



CEOI News 7

August 3, 2005

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About CEOI in General – an Interview with László Zsakó the Chairman of the National Committee



We asked László Zsakó the chairman of the National Committee about the history, the mission and the organisation of CEOI.

Reporter: May I ask You first to tell us something about Your duty?

Chairman: My responsibility is organization. To be more exact, I am responsible for the co-ordination and supervision of the course of events. I need to have a good grip of the situation as 'I pull all the strings.'

R: This must be an involved task demanding a great span of attention. How much time is necessary to organise an Olympiad for students?

C: Preparation started a year ago. This amount of time is needed because we have to find the right place for the competition. After that preparations can start.

R: How long have You been taking part in the organization of CEOI?

C: From the very beginning, but I was not present at all the competitions.

R: How did the idea come that there should be an Olympiad in Informatics?

C: The first Olympiad took place in 1989. Then in 1993 the Rumanian delegation raised the issue of organising an

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Episodes from the history of Sárospatak by Kálmán Mikszáth

This short piece of writing has been taken from Kálmán Mikszáth's book of short-stories about feudal castles of Hungary.

(<http://mek.oszk.hu/00900/00908/html/10.htm>)

First of all, some words about the writer.

Kálmán Mikszáth (1847-1910) He was one of the greatest Hungarian novelist and short-story writer. Both in his historic novels and other pieces of writing about his own era he wrote about his characters' virtues and weak points, so making them congenial dispositions. He also wrote anecdotes (short stories with the cream of a joke).

And here is the article about Sárospatak:

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Legend has it that the Castle in Sárospatak was built by Knight Retel, who was one of those lords who came from Asia and used to call it his home.



The Red Tower

He came here together with Árpád and was accompanying him when the elderly chieftain was travelling around his country. Once he was riding roughshod over a rising stream when a whirlpool caught him. Retel was the first to jump after him to his rescue.

'Dear son,' said Árpád, 'this service of yours can't go unnoticed. Let all the fields stretching from this stream on be yours.'

'Stretching how far?' asked envious Ethe.

'Stretching as far as the next stream we'll find,' the aged chieftain marked off the limits of the new estate. (A few thousand acres more or less, did not count those days.)

Retel took his estate and had a strong castle built on the bank of the river called the Retel Stream by old chroniclers, but later the name Retel was changed for Sáros.

Sárospatak Castle had many lords before it had come into the possession of the Rákóczi Family. King Andrew I exchanged it with Retel's heirs, because his wife, Anastasia loved staying here for its closeness to her home city, Kiev.

After that the Castle was a royal estate for a long time. 'Kind-hearted' Princess Elisabeth (daughter of King Andrew II and wife of Louis of Thuringia) was born here: a Catholic saint born in the future Calvinist headquarters. Then it was a family residence to the Perényis. Here lived Zsuzsanna Lorántffy, Ilona Zrínyi, two great ladies in Hungarian history.

The Castle lived its golden days when it became the reigning centre of the Rákóczi estates. Especially, when it was the princely seat of Ferenc Rákóczi II. He even held here a parliament and within the gloomy walls his court was teeming with glorious knights.

In 1708 the Castle saw the beheading of Imre Bezerédj, who betrayed the cause of the Kuruc ♣. He was a brave soldier. Everybody felt sorry for him. Although he was beheaded in Sárospatak Castle, superstitious people believed that the great hero was locked in his tomb alive because the ground moved over his dead body.

The news spread so widely and disheartened people so much that the Prince ordered the doors of the Castle Chapel be opened and Bezerédj's coffin be lifted and opened by his Haiduks: 'Here it is, my dear fellows. You can see that his body is in two.'



Courtyard of the Castle

Sárospatak Castle used to be the treasury of the Rákóczi Family. 'The Red Tower', built by Stephen V, was full of gold and silver. The Rákóczis, who were the reigning princes of Transylvania, transported all their money and treasure here to safety. Witty Transylvanian

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Olympiad which would concern Central-Europe. The first CEOI was organised in Cluj (Kolozsvár) a town in Rumania.

R: How is it decided which country is to be the following organiser?

C: There is a given order stating how the countries follow each other. Although this would have been Slovenia's turn but as they could not organise it Hungary was the country that could undertake the task of organising an Olympiad out of turn.

R: Are there any differences between the competi-

tions in Hungary and the other ones that were organised in other countries?

C: A speciality of Hungary is that the Olympiads always take place in secondary schools.

R: As far as I know, You choose the members of the organising team. How is it done?

C: There are 5 or 6 people who always take part in the organising work. I also call upon some members of the management of the organising school to do some work. The distribution of work is their duty, this is how the team is getting bigger.

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R: In my view a town has to satisfy a lot of conditions if it wants to give place for the competition. What did Sárospatak excel in?

C: It is a nice town, a perfect place for a programme like this. It has lots of scenic spots and informatics has its tradition here. It is also important that it is easy to go everywhere on foot. We also need it the 'venturesomeness' of the town and the teachers.

R: Would You kindly share some of Your interesting personal experience about Sárospatak?

C: I liked the high-quality Opening Ceremony, and china painting. On the other hand the very hot weather is not too good.

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lords called the Castle a 'cupping therapist' because it drew away money and wealth from Transylvania the same way as a real cupping therapist draws out liquids and pain from a sick man's body.

It was in 1670 that a student from Sárospatak Calvinist College pinched the Rákóczi gold in a very cunning way. He got hold of a crow and trained it to steal. So twice a day the crow would fly into the tower through a narrow slit and in its beak it would bring a gold coin out to its master.

When the student had had a fair pile of gold at home, he stroked the crow dead and left the town for good.

The crow, however, could not steal as much gold as

R: What could it mean for a student to take part in a competition like this?

C: It is not only about the competition. It is also a good opportunity to exchange experience, to get in touch with other countries and to learn about them. In 10 years 'time the young students present can become top people in informatics.

R: How long do You think this series of competitions can go on?

C: Hopefully, for a very long time as it already has its tradition.

R: Finally we would like to learn what makes an Olympiad for students successful.

C: There are a lot of important factors involved, and in my view its success depends mainly on the organising team.

R: Thank You very much.

C: It was my pleasure.

Notes by Boglárka Batta & Eszter Oláh ✻

the Rákóczi piled up there. On the other hand, the Rákóczi did not manage to collect enough to be able to finance Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II's needs.

What the crow had left was taken away by the two-headed eagle, the bird that decorated the flags of the Labanc*. The costs of the war ate up Ferenc Rákóczi's personal wealth to such an extent that once he burst out complaining to Transylvanian lords and commons: 'Maybe the coat I'm wearing is not mine any more.'

* Hungarian insurrectionists in the late 17th and early 18th cc.

* Pro-Hapsburg noblemen, soldiers, people etc. in the late 17th and early 18th cc. The enemies of the Kuruc.



History of the Castle

In There is knowledge of earlier fortifications with reference to Patak in their name, these, however, did not stand here. The present castle was built when the estate went into the possession of Peter Perényi, keeper of the crown, after the battle of Mohács. He had the centre and the southern section of the mediaeval town fortified by walls, a moat, and bastions. His new residence with a donjon was built in the southeast corner of the new fortification. Between 1534 and 1537 Péter Perényi had the Red Tower and the adjoining fortifications built (inner court)

and by 1541 the town walls were also finished. The evidence of certain stoneworks finds suggesting that east palace wing was started by him in 1540 and finished by his son Gábor Perényi in 1563.

The latter with the late Renaissance carved stoneworks and ornaments is an outstanding and unique architectural example of that era in Hungary. In the course of time, the castle was repeatedly rebuilt, and redecorated, thus yielding to new demands and the change of taste.

The golden age of the castle was the seventeenth century. At this

time it became, as part of Zsuzsanna Lorántffy's dowry, part of the Rákóczi estate, and as such, the centre of political resistance. By the beginning of the seventeenth century members of the Rákóczi family were among the leading politicians of the country. They possessed vast estates in Transylvania and northern Hungary. For five generations they were Princes of Transylvania and for almost a hundred years they ruled over Patak.

Under György I. Rákóczi, and his wife Patak was the seat of the principality. In 1642 the reception

room with the Turkish ceramic tile decoration was built, a year later the principal rooms on the second storey of the south wing were finished, while the Lorantffy loggia was completed in 1646, and the outer fortifications were strengthened.

István Bocskai, Gábor Bethlen, Comenius were guests here, and important historic events took place within its walls. Among

others, the Wesselényi conspiracy in the Sub Rosa room, the wedding of Zsigmond Rákóczi and Henriette of Pfalz should definitely be mentioned, but the Kurucz uprising in the Tokaj region, or the 1708 national assembly of the Rákóczi war of independence are also closely related to the castle.

The present appearance of the building was formed during nineteenth century renovations carried

out by the Betzheim family, owners at the time, in the Romantic-Historic style of the day. The last proprietor was the Windischgraetz family who used the place till 1945. After 1950 the building was turned into a museum, and has become the number one Rákóczi shrine in the country.

(Source: <http://www.spatak.hu/english/history.htm>)



The Menu for today

Breakfast (short list):

- Continental breakfast
- Scrambled eggs, toasted sausage in Hungarian style

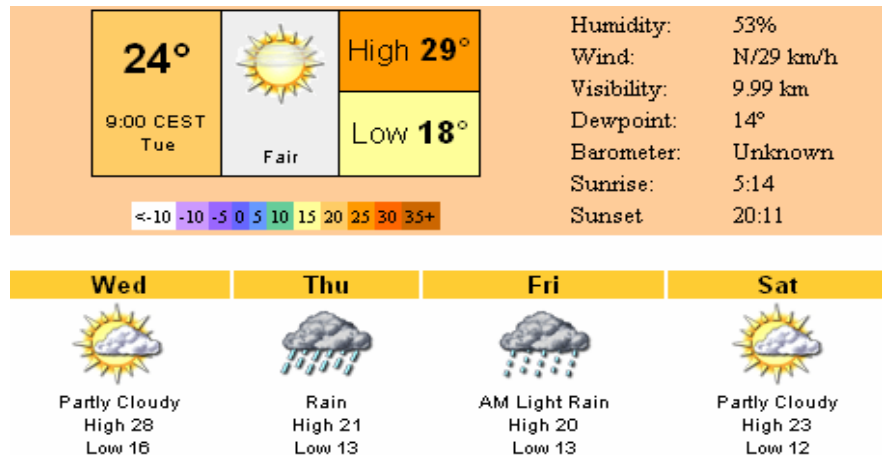
Dinner:

- See on the "Menu of the Reception" card

Lunch:

- Jókai bean soup
- Gizzard pörkölt (stew), egg barley (granulated dried pastry made of flour and eggs)
- Hungarian stewed sauerkraut
- Stuffed pork chops, boiled potatoes
- Pastries and cakes

Weather



This happened...

Pictures from the 2nd competition day...



This happened yesterday...



