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Hungarian Studies Association

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February 2011

NEWSLETTER

Treasurer's Report

Balance 12/22/2009	\$3,341.26
<u>Dues paid</u>	<u>\$ 925</u>
Subtotal	\$ 4,266.26
Article award	\$ 200.00*
Book award	\$ 200.00
Website maintenance	\$ 160.00
Hungarian Studies Review	\$ 975.00
<u>Central European Reception</u>	<u>\$ 110.00</u>
Subtotal expenditures	\$ 1,645.00

Balance 12/22/2010 **\$2,621.26**

*The Article Award was given in 2009, but the check was only cashed in 2010.

Denis Sinor
1916-2011

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University, Denis Sinor was born in Hungary on April 17, 1916 and educated in Hungary, Switzerland, and France. Between 1939 and 1948, he held various teaching and research assignments in France. During WWII he rendered modest services to the French Resistance; he joined the Free French Forces and was demobilized in November 1945.

From 1948 to 1962 he was on the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Cambridge University, U.K. In 1962 he moved to Indiana University where he created the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies, now Department of Central Eurasian Studies, of which he was Chairman from 1963 to 1981. In 1967 he founded the Asian Studies Research Institute, later named Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, which he directed until 1981, and which was renamed in 2006 The Denis Sinor Institute for Inner Asian Studies. From 1963 to 1988 he was Director of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, the only one of its kind in the country.

A former president of the American Oriental Society, Sinor was active in various national and international scholarly societies in which he held positions of high international importance. He received two Guggenheim Fellowships, as well as grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the ACLS, NEH, and IREX. He was a Corresponding Member of the French Académie des Inscriptions et belles-Lettres, an Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and a Foreign Member of the Academia Europaea. Honors received include a doctorate *honoris causa* of the University of Szeged (1971), and Honorary Memberships of the Société Asiatique (Paris) and the Societas Uralo-Altaica (Hamburg). He was awarded the Arminius Vambery Medal (1983), the Gold Medal of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (1982, 1996), the Order of the Star of Hungary (1986), the Silver Avicenna Medal of UNESCO (1998), the Medal of Honor of the American Oriental Society (1999) and the Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medaillon of Indiana University. In his honor, The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain created the Denis Sinor Medal for Inner Asian Studies.

On the occasion of his 85th birthday the Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences honored him with a *Festschrift*. In 2002 Denis Sinor was the recipient of a medal from the University of Szeged, which referenced “imperishable services rendered to the university.” Also in 2002 he was elected honorary member of the Institute of Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 2005 he was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences; he was inducted into the Indiana University President’s Circle by President Adam Herbert in September 2005. In the same year he received the UNESCO 60th Anniversary Medal, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the preparation of the *History of the Civilizations of Central Asia*. In 2006 he was awarded the John W. Ryan Award for distinguished contributions to international programs and studies at Indiana University. The University of Kazan, one of the major universities in the Russian Federation, awarded him an Honorary Doctorate in 2007. In September 2008 President Michael A. McRobbie honored him with the President’s Medal, the highest honor that the President of Indiana University can bestow.

By order of the President of the Republic of Hungary, as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hungarian Revolution, he received the prestigious Commander’s Cross Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary (2007) for his “highly respected and internationally renowned achievements in the field of sciences and for his outstanding leadership in promoting Hungarian science and culture in the United States.”

Denis Sinor authored 8 books and more than 160 articles in Hungarian, French, English and German, and edited 14 books. Many of these were translated into other languages, including Russian and Chinese. He contributed to various encyclopedias, including the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He served as editor of the *Journal of Asian History* since its inception in 1967, and also for the *Indiana University Uralic and Altaic Series* (over 174 volumes) and the *Indiana University Oriental Series*.



A young journalist, Tyler Bridges, contacted me some time ago looking for help researching his father’s life as a prisoner of war in Hungary during WWII. He is writing a book about his father. I asked him to send me a short article about his father.

As dawn broke on October 2, 1943, 1st Lt. Richard Bridges couldn’t be sure of his whereabouts. He had just survived the most harrowing day of his life. The American B-24 that he piloted – known as the Fascinating Witch – had been bombing a Messerschmitt airframe factory in Wiener Neustadt the previous day when German fighter planes and anti-aircraft gunners blasted it from the sky. Although Bridges didn’t know so at the time, three of his crew members were killed and six others who had parachuted to Austrian soil below would be captured by the Germans.

Bridges didn't actually jump out of the Fascinat' Witch. Instead, the burning plane exploded with him in it. Somehow he survived the explosion, and somehow his parachute opened. He landed in a tree. Burned, bloody and barefoot, he evaded capture in Austria as he made his way toward Yugoslavia. He spent several hours sleeping in the woods that night.

Bridges was 23 years old, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The oldest of three children, he had been majoring in math at the University of Indiana when he enlisted in the army air force immediately after the Japanese attack against Pearl Harbor.

Bridges had never been in a situation remotely similar to the one that now confronted him. He resumed walking before dawn on October 2, doing his best to hobble while remaining vigilant. He found a path heading southeast and decided to follow it. At about 9 a.m., Bridges happened upon two men cutting wood with axes. Bridges eyed them warily. He must have been a sight. He still wore his flying jacket and coveralls, but his clothes were torn, blood clotted his hair and he wasn't wearing shoes. How would he defend himself if they attacked?

But to Bridges' amazement, the woodcutters let him pass unmolested. He kept limping along. Around noon, Bridges came upon a group of peasants. Hungry, wounded and wiped out from the arduous trek, he reluctantly turned himself in. "I'm an American airman," he declared. "Are you Nazis?" he asked.

The peasants motioned for Bridges to follow them. Just as they were reaching a village, he passed a boy with "Magyar" sewn into a uniform sleeve. Bridges realized that he had reached Hungary! He didn't know exactly what this meant for him. But he thought he would fare better in Hungary than in Austria.

Bridges mulled over this development as the peasants led him to the mayor's house. There, he learned he had reached the village of Velem, a few miles into Hungary. It seemed that everyone in Velem crowded around the stranger who had dropped in from nowhere. The mayor brought out milk and bread, which Bridges gratefully accepted. Townsfolk put salve on his burns. But they also called authorities, and he was arrested. The Hungarian colonel who came to fetch him, however, didn't know what to do with Bridges. He was the first American prisoner of war in Hungary.

Bridges was sent to Military Hospital #10 in Budapest. He was fortunate. A dermatologist named Dr. Denes Repassy was doing pioneering work in treating burn victims. Repassy also kept the Germans from knowing for several weeks that the Liberator pilot was at the hospital.

When the Germans did learn of Bridges' presence, they immediately demanded that he be sent to Frankfurt for a Luftwaffe interrogation. The Hungarians agreed, but only on the condition that he return to Hungary afterward. Bridges was fortunate once again. In Frankfurt, the Germans tried to keep him. But Major Kornel Kiraly, who accompanied Bridges, insisted that American pilot return with him to Hungary.

Since Hungary and the United States were not officially at war, Bridges was classified as an "internee." Hungarian authorities sent him to Gencsapati where he would be held with a group of Polish officers. In Gencsapati, Bridges enjoyed relative freedom and lived in a villa previously owned by Count Apponyi. On December 10, a month after his arrival, another American airman showed up at the villa. He was Sgt. Glenn Loveland. He had escaped from a German prisoner of war camp and trekked to Hungary.

Despite the relative comfort, Bridges and Loveland readily agreed when members of the Polish Underground invited them to escape. Helping organize the plan were the Rev. Alexander Szent-Ivanyi of the Unitarian Church in Budapest, and Col. Charles Howie, the senior Allied prisoner of war in Hungary, who was hiding out at Szent-Ivanyi's church.

While a guard in Gencsapati looked the other way, Bridges and Loveland left to take a train to Budapest, traveling with fake Polish papers. There, they were joined by a Polish internee and Lt. Gerit van der Waals, a Dutch soldier who had escaped into Hungary. From Budapest, the four men took a train to Barcs. There, they planned to cross the Drava River by boat and try to hook up with Tito's Partisans in Yugoslavia, according to an account provided in 1944 by Bridges that is now housed at the U.S. National Archives.

After night fell in Barcs, Bridges and the three others went to the meeting spot, in a cornfield, near the river. The boatman didn't show. Instead, several policemen were waiting. They arrested the four would-be escapees. Bridges and Loveland were sent to Pecs and from there to the castle in Siklos. Again, they enjoyed comforts unknown to American POWs in Germany. Accompanied by a guard, they could walk the two blocks to town to buy food and toiletries with pengos given to them by the Hungarian government. The castle offered a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside. It was at the castle that Bridges wrote a letter to his parents on March 6, 1944, where he provided news of his shutdown and capture.

The war intruded on Bridges when the Germans occupied Hungary on March 19. German troops arrived at the castle a couple of days later and sent him, Loveland and other Allied POWs in sealed boxcars to Yugoslavia.

There, they narrowly escaped death on April 17, 1944, when American warplanes bombed the Belgrade train yard, across the Sava River from their prisoner of war camp. The bombs did blow a hole in the perimeter fence. Bridges, Loveland and three others escaped that night. By chance, they hooked up with the Partisans several days later. They narrowly escaped death and capture several times over the next three months while the Partisans sheltered them from the Germans.

In June 1944, the five escapees made contact with a British major who had been dropped in with the Partisans. The S.O.E. began organizing plans to rescue them. According to documents at U.K. National Archives, Bridges oversaw the work to turn a meadow into a rudimentary runway near the village of Morovic, in an area known as the Bosut Woods. On the night of July 20, 1944, hand-held torches helped guide a British C-47 onto the improvised landing ground. A diversion two miles away kept a German armored train from firing on them. Wounded Partisans and then the five escaped POWs were loaded onto the British plane. An hour after landing, the British plane took off for an Allied air base in Bari, Italy. Bridges' war had ended.

If you would like to get in touch with Tyler, his email address is: tegridges@gmail.com.

László Ritter's also wrote an account of 1st Lt. Richard Bridges that was published in the August, 2010 issue of *História*. The article is titled: Az első amerikai hadifogoly Magyarországon 1943–1944 (The first American POW in Hungary 1943-44).



For fun: I. I. Ferenc császár 1806-ban rendelte el a „Zweite oder Franziszeische Landesaufnahme”-t, (a második illetve Ferenc-féle országfelmérést), amelyet ma a II. katonai felmérésnek hívunk. 1819-től egészen 1869-ig készültek a földrajzilag pontos szemelvények, amelyek végül összefüggően ábrázolták a teljes Osztrák Birodalmat. A papírokat a Magyar Országos Levéltár nagy felbontásban beszkenelte és felpakolta a netre, még hozzá egyeseken összekötve a Google Mapsszel, osztott képernyőn. Ez azt jelenti, hogy párhuzamosan nézhetjük végig a korabeli állapotot és a mai fotókat. A Google képei természetesen sokkal részletesebbek, és biztos, hogy a nem-történéseket is leköti.

Klikk http://archivportal.arcanum.hu/maps/html/katfelm2b_google.html

Also from the Hungarian Archives:

1. Digital Library of Medieval Hungary
http://mol.arcanum.hu/medieval/opt/a101101.htm?v=pdf&a=start_f
2. Database of Archival Documents of Medieval Hungary
<http://mol.arcanum.hu/dldf/opt/a101129htm?v=pdf&a=start>
2. Explore museums from around the world, discover and view hundreds of artworks at incredible zoom levels, and even create and share your own collection of masterpieces:
<http://www.googleartproject.com/>.



Publications, presentations by our members:

István Deák's, review of Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler And Stalin* was published in the December 2010 issue of *The New Republic*.

Mary Gluck reviewed Paul Reitter's *The Anti-Journalist: Karl Kraus and Jewish Self-Fashioning in Fin-de-Siècle Europe* in March 2010 issue of *The Journal of Modern History*.

Árpád von Klimó reviewed Miklós Zeidler, *Ideas on Territorial Revision in Hungary 1920—1945*. Social Sciences Monographs (CHSP Hungarian Studies Series No. 15): Boulder CO, 2007 in the *European History Quarterly* (July 2010).

Müller Miklós, „Lisztenko alkotó szovjet darwinizmusa és hatása Magyarországon” at the Hungarian Heritage Center American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, on February 25, 2011.

Ivan Sanders: *A Legacy Revisited*, a review of Gergely Angyalosi, Csilla E. Csorba, Ernő Kulcsár Szabó and György Tverdota, eds., *Nyugat népe: Tanulmányok a Nyugatról és koráról* (People of the West: The Journal Nyugat [West] and Its Age). Budapest: Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum, 2009, 439 pp., illustrated; Ágnes Kelevéz and Judit Szilágyi, eds., *Nyugat-Képeskönyv: Fotók, dokumentumok a Nyugat történetéből* (A Nyugat Picture Book: Photographs and Documents). Budapest: Petőfi Irodalmi Múzeum, 2009, 286 pp. was published in winter 2010 issue of the *Hungarian Quarterly*.

_____, *Going His Own Way*, a review of Michael Scammell, *Koestler: The Literary and Political Odyssey of a Twentieth-Century Skeptic*. New York: Random House, 2009, 689 pp., illustrated, in summer 2010 issue of the *Hungarian Quarterly*.

Alfred Reisch, on Oct. 21, 2010 chaired the East European panel at an International Conference on the Solidarity movement, Wrocław, Poland.

_____, on November 4, 2010 gave a lecture on Central and South-Eastern Europe and European Security Cooperation at the NATO Allied Transformation Command in Norfolk, VA.

_____, on November 25, 2010 gave a lecture on Central Europe and European Integration and Security at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany.

_____, on November 30, 2010 lectured on Turkish-Ukrainian Relations at an international conference on Slovakia and Ukraine held at the Slovak Foreign Policy Institute, Bratislava.

Gábor Vermes, “In the Whirl of Cultural Changes Hungary between 1711 and 1848” at the Consulate of Hungary, NY on February 24, 2011.



Books of possible interest published in Hungary:

Rab Virág, *Diagnózisok és terápiaik, javaslatok az európai gazdaság újjáépítésére az első világháború után*, Budapest: Gondolat Kiadó, 2010.

Szakolczai György, Szabó Róbert, *Két kísérlet a proletárdiktatúra elhárítására. Barankovics és a DNP, 1945-1949. Bibó és a DNP, 1956*. Budapest: Gondolat Kiadó, 2010.

Károly Attila Soós, *Politics and Policies in Post-Communist Transition*, Budapest, CEU Press, 2010.

Kun Miklós, *A "prágai tavasz" titkos története*, Budapest: Akadémia Kiadó, 2010.

Pók Attila, *A haladás hitele*, Budapest: Akadémia Kiadó, 2010.

Ernő Marosi, ed., *On the Stage of Europe*. Budapest: Balassi, 2009.

Miklós Vajda, *Anyakép amerikai keretben*, Budapest: Magvető, 2010, 208 pp.

Agárdi Péter, Bródy Sándor utca 5–7. *Rádió és médiapolitika a századforduló Magyarországon*. Budapest: Új Mandátum Kiadó. 2010.

Angelusz Róbert (szerk.), *A társadalmi rétegződés komponensei. Válogatott tanulmányok*. Budapest: Új Mandátum Kiadó. 2010.

Halmos Károly, *Családi kapitalizmus*. Budapest: Új Mandátum Kiadó. 2010.



Research help

Do you need help with locating items or have difficult reference questions in the Slavic field? If so, you may want to try this free year-round service of the **University of Illinois Slavic and East European Library**. The Slavic Reference Service handles bibliographic and reference questions in the humanities and social sciences from individuals and libraries. Over 65% of the titles requested have been found to be already in our library. Items in our collection profile that are unavailable in North American libraries are usually requested from European libraries and made available for loan. The Service is supported in part by grants from the U.S. Department of Education and Department of State.

In addition to contacting the Slavic Reference Service directly, you can find information that you may find useful by browsing the Slavic and East European Library website. The reference staff have a blog, srscite.blogspot.com, with the most recent online resources they have found useful in answering requests. They have also created a [guide to Slavic information resources](#) that contains information about many of the print and electronic resources available in the Slavic field.

What the library will do: Answer information queries. If you are in need of a specific piece of information, they will be glad to try to answer your query. They will use print and online resources in our searches. They also assist patrons with their questions on the use of East European and Cyrillic fonts and keyboards on the Internet.

Identify and lend materials in our collection. Identify libraries that hold materials you need. They will search to find libraries in the U.S. and Western Europe that can lend or copy the title you need if it is not in our collection.

Correct citations. Oftentimes, titles are not fully or correctly cited in the existing bibliographic literature. Their staff is trained to search for the correct form of the citation, ensuring that you get the material you need.

Order materials. If you need a specific title and it is not held in the United States, they will order a microfilm copy. When the film is received, they will notify you. You will then be able to borrow the film or order a copy to be made.

Offer a free federally funded service that acts as a clearing house for people seeking information on the Slavic world in the areas of the social sciences and humanities.

Suggest reference materials you might find relevant for your work. Unfortunately, they cannot be held responsible for the completeness or accuracy of Internet information. They do not compile bibliographies on specific topics

Main Library, University of Illinois, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801

Phone: 217-333-1349; Fax:217-333-2214

Email: srscite@library.illinois.edu



I received the following email from Lynn Hooker from Indiana U.:

Dear colleagues:

This email is to announce Indiana University's 31st György Ránki Hungarian Chair Symposium:

**Hungary and the Postcommunist World
Two Decades After 1989**

Saturday-Sunday April 2-3, 2011

**Kelley School of Business Graduate and Executive Education Center, Room 1008;
1275 E. 10th St., Indiana University, Bloomington**

Admission is free and open to the public (though pre-registration is requested). A preliminary program is attached with further details (subject to change). Please circulate this announcement to interested colleagues and organizations.

Köszönettel,
Lynn Hooker

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

Thank you!

Susan