

# *News in Hungarian Studies*

The Newsletter of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada

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## Executive for 2012-14

President: Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa, [agathas@uottawa.ca](mailto:agathas@uottawa.ca)  
Vice-President: Nandor Dreisziger, Emeritus RMC., Kingston, [nandor@kingston.net](mailto:nandor@kingston.net)  
Treasurer: Margit Lovrics, Toronto, [lovrics@idirect.ca](mailto:lovrics@idirect.ca)  
Secretary: Judy Young Drache, Ottawa, [judyyoung@drache.ca](mailto:judyyoung@drache.ca)  
Chair of Publications Committee: Nandor Dreisziger, Kingston, [nandor@kingston.net](mailto:nandor@kingston.net)  
**For complete list of officers, see election results in the minutes of the 2012 AGM below**

Website of HSAC: [www.hungarianstudies.org](http://www.hungarianstudies.org)

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This issue of the Newsletter was prepared by Judy Young Drache and e-mailed on October 18th 2012. For those members who have no e-mail address, paper copies will be mailed. The next issue will be prepared and sent out in January 2013. *Please remember to send me any news you would like to include in the next issue by the beginning of January.*

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HUNGARIAN STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (HSAC)**

**May 27th 2012, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario**

1. The meeting was called to order by the President, Agatha Schwartz at 16.20 and quorum was present. The Agenda was approved (moved by Andor Tari, seconded by Maria Tiltins) as were the Minutes of the 2011 AGM (Eva Tomory, Eniko Basa)
2. Reports of the Executive.

President: Agatha Schwartz thanked all those who helped make the year a successful one for HSAC. Good progress had been made both in retaining existing members and attracting new ones; all the while retaining a sense of community (“like a family”). Joining the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences had been a good move: it resulted in more visibility, affirmation of the professional status of the association, and some funding for guest speakers. We need to continue the positive work started. She mentioned the next year’s conference at the University of Victoria where we hope to see some more members from Western Canada. Finally she thanked Judy Young for her work in keeping the organization running, congratulated Nandor Dreisziger for the two new issues of HSR hot off the press, and thanked the other members of the Executive for their contributions during the year.

Treasurer: Margit Lovrics’s report for the period May 1 2011 - April 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 is below and is part of the Minutes. Margit brought regrets from Eva Kossuth and Paul Pilisi who could not attend this year’s conference. She noted the success of the Liszt event of 2011 and the funds HSAC received towards the costs from various sources including individual donations. Treasurer’s report unanimously accepted, moved by Chris Adam, seconded by Eva Tomory.

Margit proposed a change to the Association fee which is charged at registration and which helps to offset some of the costs of our attendance at Congress. In view of the fact that all such costs (room, audio-visual, coffee breaks) have gone up significantly over the last 25 years and HSAC has never increased the fee, she suggested we raise the existing \$20 to \$25. The existing \$20 does not even cover the costs of the coffee-breaks – especially when some conference participants do not register. This year, we were pleased to note that almost everyone who took part, registered. A motion to increase the fee to \$25 was put forward by Chris Adam and seconded by Eva Tomory; motion carried with one vote against.

Secretary: Judy Young Drache brought regrets from George Bisztray, who was unable to attend this year but hopes to make up for it next year. She commented on various positive developments such as growing interest in the association and the annual conference. There were several Hungarian scholars who submitted abstracts but unfortunately were not able to find the necessary resources to attend though three did come and gave papers ( Kenyeres, Petras, Ritter). We also welcomed the participation in the conference by a number of US colleagues (Basa, Fabian, Ivan, Glanz, Tototy de Zepetnek). Last but not least, we were pleased to have the participation of new Canadian members (Vashegyi-MacDonald, Stoffman, and Watson) and of existing members. The evening opening program was once again related to music and we appreciated the special paper on a century of Hungarian music education/ educators in North America presented by Dr Peter Simon, President and CEO of the Royal

Conservatory of Music which is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The audience included some individuals from the local community and we were pleased to have Professor Alan Walker who travelled quite a distance to attend the opening lecture.

We hope some promotion of the association will happen through filming done during the conference by a crew from Toronto's Hungarian TV which is shown across Canada through the OMNI network (since the conference, several interviews with conference participants have been aired).

Judy asked HSAC members to please note the dates of the next annual conference carefully and, if they submit abstracts, to be prepared to be placed into the program on either of the main conference days so we can eliminate last minute changes. Congress now takes place over a one week period and though our conference dates have remained at the beginning, they start on a Saturday evening (of the first day of Congress) and continue on Sunday and Monday during the day, with the conference dinner taking place on Sunday evening.

Next year's conference will be at the University of Victoria, June 1-3, with the overall theme of “@the Edge; @ la fine pointe;” a topic with broad multidisciplinary possibilities (for details see the preliminary Call for Papers in this Newsletter).

Judy thanked Margit Lovrics for her constant cooperation and her effective work in promoting membership as well as her efficient handling of the financial matters of HSAC.

Finally, Judy invited members to submit news items of interest to the membership and visit the website of HSAC at [www.hungarianstudies.org](http://www.hungarianstudies.org)

A motion was proposed by Magdi Velki that the Secretary be in regular contact with the Planning and Nominations Committee; moved by Magdi and seconded by Eva Tomory, carried.)

Secretary's report was accepted, moved by Magdi Velki, seconded by Tanya Watson.

### 3. Reports of the Committees.

Publications: Nandor Dreisziger reported both the 2012 volume of HSR and the spring issue of the 2013 volume were being printed (after some difficulties) and will be mailed to members and institutions soon. (This has been done in the meantime.) There will be two issues in 2013 and the fall issue is well in hand too. The contract with EBSCO makes available abstracts of the journal to academics. For the time being the journal is fine as long as good material is submitted. For further information, see Nandor's report under News and Events below.

Planning (and Nominations): (Oliver Botar, Eva Tomory, Magda Velki).

Magdi and Eva took turns giving their report, Magdi in Hungarian and Eva in English. During the year the committee had communicated regularly with each other, members of the Executive, and other members as needed. They have been working on an action plan to attract and keep new members in a more vigorous fashion and thus help to renew the organization. They consulted with members and prepared a slate for the elections which was sent out to the membership with the meeting Agenda the week before the AGM. Among their recommendations (mentioned in the March 2012 Newsletter) is a review and updating of the HSAC Constitution to bring it up to date and in line with current practices. They would undertake such a review and bring proposed changes to the next AGM. This proposal was accepted, moved by Maria Tiltins and seconded by Steve Fedor.

4. Election of the Executive and various Committees

There being no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers for the Executive was accepted by a unanimous show of hands. The Executive for 2012-14 are:

President: Agatha Schwartz, Vice-President: Nandor Dreisziger, Treasurer: Margit Lovrics, Secretary: Judy Young Drache.

The Planning and Nominations Committee members have agreed to remain in place till the next elections: Oliver Botar (Chair), Eva Tomory, Magda Velki.

As indicated in the AGM agenda, the Secretary proposed to the AGM the appointment of several Members-at-Large who would help the Executive in various tasks as needed. In addition, Members-at-Large could assist with outreach and promotion of the organization. On the basis of preliminary expression of interest by some members in providing such support, the following members have agreed to serve in this capacity: Katalin Fabian, Marlene Kadar, and Eva Kossuth. The AGM accepted the proposal and the volunteered help.

The AGM was informed of and accepted the recommendation that Eniko Basa officially become a liaison between HSAC and AHEA (as well as generally advise HSAC on matters of mutual interest with respect to US based Hungarian studies).

The following have agreed to be Program Committee members for the 2013 conference: Judith Szapor, McGill (Chair), Tibor Egervari, U of Ottawa (emeritus), Zita McRobbie, Simon Fraser U, Tanya Watson, PhD student, U of Ottawa. John Miska of Victoria had agreed to be the local representative.

5. Other Business

Nandor Dreisziger asked the AGM to express a vote of thanks to the previous Executive for its hard work on behalf of the Association during the past two years. All agreed.

The President took the opportunity to thank Christopher Adam for his work as VP during the previous two years, including standing in for her during her sabbatical.

The meeting was then adjourned moved by Nandor Dreisziger and seconded by Tibor Egervari.



**PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO NEXT PAGE FOR TREASURER'S REPORT WHICH IS PART OF THE MINUTES**

**There are still a few members who have not paid their membership fees for 2012. Please remember to do so. If you are not certain whether you have paid, please get in touch with the Treasurer: [lovrics@idirect.ca](mailto:lovrics@idirect.ca) . Thank you.**

HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

**Treasurer's Report**

FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2011 - APRIL 30, 2012

Opening balance as of May 1, 2011 \$4,723.03

REVENUE

Membership fees	for 2011	\$1,877.85	
	for 2012	<u>585.00</u>	\$2,462.85
Donations	Oliver Botar	55.00	
	Eva Kossuth (Tárogató)	<u>45.00</u>	100.00
Grants:	For Keynote speaker (CFHSS)	1,000.00	
	For our Liszt event	<u>1,000.00</u>	2,000.00
Contributions from members through CHEF (Note 1)			1,000.00
Concert ticket sales			750.00
Bank Interest on bank account			<u>1.15</u>
			<u>6,314.00</u>
			<b><u>\$11,037.03</u></b>

Note (1) Our members who contributed to our Liszt event:

Eniko Basa	Marlene Kadar
George Bisztray	Margit Lovrics
Oliver Botar	Agatha Schwartz
Gabor Csepregi	Eva Tomory
Nandor and Sophia Dreisziger	Judy Young Drache

DISBURSEMENTS

Remittance of subscription fees held in our account for HSR			\$945.00	
Website Internet service hosting fee			124.94	
Website updates			100.00	
CFHSS annual membership fee (Oct.1/11 - Sep.30/12)			708.02	
Administration, Treasurer			152.71	
2011 Conference expenses				
Catering	381.25			
Keynote speaker	<u>850.10</u>	1,231.35		
Liszt event				
Honorariums	3,000.00			
Student help	100.00			
Travelling expenses	<u>844.90</u>	<u>3,944.90</u>	7,206.92	
In Bank account as of April 30, 2012			<u>3,830.11</u>	
				<u><u>\$11,037.03</u></u>

**TOTAL ASSETS @ APRIL 30, 2012:           \$3,830.11**

Note (2) The membership fee includes subscription fee of \$15.00 to the "Hungarian Studies Review". As of April 30, 2012 the amount owing to HSR is 1,005.00 arrived at as follows:

2011	765.00
2012	<u>240.00</u>
Total:	<u><u>\$1,005.00</u></u>

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## Preliminary Call for Papers for the 2013 HSAC conference in Victoria

**PLEASE NOTE: this is a preliminary call for papers and panel session proposals; the final Call will be e-mailed to members and others with an interest in Hungarian studies during October. The deadline for receiving proposals will be as usual mid January. Details will be confirmed in the official Call.**

The 28th annual conference of HSAC will be held at the University of Victoria June 1<sup>st</sup>-3rd, 2013. As in the last two years, the conference will start at around 6 pm on the evening of June 1<sup>st</sup> and continue on the next two days closing at around 5pm on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have either a special opening address or a literary/cultural event to open the conference on the evening of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The overall theme for the 2013 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is “@the Edge – @ la fine pointe”. This is potentially an interesting, multi-faceted topic appropriate for our multi-disciplinary membership (such as centre and periphery; Hungary and Hungarians in the diaspora, migrants and minorities, inequality, intersections of cultures, innovation and the cutting edge, etc.). Our Program Committee Chair is working on elaborating some aspects of the kinds of topics suggested by Congress and discussing these with her colleagues on the Committee.

As usual, papers covering all aspects of Hungarian culture, history, politics and society from a wide range of disciplines, such as economics, philosophy, film studies, the fine arts, history, literature, political science, public policy, sociology will be welcome.

In the meantime, any questions may be directed to Judy Young Drache, HSAC’s Secretary. E-mail: [judyyoung@drache.ca](mailto:judyyoung@drache.ca) Tel.: 613 567-5756.

Conference Program Committee:

Chair: Professor Judith Szapor, [judith.szapor@mcgill.ca](mailto:judith.szapor@mcgill.ca)

Members:

Professor emeritus Tibor Egervari, [Egervari@uottawa.ca](mailto:Egervari@uottawa.ca)

Professor Zita McRobbie-Utasi, [mcrobbie@sfu.ca](mailto:mcrobbie@sfu.ca)

Tanya Watson, PhD student, [tanya.watson@uottawa.ca](mailto:tanya.watson@uottawa.ca)



### News and Events of Interest

- We would like to warmly congratulate our member Judith Szapor for obtaining a tenure track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University where she has been teaching since 2008. Previously Prof Szapor also taught at York University and the University of Ottawa. She is heading our Program Committee for the 2013 Victoria conference.

- Congratulations are also due to Christopher Adam who successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled “Communists versus Conservatives and the Struggle for the Hungarian Soul in Canada, 1940-1989,” on Monday, October 15, 2012, at the University of Ottawa. The thesis supervisor was Professor Mark Stolarik. Chris has been teaching in the History Department of Carleton University for the last several years.
- Tanya Watson, PhD candidate at the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Agatha Schwartz, is the recipient of a Balassi research scholarship and is spending the fall semester 2012 in Budapest working on her thesis that deals with the representation of Hungarian women in post-1989 Hungary.
- Thanks to John Miska, our local representative, for attending the planning meeting of Congress 2013 at the end of September at the University of Victoria. John reported that the U of Vic is very happy to host next year’s event and is clearly taking the organization of Congress very seriously; at the meetings the President and Vice-President of the university both took time to meet with local reps and Congress staff. The Academic Convenor of Congress is Dr Andrew Rippin and the Project Manager for the university is Suzanne Dane ([suzanned@uvic.ca](mailto:suzanned@uvic.ca)). The Congress 2013 Planning Guide as well as information about the Program are available on the website of Congress at: [www.Congress2013.ca](http://www.Congress2013.ca). The site is continually updated as information becomes available and we strongly urge you to keep checking; some of the “Big Thinking” series of speakers are already lined up. Registration will start in January 2013. HSAC’s information such as conference program, special speakers/sessions will also be available on this website.
- While on the subject of John Miska, we would like to congratulate John on his recent very successful book tour in Hungary. Not only did he have four books published (see next item below) and had a series of speaking engagements with a reception at the Canadian embassy in Budapest, he also returned to Canada with a new wife. Many congratulations and best wishes to John and Erzsike!
- John Miska has had four volumes published by Krater publishers of Pomáz in 2011-12. The first is a selection of his short stories (old and new), *Túl a Hidon*; this was followed by : *Magyar tavasz Kanadában* (2011), a selection of his journalistic and literary essays. Then two new works: *Magyar irodalom Kanadában* (2012), and *From Kerosene Lamps to Space Travels. An Autobiography* (2012). The latter book may also be published in Canada. A review of these publications will shortly be available on the website of the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation: [www.hungarianpresence.ca](http://www.hungarianpresence.ca)
- Marlene Kadar of York University’s Faculty Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and one of our new Members-at-Large, has the following recent publications:
 

“Things gone astray...” Archival research and private lives" in Newsletter 13 of CeHa, Centro de Estudos de Historia do Atlantico (February 2012): 31-33. <http://www.madeira-edu.pt/ceha> . [This article is Marlene’s response to one of Canadian-Hungarian poet Richard Teleky’s poems about family and loss.]

"Unsavory Subjects: the Naming of Hermine Braunsteiner" in Historical Textures of Translation: Traditions, Traumas, Transgressions. Eds. Markus Reisenleitner and Susan

Ingram. Vienna: Mille Tre Verlag, 2012: 6 1-91.

"Introduction" in Felix Opatowski, Gatehouse to Hell. The Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs. Toronto: The Azrieli Foundation and Others, 2012: xiii-xxi.

"Coming to Terms: Life Writing [working title]." Biography: According to History, Microhistory and Life Writing. Theoretical Discussions on a Debated Genre. Eds. Hans Renders and Binne de Haan. Edwin Mellen P, in press 2012. Updated version of "Life Writing" in Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada, Ed. W. H. New, 2012.

➤ Canadian writer Tamás Dobozy has been nominated for two major literary awards for his most recent book *Siege 13* published by Thomas Allen Publishers. The book has been nominated for the 2012 Governor General's prize for fiction as well as the Rogers Writers' Trust Prize. *Siege 13* is a fictional exploration of the Red Army's siege of Budapest in December 1944, in the closing stages of the Second World War. Through thirteen interlinked stories Dobozy addresses the complex legacy of this siege decades later, not only in Hungary but also in Europe and Canada. For more information see: <http://www.hungarianpresence.ca/Culture/Literature/tdobozy-shortlist-523.cfm>

➤ Nándor Dreisziger sent us the following news items in mid-September:

“News of the *HSR*: The 2012 volume and the spring, 2013 issue have been placed on the EBSCO website and are now accessible to the students and faculty of over a thousand institutions throughout the world. I have mailed printed copies of these issues out to most members of our association, to a dozen members of the Hungarian Studies Association (of the USA), and to all subscribing Canadian libraries. Overseas subscribers will get their copies from the National Library of Hungary where a shipment of issues has arrived recently. I plan to send out the balance later this month. Professors Agota Schwartz and Judit Szapor report that they are nearing the completion of the editing of the fall, 2013 issue.

Other News of Possible Interest:

1. The Hungarian researcher Anna Vándor has completed a field trip in North-Western Siberia to assess the situation of our linguistic relatives there who live under the threat of Russification. She was able to collect five dozen DNA samples. The results of such DNA tests might help to determine whether these Ugric peoples are only linguistic relatives of Hungarians or they are genetically related to them as well. Anna Vándor has promised to share her planned report on her field-trip with me, i.e. with our association.

2. News came from Hungary that the skeletal remains of one member of the Árpád dynasty, King Saint László, have been tested for DNA. The results of these tests are eagerly awaited in some circles. If it will turn out that the King belongs to an Asian y-DNA group, the finding will lend further support to the theory, advocated most forcefully in recent years by myself, that the nomadic tribes who occupied the Carpathian Basin were not genetically related to the ancestors of Hungarians, or to Hungarians today, whose overwhelming majority belong to DNA groups that have lived in Europe for millennia. If on the other hand King Saint László will be found to belong to a European y-DNA group, it will suggest that the “conquerors” of the late 9<sup>th</sup> century were probably Finno-Ugrian. In either case the DNA test results will tend to disprove the theories of Hungarian ethnogenesis popular in today's Hungary — and even

favoured unofficially in government circles — that Hungarians are of Asian origin. Some people fear that for this very reason the results of the DNA tests done on King Saint László might be suppressed (i.e. not published).

3. Thirteen chapters of my planned monograph on the Christian Churches of the Hungarians throughout the ages have been written and I am now working on the conclusions. The book's bulk is approaching 500 pages (single-spaced). The next hurdle will be finding a publisher."

- The American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) had a very successful 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University in New York, April 26-29<sup>th</sup> 2012. The conference title was "Hungarian Borders, [Im]migrations, Diasporas" and indeed many presentations related to this theme. The conference opened with Endre Hules's film, "The Maiden Danced to Death" and continued with a keynote by Catherine Portuges on the contributions to the Hollywood film industry by Hungarians. Borders and immigrants were a theme throughout the conference whether in sessions on history, politics, language or literature. There were also a number of interesting papers on archival sources - including digital - for the study of things Hungarian in the US. In addition to the Hules film there were several other cultural highlights, such as some classical chamber music by talented young musicians, poetry recitation by Judit Havas, and folk music entertainment by the Életfa ensemble. Anyone interested in the conference papers, can read the abstracts at <http://ahea.net/conferences> . The new President of AHEA is Julia Bock, Long Island University, Brooklyn campus; Vice-President is Judith Olson, American Hungarian Folklore Center, NJ; Secretary: Katalin Vörös, University of California at Berkeley; and Treasurer is Eniko Basa, our long-standing member. Judy Young Drache was elected as a member of AHEA's advisory board.
- AHEA's next annual conference is to take place at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, May 2-5<sup>th</sup> 2013. The call for papers and other information about the conference is online at: <http://ahea.net/sitefiles/2013.conf/2013.call.9.10.pdf> . Deadline for the submission of proposals is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. We hope that HSAC members will consider attending and conversely, we will welcome AHEA members at our next conference. In this way we can be of mutual benefit to our associations and the promotion of Canadian studies in the US and Canada.
- Thanks to Susan Glanz's HSA ( <http://www.hungarianstudies.info/> ) newsletter of August 2012 for the following 2 items:
- The University of Rochester Press is accepting manuscripts for its publication series entitled Rochester Studies in East/Central Europe. Professor Timothy Snyder, Professor of History at Yale University, serves as series editor, and is assisted by a panel of scholars from a variety of institutions. The editorial board seeks new projects and formats ranging from monographs to edited volumes representing myriad points of view. Scholars interested in submitting their work for consideration should request a proposal form from [guiod@uofrochesterpress.net](mailto:guiod@uofrochesterpress.net).
- The Department of History of the Central European University (CEU) is organizing a conference "Declines and falls: Perspectives in European History and Historiography - Twenty Years of the *European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire*: An Anniversary

Conference,” at the CEU, Budapest, 15-17 May 2013. The call for papers is past but there may be members who might be interested in attending. Keynote speakers will include: Ian Wood (University of Leeds), on “The Decline and Fall of Rome since before Gibbon” Mary Gluck (Brown University), on “The Discourse of Decadence as Historical Metaphor and Cultural Criticism in the European Fin de Siècle” and Jürgen Kocka (Freie Universität, Berlin / Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung), on “Rise and Decline in the History of Capitalism and its Critique.”

- The CEU Institute for Advanced Study (CEU IAS) invites applications for its core senior and junior fellowship programs for the academic year 2013/14. Fellowships are available in all areas of research in the social sciences and humanities for the full 9 –month period (Oct-June) or for either the 3-month Fall semester (Oct-Dec) or the 5-6 months Spring semester (Jan-June). The application deadline is November 4, 2012.

More information (including eligibility, application materials required, and contact info may be found at this website: <http://ias.ceu.hu/NewCall>. For further info on the Institute please visit: <http://ias.ceu.hu><<http://ias.ceu.hu>>. Or get in touch with Prof Eva Fodor Associate professor, Department of Gender Studies, Academic Director, CEU IAS Central European University, [fodore@ceu.hu](mailto:fodore@ceu.hu)<<mailto:fodore@ceu.hu>>



**Have a great autumn and please inform the Secretary of any news and events for this section of the next Newsletter**