

*Trent reform, Turkish threat, family
building. Catholic Prelate on the
frontiers of the Habsburg Empire
(Bishop György Széchényi of
Veszprém, 1648–1658)*

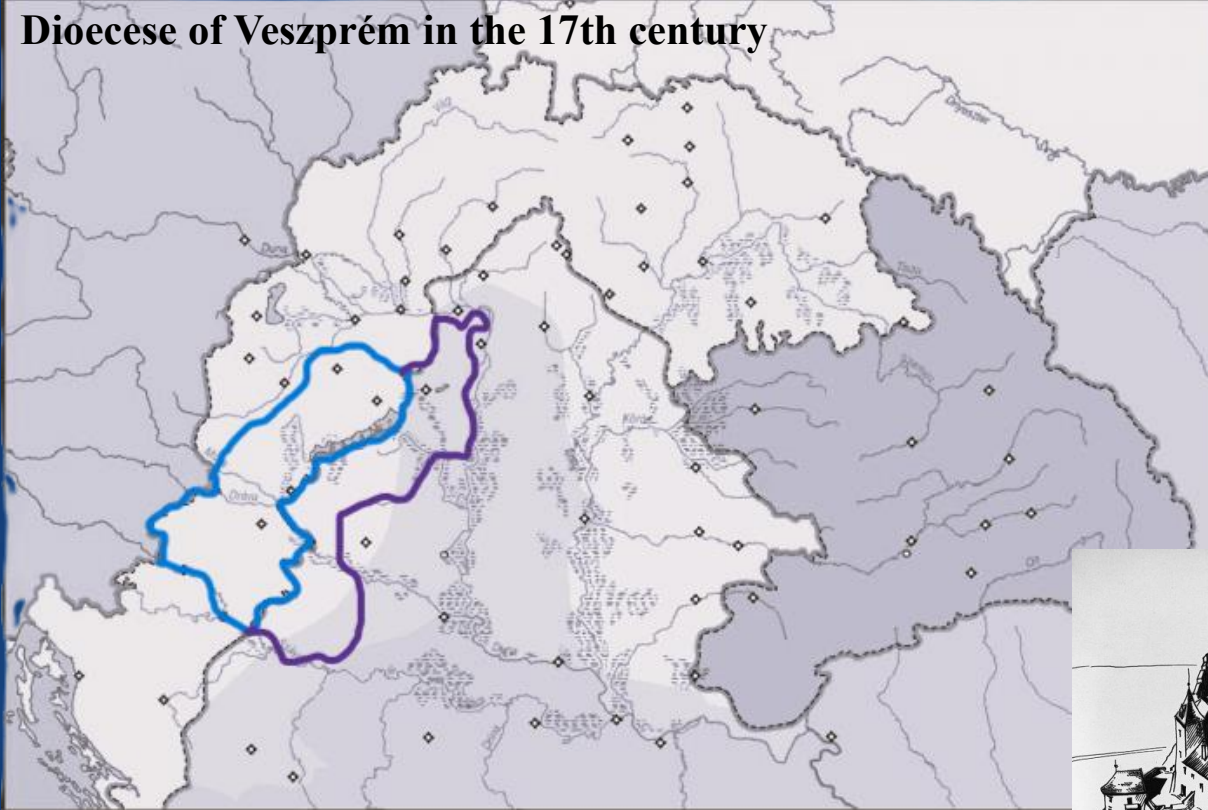
CSONGOR CZIRÁKI

HUN-REN PPKE-PTE VILMOS FRAKNÓI VATICAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

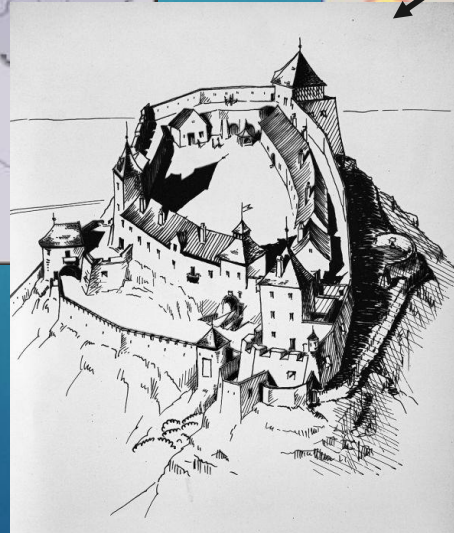
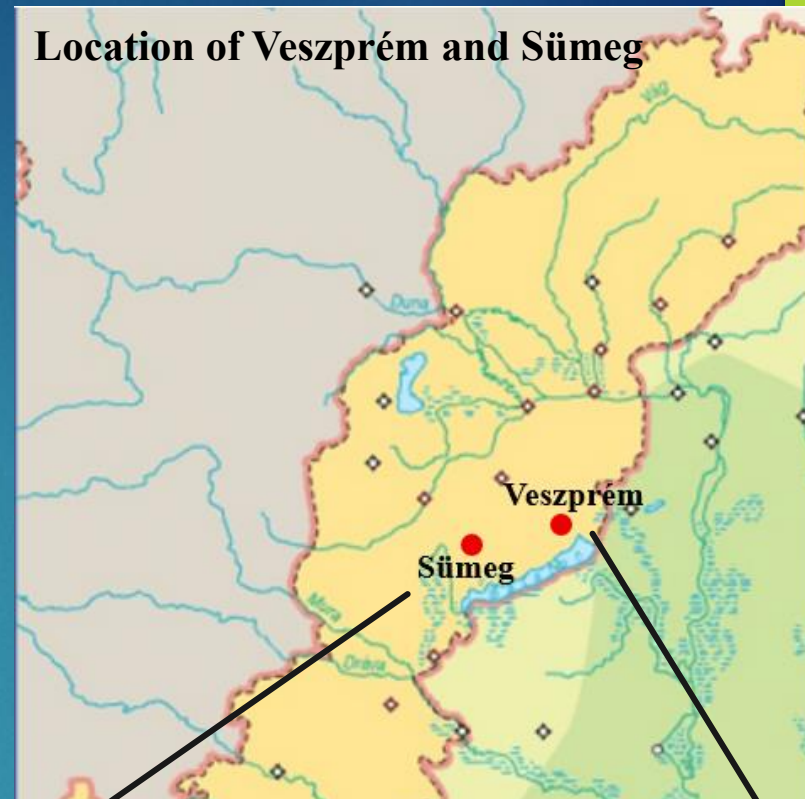
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The diocese of Veszprém

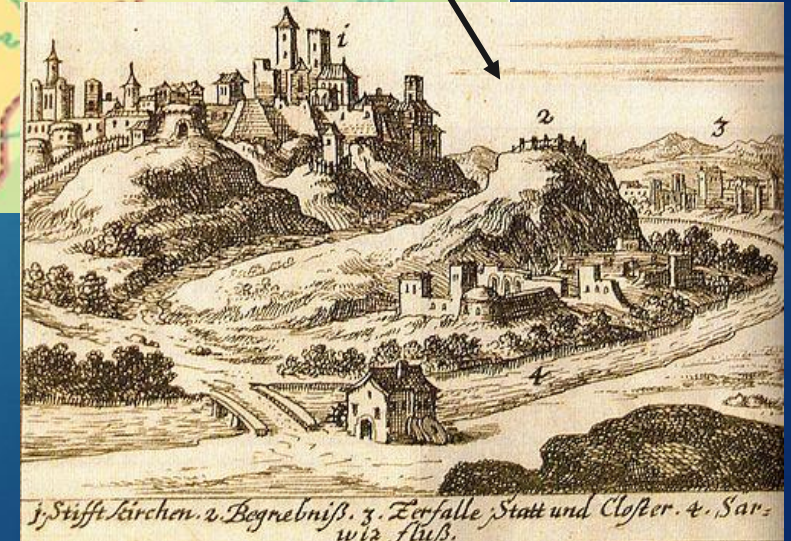
Dioecese of Veszprém in the 17th century



Location of Veszprém and Sümeg



Reconstruction of the Castle of Sümeg



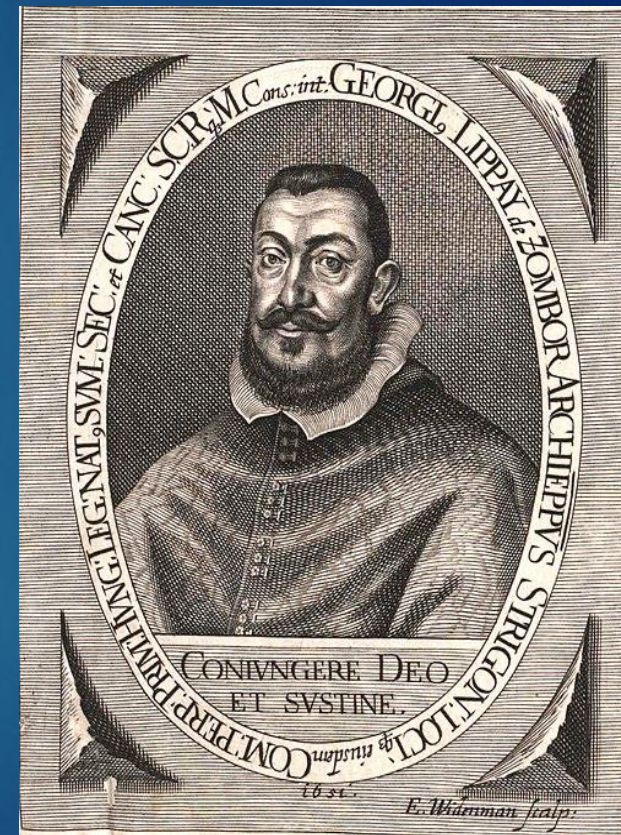
View about the castle of Veszprém

Széchenyi's youth and his way to the bishopric of Veszprém

- ▶ Born around 1605-06 in non-noble family
- ▶ 1622: seminary in **Nagyszombat**
- ▶ From 1625 study in **Pazmaneum** (Vienna)
- ▶ 1629: reach for his family the nobility
- ▶ 1632: canon in Esztergom (1644: reading canon)
- ▶ 1643: Bishop of Csanád; 1644: Bishop of Pécs (under turkish occupation)
- ▶ 1648. április 18. Bishop of Veszprém



Péter Pázmány



György Lippay

Bishopric of Veszprém – In serve of reforms of Trent

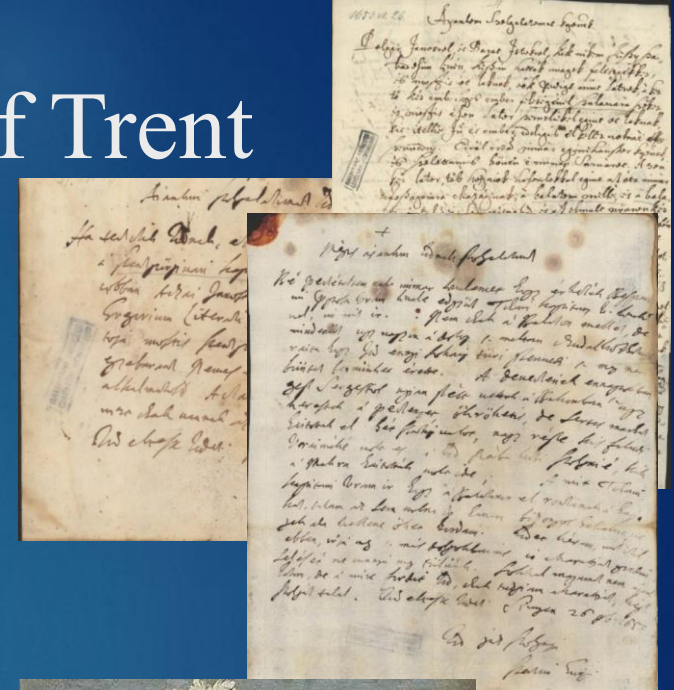
► Sources: correspondence with Ádám Batthyány

- ❖ One of the most important military leader of the region (both the captain of the province opposite Kanizsa and the captain general district of Transdanubia)

► Just and forceful → „the defender of poverty”

- ❖ 1656.11.26.: “here in this land, they have again started thieving and stealing, God only knows how poverty is”

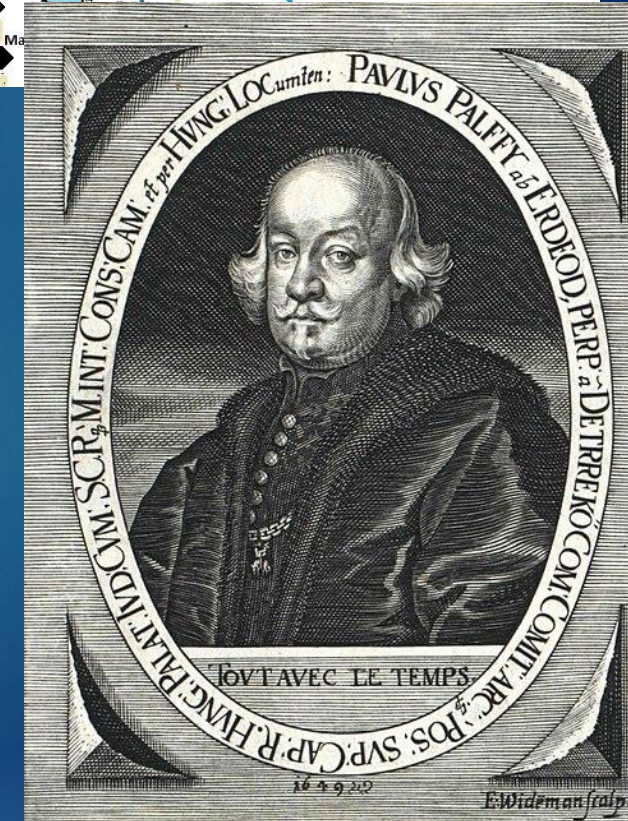
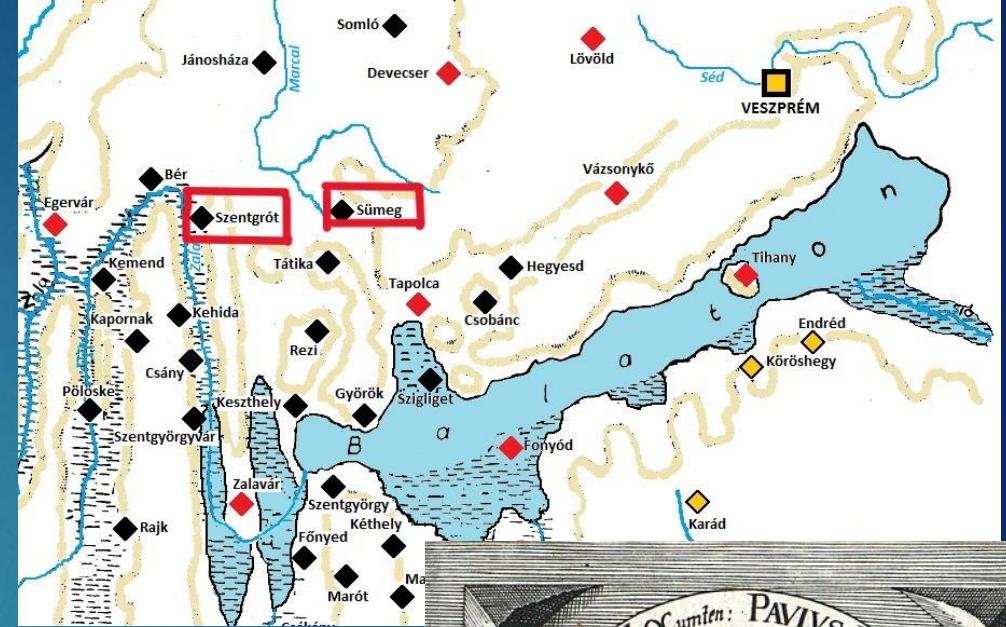
► forwarding of complaints, requests for punishment → ask the captain-general for help



Ádám Batthyány

The Turkish threat

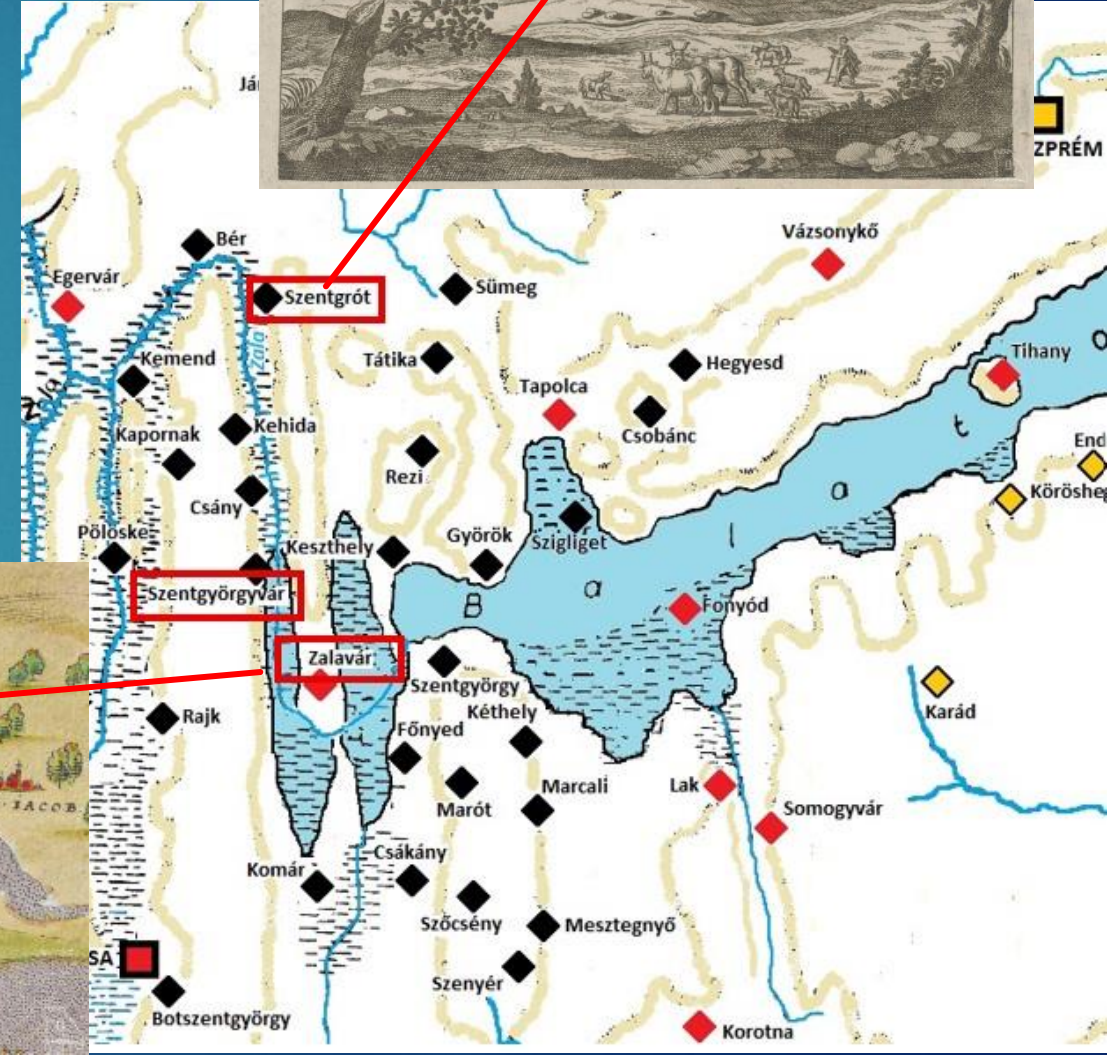
- ▶ Own army was kept **in Sümeg** – parliamentary decision (1649)
 - ❖ *“and his greatness the Palatinus himself said in these words: no one can force the bishop of Veszprém to keep his cavalry outside Sümeg.”*
- ▶ Leading his soldiers personally! → **1651. Segesd**



Pál Pálffy (palatine)

Relationship with the captains

- Ecclestial <-> Secular viewpoint
- Conflicts with István Hagymási (Szentgrót)
- *AND* István Török (Zalavár)
 - ❖ “Your captain is István Török, who is a Turk in nature, a Calvinist in faith, a false and imperfect man in morals (as the whole world knows)...”



Dynasty building

- ▶ 1629: nobility
- ▶ Great fortune-maker; good sense of clever management
- ▶ Support his brother and his nephews → house in Győr, studying in Jesuit college
- ▶ Rise of the family → in 19th century István Széchenyi the founder of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1825)



Ferdinand II.



István Széchenyi
(1791-1860)

Noble diploma for the family of
Széchenyi (MNL, Széchenyi Levéltár)

György Széchényi ↔ Ernst Adalbert von Harrach

György Széchényi	Ernst Adalbert von Harrach
Non-noble family	Baronial rank ; wide social network
Studying in Vienna (Pazmaneum)	Studying in Rome (Collegium Germanicum et Hungaricum)
First diocese: Veszprém (which was not conquered)	First diocese: Prague (included whole of Bohemia)
40 years old	24 years old
Constant fight with Ottomans (+1683. siege of Vienna; expulsion of turks)	30-year war (1618-48) + captured by sweden
Not active in politics (focus on church organisation)	Really active in politics (important diplomatic tasks, prominent role in conclaves)
Be bring up and govern his dioeces in the spirit of refoms of Trent	Be bring up and govern his dioeces in the spirit of refoms of Trent

Thank you for your attention!



György Széchényi



Ernst Adalbert von Harrach