



Lord Rothermere – Strong Proponent of Trianon Revision

On this anniversary of the infamous Treaty of Trianon, which deprived Hungary of 71% of its territory at the end of World War I, let us remember that the Hungarian Prime Minister, Count István Tisza, had been the only voice in the Crown Council to oppose going to war with Serbia over the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne!

According to Professor Eugene Macartney, in his History of Hungary, Count Tisza “had even threatened to resign if the ultimatum were made impossible for Serbia to accept... Later he withdrew his opposition, stipulating only that the Monarchy should receive no acquisitions of territory...”

In the June 21st, 1927 issue of the London newspaper, *The Daily Mail*, Lord Rothermere published an editorial entitled “Hungary’s Place in the Sun “. Here are a few quotes from that editorial:

“Of the three treaties which rearranged the map of Central Europe, the last and most ill-advised was that of Trianon, which Hungary was called upon to sign on June 4th, 1920. Instead of simplifying the network of nationalities existing there it entangled them still further. So deep is the discontent it has created that every impartial traveller in that part of the Continent sees plainly the need for repairing the mistakes committed...”

“It is seven years this month since the Treaty of Trianon was signed, and those who know Central Europe best are beginning to ask whether it would not be wise to adjust some of the obvious shortcomings of that particular Treaty in the calmer spirit which prevails to-day...”

“I suggest that the time has come for the Allied Powers who signed the arbitrarily drafted instrument, the Treaty of Trianon, to reconsider the frontiers it laid down, in the light of the experience of the past seven years. When an arrangement does not work well after a trial of seven years, there is a strong probability that it is inherently



unsound.”

“In modifying the terms of peace imposed on Hungary, the intricately mixed populations of the territories concerned should be consulted. They have had time to make up their minds to which nationality their instincts and interests unite them. The plebiscites to be taken in each area would need to be under the control of the Government of the United States or some other disinterested nation, for in certain of the ceded territories there is abundant evidence that the Hungarian inhabitants do not enjoy the liberty

of speech and opinion which the Treaty of Trianon intended to secure to them...”

“I urge this revision of the Central European situation as much on the ground of expediency as of justice.”
“We ought to root up all the dry grass and dead timber of the Treaty of Trianon before some chance spark sets fire to it. Once the conflagration has started it will be too late.”

“The parochial prejudices of small States must not stand in the way of European security...”

“...the dismemberment of Hungary” was carried out “by a treaty the severity of which was deplored by many Allied statesmen at the time. It reduced her population from nearly 21,000,000 to 8,000,000, and her territory from 125,000 square miles to 36,000 square miles.”

“Hungary was glad enough to lose some of the peoples, like the Czechs, Croats, and Rumanians, which had been incorporated with her under the Dual Monarchy. But along with them were ceded nearly 3,500,000 Hungarians by race and language. And that country’s territorial losses involved the sacrifice of her entire supplies of wood, salt and iron, three substances most essential to a population almost entirely agricultural.

Apa, kezdődik!

Apa, kezdődik a köszöntésed,
Minden jót kívánok néked.
Kívánom, hogy mindig szeressél,
És hogy rám büszke lehessél!
Kívánom, hogy mindig élj,
És hogy semmitől se félj,
Legyél mindig tök jó fej,
Ha fáradt vagy, lazulj el.
Ha összerogysz a fáradtságtól,
Majd én leszek aki ápol!
Ha sok a dolgod, majd segítek,
Mert én téged úgy szeretlek!
Megigérem, bennem bízhat,
Ha velem játszol, sört is ihat!
Anyának is megigérem,
Szórakoztatlak majd szépen.
Nem fogsz velem unatkozni
Neked fogok bohóckodni!
Ajándékul azt ígérem,
Jó leszek a jövő héten,
talán utána is kicsit.
Most pedig kapsz sok-sok puszit!

Hungarian Heritage – Roots to Revival

Karolina Szabó

Hungary, a 1000 year-old country, lies in the middle of Central Europe, and connects East to West, North to South. The primary ethnic group of the country is the Magyar (98%). Some 9-10 million live in Hungary, and the rest, about 3 million live around the world: in the US, Canada, Australia and South America, but mostly in the neighboring countries, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia. Hungarians living in neighboring countries are the biggest minority in Europe since the Treaty of Trianon (signed in June 4, 1920, effective July 30, 1921). What deserves to be mentioned here is that those who live under oppressive conditions outside of Hungary have not only kept their rich traditions, but



nourished them and passed them on to their children. Now, June 26th to the 30th, and July 3rd to the 7th, one will be able to enjoy and learn about the Hungarians' unique culture, music, dance, folk arts, craft and food.

In the 1970's, many Hungarians were looking to revive the old traditional culture, thus the *Táncház* (Dance Hall) movement was developed. Soon it became very popular, not only in villages and towns, but also in cities, even in Budapest, and outside of Hungary, where Hungarians live. The *Regős* Folk Dance Ensemble and the *Csárdás* Dance Company were established in Cleveland, OH; the *Kárpátok* sprang up in Los Angeles and *Életfa* in NY and NJ. These dance halls bring musicians and dance teachers from Hungary and Transylvania to teach the members. In 2012, Kálmán Balogh and his Gypsy *Cimbalom* Band performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. (The *cimbalom* is a concert [hammered dulcimer](#) popular in Hungary and some other Eastern European nations.) The 2012 concert was a preview of the Hungarian tradition that will appear in this year's Festival.

Other than music and dance, the Festi-

val will present folk arts and crafts. More than a hundred artisans will represent Kalocsa, Karcag, and Bácska of Hungary, and Gyimesd, Szék and Koltaszeg of Transylvania (now Romania). Visitors will be able to see demonstrations of cooking, embroidering, furniture painting, even oven building. *Kékfestő* (blue dyeing) also will be demonstrated. (See the September 2012 issue of Magyar News Online at www.magyarnews.org.) Some of the items will be available for purchase in the Marketplace located in front of the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art. At the Festival's "Budapest Bistro", patrons will be able to taste traditional and modern Hungarian cuisine – goulash, chicken *paprikás*, *lecsó*, and *almás rétes* (apple strudel), and enjoy a selection of the famous Hungarian wines.

This program provides the chance of a lifetime for Hungarian-Americans and for the American public to get to know Hungary's rich culture and to connect with Hungary and the Hungarian people.

Karolina Szabo is Webmaster of Magyar News Online.

Hungarian Invents New Watch Mechanism



If you're looking for a new, more accurate timepiece, you might look into the PRIMUS watch created by Becsei Áron in 2009. It is not your everyday wristwatch, but has a most complicated, unique mechanism. Each watch is handmade by its inventor, and it takes him a whole year to produce one. Of course, you should be prepared to shell out a sizeable amount of cash for such a different, luxury masterpiece.

Becsei Áron, third generation watchmaker, has invented and patented a new type of watch mechanism that works on three axles (called tourbillons) to achieve greater accuracy in timekeeping. They can decrease the gravitational effect which causes watches to lose time.

So far, only two other types of three tourbillon watches are known, but both use conventional ball bearings, as opposed by Becsei's gemstone (ruby) bearings, that are in line with traditional watchmaking. This type of mechanism is almost impossible to create industrially, and is therefore very expensive. The watch's outer casing is platinum.

precise machine work. One instrument he uses is capable of producing a 0.01 mm thin part. The PRIMUS has 367 parts, and Áron burnishes each one by hand. It takes him a year to produce one watch of this type. He intends to produce only nine of them. Their cost is between 30,000 and 100,000 euros.

Born in Budapest, Áron is a third generation watchmaker. He began by repairing and restoring watches before deciding to go out and create his own design. He has a background in mechanical engineering, which is a great advantage for creating his unique designs. Of course they also require a wide knowledge of watchmaking, goldsmithing and manufacturing technology.

To create his specially designed watches, Áron has also had to design and make some of his own tools.

In 2005, following exhi-

bition of his Tourbillon No. 1 Clock in Basel, Switzerland, Áron was admitted as a candidate into the prestigious Swiss Horological Academy of Independent Creators. In 2008, he presented his tri-axial tourbillon PRIMUS wristwatch at the Baselworld exhibit, which brought him professional recognition. In 2009, he presented his No. 2 Carriage Clock at the same exhibit, and was elected a member of the Academy. It is an exclusive club, numbering only 35 members. Áron is the only Hungarian member. He created his own brand, BEIXEI, in 2008. His Tourbillon No. 1 Table Clock was awarded the "Masterpiece of Hungarian Craft" prize in 2012. He is already working on his next line of watches called Dignitas.

Becsei Áron has pledged not to wear a watch until he can make it himself. That might be some time in the future, as he has a backlog of orders. Although he does not plan to start large-scale production of his design watches, he might need to find some help!

Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.



He creates each part by hand, using

"A Hungarian Rhapsody" Spring Concert Was a Rare Treat

Erika Papp Faber

The concert's title drew us like a magnet. Presented by the Connecticut Master Chorale and the Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra in St. Rose of Lima Church, Newtown, on May 4th, the program promised an eclectic mix of music. But we were in for a few surprises.



Connecticut Master Chorale

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As the Magyar News contingent, consisting of Zsuzsa Lengyel, Karolina Szabo and me, stood for the opening piece, the *Himnusz*, the entire audience stood out of respect, and two gentlemen, Géza Lagoza from Fairfield and Victor George from Easton walked to the front and held a large Hungarian flag between them, facing the audience. That was the first surprise. Apparently it was a spontaneous gesture, and had the approval of Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor, who welcomed the audience, even saying a couple of sentences in Hungarian.

The second surprise was that the choir sang not only one, but two stanzas of the *Himnusz – in Hungar-*

ian. And the words could be understood. Judging from the list of 55 choristers, only one seemed to have an obviously Hungarian surname. The first of two works by Liszt, *Psalm 116*, was next, followed by an *Ave Maria* by Orbán György, a composer born in Marosvásárhely, but now Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest.

This was followed by Kodály Zoltán's *Missa Brevis*, sung in Latin. The program note indicating that Kodály finished it in the cellar during the siege of Budapest, and that its premiere was given in the cloakroom of the Opera House in the midst of the bombardment, added poignancy to the work. It was remarkable that St. Rose of Lima Church, which has a capacity of approximately 800, was more than three-quarters full, with only a sprinkling of Hungarians in the audience. (Where were the rest of you?)

Following the intermission, Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Organist, Cantor and Choir Director at St. Rose of Lima, gave a brilliant performance of Liszt's *Rhapsody No. 2*. Then came a change of pace, as the choir sang "Tambur", an English version of „Télen-nyáron jó kedvem van...” billed as an old Hungarian dancing song. They also sang „There'll Be Tears in Your Eyes”, a popular tango you may be more familiar with as „Ott fogsz majd sírni ahol senki se lát”. The lyrics to Brahms' *Hungarian Dance No. 5* were also sung in Hungarian.

Representing the film world, the Chorale Orchestra presented two works by Miklós Rózsa whose name appeared with great regularity among the opening film credits of the 1950's and early 1960's. The first was the *Lullaby* from *Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book Suite*; the second was a transcribed version of his *Quo Vadis Choral Suite*.

All in all, it was a refreshing evening. Congratulations to Tina Johns Heidrich, Founder and Music Director of the Connecticut Master Chorale, who chose the program and conducted the Chorale and Orchestra. Credit is given to Barbara Lyon, for help with the repertoire and translations, but there is no indication as to who was responsible for teaching the correct Hungarian pronunciation to the Chorale members. Multiple kudos to that individual!

If there was anything to criticize – and I know some will accuse me of picking nits (*a káán is csomót keres!*) – it was the lack of operetta music. Something by Lehár or Kálmán would have rounded out the program perfectly. But apart from that minor flaw, it was a superb concert, and we thank Tina Johns Heidrich for providing us with an outstanding and very upbeat musical experience.

Köszönjük szépen!



*Tina Johns Heidrich-
Music Director and Conductor*



Finom rácsos cseresznyés sütemény/

Latticed cherry pastry

Karolina Szabó

Since we have a story on a cherry festival, we thought a recipe for a cherry pastry would be appropriate. It is easy to make, and very tasty. Enjoy!

50 dkg liszt
25 dkg margarin vagy vaj
1 egész tojás
25 dkg cukor
1 evőkanál sütőpor
rum és fahéj
2 pohár cseresznye vagy meggy lekvár a töltelékhez

A margarint a liszttel eldörzsöljük. Hozzáadjuk a többi anyagot és szép simára kidolgozzuk.

$\frac{3}{4}$ részét tepszi nagyságúra sodorjuk és a tepsibe tesszük. Jó vastagon megkenjük a lekvárral.

A megmaradt tésztából rácsokat rakunk a tetejére.

350 fokon sütjük 25-30 percig, vagy ameddig szépen nem sárgulnak a rácsok. Kihűlés után szeleteljük és tálaljuk.

Mivel nem lehet mindig cseresznye vagy meggy lekvárt kapni, én veszek egy üveg barack és egy eper lekvárt és egy kanna cseresznye "pie" töltelékkel. A két lekvárt összekeverem, azzal töltöm meg a tésztát. Miután a rácsokat ráraktam, egy-egy cseresznyét teszek a lyukakba a "pie" töltelékből. Nagyon finom és pikáns íze lesz a süteménynek.

Latticed cherry pastry

2 ½ cups flour
2 sticks margarine or butter
1 egg
1 cup sugar
1 Tbs baking powder
Rum and cinnamon
2 cups cherry or sour cherry preserves

Rub the margarine (butter) and flour between your fingers until they look like morsels. Add all the other ingredients, and work the dough until it becomes smooth. Roll $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dough and put it in the pan. Spread the preserves thickly on the pastry.

Make lattices of the remaining dough, and place them on top of the preserves.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for 25-30 minutes, or until the lattices are nice and light brown.

Since you cannot always get cherry or sour cherry preserves, I use a jar of apricot and a jar of strawberry preserves and a can of cherry pie filling. I mix the two preserves, which I use for the filing. After I put the lattices on I place a cherry from the pie filling into each hole. It will have a very good piquant taste.



Submitted, baked and photographed by Karolina Szabó.

Csínom Palkó, Csínom Jankó - Kuruc song

Csínom Palkó, Csínom Jankó,
csontos karabélyom.

Szép selymes lódingom,
dali pár pisztolyom.

Nosza, rajta, jó katonák,
igyunk egészséggel!

Menjen táncba ki-ki köztünk
az ő jegyesével.

Ne bánkódjék senki köztünk,
menjünk az Alföldre.

Megrontatik kezünk által
a labanc ereje.

Szabad nekünk, jó katonák,
Tisza-Duna közü.

abancságnak mert nincs sehult
ottan semmi közü.

csínom - an old-fashioned form of "csinos"

megrontatik - old-fashioned expression, from "megrontani", meaning: to despoil - here, will be despoiled.

Tisza-Duna közü - old-fashioned form of "köz", meaning the "space between"; here: the region between the Tisza and Danube Rivers.

sehult - old-fashioned form of "sehol" - nowhere

nincsen semmi közü - an old-fashioned form of "közé" - can also mean: have no business

Csínom Palkó is a hopeful dance song of the *kuruc* cavalry from the first years of Rákóczi's freedom fight (1703-1711). It celebrated a *kuruc* victory.

This was the time when Turkish sovereignty was replaced by Austrian sovereignty. The word *kuruc* is derived from „cruz”, the Latin word for „cross”, as the rebels fighting the Habsburgs considered themselves a new type of crusader.

The first *kuruc* uprising occurred in 1672, although they called themselves *bujdosók*, i.e., „fugitives” or „exiles”. They were mainly Protestants (being persecuted by the Catholic Habsburgs, even to the point of having their clergy sold as galley slaves in Naples in 1674). They were joined by members of the lesser nobility, whom the Habsburgs attempted to deprive of their titles, and by soldiers from the frontier castles who had been sacked by

Handsome Paul, handsome Johnny,
my bony carbine.

My silky gunpowder pouch,
my beautiful pair of pistols.

At it now, good soldiers,
let us drink with health!

Each one among us dance
with his (own) betrothed.

Let no one grieve,
let us go to the Alföld.

By our hands will be despoiled
the strength of the *labanc*.

Free to us, good soldiers,
is the area between the Tisza and the Duna
because the *labanc* has nowhere
there any business.

Habsburg generals. They were like a guerrilla force of light cavalry. Their weapons consisted mainly of pistols, light sabres and the *fokos*, a small axe at the end of a long stick.

Opposed to them were those loyal to the Habsburgs, who came to be known as *labanc* (see 2nd stanza, 4th line).

The word has several possible sources, but the most likely is that it derives from „loboncos”, i.e., long-haired, referring to the wigs worn by the Austrians at the time.

After some initial successes in Upper Hungary, the „fugitives” began looting, pillaging whole counties. Their leaders executed those who looted, but to no avail. The Habsburgs strengthened their own forces, and defeated them at a town named Györke. In 1675, the „fugitives” occupied Debrecen. They established diplomatic relations with Poland, France, and the Principality of Transylvania, and signed a treaty at Warsaw. By it, the king of France guaranteed 100,000 thalers in aid, while the „fugitives” bound themselves to attack the Habsburgs with at least 15,000 troops. The Prince of Transylvania also offered financial support. In the fall of 1677, a combined force of French, Polish and Tatar forces, numbering a meager 2,000, arrived in Upper Hungary. They caused no problem for the Austrians, who drew up a plan: 3 Austrian armies were to occupy Royal Hungary, the Hungarian constitution would be abolished, and a widespread plan of



Germanization would be implemented. Their motto became: „All Hungarians are traitors.”

In Transylvania, Prince Apafi had to beg leave from the Turkish Sultan (his overlord) to declare war against the Habsburgs. The Sultan set an unacceptable condition: In case they were successful, all Royal Hungary would become part of the Ottoman Empire. Nevertheless, the Chancellor of Transylvania with some *kuruc* troops joined Polish and French forces and advanced into Upper Hungary, but turned tail at the first sight of Habsburg regiments.

In 1678, Thököly Imre, a young nobleman of Upper Hungary declared war against the Habsburgs. He occupied almost all of Upper and Lower Hungary. Habsburg rule in Royal Hungary collapsed, and the *kuruc* troops merged into Thököly's army.



Ne bánkódjék senki köztünk, menjünk az Alföldre,
Megrontatik kezünk által a labanc ereje,
Szabad nekünk, jó katonák, Tisza-Duna közü,
Labancságnak mert nincs sehult ottan semmi közü.

II. Rákóczi Ferenc and the Freedom Fight of 1703 – 1711

Erika Papp Faber

On June 16th, a Memorial Walk will be held in Budapest, commemorating the crossing of the Hungarian-Polish border by II. Rákóczi Ferenc on that day in 1703. It was the beginning of his Fight for Freedom,

Hungarians never did take kindly to foreign domination, so that after the Turks occupied the country in 1546, and Austria took over the western and northern parts, they carried on guerrilla warfare. It was directed mostly against the Turks, and sallies from the border fortresses were carried on constantly. At first, the Austrians seemed to be allies against the infidel, but as time went on, it became increasingly obvious that they had no interest in driving the Turks from Hungary.

The most egregious example occurred in 1664. In that year, an Austrian force, headed by General Montecucoli, was sent to Hungary to attack the Turks. Instead of engaging them in battle, Montecucoli retreated all across the country, until he was forced to make a stand at Szentgotthárd, on the Austrian border. There, the Christian forces were victorious. Not only did Montecucoli not pursue the enemy, the Austrians hurriedly concluded a shameful peace treaty at Vasvár that left all the occupied territories in Turkish hands, and even **made a present of 200,000 thalers to the sultan!** (Check again: Who had won this fight???)

Consequently, even the Catholic supporters of the Habsburgs turned against them. A group of leading men, including the Palatine, the Chief Justice, the Archbishop of Esztergom and Prince-elect of Transylvania I. Rákóczi Ferenc, planned to cement a French alliance in order to restore Hungary's independence. (The plot is known in history as the Wesselényi Conspiracy.) However, the plans were discovered, giving the Austrian Emperor the welcome excuse to suspend Hungary's constitution and impose absolutist rule.

Some of the chief conspirators were executed. About 2,000 nobles were arrested, and their lands and property confiscated. The country was placed at the mercy of foreign troops. Since most of the conspirators had been Protestant, the Habsburgs speeded up religious persecution, to the point where dozens of their ministers were sold as galley

slaves! A plenipotentiary was made administrator for the country. As Professor Dominic Kosáry points out in "A History of Hungary", the Austrians "unleashed unprecedented political oppression with 'Bloody Assizes', exploiting every means for the moral and material destruction of the middle and upper classes."

This was more than the Hungarians would bear. The rebels originally called themselves *bujdosók*, i.e., fugitives or exiles. Joined by members of the lesser nobility and soldiers from the frontier castles, they became a guerrilla force of



Painting by Mányoki Ádám -- II. Rákóczi Ferenc

light cavalry, armed mainly with pistols, light sabers and the *fokos*, a small axe at the end of a long stick. Eventually, they changed their name to *kurucok*, harking back to the crusaders of Dózsa György (see the March 2013 issue of Magyar News Online).

Encouraged by promises of help from Louis XIV of France, who wanted an ally against the Habsburgs, the rebels chose Count Thököly Imre for their leader. Open rebellion broke out in

1678. With the help of the Turkish sultan Mehmed IV, Thököly was able to recapture Upper Hungary. But the fortunes of war turned for him, and he was sent to Turkey in chains.

With him went his wife, Zrinyi Ilona, whose first husband had been I. Rákóczi Ferenc, who had died fighting for freedom. Her son, II. Rákóczi Ferenc, was the wealthiest landowner in Hungary, owning – as has been cited – about one fifth of the entire country.

With Thököly gone, the rebels asked II. Rákóczi Ferenc to be their leader. At first, he did not want to become involved in what seemed a minor peasant uprising. But he changed his mind when he saw the outrages committed against the people on his estates.

Rákóczi too sought an alliance with Louis XIV. Unfortunately, this correspondence was also intercepted by the Austrians, and he was imprisoned, awaiting execution. His pregnant wife bribed the prison guard, and he was able to escape to Poland. There he met Bercsényi Miklós, whose property bordered on his in Upper Hungary. Together, they once again turned to the French court for help.

Due to the War of the Spanish Succession, many of the Austrian troops had been temporarily withdrawn from Hungary. Taking advantage of the situation, the *kuruc* forces began a new uprising at Munkács. This time, Rákóczi acceded to their request to lead them. Joined by Bercsényi, 3,000 armed men led by Esze Tamás, 600 Polish mercenaries, and armed with French funds, Rákóczi crossed the border from Poland into Hungary on June 16th, 1703, to continue fighting for the freedom of his native land.

"Cum Deo pro Patria et Libertate" (With God for Country and Freedom) emblazoned on his banners, Rákóczi swept across Hungary, taking control of the area east and north of the Danube. But then the Austrian and British forces won a major battle (Blenheim) in the War of Spanish Succession, freeing up troops once again to withstand him. French

support diminished, and even Rákóczi's vast wealth was running out. He created a new copper-based coinage, but the people were used to silver coins and did not readily accept it.

In September 1705, the Hungarian Diet held near Szécsény elected Rákóczi the "ruling prince" – *vezérlő fejedelem* – to be assisted by a 24-member senate.

With British and Dutch encouragement, peace talks were started between the Hungarians and the Emperor. But each side had its own aim and strategy, influenced by the military situation. Sovereignty over Transylvania was a major stumbling block. Convinced that only a declaration of independence would bring the various powers to the negotiating table with him, the Diet held at Ónod (June 13th, 1707) declared that the House of Habsburg had been deposed from the Hungarian throne. But this act did not bring about the desired result. Louis XIV refused to ally himself with Rákóczi, and so did imperial Russia.

In a further battle, at Trencsén, fought on August 3rd, 1708, Rákóczi's horse

stumbled, and threw him, so that he was knocked unconscious. His *kuruc* followers thought he had died, and fled. It spelled the virtual end of the uprising.

Many *kuruc* leaders changed their allegiance to the Emperor, hoping for clemency. On February 11th, 1711, II. Rákóczi Ferenc left Hungary for Poland, to negotiate with Peter the Great. He gave Károlyi Sándor permission to negotiate with the Austrian Court in his absence. Károlyi quickly reached a peace settlement with Pálffy János, the Emperor's envoy, at Szatmár, but it did not have Rákóczi's consent. According to its terms, 12,000 rebels laid down their arms on the fields of Nagymajtény, on May 1st, 1711, accompanied by the wail of *tárogatók* (*kuruc* flutes resembling clarinets), and they swore allegiance to the Emperor.

The peace treaty provided for religious freedom, respect for the constitution, and assured Rákóczi of clemency if he took an oath of allegiance to the Emperor. But Rákóczi did not trust the Habsburg promises, nor did he recognize the legality of the treaty, because it

had been signed after the death of the Emperor on April 17th, which terminated Pálffy's authority.

Even though he was offered the Polish crown, he turned down the offer. The following year, he went to England, but Queen Anne, under Habsburg pressure, refused to receive him. Next he went to France, and reminded Louis XIV of his past services, asking him to remember Hungary at the upcoming peace negotiations of the Spanish War of Succession. Needless to say, nothing came of that either.

In 1717, Rákóczi accepted the invitation of the Ottomans, who had not yet made peace with Austria, to settle there. He and his entourage were received with honors. When the peace treaty between the two powers was finally signed in 1718 (the Treaty of Passarowitz), it contained a provision that Rákóczi and his followers would not be extradited. Nevertheless, the Austrians demanded their return a couple of years later, but were turned down.

Rákóczi and the other Hungarians settled at Rodostó, on the Sea of Marmara. He lived there the rest of his life – another 18 years – during which time he observed a set routine as described by Mikes Kelemen of his entourage. Mikes' „*Törökországi levelek*” (Letters from Turkey) were written to an imaginary aunt, and never mailed. They are an important literary memento of Rákóczi's final years. II. Rákóczi Ferenc died on April 8th, 1735, having sacrificed his life, his domestic happiness, and his estates for the cause of liberty. According to his wishes, his internal organs were buried at the Greek church in Rodostó, his heart was sent to France, and his body was buried in Constantinople. In 1906, the remains of II. Rákóczi Ferenc and of his mother, Zrinyi Ilona, were returned to Hungary, and were buried in the Cathedral of Kassa (see the April 2013 issue of Magyar News Online). After centuries of *bujdosás* (wandering in exile), the great Freedom Fighter had come home.

Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.



Rodostó today

The Hungarian Pasha: Gróf Széchenyi Ödön

Olga Vállay Szokolay

Who would have thought that a son of Count Széchenyi István would become famous for his work in fire prevention? Not only in Hungary, but especially in Turkey?

Over the centuries, there have been tomes of deserved publicity and recognition written of Count Széchenyi István, the reformer and writer. The scion of an old Hungarian aristocratic family, he was a native of Vienna and, according to some accounts, could speak only 24 Hungarian words by the time he reached adulthood (a lack he remedied later on). Yet his active participation in the country's affairs and welfare made him the greatest Hungarian of the Reform Era. Everyone knows that he was the father of the Chain Bridge connecting Buda and Pest, many modern roads, the improved navigability of the Danube, as well as the founder of the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences, for which he donated his one-year's income.

Little has been known, however, about his private life. After 15 years of hopeless love, the 45 year-old Széchenyi could finally marry the Countess Crescentia Seilern-Aspang, the widow of Zichy Károly, in 1836 (with a brood of 14 offspring). The two sons they had together followed in their father's footsteps, yet history never appropriately credited either, and both remained virtually unknown.

Their first child, Béla, was born in 1837, and became a renowned explorer. The second, the subject of this article, *sárvár-felsővidéki gróf Széchenyi Ödön* (Edmond) came into this world on December 14, 1839, in Pozsony (now Bratislava). In his early 20's, there were some destructive fires at Nagycenk, the family estate, and later at nearby Fertőszentmiklós. These two tragic events heavily influenced Ödön's choice of career.

In 1862, he participated at the London world exhibit as fire commissioner, where he had a chance to study organized fire-fighting. He met the world's leading experts of state-of-the-art fire protection and learned the basic rules of "regulating nature". He also acquired some theoretical information and returned from his trip with a rowboat loaded with specialized



Count Ödön Széchenyi

textbooks. From here on he spent most of his energy organizing the domestic fire department system. Based upon his academic knowledge as well as practical experiences from his hometown, he wrote the first Hungarian fire-fighting textbook. At his own expense, he ordered hoses and other fire extinguishing equipment from England. For a while he was active as commander of the City of Pest's volunteer fire department and, in the late 1860's, had the lion's share in organizing the National Fire Protection Commission. News of all this became widespread through the Western world and reached the Turkish Sultan, Abdul Aziz, who recognized the Hungarian fire fighting organization as the most modern and best organized in Europe. With tightly built neighborhoods, narrow alleys and a great shortage of water, Constantinople had a history of fire devastation and was prone to be devoured by extensive fires. The Sultan therefore asked Count Széchenyi Ödön to organize that city's fire protection system.

Count Ödön accepted this important assignment. (What a noble way to reciprocate the 150-year Turkish occupation!...) He had to overcome numerous huge problems of prejudice, organization, finances. Yet in the first year of his com-

mission, he counteracted 17 fires that would have caused enormous damage before. For his excellent work, he was awarded the rank of colonel in 1877, then that of field marshal and, ultimately, he was conferred the title of *pasha*. All this devoted, passionate involvement that he took upon himself resulted in his staying in Constantinople. However, that took a toll on his personal life.

He had married Almay Irma, a commoner, in 1864 and together they had three children (András, 1865; Vanda, 1870 and Olga, 1873). His wife being reluctant to move to Turkey with him, Ödön left by himself, visited his family only occasionally, securing his children's Hungarian education.

After his alienated wife's death in 1891, he married Eulalia Christopulos in 1892, legitimizing their liaison of several years. They had four children together, György, Ilona, Gusztáv and Bálint. *Pasha* Széchenyi served half a century in Turkey, under four successive sultans. He won the confidence of all of them. He was given the highest decorations in honor of his humble and effective service.. Yet, he preserved his Hungarian citizenship until his death!

Besides his unparalleled role in international firefighting, many domestic foundations, innovations and establishments could be credited to him, most visible of which are the *Budavári Sikkó* (funicular connecting the Danube river bank with the Castle district), and the *Fogaskerekű Vasút* (Cog-wheel Railway, running from the Városmajor to the Széchenyi Mountain, in Buda).

While gróf Széchenyi Ödön, known as the "fire pasha", was highly honored and decorated in Turkey and throughout Europe, he was virtually unrecognized in Hungary, possibly due to his tangled family affairs that were severely frowned upon by the Monarchy's aristocracy.

He died in Turkey, in the 83rd year of his life, on March 24, 1922.

At his request, his remains were put to rest in Constantinople, in the Catholic section of the Feriköy Christian cemetery, on the European side of (today's) Istanbul.

Olga Vállay Szokolay is an architect and Professor Emerita of Norwalk Community College, after three decades of teaching. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.



Ödön Széchenyi Pasha

One adventure after the other...

What can be next?

Julius Bikkal

I was living in Munich, Germany, and decided to enroll in an African Safari Club tour. First I had to fly over to Basel, Switzerland, from Basel to Nairobi, Kenya, and then to Mombasa, Kenya.

As soon as our flight left Basel, looking out the window I noticed smoke coming out of one of the engines on each side of the turbo-propeller craft. Remarkably, I was the only one noticing this. However, in a while the pilot announced that, due to some engine failure, we would have to return to the Basel airport. That did happen but, the craft being overloaded, it ran through a fence at the end of the runway and landed in a swamp. We had to be rescued by firefighters and other emergency crew.

The Company gave us a choice of refunding our money or, after a day of sight-seeing, to continue our trip to Nairobi. I opted for the latter. But another unforeseen event interrupted our peaceful flight. Flying over the Mediterranean, we must have been approaching Tripoli, when suddenly Khadafy's fighter planes surrounded our aircraft, forcing us to land. After a three-hour unscheduled layover, our captors were finally convinced of our peaceful mission, and we were allowed to continue our journey to Nairobi. There the receiving committee gave us a heroes' welcome and served us an extraordinary festive dinner.

Next morning we continued our trip with a small DC-3 craft to Mombasa. I was accommodated in a marvelous waterfront building of the African Safari Club.

The first evening, modeled on the American system, I had to stand in line for my dinner. Then something incredible happened: in front of me I heard a man and a woman talking Hungarian to each other!... There, on the shores of the Indian Ocean, I bumped into this Hungarian chemical engineer from Seattle, Washington! ...He and his wife were off to see a solar eclipse.

It's a small world!

Julius Bikkal is a retired mechanical engineer well known for promoting Hungarian television in the U.S. At this time, he is in Budapest, receiving his "Diamond Diploma" (60th anniversary certificate) at his alma mater, the Technical University of Budapest. He resides in New York City.

Did you know ...

... that while Washington, DC may have its annual Cherry Blossom Festival, Nagykörű, on the Tisza, puts on a Cherry Fair – Cseresznyevásár – every year. There is an added attraction this year, as they have combined it with a Pálinka Festival, featuring brandy made of – care to guess?

Nagykörű, a small town on the Tisza, calls itself „Hungary's cherry garden"? The climatic and soil conditions make the area especially favorable for cherry-growing. So it stands to reason that they would have an annual Cherry Fair, showcasing their main crop. This year, it will be held on June 15th, from morning until dawn of the following day. It will be combined with their first ever Pálinka Festival.

Featured will be cherry cake (see elsewhere in this issue for a recipe), cheese with cherries, a cherry train, etc., as well as pálinka made from 77 different types of cherries. Other local products such as jam, goat's cheese, honey, baskets, lace, felt (*nemez*) and other handcrafted items will of course also be available. (For an explanation of *nemez*, see the November 2012 issue of Magyar News Online).

A supervised playground will keep the children occupied. There will be a riding competition, a soccer game, performance of a comedy presented by the local theater company, a film festival featuring films about the town made by graduating students of the Theater and Film Arts College, a guitar and cimbalom concert, etc. As opposed to previous years, when the festival lasted three days, no cherry pit spitting contest is listed on this year's program. Its winner was named Cherry King of Nagykörű. It must have been a really fun event!