MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (HSAC)

University of Victoria, June 2nd 2013

1. The meeting was called to order by the President, Agatha Schwartz, at 2.40pm. The agenda was approved and the Minutes of the 2012 AGM were also approved (proposed by Eniko Basa and seconded by Anna Maria Bogyo).

2. The President reminded the AGM of the loss of two colleagues during the year and a minute’s silence was held in their memory. Professor George Bisztray and Mr Eugene (Jeno) Horvath. Professor Bisztray, for almost 30 years Chair of Hungarian Studies at the University of Toronto and founder of HSAC was remembered by Judy Young Drache, Nandor Dreisziger, and Oliver Botar. Jeno Horvath, expert and collector of Haban pottery, and long-time member and benefactor of HSAC, was remembered by Eva Kossuth.

3. and 4. Reports of the Executive and Committees

President: Agatha Schwartz thanked the Secretary, Judy Young Drache, for her steadfast work in running the organization and together with the Program Chair, Judith Szapor, for planning and ensuring a successful conference. She mentioned the importance of being a member of the Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences and having the annual conferences with Congress. Membership is stable and up from earlier years. HSAC needs to ensure this trend continues. Next year’s conference will take
place at Brock University in St Catharines and the one in 2015 in Ottawa. That will be HSAC’s 30th conference and the anniversary should be marked in some way. Agatha proposes an ad-hoc committee be set up now to plan for that event. Proposal supported by Oliver Botar who puts forward a motion, seconded by Judy Young Drache. Motion approved. Tanya Watson and Oliver volunteer for the committee and Agatha and Judy join.

**Treasurer:** As Margit Lovrics was unable to attend, Judy filled in for her. The Treasurer’s report (see below Minutes) was reviewed and a motion introduced to accept it. Proposed by Katherine Magyorodi, seconded by Tanya Watson. All in favour and thanks expressed to Margit for her continued diligent work as Treasurer.

**Secretary:** Judy Young Drache spoke about the conference organization; noting that sending the Call for Papers (CFP) out more broadly than just to members as used to be the practice (to the HSA and AHEA in the US, as well as the Habsburg H-Net History list, for instance) - has shown results in the growing diversity of conference papers and participants. The CFP needs to go out earlier than has been the custom so the program and arrangements, as well as grant applications can go out on time. Although instructions for brief abstracts and cv’s were provided in the CFP, conference organizers need to make these guidelines more detailed and ensure they are met by those submitting proposals. Need to canvass for Program Committee members and a Local Arrangements Coordinator (LAC) for the 2014 conference. **Further outreach and rejuvenation are important: such work must continue (see also report of the Planning and Nominations Committee in this regard). Existing members must play their part in this process and search out and contact other potentially interested colleagues in related fields. We should be pleased with the success of this year’s conference in the variety of papers submitted and of colleagues attending: a significant number of new participants, and probably the largest number of overseas and graduate student presenters.** [We are pleased to note that through the suggestion of Nandor Dreisziger, we have been able to interest Prof Elizabeth Vlossak, a Central European historian at Brock U., to take on this role for 2014. She attended the September planning meeting of Congress at Brock U on our behalf.]

**Publications Committee:** Nandor Dreisziger noted that the **HSR** has existed for 40 years now and except for special issues, he has been involved in editing it all that time. Currently the Fall 2013 special issue is almost ready for print; this is an issue on “Gender and Nation in post 1919 Hungary,” co-edited by Agatha Schwartz and Judith Szapor. The 2014 issues are well in hand as well although there are often promises made but not fulfilled, therefore more papers are always welcome. Hopefully some of the papers from this year’s conference will be part of one of the next volumes. Library subscriptions have been declining for all such publications but through savings achieved by having the journal printed locally, we should be able to continue for another few years. The status of the “Lectures and Papers” series needs to be reviewed considering that we have not actively continued this and that conference papers are frequently published online now.

**Planning and Nominations Committee:** Oliver Botar reported that this committee had been quite active during the past year and had frequent skype and e-mail contact with its members from Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg. They had also been in touch with the Secretary in Ottawa a number of times. They had discussed issues around how to recruit and retain members; how better communication with the membership may be maintained, and considered suggestions for improving the newsletter and the website. On this latter, Magdi Velki had prepared a sheet, copies of which were handed out to members, proposing short term and longer term goals and the setting up of a web working group. Some thematic suggestions were also included. Other recommendations are:

- every member recruit one new member during the year;
- a list of the advantages of membership to be available for prospective members;
- the newsletter to have at least one other member to reduce the load on the Secretary and canvass for content by sending out reminders to members to send in information;
- papers presented at conferences to be posted on the website to build an archive.
- establish a working / editorial group for the website; have members upload their own content on the members’ page; digitize past issues of newsletters.

The final part of Oliver’s report dealt with a proposed change to the constitution. Pursuant to earlier discussions and a request by the President, and after due notice was given in writing to members, the Planning Committee prepared a clause to be added to the existing Constitution of HSAC (to be Section 2 e) with respect to academic freedom. The proposed new clause is based on the AUCC’s 2011 “Statement on Academic Freedom” and is formulated as follows:

2 e. To engage in reasoned discourse based on rigorous research and scholarship, according to the standards of Academic Freedom as set out by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). It is acknowledged that, according to AUCC standards, HSAC members are free to take intellectual risks and tackle controversial subjects in their scholarly research, their presentations, and publications.

Eniko Basa moved that this be added to the constitution, Agatha Schwartz seconded it and all were in favour; motion therefore approved.

5. There being no other items, the AGM was adjourned, proposed by Nandor Dreisziger and seconded by Judy Young Drache.

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HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
Treasurer’s Report
FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 2012 - APRIL 30, 2013

Opening balance as of May 1, 2012 $3,830.11

REVENUE

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$7,512.86
DISBURSEMENTS

Remittance of subscription fees held in our account for HSR as per last year's Treasurer Report (Note 2) $1,005.00

Website updates 60.00

CFHSS annual membership fee (Oct.1/12 - Sep.30/13) 732.76

Administration, Treasurer 132.85

2012 Conference expenses
  Catering, Audio Visual, etc. 764.92
  Keynote speaker 839.12 1,604.04 3,534.65

In Bank account as of April 30, 2013 3,978.21

$7,512.86

TOTAL ASSETS @ APRIL 30, 2013: $3,978.21

Note (1) The membership fee includes subscription fee of $15.00 to the "Hungarian Studies Review". As of April 30, 2013 the amount owing to HSR is $1,005.00 arrived at as follows:

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Please make sure that you have paid your annual dues for 2013. We are pleased to note that our membership has grown the past few years as new members join us every year at the time of the annual conference. We now have about 100 members, of whom about 20 have not yet paid their annual dues this year. I have recently sent a reminder to these former members. If you have already sent your cheque to Margit Lovrics, thank you. Otherwise, the easiest way is to print the membership application form from our website: http://www.hungarianstudies.org/APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.pdf and mail it with your cheque to Margit whose address is provided on the form. Thank you.

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The 2014 Annual HSAC Conference at Brock University, St Catharines, Ontario

The 29th annual conference of HSAC will be held in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University, St Catharines, Ontario from May 24th - May 26th 2014. As in the last few years, the conference will start at around 6 pm on the evening of Saturday, May 24th and continue on the next two days, finishing at around 5pm on Monday May 26th. We are still working on a special opening address or a literary/cultural event to open the conference on the evening of May 24th. As usual, we will have our annual dinner on the evening of Sunday May 25th. The Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences will be offering wine and cheese receptions this year from 4-5 pm on May 25th and 26th and the President’s reception assigned to our members is also on May 25th - usually after 5pm. We will try to leave time for conference participants to attend these.

All information about Congress is available online now at www.congress2014.ca. You can check the details of location, accommodation, travel, etc. there. Registration will only start in mid-January of 2014 but Elizabeth Vlossak, our Local Coordinator, suggests in her report to us that those planning to attend Congress should book their accommodation early as there may not be sufficient accommodation close to the Brock campus or in St Catharines itself. “I would urge your members to book their rooms as soon as possible if they want to be in St Catharines. There are also a lot of hotels in Niagara Falls that are offering discounts, but unless you have a car it might be a challenge to get to Brock quickly and conveniently.”

The University is making every attempt to provide sufficient residence rooms available on campus and has blocked a large number of rooms in nearby hotels and is working on arrangements with local bus and transportation companies for shuttle services. There will be more information on this in the next few months so you can make appropriate travel arrangements. Elizabeth also makes recommendations about travel options: “For your members coming from Toronto and not planning on staying overnight, there is only one train per day. The bus is far more convenient (especially as some of the buses go all the way to Brock) and runs throughout the day and late into the evening. The bus station is also located downtown, while getting to the train station requires taking a cab. For members planning on flying in, the planning guide lists Pearson, Buffalo, and Hamilton as the closest airports. I would discourage flying into Hamilton, as there is no way to get from the airport to St Catharines unless you rent a car. The Niagara Airport Shuttle operates out of Pearson and Buffalo, and apparently will be offering a Congress discount.”

In fact, greater Toronto area members and those coming by car from Eastern Ontario or the US may be able and willing to offer rides to participants coming from further afield. We will be providing more information in our next newsletter (January 2014) on details as they become available.

Of course some of you may wish to make a holiday out of Congress attendance since the region is well worth visiting. Brock University is located atop the Niagara Escarpment in Ontario’s Niagara Peninsula. With seven faculties, 18,000 full-time students, 13 Canada Research Chairs and nearly 600 professors, Brock is buzzing with activity and welcoming visitors to the St. Catharines campus every day. The university, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014, is one of only a handful of Canadian universities located in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Call for Papers for the 2014 HSAC annual conference

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) is holding its 29th Annual Conference in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, from May 24 to May 26th, 2014.
The Program Committee invites members of the Association and interested scholars to submit proposals for individual papers and panels of three papers that address the overall theme of Congress, “Borders without Boundaries – Frontières sans limites” as it relates to Hungarian studies. According to the Congress call, “this general theme allows participants to reflect on the links between the academy and the community, the mediation of boundaries in a virtual world, the development of the new conceptions of rural and urban spaces, and the place and definition of friends, citizens and peoples in our social, academic and politically defined communities.”

We believe that the overall theme offers a particularly apt framework for our association to address the place of Hungarian Studies in the academy and the broader community. We welcome proposals on topics of Hungarian culture and history in both the European and North American context. As next year marks the centennial of the beginning of World War I, we also welcome panels and papers addressing the significance of the war as it affected Hungarian culture, the Hungarian diasporas, Hungarian emigration to North America, and Canadian-Hungarian relations. As always, we look for proposals in any discipline in the humanities and social sciences, including those that might address the theme from a cross-disciplinary perspective and thus bring fresh or enriched insights. Papers that do not relate to the overall theme are, as usual, also welcome.

Submissions should include a maximum 300 word abstract and a brief 100 word bio which can be used to introduce the speaker. Since both the abstract and the bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman font size 12 and be sent electronically to the Secretary of HSAC, Judy Young (e-mail address: judyyoung@drache.ca) and to the Chair of the Program Committee, Judith Szapor (judith.szapor@mcgill.ca). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian. Please keep in mind that presentations at the conference should be no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5-10 minutes for discussion. The deadline for submission is January 10th, 2014. We will notify authors of the Committee’s decisions by February 7th, 2014.

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News and Events of Interest to Members

- A number of presenters at our 2013 conference (as well as those who were in the end unable to attend) asked about the possibility of publishing their papers in the Association’s peer reviewed journal, Hungarian Studies Review (HSR). If you are interested, and your paper is in English, you may wish to send your finalized electronic version with all appropriate scholarly apparatus to judyyoung@drache.ca who will forward them to the journal’s editor, Nándor Dreisziger, for consideration. Please note that only those submissions will be reviewed which are submitted in Word format, using endnotes, and which follow the Chicago Manual of Style for manuscript preparation: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools.html

- Eniko Basa has forwarded to us information about AHEA’s next conference which is to take place May 8-10th, 2014 at the University of Florida, Gainsville, Florida. The overall theme is “Turning Points in Hungarian Life and History.” For details see the AHEA website: http://ahea.net/ and the call for papers which is here: http://ahea.net/sitefiles/2014.conf/2014.call.for.papers.9.4.13.pdf
• **Oliver Botar** has sent in the following information about his recent work: he is the recipient of a major “Insight” research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2013-2017. Project title: “Training for Modernity: Moholy-Nagy and the Onslaught of the Digital.” His new publications include:

**Books:**


**Chapter contributions to scholarly exhibition catalogues:**


**Exhibitions**

“An art at the mercy of Light” *Recent Works by Eli Bornstein*, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon (14 June-15 September, 2013)

“Leaves,” An installation by Rodney Latourelle (co-curator with Troy Gronsdahl), Saskatoon (14 June – 15 September, 2013)

**Scholarly Lecture:**

“Telehor: International Review of Visual Culture, Brno 1936,” European Network for Cinema and Media Studies (NECS), Conference 2013: “Media Politics / Political Media,” Prague, Czech Republic (21.06.2013) (With Prof. Klemens Gruber, University of Vienna),

• **Nándor Dreisziger** has published the following papers:


• Our association’s former president (2003-2005) **Judith Galántha Hermann**, has just finished writing a book. It is a non-fiction account of three people: a powerful Dragon, a refined Snake and a carefree Monkey, their adventures and discoveries on the road of life to Enlightenment. The first two are contemporaries in the 18th Century but the third one is a product of the “Future”, mainly of the 21st Century. The story spans over 200 years and three continents: Europe, Asia and indirectly North America. It is about three hardly known and still somewhat mysterious regions of the world: Transylvania in Europe, Sikkim & Ladakh in the Himalayas and esoteric Tibet. This saga is about history,
politics, culture, native astrology and healing, religion, local legends and little known facts, differences and similarities as the trio experienced them in their own actual space and time. The title is “In Search of Enlightenment”, publication is slated for early summer of 2014.

• **Ágnes Vashegyi MacDonald** who teaches Sociology and Comparative Literature at Columbia College, Vancouver has recently published the following book reviews:

In addition, Agnes has participated in the International Comparative Association’s 20th congress in Paris at Sorbonne and presented a paper entitled: “Magyar Műhely: Fifty Years of Hungarian Artists in Paris and Budapest.” She is currently working on a chapter on Antal Szerb, “Antal Szerb’s *The Queen’s Necklace*.” A ‘real history’ of cross cultural intersections in Hungarian literature” for *Hungarian Literature and Its Intercultural Contexts: Translation, Cultural Memory, Comparative Scholarship*, edited by András Kiséry, Zsolt Komáromy and Zsuzsanna Varga. In print with Cambridge Scholars Press; Newcastle Upon Tyne, (winter 2013).

Agnes recommends two novels about Hungary:

• On August 14th, 2013, **Fiore Mester** presented a paper at the 'Ideas on Ultimate Reality and Meaning' (URAM) conference at University College, University of Toronto on 'Higher levels of consciousness in the mentality of Hungarian archbishop Cardinal Péter Pázmány (1570-1637).'

• **Andrea Ritter**, who presented a paper at our 2012 conference at the University of Waterloo entitled "Social traumas and emigration with eyes of Hungarian psychoanalysts," gave an expanded version of the paper at the International Ferenczi Conference held in Budapest in the same year. She is hopeful that this version of the paper will be published in an upcoming issue of one of the relevant Canadian professional journals. Andrea is also part of the team working on a special project of digitized family stories in contemporary settings. For more information on this, see the website: [http://www.theliveteacher.com/family_story](http://www.theliveteacher.com/family_story)

• **Judith Szapor** has sent us information about two new publications:

- **Magdalena Velki** has sent in the following information about a set of new Hungarian language readers for adults (of Hungarian origin) trying to improve their knowledge of Hungarian. For further information about this project (in Hungarian) see [http://kanadaimagyarmuhely.weebly.com/](http://kanadaimagyarmuhely.weebly.com/)


*Az Olvasófüzetek* eddigi elkészült és oktatásban alkalmazott kötetei:

**Előkészítő sorozat:**
- Előkészítő I. – szófajok; részletek mesékből, anekdoták ből, tréfák ből

**Gyakorló sorozat:**
- Olvasófüzetek I. – nyelvtani problémák; részletek mesék ből, elbeszélésekből
- Olvasófüzetek II. – a szó felépítése; részletek mesék ből, regények ből

Bővebb információt az alábbi honlapon olvashatunk: [www.kanadaimagyarmuhely.weebly.com](http://www.kanadaimagyarmuhely.weebly.com)


- There is a call for papers for a Special issue of the European Journal for Women’s Studies (EJWS) on “Gendering Genocide.” The editors are: Ayşe Gül Altınay and Andrea Petö. Deadline for submissions is January 10, 2014. Articles should be submitted online to [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ejw](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ejw). For further information contact Hazel Johnstone, Managing Editor at ejws@lse.ac.uk.

- Florida Gulf Coast University’s Centre for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Fort Myers has a call for papers for a conference on “The Holocaust in Hungary 70 Years On; New Perspectives” March 17-18, 2014. For those interested in the details, please get in touch with Dr. Paul Bartrop at pbartrop@fgcu.edu (tel. 239-590-7239). Abstracts are due on November 30, 2013.

- Last but not least: an article about HSAC and the 2013 conference appeared on the website of the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation: [http://www.hungarianpresence.ca/youth/HSAC-2013.cfm](http://www.hungarianpresence.ca/youth/HSAC-2013.cfm) and will soon be on the HSAC website with photos and an account of the conference in Victoria. Enjoy!