



Ústav světových dějin

Master's Thesis Review

Student's name and surname: **Gyöngy Krisztina Molnár**

Title of the thesis:

Mátyásföld: suburban villa district in the agglomeration of Budapest (1887 - 1914)

Reviewer's name and surname: **Lud'a Klusáková, supervisor at CUNI**

1. Heuristic (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged formulate critical points)

1.1 Evaluation of the selection of literature and sources	1
1.2 Complexity of used sources from the perspective of the state of the art	1

Short evaluation:

The author has collected an impressive quantity and variety of sources, although in the beginning it looked that they will be scarce. The literature is well chosen as well. This particular villa district has not been much researched. The thesis is quite singular contribution to the analysis of its growth and importance.

2. Research problem and its solution (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged formulate critical points)

2.1 Choice of the formulation of the research issue respects the task given to the student	2
2.2 The relevance of the goal from the perspective of research area methodology	1



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Short evaluation:

The goal of the thesis is to turn attention to a less known case of villa district. Research question is descriptive, focused on how was it founded and integrated to the city. Since there is little research about Matyasföld, this approach is appropriate for an MA thesis.

3. Thesis' structure evaluation (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged formulate critical points)

3.1 Is the structure of the thesis logical?	1
3.2 Does the thesis' structure work along the methodology and methods declared in the introduction	1

Short evaluation:

.The structure is appropriate and logical. It corresponds with basic aim, and chosen approach.

4. Quality of analysis and interpretation (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged formulate critical points)

4.1 Analysis of sources and literature	2
4.2 Interpretation of sources and literature in their interaction	2

Short evaluation:

There are several types of sources used in this thesis, which require different method of analysis. In the interpretation of visual sources could have been done more. The photograph is construction of a representation for particular addressee. The visualisation was apparently crucial for marketing / branding the district. Linking it with the role of senses and emotions in valorisation of the villa district might be a fruitfull exercise.

5. Quality of the text (please, evaluate by grade 1, 2, 3, 4 – in case of grading 3 and 4 the reviewer is obliged formulate critical points)



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5.1 Style and grammar	2
5.2 Use of terminology	1

Short evaluation:

The author is using the terminology correctly. Although the text was edited, still a number of errors remain in spelling or formulations.

In the academic text you should not use shortenings like „advert“ (p.61) „ads“ (p. 64) instead of „advertisements“

Impersonal form is not very welcome in English: „Architecturally higher and higher quality villas were being built, which embodied the representation of **the social layer** that built them“(p.61) – the social layer does not build, but the well to do citizens do.

Translation on p.57 offering the hotel to rent indicates that there are 5 restaurants in the building – this means separate units – or there were 5 salons /rooms, since the hotel was one economic unit.

p. 63 – villa on sale among other things it has a bowler. What did you mean? Bowler is a hat, men were wearing. It is a typos.

On p. 42 - (the Fáy family is one of the oldest Hungarian noble family) – there should be plural, „families“

For other see the pdf with corrections.

6. Synthetic evaluation (500 signs):

Modernization of urban life in Europe created a demand for aesthetization, hygiene and healthier environment, which shows in creation of boulevards, public parcs and villa districts for well to do population. In this context comes in focus research of villa districts. Author has chosen Matyasföld and in the case study she attempts to show its role within metropolis and among other villa districts in Budapest. The strong aspect of the thesis is the story of the district and of the fellowships which have been the main stakeholders in developing the project. The



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weak point is the „comparative“ part. Comparison was not the task, but appears as needed and fruitfull to show what was specific and what was common about Matyasföld in comparison with other villa districts in Budapest. For a reader who knows Budapest i tis perhaps enough. But if you imagine a reader who is a stranger, and knows little about the town, such an asyetric comparison is a revelation, and a map and pictures showing what would be iconic about other villa districts would be very welcome.

In general the thesis fulfills the requirement. Despite my critical comments, I can claim that the author has shown that she learned the craft and produced an interesting and valuable piece of research, which deserves to be successfully defended.

7. Questions and comments which should the candidate answer and discuss during the defense:

The Matyasföld district was offering relatively complex facilities for socializing – restaurant, hotel, swimming pool, public parc and tennis club to offer the visitors and inhabitants ample choice to meet people of their kind and lead full social life. Was this common in villa districts of the period, in Budapest, or is it singular?

It would be interesting to see a map of Budapest of the period with indicated location of all the major villa districts. Would that be feasible?

On p. 56 – 57 you cite several announcements inviting guests to restaurant, which you classify as a successful enterprise. However, the owners change there quite often, and in the last two – there is an owner who bought it or rented it calls for visitors and very soon after the restaurant is again on the market. What does it show? Success or problems?

On p. 42 you indicate that Beniczky family bought Cinkota property in 1619, which was under the Ottoman rule. It is not perhaps crucial for your topic, but is that date correct?



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Suggested grade: B

Date: 15. 6. 2017

Signature:

Gudta Kluska