

Archival Collections on Hungarian Canadians at the National Archives of Canada

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Archival collections on Hungarians in Canada held by the National Archives originate essentially from two sources. One source is the federal government departments and agencies which had on various occasions dealt with members of the Hungarian community in Canada. These are essentially government records, providing information collected by and of interest or use to government officials. Other records on Hungarian Canadians at the National Archives consist of records received by the National Archives from the Hungarian-Canadian community. These consist in large part of papers of private individuals or of records of Hungarian-Canadian community organizations, acquired by the National Archives largely through its National Ethnic Archives program.

Collections of records received by the National Archives are organized by fond, or according to the origin of the collection. That is, as a general rule we organize collections under the name of the individual or agency that created the records. For example, records at the National Archives originating from the Department of Immigration are organized together in Record Group 76. A similar broad categorization also exists in the case of records received by the National Archives, through the work of its National Ethnic Archives program, for records which fall into the Manuscript Group category. For example, records of Hungarian community associations received by the National Archives are organized together under the name of the organization in Manuscript Group 28 of our holdings.

Such categories serve essentially a control function, helping to identify a particular collection in our holdings. Most records held by the National Archives are organized under either the Record Group, or the Manuscript Group category. Essentially this means that they originate from a government source (Record Group), or from a private source (Manuscript Group). Of course, we also have other broader categories of classification. In some

instances, for example, documents received by the National Archives require special storage conditions. This is true for the photographs listed in this article. Most of these had been received from government departments or from private individuals. Because photographs require storage conditions different from paper, the photographs were removed from the collections of which they had formed a part when arriving at the National Archives. Once separated, they were organized according to their own classification system. The National Archives does, however, retain a record of any transfer of documents, thereby enabling the researcher to find the original source of any photograph, and perhaps also why such a photograph had been created.

Government documents held by the National Archives which contain most documentation on Hungarian Canadians were received from federal government departments or agencies which had most contact with Hungarian Canadians. As such, government bodies which had been involved in immigration work are of special importance. Until 1919, immigration was part of the Department of Agriculture (RG 17 of our holdings) and the Interior (RG 15 of our holdings). After 1917, except for the period 1936 to 1949, immigration existed as a separate department. While the actual operational records of the Immigration Branch remained a distinct series and have been preserved as such in RG 76 of the holdings of the National Archives, the records of the larger Department of Immigration and Colonization, 1917–1936, and Citizenship and Immigration, 1949–1966, are preserved in RG 26 of our holdings. After 1966, the Department of Immigration (RG 118 of our holdings) continued this tradition. Records on Hungarian immigration are to be found in the files of all these government departments. In some instances, as for example in case of the Esterhazy material found in RG 76, files had been removed from the Department of Agriculture records and placed with those of the Department of Immigration. Although this is done seldom, it may occur, for example, when files of an earlier period provide useful background information for government immigration work carried out at a later date.

Records preserved by the Immigration Branch may include a variety of documentation: (1) correspondence or memoranda dealing with conditions in Hungary which led Hungarians to emigrate; (2) correspondence, shipping lists and other records created by immigration workers while bringing Hungarians to Canada; (3) financial records providing information on money which may have been expended by the government to recruit Hungarian immigrants; and (4) advertising literature. In short, these files consist of documentation created by federal government agencies in the process of monitoring the movement of Hungarians to Canada and their settlement in this country.

In addition to records of federal government departments directly in-

involved in immigration, records of government departments indirectly involved in immigration work also show repeated references to Hungarians. Thus, records of the Department of External Affairs often mention Hungarian immigration. Also, between the two World Wars much of Canada's immigrant recruitment work on continental Europe was carried out by Canada's two major railways, the CNR and the CPR. References to Hungarian immigration and Hungarian settlement in Canada occur therefore in the records held by the Department of Colonization and Agriculture of the Canadian National Railway (RG 30).

Government agencies collected considerable information on Canadian Hungarians during both World Wars, when the authorities monitored the activities and attitudes of peoples in Canada originating from countries at war with Canada. Laws regulating the activities of Hungarian Canadians may, for example, be found in files of the Department of Justice (RG 13), or in the files of the Privy Council Office (RG 2). Files relating to the censorship of Hungarian-Canadian publications or to regulations serving to monitor the entry into Canada of American Hungarian publications are located in the records of the Chief Press Censor (RG 6 E1). Files describing efforts by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to control the activities of Hungarian Canadians during the war years are to be found in RCMP records in our holdings (RG 18).

Of course, government departments which monitored the activities of Hungarian Canadians during the war years did not collect information on them only during these years. However, the number of files accumulated on Hungarian Canadians by these departments or agencies increased considerably during the years of conflict. Files on Hungarian Canadians were also created by other government departments. Occasional files on Hungarian Canadians may therefore be found, for example, in records of the Department of Labour (RG 27), or in the records of the Governor General's Office (RG 7). Only those government departments or agencies which were directly involved with the Hungarian-Canadian community created files on Hungarian Canadians. Such information was collected for the government or its various agencies and was retained insofar as it suited government needs.

Once the government department or agency had no further need of files it had created on Hungarian Canadians, these were transferred to the National Archives. As the National Archives had no program concentrating on collecting records on Hungarian Canadians or on any other minority group in Canada, this left the National Archives with a limited and, at times, one-sided source base on groups such as the Hungarians. Recognition of this fact, and the realization that such information may provide a rather one-sided picture of an ethnic community in this country, led to the establishment of the National Ethnic Archives program by the National Archives

in 1972. The main thrust of this program is to collect the records of the different ethnic communities themselves. These may include the dormant files of Hungarian-Canadian organizations. They may include the papers of individuals prominent in the Canadian Hungarian community. Of course, the National Archives seeks to collect records on the Hungarian-Canadian community which are of national significance. Once received by the National Archives, these records are arranged. Finding aids are prepared for them. Providing information on the Hungarian-Canadian community from the community's point of view, these records ensure that historians and other researchers using the holdings of the National Archives will have readily accessible documentation which would enable them to describe the Hungarian-Canadian experience as accurately and objectively as possible.

Although the National Ethnic Archives has had some success in expanding the source base of historical records on Hungarian Canadians available to scholars, this program is still in its beginning stages. This may be observed when looking at some of the Manuscript Group collections described in the attached. The most important organizational files acquired by the National Archives to date are the records of the Canadian Hungarian Association (MG28 V65). These files are fairly complete and relate to an important and formative period in Hungarian-Canadian life. To give the scholar access to files which would enable him to describe the various dimensions of Hungarian-Canadian organizational life, however, we would also have to have the records of many other Hungarian-Canadian organizations. These include, for example, the records of the Canadian Hungarian Federation or of the Canadian Hungarian Sick-Benefit Federation. For our holdings to truly reflect the Hungarian-Canadian experience, we must have the records of Hungarian organizations from the beginnings of Hungarian organizational life in Canada to the present.

Of dormant files of Canadian Hungarian publishing companies, we hold the records of Canada's longest existing Canadian Hungarian newspaper, the *Kanadai Magyar Ujság*, published between 1924 and 1976 (MG 28 V19). The importance of this collection is further enhanced in that it contains considerable information on Canadian Hungarian communities collected by Gusztav Nemes while publishing the newspaper. We also have the records of the Patria Publishing Company (MG 28 V 121), which published the *Magyar Élet*, a Toronto based Hungarian-Canadian newspaper. To have our collections representative of the Hungarian-Canadian community we require, however, dormant files of other regional publishing companies, as well as the files of publishing companies reflective of at least the most important sub-groupings in the community, be these political or religious in nature.

The same is true of church records held by the National Archives. The records of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Montreal (MG 8 G76) are

important not only because they provide information on the Hungarian religious community in Montreal and Quebec. They also give insight into Hungarian immigrant adjustment to Canadian life. To be truly useful, however, information in this collection would have to be supplemented by information contained in archives of Hungarian religious communities across the country, no matter what their religious affiliation.

The papers we hold on private individuals or on community organizations relate primarily to the Hungarian-Canadian post-World War II immigrant community. Of personal papers, only the Gyula Izsak collection is a laudable exception. Despite this, when one looks at records held by the National Archives on the post-World War II immigrant community, one finds that much work still remains to be done. This is not to say that we do not have important collections on Hungarian-Canadian post-World War II life. The Charles Szathmary de Kovend papers, the Gyorgy Faludy papers, the De Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay papers, or the Janos Miska papers show that we have been able to acquire important collections in this area. Nevertheless, there are still many collections of private papers or records of post-World War II Canadian Hungarian organizations which remain to be acquired. One has only to mention the records of the Széchenyi Society, of which we hold only a paltry segment, or the records of the Canadian Hungarian Engineers' Association. We have no records of this organization.

Despite these shortcomings, our holdings of both private papers and government records make the National Archives the most important source base on Hungarians in Canada. We will be able to serve the Hungarian-Canadian community still better, however, only if the community chooses to participate more fully in our efforts. It can do so by letting community members know of the services we provide. It can do so by entrusting us with the documents in their holdings which are of national significance, and by perhaps also using our help to find a suitable archival repository for community records which are not of national significance. It can help us by making greater use of the collections listed in this article so as to make Canadian Hungarians and Canadians in general more aware of the Hungarian fact in Canada and of its contributions to Canadian life.

Although most collections listed in this article are available in original form only and must be used at the National Archives, some of the collections listed are available on microfilm. Researchers may borrow such microfilms through any library participating in the Interlibrary Loan Arrangement. Researchers wishing to use collections not available on microfilm should first write the National Archives, explaining their research objectives. We may be able to help them formulate their research project as well as inform them of the collections we have on their subject of interest and whether such collections are available for research purposes. Researchers must register at the National Archives during office hours,

from 8:30 to 4:45, Monday to Friday. Once the researcher has received his or her research material and placed it in a locker made available for this purpose, he or she is free to make use of our research facilities seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, including public holidays.

Examples of documents at the National Archives of Canada relating to Hungarians in Canada

Government Archives Division

- 1 "Hungarian Immigration, Count Paul d'Esterhazy, New York City, 1892–1903" (Immigration Branch. Record Group 76, vol. 20, file 347, parts 1–2, microfilm reel no. C-4678).
- 2 "Hungarian Emigration to Canada, 1897–1948" (RG 76, vol. 145, file 34274, parts 1–3).
- 3 "T.C. Robinette, Toronto, Ontario: M.D. Davis making arrangements with Department for bringing to this country a number of Hungarians and Croatians (pamphlet), 1907–1908" (RG 76, vol. 485, file 750771, microfilm reel C-10419).
- 4 "Immigration from Hungary—general file, 1949–1966" (RG 76, vol. 822, file 552-1-565, parts 1 and 2).
- 5 "Processing of applications of persons from Hungary, 1957–1966" (RG 76, vol. 808, file 548-12-565).
- 6 "Hungarian refugees—professors and students, 1956–1958" (RG 76, vol. 863, file 555-54-565-2, parts 1 and 2).
- 7 "Hungarian refugees from France, 1956–1957" (RG 76, vol. 864, file 555-54-565-4).
- 8 "Emergency assistance—Hungarian refugees, 1956–1966" (RG 76, vol. 909, file 580-2-1).
- 9 "Treatment of enemy aliens and internees, 1940, 1942" (Privy Council Office. RG 2, Series 18, vol. 45, file D-15-2).
- 10 "Esterhazy, Count Paul d'. Correspondence re Hungarian settlers in North West Territories, 1886–1907" (Governor General's Office. RG 7, G 21, vol. 141, file 264).
- 11 "Disturbance among Hungarians at Lethbridge, 1888" (Royal Canadian Mounted Police. RG 18, A 1, vol. 23, file 631-88).
- 12 "Treatment of Austro-Hungarian prisoners and interned civilians, 1919" (External Affairs. RG 25, A 2, vol. 173, file C13/35).
- 13 "Immigration (Correspondence re immigration from Hungary, etc.), 1923–1924" (RG 25, A 6, vol. 407, file M/207, pt. 3).
- 14 "Financial and Relief Assistance to Hungarian refugees, 1956–1957" (Citizenship and Immigration. RG 26, vol. 91, file 3-3-8).
- 15 "Air and Shipping arrangements for Hungarian refugees, 1956–1957" (RG 26, vol. 95, file 3-7-12, parts 1 and 2).
- 16 "Movement from the United Kingdom of Hungarian refugees, 1956–1957" (RG 26, vol. 112, file 3-24-12-6).
- 17 "Relations with Canadian and international Red Cross societies in the handling

- of Hungarian refugees (includes lists), 1956–1957” (RG 26, vol. 117, file 3–24–34–2).
- 18 “Hungarian Refugees, 1956–1958” (RG 26, vol. 139, file 3–38–9, 10 and 10–1).
 - 19 “Aliens; Hungarians, 1943–1945” (RG 27, vol. 998, file 2–114–8).
 - 20 “Hungarian immigration 1926–1928—constitution of the Canadian-Hungarian Association—list of Hungarian arrivals, 1927, 1926–1928” (Canadian National Railways. RG 30, vol. 5630, file 5142–1).
 - 21 “Pannonia payments for placements—1930 list of Hungarian immigrants the society aided in finding employment, 1930” (RG 30, vol. 5630, file 5142–3).
 - 22 “Some Hungarian settlements in Western Canada—location and nature of these settlements, 1934” (RG 30, vol. 5899, file 62).
 - 23 “C.N.L.S.A. settlement schemes for continental families—list of Hungarian settlers, 1927” (RG 30, vol. 5892, file W 337).
 - 24 “Communism among Ukrainian, Hungarian and Slavic peoples in Canada, 1942” (Boards, Offices and Commissions. RG 36, series 31, vol. 13, file 8–9–1A).

Manuscript Division

- 1 Montreal, Quebec: Hungarian Reformed Church of Montreal (Manuscript Group 8, G 76. Originals, n.d., 1924–1971. 71 cm. Microfilm, 1926–1977, reels M-6481 to M-6485)

Loose sheets recording minutes of some meetings of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Montreal, 1927–1966, reports of the church, 1927–1965, correspondence, 1925–1926, 1927–1944, 1947–1948, 1951–1952, 1954–1961, 1964, 1966, church circulars, 1924–1926, 1931–1967, programs, 1926–1944, 1947–1950, 1952–1955, 1957–1962, 1971, sermons and speeches, 1928, 1931–1933, 1935–1937, 1960, 1964, 1966–1967, as well as church membership lists, 1926–1936, 1943–1953, and correspondence, financial reports and other records of sub-organizations and associate organizations of the church, 1934–1965. Also included are microfilm reels of minutes of meetings of the executive of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Montreal, 1926–1971, of the church’s financial journals, 1926–1977, of minutes of the Bethlen Kata Women’s Association, 1932–1967, and copies of minutes of the Petöfi Choir of Montreal, 1930–1936.
- 2 Canadian Hungarian News Company, Ltd. (MG 28, V 19. Originals, n.d., 1924, 1927–1976. 9.34 m)

Financial records, 1927–1966, of the publishing company, its general correspondence, 1924, 1937–1976, reports, notes, correspondence and other material relating to Canadian Hungarian social life, 1948–1973, manuscripts submitted to the company for publication, 1949–1976, as well as other records of the newspaper company.
- 3 Alexander A. Kelen Limited (MG 28, V 52. Originals, n.d., 1928–1970, 1975. 3 m)

Financial records, 1928–1964, and correspondence, 1930–1970, of the Kelen Travel Agency.
- 4 Canadian Hungarian Association (MG 28, V 65. Originals, n.d., 1906, 1912, 1923, 1925–1931. 1.49 m)

Constitution and By-laws, n.d., 1906, 1912, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1929, minutes,

- 1927–1931, financial records, 1928–1931, reports, 1927–1929, correspondence, 1923, 1927–1931, and other records of the Canadian Hungarian Association.
- 5 Hungarian Readers' Service, Inc. (MG 28, V 66. Originals, n.d., [1964]-1980. 1.09 m. Photocopies, n.d., 1958, 1971–1977. 4.5 cm)
 Correspondence, n.d., 1971–1980, subscription lists, n.d., articles, [1964], 1971–1974, and other material relating to the publication of *The Canadian-American Review of Hungarian Studies*, as well as pamphlets, clippings and other types of documents on Hungary and Hungarians, n.d., 1969, 1971, 1975–1979.
- 6 Széchenyi Society, Inc. (MG 28, V 105. Originals, n.d., 1973–1974. 21 cm)
 A campaign handbook, correspondence, brochures, financial statements, slides, a sound recording and other records, n.d., 1973–1974, relating to the Hungarian-Canadian Cultural Appeal.
- 7 Patria Publishing Company Ltd. (MG 28, V 121. Originals, n.d., 1924, 1929, 1936, 1943, 1948, 1949, 1954–1978. 2.35 m)
 Financial records, 1956–1977, correspondence, n.d., 1948, 1954, 1961–1978, as well as other records of the publishing company.
- 8 Miska, Janos P. (MG 31, D 88. Originals, n.d., 1934–1985. 86 cm)
 Janos Miska correspondence, as well as clippings and other material relating to his work, 1943–1985. Also included are correspondence of the Canadian-Hungarian Authors' Association and manuscripts of novels and articles by Canadian-Hungarian authors, n.d., 1966–1977.
- 9 Makko, Lajos (MG 31, D 97. Originals, n.d., 3.5 cm)
 Manuscripts of poems and short stories by Lajos Makko (Tamas Tuz).
- 10 Thassy-Plavenszky, Ferenc (MG 31, H 120. Originals, n.d., 1931, 1940, 1953–1981. 62 cm)
 Personal journal, correspondence, manuscripts, articles, clippings and other papers documenting the life and activities of Thassy-Plavenszky in Hungary and Canada.
- 11 Urge, Janos (MG 31, H 124. Originals, 1956–1957. 2.5 cm)
 Documents recording Urge's experiences in refugee camps in Austria after his flight from Hungary towards the end of the 1956 revolution, as well as immigration and shipping records relating to his coming to Canada in 1957, n.d., 1956–1957.
- 12 De Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay, Miklos (MG 31, H 148. Originals, n.d., 1946–1980. 1.18 m)
 Minutes, correspondence, reports, clippings and other records relating to the Grand Committee of Hungarian Churches and Societies of Montreal, 1947–1976, and the Quebec Committee for Hungarian Relief, 1957–1975, as well as correspondence, press releases and bulletins of the Canadian Citizenship Council, 1967–1970, and Mattyasovszky-Zsolnay's correspondence with friends and relatives in different parts of the world, 1946–1980.
- 13 Szekely-Molnar, Imre (MG 31, H 123. Originals, n.d., 1962–1976. 11 cm)
 Notes, articles and clippings of newspaper articles, n.d., 1962–1976, by Imre Szekely-Molnar, a Hungarian-Canadian writer and journalist.
- 14 Havran, Martin J. (MG 31, H 167. Originals, 1986–1987. 0.010 m)
 Autobiographical notes, 1986, in which Havran describes his experiences in the Hungarian immigrant community of Windsor and his later career as professor

of history.

- 15 Izsak, Gyula (MG 30, C 145. Originals, n.d., 1890–1907. 1 cm)
Diary of Gyula Izsak, 1890–1907, which describes his childhood experiences and village life in Bereg, Hungary, his family’s emigration to Canada and their first years in Bekevar, Saskatchewan.
- 16 Faludy, György (MG 30, D 287. Originals, n.d., 1966–1979. 75 cm)
Manuscripts of published and unpublished works by György Faludy, poet, novelist and scholar, as well as notes relating to his artistic and scholarly endeavors.
- 17 Szathmary de Kovend, Charles (MG 31, G 24. Originals, n.d., 1887, 1902–1984. 16.8 m)
Correspondence, manuscripts, memoirs, photographs and other records relating to the Veterans Association of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, n.d., 1887, 1902–1984. Most of the records relate to the post-World War II activities of the organization. Also included are Szathmary family papers, including correspondence, photographs and other family records, n.d., 1883–1984.

Documentary Art and Photography Division

Description of Photographs:

- 1 “First Hungarian Sick Benefit Society, Lethbridge, Alberta, circa 1930.” (PA 139302)
- 2 “Hungarian immigrants en route to Western Canada at Quebec City, P.Q., 1920’s.” (C 36152)
- 3 “Canadian Hungarian News Building, 210 Sherbrooke Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1946.” (PA 147705)
- 4 “Hungarian Immigrants: officers and members of King St. Stephen Roman Catholic Hungarian Sick Benefit Society in front of their office, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1925.” (PA 147710)
- 5 “Hungarian Immigrants: Janos Szabo and his family, Fraser Valley, B.C., 1923.” (PA 147711)
- 6 “Hungarian Immigrants: Permanent members of the Hungarian Cultural Association (Inscribed: Souvenir for the Canadian Hungarian News, Winnipeg, Manitoba), Welland, Ontario, 1931.” (PA 147712)
- 7 “Hungarian settlers in Manitoba: Stefan Kalapos-Nyury with his wife and children in front of their new home, Marchand, Manitoba, 1930.” (PA 147730)
- 8 “Women’s Association Spring Tea of the Hungarian Mission of the United Church of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1952–1953.” (PA 147702)
- 9 “Hungarian refugees are interviewed by officials of the Canadian Embassy Visa Section in a dance hall that was rented for the emergency, n.d.” (C 7108)
- 10 “Hungarian refugees await their turn . . . at the Canadian Embassy Visa Section in Vienna, Austria, 1956.” (PA 124953)
- 11 “Group of refugees from Hungary disembarking from Douglas DC-4 aircraft CF-MCB of Maritime Central Airways, Montreal, Quebec, 1956.” (PA 125700)
- 12 “Hungarian immigrants on board the L’Ascania en route to Canada, April 1957.” (PA 126549)
- 13 “Hungarian immigrants in the Port of St. John, N.B., newly arrived on board the

- l'Ascania, 22 April 1957." (PA 126551)
- 14 "Group of Hungarian refugees studying English, Toronto, Ontario, ca. 1957." (PA 127043)
 - 15 "A group of young Hungarians follow a course in weaving at the Oriental Carpet Weaving School founded by Hungarian refugee Louis Felde, Quebec, Quebec, circa 1959." (PA 147716)
 - 16 "*Egységes Magyarorság* (or United Hungarians), ethnic press published by Charles Arany (left) and Nicholas Mezes, Attila Vargha (right), editor, Niagara Falls, Ontario, 14 September 1959." (PA 147719)
 - 17 "Chairman Zoltan Tanto checks a Hungarian Relief Fund report with secretary Rosalie Antfinger, Montreal, Quebec, n.d." (PA 147721)
 - 18 "Catherine Doby in 'The Count of Luxembourg,' operetta presented by the Hungarian Actors' Association, Toronto, Ontario, 1959." (PA 147722)
 - 19 "Hungarian refugee child in Canada, circa 1957." (PA 147723)
 - 20 "Canadian immigrant from Hungary, Dr. Susan Gartha, intern at St. Joseph's Hospital, with her daughter Cathy, London, Ontario, 15 May 1959." (PA 147726)
 - 21 "Eva von Gencsy, Hungarian born immigrant to Canada, ballet instructor at Banff Summer School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta, n.d." (PA 147727)
 - 22 "Folk dancing in national costumes featured at a rally near Barry's Bay, Ontario, in July, 1960, by the Hungarian Scouting Association in exile." (C 45116)

[Editor's note: the National Archives of Canada does not use the Hungarian diacritical marks in the spelling of Hungarian names. The *HSR* does not use these marks in the names of Hungarian Canadians but uses them in Hungarian terms and in the names of Hungarians living in Hungary.]