



**BOLDOG ANYÁK NAPJÁT KIVÁNUNK MINDEN ÉDESANYÁNAK!**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

## Édes Anyukámnak – To My Dear Mom

*Although written for his mother's feast day, this poem could well be considered a letter for Mothers' Day.*

### Édes Anyukámnak

Szabolcska Mihály

Édes jó anyámnak  
A nevenapjára,  
Belefogok százszor  
A levél írásba.

Mit írjak? Mit írjak?  
Hogy mikor olvassa:  
Engemet érezzen,  
Engem lásson abba'.

Bíznám a szívemre,  
Bíznám a lelkemre,  
De szót nem találok,  
Sem arra, sem erre.

És fölé hajolva  
A fehér levélnek,  
Köszöntő szó helyett  
A könnyem ered meg.

Mintha az ő fehér  
Kezére hajolnék,  
Mintha őt ölelném,  
Mintha otthon volnék!

S ím, mire a papírt  
Lassan teleírtam:  
Azon veszem észre,  
Hogy amit akartam,  
Mind, de mind megírtam!

*Szabolcska Mihály (1861 – 1930)  
was born in Tiszakürt. He studied  
theology in Debrecen, Geneva and*

*Paris and became a Reformed  
Pastor in Temesvár.*

*He was co-founder of the Arany  
János Társaság there and was its  
president for 20 years. He also  
started a singing society  
(dalárda.) He published his first  
poems in 1891. After World War I,  
he used every means at his dis-  
posal to support the Hungarians  
in Transylvania and to protect  
their rights. Between 1922 and  
1924 he was vice-president of the  
Országos Magyar Párt (national  
Hungarian party), was an em-  
ployee of the Magyar Tudományos  
Akadémia (the Hungarian Acad-  
emy of Science) and Secretary of  
the Kisfaludy (literary) Society.  
Those who considered Ady's po-  
etry to be unintelligible brought  
up Szabolcska's humble, simple  
style in contrast – thereby giving  
him the kiss of death.*



### The Not-So-Famous Rematch

viola vonfi

*Here is a brief report of the sequel to  
the famous 6:3 "futball" match pub-  
lished in the January 2014 issue of  
Magyar News Online.*

I've always been a soccer  
fan ("futball" for us Hunkies), and so I  
was quite familiar with the story of the  
"match of futball/matches", when the  
Hungarian team beat the British at  
Windsor, on their own turf, 6 to 3, on  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1953, sending all Hun-  
garians into ecstasies.

But I was not aware of the sequel to  
that story: the rematch in Budapest in  
May of 1954. The British had come to  
prove their mettle, considering that the  
earlier loss was just a fluke, and that  
the Hungarian team would not be able  
to duplicate that level of play.

Well, the British were right: the Hun-  
garians did not duplicate their perform-  
ance, they surpassed themselves on  
their own home turf! This time, on  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1954, they beat the British  
7:1.

The joke at the time was: "Az angolok  
egy hétre jöttek és 7:1-re  
mentek" (The British came for one  
week – egy hétre, which could also be  
translated as a score of 1:7 – and they  
left at 7:1.)

Thought you would be interested.

*viola vonfi is our correspondent from  
Stamford, CT.*

# Széchenyi and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

*Erika Papp Faber*

*In this 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the birth of Count Széchenyi István, we present the fifth of our series on his life and contributions to Hungary. Without his generosity, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences might not have been established as soon as it was. It celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.*

The idea of a Hungarian academy of sciences was first broached at the Diet (*országgyűlés* - national assembly) of 1791, but it came to fruition only 34 years later. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Diet of 1825 (dubbed the “reform Diet”), the idea was brought up once again by Máriássy István, representative of Gömör County. Following it, the speech given by opposition leader Felsőbüki Nagy Pál had especially great impact, as he attacked the Hungarian magnates for neglecting the interests of the nation and of the Hungarian language.

Inspired by that speech, Széchenyi István, who was not a delegate, asked permission to speak. In a few words, he pledged one year’s income from his estates, amounting to 60,000 forints, for the establishment of “an institute for the cultivation of the Hungarian language”.

Yet he was not simply carried away by the enthusiasm of the moment. Earlier, Széchenyi had broken fresh ground when he delivered his maiden speech in the Upper House in Hungarian, instead of the customary Latin. And even though he carried on most of his correspondence with his wife and with his son Béla in German, he was a firm proponent of the use of the Hungarian language.

His example stirred a number of oth-

ers, including several other large landowners, to pledge similarly considerable sums – Count Károlyi György, 40,000 forints; Count Andrássy György, 10,000; Váy Ábrahám, 8,000. Palatine József nádor (the highest administrative dignitary of Hungary before 1848) also donated 10,000 forints to the worthy cause.

In 1827, the king gave his approval, and the establishment of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences – *Magyar Tudományos Akadémia* – was confirmed by law.

Originally, the by-laws established six departments: those of linguistic science; philosophy; history; mathematics; natural sciences; and legal science. In 1869, these six were merged into three departments: linguistics and



*Széchenyi pledges one year's income for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences*

liberal arts; history, philosophy and social sciences; and mathematics and natural sciences. From the 1870s on, the Academy became the center of the nation’s scholarly life.

Membership rules changed a number of times since the foundation of the Academy. Presently, Corresponding Members may be chosen from scientists or scholars of outstanding achievement. To become a Regular Member, a Corresponding Member must have made significant additional contributions to his field. Extern Members may be those scientists living abroad who are not Hungarian citizens but claim to be Hungarian and maintain close ties to the Hungarian scientific community.

Internationally outstanding scientists without any Hungarian connections may be chosen to become Honorary Members.

Current regulations stipulate that the number of Corresponding and Regular Members under 70 years of age, living in Hungary, be limited to 200.

In 1858, Baron Sina Simon made a donation of 80,000 forints for the erection of a headquarters building for the Academy. Following a long debate about the style of the building, the design of the Prussian architect Friedrich August Stüler was eventually accepted. He had submitted a design in the Venetian neo-Renaissance style, to be built along the Danube on the Pest side. The palace was completed after Stüler’s death, under the direction of Szkalnitzky Antal and Ybl Miklós, 40 years after Széchenyi made his generous offer.

One of the main purposes of the building was to house the sizeable Eszterházy collection of valuable paintings. They were there until 1905 when, combined with art from other collections, they were transferred to the newly completed Museum of Fine Arts.

The Academy took up only part of the property; a 5-story apartment building was constructed behind it, to provide funds for its maintenance. Today, it houses the Academy’s library.

The Academy was particularly suited to the establishment of memorial rooms, dedicated to prominent individuals. It also accepted unusual and unique collections, such as a collection of Goethe’s works assembled over 48 years by the attorney Elischer Boldizsár. Mementos of Széchenyi István donated by his son Béla in 1897 were also housed there.

The by-laws specified that a portrait of each member should be hung in the halls of the Academy. So the building has become a virtual pantheon of famous Hungarians of the past century and a half.

Today, the Academy (known by its initials MTA) has 11 sections :

- Linguistics and Literary Scholarship
- Philosophy and Historical Sciences
- Mathematics
- Agricultural Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Engineering Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Economics and Law
- Earth Sciences
- Physical Sciences

• The Magyar Tudományos Akadémia promotes research through a number of research institutes and the dissemination of scientific findings. It also represents Hungarian science, both at home and abroad – another tribute to the foresight of Count Széchenyi István.

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

## Collecting Documentation – the Mikes Program

*EPF*

*Mikes Kelemen was the scribe of Prince Rákóczi Ferenc II. After the freedom fight of 1703-1711 was defeated, he followed him into exile in Turkey, where he wrote a series of letters to an imaginary aunt. (His "Törökországi levelek" – Letters from Turkey – laid the foundation for the writing of Hungarian prose.)*

*Mikes is the embodiment of the Hungarian exile. It is therefore fitting that the new government program collecting historic documents held by Hungarians abroad be called by his name.*

In 2013, the Hungarian Diaspora Council decided to collect, organize and return to the mother country the documented heritage scattered among Hungarians around the globe. Involved in this wide project are the *Országos Széchenyi Könyvtár* (similar to the Library of Congress in America), and the *Országos Levéltár* (National Archives). This endeavor was named the Mikes Program. Purpose of the project is to make available, to everyone in Hungary, documentation that would



*Magyar Tudományos Akadémia*

otherwise have been lost in the diaspora.

Research librarians and historians were recruited for the task, and were sent to collection points at Cleveland, OH, and New Brunswick, NJ in the US; at Toronto and Vancouver, in Canada; and at Sydney and Melbourne, in Australia.

Our information was provided by Horváth Réka, a research librarian from Szeged, who was sent to New Brunswick, but collected material from Connecticut as well. It included original documents, sound tapes as well as books and periodicals that were published abroad in Hungarian. Réka told us that she and her colleagues felt a strong sense of responsibility in handling these donated items.

All donors were asked to sign a release form, stating that they would not demand return of the material they submitted. Great emphasis was placed on packaging. Each box had to be labeled and a catalog set up. All this was necessary for passing through customs. A special shipping company was utilized at the collection points, and the material was placed in containers and shipped by freighter. Once arrived in Hungary, everything is stored in a heated warehouse at Kőbánya, where shelves have been installed. There, using five scanners, each item is checked against existing material. If the Library already has a copy of the

item, it will be forwarded to public collections and schools within the country and to Hungarian communities outside the borders.

Pictures and sound are digitalized for long-term preservation, and sent to the *Országos Levéltár*. Tapes are forwarded to the History department of the *Országos Széchenyi Könyvtár*. Donors will be advised of the arrival of their material and of what becomes of it. From 2014 until now, Toronto contributed the most material: over a thousand boxes! These have already arrived in Budapest.

So far, the Mikes Program – underwritten by the government – has exceeded all expectations. It has collected over 100,000 volumes!

And the project continues...



*Horváth Réka*

# Hungarian Aid for Africa

EPF

*A Hungarian humanitarian organization extends a helping hand to those in greatest need*

Last month – April of 2016 – the African Hungarian Union (Magyar Afrika Társaság) sent its 13th medical mission to Africa, its 4th one to Uganda. Established in 2006, the MAT is a non-governmental, non-profit organization whose aim is to assist African nations to utilize their own resources in every sphere of life, including health and education, which in the long run will bring about a sustainable process of improvement.

This year's Uganda mission aimed to establish a health center in a town 60 kilometers away from a hospital, where people live in great poverty. In that region, there are only 10 doctors for every one million people, and very often people die from a lack of care for even minor injuries and easily treatable infections.

Three Hungarian doctors – Bagdi Zita, Kapi Zsófia and Gáspár Attila – went to a primary school to treat festering injuries, malaria, skin infections and to diagnose asthma and heart disease.

In addition to their medical expertise, the team also brought balls and puzzles to children who have never had toys before and pencils and school bags because youngsters are eager to attend school. Most appreciated, however, was the corn flour, sugar and rice.

In addition to Uganda, the African Hungarian Union has sent volunteers to Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania and Morocco in the past. Since 2009, several dozen doctors have volunteered their time and expertise for its humanitarian missions. Other projects have included supporting schools and student programs in Mali, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Uganda; helping a day nursery in Mali; a self-help program for unwed mothers in Uganda, and providing refugee aid in Kenya.

A number of celebrities have joined in the work of the regular members and volunteers of the African Hungarian Union. In Hungary, the organization sponsors radio programs focusing on Africa, publishes periodic newsletters and popularizes cultural projects. It is linked to the annual Africa Summit Conference which in 2014 was already organized on a regional East-Central European basis. It is a regular participant in the annual Budapest-Bamako Rally, an 8,000 km car race starting in Hungary and ending in the capital of Mali. It is also a supporter of the Inter Afrika FC, a Budapest soccer club made up entirely of Africans. It also supported the Torday—Kongó Expedíció in 2009, the Magyar László Expedíció of 2012 and the Nagy Afrikai Expedíció of 2013.





Hungarian Community Club  
of Wallingford  
cordially invites everybody to its

## Festive May Ball

**Saturday, May 14th, 2016 at 7P.M.**  
at the Hungarian Community Hall  
147 Ward Street, Wallingford, CT

*Music by Tünde Csonka  
and Horváth Duo*

A buffet style dinner  
will be featured

---

Admission: \$45.00 for members  
\$50.00 for others

---

For further  
information  
and reservations,  
please call  
Linda:  
203-634-0602  
Lajos:  
203-530-3557

A Wallingfordi  
Magyar Klub szeretettel  
hív mindenkit

## Nagyszabású Májusi Báljára

**Szombaton, 2016 május 14-én,  
este 7órai kezdettel**  
a Wallingfordi Magyar Házban  
147 Ward Street, Wallingford, CT.

*A zenét Csonka Tünde és  
Horváth Duo szolgáltatják*

Izletes büffé vacsorát  
szolgálunk fel

---

Belépődíj: Tagoknak 45 dollár  
egyébként 50 dollár

---

További  
információ és  
helyfoglalás ügyében  
hívja  
Lenkét a  
203-634-0602-es  
Lajost a  
203-530-3557-es  
telefonszámokon



Email: [HCCofWallingford@gmail.com](mailto:HCCofWallingford@gmail.com) Website: [wallingfordhcc.org](http://wallingfordhcc.org)

# Robert Capa

(October 22, 1913 – May 25, 1954)

*Charles Bálintitt Jr.*

*If you are old enough to remember the Indochina war of the early 1950's, you probably saw his photographs in Life magazine at the time. Learn more about the man who was perhaps the most famous war photographer.*

He was born Endre (or André) Friedmann in Budapest, Austria-Hungary. In 1931, at the age of 18, he was arrested and beaten by the secret police for radical political activity while protesting against the Horthy Miklós regime with a group of other Socialists. Thanks to the influence of a family friend, he was quickly released and was either asked to leave the country or decided to do so on his own because of the political climate, which differed greatly from his own views.

While still only 18, he left Budapest and, after brief stops in Vienna and Prague, he settled in Berlin, where he found a job as a photographer, even though he had originally planned on being a writer. He had even studied journalism there, but he soon fell in love with photography and it became his career. He stayed in Berlin until 1933 when, due to the rise of the Nazi party, he relocated to Paris. This is where he met another refugee from the Nazis, Gerda Pohorylle, who then changed her name to Gerda Taró. He soon changed his name to Robert Capa, and together they created his persona as a famous American photographer. He chose the name Capa because it sounded American (similar to the renowned director Frank Capra) and his nickname in school had been "shark" or "*capa*" in Hungarian.

Now his girlfriend, Gerda Taró, accompanied him to Spain. Here he truly became world famous as a war photographer for his "Falling Soldier" photo during his coverage of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. However, there is still controversy today over the authenticity of this photo. There



were those who later claimed that the photo was staged, although he has had his defenders as well; such as his biographer, Richard Whelan.

He apparently was engaged to Gerda Taró, when she died tragically at the age of 26 in Spain. He had taught her the art of photography and while she was working for *Ce Soir*, a leftist French newspaper, to get a better photo, she hopped on to the footboard of a car that was transporting wounded soldiers, which was then hit by a tank. She was actually run over by the tank and died a short time later at the hospital, becoming the first female correspondent to die in battle. Six days later, on August 1<sup>st</sup>, which would have been her 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, she was given a majestic funeral in Paris by the French Communist Party and buried at Père-Lachaise Cemetery. Capa was away in Paris for a few days at the time of her death, and was apparently so stunned by her sudden death that he never married, although he did have a number of affairs, including one with the famous actress, Ingrid Bergman; which lasted for about a year beginning at the end of WW II.

He was known for going in the trenches with the soldiers and would go on to photograph 4 more wars: The Second Sino-Japanese War, World War II in Europe, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the First Indochina

War. For his craft he wanted to be where the action was. He said, "If your pictures aren't good enough, you aren't close enough." His closeness to the action redefined wartime photo journalism. He was there at Normandy with the US troops on D-Day. But unfortunately only 11 of his 106 photographs, known as the "Magnificent Eleven", have survived because of an accident in a London darkroom due to tremendous pressure to get the pictures to press very quickly for Life Magazine.

He became close friends with Ernest Hemingway during the Spanish Civil War and they worked together at other times, including during the liberation of Paris in WW II. He also accompanied his friend John Steinbeck to the Soviet Union for 6 weeks in 1947, resulting in the book: "A Russian Journal". This was indeed an eventful year for him. In the same year he co-founded Magnum Photos in Paris, the first cooperative agency for managing the photographs of freelance photographers. His own book, "Slightly Out of Focus" was also published that year. In the following year he toured the new state of Israel in its infancy. His photographs then became part of Irwin Shaw's book: "Report on Israel".

He actually came up with the term "Generation X", which came to refer to the generation after the Baby Boomers, those born in the 1960's and 1970's. When he was working on a picture project in 1953, he described the young adults growing up after WW II: "We named this unknown generation, The Generation X, and even in our first enthusiasm we realized that we had something far bigger than our talents and pockets could cope with."

In 1954, he was asked by Life Magazine to cover the First Indochina War. Even though he had previously decided to end his career as a wartime photographer, he agreed to do it anyway. It was here that he met his tragic end at the young age of 40. While riding with some troops that came under fire, he decided to jump out of his jeep and run ahead to

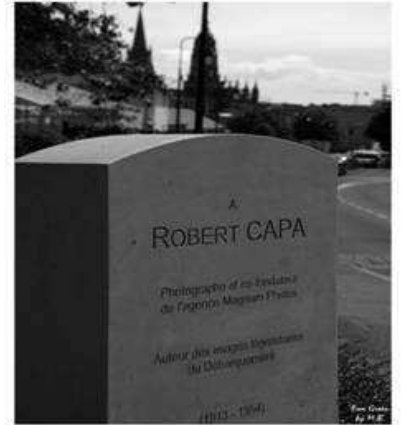
get some better photos. Unfortunately he stepped on a landmine, which blew off his leg and imbedded a lot of shrapnel in his body. He was taken to a nearby field hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

In 1955, the Overseas Press Club of America established the Robert Capa Gold Medal, which is awarded each year for the "best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise."

It often happens with reporters even to this day, that while finding themselves in combat situations, they somehow feel that they are immune to the same dangers that the soldiers are facing. They seem to view war from behind their own lens, as if in another place, maybe not realizing at the time that they are in the middle of the same battle they are recording. This has resulted in the capture, injury or death of numerous other journalists over the years.

Robert Capa, who died 62 years ago this month, was honored with a stamp in the fall of 2013 on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Whether you agree or disagree with his political views, you have to admit that he was at the top of his field. He was very talented indeed, but as he himself said: "It's not enough to have talent; you also have to be Hungarian."

(This is only a small excerpt of an amazing life. For further reading, the following are available at Amazon: Robert Capa: A Biography, by Richard Whelan, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985; London: Faber & Faber, 1985. Paperback edition published 1994 by University of Nebraska Press, 1994. Robert Capa's book "Slightly Out of Focus" is also available among others.)



*Robert Capa - war photographer, The Falling Soldier, D-Day landings Omaha Beach, June 6 - 1944, Robert Capa monument - Bayeux France, Commemorative stamp - 2013*

*Charles Bálint Jr. is a working Customs Broker in Lawrence, NY and a member of the Magyar News Online Editorial Board.*

## Happy Anniversary, “Kis földalatti”!

*Karolina Tima Szabo*

*This month, we celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Little Underground of Budapest. Here is its story.*

The Budapest “Kis földalatti” (Little Underground), 1<sup>st</sup> on the Continent and the second oldest railway in the world, will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It opened on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1896, the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conquest, and was mainland Europe’s first electrically operated underground railway (Great Britain’s was coal operated). Its length was 3,688m, from today’s Vörösmarty Tér to Városliget (City Park), under Andrásy út. Plans were created by the German firm of [Siemens & Halske AG](#), and the ground and cement work was done by Wünsch Róbert and Company. It took less than two years to build, and was “cut and cover”, which means it was totally built from the surface.

A millennium celebration was planned at Városliget. Transporting passengers on the omnibus would have been complicated. Mór Balázs, manager of an electrical railway company, came up with the idea of an underground rail. Time was of the essence; the actual work started even before permits were issued. It took only 20 months to complete.

The cars were built by the Schlick (German) company out of metal and wood. The floors were like mud racks. The cars had one door and were operated by the conductor. The cabin’s left side was for smoking men, the right side for ladies. Car #20 was built for the elite: it had a decorative interior and Belgian beveled glass windows, fit for a

king. The cars were built to accommodate the low ceiling of the tunnel, in a so-called swan shape.

Emperor Franz Joseph, who was in Hungary at the time, traveled on the rail on May 8<sup>th</sup>, from Vörösmarty Tér to the Zoo station. It became the offi-

Kiosks were built above the stations. The Deák Tér station kiosk was built in Secession style, with a cupola. Roofs were made out of tin, the inside walls were covered with tiles made by the Zsolnay factory. Other stations were less elaborate.

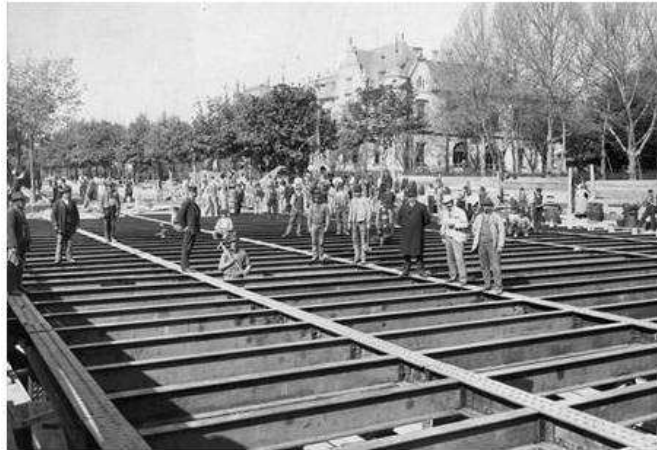
At the time, it was 3.7 km long (it is now 1 km longer) and carried 35,000 people a day. (Currently, it carries over 100,000 on a workday.)

For the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a 200-page limited edition commemorative booklet will be published, with documents and photos not seen before. (It will not be for sale.)

Since 2002, the *Kis földalatti* and the total length of the Andrásy út is a World Heritage site.

Something to be proud of!

*Karolina Tima Szabo is a retired Systems Analyst of the Connecticut Post newspaper and Webmaster of Magyar News Online. She is the proud grandmother of two.*



*Line under construction on Andrásy út at Városliget; Andrásy út with the Millennium Underground (1896); Kiosk at Városliget*

cial opening date, and he graciously permitted the use of his name – so it became Ferenc József Földalatti Villamos Vasút, Rt.

### Magyar News Online

242 Kings Hwy Cut-off  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
[www.magyarnews.org](http://www.magyarnews.org)

Editor: Erika Papp Faber  
Founder, Editor and  
Publisher  
Emeritus: Joseph F. Balogh  
Editorial Board:  
Olga Vallay Szokolay  
Éva Wajda  
Charles Bálintt  
Eliz Kakas, Judith Paolini  
Paul Soos, Joseph Ull  
Webmaster: Karolina Szabo  
Assistant Webmaster:  
Zsuzsa Lengyel

# Hungarian Agronomist in Constantinople – Part I

*Dr. Karátsony Géza*

*Here we begin the reminiscences of agronomist dr. Karátsony Géza who had the opportunity to get a unique look at early World War I behind-the-scenes machinations in Constantinople and a glimpse of Turkish farming of the time.*

I owe it to my father's foresight that he made me study German at the early age of 7. I attended school in Beszterce (Transylvania) for 5 years, and learned to speak German perfectly. During my college years, I studied French and English with great zeal. In three months I also learned Italian, having learned Romanian in my little Transylvanian village. I attended university lectures for a semester each in Berlin, at the Sorbonne in Paris and in London, trying to befriend only German, French and British students. With them I corresponded frequently even later, which helped me to retain my knowledge of languages. After completing my studies at the Agricultural Academy, I traveled through Europe for another year and a half, even taking a look at America for three months. I renewed my friendship with many friends from the university.

At the end of 1913, the Turkish government asked the Hungarian government for a French-speaking, unmarried, practical agronomist for the directorship of the Academy of Agriculture in Constantinople. The Hungarian government chose me, and I accepted. I got there in the spring of 1914, just in time to get to Egypt before the war, to audit and liquidate (not in the Bolshevik sense!) the embezzling managers of the khedive's (the Turkish viceroy of Egypt) sister's estates.

In Constantinople, I associated with an extraordinarily interesting Hun-

garian circle. The Ambassador, Marquis Pallavicini János had an English wife. The Press Attaché was B.A. His title was simply "deckmantli" (cloak or mask). Actually, in his hands converged all the threads of the Monarchy's spy system, from Vienna to Athens, Sophia, Bukarest and Istanbul. He was clear-thinking, honest, Hungarian through and through. The Ambassador was a tremendously



*dr. Karátsony Géza*

influential person, with unlimited control over the affairs of the approximately one million Austro-Hungarian subjects living there, but he did nothing in the way of foreign affairs without consulting B. A.

I had been friends with B.A. back in Budapest, Vienna and Paris, and when I got to Constantinople, I spent all my weekends with him at his apartment in Pera. In return, he would come to see me at the Academy on the shores of the Sea of Marmara for the hot summer days. He informed me of all "underground" operations. When World War I broke out, it was a matter of life and death that Greece, which had a mili-

tary alliance with Serbia, should not go to war against us. It seemed at the time that the only way to prevent them was to break their single railroad connection with Serbia. So the following weekend I found at B. A.'s apartment three grim "komitácsi" (anti-Turkish Macedonian rebels) under the leadership of a fanatic Macedonian woman named Maria Kojá. They had been found in Bulgaria by a childhood buddy of B.A., named S. D., then a professor of the Eastern Academy of Pest, and an intimate of King Ferdinand I of Bulgaria. This gentleman, with his unimaginably keen scent, had somehow already insinuated himself into the entourage of the young Ferdinand (who spoke perfect Hungarian) when Ferdinand had gone to Sophia following the fall of Alexander Battenberg (1886) to occupy the princely throne of Bulgaria. Since then, he had made himself so indispensable with his readiness to perform the smallest services, with refined flatteries and the suggestive effects of officiousness, that Ferdinand entrusted him with all his confidential affairs in Hungary. When visiting his enormous estates in Gömör County that he had inherited from his mother, Princess Koháry, he always took S.D. along with him... I myself saw several of his Hungarian-language telegrams addressed to S.D., with the signature "Murányi" (Rimamurányi). The king spoke with S.D. in Hungarian, mostly so the foreign gentlemen in his entourage would not understand what he was saying...

As a result of the conversation with Marica of the flashing eyes and her companions, the only railroad bridge over the Vardár River was blown up a week later. It is a historical fact that the neutrality of Greece depended on this – whether it was



merely an excuse or not... at any rate, the fact that the expected help did not materialize seriously affected the Serbs.

On the day of Turkey's entry into the war (October 29th, 1914), the general headquarters was installed in the building of our agricultural academy, which for me meant that I was deprived of my original assignment.

At my request, my very understanding cabinet minister, Ahmed Nessini Bey accepted my suggestion that, by the end of the war, I would travel throughout the large – at the time – Turkish empire, from Adrianople to Baghdad, and from Smyrna to Erzerum or Trebizond. I did this in the next three years, mostly on horseback, accompanied by a small caravan. I slept on the ruins of Palmyra and ate of Bassora's fabulous dates. I enjoyed the fiery wines of Smyrna and delighted in the hazelnut forests of Trebizond.

I noted with amazement the simple village Turk's outstanding familiarity with races, and their touching attachment to Hungarians. I was flabbergasted to see in what a fleeced condition of poverty the peasantry lived, having borne singlehandedly and for 600 years the financial burdens of the wars waged by the glorious sultans and the debauched ruling class in shining Istanbul. Having been born in a village and having farmed there, I was appalled to see that the hard work of farming in the villages was done exclusively by the weak women, while at home the men cooked, did laundry, cared for the children so that in the evening they might go to the ubiquitous coffee houses and there tell each other about their wartime experiences until the late night hours.

Friends who had been to Europe explained that the village Turk is not a farming peasant but a warrior, a soldier who, when there does not happen to be a war, looks after the

household at home... The hair-raisingly tyrannous government requisitioned – in exchange for a receipt – all his crops, livestock, tools, leaving payment to the almighty Allah...

Consequently, his wives, yoked to the wooden plow, scratched out of the ground only as much wheat and barley as was necessary to stave off starvation. Laying the sheaves on the tamped-down and swept ground, the sheaves were threshed by means of a wooden sled laden with rocks and drawn by manpower (womanpower?), and the sifting was left to the wind as they threw the grain up into the air. The broken straw was carefully put into sacks, because it was the only fodder their unfortunate calf-sized little cows got during the winter. The threshed grain was put into stone jars and was carefully buried in the ground, making sure that its surface did not differ from the ground around it, lest some stray requisitioning committee find the life-giving crop.

*to be continued*

*Dr. Géza Karátsony (1883 – 1957) was born in Transylvania and received a doctorate in Political Science and Law from the Ferenc József Tudományi Egyetem in Kolozsvár. He also obtained a degree from the Academy of Agriculture. He became Director of the newly established Agricultural Academy in Constantinople, traveled on horseback throughout the Turkish Empire, visited Egypt, was a member of the WW I Peace Commission in Paris. Later, he was employed by the County of Baranya, Hungary, as Advisor and Secretary to the Chamber of Wine and Fruitgrowers Association in Pécs. In 1942, he obtained a diploma from the Academy of Viticulture in Budapest and left Hungary in November, 1944, emigrating to the US in 1951. He is the father of our Editorial Board member Eva Wajda.*

## ***Kicsi a világ!***

*Judith Eöry Colby*

What a surprise to find the article mentioning Dr. Balázs Somogyi in the April issue of Magyar News Online!

The Somogyi family came to Vancouver early in 1957. There were two brothers and a young sister, who was my sister Uzonka's (Uzi's) age. Mari and Uzi became very good friends, so Uzi was heartbroken when the father, a surgeon, was invited by one of the hospitals in NYC in late 1958. The boys were both older than I, and as I recall, Balázs had started his medical studies in Budapest before the Revolution. We had no idea that he became a doctor in the US, but am not surprised. Uzi and Mari corresponded for a few years, but lost contact.

Another website I found about Balázs mentions that they had been in Vancouver.

*Judith Eöry Colby is a cousin of our Editorial Board member Éva Wajda, and lives in North Vancouver, Canada.*

## **Did you know...**

... **that** the doctor attending the survivors of the Titanic on the Cunard Lines' ship Carpathia was a Hungarian? Lengyel Árpád, born in 1886, became a ship's doctor. This was the time when many Hungarians were emigrating to the US, and an English-speaking Hungarian doctor was needed. He was on duty that fateful night of April 15th, 1912 when the Titanic sank, and being the only doctor of the three on board with paramedic experience, was able to succor the 705 survivors who were in shock, frozen to the marrow and some of whom were injured.

It has recently come to light that one of the passengers of the Titanic who did not make it was also Hungarian-born. Leopold Weisz, originally from Veszprém, had moved to England to

learn a trade, then emigrated to Canada. He returned to the UK to bring back his Belgian wife. But because of a coal strike in England, they were diverted from the steamer Lusitania to the Titanic. He died in the disaster, but Mathilde survived, married again and lived the rest of her life in Canada.

... **that** the European Florist Championship was won by a Hungarian? Mezőffy Tamás received first prize in the Genoa competition early last month, staged every four or five years by the International Florist Organization. Among the challenges the 23 competitors had to face was decorating a Fiat to resemble characteristics of the city of San Remo, and creating a 50's-60's type of decoration for a bride on a Vespa.



Mezőffy Tamás

...**that** 7,000-year old graves have been discovered near the arboretum of the city of Szarvas? Archaeologists estimate that they date back to the late modern period. Some Pannonian Avar tombs have also been unearthed, containing some gold coins and horse harnesses.

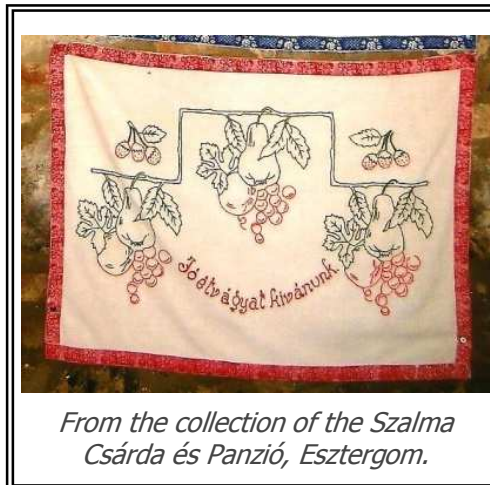
... **that** for the third anniversary of Pope Francis' election in March, Hungarian pilgrims presented the Pontiff with Halasi csipke (lace) items? The delegation from Kiskúnhalas brought altar cloths decorated with the lace, intended for the chapel of the St. Martha House in Rome. In addition, they brought a pope doll created by children from play dough which Pope Francis accepted with a big smile.

## Chicken soup with spring vegetables

Ingredients:  
 1 whole chicken  
 4 carrots  
 4 pc parsley roots and greens  
 2 stalks of celery  
 1 kohlrabi  
 Small amount of cauliflower  
 1 green pepper  
 1 tomato  
 1 small potato  
 1 medium onion  
 2 cloves of garlic  
 1 cup mushrooms  
 1 cup frozen peas  
 8-10 black peppercorns  
 Salt

Cut up chicken, wash and put into a large stock pot. Cover with about one gallon of water. Bring to boil, then lower heat and cook very slowly for 40-45 minutes.

In the meantime, clean the vegetables, slice up celery, carrots, mushrooms and parsley roots, cube the kohlrabi, tie parsley greens in a bunch, and break cauliflower into small florets. Put peppercorns, onion, garlic, into spice bag. Add all the vegetables and peas to soup, and add salt and spice bag. Add green pepper, tomato and potato in one piece. Bring soup to a slow boil again, and cook for another 30-35 minutes, or until chicken is done. Remove chicken from pot. Remove meat from the bones, and cut it into small pieces and put it back into the soup. Discard skin and bone; also remove potato, spice bag and parsley greens.



From the collection of the Szalma Csárda és Panzió, Esztergom.

Boil noodles in separate pot in salted water. Add noodles to soup before serving. Garnish with fresh parsley sprigs.

Enjoy!

## Tavaszi tyúkhúsleves



Hozzávalók:

1 egész tyúk  
 4 szál sárga répa  
 4 szál petrezselyemgyökér  
 1 csokor petrezselyem  
 1 kisebb zeller gumó, vagy 2 szál zeller szár  
 kevés karalábé  
 kevés karfiol  
 1 zöld paprika  
 1 paradicsom  
 1 szem burgonya  
 1 vöröshagyma  
 2 gerezd fokhagyma  
 1 pohár gomba  
 1 pohár mélyhűtött zöldborsó  
 8-10 szem bors  
 Só

Elkészítése:

A fiatal tyúkot feldaraboljuk, majd feltesszük 3-4 liter vízben és 40-45 percig főzzük. Megtisztítjuk a zöldségeket, a répafélét felkarikázzuk, a karalábét és a zellert apró kockákra, a gombát vékony szeletekre vágjuk, majd a (fagyos) zöldborsóval együtt a leveshez adjuk. Fűszerezünk, és 30-35 percig főzzük, vagy amíg a hús is megfő. A csirkemellet kiemeljük, lehúzzuk a bőrét, lefejtjük a csonttól a húst, kis darabokra vágjuk, és visszatesszük a levesbe. Petrezselyemmel díszítjük. Gazdagíthatjuk apró tésztával is, de csak tálaláskor adjuk a leveshez.

Csigatésztával nagyon finom.