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Honors thesis

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Abstract

**From the picturesque garden to the Victorian garden in
Hungary: the work of Henry Ernest Milner in Keszthely
(1885)**

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by

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This thesis has been divided in two main sections, both related to a historical period from the last decades of the eighteenth century, until the end of the nineteenth century.

The first part of the section presents a historic study of the English garden style in England, which investigates in detail the Victorian period. While the second part of the section, investigates how the English garden style has influenced the principles of landscape design in Hungary and the most important examples that testify this fact.

The fundamental question that inspired to conduct this research, was to verify if the landscape architect, Henry Ernest Milner, who worked in the small city of Keszthely in 1885, was the single one Englishman to carry out his professional activities in Hungary or if there were others characters that shaped this landscape in a certain way.

In order to give an answer to this question were conducted personally several researches on multiple fronts in Hungary.

In Budapest, through the National Library were recovered the information about the influence of the English garden style in Hungary during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; later were conducted analysis in the National Archives of Hungary, where were found some plans on estate Keszthely, where Milner has carried out his activities.

In Keszthely was done a survey at the castle of the Festetics family, obtaining information both on their history and on their ownership of the land.

To obtain more information, were made interview to: Gábor Alföldy, an expert of the Victorian garden style in Hungary; with András Szende, who followed the restoration of the Festetics estate; and finally with Kristóf Fatsar, who has a deep knowledge of the Hungarian garden in the eighteenth century; each of them was essential and helpful in giving needed information.

The English garden style, analyzed in the centuries, has set as the main reference for the design European landscape style, the force with which it spread came up in Hungary, where there are numerous testimonies of English gardens style.

The main public parks in the Hungarian capital, as the Városliget and Margaret Island, were made according to English garden style, but also the private gardens of the estates of Hungarian nobility, like Kismarton, also refers to the same style.

The presence of British professionals in Hungary is not limited to only Milner, but there were important people, such as: the engineer William Thierney Clark who built in 1833 the Budapest's Chain Bridge; doctor Richard Bright and John Peget, who traveled to Hungary in the first half of the nineteenth century, testifying the design of the English garden style in that territory; the Scottish engineer David Low, who built a greenhouse for the Count Sándor Erdődy; and the Scottish architect William Burn who designed a small cottage for the family Festetics.

While still uncertain the task done by the landscape designer Gertrude Jekyll, at the Oroszvar gardens (the current Rusovce now in Slovakia) for the villa of Lónyai Prince and Princess Stephanie of Belgium.

So the conclusion is that, Henry Ernest Milner was the only English landscape designer that certainly worked in Hungary during the Victorian period and his work carried out in Keszthely stands as a prime example of Victorian garden style in this country.

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