

2011-07-02

Dear Colleagues,

This is my last minute circular in which I try to answer recurring questions as well as giving you some pieces of practical advise about preparing yourself for and finding your way in Szeged.

First of all, **about the sessions**. Each conference room will have projector and laptop installed, so you can only bring your sticks. I am not sure, however about the available MS Office programs on the machines, .docx and .pptx file may not work, so it would be on the safe side if you brought your files in the more traditional Word and PowerPoint formats (doc, ppt). If you use less common programs (like myself: WordPerfect), or Apple Mac machines, please, bring your laptop with you and we can hook them on the projectors.

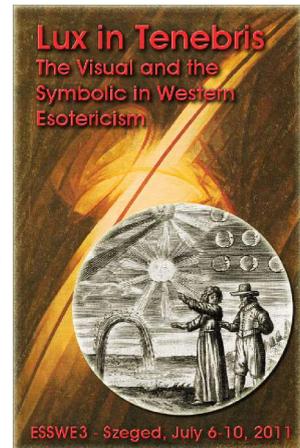
Each paper has a 30 minutes slot which includes the discussion. In order that people could shift between sessions, we ask that in all sessions discussions should follow individual papers rather than in one block at the end of the session. And the 30 minutes should be very strictly kept! Moderators are asked not to make compromises in this respect. Within the 30 minutes it is up to the presenters if they use up all the time or they allow some minutes for discussion. Needless to say, an important point of conferences is to have a lively discussion after the presentations...

Weather. Presently the weather in Szeged is rather cool (20-22 C), but it should change next week and from Wednesday it will be warmer every day. By the time of the excursion it may be above 30 centigrade. So my advise is that you bring clothing on the light side. Normally, in July, Szeged is a very hot and sunny place so it is worth thinking of visiting one of our swimming pools or wellness complexes. Largest is the spectacular *Aquapolis* (you can google for it – <http://www.napfenfurdoaquapolis.com/en/home/>) which may be especially attractive for those who come with family. It is on the other side of the river (10 minutes walk across the bridge).

Finding your place in Szeged. This is the hard part. Unfortunately our town is in the middle of a major EU project which includes the complete overhaul of our public transport system, especially the tram lines. Parallel with that the square in front of the railway station is rebuilt, featuring presently a post-apocalyptic scenery. When you get off the train, either you can go to the exit staircase (the platforms are on an elevation) and descend the escalator. At its bottom there is a kiosk selling public transport tickets. One ticket is good for trams, buses and trolley buses. At the kiosk it costs Forint 280 (1.1 Euro), if you buy it on the vehicle from the driver, it costs 350 – exact change needed! There are also 3 day tickets for 2150. However in downtown everything is in walking distance.

Instead of the escalator you can also descend via the main lobby by an elevator. Then you exit in the middle of the building, bypass the construction area and on your right you see a bus stop. There you can catch the green color tram substitute bus numbered 1-3-4. If you take it, the 6th stop (Dugonics tér) is next to Hotel Korona and the 9th stop is in front of the Novotel. The 7th stop (Centurm Áruház) is not far from the main square (Széchenyi tér), however you have to cross it to reach Hotel Tisza which is on the other side. A good map and English explanation about the modified public transport can be found here:

<<http://www.szkt.hu/page.fcgi?nyelv=en>>.



Because of the reconstruction, the regular taxi stand has been dismantled at the station. Taxis can be waiting a few steps away in the street facing the station. If you want to call a taxi, my recommendation is Radio Taxi, their number is +3662-480480 and there is a chance there for an English speaking receptionist.

Registration. Quite a few of you have not registered electronically. It will be possible to register on the spot, however in each category the late registration fee is 10 euros more. The full program with detailed information about venues and transfers is available now on the website under "detailed program". *** We have hired two coaches to transport us to and from the conference dinner. If you still want to book for that, please, make sure to do this at the registration desk on Wednesday, or Thursday morning the latest, because by the afternoon we have to specify the exact number of participants. *** We have booked one coach to take us to Budapest Sunday morning. By now this has been fully booked. Without the coach transfer, a few more people can still be accommodated in the Budapest tour, let us know about your intention ASAP. The light lunch in Budapest will consist of a Hungarian goulash and pancakes plus a glass of beer or soft drink. Unfortunately there is no vegetarian option there. At the main reception on Thursday and at the conference dinner there will be vegetarian items on the menu. *** The sightseeing on Wednesday starts at 4 pm from the Rector's Palace (Dugonics tér). From 15:30 inside the palace there will be the registration open.

I can't think of anything else now, I wish you a safe journey to Hungary and a very exciting conference in our beautiful city.

See you next week,



György Szönyi