

The volume of his manuscripts is bigger than his published works. Under the “national value”, we mean all intellectual legacies of Széchenyi, regardless of whether they are printed or not.

The results and evidences of István Széchenyi's activities and legacy can be found throughout the whole Carpathian Basin, and even farther.

The enormous and unique oeuvre of Count István Széchenyi was not only important in his own time, and concerning Hungary, but still is a source of great value for the posterity today as well. His active patriotism is an example for everyone and we recommend it to all - regardless of sex, age, nationality or religion - and especially to those who want to improve their own destiny. He efficiently utilized his abilities for the rise of a suffering nation. It was not by accident that his contemporaries called him the most devoted and the greatest Hungarian.

He gives the following advice at the end of his work entitled “Credit”:

“Let us shake our minds, spread our experience, find the scientist, talk to the person who is extremely clever, enlarge our libraries, reward the person who is struggling and progressing in sciences and arts, sit on a car, board a ship and see the world - and raise our country to join the glorious nations.”

Széchenyi himself is respected by all, he does not divide Hungarians. Those who met with his oeuvre, who were touched by Széchenyi's thoughts, feel that they are lucky and Széchenyi's spirit has an impact on their activities.

Count István Széchenyi's oeuvre, with its uniqueness, distinctiveness and quality, is one of the most important achievements of Hungarians. It is recognized in Hungary and abroad as a product and an extremely important value of Hungarians. All this contributes to the creation and strengthening of the identity of the new generations.

The Széchenyi oeuvre has outstanding international significance as well. His writings, intellectual activities and realized projects implied the birth of the modern civil Hungary.

He was at home in Europe. His activities and works were known internationally. Partly because some of his works were written in German, or if not, they were translated. It is interesting to note that in 1833 the book “About horses” appeared in Danish, or in the first half of the 19th century, the works and public presence of Széchenyi were described in Finnish.

He wrote letters in five languages to the intellectuals of the world; about philosophical, literary, economic, technical, theoretical and practical issues. He was a major thinker of his age, but because of his remarkable practical results, he is not primarily seen as a utilitarian philosopher.

This unique and huge oeuvre requires protection, continuous care, institutional care, and the effective use of its values.

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