

REVIEWS

Books Concerning Hungarians in the Americas

Recently several studies, articles and monographs dealt with the past and present of Hungarians in the Americas. This selection of titles attempts to present a survey of the material.

In this period one of the first studies was written by August J. Molnár "Hungarian pioneers and immigrants in New Jersey since colonial days" (In: *The New Jersey Ethnic Experience*, pp. 249-266. Edited by Barbara Cunningham. Union City, N. J.: Vm. H. Wise and Co. 1977). It discusses the different waves of Hungarian immigration to New Jersey and gives details on the New Brunswick Hungarian community.

A series of further descriptions of Hungarian communities in the United States was published in the 1980s. First of all a monograph should be mentioned that is one of the most voluminous in the field: Susan M. Papp, *Hungarian Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland: (Cleveland Ethnic Heritage Studies. Cleveland, O.: Cleveland State University, 1981. 224 pp.)* Following a short summary of Hungarian history and the history of Hungarians in the United States, the third section of the book deals with three periods of the history of the Hungarian communities of Cleveland. These are: 1880-1910, 1920-1960, and 1945-1980. In the preliminaries the book describes Kossuth's visit, quoting information published in contemporary sources. Then it gives data about how the first Hungarian community came into being in Cleveland by 1880: its religious institutions, its cultural life, the maintenance of Hungarian language and literature. By 1920 the Buckeye Road Hungarian Community in Cleveland "as a unique phenomenon" had become the largest and most stable Hungarian settlement in the US. The number of Hungarians had reached 43,134 by that time. The history of this Hungarian neighbourhood, the traditions preserved by the community, their changing views, the effect of World War I on their Americanization, their adjustment to American institutions and participation in the political life are described. Great interest is shown by the author in the period following World War II. New possibilities for Hungarians, the adjustment of the new waves of Hungarian immigrants and the recent developments concerning the decline of the Buckeye Road Hungarian Community are analysed. Maps, statistical data, photos and reproductions of original documents add to the value of the monograph.

Among other ethnic groups, Hungarians are also discussed in a collection of studies concerning ethnic groups in Minnesota. In the study written by Paul Kirchner and Anne R. Kaplan "The Hungarians" (In: *They Chose Minnesota. A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups*, Edited by June Drenning Holmquist. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981), pp. 423-439. Minnesota Hungarians are introduced. The first Hungarian settlers in Minnesota, the Kállays, owned a homestead in Nicollet about 1858. They were followed by Hungarians in six stages, between 1850-1869, 1870-1918, 1921-1948, 1948-1956, 1956-1960, and finally from 1960 to the present. In every period the changing numbers of Minnesota Hungarians are given in the study. In 1870 only 209 Hungarians were recorded and by 1910, at the peak of immigration, they already numbered 5,582. Most of them lived in cities: mainly in St. Paul and Minneapolis. In

contrast to Cleveland they did not form a strong Hungarian community, but rather, they lived in scattered groups all over the Twin Cities, following the job opportunities provided by factories and mills. Interesting data are given on the 'Hungarian process' imported from Budapest, and introduced in the world famous milling center of Minneapolis in 1878. Outside the Twin Cities, Elk River was known as a settlement of Hungarian farmers; first potato farmers, later dealing with dairy farming. In the Twin Cities the Hungarians had a lively religious and associational life that served as a frame for preserving their cultural and social activity and their ethnic traditions. Many data are provided in the study concerning these topics. As a result of World War I and II the exodus of Hungarians from Minnesota back to the native land had started but for many reasons it soon stopped. The study is based on a great number of sources and is rich in information.

A fascinating monograph was published by József Zachár on the early Hungarian immigrant hero of the War of Independence, Mihály Kováts. The monograph is based on the research of Aladár Póka-Pivny but was complemented and finally put in finished form by József Zachár: Aladár Póka-Pivny, and József Zachár: Az amerikai függetlenségi háború magyar hőse [A Hungarian Hero of The American War of Independence.] (Budapest: Zrínyi Kiadó, 1982. 177 pp.) In this monograph significant details are given on Mihály Kováts's European career in the Habsburg, French, and the Prussian army, and on his role in the foundation and training of the Pulaski Legion in America. His heroic self-sacrifice in the battle of Charleston is described at the end of the book on the basis of contemporary sources.

The greatest attempt to research Hungarian Americans is the huge monograph involving years of research: Júlia Puskás: *Kivándorló magyarok az Egyesült Államokban*. Immigrant Hungarians in the United States 1880-1940. (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1982. 638 pp.) In the first part of the book are described the process and extent of emigration as well as the distribution of immigrants according to age, sex and educational level. The social and economical reasons for emigration from Hungary, the pull factors of the United States, the effects of emigration on the Hungarian economy, the policy of the Hungarian government concerning emigration and the policy of the US government relating to Hungarian immigrants are broken down into two periods, first prior to 1914 and then between 1920-1940. In the first period, information is given on the distribution of Hungarians in the United States, their lives and working circumstances, their social, cultural and political organizations, their churches and their press. In the second period, the complex development of the Hungarian ethnicity following the World War I—the process of integration and differentiation—in the associations and churches as well as the Hungarian press are analysed. The author follows their incipient conflicts and their assimilation as it speeded up after the 1930s. The immense volume of bibliographical and statistical information and other data concerning Hungarian immigrants from this period are of inestimable value in research on the history of Hungarian Americans. Along with other material the appendix lists different kinds of sources: books, periodicals, archival materials and lists of Hungarian settlements, churches, organizations and statistical tables.

A series of studies concerning Canadian Hungarians has also been published. The first of these was by Linda Dégh "Folk Religion as Ideology for Ethnic Survival: The Hungarians of Kipling, Saskatchewan" (In: *Ethnicity on the Great Plains*, pp. 129-146. Edited by Frederick C. Luebke. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press for the Center for Great Plains Studies, 1980). The study is an ethnographical approach to the understanding of the existential bases of Canadian Hungarian ethnic communities. Many details are given on the size and living conditions of the Hungarian community of Kipling, an isolated small town, serving as a center for wheat farmers. Kipling, named Békevár by the early Hungarian settlers, was a homogeneous Hungarian community as regards their country of origin, but their traditions and religious bases differed according to their regional origins. They formed two groups, a fact which became very important factor in creating controversies among them. Their loyalty to different regional identities rather than to the common national one played a special rôle in their assimilation.

The Canadian prairie is again the subject of the following study: Martin L. Kovács "Hungarian Communities in early Alberta and Saskatchewan" (In: *The New Provinces: Alberta and Saskatchewan 1905-1980. 12th Western Canada Studies Conference*, pp. 101-130. Edited by Howard Palmer and Donald Smith. Vancouver, Canada: Tantalus Research Limited, 1980). It provides details on the arrival of Hungarians in Western Canada, and analyzes the similarities and differences between the social and cultural life of the two types of communities as represented by the peasant community of Békevár, Saskatchewan and by the multi-industrial community of Lethbridge, Alberta. Their history, their social composition and their institutions are discussed. The slow process of the change of immigrants from sojourners into settlers in Lethbridge and the quick adjustment in Békevár is described. The author follows how the new waves of immigration left Békevár untouched, but reached and changed the community in Lethbridge.

The data concerning Hungarians of another district of Canada is analyzed in the collection of studies edited by M. Susan Papp "Hungarians in Ontario" (*Polyphony: The Bulletin of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario* Vol. 2. no. 2-3 (1979-80) pp. 1-105). The issue contains studies dealing with different aspects of the Hungarians' life in Ontario. They are as follows: an introduction by M. Susan Papp, a summary of the history and status of Hungarians in Ontario. First section: Hungarian Immigration to Canada before the World War II by Carmela Patrias. Second section: Hungarian Immigration after 1945: National Hungarian Canadian Organizations by Nándor F. Dreisziger; The Hungarian Canadian Press by George Bisztray; The Hungarian Greek Catholic Church in Ontario by Rev. John Girhiny. Third Section: Flight and Settlement: the '56ers: Cultural Institutions by George Bisztray; Maintaining Hungarian in Canada by István Hegedűs; Oral History Sources' Collection: The Delhi and Tobacco District Hungarian House, Hungarian-Canadian Cultural Centre-Hungarian House, and the Canadian Székely-Magyar Association by Susan M. Papp. Many aspects of the history and life of the Hungarians of Ontario are analyzed here, including information, contemporary documents and photos.

The series of publications concerning Hungarians in Canada is closed by a monograph on the history of the first Hungarian settlement in Canada-Győző Dojcsák, *A kanadai Esterházy története* (The History of Esterházy in Canada). (Budapest: Magvető Kiadó, 1981. 246 pp.) The author first became acquainted with the Canadian prairies as a geologist. In the course of his work he came across the Hungarian community and grew interested in the Hungarian past in Canada. The book gives an overall picture of Canadian nature and history, including the story of Hungarians in Esterházy in this broad perspective. It provides data on the pioneer Hungarian families, their arrival and their first experiences as they faced the Canadian climate and natural environment. The later development of the community is also discussed. Some information on the Hungarians of Kaposvár and Stockholm in the neighbourhood of Esterházy is also included. As an introduction to the monograph, one chapter gives an intriguing description of the life story of Pál Oszkár Esterházy, the owner of the agency which promoted the Hungarian "colonization" program in Canada. And finally an additional chapter compares the life and development of two colonies, Esterházy in Canada and New Buda in the United States.

As a complement to the history of Hungarians in North America, the history of Hungarians in South America also provides very significant data and valuable information on the role of Hungarians in the development of the South American countries. One monograph, published first in Spanish in Buenos Aires in 1978, was also released in Budapest in 1982-László Szabó: *Magyar múlt Dél-Amerikában* (Hungarian past in South America) 1519-1900. (Budapest: Európa Könyvkiadó, 1982. 281 pp.) The author uncovers contacts of Hungarians with the South American continent from the earliest times. He publishes interesting details of the Hungarian participant of the Magellan expedition, János Varga, one of Pizarro's Hungarian conquistadors, and the Hungarian Jesuits in the missions established all over the continent, paying special attention to László Orosz, the "most excellent Jesuit of Paraguay", the reorganizer of the University of Cordoba. The author collected authentic data on the life and activity of László Szalay, a popular hero of Argentine folklore, known as a "South American Robin Hood". Among others he gives reliable information

on Ferenc József Dabály, the composer of the Uruguayan and Paraguayan national anthems. He provides a chapter on the years Sándor Asbóth spent in Buenos Aires until his death, as ambassador of the United States. Finally, a lengthy chapter is devoted to the honorable János Csetz, the colonel of the Hungarian War of Independence of 1848, who earned great fame as a professor, professional engineer and writer in Argentina. The author quotes a great variety of contemporary sources. The monograph is a scholarly work and makes also for pleasurable reading.

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Hungarian Studies in English, I–XV

If the life of *Hungarian Studies in English*, (henceforth: *HSE*), is calculated, as would be expected, from its date of birth, at first sight it may appear strange that, though it started publication in 1963, it is only 15 years old in 1982. The explanation is that in the beginning *HSE* appeared every two years. László Ország, Chairman of Kossuth University's English Department in Debrecen, who founded the present series in 1963, was cautious in promising further volumes in the *Prefatory Note* of the first issue, saying only that more would follow "from time to time". Owing to Professor Ország's organizational talent and dedication, "from time to time" became regular intervals: every two years up to 1973, and annually since 1974. The annual sequence is only seemingly interrupted in 1978, for the 1977 *Festschrift*, Volume XI, in which the then retired László Ország was honored by his students, was a double issue, so much so that it should really have been numbered Volumes XI and XII.

The very first volume of the present series of the *HSE* was a *Festschrift*, a memorial volume. Besides commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Debrecen English Department, Professor Ország's *Prefatory Note* explained that while the volume was a first comer of a novel and unique undertaking in post-World War II English Philology in Hungary, it was "at the same time to serve as a memorial to Sándor Fest, the first professor of English in this university". László Ország and István Gál (*In Memoriam Sándor Fest*) inform us that Sándor Fest, a comparatist of commanding stature in Anglo-Hungarian intellectual relations, inaugurated a series, *Studies in English Philology* in 1936 and renamed it *Hungarian Studies in English* in 1944, in what turned out to be the first and last volume by that name. In that very year Fest died tragically during the siege of Budapest. Almost twenty years later, László Ország regarded his new series of *HSE* as a continuation of what his predecessor in the Chair had started.

Already a tradition which still prevails had established itself: the chairman of the Debrecen English Department is always the editor of *HSE*. The first seven volumes were edited by Ország, who chose P. Egri and A. Katona as his assistant editors. After volume VIII, edited by A. Katona, the temporary confusion that surrounded the chairmanship and the short interregnum that followed are also reflected in the editorship of *HSE*, volume IX bearing the name of L. Némedi, "Acting Head of the English Department"; László Ország helped out with volume X. It was with volume XI, the Ország *Festschrift*, that the present editor, István Pálffy took up his position. After László Ország the editors no longer had assistant editors.

Though *HSE* was a considerable feat of English Philology in post-war Hungary, the production of fifteen volumes is not a formidable achievement and for a scholarly journal the life-span of nearly two decades (1963–82) is by no means considerable. Nevertheless, the sixties and the seventies were decades of far-reaching change in Hungary, which substantially altered the conditions under which *HSE* existed.

The 1944–63 hiatus was not the product of mere chance and it did not pass without leaving its mark. The English and American scholarships and fellowships, which practically all serious Hungarian scholars working in the field of English and American studies could acquire in the 60s