

A GUIDE TO  
ELTE  
EÖTVÖS JÓZSEF  
COLLEGE



# Preface



*The architectural plan for Eötvös College*

## PREFACE

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1895, THE MISSION OF EÖTVÖS COLLEGE ("THE COLLEGIUM") HAS BEEN TO OFFER SUPPORT TO HUNGARY'S MOST TALENTED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. ALTHOUGH THE COLLEGIUM DIFFERS IN MANY RESPECTS FROM ITS RENOWNED PRE-WAR PREDECESSOR, ITS GOAL IS THE SAME: TO TRAIN HIGHLY-SKILLED EXPERTS WITH THE CAPACITY TO COMBINE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND QUALITY TEACHING.

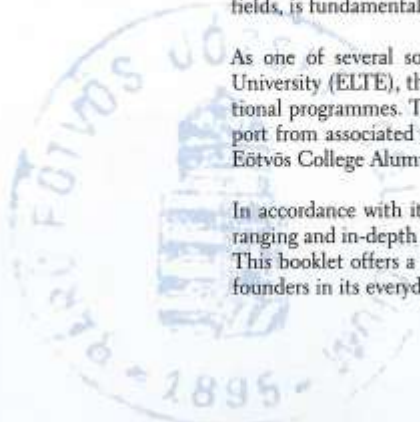


*Loránd EÖTVÖS*

Following the spirit of the original Latin *Universitas*, Eötvös College admits members from four university faculties based on its own examination procedure. Two thirds of the students are admitted from the Faculty of Humanities, the other third from three faculties: Science, Information Technology and Social Sciences. This diversity of study, combined with the daily interactions between the different academic fields, is fundamental in the Collegium's outstanding achievements.

As one of several so-called *szakkollégiumok* ("colleges for advanced studies") under Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), the Collegium is self-governed and sets its own curriculum and supplemental educational programmes. The Collegium's high standard in teaching is principally upheld by a wealth of support from associated representatives of the Hungarian cultural elite as active teachers, members of the Eötvös College Alumni Association, or student mentors.

In accordance with its tradition, the educational goals of Eötvös College continue to combine a wide-ranging and in-depth academic orientation with national traditions within a broad European perspective. This booklet offers a glimpse into how today's Collegium strives to carry out the noble intentions of its founders in its everyday work.





The Collegium building in 2010

## HISTORY

## The Collegium's



The new Collegium building in 1910

As early as 1875 Loránd Eötvös (1848-1919), the excellent physicist, inventor, university professor and true European liberal, put forward a motion to Ágoston Trefort, Minister of Religion and Public Education, for the founding of a new institute: the first boarding school in Hungary for teacher-training, citing the famous École Normale Supérieure (ENS) in Paris as an example. Eötvös College, dedicated in memory of his father, the Education Minister of 1848, first appeared under the name *Bárá Eötvös József Collegium* in the committee proposal petitioned in July 1895.

The Collegium is a unique institution, even within Hungary, evoking the image of master classes for top-notch students in a residential college. It functions similar to an Oxford college: students live, study and thrive in the community of Eötvös College.

Among the students of the early years, prominent minds of Hungarian science and art can be found such as: the great composer Zoltán Kodály, the excellent chemist Géza Zemplén etc. The original spirit of the Collegium developed in the first years continues to be preserved in tradition today. The premise was to cultivate a free yet disciplined self-education of students, for

whom the smallest unit was the "family" consisting of four roommates who shared the same major but usually differed in their school year. Famous scientists and university professors taught as head teachers and also tutored students. Students could gain first-hand knowledge of foreign languages and cultures from visiting professors, most of whom were French.

After the death of Loránd Eötvös, the scientist and politician Pál Teleki became the curator of the Collegium, whereas following the death of the legendary director Géza Bartonic, a former student turned linguist, Zoltán Gombocz, led the institute for eight years as director. He devised the scenario still used today for the oral entrance examination. From 1935-1945, Miklós Szabó served as director. After WWII, the noted author and alumnus Dezső Keresztury assumed the position, and along with his students helped rebuild the severely damaged building with his bare hands. His motto: "A free spirit serves best," implies the principle of unbiased research and a critical approach when forming opinions.

The Collegium's first era ended in 1948, when Keresztury, who stood for traditional values, was forced to leave

his position. By the fifties, the building on Ménesi út had been degraded to a common dormitory and even the name was changed. The spirit of the Collegium, however, lived on thanks to its former students teaching in academia; besides them, Director Gábor Tóth deserves the most praise for the reorganisation of the Collegium, which meanwhile regained its old name. The curriculum was expanded to include special lectures, seminars, and intensive language classes; the old system of entrance exams was also reintroduced.

During the directorship of István Szijártó (1984-1992), József Vekerdi (1992-1993), Iván Bertényi (1993-1996), János Bollók (1996-2000), Franz Schaffhauser (2000-2001), László Takács (2001-2009) and László Horváth (2009-present) training continues to uphold the traditions of the Collegium. On December 20, 1991, Minister of Culture and Education Bertalan Andrásfalvy rededicated the Collegium at a ceremonial general assembly in the presence of Árpád Göncz, President of the Hungarian Republic. In 1991, the institute was decreed independent; however, a later higher education law did not include it among the listed institutions. The Collegium was again under the eco-



conomic control of ELTE in 1995, due to insufficient budget funds. To revive the tradition from the time of the Collegium's foundation, Dezső Keresztury was chosen as curator. After his death in 1996, he was succeeded by Professor István Borzsák (1997-2007) and Professor Tibor Szepessy (2008-present).

## ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

Eötvös College's director serves both as academic head and general director of the Collegium, and is appointed by ELTE's president at the behest of the *Kuratórium*, the Collegium's advisory board. The board

# THE COLLEGIUM'S *Structure*

is an organisation assigned to assist the director. It has advisory and reporting rights and also acts as a forum of appeal. Its nine members are delegated in equal proportion by the Collegium's faculty, students and the Alumni Association. Regular faculty meetings also play an important role in academic matters and strategic planning.

The students' self-governing organisation is the Student Committee, whose members are elected via secret ballot by the students of the Collegium. The Student Committee organises events while practising the rights provided for the student representatives.

## ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGIUM

Upon being admitted to one of Eötvös Loránd University's faculties for undergraduate (B/BSzC) or graduate (MAMSc) training, students are notified of their admittance and receive information concerning the Collegium's entrance examination system and the advantages of learning and living in the Collegium. Candidates send their admission materials to the Collegium in early August. These are evaluated by the Collegium's workshop leaders and the Student Committee.

The most promising candidates are informed of the date of the oral examination: "fejkopogtatás" ("knocking on the head"), which takes place in late August. This examination lasts a few days and is supervised by teachers. The admission committees take into account not only the candidates' knowledge but also their competence in logic, observation, and debate. After the special examinations the College students get to know the candidates through a general interview. The meeting marks the end of the examination procedure by finalising the list of boarding students as well as commuter students who live in Budapest.

## EDUCATION

The Collegium offers seminars and tutorials based on personal relationships and small groups, which complement the mass education of the university. Professors and students in the same field of study form workshops, which organise and coordinate seminars, tutorials and presentations, advise student research and supervise the workshop libraries. Besides the acquisition of expertise in their chosen fields, the acquisition of pedagogic proficiency also plays a major role in the Collegium's training so that college students themselves can later become master teachers.

The central goal of the College is an interdisciplinary education. This not only means the free exchange of ideas between clearly related professions, but also a productive dialogue between the seemingly non-related disciplines.

A competitive spirit and an inspiring environment form an integral part of the Collegium's traditions. A system of moral and financial incentives further enhances student motivation.

The Collegium provides the education of eight foreign languages for its students via language teachers and College students, and this work is made easier thanks to the existing facilities, the interaction between the College and the respective University Departments (French, Italian, English-American and Spanish) and the cooperation between the Collegium and numerous foreign educational institutions.



# THE COLLEGIUM'S *Patrons*

## THE PRO EÖTVÖS COLLEGIUM FUND

The fund was established in 1990 to support studies and education in Eötvös College. It is an open fund supervised by the board of trustees, whose members and officials are elected from Eötvös College Alumni Association.

## THE NAGYENYEDI SCHOLARSHIP

Béla Köpeczi (1921-2010) and his wife Edit Bölcskei established a fund to express their gratitude to the former Eötvös College. It supports students of outstanding achievement who are active participants in the Collegium's public life and who show excellence in French Literature, Romance Studies or in the research of the history of the Hungarian wars of independence.

## THE HUSZTI FUND

Classics scholars József Huszti and Dénes Huszti had many connections to Eötvös College. Mrs. Dénes Huszti established the fund in their memory in 1996. Its goals are to support the research of medieval Latin philology as it relates to the Hungarian language, and the medieval economic history of Hungary. Every year the board of trustees accepts papers from the Collegium's students and the applicant with the best paper receives the fund's financial support.

The Collegium has never had assets from which it could gain a private income. The old Collegium was fully dependent on budgetary funds, while the reorganised institution's parent institution – except for a short period – has been ELTE. The century-old building is state-owned, while its trustee and user is ELTE. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences bears one fourth of the Collegium's general expenses as its Institute for Literary Studies operates in the Collegium's building. The Collegium pursues an aggressive fundraising strategy to fund its various programmes and goals.

## EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY (ELTE)

ELTE provides support to Eötvös College for the maintenance of the Collegium's campus. ELTE regards the support of its *szakkollégiumok* a high priority. Thus, in its prevailing budget it provides Eötvös College with special *szakkollégium* funds comparable to that of the guaranteed per-student state funding. These two funding sources combined make it possible for the Collegium to employ three full-time teachers and their colleagues who provide the background of professional work.

## WORKSHOPS

### ANGLO-AMERICAN STUDIES WORKSHOP

Eötvös College takes pride in its great traditions; however, in order to respond to the challenges of our increasingly global society, it is not enough to only cultivate these traditions. That is why Professor István Géher established the Anglo-American Studies Workshop in 1990. For the past two decades of its existence, certain experimental components have become the workshop's trademark features. The workshop strives to organise engaging classes in small groups, as opposed to the mass education at university. The workshop also aims to create a professional interdisciplinary community with international networking and recognition. To achieve this two-fold task, the workshop runs two programmes concurrently.

1. The core programme provides Eötvös College's English majors with a chance to work in seminars to satisfy compulsory main tier requirements for ELTE credits, including language study, literature, linguistics and methodology.
2. Special elective courses offer Collegium students and students of the ELTE School of English and American Studies special integrated professional training, primarily for graduate students. These unique courses often invite leading scholars to lecture on current and innovative topics such as "Carnival and Shakespeare," "Postcolonial Literature," "Narrative Fiction, Ethics and Emotions," or "Contemporary Welsh Poets."



The main entrance of the Collegium

The workshop maintains relations with various professional student communities and academic organisations, such as the Hungarian Shakespeare Committee, the Society of Modern Philology, the Hungarian Society for the Study of English (HUSSE), etc. Research and presentations are encouraged by the workshop's annual professional forum, *Műhelykonferencia* (Workshop Conference).

The workshop's chief goal is to train outstanding scholars and teachers. The tutorial system offers great help in achieving this goal by involving upper-level undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students as well as young PhD scholars. The workshop promotes various didactic experiments in its own pedagogical practices, such as co-teaching.

Most courses offered by the workshop are accredited by the ELTE School of English and American Studies. Faculty members include the Collegium's permanent and guest teachers. From time to time, visiting professors from abroad, e.g. Great Britain, the US, Belgium and Germany, share their latest research with workshop students.

## BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY WORKSHOP

Biology and chemistry are two of the most innovative areas of science, thus the workshop ensures that students study topical issues, new achievements and the latest technology. Another main goal of the workshop is to encourage and support research that allows students to become future research candidates for doctoral programmes in Hungary and abroad.

The workshop courses present a dynamic approach to scientific investigation: students learn new theories for traditional problems in their fields and are trained to think critically and develop the necessary skills for further education or employment. The courses, together with recent research, encourage students to initiate their own research. Good presentation skills are vital for scientists and the experience gained at university conferences provides a significant advantage for workshop members. The workshop offers the students an opportunity to publish their work by encouraging them to participate in Hungarian and international conferences and by organising a biology and chemistry conference for students from top *szakkollégiumok* all over Hungary.

## BOLLÓK JÁNOS CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY WORKSHOP

Classics is the oldest form of university studies. It has been present in Eötvös College since its foundation in 1895. Its importance and its fluctuating popularity reflect both changes in society and in the appreciation of traditional values. The Collegium was closed down in the fifties. Slow reorganisation began in the sixties and vigorous progress gained momentum in the mid-eighties under the leadership of Director István Szijártó. Modern language teaching was reintroduced in the Collegium, and Professor János Bollók started teaching Latin and supervising the work of Latin

majors. In 1988-89 the Classical Philology Workshop came into existence as a result of the students' initiative. With Professor Bollók as its head, organising lessons to complement university training, the structure of the workshop as an academic unit of the Collegium was established. The workshop has its own library containing volumes purchased with the use of application funds, or donated by members of the academic community. The late Professor Bollók, after whom the workshop was later named, also contributed to the library. In Autumn 2009 the library was expanded with the opening of the Collegium's heritage library, named after Professor István Borzsák.

The workshop accepts students who have already received formal language training in secondary school, or who have successfully passed the secondary school leaving exam in Latin, or another equivalent language exam. Language skill requirements for each credit course gradually progress throughout the training. The workshop's fundamental task is to provide an education that complements university training for its participants. The workshop supports university training by:

- holding small group seminars where students can learn auxiliary sciences that are losing ground in university teaching (Palaeography, Codicology, Papyrology, Epigraphy, etc.);
- inviting former Collegium scholars as guest instructors.

The workshop students are required to participate in several different types of classes. An essential focal point of the training is the so-called main seminar. It is compulsory for all workshop members and has no language requirement. Its purpose is to enhance the students' knowledge of an auxiliary science every semester under the supervision of a recognised authority in the given field. In addition, there are also courses with language require-

ments (descriptive grammar, stylistics, text reading).

To help students meet the high academic standards of the workshop, a special tutoring system known as the "double tutor system" functions as follows: the outer tutorial circle is made up of distinguished Hungarian Classics scholars, whereas the inner circle is made up of fellow workshop members, i.e. upper-level students act as advisors and tutors for the lower-level members.

The workshop's acclaimed research results can be linked to the "Archimedes Palimpsestus" project, conference and programme series to publicise one of the greatest recent discoveries in the field. The ongoing research series supported by the Austro-Hungarian Action Foundation is of similar importance. The international students' organisation *Societas Europaea Studiosorum Classicae-Philologiae* promotes the professional development of students. The Hungarian section of this European organisation is also housed in Eötvös College.

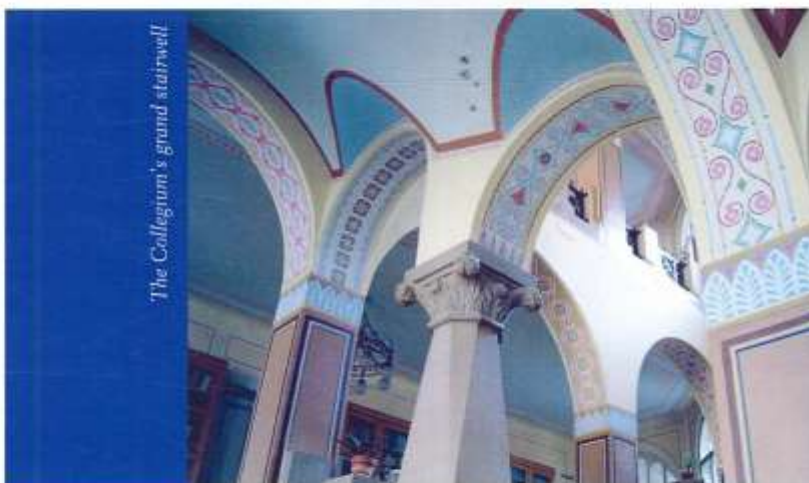
Thanks to interdisciplinarity, the defining momentum of the workshop's research activity culminated with "HyperDoc," a word processing program conceived in close collaboration with the Information Technology Workshop of Eötvös College. Other examples of successful cooperation between Eötvös College workshops include the close and fruitful relationships with the History and Germanic Studies Workshops.

## PHILOSOPHY WORKSHOP

The Philosophy Workshop was formed in 2001 at the initiation of the Collegium faculty and its Philosophy majors. Many of the profession's prominent figures who have visited the workshop have spoken very highly of the excellent debating skills of the workshop members. These lecturers have expressed their intention to return to the workshop in the future. The lecturers include:

János Kelemen, Mária Ludassy, Kornél Stieger, János Weiss, Gábor Boros, Gábor Borbély, Miklós Rédei, Gábor Kendeffy; and representatives of the younger generation: Tamás Demeter, Dániel Schmal, Zsigmond Szabó, Tamás Ulmann, Csaba Olay, Péter Mekis, Kálmán Ciszter. In addition, the Phenomenology Workshop and Philosophy Workshop have

decades of Eötvös College reflected a strong French influence embodied in high-level French language and literature training. This was hallmarked by the names Aurélien Sauvageot, Albert Szegő (Gyergyai), János Horváth and Sándor Eckhardt. The legacy of the French relationship can be seen through the Collegium's traditionally active student exchange



developed a regular cooperation programme.

Due to the small membership and the diversity of professional interests in the discipline, rather than offering the same credit courses ELTE offers (like many larger workshops do), the workshop provides various courses to meet the diverse needs of the workshop members.

The workshop's tutorial system adjusts to the challenges arising from the "Bologna Process," the recent standardisation of European higher education. The upper-level workshop members can tutor lower level students and all members have the opportunity to present their research and achievements in the field at regular meetings.

## FRENCH WORKSHOP

Modelled after the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) of Paris, the first

programme, French native speakers in Eötvös College and the library's exceptionally rich materials in French. The Collegium provided high-level French language training in the 1970's and 1980's, with occasional visits by guest lecturers. However, French majors have been working as an independent professional community only since the early 1990's. The workshop admits students of the following status: French majors (of the pre-Bologna Process); Romance Studies students majoring in French; MA students studying French Language, Literature and Culture (disciplinary or teachers' MA); and MA level Translation and Interpretation students (if one of their chosen languages is French).

The French Workshop fits organically into Eötvös College's professional training structure, which is primarily built on small group work and the pedagogical methods of tutorial intensive training. The

courses characteristically serve either to complement BA and MA courses at ELTE, or as an insight into a special field – for example, “The Diachronic Peculiarities of Today’s French Language.” The thematic lecture series of Hungarian and foreign guest teachers enhances the students’ complex literary, historical and linguistic interests. In order to achieve these goals, organise thematic conferences and publish essay volumes, the workshop cooperates with the ELTE Romance Studies’ French Department, the French Departments of other Hungarian universities, the Budapest French Institute and also with institutions of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In the framework of the scientific cooperation agreement with the ENS in 1998, ENS helped lay the foundations of the workshop’s library by donating books in French, Latin and Ancient Greek. The students’ work is further assisted by the Paepcke Collection and the rich Romance Studies materials of the Eötvös Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

The Information Technology Workshop was founded in 2004, and its membership has been growing steadily ever since. In order to introduce students to the latest theoretical and practical achievements in IT, first-year students begin their studies with a two-semester special course entitled, “Modern Theories in Information Technology.” This course deals with the basics of Programming Language Theory,  $\lambda$  Calculation and Type Theory. In the second year, students learn about a brand new branch of Information Technology entitled the “Theory of Mobile Processes,” during which they can learn the theory of  $\pi$  Calculation and its practical uses. Upper-level students attend lectures on Proving Program Correctness and also deal with special program cor-

rectness strategies. Further second-year courses include a regular university lecture entitled, “Data Structures and Algorithms.” The workshop invites leading guest speakers to hold lectures on cutting edge topics, which are related to course material and also offer an outlook on other fields of Information Technology.

In 2005 the Information Technology Workshop signed an agreement of cooperation with the *Farkas Gyula Szakkollegium* in Kolozsvár [Cluj], Romania. This connection has enabled a student exchange programme between the two institutions, helping the professional development of students.

## GERMANIC STUDIES WORKSHOP

The Germanic Studies Workshop in Eötvös College started its modern phase in 1989, founded by Géza Horváth, who was a professor at the Collegium between 1980 and 1998. The workshop’s foundation was cemented with the work of Fritz Paepcke – a visiting professor from Rupprechts-Karls-University in Heidelberg; from 1980 until his death in 1992 Professor Paepcke gave special seminars in Hermeneutics, German Prose and World Poetry. Regular training in the workshop started in 1990, mainly in collaboration with professors from the Departments of German Linguistics and Literature of the School of Germanic Studies at ELTE and the Department of German Language and Literature of Károli Gáspár Calvinist University in Budapest. Every semester students can choose from three to five courses in literature, linguistics or other topics. When possible, lecturers are invited from other Hungarian and foreign institutions as well. When planning the system of special courses, the requirements of the Bologna Process are taken into account, and these are complemented by courses indispensable for philologist training. The workshop strives to guide German

majors through their literary and linguistic studies in small groups with five to ten students at most, based on a syllabus with necessary modifications, possibly from the first semester to the completion of an MA degree. The workshop syllabus consists of the following components:

1. Foundation and unit courses for BA and MA training, as well as special studies within the framework of the workshop to add depth of knowledge.
2. Special courses not offered in standard ELTE BA and MA training, most importantly, a survey of the history of the German language, periods of German language, and the study of relics of ancient Germanic languages. Professor August Stahl of Saarbrücken University has been a recurring visiting lecturer for more than a decade at the Collegium, and he gives lectures on the topics of Early Modern German Philology and 19th, 20th century German Poetry.
3. Additional activities for the workshop community, such as the production of supplementary teaching materials, literary translations, workshop conferences, thematic film clubs, etc.

## HUNGARIAN WORKSHOP

The Hungarian Workshop has always had one of the highest memberships of Eötvös College’s workshops. This, as well as the multifaceted course requirements for Hungarian majors, contributes to the workshop’s rich diversity of specialisation opportunities. Adjusting to the interests of the Collegium students, the emphasis is traditionally on literature; nevertheless, linguistics courses are also present. A linguistics cabinet was created in the

autumn of 2009, providing a wider spectrum of training and orientation for students who remain undecided in their fields of study and MA pursuits.

The Institute for Literary Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is housed in the Collegium building, which provides great opportunities for the workshop. The Institute's library, of which the base is the Collegium's pre-WWII library, can be used by all Collegium students. The library's collection focuses on literary history and literary theory; therefore, workshop members have access to one of the most significant Hungarian collections in their field in the same space where they live and study. From time to time, the Institute also takes part in the workshop's training work: many of its researchers give courses for workshop members, for example: Zoltán G. Szabó, József Jankovics and László Varga, who was also leader of the workshop until 2006.

Besides the Institute, the workshop is fundamentally linked to the university. Over the past few years courses have been taught by professors affiliated with the Collegium, mainly or exclusively for workshop members. In addition to the core credit courses, special workshop courses complement ELTE training.

The workshop also engages students in extracurricular activities. The debate club has weekly meetings to provide the opportunity for workshop members to get to know each other, both in a personal and professional sense. This is particularly advantageous for commuter students to feel connected with their peers.

## MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS WORKSHOP

The workshop admits mathematics and physics majors studying at the Faculty of Science of ELTE. The teaching programme's main components for these future mathematicians, physicists and teachers qualified to teach several subjects, are the

following: independent courses (two per semester), study groups, and other professional programmes.

Training follows the structure of university education. At BSc level the workshop offers important but less commonly taught courses, which are useful for future researchers, such as problem solving, the philosophy of science, or the history of science. At the MSc level, lessons explore special fields of study and specialisations to students that include special fields of mathematics, biophysics and particle physics. The workshop leadership takes into account the students' ideas and requests when making the course schedule. Courses are announced every three years in a rotational system in such a way that students can attend at least one per semester.

Students engage in study groups, where they can speak about their achievements concerning applications and competitions. Less formal presentations are also possible at the weekly or fortnightly forums or at the very popular Science Nights (presentations by science majors for the general student population). The workshop finds tutors for its students to improve the quality of their work. Top students can be granted international scholarships, mostly through the exchange programme with the École Normale Supérieure (ENS). The workshop periodically invites famous researchers and guest speakers to speak about their work and scientific achievements.

## MENDŐL TIBOR GEOGRAPHY, EARTH SCIENCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

The pre-war Eötvös College held a prominent programme for teaching geography and geology. The major teachers of geography, schooled between the two World Wars, all came from the Collegium: Tibor Mendől, Béla Bulla, László Kádár,



Collegium interior

Erő Waller, Jenő Major, geologist Elemér Zádeczky-Kardoss and mineralogist Béla Mauritz. The Collegium's dissolution in 1950 was a black day in the history of Hungarian geography. After the early stages of the Collegium's reorganisation in 1957, the doors were open only for humanities students. The number of science students admitted to the school increased slowly from the early 1980's but the number of geography or geology majors among them was still very small at the beginning. Significant change happened in the late 1990's when the once prestigious geography and geology programme was resumed in the framework of the Science Workshop. The independent Geography and Geology Workshop was founded in 2002 and took up Tibor Mendől's name in the year 2005, the centennial year of Mendől's birth. Today the Mendől Workshop is a professional community of Collegium undergraduate and graduate students studying for a BSc or MSc in Geography, Earth Sciences and Environmental Studies.

As one of the Collegium's smaller workshops, the Mendől Workshop

does not aim at providing a course structure that runs parallel with the core credit ELTE training; instead it organises courses that set high academic standards that complement university training. Students must be knowledgeable in current issues both local and global as are discussed in professional circles. Students are prepared for participation in international settings through a seminar and lecture series in English. The workshop strives to build and develop international relationships as well. Transition to the Bologna Process has resulted in a rethinking of the workshop's system. Every semester two or three courses are offered mainly for BSc students. In addition, tutorials help MSc candidates to become competent professionals, capable of achieving outstanding results with their final thesis or competition papers (OTDK) and/or careers in their fields.

## ITALIAN WORKSHOP

Hungarian-Italian relations, including the cooperation between Eötvös College and Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS) in Pisa, have a long and rich history. The Italian Workshop, founded in 2009, aims at strengthening the orientation towards Italian Studies and Italian Philology. It helps students who are dedicated to the study of Italian history, literature, the languages and the history of art. The main goal is for it to become a training and research centre in Hungary thus attracting distinguished professors to provide talented students with high-level training. Students will have access to research, and doctoral candidates and young researchers can join in as well. The workshop strives to complement university training for workshop members in order to bring them to the forefront of international research. The simultaneous use of two principles guarantees the complementary nature of training:

1. Small group courses that teach specialised topics and subjects not easily found in core credit ELTE curriculum, such as Latin and Italian palaeography, codicology, mediaeval humanistic and modern philology, the theory and practice of textual criticism, Dante and Petrarch, the history of books, urban development and landscape architecture, the history of music, etc.;
2. Professors who are excellent scholars connected to Eötvös College, both Hungarians and Italians, with whom students would not normally meet during their university training, due to various reasons. As for international relations, the workshop aims to broaden its programmes with the SNS in Pisa through the formation of a network of excellence, and the University of Bologna through Erasmus projects. Thanks to these ambitions, Collegium students get the chance to study in first-class research centres in Italy.

## ORIENTAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

Eötvös College founded the workshop in 2009 thanks to its historical "Eastern connection" and to the growing interest in Hungarian higher education towards Eastern languages and cultures.

As for the past, several famous orientalists lived in the Collegium building: Korean composer Ahn Eak-tai (1906-1965), composer of the Korean national anthem and one of Zoltán Kodály's pupils; or Tokunaga Yasumoto (1912-2003), a pioneer of Hungarian Studies in Japan, who stayed in Budapest between 1940 and 1942 and lived in Eötvös College during his studies. There he roomed with Lajos Lőrincze and István Király, who both became well-known professors in Hungary later in their lives. The

famous turkologist Gyula Németh was an alumnus of the Collegium as was the renowned orientalist Lajos Ligeti.

The growing interest in Eastern languages today is probably not a Hungarian phenomenon. The Arab world, the Middle-East, and the Far-East are finding themselves in the limelight of interest, due to the political and economic shifts of the last few decades. Knowing these languages and cultures provides excellent opportunities for dedicated students.

The workshop's main goal is to become an educational research centre where the most talented students of Eastern languages and cultures receive high-level professional training and have access to research.

## SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES WORKSHOP

The idea of starting Scandinavian Studies courses was first presented in 2002, and courses such as "Postmodern Norwegian Literature" and "Theory of Translation" were launched at Eötvös College. After a short break, classes resumed in August 2006, when the Kuratórium, the College Advisory Board, granted permission for the workshop to operate within the framework of a joint Germanic and Scandinavian Studies Workshop.

The workshop provides courses that complement ELTE training as well as special courses unique to Eötvös College. Today, Contemporary Scandinavian Studies has shifted towards interdisciplinarity and therefore is not only considered a part of Humanities. There is a clear connection between this shift and the trends in Scandinavia, where new branches of study are evolving from exploration reaching beyond disciplinary boundaries and are growing more popular.

The number of Scandinavian Studies majors at ELTE continues to grow due to its popularity, and it seems that there is a demand for special studies in Danish, Icelandic,

Norwegian and Swedish. The workshop strives to satisfy these demands.

The workshop advertises courses in the original languages and in Hungarian to provide other majors to take part in workshop courses without the knowledge of the respective languages. This aims to promote Scandinavian culture in Hungary. The workshop considers the introduction of new forms and approaches in education very important, and builds on the advantages of the special Collegium workshop format and the integration of study groups.

## SPANISH WORKSHOP

The Spanish Workshop was founded in 2009 to complement Eötvös College Spanish majors' ELTE training. It provides seminars and programmes which raise students' interests, adds depth to their language skills and prepares them for independent research and publication. Another trademark feature is interdisciplinarity, manifesting in the examination of literary parallels, modern and contemporary Spanish art, parallels and presences in various fields of art (music, photography, painting, etc.).

Courses take place in small group seminars at the Collegium or at external sites such as museums or other cultural institutions like the Cervantes Institute. Workshop professors, some of whom come from outside academia, all share the spirit of the Collegium and are experts (teachers, scholars, translators, etc.). Besides workshop courses, individual research, preparation for and feedback from sessions organised outside the Collegium are also of great importance.

## SLAVIC STUDIES WORKSHOP

The Slavic Studies Workshop has been a part of Eötvös College since 1985, closely collaborating with the departments of Russian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Humanities (previously Russian Philology Department and Department of Eastern Slavic and Baltic Philology) as well as the Russian Literature and Research doctoral programme at ELTE.

Foreign scholars and teachers are also invited to give lectures and seminars. An international doctorate master's course, a new type of educational and scientific project, was launched in Spring 2009 and is under the auspices of the workshop.

In Autumn 2009, the workshop resumed regular college courses to continue the work of Gyula Király, Árpád Kovács, workshop leader István Nagy, and later Zsófia Szilágyi and Katalin Kroó, mostly in the field of literary studies. Between 2005-2008 the aforementioned forms of education temporarily declined, therefore the workshop set a new goal: to strengthen linguistic, literary, cultural, educational and methodological research connected with Russian philology by organising programmes, conferences, workshop meetings, presentations, lectures, and publications independent of the varying student attendance, and in the meantime providing cooperation for the representatives of relevant fields and workshop. This was a period of important national and international programmes, publications and quality research cooperation in the life of the workshop.

The workshop's educational and professional aim has always been to challenge students to get involved in research. The workshop has provided the professional forums and publication possibilities for budding scholars to acquire the needed experience to fulfil their goals. There were six high-profile international conferences in the years leading up to 2004, including five Pushkin sessions (1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1999). The

conference papers from the most notable Pushkin sessions (on Pushkin and Pasternak, Pushkin and Tzvetayeva and Pushkin and Bulgakov) were published in international publications by the workshop. In 2007, the workshop played a major role in the organisation of the International Dostoyevsky Symposium in Budapest and in the publishing of two related conference volumes. Beginning in January 2010, the workshop joined an Estonian-Hungarian cooperation to contribute to the publishing of the second volume of an international book series on the topic of Slavic Literary Semiotics.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES WORKSHOP

2006 was the first year Eötvös College admitted students from ELTE's Faculty of Social Sciences, and for a one-year interim period, workshop students worked within the framework of the Philosophy Workshop. The Social Sciences Workshop was officially founded in 2007, and the link between the two workshops still exists.

First, the workshop tried to provide its members with courses offering the widest scope possible: from Mathematical Statistics to Cultural Anthropology to Statistical Programming. Since September 2009, workshop courses have been accredited by ELTE and led by excellent lecturers, topics depending on student interest.

The Social Sciences Workshop's membership and diversity of composition has grown throughout the years. In the first two years Social Sciences BA majors were admitted from the Social Sciences Faculty. Later, in the third and fourth years, Applied Economics majors joined the workshop.

The workshop's aim is to guarantee the professional advancement of its members and to foster a sense of community. In addition, the workshop embraces openness towards the Collegium community at large; thus

every Eötvös College student is invited to take part in workshop courses.

## HISTORY WORKSHOP

Apart from History majors, the History Workshop also welcomes Archival Studies, Archaeology, Art History and Ethnography majors due to the similar methodologies employed in these related fields. Students are workshop members for eight years from the first undergraduate year to the final year of doctoral training. The training plan is five years (BA plus MA) plus three years (PhD). Freshmen admitted into the workshop are not required to pass any additional exams before moving onto MA level. Consistent with all Eötvös College workshops, the upper-level students tutor the lower-level students.

The History Workshop tries to meet the high expectations of Eötvös College's traditions, general knowledge and proficiency in various academic fields; thus bringing the ever-changing university curriculum into balance. The three main goals are as follows:

1. The workshop complements ELTE education by providing excellent training and a solid foundation in auxiliary sciences in the first three years for students interested in history and its related fields, such as: Social History, Archival Studies, Art History, Ethnography and Archaeology. This guarantees the acquisition of fundamental skills in their profession.



*The library of the Collegium in the 1930's*

# Mednyánszky Dénes

## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

2. The workshop offers specialized courses and unique research seminars not commonly offered in university studies and which are often on the forefront of current research. These are attended mainly by upper-level students, but are open for everyone.

3. The workshop serves to address the challenges of the MA courses by guaranteeing professional advancement for its MA members beyond the occasional workshop seminars. In cooperation with the ELTE history departments, and with the assistance of the study groups, the workshop has introduced seminars for MA students in Auxiliary Sciences and Source Reading.

Eötvös College's legendary library, "Eötvös Library," is now managed by the Institute for Literary Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Today's Collegium students have the same access to the library as the researchers of the Institute.

The Mednyánszky Dénes Library is independent of "Eötvös Library." It was founded by the College in 1984, to help professors and students in their work and to provide a satisfactory background in field-specific literature. During a dedication in 2003, the library was officially named after its founder. The library's first beneficiary and patron, Dénes Mednyánszky (1830-1911), was a geologist and a correspondence member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The library helps the Collegium workshops with new acquisitions in Literary Sciences, Linguistics, History, Classics, Philosophy, Hermeneutics; books written in German, English and French; dictionaries and



handbooks, primarily on Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry and Geology; and monographies and university textbooks. The library also applies for funds to buy foreign books. In 2004 it joined the ELTE University Library's integrated database, HORIZON. Since then the library has been online and does retrospective conversion as well.

The library collection is about 31,000 tomes and 1,100 volumes of periodicals, but it also owns several priceless documents including a part of Dezső Szabó's library, books published before 1800 and old works of natural sciences with Dénes Mednyánszky's notes, etc. The Mednyánszky Library supervises the archival materials, documenting the hundred year old history of the Collegium and also provides adequate research conditions.

The library operates as a member of the ELTE University Library, and the librarian is a member of the University Library Council. The librarian is a representative of the non-departmental libraries that are found in student hostels and university teacher training schools. The library's collection has been enriched by alumni donations; this is how the Paepcke, Bollók, and Borzsák Heritage Libraries were founded. These donations serve the interests of college students excellently, whereas in bigger libraries the books might be regarded as surplus material.

## NINTERNATIONAL Relations

### BELOIT COLLEGE, WISCONSIN, USA

The outstanding international exchange programme of the Anglo-American Workshop and Beloit College of Wisconsin is almost two decades old. Eötvös College and its partner institution are similar in their philosophy, structure and desire for quality education. In line with the renewed agreement, Beloit College sends students to the Collegium in the autumn semester, while Hungarians study at Beloit in the spring semester. The ratio of American to Hungarian students who participate in the exchange programme is usually 2:1. Successful Hungarian applicants can join a rich variety of courses at Beloit, use the college's world-class library and have their own advisors.

*École Normale Supérieure (ENS)  
– Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa  
(SNS) – Eötvös József Collegium:  
International Network of Excellence  
(réseau d'excellence)*

Eötvös College was founded by Loránd Eötvös in 1895, based on the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) of Paris. In 1998, this century-old relationship as a scientific cooperation was followed by an Erasmus contract for arts and sciences students, which provides continuous exchange programmes for both students and teachers. The Development Plan of June 2007, alongside the university's *tehetséggondozás* (translated as "talent development") project has led to the formation of a network of excellence (*réseau d'excellence*) between ENS, SNS and Eötvös College, whose goals are the following:

1. to introduce the French and Italian partners to Hungarian research and education and vice versa; to promote further cooperation to create new opportunities for Eötvös College and Bolyai College, as well as the Faculty of Humanities, Science, Information Technology and Social Studies of ELTE;
2. to promote the Hungarian version of talent development modelled on the ENS's 200-year-old tradition in Europe, while incorporating it into the world-

*Dedication of the new Collegium building on 26 October, 1911*





Group photo in the garden of the Collegium

wide ENS network ranging from Paris to Beijing; to increase the number of ENS-related students and teachers in Hungary;

3. to increase the number of students and researchers who actively take part in the EU programmes organised by the International Network of Excellence.

UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA;  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
LONDON; INSTITUTE OF  
CLASSICAL STUDIES LONDON;  
INSTITUT FÜR  
BYZANZFORSCHUNG  
(ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE  
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN);  
WIENER PAPYRUSSAMMLUNG  
(ÖNB); NÁRODNÍ KNIHOVNA  
ČESKÉ REHABLIKY

In the spirit of cultivating the auxiliary sciences of Classical Philology, the János Bollók Classical

Philology Workshop established an Erasmus Exchange Programme with the University of Bologna. It also transacts corporate projects and research programmes with the Department of Ancient Greek and Latin Studies of University College in London, with the Institute of Classical Studies, and the *Institut für Byzanzforschung* based in Vienna. The Erasmus Programme enables the Collegium students to join the frontline of international research while gaining recognition from the partner institutions. Our cooperation with the *Wiener Papyrussammlung* (ÖNB) and the *Wessely Collection* of Prague is also of great importance.

HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITY  
FEDERATION OF CLUJ-  
NAPOCA AND FARKAS GYULA  
COLLEGE, CLUJ-NAPOCA,  
ROMANIA

The agreements between the Hungarian University Federation of Kolozsvár, the Farkas Gyula College

and the Eötvös College signed in 2005 and 2006 set out to improve cooperation in the fields of mathematics, information technology, physics, chemistry, biology, social studies, geography, history and the arts. Institutional visits, sharing of resources, collaboration in research and development projects and conferences are all included as part of the cooperation.

SELYE JÁNOS COLLEGE  
(KOMÁRNO, SLOVAKIA)

The two institutions have been working together since the early 1990's. Programmes, such as conferences and commemorative events are open to both institutions. They also offer housing for the students of the partner institution at a reduced price.

# INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATIONS *in Hungary*

The Collegium has a traditionally good relationship not only with the faculties and institutes of ELTE, but also with the scientific and talent development workshops outside ELTE. Its cooperation with partner colleges for advanced studies in Budapest and around the country is of great importance. Many new Collegium students are taught at secondary schools by Collegium graduates; therefore the Collegium has a strong alumni network to build on.

*Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (for short: Centre)*

The agreement between the Collegium and the Centre works in cooperation with the Centre's Budapest Institute for Central and Northern Hungary. The cooperation involves scientific research, training for geographers and regional specialists, and other mutually beneficial projects.

Fields of cooperation:

a) The Collegium offers:

- cooperation with the Centre and its facilities in their specific fields (human geography, regional studies, rural development, etc.);
- joint applications in the shared fields for potential joint projects;

- academic programmes of the Collegium (conferences, workshops, book signing events, etc.), and participation in the organisation of these events;

- possible joint publication in the scientific forums of the Collegium and the Centre.

b) The Centre offers:

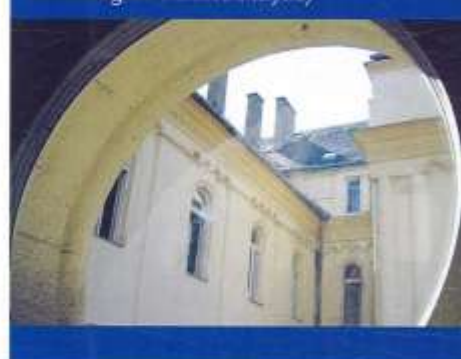
- an opportunity to join the research projects;
- support for future geographers and PhD students of the Mendöl Tibor Workshop of Geography, Earth Sciences and Environmental Studies in the Centre;
- coordination of national or international scientific programmes;
- regular invitations to the programmes of the Centre and its research facilities;
- joint publications and sharing of resources.

## FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS - HUNGARIAN RESEARCH STUDENT MOVEMENT

The Foundation for Research Students, the Hungarian Research Student Movement and Eötvös College signed a cooperation agreement in December 2007. Within the



*The Collegium's arched entryway*



framework of cooperation, the teachers of the Collegium judge the *KutDiák* essay writing competition, organised every year. Furthermore, if requested, they supervise the articles for the Hungarian Research Student Movement magazine, the *KutMagazin*. The Collegium also maintains a list of teachers in Hungarian secondary schools, who can be the potential contact persons in the schools qualified for the movement. The members of the movement can attend the courses of the Collegium for free. The foundation, in return, supports and promotes the Collegium on its homepage, publications and programmes. It publishes the Collegium's news on its homepage and in the Research Student newsletter.

## MENTOR MAGAZINE

The Mentor Magazine features topical issues of Hungarian educa-

tion, such as the talent development model. It builds relationships with the technical and professional assistance of Eötvös College, while making the Collegium better known among potential students.

## HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Hungarian National Archives provides an opportunity for regular fieldwork to the members of Eötvös College. Special training for History majors to specialise as archival experts is granted by an arrangement.

## OSA ARCHIVES

The OSA Archives is a research facility of the Central European University specialising in the history of the Cold War and documenting crimes against humanity. It also contributes to the development of a new teaching programme to educate young teachers about research methodologies involving archival research and modern technology. The History majors of Eötvös College often participate in the programmes at OSA.



# Former and CURRENT STUDENTS

The relationship between students and Eötvös College does not end at graduation. The Alumni Association („Baráti Kör”), which is similar to the pre-war student organisation, keeps the students together. The Alumni Association has representatives on the Collegium’s advisory board. Members of the Association are eager to help the Collegium in different capacities; many return as active teachers or workshop tutors. The alumni meet every February; they regularly organise talks and book launches in their alma mater.

The community and cultural life

of Collegium students is organised by the Student Committee and other community-spirited members of the Collegium. Together they create memorable programmes and even initiate new projects which later become a Collegium tradition.

## EÖTVÖS CONFERENCE

The Student Committee holds the Eötvös Conference every May, where students can present their research topics and results. The conference has become a popular and prestigious programme over the past

Group photo, 1898



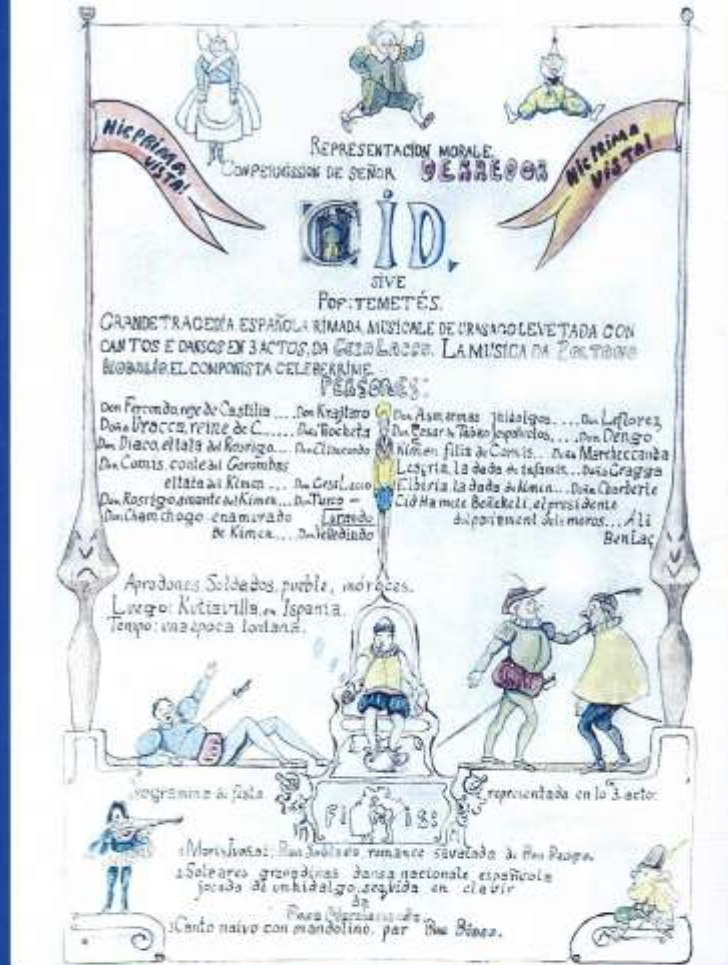
Freshmen, 2009



ten years; an increasing number of research students come from outside the Collegium to present their research results. Most of the speakers come from ELTE, but students also arrive from different Hungarian and foreign universities, such as the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár), Romania.

During the weekend conference almost all disciplines are represented: Information Technology, Biology, Chemistry, Hungarian Language and Literature, Geography and Earth Sciences, Social Sciences, Mathematics, History and Philosophy. The section chairpersons are well-known Hungarian experts, who offer advice to further enhance the research work. The 15 minute presentations are followed by a short discussion, during which the audience can pose questions. Traditionally, a collection of the best presentations, "Adsumus," is published at the next conference.

The purpose of the conference is to give students the opportunity to improve their presentation skills in an amicable and professional environment. During the conference the students can encounter members of other academic communities and also participate in social events.



Poster of the play "Cid," with music composed by Zoltán Kodály

## EÖTVÖS DAYS

An organic part of Eötvös College's community life, Eötvös Days takes place every May. The long weekend is marked with light entertainment. Local students and students invited from other colleges (Bolyai College, Simonyi Károly College, Bibó István Intellectual Workshop and the Social Studies College) take part in a large variety of sport championships (football, handball, basketball, table tennis) and other competitions. The winners receive prizes.

On the first night, the Collegium's basement pub, Estike, invites the participants to listen to music or socialize. The programme ends on Sunday with an optional trip.

## PROGRAMMES FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Students join in the selection process of future freshmen during the entrance interviews in August. The arrival of the new students is very important. Apart from the student committees and the workshop interviews, older students also get a chance to meet the freshmen in a more casual atmosphere in Estike, the Collegium's basement pub.

Following the week of the entrance interviews, the "Freshmen's Camp" takes place. It is a three-day programme during which the fresh-

men need to complete various tasks assigned to them by the older students. In the autumn semester, the Student Committee organises the Freshmen's Weekend where the freshmen need to prove that they deserve the name "collegista" (college student). One task they are assigned is to recite a poem while competing against each other. It is followed by a race, which often lasts late into the night. The traditional "Freshmen's Ball" also takes place that weekend.



*Student life in Eötvös College today*

## SPORTS

Eötvös College has great traditions in sports life. The "Eötvös Cup" is held every May, traditionally with at least four teams. The indoor football championship runs throughout the year, during which the teams compete at night. Besides football, other important sports in the Collegium's life are running, basketball and "football for fun."

## ESTIKE

Every Thursday, Eötvös College's basement pub, Estike, opens its doors to the students. The place is ideal for parties with music and dancing, concerts, theatrical performances, film nights, play nights and socializing. Students manage Estike independently. Regulars include former students, bands founded by old Collegium students, and occasional appearances by representatives of the Hungarian pop scene.

## CHOIR

Eötvös College students revived the choir in 2005. Any Collegium or non-Collegium student can be a member given satisfactory singing skills and enthusiasm for singing in a group. The choir regularly performs at Collegium programmes with a wide repertoire ranging from Rossini's "Cat Duet" to a Zulu melody "Ewe thina", and from Bulgarian folk songs to Henry VIII's "Pastime with Good Company."

## BIBLE CIRCLE

The Bible Circle was started sometime around 2007 at Eötvös College by enthusiastic students. Those interested meet weekly: after a common reading of Bible passages, they discuss the text and share their opinions. They also organise excursions and are happy to welcome anyone who is interested.

*Student cabaret, 1908*



# CONSPECTUS MEMBRORUM

CURATOR: SZEPESSY TIBOR – [szepeessytibor@t-online.hu](mailto:szepeessytibor@t-online.hu)

DIRECTOR: HORVÁTH LÁSZLÓ – [horvathl@eotvos.elte.hu](mailto:horvathl@eotvos.elte.hu)

PRESIDENT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD AND THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: BERTÉNYI IVÁN – [bertenyidr@freemail.hu](mailto:bertenyidr@freemail.hu)

Leaders of the workshops and cabinets:

Anglo-American Studies Workshop: Sántháné Gedeon Mária – [mariasantha@yahoo.com](mailto:mariasantha@yahoo.com)  
 Biology and Chemistry Workshop: Hudecz Ferenc – [rektor@ludens.elte.hu](mailto:rektor@ludens.elte.hu);  
 Bollok János Classical Philology Workshop: Mészáros Tamás – [tamas.m.meszaros@gmail.com](mailto:tamas.m.meszaros@gmail.com)  
 Philosophy Workshop: Faragó-Szabó István – [farago-szabo@freemail.hu](mailto:farago-szabo@freemail.hu)  
 French Workshop: Szabics Imre – [szabics.imre@chello.com](mailto:szabics.imre@chello.com);  
 Senior Teacher: Vargyas Brigitta – [Brigitta.Vargyas@diageo.com](mailto:Brigitta.Vargyas@diageo.com)  
 Information Technology Workshop: Csómyei Zoltán – [csz@inf.elte.hu](mailto:csz@inf.elte.hu)  
 Germanic Studies Workshop: Sára Balázs – [sarabalazs13@gmail.com](mailto:sarabalazs13@gmail.com)  
 Hungarian Workshop: Gintli Tibor – [gintli\\_tibor@freemail.hu](mailto:gintli_tibor@freemail.hu);  
 Linguistics Cabinet: Laczkó Krisztina – [vidu@mail.datanet.hu](mailto:vidu@mail.datanet.hu)  
 Mathematics and Physics Workshop: Varga Dezső – [Dezso.Varga@cern.ch](mailto:Dezso.Varga@cern.ch)  
 Mendői Tibor Geography, Earth Sciences and Environmental Studies Workshop:  
 Györi Róbert – [gyorirobert@caesar.elte.hu](mailto:gyorirobert@caesar.elte.hu)  
 Italian Workshop: Armando Nuzzo – [armandonuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:armandonuzzo@gmail.com)  
 Oriental Studies Workshop: Máté Zoltán – [matezolt@t-online.hu](mailto:matezolt@t-online.hu);  
 Assyriology Cabinet: Dezső Tamás – [dekanbtk@ludens.elte.hu](mailto:dekanbtk@ludens.elte.hu);  
 Indian Studies Cabinet: Bangha Imre – [imre.bangha@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:imre.bangha@orinst.ox.ac.uk);  
 Egyptian Studies Cabinet: Hasznos Andrea – [egyptologia@ludens.elte.hu](mailto:egyptologia@ludens.elte.hu)  
 Scandinavian Studies Workshop: Szöllősi Adrienne – [szollosi.adrienn@chello.hu](mailto:szollosi.adrienn@chello.hu)  
 Spanish Workshop: Faix Dóra – [faixd@yahoo.com](mailto:faixd@yahoo.com)  
 Slavic Studies Workshop: Kroó Katalin – [krookatalin@freemail.hu](mailto:krookatalin@freemail.hu)  
 Social Sciences Workshop: Bozsonyi Károly – [bozsonyi@yahoo.com](mailto:bozsonyi@yahoo.com)  
 History Workshop: Farkas Zoltán – [farkas.zoltan@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:farkas.zoltan@btk.ppke.hu)

Coordinating Professor of Science Workshops: Kovács István – [kovacsij@elgi.hu](mailto:kovacsij@elgi.hu)

Mednyánszky Dénes Library and Archives; tel.: + 36 1 209 0615/110

Librarian: Tóth Magdolna – [gilles@eotvos.elte.hu](mailto:gilles@eotvos.elte.hu)

Financial Director: Kissné Noszko Ilona; tel.: + 36 1 209 0615/120

Senior Assistant to the Director: Zalán-Lipák Sára; tel.: + 36 1 209 0615

Head of Maintenance: Zrupkó Gábor; tel. + 36 1 209 0615/126

Repairman: Pikács Albert

Eötvös József Collegium

Ménesi út 11-13.

1118 Budapest

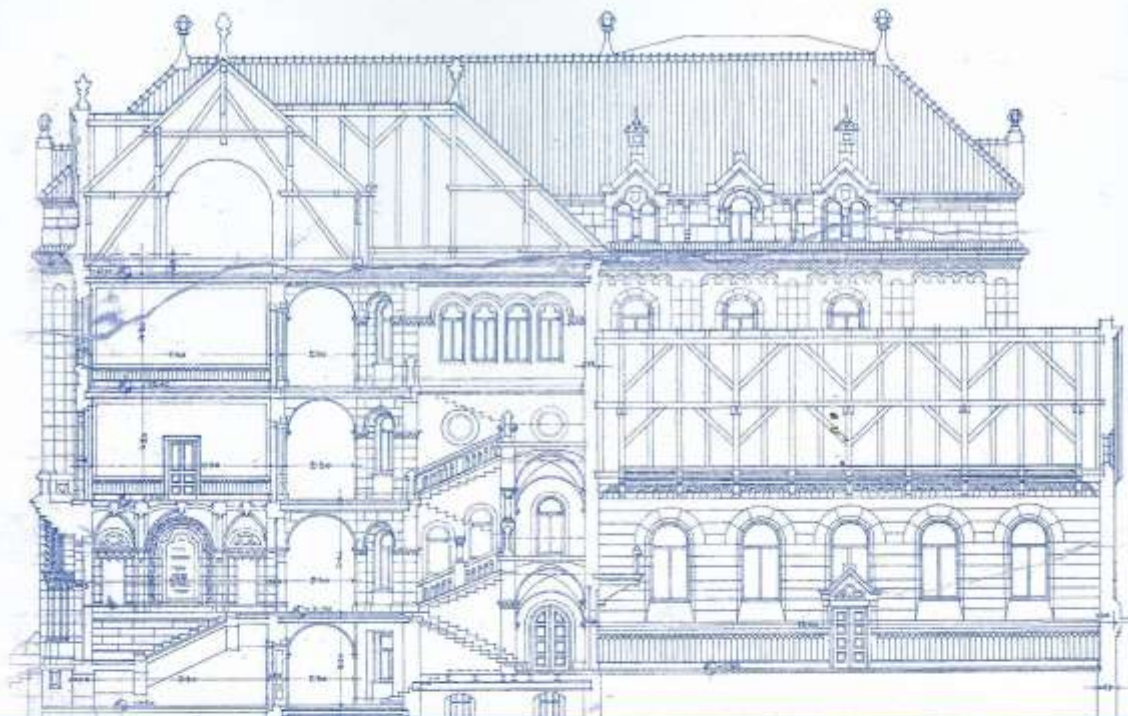
Hungary

Tel.: + 36 1 209 0615

Fax.: + 36 1 209 2044

e-mail: [titkarsag@eotvos.elte.hu](mailto:titkarsag@eotvos.elte.hu)

[WWW.EOTVOSCOLLEGIUM.HU](http://WWW.EOTVOSCOLLEGIUM.HU)



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Sponsored by the National Cultural Fund

● PUBLISHED BY Dr. László Horváth, Director of Eötvös College ■ EDITING: Sára Zalán-Lipák  
■ TRANSLATION: Mária Gedeon Sántha ■ PROOFREADING: Frances Finstrom, Jonathon W. Clark ■ LAY-OUT AND  
DESIGN: Vidya Reklámgrafikai Bt., Budapest ■ PRINTED BY Expodekor Kft., Managing Director Tamás Kelemen