

Magyar News Online

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Best Coin!

It is NumisMaster's pleasure to present you with this year's Coin of the Year. The field was full of innovation, creativity, and unparalleled craftsmanship, and we are extremely pleased with the nominees chosen. The Hungarian 50 Forint best exemplifies the title Coin of the Year. JFB World Coin News magazine has just announced the Coin of the Year: the Hungarian 50 Forint piece which was issued by the Hungarian National bank in 2006, in commemora-



tion of Revolution of 1956. Fifteen international entrees had been posted on the internet, and over a 100,000 votes around the world were cast for the Hungarian coin. It beat the entries from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Singapore, and two from the U.S.

The organizers announced the winner by January 28th, although the contest was originally scheduled to run until February 2nd, 2008.

The front of the 50-forint coin is the same as the normal ones in circulation; the back depicts the Parliament building and a flag with the hole in the middle – symbol of the Revolution of 1956.

BUSÓJÁRÁS

An old tradition in Hungary

By Oliver Valu

The following piece is about traditional Hungarian folk customs, which are extremely fascinating, imaginative, and amusing, specifically: Hungarian carnival season masquerading practices.

The months of the late autumn and winter seasons are a time of the year when the sky is dark and gray, the landscape is dull brown, the trees are bare, creating a spooky and frightening effect, and there is a bleakness, a dreariness, and a gloominess floating about in the air. So, it seems fitting that we have been pleasantly blessed with a series of festive, colorful holidays to brighten up these seasons and to add a touch of warmth to the spirit of humanity. Some of these include All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), Thanksgiving, Saint Nicholas' Eve (and day), Saint Lucia Day, Advent, Christmas, New Year's Eve, Epiphany (Vízkereszt in Hungarian), Carnival, and Saint Valentine's Day.

Carnival is a season of merry-making, which celebrates the burial or the end of winter and it is a welcoming of springtime. It originated from ancient times as a spring fertility ritual. It lasts from Epiphany (January 6th) to Shrove Tuesday (Húshagyó Kedd)- the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, which is a period of fasting. Some famous carnivals around the world occur in: Venice, Italy; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; New Orleans, Louisiana (Mardi Gras); and Hungarian "Farsang" celebrations including the Busójárás Carnival in Mohács, southern Hungary. VisitEurope.com lists the major carnivals in Europe. During Farsang, there is the

fanciful, exquisite, and elegant as well as the fun, casual, and light-hearted. Like long ago, today there occur costume balls, dances, parties, parades, masquerading, and other strange and unusual fascinating practices that involve native traditional Folk customs. Some customs found in Hungarian villages include coloring children's faces black with soot, giving them a stick, and having them go from door to door in the neighborhood (like trick-or-treating) asking for a piece of bacon to stick on the end of their rod, which they later roast on a burning fire and eat merrily while singing. They'd also eat fánk which are Hungarian donuts. Also, in Szeged on the Saturday before Farsang Vasárnap (Sunday), there is a burning of a straw witch which is then thrown into the Tisza River and which is likely to cast out sickness and evil spirits from the village. This was even shown on Hungarian television.

The Fanta Carnival in Vörösmarty Tér, Budapest, is one of the year's Farsang celebrations and it includes a parade and a costume contest with special surprise appearances typically by Saint Nicholas, a Kossuth Lajos impersonator, a king and his knights, a krampusz (devilish monster), a busójáró (masked Venetian carnivalers, harlequins and clowns, uniformed marching bands, and many others including a lot of children.

A good intention is to visit Mohács in late winter to see for oneself this terrific part of Hungarian culture. During a visit to Hungary, one has the opportunity to go to Mohács and put the experience and learning about the busó customs into one's memory. Wonderful Farsang Vasárnap in Mohács is experienced by tourists via a bus trip on an Ibusz tour bus departing from Heroes Square (Hősök tere) in Budapest. Visits include Szekszárd, a wine region city with a lovely Roman Catholic church and scenic and picturesque views of the surrounding countryside from a lookout, a restaurant Erzsébet Söröző in Bóly, the Mohácsi Memorial Battlefield Monument, and finally the town of Mohács for the much-awaited focal point and exciting climax of the tour-busójárás.

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The practice of busójárás is performed in Mohács by the Sokác people, and it is found as well in Slovenia and Croatia also. The legend and belief also exists that this frightful ferocity was a battle technique to inspire fear in the troops of the Ottoman Turks to force their retreat and rid them from the land.

The Busójárás Carnival in Mohács is a 6-day celebration in the year (usually during February). It starts with a Thursday opening, then Kisfarsang (little carnival) Friday, then the biggest day being Farsang vasárnap which occurs on the 7th Sunday before Easter, and it ends with Farsang Temetés (Burial) Tuesday. The extensive schedule of events, programs, and attractions is listed in Mohacs.hu, the city's website. The day's celebrations includes a parade of wild, fierce, ferocious, frightening noise-making busójárás. They wear grotesque masks with real horns and carved of wood and painted by local craftsmen and they also wear big animal-skin furs and cowbells. They walk and ride in carriages, even with a coffin called busó temető. Some of the busós offer fánk donuts on the end of pitchforks and some gently whack females with an object representing a symbol of fertility. Also during the festival, the busós ride in boats on the Danube River. There is a ton of people watching the parade of busó-járás, which goes down a main street leading to a central square next to an Orthodox Church. The main street is lined with vendors and it is a delight to be able to buy a mask, fur, noise-maker, and other related items. There is also a stage where the Mayor of Mohács gives his welcoming and where dance groups perform to music in different beautiful styles of dress. Even the busós take to the stage to make merry during the festivities! There is cannon-fire and some witches run around playing tricks in the square and even a white-masked Saint Lucy makes an appearance during the parade. As the evening is to grow dark, a huge bonfire in the middle of the square is lit, a straw dummy representing winter is burned in effigy, and the busós proceed to dance around the fire to the amazement and astonishment of the spectators. There are more busójárás participating each year than the year before.

It is a good idea to make an effort to keeping these wonderful customs alive for the next generations to enjoy.



Busójárók Mohácsn

Anyám kovásza

*Kövi Pál írása, „Erdélyi lakoma” c. könyvéből.
Kriterion Könyvkiadó, Bukarest, 1980*

Amikor az emberek fiatalkori ételeiket próbálják visszaidézni, gyakran hatalmas cukormázos tortákra, omlós rétesekre gondolnak. Énnekem Anyám kenyere él az emlékezetemben tökéletes elevenséggel. A kenyér fontos helyet foglalt el életünkben. Megszegésének szertartása Anyám kiváltsága volt, s Ő, amikor kezébe vette, hogy leszelje belőle az étkezéshez épp szükséges mennyiséget, előbb rátette az örök élet és örök remény jelét. Mi még a ropogós serclit is csak azután kaptuk meg.

De emlékeim mégis a kenyérsütés csodálatos ősi ceremóniájához kapcsolódnak szorosabban. Minden, ami hozzátartozott, nálunk szent volt, pedig protestáns családban nemigen dobálóznak e fogalommal. Ide tartozott a két szakajtó is – egy hosszúkás nagyobb és egy kicsi gömbölyű – amelyeket semmi másra nem volt szabad használni, hiszen még szagot kaphatnak. A kisebbiket nagy kegyelettel később el is vittem magammal földi vándorutamra. Négy szép fehér damaszt volt még a sütés kelléke, amelyeket csak Anyám keze érintett, meg a meleg, illatos friss liszt.

De a legfontosabb a kovász volt. Minden családnak megvolt a maga kis kovásza, s valahogy szégyen is volt kovászt kölcsönkérni. Nem sokra becsülték azt az asszonyt, aki nem tudott a kovászra vigyázni.

A kovászt Anyám nagyanyámtól kapta, mikor férjhez ment és önálló háztartást kezdett. Nagyanyám pedig dédanyámtól, és ez így ment a maga rendjén vissza a messzi századokba. A kis kovász magában hordozta családnak múltját, történelmét, jelenét és jövőjét: élni akarását. Ugyanakkor az anyafölddel összekötő kapocs is volt, hiszen a földből éltünk mi is, nagyszüleim is; amit termeltünk, az volt életünk alapja.

Anyám minden kenyérsütés alkalmával lecsípett egy félkilónyt a kenyértésztából. Lelapította, és száraz helyre tette, hadd szikkadjon, melléje a két szakajtót és a négy ruhácskát. Kovásznak ott várta be a következő sütés idejét. Igazában akkor kezdődött a kis kovász nagy szerepe. Az élesztő baktériumok ugyanis tovább éltek benne titokzatos életüket, s élő és éltető részecskéivé lettek a ház levegőjének, amelyet mi beszippantottunk.

Ugyanakkor nyilván a kis kovász is mind magába szívta azt, ami bennünket jelentett ebben a levegőben, nemcsak a leheletünket, de reményeinket, álmainkat, sorsunkat és egész sajátos emberi valónkat. Aztán tovább nevelgette őket makacs kitartással, megteremtve egy otthon kémiai-bakteriológiai egyensúlyát és őrizve jellegzetes karakterét.

A kovász tehát csak a mienk volt, és különbözött minden szomszédétól: titokzatosan uralkodó gócpont a világmindenség egy zárt egységében. Anyám kis kovászkája volt a letéteményese a mi családi összetartozásunknak, egyéni jellegűnknek, jelképe hagyományaiknak, folytonosságunknak, a szépségnek és szeretetnek, amit a család jelent.

Elszoruló szívvel gondolok néha arra, hogy a mai családok életében egyre ritkább az ilyen kovász. A mai ember nagy üzletekben vásárolja meg mindennapi kenyerét, s az nyilván lehet szép is, jó is, változatos is, hiszen érti a dolgát az, aki készítette. De néha bizony úgy érzem, hogy ebből a bolti kenyérből hiányzik valami. Talán éppen a lelke.

My Mother's Leaven

The "old ways" of cooking and baking have been all but forgotten over the last several generations. Kövi Pál recalls the vital role of leaven in the traditional method of baking bread.

When people try to recall the foods of their youth, they often think of huge cakes with sugar icing, or of mellow rétes (strudel). For me, it's my Mother's bread that lives vividly in my memory. Bread played an important role in our lives. The ritual of cutting the first slice was my Mother's privilege. When she took it into her hands, to cut the appropriate amount for the meal, she first put on it the sign of eternal life and eternal hope. Only then did we get the crusty end piece.

But my memories are most closely connected with the wonderful ancient ritual of bread baking. Everything relating to that was sacred at our house, although this concept was not bandied about lightly in a Protestant family. Two breadbaskets belonged to it also – an oblong one and a small round one – which were not permitted to be used for anything else, lest they acquire a smell. I cherished the smaller one, which I later took with me on my earthly wanderings. Four white damask cloths were additional accessories to the baking, touched only by my Mother's hands and the white, warm, aromatic flour.

But the leaven was the most important. Every family had its own little leaven, and somehow it was a shameful thing to have to borrow leaven. The woman who could not properly watch the leaven was not regarded very highly.

My Mother received the leaven from my grandmother, when she was married and started her own independent household. My grandmother received it from my great-grandmother, and that's how it went back into the distant centuries. The little leaven carried within itself our family's past, its history, its present and future: its will to live. At the same time, it was a connecting link with the native land, since we, and our grandparents, lived from the land; the basis of our life

was what we produced.

Every time she baked bread, my Mother pinched off a half *kiló* (about a pound) from the bread dough. She flattened it, and put it away to dry. Next to it, she put the two breadbaskets and the four cloths. That was where our leaven awaited the time of the next baking. That's when the little leaven's big role really began. The fermenting bacteria lived on in it, lived their mysterious life, and became living and life-giving little parts of the house's atmosphere, which we breathed in. At the same time, the little leaven obviously also absorbed into itself all that signified us in this atmosphere, not only our breath, but our hopes, our dreams, our fates, and our entire peculiar human reality. Then it nurtured them on with stubborn perseverance, creating a home's chemical-bacterial balance and guarding its specific character.

The leaven therefore was ours alone, and differed from that of every neighbor: it was a mysteriously reigning focal point in a closed entity of the universe. My Mother's leaven was the repository of our family's coherence, of our individual character, a symbol of our traditions, of our continuity, of beauty and love, all that a family denotes.

I sometimes think with sinking heart that such leaven is ever more scarce in the lives of today's families. The man of today buys his daily bread in large supermarkets, and that obviously may be beautiful, and good, and varied, for the one who produced it obviously knows his business. But sometimes I feel that this store-bought bread lacks something. Perhaps its very soul.

Kövi Pál, "Anyám kovásza", in his cookbook, Erdélyi lakoma, published by Kriterion Könyvkiadó, Bukarest, 1980. Translated by Erika Papp Faber.

Kenyérsütés

Vilma néni receptje

Hozzávalók: minden kiló liszthez 2 deka só, 6 deci víz, 4 deka kovász, és ½ deka élesztő kell.

A kovászt este egy nagyobb edényben 2 deci langyos vízbe beáztatjuk. Nem kell meleg helyre tenni, mert megsavanyodik és kifut az edényből. Az élesztőt 2 deci langyos vízbe elmorzsoljuk, és lassan hozzákeverjük a kovászhoz és jól kikeverjük. Kétszer –háromszor időnként megkeverjük, és reggelig hagyjuk. Ha kevés az idő, 4-5 óra múlva is lehet dagasztani.

Reggel a sót 2 deci langyos vízben feloldjuk. A lisztet egy nagy tálba szitáljuk, középebe lyukat csinálunk és beleöntjük a megkelt kovászt és a sós vizet. Fél óráig dagasztjuk. A tetejére szakajtó ruhát teszünk, a tál alá és a szakajtó fölé jó vastag takarót teszünk hogy meg ne fázzon. Meleg helyen 1 órát kelesszük. Ezután kiszakajtjuk. Kis kosarat, vagy szakajtó zsomport szakajtó ruhával kibélelünk, és ebbe tesszük a tésztát. Még 1 órát kelesszük. Jól előre melegített kemence kövére borítjuk és süssük. Mielőtt megsül, ¼ órával előbb a tetejét mossuk le hideg vízzel, úgy tegyük vissza, és szép fényes lesz.

Ha sütőbe süssük, akkor kosár helyett kicsit kizsírozott tepsibe tesszük.

Ebből a kenyértésztából lángost és kis sós rudakat is süthetünk.

Megjegyzés: én a kenyeret sütőben sütöm pizza kövön. A követ a sütővel együtt előmelegítem, így úgy néz ki, mint *anyám sütötte* kenyér.

Hungarian-Americans in the Police Department

By Robert D. Kranyik



In row one, first from the left Patrolman Morris Kessler, fourth from the left, is Chief of Police James Kranyik. In row three, first from the left is Patrolman George Lasko, who later rose to Captain before retirement; second from the left is Patrolman Frank Bunkoci, fourth from the left, Patrolman Stephen Lasko, and fifth from the left, Patrolman Andrew Tuba. In row four, first from the left is Patrolman Michael Farkas, and second from the left, Patrolman Louis Nagy. In row five, second from the left is Patrolman Louis Bodo. Chief Kranyik was the author's father, whose parents came from Borsod, and Szabolcs, respectively.

During the early part of the twentieth century, large numbers of Hungarian immigrants arrived in the United States, and thousands of them settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut and surrounding towns due to the large number of factories located in the area. Most of these immigrants worked in the factories which were spread across the southern and western parts of Bridgeport. The work was heavy and dirty, and the hours were long.

The children and grandchildren of these immigrants, however, moved into the broader strata of society, furthered their education, and often

moved into business and civil service types of jobs. Some of them became policeman and firemen in the local towns, especially after World War II, indicating that Hungarians, like other ethnic groups, were assimilating, and moving up in society.

The accompanying picture documents this observation. It is a group photograph of the Fairfield, Connecticut Police Department, taken at the annual departmental inspection in May of 1949. Out of twenty-six policemen in the photo, nine of them were Hungarian-Americans.



Serving Young People in the Hungarian-American Community

By Joseph Balogh

For over half a century one Hungarian organization has surfaced every year to provide a variety of exciting activities focusing on Hungarian culture and for the benefit of our

Hungarian-American young people. These activities change from time to time throughout the years. However, one constant element has been the dinner dance "Café Budapest" which is held every spring. It also serves as a "Debutant Ball" for young Hungarian men and women. Finally, it serves as a fund raiser. At the beginning the funds were used to support people in Hungary; later the need for help shifted to the Hungarian-American community. One beneficiary was the Saturday Hungarian School, which received books and other financial support. Funds were also used from time to time to sponsor a Hungarian cultural performance.

In recent years, with good management and leadership, the picture has become even better. Fortunately, a hardworking group, mostly women, the organizers and leaders of the Pannonia-American Hungarian Club, has kept Club activities on a steady, well organized track. The income from the annual Café Budapest helps to support many events. First of all it secures the following Café Budapest dinner dance. Second, it finances the annual commemoration of the National holiday, every March 15th. And the social event known as the "Majusi Est" at the Wheeler Country Club, a special Hungarian dinner followed by live singing of opera, operetta, and Hun-

garian music. Then there is the "Long Hot Summer" dinner dance along the beach at Penfield Pavilion in Fairfield.

And, finally, there is the Children's Christmas Presentation. This past Christmas was especially outstanding. More than forty children from the local Hungarian-American community participated on stage and many more sat with their parents waiting for next year to show their own talent.

This time, with the children's program designed by Zsuzsanna Deer, twelve numbers were performed in the first half with twenty-one children, and during the second half, eleven numbers were performed by nineteen children. These included instrumental music, dancing, poetry, readings, and singing. An especially gratifying dimension of the program was that it was all in Hungarian.

As happens every year, the children – both performers and those in the audience – received a package willed with goodies and sweets. The performers received in addition gift cards in the amount of \$25.00 each to Barnes and Noble from the Pannonia Club. To stimulate further creativity, a table was set up with crayons, so that the younger children could draw, color, and have fun after the program.

The evening presented the opportunity to announce the recipients of scholarships. The Pannonia's Justin Margitay-Balogh Scholarship was given to Julien Heller who studies at the Boston Conservatory and is al-

ready a master violinist. The A.H.H.A. Mary Katona Scholarship was received by Doris Fenyvesi, a dance major at Ohio State University, just recently returned from her studies in London.

During the last two years the parents also contributed a large variety of delicious Hungarian baked goods to the events. These were very much appreciated by both the children and the grown-ups. Such working together helps the children to fully enjoy the warmth of a truly Hungarian Christmas. The Pannonians are looking forward to next year's Hungarian Christmas, which is bound to be full of joy and happiness.



Éva Mikolai,
Pannonia Club President



**Pannonia Club vezetősége
és az előadás rendezői**



**A Zenészek: Vincze Zolika keyboard,
Horvath Nathyne, csello**



Peti, Brigitta és Lilike



Gyermekek a Szinpadon



Dávid a mikrofonnál ^



Zsófika és Szilvike>

The Györi Vagongyár (The Wagonfactory at Györ)

By Joseph Balogh

The first time Hungarians saw an automobile was in 1895. Béla Hatschek, an optician, drove around in a one horsepower Benz. A few months later the Torley Champagne Company started to deliver its bottled drinks. By 1901 the need for regulation became a necessity and the police designed the first motor vehicle laws. First came the driver's license, and then the vehicles had to have both types of brakes, front and rear lamps, and, naturally, a horn. Passenger cars were allowed to drive in the city at speeds not exceeding twelve miles per hour, while trucks were limited to six miles per hour. These had to sound their horns as they were traveling, and all vehicles had to have somebody guarding them when they were parked.

In 1900 János Csonka, the inventor of the carburetor, started building three wheeled cars for the post office, of 2.3 horsepower, and used in Pest for a mailman and a 100 lb. mailbag. In 1903, after establishing an automobile factory at the Györ Vagongyár (Györ Wagonfactory), Csonka designed and built the first Hungarian automobile, as we know it today. It had four cylinders in a twin block setting, a differential, a double rear axle drive, and a step-by-step shift. He used ball bearings throughout.

Then from 1912 to 1914, the well-known Rába automobile was built. A product of the Hungarian Machine Factory in the city of Györ, then known as Raab, the automobile was powered by a 4.2 liter, 58 horsepower (44 kW) Praga "Grand". The car was built in limited numbers, under the Praga license. Rába also imported foreign marques, including Benze,

Panard, and Austro-Daimler.

Now we get to today's situation. Based on its auto building tradition, Hungary was invited by the Audi Automobile Company of Germany to participate in the production of Audis. We all know that the Audi has always been regarded as a "classy" car, with a significant price attached.

Courtesy of the Budapest Sun, we have below excerpts from the article "Audi A3 Convertible Takes World Bow in Györ", written by Zsolt Balla. "German premium car manufacturer Audi launched the production of the new convertible model, the Audi A3 Cabriolet, at the company's Györ plant. Although the Györ factory has produced all the TT and TT Coupe roadster sport models since launch, this was the first time Audi had publicly introduced a new model outside of Germany.



The 100 years old Vörös Postakocsi built in Györ

"Hungary is a key region in Audi's expansion strategy", Audi Chairman Rupert Stadler said in his speech, as the first production A3 Cabrio rolled off the assembly line. He further stated that the new model

manufactured in the Györ plant proves that Hungary is capable of high-tech production. The A-3 will be produced on the same assembly line as the TT, but a huge technical and infrastructural investment was needed to make the Hungarian plant capable of handling the new production run."

"Audi put the cost of improvements at more than 7.4 million dollars. Production will follow the concept used for the TT, with cooperation between the Audi headquarters in Ingolstadt, where the car body is produced, and engine production and assembly in Györ.

The new plant will produce 300 A3 Cabriolets daily, and the new model will be introduced to the market next spring (Audi says the new convertible will be available in Hungary from April, 2008, for an estimated base price of \$37,250)."

"Audi started production in Hungary in 1998, with TT models, and has been enhancing its Hungarian facilities ever since. Starting from last year, production of the new Audi TT Coupe and TT Roadsters began in Hungary, too, and the Györ factory is said to have produced more than 300,000 vehicles since it opened."

"From September 2006, the Györ factory has been producing the engines for the luxury R8 and RS6 sports cars. Audi was satisfied with the quality and cost-effectiveness of the Hungarian production plant, and the company is planning to further improve its Hungarian subsidy with a yearly investment of \$ 295m - \$370m until 2011."



Audi Factory in Győr



Working on Audi engines



AUDI TT



AUDI A3 CABRIOLET



Audi R8 a new line in Győr



A new Audi RS6 in Győr

“It is very likely that the venue of the new investments will be the 600,000 sqm of land that Audi purchased two years ago, right next to its current factory. Currently, Audi’s Hungarian production facilities have 260 full-time employees, but that number is expected to grow to 320 by 2008.”

Joseph Balogh has had a distinguished career in journalism both in Hungary and the United States and currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of Magyar News Online.

The Great Escape and More

By Robert D. Kranyik

The Hungarian-American writer Kati Marton, a child of Hungarian journalists, and once married to the late Peter Jennings, has written a “must-read” book about nine Hungarians of Jewish background, who escaped from their homeland during difficult times, and changed the world. “The Great Escape” begins with a brilliant description of Budapest from 1870 onward, as it became a great and cosmopolitan city, with its then new and rather incredible Gothic parliament building on the Danube. It is the story of nine geniuses who made unparalleled contributions to the world in their respective fields, which included physics, film, photography, and literature. All left Hungary which became an unlivable place for them because of their Jewish backgrounds, and settled in the United States and England, from whence they each made their very significant contributions. Yet, even in exile, they retained their Hungarian-ness, including their ways of thinking, and the language, itself.

The scientists included John von Neuman, Eugene Wigner, Edward Teller, and Leo Szilard. Von Neuman, a mathematician, chemist, and physicist contributed much to quantum mechanics and gaming theory, and is perhaps best known for inventing much of the logic which served as the basis for the modern computer. Eugene Wigner received a Nobel Prize in physics in 1963 for his work in atomic theory. Edward Teller took part in the creation of the atomic bomb and later the hydrogen bomb, and his work is said to have contrib-

uted much to the United States’ success in the Cold War and the ultimate collapse of the Soviet Union. Leo Szilard, a nuclear physicist, was the first to warn President Franklin Roosevelt of the possibility that Nazi Germany could possibly create an atomic bomb, and he made significant contributions to the development of nuclear fission and the construction of the first nuclear reactor.

Arthur Koestler, the writer, is best known for “Darkness at Noon”, perhaps the most significant anti-communist novel. Michael Curtiz directed perhaps the greatest anti-fascist film of all time, “Casablanca”, while Sandor Kellner, later known as Sir Alexander Korda produced the classic post-World War II film, “The Third Man”. The photographer, Andre Kertesz became world famous for his photographic documentation of World War I, while Robert Capa became equally famous for his photography in the Spanish Civil War, D- Day, and beyond.

The collective contributions of these expatriate Hungarians to the world are, perhaps, without parallel in history. And, their individual stories make for very fascinating reading, as written by Ms Marton. These were very special people who did, indeed, change the world.



But, in a sense, the contributions of these very talented Hungarians comprise the tip of the iceberg (although a mighty tip it is) when it comes to the sum of contributions which Hungarians have made to the world, especially in the scientific and technological areas. In truth, the Hungarian contributions to the world as we know it today have been prodigious, and are probably without parallel when the size of the Hungarian population is taken into account. This tiny nation of some eleven million people has contributed to the world far out of proportion to its size.

According to the Corvinus Library of Hungarian History (www.hungarian-history.hu/nobel/nobel.htm) there are fourteen Nobel Prize winners who were or are Hungarian. They include Robert Barany (Medicine), George von Bekesy (Medicine), Dennis Gabor (Physics), Janos Harsanyi (Economics), George de Hevesy (Chemistry), Fulop von Lenard (Physics), Gyorgy Ohla (Chemistry), Janos Polanyi (Chemistry), Isador Rabi (Physics), Leopold Ruziczka (Chemistry), Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (Medicine), Elie Wiesel (Peace), Eugene Wigner (Physics) and Richard Zsigmondy (Chemistry). That is remarkable when one considers the size and population of Hungary.

But, there is a lot more to consider. It happens that the Szent Istvan Magyar Iskola (St. Stephen’s Hungarian School), Passaic, New Jersey, published a very enlightening book entitled - -“Hungarian Inventions, Hungarian Inventors” (May, 2000). It contains a comprehensive collection of information about famous Hungarian inventors and their inventions, including Nobel Prize winners, and is written in both Hungarian and English, with

the Hungarian and English versions side-by-side.

Here is a sample of Hungarian inventions that reflect the creativity and ingenuity of our people. You can find in the book the Asboth helicopter, the high compression engine, ultra short wave radio waves, the ball point pen, automatic gearshift, the transformer, carburetor, portable chain saw equipment, the alternating electric transformer system, the torsion balance, the jet propulsion engine, the planetary gearbox, the "Model A" car, matches, the dynamo, railway electrification, aerodynamics of supersonic flight, the elevator, the telephone exchange, disinfectant, and vitamin C.

Other scientific developments created by Hungarians include the discovery of cosmic radiation, pharmaceuticals which strengthen the immune system, absolute geometry, and the theory of gravitational space, which led to Einstein's formulation of the theory of relativity. The list goes on and on. But, I think that you get the point.

So, the lesson of this little piece is that Hungarians are a people who have made substantial contributions to science and technology, as well as to the arts and literature.

We can all be proud of them and the small nation from which they and our ancestors have sprung. And, I would conclude with the notion that you young people out there across the United States who have some Hungarian in your background can also draw a sense of pride from that fact. We come from a very talented and creative group of ancestors!

Robert Kranyik, Ph.D., is a retired professor and dean from the University of Bridgeport and a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.

ROZSIKA DEUTSCH

1914-2008

In the middle of January I attended a funeral. She was a close friend. We met shortly after I returned to the States. I was having dinner with some relatives at a restaurant. There a violinist and a pianist, Rozsika and Laszlo Deutsch, were playing Hungarian music, and I hummed along with one of the songs. After Rozsika sat down next to me and asked where did I learn that song. From there on our lives were together on the Hungarian track. Looking back I came to a conclusion that in our community they were the most important factors in keeping up the Hungarian culture. Their Hungarian radio program went on for decades. Their devotion stopped with their passing on, first Laszlo and now Rozsika at the age of 93. She will be in our prayers, and using a usual phrase: "The God of the Hungarians will bless her."



Rózsika of "Rózsika és László" from a record cover.

Below: Rózsika



Your Roots in Historic Hungary

by Vic Berecz

4. The *Family History Library* (FHL) On-Line.

Background. One of the great resources family history researchers have at their disposal is the Family History Library (FHL) maintained by the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints* – often referred to as the *LDS Church*, and its members as *Mormons*. While the FHL is a brick-and-mortar establishment associated with that church's headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah, there is also a significant, and growing, Internet presence for the FHL. That will be the focus of this article. But, the major resource of the FHL, especially for those of us researching ancestors in historic Hungary, is their collection of microfilmed records. They maintain well over 10,000 rolls of microfilm with records of historic Hungary. These are not yet available on-line – though an on-going project promises to make them available on-line by 2015.

These include the church registers of virtually every church that existed in the 1830-1895 period in the territory associated with present-day Hungary. Personally, I've researched the church registers of over one-hundred towns. To date, there is only one church I know of whose registers are not available on FHL microfilms ... that exception is the Reformed church of Mór in Fejér county. Without a trip to Salt Lake, this vast array of microfilmed resources are available to you at a local Family History Center (FHC), most of which are located in LDS Church facilities. A second focus of this article will be on using the on-line resources to determine which microfilms you want to study at an

FHC. The next article will describe how to use that FHC.

Many non-Mormons do not understand the rationale for the LDS Church's huge investment in records to support genealogical research. According to *Wikipedia*, "The LDS church holds that deceased persons who have not accepted or had the opportunity to accept the gospel of Christ in this life will have the opportunity to accept the gospel in the afterlife ... [and] they must also receive all the ordinances that a living person is expected to receive, including baptism. For this reason, members of the LDS Church are encouraged to seek out their genealogy. ... Latter-day Saints complete genealogical work for deceased persons and if it is determined an individual has not received some or all of the saving ordinances, the individual's name is submitted to the temple to receive these ordinances by proxy. Optimally, the proxy who stands in will be a descendant of the deceased person, but the ordinance proxy may also be an unrelated volunteer."

The genealogy resources of the FHL are available to all, without regard to their own religion. As a practicing Lutheran, I have made regular and extensive use of FHL resources for almost twenty years, and I very much appreciate the support of the FHL and the volunteers at the local FHC's that I use in my family history research.

Overview of the FHL Website: Start by visiting the homepage of www.FamilySearch.org -- this is the top-level webpage that includes all FHL information. Here note that

you can download for *free* a copy of the *Personal Ancestral File* (PAF) v5.2. This is a basic, widely-used genealogy software product. I personally use another product – *Roots-Magic* v3.2.4 – for its superior graphics and other features. But, if you have never used genealogy software, PAF may be a very good place to start.

You may wish to experiment with the *Search* feature on the home page of the website, or the more complete search feature you will find under the "Search" tab. But, information for people in historic Hungary is quite limited in the *Ancestral File* and the *International Geological Index* – the two principal databases for continental Europe that are presently available in the *Search* feature. The "Share" tab is for those who wish to share their findings with others. We will not deal with that feature here.

Therefore, let's go directly to the "Library" tab. [Fig 4-01](#) illustrates a part of the *Library* homepage. The homepage provides some interesting statistics about the scope of the FHL, and at the left has a menu of options, primarily of interest to users of the library in Salt Lake City. The second tab labeled "Family History Centers" takes you to a search-engine that finds for you FHC's in a particular area. If you are unsure of the location of an FHC in your area, this will give you the address, phone number, and hours of operation. I have personally used the FHC's in Fort Myers, FL and Bloomfield and Woodbridge, CT.

Those readers in the Connecticut area will find the Woodbridge FHC

of particular interest. Because of the large number of Hungarian-Americans and Slovak-Americans in southwestern Connecticut, the volunteers in this FHC are particularly knowledgeable in the genealogy of historic Hungary. Also, there are literally hundreds of reels of microfilm containing records of historic Hungary on permanent loan to this center. These are freely available to all patrons.

The fourth tab labeled “Education” lists a variety of educational opportunities available. These are provided by both the FHL and outside organizations. One of these is a free online version of Brigham Young University’s course titled *Religion 261: Introduction to Family History*. Some of you may be interested in pursuing this more formal approach to educating yourself in family history research.

The third tab – “Family History Library Catalog” – is the key element of the website for our purposes. Click on the tab and see the webpage shown in [Fig 4-02](#). As with most library catalogs, it may be searched in a variety of ways. If you are interested in books, you may search by *Title* or *Author*. For compiled genealogies, the *Surname* search may be useful. But we are interested primarily in microfilms, and we don’t know them by *Film Number*. Therefore, most frequently researchers of historic Hungary will use the *Place Search* feature.

But first, a little background. Most of the FHL’s microfilms covering places in present-day Hungary were filmed in Budapest in the 1960s. Two master copies were made – one went to the FHL, the other to the Hungarian archives. So, the material available in the FHL is identical to the archives in Budapest – no need to travel there to access this information. Over subsequent decades, extensive filming was done of historic Hungarian records elsewhere ... first

in Slovenia and Austrian Burgenland, and more recently in Croatia and Slovakia. Unfortunately, little filming has been done to date in the parts of Serbia, Romania, and the Ukraine which were in historic Hungary.

Use of the *Place Search* Feature: One of the four basic pieces of information that we sought for your immigrant ancestors is their town of birth. To see which, if any, records are available for those towns you will use *Place Search* in the FHL Catalog. For my example, I will use the small city of Sárvár in Vas county in the northwest of present-day Hungary. [Fig 4-03](#) shows the *Place Search* page with the entry for my sample search. You may wish to try the same search to see the features mentioned, but not illustrated below. Note that when using *Place Search*, you do not enter any diacritical marks (accents, umlauts, etc).

I usually use the optional *Part of* feature in *Place Search*. Since returned places are anything that begins with the letters you specify, this eliminates many extraneous results from other parts of the world. But, when you are working with towns that were a part of historic Hungary, but are not a part of present-day Hungary, make sure you are consistent in *Place* and *Part of* – use the Hungarian place name with “Hungary” but if you use the current place name, make certain you use the current country name. For instance: Puczincz, Hungary will produce the same results as Puconci, Slovenia ... but Puconci, Hungary will get you nowhere!

Now back to our Sárvár example. When you click *Search* you will see two entries (not illustrated). One is for *Hungary, Vas, Sárvár* – note that the name is correctly accented, and the county is identified as Vas. But, there is a second entry for *Sárvár (kerület)* – or Sárvár region. “Kerület” entries usually refer to the records of a military base in the area

of the town, and so will not be further discussed here.

The next step is to click on the link to *Hungary, Vas, Sárvár*. The result is shown in [Fig 4-04](#). Now we see that the FHL has three types of records for this city: a) *Church Records* – for towns in present-day Hungary these usually go only to 1895; b) *Civil Registration* – these records usually go from 1895 and end before World War I; they only exist for the larger towns with notary offices; and c) *Jewish Records* – which obviously exist only in places with a Jewish congregation. Explore the *Civil Registration* link on your own, and you will see that there were separate notary offices for the city of Sárvár and the surrounding villages. If you check out the Jewish records, you will see these also end in 1895 when Hungary changed from church to civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths. But, only rarely do Jewish records go back earlier than 1830. Note the button at the upper-right reading *View Related Places* – that’s important, more about it later.

If we click on *Church Records*, we see (not illustrated) that there were two churches in Sárvár – Roman Catholic and Evangelical (Lutheran). We will continue our example with the Roman Catholic church. The catalog shows that the Catholic church registers (*anyakönyvek*) go from 1646-1895. This is an extremely long period and their existence is likely due to the fact that the northwestern part of present-day Hungary was never occupied by the Turks.

Clicking on the link for the Roman Catholic church gives us further information about those church records, as seen in [Fig 4-05](#). Here we find that the records were filmed in 1965, are in the Hungarian and Latin languages, are on eight rolls of microfilm, and include indices. Wow! If you’re from a Catholic family that

lived in Sárvár, you'll have a field-day!

The last step in *Place Search* is to click on that little button at the upper-right that says *View Film Notes*. Here we will see exactly what is on each roll of film as well as the film numbers needed for ordering. The film notes for the Sárvár Catholic church are seen in [Fig 4-06](#). At the left is a description of the contents of each of the eight films, and at the right is the seven-digit film number for ordering. [Note: if there are less than 7 digits, add leading 0's – most Hungarian records filmed in the 1960s begin with 06.] Looking over the notes, we see that deaths (*halottak*) were not recorded until 1739. Also, we see that there is a gap in the records of baptisms (*kereszteltek*) and marriages (*házasultak*) during the period of the Rákóczi rebellion at the beginning of the 18th century. Finally we see that the last film is an index of baptisms, marriages, and deaths for the entire period. Such indices are extremely rare and very valuable to researchers when they are available. That's the end of the example. The next step is to order films at your local FHC ... that process will be covered in the next article in this series.

This all sounds so easy, but what if you enter a place name and your search results in that terrible message: *No Matching Places Found*? Many small villages did not have a church ... people used a church in a neighboring town or village. A map may help with this problem, but there is better approach that will yield only the names of towns for which the FHL has records. If you enter into the original *Place Search* webpage the name of a county rather than the name of a town (*Vas* for instance), you'll get a set of results that always includes county information ... in this case that entry will simply read *Hungary, Vas*. Click on that entry and you will get a page that looks

like [Fig 4-07](#) listing all the categories of information available in the FHL for that county. Many of these appear to be of great interest to a family history researcher, and we may deal with some of them in future articles. But, that's not our point here. Instead, click on the button at the upper-right that reads *View Related Places*. That will give you a list of all the towns in the county which have entries in the FHL catalog. The resulting webpage is not shown here because in Vas county there are 333 places listed ... but try it yourself. Now, with this list on-screen, use that map to find one of these places near the village you're looking for. Another advantage of this list is that it shows the spelling used in the catalog ... often you may have difficulty with placenames that include prefixes (like *Alsó* meaning "lower") or with more than one word (like *Szent-György*). These are sometime hyphenated, sometimes run together.

Explore this example yourself to get a feel for the options and types of information available. Then move on

the the towns where your immigrant ancestors originated. Enjoy!

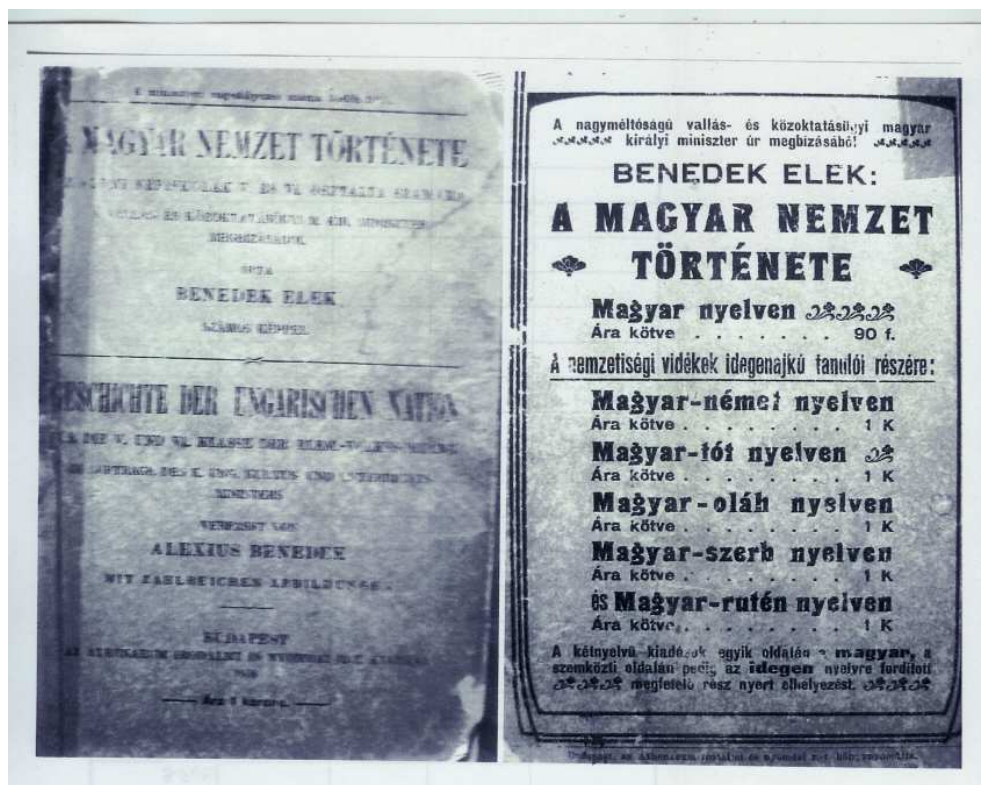
Summary. The next article will address how to work with microfilms at a Family History Center, once you have the film number(s) you'd like to use. I'd like to tailor subsequent articles to reader's interests. Therefore, your feedback would be appreciated. Write me at Vic@Berecz.us

Next: Using your Local Family History Center.

Did you know...

that bi-lingual education was a reality in Hungary a hundred years ago?

Hungary had several ethnic minorities, and catered to their linguistic differences by providing school textbooks in their own language. The book shown here is a history of the Hungarian nation, intended for the



fifth and sixth grades of public elementary school. One side presents the Hungarian text, the other, the German text.

The back cover lists four other minority languages, (in addition to German), in which this school textbook was available: Hungarian-Slovak, Hungarian-Romanian, Hungarian-Serb, and Hungarian-Ruthenian.

Cost was one *korona* (the currency at the time). Date of publication: 1908.



=====

Kicsi a világ!

If you read the following story in a book, you would say the author has a great imagination ... but things in REAL LIFE don't happen that way! Well, in this case they DID, proving once again that truth is stranger than fiction, and that art imitates life.



The front and back of soup plates used in Gundel's restaurant at the World's Fair Hungarian Pavilion

In the early 1950's, Dr. Ida Bobula, a university professor and historian, was doing research at Columbia University in New York, and heard that the University library was discarding its collection of Hungarian books. Unwilling to let them go to the dump, Dr. Bobula rented a ground floor apartment on Manhattan's East side, and had the Hungarian books delivered there, all at her own expense.

Books should be stored on shelves, and not in boxes. Dr. Bobula had no money (which immigrant did?), so she scoured the classified ads, hoping to come across someone selling book shelves inexpensively. That is when she saw an item stating that a government auction was being held in Staten Island, and book shelves were among the items listed.

Dr. Bobula took the ferry to Staten Island, and acquired the book shelves at quite a reasonable price. But there was a catch: in addition to the bookshelves, she would also have to take 25 or 30 crates of stuff.

"What's in the crates?" she asked

with great misgivings.

"We don't know, but they go with the shelves."

"But I just want the bookshelves!"

"Sorry, you'll have to take the crates too."

Most unwillingly, she had the crates delivered to the East side apartment as well. But when she started to open the crates, her amazement and delight knew no bounds. They contained most of the contents of the 1938 World's Fair Hungarian pavilion! How did that come about? Well, by the time the World's Fair was over, World War II had broken out, and the stuff was warehoused for a couple of decades.

Now what are the chances of those particular crates being bought by a zealous Hungarian? It's enough to send one out to buy lottery tickets!

If you go to the Hungarian House on East 83rd Street in New York, you will see a large painting on the back wall of the main hall. That came from the World's Fair. And the books Dr. Bobula had rescued form the core of the Hungarian library in the basement of the Hungarian

FamilySearch.org - Family History Library - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset_12

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FamilySearch.org - Family History Library


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- Preparing to Visit the Library
- Group Visits
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- Frequently Asked Questions
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- Send Us an E-mail
- Family History Library Media Kit
- About The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Picture of the Family History Library

Family History Library Building:

- Address: 35 North West Temple Street, Room 344, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150-3440
- Dedicated October 23, 1985
- 142,000 square feet on five floors
- Humidity, temperature, and lighting designed to protect the collection from deterioration
- Public phone number: 801-240-2584 or 866-406-1830
- FAX: 801-240-1794
- E-mail: [Click here to send us an e-mail at fhl@familysearch.org](mailto:fhl@familysearch.org)
- Website: www.familysearch.org

Background:

- Founded in 1894 to gather genealogical records and assist members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with their family history and genealogical research
- Largest library of its kind in the world
- Open to the general public at no charge
- Visited by an estimated 1,900 patrons or more each day

Records Collection:

- The collection includes over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records; 742,000 microfiche; 310,000 books, serials, and other formats; 4,500 periodicals; 700 electronic resources.
- The Ancestral File database contains more than 36 million names that are linked into families.
- The International Genealogical Index database contains approximately 600 million

Fig 4-01

FamilySearch.org - Family History Library Catalog - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_ My Web Search

FamilySearch.org - Family History Library Catalog

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- Keyword Search
- Title Search
- Film/Fiche Search
- Author Search
- Subject Search
- Call Number Search

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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Fig -04-02

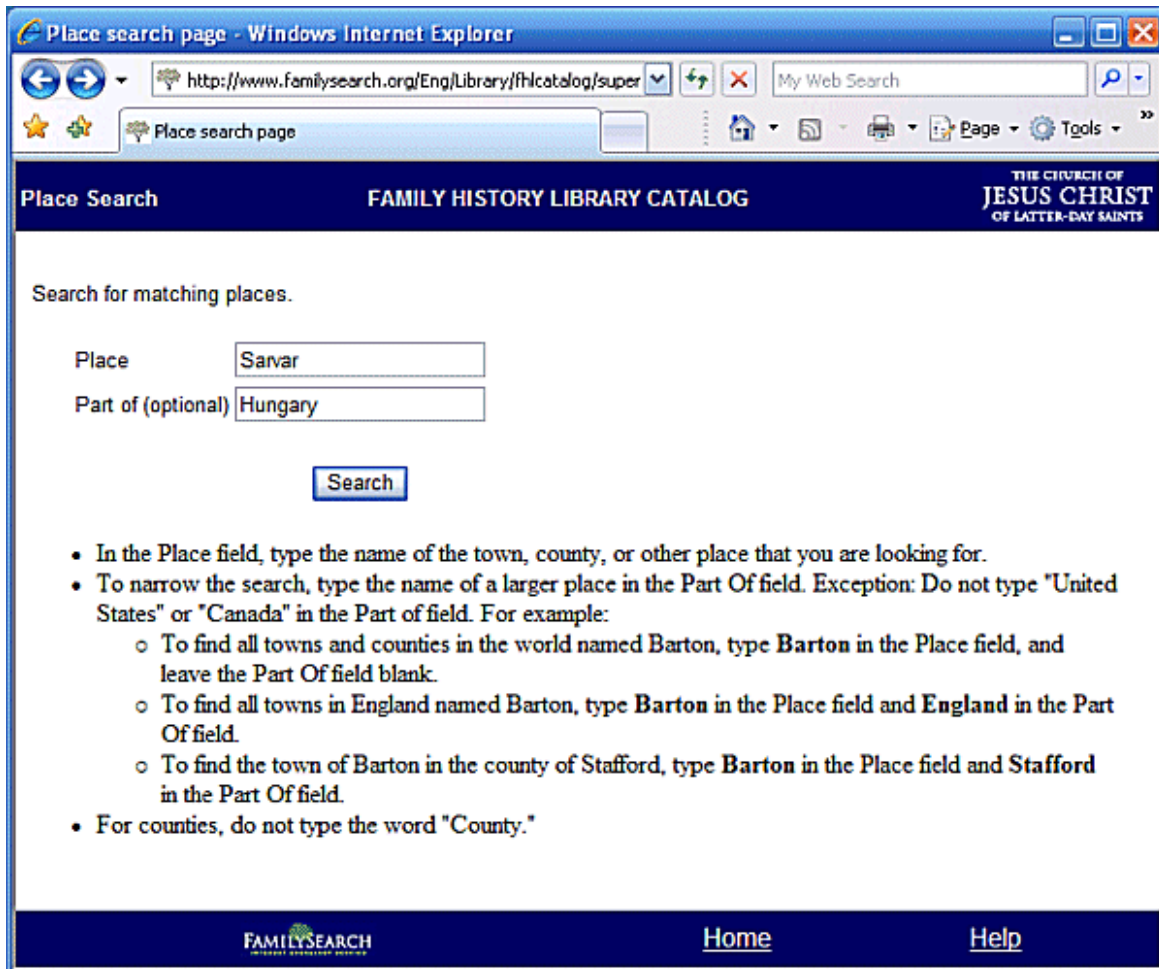


Fig-04-03

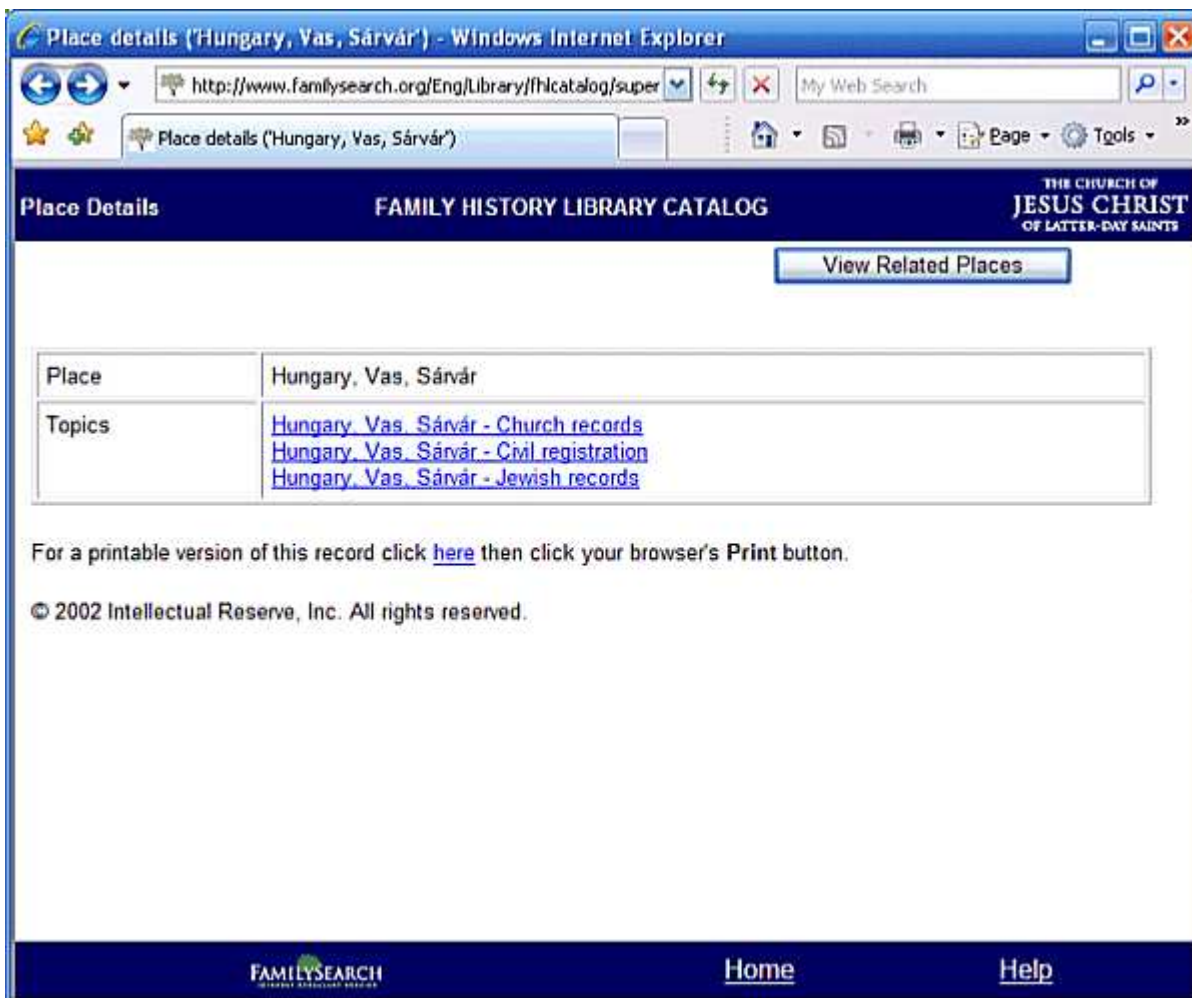


Fig-04-04

Title details ('Anyakönyvek') - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhcatalog/super

My Web Search

Title details ('Anyakönyvek')

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Title Details **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG**

[View Film Notes](#)

Title	Anyakönyvek, 1646-1895
Authors	Római Katolikus Egyház, Sávár (Vas) (Main Author)
Notes	Az eredeti iratok mikrofilmre vétele Budapesten a Magyar Országos Levéltárban történt. Roman Catholic Church register of births, marriages and deaths for Sávár. Includes indexes.
Subjects	Hungary, Vas, Sávár - Church records
Format	Manuscript (On Film)
Language	Hungarian Latin
Publication	Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmre vette The Genealogical Society of Utah, 1965
Physical	8 mikrofilmtekercs ; 35 mm.

For a printable version of this record click [here](#) then click your browser's **Print** button.

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Fig-04-05

Title film notes ('Anyakönyvek') - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/super

My Web Search

Title film notes ('Anyakönyvek')

Film Notes **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG** THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

[View Title Details](#)

Title	Anyakönyvek, 1646-1895
Authors	Római Katólikus Egyház, Sávár (Vas) (Main Author)

Note	Location Film
Kereszteltek 1646-1696, 1716-1740 Házasultak 1646-1704, 1716-1740	VAULT INTL Film 602002
Kereszteltek, házasultak 1740-1786 Halottak 1739-1786	VAULT INTL Film 602003
Kereszteltek, házasultak, halottak 1786-1828	FHL INTL Film 602004
Kereszteltek 1829-1875	VAULT INTL Film 602005
Kereszteltek 1875-1895	VAULT INTL Film 602006
Házasultak 1829-1895	VAULT INTL Film 602007
Halottak 1829-1895	VAULT INTL Film 602008
Kereszteltek névsora 1646-1890 Házasultak névsora 1646-1800 Halottak névsora 1800-1876	VAULT INTL Film 602009

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Fig-04_06

Place details ('Hungary, Vas') - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.familysearch.org My Web Search

Place details ('Hungary, Vas')

Place Details FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

[View Related Places](#)

Place	Hungary, Vas
Topics	Hungary, Vas - Census Hungary, Vas - Census - Statistics Hungary, Vas - Civil registration Hungary, Vas - Genealogy Hungary, Vas - History Hungary, Vas - Jewish records Hungary, Vas - Maps Hungary, Vas - Nobility Hungary, Vas - Nobility - Genealogy Hungary, Vas - Taxation

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Fig-04-07