

Magyar News

Online

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Nemzeti dal

Petőfi Sándor

Talpra Magyar, hí a haza!
Itt az idő, most vagy soha!
Rabok legyünk, vagy szabadok?
Ez a kérdés, válasszatok! -
A magyarok Istenére
Esküszünk,
Esküszünk, hogy rabok tovább
Nem leszünk!

Rabok voltunk mostanáig,
Kárhozottak ősapáink,
Kik szabadon éltek-haltak,
Szolgaföldben nem nyughatnak.
A magyarok Istenére
Esküszünk,
Esküszünk, hogy rabok tovább
Nem leszünk!

Sehonnai bitang ember,
Ki most, ha kell, halni nem mer,
Kinek drágább rongy élete,
Minta haza becsülete.
A magyarok Istenére
Esküszünk,
Esküszünk, hogy rabok tovább
Nem leszünk!

Fényesebb a láncnál a kard,
Jobban ékesíti a kart,
És mi mégis láncot hordtunk!
Ide veled, régi kardunk!
A magyarok Istenére
Esküszünk,
Esküszünk, hogy rabok tovább
Nem leszünk!

A magyar nép megint szép lesz,
Méltó régi nagy híréhez;
Mit rákentek a századok,
Lemossuk a gyalázatot!
A magyarok Istenére
Esküszünk,
Esküszünk, hogy rabok tovább
Nem leszünk!

Hol sírjaink domborulnak,
Unokáink leborulnak,
És áldó imádság mellett
Mondják el szent neveinket.
A magyarok Istenére
Esküszünk,
Esküszünk, hogy rabok tovább
Nem leszünk!

Pest, 1848 március 13



National Song

Sándor Petőfi

Up, up, Magyar, your country calls!
The time has come – it stands or falls.
Shall we be slaves? Shall we be free?
That's the question. Choose your destiny! --
By the God of the Magyars
We now swear,
Yes, we swear, slavery no more
We'll bear!

We have been slaves until today.
Damned are our fathers, because they
Who lived and died in liberty,
Can't rest in ground that is not free.
By the God of the Magyars
We now swear,
Yes, we swear, slavery no more
We'll bear!

What good for nothing rascal he
Who won't dare die now, if need be,
To whom his wretched life's more dear
Than his country's honor clear.
By the God of the Magyars
We now swear,
Yes, now swear, slavery no more
We'll bear!

The sword shines brighter than the chain,
Adorns a man's arm, that is plain
And yet we wore those chains abhorred.
Let us take up our ancient sword!
By the God of the Magyars
We now swear,
Yes, now swear, slavery no more
We'll bear!

The Magyar name will shine again,
Deserving of its ancient fame.
The infamy centuries brought
We'll wash away and bring to nought.
By the God of the Magyars
We now swear,
Yes, we swear, slavery no more
We'll bear!

Where our burial mounds will rise,
Our grandchildren with misty eyes
Will come, with blessings to proclaim
Prayerfully our sainted name.
By the God of the Magyars
We now swear,
Yes, now swear, slavery no more
We'll bear!

Translated by Erika Papp Faber

Gábor Áron: For Liberty, 160 Years Ago

Erika Papp Faber

One hundred sixty years ago, the Freedom Fight against Hapsburg rule began. Gábor Áron from Transylvania played a pivotal role in it.

A volume of Petőfi Sándor's poems published in 1890 provides Petőfi's own handwritten comments on "Nemzeti dal" ("National Song"):

"This poem incited the youth of Pest on March 15th. I recited it first at the coffeehouse of the youth... then at the medical university, then on the seminary square..., finally in front of the printing house, which we occupied by force, located in Hatvani utca... This poem was the first thing published by the liberated Hungarian press."

Thus began the Hungarian Uprising of 1848 against Austrian rule. Although Emperor Ferdinand V at first accepted the 12 demands (including the formation of a new government, abolition of feudal rights and the union of Hungary and Transylvania) presented to him by Kossuth, the Austrian court immediately began to incite the minorities against Hungary: the Croats, Slavonians, Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks and Romanians. By September,

Hungary was embroiled in internal insurrection by the minorities, and in war with Austria! Fighting spread to all of Hungary, including Transylvania.

Austrian troops soon went into battle all across Hungary and Transylvania. But Transylvania was far removed from the capital, and supplies and equipment were slow to arrive. In addition, following a series of victories under the leadership of Polish general Joseph Bem, Austria called on Russia for assistance. Russian troops were pressing in through the Carpathians from the east.

Enter the many-talented Gábor Áron of Kézdivásárhely. Under his direction, the master coppersmith Turóczi Mózes, using over 300 church bells, cast 64 cannon in the space of a brief six months. Various workshops in Kézdivásárhely produced cannonballs, gunpowder and fuses. Every segment of the population took its share of the work: the men went off to fight, while the women and children assisted in these munitions workshops. (On a trip in 2006, I met the great-great-grandson of a man who provided the gunpowder for Gábor Áron!)

As everyone knows, the Freedom Fight of 1848-49 ended in defeat, due to the combined Austrian-Russian forces. Gábor Áron himself was killed

in battle. Petőfi too died on the battlefield, near Segesvár. Of the 64 cannons produced by Gábor Áron, only one remains. It is located in the museum in Bucharest. A copy may be seen in the courtyard of the museum of Kézdivásárhely.



The cannon

Erika Papp Faber is a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.

Did you know ...

that the oldest institution of higher learning in Hungary was the Cathedral School (college) of Veszprém? It was established with the introduction of Christianity by St. Stephen, and was already being RE-organized in 1278 after it had fallen victim to arson and plunder, presumably at the time of the Mongolian invasion (1251). By the time it was dissolved when the Turks occupied

the city in 1543, it had 2,000 students. Later on, every bishopric (St. Stephen had established 10 of them) was instructed to establish a cathedral school for theological, philosophical and legal studies.



*Statue of Turóczi Mózes
Guilded cannon ball,
Budapest
Statue of Gábor Áron*

Meet Viktoria Molnár

By Robert Kranyik



Meet Ms Viktoria Molnár, a native of Hungary, and a member of the University of Bridgeport's Purple Knights Varsity Womens' Swimming Team. A senior at UB, Viktoria is majoring in psychology, and looks forward to becoming a counselor, social worker, or a teacher. As a member of the U.B. team, Viki placed 4th in the 100-yard Freestyle and 6th in the 200-yard Freestyle at the 2007 NCAA Division II Swimming Championships, making her UB's first NCAA All-American in the sport of swimming.

Additionally, she achieved individual Honorable Mention All-American honors by virtue of her 10th place finish in the 50-yard Freestyle. Viki was also a member of three Purple Knights Relays (200-yard , 400-yard Medleys

and 800-yard Freestyle Relays)that earned her Honorable Mention All-American honors at the 2007 NCAA Championships..

Viktoria hails from Dunaújváros on the Danube River, south of Budapest, and east of Székesfehérvár. Her father, József, works in the metal industry, and her mother, Ágnes, works in a large market. Viki was introduced to swimming by her older brother, Balázs, when she was five years old. As is customary in Hungary for those interested in serious swimming, she joined a swimming club, and engaged in competitive swimming at both the elementary and high school levels. Her achievements in high school were substantial. She won a Junior European Championship as a member of the Hungarian National Team's 800-meter Freestyle Relay and earned 2nd place in the 400-yard Medley Relay in 2001.

She regards herself as an all-round swimmer, performing the Freestyle and Butterfly strokes in the distances of 50 meters/yards up to 200 meters/yards and enjoys being part of a relay. Viki holds UB Varsity

Team Records in the 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 yard Freestyles and the 100-yard Butterfly events. She is also a member of all 5 Purple Knight Relay Record Teams. At the 2007 Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championships, she was the only swimmer to win three individual events (50, 100 and 200 yard Freestyles), and set the METRO Conference Championship Record in the 100- yard Freestyle. The METRO Conference is made up of approximately 25 universities within the greater New York City metropolitan area.

Originally enrolled at Florida International University, Viktoria transferred to U.B., which she says she likes very much. The U.B. women's swim team is very international, and the young women hail from several foreign countries as well as the United States.

Her coach, Brad Flood, has this to say about Viktoria," It has been a real pleasure to have Viki as a member of our young program. She is blessed with some wonderful natural talent, and works hard to make the most of those blessings. She has done an exemplary job of meeting the challenges of being a true student-athlete, consistently improving her grade point average throughout

her three years at UB, and being a part of establishing an excellent foundation for the young UB Women's Swimming program".

regularly brought Hungarian graduate students to the campus to study. It was strongly supported by the Hungarian-American community. I was proud to be part of it. And, we are proud to have Viktoria here among us today.

ern-Jackson players been able to stay in school (rather than go to work) and benefit from high school and college programs? Here is the story of one student-athlete of Hungarian descent from Bridgeport, Connecticut's West End who did make it to college and went on to make a name for himself at the University of Alabama well before "Broadway Joe" arrived there.

His name was Paul Munkasey. I had met him in 1992 strictly by accident. He and his wife Grace His name was Paul Munkasey. I had met him in 1992 strictly by accident.



Viki and coach Flood

Hanging on the window in Coach Ford's office is a prominent red, white, and green Banner with "Hungary" emblazoned on it. Viktoria brought it back from one of her trips home. That is how I first became aware that we had a Hungarian on the team. Now, Viktoria is becoming aware that she is not alone here. Several of us Hungarian-Americans work out at the pool regularly. And, of course, there are many Hungarian-Americans living in the region. The south end of Bridgeport, near the U.B. campus, was originally a significant Hungarian settlement. For many years, the University had a Hungarian Scholarship Program that

to be part of it. And, we are proud to have Viktoria here among us today.

R o b e r t Kranyik is a professor emeritus at the University of Bridgeport, and a former dean of the College

of Education. He serves as a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.

The author wishes to thank Coach Brad Flood of the University of Bridgeport for his assistance with this article.

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A Hungarian-American with the Crimson Tide

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By Richard Nemeth

In 2000, I wrote an article for the "Magyar News" about the incredible undefeated and unscored-upon record Western-Jackson football teams of the "Roaring Twenties" on which my father and uncle had played. In my conclusion I "wondered" how many more "Joe Namaths" there would have been had those West-

Main Cog in 'Bama Machine



Paul Munkasey, former Central high school basketball luminary, beginning his third and final year with the University of Alabama basketball team, is expected to prove a leading cog of the classy Dixie quintet.

Winning his "A" for the past two years in a utility role, Munkasey filled in at every position with equal steadiness and brilliance. The Bridgeport boy broke into southern basketball competition as a member of the champion yearling outfit of 1928, leading that team in basket rustling. Experienced observers at the time named him as one of the outstanding court possibilities of the year.

This season, Coach "Hank" Crisp is planning a great deal of faith in the ability of the local lad to fill a gaping hole at right guard, left vacant by Walton Laney, all-southern selection and leading scorer. While lacking the color that marked Laney's play, Munkasey is counted on to steady the team with his coolness under fire and sharp shooting skill.

He and his wife Grace had lived in nearby Falls Church, VA, for many years, but it was time for them to move into a retirement home and they were having a "Tag Sale" which I happened upon. Being a gregarious type and always being interested in "people", I soon engaged in conversation and was astounded to find that the Munkaseys were from Bridgeport and had known my Nemeth family!! (Kicsi a Vilag?) I remained in contact with Paul after that chance meeting and we became good friends occasionally meeting for lunch to exchange stories about our mutual Hungarian backgrounds and experiences. He became my link to the past and, as I learned more about him and his many accomplishments, my admiration for him grew as did my "Hungarian Pride."

Paul was born in Pocahontas, Virginia, of Hungarian immigrant parents. (It was Paul who had told me about the Pocahontas Hungarian community that led to my article in the Sept. 2007 Magyar News Online). Shortly after his birth, the family moved from that small coal mining town to Bridgeport's industrial West End where they operated a barber shop at 304 Pine Street, the same street on which my Nemeth family lived. Paul finished Longfellow and Whittier schools before completing Congress (Central) High School. He told me he couldn't make Coach Eddie Reilly's football team but, being tall and agile, he excelled at basketball, sharpening his skills with the Western-Jackson teams of 1924-26 (Photo). Apparently he was not just a "jock." He must have been what is now called a "student-athlete," for he was offered scholarships to Yale, Brown, and Geor-

gia Tech! However, in a strange twist of fate, he chanced to meet some players from the University of Alabama who talked him into pursuing an athletic scholarship there. He was successful and, in 1928, enrolled in the University of Alabama School of Engineering. Paul didn't talk much about those "college days," but we do know that while pursuing a difficult and demanding engineering curriculum, his athletic skills earned him 12 letters in football, basketball and baseball. It was in basketball, however, that he excelled as an athlete. He has the distinction of being a member of the legendary 1930 team which won the Southern Conference Championship beating mighty Duke 31-24, for a 24-0 record to become the only Alabama basketball team to finish a season undefeated!!! In 1931 he captained the team which had a creditable 14-6 record. (Photo)

In 1932, in the midst of "The Great Depression," Paul graduated with an electrical engineering degree. With work for fledgling engineers being scarce to non-existent, he held various jobs including a position with the Florida Division of Forestry. Returning to Bridgeport in 1935 he married a local girl, Grace Hornyak, the daughter of a "West End" butcher. He found work with the Bridgeport Post Office and supplemented his salary by coaching and playing semi-professional basketball.

The outbreak of World War II stimulated the demand for engineering skills and Paul found a position in the Baltimore area with the aircraft manufacturer, Glenn L. Martin, working on aircraft instrumentation for B-26 and B-29 aircraft. After the war the family returned to Bridgeport and Paul

was employed at various times by Dictaphone, Remington Rand, and Sikorsky. In 1950 the family moved to the Willow Grove, PA, area where Paul began a career with the Navy Department as an aeronautical engineer. With the Korean War ongoing, Paul was offered a direct commission as an officer in the United States Navy, something of which he always spoke of with particular pride. He became Lt. Commander Munkasey and worked on projects with the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and later in Washington. As much of his work shifted to Washington, Paul moved his family to nearby northern Virginia. Settling in Falls Church. It was there that I met him.

In 1978, he retired, but remained active physically and mentally. Competition in "Senior Athletics" earned him many awards. He had a large stamp collection and was an avid and excellent bridge and checkers player. As a carpenter, he enjoyed making doll houses, complete with furniture, for his grandchildren. Paul passed away at age 95. After having "escaped" the factories of the West End, he lived a life of many accomplishments, dedication to family, and was always faithful to his Hungarian spirit.

Along the way, he and his wife had four children. A daughter Grace, whom he called "Amazing Grace," married, and raised three children. Then, after working in a hospital and noting the number of elderly with foot problems, she decided to become a Podiatrist. However, the school was in Philadelphia and she lived in Fairfax, Virginia! She was undeterred and took on the challenge. After many

However, the school was in Philadelphia and she lived in Fairfax, Virginia! She was undeterred and took on the challenge. After many years of commuting, separation, study, and with an understanding husband, she went on to become the oldest person to graduate from the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine - truly an amazing feat - a tribute to her Hungarian roots and a reflection of her father's drive, ambition and many accomplishments.

Richard Nemeth is a retired Colonel, United States Air Force, and a graduate of Union College. He was born and raised during his early years in the "West End" of Bridgeport, in the heart of the Hungarian immigrant section. He was also an athlete at Roger Ludlow High School, in Fairfield, Connecticut, where he was captain of the 1948 football team.

Micro Cars

By Joseph F. Balogh

A few years ago while visiting London; I saw some strange looking cars. These were small, and looked like boxes, parked in small places. I really didn't know what the English would use them for. In my mind I tried to see them on I-95 in rush hour causing my hair to stand on end. Now I understand that the world needs more space, and that the price of gasoline never seems to stop climbing. So, I dutifully went to the internet to get some information about these small vehicles.

As I was scanning the internet, looking for cars, I came across the long forgotten micro-cars. These were mostly produced by

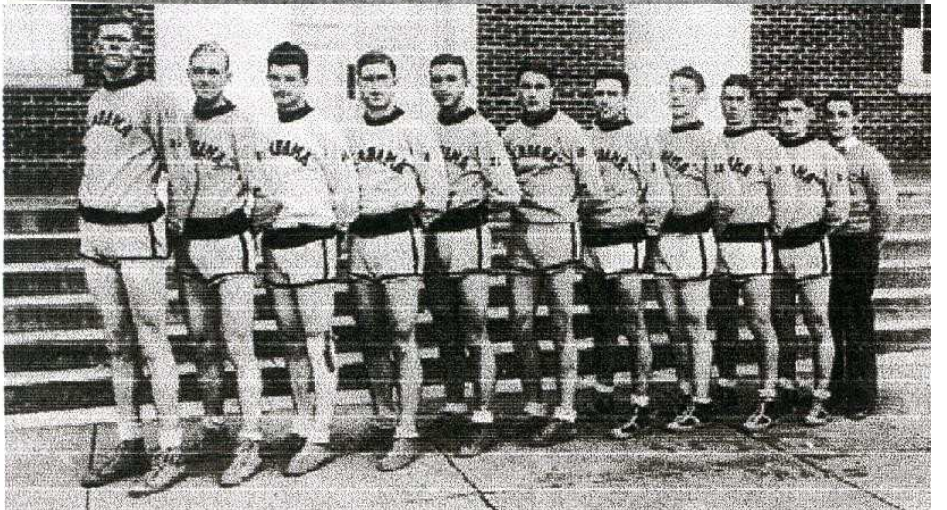
the Germans, the French, and other larger nations of Europe. Well, the Hungarians didn't want to be left out. Unfortunately the Soviet occupation was not a favorable time for small cars in Hungary, and that period extended from the late forties through the sixties. While I was looking for these European cars on the internet, suddenly there was a news announcement on television about a small, new car from India. There it was - called a bubble, a

mini, or a micro, and the cost was only \$2,500.

This television announcement started my head spinning as I reflected on this car, other small cars, prices, taxes, and the high cost of fuel. I had to go back to my search to be sure about whether or not the Hungarians actually had produced any micro cars, in spite of the Russians. It turned out that we did have some.



Western-Jackson BB Team 1924,25,26
Sitting: Getenia, Munkasey, Sandy
Standing: Balash, Roth, Suich, Englander, Wargo



1931

They were not mass produced, but individuals actually designed and built some. However, they were not put into mass production because of the Comecon policy. I don't know precisely what this word means, but I think that it had to do with the communist-run economy of the time, with the result that the Soviets probably said "no" to a Hungarian mini-car.

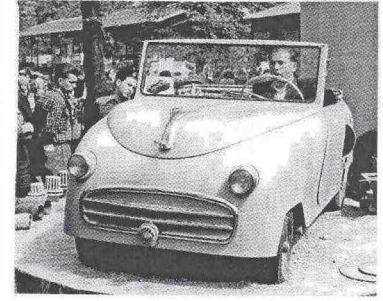
The situation reminded me of other, similar situations faced by the Hungarian people. For example, Ashbot, and to remain inventor of the helicopter. The treaty of Trianon forbid the Hungarians to make a full sized flying machine that would be considered as capable of being used as military equipment. So the first helicopter had to remain the size of a kite.

So, the home made Hungarian micro-cars were limited to something like a four wheel motorcycle. Two grown-ups could fit in them, maybe with two small children. People did what they could under the circumstances. The designers checked out a small Italian vehicle, and one made by Messerschmidt. - one with an appropriate name - "Kabinroller". A firm in Szekesfehervar, Motorjavito Vallalat, mostly made repairs to airplanes, and had just three engineers working there. The most notable was Erno Ru-

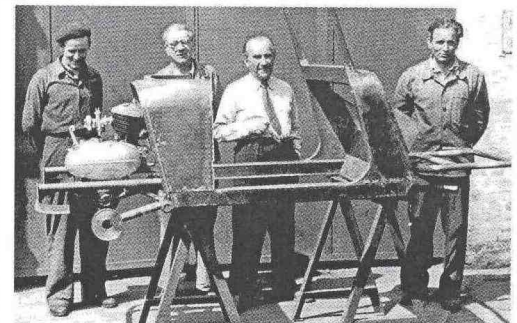


Hungarian Micro Cars in the street

The Pioneer designed in Debrecen by Janos Schadek



The Alba Regia (left) and the Balaton (right). The Balaton had a roof that could be opened and pushed back for easy entry. Erno Rubik, Pal kerekes and Geza Bengyel - standing



Janos Puskas, Istvan Schwanner and Janos Schadek building the chassis

bik, father of the inventor of the Rubik Cube, in addition to Geza Bengyel and Pal Kerekes. They later

Collaborated with Joseph Horvath and Joseph Zappel. The latter two were toying around with the idea of making a car of their own. Well, in 1955, a car named the Alba Regia was completed, and the Balaton car was completed by five engineers at Zappel.

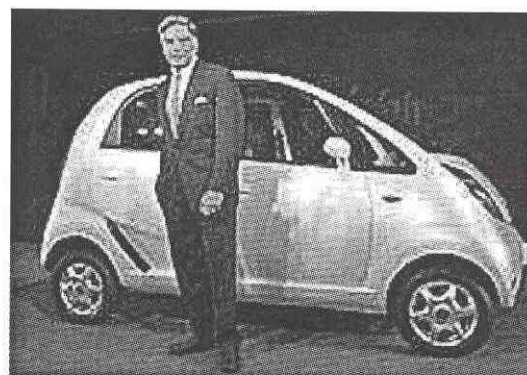
The Pioneer, one of the cars which came out of this effort, reached a speed of fifty miles per

hour. Two months before the 1956 Revolution, there was a competition among the Hungarian micro-cars. But, with the Revolution, all official support ceased, and the brief existence of micro-cars in Hungary came to an end.

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.



These cars can be seen in the streets in Europe



The \$2,500 car from India



Your Roots in Historic Hungary

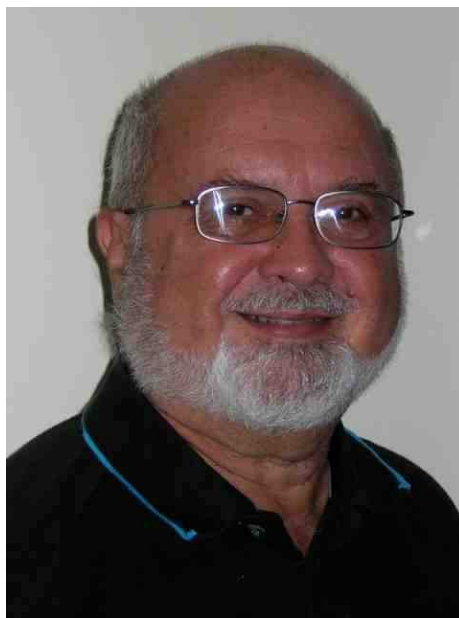
by Vic Berecz

5. Using Your Local *Family History Center* (FHC).

Background. In the previous article, you learned how to use the FHL catalog on-line to identify the microfilms that may be of interest in your family history research. Also discussed was how to locate a Family History Center in your area. That on-line search-engine will provide you the address, phone number, and hours of operation of each FHC in the area you specify. Another approach to locating FHC's is the telephone *Yellow Pages*. Under "Churches" check for either "LDS" or "Mormon" – most but not all LDS churches have a FHC on-site. There are also a few FHC's that are located in licensed facilities other than LDS churches – the *Godfrey Memorial Library* in Middletown, CT is an example.

Ordering Microfilms. The first step is to order one or more microfilms. This must be done in person at an FHC, they do not take orders over the phone. Your first visit will be a good opportunity to get your bearings, meet the staff, see what facilities and resources are available and order those films. [Note: as with most libraries, FHC's don't permit briefcases or bags inside the library work areas ... too many films and other materials seem to *walk*. Bring only what you need to do your research, and carry it in plain view.] Ordering films involves filling out a *Microfilm and Microfiche Order Card* – usually one for each film. A sample order card is shown in [Fig 5-01](#). Here are the basic ground rules for filling out these order cards:

Film Number: Put the seven-digit film number in the *Beginning number* area. Add leading zeros, if necessary, to make the



film number seven digits. If you are ordering an inclusive sequence of films, you may use one card to order several films by putting the last film number of the sequence in the *Ending number* area.

Title of Film: Put a descriptive title in the *Title of record* area. This is used as a check to ensure that a film number wasn't in error. Also, this is how your film will be labeled when it arrives, so it should be meaningful to you also. It is strongly recommended that the title begin with the origin of the records: country, county, town – for instance: *Hungary, Szepes, Felso-repas*. Note that accents and other diacritical marks are not used. Typically, I then identify the denomination of the church whose registers are on the film: *RK* for Roman Catholic, *GK* for Greek Catholic, *Evan* for Evangelical Lutheran, *Ref* for Reformed, etc. and then I abbreviate the content, in this case Births/Marriages/Deaths for the

period 1760-1898. Note that the church register in this example was not filmed in Hungary in the 1960s, but rather in the archives in Levoca, Slovakia in 1992. Therefore, you might have accessed the same film using Slovak names and identified it as being from: *Slovakia, Levoca, Vysne Repase*.

User Info: Fill in your name, phone number, address and whether or not you are an LDS member. Your address is only necessary the first time you use a given FHC. They will get it into their computer and from then on your name and phone number is sufficient to identify you.

Length of Loan: The only other thing you need to fill out is the *Type of microfilm loan* – I suggest always checking *Short-term* even if you think you may want to keep the film permanently at that FHC. You can always extend the loan later, after you're certain there's a lot of useful information on the film. *Short-term* generally implies one-month from the arrival date. The *First renewal* is for a second month, and an *Extended loan* leaves the film permanently at that FHC. Minor variations from a "month" sometimes result since films are returned to Salt Lake City in batches, usually once a week.

Cost of Films: The rest of the card is filled out by FHC volunteer staffers, who also enter the order into their local computer system. The cost of a film loan is \$5.50 for each loan period

Microfilm and Microfiche Order Card							U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean		You are responsible to check with Library (203 387-2012) if you have not been notified 21 days after submitting your film/fiche order.	
Beginning number	1	7	9	1	9	2	3	Microfilm item number	Family History Center™ number	0749300
Ending number									Total number of microfiche	
Title of record							Type of microfilm loan		If the order is for a renewal, list the original purchase order number here.	
Hungary, Szepes, Felső-repas RK Church							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short-term \$ 5.50 <input type="checkbox"/> *First renewal \$ <input type="checkbox"/> *Extended loan \$			
B/M/D 1760-1898							*Renewals are automatically charged to your unit number if the film is not received by the due date. Please do not send in a change of loan type or an order sheet.			
Patron's name				Telephone number			LDS member		Notification fee	
Vilá Berecz				374-8558			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		\$.25	
Complete address							Total amount collected		Staff signature	
							\$ 5.75		KL	
									Date ordered by patron	
									21 Aug 2007	

Figure 5-01

(payable by cash or check when ordering or extending) – therefore, the cost is a maximum of \$16.50 to keep a film permanently at your FHC. Usually 25¢ is added for the phone call to notify you that your film has arrived. These fees are pretty standard, but I have seen one FHC that charged slightly different rates.

Delivery Time: Normally, films arrive within two-to-three weeks of the order date. Occasionally films are “back-ordered” to await return of a film or to have another copy made from a master. But, if you haven’t heard from the FHC in three weeks, call them to make sure there wasn’t a notification mix-up.

Hints for Working with Church Registers on Microfilms.

When your film comes in and you visit the FHC to begin working with it, the first hurdle is how to use the film reader. At most FHC’s there are two types of film readers – low and high-magnification. The high-magnification readers are only required for 8mm films. Almost all of the films of historic Hungary are 35mm and so the much more numerous low-magnification readers are per-

fectly adequate. A staff member will be happy to show you how to use a reader and help you get started.

There are usually several *items* on a given film. Often these represent different *volumes* of the church registers from a given church. *Volumes* are sometimes completely chronological, containing births, marriages, deaths, and perhaps confirmations for a specific period. In other cases, a *volume* contains only one type of record – say marriages – for some period. [Note: from a church perspective it is only baptisms, marriages, and burials that are important, but from about 1830 to 1895 the churches were mandated to also record the birth date and death date. That’s why I simplify and talk about B/M/D’s. Before 1867, infants were often baptized on the day of birth. Burial usually took place two days after death. But, of course, there were many exceptions and variations.] In the case of very small churches, the records of more than one church may be among the *items* on a film. Also, you will occasionally find that a *volume* has been split between two films.

Therefore, I recommend that when you start to use a film the first thing you do is scan the entire film to get an overview of what’s on it. Make sure

it’s the correct film, mislabeling occasionally happens. Determine the *items* that are of interest to you. Evaluate the condition of the records and the language(s) used ... that may help you to plan your work. Here’s a general sense of the condition you can expect ... post-1867 records are usually excellent and very legible; 1780-1867 records are very mixed and go from poor to excellent; pre-1780 records also vary, but from totally illegible to reasonably good. The biggest problem with church registers of historic Hungary is ink “bleeding” through the paper making it difficult to read the reverse side. Less frequently, pages are filmed which are discolored due to aging or have become brittle with edges that have broken away. Always remember, it could be worse ... Hungarian records don’t have the tropical staining and insect damage that’s so pervasive in relatively recent registers from places like Colombia in South America!

I wish I could tell you what you can find on your selected films, and how to go about finding it. But, every film is different, as are our individual work habits and preferences. So my only suggestion is to prepare yourself for the types of records you hope to find

and the languages you will encounter. One way to do that is to review in detail the *Document Examples* section of my [Hungarian Family History Tutorial](#). You will find about twenty examples of actual church registers from the early 1700s to the late 1800s for the Roman Catholic, Reformed, and Lutheran traditions and a remarkable example of five language changes in less than 50 years in the death register of a Greek Catholic church. The notes associated with these documents include considerable information about both the Latin and Magyar terms used in baptismal, marriage, and burial records.

When you find information about your ancestors – and you almost certainly will – I’m sure you will want to take copious notes on what you find. [Note: most FHC’s permit the use of laptop computers, and there are electrical outlets that can be used.] But, you may also want to make copies of the original records. Some people do this using their own digital camera. Usually there’s enough light, and for legible individual entries digital cameras will often do a decent job. The other alternative is to use a microfilm printer. These are very expensive machines, and usually only one of them is available at each FHC. Since every microfilm printer I’ve seen is different, you’ll need to get instruction from the staff in using it. But, three things are common and so worth mentioning. First, you must move the film from the reader to the printer with *both* reels in place. Second, fast scanning of a film is not possible on a printer, so don’t plan to make copies from all over a long film at one sitting. And finally – the good part – the microfilm printers have interchangeable lenses going from very low to extremely high-magnification. This means you can print entire pages or zoom-in on just a few words if that’s what you want. Also, the microfilm printers

support negative-positive inversion. So, the few films which are entirely negative (white on black) can be inverted to print in the much more legible positive form (black on white). The cost of copies from a microfilm printer is somewhat more than those from a standard copier – typically 25¢ per page.

Summary. This completes the five-part series I originally contemplated to help get readers started on the search for their roots in historic Hungary. I hope to continue the series in the summer of 2008 with additional articles keyed to the specific needs and interests of readers. To do this, your feedback is needed. I look forward to your e-mails, write me at Vic@Berecz.us

Vic Berecz is a retired software engineering manager and university professor with homes in Florida and Connecticut. In retirement, his principal hobby is family history research. All four of his grandparents emigrated from Hungary prior to World War I. The historic Hungary they came from was a very diverse nation, and that diversity is reflected in Vic's ancestry which included Magyars, Slovaks, Germans, and Vends who practiced the Roman Catholic, Reformed, and Evangelical Lutheran faith traditions. This diversity, and his software and educational background, facilitated his major undertaking -- a Hungarian Family History Tutorial on the Internet.

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Book Review: Stalin’s Gulag – the Hungarian Experience

by Steven Béla Várdy and Agnes Huszár Várdy

For 40 years, silence covered the subject of Hungarians – men as well as women – who were sent to the Gulag, the slave labor camps through which Stalin wanted to turn agricultural Russia into an industrial nation. Those fortunate enough to survive eight or ten years and return (a bare minority of perhaps 10%), were sternly warned never to speak about their experiences, or they would be sent back to Siberia. Only after 1989 was it possible for some survivors to publish their memoirs. The Professors Várdy of Duquesne University therefore have filled a gaping hole by meticulously documenting this dark area of Hungarian history.

The first third of the book provides the historical setting of the deportations, while the next third describes life in the slave camps, as gleaned from interviews with survivors: the hard work in bitter cold (often 40 below 0), hunger, degradation, and threats from the criminal element among the prisoners. (Hunger sometimes even drove the inmates to cannibalism!) These interviews are quoted at length in the Hungarian version of their book, “Magyarok a Gulag rabszolgatáborában”, published in Budapest in 2007. (Even Msgr. Tibor Mészáros, the former secretary to Cardinal József Mindszenty, was interviewed, as had he spent some nine years in Siberia.) It also contains a very interesting excerpt of correspondence between two Jewish men named Bien, one, a Holocaust survivor, the other, a Gulag survivor, as they compare their experiences.

"PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

JOHN BUTOSI

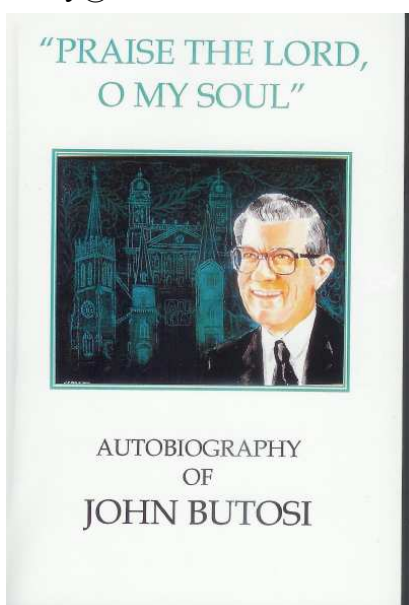
Excerpts from the Rev. Butosi's book

An extensive bibliography, maps, and an index of names rounds out the English-language study, published by the University of Naples, Italy. The Hungarian version has numerous photographs of survivors and their spouses.

On a personal note: one of my uncles, Dr. Raul Vajk, was among those rounded up by the Russians for some *malenky robot* ("a little work") on the streets of Budapest in 1944-45, at the time of the siege. He had left the air raid shelter where he and his family had been huddled, in order to get water from the public water pump, since the water supply network had also been destroyed in the bitter fighting. Fortunately, he was able to escape after about a week, one of the very, very few who lived to tell about an escape attempt. (He and his American wife were the ones who later sponsored us to come to the U.S.)

Neither book is for the squeamish, but they are essential for understanding that period of Hungary's recent history. And they totally vindicate my parents' decision to flee in order to keep our family intact.

Both books are available from the authors, at 5740 Aylesboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, or by e-mail: Svardy@aol.com.



I. NYÍRGYULAJ (1919-1931)

I was born in Nyírgyulaj which is located in the Nyírbátor District of Szabolcs County in the north-eastern corner of Hungary...

Szabolcs County is bordered on the North and the West by the Tisza River, while the Eastern border is not to far... from Romania's new territory, acquired by the Trianon Peace Treaty in 1920.

Administratively Nyírgyulaj belonged to the Nyírbátor District. Nyírbátor itself was the city-like center of our immediate area. It had shops, pharmacy, physician, daily market, and the magnificent Reformed Church... The district had another famous church center that was the Mariapócs. The Greek Catholic venerated here the "Weeping Maria" statue there... I saw the miraculous statue of the "Weeping Maria" and numerous canes, walking sticks and other signs of healing hanging on the wall around the statue...

Nyírgyulaj was one of the poorest towns in the district. The healthy economic growth was greatly hindered by several large estates owned by feudal lord or "alien", non-resident persons...

Nyírgyulaj was a divided community. One part was called "Nemes-szer", the place of the nobility, and the rest "paraszt-szer", the place of the peasants... The noble person did not mix with the peasant persons in marriage. This is

why the marriage of my parents were considered unusually radical: my father belonged to the peasant class, while my mother bore the noble Becsei name...

There were 4 organized religious groups in Nyírgyulaj: Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Reformed and Jewish... We lived among Greek Catholics... The Roman Catholics had no church building. They met in the school... Those who lived on the "nemeszer" were predominately reformed... The church building, erected on an elevation in 1805, was packed on Sunday mornings... The Jewish people of Nyírgyulaj had a synagogue in the center of the town...

Szabolcs County was considered one of the poorest, most neglected, "uncultured" areas. No highway, no electricity, no nationally known person... Nyírgyulaj had not even a physician or pharmacy, only two liquor stores, a grocery store, and a post office...

But I was proud that a weekly newspaper (Truth), church paper (Christian Family) reached us somehow. I remember how the ladies came together on a wintry evening to work on their hemp and listen as I read a book...

Without many more illustrations, I can say without hesitation, that I love my birthplace, Nyírgyulaj. I am sure that this love is mutual...

I was born on Friday, December 18, 1919 as a fifth child of Mihály

(Michael) Bütösi and his wife, Erzsébet (Elizabeth) Becsei in Nyírgyulaj... My parents had me baptized on December 20, 1919 in the Reformed Church of the town...

The earliest experience that I can recall was having tonsillitis. This tonsillitis left a permanent mark on the right side of my neck. It reminded me of my physical weakness, which was evident in the early years of my life. I

in the Reformed Elementary School of Nyírgyulaj I completed all the six years of elementary education from September 1925 to June 1931... The Rev. László Pataky served as school supervisor and religious instructor...

When in my childhood I was asked: "What are you going to be when you grow up?" My answer was: "A herdsman or a clergyman." I dreamed about becoming a minister. I vividly remember how I preached to the beautiful wheat field ... with red poppies and blue cornflowers while birds singing and church bells ringing filled the air – inspired me to praise God and teach His creation... The pulpit was the warm sand of my homeland... The most memorable pulpit of my childhood was a ladder, leading to the attic of our home...

Our parents went to the marketplace and left us, five children, home under the protection of a neighbor.... "Let us play church!" I suggested and volunteered right away to be the minister. ... in the kitchen, there was a sturdy stepladder leaning against the wall. To me that seemed to be

an ideal pulpit. I carefully ascended to the third rung of the stepladder, making sure that my robe (which was my mother's apron) properly covered the barren parts of my body. I started my sermon: "In Medias res" (right in the middle)...

My father was employed by the town as a town crier, and my mother soon became the popular dress maker. But World War I changed everything. MY father enlisted and was soon wounded on the Russian front; released, as a 75% war disabled veteran...

One day a well dressed man knocked on our door, and said: "I am Balku Sándor from America. I am looking for Bütösi Mihály, my nephew. "Sándor Bátyám" explained that he would like to live with us, by land and the necessary means to make our family one of the town's most outstanding families... Next day

my father informed Sándor Bátyám that we would go along his proposal... At first everything worked well... However, soon difficulties started to appear. As we earned more we came more and more like slaves... Finally my father encountered Sándor Bátyám: "Sándor Bátyám! Take what you brought. We do not ask anything for the years you spent with us. I prefer poverty in peace rather than riches with constant fear... The American uncle left

us. By the grace of God we learned how to live in poverty and how to abandon material goods...

The year of 1931 is a very significant milestone in my life. My father expressed several times that he wanted me to be his helper in

agriculture setting. My mother wanted me to be a carpenter furniture maker...

These were my possibilities at the age of 12. But my heart longed for the impossible! I wanted to continue my education in higher institution. And the Lord who reads the desires of our hearts and understands our needs more than we can imagine, heard my prayers...

Before the school ended, a notice appeared in the Pesti Hírlap, that the National League of Protecting Children announced opportunities of higher education for boys of larger family with poor economic conditions... It happened that both my teacher Szőke Ferenc and my minister Pataky László read this notice,... gathered the needed documents and send them in due time...

One summer day, my father said: "My son, I wished that you would stay with me, but your life, your future is more important." Soon we received the decision of the National League of Protecting Children: "Please be informed that you are accepted in our program and expect you to present yourself in our Surányi Károly Home for Boys at Cegléd on September 7, 1931..."

I was four months short of my 12 years birthday when I took my first train ride to my new home in Cegléd. On September 7th, 1931 I was enrolled in the Reálgimnázium... "May God's name be praised forever."

Next: II. CEGLÉD (1931-1939)

Recipes from Éva

In honor of the Lenten Season, the following recipes are full of vegetables, soup and noodles-YUM!! I wish you all a very happy, healthy and Blessed Easter-until next time-love, Eva

1) Fish Paprikás (for 4 servings)

2 lbs catfish fillet
1 large onion diced
sweet paprika to taste
salt and pepper to taste
canola oil
wide egg noodles

In a large skillet, saute diced onion in oil, add seasonings. Cut catfish into bite sized pieces and add to the mixture. Add a little water and simmer until cooked through. In separate pot, boil water and cook noodles, drain. Serve the fish paprikás over the warm noodles-enjoy!

With the left over noodles, you can make a simple, flavorful dish with pot cheese:

Túrós csusza

You will need:

1 16oz package of farmers cheese sauted crumbled bacon warm sour cream to taste. Crumble the farmers cheese and put over the warm noodles, add the sour cream and top with the sauted bacon, include the drip-

ings for added flavor. Salt and pepper to taste.

Serve both of these dishes with cucumber salad.

For dessert, enjoy a light plum compote drizzled with a dash of rum and an espresso coffee topped with whipped cream and Amaretto-sure to please everyone!

2) Kaszás Leves (Old fashioned soup from Transylvania) *csorba*

Make a vegetable soup using your favorite veggies. Add smoked ham, cut into bite sized pieces (optional) In separate dish, mix one egg yolk and about a cup of plain yoghurt, adding the juice of one lemon. * this serving size is for about 4 people* Add to soup and mix.

Make a spaetzle mixture using one egg, flour, water, salt and add either fresh or frozen peas. Mix into a light batter. Drop this spaetzle mixture into the soup a 1/2 teaspoon at a time and simmer until cooked. Garnish soup with fresh dill before serving.

After the soup, you can serve potatoes and noodles,

Krumplis tészta

You will need 1 package of egg noodles cooked and cooled.

1 large onion diced

and sauted
5 large potatoes
cooked in their skin,
half way paprika,
salt and pepper to
taste

Let the potatoes cool, peel and cut into bite sized pieces. Mix with the noodles, sauted onions and seasonings, stir and continue to cook until done.

Serve with dill pickles-very easy and tasty!

We as Hungarians, have always loved soup. I am including another tasty, light recipe that you will all savor. I'm sure we all love our vegetables, also!

3) Look in your fridge and grab all the vegetables you can find, including a few potatoes. Cut all of your selections into small pieces and saute in a large pan. Add fresh parsley, bay leaves, salt and pepper to taste. Add chicken broth or water with vegeta and simmer until cooked through. You can adjust the broth or water serving to the amount of soup you would like to make and the amount of vegetables you are using.

Enjoy with palacsinta, crepes, filled with either fresh fruit or jam. Have a nice glass of Tokaji Aszu with this simple, tasteful meal.

4) Rántott Leves (Simple Soup)

Make a roux, using flour

Kicsi a Vilag

Col. (Ret) Richard S. Nemeth,
USAF

and oil only, brown to a medium dark color and pasty consistency. Add 1 teaspoonful of caraway seeds, paprika and 4 cups of water. Stir and bring to a boil. Lower heat and let simmer until cooked through. Add salt, pepper and fresh crushed garlic (garlic is optional, but a nice added flavor) You can also add csipetke or small noodles to this soup.

After this soup, enjoy this fresh squash souffle.

You will need:

1 onion finely chopped and sauted
fresh yellow and green squash, grated
dill chopped finely
to taste

sour cream and flour

In a skillet, mix the sauted onion with the squash and dill. Cook and add half and half or milk, stirring frequently until cooked. Mix the sour cream and flour, add to the mixture to thicken. Squeeze a little lemon juice or add a little vinegar and a teaspoonful of sugar to taste. Garnish with fresh dill and serve with sunny-side up eggs.

Enjoy a nice, light white wine such as Egri

Leányka or a California

Chardonnay with this meal - an oldy but a goody!!



Statue at Jamestown VA, photo Aug 2007

It was the summer of 2004. My wife (of 52 years), Helen, and I were on an excursion, probably with grandchildren in tow. As grandparents we have this drive to supplement their formal schooling with occasional "educational trips."

This one found us in Jamestown, Virginia, the site of the first permanent English settlement in North America, founded in 1607, making it ancient by American standards (but youthful by comparison to the eleven hundred year old Hungarian nation!). As we wandered through the ruins and dis-

plays, we came upon a large statue of an imposing figure looking down upon us. Closer examination found it to be Captain John Smith, one of the most famous of the original settlers.

As I read the attendant historical marker, I was startled to learn that, as a young man, John Smith was a mercenary soldier who fought in what was then Hungary. He distinguished himself fighting in Transylvania for the Hapsburgs against the Ottomans in 1600-1601 campaigns with Vitez Mihaly (Michael the Brave). He was a fierce warrior and his bravery was noted and rewarded by the Transylvanian Prince Bathory Sigismund with a Knighthood and a horse. However, his fame there was shortlived for, in 1602, he was wounded and captured by the Ottomans, sold as a slave (which was customary at the time), and taken to what was then Ottoman Crimea.

The intrepid Smith soon found a way to escape and fled into Muscovy (Ukraine/Russia). He then made his way back to England through Poland and Europe arriving in 1604 in time to become involved with the plans of The Virginia Company of London to colonize Virginia. As they say, "The





CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH

John Smith was born about 1580 the son of a yeoman farmer of modest means. As a young man he travelled throughout Europe and fought as a soldier in the Netherlands and in Hungary. There he was captured, taken to Turkey and sold into slavery in Russia. He murdered his master, escaped and journeyed back to Hungary to collect a promised reward of money and a coat-of-arms. He returned to England in time to participate in the settlement of Virginia.

He was an arrogant and boastful man, often tactless and sometimes brutal. Physically strong and worldly wise, he made an excellent settler. However, his personality, his obvious qualifications and his low social position infuriated many of the colony's leaders and settlers. Despite this, he was named to the first Council in May, 1607. He learned the Indians' language and became the colony's principal Indian trader. During the summer of 1608 he led a 3,000 mile expedition in an open boat to explore and map Chesapeake Bay and its principal rivers. On September 10, 1608 the Council elected him Governor of Virginia for a one-year term. He was an able leader who understood both the Indians and the settlers' needs and the colony prospered.

Captain Smith returned to England in October, 1609 following an accidental gunpowder burn and became Virginia's most effective propagandist and historian. His *True Relation of Virginia* (1608), *Map of Virginia* (1612) and *General History of Virginia* (1624) present the colony as Smith understood it. In 1614 he made a short voyage to New England where he explored and mapped the coast from Cape Cod to Maine. Smith returned to England and never visited Virginia again, never married and never received the recognition he thought he deserved. He died June 21, 1631 and was buried in St. Sepulchre's Church in London.

The statue by William Couper was erected in 1909.

rest is history."

Did you know that Capt. John Smith was an early explorer and mapper of the American coastline who gave "New England" its name?

You Are Invited

Viewers of Magyar News Online are invited to submit articles and news items for possible publication on our website. We are interested in the following types of articles:

1. Hungarian current events, culture, history, science, the arts, and travel experiences in Hungary.
2. American-Hungarian news, culture, history, and family stories. Notices of upcoming American-Hungarian activities are especially welcome.
3. Short articles for our "Kicsi a Vilag" or "It's a Small World" column. This is about meeting Hungarians in unusual places or under unusual circumstances. Check out the column on our website to get an idea of what we like to publish.

We like to limit articles to no more than 1,000 – 1,500 words in length, although shorter articles are welcome as well. We prefer that articles be written in Microsoft Word. Articles should be submitted via email to editor@magyarnews.org, and should include the title, name of the author, and a brief description of the author's background (see our website). We welcome photographs which should be sent as attachments. Generally, we can include one photo in the main body, and the remaining are published in our photo gallery.

All articles received are reviewed by members of our editorial board, and revisions may be required before publication. We look forward to hearing from you.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PANNONIA AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN CLUB PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we, the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club begin the year activities, we would like to thank all who visited and participated in our programs last year and also invite you to join us again or for the first time in our upcoming events.

Since the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club is a Not-For-Profit Organization that consists entirely of volunteers who donate their time and energy to organize and run our events, we rely on our loyal supporters and friends to help us staying successful in our mission. This mission is to promote the Hungarian culture and heritage in this country. Our “Justin Margitay Balogh Scholarship Award” provides aid to young Hungarian-Americans who entered higher level of education and actively participated in our community. We also provide \$2000.00 annually to the Hungarian Scout Association that pays for two students spending a school year in one of Hungary’s finest high schools. These scholarships are made possible by, and depend on the success of our annual Café Budapest Debutante Ball...

Our other fundraiser is the “Long hot summer” dinner-dance on Fairfield’s Penfield Beach at the beginning of July...

Thanks to this event’s success past summer we were able to help one of “Father Csaba Bojte’s child safe houses” in Kovaszna, Transylvania. One of our members personally visited them and from our donation was able to purchase all the light fixtures for the winter, and still had plenty left for fresh fruits and essential groceries for the summer...

It was very touching to read the letters from the grateful recipients, and look at the pictures the children drew us is thanks...

This wouldn’t have been possible without our faithful patrons and guests. Thank You!

Also these two fundraisers give us the means to hold the “Children’s Christmas presentation” where we can enjoy listening our little ones reciting Hungarian poems and songs, and in return we are able to present them with holiday Book gift card, and all the attending children with a gift bag...

Early spring marks our March 15th commemoration, later in May the “An evening in May” opera gala are two wonderful events. These two are also made possible by the funds recurred from the two fundraisers...

We would like to thank you one again for your patronage and invite you to come and spend some good times with us, knowing that your presence makes a difference in the life of young people of Hungarian descent and heritage...

Sincerely,

Éva Mikolai, President

Zsuzsa Deer, Vice President

Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation

300 Somerset Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

EXHIBIT - *Magyar Grafika: Hungarian Posters, Advertising and Ephemera*

February 7, 2008

Contact: Patricia L. Fazekas, Museum Curator
plf@ahfoundation.org

732.846.5777

New Brunswick, NJ: The Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation presents the exhibition *Magyar Grafika: Hungarian Posters, Advertising and Ephemera* from March 16 through September 14, 2008. The exhibit features 75 posters from the 1910s through the 1980s, a glimpse of 20th century Hungarian life in a nutshell, covering movies, sports, travel and commerce.

Poster art flourished in the early decades of the 20th century in Hungary as it did elsewhere in Europe. New media such as films and new industries needed advertising to reach the public - the rising middle class. Commercial establishments produced posters to encourage people to buy their products and patronize their businesses. Later, posters became a means of mass communication used by the government to relay its message to the people. Through the ups and downs of the 20th century, wars, social upheaval and economic change, advertising changed too, reflecting the current times.

Some of the finest and best-known Hungarian artists of the day designed posters. Their work mirrored the stylistic trends in culture as well as commerce. Early 20th century posters were created by such notable Hungarian painters as József Rippl-Rónai, Gyula Benczúr and Pál Szinyei Merse. Others came to poster design through the applied arts, such as the celebrated Mihály Biró. By the 1920s they were joined by avant-garde artists Róbert Berény and Sándor Bortnyik, with several different styles of work being produced at the same time.

Most of this exhibition comes to the Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation as a loan from a single collector, Andre Farkas, of Norwalk CT. He was born in Hungary and immigrated to America in the turbulent months following the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. In his native country, Farkas had been a bicycle racer, so it was natural that his collection began with sports posters of the early 1950s. His collection grew in scope and quantity over time and today includes several thousand pieces of paper collectibles, including posters, handbills, poster stamps and enamel signs, also included in the exhibit. Mr. Farkas will be present at the opening and is available for interviews.

Magyar Grafika: Hungarian Posters, Advertising and Ephemera opens with a reception on Sunday, March 16, 2008. The reception is open to the public and takes place between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. The Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM. The suggested donation is \$5. Guided tours are available for groups. The Museum is located at 300 Somerset Street in New Brunswick, NJ. For more details call 732.846.5777.

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FOUNDATION



MAGYAR GRAFIKA
 HUNGARIAN POSTERS, ADVERTISING & EPHEMERA
 March 16 - September 14, 2008



EXHIBIT - *Magyar Grafika: Hungarian Posters, Advertising and Ephemera*

February 7, 2008

Contact:
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