



Déri Balázs (1954–) was still a small child when his family decided to move from a farmhouse in Orgovány (Bugac puszta) first to a smaller and later to a larger village on the outskirts of Budapest. He wanted to be a botanist and an organist, but after finishing grammar-school with the Fathers of the Pious Schools (Piarists) in Budapest, from 1972 until 1979 he studied classical philology and pursued Iranistic studies at the Faculty of Humanities of Loránd Eötvös University (Budapest). Between 1972 and 1974 he studied Hungarian Literature, Coptic and Catalan languages. From 1991 until 1995 he studied musicology at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music. His doctoral dissertation in classical philology (1998) was written about the hymn-cycle *Cathemerinon* of Prudentius; his habilitation was completed in 2003. At present he is working on two other dissertations: one at the Academy of Music (about the music and liturgy of the Coptic Holy Week and Easter) and another for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences about the work *Deliberatio* written by St Gerard Sagredo.

Between 1979 and 1994 he worked as a member of the editorial staff of the *Lexicon Latinitatis Medii Aevi Hungariae* (Hungarian Academy of Sciences). From 1992 until 1997 he taught New Testament Greek and Latin at the Reformed Theological Academy (Budapest). Since 1998 he has been teaching at the Latin Department of the Loránd Eötvös University (ELTE), and in 2002 he was named head of the same department. Between 2003 and 2006 he was the vice-dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and between 2005–2008 the director of the Institute for Ancient Studies; since 2008 he is a professor ordinarius of the University.

He is a founder of the periodical “Magyar Egyházzene” (Hungarian Church Music), as well as its managing editor since 1993. He is a chorus master and hosts several radio programs. As part of his field work he collects the liturgical music of Hungarian Jews, of Byzantine (primarily Serbian) Christians in Hungary, and of Oriental (Coptic and Syrian) Christians in Egypt, Syria, Turkey, India.

His poems have been published in two volumes and a number of different periodicals. As an accomplished translator of literary works his activity extends to several languages, especially Latin, Catalan, Portugese, Modern Greek, and a few Indian languages.