

## Walks in Budapest—IX

# The Castle district

One of the parts of Budapest most frequented by foreigners and Hungarians alike is the Castle district, as is seen from the hundreds of cars and tourists' buses glutting the parking places in Dísz tér, and in front of Matthias Church and Fishermen's Bastion (Halászbástya). On Sundays or holidays huge crowds of Hungarians and foreign tourists visit these monuments of Hungarian history, enjoying the extraordinary beauty of the view on the town bisected by the River Danube.

However, beside Matthias Church or the Budapest History Museum there are several interesting places in the Castle



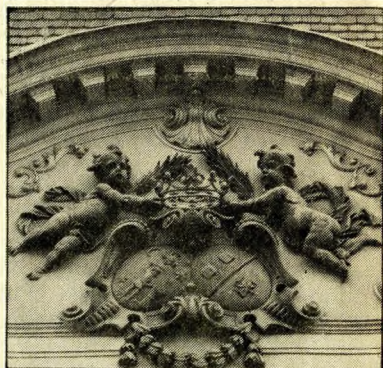
PHOTO MTI — TAMÁS FÉNYES  
Aurél Bernáth's fresco "History" in one of the staircases of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences building in Országház utca



PHOTO MTI — ISTVAN BARA

Old Turkish headstones from a 16th-17th-century cemetery on the southern slope of Buda's Castle Hill

district hidden in courtyards, in doorways, or high up on the facades of buildings. Standing in front of the modern building of the Hilton hotel blending into its distinguished surroundings, you face the statue of Pope Innocent XII, and beyond it the Vörös Sün (Red Hedgehog) house, one of the oldest buildings of the district. The Red Hedgehog ornamenting its door, recalls the one time Red Hedgehog Inn, famous for one of Buda's first theatre productions in its rooms. The building itself and its staircase is an example of Baroque style at its finest. A few hundred metres from the Red Hedgehog inn stood another famous inn of the district, the



Relief surmounting the door of 58, Űri utca, which now houses a central registry office



PHOTO MTI — TAMÁS FÉNYES

Ornamented house door at 35, Űri utca

shop of Ruszwurm's named after one of its owners, in Szentháromság utca. The confectionery shop is justly famous not only for its charming Biedermeier interior but also for its excellent cakes,

among them their inimitable speciality "Ruszwurm krémes", a rich vanilla-flavoured cream between two slices of excellent pastry.

Tamás Fényes