

# Drawings of Bori Kisjankó

## Drawings of Bori Kisjankó by Dr. Klára Szigeti

✘ In contrast to the title, the author does not only present the wonderful matyó patterns of the world-famous 'matyó writing woman' but she also gives a brief overview of matyó costumes through time. Besides a whole chapter is dedicated to Bori Kisjankó, other famous 'writing women' are also introduced in the book. The book contains drawing designs and is rich in bibliographies.

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

## Matyóföld Culture part IV

### Matyóföld Culture part IV

**The undiscovered matyo heritage and its valuation – the documents of the readers' meetings, year 2010 – (edited by János Pap)**

✘ The book edited by János Pap, Chairman of MAME, contains the reading material of the meetings of the year 2010. The Matyóföld Creative and Artistic Association finds the past and present of Mezőkövesd important to be revealed.

## Welcome speech

It is an honor for me to welcome the authors and all those in present at the fourth Matyóföld Culture speech session. " You cannot understand the present, if you fail to learn your past" – the proverb goes. We, the matyos, the people of Mezőkövesd certainly do have things to remember. The town's civil organizations, our economical and social life all feed on our world famous culture and healing water. The various organizations, clubs , and reading clubs are often taken for granted by people. Members of these circles transmit the thoughts they consider important to share with their audience. One cannot but treasure their eager work, without which we would be poorer, since the enthusiastic research work of these dedicated people helps us to learn more about our hometown. Although we often hear these people be praised at various openings by welcome guests and town leaders, I do believe that this is not a mere phrase. Why it is not, is proved by the present project being currently in progress organized by the local government. In the year 2010 our aim was to introduce the history of \* matyo people \* not only at the local library or cultural events, but – as it is with galleries – to launch it into a journey in town. A journey that explores the town, and gets to schools and to young people. In addition to our aim , that our past to be the subject of education, organizing also has been started to support the idea of publishing a monograph. It is high time the history of Mezőkövesd to be presented in a comprehensive and complete edition. For this job to be a success, materials and dedicated people are required. I attach great importance to all the work which captures for posterity everything that has determined that town economically, socially and culturally. I believe that all the lectures and texts available in the book, will add up to our mission. I highly recommend this book for the Dear Reader!

Deputy Mayor András Hajdú

# Content

I. The matyo agriculture and the industry in an attempt to be anchored.

The perspective of the past peasantry in Mezőkövesd- by János Hajdu Ráfis

Mezőkövesd vineyards until the mid 20th century- by János Hajdu Ráfis

Two machine factories in the light of Hungarian technical ingenuity – by Zoltán Kádár

The short story of the Machine Works 'Kismotor és Gépgyár' and its Manufacturing Unit No 3. – by Mihály Lázár

Drilled Wells in Mezőkövesd in 2010 – by Sándor Szlovák

II. Matyo folk art, masters of matyo traditions and the history of the School of Music.

The Roots they want to live – by Andor Sorki Dala

What will happen to you Matyo folk art? – by Pál Pap

Messengers of Matyos – by Pál Pap

Essays on Matyo-Land, 1927 – by Miklós Ferenc Dorogi

Margit Gari and the 100th Birthday anniversary of Edit Fél – by János Pap

The story of Mezőkövesd School of Music from the beginning upto now – by Mrs Stefánia Mózer

III. The religion of Mezőkövesd people

Years spent in Mezőkövesd and Bogács in the life of Father Jámbor , 1918-1919 – by László Varga

The current religious communities working in Mezőkövesd – by Mária K. Dudás

IV. Artists , writers and anniversaries

Play and Reality – by József Bíró

Notes on Sándor Garamszeghy actor and writer, and on opera singer Éva Jablonkay – by János Pap

Anniversary of great Hungarian writers – by László Gyenes  
István Sinka, the singing Black Shepherd – by Endre Medvigy

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

## **On the Culture of Matyóland – part III.**

### **On the Culture of Matyóland – part III.**

**The unexplored and unexploited matyó  
heritage  
the documents of the readers' meetings,  
year 2009  
(János Pap, editor)**

✘ This book is edited by János Pap, Chairman of MAME, and contains the documents of the readers' meetings in 2007 and '08. Matyóland Artists and Friends Association ( MAME) is committed to discover and display the past and present of Mezőkövesd.

From the intro :

" ... What were the issues in 2009? The whole material of the lecture is available for reading or one can go on searching himself. The historical and cultural lectures teach us about the mysterious old parish registers of Mezőkövesd, the true story of post war Mezőkövesd, the reason of parish

liquidation, films picturing the beauties of matyó folk art. Also, of what makes the poetry of Janus Pannonius and Miklós Radnóti important to us. The poems of Andor Dala Sorki, a Mezőkövesd writer, reveals the reader the literary potential of the nation. In the field of ethnology and folklore the works of István Gyórfy, Ferenc Móra and Zoltán Szabó present references to Mezőkövesd and the popularity of the unique gate of Transylvania. As for linguistics one can read about intriguing phrases and expressions, as for fine arts, the need of caricature and cartoons is covered. Presenting this list of topics, I would like to point out, that although we found national anniversaries important, nevertheless our main target audience of the lectures was that of the locals.”

Editor János Pap

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

## **On the Culture of Matyóland – part II.**

### **On the Culture of Matyóland – part II.**

**The unexplored and unexploited matyó  
heritage  
the documents of the readers’ meetings,**

## **year 2007 and 2008. ( János Pap, editor)**

✘ This book is edited by János Pap, Chairman of MAME, and contains the documents of the readers' meetings in 2007 and '08. Matyóland Artists and Friends Association ( MAME) is committed to discover and display the past and present of Mezőkövesd.

### **Contents of the book**

2007

Károly Jéger: Prince St. Emerick was born a thousand year ago.  
József Bán : The life and work of Mrs Margit Simon ( Margit Takács Gari)

János Pap : Dr. István Sándor, teacher of Grammar School, Mezőkövesd, ethnographer. ( 1907-1993)

Mrs Kóró : The Matyó Auntie, Mrs Vilma Dajaszászy ( 1882-1965)

Miklós Ferenc Dorogi : What is known about the Matyó people?

Mrs Ildikó Komjáthy : Kodály and the vocal education

István Kolyvek: Writer Anna Szederkényi ( 1882-1948)

Gyula Viga :Nagyecsér – Memory of a vanished town

János Pap : Why the farm Nagyecsér was lost?

A brief history of the building of the Roman Catholic Church in Nagyecsér

Mrs Ilona Csirmaz : Nagyecsér in the local history collection of Mezőkövesd Library

Mátyás Kiss : On the Road to Nagyecsér

2008

József Márton : The difficulties of genealogy

Károly Daragó : Rudolf Víg ( 1929-1983)

Károly Jéger : The year of the renaissance – Matthias Corvinus in Mezőkövesd

Pál Pap : Matyós of '56 – János Lázár Kupak

János Hajdú Ráfis : Flour-mills of Mezőkövesd and its environs in the 20th century.

János Pap : Prime Minister Imre Nagy was executed 50 years ago.

János Pap : The correspondence of Gyula Illés ( 1902-1983) and Mezőkövesd author Gyula Kiss ( Gyula Kiss died 25 years ago)

Mátyás Kiss : Albert Wass memorials in the historic Trianon Hungary

Anita Gáspár : A brief history of St. László Grammar School Library

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

# **On the Culture of Matyóland**

## **On the Culture of Matyóland**

### **The unexplored and unexploited matyó heritage**

✘ This book is edited by János Pap, Chairman of MAME, and contains the documents of the readers' meetings in 2005. Matyóland Artists and Friends Association( MAME) is committed to discover and display the past and present of Mezőkövesd. The aim of the readers' meeting was to present and discuss unexplored issues. The readers can learn about the electrification of the town in 1905, the foundation of the Zsóry spa, can have a taster in genealogy, can read about the Saint Ann worship, the art of József Dala and István Takács, the transformation of the Matyó Museum, the everyday life of the fourth Matyó village, Dolya, the works of popular writers,

the writings of Gyula Kiss and György Benkóczy, the local history collection of the town library. The book is illustrated with black-and-white photos.

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

# **Genealogy in Mezőkövesd- part II.**

## **Genealogy in Mezőkövesd- part II.**

**by Attila Farkas**

### **Foreword**

✘ About my book ' Genealogy in Matyóland' , it is noted that it only deals with Mezőkövesd parish registers. I have to tell, that this was only done because of limited financial and footage causes, but now , true to the title of my book, the parish registers of two additional matyó towns, Szentistván and Tard, are mentioned. I mention other supplementary sources of genealogy research, again, within the limited footage, but I would like to publish more books, since this topic is unexploitable.

Many additional resources of genealogy research can be found in archives where relics of the past kept. Talking about archives, two quotes comes to my mind, one of them says : " scripta manent" or in other words " words fly away, writing remains". The other quotation says : "HIC MORTUI VIVUNT ET MUTI LOQUNTUR" that is "Here the dead live and the dumb speak". I think this statement can not be much to append,

since the documents preserved in the archives keep the memories of the past. The files reveal what the people did and made and present their everyday life. This quotation is inscribed in the archives of Satoraljaújhely where Ferenc Kazinczy worked for 16 years. The reason I mentioned Ferenc Kazinczy, is that this year is the 250th anniversary of his birth. He is a prominent figure of the Hungarian language, so 2009 is celebrated as the Year of the Hungarian Language. In my book I am using the spelling of the period, so do not be surprised by the spelling of jános kis ( john little) instead of János Kiss ( John Little) since it did occur, that names were written with lower case letters. The word 'tizedesek' (decimals) was spelled with double 'k', short and long vowels were not always applied according to present day spelling. Notes were written by hand, which are not easy to read, and sometimes blurred or even incomplete. Although, this book contains archives of Mezőkövesd, I would also like to deal with the other two matyó settlements. The texts are often mingled with Latin words, such as 1804 Die 4 novembris – which translates : 4th November, 1804. The Hungarian translations of the months is listed in my previous book.

Birth certificates have been recorded in Mezőkövesd for 333 years now. Truly one-third of a millennium is quite impressive, and this book has had to avoid many distractions through the time to preserve the memory of the ancestors!

Sometimes nicknames are also mentioned in the birth certificates. For example a baptism in 1869 records : "mother's name : Erzsébet Bán, nickname : Erzsébet Pető." A marriage certificate in 1872 records : "instead of Anna Kovács, Anna Guba should be written, Guba is being her nickname." A death certificate in 1872 records : "Ilona Barczy was also known as Ilona Gábor. " Another death certificate from 1879 reads : " János Nagy Sípos ( John Big Piper) as commonly was called by the people", another death certificate from 1891 reads that " the father's name was Kovács ( Smith) (

commonly called as Molnár ( Miller). You can see that at that time, nicknames were descriptive names.

The data of people of different faiths are also registered, probably because they were small in number and their ward was not here in Mezőkövesd. Among them were Lutherans ( evangelical ) Reformed ( Calvinists) Greek Catholics and Convertitas ( Convertita : people who are migrating to other religion)

You can meet interesting entries, which are now invaluable , for example, a 1874 entry of a death certificate says : " The Adalbert 16 hunderedweight bell was tolled for the very first time at this funeral"

Due to footage limitation, this book does not have an explanatory text, since even if somewhat complicated was the way people at the time articulated their ideas, the essence of the text is obvious, and my goal was to fit as many period texts into the book as possible. For better understanding, the book ends with the a glossary of Hungarian and Latin words. Names of holders of certain offices, elections held, and texts of oaths are presented in the book. You may want to note that the book is to show that there was Upper and Lower Tehén Tsordás ( Herdsman) , Lower and Upper Tsikos ( Wrangler) etc. Suggesting that Mezőkövesd also used to be divided into two parts : Upper and Lower Mezőkövesd. I suspect that the upper part was north of the main street, and the lower part stretched south from the main street. Notary Mihály Búlyi also mentions a ' plateau' and a ' highland' in Mezőkövesd in his writings. The ' plateau' suggests a flat, while the 'highland' suggests a hilly region, and this description still does fit to Mezőkövesd, since the south of the main street is flat, while the north side is hilly with steep creek beds.

I wish to thank to the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Archives staff who helped me find the records. Thanks for Ferenc Póta, Vicar of Szentistván and József Tóth, Vicar of Tard who had

the parish registers to research. I also thank for Mrs András Koncz , Szentistván and Mrs József Fekete, Tard, for their photos

I hope that everyone will benefit from this book !

Attila Farkas

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

# Genealogy in Mezőkövesd

## Genealogy in Mezőkövesd

by Attila Farkas

☒ Have you ever thought of who your parents and relatives were? The very first word of a child is usually this : Mom. Later came the other relatives: father, grandmother, great-grandmother etc. Essentially this is what genealogy is for : searching our ancestors.

When my last great-grandparent died, I thought I should write it up, what I have of my family, and then I found myself indulged into genealogy. My goal in writing the book was to give help to those already engaged in this field or those who will get inspired after reading this book. The book reveals, for example, how to do genealogy research, what diseases were known in the past, and which one has the most names, or what the Latin names for professions conceal. You can read about rare family names such as Kocsmáros( Bartender), Kuli ( Coolie), Kivula, Szőlősi ( Grape), Tiba, Uj ( New). To help the work of genealogists, the book ends with the a glossary of

the Latin names for first names, causes of death, occupation names, months, kinship terms.

Attila Farkas

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

# Matyóland 1959-2009

## Matyóland 1959-2009

### Ethnographic and literary yearbook

#### Articles on Mezőkövesd

✘ As Gyula Kiss have it, the very first issue was greatly welcome by the county press. The 'Észak- Magyarország' (newspaper of North-Hungary) published many articles by Miklós Benedek. In his reviews in the issue of 1960/3 'Borsod Review' and 'Napjaink' he says : "After due expectation, Matyó Museum finally published the ' Matyóland', the issue of Mezőkövesd-based writers and authors, that pictures the past and present of the culture of Mezőkövesd on more than hundred pages(...) ... the editors' great job is very much appreciated and deserve to enjoy a wide range of publicity."

At first the almanac was appreciated by papers published in the capital. László Gyurkó published a long article on it in ' Life and Literature' in 1960.

Then a few years later Gyula Csák's enthusiastic comments appeared in ' Life and Literature' finally brought the well-deserved fame. Beside others he writes : " A brave and

spirited project was born in Borsod County : Hungary's first county periodical was born with the title ' Matyóland'... The very clever editing makes it possible to publish all those news and issues that are not read in the national papers but are just as important when it comes to culture and land."

"Huge thanks for the latest issue of the periodical ' Matyóland' that I find very intriguing and I believe you should carry on the good work. Wishing you all the best and good luck with your work. " writes poet Mihály Váci in his letter to Győző Moldvay dated 8th September, 1964.

**Dear Reader,**

Some fifty years ago, in 1959 Gyula Kiss and József Dala launched a very important ethnographic and literary periodical titled ' Matyóland' that was highly welcome not only by the national ' Life and Literature' magazine but also by the tradition conscious readers as well.

The readers have always loved the annual, that since the very start has been informing them about Mezőkövesd and its environs, the ethnical group of the matyós, their cultural values, traditions, economical and social life.

The people of Mezőkövesd have always treasured the world famous traditional matyó culture of their forefathers, and they do their best preserving their roots, tradition and self-consciousness. This 50-year-old annual is to herald their effort which has been successfully maintained by the enthusiastic work of the founders and all the editors followed.

This volume contains a selection of the most significant articles from the issues of the 'Matyóland Periodical' published in the past 50 years plus a bibliography covering this period of time. The essays, the literary and art works give a broad idea of the history of our town and neighbouring villages.

I am certain this outstanding publication approves to be a beneficial effort, and I do hope that there will always be some generous experts to continue the precious work of Gyula Kiss and József Dala.

I highly recommend this jubilee almanac, picturing the past 50 years of 'Matyóland Periodical', to all locals and Mezőkövesd lovers.

András Tállai, Mayor of Mezőkövesd and MP.

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

# **Matyóland 2007/2008**

## **Matyóland 2007/2008**

### **Ethnographic and Literary Annual**

#### **Content**

- ☒ Dr. Habil. Béla Márkus : Gáspár Lukács, the critic
- Dr. Habil. László Veres : The issue of Mezőkövesd and the county museum at the time of Dr Gáspár Lukács
- Dr. Gáspár Lukács: Traditional farmhouses in Matyóföld

#### **LAND AND PEOPLE**

- Zoltán Répászky : Dr. h.c. The life of pastor György Benke
- Pál Pap : " Great White Man" in the jazz band, Joe Murányi, the Matyó American
- János Pap : Nagyecser farm centre – 2008
- Dr. Károly Pintér : Stories from the horseshoes in Bükkzsérc

Béla Tóth : The founding of the Gardonyi Company ( in our village) in Mezőnagymihály

Dr. Iván Kápolnai : Religious associations, organizations of the 1930s Matyóland

József Márton : A Mezőkövesd student's experiences in World War I.

#### STUDY ARTICLES

Zoltán Répászky : The story of the first housing estate in Mezőkövesd

Dr. Juda Simon : Jews of Mezőkövesd in the Holocaust

István Nagy : The journalistic and scientific work of high school teachers

Mrs Andrea Agócs : Tradition in the Matyó Museum

Mrs Anna Dimény : Amateurs in Mezőkövesd in the first half of the 20th century

#### PENMANSHIP

József Bíró : Poetry Day

József Bíró : Warning

István Csirmaz : Do they expect us?

József Ferenc Dorogi : Swirling Mist

József Drabon : On the scales of time

Sándor Dudás : Wrinkled

Sándor Dudás : No Mercy

Kálmán Laboda : Two Chairs In Space

Kálmán Laboda : Astonishment and Joy

László Pázmándy : I was looking for him

János Pap : Fifty years later

Margit Pető : Poems are needed

Margit Pető : Tradition

Margit Pető : 1989

Kálmán Harsányi : Drifting

László Zámorszky : Situation

István Szesztai : Mezőkövesd as I see it.

Gyula Várallyay : Trust Matyó !

István Gulyás : The Matyós of the Young Matthias  
Mihály Gaál : How to do soap from soap  
István Gáspár : Encounter to remember  
János Pap : Trips to Bogács  
Kálmán Laboda : A nice eve in Nagyecser  
Mária K. Dudás : Staring at the barrel of a tank in my face  
Mrs Gánoczy : When the blackberry is ripe  
László Zámorszky : Little Matyós III.  
Margit Pető : Thoughts

REVIEW – NEWS

Mrs Ilona Csirmaz : A book you must have

The book is available in Hungarian!

---

## **Matyóland 2005/2006**

### **Matyóland 2005/2006**

#### **Ethnographic and literary Yearbook**

 Dear Reader,

The people of Mezőkövesd have always cared deeply for their town. The matyó people have always cared for the everyday problems of the town, for its development, creating new values and preserving those values they had inherited most importantly to save and pass the crafts, customs, literature roots fine and art of their ancestors' over to posterity.

Mezőkövesd people are very much fond of the beauty of unique and dominant art. 'The Periodical Matyóland' contains the

values of the town centuries aback. The current issue – just like the earlier ones – contains articles written by locals, and also articles about Mezőkövesd. The periodical is spiced with pieces of art by artists from Mezőkövesd.

The heart of Matyóland is rightly famous for its cultural riches. The town of folklore and festivals is always buzzing. Today people are always on the go, rushing all the time without having a break, almost uncontrollably, but looking only and only ahead is wrong, we do have to care about our past and heritage.

Many of the town people sadly still remember the events that happened 50 years ago : the events of the Revolution of 1956. Many of them actively participated in the demonstrations, while others remember with a child's memory. People do remember the demonstrations and the noise of the chaos. They recall a gesture, a cry or a blink of noise. These are memories that will be with us until the end of our lives. The 2005/2006 issue of 'The Periodical Matyóland' commemorates the events of 1956 with poems, articles and photos.

One special event of this year's Town Day is the coming out of this issue of the periodical that I highly recommend to all locals and Mezőkövesd lovers.

András Tállai – Mayor of Mezőkövesd

The book is available in Hungarian!