

## SUMMARY

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THE BEGINNINGS OF INSTITUTIONAL ARTWORK  
PHOTOGRAPHY IN HUNGARY (1859–1885)

In the fifth section of the first congress of art history, organized in Vienna in 1873, titled *Reproductionen von Kunstwerken und deren Verbreitung im Interesse der Museen und des Kunstunterrichtes*, the participants discussed the making and distribution of artwork reproductions and their use for museum's and educational purposes. The topic was very relevant at the time, since in the 19<sup>th</sup> c. in Europe the making of galvanoplastic and plaster cast reproductions reached almost industrial proportions. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. the photography of artworks also started to flourish. In Western Europe in the 1850s began the photography of architectural monuments and the most valuable treasures of major museums and collections. In Hungary, the use of artwork photographs by institutions began in the 1860s by the committee for historic preservation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences: one of their tasks was to search for artistic monuments and collect descriptions, drawings and photographs of them. Most of the documents, including the photographs, were given to the committee by enthusiastic patriots of the countryside. In the 1870s, the most valuable treasures of museums, libraries and church collections also began to be requested to be photographed, now by professional photographers. These photographers, often competing with each other, also created the photography series – which sometimes included hundreds of pictures – which recorded the historic exhibitions organized in the 1870s and 1880s (the 1873 Vienna World's Fair, a book exhibition in 1882, an exhibition of metal artworks in 1884 etc.).