

HSA
Hungarian Studies Association
www.hungarianstudies.info

January, 2007

Newsletter

Brian Hodson
Oct. 3, 1968 - Dec. 8, 2006

1. Elections

At the Washington, DC business meeting and in the last Newsletter nominations for two executive board positions were requested as the term of two members will expire on Dec. 31, 2006. Four people were nominated: Judith Fai-Podlipnik, Edit Nagy, James Niessen and John Swanson. Based on the returned email ballots Edit Nagy and John Swanson were elected.

Congratulations!

The current board is below:

President: Katalin Fabian, Lafayette College, email: fabiank@lafayette.edu. Term: 2006-2007.
Vice-President: Alice Freifeld, U. of Florida, email: freifeld@history.ufl.edu. Term: 2006-2007.*
Secretary-Treasurer: Susan Glanz, St. John's U, email: glanzs@stjohns.edu. Term: 2006-2007.

Executive Committee:

Edit Nagy, U. of Florida, email: nagyedit@yahoo.com. Term: 2007-2008.
John Swanson, Utica Coll., email: jswanson@utica.edu. Term: 2007-2008.
Emese Ivan, Ball State U., email: eivan@bsu.edu. Term: 2006-2007.
Judit Szapor, U of Ottawa, email: jszapor@glendon.yorku.ca. Term: 2006-2007.

*On January 1, 2008, Alice Freifeld automatically assumes the position of the president.



2. Treasurer's report

Beginning Balance	12/22/2005	\$2,863.08
Income – dues		<u>\$1,160.00</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$4,023.08</i>
Expenses		<u>\$ 627.95</u>
Balance 12/25/2006		\$3,395.13

3. Next business meeting

Our annual business meeting, concurrent with the **2007 AHA convention**, has been scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2007 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Atlanta, GA, Hilton Hotel's, Paulding Room.

For more information visit the AHA's website, <http://www.historians.org/annual/2007/index.cfm>
Please mark your calendar and attend the meeting if you are at the convention!



4. AAASS Convention in New Orleans in 2007

The 39th National Convention of the AAASS will be held November 15-18, 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the New Orleans Marriott. All information is available at www.aaass.org. Don't forget the deadline for the receipt of complete panel and roundtable proposals is **January 12, 2007. The forms, for submitting proposals, is in the December issue of *NewsNet* and are also available online at www.aaass.org. Proposals can also be submitted online.**

Two panel proposals were made in Washington, DC: **The Decision Making in the Imre Nagy Case**, and the **1957 November Moscow Party Conference**. If you are interested in participating in either panels, contact **Federigo Argentieri** (fargentieri@johncabot.it).

Ildiko Asztalos Morell is a new Swedish member of our association. She is a sociologist who received her training in Canada, and now teaches in Sweden. She would be interested in participating in a gender related panel in New Orleans. If you would like to join her in creating a panel, please contact her directly (ildiko.asztalos@soc.uu.se).



5. Books, Papers and Presentations of our members

Federigo Argentieri was interviewed in Hungary, on December 9, 2006. Read the interview at <http://mn.mno.hu/cikk.mno?cikk=386971&rvt=22&rvt2=57>

Istvan Deak, "Nemzeti es nemzetközi bíraskodás, 1945" *História*, 2005/9, pp. 3-8.

_____, "Historians and the Post-World War II Retribution in Europe," in Judit Molnár, ed., *The Holocaust in Hungary in a European Perspective*. Budapest: Balassi Kiadó, 2005, pp.665-676.

_____, "Political Justice in Austria and Hungary after World War II," in Jon Elster, ed., *Retribution and Reparation in the Transition to Democracy*. Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp. 233-269.

_____, "Preface to Janos M. Rainer, *Imre Nad' prem'er-ministr vengerskoi revolutsii 1956 goda: Politicheskaiia biografia*. Moscow: Logos, 2006, pp. 20-24.

_____ also received the following honors in the year 2006: Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic "Doctor et Professor Honoris Causa" of the Budapest University.

Cathy Portuges – is the invited presenter, Symposium-"The Holocaust: Cultural Elites, Collaboration, Murder", Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. Jan.11-18 2007.

_____, "Cinematic Representations of Hungarian Jewry after the Holocaust" Association for Jewish Studies Conference, San Diego, 17-19 December 2006 .

_____, was the Curator/presenter, “Remembering Hungary ’56: the Voice of Freedom” Film Series, Barbican Centre/Hungarian Cultural Centre, London: October 5-12 2006.

_____ is the recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, “The Subjective Lens: Post-Holocaust Identities in Hungarian Film” 2006-07.

Barnabas Racz, presented "Transitions in Post-Soviet Politics and Society: EU Integration and Legal Issues" at the University of South Carolina, Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Columbia, SC, March 2006.

_____ presented at the AHEA Conference Bloomington, IN, April 2006: "European Parliamentary Elections 2004: The Case of Hungary". Published in *East European Quarterly*: "Hungarian Political Parties and the 2004 Parliamentary Elections", vol.XL:No2, 203-220.

_____ reviewed Martin Mevius' "Agents of Moscow: The Hungarian Communist Party and the Origins of Socialist Patriotism, 1941-1953". *Europe-Asia Studies* (Glasgow) vol.58, no.5, 2006, pp.817-819.

_____ in November 2006 presented: "US Congressional Elections and Presidential Power". Karoli Gaspar University, College of Law

_____ November 2006 also presented "Questions of Changing Economy and Higher Education in the US", Corvinus University, College of Public Administration, Dept. of Law

_____ served as a discussant on a joint seminar of the Philosophy Department and the Law School (Szeged University) "Theory of Values: Early Christianity, Hellenistic Philosophy and Roman Law".

Thomas Sakmyster has published a revised and updated German edition of his Horthy biography: Miklós Horthy, Ungarn 1918-1944 (Vienna: Edition Steinbauer, 2006).



6. CALL FOR PAPERS –

a. American Hungarian Educators' Association (AHEA) -“Hungarians in a Larger World”
32nd annual conference, April 19-21, 2007 at St. John’s University’s Manhattan Campus, NY, NY. Papers on any aspect of Hungarian Studies which deal with the Hungarian present in light of the past or the past as a prelude to the present are welcomed. Multi-disciplinary papers are encouraged.

Please send proposals to the chairs named below:

Cultural Studies: **Louise Vasvari** (louise.vasvari@sunysb.edu)

Education: **Judith Kesserü Némethy** (jn2@nyu.edu)

History: **Peter Pastor** (pastorp@mail.montclair.edu)

Literature: **Ivan Sanders** (is166@columbia.edu)

Music/Folklore: **Kálmán Magyar** (magyar@magyar.org)

Political Science/Economics: **Susan Glanz** (glanzs@stjohns.edu)

Science and Science History: **István Sohár** (sohar@cabm.rutgers.edu)

The proposal must include the title of the paper, a 200-word abstract, and a list of any equipment you will need for your presentation.

Deadline for the proposals to reach the chairs is January 20, 2007.



b. 4th Global Conference: War, Virtual War and Human Security, May 2-5, 2007, in Budapest, Hungary.

Is war an extension of politics by other means? The locomotive of technology? Is it humankind in its most natural state; or is human society - despite perceptions and ongoing conflict around the world today - actually moving toward an aversion to war and a state of peace? This interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference seeks to provide a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of the nature, purpose and experience of war, and its impacts on all aspects of communities across the world. Viewing war as a multi-layered phenomenon, the conference series seeks to explore the historical, legal, social, human, religious, economic, and political contexts of conflicts, and assess the place of art, journalism, literature, music, the media and the internet in representation and interpretation of the experience of warfare.

The Steering Group particularly welcomes the submission of pre-formed panel proposals. Papers will also be considered on any related theme. 300 word abstracts should be submitted by **Friday, January 12, 2007**. If an abstract is accepted for the conference, a full draft paper should be submitted by Friday, April 13, 2007.

Three volumes of themed papers are in preparation and/or in print from the previous meetings of this project. All papers accepted for and presented at this conference will be eligible for publication in an ISBN eBook. Selected papers accepted for and presented at the conference will be published in a themed hard copy volume.

For project details please visit: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/www/war.htm>.

For conference details, please visit: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/www4/cfp.html>.



c. Eleventh annual conference of the European Business History Association, University of Geneva, September 13-15, 2007 titled “International Business, International Organizations and the Wealth of Nations.”

International business transactions have taken place within specific institutional frameworks, both at national and international levels. The choice of Geneva, the home of several international organizations, as the venue for the 2007 conference offers the opportunity to pay closer attention to the history of what might be called the international institutions of business activity. International organizations have shaped international business activities ever since merchants have traded outside their home country –one thinks, for example, of the medieval trade fairs, with those held in Geneva in the 15th century being among the most attended of their day. Throughout the 19th century, international cooperation and competition made ample use of international trade fairs, international exhibitions, international conferences, international cartels, as well as more permanent type of associations, such as the International Telegraph Union, set up in 1865, or the Universal Postal Union, established in 1874 in Bern. The First and even more the Second World War led to increased state intervention and its international corollary, the rise of government agencies which, directly or indirectly, affected the course of international business – from the Economic and Financial Organization of the League of Nations to the WTO (World Trade Organization) and the other multiple Programs, Commissions, Organizations and

Specialized Agencies of the United Nations (ILO, FAO, WHO, ITU, World Bank), as well as regional interstate agreements (ECSC, EEC and then EU in Europe, Mercosur in Latin America); to which must be added non government international movements such as ISO (International Organization for Standardization), or the World Economic Forum in Davos, but also its antithesis, the World Social Forum, or even ATTAC, not to mention a myriad of both pro and anti business NGOs, which haven't left the business world indifferent.

The department of economic history of the University of Geneva invites you to send drafts for papers or sessions. While welcoming papers on all aspects of international business (exports and imports, foreign direct investment, foreign correspondents and so on) in all sectors (natural resources, manufacturing industry, trade, shipping, banking and finance, and other services), this conference would like to encourage participants to look more closely at the links between international business activities, their mediation through international organizations, and the wealth of nations. Please e-mail your abstracts or panel proposals till **January 15, 2007** to Gilles Forster or Ileana Racianu, email ebha2007@histec.unige.ch. All proposals will be evaluated by an academic committee. Decisions will be announced by e-mail before February 28th 2007. Up-to-date information on the conference can be found on the conference web-site: <http://www.unige.ch/ses/istec/EBHA2007/>

d. The 4th European Consortium for Political Research's (ECPR) general conference will take place in September 2007, in Pisa, Italy. **The deadline** for proposals is **March 1, 2007**. Visit the organization's website: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/>.

e. The 'New' 'Liberal' Europe: Speculations, Fears, Visions. Skopje, Macedonia, 8 - 13 July 2007.

This conference seeks to prompt debate on contemporary change, developments and issues that might lead us to different speculations, fears and conclusions and new visions for Europe in the 21st Century. In doing so it marks the fifteenth anniversary of the first SAET conference by reflecting on features of its theme - "Liberalism and the New Europe." The European Union is in question as its proposed constitution exposes different voices and visions. For the post-communist world, liberal visions have led them into the European Union, economic crisis and political disillusionment, with an uncertain future tied to supranational governance. 'New social democracy' has given way to more Christian, conservative and economically liberal politics, and anti-globalization, anti-capitalism and anti-poverty movements have spearheaded a revival in radical action.

As in previous years, this conference aims to bring together academics and commentators of different disciplines, viewpoints and backgrounds (political scientists, philosophers, social and cultural theorists, historians, political economists, educationalists, lawyers and others working across the humanities and social sciences) in critical discussion, whether through philosophical, theoretical or empirical means. We particularly encourage past participants to rejoin debate with us on the fifteenth anniversary of what has become a free-thinking global network.

The language of the conference will be English, the format based on pre-circulated papers and 75 minute discursive paper sessions, and the cost will be £450, including accommodation, meals, academic proceedings and organized events and excursions. A limited number of subsidized places will be available.

Deadlines: For proposals (abstracts of up to 300 words): **9th February 2007**; for bookings and

applications for subsidized places: **23rd March 2007**; for completed papers (to be pre-circulated): **11th May 2007**.

Contact: Dr Niall W.R. Scott, Lecturer in Ethics, Centre for Professional Ethics, University of Central Lancashire, Harrington Building, Preston, PR1 2HE. E-mail: nwrscott@uclan.ac.uk.



Many of you knew György Litván personally, and we are all familiar with his work. He died at age 77, on November 8, 2006.

Gyorgy Litvan (1929-2006) by Mario Fenyo.

It is by accident that I came across the notice of Gyorgy Litvan's death, four weeks too late. It came as a shock, for various reasons: he was among my few remaining relatives (albeit by marriage), I admired him greatly, and I bemoan the fact that I never had the opportunity to tell him so face to face.

Indeed, I tried to emulate him, but never even came close.

More importantly, he was a fellow-historian of the 20th century, with extraordinary merits and achievements. One might say he was the embodiment of the century, reflecting the vicissitudes of Hungarian history and politics in his body and mind.

His father, Jozsef Litvan, was an industrialist with a social conscience and intellectual ambitions; yet Gyuri was a rebel, rejecting private enterprise under any guise, backing only progressive ideals. A student of political economy in the early 1950s—i.e. of Marxist history—he had no qualms about joining the Communist Party and the Hungarian Workers Party. To be sure, he was on the side of Imre Nagy from the beginning. Early in 1956 he had the audacity to denounce Rakosi publicly at a party meeting; he was the first, and the most outspoken. Of course, he became part of the revolution of 1956, a prominent member of the Revolutionary Committee of Hungarian Intellectuals. After the revolution, when it was altogether risky to do so, he joined the Hungarian Democratic Independence Movement. Consequently, he was sentenced to six years in jail, released only in 1962.

Eventually, Gyuri taught at the gimnazium level. Later he joined the Academy of Science's Institute of Historical Studies, where I met him many times in 1975 and 76, as a friend. In 1991 he became the director of the Institute on the Documentation and Research on the Revolution of 1956. He was also appointed to a chair at the Eotvos Lorand University of Budapest.

Thus Gyuri not only lived through, but experienced the history of Hungary in the second half of the 19th century as directly as any person can experience any age. He also experienced the first half of the century, even if less directly. In addition to Imre Nagy, his role models included socialists and radicals from the beginning of the century: Ervin Szabo, Oszkar Jaszi and Count Mihaly Karolyi—the leaders of the Aster (Chrysanthemum) Revolution of 1918-19. His works include biographies of Jaszi, Szabo and Karolyi, a monograph on the journal *Huszadik Szazad*. Thus his life, and his life's work, encompassed almost the entire century.

When, benefiting from a study grant, I was preparing a monograph on “Literature and Political Change” in Hungary during the “golden age” of the *Nyugat*, he read the manuscript on behalf of a publishing house and rejected it, without much hesitation (eventually it was published in two languages). Gyuri had a streak of incorruptibility, and felt no special obligation to friends or relatives. Nevertheless, he was always kind to me and my sons, in person.

I hope somebody will do him justice, perhaps with a biography of his public life against the backdrop of decency, the Hungary, he stood for.



Have a happy, healthy New Year! BUÉK!

Please, do not forget to pay your annual dues. Thank you!

Susan

