Gábor Klaniczay (Central European University, Department of Medieval Studies)

[klanicz@ceu.edu](mailto:klanicz@ceu.edu)

<https://people.ceu.edu/gabor_klaniczay>

<https://ceu.academia.edu/KlaniczayGabor>

**The Legends of Saint Margaret of Hungary and Medieval Dominican Hagiography**

Saint Margaret of Hungary (1242-1270) was the daughter of King Béla IV (1172-1196). She was dedicated to the service of God and spent her life as a Dominican nun. Margaret died in the fame of sainthood and there was a canonization process gathering testimonies of the miracles at her grave. She only got canonized in 1943, but there was an important cult of her in the Middle Ages. There were several legends written on her, among them also one in Hungarian vernacular. Her hagiographic dossier is the most extensive one in medieval Hungary. Comparing these legends from the 13th to the 16th century, one can get a good picture of the general evolution of Dominican hagiography, including the contrast of Italian urban and Central European courtly religion, and the late medieval turn to mysticism and the cult of the body of Christ, the phenomenon of stigmatization.