
ABSTRACTS

Rita Bencsik: Changes in Memory and Identity in Two Memoirs

Using theories of memory studies, life history/autobiography, and identity, the study compares the recollections of a rural veterinarian with those of a military officer from the Ludovika Academy, who later became a pharmacist. It examines the memoirists' relationship with society and the political system concerning specific events; the ways in which they describe traumatic experiences in memoirs written decades later, and how they construct their meaning in autobiographical memory. Other questions include: to what extent does autobiographical memory dissent from or approximate the collective memory in terms of both specific events and the memoirists' views of history and society? The study aims to examine these narratives not in relation to each other, but in relation to our socio-historical knowledge of the Horthy, Rákosi, and Kádár eras and the memory topoi associated with them, presenting the lived experiences of the most momentous events in public history.

Keywords: autobiographical memory, identity, lived experience, memoir, social history

Tamás Csapody: "Sectarians" in Bor: Jehovah's Witnesses, Reformed Adventists, and Nazarenes in the Bor Labor Service

Approximately 6,000 Hungarian labor servicemen worked in Serbia during World War II. Most of them were of Jewish descent but one company also included members of small churches deported to the mines of Bor. Special Labor Company No. 801 comprised Jehovah's Witnesses, Reformed Adventists, and Nazarenes who had been previously convicted, without the possibility of appeal, of disloyalty or other conduct related to refusing military service. All of them belonged to "sects" that had been banned in 1939. About 200 members of these small congregations lived together for nearly 15 months between 1943 and 1944 in one of the barracks of the central camp. Their situation differed from that of the Jews, forming a closed world among themselves. They had different experiences regarding their religious prescriptions about wearing military uniforms, performing military duties, observing the Sabbath as a day of prayer, and maintaining a vegetarian diet. They lived through torture and beatings, under constant threat of execution by Hungarian and German soldiers, but their faith, organization, and resilience helped them to survive. Although their interdependence forged strong bonds, they often faced division and even schism within their group. They considered this period as a time of trial and professing their faith, a time for solidifying their

religious views and strengthening their ecclesiastical identity. Their special labor unit, deployed in a special operations area, occupies a unique place in the history of both Hungarian labor service and the minor churches.

Keywords: Second World War, labor service, conscientious objection, Jehovah's Witnesses, Nazarenes, Reformed Adventists, Jews

Gábor Csikós: "Fails to Comprehend the Changed Political Situation Correctly." Patients Classified as Jewish at Lipótmező during the Holocaust in Hungary (1944–1945)

The remark quoted in the title was recorded on the medical record of a patient by a doctor at Lipótmező Psychiatric Hospital on March 20, 1944, following the German troops' entry into Hungary. The fifty-year-old Jewish woman, originally from Nagyvárad, had lost a son in forced labor service and was diagnosed with depression and paranoia. While in cases of paranoia it seems obvious to examine the patients' experiences within the framework of persecution and the practices of the majority society, the culture and social environment play a similarly significant role in the construction of all other psychiatric patient roles. Analyzing the patient records created at Lipótmező between 1944 and 1945, the study examines the relationship between psychiatry and the persecution of Jews in Hungary. Instead of framing the inquiry in the collaboration-resistance dynamic during these years, I primarily focus on the process of constructing diagnoses. Medical records are narratives composed according to a rigorous set of rules, which allow an insight into the process of becoming a patient, as well as the interactions among the patients, their relatives (acquaintances), and the doctor. Given that medical protocol considered verbatim notes a crucial element of the diagnosis, this source offers a singular perspective on the experiences of psychiatric patients. For people legally classified as Jewish, being referred to psychiatry carried a new stigma, both separation from the community and a possibility of refuge. At the same time, psychiatrists often had to deal with competing loyalties. Professional standards, helping the persecuted, and complying with political power all influenced their decisions within the dichotomies of genuine patient vs feigning illness, treatable vs disciplineable disorder, home care vs institutional care. While previous explorations of the topic primarily approached it through records of the People's Courts or institutional history, this paper deploys case studies to trace the intrapsychological processes of persecution. Due to regulations concerning personality rights, the subject remains particularly under-researched in international scholarship.

Keywords: Holocaust, psychiatric patient role, patient perspective, stigmatization

Gábor Gyáni: István Hajnal's Historiography in New Light

Having developed a conceptual framework for historical sociology during the 1930s and 1940s, István Hajnal played a pioneering role in the writing of social history in Hungary. However, a larger portion of his historical oeuvre fell into the category of traditional political and diplomatic history, which has been somewhat neglected by Hungarian historiography. Starting his career as a historian of literacy, Hajnal built the conceptual framework of his historical sociology on his original field, proposing its applicability on a European, even global, scale in a *longue durée* perspective. He elaborated it in detail to describe the development of early modern Europe, primarily focusing on the evolution of literacy, as well as incorporating urban and technology history into his broader investigations. With this, Hajnal created a counter-canon to which relatively few historians subscribed, yet it had a significant impact on sociological thinking. The question remains, however, how his historical model corresponded with the empirical knowledge of historiography at the time. Notably, Hajnal never addressed this issue himself. It was not until long after the author's death, towards the end of the twentieth century, that István Hajnal's thoughts on social history garnered deserved attention and attracted followers.

Keywords: historiography, social history, historical sociology, István Hajnal

Noémi Herczeg: "How am I Classified under the Law?" A Historical-Ethnographic Perspective on a Case of Ancestry Verification

The study follows the complex legal situation of Ferenc B., a person born out of wedlock and later adopted, during the Holocaust. Despite his adoptive parents being Roman Catholics and his upbringing as a Catholic, his birth certificate listed his biological mother's religion as Jewish. As an adult, Ferenc was forced to clarify his ancestry in court to ensure that he would not fall under the so-called "Jewish laws." The paper presents his case to highlight the uncertain situation that these laws created for people born out of wedlock and how they affected their private lives. Finally, it examines how such people experienced the Holocaust period under these circumstances. The research is not yet conclusive; the present article primarily examines Ferenc's case based on documents preserved in his estate and the recollections of his descendants.

Keywords: illegitimate child(ren), adoption, Holocaust, "Jewish Laws," ancestry verification

Róbert Károly Szabó: Transylvanian Secondary School Teachers in the Refugee Crisis of World War I

After the 1916 Romanian incursion, hundreds of thousands of refugees fled from Transylvania to what were perceived as safer areas in Hungary. Using a socio-historical approach, the study analyzes the fate of teachers from both liberal arts and science-focused high schools who fled Transylvania in 1916. The biographies of these teachers are identified through archival sources and school reports and analyzed using the method of collective biography. The analysis primarily focuses on dissenting cases. On one hand, it addresses why their idiosyncratic destination choices often deviated from their official appointment, and to what extent they were supported or rejected by the local communities. On the other hand, it also investigates the behavior of those teachers who refused to return home, and how their individual interests affected their decisions. The study argues that the attitudes exhibited during this period may have served as a model for group formation observed during the imperial transformation after World War I, as partially explored in previous research by Balázs Ablonczy and Ágnes Ordasi. Alongside archival sources (Hungarian National Archives, Transylvanian Reformed Church Archives in Cluj, Romanian National Archives in Cluj, Alba Iulia Archepiscopal Archives), the research used school reports and various press materials to determine the number of refugee teachers.

Keywords: Transylvania, refugee, refugee crisis, repatriation, collective biography

Rita Szuromi: “You Come into Wealth at So Young an Age, You’ll Be a M’Lady”. Loss of Prestige and Preservation of Identity in the Memoirs of Ilona Graefl

Ilona Graefl was a member of the political elite during the Horthy era. Her husband, Dr. György Bobory, served as a parliamentary representative, speaker of the house, privy councilor, and undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior during his career. They were first cousins and married in 1938. Afterwards, Bobory focused on family life. In the autumn of 1944, the couple fled to Austria ahead of the advancing Russian troops, only returning home in the autumn of 1945. By then, their Domaháza estate had been parceled out by the land distribution committee, and their life on the estate had become untenable. In the meantime, Bobory was also subjected to a people’s court trial. Although his guilt was not proven, the loss of their livelihood undermined his health, and he died of lung cancer in 1949. His widow and children were subsequently relocated to Poroszló, where Ilona Graefl survived on manual labor. In 1951, she was forced into a marriage of convenience to replace the Bobory surname. This eventu-

ally allowed her to move to Eger with her three children, where she took a job as an elevator operator in the county hospital. She wrote her memoirs in 1999 in a nursing home in Eger. The memoirs reflect the strong aristocratic identity rooted in her upbringing, which prevented her from recognizing the changes and longevity of the political situation. Although she spoke languages (English, French, German), she could never overcome the marginalized social status caused by her upbringing. Her aristocratic attitudes and lack of professional qualifications prevented a successful reconversion. The analysis of the memoirs provides an insight into the milestones of an adverse career path in the twentieth century, identifying the major points of inevitable trauma (relocation, loss of livelihood, blacklisting) in the lives of people upholding the attitudes of twentieth-century Hungarian nobility.

Keywords: trauma, memory, identity line, elite, mobilization, changing self-perception