

**Bors Anikó**

(Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Budapest)

### **The influence of the „triumphant world view” to the modern Catholic lyre on the century turn**

The Christian Church culture in Hungary has had already a millenium history, as it was the organic part of the culture from the very beginning. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, several historic and intellectual changes have occurred which could be seen both in the attacks against the Catholic Church and also in the indifference towards religion. Ottokár Prohászka tried to stop these process who became the leading person of the intellectual rebirth of the Catholic Church. His basic priority was to stop the spreading of unbelieveness and also unreligiousness, moreover, also to give an appropriate answer to the challenges of his era while also standing up for the Church. His scientific and sociologic education helped him to reach his aims; to make the wide-spread religion practice come to reality. Instead of isolation he was open to the new ideological trends of his era, in order to understand what this differs from the ideology of the Church. He tried to oppose the era's decadent streams with a proper world view, with the unit of the soul and body

In my presentation planned for the conference, I would like to show the influence of Ottokár Prohászka's life to the modern Catholic priest-poets of the turn of the century through Lajos Harsányi, Sándor Sík and László Mécs's lyre. The topic of my presentation is what kind of – so far unfamiliar – unique form of speech is present in their poetry and how all this infiltrates in Prohászka's program (leading back to Catholic belief). The starting point was as follows: to put the older content into a new form – Lajos Harsányi, *The relative of the Sun King*, Sándor Sík: *In front of the Sun* – these books are built on my topic. This idea colligated the only possible and correct rebirth of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Catholicism, moreover, it also built up the birth of a new literature trend. In the case of Ottokár Prohászka, the realized depression of faith has resulted in open-mindedness and activity, moreover, martial lust, as well, instead of defending. The situation has lead him to raise the attention with everything and on most of the fields for the importance of the religion, and, instead of old-fashioned practices, he put the emphasis on the new methods and possibilities. In his speeches, presentations and lectures, he did this indirectly, but his idea, through the priest poetst has reached a wider audience, as he taught the tight relationship of arts and religions from the beginnings. And, however Prohászka lived the modern era as a depression, he still has not looked at it as the destruction of the European culture. Because of his optimistic world view, he believed that „beautiful individualism” can be realized and that the Christian moral would defeat the decadent era and returns to the order where the everlasting values, moral law and traditions give the basis of the human life. He viewed the French Neo-catholicism new generation as a positive example. His theory of arts is related to the idea of „beautiful idividuum” which has to be created by arts. Thus, literature shall transmit moreality which has a forming strength. According to the conservative life perspective, Ady's poetry and the Nyugat's activity has aimed at destruction of the culture. Instead of literature arguments, they were more often charged for they world view and morality. The obstacle of the unfolding of the Hungarian Catholic literature was seen at the beginning by Prohászka, that there is no past, meaning that there is no intellectual or social tradition which could ensure a basement. Later, there were reassuring words from the opening tryings and later, it was unambiguous that poets – even talented ones – has named the influence of Prohászka as the starting point of the inspirations for their poetry. Moreover, all have realized the poetic significance of Ady and the Nyugat – so this double influence has shaped their individual world of poetry which has really been a novelty that time.