

OBITUARY

Dr. Pál Lipták (1914-2000)

On July 6, 2000, Pál Lipták, professor emeritus, passed away in Budapest.

He was born in Békéscsaba on February 14, 1914. He attended secondary school in his hometown; between 1932-1937 he studied natural history and geography at Pázmány Péter University in Budapest, where he eventually took a teachers' degree in 1937. From 1934 on he was a member of Eötvös József Collegium. At the same university he obtained doctorate "summa cum laude" in the arts in 1938 with his dissertation entitled "The Geography of Békéscsaba." From September 1, 1938, he taught at the teacher training college at Miskolc. In 1939 he joined the army for a two-year compulsory military service, after which, in 1941, he got a teaching position at the public Teachers' College in Budapest. In 1943 he was elected teacher in "Fasori" Secondary School in Budapest.

In April 1944 he joined the army again, and in May he was taken captive by Soviet troops to return home in 1948 only. Afterwards he taught at a primary school, the successor of "Fasori" Secondary School. During the summer of 1949 he worked as a scientific official, then as a research-fellow for the Anthropological Collection of the Museum of Natural History, where he continued the work interrupted by the war. In March, 1956, he became Candidate of Biological Sciences by defending his thesis "The Major Questions of Anthropology in the Territory between the Danube and the Tisza Rivers between the 7th and 13th Centuries AD."

On March 16, 1960, he was appointed head of the Department of Anthropology at József Attila University, Szeged. In January, 1969, he defended his doctoral thesis "The Anthropology of Hungarian Ethnogenesis" and became Doctor of Sciences. In July, 1969, he was appointed professor. He retired from the department in Szeged in the summer of 1980.

His research was focused on questions of historical anthropology, especially Hungarian ethnogenesis. His work was characterised by a well-founded specialization. In the greater part of his hundred scholarly publications he dealt with the analysis and synthesis of historical anthropological finds. His attention was focused on the periods of Hungarian migration, the Hungarian Conquest and the Arpads and Hungarian ethnogenesis in this context. Based on examinations on skeletons, he improved the method of anthropotaxonomical differential diagnosis for europids and mongolids. In 1983 he published his book entitled "Avars and Ancient Hungarians."

In a few monographies on local history he co-authored communications on the anthropology of the living Hungarian population.



He took short field-trips abroad and participated in congresses. He was a member of the Anthropological Theme Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1958-1962), later on its Committee (1962-1985), and the editorial board of *Antropológiai Közlemények* (Communications in Anthropology) (1957-1992), and was the editor-in-chief of *Acta Biologica Szegediensis* (1975-1980).

As part of his academic work he wrote a textbook for university students entitled "Anthropology and the Evolution of Man," which was the first of its kind. Several of his students earned their doctoral degrees under his supervision. In 1989 he was awarded the Bartucz Lajos Commemorative Medal, and in February, 1994, the title of "professor emeritus" by József Attila University.

Pál Lipták's death means that we lost the last member of the excelling generation of Hungarian anthropologists (Mihály Malin, János Nemeskürti, Miklós Fehér) trained in the mid-1930s.

His work has left a lasting mark on the face of Hungarian anthropology.

From Pál Lipták's major communications

- Anthropologische Beiträge zum Problem der Ethnogenesis der Altungarn. (1951) *Acta Arch Hung* 1:231-249.
- L'analyse typologique de la population de Krpuszta au Moyen Age. (1953) *Acta Arch Hung* 3:303-370.
- Zur Frage der Anthropologischen Beziehungen zwischen dem Mittleren Donaubecken und Mittelasien (1955) *Acta Orient Hung* 5:271-312.

- Data to the Bronze-Age Anthropology of the Territory between the Danube and Tisza Rivers (1957) *Anthrop K* zl 1:3-16.
- Awarendn Magyarén im Donau-Theiss Zwischenstromgebiet (1958) *Acta Arch Hung* 8:199-268.
- The Avar period Mondoloids in Hungary. (1959) *Acta Arch Hung* 10:250-279.
- Anthropology and Historical Anthropology (1959) *Anthrop K* zl 3:111-120.
- Die Bedeutung der taxonomischen Fragen in der historishcen Anthropologie (1961) *Acta F.R.N. Univ Comen* 5:309-314.
- Anthropology and the Evolution of Man. Textbook for University Students, 1962, Budapest, p. 228.
- Homo Sapiens - species collectiva. (1962) *Anthrop K* zl 6:17-27.
- On the taxonomic method in Palaeoanthropology /historical anthropology/ (1965) *Acta Biol Szeged* 11:169-183.
- ber die Anthropologie der Bev lkerung des s dlichen Teils der ungarischen Tiefebene in der Arpadenzeit (Gyula Farkas, co-auth.), 1968, M ra Ferenc M z vk 2:135-141.
- Anthropology and the Evolution of Man. Textbook for University Students. (1969) Tank nyvkiad , Budapest, p. 284.
- The Paleoanthropology of Hungarian Ethnogenesis. Theses of Doctoral Dissertation (1970) *Anthrop K* zl 14:85-94.
- Physical anthropological examination of a cemetery in Mokrin from the early Bronze Age. (Gyula Farkas, co-auth.), 1971, *Diss et Monogr* 11. Beograd 239-271.
- A critical review of paleoanthropological studies of the Avars in Hungary. (1970) *Acta Biol Szeged* 16:117-127.
- Origin and development of the Hungarian people on the basis of anthropological remains. (1975) *Hung Pas* 4:79-94.
- Anthropologische Auswertung des brozezeitlichen Gr berfeld bei T p (Gyula Farkas, co-auth.). (1975) *Fontes Arch Hung* 229-267.
- Avars und Ancient Hungarians. *Akad miai Kiad* , Budapest (1983) p. 208.

On His Life and Works

- In Vol. 9., 10., 12.,13., 16., 17., 20., 22., 25., 27., of *Anthrop K* zl in the bibliography of Hungarian anthropology.
- Szeged University Almanach. 1921-1970. Szeged. 1971, p. 190.
- Anthrop K* zl 28; 1984 3-6. *Acta Biol Szeged*. 35; 1989, pp. 3-7.
- Farkas, Gyula L. - Dezső, Gyula: *The History of Hungarian Anthropology from the beginning up today*. Szeged, 1994, pp. 88-89.
- Szeged University Almanach. 1921-1995. Szeged, 1996, p. 360.