

on Ferenc József Dabály, the composer of the Uruguayan and Paraguayan national anthems. He provides a chapter on the years Sándor Asbóth spent in Buenos Aires until his death, as ambassador of the United States. Finally, a lengthy chapter is devoted to the honorable János Csetz, the colonel of the Hungarian War of Independence of 1848, who earned great fame as a professor, professional engineer and writer in Argentina. The author quotes a great variety of contemporary sources. The monograph is a scholarly work and makes also for pleasurable reading.

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Hungarian Studies in English, I–XV

If the life of *Hungarian Studies in English*, (henceforth: *HSE*), is calculated, as would be expected, from its date of birth, at first sight it may appear strange that, though it started publication in 1963, it is only 15 years old in 1982. The explanation is that in the beginning *HSE* appeared every two years. László Országh, Chairman of Kossuth University's English Department in Debrecen, who founded the present series in 1963, was cautious in promising further volumes in the *Prefatory Note* of the first issue, saying only that more would follow "from time to time". Owing to Professor Országh's organizational talent and dedication, "from time to time" became regular intervals: every two years up to 1973, and annually since 1974. The annual sequence is only seemingly interrupted in 1978, for the 1977 *Festschrift*, Volume XI, in which the then retired László Országh was honored by his students, was a double issue, so much so that it should really have been numbered Volumes XI and XII.

The very first volume of the present series of the *HSE* was a *Festschrift*, a memorial volume. Besides commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Debrecen English Department, Professor Országh's *Prefatory Note* explained that while the volume was a first comer of a novel and unique undertaking in post-World War II English Philology in Hungary, it was "at the same time to serve as a memorial to Sándor Fest, the first professor of English in this university". László Országh and István Gál (*In Memoriam Sándor Fest*) inform us that Sándor Fest, a comparatist of commanding stature in Anglo-Hungarian intellectual relations, inaugurated a series, *Studies in English Philology* in 1936 and renamed it *Hungarian Studies in English* in 1944, in what turned out to be the first and last volume by that name. In that very year Fest died tragically during the siege of Budapest. Almost twenty years later, László Országh regarded his new series of *HSE* as a continuation of what his predecessor in the Chair had started.

Already a tradition which still prevails had established itself: the chairman of the Debrecen English Department is always the editor of *HSE*. The first seven volumes were edited by Országh, who chose P. Egri and A. Katona as his assistant editors. After volume VIII, edited by A. Katona, the temporary confusion that surrounded the chairmanship and the short interregnum that followed are also reflected in the editorship of *HSE*, volume IX bearing the name of L. Némedi, "Acting Head of the English Department"; László Országh helped out with volume X. It was with volume XI, the Országh *Festschrift*, that the present editor, István Pálffy took up his position. After László Országh the editors no longer had assistant editors.

Though *HSE* was a considerable feat of English Philology in post-war Hungary, the production of fifteen volumes is not a formidable achievement and for a scholarly journal the life-span of nearly two decades (1963–82) is by no means considerable. Nevertheless, the sixties and the seventies were decades of far-reaching change in Hungary, which substantially altered the conditions under which *HSE* existed.

The 1944–63 hiatus was not the product of mere chance and it did not pass without leaving its mark. The English and American scholarships and fellowships, which practically all serious Hungarian scholars working in the field of English and American studies could acquire in the 60s

and 70s, were just beginning to become available in 1963. The establishing of comparative studies was an impressive accomplishment and *HSE* will have to maintain its role as a forum which is especially relevant for it. (From the 1963 volume it can be seen that Sándor Fest was the first to devote a life's work to the systematic comparative study of Anglo-Hungarian relations in history and literary history.) Yet the proportion of comparative essays, especially of papers where research was conducted on the reception of various British and American authors in Hungary, was not *simply* a virtue but—considering its almost exclusive presence—must have been virtue born of necessity. In those years the younger scholars working in this field lacked both the means to expand the English holdings of their libraries, and the present system of state-supported individual or team-research. They had for too long been cut off from the desirable and long-coveted opportunity of completing their scholarly training with a period of intense and essential study at Anglo-Saxon universities and of carrying out research in British and American libraries. It should not be forgotten that the Debrecen English Department was closed in 1949 and reopened only in 1957. To participate in international conferences or to organize international professional events in Hungary was utterly out of the question. No wonder many felt this lack of opportunity would have thrown into question the relevance of their contribution in the fields of linguistics and literature, if the scope of their activity had remained more than naturally restricted. However, there have been radical changes in this respect and these are also mirrored in *HSE*. There is hardly a Hungarian contribution to the volumes of the past decade whose author has not conducted research either in Great Britain or in the United States, as a British Council exchange scholar, a Ford research scholar, an IREX exchange scholar, an ACLS fellow or under one or the other exchange agreements.

HSE has made good use of the new opportunities available in recent years. While preserving the venerable tradition inherited from Országh and displaying faithfully the range of Hungarian scholarly interest in general, but of Debrecen and Budapest scholars in particular, *HSE* clearly registers our improved international relations. This is most conspicuous in volumes XII and XIII which present the proceedings of the 1978 Debrecen International Seminar of English and American Studies held to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Debrecen English Department—an event that John Lawler's *Foreword* refers to as "a landmark for English Studies in Hungary". Participants came from all parts of the world: Bergen, Berlin, Brno, Budapest, California, Debrecen, East-Anglia, Edinburgh, Eger, Graz, Keele, London, Moscow, Munich, New York, Pécs, Poznań, Prešov, Rostock, Szeged, Tokyo. Moreover the new feature of international contributors whose presence is not a complete novelty, for it had occasionally occurred earlier, seems to have continued after the seminar volumes.

The *HSE* now tends to include an increasing number of internationally relevant Hungarian contributions in linguistics and literature as well as in other fields of research. Both this and the beneficent international openness as regards contributors can be regarded as the praiseworthy accomplishments of I. Pálffy, the present editor. Yet he would be the first to remind us that behind all this there towers the figure of László Országh (who died in 1984), the grand old man of English and American Studies in Hungary, whose incomparable achievements were recognized by the British government in 1977 when he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.). He lent his influence to almost all Hungarian applications for English and American scholarships, and to all other professional enterprises; and he is, among other things, the father of American Studies in Hungary in the broad and modern sense of the word. It was he who in volume II of *HSE* outlined *A Programme for American Studies in Hungary*. He himself contributed unceasingly and voluminously to the study of English and American literary history, Anglo-Hungarian cultural relations, English and Hungarian linguistics. He compiled, edited and reviewed dictionaries, English language teaching books and papers as well as other books; and, last but not least, taught generations of future teachers. Volume XI of *HSE*, one of the richest volumes, was due homage, his students' salute with the pen.

An intelligent critical appraisal of HSE's ramifying material is beyond the ability of any one reviewer. Such a task would need to be attempted in separate papers, and assigned to several critics. However, it is part and parcel of every introduction to step closer and take at least a cursory look. In other words, it would be appropriate at this point to glance at just what this 15-year-old East-Hungarian younger sister of time-honored journals is concerned with.

The following conspectus is arranged under—occasionally loosely applied—larger headings. The subjects within each large group appear in chronological order of publication except where several comparatists or linguists wrote on the same topics on different occasions, or the same author contributed on different English or American literary subjects in different volumes, or when some simplifying inner logical grouping (comparatists, linguists etc.) was necessary.

Comparatist subjects. Anglo-Hungarian relations (by S. Maller and posthumously by S. Fest); American-Hungarian relations (I. Gál on Jenő Pivány's pioneering research); Széchenyi and the U.S.A. (I. Gál); Csokonai and Burns (K. Bárczy); Hungarian culture versus European patterns (L. Némedi); English references in Ferenc Verseghy (V. Julow); anglomania in Hungary (L. Országh); Hungarian literature in English (G. F. Cushing); Chekhov and O'Neill (P. Egri); essays on various travelogues, memoirs etc., such as Martin Csombor's (Á. Békés), S. Bölöni Farkas's (I. Gál), Sir Philip Sidney's Guidebook (I. Gál), Count Michael Bethlen's (J. Jankovics); Hungarian travelogues on pre-Civil-War and post-Civil-War America (A. Katona); Bölöni Farkas and A. de Tocqueville (J. Gellén); the Hungarian reception of Pope (V. Julow); also, Shaw in Hungary (I. Pálffy), Poe in Hungary (B. Korponay), Shakespeare in Hungary (M. Szenczi, T. Bognár, K. É. Kiss), Jack London in Hungary (A. Horváth), American drama in Hungary (Cs. Székely), modern English drama in Hungary (I. Pálffy), T. S. Eliot in Hungary (O. Rózsa), Franklin in Hungary (K. Halácsy), Sinclair Lewis in Hungary (L. Jakabfi); helpful bibliographies like American belles-lettres in Hungarian translation 1945–1970 (A. Katona, M. Zöld), English literature in Hungarian 1945–1965 (A. Katona). Hungarian critics on English literature 1957–1965, 1968–1972 (E. Mészáros, G. Zsuffa, L. Vadon, V. Vattamány), the celebration of the U.S.A.'s First Centenary in Hungary (P. Magyarics), the American Civil War in the Hungarian press, 1961–1965 (C. Kretzoi).

Linguistics. Contrastive studies (adjectival constructions by B. Korponay, adjectives with negative affixes by J. Csapó); lexicography (T. Magay, L. Országh, N. Horton-Smith, P. Sherwood): case grammar (B. Korponay, J. Andor); dialectology (L. Matzkó, W. Viereck); semantics (L. Lipka); language history (V. Kniezsa on Old Scottish); lexicology (English sporting and medical terminology in Hungarian by J. Csapó, M. Kontra); on the first English grammar in Hungary (B. Korponay); Hungarian grammars for English students (G. F. Cushing); on the Hungarian name of the U.S.A. (L. Országh); topic and focus (K. É. Kiss); on aspect in English (B. Hollósy); on subjecthood (J. Anderson); on dissimetry in linguistics orientation (Y. Ikegami); on pronominalization (K. É. Kiss).

British literature. A. Katona on George Eliot; P. Egri on Joyce and Thomas Mann, and on T. S. Eliot; K. Ruttkay on Young; Z. Abádi-Nagy on Swift; B. Mohay on F. M. Ford; J. Szabó-Papp on Angus Wilson; M. Szenczi on the English Renaissance; E. Hankiss on Keats; I. Pálffy on Byron and on 17th c. English drama; J. Fletcher on Swift and Beckett; G. Klotz on modern British drama; J. Kocmanová on MacDiarmid; Gy. E. Szőnyi on John Dee; H. Höhne on Stoppard.

American literature. C. Kretzoi on poetry in colonial America, on Styron, on American realism, on 17th c. American prose style; A. Katona on modern American picaresque; P. Egri on Hemingway, on T. S. Eliot, and on O'Neill; Z. Abádi-Nagy on Vonnegut, on Barth, on Pynchon, on entropic fiction, on John Irving; Zs. Virágos on Baldwin, on myth in the American novel; Z. Szilassy on Kopit; O. Øverland on Rølvaag; J. B. Vickery on Barth's use of myth; J. Gellén on Willa Cather and Rølvaag; J. Grmela on Dos Passos; M. Koreneva on Albee.

Other subjects. G. F. Cushing on travel in 18th c. Hungary; I. Rác on emigration; J. Gellén on a Hungarian colonel's unknown letter to an American statesman, as well as on emigration

immigration; J. Barta, Jr. on enlightened absolutistic theory; L. Arday on 1917–19 British plans for East-Central Europe; T. Frank on Hegel in England; R. Kroes on new conservatism in America. Also, articles on the history of the Debrecen English Department, in-memoriam papers (Fest, Yolland) and book-reviews.

It is regrettable that book-reviews are no longer published in *HSE* after volume X and that teaching methodology is represented by one single study (G. Lengyel on teaching English as a foreign language).

Beginning with volume XII *HSE* has been printed in Kossuth University's Duplicating Office and—now that initial difficulties have been surmounted—its presentation has been improved and the number of misprints diminished.

1986 will be an important year for English studies in Hungary, the centenary of their introduction in the curriculum of Hungarian universities. The *HSE* volumes in preparation have been conceived in anticipation of this anniversary and will again pay due attention to Anglo-Hungarian and Scottish-Hungarian historical and intellectual relations since these are of long standing and particularly important in the case of Debrecen.

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Clara Györgyey:

Ferenc Molnár

Boston, Twayne Publishers, A Division of G. G. Hall and Co.,

1980. 195. pp. (Twayne's World Authors Series No. 574.)

It is not to the credit of Hungarian self-assessment that the first biography of Ferenc Molnár (1878–1952) and systematization of his works, which can be considered complete in spite of its sketchy character, was conceived not in Hungary but in the United States. All the greater is the pleasure that it has at last been born and through her work Clara Györgyey has undoubtedly done a great service to both the Hungarian and international history of drama and the theatre.

The book depicts in eight chapters the—essentially sad—story which was the life of Ferenc Molnár, and his more joyous career as a writer. The glamor and unexpected successes of the first years—his gluttonous enjoyment of life, money and women—were avenged by the decades of loneliness, mutual misunderstandings and illness—not to mention his rushes of torturing qualms of conscience. And if the man went through the tortures of hell while still alive—merely by living too long in a world which he no longer understood—this was intensified by the tortures the writer had to suffer when he lived long enough to see the dwindling of his creative power and the alienation of his audience.

Clara Györgyey traces this long road in eight concise chapters. She sketches for the American reader the picture of Budapest towards the end of the last century, then she presents a brief but in my view, authentic, biography of Ferenc Molnár. The next two chapters deal with the achievements and failures of the writer of short stories and novels, with occasional side-glances at the dramatist and the overlappings between the prose works and the plays. The following two chapters are about the dramatist, one discussing all his plays except *Liliom* to which, as the central play of his oeuvre, a separate is dedicated. Finally, a picture is drawn of his years in America, followed by a summary of how the author evaluates the writer and his career.

Let me repeat again: it is almost impossible to give this pioneering work the commendation it deserves. The value of the work is enhanced by an excellent bibliography which—primarily