

Tibor Sabján died on Saturday

Tibor Sabján (1952 – 2009) was an architect with a special interest in the vernacular architecture of the Carpathian basin. At his place of work in the Open-Air Museum of Szentendre (Szabadtéri Néprajzi Múzeum, Szentendre) he had organised a reconstruction of many peasant houses from the various parts of Hungary. He worked on them from their demolition on the original site, through a study of a scientific documentation, until the phase of rebuilding in the Museum. He published a series of books on various themes of traditional architecture.

In his research he dealt not only with the oldest phases of still standing peasant houses, but he also made thorough studies discovering the medieval predecessors of this architecture. He was a member of several teams working on the reconstruction of medieval houses. The reconstruction of a “Grubenhaus-type” house carried out in Szarvasgede in 1998 is well known, not only in Hungary, but in various neighbouring countries too. The history of stoves and furnaces with stove-tiles was one of his special interests. He also made many plans for reconstructing these items, not only in vernacular houses, but in the royal palaces of Visegrád and Diósgyőr too.

Tibor Sabján was a distinguished member of our association. He gave lectures at our conferences in Bederkesa, Lyon – Villard Salait, and Szentendre – Dobogókő in 2001, 2003 and 2005, dealing with house-reconstruction, ship-mills and stove-tiles. He was also one of the main organisers of the Ruralia VI conference in Szentendre – Dobogókő, 22th – 29th September 2005.

All his friends and colleagues, and especially the big “family” of Ruralia-participants will miss Tibor, not only because of his scientific achievements and his profound knowledge of the vernacular architecture, but also because of his fine sense of humour.

The funeral of Tibor Sabján will be held on 16th April (Thursday) at 13,00 CET on the Cemetery of Szentendre (Sztaravodai út)

“Sic tibi terra levis!”

Takács Miklós