



# Adam Clark Exhibition

Portrait of the young Adam Clark  
by Hungarian painter Miklós Ba-  
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## 214 Statue erected in memory of the English builder of Budapest's Chain-bridge

Adam Clark is possibly the best known English name in Hungary. A whole cluster of stories and reminiscences attach to the personality of the famous English architect who built the Láncid (Chain-bridge) of Budapest, still one of the major landmarks of this city. On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of his death, an exhibition was opened in the transport Museum of Budapest, featuring relics and documents of Adam Clark's life, work and private affairs.

Count István Széchenyi, the great historic personality of the Hungarian Reform Age, invited the young English architect to Hungary in 1834 to participate in the work of regulating the course of the river Danube. Adam Clark spent two years and a half in Hungary and the press of the period wrote about his work with great appreciation. Some years later Count Széchenyi visited London and agreed there with Thierney Clark about the terms of building the Chain-bridge. The work was entrusted to Adam Clark who—as a result of strenuous efforts over ten years—built the Chain-bridge, still one of Europe finest bridges.

The finishing touches were being put to the bridge when the 1848 War of Independence broke out against the Habsburg rule. The opposing sides threatened to blow up the bridge. The exhibition features the military orders of both Austrian General Hentzi and General Dembinszky, Commander of the Hungarian forces, to blow up the bridge. But the English architect, who had built the first permanent bridge between Buda and Pest, saved his work with great personal courage. He filled the chain chambers of the bridge with water, so that no explosives could be applied to it. He had the pumps taken away or destroyed at the same time. Then he personally visited the Austrian and the Hungarian generals and wrested promises from them about leaving the beautiful bridge intact.

In 1849 the bridge was finally opened to the general public. Adam Clark and the highly skilled English workers who helped him with the bridge-building have trained many Hungarian experts and bridge builders and in fact laid the foundations of bridge building operations by Hungary's industry which has achieved international prestige since.

When Adam Clark was on the point of returning to England he received a new commission: to build a tunnel through the Castle Hill as a continuation of the Chain-bridge. After that work, he finally decided to stay on in Hungary. He got married in 1854 to Irma Aldási, the daughter of Buda Castle Commander, twenty years younger than himself. He became one of the greatest ar-

chitectural authorities in Hungary and his commissions included the building of several bridges over the river Tisza, the water mains system of Buda, etc.

Four children were born to the Clarks. Two of his grandchildren are still alive and have retained the name Clark. The family keeps many relics of Adam Clark. His remains have been laid to rest

in Budapest Kerepesi cemetery.

The Hungarian people has kept the memory of Adam Clark with reverence. The present Clark exhibition shows many interesting relics.

On the occasion of the anniversary, the City of Budapest erected a statue of Adam Clark in the City Park.

Lajos Nagy