

A Note from the Editors

Profound changes have taken place in the lives of Hungarians in East Central Europe during the past few years. The collapse of the Soviet Empire, the change of regime in Rumania, and the disintegration of Yugoslavia, all had significant impact on Magyars living in Hungary and in the neighbouring countries. The reestablishment of a pluralistic society and a democratic political system in Hungary, the demise of old-style communism elsewhere in East Central Europe, are promising developments. The economic stagnation, social tensions, and rising nationalism throughout that region, however, are threats that cannot be ignored. In particular, the civil conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and the ethnic strife in Rumania and Czechoslovakia, make the lives of Hungarians in those states as uncertain as ever.

These developments offer opportunities and pose new challenges to the Hungarian Diaspora's cultural ventures such as our journal. The main purpose of the *HSR* has always been, and will always be, apolitical: the presentation of the results of recent research on Hungarian subjects. But in the past, during the last decade-and-a-half of communist rule in Hungary, we also served as a forum for the publication of studies that could not appear in the scholarly press of Hungary, or that of neighbouring communist countries. With the gradual liberalization of academic life in Hungary during the 1980s, this function of our journal became less and less important, and came to an end in 1989 with the demise of communist rule in Budapest. During this period we were faced with another challenge: how to find ways of cooperating with scholars in Hungary, in particular with those that were not committed to the traditions and ideology of the discredited communist regime. Means were found for involving Hungarian scholars in our work, even before 1989. It might be recalled, for example, that one of our contributors in 1987 was Géza Jeszenszky, at the time a university teacher and opposition intellectual in Budapest, who is now Hungary's Minister of External Affairs. During these years other Hungarian scholars have also submitted their work to our journal, and were published in it.

The changed political climate permits even further cooperation today, and we have taken advantage of this situation. As a result of long negotiations, we have found a co-publisher for our journal in the venerable National Széchényi Library (Országos Széchényi Könyvtár) in Budapest. The other co-publisher is the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada, a member of the Learned Societies of Canada, whose membership has supported our journal's activities since the mid-1980s. The journal's editing, the managing of the subscriptions, and the task of typesetting will be done in Canada, while its production (printing, binding, etc.) and distribution will be done in and from Hungary. This division of tasks is logical, as editors and editorial advisers with a knowledge of the ways and means of scholarly publishing in the West (and, above all, of academic English) are here, while the facilities and options for printing and distribution are better in Hungary.

It is probably known to our subscribers that the *Review's* activities have been hampered during the past several years by the lack of a prominent publisher and, by ever increasing production and distribution costs. Thanks to this new agreement, the former problem has been solved, and the latter has been alleviated. Another concern remains with us: the scarcity of publishable manuscripts. However, in this respect too, we hope that our new situation—in particular, our high-profile affiliation—will encourage more scholars to submit their studies to us for consideration. We will also try to reduce our publication delay by printing one combined volume, a double issue, for 1992. If this will not fill the usual 128 pages, we apologize.

With the political changes of the past few years behind us, with our new-found link to an established Hungarian institution, we will take up the challenges of the future. We hope to do more in bringing to the world's attention the cultural problems and political situation of Hungarian minorities beyond the borders of Hungary. We will try to expand our subscription base. In particular, we'll try to reach a larger portion of the world's libraries—a difficult task in times of recession and decreasing library budgets. We believe that our track record of publishing for nearly two decades justifies these efforts, and the difficulties that some of Hungary's foreign-language scholarly journals are experiencing in publishing nowadays, give us further incentive to attain this aim. Lastly, we hope to continue our efforts to promote collaboration with students of Hungarian studies in Hungary, especially those who are capable of working and being published in a world language. Together with them, we will continue to inform the scholarly community of the world of the heritage and culture of Hungarians of Hungary, of the Magyar minorities of the neighbouring states, as well as those of Magyar immigrant groups elsewhere.

G. Bisztray and N. Dreisziger
Toronto and Kingston