

**Wishing all our kind Readers a very blessed and healthy New Year!  
Kívánunk minden kedves Olvasónknak áldásos, békés, egészséges új esztendőt!**

## Új évi köszöntő

Vörösmarty Mihály

Ártatlanság köntösében  
A szép új esztendő  
Eljött s kínáló kezében  
Van kupája kettő.  
Egyik a baj, aggodalom  
Fanyar ürmösével,  
Másik teljes a boldogság  
Édes örömeivel.  
E kettőből úgy keverjen  
Az új év magának,  
Édes bácsi, hogy örüljön  
Legjobb italának.  
Az ürmöm az örömeim közt  
Csak annyi lehessen,  
Hogy az édes a keservtől  
Még jobb ízt vehessen.  
Ezt kívánja a kis Gili  
Nem zöld águ fáról,  
Hanem a meleg szobának  
Közepé tájáról.  
S marad kicsiny szolgálója  
Ápoló kegyének.  
Tartsa meg őt továbbra is  
Gondja gyermekének.

*„Vörösmarty Mihály, a magyar irodalom halhatatlanja, a magyar férfieszménykép, a Széchenyi-féle emberideál mintája, aki férfias, jóságával közel állt mindenki szívéhez, de mégis végzetesen egyedül maradt. A költészet minden ágában egyaránt működött, és nagyot alkotott.”*

Idézet: A Magyar Irodalom Története, Tóth Veremond, OSB.



Vörösmarty Mihály

## A Day in Hungarian History: January 1st, 1823

Erika Papp Faber

*Important historical dates may be of different types; many of them are dates of battles, others may commemorate the signing of a significant document. This one is a birthday. It is the day on which a person of great historic and literary significance was born.*

Poet, patriot, freedom fighter – each of those labels applies to the most popular lyric poet in Hungarian literature – Petőfi Sándor. His influence on the Hungarian national ethos was indelible; but his influence went way beyond literature. Perhaps only in Hungary could a poet influence historical events to such an extent. Petőfi was born of a Serbian father and a Slovak mother – an example of Hungary also being a „melting pot” of various na-

tionalities. He was raised in the Kiskún area, where he learned Magyar pride and absorbed the Hungarian language which he would not have been able to make his own to such an extent in his own family. His father was a tavern-keeper, who made every sacrifice to educate his son. Petőfi did well in his studies, until his father enrolled him at the Lutheran academy of Selmecbánya. There, his history professor was an anti-Hungarian Slovak. In response, Petőfi organized a Hungarian literary and debating society. However, on account of this professor's attitude, he lost all interest in his studies, and failed the semester. His father became so enraged that he refused to support his education any further. He therefore went to Pest, and although he wanted to become an actor at the national theater, joined the army at Sopron instead. After a year and a half, he was discharged on account of illness and then enrolled at the Reformed college of Pápa, supporting himself by working as a tutor. But this did not last long, and he joined a wandering acting troupe. Meanwhile, his first poem was published in the country's best known magazine, the Atheneum.

Without a penny to his name, but taking with him a batch of his poems, he then decided to go to Pest to see Vörösmarty, by then the country's established first poet. Vörösmarty recognized Petőfi's poetic genius, agreed to publish his works, and thereby set the foundation for 21-year old Petőfi's success.

The young man continued to write poetry, and achieved renown through his folk-songs, using simple language, without the literary flourishes popular at the time. He married Szendrey Júlia in the fall of 1847. Democratic ideas leading to political upheaval were in the air in many countries of Europe in the mid-1840's. Petőfi was

caught up in the general enthusiasm, and became involved in the political scene. He became the leader of the capital's youth, and wrote his „Nemzeti dal” (National Song), which he recited at the National Museum (see Magyar News Online, March 2011 issue). His was the spark needed to ignite the Revolution of 1848 against the Aus-

trian Hapsburg's rule. He joined the national forces under General Bem, who was fighting against the Russian reinforcements called in by the Austrians when the Hungarian side seemed to be winning. At the Petőfi museum in Fehéregyháza, near Segesvár, the guides explain that Bem was not too well pleased to have amateur soldiers running around the battlefield,

and ordered him to stay away. But Petőfi was not one who could take orders easily, and he was there in the thick of battle, where he was last seen alive. A monument has been raised at the site where he fell, on July 31st 1849, and to this day is covered with wreaths adorned with the Hungarian tricolor. Petőfi's poetry has been translated into most European languages.



*Statue of Petőfi in Fehéregyháza,*



*Petőfi Ház Pápán*



*Petőfi memorial in Fehéregyháza,*

## Meggyes pite

*Inspired by Zsuzsa's trip to Sárospatak, where she and her friend picked sour cherries off the tree, this tasty pastry can be made with canned sour cherries as well, any time of year.*

6 db tojás  
18 dkg. liszt  
20 dkg. cukor  
1 csomag sütőpor  
6 ek víz

Meggy (befőtt is lehet)

A tojásokat kettéválasztjuk. A sárgáját a cukorral és vízzel kikeverjük, majd apránként hozzáadjuk a sütőporral elkevert lisztet, végül a felvert tojásfehérjét is óvatos mozdulatokkal belekeverjük. A lecepegtetett meggyet belekeverjük a tésztába és kikent, kilisztezett tepsibe öntjük. Előmelegített sütőbe rakjuk. Mikor elkészült, kockára vágjuk és porcukorral megszórva tálaljuk.

## Sponge cake with morello cherries

6 eggs  
1 ½ cup flour  
1 ¾ cup sugar  
2 tsp. baking powder  
6 Tbs. water  
1 lb morello cherries ( you can use canned cherries)

Separate the eggs. Mix the egg yolks with the sugar and water, then slowly add the flour with the mixed in baking powder. Whisk the egg whites until stiff, and fold them loosely into the batter. Mix in the strained cherries, and fold into a greased and floured pan. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven. When it is done, cut it into squares and sprinkle with powdered sugar.



# 100 Eventful Years: "Charlie" Bálintitt's Birthday Celebration

Erika Papp Faber

Charlie Bálintitt's lifetime of a hundred years spans a very turbulent time in Hungarian history. Below is his story, as he related it in a very concise and focused manner, with a few facts added by his wife Éva



Charlie Bálintitt's 100th birthday party

It's not often that one receives an invitation to a one hundredth birthday party. But close to a hundred people did receive just such an invitation for December 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hungarian House in New York City. They came from far and wide, from the north and the south, to greet and toast Charles ("Charlie") Bálintitt on his century mark.

When he was born in 1911, Kolozsvár was the capital of Transylvania, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After the outbreak of World War I, when the Romanians invaded Transylvania, his family fled by horse cart to Nagyvárad. From there, they continued on to Balatonföldvár, where his maternal grandmother owned property. After the end of the war, they returned to their own estate at Nagyernye, near Marosvásárhely. At age 15, Charlie was enrolled at the Theresianum in Vienna, an academy for aspiring diplomats. This was followed by a year at the Hochschule für Welthandel (specializing in international trade), and then went back to Hungary for training at the Ludovika military academy. Four years later, he graduated as an officer of a hussar regiment. By this time, World War II was raging, and he was ordered,

on horseback, to the River Don. He and his men had to defend a 4 km long section of the river bend. Fortunately, he survived that terrible ordeal, where some 120,000 Hungarian soldiers lost their lives. (Other sources talk about 250,000 casualties.) Bálintitt was recalled to Budapest, and sent to Turkey, where in 1942 he was made director of the Hungarian embassy's military section. He was recalled a year and a half later.

World War II came to an end, and the 46-year Russian occupation began. Charlie tried to cross the frontier to the West, but was caught. He was sentenced to three years in prison, and spent time in several of them, including six weeks at the notorious Andrassy út 60, now known as the House of Terror; in the Markó; the Gyűjtőfogház; the Pestvidéki; at Márianosztra; and in the coal mines of Oroszlány.

Despite his miserable circumstances, Charlie always managed to kid around, and when the time came for storytelling, he would tell tales from Oscar Wilde's "Happy Prince" and "House of Pomegranates". As he related to this interviewer, he received the highest compliment from a common felon, who looked around the prison hall and said:

"A single day of these people is more than enough; but I could live with *Karcsi bácsi* until the end of my life!"

After his release, Charlie was employed as a worker with reinforced concrete – carrying heavy bags of cement on his back. Next, he became a glazier, and his boss, a former soccer player, boasted of having "a Turkish ambassador" as his helper.

"Poverty one can endure," says Charlie, "but not loneliness." So he jumped at the chance when he was invited by friends to a Sunday get-together at the home of Teleki Sándor's widow. Apor István brought his daughter Éva along. He walked her home, and said to her, "In a hundred days, you'll be mine!" Well, it did not take even that long: they were married on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1956. After the Uprising of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the newlyweds then escaped from Hungary to Vienna. They came to America in February of 1957.

Friends at Bank of America obtained a job for him with that institution, and he stayed there until he turned 65, when he was forced to retire. But Charlie did not quit work. He partnered with a cousin,

István Szentkereszty, who had a shipping business, with an office on the 83<sup>rd</sup> floor of the World Trade Center. The cousin went on vacation to Budapest, and was killed in a car accident there. Their office had to be liquidated, and the keys were returned to management at the end of August 2001. A mere ten days later, the terrorist plane hit their former office!

Charlie Bálintitt has served as president of the Hungarian House in New York; as president of the *Társaskör* (Social Club) which meets there on Tuesdays to play cards; president of the *Amerikai Erdélyi Szövetség* (American Transylvanian Association); Treasurer of the *Huszártisztek Világszövetsége* (World Federation of Hussar Officers); etc.

On September 20, 2011, Charlie Bálintitt received the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Republic (*Magyar Köztársaság Lovagkeresztje*) at the Hungarian Consulate in New York City, for "his half century of service on behalf of the Hungarian diaspora and Hungarian culture, as well as his exemplary patriotism, and in recognition of his life's path." It was signed by Schmitt Pál, President of the Republic of Hungary.

At the Hungarian House, a varied buffet was served, while László Fornwald, a cocktail pianist, provided the proper musical backdrop for celebrating Charlie Senior's momentous birthday and offer a toast. The New York Hungarian Consul-General, Dán Károly, as well as the Consul, Trombitás Zsófia, were also present for the celebration, which had been expertly organized by his wife Éva who was assisted by daughter Edina and son Charlie Junior. Numerous Bálintitt relatives were also present.

To close this eventful biography, allow me to quote the closing lines of Olga Szokolay's tribute to Charlie:

"What a great life! Full of people,  
All doors open (need no peep-hole)...  
Naughty poem or Christmas carol,  
Let's have red wine by the barrel!  
Let's pop champagne, let's hear laughter  
Live long happ'ly ever after!  
...Saw the lightning?!...It just thundered!  
...

LET'S CHEER CHARLIE AT ONE HUNDRED!!!"

***Isten éltesse még soká!***

*Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.*

## 100 Eventful Years: "Charlie" Bálintitt's Birthday Celebration



*Charlie with his wife Éva*



*Olga Szokolay reading her tribute to Charlie*



*Charlie Junior as emcee*



*Charlie Bálintitt with his Knight's Cross*



*Each bottle of table wine had a photo of Charlie*

## Snapshots: Sárospatak, an Old School Town

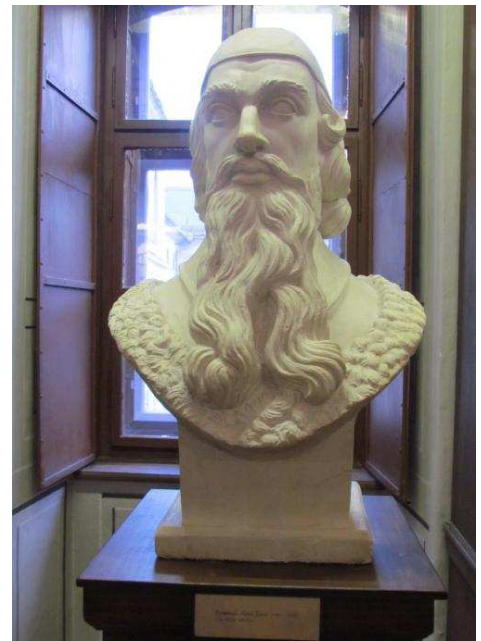
During last year's visit to Hungary, Zsuzsa Lengyel, President of Magyar Studies of America, together with a schoolmate from the "old days", Olga Svékus (widow of film director Tibor Nagy) visited a friend in Sárospatak, in northeastern Hungary. Here are some "snapshots" she took of that city.

Zsuzsa and Olga reached Sárospatak by way of a long train ride from Budapest. Located some 40 miles northeast of Miskolc on the Bodrog, a tributary of the Tisza River, Sárospatak is famous for its castle, built by King Andrew II. His daughter, St. Erzsébet (Elizabeth) was born there in 1207, and Dobó Krisztina, daughter of the defender of the city of Eger (see November 2011 issue of Magyar News Online) was married to the poet Balassi Bálint here in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Eventually, the Rákóczi family acquired it. Because of their role in the Freedom Fight of 1703-1711, the castle became the property of the Austrian treasury.

The hotel in which Zsuzsa and Olga stayed was directly opposite the castle, and they had a frontal view of the restored fortress. The other landmark of the town is the Calvinist College founded in 1531 through the generosity of Perényi Péter, lord of the castle at the time. It was later enlarged by Rákóczi György and his wife, Lorántffy Zsuzsanna. The Reformation spread throughout



*The statue of St. Elizabeth in front of the Castle Church*



*Johan-Amos Comenius*

Hungary from here. Many notable people studied and taught at the College, so much so, that it became a noted cultural center, and acquired the name "Athens on the Bodrog".

Makovecz Imre (see the December issue of Magyar News Online) designed several buildings in Sárospatak. They include the Cultural Center, Árpád Vezér Secondary School (Gimnázium) and several houses.

As have many other places in Hungary, Sárospatak also has thermal baths. They are said to be especially beneficial for people suffering from locomotor disorders.

The town's old name was simply "Patak" or "Brook". It was given town status in 1201 by King Imre, and it became a market town in 1460. "Sárospatak" means "Muddy Brook."



*An old classroom in the college in Sárospatak*



*The Rákóczi Castle at Sárospatak*

# What's In A Name (A Hungarian Name)?

Robert Kranyik

*If you have a Hungarian surname, and are not sure what it means, you may find your answer in this article.*

In most European cultures, last names for the common folk came into existence during the period between the late Middle Ages and the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Last names, or surnames, sprung from a variety of sources. Among the common sources were the names of fathers (called patronymic names), places, occupations, and physical characteristics. For example, a common name in English (as well as some Scandinavian countries) is Johnson, i.e., son of John. This is an example of a patronymic. Then there are names associated with places, for example, Lancaster, a place in England. Many surnames are occupational names, such as carpenter or mason. Some people have last names which describe some characteristic of an ancestor, such as Small.

Among Hungarian surnames, this also holds true. If you have a Hungarian last name (or, perhaps, your mother's name), you may find that it fits one of these four main categories, which are the basis for many surnames, but not for all.

For Hungarian patronymics, the name Jakabfi, or "son of Jakab" comes to mind.

Some of the more common Hungarian place names might include "Borsódi", a

person from Borsód; Bihary, a person from Bihar; Hunyadi (a famous Hungarian name), a person from Hunyad; Egri, from Eger; Komáromi, from Komárom; Csanádi, or perhaps Csanády, from Csanád; Csongrádi, from Csongrád; or Debreceni, meaning a person from Debrecen.

Physical characteristics are fairly common, as well, in Hungarian. There are many Nagy's, with Nagy meaning "big" or "tall", suggesting that an ancestor fit that description. On the other hand, Kiss (from "kis" meaning "small") is fairly common, often Anglicised as "Kish". I have heard the name Kopasz, meaning "bald"; Savanyú, meaning "sour"; or Sovány, meaning thin.

Many Hungarian names relate to occupations. Bodnár, relates to a cooper; Borbély, a barber; Fazekas, a potter; and a very popular Hungarian name, Kovács, or smith, a name very popular in English as well. Other occupational names that are fairly common include Mészáros, a butcher; Olajos, an oil presser; Szabó, a tailor; Varga, a shoemaker; Kocsmáros, a tavern keeper; Halász, a fisherman; and Kondás, a swine herder.

There are also names in Hungarian to refer to persons whose families may have come from foreign nations, or may

have spoken foreign languages at some time. These include Németh, which means German; Olasz, meaning Italian; Tóth, referring to Slovakia; and Horváth, referring to Croatian ancestors.

It is interesting to note that in Hungarian, the last name is written first, and the first name, last (the same holds true in China). A Hungarian woman has several options when it comes to names. She may, if she wishes, keep her maiden name even though married. (It is interesting that this is somewhat trendy in this country today.) She may, on the other hand, keep her maiden name and add her husband's name. Or, she may use her husband's name, with the suffix "né" added. Thus, she might be known as "Horváthné", or "Kovácsné".

If you have a Hungarian surname, and are not sure what it means, e-mail us at <Magyarnews.org >, selecting "Contact Us", and we will try to give you the meaning of your name in the following edition.

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

## Did you know...

*Reminded, no doubt, by our piece "The Proud City of Eger" in our November issue, one of our readers offers a clue to the name of a famous Hungarian wine.*

...where the name "Egri bikavér" ("Bull's blood of Eger") for a well-known red wine originated? Dianne Gribosky from Florida sent us the following explanation:

"When I was in Hungary and Transylvania in 2005, our guide, Klára, told us a story while we were visiting Eger. I don't know if this is true or folklore, but she told us about the name 'Bull's Blood' for the wine that got its name in Eger at the time of the siege. It seemed that the Turks wondered why such a small number of Hungarian troops could de-



feat them. They determined that it was the red wine they drank. Since Turks, as Moslems, were not allowed to drink alcohol, the soldiers told their commanding officers that they were drinking bull's blood like the Hungarians so they would be as strong."

## Magyar News Online

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## P.S. to our "Magyaráb" story

The May 1994 issue of the print Magyar News, as well as our March 2011 online version included articles about some really distant Hungarian "relatives". An interesting item relating to them has just been in the news recently.

Last March, we ran a "Kicsi a világ!" story about the Magyaráb (meaning "Magyar tribe") in Nubia, who, according to a recent source, number some 50,000. They are descendents of the Hungarian young men the Turks had captured in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and pressed into their military service. Many of them were posted to the area along the Nile, which was under Turkish rule at the time. They have kept alive the memory of their Hungarian roots despite the fact that they have otherwise been assimilated into the surrounding peoples over the centuries.

Now, we hear reports of a Magyaráb, Mohamed Osman, living in Nagyvárad, who applied for naturalization as a Hungarian citizen, but has been turned down. Reason? Today's naturalization process requires documented proof of ancestors having been Hungarian citizens. Obviously, this is impossible to find when you must reach back some 500 turbulent years!

What gives this story an added fillip is the fact that, in medieval times, the word "oszmán" was used in Hungary to designate Turks!



Map indicating "Hungarian" villages in Nubia, taken from the Magyar News May 1994 issue

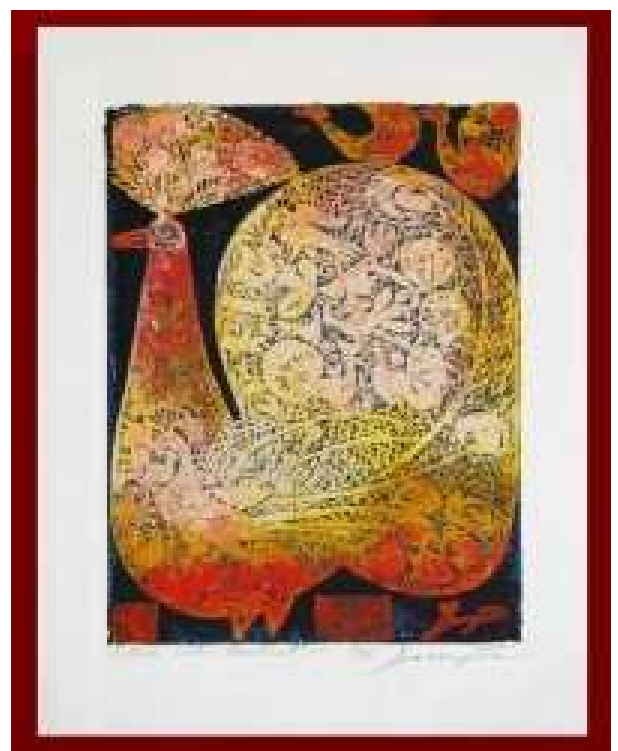
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## Kicsi a világ!

Hungarians can meet unexpectedly not only today, but they can also find each other in a meeting spanning centuries

When Kodály Zoltán (1882 - 1967) conducted his variations on the Hungarian folksong "Fölszállott a páva" (The peacock flew up) in Moscow, an elderly gentleman came up to him after the concert, with tears in his eyes. He said to Kodály, "That is our song!" He was a Mari (formerly known as Cheremiss), a people who live in the Volga region of Russia. They probably separated from the main group of migrating Magyars, over a thousand years ago. At any rate, they knew that folksong too, because... (all together now!) ... IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

(This anecdote was related on the sleeve of a Kodály recording.)



A colored woodcut by Joseph Domján

## Változó Idők

*A study of women in Hungarian science was published in Budapest, sketching the careers of outstanding female personalities of two centuries. It is considered a pioneering study, reviewed here by our Florida contributor, Ella Bitskey*

„Nők a magyar tudományban” címmel életrajz sorozat jelent meg a Napvilág Kiadó gondozásában két történész, Balogh Margit és Palasik Mária tollából. Közel nyolcszáz oldalon két évszázad jeles alakjait hozza életközbe, kultúrtörténeti ismeretekkel gazdagít. Érzékelteti, mennyi erő, akarat és kitartás kellett ahhoz – nem beszélve a megaláztatások elviseléséről – hogy a „gyerek vagy csak lány” mentalitástól körülvéve hűek maradjanak választott munkájukhoz, hivatásukhoz. Mára érvényét veszítette a „nem képes rá elv” – írja az Előszóban Németh Tamás, az MTA főtitkára. „Jelenleg már lehetőségeik kibontakoztatásának akadályai kerülnek előtérbe...(s az életrajzok) nemcsak biztatást adnak a nőknek, hanem munkásságukon keresztül elősegítik a nemek egyenlő teljesítményében még mindig kétkedők szemléletének megváltozását”.

A szerkesztők által írt bevezetőben olvasható: „Hazánkban úttörő vállalkozásnak számít egy ilyen munka...sok könyvet, szakcikket felsorolhatnánk, amelyekbe kizárólagosan, vagy indokolatlanul hangsúlyozottan a férfiak által elért eredmény az uralkodó...Az itt közölt élettörténetek jó példái annak, hogy a társadalmi sikerek egy olyan területen is, ahol az ész, a

kitartás és tudományos képzelőerő játsza a főszerepet, mindkét nem számára ugyanúgy elérhetőek...” Néhány kiragadott példa a nők számára különlegesen megítélt területek közül: sejtbiológus, gépészmérnök, geológus, csillagász, atomfizikus.



*Hugonnai Vilma*

De hogy mégis az orvosokhoz fordultam – szép számmal vannak jelen a kötetben - annak két oka van. Egyrészt az 1847-ben született gróf Hugonnai Vilma volt az első magyar orvosnő (életútja szemlélteti korának tanulást gátló reguláit és a hivatalosak vaskalaposágát) és mert évtizedek óta, október utolsó hetében, Sarasotában tartja évi kongresszusát az Amerikai Magyar Orvosszövetség, The Hungarian Medical Association of America.

A szövetség évkönyveiben Vilmának számtalan követője szerepel Magyarországról és külföldről egyaránt. A sötét időkben, amikor a „nyugati” utak a megszenvedett kiváltságok közé tartoztak, nagy jelentősége volt az itteni összejöveteleknek, szakmai és emberi vonatkozásban egyaránt. S a kartársak

– akkor csakúgy, mint ma – segítették egymást, sőt a fiatalokat is. Lehetővé tették, hogy jeles külföldi intézményeknél folytathassák tanulmányaikat, és kinyílják előttük egy „másik” világ. De térjünk vissza a példát teremtő Hugonnai Vilmához. Egy kiváló pesti leányintézetben nevelkedett, ahol az 1860-as években leányok még nem szerezhettek érettségit. Vilma nem adta fel. Zürichbe ment, ahol e nélkül is felvették az egyetem orvosi karára. 1879-ben doktorált, majd hazament, hogy tudását otthon hasznosítsa. S ekkor érte az első csalódás: svájci diplomáját Pesten nem ismerték el, sőt a bábaképző elvégzését és az érettségi(!) letételét javasolták. Vilma kitartott. Megszerezte a bábaoklevelet, magán-szülész női rendelőt nyitott, aktív orvosi és tudományos munkát folytatott. S miután Ferenc József 1895-ben nálunk engedélyezte a nők tanulmányait a bölcsészeti, gyógyszerészeti és az orvosi karon, a majd’ ötven éves Vilma újra vizsgázott. 1897-

ben másodszor is orvosdoktorrá avatták. Tudományos munkák jelentek meg tőle, és mint a kora jeles alakjáról – róla.

*Ez a cikk eredetileg a Münchenben kiadott Életünk c. katolikus folyóirat 2011 októberi számában jelent meg.*

*Ella Bitskey had worked for Radio Free Europe, and is a sometime contributor to Magyar News Online*

*During the 1980's Claudia and Joseph Balogh wrote, edited and presented an informative radio series in the Bridgeport, Connecticut area as part of weekly program featuring Rózsi and László, very well known and respected Hungarian musicians. The Hungarian Mosaic focused on a variety of topics of interest to Hungarian Americans and we are pleased to present another of these topics.*



## Champagne

I am sure that many of you toasted the New Year with a glass from a bottle of old bubbly, that is, a bottle of fine champagne. Many of you might have had the French beverage, but some lucky one may have imbibed a Hungarian champagne.

It all happened a hundred years ago, and the name of the man who started is Törley József. He was born in 1857, in the lower part of the Great Plain, in the town of Szabadka. After his schooling was over, he took employment in France as a corresponding clerk in the German language. The employer was the Roederer Company producing champagne. This is where Törley first got acquainted with champagne making. The real experience came when he went to work for the Delbeck Champagne Company. Törley gave up his clerical work, participated in the production and learned the ins and outs of champagne making. What better school could he ask for? The Delbeck Company had been the appointed supplier of Louis XIV's court and even today is the highest ranking champagne producer.

Soon Törley ventured into establishing his own business with his

brother Gyula, employing two Frenchmen with long experience. Törley purchased the Savoyai Castle in Budafok and built his factory. By

1882, the first bottle of champagne made here was sold on the market. This was the first step for a Hungarian wine to graduate to the ranks of champagne, and let it be recorded: it became a very fine champagne. The quality wasn't enough, however, to hold its own in the market, but fortunately, Törley József, with his

way, because the demand for champagne rose so rapidly that both companies had enough of a share of the market.

During the Second World War, these establishments were severely damaged and champagne making in Hungary was halted until 1965. Since then, part of the old factories has been restored and equipped with modern facilities. Today, champagne is made in the old-fashioned way, fermenting it in the bottle, and

it is also made in a commercial manner, fermenting it in bulk and then bottling the delicious bubbly. With the bulk process, they are reaching the 30-million bottle mark annually.

But as some Hungarians would say, you don't have to do anything to Hungarian wine, it is good the way it is.

This is Claudia-Margitay Balogh, putting this chip of bubbles into the Great Hungarian Mosaic.

*This was aired on January 5th, probably in 1998. See our header above for an illustration of Törley champagne.*

