

## News in Hungarian Studies

The Newsletter of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada

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### Executive for 2014-16

President: Oliver Botar, Winnipeg, [oliver.botar@umanitoba.ca](mailto:oliver.botar@umanitoba.ca)

Vice-President: Magdalena Velki, Montreal, [mvelki@videotron.ca](mailto:mvelki@videotron.ca)

Treasurer: Margit Lovrics, Toronto, [margitlovrics@gmail.com](mailto:margitlovrics@gmail.com)

Executive 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)

Chair of Planning and Nominations Committee: Eva Tomory, Toronto, [eva.tomory@utoronto.ca](mailto:eva.tomory@utoronto.ca)

Members at Large: Katalin Fabian, Marlene Kadar, Eva Kossuth.

Liaison with AHEA: Eniko Molnar Basa, [eniko.basa@verizon.net](mailto:eniko.basa@verizon.net)

2016 Conference Program Chair: Steve Jobbitt, [sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca)

2016 Conference Local Arrangements Coordinator: Mike Adorjan, [madorjan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:madorjan@ucalgary.ca)

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

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**Reminder:** The deadline for submitting proposals for the 31st annual conference (May 28-30<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the University of Calgary) was extended till December 11<sup>th</sup> and we would like to thank those who have submitted proposals. The Call for Papers was circulated in early October and again in November. You can also find it on p6 of this newsletter and on the HSAC website's home page: <http://www.hungarianstudies.org/> . We will inform you about the decisions of the Program Committee by mid- January.



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

University of Ottawa, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by the President, Oliver Botar. The agenda of the meeting and the Minutes of the 2014 AGM, held at Brock University, were approved. This was followed by the Reports of the Executive and the various Committees.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

### Report of the President (Oliver Botar)

The President thanked all the members of the executive for their tireless efforts in the on-going rejuvenation of the association and Agatha Schwartz for having continued to meet the demands of the presidency for several months beyond her term to enable Oliver to complete previous commitments. He welcomed new members, and noticed with delight that this year many younger scholars were presenting papers at the conference.

The President opened the discussion on the wording of the motion to establish "The Nandor Dreisziger Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Hungarian Studies in Canada." This award had been proposed and announced at the annual dinner of the 2014 conference at Brock University in recognition of Nandor's 40 years of work as editor of *Hungarian Studies Review (HSR)* and for his continuous outstanding contributions to Hungarian studies in Canada and beyond.

The medal is to be awarded occasionally by the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada, at the discretion of a Selection Committee composed of the President and two members of the HSAC appointed by the HSAC Executive. It is to be awarded to an academic or a member of the community who has made an exceptional contribution to the HSAC and/or to the advancement of Hungarian studies in Canada. Lengthy discussions about the details of the award followed. The following wording was agreed to:

"The Nandor Dreisziger Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Hungarian Studies in Canada.' The medal is named after Nandor Dreisziger for his outstanding contributions to Hungarian studies in Canada and beyond as a scholar and editor of the *Hungarian Studies Review*. The medal is awarded occasionally by the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada. It is inscribed "Nandor Dreisziger: Teacher, Scholar, Editor of the *Hungarian Studies Review*". It is awarded to an academic or a member of the community who has made an exceptional contribution to the HSAC and/or to the advancement of Hungarian studies in Canada."

Nominations should reach the HSAC President by March 1<sup>st</sup> and should be accompanied by supporting documentation as appropriate. The President will then convene a three-person Selection Committee who will consider all nominations and report its decision to the HSAC Executive. Margit Lovrics moved to accept the modifications, seconded by Judy Young. The modifications were approved with one abstention. Oliver Botar will seek an artist to design the medal.

### Report of the Treasurer (Margit Lovrics)

The financial statement for the period of May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 was presented by Margit (see below). There being no questions, Eva Tomory moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Steve Jobbitt, carried.

### Report of the Executive Secretary (Judy Young)

The Executive Secretary noted that this year (the 30<sup>th</sup> in HSAC's existence) had been a successful one. For the annual conference the HSAC Program Committee had received a large number of quality abstracts with a great variety of topics, including from nine graduate students, a number of young scholars and a larger than usual number of proposals from abroad. Unfortunately, some of the authors could not attend because of lack of financial resources but even so a rich and diverse program was presented at Congress. Two of the conference sessions: the opening one on 50 years of diplomatic relations between Canada and Hungary, and Katalin

Kürtösi's keynote address on the 'Siege of Budapest' as seen through the lens of Hungarian writer Sándor Márai and Canadian writer Tamás Dobozy were listed among the special events in the Congress Program Guide.

The Executive hopes that the graduate students at this year's conference will have found a warm reception and will return in future years to take an active part in the association. HSAC applied for and received a \$1000 grant from Congress for an international keynote speaker and also sought and received a donation of \$1000 from Mr Tom Mihalik of "Tom's Place" in Toronto. Further donations were received from the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation and various individual members of the organization. All of these are gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the Embassy of Hungary for the opening reception. To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association, a special souvenir program was printed and Eva Tomory prepared a photographic history of HSAC to be screened at the annual dinner.

Judy encouraged members to consider participating in certain activities or administrative duties of HSAC such as preparation of the two annual Newsletters and maintaining contact with members or attracting new ones. Outreach to others interested in Hungarian Studies remains important and HSAC's contacts with AHEA and HSA, our US sister organizations should also be remembered (even if this year our AHEA liaison, Eniko M. Basa, was unable to attend our conference). The 2016 HSAC conference will take place with Congress at the University of Calgary, May 28-30<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to seeing many of this year's participants in Calgary (see the Call for Papers below). Nandor Dreisziger moved to accept the report, seconded by Margit Lovrics, all in favour.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

### **Publications (Nandor Dreisziger)**

Nandor Dreisziger reported that the 2015 volume of the Hungarian Studies Review is nearly ready to go to the printers. It will contain half-dozen articles by authors in four countries (Canada, the US, Hungary and the UK) as well as shorter reports, including book reviews, a conference report from Croatia, an obituary, etc. The volume will be close to 200 pages in bulk. There are four articles awaiting editorial attention for the 2016 volume -- and more are expected to arrive before year's end. Nandor also mentioned that Professor Andor Tari, one of our ex-presidents, is in poor health. Christopher Adams moved to accept the report, seconded by Magdolna Velki – carried.

### **Conference Committee (2015 and 2016) (Steve Jobbitt)**

Steve Jobbitt thanked the conference committee for their help, and the presenters for their efforts. Members expressed great satisfaction with the standards and the positive spirit of the conference. The decision was made to maintain the existing conference committee for 2016 provided committee members agreed. [Since the AGM, two of the 2015 committee members: Agatha Schwartz and Oliver Botar have stepped down ceding their places in the spirit of rejuvenation to two graduate students: Marie Boglari and Kristen Csenkey.] Next year will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, which should be incorporated in the 2016 conference program. Steve Jobbitt will send out the call for papers for 2016 Conference in the early fall. Eva Tomory moved to accept the report, seconded by Agatha Schwartz – carried.

### **Planning and Nominations (Eva Tomory)**

Eva Tomory was in regular contact with the vice-president, Magdolna Velki. The committee will start to work on the preparation of a slate of officers for the 2016 election.

There was no other business; adjournment was announced by the president at 6:15 p.m.



HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

**Treasurer's Report**

FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2014 - APRIL 30, 2015

Opening balance as of May 1, 2014 \$1,769.43

REVENUE

|   |          |              |             |                          |
|---|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Membership fees                             | for 2013 | \$45.00      |             |                          |
|   | for 2014 | 1,258.33     |             |                          |
|   | for 2015 | 361.55       |             |                          |
|   | for 2016 | <u>30.00</u> | \$1,694.88  |                          |
| Grant for Keynote Speaker (CFHSS)           |          |              | 1,000.00    |                          |
| Donation from Mr. T. Mihalik of Tom's Place |          |              | 1,000.00    |                          |
| Donations from members (*)                  |          |              | 373.70      |                          |
| Bank Interest on bank account               |          |              | <u>0.66</u> | <u>4,069.24</u>          |
|   |          |              |             | <u><b>\$5,838.67</b></u> |

\* Our thanks to the members for their donations:  
Christopher Adam, Arthur Bartfay, Eniko Basa,  
Anna Maria Bogyo Homor, Oliver Botar, Nandor Dreisziger,  
Steve Kun-Szabo, Georg Michels, Agatha Schwartz, Andor  
Tari, Maria Tiltins, Eva Tomory, Judy Young

DISBURSEMENTS

|  |               |  |          |                          |
|--|---------------|--|----------|--------------------------|
| Remittance of 2014 subscription fees held in our account for HSR |               |  | \$795.00 |                          |
| 2014 Conference expenses   |               |  |          |                          |
| Catering, Audio Visual, etc                                      | \$276.60      |  |          |                          |
| Guest Speaker  | <u>500.00</u> |  | 776.60   |                          |
| Administration, Treasurer  |               |  | 131.00   |                          |
| Website updates  |               |  | 200.00   |                          |
| Domain name renewal  |               |  | \$28.25  |                          |
| CFHSS annual membership fee (Jan.1/15 - Dec.31/15)               |               |  | 694.35   | \$2,625.20               |
| In Bank account as of April 30, 2015                             |               |  |          | <u>3,213.47</u>          |
|  |               |  |          | <u><b>\$5,838.67</b></u> |

**TOTAL ASSETS @ APRIL 30, 2015:**  
**\$3,213.47**

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## Call for Papers for the 2016 Annual Conference

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) is holding its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada at the University of Calgary May 28-30, 2016.

The Program Committee invites members of the Association and interested scholars to submit proposals for individual papers and panels of three papers. We especially encourage proposals that address the Congress theme “Energizing Communities” as it relates to Hungarian studies. According to the Congress call, the Congress theme “is in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the University of Calgary,” and “reflects the university’s commitment to community engagement at local, regional, national and transnational levels. This commitment is rooted in the belief that knowledge and understanding are created through associations of shared values, grounded in respect for difference and diversity among all peoples, from First Nations to new Canadians.”

Topics for papers and panels might include, but are certainly not limited to, the role that universities in Hungary (or Hungarians in universities) have played in creating, energizing, engaging, and/or sustaining “communities” of interest; the success and/or failure of Hungarian (or Canadian Hungarian) academics, educators, and leaders in creating communities of understanding rooted in shared values and respect for difference and diversity; or the contributions that individual Hungarians (artists, journalists, intellectuals, businesspeople, technicians, etc.) and Hungarian groups and institutions (theater groups, churches, cultural organizations, etc.) have made to “energizing” countries like Canada.

In addition, because 2016 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, we also welcome proposals that address topics related in any way to the origins, events, aftermath, and legacy of 1956. We especially encourage papers that explore the “energizing” effect of Hungarian refugees in Canada (and other nations) in the wake of the Revolution, and papers that examine the impact of the 1956 refugee movement on Canadian immigration and refugee policy. Also of obvious interest are papers that examine the current refugee crisis in Hungary.

As always, we look for proposals in any discipline in the humanities and social sciences, including those that might address themes from a cross-disciplinary perspective and thus bring fresh or enriched insights. Papers that do not relate to the overall themes outlined above are, as usual, also welcome.

Submissions should include a **maximum 300 word abstract and a brief 100 word bio which can 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 12. **Abstracts should be sent electronically both** to the Chair of the Program Committee, Steven Jobbitt ([sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca)) **and** to the Secretary of HSAC, Judy Young ([judyyoung@drache.ca](mailto:judyyoung@drache.ca)). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian if an English language abstract is also provided. 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 November 30, 2015. We will notify authors of the Committee’s decisions by January 1st 2016.

The HSAC Conference Program Committee for 2016 is chaired by Steve Jobbitt of Lakehead University.

The other members are: Christopher Adam (Carleton U), Marie Boglari (Ottawa U), Kristen Csenkey (U of Toronto), Judith Szapor (McGill U), Eva Tomory (U of Toronto). Local Arrangements Coordinator: Mike Adorjan (U of Calgary)



## News and Events of Interest to Members

- The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of HSAC took place from May 30-June 1<sup>st</sup> at the U of Ottawa with a special opening session commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Canada. The rest of the conference included several sessions which related to the overall theme of the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress of which our conference is a part: “Capital Ideas.” This allowed for the usual multidisciplinary mix of topics including historical, political, economic, and artistic aspects of the main theme. The keynote address was given by an old colleague and friend of HSAC, Professor Katalin Kürtösi from the U of Szeged on the Siege of Budapest through the work of Sándor Márai and Canadian writer Tamás Doboz. The final program can be found on the HSAC website: <http://www.hungarianstudies.org/> and a photo report of the conference is available here: <http://www.hungarianpresence.ca/hsac2015-conf-521.cfm> . One of the many highlights of the conference was a moving personal recollection by Auschwitz survivor Ibi Gábori of Toronto. A video of her talk is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wZZMwV6jEo> . As noted in the minutes of the AGM, the conference had a rich and full program with about a third of the presentations by graduate students and another third by international participants including a number of young scholars. The organizers felt this was a positive sign of organizational renewal.
- **The 2016 annual conference of HSAC is taking place from May 28-30<sup>th</sup> at the U of Calgary** as part of the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. The overall theme of congress is “Energizing communities” and as usual, HSAC’s Program committee has interpreted this theme in ways appropriate to the association’s mandate and objectives. Thus the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1956 uprising and the subsequent refugee movement to Canada can be seen as an “energizing” event. The Call for Papers is on the HSAC website and is also on page 6 of this Newsletter. Although the deadline for submission of abstracts is past, the Program Committee is still open to receiving a small number of proposals if they fit the topics listed in the Call. Since this conference is close to the West Coast, not to mention the touristic pull of the Rocky Mountains, the organizers are looking forward to welcoming members and friends from the West Coast of our continent.
- Kristen Csenkey of the U of Toronto Hungarian Studies Program has kindly set up a Facebook page for HSAC’s 2016 conference. Have a look at it, add your comments or just “like” it: <https://www.facebook.com/Hungarian-Studies-Association-of-Canada-1020664624642848/>
- The 2015 volume of *Hungarian Studies Review Vol XLII, Nos 1-2 (Spring-Fall 2015)* is out and was mailed about a month ago to paid-up members of HSAC, HSA and other subscribers. This volume includes a special section on “Hungary and International Relations in the Interwar Years.” If you have not received your copy, or would like a copy please let Nandor Dreisziger know ([nandor@kingston.net](mailto:nandor@kingston.net) ). As noted before, some older issues are available on the HSAC website, and many (including this latest volume) are digitized by the Hungarian National Library: <http://epa.oszk.hu/html/vgi/boritolapuj.phtml?id=00010>
- On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 Executive Secretary of HSAC, Judy Young, attended the first annual one day **conference on Hungarian Studies organized by students of the Hungarian Studies Program at the U of Toronto’s Munk School for Global Affairs**. Entitled “Paprika, Pálinka, and Politics: Variations on Themes in Hungarian Studies” the conference was delightfully eclectic with a wide variety of interesting presentations and enthusiastic students. It started with a guest lecture by Prof László Borhi of Indiana University on US policy towards Eastern Europe during the Cold War and continued with a dozen papers divided into four sessions, each chaired by a faculty member of the Hungarian Program. The conference program can be found on the Munk School’s website: <http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/event/18404/> as

well as the Facebook page specially set up for the conference by one of its key organizers, Kristen Csenkey here: <https://www.facebook.com/U-of-T-Hungarian-Studies-Conference-2015-1481732392071317/info/> . To coincide with the conference, Trinity College Library had a display of books and artifacts by prominent members of the Hungarian Studies community at the U of T and the Consulate General of Hungary arranged a recital at the Reményi House of Music. The conference was a great success and seemed to be enjoyed by participants and audience alike. Among the audience Judy spotted writers Anna Porter and Tamás Dobozy (who came down specially from Guelph U where he teaches – and who was HSAC’s special guest at its 2014 annual conference at Brock U). For the conference blog take a look here: <https://hungarianstudiesconference.wordpress.com/> . Bravo to the organizers and participants!

- **The 2016 annual conference of AHEA is taking place at the U of Maryland Conference Centre, April 28-30<sup>th</sup>** . The conference themes are “Migration and Emigration” as well as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian revolution. Please note that the Call for Papers can be found on the AHEA website: <http://ahea.net/conferences> and the **deadline for submitting your abstracts is January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Abstracts have to be submitted online. The 2015 annual conference of AHEA took place in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár) from July 9-11<sup>th</sup> at the Babeş Bolyai University with the theme “Identities Beyond Borders” and by all accounts the conference was a great success. You can find detailed information about it on the same page as the Call for Papers for 2016, linked above.
- **The Spring 2015 Newsletter of the Hungarian Studies Association (HSA)** can be found on the organization’s NEW website: <https://hungarianstudiesweb.wordpress.com/about/>. The Fall 2015 newsletter was e-mailed out in November but appears not to be on the new website yet. The HSA prize for the best book in Hungarian Studies published in 2013 or 2014 was awarded to **Krisztina Fehérváry** for her book *Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and the Middle Class in Hungary*, published in 2013 with Indiana University Press, Bloomington. The Association’s annual meeting took place in November 2015 during the annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). The 2016 Convention of ASEEES (including HSA’s meetings) will take place Nov 17-20<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington DC. The Call for Papers is available here: <http://www.aseees.org/convention/cfp> and the deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- Of literary interest: **Hungarian -born translator Marietta Morry of Ottawa and co-translator Lynda Muir won this year’s John Glassco Prize**, administered by the Literary Translators’ Association of Canada. The prize honours a Canadian’s first book-length work of literary translation into French or English. Morry and Muir won the award for their translation of Hungarian Holocaust survivor Anna Molnár Hegedűs’s 1945 memoir *As the Lilacs Bloomed*, which was also awarded a gold medal at the 2015 Independent Publisher Book Awards. The jury noted the “creativity and rigour” necessary to translate such a challenging work. This is the first year the prize has been awarded for a work translated from Hungarian.
- **Last but not least: please make sure you have paid your annual HSAC dues for 2015. And while you are at it, why not pay the dues for 2016 too? Membership includes subscription to *Hungarian Studies Review*. The easiest way is to print the membership application form on our website: [http://www.hungarianstudies.org/APPLICATION\\_FOR\\_MEMBERSHIP.pdf](http://www.hungarianstudies.org/APPLICATION_FOR_MEMBERSHIP.pdf) and mail it with your cheque to Margit Lovrics whose address is provided on the form. US personal cheques are accepted by our bank. Thank you.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE AND BEST WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR!**