

Abstract

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A Forgotten Campaign. Johannes Herold and the Remembrance of the 1556 Military Campaigns in Southern Transdanubia.

This doctoral dissertation presents the results of a long-term research project focusing on the literary reflections of the complexity of the 1556 military campaign in Southern Transdanubia, with a particular emphasis on the work of Johannes Herold. The dissertation is divided into two main parts:

1. Presentation of the campaign's text corpus: The research identified a corpus of ten texts which are thematically and philologically interconnected. It analyzes the authors' intentions within these texts and demonstrates how Archduke Ferdinand of Tyrol was portrayed in various works.
2. Analysis of Herold's oeuvre: The dissertation proves that his *Princeps Iuventutis* and *Dialogus* are not merely literary creations but possess significant historical source value. The dissertation refutes Andreas Burckhardt's assertion that the content of Herold's work is meager, demonstrating that the authenticity of the information found in the text is corroborated by the contemporary siege diary.

The most important findings of the research include:

- Herold's credibility and historical role: Herold's work has become an integral part of 16th-century Hungarian historiography, as Miklós Istvánffy, a prominent figure in Hungarian historical writing, incorporated specific information using Herold's text that is not found elsewhere.
- Existence of an interconnection of the text corpus: The research confirmed that the texts describing the 1556 campaign form a cohesive corpus and are closely interrelated from a philological perspective.
- Significance of the campaign: The dissertation concludes the 1556 campaign and the defense of Szigetvár represented a victory of European relevance, a claim further supported by the rich literary afterlife of the events.

In summary, the dissertation demonstrates that Herold's work is not only a credible and relevant historical source but also organically integrated into 16th-century Hungarian historiography, highlighting the pivotal role of Hungarian history in the humanist author's scholarly contributions.