

THE NYUGAT JOURNAL IS 100 YEARS OLD (1908–2008)

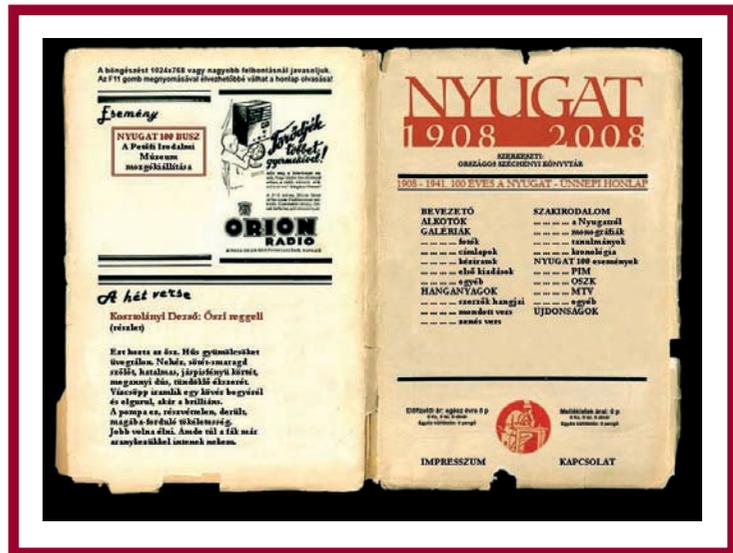
<http://nyugat.oszk.hu/>

THE COMMEMORATIVE HOMEPAGE OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY



The National Széchényi Library started the commemoration of 2008, the “*Nyugat* Year” with an event at the end of the previous year. The full-day *Nyugat* celebration on 26th November 2007, the day Mihály Babits was born, included the finals of the national secondary school students’ poetry recital contest, organised in honour of the legendary journal, as well as the launching of the *Nyugat* webpage in the framework of a press conference¹ and the joint ceremonial concert of the *Kalácska* and *Misztvál* bands. In late August 2007, the poetry recital contest was advertised jointly by the National Széchényi Library, the Petofi Museum of Literature, the Association of Hungarian Teachers², the Hungarian Reading Society and the Local Government of Budavár, involving some three thousand students across the country. The recitals of the 26 students who had been selected to go to the national finals in the seven regional semi-finals³ were evaluated by a five-member jury⁴ led by the actor *Tamás Jordán*.

The **NYUGAT-Homepage** (<http://nyugat.oszk.hu/>)⁵ is a continuously growing multimedia service which, building on the journal and its outstanding literary achievements, has turned into a genuine **virtual anthology**. Its organising force is constituted by the



lifework of authors (poets, writers and editors) who had established and sustained the *Nyugat* periodical for thirty-three years. The list includes more than a hundred names, a number much higher than that of the authors the present literary canon(s) include. Due to their frequent publications in the journal, there are certain marginal authors as well beside the great names of the three generations. Their *oeuvres* are reflected by selected bibliographies, which also indicate the extent each artist is present on the worldwide web. With the help of the new shared thematic surface provided by the *Nyugat* homepage, digitized elements

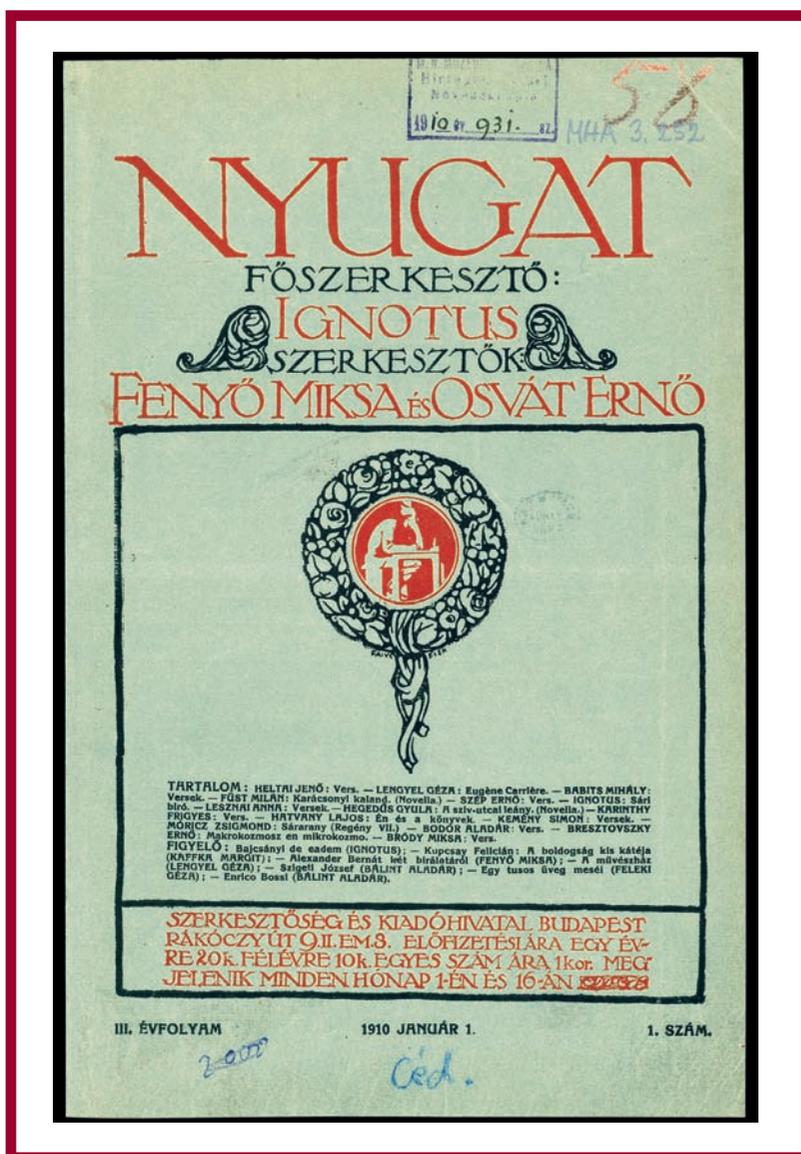
¹ The poetry recital contest was followed by a press conference where two homepages were presented. In addition to the *Nyugat* homepage developed by the Electronic Documents Centre, related to the celebrations of the national library’s anniversary on 25th November, a homepage about the Library’s history was also launched (<http://tortenet.oszk.hu>). The chief editor of this page is *Annamária Sudár*.

² Special thanks are due to *György D. Fenyő*, a secondary school teacher and literary historian, as well as deputy president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers, who had a major part in organising the competition.

³ The regional semi-finals organised by teachers and librarians were held at the following venues: the Békés County Library and Human Services Centre at Békéscsaba; the Pannonhalma Benedictine Secondary School and College; the Miskolc Ferenc Földes Secondary School; the Vác Imre Madách Secondary School; the Nyíregyháza Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Local Government’s County-wide Educational, Cultural and Training Institute; the János Arany Secondary and Primary School, the Pécs Szent Mór Catholic Primary School, Art School and Secondary School and the Budapest Városmajori Secondary School.

⁴ Members of the jury were performing artist *Judit Havas*, a chief colleague at the Petöfi Museum of Literature; *Katalin Kiss*, a teacher of drama and Italian at the Budapesti Sándor Weöres Secondary School; *György D. Fenyő*, a secondary school teacher and literary historian, deputy president of the Association of Hungarian Teachers, and *József Jankovics*, literary historian, the deputy director of the Institute for Literary Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

⁵ The *Nyugat* homepage is developed by the Electronic Documents Center in the course of 2008. Editors: *Jolán Mann*, *Zsuzsanna Rózsafalvi* and *Annamária Sudár*. Web design and programing is the work of *Máté Török*.



of a lifework become directly accessible (Hungarian Electronic Library, Digital Literary Academy, etc.), and the items still to be digitized also emerge. The *Nyugat* homepage may also be defined as a collective page, as it points to primarily textual content in other high-quality collections. For the compilation of each writer's bibliography, we asked professionals to cooperate. Invited by the call, several bibliographers and researchers of individual authors joined in the undertaking. Due to the possibility of continuous updating, it is hoped that the Internet-based bibliographies will be gap-fillers that can always be supplemented even after the "Nyugat Year" is over. The completed bibliographies of members of "the great generation" are verified by their authoritative scholars. A case in point

the national library's *Nyugat*-related gems and to advertise the homepage, a sixteen-item series of postcards was issued in 2008.

As a result of our co-operation with other public collections, the 'Galleries' feature twenty-two digital photocopies made available for the homepage by the Petőfi Museum of Literature.

The various voice recordings enrich the multimedia elements of the homepage, including in the menu the "authors' voices" and "recited poems" and "poems with music" by present-day performing artists. In the last quarter of the year, it is among our plans to extend these sections. Excerpts from old audio-recordings are also included with permission granted by the Petőfi

is Dezső Kosztolányi's primary and secondary bibliography, which at the moment is the most comprehensive one not only in the digital field but also among traditional paper-based bibliographies. The chronology of the journal's history fills another gap. Its great advantage is that decisive issues of the journal can be accessed with one click (e.g. the Ady, Kosztolányi and Karinthy commemorative issues), as well as the first publications in each number.⁶ It is hoped that the already compiled bibliographies will prove useful both for professionals and the general public interested in the oeuvres.

The specimen pages in the 'Galleries' menu point include treasures of the National Széchényi Library's various collections, including unique documents like manuscripts, first editions, cover pages and annotated pages, as well as authors' photographs. It is in the 'Galleries' that the continuous growth of the homepage is most conspicuous: the 173 pictures at the beginning of the year went up to 740 by October. Among them, there are many special rarities, as for example the glass negatives in the Babits bequest which have become comprehensible due to digitization, or the autographed copies of first editions. In order to introduce

⁶ Digital *Nyugat* provided by the Electronic Periodicals Archive, made in 2000, with the help of the journal's online version: <http://epa.oszk.hu/00000/00022/nyugat.htm>

Museum of Literature. However, further archival recordings cannot be shared, because despite all our efforts, permission – even for non-copyright material – has been denied by Hungarian Radio, the main holder of archival recordings. In addition, the homepage features the recorded performance of students in the finals of the *Nyugat* poetry recital contest.

The service, fully developed over the year makes announcements about the programs and events held nation-wide on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of *Nyugat*, especially about the National Széchényi Library's own programs, as well as about related broadcasts on Hungarian Television and events in the Petőfi Museum of Literature.

Under 'Novelties', accounts are given of new additions to the homepage (continuously uploaded bibliographies and new digitizations), of which users may be

informed also through the RSS service launched in January 2008. Among the volumes entered into the Hungarian Electronic Library, there are several pieces of basic professional literature, although the majority still undoubtedly fall into the category of primary literature. Thanks to the anniversary, digitization is targeted at *Nyugat*-related volumes. The continuously growing homepage is supposed to be a relevant and up-to-date surface intended for educational purposes and the interested public.

The *Nyugat* homepage is a possible example of providing structured thematic content which, based on public interest aroused by the anniversary, builds on the quality content of the Internet and, in turn intends, to make a valuable contribution to it.

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eFESTIVAL 2008

A rally organised by The Hungarian Association of Content Industry about the excellent digital content development practice of the domestic online and multimedia profession

eCulture
/ Digital preservation of Hungarian cultural heritage / eScience category

Second Prize NYUGAT is 100 years old
– Commemorative homepage
(NSZL – *Electronic Documents Centre*)



The jury's evaluation emphasized the witty graphic design of the *Nyugat* homepage, its clear imagery (web design and programming by Máté Török) and praised the successful wide-ranging introduction of treasures in public collections. Thanks to, among other things, inter-institutional co-operation, the rich audio-material is exemplary. (Archival audio-material was obtained from the Petőfi Museum of Literature.) The jury considered that although this was a low-budget homepage, it managed to provide many-sided and high-quality content.