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We wish all our kind Readers a very blessed and happy New Year!
Áldásos, békés, boldog és egészséges új esztendőt kívánunk minden kedves Olvasónknak!

New Year's Wishes / Újévi köszöntő

Petőfi Sándor

I too wish you good things,
That's only natural,
Save that there are so many kinds of good,
That I can barely choose.

Jót kívánok én is néked,
Ez természetes dolog,
Csakhogy a jó annyiféle,
Hogy alig választhatok.

Rhymed New Year's wishes are a Hungarian custom. Many use some folk rhymes for the occasion. Others compose at least a few verses of their own for New Year's Day.

Hungary's most famous lyric poet, Petőfi Sándor, who was born on January first, also wrote a few lines for such a greeting. It seems appropriate then, that we quote his köszöntő for the New Year.



Why is Epiphany Called Vízkereszt?

Erika Papp Faber

January 6th is called Epiphany in English, Dreikönige (Three Kings) in German. But vízkereszt (water cross)?

The answer is provided by the *Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon* (The Hungarian Ethnographic Encyclopedia), which informs us that it was on January 6th that water and incense were ritually blessed by the Catholic Church. Thus the blessing of the water, its "christening", or *megkeresztelés*, provided the semantics for the name of the day.

Everyone took some blessed, i.e. holy water, home from church. A book of rituals dating to 1499 states that this blessed water was useful against the plague, poison, and poisonous vermin. It was also sprinkled on cradles. When blessed by a priest, it was believed that it would keep all year without going bad.

The blessing of houses developed from the blessing of the water and the incense. It was on January 6th that the pastor would start visitation of his flock, and bless the houses and barns. In certain areas, the priest and the accompany-

ing cantor would then be gifted with ham, bacon, eggs, grain and beans.

Eventually, the custom evolved of marking with chalk above the lintel the first two numerals of the year, followed by the initials C+M+B. (standing for "*Christus mansionem benedicat*", i.e., "May Christ bless the house"), and the last two numerals of the year. This year, it would be marked "20+G+M+B+15". The initials of C+M+B were eventually misinterpreted in folk usage. The "C" was turned into a "G", and "G+M+B" became the initials of the three kings, Gáspár, Menyhért and Boldizsár.

Now you know !



Fairfield Children's Christmas Program

EPF

It wouldn't be Christmas in Fairfield, CT without the children's program presented by the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club. This year, the large number of participants made it especially delightful.

As has been the tradition in Fairfield, CT for many years, the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club – 63 years young! – once again presented a children's Christmas program on December 14th, 2014. This time, it was held in Jonas Hall of Calvin United Church of Christ on Kings Highway. Over 30 children and young people participated. It was a joy to see them – some not more than three years old – dressed in their finery, as they sang, recited poems or played on a child-sized violin. A budding pianist even gave us a taste of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony! Naturally, the quality of performance increased with the age of the children.

The program was put together by Zsuzsanna Deer, President of the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club. She practiced with the group for weeks to get them ready for the big day. Her "day job" is Conductive Education in the Fairfield school system. (For a description of Conductive Education, see the September 2010 issue of Magyar News Online.)

The program was introduced by the Reverend Tibor Király, new Minister at Calvin United Church of Christ. He spoke of renewal in the life of the church, and renewed collaboration with the Pannonia Club. As a pledge of this, he returned the rental fee to Zsuzsanna, saying the church would no longer charge them for using the hall.

Zsuzsanna Deer briefly outlined the purpose of the Pannonia Club, chief of which is assisting college students of Hungarian descent with scholarships. It is able to do this thanks to its two annual fundraisers, the Cafe Budapest Ball and the Long Hot Summer picnic and dance.

Even a Hungarian Santa Claus/Mikulás

showed up, impersonated by Levente Andacs, enchanting the children. The Reverend Király gave the closing prayer, and then each of the children received a package of Christmas goodies. Delicious homemade Hungarian pastries provided by the parents invited the guests to celebrate this joyous occasion. Thank you, Zsuzsanna Deer and the Pannonia Club, for a delightful afternoon!



Peter Penczer Honored by the Town of Fairfield

Recurring comments about Peter Penczer, recipient of the 2014 "Fairfielder of the Year" Award, mentioned that he is above all a gentleman, and a "town treasure".

On December 17th, 2014, the Fairfield, CT Board of Selectmen presented Peter Penczer with the "Fairfielder of the Year" Award. Candidates are nominated by town residents, and reviewed by two independent committees. Criteria for receiving the award include volunteering time, energy and talent in service of the town's residents or of the community in general, and improving the town's life and vitality. Also considered are exceptional personal qualities and whether the candidate is a model citizen who reflects the positive values of Fairfield.

Mr. Penczer, a lawyer and real estate developer, has volunteered for many decades, serving on various boards and commissions and non-profits. Currently, he is Chair of the Fairfield Economic Development Commission, and has been involved with non-profits including the Rotary Club, the Fairfield Museum and History Center, the Fairfield Theatre Company, the International Institute of Connecticut, and Operation Hope, an organization that helps feed the area's homeless.

In addition, he is also a benefactor of Magyar Studies of America and Magyar News Online, and a student at the Hungarian School run by MSA.

Congratulations, Peter! Thank you for your service and generosity!



Sherri Steeneck, one of two people who nominated Peter Penczer (on the right)



Peter Penczer (on the right) with fellow Magyar Studies students

Saying Good-bye to Centenarian Louis Torma

On November 29th, 2014, Louis Torma passed away peacefully in Trumbull, CT. Born in January 1914 in the Muraköz area of Hungary, in what has since come under Slovenian jurisdiction, Mr. Torma came to this country in 1958. Active in St. Emery's Catholic Church in Fairfield, he was a member of the Holy Name Society and the Seniors group there. Two years ago, he gave an interview to Magyar News Online (see the November 2012 issue), from which we learned about



the many vicissitudes of his long life.

His daughter, Marika Szedlmayer, her husband, children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren were joined by a nice crowd of friends to say good-bye to Louis. The eulogy at the Funeral Mass was given by his granddaughter Eva, who has fond memories of her "nagypapa". He will be sorely missed by his loving family, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences. May he rest in peace!

And You Thought Jumping Rope Was Child's Play!

Erika Papp Faber

Your eyes cannot keep pace with the agility of Bánhegyi Adrienn as she demonstrates her supreme skill in "rope skipping" in various videos. She kindly (and promptly) responded to our questions, from which this report has been compiled.

Making a living from jumping rope might seem like a young girl's dream, but Bánhegyi Adrienn of Szombathely had that dream come true. Her father had seen a team of "rope skippers" on television, and became interested in the sport, at first in an amateur fashion. He started training Adrienn from the time she was eight years old.

After a few years they were able to enter international competitions. In Szombathely, they have been involved in the sport for almost 20 years now. Adrienn, a physical education teacher, has won the World Jump Rope Championship three times: in St. Louis, in 1999; in Ghent, Belgium, in 2002; and in Australia, in 2004.

In Denmark, in 2006, she set a world record in "tripling", i.e., repeating each movement three times. And

between 1998 and 2006, she won the European Championship five times! She has traveled to almost every European country with her jump rope, has competed in Australia, and appeared in the US and Canada. In 2014, she and her sister Kata performed at the Carneval in Rio de Janeiro. She has been selected as a performing artist for the internationally famed Cirque du Soleil.

In addition to her native Hungarian, Adrienn is fluent in English, French, German, and Czech.

Over the last five years, Adrienn has competed less, although she still practices at least an hour a day because, as she says, there is always a new challenge. Her exercise routine includes not only work with the rope, but also many other forms of movement. But now she concentrates on giving lectures and making appearances through her own "Jumpplus" enterprise. She has provided training and held classes and workshops for sport and fitness professionals (and not just for girls and women!) in – among many other places - Bremen, Munich and Berlin, Germany. Through an e-shop, she offers for sale

jump ropes and other jumping paraphernalia.

She is sponsored by Jaco, which provides clothes, accessories and sport equipment.

All this does not leave much time for a personal life, as Adrienn works mostly at night. "We have to conserve our energy during the day," she writes. But she enjoys playing the guitar, beach volleyball, and learning foreign languages. And she hopes that rope skipping becomes an Olympic event. After all, it is not an expensive sport: the only equipment needed is a jump rope!

For a visual treat – and a series of "Wow Moments" – go to www.adriennbanhegyi.com, or www.jumpplusworld.com.

Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.

Photos: Adrienn in action



Herend Porcelain

Olga Vállay Szokolay

It would be hard to find a Hungarian household anywhere in the world without at least one piece of Herendi ("of Herend") porcelain dish or statue. In its 175 years, this world-renowned product became democratized from royalty and aristocracy into the cherished property of common people.

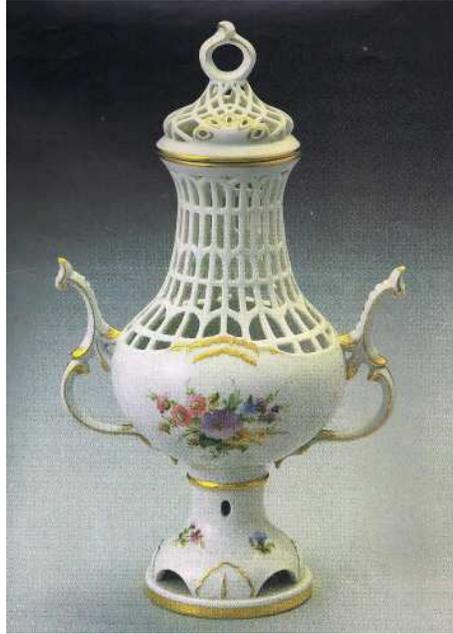
The origins of the Manufactory at Herend, near Veszprém, Hungary, go back almost 190 years. It started as an earthenware pottery manufacturing plant by Stigl Vince. He had also researched and experimented with porcelain making, but he ran out of funds and went bankrupt. Fischer Mór, an ambitious and creative entrepreneur, was his creditor who took control of the factory in 1839.

Fischer soon put his ideas into artistic porcelain manufacturing. The Hungarian aristocracy, being unable to replace broken pieces of their old classical Far Eastern and European porcelain dinner-sets, started to order Fischer's new creations. *Herendi* pieces appeared at international exhibitions in Vienna, London, New York and Paris in the 1840's and 1850's where they earned the highest appreciation. This recognition materialized in several orders by royal courts: Queen Victoria, Franz Joseph I, Mexican emperor Maximilian etc.

Many well-known patterns were named after their first customers, such as Queen Victoria, Eszterházy, Batthyány, Rothschild and Apponyi. As a recognition of his creative and successful work in porcelain art, Franz Joseph I gave a title of nobility to Fischer Mór in 1865. From 1872, "Mór Fischer Farkasházy, Purveyor to the Royal Court", was also entitled to use the shapes and patterns of the closed-down Manufactory of Vienna (*Alt Wien*). Herend was enjoying its first golden age.

A decline in the level of production started in 1874, when Fischer gave the management to his sons. The artistic aspects were repressed and, in the hands of several owners, the factory

almost went bankrupt. After a quarter of a century of decline, the Founder's grandson, Farkasházy Jenő, a trained ceramicist, became the new owner. He had gained experience in factories abroad and wanted to follow the concepts of his grandfather. An artist of excellent taste, Jenő revived old traditions as well as successfully brought forward and exhibited *nouveau* ideas in Paris and in St. Petersburg, in 1900 and 1901, respectively.



Vase with reticuled neck from the middle of the 19th century

An age of reproducing traditional products from the Founder's period followed between the two World Wars. However, new items were introduced in figures that were manufactured after the work of the best Hungarian sculptors. The company was nationalized in 1948, privatized in 1993 and is now 75% owned by the factory's management and workers. Their mission is to maintain the company as a "profitable enterprise on the leading edge of production of hand-crafted luxury porcelain goods of outstanding quality, nurturing the history and traditions of artisanship, providing a secure, long-term workplace for its skilled employees". But how is fine porcelain made to get its somewhat translucent, thin quality that many centuries ago was the secret of Far Eastern production (hence: the name "china")?

Like most porcelain, Herend products are made of a mixture of kaolin, feldspar and quartz. The cleaned, decorated and dried pieces are first fired at 830 degrees Celsius (1,526 degrees Fahrenheit). After firing, they are immersed in a glaze and then fired again at 1,410 degrees C (2,570 degrees F). This produces the white, translucent porcelain. This is followed by painting by hand and, depending on whether it's been painted with colors or with gold, is finished off with one or more firings.

Between 1851 and 1937, Herend Porcelain won 24 grand and gold prizes in world exhibitions. Probably their best known pattern was the one shown at the London World Exhibition in 1851, with Chinese-style butterflies and flowers in lively colors. A dinner set of this gold-medal-winning pattern was ordered by Queen Victoria for Windsor Castle. Herend's "Viktoria" pattern was named in her honor.

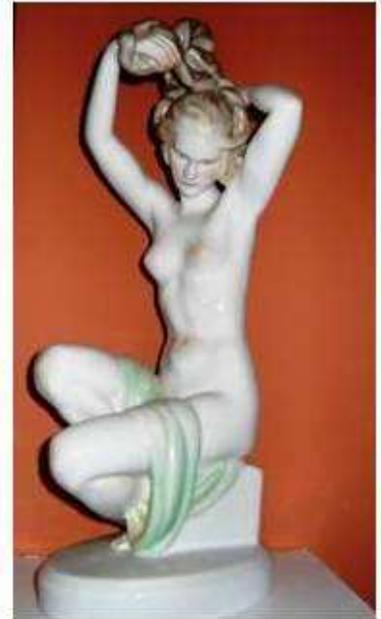
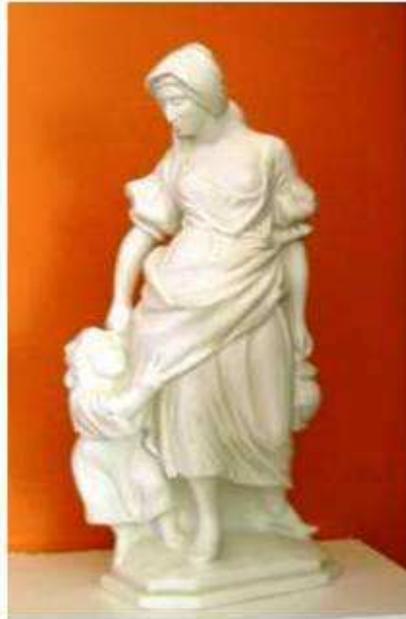
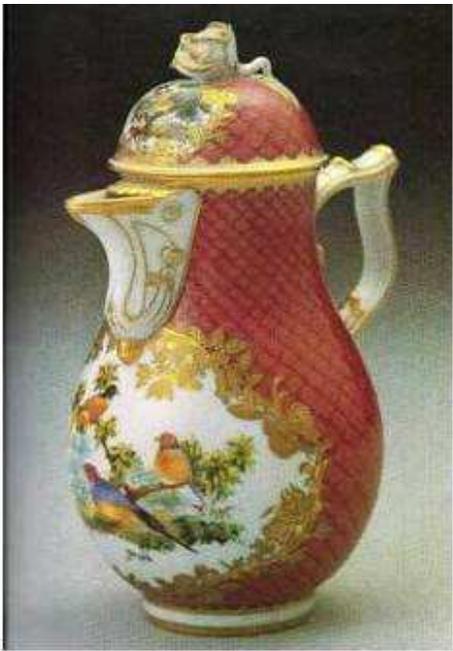
The Herend Porcelain Manufactory was purveyor to the Habsburg Dynasty and the aristocracy, both in Hungary and abroad. The consistent quality of Herend Porcelain is the result of conscious preservation of traditions.

Today, Herend Porcelain Manufactory Ltd. is one of the chosen, heading the list of *Hungaricum* that represents characteristically Hungarian products which are known and popular internationally and their origins are recognized everywhere.

Other *Hungaricum* products are Halas Lace (mentioned in Magyar News Online in a November 2010 article), Pick Salami (MNO September 2013), Zwack Unicum (MNO September 2012) and Tokaji Aszu (October 2012). Enjoy them all!

And take good care of your Herendi pieces - remember: FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE...

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



Coffee pot with exotic birds, Queen Victoria pattern dishes, Motherhood 1&2, Bathing woman, Rooster with modern fishnet painting, Reticuled box from floral design from 1850`s, Ludas Matyi

Impact of World War I and Trianon (Part II): Repatriated

Vajk Edit, Vincze Istvánné

When the Rumanians took over Transylvania at the end of World War I, my Grandfather, Vajk József, was removed from his government job as chief engineer at the Vajdahunyad ironworks, and had no prospects for another job there. He, his son and three daughters were repatriated to Hungary (see the November 2014 issue of *Magyar News Online*). Here his daughter Edit describes how they managed to find a new footing in Hungary.

Those who had come earlier found jobs, even apartments, more easily. Apa was of the opinion that one had to stay! Hungarians would have to hold out, and we shouldn't decrease the number of Hungarians in Transylvania. He held out too, until the Rumanians showed him the door. Meanwhile, the more resourceful ones had all drifted out, and positioned themselves better. For Apa there was no job left, so they put him on the "B list", with a lower salary.

There was no lodging either. We remained in the box cars for a good many weeks. Of course, the box cars had no permanent place either. They shunted us here and there – if I remember correctly, mostly near the Kőbánya station, but sometimes even on the shunting tracks of Ferencváros station.

Thus food shopping, which in those days wasn't easy anyway, became more difficult. We cooked on our little portable range. We were just boiling the milk which we had bought with such difficulty, when crash! a big push, and the milk spilled out of the pot. Obviously they had just connected us to a locomotive, to shunt us off somewhere else, because just now we were in the way here.

Of course, the wonderfully installed toilet couldn't be used while standing. If it happened to be close by, we would go to the station or begged some nearby houseowner to let us

use their bathroom.

Sometimes we went in to Budapest. Apa tried to find some kind of solu-

the area into men's and women's sleeping quarters, and there was room left for washing and cooking.



But the end of vacation was approaching, and we looked forward to new uncertainty. By the time we had to leave because of the new school year, we managed to get a small workers' house (also described in the above-referenced article. Ed.) After the huge rooms in the house at Vajdahunyad, the tiny place seemed to be a dollhouse: three little rooms, a bitty entryway from which the toilet opened to one side, and the kitchen to the other, with a range built of brick. From this opened the door to the attic steps, where the area under the stairs made a pantry.

tion. Naturally we had to be careful not to leave the car unguarded. The journey that had seemed so adventurous at first had come to an end; living there became boring, faded, and painful. Gradually, we were left by ourselves. Others drifted away to relatives or to some apartment they were able to get through pulling strings... It was summer, and the heat was burdensome in the box cars standing in the sun...

Finally – probably after five or six weeks, we received a classroom in the No. 2 School of *Wekerle telep* (for a description of *Wekerle telep*, see the July-August issue of *Magyar News Online*), and we finally were freed from our tight quarters. Though not an ideal solution, it meant a lot to us. A row of wardrobes set up about the middle of the classroom divided

We considered the whole house almost funny, and kept saying that we'll be able to get through several months here too, until we manage to get regular living quarters. Since then, we have learned that "nothing is as permanent as a temporary solution". We lived there for 8 (eight) years, and we left there only when all three of us girls got married and moved to apartments.

This part of *Wekerle telep* was in the section most distant from the streetcar line. Here the streets had not been completely laid out yet; we had to wade through a desert of sand over a large stretch. Perhaps only one more house was built beyond ours. The streetcar was a good kilometer and a half (one mile) away. Drainage of rainwater had not yet been solved (fortunately, sewers had been installed), so after a good rainfall the

Főtér (main square) became an ocean. But that was the only way we could get home. It happened that – rarely – the administration ordered a cart to the *Főtér*, to transport the pedestrians across...

(Riding on the streetcar) Most often we had room only hanging on the steps, because at that time – around 6 in the morning – all the workers were leaving for their jobs...It was rather painful in the winter: my hands and legs were frostbitten, and I struggled with chilblains for many years. It even bothered me in 1943, especially when on summer vacation I had to wash in cold water. But the important thing was that we had living quarters!

However, we did not have electric light! ... We had acetylene lamps that we burned at night, which provided strong light, but were terribly foul smelling, and sooty. Sometimes, when Raul and I were doing drafting at night (for their university courses.* Ed.), we would look at each other and laugh, because a wide sooty ring had been deposited around our nostrils. To turn off the lamps, we took them out into the entryway, because the greatest stink was produced then. A year or two later we changed over to petroleum lamps, but those did not provide as strong a light for drafting. I don't remember how many years went by before they installed electricity.

By contrast, in Vajdahunyad we had had plenty of electric lighting: in the rooms, 200 watt bulbs spread light from the ceiling, the sewing machine was driven by an electric motor, we had two electric stoves: one with an oventop, the other with two burners that you could see. There was a teapot with a heater built in, one had only to connect it to the outlet, and there was also a small electric stove used for heating.

We changed over to petroleum lamps and candles, because the acetylene stank too badly. Then when we got home, we first had to clean them out,

wipe the glass clean, trim the wick nice and even, that it would burn well...

Heating was a special problem. Tiny iron stoves stood in each of the three rooms which probably would have worked better if we had heated with regular fuel, but that was not available. We bought so-called "*Cséri-kokszt*" ("*Cséri coke*") which had been picked from the garbage at the *Cséri* garbage dump. It consisted of unbelievably small particles, and that wasn't pure coke either. The tiny stoves had to be constantly poked and shaken, and the fire often went out in them even then. Then the whole thing had to be taken out and lighting the fire started all over again. It wasn't possible to conjure up much heat even with this lot of struggle. Vivy helped herself by sitting on top of the ladder that she had placed near the stove, to study there, because she still had to complete her last year, and she graduated in the *Toldi Főreál* school in Buda. Their Excellencies, the Regent and his wife, were present too at Vivy's graduation, because their son István also sat privately for his final exams and graduated from there. (Translator's note: Vivy, my Mom, mentioned to me several times how nervous István was while waiting for his turn to be examined. These were oral exams.)

We brought the coke up to the attic. When Raul was not home, Vivy and I lugged it up ourselves, so Raul, who had a hernia, wouldn't have to struggle with it, although he never shirked such work. Beside the ample grieving – after all, it was the year of Trianon – and the many worries, there were of course occasions for high spirits. Man's soul cannot survive without gaiety. Cousins often came over, and at such times great *tarokk* battles were fought in Apa's room. (For an explanation of the card game of *tarokk*, see the March 2010 issue of Magyar News Online.)

(Apa's brother, Károly, had emigrated

to America in 1907. Trans.) Meanwhile the long-awaited check from Károly *bácsi* arrived – a thousand dollars, which we stupidly cashed right away, and then the inflation took off at a gallop. Of course it was a blessing, because Vivy, who soon contracted catarrh of the apex of the lung, needed good and plentiful food. But many plans were made for the use of the money Károly *bácsi* had sent. Apa and Dusi looked at a house in *Retek utca*, but by the time we exchanged the dollars, we did not get enough to pay for it.

Then the men came to the conclusion that we should buy a tinsmith's shop in *Kispest*, which also installed water pipes, and which would have been an engineering office as well (in partnership with two relatives), if there had been orders for engineering work. It was possible to hire master craftsmen, but it took so much of Raul's time, that it set him back considerably in his university studies...

**Aunt Edit wanted to become an engineer, but women were not admitted to the Technical University at the time. She had an uphill battle, first convincing the administration to allow her to audit classes, and later to become a regular student. She finished her courses, the first woman graduate, and met her future husband there.*

Translated by EPF



Vajk Edit, Vincze Istvánné

The MUDI: a Little-Known Hun- garian Dog



Éva Wajda

Everyone has heard of the Puli and the Komondor, even of the Vizsla, but here is one Hungarian dog that is barely known.

It was in the 1930's that Dr. Fényesi Dezső, a historian and cultural museum curator (born in Hungary in 1888, died in Los Angeles in 1973), discovered the breed. At that time, it was known as the "Driver Dog", a naturally occurring herding dog type with strong existing breed characteristics. It is rare, even in Hungary, its country of origin. Least known of all Hungarian dogs, it is noted for multiple uses such as flock guardian, sheep herder, cow herder, guard dog, hunter of wild animals, killer of mice and weasels, and as a companion. Finland has the second largest population of Mudis, where they are used as mountain rescue dogs. A very active breed, they love to play and swim in water, and excel in Frisbee and Flyball.

Although its origin reaches back into the 15th to the 18th centuries, the exact time is hard to pinpoint because of the confusion in the nomenclature of the different herding dog breeds of that time. In Hungarian documents from the 17th and 18th centuries, descriptions were found of a herding dog with pricked ears and fur like a Mudi has, but they were called "Pulis". In Croatia, a very similar breed was noted in documents dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries.

In 1902, Méhely Lajos wrote, in the "World of Animals", a description of the Puli as a dog with a jackal-like face,

pricked ears and mid-long wavy fur; but when we look at a Puli, this is not what we see. This breed name confusion of the local herding dog types leads to the common belief of the Puli being the oldest herding breed in Hungary, and that the Mudi and Pumi were formed from the Puli. It is interesting to note as well that it was not uncommon for Mudi-like puppies to be born into Puli litters and even today, Mudi-like puppies can be born into Pumi litters, but Pumi or Puli-like puppies have not been seen born in Mudi litters.

Black is the most common color, but litters of puppies sometimes contain three or more colors, i.e. red, black, brown, white, gray, and yellow. It is the only herding group breed that has a merle color pattern (a pattern in a dog's coat, creating mottled blotches or patches) and has solid white colored dogs too. Of medium size, Mudis weigh 18 - 29 lbs. and are 14- 20 inches high.

On his excursions searching for relics and folk traditions of the local country inhabitants, Dr. Fényesi often saw this local shepherd dog type in the countryside and discovered that the shepherds called the dogs by several names, including Puli and Pumi. He collected and bred the best specimens and found they bred true as a breed, since they possessed highly inheritable and stable characteristics. It was at this time that he named the breed Mudi, and started to seek recognition of the breed he discovered. (It has been called "Canis Ovilis Fenyesi" in his honor. The Mudi has been recorded in the AKC Foundation Stock Service since 2004, a record-keeping service for all purebred breeds not currently registered with the American Kennel Club).

During the Second World War, many Hungarian breeds suffered terrible losses, and some almost disappeared. After the 1960's, the Mudi was rehabilitated from survivors. It was never a popular breed in its country of origin, but it was loved and mentioned as being among the best herding breeds, a good hunting dog, watchdog and companion.

Eva Wajda is a member of the Magyar News Online Editorial Board.



**Lencseleves
(Lentil soup)**

Lentils symbolize money (coins), and so are a favorite New Year's Day dish in Hungary.

12 oz lentils
1 smoked hock
2 small onions
2 carrots
1 parsley root
4 cloves garlic
2 bay leaves
3 Tbsp oil
1 tsp paprika
salt, pepper

Clean the lentils and soak them at least 3 hours. Cook the smoked hock. Sauté the onions in the oil, add the paprika, then put the peeled and cut up vegetables in. Pour the liquid from the smoked hock, add the soaked and rinsed lentils. Put in the bay leaves and crushed garlic. You can also cut up the meat from the hock and add it to the soup.

May it bring you good luck in the coming year!



Did You Know?

Charles Bálinttitt Jr.

This is a case of "And I knew him when..."!

During the first Gulf War I saw a short article in US News & World Report about General Huba Wass de Czege. I immediately asked my father whether he knew him and what his relationship was with the writer Wass Albert. He told me that Huba was Albert's second oldest son (this also made him my 4th cousin). He was a West Point graduate and my parents had attended his wedding in the mid 1960's at Fort Wadsworth in Staten Island, NY.

My father, who was a graduate of The Royal Hungarian Ludovica Defense Academy (*Magyar Királyi Honvéd Ludovika Akadémia* - class of 1936), the Hungarian equivalent of West Point, had argued with the young Huba about military strategy. After graduation, my father had taught military strategy for a while before the start of World War II. He told Huba that his professors at West Point didn't know enough about military strategy and didn't teach him properly.

Surprisingly, a little less than 30 years after graduation, Brigadier General Huba Wass de Czege was the chief military strategist with NATO for the first Gulf War.

It's a Small World!

Ilona Ipkovich

We have been taught that Hungary is a small country and Hungarians are not too numerous in comparison with other people. And yet we stumble on other Hungarians and Hungarian products in the most unlikely places in the world.

At the beginning of December, the New Fairfield (CT) Senior Center ran a bus to Hartford, to look at the Governor's Mansion and the Wadsworth Museum in all their Christmas splendor.

I thought it was a shame that I haven't visited our capital much, so I wanted



to see it before I left the ranks of the living.

It was a pleasant trip, the weather was also relatively good. We arrived in front of the building, and after a short wait, went inside. Mr. and Mrs. Santa greeted us. There was an even older Mrs. Santa in a wheelchair, perhaps the mother-in-law of one of them, who couldn't be left home alone.

The rooms sparkled with the tastefully decorated Christmas trees and fireplaces where nutcrackers and angels were lined up together.

Arriving in the dining room, we admired the set table. (It hadn't been set for us, there were too many of us.) In the middle of the table, crystal Christmas trees of various sizes reflected the sun-rays streaming in through the windows.

As I looked in the china cabinet, something familiar caught my eye. I looked again, I even put on my glasses - yes, I had seen right: it was a Herendi porcelain dining set, with the pattern known as the Apponyi pattern! (In response to our telephone inquiry, we learned that it had been a wedding present to the current Governor of Connecticut, Dannel Patrick Malloy and his wife Cathy, in 1982.)

I was very glad I went, and found another piece from home in the wide world. Because – it's a *small world!*

Ilona Ipkovich was a certified kindergarten teacher in Hungary. She and her husband Frank came to the United States in 1957. Ilona taught at the Hungaian Schol of New Brunswick, NJ for several years. They were among the founders of the Danbury, CT Hungarian Club.

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