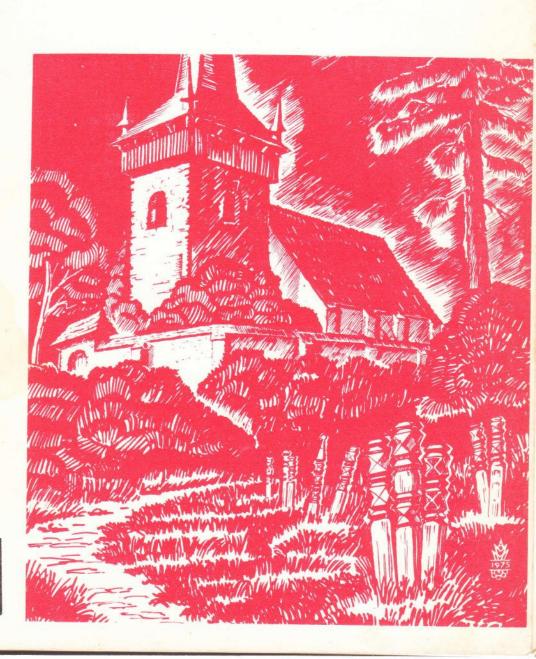
## Documenta Transsylvanica





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A REVIEW OF TRANSSYLVANIA'S PAST AND PRESENT

EDITOR and PUBLISHER: Eugenio M. Fehér Ph. D

ASSOCIATE EDITOR :

in USA LESLIE KÖNNYÜ

EDITORIAL STAFF : ÉLTETŐ L. Ph. D Oregon,

D. HAMARI Ph. D Buenos Aires A. LADÁNYI Ph. D Ada (USA) GY. VARSÁNYI Ph. D. Adelaide P. VLADÁR Caracas (Venezuela)

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ILONA RÁCZ: BÉLA BARTÓK's pentatonic collection of the province of Csik

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

The province of CSIK located at the eastern border of Transylvania was formed in the IXth century as a result of the combination of the ancient Pecheneg with the "Székely" defenders of castles. Its history is a continuous struggle due to the constant immigration coming from the East, especially against the Rumanian nomadic tribes, those Vlach people who burned charcoal from wood. After the estableshment of the Hungarian Kingdom, in 1001, this fertile region belonged to the Székely "Csik family". This same Csik family introduced the so-called "cikanoi" polo games and they were so famous that a general from this Csik family accompanied even the daughter of the emperor TEHOPHANOS to Bavaria where she married the emperor Otto III. The diplomatic relations of the Bavarian and Hungarian courts developed in such a way that prince Imre, son of the first Hungarian king (Szent István), married the Csik family's youngest daughter. It was then that the Csik family received as a present that province which is nowadays known as "Csik province".

This province was very famous in Transylvania for their riders and warriors. As they were nobles, they did not have to pay taxes, only when the king had a son they had to offer him every fourth ox. Liberty was gained only with sanguinary battles, especially because András II, a Hungarian king, located the Teutonic Knights next to them and their fortresses encircled the mountains to such an extent that the people did not have free access to markets. The cholera epidemic was derived from the dial narbours at the Black Sea together with the extremely dirty way of living of the Vlach, and it spread across to the province of Csik at the end of the XIVth century. The population died and only those who managed to escape to the mountains remained alive.

Afterwards, the Tartars annihilated the people of Csik and later on Rumanian priests urged the Vlach against the Hungarians. The antipathy was so great that in 1848 during the KOSSUTH war of independence, the Vlach committed the biggets barbarity when they massacred the Hungarian population. During the 2nd World War, when the Russian troops occupied Rumania, the Vlach beheaded the unfortunate and

defenceless populations.

This is a shortened history of the province of Csik. Full of wars for independence

mixed with suffering and deaths.

This is why the people living at the Transylvania frontier indulged themselves intellectually in ballads and folklore. Marvellous folklore songs and sad ballads were produced even in 1907 on this land, which the actual Rumania-nationalist-communist impatience has nearly condemned to death.

The article below shows this type of ballad: BÉLA BARTÓK's collection of melodies, which are like a relic and saint souvenir of that time, when the people could still sing in freedom. Today, these are only sad memories which ask and demand the sacred human rights law for the ones who are still alive! The music of BARTOK is a thunderous cry and a demand for help: S.O.S.)

Nobody has ever treated Béla Bartók's pentatonic collection of the province of Csik; this collection had a decisive influence on the folk music workers' lives. For his 90th birthday, I would like to pay a tribute of humble respect as an ancient pupil and

collaborator to the genius of the Hungarian music, in order to fill this gap.

In 1904 Bartók heard from a "Székely" maid called Dósa Lidi, a Székely song. This aroused a special feeling in his soul. He decided to go to Székely land (in Eastern Transylvania) to collect songs. He chose the province of Csik as the collecting center. He asked for a scholarship and got 1.600 crowns for "the investigation of the Székely folk music", and in the summer of 1907 he left for the privince of Csik. Kodály writes: "He came back with such a pile of pentatonic melodies, that together with muy findings from the North, the scale's prime importance was made clear at once." Bartók writes from Gyergyó to his pupul: "I made quite a peculiar discovery while collecting folk music: I found the Székely types of tunes which I Thought did not exist. ( He refers to the pentatonic music, yet he does not know what he has found out. Kodály discovered that pentatonality came from Asia together with the Hungarians. He even finds its relationship in the Cheremissian folk music.

Bartók says in his XVIIIth leaflet called "A magyar nepdal". (Hungarian folk music): "The importance of the pentatonic system in the Hungarian peasant music has been first discovered by Zoltán Kodály." However, Kodály wrote the following on his 1st leaflet called "Ot fokú hangsor magyar népzenében" (Pentatonic scale in the Hungarian folk music): "The pentatonic scale was the origin of many ancient folk music, may be even the origin of all folk music: we also have it in our country, and since 1907 we know that it exists, because it was then that Béla Bartók for the first time discovered in greater quantities this type of music in Székely land.

Bartók has only one letter and 2 leaflets which refer to the Csik collection. He writes the following to one of his students from Csikkarcfalva: "I must endure so much trouble and suffering which I did not consider before. The result is satisfactory, although it coud be better.'. (The collection which he finished on the following month at Gyergyó was much more satisfactory). The letter sent to the violinist Geyer Stefi at Gyergyókilyenfalva is also famous, in this letter he records the dialogue with a peasant woman, and together with this dialogue he ilustrates how difficult and hard the collection of folk songs are.

Al the beginning, Bartók separated the pentatonic songs from the rest. In 1938 he rearranged all his folk-song material, and placed the pentatonic group in the A-category, i.e. together with the old songs, but before, he numbered them and wrote a P (pentatonic) letter in red. As the years went by his material increased, so he numbered them again. (An L on the upper middle part o f each page). We published the songs according to these numbers. In the A-category, Bartók discloses in the first place the 6, 8 and 12 syllabic number songs, like being the most illustrative of the anciente style. We shall also keep this same order. Bartól collected the same song from differente villages, and from differente people of the same village, this is why we find one song with several variations. The tune variations were illustrated with the letters ABC. When a melody had several variations he started the ABC all over again, but with double letters: aa, bb, etc. From these letters we can see which variant was more important for Bartók and which had a secondary importance.

There are very few pentatonic melodie in his collection. It expands most frequently at the 6th degree, but sometines at the 6th and 2nd degrees, too. The 9th degree points to the double five-note scheme. For example, numbers 2 and 25 are like the preceding one, too.

Among the so-colled Bartók's pentatonic, there are some which today we cannot consider as "pentatonic" at all. We have separated and Kodály considered these as darkened pentatonic tunes because some of their features were in accord with the ancient style, and in this way they certainly proved the past of the ancient Hungarian songs. Today we group them among the lament songs (see numbers 41-43), i.e. among our ancient bagpipe tunes. Both of them belong to the ancient Hungarian style, but they are not pentatonic. The song No 46 called "Kiszáradt a tóból mind a sár, mind a viz" belongs to the same family, whose cadence formula was originally 5 4 2, so it is not in the C-category, although at the beginning he grouped it under the P-letter. The song No 50 is also in the C-category, because it is and isometrical song and its form differs from that of the old style. The song No 51 was omitted from Bartók's P-letter collection, although Bartók has published it as a pentatonic song in the II "Gyermekeknek" (For Children) booklet, under No 31.

Bartók has collected in Csik several two-section forms, i.e. half a tune. In these we can very well see that they are unconnected, so he has put them aside, he did not include them in his collection. We did not include them here, either.

We disclose below the names of the villages of the province of Csik where Bartók made his collection, indicating how many songs he wrote down in each village.

		Pentaton	Others
Csíkkarcfalva	(VII month)	6 songs	16 songs
Csíkjenöfalva	(VII month)	3 songs	27 songs
Csíkrákos	(VII month)	3 songs	40 songs
Csíkszentmihály	(VII month)	0 songs	22 songs <sup>1</sup>
Csíkszenttamás	(VII month)	6 songs	23 songs
Csíkvacsárcsi	(VII month)	9 songs	64 songs
Gyergyócsomafalva	(VII month)	2 songs	90 songs <sup>2</sup>

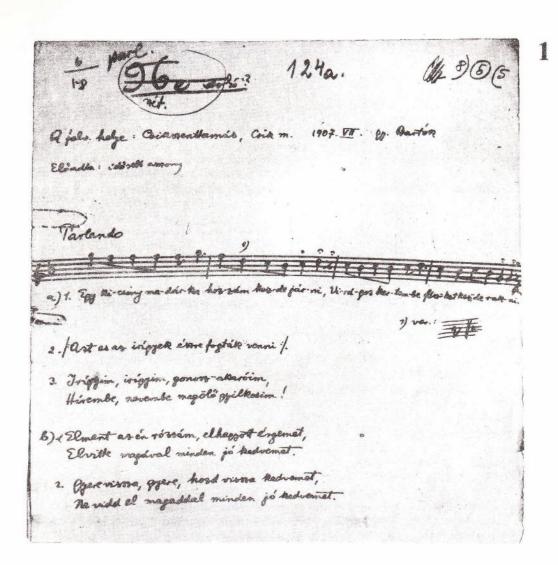
Gyergyókilyénfalva Gyergyótekeröpatak Gyergyóújfalu 

 (VII month)
 3 songs
 9 songs

 (VII month)
 5 songs
 54 songs²

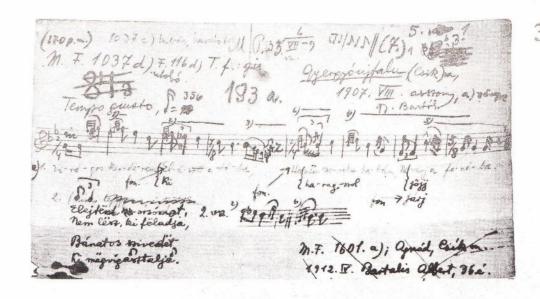
 (VII month)
 10 songs
 66 songs²

 Total:
 47 songs
 411 songs

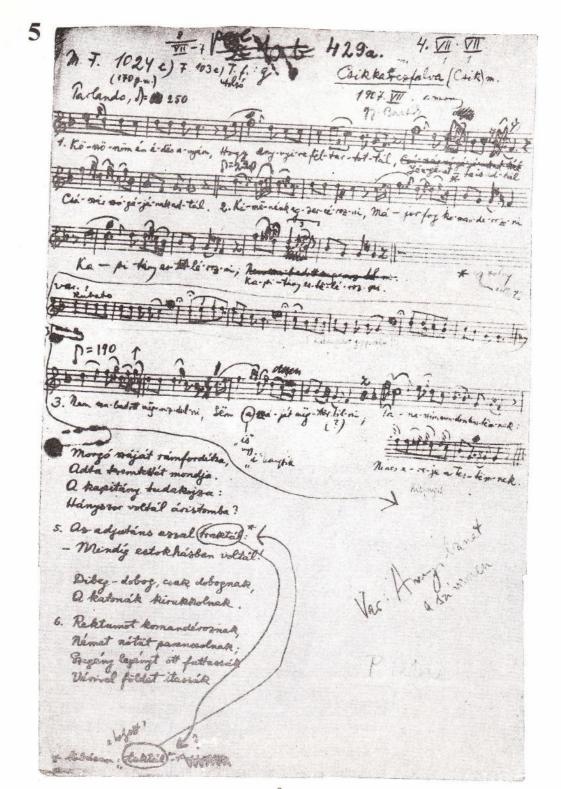


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Together with László Lajtha's collection.

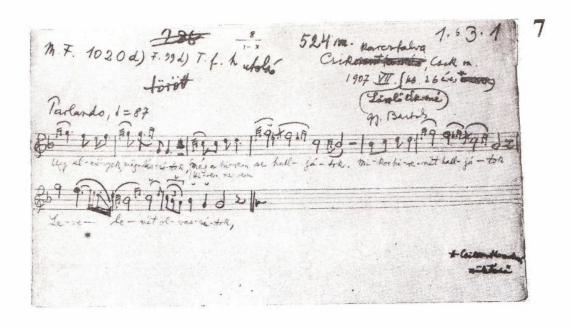
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Together with Antal Molnár's collection.



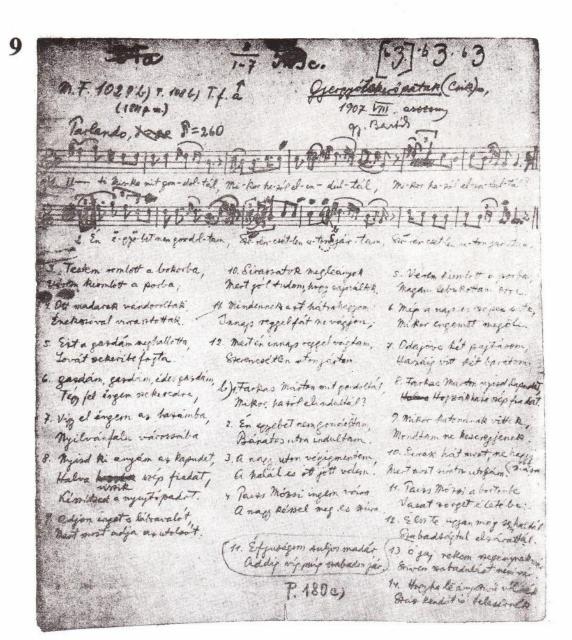


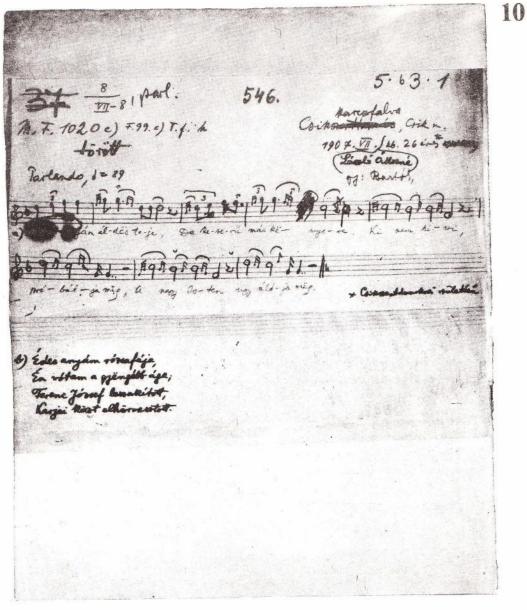


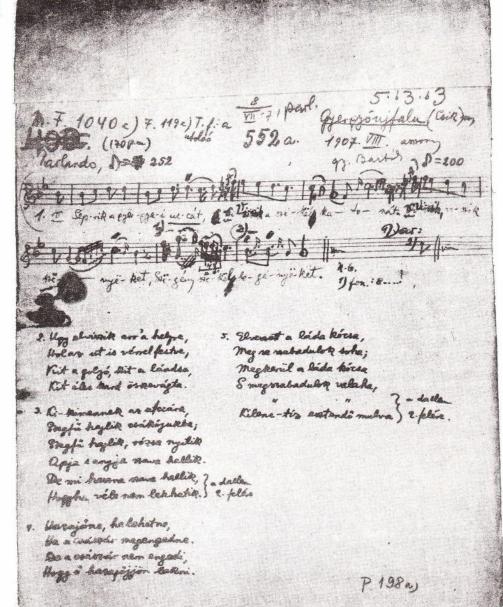
Gyenzoufale Coik m. 1907. VIII. amen M. 7. 10446) 7. 123617. mac 8=260 of Barton 1) east the Meny-opitionata conversion, Ket-ret hay-lott as e- go - kin, Ha may is - got hay lett 1) was . . . . . . . vol-na, Bri-vim ket té ha-sastrolona in thereges Ricei brival, En elmeyer Rörülletek, D. Tollem took paraset nem hallars, } a dellam Pit hallottil, aval marada missale falire. b) to keging laging brings betyje, Rinch mineren jeberitje, Bit generalt ig keren Part as kordernise biser. The sold willer of bry lift, of last miller of bry lift, willen of to region, top no leggen of so region, c) 1. Egyedül lakom ey harba, Titko linat nobejibe, Egyedül hilok ey afyba, Pabb'a banabos gunyaba. 2. Paneskodnim, o nincen kinek Anesekoden a seprinek, Go sa ajstomejjekinek, G'nnem mordje niej senkinek. P. 1246, it

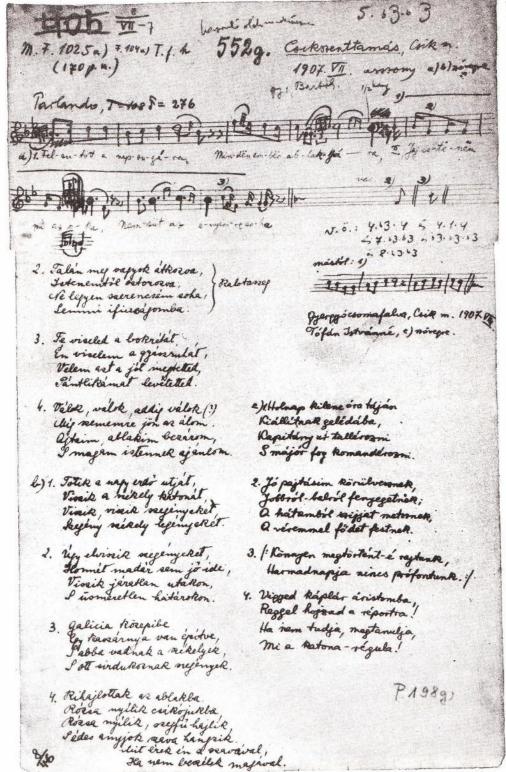


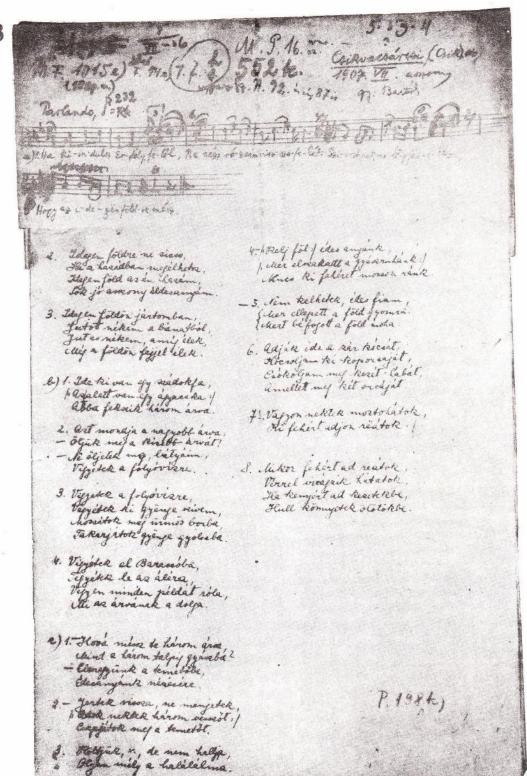




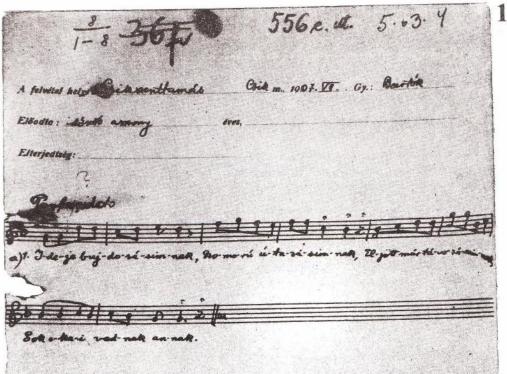








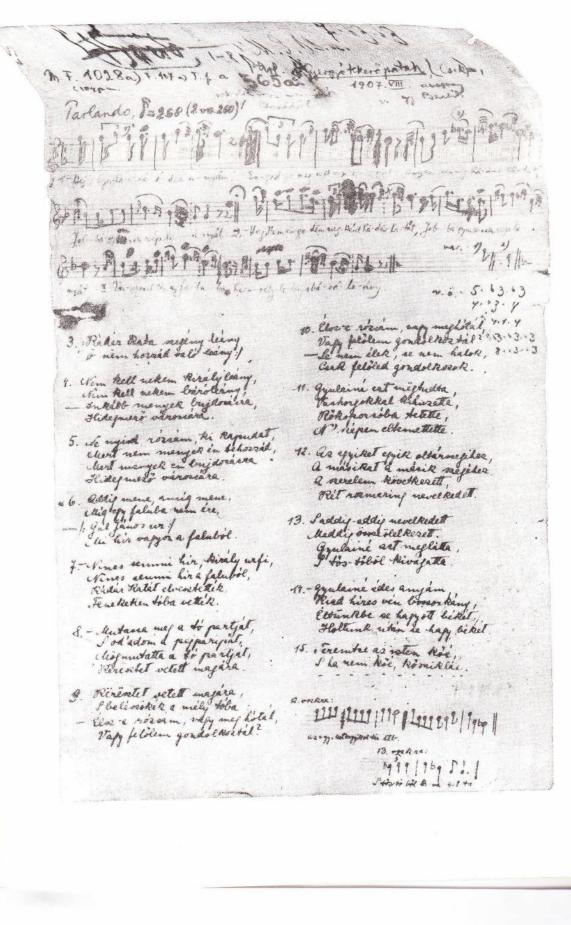




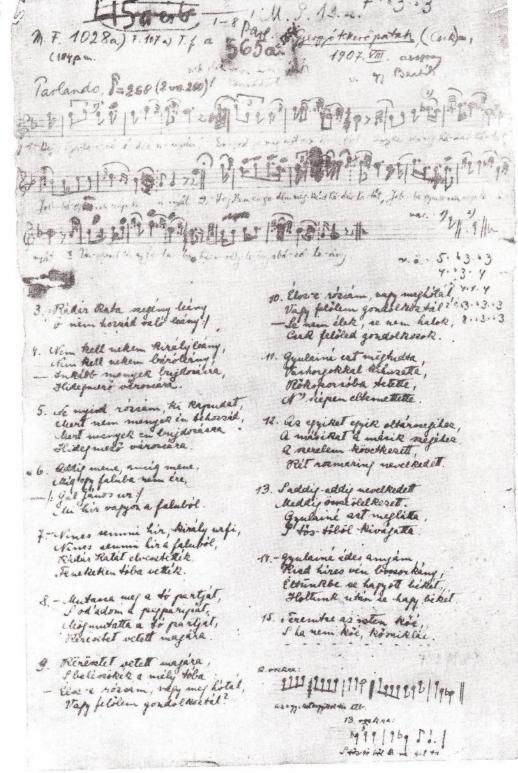
- 2. Met itt, låbon, a legerynek Nines becriije, zjereglezek. Mest ihan inkill kalvensk as idegen piverbugnets.
- 3. De faljet and tacute, all bemiliten linet, a times as talrages, 8 jo but, must stan musch.
- ". Nem foggie art contai budni, | Singling figure El-a, had-a: |, Modgie or El Hen war a .
- 5. Iska gondomet viseli, Abd engem nem ismernek. Kilded el vilem anggalodat, Hop örigien a ótalmajson.

6) Ó bár még csak valahára Repülnél és ablakómia, Tudod - seien - rokoros midos Choket raklam ajakidra. De bar mij erak valehira ji dala. Tenne mirem nyugalmara.)e pair.

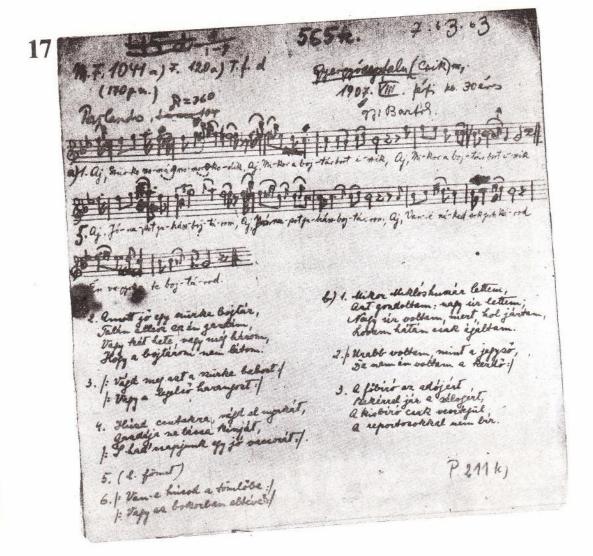
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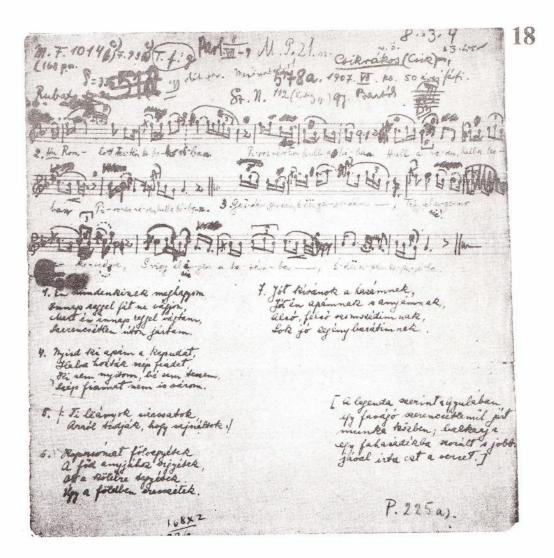


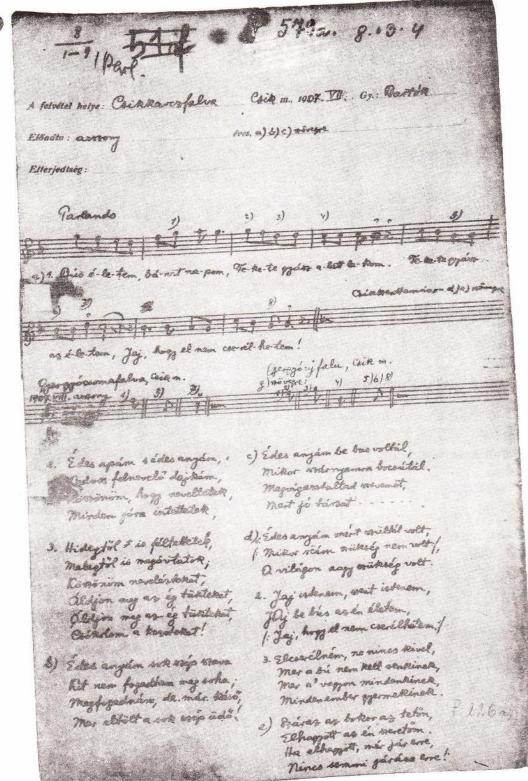






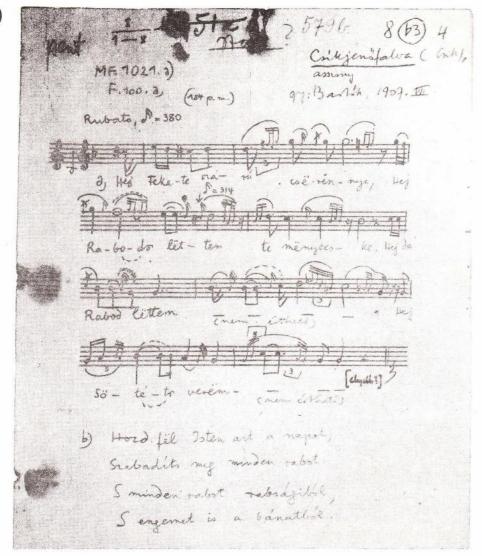


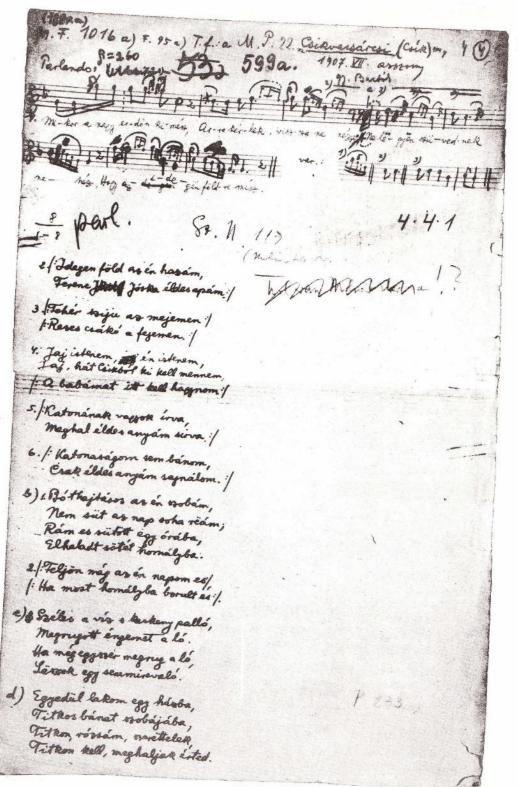


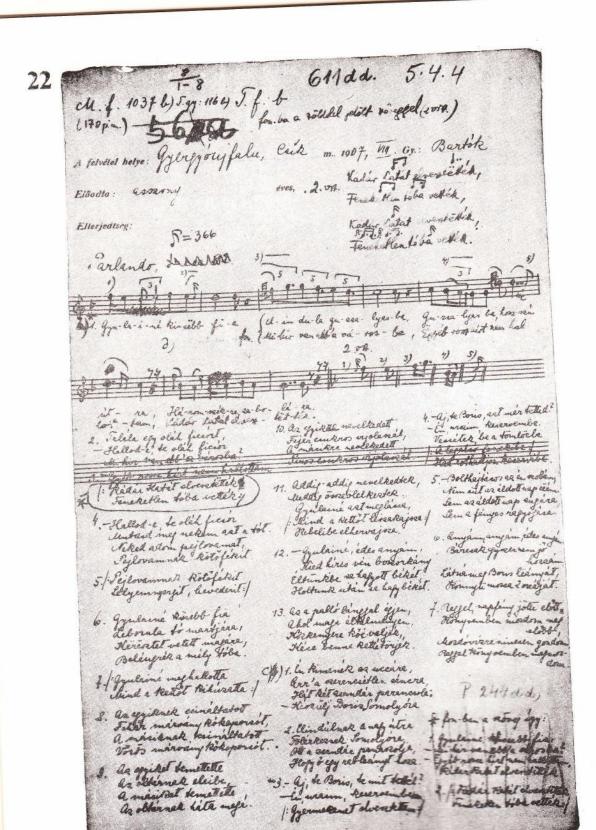


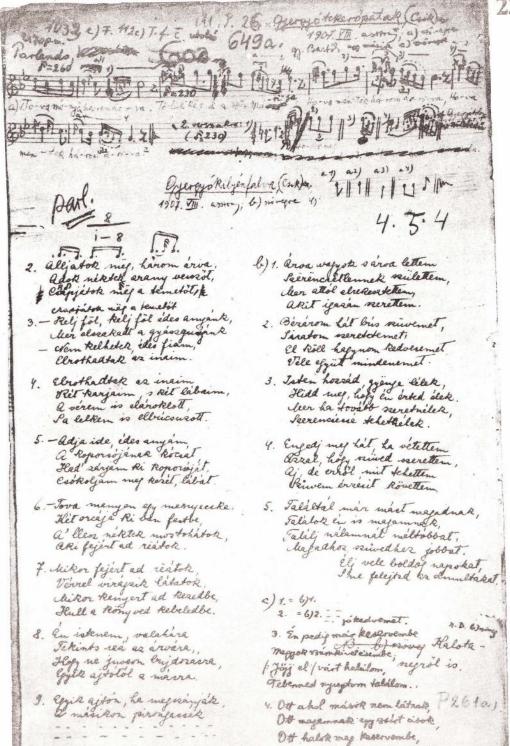
579 a. frest. f & Siroh, nem lebem helyemet, g) Dyan nap sem jon as egre, Istenens, mi lottangemet. Könnyem ne hulljon az földte; Stomorodot bus raisement Hull as fidre, hall otombe, Nines di vigarstation engem. Hull a Gyagos Rebelembe. 2. En istenem rigarstalj meg, Hogy a biben ne haljad meg. Telsuitit a nap sugara Of Minden ember ablanjara, 3. As engemme nem suit orha. Napom, rapom, Kinges napom, Mert witer olyan homeilystan. "
Mert whin suiter may whappean." of elmenyes and fide, Honnan madair se jon ide. Ticoket raken i selvife. Binatfilman tetyibe 5. Ha Mirdik, bogg ast hi rakta, | mandjator meg, arra rakla | . Rinet ninceen apja saryja. 6. Nedern sincen again s angion Ri pondet viseljen ricin. Jej iskaem, mit csinaljak

Viganshalaist Militariyak!!









Sott rothadik ed könyvember.

