

# HSA

## Hungarian Studies Association

[www.hungarianstudies.info](http://www.hungarianstudies.info)

March, 2012

### NEWSLETTER

#### **Letter to Hungarian Embassy, Hungarian Cultural Institute, and the US State Department**

At its 2011 annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. at the meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), the Hungarian Studies Association expressed its concern about certain policies of the current Hungarian government and the two governing parties of FIDESZ and KDNP, which distort Hungarian history. The Hungarian Studies Association (HSA) was founded in 1970 as the pre-eminent academic organization in North America promoting the study of Hungarian history, society, and culture and working to maintain contacts with scholars in Hungary. In recent years, our membership has expanded to include colleagues from around the world, including Australia, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, and Japan.

In the past year, the current Hungarian government has taken steps to remove historical symbols from public spaces that do not conform to its politicized interpretation of national history. It has passed laws that impose greater state control over school curricula across the country and that associate members of the main opposition party with the Communist-era Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party. Finally, we are also disturbed that open denials of the Holocaust have met with no public rebuke, despite the fact that a 2009 law prohibited Holocaust denial. That law was reconfirmed in 2010 after the victory of the present coalition government. Given these events, our members have no choice but to express their collective dismay in this formal letter.

#### **The Removal of “Politically Incorrect” Symbols and Statues**

In the past year, the government has taken the following Orwellian actions to remove unwanted historical figures from public sight and thus from public memory:

1. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Square was renamed Széchenyi Square at the initiative of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, József Pálinkás, a member of the cabinet in the first Orbán government. Removing the name of the U.S. President, who was a leader of the Allied forces in World War II, from this prominent square contributes to the revival of a long-discredited interpretation of the war, according to which Hungary joined forces with Nazi Germany in a “just” war against the Allies.

2. At a recent unveiling of a Trianon memorial , Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén blamed Count Mihály Károlyi, the late President of the First Hungarian Republic (1918-1919), for the punitive Peace Treaty of Trianon, despite the fact that prominent historians in Hungary and in the United States have shown this canard – a staple of interwar-era right-wing rhetoric – to be false. Representatives of FIDESZ and the neo-Nazi Jobbik Party, who together form a majority in the City Council of Budapest, compounded this problem in mid-November this year, when they voted to turn off the nightly spotlight on the statue of Károlyi.

3. The planned governmental reconstruction of Kossuth Square in front of Parliament to its 1944 state will lead not only to the removal of the statue of Count Károlyi, but also to that of the Hungarian poet, Attila József. József, who was a committed leftist throughout his life and was for a time a member of the illegal Communist Party, is now universally regarded as one of the greatest of Hungary’s modernist poets. He has also been among the most widely read and translated Hungarian poets internationally. Given József’s political commitments during his life, it is difficult to see the current government’s removal of the statue of Attila József from Kossuth Square as a simple act of literary criticism. Instead, this too is a politically motivated reinvention of Hungarian history.

4. We are also disturbed to see that the Hungarian Parliament passed a law that abolished the Imre Nagy medal as an official decoration of the government. Nagy was the martyred prime minister and leader of the 1956 Revolution. Because Nagy was a communist, those in power now underplay his historic role, rewriting and falsifying the history of the 1956 Revolution in the process. The government’s decision to deny continued financial support to the 1956 Historical Research Institute is further evidence of this trend.

### **Repeated Acceptance of Public Holocaust Denial**

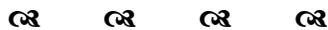
5. On November 17, 2011, Tamás Gaudi-Nagy a Jobbik MP, denied the Hungarian Holocaust on the floor of the Hungarian Parliament. Neither the Speaker of the House nor any other government official reprimanded Gaudi-Nagy or initiated any type of sanction against him. Indeed, anti-Semitic speeches from the right that are based on the falsification of history are now almost daily occurrences on the floor of Parliament with no sanctions raised against them.

### **Legal Distortion of the Past and New Barriers to Historical Research**

6. On December 20, 2011, parliament passed the Public Education Law. Among its many provisions, this Law imposes mandatory directions for lesson plans, which leave very little room for individual teachers to construct lessons independently. The Law also increases state control over the publication and distribution of textbooks to schools, virtually eliminating the possibility of any alternative textbooks. We do not take comfort in the statements of Hungarian State Secretary of Education, Rózsa Hoffmann, who explained that this law introduces a “value-based school system,” which will replace an older “value-neutral – decisively liberal – mentality.” Clearly the

intention of the government is to control more carefully the interpretation of Hungarian history that will be taught to schoolchildren across the country.

7. On December 30, 2011, FIDESZ and Jobbik MPs hastily passed a set of laws at year's end, after the left-of-center parties, protesting the proposed legislation, walked out. A part of Law T/5005 (Magyarország Alaptörvényének Átmeneti Rendelkezései) identifies the democratic opposition Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) as successor to the pre-1989 communist Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (HSWP) and holds it responsible for the "crimes" of the HSWP. Holding the HSP responsible for the actions of the HSWP is like blaming the children for the crimes of their parents. This is a clear distortion of recent Hungarian history. According to the new law, a National Memory Committee (Nemzeti Emlékezet Bizottság) will be set up "for the sake of the preservation by the state of memory connected with the communist dictatorship" and will publicly identify the "holders of power" during the communist period. These individuals would then labor under this public stigma and would have no right to privacy. The law defines the term "holders of power" vaguely and broadly; in effect, the term could include anybody who lived under the communist regime and who held even a minor leadership position in the HSWP or in a branch of the state government. This policy will have a chilling effect on historical research since most historians who deal with the communist period would understandably be reluctant to see the results of their research used as evidence in a witch-hunt. This policy, like the others described above, clearly manipulates historical memory and historical research to political ends.



**The Association would like to send out the letter as soon as possible. If you do not want to sign this letter, to have your name removed, please write to Emese Ivan ([ivane@stjohns.edu](mailto:ivane@stjohns.edu)) before April 2, 2012.**



**From the president:**

**You, as members of HSA, are aware of the fact that the Association was founded in 1971. During its forty years of existence, the mission, by-laws, and governing structure of HSA has not been officially changed or amended. To reflect more adequately the changes that occurred in our organization during these four decades it is time to revise the existing by-laws and make some necessary changes related to our governing structure. To be able to start this work and hopefully come up with some valuable recommendations before our 2012 annual business meeting in New Orleans, we should establish a By-Laws Committee. I would like to call upon you, the members, and ask for volunteers to be involved in the work of this Committee. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please do not hesitate and contact me ([ivane@stjohns.edu](mailto:ivane@stjohns.edu)) on or before April 10, 2012.**

**I am looking forward to working with all of you on this very important matter. Thank you!**

**Emese Ivan**



### Publications, appearances by our members

1. Thomas Cooper and **Ivan Sanders** in lead a discussion on January 23, 2012 at Columbia U. on The Holocaust as Culture: A Conversation with Imre Kertész
2. **Gábor Vermes**' Kulturális változások sodrában: Magyarország 1711 és 1848 között was reviewed by *Andras Jolsvai* in the Christmas issue of *168 Óra*.  
\_\_\_\_\_ reviewed Béla Borsi-Kálmán's *Az aranycsapat és kapitánya* (The golden team and its captain), Budapest: Kortárs Kiadó, 2008, in *Austrian History Yearbook / Volume 42 /pp 252 - 253*
3. **Miklós Müller** delivered a lecture on "Ervin Bauer: Father of theoretical biology, Martyr of science" at the Hungarian Consulate on Feb.2.
4. **György Péteri** was the guest editor of a theme issue, [Sites of Convergence - The USSR and Communist Eastern Europe at International Fairs Abroad and at Home](#), *Journal of Contemporary History*, January 2012, Vol. 47, Nr. 1.  
\_\_\_\_\_, "Transsystemic Fantasies: Counterrevolutionary Hungary at Brussels' Expo '58", [Journal of Contemporary History](#), January 2012, Vol. 47, Nr, 1, pp. 137-160.
5. **Bela Bodo**, The White Terror in Hungary, 1919–1921: The Social Worlds of Paramilitary Groups in the *Austrian History Yearbook /Volume 42. pp. 133 – 163*
6. **Zsolt Nagy**, National Identities for Export: East European Cultural Diplomacy in Inter-War Pittsburgh in *Contemporary European History*, Volume 20, Issue 04, pp. 435 – 453.
7. Jonathan L. Larson reviewed **Maria Todorova, Zsuzsa Gille, eds. *Post-Communist Nostalgia***. New York: Berghahn Books, 2010. viii + 299 pp. \$90.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-84545-671-9 on H-net. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=32942>
8. **Ágnes H. Vardy**, *German Contributions to Western Civilization*. IGAR, Pittsburgh, 2009, with **S. B. Várdy**.  
\_\_\_\_\_, *Hungarian Americans in the Current of History*. East European Monographs, 2010, with **S. B. Várdy**.



### Miscellaneous news:

1. From the Károlyi Foundation's program plans in 2012 in Fehérvárcsurgó, Hungary:
  - International conference on « The Contemporary Art Market » in co-operation with the Budapest *Institut Français, IBS*, Budapest and IESA (Paris) on April 20th -21st ;
  - The 8th « *European Days of Plants and the Art of the Garden, 1st-3rd June* on the theme « Water in the Art of the Garden and in Nature »
  - The 3rd *Quartettissimo Festival* from 21st-23rd September
  - Preparatory work for the restoration of the park and the project to create a 'Baths at the Chateau' complex.

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**In France:** *18 rue du Pré aux Clercs, F-75007 Paris*

Tel/fax + 33 1 42 22 07 60, e-mail : [karolyi2@wanadoo.fr](mailto:karolyi2@wanadoo.fr)

2. A series of videos walk in Budapest

<http://www.168ora.hu/tudas/budapest-jolsvai-andras-video-barangolas-vorosmarty-ter-73666.html>

<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-etelbar-82794.html>

<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-vasarcsarnok-82812.html>

<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-szobor-83255.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-ontodei-muzeum-83338.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/dolcevita/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-lovi-84120.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-new-york-palota-87739.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/dolcevita/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-karacsony-88313.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-etelbar-82418.html>  
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<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-jolsvai-andras-kilato-budapest-80072.html>  
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<http://www.168ora.hu/dolcevita/a-fajos-fogu-vizilo-es-mas-tortenetek-78510.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-jolsvai-andras-romai-strandfurdo-77729.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-jolsvai-andras-szoborpark-77122.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-alma-mater-konyves-kalman-gimnazium-76611.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-jolsvai-andras-budapest-nepsziget-75861.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-jolsvai-andras-budapest-duna-part-75857.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/arte/videobarangolas-budapest-jolsvai-andras-pal-utcai-fiuk-75573.html>  
<http://www.168ora.hu/dolcevita/budapest-videobarangolas-jolsvai-andras-kerepesi-temeto-74642.html>



Articles/books of possible interest:

Krug Emilia, *Lengyel Árpád tragédiái*, A Titanic túlélőinek magyar orvosa

<http://magyarorszagon.hu/hirek/2011-12/belfold/a-titanic-tuleloinek-magyar-orvosa/hir>,

George Soros, How to Save the Euro, <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/feb/23/how-save-euro/>

#### **From the CEU Press:**

Helene Carlbäck, Yulia Gradszkova and Zhanna Kravchenko, eds. [And They Lived Happily Ever After](#) - Family and Parenthood in Russia and Eastern Europe before and after the Fall of Socialism

Vladimir Tismaneanu and Bogdan C. Jacob, eds. [The End and the Beginning](#) - The Revolutions of 1989 and the Resurgence of History.

Paul Shore , [Narratives of Adversity](#) - Jesuits on the Eastern Peripheries of the Habsburg Realms (1640–1773)

Violetta Zentai and János Mátyás Kovács, eds. [Capitalism from Outside?](#)- Economic Cultures in Eastern Europe after 1989.

#### **From the Cambridge University Press:**

Iván T. Berend, *From the Soviet Bloc to the European Union: The Economic and Social Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe since 1973*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2009; xv + 299 pp, 24 tables; 9780521493659, £55.00 (hbk); 9780521729505, £19.99 (pbk)

David Stahel, *Kiev 1941, Hitler's Battle for Supremacy in the East*.

#### **From Wayne State University Press:**

Glenn Dynner, ed., *Holy Dissent, Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe*. 2011; 416 pages  
Eliyana Adler, *In Her Hands, The Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia*, 2001. 216 pages/ 11 illustrations.

Gur Alroey, *Bread to Eat and Clothes to Wear, Letters from Jewish Migrants in the Early Twentieth Century*, 2011. 240 pages/ 9 illustrations.

Guy Miron, *The Waning of Emancipation, Jewish History, Memory, and the Rise of Fascism in Germany, France, and Hungary*, 2011. 320 pages.



## Call for papers

### 1. **Announcing *New Eastern Europe* – a quarterly journal of Central and Eastern European Affairs**

The Jan Nowak-Jeziorański College of Eastern Europe and the European Solidarity Centre announce the first issue of a new quarterly magazine - [New Eastern Europe](#). The magazine is the English-language sister edition of the Polish bimonthly [Nowa Europa Wschodnia](#). Andrzej Brzeziecki is the editor-in-chief of both magazines.

*New Eastern Europe* focuses on Central and Eastern European affairs. It presents its readers with provocative texts, in-depth analyses and stimulating reports from the countries of Eastern Europe. The release of the first issue coincides with the Eastern Partnership Summit taking place in Warsaw, Poland. “The goal of this journal is to better understand the countries to our East, and in the spirit of solidarity, engage its authors and readers in a meaningful dialogue,” said Basil Kerski, Director of the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk.

Please also find a complementary sample from our October 2012 issue attached to this email.

Join our mailing list or find out more information about *New Eastern Europe* at:

<http://www.neweasterneurope.eu>

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**2. *Monde(s), Histoire, Espace, Relations*** is the first French journal to specialize in global history. Published by the renowned company Armand Colin, the first issue will be released in April 2012.

Each issue will be divided in three parts: a theme section (5 to 7 articles), a ‘Varia’ section, and a forum section organized around an outstanding book.

The editorial committee invites proposals and submissions, especially of individual articles for the ‘Varia’ section. Submissions will be peer-reviewed anonymously.

All approaches to global history are welcome: history of circulations (of ideas, culture, people, goods and money), of networks, of conflicts, of regulations (institutional or informal).

Articles can be submitted in French or in English.

Proposals (6500 words or 40.000 characters) should be sent to: [gisele.borie@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:gisele.borie@univ-paris1.fr).

Gisèle Borie

Editorial Secretary

Université Paris 1, Paris, France

Visit the website at <http://www.monde-s.com/>

### 3. **Paul Celan Fellowships for Translators 2012/2013**

The Program of IWM and ERSTE Foundation supports translations from Eastern to Western European languages, or vice versa, or between two Eastern European languages of canonical texts as well as contemporary key works in the Humanities, Social Sciences and in the field of Cultural Studies.

Special emphasis is put on translations of relevant works written by East European authors and/or by female scholars. A thematic relation to one of the IWM’s research fields is likewise welcomed.

Please note that no applications for works of fiction and poetry are being accepted.

Fellows are invited to spend three to six months at the IWM between July 2012 and June 2013 to pursue their translation projects while working in residence at the Institute. They receive a monthly stipend in the amount of EUR 2,250 to cover all expenses related to the stay in Vienna. The IWM provides an office with internet access, in-house research facilities and other relevant sources in Vienna.

Deadline for application is March 25, 2012.  
Mary Nicklas, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM)  
Spittelauer Laende 3  
1090 Vienna, Austria; Email: [fellowships@iwm.at](mailto:fellowships@iwm.at)  
Visit the website at <http://iwm.at/fellowships>

#### 4. Conferences organized by the International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences

- a. To be held 24 to 27 June 2012 in Dubrovnik, Croatia (Hrvatska). **The deadline for abstracts/proposals is May 17, 2012.**

Website: <http://www.iises.net/conferences/dubrovnik-conference-june-24-27-2012/>

- b. to be held 9 to 12 September 2012 in Lisbon, Portugal.  
The deadline for abstracts/proposals is **August 2, 2012.**  
Enquiries: [iises@iises.net](mailto:iises@iises.net)  
Web address: <http://www.iises.net>

5. *XIII. Eötvös Konferenciára*, amire csakúgy mint eddig, a bölcsészet-, természet- és társadalomtudományok minden területéről várjuk az előadni kívánó graduális és posztgraduális hallgatókat.

A konferencia időpontja **2012. május 4-6.** A tavalyi nagy sikerre való tekintettel az idén is az ELTE BTK (1088, Budapest Múzeum krt. 4/A) campusán kerül megrendezésre. Az absztraktokat **április 15-ig** várjuk az alábbi szekciók szerint: biológia, filozófia, földrajz-földtudomány, informatika, irodalomtudomány, kémia, klasszika-filológia, matematika-fizika, nyelvtudomány, társadalomtudomány, történelem. Olyan színes, érdekes előadásokat várunk, melyek magas szakmai színvonalat képviselnek, ugyanakkor szélesebb kör érdeklődésére is számot tartanak. A jelentkezés feltétele az online regisztráció az előadó pontos adataival és előadásának 1200 karaktárnél nem hosszabb kivonatával, melyet a Konferencia programfüzetében is megjelentetünk. Az előadásokhoz szükséges technikai eszközöket- táblát, számítógépet, illetve projektort- igény esetén biztosítjuk.  
Eötvös Collegium Diákbizottság ([diakbizottsag@gmail.com](mailto:diakbizottsag@gmail.com))



**Please, do not forget to pay your annual dues. Make checks (\$25) payable to HSA.**

**Thank you!**

*Susan*

