

**Excerpt from the
Charter of Maria Theresa on the
Founding of the Secondary Grammar School of Szombathely
Vienna, 1 July 1772**

(Translated into English based on the 1932 Hungarian translation of Kálmán Klemm)

We, Maria Theresa, by the Grace of God, Dowager Empress of the Romans, Queen of Hungary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia, Archduchess of Austria, [...] Grand Princess of Transylvania [...] by virtue of our present document publicly declare to whom it may concern

that our dear devotee, respected [...] Count Ferenc Zichy [...] Bishop of Győr in his effort to facilitate the greater utilization of the foundation of 1687, which István Birhányi, the deceased priest of Kövesd (in Sopron County) bequeathed to four secondary school pupils of Szombathely and is worth 3,500 forints,

arrived at the decision (sc. Count Zichy) that the given sum shall be granted to set up a public secondary school in the city of Szombathely annexed into Vas comitatus, as being the most appropriate location not solely for the pupils of Szombathely but also to the benefit of the sons of others.

Also, he arrived at the decision that he shall extend the four-year secondary school with poesis and rhetoric classes at his own expense (sc. he shall pay the teachers in these two classes) and trust the Franciscan Order of Szombathely with the teaching.

In order to achieve his intention he humbly begs her Majesty that we embrace his benign intent, and shall accept the erection of the secondary school institute as well as the curriculum submitted and, shall assent, approve consent and add in our patent all which is therein his well-formulated plea and by our apostolic royal authority shall deign to affirm, seal and attest it.

The curriculum of the school under the supervision of the Saint Francis order friars in the city of Szombathely shall be as follows: Generally the same books and authors are to be used in the school in Szombathely as are used in the Jesuit and Piarist schools.

[...]

Hence, by reason of our constant love of God and the maternal solicitude we all the time nourish for the education and the proper upbringing of the youth as substantial benefits to the homeland shall be accrued from this,

also, upon the humble petition the Count and Bishop referred to hereinabove many a time did submit to her Majesty, and which was listened to, in our royal mercy, and was given our consent to, in showing clemency,

we did give our consent to and approved and affirmed the establishment of the institution referred to hereinabove as well as the curriculum outlined hereinabove,

and, besides, we declared our royal determination with the addition that Szombathely Chapter shall exercise the supervision of this institution and the Bishop shall appoint a Canon as Schoolmaster so that he may keep the school under a more effective supervision.

and it is also our wish that the schoolteachers, in every class, shall educate the youth in the German language additionally, and consequently, they shall assign written tasks in the German language,

and ultimately, they shall appropriately teach the youth the duty of loyalty towards and respect for the monarch as well as allegiance to this nation.

Not merely shall we give our consent to and approve and affirm all this but we even declare our royal consent and approval upon the power and the testimony of this deed by our royal pendent seal as individually attached to it.

Dated upon the submission made by our beloved subject, [...] Count Ferenc Esterházy, [...] our Chancellor [...], in the Austrian Vienna, the city of the Archduchess, on the first day of the month of July in 1772, in the thirty-second year of our reign.

Translated by: Némethné-Pálfay Bernadett and Horváth Andrea

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