+40 Corvinas: The digital collection of the National Library enriched with new treasures

2025/09/16



On Tuesday, 16th September 2025 at 10:00 AM the National Széchényi Library held a ceremonial press conference to announce the donation of forty digitalized Corvinas from the Austrian National Library. Thanks to this contribution, the majority of the surviving Corvinas can now be accessed online by researchers and enthusiasts alike via the Bibliotheca Corvina Virtualis website.



[1]

On Tuesday, 16th September 2025 at 10:00 AM the National Széchényi Library (OSZK) held a ceremonial press conference to announce the donation of forty digitalized

Corvinas from the Austrian National Library. **[2]Thanks to this contribution, the majority of the surviving Corvinas can now be accessed online by researchers and enthusiasts alike via** the Bibliotheca Corvina Virtualis website. **[3]**

The ceremonial event took place in the Founders' Hall on the 6th floor of the OSZK. Director-General Dávid Rózsa delivered the opening address, followed by a keynote speech from Magdolna Závogyán, State Secretary for Culture at the Ministry of Culture and Innovation. Afterwards, a professional lecture was given by Edina Zsupán, head of the HUN-REN–OSZK Fragmenta et Codices Research Group.



[4]



[5]



[6]



[7]

The Corvina Library was the renowned collection of King Matthias Hunyadi (1458–1490), and was considered the first Renaissance royal court library north of the Alps and outside Italy. The volumes, with their distinctive bindings and heraldic decorations, formed a unified and representative collection assembled in the final years of King Matthias's reign. Although the exact size of the library is unknown, it is believed to have included up to 2000 volumes, mostly manuscript codices with a smaller number of printed books. The collection was built both from Italian orders and from the codex-making workshop of the royal court in Buda, and also incorporated older books from various former owners.

The main platform for presenting the digitalized Corvinas is the Bibliotheca Corvina Virtualis website, [3] originally launched in 2002 and revamped in 2018. The collecting gained a renewed momentum in 2022, thanks to an initiative by Director-General Dávid Rózsa. At that time only 68 Corvinas were available on the site; today, that number has grown to 170. Each digitalized codex is accompanied by modern academic descriptions in both Hungarian and English. The editor-in-chief of the website is Edina Zsupán.



[8]



operis legentibus tedium generaret. i
In ipo ergo bonor omnium auctore. q
siuat uiat seruimus. di. xxv. c. ab i
exordio. in fine tempor uenies. oo.
que est greco lictera ultima tractt i
ad A. que est latinor prima. qua ex
tremitates tractt ad principium. et
principium ad extremitatem. qe est
alpha. et oo. principium 7 finis. spem
ponentes. hoc opus finit ab A. prima i
littera inchoans. usq; ad extremam lit
teram alphabeti ducturi. ipso iuuante
qui est principium et finis qui est be
nedictus in secula seculor. amen.

Explicat prologus. Incipit i
Martiniana vocati et vocatalium
a fratre Martino ordinis predicator
comiti papie penitenciario et Ca
pellano per alphabetum opilata

Q. aaron sacerdotium approbatur.

di. xcv. sacrosancta. Item suo sacerdo
ti sacerdotum summu pontifias rep
sentat di. xxi. §. 1.
Item ipsius caritas multiplicater insi
nuatur. de pe. di. v. §. opponitur
Item ponitur in exemplu terrens et
usurpantes prelaturas. vij. q. 1. venite
post me.
Item ponitur in exemplum q nemo i
honorem prelationis assumat. nisi
ad hoc vocatus. vij. q. 1. Inscriptus. et
1. et vi. de elec. Qualiter.
Item ponitur in exemplum. q nullus
homo potest esse sine peccato. de peo.
v. §. opponitur. circa me.
Item ponitur in exemplum lapsis q
post penitentiam ad prelaturas resti
tui possint. di. 1. §. contra exemplis.
Item cum filius suis in exemplum po
nitur epis 7 dicas de mutua immuni
tione. di. xxv. Esto.
Item q oblationes cedunt solis sacer
dotibus debentur. figurat. x. q. 1. hac
Item est in argumentu q deus dat i
gratiam subditis per orationes sacerdo
tis. 1. q. 1. dictum.
Item q uirga aaron deuorauit uir
gas magor. xxvi. q. v. Nec mirum.

Abbas.

Q. abbas non ab epo ponit
sed a monachor congregatione eligit.
xviii. q. v. Abbas in. 7. c. se.
Q. in abbatem eligi debet q sit digni

[9]


DAMASI PAPE AD HYERONIMVM
SVPER QVINQVE QVESTIONIBVS
LIBRI GENESIS
ORMIENTEM·TE·ET·LO
GO·IAM·TEMPORE·LE
GENTEM·POCIVS QM
SCRIBENTEM·QVESTI
VNCVLIS·AD·TEMIS
SIS·EXCITAR·E·DISPOSVI·NON QVo
et legere non debeat hoc enim uelut cottidiano cibo alitur et pigrescit oro. Sed quo lectiois
fructus sit iste si scribat. Itaq; etherio quoniam tabellario ad me remisso nullas iam eplas
hic te dixisti excepisse quas aliquando in heremo dictaueras quasq; tota auiditate legi
atq; descripsi & ultro pollicitus es te tertium noctium operibo aliquas si uellem posse dictare
libenter accipiam ab offerente quod uolueram si negasses. Neq; uero ullam puto dignioremq;
disputationis nre confabulationem fore qm si descripsisti sermocinemur inter nos. ut
ego interrogem et tu respondeas qua uita nihil puto in hac luce iocundius quo animę
pabulo ommia mella superantur. & in dulcia inquit propheta guttur meum eloquia tua
super mel ori meo. Nam cum idcirco ut aie precipuum oratoris hominem abeterisq; differamus
q loqui possumus qua laude dignus est qui in ceteros supra inqua homines bestias
antecellunt? Accingere ergo & mihi que subiecta sunt edissere. Seruans utrumq; modera
men ut nec proposita solutionem desiderent nec eplę breuitatem. fateor quippe tibi cos li
bros quos mihi iam pridem lectitanti dederas ideo non libenter legi quia & plurime a
eplę eiusdem usq; ad mille sparta uersuum tenduntur & raro de nro dogmate disputant
quo fit ut et legentis fastidium generet longitudo. Et si qua breuia sunt scolastici magis se
apta qm nobis. De metris et regionum situ et phis disputantibus? Quid sibi uult quod
in genesi scriptum e. Omnis qui occiderit Cayn septem uindictas exoluet. Si omnia fe
cit deus bona ualde quare noe de mundis et immundis animalibus precepit cum immudu
nihil esse bonum possit. Et in nouo testamento post uisionem que Petro fuerat ostensa dice
ti abste domine ame qm commune & immundum nuqm introiuit in os meum. Vox de
celo respondit quod deus mundauit tu ne commune dixeris. Cur deus loquit ad abrahā
q quarta progenie filij isrl' essent de egipto exitum. Et postea Moyses scribit & iuncta aute
progenie exierunt filij isrl' de terra egipti. qd utiq; nisi exponatur uidetur e contrarium.
Cut Abraham fidei sue signum in circumcisione susceperit. Cur ysaac uir iustus et deo car
non illi cui uoluit sed cui noluit deceptus errore benedixit.
Hyero' ad damasum papā rnsiua ad ppta qōes id est in solū rndet de alijs remittit
BEatissimo pape Damaso hyeronimus. Postquam eplam tue sanctitatis accepi. Confestim acci
to notario ut exciperet imperaui quo ad offitium preparato qd eram uoce prompturus
ante mihi cogitatione pingebam. Interim iam et ego linguam et ille articulum move
bamus. Cum subito hebreus interuenit deferens non pauca uolumina que synagoga

[10]


INCIPIT LIBER EPISTOLARVM AVRELII AVGV
STINI EPISCOPI HIPONENSIS DOCTORIS
EXIMII EPISTOLA PRIMA AD
VOLVSIANVM

E SALVTE TVA QVAM
& in hoc seculo & in christo esse cupio
sancte matris tue uotis sum forsasse &
ipse non impar. Vnde meritis tuis red
dens saluationis obsequium hortor ut
ualeo ut litterarum uere certeq. sacra
rum te curam non pigeat impendere.
Sincera enim & solida res est nec fu
catis eloquiis ambit animum nec
ullo linque tectorio mane aliquid ac
pendulum crepitat. Multum mouet
non uerborum sed rerum amdum
& multum terret factura securum. Precipue apostolorum linguas exortor
ut legas hinc enim ad cognoscendos prophetas excitaberis quorum testi
moniis utuntur apostoli. Si quid autem uel cum legis uel cum cogitas tibi ori
tur questionis in quo dissoluendo uidear necessarius scribe ut rescribam.
Magis enim hoc forte adiuuante domino potero q̃ presens talia loqui tecũ
non solum propter occupationes tuas & meas & tuas. Quoniam si cui michi
uacat occurrit ut & tibi uacet. Verum enim propter eorum inuentem
presentiam, qui plerunq. non sunt apti tali negocio magisq. impone cer
mibus q̃ scientie luminibus delectantur. Quod autem scriptum habetur sep
uacat ad legendum cum uacat legenti nec oneroſum in presens quod cui
uolet summinus cum uolet ponitur.

Domino uere sancto ac merito uenerabili pri augustino episcopo Volusian

PCus me uir probitatis iustitieq. documentum ut aliqua ex
ambiguis lectionis prediscenda percunter. Amplector gra
muneris imperati, neq. libenter in disciplinas tuas offero uere
ri sententie auctoritatem secutus: que nullam ad perdiscen
dum habundare credit etatem. Neq. immerito sapiens pru
dentie studia nullis terminis: neq. fine concluſit: quando primordius suus

[11]

The donation of forty Corvinas by the ÖNB is of particular significance, as the Austrian National Library holds the largest Corvina collection in the world. In the early 16th century, Viennese humanists such as Johannes Gremper, Johannes Cuspinianus, and Johannes Brassicanus played key roles in transferring many valuable codices from Buda to Vienna, saving them from destruction during the Ottoman conquest. Among these is the famous Philostratos Corvina, acquired by Gremper from King Vladislaus II in 1513. The efforts of these Viennese scholars helped preserve the classical and Byzantine works from the Corvina Library, as well as the writings of the Christian Church Fathers, introducing them to the European academic consciousness.

The newly donated digital treasures were created as part of **a joint Austrian–Hungarian research project** involving experts from the ÖNB, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the NSZL. On the Hungarian side, **Edina Zsupán and bookbinding historian Marianne Rozsondai** are participating in the project. The research will culminate in a detailed catalogue, to be published as part of both the Supplementum Corvinianum of NSZL series and as an electronic publication by the ÖNB.



Magne compositionis Claudii Ptolomei libri a Georgio trapezuntio traducti incipiunt capitula primi libri feliciter

Prefatio auctoris
De ordine huius doctrine
Q: sphere ac globi modo celu contineatur
Q: terra quoq; spherica sit
ad sensum quatum ad universas partes
Q: terra i medio celi sita sit
Q: terra qi pondi ē ad celū
Q: ita nullo motu progressiuo moueatur
Q: duplex in celo primoru motuum differentia sit
De quātitate rectarū linearū que in circulo producuntur

Tabula cordarum & arcuum
De arcu qui est inter tropicos
Theoremata que ad sphericas demostrationes premittunt
De arcubus qui sunt int equinoctialem atq; obliquum circulum
Tabula solaris obliquationis
De ascensionibus in recta sphera

Sequunt capitulum primum
Prefatio Auctoris

ER OPTIME MIHI VI dentur ꝙ hi qui bene philosophari sunt speculatiuam philosophie partem ab actiua seperasse. Nam & si actiue accidat parti ut prius speculatiua sit magnam tamen differentia in ipsis inueniet non solum quia nonnulle virtutes morales absq; disciplina & multis meste possint: cum speculatiuam scientia sine doctrina consequi impossibile sit. Verum & quia maxima utilitas in altera ex frequenti actione que in ipsis rebus habetur: in altera ex progressu speculationis fieri solet. Hinc opus esse nobis putauimus ut actionem quidem cogitandi modis sic temperemus: q; ne in minimis quidem consideratione eius obtundamur: que ad pulcram ordinatamq; mentis constitutionem perducat. Otium autem maxime ad doctrinam theorematum que plurima pulcherrimaq; sunt & precipue illorum que proprie mathematica dicuntur conuertamus. Commode namq; ad modum Aristotelis speculatiuam partem in tria rursus genera partitur physicum. Mathematicum. Theologicum. Nam cum res omnes ex materia & forma et motu constent quorum singula quis minime seorsum a subiecto inspici possint: intelligi tamen sine reliquis possunt. Primam quidem primi omnium motus causam si quis in summa simplicitate accipiat: dm

[12]



[13]


N. 3
SANCTI ATHANASII IN PRIMAM EPISTOLAM SANCTI PAVLI AD ROMANOS PROLOGVS INCIPIT

[14]


INCIPIT PRA
EFATIO SAC
TI HIERONY
MI PBRI IN EXPO
SITO EM EVAGE
LII SCDM MATTHEI
PLVRES
FVISSE
QVIEVm
GE
SCRIP
SERIT
et Lucas Euangelista testatur dicensqm quidem multi
conati sunt ordinare narrationem rerum que in nobis
complete sunt sicut tradiderunt nobis. qui ab initio ipi
uiderunt sermonem. et ministrauerunt ei. et perseue
rantia usq; in presens tempus monimenta declarant. q
aduersus auctoribus edita. diuersarum heresum fuere
principia. Vt est illud iuxta ægiptios & Thomam et
Mathiam et Bartholomeum. duodecim quoq; aplor
et basilidis atq; appelles. ac reliquor quos enumerare

[15]

At the press conference, Director-General **Dávid Rózsa** emphasized that the Corvinas serve as cultural milestones, transmitting humanity’s accumulated knowledge and the legacy of humanism. The forty codices now made available through Bibliotheca Corvina Virtualis are accessible to all, and the long-term goal of the project is to achieve a virtual reconstruction of the royal library.

In her speech, **Magdolna Závogyán** stressed that this heritage is now accessible to everyone, anytime, anywhere. She stated that the digitalization programme of the national library opens up a new world, one in which the written treasures forming the foundation of our culture are available with equal access for all. She described the 223-year-old NSZL as a continuation of the intellectual legacy of the Corvina Library.

In her professional lecture, **Edina Zsupán** noted that the forty Corvinas themselves represent the scale of a medieval library. The aim of the research is to place these manuscripts within the broader context of Hungarian and European cultural history. The project includes up-to-date scientific descriptions, all accessible via the Corvina website of NSZL.



[16]



[17]

2025/09/16 - 14:49

Forrás webcím: https://oszk.hu/node/7254

Hivatkozások:
[1] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_08.jpg
[2] https://www.onb.ac.at/
[3] https://corvina.hu/en/front/
[4] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_07.jpg
[5] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_04.jpg
[6] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_05.jpg
[7] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_03.jpg
[8] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod2271-en/
[9] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod2139-en/
[10] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod644-en/
[11] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod653-en/
[12] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod24-en/
[13] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod44-en/
[14] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod656-en/
[15] https://corvina.hu/en/corvina/virtual-corvinas/cod930-en/
[16] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_11.JPG
[17] https://oszk.hu/sites/default/files/Sajtotajekoztato_plusz-40-digitalis-corvina_250916_VAL_13.JPG
[18] https://oszk.hu/category/foszotar-es-pozicionalo/hirek
[19] https://oszk.hu/category/foszotar-es-pozicionalo/hirek-cimlapon