



MAGYAR STUDIES OF AMERICA

# Magyar News Online

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March 2016 Issue 97

*Wishing everyone a very blessed Easter!  
Áldásos húsvéti ünnepeket kívánunk!*

Kemény szél fúj...

We all know Petőfi's "Nemzeti dal", but he wrote many other patriotic poems as well. Here, dated a mere few weeks before March 15th, 1848, he wonders whether the Hungarian people still have their former spirit and strength of will to defend themselves and to take up the struggle that will surely come. (Ed)

**Kemény szél fúj...**

By: *Petőfi Sándor*

Kemény szél fúj, lángra kap a szikra,  
Vigyázzatok a házaitokra,  
Hátha mire a nap lehanyatlik,  
Tűzben állunk már tetőtől talpig.

Édes hazám, régi magyar nemzet,  
Alszik-e csak a vitézség benned,  
Vagy apáink halálával elhalt?  
Illik-e még oldaladra a kard?

Magyar nemzet, ha rád kerül a sor,  
Lész-e megint, ami voltál egykor?  
Oly hatalmas harcos, ki szemével  
Jobban ölt, mint más a fegyverével!

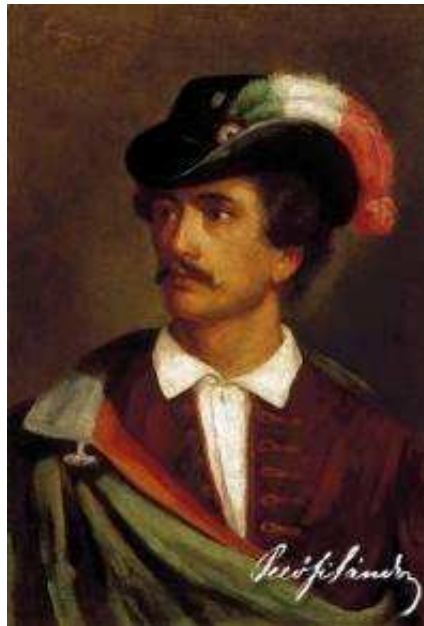
A világot védtük hajdanában  
A tatár és a török világban;  
Vajon most, ha eljön a nagy munka,  
Meg bírjuk-e védeni magunkat?

Oh magyarok istene, adj jelit,  
Ha a kenyértörés elközelít,  
Hogy az égben uralkodol még te  
A magad s néped dicsőségére!

Pest, 1848 február

## From the Life of Vasvári Pál / Vasvári Pál életéből

By: *Szabó Balázs*



*Petőfi Sándor painted by  
Egerváry Potemkin Ágost*

*Together with Irinyi and Jókai, he was one of the intimates of Petőfi's circle in the Pilvax Café and a vocal proponent of the revolution. Was killed in battle at age 22.*

Vasvári Pál 1827-ben született. Budapesten tanult és lelkes hazafiként Petőfi baráti köréhez, a Pilvax-beli ifjúság vezérkarához tartozott. Petőfi, aki a pozsonyi országgyűlésről 1848. március 7.-én ért vissza Pestre, a Pilvax-beli ifjúság vezérkarával elhatározta március 9.-én: a bécsi és a párizsi forradalmak mintájára március 19.-e lesz a magyar forradalom napja.

"Bankettet" hirdettek a Rákos mezejére – ahol egyébként az napra tervezték a József-napi országos vásárt, ahol legalább 10 ezer ember szokott összegyűlni. A vásár előkészítéseként Petőfi két verset írt: az egyik a „Dicsőséges nagyurak” a másik pedig a „Nemzeti dal” címet viselte. Az egyetemen pedig jelentkezni lehetett a vásáron való részt vételre.

Március 14.-én gyűlést tartott az Ellenzéki Kör. Az idősebb ellenzékiek a rákosi gyűlés megtartása ellen szónokoltak, Vasvári pedig a pesti forradalom mielőbbi kirobbantásáért emelt szót. Az Ellenzéki Kör végül is az idősebb tagok elutasítására NEM szavazta meg a forradalom elindítását. Ezért az Ellenzéki Körből Vasvári és 20-30 fiatal társa a Pilvaxba ment. Itt heves viták hangzottak el, amikor egy köpönyeges ifjú, tollas fővegét a márványasztalra csapva felkiáltott: „Most érkeztem a bécsi hajóval, Bécsben kitört a forradalom.” A hír futótűzként terjedt el és pillanatok alatt már több száz szorongtak a helyiségben, ahol Vasvári Pál egy asztalon állva beszélt: „Esküszöm a szabadság istenére, hogy mindaddig nem fogok nyugodni, míg a zsarnokság fenéjét gyökeresen ki nem irtottam.”

Március 15.-én reggel Petőfi és a Pilvax-kör ifjú vezérkarának tagjai elindultak az orvosi egyetemre. Petőfi elszavalta a „Nemzeti dal”-t, majd innen indult több száz egyetemista élén Petőfi, Vasvári, Irinyi, Jókai – a nyomdához. A sajtót lefoglalták és elkezdték nyomtatni a Tizenkét pontot és a Nemzeti dalt.

Délután 3 órára gyűlést hirdettek a Múzeum terére, ahol a szakadó eső dacára mintegy tízezer ember gyűlt össze. Ott állt a Múzeum lépcsőjén Petőfi, Vasvári, Irinyi. A lelkesítő beszédek, gyújtó szónoklatok hatására a tömeg elindult a Városházára, ahol a polgármester is aláírta a 12 pontot. Ezt követően a tömeg Budára indult, a Helytartótanácsához. A Lánchídon már húszezer ember vonult, az élén a választott bizottság tagjai Petőfi, Vasvári, Irinyi, Jókai. A Helytartótanácsi tárgyalásról így ír Petőfi: „A nagyméltóságú Helytartótanács sápadt vala, és reszketni méltóztatott, és ötpercnyi tanácskozás után mindenbe beleegyezett. A katonaságnak kiadatott a tétlenség iránti rendelet, a cenzura eltöröltetett, Táncsics börtönajtaja megnyílt”. Így volt vezetője a forradalmi mozgalomnak Vasvári Pál.

Ezt követően a szabadságharc alatt Kossuthnak egyik titkára volt.

1849 elején Bihar, Szatmár és Szabolcs vármegyében szabadcsapatot szervezett és felvette a harcot az ellenséggel. Egy ilyen csatában, mint a csapat vezére, őrnagyi rangban esett el a gyalui havasokban.

22 éves volt mindössze.

Egy általános iskolát és egy gimnáziumot neveztek el róla Székesfehérváron.

*Irodalom jegyzék:*

1. *Új Idők Lexikona* 1942.
2. *Képes történelem: Márkus István: Forradalom és szabadságharc 1848-49*

*Szabó Balázs is a retired chemical engineer living in Székesfehérvár.*

## Kossuth Zsuzsanna: a Heroine to be Remembered

*By: Judit Paolini*

*Florence Nightingale is so well remembered for her role in the Crimean War. She worked diligently recruiting nurses and caring for the wounded and organized how wounded soldiers were nursed on the battlefields. However, it is worth noting that she embarked on her mission four years after the similarly daunting task undertaken by Kossuth Zsuzsanna. (Ed)*



Vasvári Pál



Kossuth Zsuzsanna



March 15th marks the beginning of the Hungarian Freedom Fight of 1848. Kossuth Lajos, leader of the Hungarian Revolution, is well remembered. His inspirational speeches moved the Hungarians to fight for their rightful independence from Austrian rule. The world remembers Kossuth Lajos for his valiant efforts. However, this time period has another hero — a heroine to be exact — another Kossuth who deserves recognition for her accomplishments during the war. She is Kossuth Zsuzsanna, Lajos' youngest sister. She was born in 1817 in Sátoraljaujhely.

She had helped her brother prior to the war during the Reform Movement. At that time, Hungary did not have autonomy but was subservient to Austria which ruled the country. The Hungarian people suffered great hardships and were impoverished. In 1836, in an effort to keep the people informed of the Diet (parliamentary) debates and voice his views, Lajos and a group of young men worked feverishly, writing a series of papers revealing such ideas. During this time, Zsuzsanna assisted by reading and copying letters which were done by hand. On one occasion, when the authorities were coming to arrest Kossuth, Zsuzsanna hid the important papers and managed to have them printed for the public.

During the war for independence in 1848, however, a woman's place most certainly was not on the battlefield. Yet, Zsuzsanna wanted to help her brother and the war effort. She decided this could be achieved by serving as a nurse in field hospitals and encouraged other women wishing to help to do the same.

At the time, women did not serve in such a capacity; this idea was certainly a novelty and was met with cynicism. However, in 1849, Kossuth thought Zsuzsanna would be very ef-

fective in organizing the nursing corps and assigned her the task of chief nurse of all military hospitals in Hungary. Thus she was charged with unifying the complete military medical practice.

Met with skepticism, she did not gain the recruits she hoped when appealing to women to volunteer as field nurses. She encouraged them to tear up sheets and make them ready to be used as bandages. Zsuzsanna made an urgent plea, encouraging women to volunteer for there was a tremendous need, and it was their obligation to aid Hungary during this brutal struggle. Hospital administrators certainly viewed her positions with cynicism and were unwilling to follow her suggestions. After all, what could a mere woman do? Thus, Kossuth Lajos intervened and ordered administrators to follow her directives.

Their skepticism softened once they realized Zsuzsanna was not looking to inspect and criticize all that was

wrong. She listened, understood what was needed, and what course of action to implement. She was eager to help and provided actions which reaped positive results.

Having lost her husband in 1849, she genuinely appreciated that every soldier, regardless of his nationality, was someone's precious loved one. Mothers, wives, children — all yearned to see their loved ones who went off to war. Showing compassion, Zsuzsanna ordered that all wounded soldiers in their charge be given equal care whether they were Hungarian or not. In addition, she sought to provide separate rooms for those who were Austrian from those who were Hungarian. On the other hand, the Austrians did not provide their prisoners with such humanity. No, many were imprisoned instead of receiving medical attention.

When hospital rooms were in short supply, she looked for other solutions. On one such occasion, in Eger, she managed to enlist the aid of a monastery to provide room for the wounded. There were many times when food was scarce. When possible she sought food from the peasant women (the men were off fighting the war) by asking them to share their crops with the hospitals.

For a time Hungary managed to hold on to her territory and fight off Austria's advances. However, this all changed when Austria recruited the Russians to aid them in their efforts and Hungary was defeated. Kossuth Lajos had managed to escape, making plans to go to England. However, Zsuzsanna was captured and imprisoned as a traitor for her efforts, but was set free. Nevertheless, she did not flee Hungary. Instead, she secretly worked for Kossuth's return, of which he was unaware. In England and America he gave speeches and was well received wherever he went.



*Kossuth Zsuzsanna in front of Szt. János Kórház (hospital)*

As it turned out, they never saw each other after the war. After the Freedom Fight, though Hungary was defeated, Zsuzsanna worked with other nationalistic Hungarians trying to gain reforms for Hungary. However, this ended with her arrest in 1851. With America's intervention, she was released with the stipulation that she was to leave Hungary and never set foot on her soil again, which she never did. Eventually, she made her way to America and resided in New York. She died in 1854 at the young age of 37. Her two daughters were entrusted to be raised by a dear American friend. Kossuth Lajos lived to be 91, and returned to Hungary from Turin only in a coffin.

*Judit Vasmatics Paolini is a former member of the Southern Connecticut State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, former lecturer at Tunxis Community College, and a member of the Magyar News Online Editorial Board.*



*Pantelics Angelika*

## **Gingerbread for Holidays and Weekdays /**

### **Mézeskalácsok ünnepekre és hétköznapokra**

By: Pantelics Angelika

*Angelika practices an unusual form of folk art: she bakes gingerbread for gifts and teaches children to decorate them. She makes it not only for Christmas, but also for other holidays, including Easter. She learned the craft to be able to make money while taking care of her children at home. She experimented with old recipes, but always uses the same ingredients. Gingerbread is most popular at Christmas time, but Valentine's day hearts are also in demand as are heart-shaped wedding favors. In the spring, she creates little flowered baskets, and for Easter makes even egg-shapes and bunny figures.*

*A népművészet egy nem mindennapi műfajáról olvashatunk itt. Nem csak ajándéktárgynak süti a mézeskalácsot, hanem bemutatókat is tart (mint például a hegykői Csipkeházban), iskolákba is megy, viszi a már megsütöttet és a krémet díszítéshez, és tanítja a gyerekeket. Nem csak karácsonyra készíti, hanem többek között húsvétra is. (Ed)*

Egyszerű GYES-es anyukaként vágtam bele a mézeskalács, mézesajándék álmok megvalósításába. Kisfiam korai születése nem engedte meg, hogy vissza menjek dolgozni korábbi munkahelyemre. Petit még így 10 év után is segíteni kell, ezért lehetetlen fix munkaidőben dolgoznom. A kezdeti elkeseredést a családi szeretet és összetartás felülmúlta. Olyan elfoglaltságot kellett keresnem, amit szeretek csinálni, és anyaként 200% - al helyt tudok állni.

A fiúknak készített mézes, és egyéb süteményeim mindig nagy sikert arat-

tak otthonunkban. Aztán a mézeskalács kedvencek iskolai, óvodai farsangi bálokban is megállták a helyüket, majd a biztatásnak, és a dícséreteknek köszönhetően felvállaltam az utat, amit nekem szánt a sors. Mézeskalácsból készítek ajándék tárgyakat.

Régi kredencek poros jegyzetei, nagyszülői örökségek hosszú kísérletezése során formáltam sajátommá a mézeskalács receptet. A különböző mézeskalácsok elkészítésében az alapanyagaim mindig ugyanazok, legfeljebb az arányok, vagy a készítés módját változtatom.

Amin viszont soha nem változtatok:

- Minden mézeskalácsot úgy sütök, és úgy készítek, mintha gyermekeimnek adnám! Belesütöm a szeretetet!

Hírös Naptár

Mézeskalács alkotásaim már közel hét éve készülnek az év jeles napjaira, ünnepeire. Lehet ez születésnap, esküvő, új családtag érkezése, keresztelő vagy a számomra legkedvesebb ünnep: a karácsony. A különböző ünnepkörökhöz kapcsolódóan más-más mézeskalács ajándéktárgyakat készítek.

Mézeskalács ajándékozás szempontjából a karácsonyi ünnepkör a legnépszerűbb. Ez az időszak az, amikor a mézeskalácsos alkotásaival leginkább kiteljesedhet, és megmutathatja kreativitását.

Számos kézműves vásár szolgál helyszínül az advent idején az ünnepi mézeskalács bemutatására. 2015-ben az első adventi hétvégén a hegykői Csipkeház adott otthont a karácsonyi mézeskalács kiállításomnak. Szigethy Istvánné csodálatos alkotásaihoz igazodva készítettem el a kiállítás anyagát. A csipke motívumé volt a főszerep, amit szinte minden kisebb és nagyobb mézeskalácsra igyekeztem láttatni. A kiállításához kapcsolódott egy bemutatóm is. Nagy lelkesedéssel vettem részt az előre lesütött kis formák díszítésében a kiállítás résztvevői.



A Valentin napi ünnepre sok szívecske és szíves díszítésű mézeskalács ajándék készül. A kedvesnek szánt figyelmesség lehet egy kis apróság, vagy akár személyes, szívhez szóló egyedi feliratozású mézeskalács is. Szív formájú dobozok is gazdára találnak, melyek apró édes meglepetéseket rejthetnek.



A szív, mint motívum leggyakrabban még az esküvői köszönetajándékokban jelenik meg. Elterjedt hagyománya van az esküvőn a vendégek megajándékozásának. Az ifjú pár mézeskalács szívecskeit ad, feliratozva a nevükkel és a jeles nap dátumával. A hagyomány szerint ez a kedves szokás szerencsét hoz a házasságra.



Számtalan virágos, népies motívum jeleníthető meg a tavaszi ünnepkör mézeskalácsain. Készülnek virágos asztali díszek, tulipános csokrok, tavaszi kosárcák. Lehetőség van domború mézeskalács festett tojások díszítésére is. Kedves tavaszi dekoráció készülhet a barkafára, és az ünnepi asztalra is.



„A mézeskalácsosnak örömtelentő képessége van. A mézeskalács készítés lehet kellemes játék is. Az, hogy mások is kaphatnak ebből: jóleső érzés. Az öröm mindig és mindenütt osztódással szaporodik.”

szép műfajról, tekintse meg [www.mezesajandek.hu](http://www.mezesajandek.hu)

mutató: [https://youtu.be/FO0\\_tDCq1g](https://youtu.be/FO0_tDCq1g)

Aki továbbit szeretne tudni erről a

Csipkeház Adventi mézeskalács be-

Mézeskalács esküvői köszönetajándék: <https://youtu.be/RmDhUV->

## Kossuth Kifli (Moon Crescents)

*Since we talk about Kossuth Lajos as well as his sister Zsuzsanna, in this issue, we thought it appropriate to present a recipe for Kossuth crescents. Enjoy, and thank God for freedom!*

### Crepe batter:

- 2 cups flour
- Pinch of salt
- 3 eggs
- ¾ cup milk
- 1tbs melted butter
- 2 cups sugar (optional)
- 2/3 cup soda water



Combine the flour and salt. Add the eggs, milk and the melted butter. Add the sugar if the crepes are to have a sweet filling. Beat the ingredients to make a smooth batter and pour in enough soda water to give it a thick, creamy consistency. Leave to stand for about 10 minutes, then cook the crepes. If the batter becomes a little too thick while standing, thin it with a little soda water or milk. Because the batter already has the melted butter in it, you may find that you have to grease the skillet only for the first crepe.

# Széchenyi vs. Kossuth

By: Erika Papp Faber

*As we remember once again the outbreak of the Freedom Fight of 1848-49, we take a look at the role played by Széchenyi in that period. This is the third article in our series on Széchenyi in this 225th anniversary year of his birth.*

Both Count Széchenyi István and Kossuth Lajos, the great reformers of the 19th century, wanted to bring Hungary out of the quagmire of medievalism. Their fundamental disagreement was over the best means to achieve that goal.

Széchenyi's ideas of economic betterment started the ball rolling, and he is regarded as the father of the Reform Era of the early 19th century. He was an introvert whose ideas for change were based on an intellectual foundation. The institutions he had studied in England were to be the pattern considered best suited to bring the Hungarian people out of its condition of backwardness to which it had been consigned by centuries-long foreign oppression – first by the Turks, then by Austria. He envisioned change through education, as an urgent yet gradual process within the existing political framework.

Kossuth, on the other hand, a man of action by temperament, considered that political framework to be the greatest obstacle to Hungarian advancement. He could not wait for the people to be gradually enlightened by Széchenyi's methods. For him, revolution, the throwing off of the Austrian yoke, was the key. While admiring and respecting Széchenyi, Kossuth nevertheless would go his own way, a stirring orator who appealed to the people's emotions. Although Széchenyi's ideas were brilliant, he did not have the popular appeal engendered by Kossuth's speeches.

And so, although he called Szé-

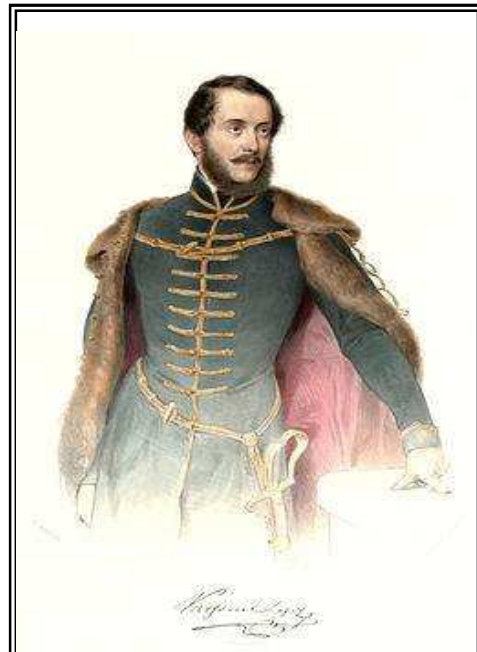


*Széchenyi István painted by  
Szeifrid Zoltán*

chenyi “the greatest Hungarian”, Kossuth became the popular leader who expressed the frustration most Hungarians felt with the absolutist Austrian regime. He was able to stir the Diet (parliament) into voting for a home guard (honvédség) of 200,000 men, an army intended to defend the homeland, force the emperor to his knees and achieve Hungary's independence as a nation.

Széchenyi, a pessimist at heart, foresaw only national disaster in the use of such methods. Just as patriotic as Kossuth, he was a man of caution. Yet for the sake of the cause, the improvement of the Hungarian people, he finally fell in with Kossuth's idea of revolution in order to present a united front. He accepted the position of Minister of Transportation and Public Works in the new government of 1848, but at the price of a major crisis of conscience. The thought that he thereby cooperated in the destruction of his beloved country tore him apart spiritually, and led to his confinement in a mental institution in Döbling, Austria, and ultimately to his death.

So the two patriots, Széchenyi and Kossuth, opposed each other, Széchenyi publishing pamphlet after



*Kossuth Lajos*

pamphlet, even writing a book in opposition to Kossuth's ideas, and Kossuth, as editor of the political journal *Pesti Hírlap*, replying in kind.

Would Hungarian history in the last century and a half have been different if Széchenyi had had his way? If a popular uprising had been avoided? Most certainly! But without the events of 1848-49, would Hungary have achieved independence, been allowed to follow its own path of development?

We will never know.

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# Róth Miksa – Life is Prettier Looking Through Colored Glass

By: Karolina Szabó

*Last year, his 150th birthday was celebrated throughout Hungary where his art can be admired in many localities. Here we look at his life and work. (Also consider our article entitled “Snapshots” in the February issue). (Ed)*

In Budapest, near the Keleti Train Terminal is a little street called Nefelejcs utca (Forget-me-not Street). The name becomes appropriate once one visits number 26, the Róth Miksa Museum’s building.

The world-renowned glass painter and mosaic artist, Róth Miksa’s



150th birthday was celebrated in Hungary in 2015. He was born at Pest, on December 26, 1865, the son of Roth Zsigmond and Duller Mária. One of his brothers, Manó, was also a glass painter who did the windows of the Synagogue at Szeged. Another brother was an actor known by the name Pesti Kálmán, and their sister (whose name could not be found) was the mother of Elek Artúr, editor of the famed Nyugat magazine. (N.B.: Zsigmond and Manó spelled the last name without the accent over the “o”. It was Miksa who added it to ease pronunciation.)

Miksa’s father and grandfather had a glass painting shop where he first learned the trade. He traveled extensively in Europe, studied Gothic churches and cathedrals and became a master of glass painting and a mosaic artist. He was only 19

when he took over his father’s workshop. At the time, glass shops were popping up in Budapest and among those the Roth shop was the most successful. In the late 1880’s, Miksa had 10 trainees working in his studio.

Róth Miksa’s mentor was the architect Steindl Imre who had designed Nefelejcs utca 26, the house Miksa later purchased, remodeled and to which he had an addition built. The family apartment was on the first floor, his studio on the second and third. The museum is now as it was when he lived and created his splendid work there. In his apartment he surrounded himself with earth colors: browns and beiges, but his glass works are of the most beautiful vivid colors.

In 1886, shortly after construction had started on Steindl’s masterpiece, the Hungarian Parliament building, the gem on the Pest side of the Danube, he was also commissioned to reconstruct the Roman Catholic church at Máriafalva. He asked the 20-year-old Róth Miksa to make its stained glass windows. That was Miksa’s first major work, followed by many, many more: in the Parliament, the Gresham Palace, the Academy of Music, the Agricultural Museum, the Hungarian National Bank, St. Stephen Basilica, as well as several other churches in Budapest; St. Stephen Chapel at Pannonhalma, Roman Catholic church at Keszthely, windows of the Törley-mausoleum and a slew of miscellaneous works too numerous to list.

In 1855, “antique glass” was developed in England, followed by Louis Comfort Tiffany’s “opalescent glass”. Both gave Róth’s art new inspiration. He purchased opalescent glass from a Hamburg glass painter, Karl Engelbrecht. For the 1898 Christmas Exhibition of the

Budapest Museum of Applied Arts, he created a window from opalescent glass, seen there for the first time in Austria-Hungary. One of his major works is in Mexico City: the 180 m<sup>2</sup> glass ceiling of the Palacio de Bellas Artes which he created with the architect Maróti Géza, and the mosaics surrounding the stage opening of the Teatro Nacional. (For a brief biography of Maróti Géza, see the December 2010 issue of Magyar News Online.) The two of them also designed the crystal curtain separating the stage from the public but, due to World War I, the construction was awarded to Tiffany.

Róth worked with several famous Hungarian architects, designers and builders: Alpár Ignác, Vágó József, Quittner Zsigmond, Lechner Ödön and, most importantly, Steindl Imre. The mosaics of the Hungarian House in Venice were created in cooperation with Nagy Sándor and körösfői Kriesch Aladár.

His art was influenced by many European artists and styles. Several of his masterpieces were in the Gothic style but he also created windows in Hungarian Secession, Viennese Secession and Art Nouveau.

Although most of Róth’s commissions came from churches, he also designed stained glass windows for the middle class, with colorful flowers: lilies, irises; with birds: peacocks and swans, as well as fairies.

His masterpieces can also be found in cities outside of Hungary: in Oslo, Venice and Milan and, as mentioned before, even overseas. In Transylvania, the 12 windows of the Great Hall of the Marosvásárhely Culture Palace showing scenes from Székely ballads are his work (see the February issue of Magyar News Online). So are the windows of City Hall at Marosvásárhely.



The artist was married to Walla Jozefa. They had two daughters, Amália and Erzsébet, and one son, József. There are no living descendants. Róth Miksa died on June 14, 1944 in Budapest, leaving his magnificent creations for us to enjoy.

The Róth Miksa Emlékház (Memorial House) is located in Budapest, Nefelejcs utca 26; open Tuesday – Sunday 2pm to 6 pm.

*Karolina Tima Szabo is a Webmaster of Magyar News Online.*

## It's a Small World!

By: Judith Eöry Colby

The mega mansion across the street had replaced the charming California bungalow after it was sold in 2010 and which was promptly demolished. It took nearly two years for the new house to be built, and it would stay empty for three years before a family from Iran bought it last August.

My husband is the friendly type who went over to welcome the new neighbours. I met them soon after, and discovered that the daughter had graduated from Semmelweiss Orvosi Egyetem in Budapest\* with a degree in Dentistry in July. She was in the English program, so can speak very little Hungarian. The son, on the other hand, is totally fluent and speaks our mother tongue flawlessly! It's such a delight to hear him say: "Kezít csókolom" each time I see him! How I wish that my dear Mom would be alive, because she would be most impressed! Reza spent nearly ten years in Budapest, where he earned a couple of degrees in Business Administration.

The world is truly getting ever smaller! Valóban egyre kicsibb a világ!

\* the oldest medical school in Hungary, having been established in 1769

*Judith Eöry Colby is a cousin of our Editorial Board member Éva Wajda, and lives in North Vancouver, Canada. (That explains the British spelling of certain words!)*



Many of Róth's most beautiful pieces in Transylvania were thought to be lost but were found later in basements, attics, secret warehouses, even at the Romanian Communist Party's headquarters. One beautiful piece of his art found its way from Buda to Turin, Italy, then to Russia, from there back to Hungary – and then the trail was lost. A small note was found in the museum suggesting it could be at the Kolozsvár Karolina Hospital, now an Orthodox church.

Many of his superb works did not survive the two World Wars and the Communist regime.

From 1897, Róth also made glass

mosaics. The best known are the ones of Széchenyi Fürdő, Török Bank building's façade, the Deák- and the Kossuth- mausoleum mosaics.

Róth Miksa received many awards. In 1898, he was the first to receive the National Industrial Arts Gold Award; he was awarded silver at the Paris World Exhibit in 1900 for his "Pax" and "Rising Sun" mosaics, made with opalescent glass. More gold awards followed in Turin in 1902 and in St. Louis, MO in 1904. He was knighted by Emperor Franz Joseph and, for renewing the glass mosaic technique, he received Victor Emmanuel III's gold award.



## The Bear King / A medve király – part 2

By: Veress Vilmosné, malomvizi  
Malom Aranka (1862-1937)

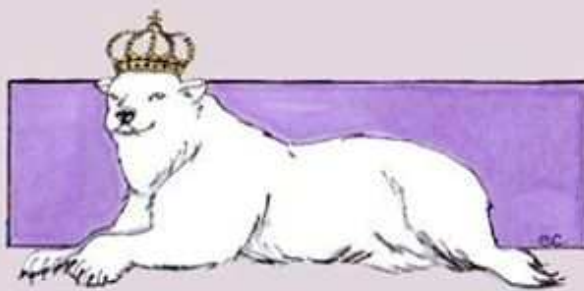
It was morning by the time Lily woke up. She was hungry and afraid. What was she to do? Where should she go? She heard a growling behind her, branches crackling, bushes rustling. She became very scared, thinking that wild animals were coming to tear her apart! Indeed, seven or eight bears stood before her. The first one had white fur and a beautiful golden crown on his head. He stopped before Lily and said:

“Don’t tremble so, little girl, we won’t hurt you. Come sit on my back and come with us. We’ve come for you.”

Lily was afraid, but then the second bear also spoke: “You’ll have it better than with your stepmother.” So Lily got up on the white bear’s back, took hold of his fur and they started out, going through the thick woods, until they reached a cave in the rock. They went into the cave, and, lo and behold, everything was as bright and shiny as in a crystal palace. A long table was set and heaped with all kinds of goodies.

All the bears sat down at the table, the white bear with the crown at the head, with Lily next to him. A little door opened, and in came four monkeys and, like waiters, they carried around the food, poured the wine. As they were eating, in came six small bears, one with a drum, another with a cymbal, jingling bells, and they began to make music and dance. Lily had such a good time she forgot all her sorrow, but because she was very tired, she soon became drowsy.

The next day, when she finally woke up, she found herself in a gorgeous golden bed, with a beau-



tiful dress lying right next to it. As soon as she got up, a pretty little parrot started to call out: “Lily woke up! Quick, bring her breakfast!” The monkeys came, one brought breakfast on a tray, another brought water in a silver washbasin. Lily was finished in a minute and went out to the woods to pick strawberries, raspberries and flowers.

She lived like this for a year among the bears; she was so very happy and only grieved for her father. She had turned into a beautiful big girl, when one day the bears came home very sad. Lily asked them what the trouble was. The bear with the crown said: “Lily, do you want to become bear queen?”

Lily became scared. So the bear asked her again: “Do you want to become my wife, or do you want to go home to your stepmother?”

Lily began to cry: “Don’t send me away, I love you all so much, but I can’t become your wife because you are a bear.”

All the bears began to cry, and so did the monkeys, and the parrot cried as he called out: “O, o, Lily is going away, she’s leaving us!”

Then the crowned bear said: “Lily, sit on my back, I’ll take you home, because your father arrived home and is grieving very much for you. Your wicked stepmother told him you had died.”

Lily got up on his back, with the parrot on her shoulder. As they entered, there was a great party going on, to celebrate that the count had returned from the war. Everybody was happy except the count. All the bears went into the dining room, but they had left Lily outside. The crowned bear said: “We have brought a gift for the count and the countess too.” Then he turned to the parrot: “Go ahead!”

The parrot jumped, and gave a great tap with his beak on the countess’s eyes, at which both her eyes popped out. Then the parrot took her two cross-eyed eyes out of its mouth. The monkey tore the beautiful black hair from her head, under which was her tousled hair. At this, the witch wanted to run away, but two bears grabbed her, shook her and threw her up in the air so she turned a somersault. So then there was the tiger again, which the count had wanted to shoot, but the countess started to cry: “Have them killed, because they made me a laughingstock and made me ugly.” (In Hungarian, the word for ‘made me a laughingstock’ is ‘made me ugly’ – it’s a play on words. Trans.)

The count was so amazed he couldn’t say a word. When he came to himself, he ordered the servants to kill every bear, but the parrot first. Then the bear king said: “Stop, first let the count’s present come in!”

At this, Lily ran in, fell on her father's bosom, and hugged and kissed him. The countess and the tiger wanted to disappear, but the bears were guarding them.

Lily told her father everything and so did the bears, how the old witch had turned into a tiger so that the count would shoot her daughter. Then the count ordered the tiger and the girl to be tied together and thrown into a bottomless well.

The bears very sadly said good-bye. The count asked them to stay, but they wanted to go. The parrot started to cry: "My little Lily, don't leave me!" Lily asked them to leave the parrot to her. The bears agreed.

Then Lily, seeing how sad the bears were as they were leaving, kissed the crowned bear all over. At that, the bear shook himself, his white fur coat fell from him, and there stood a gorgeous prince with a crown on his head. As he had shed his fur coat, so the other bears shook themselves too, and all turned into great lords and soldiers. The monkeys turned into princesses, only the parrot remained a bird. There was great joy, and the bears thanked Lily for having saved them. Then the prince asked: "Well, little Lily, do you want to be bear queen?"

Of course she wanted to, now! They held such a wedding that the music resounded as far as the seven seas. Then they took Lily back to the rock cave, but there was no trace of the cave any more; instead, there was a gorgeous palace in its place.

That's how it was. It was a fairytale.

*Veress Vilmosné, malomvizi Malom Aranka was born in Kolozsvár, one of four children of malomvizi Malom Zsigmond, a surveying engineer. She was married to Veress Vilmos, a mathematics professor at the commercial academy.*

*Her children began calling her "Kicsimama", and this fairy tale is one of 14 she wrote for her grandchildren. They were collected under the title "Kicsimama meséi".*

## Did you know.....

... **that** a rare painted copy of a destroyed Giotto mosaic was recently found in a ruined medieval church in Kiszsolna, six kilometers from Beszterce in Transylvania? Created for the church of St. Peter in Rome, between 1305 and 1313, the mosaic was destroyed when that church was torn down in the 17th century to make way for the basilica of St. Peter's. Entitled the "Navicella", it depicts Peter stepping out of the boat. Only three other paintings depicting the mosaic are known: one in Florence, another in Pistoia and the third in Strasbourg. The one in Florence is the one that most accurately copied even the details of the mosaic, and the one in Kiszsolna bears the closest resemblance to that.

... **that** as part of the Széchenyi Memorial Year, a pre-qualifying round for the Olympics in the field of boxing will be held at the Gerevich Aladár Nemzeti Sportcsarnok (Sport Arena) in Budapest on March 4th and 5th?

It will highlight the fact that it had been Count Széchenyi István who, on his return from a trip to England, had introduced boxing to Hungary.

... **that** the first lotto in Hungary was played in March 26, 1763? The lottery was introduced in the Austrian empire by Maria Theresa's imperial patent in 1751, and was rented out to Count Octavio Cataldi. In 1763, the Count re-

ceived a concession for Hungary as well, and Buda and Pozsony were the first localities to have it. For one reason or another, the lottery was interrupted a few times. The current lotto started in March 7, 1957, and is very popular to this day. The player has to get 5 numbers out of 90. Good luck!

... **that** a promenade (sétány) in Budapest has been named for the late Hungarian-born US Rep. Tom Lantos? It is located on the Pest side, near the school Lantos had attended and connects Viza and Révész streets. The ceremony took place on February 1st, what would have been his 88th birthday.

Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor to have been a member of the US Congress. In 1944, when he was 16, he had been sent to a forced labor camp, but escaped to a safe house set up by the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who saved thousands of Jews by issuing Swedish passports. He then joined Wallenberg's efforts by delivering supplies to other safe houses. He emigrated to the US and earned a degree in Economics from U.C. Berkeley in 1953. In 1980, representing parts of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, he was elected to the House of Representatives and was reelected 13 more times. He died in 2008.

..**that the** Hungarian Film "Son of Saul" won the Oscar on February 28th for Best Foreign Film of the Year?

... **that** the contemporary storyteller Csukás István who, in Hungary and abroad, has published close to a hundred children's novels and fairy-



tales in prose and poetry, will celebrate his 80th birthday this year? His creations include SüSü, the dragon, Mirr-Murr the cat, and many others that have become children's favorites.

Son of a blacksmith, he started out studying music, specifically the violin, but soon gave that up and turned to poetry. A friend submitted several of his poems to a contest in which Csukás won first prize. Thus encouraged, he continued to write, and with several friends founded a young artists' club in 1960.

Later on, he met a writer who worked in the children's section of Hungarian TV, and began working with him. Csukás took it as an omen that he was born on April 2nd, as was the great writer of fairytales Hans Christian Andersen.



*Csukás István*

In 1975, at Hollywood's 10th TV film festival, Csukás' TV series for young people, Keménykalap és krumpliorr (Derby and Potato

Nose) took the grand prize and was named the year's best children's film. The main character is based on a real person, an ice cream vendor in Kisújszállás, whose bronze statue was unveiled in 2013.

Although Csukás' fame rests primarily on his fairytales and youth novels, he has also published a number of volumes of poetry.

He is the recipient of many prizes, including the Kossuth Prize in 1999, the Prima Primissima Prize in 2011 and the Szép Ernő Special prize in 2015. He has just been named to join 214 other contenders for this year's Astrid Lundgren Memorial Prize at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

## 63rd Café Budapest

The 63rd Café Budapest was held on Saturday, February 27th at the Waterview in Monroe, CT. Purpose of this annual formal dance is to raise funds for the support of students of Hungarian ancestry. This year there were eight debutantes. Csonka Tünde sang to entertain the participants.



*Csonka Tünde*

