



Gödöllő – a royal home for students

Gödöllő is a scenic town northeast from Budapest situated in the intersection of four valleys on the bank of the Rákos Creek. The surrounding hills are covered with forests which had been royal hunting areas for centuries. The written document in which the town is mentioned is from



the middle of the 14th century but the original settlement was totally destroyed during the Ottoman reign of the 15th-17th centuries. The 18th century brought a turning-point in the life of the village, when a nobleman called Grassalkovich Antal made it the center of his estate and



had his palatial residence built in 1751, which, as the greatest Baroque manor house in Hungary, is still the principal landmark of Gödöllő. The Grassalkovich family perished in 1841 and the village became a headquarters in the war of independence. After the war had ended the castle was presented to Franz Joseph I as a coronation gift and it soon became one of the favourite summer homes of his wife,



Gödöllő (with six faculties) was founded in 2000 by the fusion of five predecessor institutes of higher education. Besides the traditional faculties of agriculture and veterinary science, new ones such as rural development, environmental, technical and economic faculties were founded. The University has buildings in three cities; the University of Agriculture moved to the present central building, which had previously been the home of the Premonstratensian Grammar School, in 1950. This town, with its exceptional historical background, home to one of Hungary's internationally known universities, has many other interesting features as well. The botanical garden, the apriary museum and the sport airport are certainly well worth a visit. We hope you'll spend a memorable ten days in this beautiful environment in the town of Gödöllő.

(Vass Márton)



Margaret Island – a change of scene



The final location hosting mentors' accommodation, translation and jury meetings was chosen to be the Danubius Grand Hotel Margitsziget and Danubius Health Spa Resort Margitsziget in the heart of Budapest, yet far from the bustle of the city, on Margaret Island, which is a 2.5 km long island in the middle of the Danube mostly



covered by landscape parks. This beautiful island is a popular recreational area. Throughout the history of the city it had many different names, the most interesting of them being Island of Rabbits, the result of a mistranslation from Latin. However

Did you know...

that the element tellurium was discovered in 1782 but not named until 1798? Franz Joseph Muller von Reichenstein, an Austrian mine expert, identified tellurium in a gold ore found in Transylvania. He referred to the new element as *metallum problematicum* (Latin for "problematic metal") and had an extensive correspondence with Ruprecht Antal, a professor at the Mining Academy of Selmecbánya, who also studied the same ore but initially thought that Muller's element was in fact bismuth. Although a famous Swedish chemist, Torbern Olof Bergman confirmed Muller's analysis, the discovery was almost forgotten until Martin Heinrich Klaproth, a chemistry professor in Berlin, became involved in the late 1790s. Klaproth received ore samples from Muller, repeated earlier experiments and devised new ones. Finally he named the new element tellurium after Earth (*tellus* in Latin). Despite that Klaproth always acknowledged Muller as the discoverer of tellurium, the German professor was drawn into a priority dispute in 1803 by Kitaibel Pál, a botanist in Budapest. Kitaibel claimed discovery of tellurium based on a series of his own experiments, which he carried out in 1789 using a different ore. These results remained unpublished, but, according to the Hungarian professor, Klaproth had informal access to them. Apparently, Kitaibel started the dispute without reading any of the publications. Finally, Klaproth sent these papers to him to prove that Muller was the discoverer.

(Lente Gábor)