Madách Anniversary at the National Library of Foreign Literature

2023/09/28



On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Imre Madách and the 140th anniversary of the premiere of the *Tragedy* on stage, the National Library of Foreign Literature organised a conference on 28 September 2023 on Madách's literary works and translations. The exhibition will be open to the public until the end of October.

The National Library of Foreign Literature [1] commemorated the 200th anniversary of Imre Madách's birth and the 140th anniversary of the premiere of *The Tragedy of Man* with an exhibition and conference.

The participants of the conference on Madách's literary translators and life's work, which took place on 28 September 2023, and the guests of the exhibition opening were welcomed by János Csák, Minister of Culture and Innovation. In his speech he emphasized that Imre Madách's work is the best modern parable of human existence and progress, which was able to summarize the changes and hardships that human beings have been subjected to in the history of mankind during the modern age, while human nature has not really changed.



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In his welcome speech, Dávid Rózsa stressed that it is good to be a speaker of a language whose linguistic and poetic achievements can be read in many languages. "*The Tragedy of Man* is a work of art that has been translated 113 times, has appeared in print in 216 editions, and is perhaps being translated somewhere in the world at this very moment."

The conference organiser, Dr Ildikó Sirató, researcher at the Theatre History and Music Collection and curator of the exhibition, opened the conference with a presentation on *The Tragedy of Man's journey into world literature.*

The exhibition *The Tragedy of Man in World Literature.*
Translations and Translators of Madách's Work from 1862 to the Present Day,
will be open to the public until the end of October.


A fordítók némelyike konzeniális átültetések alkotója.
EN
World literature has welcomed our most prominent Hungarian national poet, Sándor Petőfi, and Madách, the author of the Romantic poem about humankind. Their works can be read in most foreign languages and have influenced other nations' literature and authors outside the Hungarian linguistic borders.
Our literature, our European culture, our national characteristics and values are known to the world through the works of Petőfi and Madách.
According to a widely circulated figure in literary history, the Tragedy can be read – at least in parts – in "about 40" languages. However, foreign readers can encounter the Tragedy not only as a literary text, but also on stage and in the form of radio plays, and it is not only in our country that paraphrases, rewritings and even postmodern adaptations of the work have been created.
Some of the translators are the authors of genial (translation) interpretations.

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