



Forgotten Heritage. Encounters between Neoplatonism and Hungarian Culture from the Renaissance to the Present

NRDI FUND, ADVANCED_25 project

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Neoplatonism has played a key role both in the development of Christian theology and in the transmission of the ancient philosophical heritage. This project focuses on Plotinus (3rd century AD), the first Neoplatonist. We are launching the first complete Hungarian edition of his work, translating half of it with state-of-the-art commentaries. This is a scholarly achievement of the utmost importance for our national culture, as it will establish a vocabulary for Neoplatonic philosophy, which is essential for the full integration of this tradition into Hungarian scholarship and culture. The other three parts of our project are all based on the textual work associated with our edition. We are making a unique contribution to international scholarship through a series of monographs, commentaries and articles written in English. (1) We reappraise core issues of Plotinus' ethics, natural philosophy, and psychology on the basis of the texts we are working on for the Hungarian edition. Several books and a dozen journal articles on these topics will be published in English. (2) The reception of Neoplatonism and Plotinus in Hungary began already in the time of Matthias Corvinus (15th century): its influence can be detected in codices made in Hungary or for Hungarian commissioners and in the Hungarian court culture. We reassess this early reception in two extensive foreign-language articles. (3) The 19th and 20th centuries brought further waves of interest in Neoplatonism. We explore this forgotten part of Hungarian cultural history. Our findings will be published in a short Hungarian monograph and in articles written in other languages.