

'I'm talking about the past, evil times...' – János Enyingi Török and his milieu in the events of a turbulent century

The lives of the sixteenth-century people were defined by the expansion of the Reformation and the growth of the Ottoman Empire. They both staggered their lives. Both the 'mental' and 'physical' danger were present in everyday life.

In the Archives of Bálint Enyingi Török (1994) written by József Bessenyei we can get a picture about the rising and the correspondence of the family, series of legal decisions. They help us to be informed about the financial situation and the conditions of the properties of the family on the basis of the sources. Drawing the conclusion: The Enyingi Török family had an influence on the territory of the contemporary Hungary. This kind of influence - however - , was even growing due to the network of the aristocratic system of relations and the familiar surroundings.

Among the members of the family it is impossible omit Katalin Pemfflinger because of her Transylvanian-Saxon origin: the events in Szeben and the 'critical' situations (ecclesiastical questions) are growing, especially in the middle of the century.

The 'Lutheran Lion' attribute, which was given to the Enyingi Török boys' mother, represents the pursuit of the religion and her being a dominant, strong woman at the same time. There are several reasons for the family's constant moving: in 1541 her husband, Bálint Török falls into captivity as a result of succumbing in his political game. The family loose properties, the fights with the Ottoman are increasing, even the spread of religious doctrines is influencing them. These are all minor decisions, as a result of which they make bigger circles: Szigetvár is left, then even Curgó, and the family move to Németújvár, Pápa and finally, to Debrecen. While János Enyingi Török becomes the head of Debrecen, his brother stays further.

In the light of historical and literary sources a more and more exciting situation is being outlined...: the growing youth, János becomes a defeater of the Ottoman, a militaryman, Tinódi writes poems about his deeds, while he is in close contact with the family. His brother, Ferenc lives further, however, the close connections with the Hungarian territories can be traced back partly from the scribe, Imre Martonfalvi 's records.

János is gaining strength due to his Transylvanian connections after his marriage with Anna Kendi and through her mother Saxon-Lutheran bonds emerge.

The priest from Debrecen exerts a Helvetian influence on him, while his relationship with his brother, Ferenc also depends on the political games associated with the Ruler. Besides their close relationships with Ferdinánd and Szapolyai, at the critical moments the process of being organized into a Church, the time of settlements of dogmas and doctrines, the emergence of Stancaró, the doctrines followed by the relatives all result in facing János

Enyingi Török with a decision. He gets married to Anna Kendi, her family members quite influential in the most important political positions of Transylvania, while the matrimony in 1550 seven years later comes to an end. Both Sebestyén Tinódi Lantos and Christianus Schesaeus talk about considerably about János Török. Also, the contemporary historical and ecclesiastical sources make it possible to examine the discussed century from a recent point of view.

As Tinódi writes in 1553 in his poem entitled *The gallantry of János Enyingi Terek: I'm talking about these past evil times, /I'm remembering János Gallant Terek, /As his reputation and name are pleasure for me/My mind is grieving at his Father's death...*

The critical situation was approaching from spiritual and physical side in the sixteenth century, that's why its moral and intellectual questions are strongly associated with the political and economical decision mechanisms. Therefore the contemporary literary works - can be observed both in the case of poets and authors creating in the Török family's milieu or those writing about them – are connected with the thoughts mediated by the German theologians. However, owing to the established complex and even culturally diversified (Hungarian- Transylvanian Hungarian-Saxon) system of relations, the question arises: what kind of decisions will his life and the activities of his milieu bring about? Will they bring revival among the critical events of the sixteenth century?

The lecture centres around the above-mentioned questions approaching to it from the point of view of literary history.