

Fejérváry, Magda—Ratimorsky, Piroska—Trugly, Sándor
A komáromi múzeum száz éve
 Bratislava, 1986, Madách Könyv- és Lapkiadó,
 188 pp., 48 plates, 48,—Ft

A Hungarian language yearbook *Új Mindenés Gyűjtemény* has appeared in Slovakia since 1982. Its aim is to publish material concerning the cultural history and traditions of Hungarians in Czechoslovakia. Local history (including natural studies), ethnography, children's games and dances figure among the publications, the major aim of which is to present hitherto unpublished material. The most recent one in the series is volume 5, a special issue on the centenary of the public museum in Komárom/Komarno.

Three workers of the museum edited the book, and it is introduced in a one-page article (*Bevezetőül*) by the museum's director, József Kajtár. A short sketch on the museum's childhood (1870–1913) follows. Fifteen articles grouped into four chapters deal with the particular collections. The museum was directed by an association (which often changed its name, but was known in the town as *Történeti és Régészeti Egylet* – “Historical and Archaeological Association”) from 1886 until the end of World War II, after which it became one of the Czechoslovakian state museums. To be a Hungarian museum, or even to be a local museum for a district which was, in Czechoslovakia, a stronghold of Hungarian culture, has not always been an easy task. Nowadays the museum houses archaeological, historical, various modern historical, ethnographical, natural and art collections, with a lively exhibition and educational *programme*. All these are described in the book in detail. The museum of the Danubian region (*Duna Menti Múzeum*) as its official title says, is one of the best-equipped museums in Czechoslovakia. A director, 4 departmental chiefs, 9 museologists (among the 2 archaeologists, 2 ethnographers, an art historian, a literary historian, a botanist, and an entomologist), a documentarist, a photographer, museum curators and three exhibition guides are among the permanent employees. More than half of the museologists got their university degrees in Hungary, while the others graduated in Czechoslovakia. The number of exhibitions and visitors to those exhibitions started to increase significantly from 1968 on. Annually, more than 40.000 visitors enter the museum.

The book is edited in an excellent way. It includes bibliography, statistics, biographical data and correct information is given by the figures. The authors interviewed all the previous museum staff members (among them exponents of Hungarian cultural activity there between the world wars!), and point out to the reader instances of data being unavailable for specific questions. In one word: this is the best book ever written on a “Hungarian” museum. It might serve as a model for similar books both inside and outside Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Like the whole series of *Új Mindenés Gyűjtemény* (The title dates back to 1789, the year when József Péczely, initiated in Komárom his semi-scholarly, semi-literary magazine in Hungarian language, *Mindenés Gyűjtemény* or “General Magazine”), this issue is available only in Hungarian. Since there are not so many good and working museums in the Carpathian Basin with a centenary to celebrate, at least a short summary in a more widely used language (and, of course, also in Slovakian) would seem to have been justified. We hope, when in 1989 Komárom celebrates the bicentennial of the old *Mindenés Gyűjtemény*, the editors will also include short summaries in languages other than Hungarian. This monument of cultural history in one region deserves more international acknowledgement and acceptance.