

HSA
HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
www.hungarianstudies.info

December 2014

NEWSLETTER

The Association's Business Meeting at the ASEEEES San Antonio Conference was held on Friday, November 21, 2014. The meeting was chaired by President Alice Freifeld.

Issues discussed:

1. Institutional membership in the HSA.
Vote was taken and unanimously agreed that not only universities, American and foreign, but libraries and archives can become institutional members. Institutional membership dues are \$100. The institutional members can define their own membership either by the university they are a part of, or by any way they see fit.
2. The HSA Executive Board will contact Nandor Dreisziger, the editor of the Hungarian Studies Review, to offer our help to ensure the continuation of the journal in case of his retirement.
3. **The Center for European Studies**, at the University of Florida, maintains a website with a goal to share information on Hungarian studies. You can help to make the site more useful by submitting information to Edit Nagy (edit@ufl.edu). The Center's web address is <http://ces.ufl.edu/>.
4. The new members of the **book/article award committee** will be Karl Brown (brownk@uww.edu), who replaces Robert Nemes, Arpad von Klimo (klimo@cua.edu) who will serve for one more year and then be replaced by Katalin Fabian (fabiank@lafayette.edu) and Jeff Pennington (jpennington@berkeley.edu) who replaces Steve Jobbitt.
5. The Mark Pittaway article prize was given to Beth Greene, "Selling market socialism: Hungary in the 1960s." *Slavic Review* 73.1 (2014): 108-132 and to **Leslie Waters**, "Learning and Unlearning Nationality: Hungarian education in re-annexed Felvidék, 1938-1944", *Hungarian Historical Review*, 2: 3 (2013), pp. 538-565.
6. Karl Brown volunteered to set up a Facebook page for the association. Like it.
7. **Nominations.**
To date Jeff Pennington (UC Berkeley) and Mark Trotter (Indiana U.) have been nominated to the Executive Board. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else please email me by December 7, 2014, so that we can email out ballots in late December.
Kristina Poznan (William and Mary) has accepted nomination for the Secretary/treasurer's position. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else please email me by **December 7, 2014**, so that we can email out ballots in late December.
8. **The Treasurer's Report**

Balance on 10/29/2013	\$3,867.77
Expenses	675.00
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>3,192.77</u>
Revenues	314.56
<u>Balance 10/22/2014</u>	<u>\$3,507.33</u>
9. The meeting was closed at 7.30 pm.
10. Respectfully submitted.

Susan

Call for papers/panels

1. The 2015 ASEEEES Annual Convention will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown on November 19-22. The theme of the 2015 annual convention is "Fact".

Accuracy matters. Without a clear and full understanding of events current and past and their context, social trust will disappear. The “information wars” on the Internet in recent years have badly threatened precisely such trust. A surge of reports and categorical judgments, on the basis of selective, poor, or no information, has provoked an impoverishment of discussion. “Facts” circulate from blogs into politicians’ statements, and back again, acquiring authority with repetition. Despite the ease with which photographs can be edited, it is precisely photographs that often get marshaled as clinching evidence. Conversely, the word “fake” has acquired an abusive ring that brooks no argument. Yet it is no accident that both “fact” and “counterfeit” are derived from the same root Latin verb, with a range that covers both “doing” and “making”, pointing to the inevitable process of construction that takes place when events or phenomena are recorded and reviewed. As the philosopher Mary Midgley points out (*Beast and Man*, 1995), “*What counts as a fact depends on the concepts you use, on the questions you ask*” (her italics). Somewhere between the transcendent status of “truth” and the specifically professional resonance of “data”, the term “fact” requires from its users a complex but often unacknowledged process of classification, and an engagement with concepts such as “significance” alongside “accuracy” and “veracity”. As well as journalism and politics, the term is central to science and scholarship, and indeed to artistic creation (which may assert the primacy of fact, or on the other hand express its maker’s conviction that artistic truth is superior to mere reality). So the crucial issue is: how do we retain a sophisticated sense of these many ramifications of the factual, without sliding into bland generalizing relativism of a kind that plays into the hands of ideological distortions and disinformation?

Proposals for panels are invited that address conceptual dimensions of the factual, or its practical resonance, or both. For example, topics might include (without being limited to) current and past “information wars” in our region; the arguments over history and memory in post-socialist Eurasia and Eastern Europe; the practices of journalism in the region and of foreign journalism with reference to the region; the classification of evidence in different academic cultures; the borders between “fact” and “fiction” and how they are marked out and/or transcended; genre conventions of the documentary in literature and the arts; different perceptions of “useful information” among academics, policy-makers, creative artists, etc.; and the cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural applicability of the basic term (the presence across European languages of the term *fakt/fact[e]* may conceal variations in the precise understanding of the term; while terms used in other languages may have quite different semantic fields; the familiar truism from the social sciences, “The plural of anecdote is not data” begs the question of when and which evidence is in fact accepted as “data”).

Deadline- 2015 Convention Individual Paper submission is Thursday, Jan 15, 2015.

Deadline- 2015 Convention panel/roundtable proposals is Sunday, February 15, 2015.

The above is from the ASEEEES call for papers. <http://www.aseees.org/convention/2015-theme>

Information is available at www.aseees.org.



2. AHEA — American Hungarian Educators Association (<http://ahea.net>) will hold its 40th Annual Conference, 9-11 July 2015 at the Babeş-Bolyai University in Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

AHEA welcomes participation by academic scholars, independent scholars, other educators, and graduate students who are devoted to the teaching, research, and dissemination of Hungarian culture, history, folklore, literature, language, fine arts, and music. Presenters must be or become members of AHEA to have their names appear on the program. The Program Committee invites proposals for papers, focusing on the presenters' individual research and findings, connected with this year's theme: *Identities Beyond Borders*.

Proposals should consist of an abstract of 200- 250 words; a brief scholarly biography, including degrees and scholarly fields (50-100 words); a description of any audio-visual requirements; and full contact information. Proposals must be submitted online at <http://ahea.net/conferences/2015/submit-paper>, no later than **2 March 2015**. Program Committee Chairs, as listed below, will review for acceptance. Only one (electronic) submission per author will be considered. Individual paper presentations are limited to twenty minutes, to allow for ten minutes of discussion following the presentation. Although the major language of the conference is English, papers may be submitted in Hungarian.

Two tours are planned as adjunct programs for interested scholars attending the conference. Prior to the conference, starting from Budapest and ending in Kolozsvár, a five-day bus tour will visit historic locations in Hungary and Transylvania, including visits to important educational centers. Following the conference leaving from Kolozsvár and ending in Budapest, a six-day bus tour is planned to visit historic and cultural sites of Transylvania, which will include exciting folklore programs. Further details on both tours will be forthcoming soon on the AHEA website.

Program Committee Chairs:

Cultural Studies: Louise O. Vasvári, New York University (lvasvari@pipeline.com)

Education: Judith Kesserű Némethy, New York University (jn2@nyu.edu)

History: Julia Bock, Long Island University, Brooklyn and Peter Pastor, Montclair State University (Julia.bock@liu.edu) (pastorp@montclair.edu)

Literature: Enikő M. Basa, Library of Congress (eniko.basa@verizon.net)

Music/Folklore: Kálmán Magyar and Judith Olson, American Hungarian Folklore Centrum, NJ (magyar@magyar.org)

Science/Economics: Susan Glanz, St. John's University, NY (glanz@stjohns.edu)



3. Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC)

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) is holding its 30th Annual Conference in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada at the University of Ottawa from **May 30 to June 1, 2015**.

The Program Committee invites members of the Association and interested scholars to submit proposals for individual papers and panels of three papers. We especially encourage proposals that address the Congress theme "Capital Ideas / Le capital des idées" as it relates to Hungarian studies. According to the Congress call, the theme "invites us to reflect on the power of ideas: ideas captivate our hearts and minds; ideas connect people and ignite discussions and debates; ideas create knowledge and spark discoveries." Topics for papers and panels might include, but are certainly not limited to, the role and perception of Budapest (and, in general, the relationship between city and countryside) in Hungarian history and culture, intellectual exchanges between Budapest and other European and world capitals; the impact of global intellectual movements on the development of Hungarian society, culture, and politics; or examinations of ground-breaking ideas pioneered by Hungarians.

In addition, because we are also celebrating our 30th anniversary, we also welcome proposals that revolve around recent anniversaries relevant to Hungary and Hungarian studies. Beyond presentations on the founding of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada in 1985, we would welcome papers and panels

dedicated to the 100th anniversary of World War I, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Canada, or the 25th anniversary of the end of communism in Hungary in 1989-90.

As always, we look for proposals in any discipline in the humanities and social sciences, including those that might address themes from a cross-disciplinary perspective and thus bring fresh or enriched insights. Papers that do not relate to the overall themes outlined above are, as usual, also welcome.

Submissions should include a **maximum 300 word abstract and a brief 100 word bio which can be used to introduce the speaker**. Since both the abstract and the bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman font 12. **Abstracts should be sent electronically both** to the Chair of the Program Committee, Steven Jobbitt (sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca) **and** to the Secretary of HSAC, Judy Young (judyyoung@drache.ca). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian. Please keep in mind that presentations at the conference should be no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5-10 minutes for discussion. **The deadline for submission is December 15, 2015.** We will notify authors of the Committee's decisions by January 15, 2015.



4. Conferences by the regional affiliates of the ASEEEES;

The 53rd **Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS)** will be held in Lexington, KY, March 5-7, 2015 at the Hilton, Lexington Downtown. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: January 15, 2015. Email your proposals to Alice Pate at apate9@kennesaw.edu.

The **Midwest Slavic Association** and CSEES conference will be held **Friday, March 13th-Sunday, March 15th, 2015** at Ohio State U. The conference is open to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and independent scholars from across the country. Please send a one-paragraph abstract in PDF format and a brief C.V. to csees@osu.edu by January 9th, 2015 in order to be considered for the conference.



I received the following information from the University of Debrecen:

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to inform you that the University of Debrecen and Debrecen Summer School will continue their joint program of offering academic courses in English to international students in summer 2015. These courses cover a wide range of disciplines from the arts through history to natural sciences. All of them have been designed and will be conducted by faculty with substantial international experience. The range of this program is expected to be progressively expanded, thus providing students with opportunities for intensive studies complete with recreation and interesting tidbits of Hungarian culture.

The subject matters of the courses scheduled for summer 2015 are as follows:

19 July – 1 August 2015:

- Molecular Logic of Life: Basic Biochemistry and Glycolisation Analysis of Glycoproteins for the Biomedical Field
- Modern Hungary: Hungarian History and Culture in the 19th-20th Centuries
- Hidden Treasures of Hungary: Natural and Cultural Tourist Attractions in Hungary
- From Merry-Go-Round to The Turin Horse: Communist and Post-Communist Hungarian Cinema

2 – 15 August 2015:

- The Unknown Transylvania: Legends and Facts (History, Culture, Literature)
- Traveling with Invisible Baggage: A Historical and Literary Survey of Travel Writing on/in Hungary
- Clinical Psychology and Testing

- Hungarian Music History: The Colorful Story of a Nation
- A Tale of Two Cities: *Debrecen*, the Calvinist Rome and *Eger*, the Stronghold of Christian Europe

It would be very much appreciated if you could inform your students and staff about this great opportunity.

Applicants can express their wish to attend the course of their choice by emailing the latter with their details to debrecen@nyariegyetem.hu. **Application Deadline: 31 May 2015.**

For applicants who register and send the registration fee two months before the course starts DSS provides 5% discount on the tuition fee.

To ask for further information, please send an e-mail to Dr. Péter Szaffkó peterszaffko@yahoo.com or visit DSS's official website (www.nyariegyetem.hu).



Interesting publications:

1. From Helena History Press (<http://helenahistorypress.com/>)

Night and Fog: The Collected Dramas and Screenplays of Danilo Kiš
Translated and with an introduction by John K. Cox

This volume of translations represents the entire dramatic and cinematic *oeuvre* of the Yugoslav writer Danilo Kiš (1935-1989). The seven dramas and screenplays are accompanied by a historical introduction by the translator, John K. Cox, who has also translated two of Kiš's novels (*The Attic* and *Psalm 44*) and a volume of his short stories (*The Lute and the Scars*). Written mostly in the 1960s and 1970s, the themes of the works in this anthology vary widely. Of the seven translations in *Night and Fog*, two address classical literary themes, one is a dramatization of part of Kiš's own *A Tomb for Boris Davidovich*, and the others explore personal and political conflicts during the Holocaust and the first decades of socialism in Tito's Yugoslavia and Hungary. What they have in common is Kiš's ear for precise language, telling detail, epistemological and narrative anxiety, and, in most of the pieces, his eye for the personal costs and often lethal emotional turmoil of individuals in communist and fascist systems. As readers work their way through the torturous and unsatisfying workings of the characters' memories, they are also exposed to many seldom-discussed details of life in Tito's Yugoslavia from the split with the Cominform in 1948 to the student uprisings of 1968. Many people who knew Kiš consider *A Wooden Trunk for Thomas Wolfe* to be his finest play; it is the chronicle of the intense relationship of two men, one broken by Hitler's death camps and the other by Stalinism, as they wrestle with their own physical infirmities and artistic impotence. *Night and Fog*, the translator's favorite, originates in the same milieu—the multicultural region of Vojvodina between Belgrade and Szeged—as Kiš's other autobiographical writings about the childhood of a young male character named Andreas Sam. But in this play a twenty-something Sam tracks down a married couple in Hungary who had been teachers in his wartime home town, and their three-way sparring over contested memories transitions slowly from nostalgia to bitter awareness of lies and collaboration. *The Mechanical Lions* is a must for anyone who has read *A Tomb for Boris Davidovich*; this stage version of the main story in Kiš's path-breaking eponymous short story collection leads through terrain familiar to readers of *Darkness at Noon* and *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Written with vintage Kiš wryness, spareness, and emotional force it bounces around through time and place to tell the story of the Soviet purges in the 1930s, and honor and historical truth join Old Bolsheviks and international activists on the secret police's hit list.

German War — Russian Peace: The Hungarian Tragedy, The wartime memoir of Hungarian Minister Antal Ullein-Reviczky

Translated from the original French by Lovice Maria Ullein-Reviczky. Introduction by Tibor Frank

The book contains the wartime memoirs of Antal Ullein-Reviczky, first published in French in 1947 in Switzerland as Guerre allemande, paix russe. Le drame hongrois. This is the first English edition of

his book, translated from the French original by Lovice Mária Ullein-Reviczky. His memoir is an invaluable source about Hungary's fate in World War II. Ullein-Reviczky's work was based partly on the public and private documents he succeeded in saving throughout the war and his long years of exile in Turkey, Switzerland, France, and Britain where he died. Written by a well-informed insider and a shrewd observer, this book remained essentially unknown in the English-speaking world. Antal Ullein-Reviczky's memoirs represent an important source of the history of Hungary from German war through Russian peace.

The Inauguration of Organized Political Warfare: Cold War Organizations Sponsored by the National Committee for a Free Europe, Katalin Kádár Lynn, Editor

Each of the essays in this volume focuses on an organization or activity funded through the National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. (NCFE was known as the Free Europe Committee, Inc. after 5 March 1954) during the war of ideas and ideals in which the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged that came to be known as the Cold War.



From Routledge Press:

Paul Blokker, *New Democracies in Crisis? A Comparative Constitutional Study of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.*

This book considers whether the potential of democracy following the end of the Cold War was diminished by technocratic, judicial control of politics in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

Dae Soon Kim, *The Transition to Democracy in Hungary, Árpád Göncz and the Post-Communist Hungarian Presidency.*

Unlike in other countries of Eastern Europe where the opposition to communism came in the form of single mass movements led by charismatic leaders such as Václav Havel and Lech Walesa, in Hungary the opposition was very fragmented, brought together and made effective only by the authoritative, significant but relatively unknown Árpád Göncz, who subsequently became Hungary's first post-communist president.

This book charts the political career of Árpád Göncz, outlining the outstanding contribution he made to Hungary's transition to democracy. Drawing on a wide range of sources, including archives and interviews with Göncz himself and others, it shows how Göncz, unlike Havel who was a playwright and whose political role was largely symbolic, was a campaigning politician all his life, consistently advocating social democratic, but not communist, values. Imprisoned from 1956 for his participation in the 1956 uprising, Göncz was a highly-effective political operator in the transition period around 1989, and as president wielded real power effectively. As politics in Hungary are again marred by deep division and fragmentation, Göncz's success in bringing rival groups together is even more pronounced.



From Pittsburgh U. Press:

Kozuchowski, Adam *The Afterlife of Austria-Hungary* examines histories, journalism, and literature in the period between world wars to expose both the positive and the negative treatment of the Habsburg monarchy following its dissolution and the powerful influence of fiction and memory over history. Originally published in Polish, Adam Kozuchowski's study analyzes the myriad factors that contributed to this phenomenon.



From Berghahn Books:

Eszter Bartha, *ALIENATING LABOUR, Workers on the Road from Socialism to Capitalism in East*

Germany and Hungary.

The Communist Party dictatorships in Hungary and East Germany sought to win over the “masses” with promises of providing for ever-increasing levels of consumption. This policy—successful at the outset—in the long-term proved to be detrimental for the regimes because it shifted working class political consciousness to the right while it effectively excluded leftist alternatives from the public sphere. This book argues that this policy can provide the key to understanding of the collapse of the regimes. It examines the case studies of two large factories, Carl Zeiss Jena (East Germany) and Rába in Győr (Hungary), and demonstrates how the study of the formation of the relationship between the workers’ state and the industrial working class can offer illuminating insights into the important issue of the legitimacy (and its eventual loss) of Communist regimes.

Hannes Siegrist and Dietmar Müller, eds. *PROPERTY IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE, Notions, Institutions, and Practices of Landownership in the Twentieth Century.*

Property is a complex phenomenon comprising cultural, social, and legal rules. During the twentieth century, property rights in land suffered massive interference in Central and Eastern Europe. The promise of universal and formally equal rights of land ownership, ensuring predictability of social processes and individual autonomy, was largely not fulfilled. The national appropriation of property in the interwar period and the communist era represent an onerous legacy for the postcommunist (re)construction of a liberal-individualist property regime. However, as the scholars in this collection show, after the demise of communism in Eastern Europe property is again a major factor in shaping individual identity and in providing the political order and culture with a foundational institution. This volume analyzes both historical and contemporary forms of land ownership in Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia in a multidisciplinary framework including economic history, legal and political studies, and social anthropology.



Central Europe publishes original research articles on the history, literature, visual arts and music of the region, from the Middle Ages to the present. We welcome specialized examinations of the different traditions that make up ‘central Europe’ (a term that can be understood in different senses) and, in particular, contributions that cross over the linguistic, ethnic, and cultural boundaries so salient to the region. Interdisciplinary approaches, as well as reflection on the particular challenges this region raises for relevant academic practices, are also encouraged. The journal includes a full section of book reviews, as well as occasional discussion forums. From time to time calls for papers for themed issues will be issued; the editors welcome suggestions for such special issue topics.

Central Europe is published twice a year as a refereed journal cited in the major abstracting and indexing services. The journal is edited in association with University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), and grew out of the *The Masaryk Journal* established by Katya A. M. Kocourek at SSEES in 1997.

For more information visit: <http://www.maneyonline.com/loi/ceu>



Women and the Holocaust: New Perspectives and Challenges, Edited by Andrea Petö, Louise Hecht and Karolina Krasuska

Women and the Holocaust: New Perspectives and Challenges expands the existing scholarship on women and the Holocaust adopting current approaches to gender studies and focusing on the texts and context from Central-Eastern Europe. The authors complicate earlier approaches by considering the intersections of

gender and nation, region, and sexuality. In these essays, the communist regimes after WWII often provide a productive framework for studying women and the Holocaust. This truly international volume features contributions by eminent authors, including pioneers in the field, as well as upcoming literary scholars and historians who delve into previously unmapped archives, explore cinematic representations and digital testimonies.

Available from <http://wydawnictwo.ibl.waw.pl/> or email: wydibl@ibl.waw.pl



Hungarian films made after 1990 are accessible on YouTube is at

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_4gmdrFAW_DnqPz-XnXepPigFSbCbCtW



Please, do not forget to pay your annual dues. You can now pay through Paypal by clicking or by copying and pasting this link into your browser:

<http://www.hungarianstudies.info/membership.html>

Thank you!

SUSAN