

HSA
Hungarian Studies Association
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December 2008

NEWSLETTER

Minutes of the Business Meeting

The second business meeting for the 2008 calendar year was held concurrently with the AAASS Philadelphia, PA, Convention on Saturday, November 22nd at 8.15 am. The meeting was chaired by Alice Freifeld.

Report from the meeting:

- a. Report from the president on attempts to cooperate with other central European Associations. We have agreed to create links between the websites of the associations and to share panel ideas for future AAASS conferences.

- b. Report from the Treasurer

Balance 12/6/2007	\$3,164.59
Income - dues	<u>785.00</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$3,949.59</i>
Expenditures	
Hungarian Studies Review	495.00
Central European Reception	250.00
Business Meeting (2008)	66.00
Website maintenance (for 2008)	<u>160.00</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>971.00</i>
Closing balance 12/1/2008	\$2,978.59

- c. As no books were nominated for the biennial book award, the award was not given. If you would like to nominate a book or an article please contact the members of the committee (Paul Hanebrink, Arpad von Klimo and S. Bela Vardy).
- d. The 41st National Convention of the AAASS will be held at the Marriott Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts November 12th - 15th, 2009. The theme of the 2009 convention is "Reading and Writing Lives." Deadline for receipt of **complete panel and roundtable proposals** is January 16, 2009.

The following panel proposals were made: (The email addresses of those proposing the panels are in brackets. Please contact them directly if you would like to join the panel)

- World War I – Jack Tunstall (tunstall@mail.cas.usf.edu)
- **A complete panel:** “Hungarians and Czecho-Slovaks in the Short Twentieth Century.”
Participants/papers:
“Loyalty of the Czechoslovak Troops in the Habsburg Armies during World War I” - Jack Tunstall
“Ragged Guards in 1939” - Béla Bodó –

“Hungarian military intervention in Slovakia in August 1968” - Peter Pastor
(pastorp@mail.montclair.edu)

**The panel needs a commentator and a chair. Contact Peter Pastor at
pastorp@mail.montclair.edu**

- The 20th anniversary of 1989 – Federigo Argentieri (fargentieri@johncabot.it)
 - Sabotage cases in the 1950s – Edit Nagy (nagyedit@yahoo.com)
 - Fairs and exhibitions – Alice Freifeld (freifeld@history.ufl.edu); György Peteri (gyorgy.peteri@hf.ntnu.no)
 - Life styles and consumption in the 1950s, 1960s - György Peteri (gyorgy.peteri@hf.ntnu.no)
 - Transnational organizations, amnesty international – Katalin Fabian (fabiank@lafayette.edu)
- e. In January 2009 two positions on our executive board will become vacant (Edit Nagy, U. of Florida, and John Swanson, Utica Coll.). We have received five nominations (Julia Bock, Long Island U.), Béla Bodó (Missouri State U), Steve Jobbitt (U. of California, Fullerton) and David Frey (U.S. Military Academy, West Point), Jack Tunstall (U. of Florida). A separate ballot will be emailed.
- f. Alice Freifeld reported that in spite of all her efforts, she was not successful in reducing the obstacles faced by American historians in trying to access Hungarian archives. While all EU member countries, except for Hungary, find it satisfactory that US scholars sign affidavits that they will meet local legal requirements and laws; this is not acceptable for Hungarian authorities.
- g. Call for papers for the 34th Annual Conference of the **American Hungarian Educators’ Association**, to be held **May 14 – 16, 2009**, at the University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California.

The theme of the conference is “Hungarians in the New World”. Proposals should consist of an abstract of not more than 250 words; a brief scholarly biography, including degrees, scholarly fields (50-100 words); any audio-visual requirements; and full contact information. Proposals must be submitted as an email attachment (Word only) no later than **March 9, 2009**, to the Program Chairs. Please use your last name as the document title, as in Smith.doc. Only one submission per author will be considered. Individual paper presentations are limited to no more than twenty minutes to allow for ten minutes of discussion following the presentation. The primary language of the conference is English; some sessions may be conducted in Hungarian, depending on the agreement of the session attendees.

Program Committee:

Cultural Studies: Louise Vasvári (louise.vasvari@sunysb.edu)

Education: Judith Kesserű Némethy (jn2@nyu.edu)

History: Peter Pastor (pastorp@mail.montclair.edu)

Literature: Enikő M. Basa (eniko.basa@verizon.net)

Music/Folklore: K. Magyar (magyar@magyar.org) and J. Olson (JudyOlson@aol.com)

Political Science/Economics: Susan Glanz (glanzs@stjohns.edu)

For more information visit the AHEA’s website: <http://magyar.org/ahea>

- h. Jack Tunstall (tunstall@mail.cas.usf.edu) is one of the editors of the *Historian*. You may submit articles to him.
- i. The next issue of the *Hungarian Studies Review* will focus on Transylvania. If you would like to contribute, please contact Nandor Dresziger, the editor of the journal at nandor@kingston.net.

- j. The showing of the movie, *Iszka Utazása/Iska's Journey* on the first night of the AAASS Philadelphia convention was successful. We will sponsor a movie again next year. Thanks to Catherine Portuges.

The meeting was closed at 10 am.

Submitted by,

Susan

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The first business meeting next year will be held at the **January 2009 AHA** convention. The business meeting has been scheduled for **Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm** at NYC's Sheraton Hotel, Madison Suite 2.

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Announcements, Presentations and Publications by our members:

Mario Fenyő, was elected vice president of the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS).
_____, "Paprika" in the *World History Bulletin*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1 (Spring 2008).
_____, Foreword to "Rose Lore; Essays in Cultural History and Semiotics", ed. Frankie Hutton, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

Alice Freifeld, "War Crimes Trials: A Public Discourse in Postwar Hungary," in *Beyond camps and forced labour. Current international research on survivors of Nazi persecution*. (Osnabrueck, Germany: Secolo Verlag, 2008).

_____, "Empress Elisabeth as Hungarian Queen: The Uses of Celebrity Monarchism" in *The Limits of Loyalty: Imperial symbolism, popular allegiances, and state patriotism in the late Habsburg Monarchy*, Laurence Cole and Daniel L. Unowsky, ed. (NY: Berghahn Books, 2007), 138-161.

_____, "Identity on the Move: Hungarian Jewry between Budapest and the DP Camps, 1945-1948," *The Holocaust in Hungary, Sixty Years Later*, edited by Randolph L. Braham and Brewster S. Chamberlin, East European monographs, no. 678 (New York: Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 2006), 177-200.

_____, reviewed András Gerő's, *Imagined History: Chapters from Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Hungarian Symbolic Politics* (CHSP Hungarian Studies Series. New Jersey: Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, 2006), in the *Austrian History Yearbook* 39 (2008) p.212.

Catherine Portuges, Moderator/presenter/editor, "A Tribute to László Kovács: Commemorating the Cinematographer" publication of the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, Los Angeles, March 2008

_____, "The Third Generation: Hungarian Jews on Screen" American Hungarian Educators' Association, <http://hungaria.org/uploaded/documents/Portuges%20C%20%20Third%20generation.pdf>

_____, "Urban Renewal: Budapest's 7th District in Contemporary Cinema" Project on European Cinemas Colloquium *Prise de rue/Street Takes*, McGill University/Cinémathèque Québécoise, Montreal 18, September 2008.

Miklós Müller was interviewed by the Russian *Medicinskaja Gazeta*, Nov. 28, 2008. p.16.

Alfred Reisch gave a lecture on "Central and Southeastern Europe and European Integration" at the NATO European Security Cooperation Course at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. (October 1, 2008)

_____, presented a paper on "The West's Secret Book Distribution Program During the Cold War" at the International Conference on Central Europe in the Cold War, 1945-1989 held in Warsaw, Poland on October 16-18, 2008.

_____, "A SZER Magyar Kutató- és Értékelő Osztálya: története, felépítése, feladatai és teljesítménye" appeared in Vol.VII, No.2, Summer 2008 of *Magyar Külügyi Szemle*.

Ivan Sanders, "Ünnep után", *Élet és Irodalom*, 2008. Okt.

<http://www.es.hu/pd/display.asp?channel=AGORA0844&article=2008-1102-2009-29ICNL>

Gábor Vermes' review of Frank Tibor's, *Picturing Austria-Hungary. The British Perception of the Habsburg Monarchy, 1865-1870*. (CHSP Hungarian Studies Series 6. New Jersey: Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, 2005) was published in *Austrian History Yearbook* 39 (2008) (p.210).

_____, review of Dénes Iván Zoltán's (ed.), *Liberty and Search for Identity. Liberal Nationalisms and the Legacy of Empires*. (Budapest: Central European Press, 2006) was published in *Austrian History Yearbook* 39 (2008) (p. 184).

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Czigány Lóránt
1935-2008

His obituary can be found at <http://www.jamk.hu/ujforras/970915.htm>

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Call for papers:

a. The Central European Journal for International and Security Studies (CEJISS) welcomes scholarly contributions for upcoming issues of the journal. CEJISS is a peer-reviewed journal committed to exploring the scholarly opinions, theories and ideas of experts and academics interested in five general subject-areas:

- International, European and Regional Security
- Political Theory related to International or European Relations/Security
- International and European Political Economy

Contact: Rouba Al-Fattal, Chief Communication Officer at al-fattal@cejiss.org

b. The University of Rochester Press is accepting manuscripts for its series entitled *Rochester Studies in Central Europe*.

Professor Timothy Snyder, Professor of History at Yale University, is series editor, and is assisted by a panel of scholars from a variety of institutions. The editorial board seeks titles and formats ranging from monographs to edited volumes representing myriad points of view.

The series currently includes contemporary and historical works in the social sciences and culture relating to all areas of Central Europe (i.e., the European part of the former Soviet Empire, including the western Soviet Republics), Central European diasporas, and the eastern borderland of the European Union. We seek manuscripts pertaining to comparative politics, history, religion, film and media, urban and gender studies. We will consider historical memoir and works in translation where the English language rights have been secured.

To submit an appropriate project for consideration, please send a formal proposal or prospectus. The proposal should include: 1) a brief but detailed synopsis of the work, outlining its intended contribution to the existing literature; 2) an abstract of 300 words or less, summarizing the work's content; 3) a complete table of contents and one or two sample chapters; 4) an updated CV. All scholars with an interest in submitting their work for consideration should contact the series editor or URP editorial director Suzanne E. Guiod: guiod@uofrochesterpress.net.

c. History of European Integration Research Society Colloquium 2009 to be held at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence, 6th - 7th of March 2009 and to be titled **"THE CULTURAL LENS"**: Innovative Approaches and Methodologies on the History of European Integration". **DEADLINE: 15th of December 2008**. Abstracts of 500 words maximum should be sent to: heirs-eu@uk2.net

d. The Academy of International Business (AIB) will hold its Annual Meeting, in San Diego, California, USA, June 27-30, 2009. Theme: Is the World Flat or Spiky? Implications for International Business. **Submission Deadline:** January 15th, 2009. For more information visit the organization's website <http://aib.msu.edu/events/2009/callForPapers.asp>

e. International Federation for Research on Women's History, will hold its next conference between 08/22-28/2010, in Amsterdam, NL. The deadline for submitting proposals is **December 31, 2008**. The general theme of the 2010 conference will be: "Unequal Sisters: Women, Gender, and Global Inequalities in Historical Perspective." Proposals for papers and panels should be sent to Francisca de Haan at dehaanf@ceu.hu

f. The 2nd Global Conference titled Intellectuals, Knowledge, Power, Ideas, will be held May 8-10, 2009 in Budapest. For more information visit the conference's website is at: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ci/intellecuals/int2/cfp.html>

g. 1st Global Conference titled Evil, Women and the Feminine will be held in Budapest on May 1-3, 2009 .

This inter-disciplinary conference seeks to examine issues surrounding the conjunction between evil and the feminine. In many cultures women have been long suspected as the source of sundry human miseries, however basic to society they may be. At the same time as ideals of purity and dedication to family have been exalted and feminine beauty lauded, women have been viewed as embodying sinister forces of evil. Mistrusted as seductive and beguiling, women are also often thought of as vengeful, manipulative and even malevolent. In grappling with our understanding of what it is to be 'evil', the project aims to shine a spotlight on this dark area of the human condition and explore the possible sources of the fear and resentment of women. For more information visit the conference's website: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ati/ewf/ewf1/cfp.html>

h. The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) distributed a call for papers earlier this week, as the scholarly organization prepares for its annual conference, to be held on May 29-30, 2009 at Carleton University. Papers presenting original, unpublished research on any topic or period in Hungarian literature, cinema, art, theatre, music, history, politics, language and language pedagogy are welcome. Papers may be presented in either of Canada's official languages—English and French—or in Hungarian. This year, HSAC requires that an abstract or outline (maximum 600 words) be in the hands of the program chair no later than 10 January 2009. All papers can be submitted to Professor Schwartz, the conference's program chair, by e-mail at: agathas@uottawa.ca.



Publications of possible interest:

Benedek Láng, *Unlocked Books: Manuscripts of Learned Magic in the Medieval Libraries of Central Europe* (Magic in History Series), University Park: Penn State Press. 2008.

During the Middle Ages, the Western world translated the incredible Arabic scientific corpus and imported it into Western culture: Arabic philosophy, optics, and physics, as well as alchemy, astrology, and talismanic magic. The line between the scientific and the magical was blurred. According to popular lore, magicians of the Middle Ages were trained in the art of magic in "magician schools" located in various metropolitan areas, such as Naples, Athens, and Toledo. It was common knowledge that magic was learned and that cities had schools designed to teach the dark arts. The Spanish city of Toledo, for example, was so renowned for its magic training schools that "the art of Toledo" was synonymous with "the art of magic." Until Benedek Láng's work on *Unlocked Books*, little had been known about the place of magic outside these major cities. A principal aim of *Unlocked Books* is to situate the role of central Europe as a center for the study of magic.

Láng helps chart for us how the thinkers of that day clerics, courtiers, and university masters included in their libraries not only scientific and religious treatises but also texts related to the field of learned magic. These texts were all enlisted to solve life's questions, whether they related to the outcome of an illness or the meaning of lines on one's palm. Texts summoned angels or transmitted the recipe for a magic potion. Láng gathers magical texts that could have been used by practitioners in late fifteenth-century central Europe.

Charles Gáti, *Failed Illusions: Moscow, Washington, Budapest, and the 1956 Hungarian Revolt* (Cold War International History Project), Stanford: Stanford U. press. Now published in paperback.

Anders Aslund, *How Capitalism Was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia*, Cambridge University Press, 2007. (Paperback)

Amity Shlaes, *The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression* (Paperback). NY: Harper Perennial, 2008.

Its duration and depth made the Depression "Great," and Shlaes, a prominent conservative economics journalist, considers why a decade of government intervention ameliorated but never tamed it. With vitality uncommon for an economics history, Shlaes chronicles the projects of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt as well as these projects' effect on those who paid for them. Reminding readers that the reputedly do-nothing Hoover pulled hard on the fiscal levers (raising tariffs, increasing government spending), Shlaes nevertheless emphasizes that his enthusiasm for intervention paled against the ebullient FDR's glee in experimentation. She focuses closely on the influence of his fabled Brain Trust, her narrative shifting among Raymond Moley, Rexford Tugwell, and other prominent New Dealers. Businesses that litigated their resistance to New Deal regulations attract Shlaes' attention, as do individuals who coped with the despair of the 1930s through self-help, such as Alcoholics Anonymous cofounder Bill Wilson. The book culminates in the rise of Wendell Willkie, and Shlaes' accent on personalities is an appealing avenue into her skeptical critique of the New Deal.

Ferenc Barnas, *The Ninth: A Novel* (Writings from an Unbound Europe) (Paperback) Paul Olchvary (Translator), Northwestern University Press, 2009.

Johanna Granville, *“If Hope is Sin, Then We Are All Guilty”*: Romanian Students’ Reactions to the Hungarian Revolution and Soviet Intervention, 1956–1958, (2008) The Carl Beck Papers #1905. Center for Russian & East European Studies, University Center for International Studies, U. of Pittsburgh.

The events of 1956 (the Twentieth CPSU Congress, Khrushchev’s Secret Speech, and the Hungarian revolution) had a strong impact on the evolution of the Romanian communist regime, paving the way for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Romania in 1958, the stricter policy toward the Transylvanian Hungarians, and Romania’s greater independence from the USSR in the 1960s. Students complained about their living and studying conditions long before the outbreak of the Hungarian crisis. Ethnic Hungarians from Transylvania listened closely to Budapest radio stations, and Romanian students in Budapest in the summer of 1956 were especially affected by the ferment of ideas there.

For the Gheorghiu-Dej regime, the Hungarian revolution and Soviet invasion provided a useful excuse to end the destalinization process and crack the whip conclusively— carrying out mass arrests, but also granting short-term concessions to ethnic minorities and workers.

Of all segments of the Romanian population, university students were the most discontented. Drawing on archival documents, published memoirs, and recent Romanian scholarship, this paper analyzes and compares the student unrest in Bucharest, Cluj, Iași, and Timișoara. Due to a combination of psychological, logistical, and historical factors, students in the latter city were especially vocal and organized. On October 30 over 2,000 students from the Polytechnic Institute in Timișoara met with party officials, demanding changes in living and study conditions, as well as the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Romania. Another 800-1,000 students convened on October 31, calling for the release of students who were arrested the day before. Obvious discrepancies between the Romanian and Hungarian media sparked their curiosity about events in Hungary, while their cramped dorm rooms actually facilitated student meetings. In the Banat region itself, a tradition of anti-communist protest had prevailed since 1945. Although arrested *en masse*, these students set a vital precedent—especially for the Timișoarans who launched the Romanian Revolution thirty-three years later.

Péter György, **Spirit of the Place, From Mauthausen to MoMA**, Budapest: CEU Press, 2008.

"Péter György’s excellent book is a rare example of fresh, wide-ranging prose about the complex relationship between history and the media, memory and art, politics and culture. György has a Wunderkammerlike imagination. And with a storyteller’s eye for detail, he reconsiders, among much else, the Holocaust in terms of the architecture of mass murder, reminding us how our perceptions depend not on picturing drama through films or television but on an absence of visual spectacles and a close reconsideration of the true relics of megalomania. He visits Freud museums in St. Petersburg, London and Vienna, which leads him to an exhibition of Robert Longo drawings and then to a meditation on Austrian self-reflection and, in the manner of an archeologist, to further layers of meaning, inscribed in the institutions and symbols of the past. Likewise, with the Hungarian uprising in 1956, which Hungary has largely erased from its past, and in the process lost touch with itself, ominously. All in all, a book full of insight and implication."

Michael Kimmelman, *New York Times*

Bernard Mees, **The Science of the Swastika**, Budapest: CEU Press, 2008.

The first theoretically informed study of the relationship between an academic discipline and what the Nazis termed their *Weltanschauung*.

The first study of *Sinnbildforschung*, German ideograph or swastika studies, though more broadly it tells the tale of the development of German antiquarian studies (ancient Germanic history, archaeology, anthropology, folklore, historical linguistics and philology) under the influence of radical right wing politics, and the contemporary construction of ‘Germanicness’ and its role in Nazi thought. The swastika and similar symbols were employed by the ancestors of the modern day Germans. As these had also become emblematic symbols of the forces of German reaction, *Sinnbildforschung* became intrinsically connected with the National Socialist regime after 1933 and disappeared along with the Third Reich in 1945.

With the Nazi seizure of power, ideographic studies became directly supported by the state. In 1935 an organization was founded within the SS to further its study, the *SS-Ahnenerbe*. Most infamous as the organ through which medical experiments were arranged to be performed on the inmates of concentration camps, the *Ahnenerbe* was founded as a historical research institution before it expanded its horizons to the physical sciences.

Jill A. Irvine, Carol S. Lilly, Eds., *Natalija, Life in the Balkan Powder Keg, 1880–1956*, Budapest: CEU Press, 2009.

The life story of a Serbian woman over a period of more than 70 years, preserved in memoirs, letters and mostly diaries, recounts the triumphs and tragedies of a life that takes place against the backdrop of extraordinary turbulence in the Balkans. It covers more than half a century, five wars (including the two world wars), and four ideologies.

This is a time of excitement in Serbia as its leaders carve an independent state out of the Ottoman Empire and attempt to modernize a largely rural and “backward” corner of Europe. A time of opportunity for many who join in the effort to build the infrastructure of a modern economy, as well as the growing number of middle class families who send their children, in rare cases even girls, to the emerging system of state schools. Above all, a time of war, as the expanding Serbian state comes into conflict with its neighbors and, ultimately, the Great Powers of Europe. Accompanied by an introductory study, *Natalija’s* diary provides a rich background to understanding the on-going conflict in the Balkans today.



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

Susan