

NEW SOURCE PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE EARLY MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

KORNÉL ILLÉS¹

Hungarian Archaeology Vol. 10 (2021), Issue 3, pp. 62–63.

Two books published by the Institute of Hungarian Research (Magyarságkutató Intézet) in 2020 and 2021 in Budapest made key sources from two important historical periods of the Carpathian Basin accessible to the general public. Thanks to the efforts of Mátyás Darvas, the number of texts available in Hungarian related to the early medieval Pannonian Basin has been enriched with new titles. The *Annales Fuldenses* and the *Annales Regni Francorum* contain valuable information concerning the early history of the Hungarians and the history of the region before their conquest of the area. These bilingual volumes are the first to undertake the task of publishing the aforementioned texts in both Latin and Hungarian.

Most of the information about early Hungarian history can be found in historical works linked to states that considered the Carpathian Basin a part of their sphere of influence. The *Annales Fuldenses*, which contains reports from between 714 and 901, is among the most relevant texts of that source group. Dániel Bácsatyai, who has researched the Hungarian

invasions of Europe extensively, considers it one of the most significant sources related to the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin. This is due to the fact that the *Annals* not only provides information on Moravian-Hungarian relations and the Bulgarian-Hungarian wars, but also contains valuable descriptions of the Hungarian raids in Italy at the turn of the 9th century (BÁCSATYAI 2017, 41–43). In light of this, the publication of the aforementioned text in 2020 along with the Hungarian translation made by Mátyás Darvas (DARVAS 2020) is certainly noteworthy. The significance of this volume is mainly due to fact that Darvas is the first to provide the full text of the *Annals* in Hungarian. Before the publication of this book, only excerpts available in chrestomathies related to the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin contained information directly concerning Hungarians (KRISTÓ 1995, 188–193; GYÖRFFY 2002, 201–204).

This year, Darvas also published the translation of the *Annales Regni Francorum* in another bilingual volume as a complement to the aforementioned book (DARVAS 2021). Although the period covered in this source does not include the years when the Hungarians settled in the Pannonian Basin (the entries start at the year 741 and terminate at 829), the text has considerable, abundant reports connected to the region. These in particular deal with the history of the Avars, the manoeuvres of the Bulgarians at the boundaries of the Frankish realm, and the actions of the Pannonian Slavic chief, Liudewit. The great frequency of excerpts from the *Annales Regni Francorum* in the source collection regarding the history of the Avars compiled by



Frank királyi évkönyvek / Annales Regni Francorum.
Translated and annotated by Mátyás Darvas.
Publications of the Institute of Hungarian Research 21.
Budapest: Institute of Hungarian Research,
ISBN 978-615-6117-21-2

Fuldai évkönyvek / Annales Fuldenses.
Translated and annotated by Mátyás Darvas.
Publications of the Institute of Hungarian Research 5.
Budapest: Institute of Hungarian Research,
ISBN 978-615-6117-18-2

¹ Student of history, Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Humanities. E-mail: illes.kornel.an@gmail.com

Samu Szádeczky-Kardoss (SZÁDECZKY-KARDOSS 1998, 269–307, *passim*) excellently illustrates the significance of this work.

The aforementioned publications are closely related to one another, which is underlined by the similar principles employed in their editing and translation. Both volumes use the Latin texts of the sources first published at the end of the 19th century as a part of the prestigious *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* series. The original texts and the translations are printed side by side on successive pages and are followed by a short afterword from the translator, containing basic information regarding the sources presented and the manuscript traditions. Darvas also informs the reader about the principles employed in the translation such as the translation/transcription of the toponyms. The publication of the *Annales Regni Francorum* also contains the version that was preserved under the name of Einhard in addition to the main text. The book containing the *Annales Fuldenses* incorporates a facsimile of the manuscript preserved in Leipzig that includes plausibly coetaneous entries about the raids of the Hungarians.

It is possible to conclude without doubt that the new source translations by Mátyás Darvas are noteworthy as they can be useful tools both for professional historians and for university level education, while in addition they have the potential to be valuable reading for members of the general public interested in historical matters. The published texts have great importance in relation to the events of the early medieval period in the Carpathian Basin and are important sources for the first appearances of the Hungarians in the region. The Hungarian translation of these texts should ensure that they become more widely known in the future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bácsatyai, D. (2017). *A kalandozó hadjáratok nyugati kútfői* [Western sources of the Hungarian invasions]. Budapest: HM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum.

Darvas, M. (ed.) (2020). *Fuldai évkönyvek: Annales Fuldenses* [Annals of Fulda: Annales Fuldenses]. Budapest: Magyarágkutató Intézet.

Darvas, M. (ed.) (2021). *Frank királyi évkönyvek: Annales Regni Francorum* [Royal Frankish Annals: Annales Regni Francorum]. Budapest: Magyarágkutató Intézet.

Györffy, Gy. (ed.) (2002). *A magyarok elődeiről és a honfoglalásról* [Regarding the ancestors of Hungarians and their conquest of the Carpathian Basin]. Budapest: Osiris Kiadó.

Kristó, Gy. (ed.) (1995). *A honfoglalás korának írott forrásai* [Written sources of the period of the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin]. Szeged: Szegedi Középkorász Műhely.

Szádeczky-Kardoss, S. (ed.) (1998). *Az avar történelem forrásai 557-től 806-ig* [Sources of the history of the Avars from 557 to 806]. Budapest: Balassi Kiadó.