

KONSTANTINÁPOLY - BUDAPESTEN

Hungarian circus director and night-club owner, Károly Somossy, built a competitor 'theme park' on a derelict port site southwest of the city in what is now District XI. The large lagoon area created as part of the port was used, and the theme park was constructed very rapidly in 1896, opening on 23 May. The theme was Turkish, similar to that of Ós-Budavár, with minarets, bazaars and Turkish-themed shows and entertainment, but also regular features took place on the lagoon, such as pageants on barges with live actors playing historical themes, and naval battles with real explosive sinkings. Initially popular, interest soon died because of poor access from Budapest and a plague of mosquitos in the hot summer months. It closed later that year. Somossy was declared bankrupt, and died in 1902. Nothing remains of the showground. The Government later bought the site and built the University, and the lagoon was later filled in and built upon.

Picture postcard with an areal view of the site, next to the Danube. The edge of Gellért Hill extends to the right.

Sent July 1896 from Budapest Viziváros to Prague, Bohemia. (Message partly erased.)



A post office was set up for the duration of its opening, using a special cancellation on mail: **BUDAPEST-KONSTANTINÁPOLI.**



Two Millennium postal stationery cards, one to Vienna in July 1896 and the other to Nuremberg in August 1896, both datestamped at the site post office.

