

American Hungarian educator

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Millecentenary Celebrations

Acting on the approval of the AHEA general meeting in 1996, Enikő Molnár Basa and Péter Basa went forward with plans to commemorate the 1100th anniversary of Hungary with a Symposium organized at the Library of Congress. AHEA member Anita Komlódi also assisted in the smooth running of the symposium. The Library was chosen as the appropriate scholarly venue for a national celebration, and the support of the European Division was enlisted. Ambassador György Bánlaki welcomed the idea enthusiastically making the Embassy the third presenter of this event. An audience of close to one hundred represented the Washington area academic and professional community, staff of the Congressional offices, members of the American-Hungarian community, and of course staff of the Library of Congress. All were invited to the reception at the Embassy which concluded the conference.

Held on November 15 as part of the Millecentenary Celebrations in the nation's capital, the "Hungary on the Threshold of the 21st Century: 1100 Years of Hungarian Culture," was opened by Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb on behalf of the Librarian, Dr. Billington. Mr. Tabb highlighted some of the connections between Hungary and the Library, pointing out that it was appropriate to celebrate this anniversary at an institution that has an outstanding collection of Hungarian materials ranging from the 14th century Neksei-Lipócz Bible to John von Neumann's

papers, and one which continues to have a very rewarding exchange of both materials and ideas with Hungarian institutions. Ambassador György Bánlaki then spoke about Hungary's extraordinary feat of survival over 1100 years and emphasized that these celebrations "focus attention on ... what we Hungarian have achieved over the centuries."

Serving as moderator, Enikő Molnár Basa commented in her introduction that while a commemoration of the settlement of the Magyar tribes in the Carpathian Basin in 896, the symposium also celebrates the integration of various cultures and influences into the nation that has emerged. The presenters, distinguished scholars from American universities, some of them also AHEA members, addressed the issues facing Hungary today in light of her historic role. Denis Sinor, Distinguished Professor of Uralic and Altaic Studies, Indiana University, discussed the relationship of Hungary to both East and West over its history. While remembering their Eastern origins, Hungarians have nevertheless remained faithful to the Western orientation established by St. Stephen. The West has not been grateful for Hungary's loyalty; it did not have any qualms about leaving Hungary in an Eastern sphere of influence. But, for all the contradictions inherent in the Finno-Ugric language spoken by Hungarians, the Turkic origins of the people, and a Western European heritage--or maybe because of it--Hungarians

have maintained their identity and will no doubt be here to celebrate another eleven hundred years of existence.

János Horvath, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Butler University, commented on current economic condition against historical precedents. Today's government is not facing new problems, though the solutions are sometimes led by some pressures from world economic interaction and economists. While facing very serious problems, the country should not forget that Hungary is an intellectual superpower, and by capitalizing its human resources the country could move to a sound financial footing.

The intellectual and literary scene since 1989 was surveyed by Ivan Sanders Professor of English, Suffolk Community College SUNY, who pointed out that the loss of government subsidies have discouraged some writers from tackling major works. Much of what is written is political and social critique. Of course, lack of government support does not necessarily lead to the demise of literature any more than such

Student Picnic

On October 5, 1996 the AHEA, with the cooperation of the Hungarian Embassy, sponsored a picnic for Hungarian students and young professionals in the Washington, DC area. The goal was to provide an opportunity for the students in the area, whether here from Hungary or American of Hungarian background, a chance to meet and cultivate informal connections both among themselves and with the Embassy and the AHEA. The idea came from Péter and Enikő Molnár Basa who matched the seed money contributed by the Association. Organized by Anita Komlódi, Kati Bánlaki, Gotthard Sághe-Szabó, and Sándor Szokolai, it was publicized through the Internet and listservs, as well as email networks. Posters also were displayed in universities.

Held in Rock Creek Park just a short distance from the Embassy, the group had the support of the Ambassador who also assured

support ensures great works. A balance still has to be worked out, however, in which writers feel they have leisure to reflect and write, in which there is a market for their work, and one where government support ensures a safe yet bland fare.

Dr. Bálint Vázsonyi, Senior Fellow of the Potomac Foundation, reminded the audience of major Hungarian composers and the ways in which they reflected or popularized Hungarian culture. Following each of the presentations, the audience was given the opportunity of asking questions, and a lively dialogue ensued as topics related to the presentations were further explored.

Funding for the Symposium came from a small grant from the AHEA which was augmented by substantial support from Peter and Enikő M. Basa and donations from both private individuals and the National Federation of American Hungarians. A full report on the Symposium appeared in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin (Vol. 55, no. 20: Nov. 18, 1996) and is also available at its web site under News and Events (<http://lcweb.loc.gov>).

them that they could move into the Embassy in case of rain. The proximity of the Embassy was, moreover, helpful in some of the logistics. Most of the students were from the Washington-Baltimore area, but there were some from Richmond and even Raleigh, North Carolina. Guests also includes American friends and spouses: 60-80 attended. Besides food and talk, there were sports and folkdancing. Most of all, just meeting and having fun. Ambassador György Bánlaki spent much of the afternoon chatting with the group.

This was the first of an annual event, to be held in late September or early October. This was the original intent of the Basas, but the participants eagerly endorsed it. The general consensus was expressed in the question heard most often: "When is the next picnic going to be?"

REMINDER

Memberships are for the calendar year. Please send your dues. The number next to your name on the mailing label indicates the last time you paid dues. Please use the form provided in the newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation as this will save mailing costs for reminders.

The **Cultural Foundation for Transylvania** is planning to publish the history of the Bolyai Farkas Lyceum. The Foundation has been especially active since 1989. It set up an English language library in Marosvásárhely and currently is providing annual scholarships of \$200 to twenty students.

If you want to support the publication of the history of the Bolyai Farkas Lyceum send your donation to Cultural Foundation for Transylvania, P.O. Box 1487 Washington, D.C. 20013-1487. Tel.: 703-827-5719, Fax: 703-827-8633.

The **Humanities Faculty of the Eötvös Loránd University** offers Hungarian Language courses. Applicants can choose from 16 lessons/week intensive courses and summer courses in Hungarian language and Hungarian studies. Get info from Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities, International Secretariat, Budapest, 1052, Pesti Barnabás u. 1/8. Tel.: 36-1-266-3521, email: atempa@osiris.elte.hu.



BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

The Legacy of the Hungarian Revolution

Edited by Károly Nagy and Peter Pastor. To order, send \$8.00 to Hungarian Alumni Association, P.O. Box 174, New Brunswick, NJ. 08903.

The Spirit of Hungary by Stephen Sisa

Now in its third edition and updated for 1995. It is two books in one.

As a Panorama of Hungarian History and Culture, it highlights Hungary's 1100 year history and cultural achievements in music, the arts, and sciences. As timely as ever, it devotes over 100 pages to the area most threatened by armed conflict in the world. It covers the ethnic situation in neighboring Romania, The Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as the former Yugoslavia. Available from **Vista Books**, P.O. Box 1766 Morristown, NJ 07962-1766, Ph.: 908-604-9702.

1998-99 Fulbright Awards for U.S. Faculty and Professionals

Opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in over 135 countries are available to college and university faculty and professionals outside academe. The deadline for lecturing or research grants for 1998-99 is August 1, 1997.

For info contact: USIA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden St., NW Suite 5M, Box GNEWS, Washington, DC 20008-3009. Ph.: 202-686-7877. On the Web: <http://www.cies.org>, email: cies1@ciesnet.cies.org.

The **Council on International Educational Exchange** is offering a seminar on **Hungary and Central Europe: A Region in Transition** from June 15 to 22, 1997. The location of the seminar is Budapest University of Economic Sciences, Budapest, Hungary. It costs \$1800.

Application deadline: April 1, 1997.

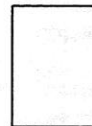
For more info contact the Program Registrar by phone at 212-822-2747 or email: ifdsregistrar@ciece.org.

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Editor and Publication director: Ilona Lantos.



the present and was edited by Adam Makkai. It is illustrated with the woodcuts of György Buday. Paperback: \$49.95; hardcover: 69.95. Send orders to: Atlantis-Centaur, Inc., 5600 Sheridan Rd., Apt. #16-A, Chicago, IL 60660.

Dunakanyar 2000

The Dunakanyar 2000 Könyvkiadó Kft. (1034 Budapest, Szentendrei út 26/IX/52) is publishing a series of handbooks on Hungary. Available are:

Magyarország növényvilága	4900 Ft.
Magyarország állatvilága	5500 Ft.
Magyar Nyelv és irodalom	5500 Ft.

In preparation:

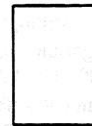
Magyarország kézikönyve	5500 Ft.
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Contact Urbán Ottilia at the above address.

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