



**Universitas Cassoviensis  
and the Tradition of  
University Education  
in Košice before the  
Establishment of UPJŠ**

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Esteemed reader,

you are holding a publication in your hands, the purpose of which is to recall the tradition of higher education in Košice and declare that Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice has the ambition to follow the values and traditions established in this city and region in the mid-17th century by the historic University of Košice (Universitas Cassoviensis), later after its transformation into the Royal Academy of Košice or the Imperial-Royal Academy of Law, and to successfully develop them. The motto of “*Wisdom of the Past – Knowledge of the Present – Education for the Future*” mentioned in all the official presentations of the University is the embodiment of our efforts. In recent years, this University has focused intensively on the history of higher education in this city in the period from 1657 to 1921. Through colleagues from the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts, we cooperate closely with the State Archives in Košice, Košice City Archives, and many other national and international institutions in order to gain access to truly unique documents that reveal the secrets of the life of the then academic community, the relationship with the city and many other unknown aspects of the past.



This special-purpose publication revives some important fragments of history thanks to the financial support of our internal grant system. The charm of historical documents convinces us that the wisdom of the past can be inspiring for the present. It gives us room to reflect on the legitimate „eternity“ of universities, on true academic values such as freedom of research, academic autonomy, and self-government. These are the values for which it has been necessary to struggle for centuries, and even today it is necessary to cultivate them.

May I wish you a pleasant and inspiring reading.

*Pavol Sovák*

## Urban Milieu of Košice and Its Contacts with Medieval and Early Modern University Culture

*“... I arrived in Wroclaw safely and without injury with the help of Divine Grace, and I will study here to the best of my feeble talent. Master Wingler recommended me to the principal teachers of the St. Elizabeth School who promised to work persistently on my improvement and teach me.”*

*A letter from Bartolomeus Barth, a Košice student, to the Košice Municipal Council from the city of Wroclaw in 1575.*

Košice ranked among the most significant cities in the Kingdom of Hungary in the Middle Ages. Economic development and urbanisation were accompanied by the social development of urban society in which education and intellectual life developed under the patronage of the city and Church structures. Its prominent representatives included the Dominican Convent and the Franciscan Convent. The Dominican Convent, housing a library and a scriptory, was a particularly eminent centre of medieval education.

Students were supposed to travel to European universities (academic peregrination) from Košice to attain university education.

As of the mid-14th century, university education was provided by the newly established universities in Prague (1348), Cracow (1364) and Vienna (1365). In the Kingdom of Hungary, the Monarchs founded universities in Pécs (1367), Buda (1395), and Bratislava (1465), but none of them lasted long enough to become established educational institutions.

In the late Middle Ages, the University of Cracow became the main centre of university studies for Košice students. Its graduates included humanistic scholars who worked at the Municipal Council of Košice and in other royal cities as teachers at city schools, notaries or clerks. As to other European universities, students from Košice attended those in Vienna and Prague, and some Italian and German universities. Several notable personalities of academic and intellectual life are associated with the medieval history of Košice. The Dominican Leonard Huntzpichler OP, Professor of Theology at the University of Vienna, worked in the Košice Dominican Convent in the mid-15th century. Archbishop Georgius Szatmáry of Esztergom, who studied at the University of Bologna, issued from the notable Košice burgher family of Szatmáry. At the end of the Middle Ages, the English humanist and pedagogue Leonard Cox, who attained his university education in Cracow, was a teacher at the Košice City School. The humanist Valentin Carbo, who after studying at the University of Cracow worked as city clerk in Košice, was his contemporary.

The onset of the Reformation brought significant social changes which were also reflected in the field of university education. The University of Wittenberg, which was the ideological centre of Reformation teachings, became a model for the founding of other Protestant universities or of the transformation of older medieval universities along its lines.

Confessional affiliation acted as a significant factor in the choice of university education and further professional employment of graduates. After 1530, the direction of Košice students' travels for education was significantly changing, with most of them heading to German universities and the University of Wittenberg with the leading number of students enrolled.

Prevalence of students studying at Protestant universities was related to the majority acceptance of Protestantism in Košice. In addition to German universities, the presence of Košice students is also documented at Dutch and English universities. Since Košice had not been the seat of an academic institution until the mid-17th century, the contact of the urban milieu with the university tradition and culture was ensured mainly by university-educated individuals who worked in the city and by the students migrating for education.

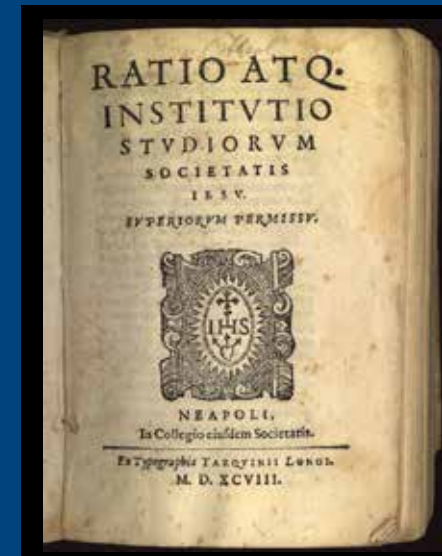
## Jesuit System of Education

*“Above all, may our students strive to maintain the purity of the soul and the right intention in their studies, looking for nothing but the glory to the God and the benefit for the souls; and in their prayers, may they often ask for mercy to make progress in science, so that they may then be able, as the Society expects of them, to go to the Lord’s vineyard and educate it by example and teaching.”*

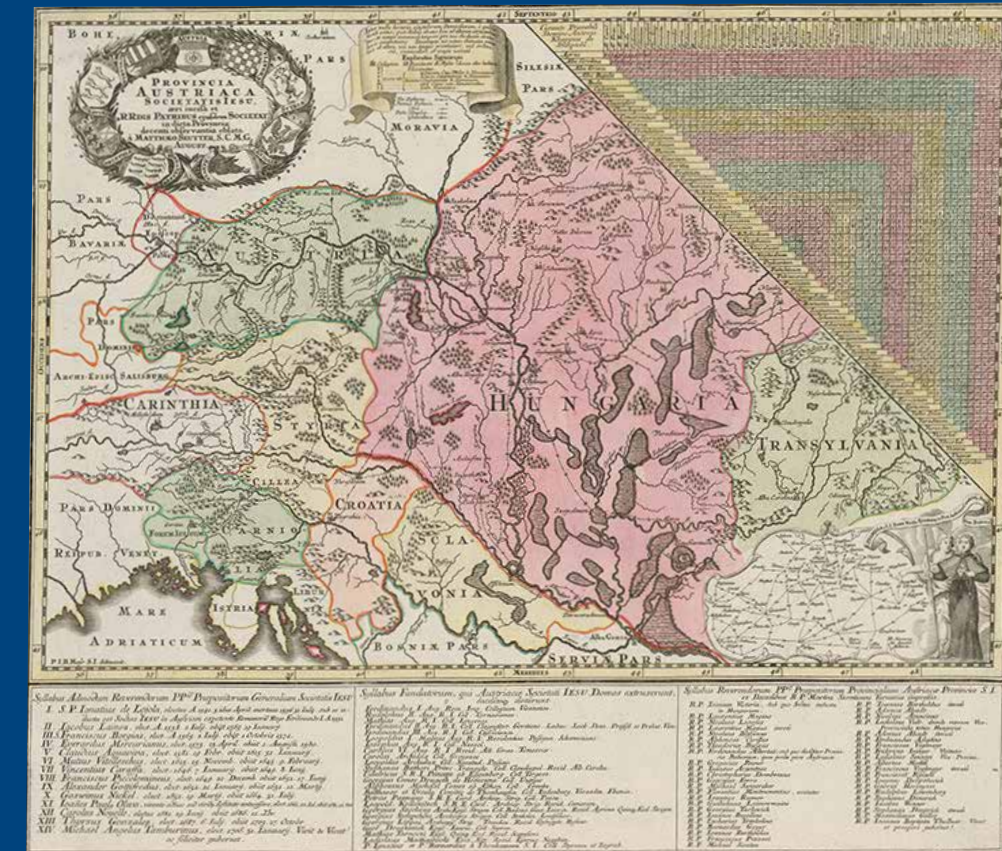
*Ratio atque institutio studiorum Societatis Jesu (1599)*

The ideological and political battlegrounds of both Reformation and Counter-Reformation shaped the character and organisation of modern universities. Both Protestant and Catholic universities focused on consolidating their own beliefs and educating and teaching in the service of their respective denominations. The Jesuit Order was particularly effective in the field of education in the service of the Catholic Church for which school teaching and education were one of the main pillars of their mission. The Jesuit system of education was sophisticated, having proceeded from lower education, through grammar schools, boarding schools, schools for nobles (boarding schools) up to universities. The idea of a Jesuit university evolved from the original idea of the founder of the Order of Ignatius of Loyola as a university exclusively involved in education and teaching of Jesuits and subordinate to the Order, up to various models of universities operating more or less under the administration of the Order or hiring Jesuits as teachers.

On curriculum issues, the Jesuit University was to teach Humanities, Philosophy, Mathematics, and Theology, but not Civil and Canonical Law or Medicine. In practice, however, this model adapted to the political and social circumstances in a particular country where it liked operating.



*Ratio atque institutio studiorum Societatis Jesu* was a regulation that governed teaching at all types of Jesuit schools. Its final form was adopted in 1599. It contained regulations for provincials, rectors of colleges, prefects and professors teaching the relevant disciplines. It determined the study curriculum, teaching methods, plans, timetables, and the overall organisation of studies at the relevant types of Jesuit schools.



Historical map of the Austrian province of the Society of Jesus for the years 1762 – 1773. In the territorial division of the Order, the province represented a higher administrative unit, which included missions, residences, and colleges. It was headed by provincial appointed by the Order General. The Austrian province of the Society of Jesus was founded in 1563 and included colleges and residences in present-day Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, and Romania. Its provincial was based in Vienna.

## Péter Pázmány and University Education in Hungary

*“We often painstakingly considered in our minds how we could spread the Catholic religion in the Kingdom of Hungary and ensure the dignity of the noble Hungarian people, and here, among other aids, we were prompted to establish a university as a first step because it would soften the minds of this bellicose nation and, at the same time, capable people would receive the education necessary for the leadership of parishes as well as for public administration...”*

*Charter of the University of Trnava, 12 May 1635*

The idea of establishing a university in Košice appeared in the plans of Péter Pázmány who had presided the Catholic Church in Hungary since 1616 in the capacity of Archbishop of Esztergom. Pázmány considered systematic building of Catholic education with a strong emphasis on the education of priests the most important solution to the unfortunate situation of Hungarian Catholicism. Pázmány’s plan to establish a university in Košice also included specific motions for the financial coverage of the university through the donation of property from the former Premonstratensian Abbey in Myšľa. Péter Pázmány entrusted the implementation of this idea onto his followers, as the Founding Charter of the University of Košice as is explicitly mentioned therein. At the end of his work, in 1635, Archbishop Pázmány succeeded in establishing a university in Trnava. Its Charter expresses the objectives of the University, subordinates the administration of the University to the Jesuit Order, establishes the structure of the University (incomplete Jesuit University with its Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Theology), it states the right to award university degrees, and in particular establishes the financial basis necessary for the functioning of this institution. During further developments, the University of Trnava became the only university in Slovakia in modern times within which all four of its Faculties (those of Philosophy, Theology, Law, and Medicine) operated. After the abolition of the Jesuit Order and the school reform of Maria Theresa, the

University was transferred to Buda in 1777. The Royal Academy (1777 – 1784), which was established in its place and functioned its successor institution in many respects, had to move to Bratislava due to the Josephine reforms. As a result of political decisions, Trnava lost that institution providing higher education and it took more than 200 years for the tradition of the Jesuit University to be followed by the current Trnava University. The current significant Hungarian universities, Loránd Eötvös University in Budapest and Péter Pázmány Catholic University avow the legacy of the historic University of Trnava and its founder.



Péter Pázmány, Cardinal, Archbishop of Esztergom, founder of Trnava University (1570 – 1636). He ranks among the most significant personalities of early modern Hungarian history. He came from a noble Calvinist family in the Bihar County. He studied at the Jesuit Grammar School in Cluj where he converted to Catholicism and joined the Society of Jesus. He attained his university education in Vienna and Rome where he was ordained priest. He worked as Professor of Philosophy at the University of Graz. He obtained the ranks of Archbishop of Esztergom (1616) and Cardinal (1629). He was the founder of educational institutions – he founded the St. Wenceslaus “bursa pauperum” for poor students, an aristocratic boarding school, and a priestly seminar in Trnava. He founded the Jesuit Grammar School in Bratislava and the Pázmaneum Priestly Seminary in Vienna. The founding of the University of Trnava in 1635 meant the peak of his activities in the field of education. Péter Pázmány was an architect of the renewal of Catholicism in Hungary, writer, preacher, author of polemical writings, and translator of Church and liturgical works into Hungarian.

## Bishop of Eger Benedict Kisdý and the Establishment of the University of Košice

*“So it’s not just our tireless efforts, both public and private, by which we strive to bring every human life and gender from the darkness of vices and heresies to the real light of virtues and faith, but in addition, with the consent and benefit of all the nations, we are committed to the young people who need to be educated, from among whom dioceses and kingdoms draw by right wise and educated citizens, administrators of dioceses and parishes.”*

*Charter of the University of Košice, 26 February 1657*



Benedict Kisdý was born in the town of Sečany in the Novohrad County in 1598 or 1599. He studied at the Jesuit Grammar School in Trnava and attained his university education in Theology in Vienna and Rome. He was ordained priest in 1622 and served as chaplain to Péter Pázmány, Archbishop of Esztergom. He attained several Church ranks, including episcopal ones and the title of Royal Counsellor. He became Bishop of Eger and the Mayor of the Heves and Solnok Counties in 1648. He died on 22 June 1660 in Jasov and was buried in the Franciscan Church in Košice. During his service as the head of the Eger Diocese, he moved the Eger Chapter to Košice, established the foundation for a priestly seminary in Košice called Kisdianum as of 1665, supported the publication of Cantus Catholici, the Latin-Hungarian Songbook, and finally founded the Košice University and had it confirmed by the Emperor.

The idea of establishing a university in Košice issued from contemporaneous political and social contexts. After the inclusion of Hungary to the Habsburg Monarchy, Košice developed as the seat of important State, financial, and in some periods also ecclesiastical administration. Territories occupied by Ottoman expansion and the autonomous Transylvania had delimited the territorial unit called Upper Hungary until the 18th century. Košice became its natural centre and the seat of important state bodies – the Spiš Chamber and the Upper Hungarian Captaincy, and for a time also of the Eger Chapter and of the Bishopric. Important social factors encouraging the idea of establishing a university in the service of the Catholic Church included the mass spread of Protestant denominations, the rise of Protestant education, and the decline of the Catholic Church at all levels of its life.

The earliest notice of the establishment of a university in Košice is related to the mission of the Papal Envoy Antonio Possevino who also reached Košice in 1583 during his travels. From the viewpoint of the Papal Legate, Protestant Košice, having been on the periphery of the Habsburg Empire at that time, was exposed to the influence of the Transylvanian Principality, with the Catholic Church having been in decline there. Possevino was aware of its importance for the consolidation of the Habsburg power in the region, so in addition to political solutions, he proposed the establishment of a seminary and a university in Košice.

According to Possevino’s plan submitted to the Pope, the university was supposed to be run by the Jesuits. In the given period, even in the following decades, this idea was not implemented in practice because the political situation in Košice in the first third of the 17th century was largely influenced by anti-Habsburg uprisings which prevented a more permanent settlement of Jesuits in the city and the establishment of a Jesuit college.

The followers of the university tradition, to whom Péter Pázmány symbolically entrusted the task of founding a university in the eastern part of the country, included Benedict Kisdý, a Jesuit-educated priest, Pázmány’s chaplain, who studied at the Collegium Germanico - Hungaricum in Rome and was one of the young generation of Hungarian Catholic priests. In 1648, he stood at the head of the Eger Diocese. For Kisdý, Péter Pázmány was his lifelong role model and the former identified with his understanding of the education of priests and laymen as an effective tool for re-Catholicisation. As Bishop of Eger, he attained these objectives by depositing a sum of money for establishing a priestly seminary (1649), supporting the publication of Cantus Catholici (1651), the Latin-Hungarian Catholic Songbook, and finally by establishing a university in Košice (1657).

The establishment of the university was an extremely demanding project, which, in addition to a sufficient

amount of funding, also required favourable political and social circumstances. In the case of Košice, these occurred at the end of the 1640s and during the 1650s. In 1649, Jesuits returned to Košice after a previous unstable period and founded a college, which was confirmed by the Monarch in 1654. The College began its activities with its six-grade Grammar School. An important step towards attaining the objectives that Benedict Kisdy set himself as Bishop of Eger included the establishment of a priestly seminary for education and training of priests in the

## University Charter

The University Charter was issued in Jasov on 26 February 1657. The reasons for its founding are connected by Benedict Kisdy to his episcopal office and care for the entrusted Church. He intended to entrust the newly established University to the Jesuit Order for which he has obtained the consent of their Superior General. An important part of the process of founding the University represents the amount of 40,000 talers (60,000 gold coins), which Kisdy handed over to the Superior of the Košice Jesuit College from his own resources in order to adapt the college building from the proceeds of this foundation for the needs of the students who will live in it with a library and equipment. With regard to the curriculum, the Charter mentions the continuation of the teaching

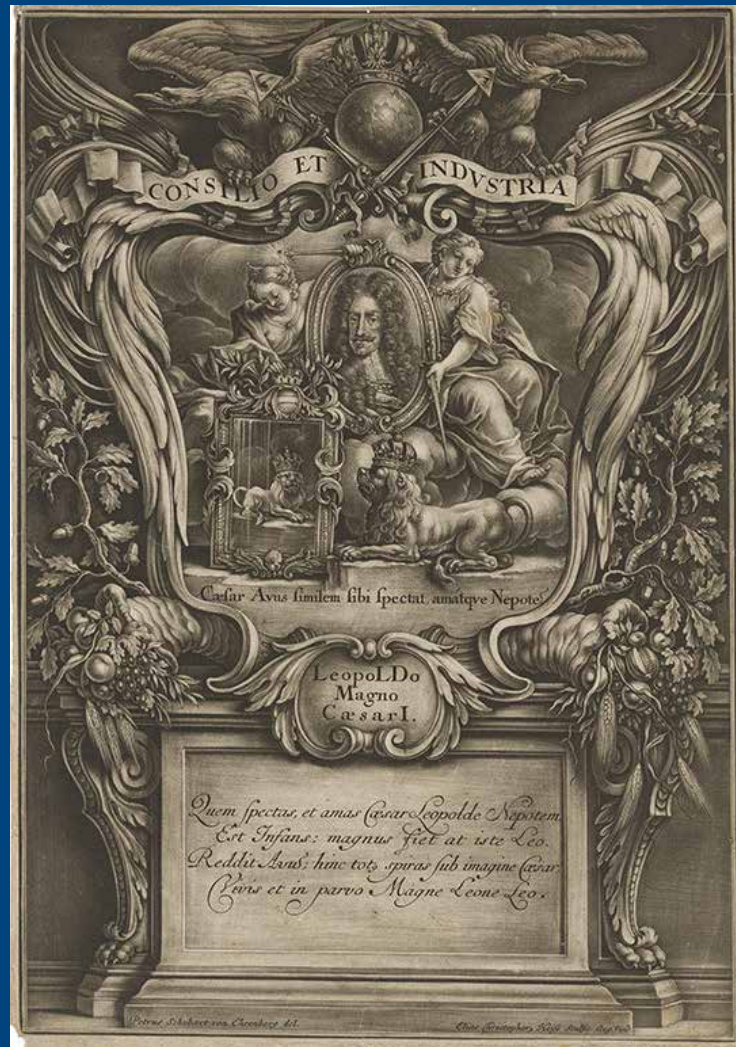
Diocese. In the background of this activity, there was also the issue of the establishment of a university, as evidenced by the Charter of Emperor Ferdinand III Habsburg of 1654 in which he mentions the intention to establish a university in Košice. Premises for its operation were another important precondition for the establishment of a university. Since the University was entrusted to the Jesuits, its premises were to be located in the Jesuit College housed in the Royal House.

of Logic, which was already taking place at the Grammar School. Ethics and Mathematics were to be taught at the University as part of a three-year course in Philosophy, as well as two professors of Scholastic Theology and one professor of Scripture, Case Studies, Controversy, and Biblical Languages. The University should have the right to graduate from all the University degrees. In his document, Kisdy also remembered the possibility that due to the war riots, the Jesuit College would have to move out of the city again and determined the conditions for dealing with the foundation entrusted. In the Charter, he expressed his will for the University to remain in the Diocese and in the city of Košice.



The Premonstratensian Holy Trinity Church and the Monastery House, the historical seat of the University of Košice, in a photograph of 1905 – 1908.

In addition to the circumstances of its establishment, the Founding Charter of the University also expresses the principles and objectives of the institution being established. These mainly concerned the needs of the Catholic Church. The University was to assist the Diocese in forming capable servants for its needs and pastors for abandoned parishes. However, it did not resign to the education of lay people who were to become “wise and educated citizens of the Kingdom” through education.



Allegorical portrait of Emperor Leopold I. Leopold I of Habsburg (1640 – 1705), The Hungarian and the Czech King and the Roman Emperor in the years 1658 – 1705. Leopold I issued several Golden Bulls which confirmed the University privileges of Jesuit Academies in the Habsburg Empire. In addition to the University of Košice, it was a confirmation of privileges for the University of Zagreb in 1669 and for the University of Wrocław in 1702.

## Confirmation of the Establishment of the University of Košice by the Golden Bull of Leopold I

An important step towards the recognition and establishment of the University as an educational institution was made by its confirmation by the Monarch or the Pope. No matter how important and significant the composition of the foundation and the establishment of the University of Košice by Bishop of Eger was, in a politically unstable period and in a city that was not favourably inclined to Catholics, the success of this project was questionable. Confirmation of this act by the Monarch was delayed by two and a half years due to the tireless diplomatic efforts of the founder who did not live to see the issue of the Golden Bull in August 1660.

The Golden Bull of Leopold I contains the following important provisions:

1. Confirmation of the establishment of the University by royal and imperial power and authority.
2. Admission of the University and the College under the special paternal protection of the Monarch and his heirs.
3. Granting rights and privileges to professors and students according to academic practice.
4. The right to award university degrees.
5. Incorporation of the University into the community of

Jesuit universities, namely the University of Vienna and the University of Graz.

6. Exemption from payment of all the taxes and fees following the model of the Academy in Cluj, except for those approved by the Assembly.
7. Exclusion of the University from the jurisdiction of municipal authorities and the right to a judge by the Monarch or appointed by him on the motion of the Rector.
8. The right to a fiscal to defend the interests of the College in litigation with nobles.
9. Confirmation of the privileges enjoyed by other universities in the Habsburg Monarchy (namely the universities of Cologne, Vienna, Mainz, Ingolstadt, Prague, Olomouc, Graz, Trnava).
10. Approval of the administrative structure of the University – the Rector, the Chancellor, the Deans of the Faculties, who together with the doctors and professors shall have the right to award university degrees and graduate doctors, licentiates, masters, and bachelors.
11. Confirmation of the right to academic disputes, speeches, examinations, meetings of the academic community and the right to wear academic clothes and the use of University Insignia (sceptre, seal).
12. Certificates of the completion of studies and the award of an academic degree should be accepted by all the colleges and academies and also recognised by ecclesiastical institutions in the case of canonry and other benefits.

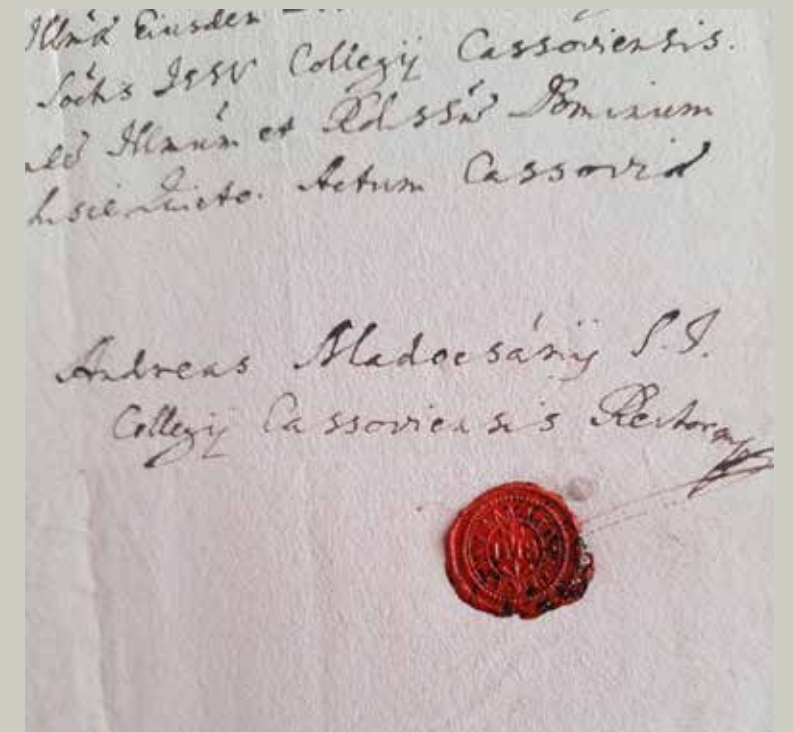


## Administration and Structure of the University

The University of Košice was established as a university of two faculties – the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Theology, while the existing Grammar School was considered a preparatory degree at the University and was also called the „Faculty of Languages“. The terms such as *academia*, *studium universale*, *studium generale* or *universitas* are used in the texts of the founding document and the confirming Bull. This terminology, together with the fact that the University consisted of only two Faculties, led to the designation of the University of Košice as academy in various historical works. It should be noted here that the Jesuits were generally not interested in the establishment and administration of law and medical

faculties which originated in ordinances, although there were exceptions within Jesuit universities in Europe. In the case of the University of Košice, there are sources confirming the composition of the foundation intended to ensure the teaching of Canonical Law, but other circumstances of the implementation of these plans have yet to be examined. From the viewpoint of terminology, modern universities are characterised by the use of a diverse range of terms, from medieval *studium generale* to the term of *academia*, which in that period, in addition to the university, also referred to educational institutions and learned societies. Based on the provisions of the Charter and knowledge of university education in modern times, we may state that the University of Košice met the attributes of a modern university – it was confirmed by the Monarch, had academic self-government, judicial autonomy, authority to award university degrees, and the use of academic symbols and insignia.

By bringing the administration of the University under the Jesuits, the University operated within the Košice Jesuit College which was based in the premises of today's Premonstratensian Monastery at the Hlavná Street. The College included other pedagogical institutions and facilities that were organically linked to the University. It was a grammar school as a prelude to university education, a priestly seminary, a boarding school for nobles, a library, a printing house, and a pharmacy. The Jesuit College was headed by its Rector, including its facilities and the economic units. The same Rector headed the University as Rector Academicus, *Rector Collegii Academici*, or *Rector Magnificus*. The Faculties (and the Grammar School) were headed by Deans (*Decanus Theologiae*, *Decanus Philosophiae*, *Decanus Linguarum*). Other academic dignitaries under the Rector included Vice-Rector and Chancellor.



The Seal of the Košice Jesuit College and the signature of the Rector Andreas Madocsány SJ on the documents of 1707. The Seal contains a typical symbol of the Jesuits – the letters IHS (*Jesus Hominum Salvator*). A cross protrudes from the transverse crossbar of the letter H and three nails connected by spikes are placed under it. The Seal symbol in the flame oval separates the mother-of-pearl from the rest of the Seal field.

## Organisation of Study

In 1658, courses in Philosophy and Theology were launched at the University. The course of Philosophy lasted for three years and was a prelude to the teaching of Theology for four years. A graduate from the Grammar School came to study at the Faculty of Arts, who after six years mastered the grammar and syntax of Latin and Greek, attained essentials of Rhetoric, Poetics, and the Humanities. The three-year course at the Faculty of Arts was divided into the first year of logicians, the second year of physicists, and the third year of metaphysicians. Philosophy, Natural Sciences, and Metaphysics were being taught in the course of Philosophy. The four-year course of Theology specialised in Scholastic Theology and within

it subjects like Dogmatics, Case Studies, Controversy, Exegesis, and the Study of Hebrew were being taught.

University teachers were full members of the Jesuit Order who met the conditions laid down for winning a professorship. Their work was characterised by mobility within several Jesuit universities. From the viewpoint of teacher mobility, the University of Košice had the closest contacts with the University of Trnava. Prominent personalities of Jesuit science working at the University of Košice included a mathematician and physicist Michal Lipšic and the historians Samuel Timon, Karol Wagner, and Štefan Kaprinai. Future bishops, a missionary engaged in the Jesuit mission in India, prominent historians and natural scientists, namely František Klobušický, František Karol Palma, Jozef Hauseger, Ján Korneli, Štefan Kaprinai, Štefan Katona, Andrej Jaslinský, and František Weiss, came from the ranks of the University of Košice graduates.

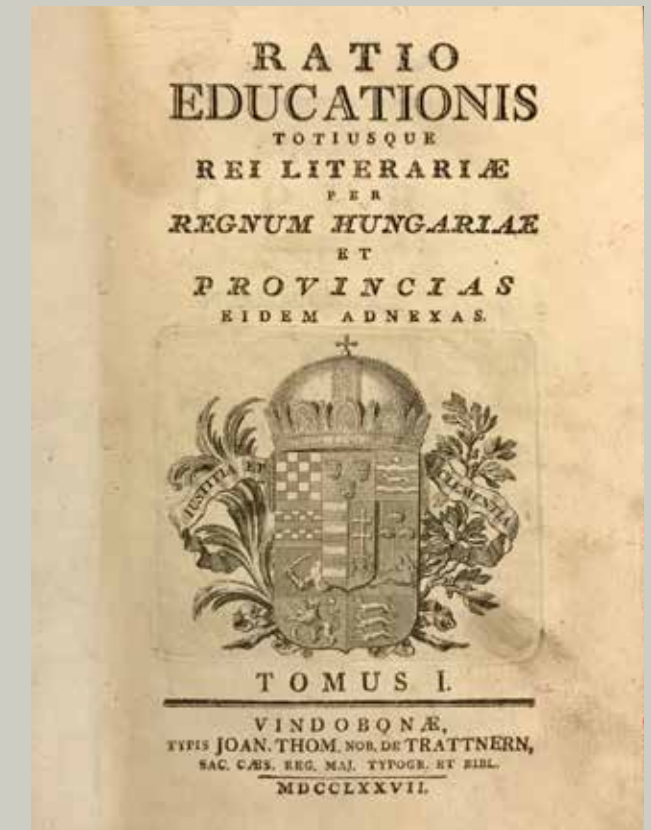
Abolition of the Jesuit Order, Breve *Dominus ac Redemptor*, by Pope Clement XIV on 21 July 1773, ended the era of Jesuit universities. Their subsequent destiny was in transformation or termination. The Košice Jesuits took power over the University on 29 October 1773. The administration over the University was taken over by the Diocese of Eger, and the University operated as *Alma ac Episcopalis Universitas Cassoviensis* until 1777.

## School Reform of Maria Theresa and the Establishment of the Royal Academy in Košice

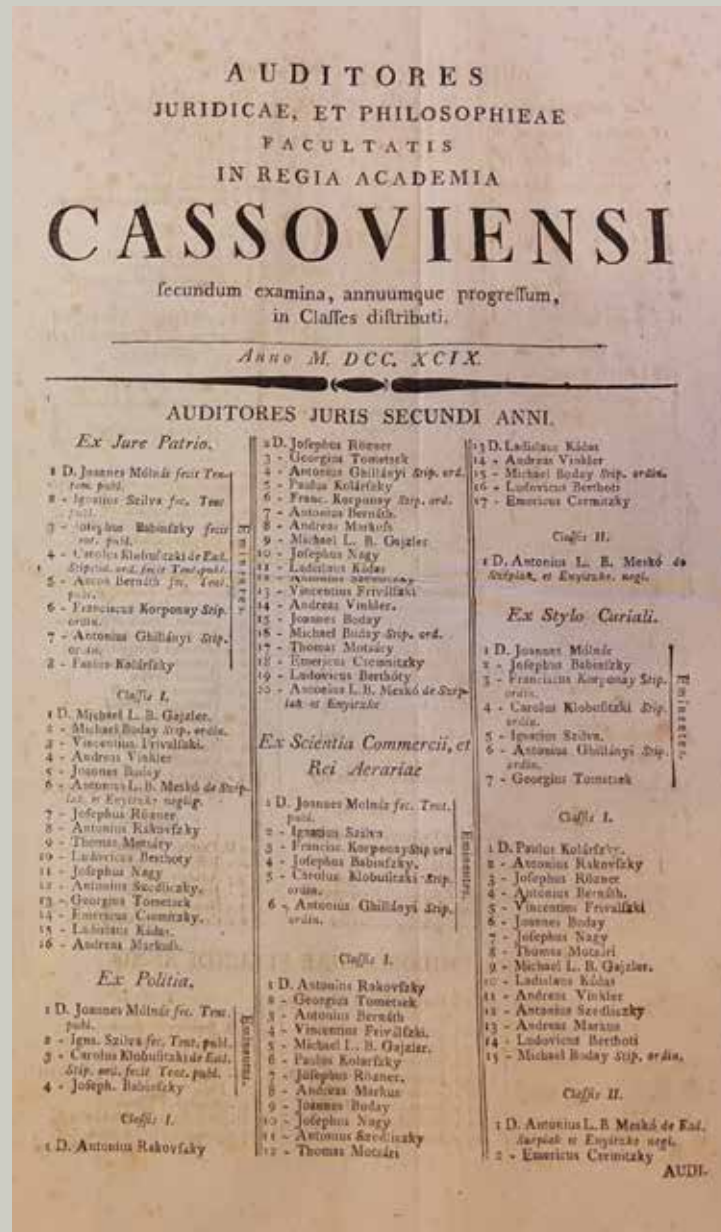
*Section 25 On the Need and Seat of Royal Academies*

“We said in the Introduction that, for the benefit of the State, it is extremely important for such academies to be located in the various Provinces of the Kingdom: first, so that young men who wish to study science at university are preparing here and attaining first basics of their education. Furthermore, so that even those who, for various reasons, are denied access to the University, may acquire the knowledge that will be of benefit to them in the future.”

*Ratio Educationis, 1777*



The *ratio educationis totiusque rei literariae per regnum Hungariae et provincias eidem adnexas* was approved by Queen Maria Theresa on 2 August 1777 as a special State norm for Hungary. The document is an expression of the reform of school education in Hungary. Its provisions concern the school administration, the school system, the organisation and content of teaching. According to this document, the university is “a kind of marketplace for all the noble arts and sciences, where the lectures of the most famous men may be heard.”



Front page of the list of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Arts students of the Royal Academy in Košice in the academic year 1799.

In the second half of the 18th century, the policy of the Vienna Royal Court was characterised by efforts to reform the school system and education. Their aim was to modernise education, introduce a unified school system, nationalise schools and reduce the influence of Churches on education. The most important school reform of the Empress Maria Theresa, Ratio Educationis of 1777, affected all the universities in Hungary and modified the structure and content of higher education. In Hungary, the transfer of Trnava University to Buda created a single State university and all other previous academic institutions (universities in Trnava, Košice, Győr, and Zagreb) were transformed into royal academies, which were to provide higher education to grammar school graduates and prepare them for university studies, or to work in the civil service. The academies were organisationally subordinated to principals of the school districts which supervised their activities, and the academy was headed by Principal called Pro-Director who could only be appointed with the consent of the Monarch. In addition to him the Academy was administered by Senior Professor of Theology, Senior Professor of Law, Senior Professor of Philosophy, Spiritual Exhorter, Senior Professor of Humanities who held the post of Deputy Headmaster of the Grammar School and

Secretary who was also Professor of History at the Faculty of Arts.

The Royal Academy of Košice had the two-year Faculty of Philosophy and the two-year Faculty of Law which followed on the six-year Grammar School. The Academy functioned in such an organisational form until the 1849 – 1850 school year when it was transformed into the Imperial – Royal Academy of Law under the influence of political circumstances and the school reform of 1850. The Academy of Law was established from the Faculty of Law of the original Royal Academy and the two-year Faculty of Arts was abolished and attached to the Grammar School as the 7th and 8th grade of study. Law academies represented a lower level of education and did not have the right to graduation and habilitation in the school system of the second half of the 19th century. In 1874, there were twelve law academies in Hungary, and a discussion on their justification and significance took place on a society-wide scale. The city of Košice responded to the Hungarian Government's efforts to abolish some academies in 1882 by a memorandum calling for the establishment of the

University of Košice consisting of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Arts, while also offering the government land and funds to cover its costs. The city's efforts to establish a university in Košice continued in the following years and were reflected in the construction of a new building for the Academy of Law at Kováčska Street in 1891 – 1894. Several decades of the efforts of the city ultimately failed in 1912 by the establishment of two new universities in Debrecen and Bratislava. The establishment of the Faculty of Law in Bratislava caused the departure of most of the notable professors from Košice, with the events of the World War I having negatively affected the development of the Academy of Law in Košice. Disintegration of Austria-Hungary and the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic brought completely new conditions for the development of education and a new organisational structure of higher education. There was no place in this system for academic institutions from Hungarian times. By the Government Decree No. 276/1921 Coll. the Faculty of Law of Comenius University was established and at the same time the Law Academy in Košice was abolished. This Decree discontinued the 264 years of continuity of university and higher education in Košice.



The interior of the Academy of Law Library in the years 1903 – 1911. This original and oldest library belonged to the Jesuit College and also served the needs of the University. Its focus was on philosophical and theological writings. The University Library and its extension are also explicitly mentioned in the founding document by Benedict Kisdy. A printing house was set up at the Jesuit College to print books, academic literature, and dissertations by University graduates. After the abolition of the Jesuit Order, an inventory of books from the University Library was made by Order of the Royal Governor's Council which consisted of 4,700 – 4,800 book units. After 1777, the University Library collection became the property of the Royal Academy. In the mid-19th century, the Library had over 8,000 volumes, over 30,000 volumes in fourteen departments in 1915, and it has been open to the public for on-site study since the beginning of the 20th century.



The building that the city had constructed in the years 1891 – 1894 for the needs of the Academy of Law. A photograph of the years 1938 – 1945. It currently houses the UPJŠ Faculty of Law.

## University Tradition in Košice

Although the institutional forms, the content of education and the relationship of the State to academic institutions have changed over the centuries, in the case of Košice University and the Royal or Law Academy, there are several facts pointing to the transmission of the University tradition in the milieu of these institutions. In the first place, it is about the continuity of the place that remained in Košice. The Protestant city's relationship with the Jesuit University was not positive at first. The incident of the martyrdom of Jesuit priests in 1619 by soldiers of the army of anti-Habsburg rebels took place in the city,

which later gave rise to the cult of Košice Martyrs. It is not incidental that the generous gift from Zsófia Báthory for the construction of a Jesuit church (1671 – 1681) was made exactly at the place where the Jesuits were killed. This church served the Jesuit University as University Church in which academic ceremonies and celebrations were taking place. Historian Paul Shore considers the materialisation of the cult of Jesuit Martyrs and the building of the University of Košice as institution to be the most significant achievements of the Jesuit mission in Košice.

During the 120 years of the Jesuit University, the city's relationship with this institution was gradually changing. It was related to a change in confessional conditions in the city and the acquisition of a Catholic majority in the municipality. The process of transformation of the University into an academy was received peacefully and without resistance by the city, in which the municipality played a supervisory role over the property affairs of the University. The turn to a positive perception of the University and the benefits that University culture brought to the city may be seen especially at the end of the 19th century. As we have already mentioned, political and social circumstances were not in favour of the renewal of the University, and after the abolition of the Academy of

Law, there was a period of almost two decades in Košice without an institution providing higher education.

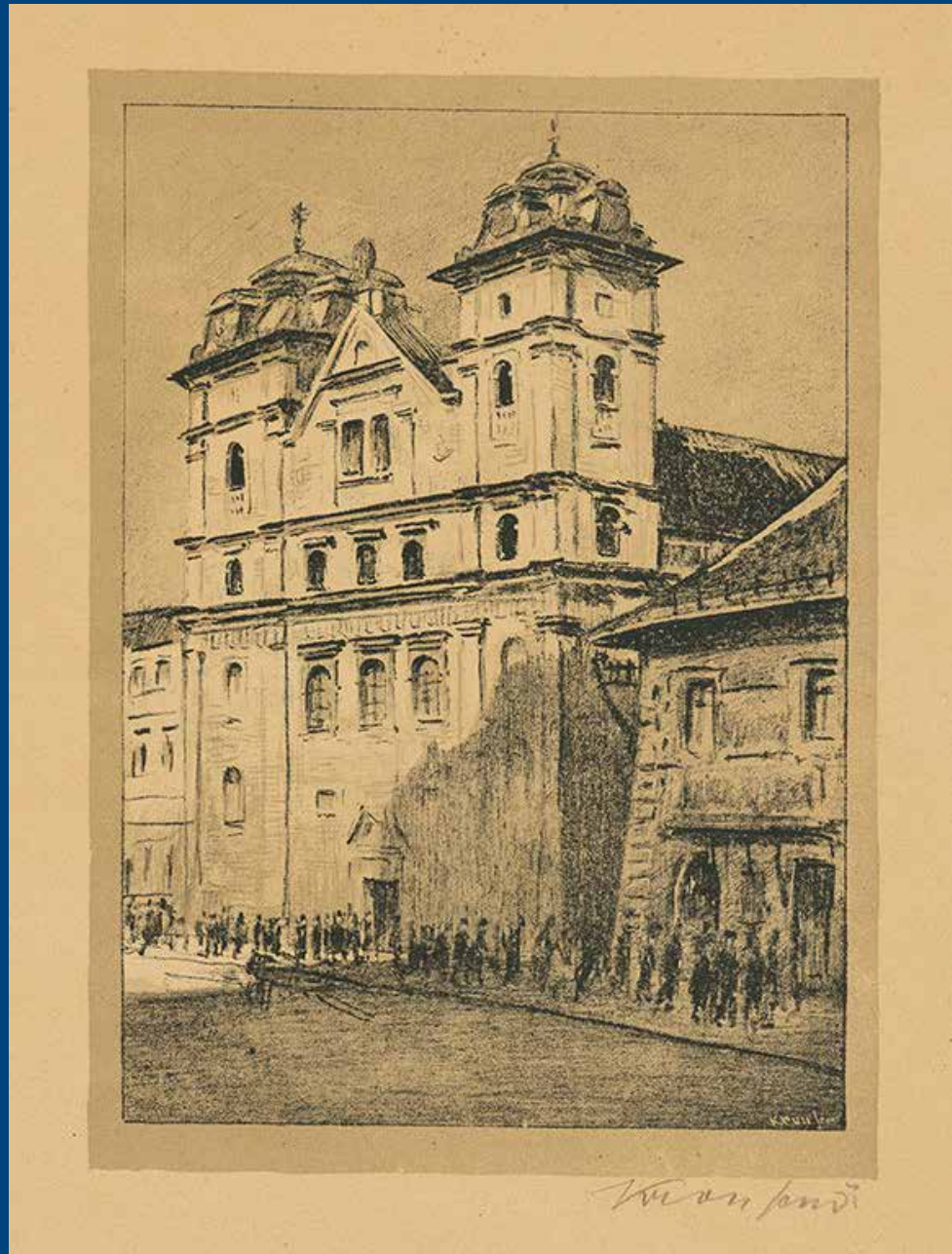
In addition to the continuity of the place, we may identify several indicators of the transfer of the university tradition in the milieu of successor institutions. These include staffing professorships at the Royal Academy, the University Library, University buildings, insignia, and academic celebrations and ceremonies.

The issue of continuity of teachers and students after the transformation of the University of Košice into the Royal Academy encountered the limits given by the migration of both social groups. However, a look into the University Registry shows that after the abolition of the Jesuit Order, some professors remained in their posts, some were replaced by Diocesan clerics or members of the Premonstratensian Order. Even after the transformation of the University into an academy, professors from the Jesuit times remained in it, although some applied for posts at the newly established University of Buda.

Other bearers of the university tradition include the buildings originally belonging to the Jesuit College where teaching, academic celebrations, and the everyday life

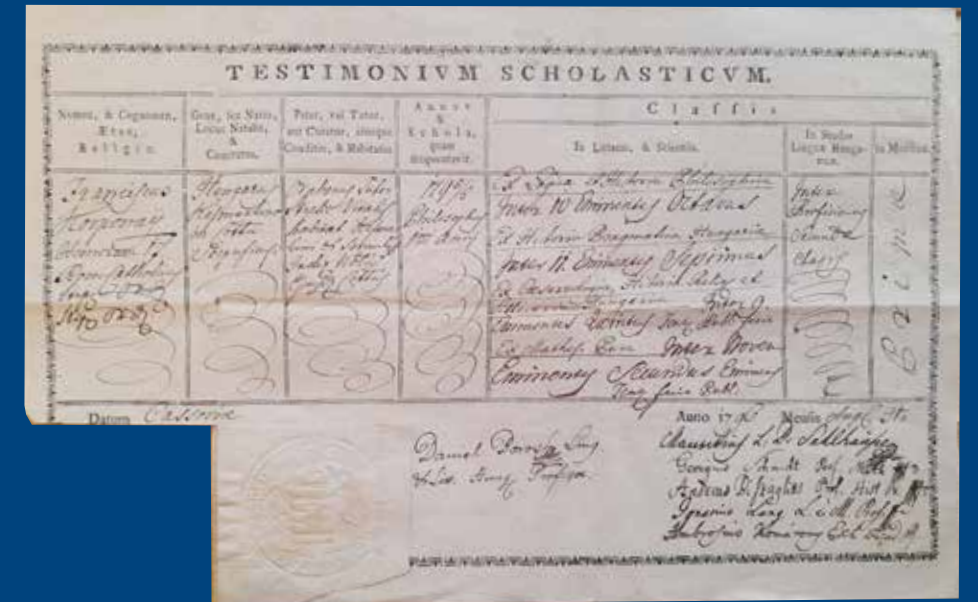


Coat of Arms of Zsófia Báthory, the wife of George II Rákóczi, on the facade of the Holy Trinity Church which was originally a Jesuit and University Church. Thanks to a financial gift from Zsófia Báthory, it was built between 1671 and 1681 (with final modifications in 1684) by the architect Alessandro Canevale. Since 1811, it has belonged to the Premonstratensian Order with breaks.



Church with Eugen Krón's graphics of 1921.

School Report of the student František Korponay, a graduate from the first year of the Faculty of Arts of the Royal Academy in the academic year 1795 – 1796.



of students and teachers were taking place. Over the centuries, the owners and in some cases the purpose of these buildings have changed, their university history is reminded to this day by commemorative inscriptions, works of art, and interior decoration.

The University of Košice Insignia are still considered lost. Probably the last mention of their use was at the participation of academic officials of the Royal Academy in the celebration of the inauguration of Bishop of Košice in 1804.



Detail of the Seal of the Royal Academy on a school report of 1796. In the Seal field, there is a Coat of Arms consisting of a seven-part red-silver shield, in the middle there is a golden shield with the initials MT. The angel placed on the left-hand side holds the St. Stephen's Crown above the shield, and on the right-hand side of the shield, blankets grow from under the Crown. The circle contains the inscription:  
\* SIGILLUM ACADEMIAE REGIAE CASSOVIENSIS .



Typarium of the Royal (Law) Academy in Košice with the inscription:  
+ SIGILLUM ACADEMIAE REGIAE CASSOVIENSIS.

The typarium probably dates back to the 19th century; it has been donated to today's East Slovak Museum by Baron Albert Nyáry from Budapest in 1912. Imperfection of the design of individual figures and the overall graphic design raises doubts as to whether the typarium served its purpose. According to the Museum registration card, this is a forgery.

The Seal is another symbol of the University. In the case of the University of Košice, previous research has shown the use of the Seal of the Košice Jesuit College also in the documents concerning the University. We may talk about the continuity of the used seal symbol in the premises of the Royal and Law Academy which used a seal based on the content of the Hungarian State Coat of Arms.

The establishment and confirmation of the University of Košice and its 120 years of operation represents a significant stage in the history of university education. The University of Košice was one of the two universities operating in Slovakia in modern times. Its structure, administration, organisation, and content of teaching corresponded to the Jesuit universities operating in the

Habsburg Monarchy. The abolition of the Jesuit Order and especially the school reform of Maria Theresa significantly changed the character of higher education in Hungary.

The Royal Academy and the Academy of Law, as the successor institutions, continued the university tradition of the University of Košice and maintained continuity of higher education in Košice until the 20th century. The modern history of university education in Košice shows that the idea of the university and the university tradition have survived not just in the form of archival sources and historical artefacts, but also through university institutions that follow the legacy of the University of Košice and its successors.

#### LIST OF ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS, WORKS OF ART, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- Cover Premonstratensian Church and the Levoča House in the years 1900 – 1916, East Slovak Museum in Košice, Historical and Art Photographs Collection, V. 267-8  
Document and Seal of the Royal Academy of 1791, the State Archives in Košice, Collection of the Royal Law Academy 1783 – 1913  
Hufnagel's veduta of the city of Košice of 1617 or 1596 – 1600, East Slovak Museum in Košice, Graphics Collection
- Page 7 Ratio atque institutio studiorum Societatis Iesu, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)  
Historical map of the Austrian Province of SJ of the years 1762 – 1773, [www.webumenia.sk](http://www.webumenia.sk)
- Page 9 Portrait of Péter Pázmány of 1700 – 1720, [www.webumenia.sk](http://www.webumenia.sk)
- Page 10 Portrait of Benedict Kisdy, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)
- Page 13 The Premonstratensian Church and the Monastery House in the years 1905 – 1908, the East Slovak Museum in Košice, Historical and Art Photographs Collection, VII. 2348
- Page 14 Allegorical portrait of Emperor Leopold I, [www.webumenia.sk](http://www.webumenia.sk)
- Page 17 Seal of the Košice Jesuit College on a document issued by the Rector of the College in 1707, Archivum Archidioecesis Cassoviensis, Košice Diocese Collection, Religious Department, Jesuits of Košice
- Page 19 Ratio Educationis, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)
- Page 20 List of students of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law of the Royal Academy in Košice in the academic year 1799, the State Archives in Košice, Collection of the Royal Academy of Law 1783 – 1913
- Page 22 Interior of the library of the Academy of Law in the years 1903 – 1911, the East Slovak Museum in Košice, Collection of Historical and Art Photographs, V. 2115
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- Page 25 Coat of Arms of Zsófia Báthory on the facade of the Holy Trinity Church
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- Page 27 School Report of the student František Korponay, a graduate from the first grade of the Faculty of Arts of the Royal Academy in the academic year 1795 – 1796, the State Archives in Košice, the Royal Academy of Law Collection 1783 – 1913  
Detail of the Seal of the Royal Academy on a school report of 1796, the State Archives in Košice, the Royal Academy of Law Collection 1783 – 1913
- Page 28 Typarium of the Royal (Law) Academy, probably of the 19th century, East Slovak Museum in Košice, Guilds and Crafts Collection, F 9569

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**Universitas Cassoviensis  
and the Tradition of  
University Education  
in Košice before the  
Establishment of UPJŠ**

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