



CEOI

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Welcome to CEOI

by András Benczúr



Dear Contestants, Leaders and Guests!

I have great honour to be the president of the twelfth Central European Olympiad in Informatics and the first one to officially welcome you.

Now we are opening a special Olympic game with 12 national teams and one of the hosting Árpád Vezér Grammar School. Dear team members, you are not only the athletes in thinking but the same time you have to compete in a technical sport. This is the distinguishing character of CEOI and her brother, the IOI.

This contest is the child of the Information Era. It emphasises the importance of algorithmic thinking and helps selecting young talented people in this new field of human capabilities. The new machinery, the computer obeys only to algorithms and information technology relies on the quality of implemented algorithms. Don't forget, your peak performance during the contest is not the same as the work of professionals in computer science and information technology. Here, you are sportsmen; your talent is developed and trained for the contest. Winning a running race is not the same as catching the deer in hunting but it gives a good chance to become a great hunter!

Enjoy your game and good luck!

András Benczúr
President of the 12th CEOI ☒

Places to visit today

The Calvinist College



The Calvinist College of Sárospatak was founded in 1531. Its oldest building that survived the centuries is the so-called Bernar Row dating back to 1773. The present Neo-Classical complex of the college, grammar school, students' residence, archives and library were erected in 1806.

The ancient College was financially sponsored by outstanding Protestant nobles, who maintained all the buildings, teachers, libraries and the printing houses of the College. They also established the rules and regulations of the College and made it possible for needy but talented students to study here free of charge. These nobles also made it possible for all eminent students of the college to visit universities of other countries. The College's great patron, Zsuzsanna Lorántffy invited here the world famous Czech humanist and teacher, John Amos Comenius.

In 1671 the school was closed by force and its students and teachers were made to flee. It was the

Prince of Transylvania, Mihály Apafi, who gave them shelter and in 1672 granted them the school building in Alba Julia. In the early 18th century, the college was once again able to function freely in Sárospatak.

The College has had an educational structure consisting of a low, middle and an upper level built upon each other, but varying in form from time to time. For example, at one time, a student could complete theological training and at the same time receive a degree in law, liberal arts and primary education.

In 1952, the Communist dictatorship closed the gates of the Theological Academy. However, among the ancient walls of the college, a state run grammar school, Rákóczi Grammar School was operated. It was not until July 1, 1990 that it became under the control of the Protestant Church again. The Great Library, the Museum, the Archives and the Database of Scholarly Collections are now run by the Calvinist College.

The College produced many famous writers, poets, and scholars for the benefit of the nation. Hungarian writers mention Sárospatak, situated on the banks of the Bodrog River, as the Athens of the Bodrog. Since it is possible to receive a diploma in the English language here, others called Sárospatak the Hungarian Cambridge.

(source: <http://www.vendegvaro.hu/31-11494>) ☒

The College's Great Library



Since the stock of the existing Library increased during the centuries, it demanded new rooms and buildings to accommodate its growth. The Library was scattered until 1834, when it was gathered into the present building with its original chamber in Neo-Classical style, designed by Mihály Pollack. The flat ceiling of the library hall is decorated by the Allegory of Arts & Sciences painted by a master from Kosice, József Linzbauer. The marvellous floorboards with star-shaped inlays as well as the bookshelves were made by a carpenter and cabinet-maker Kristóf Brenning and his two assistants from Sátoraljaújhely.

(source: <http://www.vendegvaro.hu/31-11494>) ☒



The School Garden

Opposite the entrance to the Calvinist College can you enter the School Garden. Among the rarities there you can find a variant of little-leaf linden, a black walnut, a variant of common ash, a 100-year-old yew tree and a lovely row of silver linden. The beauty of the garden

is enhanced by the statues erected to commemorate the famous old students of Sárospatak. In the middle of the School Garden stands the old gymnasium, which is still in use.

(source: <http://www.vendegvaro.hu/34-819>)

Dixieland Festival

This festival is unique in the Zemplén Region. The bands and the solo players are outstanding artists in the music life of Hungary. However, foreign artists are also invited to present their art here every year. This year the festival has been organised for the 10th time. The venue is fabulous. On the bank of the Bodrog under the Rákóczi Castle the American Big Daddy Wilson blues singer and his compatriot Allan Vaché (clarinet) will be playing jazz.



Today from 7 p.m.: Benkó Dixieland Band, Big Daddy Wilson (USA) & Mississippi Grave Diggers, Bohém Ragtime Jazz Band

(source: http://www.sarospatak.hu/muvhaz_nyariprogram.html)

The band's homepage is worth visiting: <http://www.benko-dixie.hu/>.

(The editor's note.)

Preview

In this issue we will introduce you Berzsényfalu, which you will visit on Sunday.

Berzsényfalu – Living history of the Hungarians



A reconstructed yurt (9th c.) in the Archaeological Park

Berzsényfalu, which is a memory park, is situated in the Bodrogek region right next to the village Kisrosvágy. The Bodrogek Region, bordered by the Tisza, the Bodrog and the Latorca rivers, lies in the north-east of the Carpathian Basin. This microregion belonged to the Hungarian Kingdom throughout history, as part of Zemplén County. Today, 24 villages can be found here, and the inhabitants of Sárospatak partly belong to this region as well, forming the eastern part of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. Here life was often very difficult because until the 19th century it was frequently flooded by the neighbouring rivers. That is why the people were fishermen and agriculture (animal husbandry, fruit-growing...) became more

important only later. This area was very important in the history of the Hungarians, mostly when they occupied the Carpathian basin.

The early homes of the Magyars were on the upper waters of the Volga and Kama rivers. Later they moved southwards into the steppes where they adopted the life of peripatetic herdsmen. In the 9th century they were based on the lower Don. Then they created a federation of tribes. In 889 they were attacked so they left and found that the plains across the Carpathian Basin would be suitable. Having elected their chief Árpád (our school is also named after him), the Magyars crossed the Carpathians in 896 (the Hungarian conquest). This region was earlier a part of the Roman Empire (Pannonia) and when Rome fell, the Huns arrived. After them German and Slavonic tribes appeared here. In 896 the Hungarians put an end to the Moravian kingdom and settled down in the basin. During the next half century (the era of raids), the Magyars terrified all Europe - their tactics were completely different from the European ones – but in 955 they were finally defeated. Stephen I (crowned in 1000), who established the independent

country, accepted the new Christian religion (earlier the Hungarians believed in many gods) which assured the Hungarians to survive here.

Berzsenyfalú is an artificial place but the location is not chosen by mistake. It seems quite sure that when the Hungarians arrived, this area i.e. the Bodroghöz was very important for them, probably the conquest of the basin and further raids were planned and organized from here. This place could have been the headquarters of the reigning prince for some years. Hundreds of archaeological findings from this area prove the presence of the Hungarians but the excavations are still not finished.

In Berzsenyfalú experts, archaeologists and experimental archaeologists try to show us how our ancestors may have lived around the 8th and the 9th centuries. They “restored” a village with characteristic features of the age.

Dénes Stiller ✎

The Menu for today

Breakfast (short list):

- Continental breakfast &
- Ham and eggs or bread fried in breadcrumbs

Lunch:

- See on the “Menu of the Reception” card

Dinner:

- Chicken paprika (stew), small dumplings
- Porks chops Dubary style with potato fried dough
- Crispy vegetables with cheese sauce, fried potatoes

Weather

