

HSA
HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
www.hungarianstudies.info

November 2013

NEWSLETTER

1. EVENTS at the ASEEEES MEETINGS in BOSTON:

a. Business Meeting. Please mark your calendar!

Our business meeting at the ASEEEES conference in Boston is **scheduled for Friday, Nov. 22, 2013 at 7 pm** in the *Maine* meeting room of the Marriott Copley Place hotel.

Agenda for the meeting:

Report of the President

Report of the Treasurer

The new By-Laws – discussion. The proposed by-laws are attached to this newsletter.

The report of the Book Award/Mark Pittaway Award Committee

Old Business

New Business

b. The Central and East Europeanists networking event will be at Bar 10 (10 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02116, on the lobby level of the Westin), Saturday, November 23 at 8:30 p.m. Venue link: <http://www.bar10boston.com/>.

2. PUBLICATIONS BY OUR MEMBERS:

Nándor Dreisziger: “Tracing Your Ancestors in Hungary,” *East European Genealogist* 21, 3 (Spring, 2013): 6-15.

_____, “The Hungarian Conquest of the Carpathian Basin, ca. 895-900: The Controversies Continue,” *Journal of Eurasian Studies* (The Hague, Holland), 5, 1 (April-June 2013): 30-43. See the website www.federatio.org/joes/EurasianStudies_0213...

_____, “Respecting Boundaries,” *Canada’s History* (June-July 2013): 42-44.

_____, “7 December 1941: A Turning Point in Canadian Wartime Policy toward Enemy Ethnic Groups?” *Journal of Canadian Studies*, 32, 1 (Spring 1997): 93-111; and “Canadian Studies on Hungarian Canadians,” *Journal of Canadian Studies* 24, 2 (Summer, 1991) have been re-published on the internet.

Holly Case and Máté Rigó conducted interviews with **István Deák**. The interviews are available at <http://ecepastandpresent.blogspot.com/2013/09/extended-profile-life-and-career-of.html>

3. BOOKS, WEBSITES of POSSIBLE INTEREST

Árpád Hornyák, *Hungarian-Yugoslav Relations, 1918—1927*, Wayne, NJ.: Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications Inc., 2013.

This book examines the convoluted relations between a victor state (Yugoslavia) and a defeated one (Hungary) during the first decade after the end of World War I. The work is based mainly on archival sources and demonstrates that great power interests in the region considerably influenced the bilateral relations between Hungary and Yugoslavia

Mrs Árpádné/ Ágnes Hargita, *Back to Europe – in an Uneasy Way*. Budapest: Gondolat Kiadó, 2012.

The process in which the former enemies had become negotiating partners first and finally equal members enjoying equal rights of the European Union was a unique historical event. After fundamental political changes in 1990, Hungary needed almost 15 years to prepare and negotiate to achieve the highly wanted goal: membership in the European Union. The accession to the EU had been a crucial historical change as it meant the return of Hungary to the family of countries with a democratic parliamentary system and market economy after five decades of political and economic „exile”.

The book describes this uneasy but finally successful process promoting the peaceful and democratic reunification of Europe after half a century’s division and animosity and offered a promising perspective for Hungary and the other new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

The author of the book is an economist, and one of the four high level civil servants who were taking part in the negotiating process from the very beginning until the very end of the talks with a central coordinating function and thus had the possibility to overview the whole process. Mrs. Árpádné/Agnes Hargita worked in Brussels for seven years. She was an economic counsellor, head of the Community Policies Section of the Hungarian Mission to the EU and she was permanent member of the negotiating team.

Marianne Szegedy-Maszák, *Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary*, Spiegel & Grau, 370 pages, \$27.

Marianne Szegedy-Maszák’s parents, Hanna and Aladár, met and fell in love in Budapest in 1940. He was a rising star in the foreign ministry—a vocal anti-Fascist who was in talks with the Allies when he was arrested and sent to Dachau. She was the granddaughter of Manfred Weiss, the industrialist patriarch of an aristocratic Jewish family that owned factories, were patrons of intellectuals and artists, and entertained dignitaries at their baronial estates. Though many in the family had converted to Catholicism decades earlier, when the Germans invaded Hungary in March 1944, they were forced into hiding. In a secret and controversial deal brokered with Heinrich Himmler, the family turned over their vast holdings in exchange for their safe passage to Portugal.

Aladár survived Dachau, a fragile and anxious version of himself. After nearly two years without contact, he located Hanna and wrote her a letter that warned that he was not the man she’d last seen, but he was still in love with her. After months of waiting for visas and transit, she finally arrived in a devastated Budapest in December 1945, where they were wed.

Framed by a cache of letters written between 1940 and 1947, Szegedy-Maszák’s family memoir tells the story, at once intimate and epic, of the complicated relationship Hungary had with its Jewish population—the moments of glorious humanism that stood apart from its history of anti-Semitism—and with the rest of the world. She resurrects in riveting detail a lost world of splendor and carefully limns the moral struggles that history exacted—from a country and its individuals.

Adam Kozuchowski, *Afterlife of Austria-Hungary*, U. of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh: 2013

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.

Mark Pittaway, *The Workers' State, Industrial Labor and the Making of Socialist Hungary, 1944–1958*, U. of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh: 2012.

In 1956, Hungarian workers joined students on the streets to protest years of wage and benefit cuts enacted by the Communist regime. Although quickly suppressed by Soviet forces, the uprising led to changes in party leadership and conciliatory measures that would influence labor politics for the next thirty years. In *The Workers' State*, Mark Pittaway presents a ground breaking study of the complexities of the Hungarian working class, its relationship to the Communist Party, and its major political role during the foundational period of socialism (1944–1958). Through case studies of three industrial centers—Újpest, Tatabánya, and Zala County—Pittaway analyzes the dynamics of gender, class, generation, skill level, and rural versus urban location, to reveal the embedded hierarchies within Hungarian labor. He further demonstrates how industries themselves, from oil and mining to armaments and textiles, possessed their own unique labor subcultures. From the outset, the socialist state won favor with many workers, as they had grown weary of the disparity and oppression of class systems under fascism. By the early 1950s, however, a gap between the aspirations of labor and the goals of the state began to widen. In the Stalinist drive toward industrialization, stepped up production measures, shortages of goods and housing, wage and benefit cuts, and suppression became widespread. Many histories of this period have focused on Communist terror tactics and the brutal suppression of a pliant population. In contrast, Pittaway's social chronicle sheds new light on working-class structures and the determination of labor to pursue its own interests and affect change in the face of oppression. It also offers new understandings of the role of labor and the importance of local histories in Eastern Europe under communism.

<http://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780822978121>

Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane L. Curry, *Central and East European Politics, From Communism to Democracy* - 3rd Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, Md: 2014.

Now in a fully updated edition, this essential text explores the *other* half of Europe, the new and future members of the EU along with the problems and potential they bring to the region and to the world stage. Clear and comprehensive, it offers an authoritative and up-to-date analysis of the transformations and realities in Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and Ukraine. The book presents a set of comparative country case studies as well as thematic chapters on key issues, including European Union and NATO expansion, the economic transition and its social ramifications, the role of women, persistent problems of ethnicity and nationalism, and political reform. For students and specialists alike, this book will be an invaluable resource on the newly democratizing states of Europe.

Jennifer A. Yoder, *Crafting Democracy, Regional Politics in Post-Communist Europe*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, Md: 2014.

The importance of subnational regions to politics, governance, and economic development in Western Europe has long been recognized. However, far less is known about recent steps to introduce a regional level of politics in East Central Europe. Reforms there are part of the larger process of crafting democracy; that is, regional reforms are linked to the economic and political transition away from communism and toward "Europe," specifically the European Union.

Crafting Democracy offers an important comparative analysis of the process and outcomes of region-building in the four Visegrád countries. Jennifer A. Yoder investigates why some but not other post-communist countries chose to introduce a regional level of elected government. In the 1990s, for example, Poland boldly took the lead in regionalization, while the Czech Republic and Slovakia lagged behind. Hungary, meanwhile, declined to create regions. The author argues that these regional reform processes have potentially far-reaching implications for state-society relations, political participation, and policymaking at the domestic level. The emergence of new actors at the subnational level, moreover, creates opportunities for cross-border and European Union-level initiatives.

Istvan Hargittai, *Buried Glory: Portraits of Soviet Scientists*. (Oxford University Press, New York: 2013)

Fermi, Feynman, Heisenberg, and Oppenheimer are household names, while Sakharov may ring a bell because of his human rights campaign—but who has heard of Tamm, Zeldovich, Semenov, or Landau?

Nobel winners all, their discoveries place them among the world scientific elite, but they worked behind the Iron Curtain, so few except their scientific colleagues know of them or their accomplishments. Hargittai (Judging Edward Teller), professor at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Eotvos University, delivers biographies of 14 brilliant researchers who had the misfortune to work under the likes of Stalin and Khrushchev. All are chemists or physicists, because Stalin's fascination with the charlatan geneticist Lysenko destroyed Soviet biology (literally: many biologists who did not fall in line with his theories were shot). These are competent, fact-filled accounts of education, careers, honors, and discoveries, mixed with often-harrowing descriptions of how each scientist either prospered or rebelled in the strange Orwellian world of the U.S.S.R. Ironically, these figures represent the golden age of Russian science, which vanished with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Alexander Badenoch, Andreas Fickers, Christian Henrich-Franke, *Airy Curtains in the European Ether: Broadcasting and the Cold War*. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlag, 2013.

This book emphasizes the important role of broadcasting during the Cold War as a central actor in the creation of a transnational and European communication space. Its methodological design links the study of the circulation and appropriation of cultural performances with awareness for the crucial role of broadcast technologies as mediators and catalysts of cultural transfers. The book describes and analyzes different transmission and reception technologies and questions their specific contribution to the medial construction of a transnational communication space in constantly changing political and cultural environments. It enlarges an understanding of the role of civil and institutional actors in the creation of transnational communities and European networks. It also addresses media historians, as well as historians of international relations, especially regarding the Cold War and European integration.

Gábor Kádár, Zoltán Vági, *A végső döntés [The Final Decision]: Berlin, Budapest, Birkenau 1944*. Budapest: Jaffa, 2013.

Charles Farkas, *Vanished by the Danube*, SUNY Press, 2013.

Vanished by the Danube is a beautiful hardcover book with 66 black and white images dating as far back as 1863. It is written in a conversational style with keen attention to detail, an easy-to-read work of historical non-fiction. Charles Farkas split his youth between Budapest and a family vineyard in the countryside, contrasts society of the early 1800s with what followed during his life from 1925, through WWII, the Siege of Budapest and the 1956 Hungarian uprising. The book ends with his arrival in Brooklyn, NY on January 16, 1957 aboard the USNS Marine Corp.

Christopher Clark: *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914*, NY: Harper, 2013.

The immense documentation of the origin of WWI, remarks historian Clark, can be marshaled to support a range of theses, and it but weakly sustains, in the tenor of his intricate analysis, the temptation to assign exclusive blame for the cataclysm to a particular country. Dispensing with a thesis, Clark interprets evidence in terms of the character, internal political heft, and external geopolitical perception and intention of a political actor. In other words, Clark centralizes human agency and, especially, human foibles of misperception, illogic, and emotion in his narrative. Touching on every significant figure in European diplomacy in the decade leading to August 1914, Clark underscores an entanglement of an official's fluctuating domestic power with a foreign interlocutor's appreciation, accurate or not, of that official's ability to make something stick in foreign policy. As narrative background, Clark choreographs the alliances and series of crises that preceded the one provoked by the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, but he focuses on the men whose risk-taking mistakes detonated WWI. Emphasizing the human element, Clark bestows a tragic sensibility on a magisterial work of scholarship.

Google's Art Project is collaboration between Google and some of the world's most acclaimed and diverse art institutions. The collection of several Hungarian institutions can be accessed:

Museum of Applied Arts, <http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/iparmuveszeti-muzeum?projectId=art-project>

Museum of Fine Arts, <http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/museum-of-fine-arts-budapest>

Petőfi Literary Museum, <http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/museum-of-literature-petofi?projectId=art-project>

National Gallery, <http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/hungarian-national-gallery?projectId=art-project>

Another interesting site is: <http://www.vasfuggonymuzeum.hu/vashu.html>

Magyarországon Vas megyében a VASHEGYEN található és látható a Vasfüggöny Múzeum (9794 Felsőcsatár Szőlőhegy). A világon egyedülálló módon került itt megépítésre az 1948-1989-ig az osztrák-magyar határ mentén 365 km hosszan húzódó, a nyugati világ által VASFÜGGÖNY-ként ismert „jellegzetesség”.

The two volumes of Moldova György's **Kádár János** are accessible at

<https://archive.org/details/MoldovaGyorgy-kadar-2kotet>

<https://archive.org/details/MoldovaGyorgy-kadar-1kotet>

4. CALL FOR PAPERS:

a. The 29th annual conference of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) will be held in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University, St Catharines, Ontario from May 24- 26, 2014.

The overall theme of Congress, *Borders without Boundaries – Frontières sans limites* as it relates to Hungarian studies. Submissions should include a **maximum 300 word abstract and a brief 100 word bio** which can later 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 size 12 and be sent electronically to the Secretary of HSAC, Judy Young (judyyoung@drache.ca) **and** to the Chair of the Program Committee, Judith Szapor (judith.szapor@mcgill.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 January 10th 2014.** We will notify authors of the Committee's decisions by February 7th 2014.

All information about Congress is available online now at <http://www.congress2014.ca>.

b. The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) will hold its 39th Annual Conference from 8 May through 10 May 2014 at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The Program Committee invites proposals for papers, focusing on the presenters' individual research and findings, connected with this year's theme: *Turning Points in Hungarian Life and History*.

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/2014/submit-paper>, no later than **January 6, 2014**. For more information visit the <http://ahea.net/conferences> website.

c. 52th Annual Meeting of the **Southern Conference on Slavic Studies** in Atlanta, GA April 10-12, 2014. **Proposal Deadline:** January 15, 2014.

Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome and encouraged, as is a focus on countries other than Russia/USSR. Papers and panels on all topics will be considered. Whole panel proposals (chair, three papers, discussant) are preferred, but proposals for individual papers are also welcome. Whole panel proposals should include the titles of each individual paper as well as a title for the panel itself and identifying information (email addresses and institutional affiliations) for all participants. Proposals for individual papers should include paper title, email contact, institutional affiliation, and a brief (one paragraph) abstract to guide the program committee in the assembly of panels. If any AV equipment will be needed, the panel or paper proposals should indicate so when submitted. AV will be of limited availability and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Email (preferably) your proposals to Sharon Kowalsky at Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu.

d. 6th Biennial AWSS Conference: Women, Gender, and Revolution in Slavic Studies on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Atlanta, GA. **Proposal Deadline: December 15, 2013.** Participants of the AWSS Conference are encouraged to attend and participate in the SCSS conference as well (a separate CFP will be issued for that conference). AWSS Conference participants are eligible to receive the SCSS rate for the hotel, \$165.00/night.

The theme of women, gender, and revolution can be approached in a variety of ways. Most concretely, these addressed the actions of men and women in political revolution, broadly conceived, including (but not limited to) events of 1848, 1905, and 1917, events leading up to the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, and the post-Communist transformations after 1989. The theme also invites the study of gendered representations of revolutionary events, and of significant transformation in gender roles at any time in Russia and East European History. Any questions about the conference or the program should be directed to Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu) or Karen Petrone (Petrone@uky.edu).

e. Trust and Happiness in the History of Political Thought: Third International Conference of the European Society for the History of Political Thought will be held at the Central European University, Budapest, 17-19 September, 2014.

In political and public discourse, as well as in political science and theory, debates concerning trust, fidelity, happiness, well-being, social contract and capital, and the connections between them, have intensified over the past two decades. The Society, <http://europoliticalthought.wordpress.com/> invites proposals that bring the perspectives and methods of the history of political thought to bear on these concepts and connections in ancient, medieval, and modern European contexts. Prospective participants are also encouraged to reflect on the wider implications of their empirical topic for the state of the art and the overall relevance of the field.

Send proposals (individual papers: max. 200 words; full panels: max. 600 words) with a short CV to trustandhappiness@ceu.hu by **15 January, 2014**. For more information contact László Kontler (kontlerl@ceu.hu) or visit the conference's website at <https://history.ceu.hu/events/2014-09-17/trust-and-happiness-in-the-history-of-political-thought-third-international-confer>

5. OPPURTUNITIES FOR PUBLICATIONS

“Muddled Masculinities in Central and Eastern Europe”, *SEXTURES*.

Deadline for submitting papers: March 15, 2014.

In her recent memoir, *The Taste of Ashes* (2013), Marci Shore writes of her friend – she calls him Oskar – who killed himself after a failed attempt to reintegrate into Czech society as someone who had lived abroad for many years. “It didn’t have to happen this way,” the dead man’s son wrote. “It has everything to do with being raised male. Who was there to listen to his disappointment when he returned to a country

poisoned by the cheap mediocrity and plastic that seems to inevitably come with capitalism? ... I pledge to fight against these inhumane male roles, because they hurt gentle, dear men like my father and because they have killed him, and I wasn't done loving him yet." Shore leaves this potent indictment of East-Central European masculinity unexamined, and unfortunately she is not alone in failing to embed the gendering of men from this region within a critical, self-conscious historical narrative. This special issue of *Sextures* seeks to expose how masculinities have evolved, merged, split, gained and lost hegemony, and been normalized in the Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe.

The journal focuses on Central and Eastern Europe and particularly welcomes papers on crossing/transgressing disciplinary boundaries.

Proposals for the special issue (500 words max.) should be sent by 30th December 2013 to Roland Clark at clarkrol@easternct.edu.

Submissions of full texts should normally not exceed 8,000 words. Please consult our guide for contributors when preparing your manuscripts. The guide can be found at

<http://www.sextures.net/guidelines-for-contributors>.

Sextures is a refereed international, independent, transdisciplinary electronic scholarly journal that aims to provide a forum for open intellectual debate across the arts, humanities and social sciences about all aspects affecting the intricate connections between politics, culture and sexuality primarily, but not exclusively, in the Balkans, Eastern and Central Europe. It is published in English once to twice a year. *Sextures* is dedicated to fast turnaround of submitted papers. More information about the journal can be found on its website: www.sextures.net

Roland Clark, email: clarkrol@easternct.edu



To date only 22 members have paid their dues for this year. Please, do not forget to pay your tax deductible annual dues.

Thank you!

Susan