

Painted by Zita Balogh

## Húsvéti csend

*Túrmezei Erzsébet*

Lelkem, dalolj a húsvét örömről!  
Csengjen a hangod, mint a hegyi  
csermely  
fentről hozott, kristályos-tiszta hangja,  
mint a hóvirág fehér harangja.  
Legyen dalodban élet és erő...  
fakadó rügyek, fesledő virágok:  
a tavasz, mely meggyőzte a világot.  
Legyen benne ragyogó diadallal  
a hosszú éjszakát elűző hajnal!  
Az a mosolygó, bíborfényű reggel,  
melyen a sírban hasztalan keresték  
gyászt illatozó, könnyes kenetekkel  
a Názáreti Jézus drága testét,  
mert élt, előttünk feltámadva járt.  
Visszhangozva szívük ujjongó szavát.  
Húsvétről zengjen, zengjen hát az  
ének!

Lelkem, adj hangot húsvét örömének!

Figyelek...várok...Csend van,  
hosszú, tiszta,  
mint mikor az ég harmatkönnnyét issza  
minden fűszál még...és hiába kérem:  
ösvényein ott jár az élő Mester  
feltámadottan, tündöklő-fehéren,  
bűn és halál felett vett diadallal.  
Ujjongó lelkem lépteire hallgat  
és ezt a csendet hogy zavarná dal-  
lal?!

The poetry of this 20th century  
deaconess has offered encouragement  
and inspiration to countless modern-day  
readers. Her writing was a beacon of  
light in the dark days and continues to  
shine even today. May her Easter poem  
brighten your holiday!  
A biography of Túrmezei Erzsébet (in  
English) follows the poem.

*Túrmezei Erzsébet was born Bellák  
Erzsébet, the seventh child of a merchant*

*in Tamási, Tolna County, in 1912. Only  
she and two brothers survived in-  
fancy. Her grandfathers on both sides  
had been involved in the Freedom Fight  
of 1848, and her grandmother would re-  
cite poetry to her. Her brothers had to  
read Arany's "Toldi" for school, and she  
learned much of the text together with  
them. She was quite young when she  
started to write poetry herself, mostly pa-  
triotic and religious poems, which her  
younger brother wrote down.*

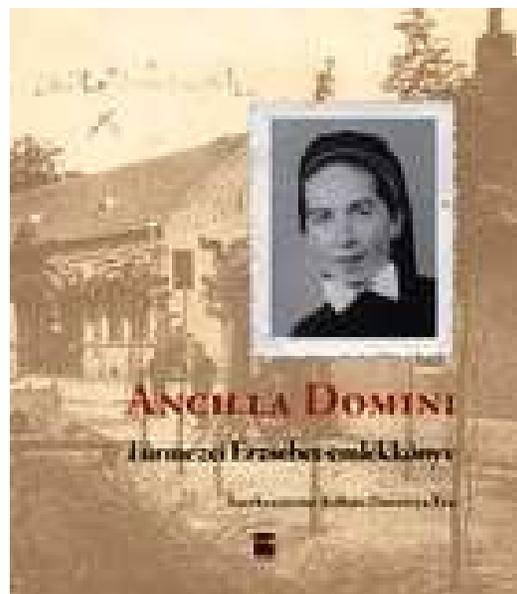
*Her father lost his business as a result of  
the Depression, and the family moved to  
Sopron. Both her brothers began theo-  
logical studies. When Erzsébet was in  
her 5<sup>th</sup> year, the family moved to Ózd,  
following one of her brothers who was  
named pastor there.*

*Upon graduation, Erzsébet went to Buda-  
pest, preparing to teach Hungarian and  
German. There she became a Lutheran  
deaconess in the Fébé Deaconess Asso-  
ciation. She taught Sunday school, led  
Bible circles and was involved in evange-  
lization, conducted conferences, pub-  
lished books and religious magazines.  
While preparing her first volume of poetry  
for publication in 1938, she decided to  
change her name, using her mother's title  
of nobility bestowed on the family by King  
Béla IV in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. That is why  
"Öszből tavaszba" appeared under her  
new name, Túrmezei Erzsébet. Her po-  
etry radiated and awakened faith.*

*She worked in Pesterzsébet and Szarvas,  
and on nine occasions led advanced  
courses for girls. Due to political consid-  
erations, the last three of these, after  
World War II, were called "winter  
camps". When the regime dissolved the  
Fébé Association in 1951 (together with  
all religious Orders), Erzsébet and her  
mother found refuge in the Lutheran old  
folks' home in Balassagyarmat. There,  
she was asked to translate Luther's "Te  
Deum", and worked on that as she was  
altering her deaconess' habit to civilian  
clothes. In the home, she helped with*

*devotions, and substituted for those in  
charge as needed. Despite strict official  
orders, she continued her work of evan-  
gelization at the behest of her bishop.  
Although the regime did not permit her to  
publish anything between 1951 and 1968,  
many of her writings went secretly from  
hand to hand in samizdat fashion.  
Erzsébet retired from being director of the  
Balassagyarmat home, then received  
very modest lodgings in another old  
folks' home, in the Józsefváros section of  
Budapest. At this time, as the political  
situation eased somewhat, she was able  
to become involved in editing a song  
book, "Adventtől Adventig" (from Advent  
to Advent), and published further volumes  
of poetry.*

*After the political change of 1989, the  
Fébé Association was able to resume its  
work. They chose Túrmezei Erzsébet as  
their superior. She led the group with  
much care and toil, with a humble spirit,  
understanding and fidelity. But health  
problems increasingly hindered her in  
carrying out her duties. She died in the  
year 2000. But her poetry and transla-  
tions live on among her readers.*



## Kicsi a világ!

*Our modern means of transportation give us so much more mobility than people had in previous centuries – so we think! And then a story like this comes along...*

Internationally known singer, the Italian Franciscan friar Alessandro Brustenghi went "home" to Hungary in February of this year. His purpose was to present a concert at the Bazilika in Budapest to raise funds for the shrine of Mátraverebély-Szentkút, which is administered by the Franciscan Order.

But going "home"? He explained at a press conference that an ancestor of his was a baron at the court of King András II, and was among those who accompanied Princess Jolánta to Catalonia for

her wedding about the year 1250. The baron stayed in Spain. Around the year 1500, the family moved to Italy. And so the Italian friar who is known for his albums "The Voice of Assisi" and "The Voice of Joy" really has Hungarian roots as well! It sure was – and still is! – a small world!  
(For more about Princess Jolánta, got to "Search Magyar News" on the front page, type in "Jolánta", and click on the title.)

## Passaic Folklore Museum Forced to Close

EPF

After 33 years of existence, the American Hungarian Museum was given one month's notice that it had to vacate its premises in the Reid Memorial Library by April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Established in 1981 as the American Hungarian Folklore Museum (the word "Folklore" was dropped in 1983), its purpose was to cultivate Hungarian culture by preserving and exhibiting pieces of folk art and folk crafts. These included samples of folk costumes and embroidery, hand-made lace, traditional musical instruments, samples of pottery; Easter eggs decorated with paint as well as scratched patterns, memorabilia from the community, photos, etc. There was even a collection of song and prayer books from the 1800's. This material came from the Museum's own collection as well as from private loans.

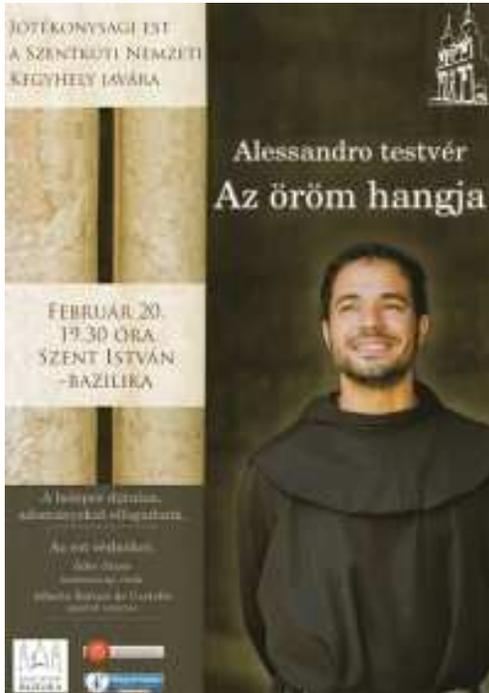
In addition to exhibits, the Museum also presented special programs in-

cluding lectures, folk dance performances, video film showings and workshops. A very extensive webpage provided voluminous information on practically anything relating to Hungarian culture. The good news is that the webpage will remain on the internet (<http://magyarmuzeum.org>). Visit it to see the wide variety of cultural riches presented.

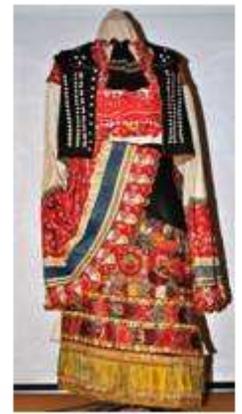
The Museum's contract with the Library was automatically renewed every five years. It stipulated that notice had to be given in the first 30 days of the fifth year, by either side. So technically, the Museum would have had several more years before its lease ran out. However, the Library arbitrarily declared that the contract had expired, and the exhibit rooms had to be vacated rapidly for use by the Board of Education. (Incidentally, the American Hungarian Museum was the only museum in Passaic, N.J.)

Emese Kerkay, Curator of the Museum, told Magyar News Online: "I'm heartbroken! Every piece in the collection has its own history, is special to me. I feel as if I had lost a beloved relative!" And she added, "We have no time even to think where else this collection could find a home. We will hardly have time to pack up everything to put into storage until a solution can be found."

We cannot allow this priceless institution to just fade away. If you have a viable solution to help the Museum survive, please contact Kálmán Magyar at [magyar@magyar.org](mailto:magyar@magyar.org).



Photos from the Museum



# The Society for Hungarian Philately

Steve Jakab

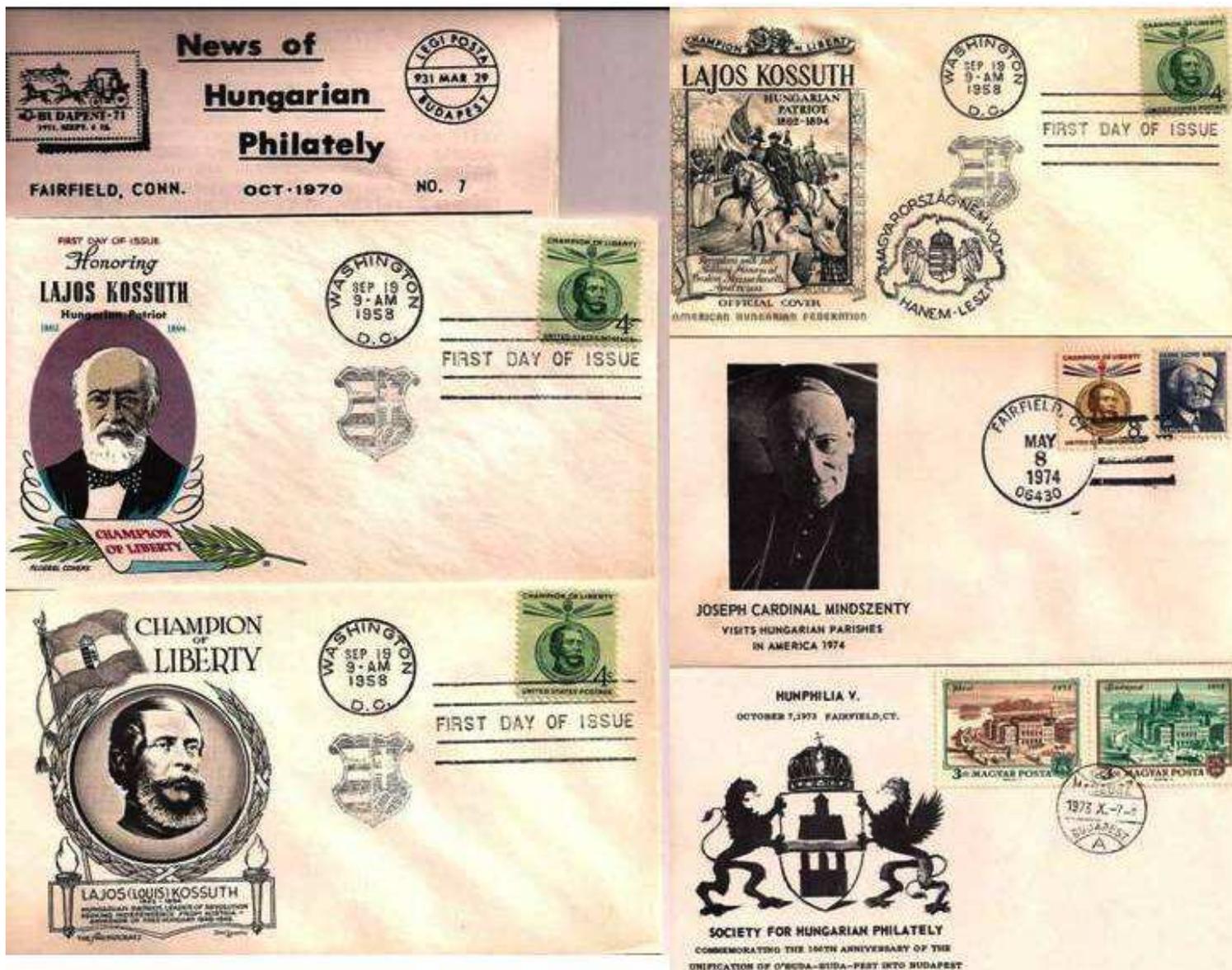
*As another instalment of his reminiscences, Remembering My Past and Loving It, Steve recalls the Hungarian stamp club of Fairfield*

My Mother, Miss Betty, as she was called by her customers, was a cook, [today she'd probably be classified as a chef], in several Hungarian restaurants, primarily in the West End of Bridgeport affectionately known as Hunktown. The Western Grill, where she spent most of her working life, about 25 years, was on the corner of Bostwick Ave. and Pine St. right across from the West End fire-

house. The restaurant had several owners while she worked there, including a Mr. Simon, Al Fekete and Al Toman, who also owned the Tokay Restaurant on State St. Extension, which today is known as Commerce Drive. Pepe's Pizza occupies that building today. We were like family to the Tomans and probably were distant relatives.

My Mother ran the kitchen and on most days ran just about everything else in the restaurant. Most of my growing up years into my early 20's was spent at the Western Grill "hanging around" and doing chores of various kinds. I got to know many terrific people, some actually became good friends. Bert Csaky was a young man who took me under his wings and introduced me to the world of philately. Philately per Mer-

riam Webster is "the collecting and study of postage and imprinted stamps – stamp collecting". Bert gave me my first stamp album... a big, old album with some really neat (to an eight year old kid) stamps. I got hooked. My Dad encouraged my collecting and used to take me to the Plaza Stamp Shop on Fairfield Ave. near the Warner Theater in downtown Bridgeport. For a few years I collected enthusiastically and then my interest faded and other things became more important to me. In the late 60's, I revisited collecting and through the urging of a couple of St. Emery Church parishioners, I became a member of the Society For Hungarian Philately (SHP). I always had an interest in collecting the stamps of Hungary, so this Society was a perfect way for me to learn



more about Hungarian stamps. I was a young, amateur collector among sophisticated, advanced, professional philatelists. You may recognize some of the more prominent members of the group: Victor Berecz, Bill Domonkos, Leslie Etre, Dennis Rich, Mrs. Jeannette Erhard, Geza Bodnar, Al Bauer, Otto Schaffling. It was a great group of very serious collectors of Hungarian stamps and related materials. I learned so much and was able to build a fairly respectable collection of Hungary.

The SHP had monthly meetings held at our Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfield. Our meetings were rather informal and consisted of topics re-

lating to Hungarian stamps and related materials. These could be covers (envelopes) and any other item of interest that the members wanted to discuss. It was a "show-and-tell" kind of activity.

Often we'd have a presentation by one of our members or by a guest. We'd trade duplicates and there would be a sales table of items that members wanted to sell.

(Since those days, the Society has become international in scope, and according to its website, fewer than 10% of its members now reside in Connecticut.)

Recently I found an old newsletter from the Society (see photo), which

caused me to want to share my SHP experience on MNO. I then googled SHP and much to my surprise and utter amazement I discovered that the Society is alive and still in existence and that Vic Berecz is still an active member. There are a total of 26 members listed on their website, Society For Hungarian Philately. Take a tour and get acquainted with the Society. Who knows, you may catch the bug too!

Until next time!

*Steve Jakab is a retired Associate Vice-President for Administration at Fairfield University, and a member of the Board of Editors for Magyar News Online.*

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## Under the Iron Curtain to Freedom!

*Erika Papp Faber*

Louis Toth was 19 years old when he crawled under the Iron Curtain to freedom on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1956, and arrived in Newark, NJ on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Like many before him, he had heard of America as the land of opportunity, and worked very hard to make the most of the opportunities it afforded him. Today, he can look back on a long career as an entrepreneur, having founded an irrigation company called Aqua-Lawn, Inc. in Fairfield, CT in 1972, and developed the Pop Light, a lawn device which he patented and licensed out to others for manufacture.

Those 16 years between his arrival and his setting up his company were hard. Initially, there was the language problem, of course, but he had a wonderful English teacher who spent two hours with him every morning, noon and night, so that he rapidly became fluent. At first he mowed grass during the day, where he first encountered underground lawn sprinklers. At night he worked in a factory as a rolling mill operator with Handy and Harman in Fairfield for a couple of years, while attending a school for draftsmen offered by Remington Rand.

In 1958, Louis met Diane at Food Fair in Fairfield, where she worked. They were married in 1961, and have three beautiful daughters and 11 wonderful grandchildren who are the center of his life.

Toth always wanted to be a mechanical engineer, and so enrolled at the University of Bridgeport. After graduation, he was employed by Avco-Lycoming at Stratford, in Test Facilities Engineering, testing turbine engines for tanks for the Army. Nevertheless he retained his landscaping business, and learned all he could about irrigation. It soon became clear to him that his calling lay there. So in 1972, he set up Aqua-Lawn, Inc., his irrigation contracting business. Diane became Controller, following the legal requirements as she understood them.

Nine months after the Toths started Aqua-Lawn, they were audited by the IRS. Although Louis and Diane thought they were doing things right, they weren't! "Thank heavens they did it after nine months, instead of after nine years!" says Diane with a laugh. "It would have been impossible to correct then!" As it was, they almost lost the

company. But Diane, like her husband, is tough too. In 1975, she started studying, while raising three daughters and managing the office. She got her BS in business and taught an introductory business course at Sacred Heart University for a few years to help make ends meet, and getting her MBA at the same time. Louis firmly declares that he couldn't have developed and run the company without her.

Aqua-Lawn is a family business, with Diane as Controller, and two sons-in-law and a grandson also working there. In the summer, they may have as many as 24 employees working in five crews; in the winter, the number of employees dwindles to ten. They custom design each sprinkler system to fit the individual landscape, using the available water supply. The company has a base of some 2,000 customers in Connecticut and Westchester, including GE, Yale, PepsiCo, and Quinnipiac University, even servicing some rooftop gardens in New York City. Their roster of rich and famous clients over the years included Keith Richards, Robert Redford, Bill Murray, Rodney Dangerfield, Robert Ludlum, Mortimer Levitt and Jason Robards.

In addition to running Aqua-Lawn, both Louis and Diane Toth are very involved in the work of the national Irrigation Association. He served on the board of directors and was named President in 1997-98; she has served as Education Chairman, Secretary and President of the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association, and as Chairman of the IA State and International Organization Representatives and the Expo Advisory Committees. She is currently serving a three year term as a member of the Irrigation Association Board of Directors.

At the Irrigation Association's celebration of 40 years of existence, an item put up for auction really excited Louis. It was a four-inch piece of barbed wire, authenticated as having come from the Iron Curtain. Although he was bidding on it, several people kept raising the bid until he thought it was too high. When the winner went up to accept it, he announced that he was presenting it to Louis Toth. That piece is now framed, and hanging in his office in Fairfield, reminding him daily of his escape so many years ago. The young man who crawled under the barbed wire in 1956 has certainly come a long way, proving once again, that America is indeed the land of opportunity!

We, the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online wish to offer heartfelt thanks to Louis and Diane Toth for graciously allowing us to use their office boardroom for our monthly meetings.

*Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.*



*Diane and Louis Toth, the Aqua-Lawn building, piece of barb wire from the Iron Curtain*

### Leg of Lamb with Mustard

- 1 leg of lamb
- 3-4 cloves of garlic
- Smoked bacon
- 1 cup of sour cream
- Lard or oil
- Mustard
- Salt
- Pepper

Preheat oven to 350 °. Debone leg of lamb; clean off most of the fat. Boil water with a small amount of white vinegar, and pour over lamb. When most of the water has dripped off, rub it with mustard, sprinkle it with salt and pepper. Tie lamb with string. Slice up the bacon and garlic, and with a pointed knife, poke holes in the meat and put bacon and garlic in them.

Heat up oil or lard and pour over meat. Put the leg of lamb in the oven and roast it until it is nice and red. Baste meat often with juice. When almost done, pour sour cream over it, then roast it until done. Baste it with sour cream also.

When meat is done, and tender, remove from oven, let it cool a bit, and slice it thinly. Strain dripping and pour over lamb. Serve it with rice and fresh salad in season.

Please note: if you are using American style bacon, lay slices over leg of lamb.

### Tűzdelt mustáros báránycomb

- 1 db báránycomb
- 3-4 gerezd fokhagyma
- Füstölt szalonna
- 3 dl tejfel (1 pohár)
- Zsír vagy olaj
- Mustár
- Só
- Bors

A süttöt 350 °-ra bemelegítjük.

A báránycombot kicsontozzuk, a faggyútól meg-

tisztítjuk és gyengén ecetes vízzel leforrázzuk. Mikor a víz jól lefolyt, akkor mustárral jól bedörzsöljük, majd sózzuk és borsozzuk. Spárgával átkötjük és vékony szalonna csíkokkal és a vékony szeletekre vágott fokhagymával megtűzdeljük.

A zsírt felhevítjük és a combra öntjük. Sütőbe tesszük, és gyakori öntözgetéssel

pirosra sütjük. Mielőtt megsülne, hozzáöntjük a tejfelt is, és ezzel is öntözgetjük. Ha a hús megpuhult és kissé kihűlt, vékonyra szeleteljük. A leszűrt



*Louis Toth holding a piece of barb wire from the Iron Curtain*

# Tájképek: Balatonfüred / Landscapes: Balatonfüred – Part III

Nagy Klaudia

*This is the third and final part of an article on Balatonfüred, the resort and spa, historic center of social life, and a pantheon of literary and political greats who spent time here and were inspired to create some of their works in these beautiful surroundings. It is presented to us by a very competent tourist guide.*

## A Horváth-ház

A Szentgyörgyi Horváth család tulajdona volt, az ő nevüket őrzi a mai napig a ház. Ez a Balaton-felvidék legnagyobb copf stílusban épült épülete. A homlokzati táblán elírás történt, ugyanis Vécsey Ernő is szerepel a vendéglistán, azonban ő 20. századi zeneszerző. Kiss Ernő neve lett átírva, aki itt ismert meg – a legenda szerint - az első Anna-bálon későbbi feleségét, Szentgyörgyi Horváth Krisztinát. A szerelmespár emlékének tábla adózik az épület falán. A 18. században az egyre ismertebbé váló fürdőhelyen kevésnek bizonyult a szálláshely. A Vallásalap a kezelésében lévő birtokokat felparcellázta, s eladta. Így került a Szentgyörgyi Horváth család birtokába a terület, két másik telekkel együtt. Az építkezés 1798-ban fejeződött be. Nem csak magánnyaralásra használták, hanem a környék egyik legnagyobb szállodájává nőtte ki magát. Míg a postaháztól óva intették az embereket (Bártfay 1836-os leírása tanúskodik a kétes és kéjes üzelméről hírhedt postaházról), addig a Horváth házban szívesen töltötték szabadidejüket a fürdőző vendégek.

A legenda szerint az 1834-es Anna-bálon a konyhában tüsténkedő asszonyok figyelmetlensége miatt tűz ütött ki, amely gyorsan terjedt a közeli épületek felé is, szinte az egész fürdőtelep leégett. Következő évben újjáépítették, egy kis bővítéssel, összesen 105 szobás lett a szálloda. Olyan híres emberek szálltak itt meg mint Széchenyi István, Kossuth Lajos, Berzsényi Dániel, Vörösmarty Mihály, Wesselényi Miklós, Deák Ferenc – csak hogy a legnagyobbakat említsük. A rendszerváltás ideje óta magánkézben van.



Nagy Klaudia

## A Kossuth forrás és Állami Szívkórház

A 18. századtól kezdve a fürdőélet meghatározó jelképe a forrás. A kútházat 1802-ben építették rá, amit 1852-ben Fruhman Antal áttervezett. Stílusa klasszicista, a romantikus jegyekkel ellátott tetőt díszes fakonzolok tartják.

Az első hiteles írárok a savanyúvizes forrásokról már a 17. századból ismeretesek. Akkoriban a források szabadon folytak a Balaton vizébe, vöröstre festve azt. Csak a pásztorok és halászok ismerték gyógyító hatását, szájhagyomány útján terjedt híre. A 18. századi korabeli írárok szerint a füredi gyógyhely telkén három forrás buzgott fel: a főkút, a középkút és a fürdőkút. A Főkút, vagy másik nevén

Ivókút vizét kizárólag ivászat céljára használták, fürdésre nem. A tőle picit távolabbra lévő forrás vizét juhtej savójával keverték, kiváló volt tüdőbetegségek gyógyítására. Ez volt a Középkút. A harmadik kút, a Fürdő kút, vagy másik nevén az Őskút pedig kizárólag fürdési célt használt, erre épült később a fürdő is. A terület a bencés apátság tulajdonában volt az államosításig.

A Főkút feltörő vizét a legenda szerint Lécs Ágoston bencés apát egy fatörzs odújába foglaltatta 1743-ban. 1772-ben egy bécsi professzor, Crantz Henrik elemezte először a vizet, majd 1780-ban egy orvosi leírásban ez szerepel: „A víz a gyomor, a lép, vese és epe fájdalmakat csillapítja, gyógyítja a májat, megszünteti a székrekedést, étvágyat csinál, s erősíti a testet.” 1775-ben egy hatalmas felhőszakadás elárasztja a forrást, s több hétre használhatatlanná teszi, ezért úgy döntenek, hogy kőfallal veszik körül, s három vascsővel látják el. 1783-ban már tetővel szerepel a forrás egy visszaemlékezésben.

Megkezdődött a víz palackozása, és ismeretes, hogy a lovaskocsikon szállított palackozott vízzel komoly kereskedelem folyt. Az 1852-ben Magyarországra látogató Ferenc József tiszteletére a kutat órára nevezik el, majd 1952-től Kossuth forrásra keresztelik.

A Fürdőkút: 1702-ben Flasker András sebész orvos megvásárolja a területet, s eleinte az ivókútban kezdi fürdetni betegeit. Ezt hamar szóvá teszik neki, akkor furat egy másik kutat, s mellé épületet húz fel. Tehát Flasker András nevéhez fűződik, s köthető a savanyúvízzel végzett gyógyászati tevékenység kezdete. Ez az épület lehetett a felső fürdőház, melyhez 1743-ban az apátság még egy fürdőt emelt, az alsó fürdőházat. Flaskertől Demkovics, majd Demkovicstól Schuster József veszi meg a birtokot, akitől 1749-ben visszaberli, majd később

(1755-ben) meg is veszi az apátság a területet. A bencések 1775-ben újabb emeletet húznak az épületre, s Ó-fürdőháznak nevezik el. A földszinten 14 egy-egy kádas szoba van, ezen kívül 19 kamrából álló parasztfürdő. Ebben a régi fürdőben a harmadik forrás vizét használják felmelegítve, a kádakba pumpálva. 1835-ben megépül az Új fürdőház, ahol a földszinten lévő 9 szobába felmelegített tóvíz is kerül, amelyet a Balaton partján létesített „viz-húzó gépely” juttat a gőzerőművel dolgozó fűtőkamrába, s onnan rézcsöveken az egyes szobákba. A vízemelő gépet egy ló hozza mozgásba. 1842-ben az Ó-fürdőházat kibővítik, megépítik a Keresztházat.

1853-tól bővült a szolgáltatások köre is, és így már a szegényebbek is meg tudták fizetni a közönséges fürdőt. 1912-13-ban átépítik a teljes fürdőt, és egy hatalmas új épületet húznak fel a helyére. Ez a mai Szívkörház épülete.

### Deák Ferenc szobra

„A Haza bölcse” – ha Deák Ferenc megszólal, mindenki követi. Mint politikai alkotó elme történelmünk legnagyobbjai mellett foglal helyet; hazafiságánál és spártai jelleménél fogva méltán hasonlítható [Hunyadi Jánoshoz](#).

Szilárd erkölcsi tartása, és könnyed beszélgetési stílusának tanúbizonyságaként íme egy anekdota: mikor Ferenc József azzal az ötlettel állt elő, hogy egy évben kétszer szedjenek katonákat, Deák csupán annyit válaszolt, hogy az bizony lehetetlen, Felső, egy anya ugyanis csak egy szem gyerekek tud életet adni egy évben. Balatonfüreden gyakran megfordult 1831-től, majd 1836-ban Wesselényivel részt vett az Anna bálon is; a Horváthházban szállt meg, s a politikai elit többi tagjával eszmékről, reformokról, nézetekről vitakoztak. Itt alakította a jogrendszerrel kapcsolatos gondolatait. Füredi kötődése, hogy ő állította Kisfaludy szobrát (ő is volt a bizottság elnöke, amitől ódzkodott lévén, hogy elnökként nehogy rágalom, megvesztegetés gyanújába keveredjen). A szobor azonban olyannyira csúnyára sikerült, hogy a szobrász, Züllich Rudolf már az avatásra sem mert eljönni, helyette egy röpiratot küldött, kifejezve

válaszát a kritikus megjegyzésekre. Mindenestre ez volt az egyetlen szobor, melyet esztétikai okokból el is távolítottak, majd beolvasztottak. A szobor Melocco Miklós alkotása, sőtői mészkből készült, 2004-ben avatták. A Tagore sétány eredeti neve: Deák sétány. A Balaton lecsapolásával 1865-ben kialakítottak egy sétányt, melyet Deák Ferencről neveztek el. Az avatáson ő maga is részt vett. A sétány 1957-ig viselte az ő nevét, utána átkeresztelték Tagore sétányra.

### A Tagore-sétány

Tagore: 1926. november 1-jén érkezett Balatonfüredre, ugyanis európai körútja során Bécsben rosszul lett, s orvosa, Korányi Frigyes Budapestre, majd Balatonfüredre tanácsolta. A második emeleten, nyolc szobás szárnyban helyezkedett el, s gyógyult. Itt fejezte be egyik művét, s gyógyulásakor fát ültetett. Ezt mondá akkor: „Itt-tartózkodásom emlékére ültetem ezt a fát, mert sehol sem adták azt, amit itt kaptam. Ez több volt a vendéglátás szereteténél, ez az együvé tartozás érzetének ébredése. Érzem, tudom, hogy annak a népnek a hazájába jöttem, amely érzelmileg Indiáéval azonos.” Innen indul a Tagore sétány. Tagore születésének 150. évfordulója alkalmából 2011-ben hatalmas ünnepség-sorozat vette kezdetét, bevonva a múzeumokat, villákat, s egész Füredet.

Kőrösi Csoma Sándor: az indiai ligetben furcsán veszi ki magát, hogy egy magyar is szerepel, hát nézzünk utána, miért is lehet ez. Kőrösi Csoma Sándor erdélyi születésű, tanulmányait Göttingenben végezte, ahol elhatározta a magyarság eredetének kutatását. A haza bölcsőjét kereste. Gyalogszerrel indult Indiába, ahol elkészítette a tibeti-angol szótárt, valamint a kidolgozta a tibeti nyelvtant, ezek 1834-ben meg is jelentek. 1842-ben továbbindult az őshaza kutatására, azonban csak Dardzsilingig jutott, ahol trópusi lázban elhunyt.

### Az elsüllyedt Pajtas hajó áldozatainak emlékműve

1954 májusában, gyermeknapon felborult a „Pajtas” hajó áldozatainak emlékére és a mentésben résztvevők tisz-

teletére állították. A Pajtas nevű hajót nem a Balatonra, hanem a Dunára tervezték, s valószínűsíthető, hogy vitorlásverseny volt a Balatonon, s mindenki egy oldalra futott, hogy lássa a versenyt, így a zsúfoltság, a műszaki állapot és manőverezési hiba együttes hatása okozhatta a tragédiát: a hajó megbillent és felborult, 23 áldozat, 56 sérült.

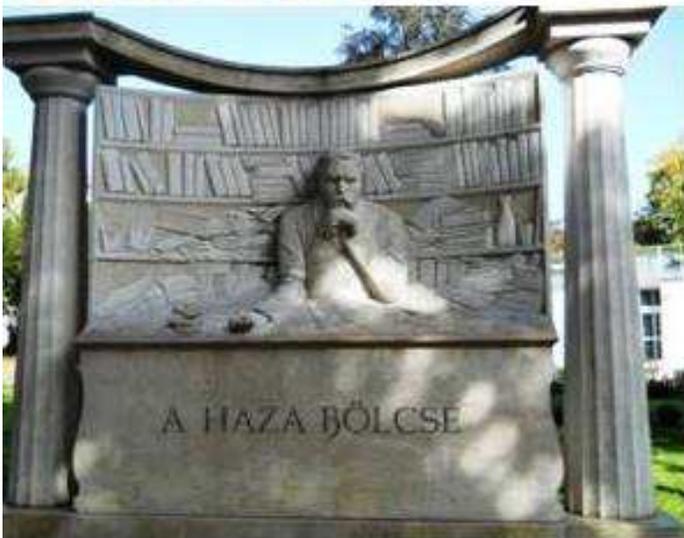
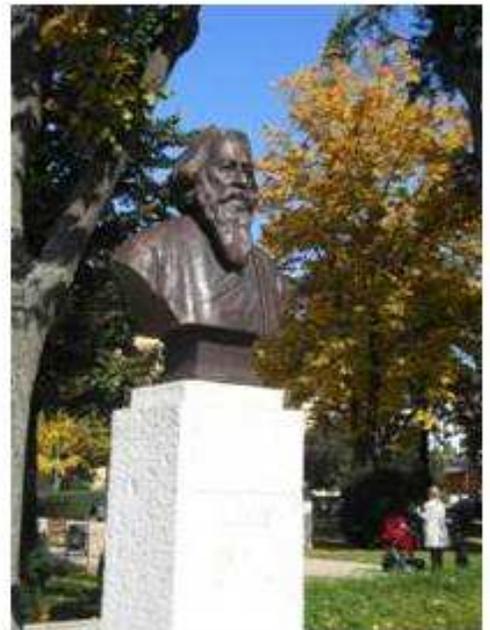
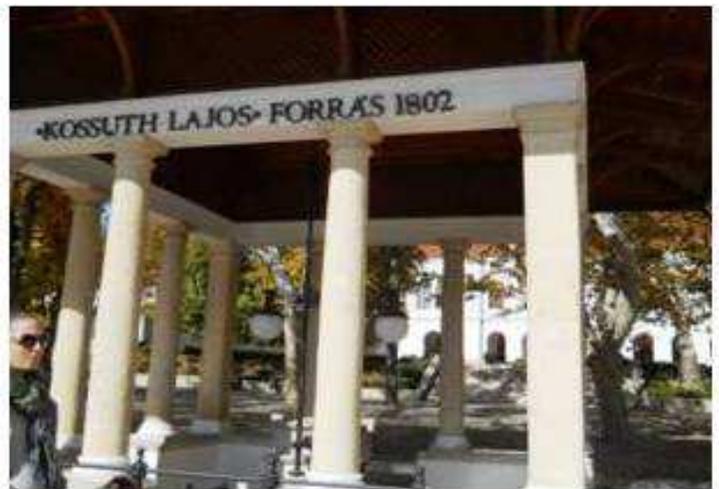
### Halász és a Révész szobra

Széchenyi István születésének 150. évfordulója (1941) alkalmából avatták fel az új kikötőt, s vele együtt a szobrokat is. A két ősi foglalkozás, a halászat és a csónakos képe jelenik meg, a halász Kun József, kenesei halász nagygazdát ábrázolja, míg a révész szobrát egy tihanyi révészlegényről mintázták. A két szobor között pad húzódik, melyen Erdélyi József sorai állnak: „Tétlen pad én, örömet, boldogságot, csak a pihenő emberben lelek; Jertek hozzám, s az édes fáradságot osszátok meg velem, óh emberek!”

*Nagy Klaudia is a tourist guide in Balatonfüred. She recently became a mother for the first time.*



*Farkas Ádám Munkácsi díjas szobrászművész alkotása „Bujtor István színész” ábrázolja*



A balatonfüredi Állami Szívkórház, Kossuth Lajos Forrás, Tábla a Horváth ház épületén, Strobl Zsigmond: Gyík szobor, Rabindranath Tagore szobor, Deák Ferenc emlékmű, Nagy Klaudia a Jókai Mór Emlékház hálószobájában

# Ybl Miklós Bicentennial – an Architectural Milestone

*Olga Vallay Szokolay*

*On April 6, 2014, the bicentennial of the birth of Ybl Miklós, one of the leading Hungarian architects of the nineteenth century, will be celebrated. Here is a presentation of his life and work.*

On April 6, 2014, the bicentennial of the birth of Ybl Miklós, one of the leading Hungarian architects of the nineteenth century, will be celebrated. Many festivities are planned in Budapest, at his birthplace Székesfehérvár as well as in other towns and villages nationwide where his innumerable works commemorate his life's work. The fanfares, however, will most likely be dampened since the nation will be preoccupied with the country's coinciding Election Day. The importance of elections cannot be overlooked, but neither can be the fact that one can hardly walk around Budapest without passing or facing a structure built by this architectural giant. His works have been organic parts of the cityscape for well over a century, many built before the two cities, Buda and Pest, were united in November, 1873.

Origins of the rare Ybl name can be traced back to Klosterneuburg, Austria. But it was as early as 1714 that the name appeared on the list of the Székesfehérvár merchants, when the family first settled in Hungary. Ybl Miklós was a well-to-do merchant and, as a county committee member, was involved in the management of the town's merchant guild. With his wife, Eiman Anna, they had a son on April 6, 1814, who was to become one of the greatest Hungarian master builders of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was named Miklós after his father.

The young Ybl enrolled in the Vienna Polytechnic in 1825, excelled in and finished his studies in 1831. By today's standards of the Western world, a 17-year-old lacking an appropriate university degree would not be an accomplished architect. But in his day, beside theoretical education, rigorous traditional *guild training* was also required to become a master builder. After being turned down for a state office job, he started to *apprentice* in the then famous architect, Pollack Mihály's architectural office. Ac-

ording to guild rules, he became a *journeyman* in 1832 but continued working as Pollack's draftsman for four years.

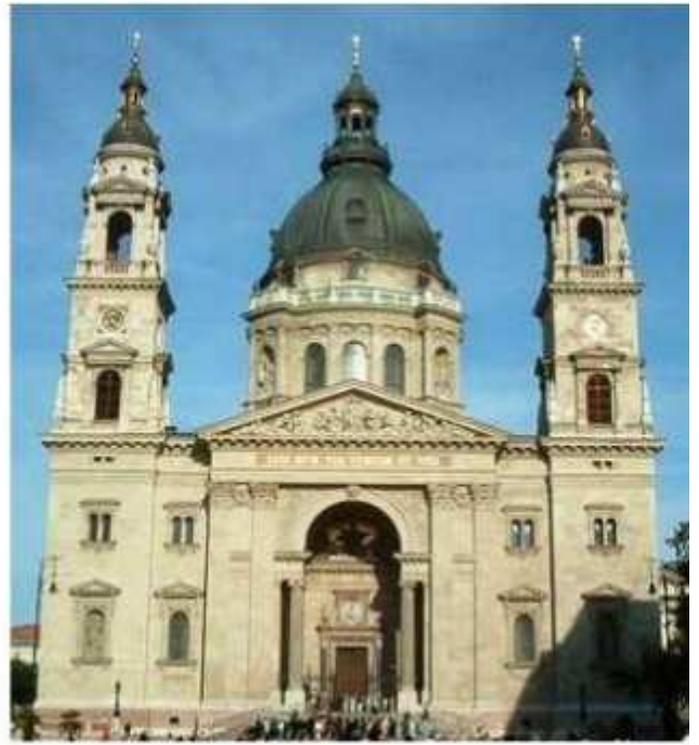
With warmest recommendations from Pollack, in 1836 he started working for the Viennese architect, Heinrich Koch. He assigned Ybl as clerk of the works for the Kinsky villa's construction in Prague, where he worked for four years. After that he signed up to the Royal Academy of Arts in Munich until 1841, then traveled to Italy, to satisfy part of the strict requirements of guild training. But the young man's extensive travels that covered Northern Italy and Tuscany for three months, were curbed and shadowed by financial problems at home that resulted in selling the family home in Székesfehérvár. This same year he was denied membership in the builder's guild. Lacking guild membership, Ybl Miklós had to find a partner whose master rights would permit him to work legitimately. Pollack Ágoston, son of Ybl's former boss, seemed to be a suitable choice and the two opened their Architectural Institute in Dorottya utca in Pest. Following the initial years of hardship of this "design-build" enterprise, Ybl succeeded in securing commissions from the Károlyi family. He finished the Károlyi György palace at Egyetem utca. Károlyi István hired him to design the reconstruction of his castle and a new church at the village of Fót, where by 1847 he officially became the estate architect. This turned Ybl into an overnight success and started an influx of work from the Hungarian aristocracy. Even Széchenyi István called upon the master to design a church for his estate at Nagycenk, but he never had a chance to see the work finished.

In the 1850's, Ybl was commissioned to design one castle after another, listing among his clients half of the Almannach de Gotha (a directory of Europe's royalty and higher nobility). It is admirable that he had the time and energy

to get married: he wed a teacher from Graz, Franciska-Ida Lafite, in 1851. The 1860's saw dozens of Ybl's buildings emerge, from Pest to all over the country. These include the *Hungarian Academy of Sciences*, the institution that also had denied him membership. However, following a two-decade wait, he became guild member in 1864, and his only child, Félix, was born after 13 years of marriage. Good things, it seems, are worth waiting for.

Upon the death, in 1867, of Hild József, the original builder of the *St. Stephen Basilica* in Pest, Ybl was commissioned to take over. Initially he found that the columns were cracking, some bricks were occasionally falling and the structure was unsafe. But the building committee, in their infinite wisdom, claimed the building was fine, only the cracks would have to be filled... Ybl was proven right really soon: in January, 1868 the dome caved into the nave of the church with the rumble of an earthquake, scattering debris that covered acres of the city. As the ensuing investigation proved, the collapse was caused by the false economy of using inferior materials. Ybl, with his famed devotion to detail, invested enormous energy into the building's structural and artistic perfection over the years to create a proper addition to the city's splendor. The completion, however, did not happen in his lifetime.

Ybl's first building that became an intrinsic part of the cityscape was the *Custom's Palace* (now Corvinus University), on the Pest side overlooking the Danube. The fully neo-Renaissance design reflects the rigor of the *palazzi* of Florence while the disciplined masses served its complex function well. The solemn building's front doors facing the wharf could properly accommodate receiving foreign goods.



*Budapest Opera, St. Stephen Basilica, Fót Church, Customs House, Palace Garden (Várkert)*

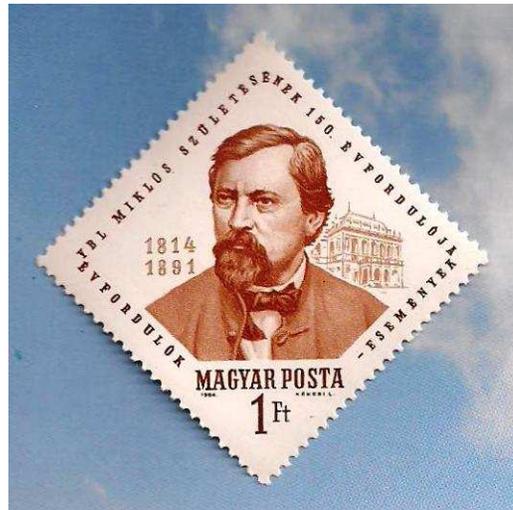
The 1870's began with some important developments in the City's history. The unification of Pest and Buda in 1873, already connected by the Széchenyi Chain Bridge, necessitated an avenue connecting the inner city to City Park, and the construction was started. A competition for a music theater was also advertised based on the program written by Ybl. The decision was made to place the music theater along the new Avenue. And the competition, entered by most leading architects of the day, was won by no other than Ybl.

Construction started in the fall of 1875. Podmaniczky Frigyes, the president of the competition's jury insisted that only Hungarian craftsmen and artisans be employed on the structure. Thus all masonry was contracted to Hofhauser Lajos, carpentry to Neuschloss Károly & Son, metalwork to Jungfer Gyula, and cast iron elements were supplied by Oetl & Schlick...But do not let the German names mislead you. Probably all were just as true Hungarians as Ybl himself, about whom Széchenyi István once said, in German, that "although he is not a speck Magyar, he is a most faithful Hungarian"....

*The Opera* (Magyar Állami Operaház), as the music theater was later named, followed the prototype of the opera houses of Paris and Vienna. A single convex roof covers the stage and auditorium (house), and is adjoined by the masses of the entrance vestibule and the back stage. The majestic entrance properly emphasizes the festive function of the building, decorated by sculptures of Liszt and Erkel, both by Stróbl Alajos. Frescoes by Than Mór, Székely Bertalan and Lotz Károly ornament the foyer, the staircases and the auditorium.

The Opera building proved to be the perfect vehicle for Ybl to employ his vast vocabulary of Renaissance. The art critic, Lengyel Géza, in his essay written in 1914 for the centennial of the Architect's birth, correctly juxtaposed the Custom's Palace and the Opera. The former being a prosaic, functional, rigid presence of an office

building, while the latter so appropriately exudes elegance, exuberance, and the celebration of arts even before entering.



Ybl used traditional details in expressing pomp, adopting virtually all elements, column capitals, entablatures, arches from the Italian Renaissance that he had so much admired. Thousands of others have dipped into the same treasure trove but so few had found the great secret of spatial organization that unites the dead details into a grandiose work of the truly Renaissance spirit. Staring from tradition is not wrong but it is not enough for the creation of representative monuments. Conservative knowledge measured by guild-parameters, special architectural talent, taste, respect and validation of nobility to the most minute details and all materials used – these are the qualities that distinguished Ybl from his contemporaries and generations of followers. (For interiors of the Opera, see "A Premiere 90 Years Ago" in the February 2014 issue of Magyar News Online).

To the present day, the Opera stands out as a jewel box on Andrassy út, housing an amazing and still up-to-date stage and an auditorium that gives the viewer that special privileged feeling of being part of the magic of make-believe. Upon his visit to Budapest in the later 1980's, after the centennial reconstruction of that gem of a building, an architect colleague and friend of mine from Seattle, specializing in theater design and familiar with international theaters,

expressed his highest professional appreciation.

Concurring with the construction of the Opera, the Buda side of the Danube also received its proper treatment from Ybl Miklós. At the foot of the one-time Royal Palace, framing the quay, a string of shops, ateliers and some dwellings were housed in a romantic setting called *Várkert* that even accommodated a Kiosk with a restaurant. Over the years its functions changed but the park, stairs and elevated gardens echoed a clear Italian Renaissance influence. Over the years, Ybl worked on some thermal baths, buildings of the Zoo, apartment houses, public buildings too numerous to list, and did extensive work on various parts of the *Royal Palace* itself.

Rewards of life seemed to elude Ybl or were at least delayed in his life. Nevertheless, in the 1880's he celebrated his architectural golden jubilee, received several awards and was appointed by King Franz Josef to be a member of the Upper House. His death, in 1891 in Budapest, marked the end of an unusually active, creative and productive life. Fortunately, we can still enjoy and benefit daily from the works of this rare talent.

His statue, by Mayer Eduard, standing on the Ybl Miklós Square in Buda, was unveiled five years after his death. In 1953, the Ybl Miklós prize was founded and has been annually awarded to the most worthy architect. And, to crown his achievements, Hungarian astronomers named a small planet (planette?), known as 2002 YB3, after Ybl Miklós, thus securing his immortality in the skies as well. He is in the company of Csokonai Vitéz Mihály, Csonka János, Bánki Donát, Márai Sándor, to name just a few.

A celestial Hungarian colony, indeed!  
...

*Olga Vállay Szokolay is an architect and Professor Emerita at Norwalk Community College, CT, after three decades of teaching. She is a member of the editorial Board of Magyar News Online.*

## “Beszegődtem Tarnócára bojtárnak”

Beszegődtem Tarnócára bojtárnak,  
jó legelője van ott a gulyának  
Fizetésem tíz forint húsz karajcár  
megél ebből egy bojtár.

Vezérürüim kolompot viselnek,  
hogy én tudjam, mindig merre legelnek  
Úgy sétálok utánnok, mint egy császár  
teheti ezt egy bojtár.

A gazdámval leszek majd egy kenyéren  
Szent-György napkor jőnek értem szekéren.  
Fölteszik a tulipántos ládámat  
furulyámat, dudámat.

Majd csak addig furulyálok, dudálok,  
míg egy szép szeretőre nem találok;  
van Tarnócán sok szép szőke s barna lány,  
belém szeret egy talán.

Ha megszeret, jól teszi, majd elveszem,  
édes kis feleségemnek nevezem;  
nem lesz hetedhétországban több oly pár  
mint Tarnócán a bojtár!

*It's very appropriate to look at this folk-song now, since it refers to the hiring of the bojtár on St. George's day, i.e., April 24th. It deals with a way of life that has long since vanished: that of the herdsman.*

**Tarnóca** – could be one of several locations by that name (in County Fejér, Heves, Hunyad, Somogy)

**karajcár** – var. of krajcár, a small coin, equivalent to a penny – derived from the German word “Kreuzer”, for the cross which was on it

**megél ebből** – can live on this (lit. from this)

**vezérürü** – **vezér**: leader, leading; **ürü**: sheep, neutered (wether)

**kolomp** – cattle or sheep bell

**utánnok** – utánuk

**gazdámval** – gazda: farmer, master, boss

**egy kenyéren** – lit. on one bread

**Szent-György napkor** – on St.

George's day, April 24<sup>th</sup> – (seasonal) agricultural workers were hired from St. George's until St. Michael's (Sept. 29th)

**jőnek** – jönnek

**tulipántos láda** – so called because of tulips – a favorite decorative motif – painted on it

**szeretőre talál** – finds a sweetheart

## I hired on as a herdsman in Tarnóca

I hired on as a shepherd boy in Tarnóca,  
the herd has good pasture there.  
My pay is 10 forints, 20 krajcár,  
a shepherd boy can live on this.

My leading sheep wear bells,  
that I may always know where they are grazing.  
I stroll after them like an emperor,  
a shepherd boy can do this.

I will share bread with my boss.  
They will come for me with a cart on St. George's day  
On top they will set my chest painted with tulips,  
my flute, my bagpipe.

I will keep playing my flute, my bagpipes,  
until I find a pretty sweetheart;  
There are many pretty blondes and brunettes in Tarnóca,  
perhaps one of them will fall in love with me.

If she gets to love me, she'll do well, I'll marry her,  
I'll call her my sweet little wife;  
there won't be another couple in the whole wide world  
such as the shepherd boy at Tarnóca!

**belém szeret** – falls in love with me  
**megszeret** – falls in love with me  
**hetedhétország** - lit. „seventh seven land” – whole wide world – term often used in fairytales

**Sinka István** – 1897 – 1969 – was a “bojtár”.

He wrote poetry, and was discovered by sociologists in the 1930's, when they were doing village research. His was the voice of the agrarian poor, who were at the mercy of the weather and of bailiffs. Sinka rebelled against the established order. He was first published in 1933. His autobiography, “*Fekete bojtár vallomása*” (Confessions of Black Shepherd Boy – “black” in the sense of “bad”) documented a form of life that disappeared very soon afterwards. He was silenced by the Communist regime after World War II, and could not publish again until 1967.

His poem (below) on the meager pay of a “bojtár” highlights their abject poverty and the condescension with which they were treated.

## Maradt kerek három pengő

Sinka István

Beléptem a kastély alá  
s egy nyugtatványt írtam alá.  
Kaptam summa negyven pengőt:  
nyögtem érte fél esztendő.  
Akkor este bort töltöttem,  
Katimnak zsebkendőt vettem,  
tizenötöt téltre hagytam,  
tízért jobb csizmát varrattam.  
Hatot adtam Tóth Bálintnak:  
négyért nagyon régen sírtak  
ketten is: mint a volt bírós  
s Gyánból Kiss, a birkanyíró.  
Maradt kerek három pengő.  
meg egy újabb felesztendő.  
Rám is szóltott kinn az ispán:  
- na, te hogyishínak István!...



## Did you know...

EPF

... that Hungary's lowest lying point is located south of Szeged, near the village of Tiszasziget? Situated 75.8 m (227 ft.) above sea level, the memorial park, one kilometer west of the town, is set in the middle of a fenced meadow, with a shaded rest area, a bicycle rack, benches, and is marked by a sculptured ring as well as an oak column with a bronze plaque.

Tiszasziget (known as Ószentiván until 1955), is less than one km from the Serbian border. It lies between the Tisza and Maros Rivers, where Bronze Age utensils have been found. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century on, tobacco farming was carried on in the area.

A great flood swept everything away in 1816, and the local population was resettled in a geometrically laid out community. Most of the public buildings were erected with government assistance in the 1930's.



*March 15th observance, Fairfield, CT. Consul General Dán Károly; part of the audience; goodies contributed by volunteers; Deer Zsuzsa, President, Pannonia American-Hungarian Club.*



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