

HSA Hungarian Studies Association

May 2005

Newsletter

1. This spring, Ivan Sanders received the *Pro Cultura Hungarica Award* from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. The award was presented at a reception hosted by the Hungarian Consulate in New York. This award was well deserved. **Congratulations from all of us.**



2. Many of you are aware of the discrimination faced by American scholars in trying to access Hungarian archival sources. The issue was raised by Alice Freifeld.

Below is some of our correspondence with the Minister of Cultural Heritage, the Hungarian Archives, and others, to address and redress this problem.

Dr. András Bozóki, Minister of Culture
Ministry of Cultural Heritage
1077 Budapest,
Wesselényi utca 20/22,
Hungary

Dear Minister of Culture,

I am writing in regard to the archival restrictions faced by U.S. scholars researching twentieth-century Hungary. This is a follow-up letter to the email, which I believe you received from Csaba Gombár on March 10, 2005. This forwarded the communications between Director Lajos Geccsenyi of the Magyar Országos Levéltár and Gábor Vermes, President of the Hungarian Studies Association in North America. I have enclosed this correspondence, as well.

Let me introduce myself. I am an Associate Professor of History at the University of Florida, a former president of the Hungarian Studies Association, and the author of *Nationalism and the Crowd in Liberal Hungary, 1848-1914*, which was awarded not only North America's Hungarian book prize but one from the Slavic Studies association (AAASS). I am presently researching Hungarian identity politics between 1945 and 1949.

Since 1989 Hungarian archives have regularly been praised for their accessibility in *Archive Update*, a publication of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The material for these reports have been gathered by Hungarian citizens, and from my own experience Hungarians are usually most surprised to hear that currently Americans are denied access to materials available not only to Hungarians but also to scholars from other European countries. *Archive Update* has asked me to report on the situation. This publication appears on the web as well and is used by graduate students preparing their dissertation prospectuses. Extending the research possibility for European scholars promises to stimulate Hungarian studies. It would be a shame if that created a corresponding sense of deprivation for U.S. scholars that undercut study of Hungary in the United States.

Sincerely,
Alice Freifeld

-----Original Message-----

From: Gaborver@aol.com [mailto:Gaborver@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 3:31 PM

To: gecsenyi@natarch.hu

Subject: kerelem

Kedves Igazgató Ur!

A Hungarian Studies Association elnökeként írok Önnek. Ez egy szervezet amelyhez mindazok tartoznak akik az Egyesült Államokban magyar témával foglalkoznak. Egyik kiváló és igen tehetséges tagunk, Alice Freifeld egyetemi tanár, nemrégiben járt Budapesten és megdöbbéssel tapasztalta azt, hogy amerikai állampolgárként megvolt ugyan számára engedve az 1945 utáni anyagok kutatása, de nem az öké az anyagoké amelyek bármilyen személyi adatot tartalmaznak, tehát eletrajzok, levelek, családi papírok, rendőrségi riportok, stb. Az ő kutatási terveiben viszont éppen az ezekből merített információknak lenne legnagyobb értéke.

Ugyanezek az iratok hozzáférhetőek nemcsak magyar állampolgárok de más az Egyesült Európa-hoz tartozó országok polgárai számára is.

Ez a diszkrimináció amerikai állampolgárokkal szemben érthetetlen, hiszen ma már az USA és Magyarország között szoros szövetségi viszony áll fenn. Ugyancsak, nem tudok olyan esetről amikor egy amerikai levéltár megtagadott volna kutatási lehetőségeket egy magyar állampolgár számára. Mindez egy súlyos kérdés, hiszen hogyan batorítsunk fiatal amerikai kutatókat arra, hogy magyar témával foglalkozzanak, amikor kutatási lehetőségeiket ez a már idejétmúlt zárlat lehetetlenne tenné. Szíves válaszáért és lehetőleg e kérdés megoldásáért előre is halas köszönetet mondok.

Igaz Tisztelettel,
Dr. Gabor Vermes
ny. egyetemi tanár
elnök
Hungarian Studies Association

From: Gecsenyi Lajos <gecsenyi@mol.gov.hu>

Date: March 8, 2005 10:45:05 AM EST

To: <Gaborver@aol.com>

Subject: RE: kerelem

Tisztelt Professzor Úr!

Sajnos a magyar levéltári törvény (1995:LXVI.) 24/A §. oly módon szabályozza a levéltári kutatást, hogy a személyes adatokat tartalmazó iratok hozzáférhetőségét - az adatokra vonatkozó védelmi idő alatt - korlátozza mindazon országok állampolgárai számára, amelyekben az adatvédelem nem azonos a magyarországgal. Ezek közé tartozik az Amerikai Egyesült Államok is. Így bármennyire is megértem levéltárosként és történészként a problémát, azt kell mondanom, hogy a 20. századi - személyes adatokat tartalmazó - iratok kutatása, függetlenül a szövetségi viszonytól, nem lehetséges. Szabadjon egyébként az USA vízumkiadási gyakorlatára is utalnom, ami ugyancsak nem veszi figyelembe a szövetségi viszonyt.

üdvözlettel
Prof. Dr. Gecsenyi Lajos
főigazgató



ARCHIVE LAW:

The archive law has recently been amended to include EU citizens. The law remains unchanged regarding U.S. citizens. The relevant section of the 1995 Archive law is:

Section 24

(1) **Unless an Act otherwise provides, archives containing personal data shall be disclosed for access by anyone thirty years after the year of the data subject's decease. If the year of death is unknown, protection period shall be ninety years from the birth of the subject, and when neither the date of birth nor of death is known, it shall be sixty years from the creation of the record held by the archives.**

(3) Research for scientific purposes in accordance with subsection (2) paragraph c) shall be authorized by public archives, if the researcher attaches a statement of support issued by an institute or body performing public duties and scientific research in accordance with its designated purpose, granted on the basis of the detailed research proposal of the researcher.

(4) The researcher shall sign a written declaration accepting the limitations on handling and usage of the acquired or collected personal data in compliance with Section 32 of DPA, moreover in the declaration shall indicate the place of data handling.

(5) On granting consent specified in subsection (2), paragraph b), the subject, or after his death any heir or relative of his, shall sign a written declaration accepting the use of his personal data learnt by the researcher, in conformity with the purpose of research, as well as on making copies of records containing his personal data.

(6) If research is conducted for scientific purposes in accordance with subsection (2) paragraph c), a non-anonymized copy of the record containing personal data may be obtained even before the expiry of protection period.

Section 24/A

(1) For scientific purposes, even **before the expiry of protection period** specified in Section 24, subsection (1), access to archives containing personal data may be permitted for the **researcher of a country ensuring equivalent protection of personal data**, supposing that 30 and 15 years respectively, specified in Section 22, subsection (1), have expired. Access may be authorized, if

a) equivalent protection of personal data concerning the given country is verified by the Minister of Justice in agreement with the Data Protection Commissioner;

b) the researcher presents a supporting statement - granted on the basis of the detailed research proposal - of the committee or institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, that is competent in the subject of research, and accepts in a written declaration that acquired and collected personal data will be handled and used in accordance with data protection rules of his country.

(2) Concerning making copies of records explored by research permitted in accordance with the subsection (1), rules involved in Section 24, subsection (6) shall be applied.

(3) The Government shall be empowered to conclude a Data Protection Contract with regard to handing over a copy of records containing personal data to a foreign scientific institute in order to display the results of researches conducted on historical events, before the expiry of protection period specified in Section 24, subsection (1).

(4) Transferring of data abroad based on a Data Protection Contract specified in subsection (3), may be forbidden by the subject, or after his death any heir or relative of his, until the expiry of protection period specified in Section 24, subsection (1). Rules of procedure related to the enforcement of right to protest shall be laid down by the Minister of Culture and Public Education.

(3) The Government shall be empowered to conclude a Data Protection Contract with regard to handing over a copy of records containing personal data to a foreign scientific institute in order to display the results of researches conducted on historical events, before the expiry of protection period specified in Section 24, subsection (1).



Help us change this unfair treatment of American scholars. Please write to Dr. András Bozóki, Ministry of Cultural Heritage, 1077 Budapest, Wesselényi utca 20/22, Hungary. His email addresses are andras.bozoki@nkom.gov.hu or bozokia@ceu.hu.



3. Publications by our members:

Beverly James, *Imagining Postcommunism: Visual Narratives of Hungary's 1956 Revolution*, Texas A+M U. 2005.

Katalin Kadar Lynn, *Tibor Eckhard in His Own Words; An Autobiography*. East European Monographs, 2005. ISBN: 0-88033-548-3.

Catherine Portuges: "Mészáros' *Diary for My Children*" in *24 Frames: Central Europe* ed. Peter Hames (London, U.K.: Wallflower Press, 2005)

_____, "Filmer la Hongrie stalinienne (1956-58): le tournage d'Imre Nagy (2003)" in *Cinéma et Stalinisme*, ed. Kristian Feigelson, (Paris: *Théorème 8*, Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle, 2005)

Tom Sakmyster, "A Hungarian in the Comintern: Jozsef Pogany/John Pepper," in *Agents of the Revolution. New Biographical Approaches to the History of International Communism* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2005).

_____ presented a paper at the AAASS meeting in Boston, December, 2004: "A Communist Newspaper for Hungarian-Americans: The Strange World of the Uj Elöre"

Judith Szapor's book, *The Hungarian Pocahontas: The Life and Times of Laura Polanyi, 1882-1959*, will be published by East European Monographs, distributed by Columbia University Press, forthcoming in June 2005.

_____, "Sisters or Foes; The Shifting Frontlines of the Hungarian Women's Movement, 1896-1918" in B. Pietrow-Ennker and S. Paletschek (eds.), *Women's Emancipation Movements in the Nineteenth Century: A European Perspective*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2004, 189-205.

_____, "From Budapest to New York: The Odyssey of the Polanyis", *Hungarian Studies Review*, vol. XXX, no. 1 (Spring 2003), 29-60.

_____ with Andrea Pető, "Women and "The Alternative Public Sphere"; Toward a New Definition of Women's Activism and the Separate Spheres in East-Central Europe," *NORA, Nordic Journal of Women's Studies* 2004/4, 172-82.

4. Miscellaneous

a. Grants

East European Studies (EES) would like to bring your attention to the next deadline for receipt of Short-Term Scholar applications and supporting materials: **June 1, 2005**. Applicants will be notified approximately one month later. For more details, please read below or look at our website: www.wilsoncenter.org/ees. Completed applications should be mailed to the following address:

East European Studies, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-3027.

Eligibility

These grants are available to American academic experts and practitioners, including advanced graduate students, engaged in specialized research requiring access to Washington, DC and its research institutions. Grants are for one month and do not include residence at the Wilson Center.

Project Scope

With funding provided by **Title VIII** (The Act for Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union), EES offers short-term scholar grants to scholars working on policy relevant projects on East Europe. Special consideration will be given to projects on Southeast Europe, or projects that can be credibly linked to issues in the Western Balkans.

Application Information

To apply for a Short-Term award, the applicant must submit the following:

- a concise description of his/her research project;
- a curriculum vitae;
- a statement of preferred and alternate dates of residence in Washington, DC;
- *two* letters or recommendation in support of the research to be conducted at the Center.

Other Grant Opportunities:

For summaries of recent EES meetings and for some of their other publications, please look at their website: www.wilsoncenter.org/ees.

For more information on **Title VIII**, The Act for Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, sponsored by the Department of State, please look at their website: www.state.gov/s/inr/grants.**

b. Maney Publishing, (<http://www.maney.co.uk>) an independent British publishing house. Founded in 1900, the company has offices in the UK in Leeds and London, and in North America, in Boston. For an overview of Maney and details of our latest publications, please visit the website to see their recent and current issues of their bi-annual newsletter.

c. The two hour movie-house version of the movie Trianon can be downloaded from <http://tdyweb.wbteam.com/Trianon.htm>

Other Trianon related websites: <http://history.acusd.edu/gen/text/versaillestreaty/vercontents.html>; and www.trianon.hu

d. Articles, books of possible interest:

Pal Pritz, *The War Crimes Trial of Hungarian Prime Minister Laszlo Bardossy* \$50.00, June, 2005. cloth 230 pages. ISBN: 0-88033-549-1. Wayne, NJ: Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, Inc.

László Bárdossy was a wartime prime minister executed for his role in mass murder, but his role remains controversial. His trial was riddled with blunders and some, especially those on the extreme right, now call him a martyr and are demanding a retrial. Was Bárdossy a villain or was he himself a victim of Communist-inspired mass murder?

He was at the helm in 1941–42 when Hungary declared war on Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union, and he was charged with sending more than 600,000 Jews to Nazi death camps. This book offers readers a balanced interpretation of Bárdossy's life. The volume also includes two rare documents: the charges of the prosecution in his post-war trial, and Bárdossy's statement in defense of his policies.

Gábor Gyáni, *Identity and Urban Experience*, \$40.00, 2005, cloth, 224 pages. ISBN: 0-88033-551-3. Wayne, NJ: Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, Inc.

This book recounts the history of Budapest at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, during the heyday of its development. Gyáni creates a rich profile of Budapest's citizens as they faced a newly congested social universe, rapidly evolving physical space, and extreme changes in their urban living experience as the city expanded.

Michael Katz, *The Five (Pyatero)*. The first translation of Vladimir Jabutinsky's novel. Ithica, NY: Cornell U. Press. 2005.

David Ost, *The Defeat of Solidarity: Anger and politics in Postcommunist Europe*. Ithica, NY: Cornell U. Press. 2005.

Andreas Pickel, *Economic Nationalism in a Globalizing World*, Ithica, NY: Cornell U. Press. 2005.

István György Tóth, ed. *A Concise History of Hungary - MILLENNIUMI MAGYAR TÖRTÉNET*, Budapest: Corvina Kiadó, 2005. 750 pp., 150 black + white pictures;

Contributors: Pál Engel, Péter Kovács, Attila Zsoldos, Gábor Ágoston, Teréz Oborni, János Kalmár, István György Tóth, Zoltán Fónagy, Robert Hermann, János Veliky, György Gyarmati, and Ignác Romsics.

Külön kiemelendő, hogy a könyv az 1945-2004 (igen, Medgyessy Péter lemondásáig megy el) közötti adatgazdag és pártatlan (mindenkit egyformán kritizáló) részét, a kommunista titkosrendőrség levéltára igazgatója, Gyarmati György írta és amely a korszak, de különösen a rendszerváltás utáni 15 év ma elérhető legjobb legobjektivebb tárgyalása.

István György Tóth: *Jövedelemeloszlás – a gazdasági rendszerváltástól az Uniós csatlakozásig*. Budapest: Századvég Kiadó, 2005, 340 pp, cloth.

1987 és 2003 között, a gazdasági rendszerváltás kezdetétől az uniós csatlakozásig alapjaiban változott meg a jövedelem eloszlás rendszere Magyarországon. Ez a könyv ennek a folyamatnak az első, a teljes időszakot átfogó, rendszerezett adatgyűjtésre épülő összefoglalása. A szerző a teljes jövedelem-eloszláson belül kiemelt figyelmet szentel a legfontosabb társadalmi csoportoknak: a szegénység, a középrétegek és a magas jövedelműek helyzetelemzésének. Az egyenlőtlenségek első nagymérvű növekedése 1987 és 1992 között következett be, egy második hullám a kilencvenes évek közepére tehető. Amikor nőttek az egyenlőtlenségek, az általában amiatt volt, mert növekedett a középrétegek és a legmagasabb jövedelmű csoportok közötti távolság. Az időszak elején a társadalom munkához jutási esélykülönbségei, a kilencvenes évek során viszont egyre

inkább az iskolázottság eltérései szabták meg a jövedelmi skálán való elhelyezkedést. Az állami jóléti újraelosztás általában és összességében csökkentette az egyenlőtlenségeket, de ennek a mértéke időben és a jóléti programok természetétől függően hullámzott. A legmagasabb és a legalacsonyabb jövedelmek közötti különbségek mértéke az uniós csatlakozás időpontjában ahhoz hasonlatos, amit a kontinentális európai országokban találhatunk. A rendszerváltás másfél évtizedének alapos ismerete segíthet megérteni, hogy mit várhatunk e téren az uniós csatlakozás első évtizedében. Az adatok iránt érdeklődők az eddigi legátfogóbb idősorokat találják a könyvben. Akik az adatok magyarázatai mögé szeretnének látni, azoknak viszont a bőséges elméleti és módszertani fejezetek áttekintését ajánljuk.

Zsuzsa Bánk, *The Swimmer* (Translator: Margot B. Dembo) NY: Harcourt, 2005.

In this poignant story of loss and longing, first-time novelist Bánk sensitively portrays the barren world of 1950s Hungary through a child's eyes. Kata and her brother, Isti, are young children when their mother leaves their village one day without a word and eventually makes her way to the West. Katalin Velencei's abrupt departure unhinges her stern, bitterly depressed husband, Kálmán, and he embarks on a vagabond existence, dragging the children from one family member to another, never staying long enough to provide stability for the desolate siblings. Isti is the true victim; always a dreamy boy, he begins hearing voices in inanimate objects and finds his only comfort in swimming obsessively in lakes and rivers. Kata relates the story of their wanderings in a matter-of-fact, unemotional tone, trying to understand the grownups who determine her fate and well-being. "Among our people, nobody married for love," she says, and "My mother never contradicted my father. She deserted him." Bánk adroitly refers to the political events in mid-1950s Hungary as dimly perceived background to Kata's narrative. It's as though the violent events in the far-off world are echoed in the small tragedy of their lives. The novel's delicate treatment of Kata's stoicism and powerlessness makes the denouement of this resonant narrative especially heartbreaking.

Albert Tezla, *Egy szívvel két hazában, Az amerikai magyarok 1895-1920*. Budapest: Corvina, pp. 320.

A kivándorlás és a megtelepedés kalandos történetét, a magyar kolóniák életét ismerteti dokumentumok alapján az USA-ban élő egyetemi tanár.

A very interesting article on the *Treatment of Jewish Themes in Hungarian Schools* by Monika Kovács can be found at <http://www.ajc.org/InTheMedia/PubEuropeEducation.asp?did=153&pid=168>

Robert Koulisch, "Hungarian Roma Attitudes on Minority Rights: The Symbolic Violence of Ethnic Identification", *Europe-Asia Studies*, Volume 57, Issue 2, March 2005. pp. 311-326.

György Réti, "The Marseilles Outrage of 1934 and Gömbös's Fourth Meeting with Mussolini: Blackmail, Subjection or Expression of Common Interest?" *East European Quarterly*, March 2005. Vol. 39, # 1.

e. library news of possible interest

1. The Virtual Library Eastern Europe (ViFaOst) www.vifaost.de, is now online in English, Russian and in the German original. ViFaOst is a scientific web portal that provides extensive specialist information on history, culture, politics, and society of the states and regions of Eastern Europe.

2. *East European Constitutional Review Journal* was absorbed by *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*. It is published quarterly by Heldref Publications (1319 Eighteenth St., NW, Washington, DC 20036-1802). <http://www.demokratizatsiya.org/index2.html>



f. I received the following email from Holland.

Tisztelt Olvasó! Kedves Baratunk!

A Hollandiai Mikes Kelemen Kor 2005 szeptember 8 es 11 kozott rendezi meg 46. Tanulmanyi Napok konferenciat a hollandiai Elspeet-ben.

A negy napos konferencia temaja: 'NYUGATI MAGYAR SZELLEMVILAG '

A konferencia programja es tobbi reszletes informacio a Mikes Tanulmanyi Napok honlapjan olvashato. A meghivo, a jelentkezési lap es az eloadok rovid eletrajza PDF-formatumban letoltheto a honlaprol: <http://www.federatio.org/mikes3.html>

Informacio es jelentkezés: mikes_tn@yahoo.com



If you are in Budapest between June 2-5, 2005 please come to the 30th conference of the American Hungarian Educators' Association. The conference will be held at the CEU. (1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 9.) The detailed program can be seen at <http://www.magyar.org/ahae/>



Have a great summer!

Susan