1. Minutes of the last Business Meeting
The 2nd Business Meeting for the calendar year was held concurrently with the AAASS Conference in Toronto, CA on Friday, November 21, 2003.

The meeting was chaired by Alice Freifeld and began at 9 pm.

His Excellency, András Simonyi, the Hungarian Ambassador to the USA, addressed the members present. He spoke of Hungary’s success in total integration into NATO and expectations for full-membership in the European Union.

The decision of the Book Award Committee (Alice Freifeld, Lee Congdon and Paul Hatos) was to give the prize to Nora Berend’s *At the Gate of Christendom: Jews, Muslims and 'Pagans' in Medieval Hungary, c. 1000-c. 1300.* (Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought, number 50.) New York: Cambridge U. Press. 2001. pp. xvii, 340.

Reviewers commended the book for its erudition on a hitherto unattended topic, and the application "of an international language of ideas in the Hungarian context. The work resisted and reexamined the stereotypes of Medieval Hungarian history about itself and its minority populations.

During the month of December we have to hold elections. On December 31st Mario Fenyo’s and György Peteri’s term on the Executive Board, and my term as Secretary/Treasurer will expire. On January 1st Gabor Vermes will automatically become President of this association.

For VP Katalin Fabian has been nominated, for the two Executive Board positions Beverly James, Graydon (Jack) Tunstall and John Swanson have been nominated. I have been renominated as secretary. (Thank you.) I will email the ballots.

36th AAASS will be held in Boston, Marriott Copley Plaza, 3-6 December 2004. Organizers should observe the following rules:
- no participant may serve more than one role on a panel or roundtable
- no participant should present more than one paper
- no participant should appear more than twice in the convention program.

Proposals should be submitted to the AAASS national office by 15 January 2004. Two hard copies of the proposal form (available in the AAASS NewsNet and http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass) and one copy of a brief C.V. for each participant should be sent to WENDY WALKER, Convention Coordinator, AAASS, 8 STORY STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138.

To date the following proposals have been submitted:
1. Tom Lorman: (tomlorman@hotmail.com)"The Influence of the Army on Domestic Politics in Hungary, 1921-1924."
2. Catherine Portuges: (portuges@complit.umass.edu) suggested three potential topics
   a) HUNGARIAN HISTORY ON FILM: PETER FORGACS’ “A BIBÓ READER”
   b) CINEMATIC BUDAPEST
   c) THE HOLOCAUST IN HUNGARIAN CINEMA

3. Mario Fenyo (mario.fenyo@bowiestate.edu) suggested a topic “East Europeans in Africa”.
4. Susan Glanz’s (glanzs@stjohns.edu) suggested topic is “Membership in the EU: The Honeymoon”.

If you are interested in joining any of the suggested panels, please contact the panel organizer or me, so
that we can put the panel together and submit it on time.

The meeting ended at 10.30 pm with a small reception.

Susan

Please do not let the Hungarian Studies Review, a Canadian Journal specializing in Hungarian
Studies disappear! The Journal, which is edited by Nándor Dreisziger and is published by the U. of
Toronto is the ONLY scholarly journal published in North America specializing in Hungarian
Studies. The annual dues are $15 and should be mailed to
N.F. Dreisziger, Department of History, Royal Military College of Canada, PO BOX 17000 STN
FORCES, KINGSTON, ON CANADA, K7K 7B4


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Andrea Pető. Rajk Júlia [Júlia Rajk] Feminizmus és történelem sorozat [Feminism and history series].
In the last Newsletter I asked for contributions of essays on teaching. The following is János Bak’s contribution.

**Teaching (mainly not Hungarian) medieval studies at CEU**

Since some of the members of AASHH may remember me, but may not have heard of (or at least from) me for a while, let me start by reporting that I became emeritus at UBC, Vancouver in 1993, by which time I had been for a few years (“commuting” from Canada) as one of the directors of the 1989 (re-)founded Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution in Budapest. However, in that year the opportunity also came up to work in my own field—in an English-language university of American style, to which I got used during the preceding 25 years. An offer I could not refuse. Thus, with a few younger Hungarian colleagues (mainly the historians Gábor Klaniczay and Gerhard Jaritz, and the archaeologists József Laszlovzsky) we sat down to “dream up” a graduate program in interdisciplinary medieval studies within the recently founded and Soros-financed Central European University, and I changed over (back, as it were) to medieval from contemporary history. During the ten years, which we have just completed, more than 250 students from 30 countries (among them 62 Hungarians, including those from Transylvania) earned an MA and 22 a PhD in Medieval Studies. Our department is in fact the largest interdisciplinary one in this field (with annually 20-25 entering candidates for the one-year MA and 40-50 working on their PhD) and certainly unique in the region (and even in all of Europe). I hardly need to tell how exciting and exhilarating it is to build up a curriculum of one’s own choice, with courses, requirements, and formats that one has always dreamt of.

I managed to pursue some of my old projects on the side, such as the continuation of the *Decreta Regni Mediaevalis Hungariae* series: vol. 3 for the time of Matthias came out in 1996; 2d revised ed. of vol. 1 in 1999; the *Tripartitum*, as vol. 5 is as good as done, while we have postponed the difficult vol. 4 for the Jagiellonian decades. (DRMH is now also distributed by CEU Press, but I am glad to arrange for copies for AASHH-members or their libraries at reduced price. Those who had purchased vol. 1, old edition and did not receive a revised one free, should let me know!) A surprise-Festschrift for my seventieth birthday in 1999 (B. Nagy, M. Sebők, eds., Budapest: CEU Press) contains a full bibliography of my minor writings up to that date. Among the honours I received for my gray hair was my election last years to Corresponding Fellow of the (British) Royal Historical Society. So much for personalia.

As I suggested in the title, I am not teaching much Hungarian medieval history, although one of our major research projects—connected to a number of MA theses and PhD dissertations—was about the nobility in central Europe, in which, of course, Hungary took center stage, but the participants came also from Croatia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Ukraine. (A selection of papers from the “workshop of young historians” in this subject was recently published, in German, in the journal *East Central Europe/l’Europe du centre-est: Eine wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift*, 29, 2002, 131-248)

“Teaching” at an exclusively graduate school means, above all, guidance and consultation for the research towards the theses and dissertations. As our visiting professor from UCLA, Patrick Geary put it (in an album we published earlier this year for the *Ten Years of Medieval Studies at CEU*) the strength of our department is that “the faculty is there, . . . and is there for the students.” Courses are in a way secondary, or in other words: they are serving as background for the research of the MA and PhD candidates—and indicate, what kind of things we like to talk about. While I am regularly coordinating a team-taught seminar on handbooks and bibliography of medieval studies (a rather heavy course, 4 credits, two 100-minute classes per week in the Fall semester) I also offer various special seminars usually on my
hobbies, such as “Signs and Symbols of Power” and “Law and Custom in Central Europe.” What I enjoy most are the translation seminars, connected to our publication series, Central European Medieval Texts (CEMT, CEU Press, 1999 sqq.), usually held together with Latinist colleagues. We spent a couple of years on Simon of Kéza’s *Gesta Hungarorum*, less on the *Autobiography of Charles IV*, but an inordinate amount of time on the recently published third volume, the anonymous *Gesta principum Polonorum*. Discussing the implications of the Latin text, finding the best English words, preparing annotations by also discussing previous scholarship make up a real “seminar” in its classical style of common scholarly work. The international background of our students and the excellent Latin of many of them are unique resources. (My Grecist colleagues also have similar seminars on Byzantine texts or on the Greek Fathers.) We are now working on the *Historia Salonitana* of Thomas archdeacon of Split, on a hagiographic collection, and soon will turn (back) to Hungarian narratives, either to the *Gesta* of the Anonymus (*Bele regis notarius*) or to the “National Chronicle” (*Comp. chron. saec. xiv*). They, too promise to be interesting subjects for the seminars. We have now designed a pair of new research-methods’ seminars: MA candidates with a background in non-textual evidence (art, archaeology, etc.) will have to take a hands-on course on texts (similar to our translation seminars, but with a number of different type texts), and vice-versa, the textually trained historians and literary scholars will have to do the same on excavation reports, images, architectural studies. “Reading the Middle Ages”—in both ways. No feedback yet. But I am very much looking forward to the results in terms of interdisciplinarity as well as in the discovery of “hidden” diplomatic geniuses.

However, the main point here is to be available for discussions about the students’ research projects. They have a very difficult task. The Masters’ program implies that besides taking courses (30 credits, i.e. so many times twelve 100-minute classes or rather seminars), many of which require weekly assignments or a major presentation, they have to prepare, present and defend viva voce an MA thesis within nine months’ time, in a language that is mostly not their native tongue, and is written in a format and style usually entirely new to them. Quite a task! This means that the MA candidates have to have from the outset a reasonably good idea—and some essential source material, be it written or archaeological-monumental—about their topic, otherwise they cannot succeed. In addition, they need fairly good basic training, as we cannot offer that in the short time. Most Central and East European students have (still) a good professional basis upon arrival, however, usually in one specific field. But while at CEU, they have to get acquainted with “medieval studies” in general—beyond that basic technical introduction I described above. (I have to add that the few North-American MA candidates with a BA, whom we had in the program, had difficulty to match their fellows from this corner of the world—if they ever did. Several did not.) As you may appreciate, the most difficult task is to “liberate” our young colleagues from the limited national (and often nationalist) perspective of their earlier training. And acquaint them with those new approaches that have characterized medieval research west of the Odera (or the Rhine?) in the last half century.

Just a few examples. S. Rybak arrived from Kiev with the (unrealistic but traditional) idea of writing a thesis about the landed properties of the Sangushko princes. Not only would that have needed years in the archives, but also would have probably been rather boring, even if not useless. While discussing the topic, we decided to explore the legal procedure following the murder of one of the princes. The result was a very interesting study on the overlapping and conflicting jurisdictions of local and central courts and of the legal system in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish “crown,” as well as on the social and political conditions in late medieval and early modern Galicia. U. Kananovich from Minsk (who had already written at home one of the hundreds of well-researched theses on diplomatic history) recognized the use of historical anthropology, and presented interesting insights into the intricate use of symbology in the interaction of Christian (Orthodox) princes with “pagan” nomad (Mongol, etc.) rulers. G. Virágos, an archaeologist, started out with the description of excavations of a site in Pomáz, near Buda, and ended up with a dissertation combining archival evidence with material remnants on “noble residences” in medieval Hungary, suggesting (especially in comparison with England, where he was able to spend half a year on CEU scholarship) an appropriate new classification for these building complexes. Or R. Kostova from Sofia (who then wrote a fine dissertation on early medieval Bulgarian monasticism) explored first the meaning of graffiti on the walls (ruins) of monasteries,
scribbled by pilgrims and monks, as a form of “non-verbal communication.” Then there are the
discoveries due to the wide range of geographical-linguistic background of our students, who establish
hitherto unstudied Georgian or Armenian versions of patristic literature or Caucasian sources for the early
history of the proto-Hungarians, and so on.

On a more pedestrian level, it is a joy to see young people arriving in September, often (though
nowadays less frequently) for the first time abroad from rather conservative surroundings (even if they are
“post-Communist”), pretty lost in the new conditions (two foreign languages—English and Magyar—
around them, a different style university, strange spicy food, and so on), and by April/May at the latest
becoming what may be called “young Europeans,” in the jeans-and-T-shirt uniform of university folk
between here and Los Angeles, ready to apply for scholarships around the world, and talking about
international conferences in Leeds, Kalamazoo, Spoleto, what-have-you. Are we “teaching” all this? In a
manner of speaking, yes. By our way and mode of interaction between faculty and students, which we
may call “American-informal,” we are still a rarity, even in Budapest. The amount of time and attention
we are able to devote to them (surely, not unconnected to our salaries, still quite competitive in the
region) is significantly more than is usual at most European universities. Take this, if you wish, as a mild
complaint of one, who after half a century in academic service sometimes finds the burden a bit too much
. . . but, to put it simply: it’s fun.

Finally, we perceive as a major task of our program to make issues and results of research on
central Europe better known abroad. To begin with, by helping our young colleagues produce theses and
dissertations in English (and also publishing some of their work in our Annual of Medieval Studies at
CEU, vol. 1-9, so far) and to present these findings at international conferences. Then, we have compiled
a number of bibliographies and other Hilfsmittel for the study of this region, mostly with the expert
assistance of students from the different countries. Members of AASHH will know how useful those
things may be. (Some of them are available on the department’s homepage: http://www.ceu.hu/medstud,
more will be on it, soon.) And on a wider scale: by encouraging medievalists with a usually one-sided and
conservative training to apply contemporary methods and address the up-to-date questions of the
international discussions of the (with their own specific knowledge of local or regional data!) we hope to
be able to place the region’s past on the “map” of worldwide scholarship. Or, as my friend Klaniczay put
it (in his article in the Soros-Festschrift, The Paradoxes of Unintentional Consequences, pp. 251-64),
invent or discover medieval central Europe. And that’s not an easy task for all of us.

János M. Bak (jmbak@ceu.hu)

Publications and presentations by our members:

Adair, Bianca: “Interest Articulation in Communist Regimes: The New Economic Mechanism, 1962-

Bodo, Bela: "The Medical Examination of University Students in Nazi Germany." Bulletin of the History

Deak, Istvan, was invited by the Hungarian Alumni Assoc. (Bessenyei Óregdiák Kör) to talk about Deák
Ferenc (1803-1876).

Dreisziger, Nandor, "Re-drawing the Ethnic Map in North America: The Experience of France, Britain
and Canada, 1536-1946," in Ethnic Cleansing in 20th Century Europe, ed. S. B. Vardy, T. Hunt Tooley,
"Hungarian Alliance Policies during the Second World War," a lecture given at a symposium on 20th Century Hungarian Foreign Policies, at Indiana University, March, 2003 (invited).
_________ and received an ARP grant, $3,400, to research Béla Barók's political attitudes and activities during his American exile, 1940-45.


Portuges, Catherine, “Intergenerational Memory: Transmitting the Past in Hungarian Cinema”, in the Spectator (the University of Southern California's Journal of Film and Television Criticism).


Miscellaneous

1. a. National Council for Eurasian and East European Research
Short-Term Travel Grants for Research in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans
Deadline: December 15, 2003

The National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER) announces the creation of the Short-term Travel Grant Program for Research on Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans. This fellowship provides a maximum award of $3,000 for research on the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans. To qualify, applicants must be U.S.-based scholars or researchers holding a Ph.D in any discipline of the humanities and social sciences or other professional terminal graduate degree.

Purposes and Requirements

Short-term travel grants are individual grants to scholars which may be used for up to two months for the following purposes: 1) enabling scholars to get quick access to research resources in the relevant subregions; 2) use the travel grant for refresher visits on particular topics for already established research work; 3) research planning with colleagues from the subregions on broader multi-year projects already funded or to be funded by other sources; 4) creation of databases or research aids such as archival guides; and 5) on an exceptional basis, inviting scholars from the subregions to the United States for conferences special collaborative research opportunities.
The Short-Term Travel Grant program is meant to support research that is relevant to United States policy towards Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans. Applicants may apply a broad definition of “policy relevance.” Research that is “policy relevant” does not necessarily need to focus directly on a matter of current and intense concern to U.S. government policy makers. Projects in fields such as history, popular culture, and other matters that may be outside the immediate purview of government officials are eligible for funding, as long as the applicant explains convincingly why the research is relevant at some level, even indirectly, to the formation of policy.

The deadline for submission of applications is December 15, 2003. NCEEER’s peer review selection committee will judge the competition and applicants will be notified of the outcome by February 1, 2004.

Applicants should emphasize in no more than four pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, the following information:

1) the nature of research to be conducted;
2) need for research to be conducted in-country and feasibility;
3) level of language proficiency in vernacular languages of the subregion, and/or Russian and;
4) in the case of an invitation to an international scholar travel to the United States, the stated purpose of the visit and a detailed research justification for such a visit

Cost-sharing by the applicant is strongly encouraged. Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report to NCEEER, and may be asked to present the results of research and other programmatic experiences in a public forum sponsored by NCEEER and the Department of State. Costs associated with such a forum will not be borne by the applicant. Please note that research reports submitted to NCEEER for scholars’ projects may be considered for publication in the journal Problems of Post-Communism.

NCEEER emphasizes projects that produce readable analysis, reliable information, and lively debate about current economic, political, and international issues. Applicants must demonstrate, directly or indirectly, how their research impacts upon policy debates and research on such issues.

b. CEEOL is a new online LIBRARY and DOCUMENT SHOP. Its content is provided by numerous publishers and editors, mainly from Central European countries, along with those from the West who deal with Eastern Europe, its histories, languages and literatures, along with its cultural, social and political realities. C.E.E.O.L.'s goal is to become the Internet's main portal to Central and Eastern Europe. (www.ceeol.com)

2. Call for papers
a. The 28th Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference of the AAASS will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2004 at Barnard College, Columbia U. in NYC. Please submit an electronic and a hard copy of your paper proposal to Mary Theis (theis@kutztown.edu), MASC Executive Secretary, Dept. of Modern Languages, Kutztown U., P.O. Box 730, Kutztown, PA 19530. The deadline for submission is mid-December.

b. The Midwest Slavic Conference is scheduled for 26-28 February, 2004 at the Blackwell Center of Ohio State U., Columbus. Deadline for proposals is Jan. 30, 2004. Contact Jason Vuic, OSU Slavic Center. E-mail: vuic.1@osu.edu or 614-292-8770.

c. The Central Slavic Conference will be held at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO on 11-13 March, 2004. Deadline for submissions is February 11, 2004. Contact Alan Hollman, Chair, Dept. of

e. Central Europe, a new biannual journal published by Maney Publishing in association with the Centre for the Study of Central Europe at the School of Slavonic Studies, U. College London. Manuscripts for consideration should be submitted to Katya Kocourek, Executive Editor, Central Europe, www.maney.co.uk/centralimg.html.


4. The University of Illinois offers its annual Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia for advanced research, June 14–August 6, 2004. Eligible associates are given full library privileges to conduct research in the University Library, which holds the largest Slavic collection west of Washington, DC, and is staffed by Slavic reference librarians. The Lab also offers programs from June 14 to July 9, which include: Fisher Forum/Annual Summer Symposium on “Remaking Postcommunist Cities”; inaugural AWSS conference; conference on “Masculinities in Russia”; annual Ukrainian conference; research practicum workshop. Other activities include thematic/regional workshops and discussion groups, lectures and films. Free housing grants: 28 days for graduate students; 10 for all others. (Associates are welcome to stay longer at their own expense.) Graduate students and government officials are encouraged to apply. Application deadline: April 1 for internationals; April 30 for US citizens/permanent residents. For more information contact: Russian and East European Center, University of Illinois, 104 International Studies Building, 910 S. Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820; Tel: (217) 333-1244; Fax: (217) 333-1582; reec@uiuc.edu; www.reec.uiuc.edu/srl.htm

Please let your students know that the Debrecen Summer Language School is now offering Hungarian language and culture programs throughout the year. During the summer, the U. also has intensive language classes in Budapest. For more information and prices visit the U.’s website: www.nyariegyetem.hu or contact them via email at debrecen@nyariegyetem.hu.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!

Susan