



König Stephans Volk      II. Aufzug  
 King Stephan's People      Act II

If proof were needed to show that theatrical art in Hungary has always reached the high standard demanded by European culture, and that its development has never failed to be productive and vigorous, one might mention among other instances that prior to the Great War foreigners were in the habit of going to Budapest to study the Hungarian method of producing plays of other nations including their own. This was a stimulating experience for all concerned, and this trend of development cannot be said to have slackened. A change, however, in the aims of Hungarian theatrical art has nevertheless taken place through the inclusion of the elements of old Hungarian folk-art for which modern Hungarian scene-artists show a distinct preference. One of the best representatives of this new trend is Máttyás Varga, an exceptionally gifted and typically Hungarian artist. Before completing his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts he was doing practical work as an assistant to scene-painters at the theatre. For some years he mixed and rubbed colours for his masters, and in this way gained a working knowledge of the technique of stage decoration and scene-painting. This prac-