture and art and carefully adapted those publications to the social and professional requirements of the new era so that they could be spread in a wider circle. He gave the rank of auxiliary science to some studies, which formerly were not really appreciated.

The bibliography of his writings, works of sources, studies, articles, books and publication of data contains more than 400 titles embracing his versatile creative activity. He was at home in the field of local history, history of politics, of culture, of art, of the church and of economics, of archeology, of folklore and of the history of museums, archives and libraries. He belonged to the group of those Transylvanian scholars, who were interested in the details and knew that without a precise mapping of them no further research work is possible.

3. Results to be Expected

a) Publications (the publication of his diary with ample notes, publication of all his works, of his correspondence, and of his other works, which remained in manuscript so far).

Sixteen important works of Lajos Kelemen have remained in manuscript, and like this the most important task of any research done in this field will be the elaboration of this heritage and its preparing to publication. Among these works are to be found the diaries, probably kept on annual basis, which could also be used as memoirs. The hermeneutical conception, according to which it is the history of their effect what turns writings into literary creations, would only increase their value.

The diaries of Lajos Kelemen kept between 1894–1938 are trustworthy sources as they give a faithful picture of the events and the atmosphere of the period in Transylvania. It is most interesting to follow the description of the time of the I World War and of the years witnessing the change of power, since the Romanian invasion until the introduction of the new administration. Scientific work never stopped during all this period, the scientists of the age made a desperate effort to gather the material piled up in the archives of the Transylvanian Museum and to save the treasures of Hungarian culture.

The presentation of the work of Lajos Kelemen done in the field of the history of culture would remain incomplete without the publication of his correspondence containing thousands of letters. In these written discourses he left to us, as a heritage waiting to be elaborated, a vast quantity of trustworthy data, result of his research work done in the archives in the field of science, culture and history of society in Transylvania.

b) A monograph of Lajos Kelemen

The most important target of the research work concerning the life and work of Lajos Kelemen is, to find the place of the work of his life within the area of Transylvanian science. He had a long career, spanning half of a century, and this makes it possible to give an ample presentation of the Hungarian social, scientific, educational and cultural life in Transylvania, to analyze the political, sociological and cultural changes which took place during his lifetime and had a decisive role in the Transylvanian society, and to find out more about those personalities who had an impact on his life.

After 1920, following the complete change of power in Transylvania, using all his knowledge, in spite of the new circumstances, he kept alive the demand for Hungarian scientific life and university in Transylvania. According to the targets declared on the occasion of the foundation of the Transylvanian Museum Society he assigned three tasks for himself: to gather, to elaborate and to make the material publicly known. He educated well trained experts whose results prove that, as disciples, they faithfully enriched and elaborated the bold dream of Count Imre Mikó. The analytical presentation of the work of Lajos Kelemen will be the key to the monograph written about the history of Hungarian culture in Transylvania in the 20. century.

II. Theoretical Framework, Clarification of the Concept

1. Changes of Paradigm in the Field of Historical Education in Transylvania, in the 20. century

At the beginning of the 20. century the really important historians and organizers of science and culture realized the importance of source-criticism and of the research work done in the field of sources. Their work was not simply done for its own sake, or for helping their own studies, they also wanted to serve their community by offering the possibility of scientific education.

After the change of power in 1920 the Hungarian history of science faced the greatest challenge of its existence. As a result of the measures of the new government it lost its university, its activity was seriously restricted, the Transylvanian Museum Society met destructive difficulties and could not publish its review until 1930. The activity of the university teachers belonging to the Hungarian minority became impossible, the lack of the Hungarian scientific reviews and editorial houses meant that they were deprived of the possibility of publication. These circumstances drove the form of activity of the Transylvanian Hungarian historian towards education, towards the spreading of knowledge. In this task Lajos Kelemen took a leading role, his personality alone was worth of a whole institution following the original targets and the best traditions of the Museum Society.

After 1944 the network of institutions serving education and scientific life was rebuilt and in this work the Hungarian experts also took part. The most important result of scientific education proved to be the Lajos Kelemen memorial volume published in 1957. Through its methodological and conceptual points of view it opened up new perspectives for a book of history in which Romanian, Hungarian, and Saxon authors would present the mutual influence of the co-existing cultures.

The historical changes of 1989 in Romania made it possible for the science of history to change the paradigm in such a way as to adapt it to the new conditions. This can be followed through the activity of the Transylvanian Museum Society since it was reestablished in 1990.

2. The Literature Centricity of the Hungarian Cultural Life in Transylvania

After 1920 it was difficult for the Hungarians, reduced to a minority status, both in Transylvania and in the other countries to realize their new situation, the new tasks which resulted from it and to sum up the still existing possibilities. The new Romanian power restructured scientific life and the only representative of university education, the University from Kolozsvár. All its measures hindered the development of the Hungarian scientific research and the training of new specialists. The activity of the Transylvanian Museum Society was stopped and this made impossible any research in the field of social sciences. The cultural life of the Hungarians from Transylvania became literature centered, this used to be considered a kind of a model.

After the situation of the Hungarians from Transylvania had become somewhat more stable, a demand for a more balanced structure of the culture life appeared. This characterizes the activity of the Transylvanian Young People, which was founded at the beginning of the 1930s, the movement of those, who started to study village life, and the appearance of sociology.

3. Youth and Popular Movements

The change of power in 1920 represented a formerly never experienced challenge for the Hungarians from Transylvania, who met with completely new situations and new tasks. Political and public life forces proved to be unable to handle the new problems because they kept thinking according to the old schemes. In just one decade it became obvious that it was unavoidable to change the mentality and the way of thinking.

The way to be followed was shown by three people, who worked independently, but said the same thing: Spectator (Miklós Krenner), Sándor Makkai and Béla Jancsó. It was Péter Cseke who pointed to the common features of their way of thinking: according to them the financial and moral deterioration of the minority society was not the result of the objective causes, but that of the “inadequate adaptation to the challenges of the minority status in the sphere of self-consciousness and self-organization”.

The work of the Transylvanian Young People in the field of social and cultural policy is the result of the realization that the culture of the Hungarians living in minority status and the modern social consciousness go together, and are interdependent. They were able to give a program for the future because they were conscious of the characteristics and possibilities of minority existence. In the second half of the 1930s social research gained ground presenting first of all the popular sociography.

4. Leftist paradigm in the spiritual life of the Hungarians from Transylvania

The divided character of the Transylvanian political and cultural life made possible the strengthening of the leftist ideas and they could find a value orientated place in the cultural and scientific life.

In the field of science the palpable leftist paradigm was represented by the review founded by László Dienes and entitled *Korunk*. Its writers many times published sharp criticism against the ideas and opinions expressed by authors who were the adepts of other world outlooks and ideologies. In the field of science and education the leftist scientific paradigm of the era is mainly characterized by antagonizing the pragmatism and historian view represented by the Transylvanian Museum Society.

5. The national and mother tongue consciousness of Lajos Kelemen's writings

Following the great historical changes of 1920 the field of activity of the Hungarian scientific life shrank considerably, the new power proved to be a hindering force. Still, the forced change of paradigm generated by the same changes, created opportunity and possibility for turning towards a wide circle of the Hungarians. Formerly the information reached only a small group of intellectuals, but time had come for getting in touch with the whole nation. According to Zsigmond Jakó: “instead of studying the history of the state, the new task was to serve minority self-consciousness.” This would explain the peculiar “scientific technique of composing” what characterizes Lajos Kelemen's style. He wanted to make it possible for everybody to get close to the study what was so much cherished by him, that of the historical approach of the nation.

In our days it may be even more valid what Imre Mikó stated in 1935 in his study entitled *From Transylvania to Europe*: “The only possible way to follow in Transylvania is the social, economical and political organization of the Hungarians, the scientific elaboration of their problems, the defence of their rights in front of the national and international authorities, and

the initiation of cooperation with the other nations living in Transylvania.” This work has still not been done, but the work of Lajos Kelemen could play a key role in its completion.

III. Methodological Considerations

1. The characteristics of the genres of Transylvanian historical education

The spreading of scientific knowledge is not a science and it is not a research activity either. It is a moral duty of the professionals, and teachers and beside them of the scientific researchers. It is a kind of scientific communication. In spite of the difficulties resulting from minority status, the representatives of scientific thinking laid great emphasis on the strengthening of the self-consciousness of the Hungarians from Transylvania, on the presentation of the scientific and cultural values from Transylvania and on letting people know the connections and interactions of the European and Transylvanian history of culture.

They had to organize Hungarian scientific life within the framework of the given possibilities and, while not forgetting about the formerly existing societies of the intellectuals and the circle of the traditional aristocracy, they had to try to perform an organizing activity in a much larger and more versatile community. In a period, when political life was completely impossible, the spiritual sphere remained the only area where sense of duty and peace of mind could find their place.

2. Hungarian science of history – Transylvanian science of history

The basic idea of the movements of the young people who were seeking for new solutions was, that Hungarians themselves had to organize the economical, social and cultural life of the community. In 1930, Sándor Tavaszy, philosopher, thought that the most important target of scientific life in Transylvania was to study and unfold the historical past of this place. By that time - following the inner renewal of the Church – a modern view of national pedagogy was emerging, which had a deep influence both on the families and on the ways of popular education. Zsigmond Jakó, one of the disciples of Lajos Kelemen pointed to the perspectives of the Transylvanian science of history, which lead to the 21. century: “In a really unified future, Hungarian scientific life can not give up – surely not in the field of art sciences – that spiritual potential with which the scientists of the nationalities living within the Carpathians, with the help of their double connections, special knowledge of languages and places and their local relationships can increase the efficiency and honor of Hungarian science in the neighboring countries.”

3. The institutional conditions of scientific activity

If we compare the conditions of the work with the results obtained, we can say that Hungarian scientific activity from Transylvania was at its best during the period between the two World Wars. Scientists were forced to work in minority status, lacking a university of their own and any other form of scientific institutions. The financial situation was desperate and the aggressive nationalistic attacks of the majority were threatening them every day. But just because of being reduced to a minority status, the Hungarians from Transylvania needed badly a high quality scientific activity and this was one of the reasons urging the men of culture to try to solve the almost impossible problems.

The organization of the education and that of the training good teachers became of utmost importance. This situation brought about the strengthening of the social role of the church, the maintenance of the denominational schools assumed the character of a national task.

4. **Branches of knowledge belonging to minority science** (the role of the *Keresztény Magvető*, the *Erdélyi Irodalmi Szemle*, the *Cultura*, the *Hírnök*, the *Magyar Kisebbség*, the *Pásztortűz*, the *Erdélyi Fiatalok*, the *Hitel*, the *Művészeti Szalon*, the *Magyar Nép*, the *Kolozsvári Szemle*, the *Korunk*)

Research work done in the domain of social sciences and more closely concerning minority problems can be traced as far as the 18. century in Hungary. The demand of finding answers to the questions belonging to the domain of minority studies first appeared at the end of the 1920s, as a new idea connected to the Hungarian minorities living in the states created after the I. World War. After the change of power from 1920, the former centers of the Hungarian scientific life from Transylvania, the University from Kolozsvár and the Transylvanian Museum Society could no longer fulfill their duty. Under the pressure of circumstances, and because literature enjoyed some freedom, the literary reviews and newspapers undertook the task of the inexistent professional forums and that of spreading scientific knowledge.

5. **Transylvanian workshops popularizing sciences in the 1970s** (e.g. *Falvak Népe*/*Falvak Dolgozó Népe*, *Művelődés*, *A Hét*, etc.)

The writers and researchers belonging to the review *Erdélyi Fiatalok* proved to be most prolific in researching village life. Villages and the people living there became very important for them. They organized seminars on this theme and often paid visits to the countryside. The result of this work can also be evaluated by its connection with the village researching movement and school of sociology of professor Dimitrie Gusti. According to the characteristics and the applied means Gábor Gaál distinguished two types of sociography: the pragmatic and the poetic one. The leftists founded the newspaper entitled *Falvak Népe*, the editor being János Demeter and they took an active part in the economical and cultural movement of the agricultural workers.

After the great historical and political changes in Romania, within the framework of the Economical and Social Policy Institution of the Bolyai University, the research done in the field of social economy and factory sociography gained greater importance. Journalistic literature drew the attention to the intensive movements and changes following urbanization.

All the reviews, which were interested in the results of the research work done in the villages or any sociological analysis concerning life at the countryside, can be considered workshops spreading scientific knowledge in Transylvania.

IV. Research in the field of history in Transylvania

1. The role of Balázs Orbán and László Kőváry

All what Balázs Orbán wrote was in close connection with the history of the Széklers, so he really deserves the title given to him: the greatest Székler. The six volumes of *A Székelyföld leírása történelmi, régészeti, természetrajzi s népismereti szempontból* (The description of Széklerland considering history, archeology, nature and folklore) still represent the best description of Transylvania. In the introduction of his work he calls Transylvania – in accordance with László Kőváry – an “unknown museum”.

The activity of László Kőváry can be placed near that of Balázs Orbán, both of them wanted to show the world the hidden treasures of their native place. Orbán took part in the elimination of the blank areas with his discoveries and descriptions while Kőváry made the work of organization and the synthesis of the gathered material increasing like this the knowledge about Transylvania. Besides Count Imre Mikó he also fought steadily for the realization of the great idea: a Transylvanian museum.

2. Imre Mikó and the foundation of the Transylvanian Museum Society

In the second part of the 19. century the conditions for the foundation of the societies with scientific character were already created. These societies established museums in order to gather, to elaborate and to use scientifically the values of the different regions. The societies founded in Bihar, Alsó-Fehér, Hunyad and Szolnok-Doboka counties worked within the area of own administrative authority. The Székler National Museum from Sepsiszentgyörgy worked on the territory of three counties while the activity and influence of the Transylvanian Museum Society from Kolozsvár could be traced in the whole territory of Transylvania.

Count Imre Mikó brought together the idea of a museum and that of an academy, and like this he could announce the plan of a Transylvanian Hungarian scientific institution with a unified structure: “Our Museum Society has three great tasks: to establish for this part of the country a scientific museum which would meet the requirements of the age, to organize and elaborate the gathered material, or have it elaborated in order to be put into general use and

finally, through the above mentioned two activities to spread and strengthen among the people of this country the love of science and culture.”

3. The Transylvanian Museum and the University Library from Kolozsvár

The donations offered for the Transylvanian Museum Society made possible the foundation of the Transylvanian Museum. It was moved into its own home in 1911. Béla Posta, the director of the Department of Coins and Antiquities of the Transylvanian Museum Society founded the archeological school from Kolozsvár.

Of all the departments of the Transylvanian Museum Society we have to mention on the first place the library. Besides the establishment of the University, the contractual relationship with the Hungarian state meant a great step forward. The building was constructed by the architects Flóris Korb and Kálmán Giergl (György), the example being the library from Basel. Besides the directors of the library – Pál Erdélyi and Farkas Gyalui – others, who were working there, also played an important role in the history of the Hungarian libraries.

4. The Archives of the Transylvanian Museum

The most important role in the foundation of the Archives was played by Counts József and Sámuel Kemény, who offered to it not only their libraries but also their rich collection of documents and manuscripts.

It was Lajos Kelemen, who, from the former artificial units made up the joint of the fonds according to the classical rules of organizing archive material. His efforts raised the institution led by him to the rank of the best European archives. According to Zsigmond Jakó the Archives of the Museum Society “with its priceless collections was the most important workshop of scientific life in Transylvania, together with the University from Kolozsvár.”

5. The role of the Erdélyi Irodalmi Szemle and of the Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek

The change of power in 1920 made the activity of the Transylvanian Museum impossible and so was the publication of its reviews and other issues of professional character. Between 1924 and 1929 the “literary appendix” of the review *Keresztény Magvető*, edited by István Borbély, entitled *Erdélyi Irodalmi Szemle*, a review of science and criticism, ensured the

possibility of publication for writings with cultural historical character. The successor of István Borbély, Lajos György, published the most important writings in a separate volume. He became the editor of the *Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek* which made up a homogeneous serial. Until 1948 208 issues were published. In that year the Transylvanian Museum Society was wound up by the Communist power.

6. The revival of the Transylvanian Museum Society and of the series of the Transylvanian Museum

Sándor Tavaszy divided the period of Hungarian learning between the two world wars into three parts. The first one, between 1919-1924, was the time of uncertainty characterized by the lack of any institutional framework, when the only form of activity was trying to spread knowledge. The second period (1924-1930) is hall-marked by the *Erdélyi Irodalmi Szemle*, and by a new start for editing books. The third one, the years after 1930, witnessed the development of scientific life, when the Transylvanian Museum and the *Erdélyi Tudományos Füzetek* were published, meetings and other activities were organized in the different towns.

Sándor Balázs called the revival of the Transylvanian Museum a phoenix phenomenon.

V. The Life-work of Lajos Kelemen

1. From the paternal home to Kolozsvár

Lajos Kelemen from Nagyernye was born on 30 of September 1977 in the town of Marosvásárhely, called sometimes the capital of the Széklers.

After the compromise of 1867 the traditional frameworks of the old world became consolidated and this hindered the bourgeois changes in Transylvania. The characteristics of the feudal society had a deep impact on the behaviour and way of thinking of the young Lajos Kelemen and shaped his scale of values. The most important features of his character were further strengthened by the patriarchal atmosphere of his native town. The local Calvinist High School had a decisive role in his career choice.

Following the example of Balázs Orbán he travelled through the villages on foot, and in 1893 he discovered mediaeval frescoes on the walls of the church from Marosszentkirály and two years later on the walls of the church from Nyárádszentlászló. In 1894, on the ceiling of

the Unitarian church from Ádámos, he discovered the oldest painting in the territory of Hungary of that time, which had a date (1526).

2. In the capital of Transylvania

In the autumn of the year 1896 Lajos Kelemen became a student of the Franz Joseph University from Kolozsvár at the Geography-History department of the Literature-Languages and History Faculty. Meanwhile he made a living as a tutor, teaching the son of his principle, István Gidófalvi, royal notary, the boy being a student at the Calvinist High School.

Kolozsvár, the years spent in this town brought about a decisive change in his world outlook. The modern city impressed him not only by its larger size, but also by its culture. Like this his final way of thinking and world outlook were shaped both by the scale of values of the old, feudal society, and by the new quality of life offered by bourgeois development, creating a noble mixture of Puritan simplicity and bourgeois broadmindedness.

In 1902 he was employed by the Library of the Transylvanian Museum with daily fee. When he was only in the second year of his studies, he became a member of the Transylvanian Museum Society, between the years 1908-1921 being its secretary too.

3. In the Unitarian High School from Kolozsvár

Partly because of financial reasons and partly following his calling as a teacher, in May 1907 he finally accepted to become the teacher of history and geography in the Unitarian High School at Kolozsvár. That was the third time he was offered this job, and in the same time he also became the archivist of his church.

4. The first world war and its consequences

During the war he was deeply touched by the sufferings of the soldiers fighting at the different battlefields. In 1916, during the time of Romanian raid he made a journey on the line of Beszterce-Erdoszentgyorgy, very close to the front, by a horse-drawn cart, gathered and brought to Kolozsvár the treasures of the Calvinist church.

In May 1918 he started to work in the Archives of the Transylvanian Museum Society.

5. The results obtained between the two world wars

After the change of power an even greater emphasis was laid on the strengthening of the sense of identity of the Hungarians from Transylvania, on presenting the cultural and scientific values of Transylvania, on popularizing the connection and interaction of the Transylvanian and European history of culture. For this a change of paradigm was also necessary, people had to cope with the changed situation and had to learn how to use the possibilities which still remained for them. For a survival it was important to preserve the “forts”, the archives and the libraries. Works and studies of scientific character could be published in reviews and daily or weekly newspapers.

Education and adult education became the task of the historical churches. Hungarian students studying at the Romanian university got some training in Hungarian language through the lectures and seminars of the Board of Supervision of the Hungarian Students from Kolozsvár.

Hungarian scientific activity became a nobile officium, no payment was given for it, so it needed a forum which could ensure financial background.

6. Scientific life in Transylvania between the years 1940–1944

This was a very busy period. After twenty years of functioning at Szeged, the Franz Joseph University moved home, its activity had to be organized, the work of the Transylvanian Museum Society became more enthusiastic, it became an urgent task to establish and give a well defined direction to the Institution of Science from Transylvania. Until his retirement on 1. January 1938 Lajos Kelemen was working in the Archives of the Transylvanian Museum. In the new circumstances his presence became indispensable therefore he was called back to his former workplace on 2. November 1940 and became the director-general of the museum and of the archives.

Three institutions began their work within the framework of the Teleki Pál Scientific Institution established in 1941: The Institution of Political Sciences, The Institution of the Hungarian History of Sciences and the Institution of Sciences from Transylvania.

7. Within the tightening borders of scientific activity

It was a most urgent task to move and organize the safekeeping of private and family archives from the defenseless castles and manor houses right after the front moved forwards. Lajos Kelemen was present everywhere and was attentive to everything. Crossing the border of their authority, urged by the conditions of emergency they raised and brought to Kolozsvár the archives from Kraszna and Belső-Szolnok, Torockó, Dés, Szék and Szamosújvár.

Although in 1944 he retired again, in the coming years he was still asked to work in the State Archives, in the Archives of the Unitarian Episcopate, and in the nationalized archives of the Museum Society, now called The Historical Archives of the Romanian Academy, Branch from Kolozsvár.

8. The memorial volumes of Lajos Kelemen

Lajos Kelemen lived long enough to see the memorial volume, a tribute of his students, friends and colleagues, compiled for the honor of his personality and career. Originally the volume was to be published at his 70. birthday (1947), but this proved to be impossible just like the initiative of the editors of the review *Erdélyi Múzeum*. The memorial volume finally appeared on his 80. birthday in 1957. In it, besides the Hungarian authors, we find the studies of Romanian and Saxon historians too, proving what Lajos Kelemen had always emphasized, that is: the historical past of Transylvania is in fact the common history of the nationalities living there.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences was quite late, when, after a revision of its former decision, accepted him as an external member. On 27. November 1960 he became the general superintendent of the Unitarian Church.

Between January 1961 and February 1962 János Fazakas, the director of the Orthopedic Hospital ensured him a careful nursing. He spent the last months of his life in the home of his nephew. He died on 29. July 1962. His necrologue was written by his church: "*His knowledge continues to live in his students. And we all were his students.*"

VI. Conclusions

The impact of a personality creating a school to the scientific life of our days

a) Lajos Kelemen the archivist

He was best known as an archivist. It has already become clear that his main achievement was the increasing of the Archives of the Transylvanian Museum. When he started working on it, the collection contained about forty thousand items, in 1918 this number was already almost five hundred thousand and 1944 it was close to six hundred thousand. When the Academy of the Romanian Socialist Republic took the collection into its possession, and renamed it Historical Archives, they could speak about more than a million items. According to András Kiss the name of his master “in Transylvania was synonymous with that of the meaning of the word archivist. He has always been an example for me, and he should be an example for every Hungarian archivist from Transylvania.”

b) The work of Lajos Kelemen in the field of spreading scientific knowledge

In his autobiography written on the occasion of applying for acceptance into the society named Társadalom, he used the expression “university extension”. In an era, when scientific activity became impossible, this expression gained a special meaning. The phraseology itself goes back to an enthusiastic English movement whose aim was to extend university studies to those circles of the society, in which formerly there was no opportunity to obtain higher education. Lajos Kelemen did his best to turn this noble idea into reality, to increase and to strengthen historical consciousness on the basis of authentic documents.

He voluntarily offered to guide visitors from the country and from abroad, showing them around Kolozsvár and talking about the historical monuments of the downtown.

If we want to sum up his work and career in very short terms, we could say, that he was always serving his community. He contributed in a decisive way to the publication of the results of research done in the field of local history, and of the history of culture and art, and he took care of this work being done according to the professional and social requirements of the new era. He also wanted to reach as many people as it was possible.

c. Writings about Lajos Kelemen

On the occasion of the centenary of his birth, in 1977 appeared the volume entitled *Művészettörténeti tanulmányok* (Studies in the History of Art) by Margit B. Nagy, in which the Introduction was written by Attila Szabó T. The best definition of it, which could have been the subtitle of the book, was given by Zsigmond Jakó: “The message of Lajos Kelemen”. In the year 1984 Margit B. Nagy published the second volume of Lajos Kelemen’s studies of the history of art, the book being marked with two asterisks.

As a continuation of the work of Margit B. Nagy and Attila Szabó T., in 2006 was published the first volume of the *Művelődéstörténeti tanulmányok* (Studies in the History of Culture), and in 2009 appeared the second volume too. After the publication of all the four volumes, every scientific work of Lajos Kelemen, what had ever been published, became reachable.

Lajos Kelemen used to have a “from Transylvania to Transylvania” way of looking at things, and this is not a short distance in the history of universal culture either. Anyway, it is a successful outcome of the change of the science of history between the two world wars which had a value-saving and creative character. As Dezső László said, Lajos Kelemen’s career can be considered the gift what we obtained through our minority status. The archivist and historian who kept alive Transylvanian traditions and narratives became the unavoidable source of Hungarian scientific life.

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PH. D. THESIS

THE ACTIVITY AS A PUBLICIST OF LAJOS KELEMEN, HISTORIAN
AND ARCHIVIST

Lajos Kelemen's activity as a publicist performed for spreading historical
knowledge and its place and role in the change of paradigm of the Transylvanian
scientific life in the 20. century

SUMMARY

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