

Orsolya Báthory

György Pray's *Epitome Rerum sub Josepho II. Leopoldo II. et Francisco I. regibus Hungariae gestarum* (introductory study and text edition)

The essential part of my thesis is the text edition of György Pray (1723-1801) Jesuit histographer's work the *Epitome Rerum sub Josepho II. Leopoldo II. et Francisco I. regibus Hungariae gestarum* which has existed only in manuscript so far. As its title suggests this work is a short, outline-like one. It presents the main inner and external political events of the period between 1780 and 1801. The line of events starts from the ascending to the throne of Joseph II, and the last event mentioned is the battle of Copenhagen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1801. His severe disease and death in September of 1801 prevented Pray from continuing his work. The text edition is based on the copy which can be found in the Manuscript Collection of the Széchényi National Library (Quart. Lat. 310.). I showed the different text versions such as the copy which had been made from final text or the differences of Pray's handwritten drafts in a form of a critical apparatus.

The text edition is preceded by an introductory study which has two main thematic parts. The first one deals with Pray's last larger scaled histographer enterprise, the *Historia regum Hungariae* (Buda, 1801). Pray probably started the writing of the *Epitome* as the continuation of this three-volume-long kingship history which had been led from the Hungarian conquest to the death of Maria Theresa in 1780.

It was the Viennese court which commissioned Pray by the writing of the *Historia regum Hungariae* in 1788. Pray had entered the Viennese court's service as *historiographus regius*. Among his further goals the emperor had the alteration of the Hungarian state law and the feudal constitution. Originally the king trusted Pray with the writing of a so-called *historia statistica* (state history, *Staatsgeschichte*) which would have served as the historical support for the aforementioned efforts for constitutional changes. On behalf of the Viennese court József Izdenczy state councillor wanted the work to serve actual political interests. On the other hand Miklós Skerlecz suggested a professional-scientific approach to Pray as he believed the contemporarily very popular statistical points of view to be followed for the purposes of a state history.

The *Historia regum Hungariae*, which appeared in 1801, is not a *historia statistica* as it does not follow the changes of the parts of state in the course of the historical events. The formation and the changes of the main elements of the state organization are supposed to be

presented by the 155-page-long introduction, a *Notitiae praeviae*. However, after this the work is just the summarizing history of Hungary until 1780.

The event presentation closed in the *Historia regum Hungariae* is continued in the *Epitome* with the coming to the throne of Joseph the Second. The topic of the second part of the introductory study is the *Epitome* itself. In this latter part I talk about the copies of the work, the stories of the copies, the circumstances of the formation, the sources quoted by Pray. After a short content presentation I present the basic principles of text edition, the occurring hardships of the publication, and their solutions.