



Szerelmes vers - Love Poem

Babits Mihály

For Valentine's Day, this love poem seems appropriate. His sweetheart's eyes mesmerize the author, and loving her as he does, he hears little bells tinkling in their gray depths.

A szemedet, arcod mélységes, sötét szürke tavát
homlokod havasa alatt, homlokod havát
elfeledtető fényes nyári szemed szédületét
szeretem és éneklek e szédület szeretetét.

Mélységes ércső, ércső, fémtű, mesebeli,
szédülsz, ha belevillansz; ki tudja, mivel van mélye teli?
Szellemek ércsava: drága érc nemesszellemi
fémlenek villanásaiban; de mily ritka fém szelleme
tudhat így fényleni?

Mély, fémfényű, szürke, szépszínű szemedben,
édesem,
csodálatos csillogó csengők csilingelnek csendesen,
csendesem, - hallani nem lehet, talán látni sem:
az látja csak, aki úgy szeret, mint én, édesem!

Babits Mihály (1883 – 1941), poet, essayist, novelist, was one of the most learned and respected writers of the 20th century.

The Seuso Treasure

Olga Vállay Szokolay

Do you enjoy unsolved mysteries? Do you admire spectacular works of art? Are you fascinated by ancient history?

Then you may appreciate reading of the international scandal surrounding the mystery of the Seuso Treasure. It embraces several decades, but its roots are well over one and a half millennia deep.



Hunting plate

At the onset of the Middle Ages, *Pannonia* was a province of the Roman Empire, covering a significant part of European geography. *Valeria* was one of the four parts of the province, bordered by the river Danube (Duna) on the north and east, by the Drava River on the south and included most of Transdanubia (*Dunántúl*), thus had been part of what has been Hungary for the last eleven hundred years.

Archeological relics, verifying incredibly high cultural and technical achievements of the Roman era, have been ubiquitous in the Pannonia Valeria area of Hungary: ruins of roads, bridges, temples, villas, aqueducts, amphitheaters, baths, just to name a few. Over the centuries, unsung peasants turned up broken pieces of stone and metal objects while plowing or digging in the fields, unaware of the potential colossal cultural value of their findings. The Romans' artistic and engineering development had been about a millennium ahead, a feat that was never equaled or revived until the Renaissance: hence the name!

A mysterious find, unearthed from its hiding in Pannonia Valeria in the 1970s, became known as the *Seuso Treasure*. Although the identity and origin of SEUSO (spelled SEVSO) remains unclear to the present day, the only trace of it as a name of a *person* appears on the sizable *Hunter or Seuso Platter*, the most important piece of the vast collection of silver artifacts. The inscription on its edge reads: "HEC SEVSO TIBI DVRENT PER SAECVLA MVLTA POSTERIS VT PROSINT VASCVLA DIGNA TVIS". It translates as: "May these dishes remain yours, Seuso, and your worthy descendents' for many centuries." (Translation varies)

So who was Seuso? He had to be a high-ranking person, a *legatus*, a successful defender of the Empire, deserving the highest honors. His name is not Roman. Some authorities guess its origin as Celtic, others as Thracian or Germanic. The platter may have been a commemoration of a celebratory dinner ensuing a greatly enjoyable hunt, potentially with the Emperor himself on the guest list. It gives two other significant clues about Seuso. One is the Christogram (Chi-Rho) separating the start and the end of the inscription, indicating that Seuso most likely was a Christian. The other is the word PELSO, the name of Lake Balaton in antiquity, that ties Seuso's residence, thus the treasure, inalienably to the Balaton region.

It was in May 1878 that 10 broken silver pieces turned out from the ground when a local man was digging up a plum tree on the southeast slope of Kőszár-hegy, a hill near the town of Polgárdi. He duly surrendered the pieces to the authorities. Experts of the *Nemzeti Múzeum* (National Museum) identified them as produced in the fourth century and restored them into a

collapsible tripod. The sensation prompted it to be sent to the Paris World Exhibit. (Ironically, during a 2002 further restoration, the tripod turned out to be a quadripod.)

Almost a century later, in 1974, a retired carpenter discovered ruins of a huge late-Roman residential edifice on the shores of Sárvíz, near Szabadbattyán. There he also found and turned in to the museum a gigantic, relief-adorned lead cauldron and some coins, for which he was paid about a month's pension. In his version, the original location of the Treasure was the ruined villa. Others maintain that it was found several hundred meters further, on Kőszárhegy by Sümegh József in 1976.

Sümegh József worked as a laborer at the local quarry. He lived at Polgárdi, where everyone knew that in 1975-76 he had found some huge, valuable pure silver platters and jugs. A local man later testified that he had seen two cauldrons loaded with many larger silver objects as he was helping Sümegh transport them in a horse-drawn carriage to Polgárdi. Between 1977 and 1979, Sümegh allegedly sold some pieces, not fully realizing their value.

A few years later, on December 17th, 1980, the hanged body of Sümegh József was found in an abandoned cellar at Kőszárhegy.

The demise of Sümegh József has remained a mystery to the present day. It was preceded by his finding the treasure and hiding it for years; his military service from 1978; by his cheerful demeanor purchasing a building lot and construction materials as he planned to build the greatest house at Polgárdi after his demobilization. Yet, shortly before his military term ended, he turned unexplainably distant and depressed. On the eve of his death, after meet-

ing two men at the bar, the three of them set out on foot to the dirt road toward Kőszárhegy, toward the ominous cellar. After that Sümegh was never seen alive.

Suicide, as originally declared, should be ruled out on several counts, such as three sets of footprints in the snow going toward the cellar and only two sets away from it. However, the still ongoing investigation for the killer(s) has produced no conclusive results.

After the unresolved death of Sümegh József, the location of the Treasure's discovery became covered in mystery, unidentifiable, thus any further would-be owners could claim any locale within the Roman Empire as its origin. The Treasure had been removed from its millennial resting place and illegally kept hidden on private property. The time and means of its leaving Hungary is mostly hearsay. What is known is that at some time by some obscure way IT, or pieces of it, had been taken to Vienna.

By now we could justly ask what IT is, what the Treasure really includes?

There we bump into another unknown. Opinions about the scope of this Treasure vary greatly, although the largest guess is probably the correct one. All original numbers enumerating platters, jugs, buckets, wash-bowls, cosmetics containers, utensils are again hearsay. In Hungary, 14 pieces (plus their holding vessel) are known but over 40 have been "seen". The numbers grow significantly if we consider 37 gold-plated silver cups and 187 spoons, all of which, in company of further platters and such are guarded at some unspecified vault. Originally, most or all the above were kept in lead or copper cauldrons, to be hidden from attacks by the barbarians.



TOP ROW: The Treasure's "Birth Certificate"; Amphora handle with panthers. SECOND ROW: Picture of Seuso's supposed villa; The first seven returned pieces. THIRD ROW: Sümegeh József; The tripod / quadripod; Lord Northampton. BOTTOM ROW: Top of the Seuso Platter with tiny Chi-Rho in the middle of the inscription; Illustrating sizes and scale of the pieces.

According to Scotland Yard, between 1980 and 1987 various collectors purchased some silver pieces. A Lebanese art dealer conducted business from the Vienna Hilton and he managed to obtain some Roman ornamental silver dishes, which he sold with export papers from Lebanon.

On the international market, first one silver jug was offered at the reputable Mansour Gallery in London. It was bought by the president of the auction house Sotheby's, as a private person. Later, as further pieces of the collection appeared, he realized the investment opportunity, but lacked capital. He successfully approached art investor Lord Northampton (a.k.a. Spencer Douglas David Compton) to join in the venture, which seemed to promise colossal returns. In 1984, they offered it to the Getty Museum, but the papers certifying the origin were identified as counterfeit. A further unexpected turn came by a Hungarian expert who recognized the word PELSO on the Seuso platter. He readily identified it as the name of Lake Balaton in ancient times. All of these rendered the Treasure unsellable, to the dismay of Lord Northampton.

Trying to remedy his client's financial predicament, his lawyer purchased *new forged papers* in Lebanon for one million pounds.

Years later, in 1990, at the exhibit preceding Sotheby's auction in New York, a rich silver set appeared, with Lebanon given as place of origin. Shortly, Lebanon filed a lawsuit against Sotheby's, requesting investigation of ownership of the Treasure and its surrender to Lebanon.

This prompted similar claims by Yugoslavia and Hungary. Unable to establish legality, all claims were essentially dismissed by the New York court. The collection, lacking legal proof of ownership and origin, became legally unsellable.

Having completed extensive soil sampling at the site with results matching the traces on a cauldron, in 1993-94, Hungary filed *four* lawsuits against Lord Northampton and lost them all. In 1998, Hungary ratified the Unidroit-pact about illicit trafficking of cultural property, which mandates that stolen objects of cultural value be returned to the country of their lawful ownership. Nevertheless, in 2006, Lord Northampton attempted to organize selling the Treasure until the British art dealers' association declared that exhibiting a collection of disputable fame would be against ethical rules.

In 2012, after years of frustrated efforts to repatriate the Seuso Treasures, a Hungarian law office was commissioned to create a contract that would realize the return of the artifacts to their rightful owner: Hungary. The papers were signed in 2013 (just about in sync with the British Lord's expensive fifth divorce!), to the tune of 15 million Euros. In early 2014, the first seven pieces of the Treasure were returned while details of the deal have been declared state secret for 30 years!

On July 12, 2017, upon paying a roughly 28 million Euro compensation to the holder(s) of the set, Hungary received the second seven pieces. The invaluable Treasure, aptly nicknamed by Prime Minister Orbán as "Hungary's family silver set", was taken on an exhibit tour across the Country, ending its adventurous journey at the Parliament, then at its final showcase, the National Museum.

Archeologists and scientists never stopped analyzing the enigma of the history and origin of the Seuso Treasure and neither did Scotland Yard. Whatever their findings, however, the "family silver" is now safely back where it belongs: in Hungary. But it still remains a mystery waiting to be solved!

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

Tracing the Story of One Immigrant Family

EPF

There was a personal connection for me to the recent tragedy of the Montecito (CA) mudslide. László Laky (last contribution to MNO in September 2017), sent me a photo depicting his cousin Sándor Hodosy rescuing someone from the mud. Sándor does not want to be in the limelight, but I knew his and László's family going back to their grandparents, and since the beginning of their story is different from most Hungarian emigrant stories, I thought it worthwhile to record it for posterity.

I had met Sándor Hodosy's and László Laky's grandparents, Sándor's dad-to-be and aunt (and László's future mother) in a refugee camp in Germany after World War II. Their story is worth recalling, as it shows us another facet of the great Hungarian saga.

Their grandparents were Hódosy László (Laci bácsi) and Ani néni. Laci bácsi was a lathe operator, living with his family in Arad, which since 1920 belongs to Romania. Because so many German men were lost at the fronts, they needed factory workers to carry on towards the end of the war, and German recruiters enticed many Hungarian industrial workers with promises of great jobs and decent housing.

Thus a trainload of skilled Hungarian workers arrived in Hannover, Germany in early 1945, some with their furniture, so glowing had been the picture painted by the recruiters.

By this time, much of Hannover lay in ruins as a result of Allied bombing. Instead of the nice apartments the Hungarians had been promised, the Germans wanted to house them in a movie

theater that had lost its roof in an air raid. Most of them wanted to go back right then and there.

Finally, they were persuaded to stay, and were accommodated in a Russian camp (you can imagine how well that went over!) where they were infested with lice. Then during an air raid, their barrack burned down, and they lost their furniture, their belongings and the food they had brought with them.

They went to work in the Hanomag factory, but when air raids came, they were chased out of the workers' air raid shelters at gunpoint!

Soon the war ended, and so did their employment. They were finally housed in the cabins put up on little victory garden plots near the Hanomag factory. That is where we found housing too, and that is where we met the Hodosys. Our families became friends, and my brother Remy and Frank, being the same age, shared a bench in high school once the schools reopened in 1946.

We moved on to Essen almost two years later, and eventually emigrated to America in 1949. The Hodosys also began the process, but Laci bácsi had an accident in the processing camp, and they had to wait until he was recovered.

However Anikó, Frank's older sister, immediately received a scholarship to a college in White Plains, NY, and a job offer as a nanny, and she came to the States ahead of the family.

We met her at the boat, where her sponsor also awaited her and wanted to whisk her away to White Plains right away. It took a lot of persuading to allow her to come visit with us in New Jersey for a couple of days before starting her new job.

In Germany, Anikó had corresponded with a young man named Tibor Laky about student affairs.

Originally from Székesfehérvár, he

had also emigrated, and for her first vacation, Anikó decided to visit him in Texas. Well, as the saying goes, the rest is history: She never returned to White Plains, but married Tibor and eventually had six children.

When the family could follow after, the Hodosys settled in Queens, New York, and were instrumental in having us move from New Jersey to Queens as well.

Frank joined the Air Force, and moved to Colorado to the Air Force Academy. He met Vizma Zarins, a Latvian artist, in Denver, where four of their five children were born. After his military service, he studied engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder, obtained his degree and moved to California.

He designed their beautiful house where they raised five children, one of whom is Sándor, who has his own landscaping business. (And who, when the need arises, rescues people from mudslides! He also brought in his own equipment to help with the Montecito clean-up. He is the father of two adult daughters.)

Sándor's twin brother Ferenc, named after his father, is a tennis pro, and his own twin sons Christian and Ryan, seniors in high school, regularly make the newspapers with their exploits on the tennis courts.

Frank's oldest is also named László, and works for the local newspaper in Santa Barbara.

Anita, the only girl among the siblings, raised four children of her own, one of whom was a special-needs child. Another is now learning the ropes of his father's winery business. In addition, Anita raised her youngest brother Andris, since both Frank and Vizma passed away early. Andris now has his own technology-based business.

Anita recently retired from the Santa Barbara County Clerk's office.

Of Anikó's children, the oldest was a special needs child, whose siblings made provisions for her after their parents died. She passed away in 2011. The oldest son, László, is now Chief Motor Officer of Dallas Gateway Traffic Safety, and every so often sends us material for MNO. He has three younger brothers, one of whom, Zoltán, is a Dallas Police Officer; another who works for Sprint; and the third is a contractor in Florida who builds malls. Anikó's other daughter is married and has five children.

It is quite interesting to follow the story of a family from Transylvania to California and Texas, to see how they eventually contribute to the Great American Dream.



Sándor Hodosy rescuing a mudslide victim

And the immigrant story continues ...



The Hodosys in the Hannover victory garden

The White Rose Debutante Ball: 60 years of Hungarian Tradition

By: *Laura Kuczajda*

A brief history of the Hungarian White Rose Debutante Ball of Detroit, with info about the special guest of honor - the Hungarian Ambassador to the US.

To provide you a history of the Hungarian White Rose Ball, we must start with the formation of the Hungarian Arts Club, which has sponsored this event for 60 years. The Hungarian Arts Club was formed in 1958 as an organization to preserve and foster Hungarian arts and culture. The Club's goals were to nourish, support and promote Hungarian heritage and present this culture to the people of the United States. So, way back in the 1950s, the Detroit Hungarian Community held a formal ball called the "Radio Ball". It was called that because Mrs. Pálos, the owner of the Hungarian radio station and the Hungarian newspaper, used to chair the event each year.

In 1958, Mrs. Pálos decided she no longer wanted to chair the event and wanted someone or some group to take over the responsibility. In the fall of 1958, a meeting was held in Delray, Michigan to discuss the formation of a group to continue the tradition of the Hungarian formal ball. Several local dignitaries*, business people*, and well known local Hungarian artists* attended. The group agreed to form the Hungarian Arts Club of Detroit, not only to continue the ball but also to support Hungarian artists and art students. Some of the affluent people attending the meeting, who happened to descend from Hungarian royalty (the Csiszárs), suggested the group follow in the footsteps of Hungarian nobility and rename the ball "Fehér Rózsa Bál" and make it a debutante ball.

The group loved the suggestion, the Hungarian Arts Club of Detroit was born and the White Rose Ball tradition began. Dr. Csiszár became the first President of the Club, and mem-

bership grew. The Club received its legal charter from the State of Michigan on May 31st, 1960. 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of this Hungarian tradition. The formal black tie event, now held at the historic Dearborn Marriott Inn the first Saturday of February, has a live band offering traditional ballroom dancing, including csárdás and polkas. In addition, one of the highlights of the evening is watching the debutantes and their escorts perform the "palotás", a traditional dance of the Hungarian royal court. Following the "palotás", each young woman is introduced into Society, and completes a formal curtsy to all the guests. She is then escorted back to await the arrival of her father and the performance of the Father-Daughter Blue Danube Waltz.

During the evening, the winner of the college scholarship is announced and often times performs a musical piece, should that be his or her field of study. The scholarships (three to be given out this year) have been awarded in fields ranging from acting and instrumental performances, to singers, dancers, music teachers, sculptors, and designers. All students of Hungarian descent, studying the fine arts, are encouraged to apply. To date, the Club has introduced over 450 debutantes, and given away over \$90,000.00 in college scholarships. The current President is Tamás Markovits of Ypsilanti, with Linda Enyedy of Southfield as the Vice-President.

The Hungarian Arts Club has enjoyed strong support over the years from the William Penn Association and local Hungarian groups and organizations - from ball attendance, to financial contributions; and we

look forward to these continued reciprocal sponsorships.

To celebrate our 60 years, this time we will be hosting the Hungarian Ambassador to the US, dr. Szabó László as our Honorary Chairperson. He assumed his position in July 2017. Dr. Szabó's first profession was medicine, but he later joined Eli Lilly, working eventually at their world headquarters in Indiana. In 2010, he was named CEO of TEVA (Hungary), one of the world's largest generic drug firms. Later on, he became State Secretary and later Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We are excited about celebrating our 60 years, and encourage any former debutantes, escorts, and scholarship winners to attend this February 3rd gala event, and reminisce with old friends and revitalize their Hungarian roots. If you know of any young Hungarians who would like to participate in the Ball as a deb or an escort, or apply for the scholarship, or if you are interested in joining the Club, please contact Linda Enyedy at 248-352-0927.

*Original meeting attendees included or may have included: Dr. Géza Nagy, Dr. Kálmán Csiszár, his wife Irén Csiszár, Mrs. Pálos, Mrs. Anna Bozo, Father Jakab, Dr. Navori, Sculptor Ferenc Varga, artist József Sulyok, artist János Tokai, artist Ferenc Somogyi, Vilmos Nerath and his wife, and possibly Dr. Sztar.

Laura A. Kuczajda has been the publicity person for the Hungarian Arts Club for the last 10 years. She has an MBA and is currently the Director of the College of Human Medicine for Michigan State University.



White Rose Debutante Ball : Debutantes and Their Escorts

New Hungarian School in Danbury

viola vonfi

Since last November, Dóra Peller has been spending every second Saturday afternoon at the Danbury Hungarian Club, making it fun for seven to ten year olds to learn their ancestral language. This is mirrored in the Magyar Studies of America (MSA) ad which invited those interested to "Play and learn Hungarian together" – „Játsszunk és tanuljunk magyarul együtt”.



Qualified to teach children at the kindergarten level as well as grade school, Dóra Peller started teaching at the MSA-sponsored school in Fairfield. She came to the States four years ago, when her husband, who works for an international hi-tech firm, was transferred here.

"Most of the young ones speak Hungarian, and it is obvious which parents find it important and spend time with them to foster the language," explains Dóra. Chief aim of the study aids she uses is to expand the students' vocabulary.



After spending two hours (11 AM to 1 PM) in Fairfield on alternate Saturday mornings, she then heads north to accommodate those children for whom Fairfield would be too far, or whose parents' schedule precludes them from attending there. Classes in Danbury run from 3 to 5 PM, usually ending with a game of hide and seek. In addition to her teaching skills, Dóra has a talent that endears her to young and old alike: she does face painting, and is available for birthday parties, corporate events and festivals.

She and her pupils' parents are planning a „farsangi multság” (carnival festival) for February 17th (see poster with the lead on the first page).

viola vonfi is our correspondent from Stamford, CT. She finds it amusing that one of her ancestors was knighted by Wallenstein during the Thirty Years' War.

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Rev. Vas László – Requiescat in pacem!

The Szent István R.C. Church in Passaic, NJ unexpectedly lost its Pastor on January 7, 2018.



Having led the Parish as Administrator since 2007, Fr. Vas was named Pastor in June of 2017. A few months later, just before Christmas, a sudden sickness prompted him to return to his native Nagyvárad for medical treatment. That is where he died on January 7th of this year at the age of 52. Burial was from Nagyvárad Cathedral to Rulikovszky Cemetery.

Fr. Vas was born in 1965 into a Reformed (Presbyterian) family. He was preparing to enter the Reformed ministry, but converted to Catholicism in 1985. Seven years later, his bishop, Tempfli József sent him to study in Budapest. Ordained in 1998 in Nagyvárad, he was named Pastor to two small villages and was also Spiritual Director of Szent László Catholic School and the *Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat* (Hungarian Knights of Malta Charitable Services) of Nagyvárad.

In 1999, his Bishop sent him to study at the Gregorian University of Rome, in the Hungarian Papal Institute.

In response to Chicago Cardinal Francis George's request for help, Fr. Vas arrived in Chicago at the end of June 2000 to help out in the summer. Here he continued his studies, with the permission of his Bishop Tempfli József.

The following year, he was named Associate Pastor, and later, Administrator of the Chicago Hungarian Parish. In recognition of his work, the Hungarian government bestowed on him an official decoration.

When the previous Pastor of Szent László in Passaic, Fr. Mustos István left, Fr. Vas took over as Administrator, a position he held until the summer of 2017.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered for the repose of the soul of Fr. Vas at Szent László by Bishop Arthur Serratelli on January 20th, at 10 AM.

May he rest in peace!

Molnár-C. Pál

Erika Papp Faber

On a quiet street in Buda, somewhere behind the iconic Gellért Szálló is a small private museum. It is the former studio of Molnár-C. Pál, perhaps the most popular painter and graphic artist of the 20th century who, for 50 years, created paintings, woodcuts for book illustrations, graphics used in popular daily newspapers and posters, at this address.

Molnár Pál was born in Battonya in 1894, the first of seven children. His father was an estate manager who married the governess (named Jeanne Contant) brought from Switzerland by the estate owner.

The landowner supported Pál's studies in Arad, where his artistic talent was discovered. When a newspaper advertised a national competition to illustrate a short story, the winner was the eleventh grader Molnár Pál. This started him on his artistic path.

He went to study at the Budapest School of Design (then called *Mintarajziskola és Rajztanárképző főiskola*), the Director of which was Szinyei Merse Pál, master of Hungarian Impressionism. Szinyei asked him

to tutor his grandchildren during vacation time. Molnár also began to work then for the "Est" newspaper conglomerate, a group of three daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 400,000. (Their influence in the 1920s has been compared to the power of TV today.) For them, and for the newspaper "Pesti napló", he created India ink drawings daily, depicting scenes of bourgeois city life, which made Molnár Pál famous.

As a tutor to the Szinyei family, he traveled with them to Switzerland, where he visited his mother's relatives and had the first three exhibitions of his landscapes in Geneva and Lausanne, in 1920. While there, he began using stronger colors in his *plein air* pictures. He also fell under the influence of perhaps the best-known Swiss painter of the time, an influence which he wanted to shake off. So he withdrew into the mountains for half a year, living like a hermit. It is surmised that he may have had a profound spiritual experience there, since his painting of religious art began after that period.

A wealthy Swiss woman then offered to finance a year's stay in Paris – the dream of every painter! – if he would copy a section of a well-known Tizian Madonna for her. He did. Being half French, he felt very much at home in Paris. There he continued to teach himself by copying paintings in the Louvre. He became acquainted with various painting styles, and experimented with cubism, dadaism and surrealism, while still retaining representational elements. The abstract held no attraction for him.

Although he fell in love with an American "Miss Barbara" (whose portrait he also painted), homesickness proved stronger than love and he returned to Hungary. On his return, he began to exhibit in the Belvedere Salon, and started to add the "C" from his mother's surname to his own.

In 1925, the *Képzőművészek Új Társasága* (The New Society of Fine Arts), better known by its initials as KÚT, accepted him as a member, which gave him new impetus.

His painting "St. Francis Preaching to

the Birds" earned him a three-year scholarship to Rome in 1928. There, at the newly created Collegium Hungaricum (Hungarian Academy), he rubbed shoulders with established painters Aba-Novák and Szőnyi. Classical and Renaissance art influenced them all, together with modern ways of looking at things. In Rome, Molnár-C. used a box that he could hang around his neck, which he could transform into an easel, and used prepared wooden panels to sketch what he saw – for example, freshly unearthed Roman ruins.

At this time he began to paint in the surrealistic style, for as he said, "Actually, every form of art is more or less surrealistic. The reality of everyday life is different from artistic surreal reality."

Returning home, he received commissions from around the country – from Kőszeg to Battonya to Szombathely – for large scale religious art, including altar triptychs and frescoes. (Among these is the ceiling fresco of Szent Anna church on Batthyány tér and the triptych of Belvárosi főplébánia church in Budapest.) He became a pioneer in modern ecclesiastical art. His painting of the Annunciation won for him the Zichy Mihály Prize, considered at the time to be the highest form of artistic recognition.

He began to illustrate literary works by famous contemporary authors, such as Kosztolányi Dezső, Molnár Ferenc, Szabó Lőrinc. (One illustration from Kosztolányi's *Alakok* was "Kalauz" – Conductor – which may be seen in the collage). He created woodcuts, again for book illustrations. In 1930, he won an international competition with his *Fioretti* woodcut illustrations. Those for Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* won him several awards at the 1937 World Exhibit in Paris, including the Grand Prix and a gold medal. It became that year's "Most Beautiful Book". The exhibits he had and the awards and prizes Molnár-C. won are too numerous to list. Suffice it to mention

the grand prize he received from the Szinyei Society in 1931; the gold medals he won at the Warsaw International Woodcut Biennale (1934) and at the International Ecclesiastical Art Exhibit at Padua; and the gold medal awarded him by Budapest Székesfőváros in 1936.



Self-portrait

At one point, the American Bibliophile Society called upon one artist from different countries to illustrate a work of Shakespeare. Molnár-C. Pál was chosen from Hungary, and he illustrated *Coriolanus*.

While the majority of his paintings have biblical themes, he also painted female beauty in numerous nudes, considering woman to be the depository of the secret of life. When asked how a church painter could paint so many nudes, he replied that when an artist paints, he glorifies the Creator for the beauty of form.

His landscapes are mostly improvisations, although there are some Italian scenes as well as historic themes among his works.

Hope, harmony, peace and interior cheerfulness characterize the art of Molnár-C. Pál. Only illness in his later years produced a dark period, when he painted *Az atomháború árnyékában élünk* (We live in the shadow of an atomic war), showing New York with its vibrant life, and its companion piece which seems almost prophetic of 9/11, showing destroyed skyscrapers with the Statue of Liberty lying on the ruins of the city. But even there he added a ray of light, a glimmer of

hope.

Molnár-C. Pál was a playful person who tried every novelty, and changed styles and themes, which kept him forever young, and is the reason his life's work is so varied. He painted easily and much.

He designed the first Hungarian tourist poster, one of Lake Balaton. The poster for the Eucharistic Congress held in Budapest in 1938 was also his work. But perhaps his most famous poster was the one advertising Modiano cigarette paper, at a time when many people still rolled their own cigarettes.

After 1945, the new political direction shut him out of the art scene because he was "a church painter". Nevertheless he continued to work hard. Later, when the political atmosphere eased somewhat, he was granted an award by the government (*Munka Érdemrend arany fokozata*) in 1974.

He shared his technical knowledge in specialized textbooks, and wrote his autobiography, but that was published only posthumously in 1994. He died on July 11th, 1981, at age 87, having stopped painting only a few weeks previously.

His daughter established the family-owned private museum in 1984 in Molnár-C.'s studio, later adding an adjoining apartment. The museum is small (40 square meters) and intimate, with original furniture, family photos and mementos enhancing the paintings and graphic art. A member of the family – these days, Molnár's grandson and/or the grandson's wife – provide the narrative.

Some 20 years ago, the M.-C.P. Circle of Friends (*Baráti Kör*), a legally registered art society (the first in the country having a professional goal), was established. It handled the publication of the autobiography, and continues to meet monthly at the Museum.



Top: Billiard players; Bathing girl; Cyrano de Bergerac. Bottom: St. Francis Preaching to the Birds; The Flight into Egypt; The Conductor

Periodically, the work of other artists is shown, and lectures are given in the Museum. A lecture series entitled *Múzeumegyetem* (Museum University) was initiated, with popular scientists holding forth, and a young artist offers training in an art workshop.

The Museum remains a private, family undertaking. The works of Molnár-C. Pál are still being researched by his daughter, since her father was lavish in selling and giving away his works.

During his long career, Molnár-C.'s works were exhibited not only in Hungary but also abroad – in Berlin, Stuttgart, München, Vienna and Graz. Today, his paintings may be found in museums, including of course the Hungarian National Gallery, as well as

the New York Museum of Modern Art, and in Rome, Venice, Nürnberg and München. In 1994, over 100,000 visitors admired his works at an exhibit in Tihany.

Molnár-C. Pál summed up his career this way: "I am a happy man, because all my life I could do what I love the most – I played my whole life long."

Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online

Furcsa lovak - Whimsical Horses

EPF and OVS

Hungarians love to play word games with their wonderfully sup-

ple language. Here we take a whimsical look at some nouns that end in -ló (which, standing by itself, means "horse"), plus one that includes the word in the middle.

tarló – lekopasztott ló
 siló – az Alpeseekben
 holló – hol ló, hol nem ló
 padló – ló az iskolában
 kandalló – férfi dalt éneklő ló
 póló – fenekes ló
 roló – guruló ló
 szóló – éneklő ló
 Tasziló – lökdösődő ló
 Zugló – ló az erdőben, meg a nádasban
 poroszló – német ló
 rabló - ló a börtönben
 pilóta - repülő ló

St. László, Model for Hungarian Diaspora

Most Rev. Cserhádi Ferenc

On their scheduled five-year visit, the Hungarian bishops met with Pope Francis last November. He spoke with each of them, including Bishop Cserhádi Ferenc, who is charged with the pastoral care of Hungarians abroad. Having been born in a diaspora himself, the Pope spoke with him at length, and emphasized the importance of maintaining the native language and culture.

Here is an excerpt from Bishop Cserhádi's 12th Circular Letter addressed to all Hungarians abroad.



... During the past year, we remembered, by means of a series of celebrations, the 940th anniversary of King St. László's accession to the throne and the 825th anniversary of his canonization. I would like to recall the connection of Hungarians abroad to the Christian and Hungarian moral courage and integrity of St. László who had been forced abroad and grew up there. Like us, he found himself in a foreign envi-

ronment, among many-colored cultures and peoples speaking the language of the accepting country, and with familial and other connections to several nations. Among all this he became the "nation's athlete" and the champion of the Christian faith.

St. László was born in Poland, in a foreign land, as were most children of Hungarian parents abroad. His father, King Béla I, was of the House of Árpád, his mother Richeza was a Polish princess. Thus St. László was the son of two nations, as are many young people abroad. Originally, even his name had been foreign – he was called Ladislav – in a foreign language, as they also often do to us in foreign lands. We don't even know the name of his first wife, but once he was widowed, he married the daughter of Rudolf of Rheinfeld, Prince of Swabia – not the daughter of Hungarian parents, as is the case of many young people today who do not choose a Hungarian spouse abroad... He was born abroad and they spoke several languages in his family, yet he remained firm in his Hungarian consciousness and in his Christian faith. He became the light of his nation, the pioneer of national Christian culture in our country, steadfastly fostering, defending and spreading the Christian heritage bequeathed by St. István (Stephen).

The example of his life is especially timely for the new generation living abroad, useful as a guide that is attractive and may be followed. Why can we not be like him, good Hungarians and good Christians? Why can we not be his companions in leading a holy life?

We hold commemorations because they remind us of lasting values which we can still respect and make our own, which we can always use. Specifically, if we can appreciate and make our own the Christian witness of St. László in our own lives, we can link our own cause with God's cause, as he did during his earthly life. Otherwise we only pick and choose among the values of his life's example and forget that without the Christian heritage of our ancestors,

our Hungarian consciousness abroad is simply lacking, hobbling. Venerating the Saint means following the sanctity of his life and, like him, living a life of true Christian principles.

The heroic stand of St. László against attacking enemies and evil encourages us particularly today to take up the struggle, even abroad, against such harmful beliefs, murderous ideologies and bad habits which aim at defiling the Christian soul, rob us of our ancient heritage, ruin our Christian faith and family traditions; which would force us into slavery, extinguish the love of family and respect for parents, which would wean us away from prayer, and keep us away from church, from confession, from the gift of marriage and the other sacraments.

The example of St. László encourages us to "fight the good fight of faith", and to follow the witness of those "who live the Gospel without compromise, carry out their duties, and generously serve the poor" (cf. "Martyrdom", by Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican Radio, 10/29/2007), or as the Apostle Paul says: "For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens" (Eph. 6:12)...

Historians have also recorded that St. László appeared several times after his death among his own, performing miracles where the need was great.

Hungarian soldiers went into battle with this battle-cry: "St. László, help!" Let us also implore him with confidence: King St. László, be our leader and help us in our noble, Christian struggle! You, who were our ruler on earth, be our protector in heaven!

In closing, I recall the memory of the 1938 International Eucharistic Congress of Budapest and bring to your attention that the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress will be held in

Budapest, September 13th to the 20th of 2020. It will offer an outstanding opportunity for spiritual renewal, not only in Hungary but also abroad. One of the most beautiful ways is through Eucharistic Adoration, which may be organized anywhere in the world. And let us pray with our brothers in Hungary that "the celebration of the Eucharistic Congress may serve the spiritual renewal of our entire community of the faithful, of our capital, of our people, of Europe and the whole world." (Further practical suggestions may be found on the web page of the 2020 Budapest International Eucharistic Congress at www.iec2020.hu)

In preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, we have also planned to record the "Old Testament Audio Bible of the Hungarian Diaspora", purpose of which is to involve Hungarians living abroad and their communities in the reading and digital recording of the Old Testament. We would like to spread knowledge of the Bible and to document and record the voice, name, current country and locality of accommodation of each reader of a 3-minute biblical segment. Further information is available on the web page of the Szegedi Nemzetközi Biblikus Alapítvány, at www.sznbk1988.hu/hu ...

Thank you for all your monetary, spiritual and moral support...

*Titular Bishop of Centuria,
Auxiliary Bishop of Esztergom-
Budapest
charged with the pastoral care of
Hungarians abroad,
December 3, 2017,
First Sunday of Advent*

Seventh Diaspora Meeting Held in Fairfield, CT

EPF

The Hungarian Consulate of New York held its seventh Diaspora Council (*Diaszpóra Tanács*) Meeting, this time in Fairfield, CT, on Sunday, January 28th, at the Calvin United Church of Christ. Chief Consul Kumin Ferenc and Dr. Szakács Imre, Deputy Consul

General of Hungary and Counselor of General Cohesion attended the meeting, together with Hámos László, President of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation, Vince Máté of the Balassi Institute and Deák Nóra of the Mikes Program. The ladies of the Church served a delicious dinner of potato soup, stuffed peppers, and *Székely káposzta*, with cherry strudel and mousse for dessert. Hungarian wines were also available.

The very attractive Jonás Hall, which serves as the venue for the new Hungarian Bistro operated by Church members on Fridays, was the scene of the meeting.

Reverend Tibor Király, Pastor, welcomed the Consuls and assembled guests, leaders of Hungarian communities, who met to discuss topics of common interest.

László Hámos reported on the work of the *Diaszpóra Tanács* established in 2010, which provides opportunities for government officials to meet unofficially with Hungarians living abroad and to discuss common concerns. At the annual meeting in Budapest, delegates from all five continents get to meet each other, develop stronger ties and exchange ideas.

Hámos also mentioned the Mikes Kelemen Program, which provides 3-month scholarships to young librarians who facilitate the returning of books and documents to Hungary, and to the Hungarian minorities living in the surrounding countries. Digitalization of the material is part of the Program. At present, there are 5 of these research recipients around the world. The one serving the East Coast at the moment



is Deák Nóra. Interested not only in written documentation – books, magazines, personal documents – she mentioned that they are also looking for oral history sound and video recordings. Her term is up at the end of February, but shipments of material will continue into the spring.

The Mikes Program is also embracing the project to revitalize the Hungarian Museum of New Brunswick, NJ, not through outside support, but through its own efforts, so that it might remain a non-governmental entity.

The *Diaszpóra Tanács* also provides assistance to Hungarians who find themselves in a minority situation in the surrounding countries, and acts as a spokesman for their cause.

According to Hámos, there are an estimated million and a half Americans of Hungarian descent. For them, the Hungarian Birthright Program,

under ReConnect Hungary, offers programs to get in touch with their roots. Chief Consul Kumin spoke at length about the process to register and participate in the spring elections in Hungary. Those who have documentation of dual citizenship are eligible.

Vince Máté of the Balassi Institute mentioned that he represents Hungarian culture for Americans, without really going into specifics.

Consul Szakács reminded his audience that 2018 has been declared *Mátyás Király Év* (Year of King Matthias). He was born 575 years ago, and was chosen king 560 years ago. Many events and programs have been planned throughout the country to commemorate his reign. Magyar News Online is also planning several articles on King Mátyás during the year.

Recipes for *Farsang*

The time between Three Kings Day (Epiphany) and Ash Wednesday is called farsang, a time for carnivals and celebrations, eating, drinking and dancing. Since it is followed by a great fast, Lent, who would argue about it?

The tradition goes back to the 15th century, when from the small villages to kings' courts everyone was making merry. Men and women put on costumes and masks. From the 16th century on, we find mention of the fight of Cibere and Konc, the Lenten food and the farsang food. (See www.magyarnews.org, February 2017 issue)

At these celebrations the tables are set with all different kinds of wines, meats, soups and pastries. The most famous is a fánk or doughnut.

Most of the meat dishes are made with alcohol, the Drunken Chicken, Duck with Cognac, Pork with Wine, etc... I will make the Drunken



Chicken for Sunday dinner. For dessert I will serve Stefánia fánk.

Drunken chicken

Ingredients:

One medium size chicken
1 stick butter
1 cup dry white wine
½ lb bacon
Salt
Pepper
Marjoram

Instructions:

Wash chicken well and dry with paper towel.
Rub it with spices inside and outside.
Place it in a roasting pan with higher sides. Turkey roasting pan is ideal.
Melt butter and pour over chicken.
Pour the wine into the pan.
Cover with aluminum foil and bake on 350° for 1 hour and 45 minutes.
Remove foil and lay bacon slices crosswise over chicken. Increase temperature to 400°. Roast chicken uncovered until bacon is crispy, about 15 - 20 minutes.
Serve it with parsley potatoes.

Stefánia doughnuts

Ingredients:

For doughnuts:
2 ¼ cups flour
2 eggs
2 sticks unsalted butter
¾ cups sugar
1 cup chopped walnuts

For topping:

Confectioners' sugar
Melted chocolate

Instructions:

Crumble butter with flour. Add all the other ingredients for dough and make a smooth dough. Make walnut size balls, roll them in flour and place them

on a doughnut dish. Mini cupcake pan with liner is OK to use (I used cookie sheets).

Bake on 350 degrees for 18 to 20 minutes or until gold in color, remove from baking dish, roll them in confectioners' sugar, and drop melted chocolate in the middle. (I sometimes press a chocolate kiss on top instead.)

It's a Small World!

EPF

No matter how you slice it: distances in time and space don't really matter. Why? Because – Kicsi a világ!

In his youth, in Budapest, my husband Oscar had been a sprinter and broad jump athlete with the MAC – Magyar Athletikai Club (see the November 2008 issue of Magyar News Online: "Where Did Those Olympians Come From?")

The club often hosted international competitions at their Margitsziget athletic fields. At one such, in the 1930's, Oscar became acquainted with a Japanese pole vaulter named Oe (that was his last name!), although I have no idea how they communicated.

In time, Oscar eventually emigrated to the US, and worked for PanAm, in ever higher capacities. Among other assignments, he was also an official troubleshooter, and for the successful resolution of some major problem, he would be rewarded with a ticket to the destination of his choice. One time he decided to visit Japan (this was before we had met).

In Japan, he went about seeing the sights. On a ride on the famous bullet train, his seat mate was a Japanese gentleman who spoke English. Oscar mentioned to him that he knew only one person in Japan, an athlete by the name of Oe. To which his seat mate replied with surprise: "He was my next-door neighbor!"

No, the odds don't really matter, because IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

(Checking the internet, I found that Suelo Oe tied with another Japanese athlete named Shuhei Nishida for the bronze medal in pole vaulting at the Berlin Summer Olympics of 1936. When it was suggested that they compete against each other to decide the winner, they declined. Nishida was arbitrarily awarded the silver medal. On their return to Japan, they had their medals cut in half and spliced together, so each of them had a half silver and half bronze medal. Oe was killed in the Battle of Wake Island in December 1941.

Oscar had a good chance to attend the 1936 Olympics himself, but he tore a tendon setting a broad jumping record, and could no longer compete.)

Did you know...

... that young Hungarian inventors are coming up with very practical solutions to modern daily problems? Or that another film has been nominated in the Best Foreign Language category?

... that another Hungarian film was nominated for a best foreign language film Oscar? *Testről és lélekről* (Body and Soul) is an Enyedi Anikó film, the third to be nominated in that category.

The film already won best film at the Berlin International Film Festival, and Borbély Alexandra won best actress. It also won the grand prize at the Sydney Film Festival last June.

In the film we can see that simple people have the same dreams and feelings just like most of us.

... that a specially-shaped pen, designed by design engineer Bagó Ákos, promotes better hand posture and facilitates the process of learning to write? It is recommended not only for young children, but also for

the left-handed, and as a tool for rehabilitation of those who have injured their hand. While it may take a little time to get used to it, it will facilitate the writing process in the long run. Called the UO-pen, it uses a blue ink cartridge, and comes in a variety of colors.

... that a life-saving drone has been built by Imets Tamás to deliver first aid to injured individuals in remote areas, such as mountain climbers, picnickers and hikers? He is a high school student in Csíkszereda, who has been awarded two international inventors' scholarships.

Another of his inventions uses Jedi-

style hand motions to activate other electronic devices, a form of home automation that would greatly assist handicapped people.

We wish him all the best in his budding inventor's career!

... that a "smart bandage" has been developed by 16-year old Szegedi Melinda? It can regulate body temperature by either heating or cooling, and thus can be used for thermotherapy.

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