

**Abstract**

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## **Szobori Búcsú: A Multiple Times Invented Tradition**

The purpose of this paper is to analyse a Hungarian annual festival, Szobori búcsú, from the point of view of invented traditions, lieux de memoire, and imagined community. We use the theories originally presented by Hobsbawm and Ranger, Pierre Nora and Benedict Anderson respectively as points of reference. Szobori búcsú is an annual gathering held at the Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park. The first annual meeting was held in 1897, one year after the inauguration of the Árpád Memorial on the site. The memorial was erected next to the Szer monastery ruins. It was one of the many national monuments built to celebrate the Hungarian Millennial in 1896. A society in the nearby city of Szeged started the tradition of annual meetings, and it has continued in one form or another over the 20th century. In 2007, the Szobori búcsú was again re-invented by the National Heritage Park.

We will study the varying intentions, contents, popularity and ideas connected to the festivities, starting from the first years in the turn of the century, and ending in the re-invention of the búcsú in the 2000's. The sources for this paper consist of our own interviews with the staff of the Heritage Park made in 2017, our own field

observations, as well as original newspaper reports archival sources.