

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Before I had undertaken the generating of this message I reviewed my last several addresses to you. I noticed that I voiced pleasure about the increasing number of young and dynamic academics in our midst, although our overall membership had not increased significantly, despite our efforts to entice people to join our Association. I also noted that over the last few years our annual conferences were showing improvement in presentation content, style, and obviously, reception by our attending members. Then came the Saskatchewan glitch, and my eternal pessimism surfaced, thinking, that "the sky is falling": are we going to survive? What is going to happen to our cherished and worthwhile Association?

How wrong can one be? I definitely would not become a very good forecaster or fortune-teller.

Aside from the Saskatchewan hiatus we had a number of exceptional conferences, and there are all kinds of indications that the future conferences of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) will be outstanding, interesting, scientifically appropriate, and colorful happenings. We all recall the Toronto (York University) and Vancouver (University of British Columbia) conferences with their outstanding program.

Then came this year's conference at Carleton University in Ottawa.

In terms of organization this conference was genuinely unique and outstanding. The organization committee comprised of Agatha Schwartz, Judy Young, and Christopher Adam, had put together a conference which had an amalgam of sound scientific-academic talks, biographical or living history type presentations, exemplified by Ferenc Andai's Radnóti Miklós recollection, chats with an outstanding curator, and a well known writer. We were also provided with a practical and very interesting and informative talk by his excellency, Vastagh Pál, the Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary.

We had more than the usual number of academics and presenters from Hungary and last but not least several excellent presentations from our general members whose talks and topics made our conference colourful, wide-ranging and profoundly successful.

We also had surprises at this conference. There were disagreements and criticisms of some topics and presentations, happenings that were virtually unknown during many of our previous conferences. To me, as an old timer involved with several other learned associations in the past, the disagreements and criticisms were a welcome happening. We were like most academic groups, dynamic in our involvement in presentations, critical, but in the positive sense of the word, and reasoned as colleagues. We were not just sitting, listening, clapping politely, or staying away from presentations. We showed interest and involved ourselves in vibrant discussions. We did this, all of our members, not only the academics.

As well, our organizing committee was instrumental in the invitation for a reception by the Hungarian Embassy, and they also arranged a tour to the National Archives following the conference. Once again, the Hungarian Embassy provided us with transportation to the National Archives and personnel as our escort.

One has to admit that because the conference was held in the nation's capital it did help in making our conference this successful. However, such statement and reasoning would take away from the fact that the organizing committee worked hard and organized an outstanding conference. We should all applaud them for their work and express our gratitude for the success of the conference.

Looking at the Ottawa conference, the work, the diligence, and success of the organizing committee one can look ahead with confidence to the future of our Association. We will have a younger body of academics, a very colorful, interesting and dynamic membership. The future looks much brighter, and when and if the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) will become a full fledged member of the Congress, it will be on the bases of our merit, and as they say, "they will be lucky to have us"..

Wishing our Association an interesting, gratifying, effective, and worthwhile future!

See you all in Montreal.

Andor J. Tari, president



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
OF THE HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

May 24, 2009

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

1. The meeting was called to order at 4.45 p.m. by Andor Tari, president. Quorum was present.
2. Adoption of the minutes of the of the 2008 General Meeting. Judy Young moves to accept Minutes, seconded by Christopher Adam. Carried.
3. Reports of the Executive.
 - a.) President (A. Tari). We have several passive members who should be involved in the association's activities. — He had no success recruiting new members. Some universities do not recognize the work of our members in tenure and promotion decisions. — At present, our website is inactive. — George Bisztray: there are other associations at the Congress that represent "small" cultures (Dutch, Scandinavia). What are their experiences? Is the activity of their members recognized? Tari: we also felt as second rate members at the Congress and should forward a complaint. Adam: experienced discrimination against ethnohistorians at his university's history department.
 - b.) Vice-President (Agatha Schwartz). Our web site is our window to the outside world. No web site – no presence. We need more new members, especially graduate students. — Her experience was that the papers she read at the HSAC conferences and published in the association's journal did help her at promotion. They count, at least in the field of literature, if not in psychology. — Membership in the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences would be desirable. — Tari: maybe we should hire a professional webmaster.
 - c.) Treasurer (Margit Lovrics). In her report (follows p. 4 in this newsletter) she itemizes revenue and disbursements. Acceptance moved by Oliver Botar, seconded by Ágnes Simándi; carried.

- d.) Secretary (George Bisztray). Reports on the Newsletter and other publications. Three issues of the Newsletter were completed and sent through the Internet to those members whose e-mail address is known. Others got hard copies mailed by Eva Tomory. — Eugene Horvath sponsored the publication of three papers of last year's conference in the "Lectures and Papers in Hungarian Studies/Magyarország-tudományi Füzetek" series.

Adam moves to accept the reports of the President, Vice-President and the Secretaries. Seconded by Botar; carried.

4. Reports of the Committees.

- a.) Conference Committee (Agatha Schwartz). She and the two other committee members, Young and Adam, did their best to make the conference a success. It was well publicized on Judy's web site, and attracted interesting papers. — Tari commends the Committee on the interesting program and the successful recruitment of participants.
- b.) Publications Committee (Nandor F. Dreisziger). The 2007 issue of the *Hungarian Studies Review* was an academically strong one. Yet, the journal struggles with a number of problems. It is not eligible for funding and has few subscribers. Most older ones died, and so did many contributors. The editor struck an agreement with EBSCO (a Canadian data base for scholarly publications): future papers will appear on its website and will be available for teachers and students. As in the past, the cooperation with the National Széchényi Library (OszK) is anything but smooth. This time our co-publisher requires a new method for preparing the manuscripts. — The lack of an institutional base affects the journal's prestige.
- c.) Planning Committee (Judy Young). There were few committee meetings during the year. She was in touch with four committee members by e-mail. She compiled a list of potential members. An early finalization of the program made it possible to reach out and recruit new members. An up-to-date website is needed. Joining the Federation is desirable. Changing our associations Constitution is a pending issue: maybe two membership categories could be established? She intends to connect active members for ideas. — Lovrics: if we join the Federation, raising the membership fee will be necessary.
Two motions were introduced:
Schwartz moves to join the Canadian Federation of Humanities and the Social Sciences. Seconded by Botar. Carried with one abstention.
By consensus the new membership fees will be: \$ 30 for students and retired members, \$ 45 for regular members. Moved by Botar, seconded by Adam. Carried with one abstention.

5. Next year's conference site.

The 2010 congress will be hosted by Concordia University, Montreal. Decision to participate accepted unanimously.

6. Other business.

Pertinent to item 5, discussion of who will organize next year's conference. Tari proposes Adam for organizing committee's chair, possibly Bencsics, Hermann and Nikolényi as members. — Young suggests postponing the setting up of a committee until she consulted academics in Montreal.

7. Adjournment proposed at 5 p.m., approved unanimously.

NEWS . . .

from the Conference Committee

The Call for Papers will appear in the Winter 2009 newsletter. Members with e-mail address may get it earlier. If you would like to give a paper, contact Professor Nandor F. Dreisziger, Conference Chair, preferably by e-mail: nandor@kingston.net.

about our members

Agatha SCHWARTZ has been promoted to full professorship at the University of Ottawa. We congratulate her on her new title, the "*non plus ultra*" at Canadian universities. The academic component of our Association is getting ever stronger.

On February 20, 2009 László Sólyom, Hungarian president, awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit to Judy YOUNG, "in recognition of her work in advancing cultural relations between Canada and Hungary, in supporting and managing educational programs between the two countries, and ensuring participation in such programs".

Congratulations! Our Association can be proud of having Judy as member – and a very active one.

A konferencia sajtóvisszhangja:

Ídei találkozónkról a torontói *Magyar Élet*, a *Montreali Krónika* és a vancouveri *Tárogató* között beszámolót.

Are you SURE that you are a member in good standing? Please stay with us and pay your due for 2009