

News in Hungarian Studies

The Newsletter of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada

Executive for 2010-12

President: Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa (sabbatical 2011), agathas@uottawa.ca

Vice-President: Christopher Adam, Carleton University, christopher_adam@carleton.ca

Treasurer: Margit Lovrics, Toronto, lovrics@idirect.ca

Secretary: Judy Young Drache, Ottawa, judyyoung@drache.ca

Website of HSAC: www.hungarianstudies.org

Table of contents

<i>President's Message</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Call for Papers for the 2011 HSAC conference in Fredericton</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Minutes of the 2010 AGM at Concordia University, Montreal</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Treasurer's Report for 2009-2010</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>History of HSAC by George Bisztray</i>	<i>page 7</i>
<i>News and events of interest</i>	<i>page 12</i>

This is the first issue of the Newsletter edited by the new Secretary; it can only be as good as the information and news provided to her by the membership. No additional information has been sought for this issue as we had plenty to include already. However, we would very much welcome members' input both for content and format for future issues. We will consider a format that would keep length to a minimum but still offer news and share information of use to everyone. The next issue will be published at the end of December 2010; **the deadline for receiving submissions will be December 6th, 2010.** The next issue will contain the membership list. If you have not already done so, please send us your e-mail addresses so we can reduce the work and costs of mailing. And please remember: the Newsletter is available on the website: www.hungarianstudies.org

President's message

First of all, I would like to thank the membership of the HSAC for electing me president of our Association. I feel very honoured. I hope that during my tenure the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada will continue to grow and gain in importance as both an academic and a community organization. I would also like to thank Christopher Adam for accepting the position of acting president during the current academic year as I am on sabbatical leave until June 30, 2011. I look forward to working with Chris as vice-president, Judy Young as secretary and Margit Lovrics as our treasured treasurer. My special thanks go out to Prof. Andor Tari, past-president and Prof. György Bisztray, the Association's now retired secretary, for their long-time commitment to the HSAC. I am very pleased that Prof. Nandor Dreisziger will continue his precious work to keep our journal, the *Hungarian Studies Review*, well and alive and in good academic standing.

This year has been a very successful one for our Association. We have reached our goal of becoming members of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS). Our acceptance in the Federation was by no means a *fait accompli*. It took several years of hard work to recruit new members so that we could reach the membership required. We can now be proud of this accomplishment and look forward to the benefits of being members. I would like to thank all of you who volunteered their time and effort to recruit new members. Please keep up the good work! Our membership in the Federation is very important as this gives the HSAC an official academic profile and should help us to recruit new academic members, particularly among the younger generation.

Although, owing to another commitment, I was not able to attend this year's conference in Montreal, I know that it was another very successful one. I would like to congratulate the conference committee, Nandor Dreisziger, Christopher Adam, and Judith Szapor for their hard work and the excellent program they put together. I would also like to thank all the speakers for their valuable contributions to the success of the conference.

In May 2011, the conference will be held at the University of New Brunswick and St Thomas University in Fredericton within the overall program of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The two New Brunswick universities are dynamic institutions and Fredericton a lovely town definitely worth a visit. (You may even want to consider a little holiday in the Atlantic provinces around the conference.) This said, I really hope that many of you will attend our annual conference next year. You will find a Call for Papers in this Newsletter; please consider presenting a paper. Our conference program committee is hard at work planning the event; of course they can only put together an interesting program if you come forward with proposals! As usual, our program is open to general topics relating to Hungary and Hungarians but there will also be a special session to reflect the annual theme of the Congress: "Coasts and Continents: Exploring People and Places" ou, en français: "Rivages et continents: exploration des peuples et des lieux."

A viszontlátásra Frederictonban!

Agatha (Ágota) Schwartz
agathas@uottawa.ca



Call for Papers for the 2011 annual HSAC conference

Here is the 2011 Call for Papers. Please consider giving a paper or making suggestions to the Program Committee or the Secretary about potential speakers or program elements, including the social aspects. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Fredericton!

Call for papers

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for its 26th annual conference, to be held in Fredericton, on May 28-30th, 2011. The annual theme for the 2011 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is “Coasts and Continents: Exploring People and Places.” We invite paper proposals that tie this theme into Hungarian studies, by examining issues such as migration and immigration, Hungarian explorers in Canada and around the world, as well as the diaspora and its contact with people of different cultures.

HSAC is an interdisciplinary organization and we welcome papers from a wide range of disciplines, including: economics, film studies, the fine arts, history, literature, political science, public policy, sociology. In addition to this year’s special theme, the Conference Committee welcomes submissions exploring all aspects of Hungarian culture, history, politics and society, both in Hungary and abroad. Papers may be presented in English, Hungarian, or French.

The deadline for submitting proposals is December 15th, 2010. Your proposal should contain the paper’s title, an abstract summarizing your topic with key arguments and sources, as well as a brief curriculum vitae. Please submit your abstract and paper title by the deadline and in the language in which you wish to present.

Please send your proposals to Judy Young, HSAC’s Secretary who will forward them to the Conference Committee. You may want to copy the members of the Conference Committee. E-mail: judyyoung@drache.ca Tel.: 613-567-5756

Conference Committee:

Christopher Adam: christopher_adam@carleton.ca; Pál Pilisi: pilisipal@hotmail.com

Enikő Pittner : zpittner@rogers.com



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of HSAC

May 30, 2010

Concordia University

(Minutes prepared by George Bisztray)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3.40 P.M. by Andor Tari, president. Quorum was present.
2. Adoption of the minutes of the of the 2009 General Meeting. A. Tari requests striking line 7 of his presidential report (about forwarding a complaint to the Congress). Margit Lovrics moves to adopt the amended minutes, seconded by Judy Young; carried.

3. Reports of the Executive.

- a. President (A. Tari). Praises the conference, has confidence in the future, especially due to the numerous new members. As outgoing president, thanks the membership for its support..
- b. Vice-President (Agatha Schwartz). In her absence J. Young reports that the association is now a member of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This should have several advantages, such as the availability of grants.
- c. Treasurer (M. Lovrics). In her report (see p. 6 of this newsletter) she itemizes revenue and disbursements. Oliver Botar moves to accept the report, seconded by Christopher Adam; carried.
- d. Secretaries. George Bisztray (also for Eva Tomory) discusses various HSAC publications. Newsletter: future secretary should collect materials, edit the newsletter and distribute it online as well as by mail to members without computers. *Lectures and Papers* series: Eugene Horvath has kindly sponsored the publication of five recent issues. The challenges of continued publication remain: who will take care of these and who will cover the expenses? In the past issues have been sent to five major research libraries world-wide and this should continue. Past secretary will send new manuscripts and the library addresses to new one. Christopher Adam moves to accept the reports of the President, Vice-President and the Secretaries. Seconded by M. Lovrics; carried.

4. Reports of the Committees.

- a. Conference Committee: Nandor Dreisziger thanks Christopher Adam for taking over the organizing tasks for this year's conference.
- b. Publications Committee (N. F. Dreisziger). 2009 volume of the *Hungarian Studies Review* is under production. Reprints have been sent to authors until they receive the issue. The 2010 issue is also in the production process. There are few papers available for the 2011 issue. – Problem with National Széchényi Library, the co-publisher: it has a new director who has not yet decided whether to continue supporting the journal. Question: how many copies are printed? Dreisziger: 220 copies, half of them sent to members of the HSAC and the Hungarian Studies Association in the US, the rest go to libraries.
- c. Planning and Nominations Committee (J. Young). Our association is now a member of the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences. There has been some outreach and communication to create awareness for HSAC: among these efforts is the creation of a new website which should help in further outreach and promotion by, for instance, publishing earlier issues of the “Lectures and Papers in Hungarian Studies” or other information relating to the Association or the work of its members. The site is at www.hungarianstudies.org. There is a section called “Members Only” which will contain the membership list and other information not for public use. The

current user ID and password were provided to members at the conference but can be obtained by writing to Judy Young whose e-mail is elsewhere in this newsletter. The Committee will continue to reach out to current members and others who may be interested in joining.

The following nominations were announced for the new Executive.

President: Agatha Schwartz

Vice President and Acting President in 2010-2011: Christopher Adam

Secretary: Judy Young

Treasurer: Margit Lovrics

5. Election of the new Executive and some Committees.

President and Secretary carried with one abstention,
Vice-President elected without abstention.

Nominations for the Committees from the floor.

Planning Committee: O. Botar, E. Tomory, M. Velki.

Publications Committee: N.F. Dreisziger stays in office.

New Acting President takes the chair.

6. Future conference sites.

Next year's conference will be hosted by the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Fredericton. Discussion. N.F. Dreisziger: should we not meet every other year? O. Botar asks for rationale. Dreisziger: Fredericton is an isolated place. G. Bisztray: we have no members far and wide. J. Young: we are new members of the Federation, and it would make a bad impression if we did not participate in our first year of membership. Tari: our conference won't be weaker if we go to Fredericton. O. Botar asks why participation in the 2007 Saskatoon conference was cancelled. G. Bisztray: got only six paper proposals. Paul Pilisi offers to make preliminary inquiry on East Coast. Participation moved by M. Lovrics, seconded by J. Young. Carried, with two abstentions.

Conference Committee is struck: chair P. Pilisi, members C. Adam and E Pittner. Acceptance moved by O. Botar, seconded by M. Lovrics, carried.

7. Other business.

On behalf of members J. Young thanks outgoing Executive and in particular George Bisztray for his 25 years of devoted service, and the membership for its loyalty.

8. Adjournment at 5.10 P.M.

Moved by N.F. Dreisziger, seconded by O. Botar; all in favour.



HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
Treasurer's Report
FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2009 - APRIL 30, 2010

Opening balance as of May 1, 2009 \$5,162.48

REVENUE

Membership fees	for 2006	\$35.00			
	for 2008	70.00			
	for 2009	1,370.00			
	for 2010	560.00		\$2,035.00	
Donations	Oliver Botar	25.00			
	Steven Fedor	100.00		125.00	
Bank Interest	on bank account	0.58			
	on GIC	149.25		149.83	2,309.83
					\$7,472.31

DISBURSEMENTS

Remittance of subscription fees held in our account for HSR				\$720.00	
2009 Conference Expenses		\$654.84			
	Reception	200.00		854.84	
Printing				39.36	
Website Internet Service Hosting Fee				120.38	
Website design, development		300.00			
	updates on website	100.00		400.00	
Administrative Expenses, Treasurer				103.83	
CFHSS semi-annual membership fee				337.88	
Bank charges				1.02	2,577.31
Transfer to Term Deposit (Please see Note 1)					3,000.00
In Bank account as of April 30, 2010					1,895.00
					\$7,472.31

TOTAL ASSETS @ APRIL 30, 2010: \$4,895.00

Note (1) \$3,880.45 Term deposit matured on March 8, 2010 earning 4% interest. Invested \$3,000.00 again in TD Triple Value GIC on March 8, 2010 earning 0.5% interest in Year 1, 1.25% interest in Year 2, 3% interest in Year 3. (Annual yield 1.578%)
Year 3.

Note (2) The membership fee includes subscription fee of \$15.00 to the "Hungarian Studies Review".
As of April 30, 2010 the amount owing to HSR is \$1,005.00 arrived at as follows:

2006	\$15.00
2008	30.00
2009	705.00
2010	255.00
Total:	<u>\$1,005.00</u>

.ml



Twenty-five years of Hungarian Studies in Canada

The following is a slightly revised version of Professor George Bisztray's keynote address on the history of the HSAC at the May 2010 conference of the association. We thank him for allowing us to include it in this Newsletter.

HISTORY OF THE HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

George Bisztray

When the Hungarian Chair of the University of Toronto was inaugurated in 1978, its incumbent, Professor George Bisztray, began to assess the expectations of the Canadian academy and the Hungarian Canadian community. Since the early 1970s he had been a member of the American Hungarian Educators' Association (AHEA, based in the United States), and invited this association to hold its annual meeting at the University of Toronto in 1980. The number and quality of the papers, and the interest of the Hungarian Canadian community in the meeting, encouraged professor Bisztray to organize a second conference in 1983. About a hundred people attended this event, and the Canadian participants expressed their wish to establish a scholarly organization which, similarly to AHEA, would represent Hungarian culture and history at an academic level.

Two university professors accepted the challenge. In 1984 Robert Blumstock, Professor of Sociology at McMaster University, Martin Kovacs, historian at the University of Regina, and George Bisztray met at the University of Guelph. By that time the annual conferences of the so-called Learned Societies - organized by the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences, (CFHSS) - had provided an opportunity for many years to a hundred or more academic associations of Canada to meet annually at different universities. The 1984 conglomeration of these conferences was held at Guelph, which gave the idea to the three professors to meet there. They discussed what the name of the Hungarian association should be, how it could become a member of

the Learned Societies, who would develop the constitution, and how to announce the existence of the new association.

The first meeting of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) was held in 1985 at the University of Montreal. Twenty papers constituted the program, and they helped to crystallize a policy for future conferences. While subjects of wider ramifications were to be welcomed, it was accepted that contributions should have a predominantly Hungarian perspective. In other words, a seemingly rich program which had little to do with Hungary or Hungarians would not fit the goals of the association's future conferences.

At the first General Meeting, professor Kovacs presented the draft of the constitution that he developed based on the constitutions of other academic associations. The membership voted to accept the draft which was printed in its final form in the winter newsletter, and has been amended twice since. The newsletter was first published in the fall of 1985 under the title *News in Hungarian Studies*, and has appeared 3-4 times a year for the information of members. The average membership over the years has hovered around fifty, with concentration mainly in Ontario and Quebec, two provinces where the most Hungarian Canadians live. As in the case of many scholarly and community associations, rejuvenation and augmentation of the membership has necessitated continuous effort.

The annual conferences took place under the aegis of the Learned Societies Conferences (since 1998 called the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences). Some of the conferences were jointly organized with the Finno-Ugric Studies Association of Canada and the American Hungarian Educators' Association. Announcement of the annual meetings and coverage of their program has appeared regularly in the Hungarian Canadian press, and occasionally in the European press. Not counting the joint conferences, participating guests of the HSAC conferences have come from six countries.

Since 1974 an internationally noted, refereed academic journal, the English language *Canadian-American Review of Hungarian Studies* represented Hungarian scholarship world-wide. Until the 1980's an Ottawa-based community group, the Hungarian Readers' Service published the periodical. In 1983 the Hungarian Chair became co-publisher and the title was changed to *Hungarian Studies Review (HSR)*. In 1990-91 the HSAC entered into partnership with Hungary's National Széchenyi Library (OSZK) and took over publication of the journal. This latter set up a home page for the *Review* on which the content of journal issues from the years 1998-2001 is

available (see <http://www.oszk.hu/kiadvany/hsr/hsr.htm>). In 2005 the Hungarian Studies Association (USA) became the third co-publisher of the periodical.

The Association also has two publication series in which only members can publish. One is titled *Lectures and Papers in Hungarian Studies*, which includes selected working papers, research reports, lectures and other essays. Thus far 56 issues have appeared and been deposited in five major libraries world-wide. The other series, *Diversions*, has published non-academic essays, literary and poetic works. The HSAC now has a website that provides information about the association and its activities, as well as how to become a member. Its location is: www.hungarianstudies.org.

Right from the very beginning meetings have been characterized by a diversity of topics and subject matter. Topics that do not regularly appear at other North American Hungarian studies conferences include art history, travelers' accounts, sport history, and politics. Conspicuous is the absence of papers on folklore or science in general. Much depended on the fluctuation of membership: people with special interests – such as an expert on musicology, for instance - came and left. Everything considered, the association has successfully fulfilled its scholarly, interdisciplinary objectives.

Initially, the tenure of office holders was one year. In 1989 this term was extended to two years in order to provide more structural stability. In 1992 the holder of the Hungarian Chair at the U of T offered to house the secretariat. This meant that the publications and archives found a depository, and the association got a permanent mailing address and telephone and fax number. In the same year the General Meeting voted to appoint the chair holder to be secretary for an indefinite term.

At first, membership fees were \$ 20, and \$ 10 for students. Since 1990 all members have received the *HSR* free, which created a financial loss for the association. Therefore membership fees had to increase to 35 and 20 dollars respectively. Quite recently, fees went up again, to 45 and 30 dollars. In response to these changes, the constitution of the association was amended three times.

In order to further enhance the profile of the association, in 2000 the secretariat received a computer. In the same year Magdolna Velki offered to set up a web site for HSAC. Somewhat upsetting was the circumstance that the university moved the offices of the Hungarian Chair, that is, the association's secretariat, to a new location.

Since the beginning the association had to deal with certain dilemmas. One was the difference between active and passive members. My estimate is that less than 40% of the steady membership ever presented papers. On the other hand, there were members who regularly

contributed to our conferences. Here is a small statistic: Professor Dreisziger read papers at 21 conferences, Judith Hermann at 15, Professor Tari and Mária Krisztinkovich at 14, and Dr. Mester at 11 conferences. At the same time, among our members there have been some who contributed by being a loyal and enthusiastic public.

The passivity of the membership manifested itself in other respects, too. Such was the payment of membership fees. Due to lenient recording, at the end of 1987 there were 42 members “in good standing”, but 63 names on the membership list. In 1988-89 there were an astonishing 166 names on the list, but the treasurer reported only 43 paid-up members. In more recent years these anomalies were corrected, but the fluctuation of membership numbers is still very much with us. As we hold our conference in various cities of the country, local Hungarians tend to attend, become members for a couple of years, then disappear from our screen.

The association’s newsletter “News in Hungarian Studies,” aspired to be a lively forum of information and debate. But news and information were hard to gather despite the editor’s frequent reminders. There were “newsletter” issues that printed only Calls for Papers or conference programs.

The ratio of academic to community members has been a matter of concern to some scholars among us. The number of the former has fluctuated, but was often not more than one-third of the membership. While we would not have survived without enthusiastic community support, it is also obvious that academics of Hungarian origin or background choose to participate in societies of their academic specialization rather than our interdisciplinary one. Naturally, highly specialized papers that address only a small group in a field of science, for instance, are hard to accommodate in a primarily humanities and social sciences oriented gathering. However, is not the skill of sharing one’s knowledge with the wider public, in other words, the “popularization” of science, also a criterion of good scholarship?

The secretary announced his imminent retirement from the Chair of Hungarian Studies at the U of T in 2003. A year later the permanent secretariat closed, and the opportunity to use its address and space to store publications of the association ceased. This latter affected mostly the *Lectures and Papers* series. Traditionally the authors bore half of the production expenses, and the association the other half. Lacking a distribution centre, authors were expected to distribute the issues themselves, except for the five copies that have been sent to five prestigious libraries.

After his retirement from the Chair in 2005, George Bisztray indicated that he intended to step down from the position of Executive Secretary within a few years. In order to guide the association through the ongoing and expected changes, a Planning Committee was established. Its

role became more pivotal after 2008 when the Secretary set 2010 for the year of his retirement. The present functioning of the association is already the work of this committee.

. o O o .

I have spent some time castigating the shortcomings of our association. The fact remains that we have been the only assembly of its kind, and with our 25 years of history we have written our name into the annals of Canadian Hungarian culture. Many members have indicated that they had never found an association like ours, and did not care for the typical community organizations with their petty quarrels. It appears, therefore, that we have fulfilled a special role on the Canadian Hungarian scene.

This support is something that the future officers of the association, and organizers of its conferences, should not lose sight of. On the first page of the first newsletter I, as first president, set “a non-political, non-emotional and non-partisan attitude” as the norm for HSAC. Did we manage to adhere to these goals?

In our highly politicized world HSAC has been a welcome exception. Granting full relevance to political science, one cannot help but wonder where to draw the fine line between scholarship and propaganda. If the past quarter of a century left any legacy, it would be the avoidance of letting divisive and provocative issues enter our conferences. We should correct rather than disseminate such offensive (and partly tendentious) misconceptions as the existence of a specific Hungarian racism. There are extremist and racist forces operating in all European and many other countries, yet I don't believe that conferences dealing with the present state of these countries would pay special attention to such phenomena. We should not get mixed up in political confrontations. In particular, I hope to see a very careful approach to our old country's delicate political situation.

Here we live in another country, and so do millions of our compatriots around the world. Researching our new existence provides enough avenues to follow. The history of our old country and the richness of our culture seem inexhaustible. My colleagues and I who are stepping down would like to see changes, especially the influx of young scholars. But we would also like to see the maintenance of the tradition that kept us together for 25 years and consistently attracted the core of our members.



News of interest to members

- A brief report with photos of the 2010 Concordia conference is on the HSAC website both in English and Hungarian at: http://hungarianstudies.org/conf_2010.html Additional photos are on the general conference page at <http://hungarianstudies.org/conferences.html>
- Congratulations to Agota Schwartz on the publication of the conference proceedings: ***Gender and Modernity in Central Europe. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and its Legacy.*** Edited by Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa Press, 2010. For more information see: <http://www.press.uottawa.ca/book/gender-and-modernity-in-central-europe>
- The Proceedings of the 2006 international conference on the 1956 revolution held at the University of Ottawa have been published by the University of Ottawa Press. ***The 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Hungarian and Canadian Perspectives*** is available from the Press and from bookstores or online. This conference was co-sponsored by HSAC and several members of HSAC (Christopher Adam, George Bisztray, Oliver Botar, Nandor Dreisziger, Tibor Egervari, Peter Hidas, Leslie Laczko, Maria Palasik, and Judy Young) gave papers, presentations or participated in the organization of the conference which was one of many events across Canada to mark the 50th anniversary of the revolution. For more information visit the website of the U of O Press: www.press.uottawa.ca or for a review of the book see the website of the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation which was also a co-sponsor of the conference: <http://www.hungarianpresence.ca/history/study-revolution-302.cfm>
- The 2009 and 2010 issues of *Hungarian Studies Review* were recently mailed to members/subscribers. The 2009 issue is a special volume devoted to Transylvania, past and present, and the 2010 issue is a special volume on the art of László Moholy-Nagy.
- We regret to announce that Kati Rékai, long-time member and supporter of HSAC, and author of children's books, died on February 1st, 2010.
- 2011 is the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth and has been officially declared Liszt Year in Hungary and the international music world. We might want to take special note of this for our 2011 conference.

