

**Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) dissertation's theses**

**DIFFICULTIES AND CONFLICTS DURING THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF  
HAJDÚDOROG**

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## **I. The objective of dissertation, circumscribing the subject**

History primarily processed the early and recent histories of the Hungarian Greek Catholics in detail. Within the histories of the church, the literature of the hungarian diocese is much smaller in length, and its majority mainly examines the period of the dorogi movement, and the following events after World War II. However, there is a short period of the establishment and the further events of the diocese, from which only a few appreciable exploratory work has been written. But these years, and the events started that time, had a major role in the life of the diocese, which was established in 1912, as the only way to find answers in connection with the history of the diocese, is to get to know that in what circumstances were the new hungarian bishopric was established, and what turns occurred during the leadership of the first bishop, István Miklósy. This topic is also deserves attention, because the establishment of the diocese was really important regarding the domestic policy, and this was influenced the hungarian public life, and in some aspects, it also had some international importance. During the examination of this era, I was looking for the answer, why was the dorogi movement inefficient for 50 years, which is considered to be an antecedent that was fraying out the hungarian liturgy in the beginning, and then it started to organize an independent bishopric, with hungarian believers. After five years of failure, what happened that has led to the establishment of the Greek Catholic diocese by King Francis Joseph I in 1912? I was also seeking for an answer, if the government was determined to create the new church unity, then why they refused to fulfill the necessary financial obligations, which omission nearly brought the bishopric to the brink of cessation. What role did brazil monk Árkád Pásztory play in the consolidation of the bishopric finances? Who was this person at all, and why does not the historiography mention his significant role? For how long did the processes that started with his assistance serve the diocesan interests, and when, and in what form did it go to the expense of further development? The events following the Treaty of Trianon also decisively influenced the following decades, but these years hardly appear in historical works, and István Miklósy's episcopal activity is also forgotten, as if we are trying to find information in literature. 1912, the year of the establishment, and the events after 1920 explain why did the diocese, which was created with noble goal, and high momentum, grow slowly, why did it stagnate for decades. The answers are hiding in different archival documents, and a remarkable piece of them is being processed for the first time through scientific methodology. I strived to clarify whether the happenings were stayed in regional or local lore category, and in what extent did they matter regarding the era's domestic policy question. In the dissertation

there was the opportunity to place the case of Greek Catholics in a broader historical context, and I also referred to that morale, which surrounded the movement and the diocesan formation from the side of the Hungarian public opinion. While the research granted the answer to these questions, an aspect of the research result has outlined, which shows us the diocese's formation and phylogeny as institutional history.

The turn of the 19-20 Century's domestic political atmosphere and the ethnic independence aspirations largely determined the time period of the Kingdom of Hungary. In this situation, the diocese, which fanned both Slavic and Romanian national, ethnic grievances became an adequate aim for the nationalist intention of inciting that was prior to the First World War. Another target of the attacks was Árkád Pásztor Basilian monk, whose life is intertwined with the founding of the diocese, and it was his life the contemporary press, the government and the Vatican was concerned with. His person was also important, because despite he was a monk, the size of the lands he owned made him one of the largest holders of contemporary Hungary. Along with a national reputation and among the common people he was surrounded by religious devotion, whose traces are still can be found today, and to which ethnography shows interest too. Árkád Pásztor's life and his relation to contemporary events were completely unprocessed so far although archival research clearly shows significance. Materials related to the monks began collecting in 1990 as the system change made it possible to compensate the churches, and to recover the previously confiscated property. In this respect, the documents were among the entries of the Árkád Pásztor Foundation, which were unknown to the former diocesan leadership, but apparently are closely dependent on the former church lands and properties. Therefore, a collective work began about the associated documentation to make it complete as much as possible. The collecting of the materials were justified by the actual economic interests, and later on the documentation was still in one piece, although the archival categorization of some materials were only finished after the start of the research, and the processing under the historical point of view has not been made yet.

The foundation was inseparable both on behalf of its name and content from its eponym and founder Árkád Pásztor, so that each document, letter, note not only drawn up the possession conditions more sharply, but also – in a mosaic, fragmented way – the Basilian monk's life was also revealed to us, to whom the mysterious institution was tied to. Although this foundation is unknown to many people, Pásztor's name still occur in Greek Catholic discourse, however, only to the extent that the monk's functioning and the later stage of his monastic life is also tied to the diocese of Hajdúdorog, as he left all of his assets for the new bishopric. The documents show that if that offering does not happen at that time, then the

diocese, which was established on the cost of hard-won fights, would have become unstable, as the government did not ensure the financial support, which was legitimate otherwise. Like Pásztor's monastic life, both the circumstances of the diocese of Hajdúdorog, and István Miklósy's activity are unknown to domestic history. And although the creation of the diocese seems to relate to local history because of the small number of Greek Hungarian Catholics, it is not. It is important to point out that around the 19-20. Century, and especially in the years before the First World War, it was one of the key issues of national importance in the national domestic policy. And since a significant proportion of resources for the base of the thesis was closed to researchers until now, so it seemed natural to complete and clarify the patchy chapter of the Greek Catholic historiography which was related closely to Árkád Pásztor, based on the collected archival materials. Even more so, because Pásztor's history is an integral part of the Hungarian Greek Catholic diocese's history, and also because if the history's written cards have not, but the human mind, if highly fragmented, still retains the religious figure. Already in his life, but especially after his death he became a legend that still lives in the Greek Catholic public consciousness. Although the research emphasis is put on the monk's operation, this process took place in accordance with aspects of the history of the diocese, as an integral part of it. Specifically institutional, along with event history and social history aspects, with the exclusion of all liturgical, theological circumstances.

## **II. The scheme of the methods**

As the research subject and period has a literature of a modest size, source research, collecting, and analyzing became the center of the methodology primarily. Relatively much document can be found within the diocesan archival sources. Based on these sources, the past events can be reconstructed precisely and genuinely. Most of these have been examined for the first time by this occasion, as these documents were not researchable before, neither they were categorized. Great emphasis was placed on not only using information from the Bishops' document and archives, but we also strived to collect period governmental, ministry, Vatican and local sources. Using our source criticism and source comparison methods, we managed to reveal an unified historical content. I made my researches in the Greek Catholic Bishops Archives, in the Primate Archives of Esztergom, in Parochial Archives of Sátoraljaújhely, in the library of the University of Debrecen, and also in the library of Szent Atanáz Theological College. I primarily used the relevant literature as a guideline, and using the early jobs, I

could place some exact events into a historical context. As a result, it became obvious that the church historical moments, which often seems to be isolated, are easily fit into the era's hungarian actual politics. The answer of the property and economic questions revealed a new field of the bishopric's history, that beyond its modernity, it carries political, social, and ethnographic aspects at once. In this respect, I used the parts of these auxiliary historical sciences, that are in connection with the subject. As the examined period of the dissertation is part of the modern age, I could efficiently fill out the archival research using the press historical documentation. With the help of the contemporary press-material not only the era's mood could be reconstructed, but it was also possible to certify that the establishment of the Greek Catholic diocese of hajdúdorog seems to be peripheral historical affair only from the distance of 100 years. Actually, it was an important tool of the internal politics carried on by the hungarian government. During the research work, it was a challenge, that the major part of the applied sources were not researchable before, neither they were categorized, and they were placed into the archival system during the research. And the only way to elaborate such an unknown archive thoroughly, is to collect all the available documents, and examine and record them in trail. It only turned out in the later period of the task in some cases, how each content could be placed into to the dissertation, but also occurred sometime that the exact information did not even fit the whole conception, so these ones were not placed in. I also paid attention to support exact cases, contemporary events from several sides, preferably from several different, concerned party's point of view. It caused some trouble, especially in the first half of the research, that some exchange of letters were missing parts in the Episcopal Archives. In some cases there was only an answering letter, but the antecedent was missing, or there was a letter "waiting" for reply, which was totally missing. I separated these lop-sided documents, and it turned out that I was doing it right, as I managed to find nearly all of the missing parts within the documents of the Primatical Archives, so the initially seemingly incomplete image finally became complete. It was also a challenge to settle a proper time frame for the dissertation. The reason was that several happening that are coherent with the diocese would have been uninterpretable neglecting the earlier antecedents, even the ones that are several decades old. However, many cases arose, which closing only solved after István Miklósy, the first dorogi bishop's death, while it is the time of the occupation of the faldstool where we have to search. That is why I came to the decision of taking over the most important of these, even though their importance were changing time to time. Following these basically decisive events was indispensable, because these were the essences of all other diocesan, or political happenings, even when the original characters were dead. This is how the question of

the diocesan seat, the Pásztor fortune's fate, the unsolved problem of priest training, or even the bishop's remuneration was remained a key-question for decades. I also threw the introduction of people into prominence, who were not only made the happenings colorful, but who also influenced its outcome. In this field, the biggest challenge was to describe the character of monk Árkád Pásztor, who was unknown before, as the other characters were preserved by the written memories. On the other hand, in the case of the monk, there were not any clinging, only the use of the contemporary sources and the ethnographic collections. This is how I thought, that the more versatile the information is, the more realistic the whole picture is going to be. I reckon, that I did this task well too, just as I did it when I managed to find out more about bishop István Miklósy, more than what those few stereotypes preserved by the church history. I was able to find contemporary press-materials for nearly all momentums of the era, and this strengthened the authenticity of the work performed. It is also true, that like every time, it was also necessary to calculate with the fact that the given press-material broadcasts an exact group interest, and only after understanding this it could be possible to draw the inferences. After I clarified whether the given article is anticlerical, left-winger, or even pro-government, it was suddenly possible to manage these referred articles, which are now became beneficial parts of the dissertation. The most important principle to follow during the work is to comply with the rule of the source analysis and comparison, which prevents us from using the documents in an inappropriate way.

It was very important to be aware of the fact that the numbers of the previously not researchable, but now released sources are high, but they were originally collected on the basis of specific processing concept, and in historical aspects, they were totally unsorted, and their successful evaluation and review must have happened through the acquired research methodology. The aspects of the original material collecting that began with the bishop's command were primarily determined by the legal and economic affairs of the foundation established by the monk, and therefore it was essential to use some other sources for the extraction of some exact details. Pásztor's person became interesting for the general public primarily because of his property that was collected over the years, and through his activities carried out during the establishment of the Hungarian Greek Catholic diocese. However, these events only occurred in the last third of Árkád Pásztor's life. There is barely a few authentic data about his earlier years, although these years help us to understand this strange personality. From this perspective, it is also important information that he was not diarist person. In the massive archival material, in which there is a huge amount of private letters, and other personal and even private sphere related printed sources, there were not any hand-

written papers. Only elderly and a little bit wobbly singings could be found at the bottom of some formal documents. Just by looking at the shapes of the letters, it reveals that he rarely wielded his pen. Interestingly, for some missing biographical data I had to turn to his contemporary enemies and opponents. The reason for this is that in relation to the creation of the diocese because of heightened ethnic conflicts, he was one of the most important and the most vulnerable target of contemporary Romanian and Hungarian leftist radical nationalists, who tried to incite counter the emerging diocese especially emotionally. One of the most striking representative of these groups was Viktor Aradi, who gladly used the name Victor as an author, and who belonged to the radical civil group led by Oszkár Jászi. The reason why it was necessary to use the writings appeared in the journal called *Huszadik Század* edited by them, was due to the fact that despite the baseless accusations that some vague biographical information was easier to rule out or confirm, and on the other hand in the light of these only became clear what violent, ruthless, disrespectful attacks surrounded Pásztor.

The authors of the left-wing journals that were used in the thesis made sure that the articles, which sometimes contained strong opinions, have an authentic base data. It was the name of the authors and editors of this warranty as Zsigmond Kunfi, Oszkár Jászi, and Ervin Szabó. Despite this, through the source comparison which was used during the research it revealed that Pásztor and through him in the respect of the Hungarian Greek Catholic priests, they allowed space to authors who were not deterred from half-truths, and from telling sometimes unchecked facts.

However, the high priest holder not only earned the attention of public figures through his activity. Thanks to his far-reaching religious operation, worship and respect has surrounded his life, which can be difficult to imagine through today's perception. Fortunately, among the people this memory was bequeathed, and I managed to book a single ethnographic material aspect. I successfully used the results of the ethnography, or co-science, when I tried to get to know Árkád Pásztor, and the contemporary public events.

### **III. Listing the results in the order of thesis**

The biggest achievement of the dissertation is that it dredged a new historical study, that had not been brought to surface before, using the primarily sources that were not examined before. This achievement has been acknowledged by the National Excellence Program Apáczai Doctorandus Scholarship, that I acquired with this research. As for the details, in connection

with the movement of the hajdúdorogiak - which is in close connection with the creation of the dorogi bishopric - I successfully legitimated that an important reason for the failure of the initiation, which was remained for decades, is that for the participants, self-justification was enough for themselves, to feel like their claim is right and reasonable. Their range of vision were not broaden enough to find connection between the government's domestic or foreign policy and their purpose, to let them strengthen each other. Nevertheless, by keeping the Greek catholic's affair in public, they achieved that when the government wanted to prove its national commitment because of other political considerations, the fittest act was exactly the Greek catholic's demand. This led to the establishment of the diocese of hajdúdorog. It was successfully confirmed, that diocesan establishment was as much a political question as a religious affair. We demonstrated, that the real decision-makers way of thinking about the petition of hundreds of thousand hungarian believers only became relevant, when it was associated with other governmental interests. In the empire, led by King Francis Joseph I, this type of solution is appeared as an essential way of leading beyond any doubt. The recognition and examination of this juncture pointed out that as soon as the concernment system coming from the above has disappeared, the tiny, solitary ecclesiastical institution's social and economic validation of their interests became exiguous. The research also gives an explanation for why did not the government fulfill their engagement towards the bishopric. On the one hand, after the validation of the governmental interests, the authority followed a modern, more actual domestic and foreign politically interested way, ignoring the Greek catholic institution system's exit. On the other hand, jumping at the opportunity, when bishop István Miklósy grabbed the financial assistance offered from monk Árkád Pásztor, in this difficult situation, the authority offered an alternative towards the governance, and by allowing it, they found the issue unbound. The research and analytic work clearly highlighted, that Pásztor, and his role goes beyond the activity that he left a fortune for the bishopric, which replaced the governmental role. Via the sources connected to him, we got to know an undiscovered aspect of the contemporary ecclesiastical relation, and through this, we could form a realistic conception of the population that formed the predominant part of the church's worshippers. However the Pásztor in heritage hid much more content, as by the digestion, and summarizing of the problem about the sharing over the already mentioned fortune, one of the most important reason was found: why was it unsuccessful to develop the diocese of hajdúdorog, in way the hungarian churches did? It has turned out, that the conflict between bishop István Miklósy and János Csernoch, the archbishop of Esztergom about adjudging the Pásztor in heritage was playing a major role in it. Following this thread, I consistently

revealed the Miklósy's personal relations, which were in a close connection with his episcopal activity. As a result, it was clear, that hence his temper and habits, he could not comply with the meantime changed world. He constantly replied in an inelastic, and badly way for the personal and institutional challenges, that led to the evanescence of the possibility to accomplish his interests, and in this frozen atmosphere, he could not consummate his episcopal mission. In my dissertation besides the happenings, I also managed to dredge the era's development in its institution history, and along with all these, I discovered a hardly explored Greek catholic history's imperious happenings. The abundant use of the sources, I successfully managed to from the base research into an unified historical depiction, that could act a deficiency supplier part of the hungarian mother tongue Greek catholic population's historical literature, and which helps us to understand the era's domestic policy and culture in an easier way.

The research brought a unique and unexpected success of the test subject and era. The answers found for the questions are questions, which was first analysed by a thesis that was made on the basis of scientific methods and solutions. However, such answers to these questions could be found in the research and synthesis, which technically justified and contribute to the enrichment of Hungarian history. The research of the Hungarian history managed to conceal a white patch, so that it was possible to conduct an effective independent research. As I worked I processed a documentary material that had been collected with a totally different purpose and it was „waiting” in a historically incomplete state. Analysis of the source of this material has fundamentally changed and clarified the historical society circumstances of the Hajdúdorogi Greek Catholic Diocese's establishment, financial implications, and the origin of an episcopal asset, which, unlike the law, was given by individuals, not the government. I managed to discover the identity of the donor and its contemporary function and through weeks of exploratory work in Esztergom, I managed to reconstruct the further fate of the property. The historical literature has never dealt with the issue before, so it's legitimate to call the finished work an independent basic research. Equally undiscovered or only partially known period of the subject is István Miklósy's, the first appointed diocesan bishop's era. The already mentioned Pásztor legacy greatly helped the clarification of this, but the examination of the episcopal function is beyond this. A key factor in this work was a stand-alone independent research in which Miklósy as a political factor and house church leader in the operation of the institution have been revealed.

The research, and the dissertation which was a result, with regard to the theme choice, and in the respect of scientific results, it goes beyond to „only” consider it as a particular diocese's

history. It is greatly contribute to better understand the Hungarian atmosphere around the period of the World War I, and the first period of the Horthy era. This contributes to a recent effort, which aims to get more knowledge about this somewhat forgotten era.

**IV. iDEa authentication for the author about the publication that was appeared in the subject of disquisition, or validly accepted for publication with the page listing.**



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Subject: Ph.D. List of Publications

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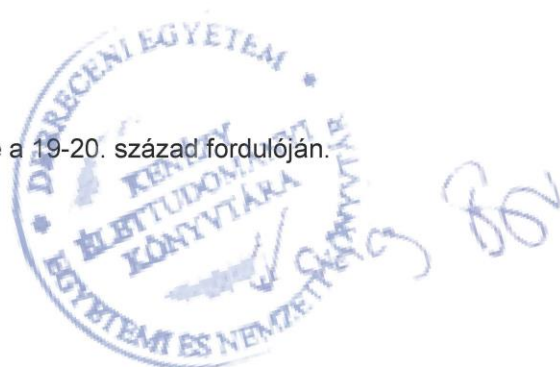
### List of publications related to the dissertation

#### Hungarian book chapter(s) (1)

1. **Endrédi C.:** A magyar görögkatolikus papság népszerűtlenségének okai és a hajdúdorogi egyházmegye elleni támadások a püspökség megalakításának időszakában.  
In: Falak és választóvonalak a történelemben. Szerk.: Buhály Attila, Reszler Gábor, Szoboszlai György, Nyíregyházi Főiskola, Nyíregyháza, 417-426, 2014.

#### Hungarian scientific article(s) in Hungarian journal(s) (4)

2. **Endrédi C.:** Miklósy István püspöki kinevezésének körülményei.  
*Athanasiana.* 37., 129-137, 2013. ISSN: 1586-2364.
3. **Endrédi C.:** A hajdúdorogi görög katolikus egyházmegye a nemzetpolitikai harcok keresztüzében az I. világháború idején.  
*Debreceni szle.* 21 (4), 174-179, 2013. ISSN: 1218-022X.
4. **Endrédi C.:** Pásztor Árkád - A legenda tovább él.  
*Athanasiana.* 35, 122-169, 2013. ISSN: 1586-2364.
5. **Endrédi C.:** A magyar görög katolikusok identitáskeresése a 19-20. század fordulóján.  
*Tört. tanulm.* 20, 103-122, 2012. ISSN: 1217-4602.





Hungarian conference proceeding(s) (2)

6. **Endrédi C.:** A Hajdúdorogi Görög Katolikus Püspökség különös javadalmazása, anyagi alapjának eredete.  
In: Múlt nélkül nincs jövő. Kiadta: a Debreceni Egyetem, Debreceni Egyetem, Debrecen, 97-104, 2013.
7. **Endrédi C.:** A Hajdúdorogi Görögkatolikus Egyházmegye a nemzetiségi ellentétek célkeresztjében: A nagybirtokos szerzetes.  
In: A hegyen épült város. Károly Gáspár Református Egyetem, Budapest, [7] p., 2013.

Informational/educational article(s) (4)

8. **Endrédi C.:** Titánok küzdelme: A Miklósy-Csernoch szembenállás.  
*Görögkatolikus Szemle* 25 (2), 6-7, 2014. ISSN: 1416-793X.
9. **Endrédi C.:** Szerzetes az elmeorvosnál: Egy orvosi diagnózis jelentősége a Pásztor-féle hagyatékban.  
*Görögkatolikus Szemle* 24 (5), 8-9, 2013. ISSN: 1416-793X.
10. **Endrédi C.:** Pápai engedély, mint polgári jogalap.  
*Görögkatolikus Szemle* 24 (7), 10-11, 2013. ISSN: 1416-793X.
11. **Endrédi C.:** Kormányzati lépések: A dorogi egyházmegye vagyoni helyzetének rendezésére az I. világháború után.  
*Görögkatolikus Szemle* 24 (12), 8-9, 2013. ISSN: 1416-793X.

The Candidate's publication data submitted to the iDEa Tudóstér have been validated by DEENK on the basis of Web of Science, Scopus and Journal Citation Report (Impact Factor) databases.

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