

topics. There is a close cooperation between the Department of Comparative Literature and the Hungarian Chair at the University of Rome. Methods of comparative inquiries in Hungarian literature fall into the categories of influence studies, reception studies and imagology.

Italian and Hungarian cultural relations look back at a long history, and the fact that Hungarian language or some aspect of culture is taught at nine universities provides an enviable pool of resources. Italian studies are equally well developed in Hungary, adding even more names to the editorial list of contributors. A third group is that of the international contributors, so far from ten countries, among others from Canada. This latter contact is especially strong, due to the (non-codified) cooperation between the chairs of Hungarian Studies in Rome and Toronto. The two institutions have had several shared projects, such as mutual invitations to conferences, simultaneous publication of the papers delivered by Italian colleagues (about the Hungarian Renaissance) at the University of Toronto's Fourth Hungarian Studies Conference (1989), and regular exchange of information about each other's ongoing activities.

The language of the *Rivista* is overwhelmingly Italian, although publications have also appeared in other major languages. One of these, Shayne Mitchell's "An Italian Account of the Hungarian Peasant Revolt of 1514" (in vol. 8) is particularly interesting. Less regularly than the two North American journals, the *Rivista* has published special issues or thematic sections. In 1989, it commemorated the 500th anniversary of King Matthias's death, and in 1996, a whole issue was dedicated to Finno-Ugric Studies.

Unlike English, Italian is not a language of international communication. Even so, it is spoken by some 60 million people, not counting the diaspora. News from Hungary attracts surprisingly wide interest. The *Rivista* has an important mission, and it performs this mission conscientiously and successfully.

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Attila Paládi-Kovács. *Ethnic Traditions, Classes and Communities in Hungary*. Budapest: Institute of Ethnology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1996. 217 pages.

This book by the Director of the Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is a collection of twelve essays, all of which — with the exception of the first one — were presented at various international congresses or symposia, and the majority of which have already appeared in print. Collectively these essays deal with the "social classes, strata and occupation groups of

the Hungarian people" within the Carpathian Basin, and area that for the better part of a millennium used to constitute Historic Hungary.

Having been a multinational state through much of its existence, Hungary had been the homeland of close to a dozen different nationalities, each with its own folk traditions and way of life. Some of these ethnic groups were highly urbanized (like the Germans, the Jews, and many of the Hungarians), while most of the others were on various levels of rural and pastoral existence. They each had their own social elites. But by virtue of being part of the Hungarian state, the latter generally became members of the Hungarian nobility and the Hungarian *honoratior* class, and then gradually assimilated into the Hungarian nation. Paládi-Kovács does touch upon the society and culture of most of these ethnic groups, but his essays deal primarily with the Hungarians or the Magyars, who constituted the state-forming nation and the leading nationality of Historic Hungary.

Of the enclosed twelve studies, the longest and perhaps the most interesting to an outsider is the one on the society and culture of the Hungarian non-titled nobility in the period between the 16th through the 19th centuries (pp. 9-62). This study was originally written for a major Hungarian handbook entitled *Magyar néprajz* [Hungarian Ethnography], but for some unexplained reason it never appeared in print until now. This essay describes the various strata of the Hungarian nobility, their social organization and authority, their estates, mansions and clothing, their marriage customs, family relations and personal names, their social contacts and forms of greetings, their relationship to the church hierarchy, as well as their mentality and the level of their national consciousness. The author therefore presents a comprehensive picture of the Hungarian noble class, a portrait that can be of some use even to the specialists of Hungarian history.

The second essay surveys Hungary's ethnic composition both before and after the country's dismemberment in 1919-1920 (pp. 63-78). It is a balanced summary of Hungary's ethnic picture, with some references to the condition of the Hungarian minorities in the neighbouring states formed after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The third essay discusses the nature of "Hungarianness" or "Hungarian identity" in the course of the past few centuries. In other words it tackles the question: what constitutes a "good Hungarian" (pp. 79-98). The author concludes that being a good Hungarian includes being a good European as well as being a good human being. But the definition of a "good Hungarian" never included the need to have only Hungarian ethnic roots.

This is followed by eight other essays on such diverse topics as: internal migrations within Hungary from the 18th through the 20th centuries (pp. 99-112); division of labour and work specialization by the various ethnic and nationality groups in traditional Hungary (pp. 113-126); exchange of children and child apprentices among the country's various regions and peoples, leading to the knowledge of languages and to the mutual understanding of each other's

peculiarities (pp. 127-140); continuity and increasing discontinuity of Hungarian folk customs and traditions among the country's rural population (pp. 141-152); role and work habits of the oldest generation of rural inhabitants in late-20th-century Hungarian villages (pp. 153-163); system of commuting by rural workers to new industrial centres, illustrated by the case of the industrial town of Ózd in northern Hungary (pp. 165-176); development and nature of industrial workers' culture during the post-World War II period (pp. 177-188); changes in the use of Historical sources in Hungarian ethnographical research (pp. 189-200); and the development of Hungarian ethnographical cartography in the second half of the 20th century (pp. 201-209). The volume is complemented by forty-three illustrations (pp. 211-214), and by a list of the most important geographical names in several languages for places now outside of Hungary (pp. 215-217).

Paládi-Kovács's work is a book of pedantic scholarship, which at the same time is also easy reading. It can be read effortlessly and with much profit by anyone interested in the ethnic traditions of the people of Hungary. Fortunately it is available in English, which makes it all the more valuable for people in the related disciplines.

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Tibor Glant, "Roosevelt, Apponyi és a Habsburg Monarchia" [Roosevelt, Apponyi and the Habsburg Monarchy], *Századok* 131 (1997), pp. 1386-1401.

It is not a part of the North American academic tradition to review articles in scholarly journals. An exception is made here because the subject of the article at hand is of interest to Hungarian Americans — as well as North American historians who study Hungary and, especially, Hungarian-American relations. That subject is the friendship that existed between American President Theodore Roosevelt and the Hungarian statesman Count Albert Apponyi. The story of this relationship has been told by historian Tibor Glant of Kossuth Lajos University of Debrecen.

In his study Glant claims that the friendship of Roosevelt and Apponyi amounted to the most important unofficial tie between Hungary and the USA from 1904 to the time of World War I, and wonders what would have happened to Hungary at the end of the war if in 1918-1919 Roosevelt and not Woodrow Wilson had been US President.

As those who have studied American history know, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt (1858-1919), the "hero" of America's war against Spain, was elected