



Barna Szénássy
(1913–1995)

Barna Szénássy was born in Ungvár (now Užhorod, Ukraine) on December 11, 1913 and he died in Debrecen on November 12, 1995. He received the diploma as a teacher of mathematics and physics at the University of Debrecen in 1936, and obtained the PhD degree at the same university in 1937.

He taught mathematics and physics in several high schools of various towns in Hungary. During and after the second world war, he spent six years in military service and as a prisoner of war. Since 1951, he taught mathematics at the L. Kossuth University, Debrecen. He retired in 1977 as a full professor. In 1994, he became Professor Emeritus of the L. Kossuth University.

His scientific work was almost entirely devoted to the history of mathematics in Hungary. He wrote 11 books and published over 50 essays on

various questions of this subject. The main result of his investigations is a monograph, first published in Hungarian in 1970, and later in English (History of mathematics in Hungary until the 20th century; Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest and Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1992, 370 pp.). This work is of fundamental importance in studying questions concerning biography and work of mathematicians in Hungary, as well as the development of institutions connected with teaching mathematics and research in mathematical sciences in this country.

For many decades, Barna Szénássy was the most important expert in Hungary on questions about the history of mathematics in this country. Consequently, he was member (and a very active one) of all commissions in Hungary having to do with the history of science and belonging either to the Academy of Science or to the J. Bolyai Mathematical Society or other institutions. As an appreciation of his activity, a long series of different honours has been awarded to him, among others the title "Laureatus Academiae" obtained in 1994 from the Hungarian Academy of Science.

The demise of Barna Szénássy is an irreparable loss for the community of Hungarian mathematicians and of all persons interested in the history of mathematics in Hungary.

Á. Császár

List of the publications of Barna Szénássy

Books and papers are in Hungarian except those marked by *.

Books, parts of books

- [1] Infinitesimal thoughts of Farkas Bolyai, Ph.D. Thesis, *Printing House Fischer, Debrecen*, 1937, 34 pp., (Publications from the Math. Seminar of the Sci. Univ. Debrecen, No. 13).
- [2] Sketches from the new age history of Hungarian mathematics, *Tankönyvkiadó, Budapest*, 1953, 68 pp.
- [3] Gyula König (1849–1913), *Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest*, 1965, 142 pp..
- [4] A history of Hungarian mathematics, Appendix to the book: Rybnikov, History of mathematics, *Tankönyvkiadó, Budapest*, 1968, 1974, 443–470 pp.
- [5] History of Mathematics in Hungary (from most ancient times until the beginning of the XXth century), *Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest*, 1970, 1974, 381 pp.

- [6] Farkas Bolyai (1775–1856), *Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest*, 1975, 157 pp.
- [7] János Bolyai, *Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest*, 1978, 196 pp, (Hungarian scientists of the past).
- [8] Gyula König, *Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest*, 1983, 177 pp, (Hungarian scientists of the past).
- [9*] Supplement, János Bolyai: Appendix, The theory of space. with introd., comments ... by Ferenc Kárteszi, *Akadémiai Kiadó – North Holland Publ. Comp., Budapest–Amsterdam*, 1987, 220–239 pp.
- [10] Group of Mathematical Chairs. – In the publication History of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Loránd Eötvös University, 1635–1985, *ELTE, Budapest*, 1991, 161–190 pp, (In collaboration with Ákos Császár.).
- [11*] History of mathematics in Hungary until the 20th century, *Akadémiai Kiadó – Springer Verlag, Budapest–Berlin*, 1992, 370 pp, (Revised and enlarged English edition of No. 5).

Papers and essays

- [12] Memorial speech on the ordinary member Zoárd Geöcze, *Stephaneum Press, Budapest*, 1941, 30 pp., (Memorial speeches of the St. Stephen Academy, 3/4).
- [13] The mathematical work of Zoárd Geöcze and recent results on the measuring of surfaces, *Bulletin of the St. Stephen Academy* **28** (1943), 118–142.
- [14] Our mathematical periodicals, *Matematikai Lapok* **3** (1952), 273–285.
- [15] Mathematical activity at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences until the Compromise (of 1867), *Acta Univ. Debrecen* **I** (1954), 5–28.
- [16] The mathematical activity of Ferenc Kerekes, *Acta Univ. Debrecen* **III/2** (1956), 3–12.
- [17] The mathematical work of Ignác Martinovics, *Matematikai Lapok* **7** (1956), 277–290.
- [18] Zoárd Geöcze, *Matematikai Lapok* **10** (1959), 26–38.
- [19] The mathematical activity of András Segner, *Acta Univ. Debrecen* **VI/2** (1960), 37–42.
- [20*] Die Geschichte der Entwicklung des Bolyaischen Kults., Deuxième Congrès Mathématique Hongrois Bp., vol. **VII**, 1960, 16–17 pp.

- [21*] Angaben zum Leben und zur mathematischen Tätigkeit von Andreas Segner, Deuxième Congrès Mathématique Hongrois Bp., vol. VII, 1960, 17–18 pp.
- [22] János Bolyai (1802–1860), *A Matematika Tanítása* **7** (1960), 34–39.
- [23] János Apáczai Csere, *A Matematika Tanítása* **8** (1961), 190–191.
- [24] The first 75 years of our Society, *Matematikai Lapok* **17** (1966), 295–308.
- [25] Jenő Hunyady, *Műszaki Nagyjaink* **3** (1967), 175–202.
- [26] Gyula König, *Műszaki Nagyjaink* **3** (1967), 203–239.
- [27] On a hitherto unknown mathematical treatise of Ignác Martinovics, *Matematikai Lapok* **20** (1969), 57–62.
- [28] Remarks on the mathematical results of Segner, *Energia és Atomtechnika* **25** (1972), 558–561.
- [29] Present state and main tasks of the research work into the history of mathematics in our country, *Technikatörténeti Szemle* **6** (1972), 175–183.
- [30] János András Segner and mathematics in our country, A magyarországi tudomány- és technikatörténet, Budapest, 1973, 337–343 pp.
- [31] Gyula König, *Magyar Tudomány* **20** (1975), 112–116.
- [32] Farkas Bolyai – on the occasion of his 200th birthday, *Magyar Tudomány* **20** (1975), 556–563.
- [33] Famous mathematical problems: a mathematical problem proposed by Farkas Bolyai, *Középiskolai Matematikai Lapok* **1** (1977), 1–2.
- [34] Famous mathematical problems: a problem proposed by Euler and its connection with our country, *Középiskolai Matematikai Lapok* **4** (1978), 145–146.
- [35] We remember János Bolyai! – Budapest, *TIT Matematikai Szakosztálya*, 1978, 29–40 pp.
- [36] Remarks on Gauss's results concerning non-euclidean geometry, *Matematikai Lapok* **28** (1980), 133–140.
- [37] János Pasquich as mathematician, *TIT Szakosztályi Füzetek* (1980), 34–37.
- [38] Henri Poincaré, *Matematikai Lapok* **28** (1980), 263–267.
- [39] Contributions to the history of the discovery of the two Bolyais, *Matematikai Lapok* **29** (1981), 71–95.

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- [42] Farkas Bolyai, *Műszaki Nagyjaink* **6** (1986), 9–45.
- [43] The “first halftime” of the life of John von Neumann – letters from the legacy of Lipót Fejér, *Természet Világa* **119** (1988), 352–356.
- [44] Concerning the history of the “Bolyai–Prize”, *Magyar Tudomány* **33** (1988), 994–998.
- [45] The teaching of realia in the Reformaté College of Debrecen with particular emphasis on mathematics, *Fizikai Szemle* **39** (1989), 105–113.
- [46] An investigation of the development of mathematics in Hungary until the beginning of the 20th century, (Theses of doctoral dissertation), *Debrecen*, 1991, 15 pp.
- [47] Lipót Fejér and Zoárd Geöcze, *Matematikai Lapok, New series* **1** (1991), 19–24.
- [48] Contributions to the history of the Bolyai–Prize, *Természet Világa* **124** (1993), 291–294.
- [49] Pleasant mathematical problems in the legacy of the two Bolyais, *Bolyai Hírek* **III/4** (1994), 7–14.
- [50] In memoriam József Kürschák, *Debreceni Szemle* **II/4** (1994), 605–610.
- [51*] Contributions to the history of the Bolyai–Prize, *World of Nature, Special issue* **125** (1995), 8–11.
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