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**Boldog Anyák Napját kívánunk minden Édesanyának!
Happy Mother's Day!**

ÉJI LÁTOGATÁS

Gyulai Pál

Három árva sír magában,
Elhagyott, sötét szobában;
Zivataros, hideg éj van,
Édesanyjuk künn a sirban.

„Édesanyám, édesanyám!
Altass el már, úgy alhatnám!”
Mond az egyik, s el sem alszik,
Sóhajtása föl-fölhallszik.

„Beteg vagyok, édesanyám!
Hol maradtál? Nem gondolsz rám?”
Mond a másik, s jajjal végzi,
A fájdalmat kétszer érzi.

„Édesanyám, gyűjts világot!
Nem tudom én, jaj mit látok!”
Harmadik mond, mindenik sír –
Temetőbem mozdul egy sír.

Megnyílnak a nehéz hantok,
Kilép sirból édesanyjok,
S tovalebben a vak éjben,
Hazafelé, az ösvényen.

Arca halvány, hangj' a régi,
Fia, lánya megismeri.
Immár tőle hogyan félne?
Megcsókolják, mintha élne.

Az egyiket betakarja,
Másikat felfogja karja,
Elringatja, elaltatja,
Harmadikat ápolgatja.

És ott virraszt a kis ágyon,
Míg elalszik mind a három.
Majd megindul, széttekinget.
Keresi a régi rendet.

Rendbehozza a szobácskát,
Helyreteszi a ruhácskát;
Az alvókat hosszan nézi,
Csókját százszor megtetézi.

Kakas szólal, üt az óra,
El kell válni virradóra!
Visszanéz a véghatárral....
Sir megnyílik, sir bezárul.

Óh, a sir sok mindent elfed:
Bút, örömet, fényt, szerelmet.
De ki gyermekét szerette,
Gondját sir el nem temette.

vezette Salamon királyt a helyes és igazságos ítélet kimondására. Annak a szeretetnek hódol az ismeretlen író, melyet a gyermek elvesztése olyan mérhetetlen fájdalommal változtat, hogy ennek a gyötremnek a látványára a könnyekig meghatott Jézust egyik legnagyobb csodatételének végrehajtására indította.

Gyulai Pál itt olvasható verse a képtelenség távolába vetíti az anyai szeretetet. De ennek a túlzásnak is megvan a jelentősége. Mert az anyai szeretet olyan embert ihletett e költemény megírására, aki nemcsak költő -, hanem kritikus is volt. S akit Ady Endre talán nem is egészen alaptalanul nevezett a „mérges kis öregúrnak”.

Az én számomra a vers igazi mondanivalója éppen az, hogy az édesanyák szívében virágzó szeretet az író kritikán edzett, éles logikáját is térdre kényszerítette. Ez a tény a vers igazsága, és ennek a felismerése varázsolja az ábrándos képtelenséget élő valósággá.

ÉDESANYÁK KÖSZÖNTÉSE

Palócz Endre

Valamelyik ókori nép szent könyvében olvastam: minthogy Isten nem lehet mindég és mindenütt jelen ugyanabban az időben, - azért teremtett édeanyákat.

Igaz, a hittudomány szempontjából nem éppen orthodox állítás, de ez a tény semmit sem von le a gondolat szépségéből. Mert talán nem is lehetne tömörebben megfogalmazni az édesanyák szerepének lényegét.

Hiszen a fenti gondolat ki nem mondott tartalma az önzetlen, mindenkor és minden körülmények között segítésre kész szeretet. A bekezdő idézet nem mond kevesebbet, mint azt, hogy az édesanyák segítik, helyettesítik Istent a szeretet árasztásában, szétsugárzásában.

Azt az érzést dicsóítja ez a költői gondolat, mely a gyermek érdekében még magáról, a gyermekről, a szeretet tárgyáról is képes lemondani. Mint amikor például az anyának ez a kegyetlenül fájdalmas áldozata

Ebben a szellemben ünnepeljük „anyák napját”, a tiszta öröm tavaszi ünnepét. És az ilyen ünnepléshez olyan kevés kell....Néhány szál virág...Vagy még annyi sem....Parányi figyelem, felfénylő mosoly...Csak annyi, hogy adjunk vissza az édesanyáknak egy picikét abból a szeretetből, amely az ő létük lényege.

Hálával és szeretettel köszöntünk minden Édesanyát „anyák napja” alkalmából, és szeretném, ha az Édesanyák ezt a néhány sort is szívből köszönetnek tekintenék.

World War I, the Beginning of the End

Erika Papp Faber

To say that for Hungary, the time of World War I and its aftermath were turbulent, is a gross understatement. Not only was the country weakened by the enormous number of war casualties (as compared to the number of enlisted men), but it was further demoralized by invasions into its sovereign territory by various national minorities that had declared themselves independent states, and whose rampaging and looting were encouraged by the Entente powers. Combined with the breakdown of the political system, the ravages of the Spanish flu, the social and political unrest, the scene was set for the establishment of a Communist interregnum.

Hungary took part in World War I not of its own free will, but was dragged into it because it was yoked to Austria through the Compromise of 1867, which had established the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Actually, Hungary's independence had been compromised ever since 1526 when, in its fight to stem the onslaught of the Ottoman Turks, it had been left to its own devices. At the battle of Mohács, to which **not one Western nation** had sent military support, the country's civil and military leaders were mowed down, under what may be considered questionable circumstances. (How could the king drown in a small brook, as has been maintained?)

Soon thereafter, the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand became king of Hungary. And Austrian rule became THE rule.

When it became too much to bear,



Bells waiting to be melted down into cannons

and Hungarians rose up in 1703 to claim their independence, even the Pope turned against Hungary, directing the Hungarian clergy, in a letter dated September 2nd, 1707, not to support Rákóczi's fight for freedom. Then in 1848-49, Hungarians once again fought to free themselves of the Austrian yoke, and were successful, until Austria called in Russian troops to help quell them. And Hungary suffered the reinstatement of Austrian absolutist rule, with executions, long prison terms, undercover informants and foreign bureaucrats appointed to administrative posts.

Finally, in 1867, a Compromise was crafted, by which the Dual Monarchy was established, with Austria and Hungary sharing the same sovereign as well as having finances, military and foreign affairs in common. And eventually THAT proved fatal for Hungary! As the German saying goes, "*Mitgegangen, mitgefangen, mitgehungen!*" (Went together, caught together, hung together).

As part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Hungary was the ONLY nation opposing Austria's eagerness to go to war against Serbia in 1914 (see our February 2020 issue). But Tisza István was overruled, and from then on, all he could do was to try to safeguard

Hungary's territorial integrity, which was being threatened by the Russian Panslav expansionist policy that had made such great headway in Serbia. He was ready to sign a peace treaty in the fall of 1916, after the Romanian invasion of Transylvania had been repulsed.

But the Triple Entente (Britain, France and Russia) rejected his offer. For if a peace treaty had been signed then, "the dreams

(of Czech politicians Edvard Benes and Tomáš Masaryk) for Slovakia would have been shattered by a sudden end of the War. (Their) propaganda effort ... was aimed at sabotaging any peace initiative" (Stephen Sisa, *The Spirit of Hungary*, p. 219).

Incidentally, according to French estimates, had the peace offer been accepted, "France alone would have been spared the loss of close to one million of her soldiers" (*ibid.*)

World War I

Germany's invasion of Luxemburg and Belgium in August 1914 opened the western front, which in the end extended from the North Sea to the frontiers of Switzerland, and which remained pretty much the same for the duration of the war. This is where most of the combatant countries concentrated their troops. Eventually a system of trenches was constructed, with machine gun emplacements, barbed wire systems, and artillery use. Many attacks were undertaken along this front, by both the Triple Entente and their allies and friends (see the April issue of MNO) and the Central Powers (Austria-Hungary and Germany.) It was here that poison gas was

first applied, that airplanes and tanks were used. Despite all these, neither side could make headway, until with the entry of the United States in 1917, the Triple Entente gained the upper hand.

The eastern front covered most of Eastern Europe, especially Poland, and after the entry of Romania in August of 1916, it extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The front here was more fluid, as the Central Powers could more easily move troops from one war zone to another on account of their geographical location. The chief combatants in this arena were Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria, opposed by Romania and the Russian Empire (which, after the Communist Revolution, became the Soviet Russian Republic in 1917).



Left: Coronation of King Charles IV in Budapest; soldiers removing button from military cap; Right: Returning Hungarian troops

Emperor Franz Joseph had died on November 21st, 1916, and was succeeded by King Charles IV. The Central Powers were able to exert such pressure on the Russians that the new Soviet government was forced to sue for peace. They signed a separate peace at Brest-Litovsk on March 3rd, 1918 (which they declared null and void on November 13th of the same year). Germany signed a ceasefire on November 11th, 1918.

The Aster Revolt (*őszirózsás forradalom*)

As the war dragged on into its fifth year, Hungarian civilian and military discontent increased. Street demonstrations and strikes were called in major cities, starting with Budapest. Disaffected political parties combined to form a Hungarian National Council, on October 25th, 1918, with Count Károlyi Mihály pre-

siding (see separate article). The Council called for the immediate cessation of hostilities, the nation's complete independence, introduction of major democratic reforms and reconciliation with the various minorities, while at the same time maintaining the country's territorial integrity. It demanded that King Charles name Count Károlyi to be Prime Minister. When he named someone else, discontent turned into revolt overnight. Soldiers ripped the button with Franz Joseph's initials from their caps, replacing them with asters, civilians wore asters in their buttonholes – hence the name, The Aster Revolt (*Őszirózsás forradalom*).

Armed masses of workers and soldiers occupied public buildings, arrested the military commandant of Budapest, demanded the proclamation of an independent Hungarian

republic, freed some political prisoners, and prevented a marching company of reserves from leaving for the front.

Former Prime Minister Tisza István was assassinated in his home, the only fatality of the 6-day Aster Revolt. King Charles IV named Count Károlyi Mihály to be Prime Minister of Hungary, and he formed a government.

On October 31st, Hungary repudiated the Compromise of 1867, by which Hungary had been tied to Austria in a "personal union", i.e., united by a common ruler. But the final break with the House of Habsburg came only on November 6th, 1921, when Parliament passed a law dethroning the Habsburgs for the last time. (For the various Habsburg dethronements, see article elsewhere in this issue.)

The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was falling apart, with the rapid succession of declarations establishing Czechoslovakia, the Slovenian-Croatian-Serb Kingdom, and Austria itself declaring itself a republic.

Hungary – with 661,00 (17%) of its enlisted men killed, 743,000 (20%) wounded, and 734,000 (19%) taken prisoner – signed the ceasefire agreement at Padua on November 3rd, 1918 (see the November 2018 issue). However, the agreement contained no military or territorial directives. Three days later, the Hungarian army was dissolved, "since we don't have to fear any enemy attack!"

Although President Woodrow Wilson later repudiated it, Károlyi believed his "14 Points" speech of January 8th, 1918, in which he had declared (in Point X): "The people of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development."

To emphasize its independence from Austria, Károlyi's new Hungarian government signed a separate ceasefire, the Belgrade Military Convention. That document ordered disarmament of all Hungarian land, sea and river forces, and the handing over of all their equipment; guaranteed the Entente powers the right of requisitioning and free passage; and to answer the immediate demands for horses and workmen in order to alleviate war damages. But abiding by this Convention was not sanctioned even by Clemenceau, nor observed by the members of the Entente who streamed into the country. Károlyi was afraid to use force against them lest he lose his ability to negotiate concerning the upcoming peace treaty. Consequently, the Serbs, Romanians and Czechs introduced their own administration in

the Hungarian areas they occupied (see separate article in this issue).

On November 16th, 1918, the Hungarian National Council declared the form of government to be a People's Republic, with Károlyi elected President pro tem on January 11th, 1919. He resigned on March 21st, and Kun Béla, freshly arrived with some friends from training in Moscow, proclaimed the Hungarian Soviet Republic.

Károlyi Mihály at the Helm

EPF

He was born into one of the wealthiest Hungarian aristocratic families, and became a member of Parliament in 1910. In the turbulent time at the end of World War I, he was named Prime Minister on October 31st, 1918. Probably his biggest mistake was naming Linder Béla to be Minister of Defense. Because it was Linder who dissolved the still intact Hungarian army.



Károlyi Mihály

Although he was one of the largest landowners in the country, he advocated the breakup of large estates, and was the first (and only one) to distribute his holdings to

the landless poor, which explains why there is a Károlyi Park in Fairfield, CT (as described in our very first issue of June-July 2007).

Károlyi's other political aims included universal suffrage, the autonomy of nationalities, and a maximum of freedom in joint Austro-Hungarian institutions.

As described by Denis Sinor in his *History of Hungary*, "None of Károlyi's more distant aims was harmful or dishonest. But they were at that time inopportune and, in any case, he was the last man able to realize them. Weak and changeable, he lacked the true qualities of a leader..." (p. 283)

After Hungary was declared a People's Republic, he was elected President by acclamation on January 11th, 1919, and he was described by Sinor as "by then hardly more than a figure-head" (*ibid.*) The army having been foolishly disbanded, all he could do was to watch helplessly as the various nationalities sent their well-organized troops to invade Hungary. Here is a brief run-down:

Invasions

After the November 3rd, 1918 ceasefire, the Serbs occupied Szerém County (in the South, between the Danube and the Száva Rivers), as well as Slavonia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Dalmatia on November 7th, and the city of Újvidék on the 9th.

On November 8th, Czech troops entered the Nagyszombat region of Upper Hungary.

On December 2nd, Romania began its occupation of Transylvania, and entered Kolozsvár on December 24th. All this was in violation of the Padua armistice agreement and of their own peace treaty with Hun-

gary. When the Hungarians complained to the French "guardian" of the armistice, Gen. Franchet D'Espèray, he said "he did not 'give a damn' about the armistice, and that 'Hungary would have to pay and atone'" (Stephen Sisa, *The Spirit of Hungary*, p. 221)

On December 3rd, the leader of the Entente's Budapest Military Mission demanded that Hungary empty and withdraws from the Felvidék (Upper Hungary) and hand it over to the Czechoslovak republic that was going to be created. On December 26th and 29th, the Czech army marched into Eperjes and Kassa (Upper Hungary).

On December 25th, troops of the Serbian-Croatian-Slavonian Kingdom occupied the Muraköz area (between the Dráva and Mura Rivers in southwestern Hungary).

On December 30th, the French army of the Balkans occupied Szeged and drew a cordon in the Bánság between the Romanian Yugoslav armies.

As the original terms of the armistice were continually broken, they kept being redrafted. Hungarian protests were rudely brushed off, and even President Wilson's objections were ignored. Károlyi was a dreamer and not a practical politician, and when the Entente Powers made even more demands, he resigned on March 21st, 1919, relinquishing his power, as stated by Sisa, "to the social democrats and communists", represented by a group of People's Commissars.

Other foreign demands

On November 17th, 1918, the newly formed Austrian republic entered its claim to annex 5,800 square kilometers of Western Hungary (see MNO, June 2018 issue).

On February 6th, 1919, representatives of Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia sent a joint memorandum to the Paris Peace Conference, containing their demands of Hungarian territory, and objecting to the plebiscite proposed by Hungary.

Only the Ruthenian (southeastern Hungary) national assembly declared, on March 15th, 1919, that it did not want to be joined to the Czechs, but to belong to Hungary.

The First Hungarian Soviet Republic

With the resignation of Károlyi began the 133 days of Kun Béla's "dictatorship of the proletariat". According to Oxford Professor C.A. Macartney, "Kun turned the entire peasantry against him by announcing that the land was not to be distributed, but nationalized. He set the urban population, including the industrial workers, against him in innumerable ways, and inaugurated a red terror under the vile Szamuely" (quoted in Sisa, *op. cit.*, p. 222).

In a speech at Győr (April 20th, 1919) Szamuely said, "Power must be utilized; the working class must totally suppress, annihilate, and exterminate the bourgeoisie in the bud ... Now it will be necessary to spill blood... Blood will make us powerful; it will lead us to the real Communist world... Whoever raises a fist against the proletariat signs his own death sentence". (Szamuely's speech at Győr, April 20, 1919, quoted in *Győri szalon*)

According to Anthony Endrey's *Hungarian History*, "An armoured (sic) train, manned by 'Lenin Boys' ... roamed the countryside, executing thousands of defenceless (sic) civilians, many of them small

tradesmen and peasants, for alleged 'crimes against the people' (p. 342). Any dissatisfaction with the Red regime, "whether real or imaginary", was "pitilessly smothered in blood", according to Professor Dominic Kosáry, in *A History of Hungary*. Although there were only a few thousand Communists in Hungary at the time, "the power of Bolshevism, however, rested on its methods and not on the number of its followers" (p.389).

As Prof. Dominic Kosáry describes it "32 of the 45 'people's commissars' were Jews, and these most sanguinary... In other high positions, their proportion was just as great, a fact which made anti-Semitism very strong and general. A great part of the assimilated Jewry however preserved its loyalty to the country, some of them falling victims to the Terror. The dictatorship of the proletariat in Hungary might more aptly be called the revolt of a mob composed of unassimilated, foreign, chiefly Galician elements" (*ibid* pp. 388-389).

Kun's purpose was not to preserve Hungary, but to prepare a revolution involving all of Central Europe. He organized a Red army. The Romanians used that as an excuse to advance as far as the Tisza. But Kun used the army to drive out the Czechs from northern Hungary, and stopped only on direct orders from French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau. He next wanted to turn against the Romanians, but his own officers were unwilling to fight for the Communist ideal.

When the farmers had almost starved out Budapest, Kun's stronghold, he handed over the government to the Socialists on July 31st, 1919. The days of the Red Terror finally came to an end. Almost immediately, the Romanians



Budapest, 1918. 69-ik évfolyam, 253. szám. Kedd, október 29.

PESTI NAPLÓ

Polgárvér folyt Pest utcáin
 A rendőrség a Lánchíd előtt belelőtt a népbe — Katonák a rendőrök ellen és a nép mellett — Két halott, hetvenhét sebesült
 Károlyi helyett József főherceget küldték
 Andrássy különbékét kért Wilsontól
 A német szövetség végőrái

Prágában a cseh nemzeti tanács átvette a hatalmat — A horvátok végleg elszakadtak tőlük.

Kitört a forradalom!
Munkások! Elvtársak!
 Az osztályuralom önzése elkerülhetetlen végzetszerűséggel forradalomba kergette az országot.

A Nemzeti Tanácshoz csatlakozott katonai csapatok szerdán éjjel vérontás nélkül megszállták a főváros főbb pontjait, a postát, a telefonközpontokat, a térparancsnokságot elfoglalták és fölesküdték a Nemzeti Tanácsnak.

Munkások! Elvtársak!
Most rajtatok a sor!
 Az ellenforradalom valószínűen vissza akarja szerezni a hatalmat.
 Meg kell mutatni, hogy ti együtt éreztek katonatestvéreitekkel!

Ki az utcára!
Szüntessétek be a munkát!
 A magyarországi szociáldemokrata párt.

Gen. Franchet D'Esperay, Kun Béla; posters announcing the outbreak of the Socialist revolution

occupied Budapest. In the course of one month, they took to Romania 1,302 locomotives and 34,160 railroad cars, cleared out the patients from military hospitals, gutted the Central Sanitary Depot, dismantled telephones even in private residences. According to American General Harry H. Bandholtz of the Inter-Allied Military Mission in Budapest, the Romanians "proceeded to clean the country out of private automobiles, farm implements, cattle, horses, clothing, sugar, coal, salt and, in fact, everything of value" (quoted from his book, *An Undiplomatic Diary*).

It was thanks to the energetic action of General Bandholtz that the permanent exhibits of the Hungarian National Museum were saved from looting, as the Romanian trucks intended to carry away those cultural items were already lined up in front of the Museum.

Through his own investigation, he came to the conclusion that "not a single Hungarian complaint has been exaggerated" (Kosáry, p. 393) In a telegram the General sent to the Supreme Council, he quoted reports by the British Food Commission and representatives of the American Red Cross: "(I)n all towns occupied by Rumanians (sic) we found an oppression so great as to make life unbearable. Murder is common; youths and women are flogged, imprisoned without trial, and arrested without reason, theft of personal property under the name of requisition..." (*ibid.*, p. 394)

Estimated damage caused by the Romanian occupation was estimated at **3 billion gold korona**, "without counting indirect losses due to Romanian encroachments".

The Supreme Council finally ordered the Romanians to leave Hungary, which they did on November 14th,

1919. Two days later, Horthy Miklós entered Budapest at the head of the national army. He was elected Regent on March 1st, 1920.

Reports differ about the aftermath. Quoting from Denis Sinor: "The fall of the Communist regime was followed by a brief period of complete chaos, with ephemeral governments, negotiations with allied generals, and acts of savage terrorism. These, known as the 'White Terror', were committed in most cases as simple acts of individual vengeance, and it would be futile to argue whether they were worse or not than the excesses of the Communist regime. They were strongly tainted by anti-Semitism. The strong proportion of Jews in the Communist venture (for example thirty-two of the forty-five Commissars) provides a partial explanation...." (p. 284).

Kosáry quotes an American Colonel Horowitz, who was Jewish himself, and a member of the American Committee on Army Organization, who had personally visited western Hungary. He declared that Horthy's army "had done everything within reason to prevent any such persecutions". He added that "as to there being a real White Terror, there was nothing of the kind." (p. 395)

According to the International Encyclopedia of the First World War, "altogether 587 people were murdered by the Red Terror groups ... White Terror's victims numbered 1,000-1,200 people."

And after all this came, what in Hungarian we call "a *fekete leves*" (the "black soup") – the dictated Treaty of Trianon!

Deposing the Habsburgs – Four Times

viola vonfi

Lest anyone think Hungarians meekly allowed themselves to be ruled by the Habsburgs for 400 years – 1526-1921 – here are four examples – one in every century – when they attempted to get rid of their foreign overlords. In addition, they also revolted against the Habsburgs, twice – 1703-1711 and 1848-49.

But some people just can't see when they're not wanted!

After the disastrous battle of Mohács (1526), in which King Louis II died fleeing from the battlefield, Zápolyai János, Prince of Transylvania, was elected and duly crowned King of Hungary. He was Hungarian, and was the richest man in the country.

The widow of King Louis had a brother, Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria. Through her machinations, he too was crowned King (so the Magyars had two of them for a while!) And therewith began Habsburg rule in Hungary.

First Deposing or Dethronement – 1620

By the early 17th century, Hungary was divided into three parts: the center of the country was under Turkish rule, western and northern Hungary was Hungarian (but under Habsburg rule), and Transylvania was still independent.

Bethlen Gábor, then Prince of Transylvania, led the combined Hungarian-Transylvanian forces against the Austrians in the 30 Years' War. His military successes brought him to the outskirts of Vienna and fueled the enthusiasm of the Hungarian National Assembly. On August

25th, 1620, at Besztercebánya, it elected Bethlen Gábor to be king ("King Gábor I"), and declared the Habsburgs deposed.

However, Bethlen was much more shrewd politically than to accept this honor. He realized that allowing himself to be crowned would bring him into conflict with both the Austrian Emperor and the Turkish Sultan, which was more than he and his troops could handle successfully. He therefore refused to accept the crown, and returned it to the Habsburg Ferdinand II.

Second Deposing or Dethronement – 1707

II. Rákóczi Ferenc led the Freedom Fight against Austria between 1703 and 1711. His successes were such that the National Assembly, which met at Ónod, declared King Joseph I deposed on June 13th, 1707. It was on that occasion that Bercsényi Miklós, one of the military leaders of the Rákóczi Freedom Fight, uttered the famous words (introduced by an expression considered at the time to be a crude profanity): "Emperor Joseph is not our king!"

Since Rákóczi was unable to carry out both functions as Prince of Transylvania and King of Hungary, Count Bercsényi Miklós was chosen to be his deputy until a king could be elected. But By 1711, Rákóczi was defeated, and had to go into exile. The Habsburgs could continue their rule of Hungary in peace.

Third Deposing or Dethronement – 1849

By the second year of the Freedom Fight of 1848-49 against Austria, Hungarian troops achieved notable victories in the course of their

spring campaign. Consequently, the National Assembly, meeting at Debrecen under the leadership of Kossuth Lajos, issued a Proclamation of Independence, and on April 14th, 1849 once again declared the deposition of the House of Habsburg.

Since the Freedom Fight was crushed with Russian help in August of that year, the Proclamation became null and void.

Fourth Deposing or Dethronement – 1921

After the death of Franz Joseph in November of 1916, Habsburg King Charles IV had been crowned King of Hungary on December 30th of that same year.

On October 15th, 1918, he declared the transformation of Austria into a federal state. On November 13th, he issued a **proclamation, relinquishing his right to take part in Hungarian affairs of state.** Charles named his cousin, Archduke Joseph August to be King of Hungary, a position Joseph held for two weeks in August 1919, during which time he named Horthy Miklós, who had been the last Admiral of the Austro-Hungarian navy, to be Commander-in-Chief of the Hungarian Army. Then Joseph was forced to resign due to pressure from the French.

Despite his proclamation of non-involvement in Hungarian affairs of state, Charles attempted to return to Hungary **twice.** On March 26th, 1921, Holy Saturday, when the National Assembly was not in session, he arrived incognito and unannounced at Szombathely in the middle of the night. Roused from sleep at 2 am, Prime Minister Count Teleki Pál tried to dissuade Charles from his disastrous plan. Because Teleki clearly foresaw that

if Charles returned, civil war would break out and the recently formed Little Entente (Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia) would intervene. (**On March 28th, they actually declared that they would consider Charles' return a *casus belli*, a reason for war.)**)

For the same reason, Regent Horthy Miklós was adamant in refusing to hand over the government to Charles, and the National Assembly passed a resolution praising Horthy's stance and endorsing the status quo. Charles left Hungary reluctantly on April 5th, returning to Switzerland. Nevertheless, a **proclamation by Charles, stating that he was Hungary's rightful ruler,** appeared in Hungarian newspapers on April 7th.

In October 1921, **Charles IV tried again!!!** His plane landed in western Hungary on October 20th, and some army officers (called legitimists) joined him in his march on Budapest. The country was divided – with some diehards loyal to the old ruling house. His return brought Hungary to the verge of civil war.

The Treaty of Trianon had restricted the size of the Hungarian army to a laughably small size, and the troops were of questionable loyalty. The Hungarian government called upon the university students' reserve battalion and stationed some of it in the Vár. (Our Editor's father was among them, deployed in the Castle – Vár – district.) Troops clashed at Budaörs, with ten university students and 60 Hungarian legitimists being killed, and many wounded. A stray shot that hit Charles' railroad car finally convinced him to call off the fight. He reluctantly agreed to an armistice, and dictated a surrender order, but **did not abdicate the throne!** He was arrested together



Students at the Budaörs combat. Photo from Origo

with his wife Zita, and they were taken by the British warship *Glowworm* to exile on the island of Madeira, where he died seven months later.

On November 6th, 1921, the National Assembly passed Law XLVII, dethroning the House of Habsburg for the final time, while maintaining kingship as the ancient form of government. Election of a new king was to be postponed to a later (undetermined) time. (It has never taken place.)

Despite all this, both Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia continued to deploy their armies along Hungary's borders. The departure of Charles and Zita, assurances by Regent Horthy that the Habsburgs would be dethroned, and stern warnings on the part of the British and the French to the Czech leader finally defused the crisis.

According to the Foreign Minister, Bánffy Miklós, "the mad adventure of king Charles ... utterly ruined our relationships with the Successor States, foreign policy-wise, and cut off any path to reconciliation. It was as a result of the royal *coup*

d'état that the Little Entente was created ... aimed exclusively against us..." (from *The Fate of Western Hungary 1918-1921*, by József Botlik).

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.

Magyar Treasures: The Royal Palace of Gödöllő

Judit Vasmatyics Paolini

Hungary had many castles and palaces, but none surpassed the magnificence of the royal palace of Gödöllő.

The Royal Palace of Gödöllő is a magnificent imperial palace with splendid Baroque architecture. The grounds are expansive with a well-kept sprawling park and lovely gardens which beckon to delight any visitor. Count Antal Grassalkovich I (1694-1771), a well-known aristocrat who was a *kamaraőr*, a Royal

Septemvir and president of the Hungarian Chamber built the Grassalkovich Castle (as it was first known). Work on the building commenced around 1733 under the supervision of Andreas Mayerhoffer – a prominent architect highly regarded for his Baroque and Zopf style which was so popular during the later part of the 18th century.

The palace was completed around 1748, having three wings and an inner courtyard. However, numerous expansions and modifications continued throughout the 18th century. Some were completed by Antal himself while others were accomplished by his son and grandson. The ornate theater was constructed by his son, Antal II. The lovely spas and the orangery were created by his grandson, Antal III. The double U shaped composition of the palace materialized during the grandson's residence. It was he who witnessed completion of this majestic structure in the early part of the 19th century.

Once finished, the castle contained eight wings. A great number of rooms were designed to be utilized residentially. However, this grand palace provided so much more for its inhabitants. It incorporated a Catholic church, dedicated on May 16th, 1749 in honor of St. John Nepomucene. The baldachin placed above the high altar sits on four tall, black marble pillars. A noteworthy characteristic of the church is that it includes two pulpits designed in Rococo fashion. The church was accessible from the upstairs rooms providing easy admittance for the royal residents to attend Mass.

There was also a lovely Baroque theater as well as a riding-hall. In addition to the orangery, there was, of course, a greenhouse for flowers.



dearly. Oh, she was so fond of gypsy music and hosted gypsy bands on several occasions. She learned to speak Hungarian fluently. In Vienna, she felt tremendous pressure regarding her royal duties – she felt the scrutiny of the Habsburgs!

Conversely, Franz Joseph had very little time to indulge in leisure ac-

The garden designed by Antal I was very suitable for aristocrats such as himself – it reflected financial wealth and political influence. There was an upper and lower garden; its style was distinctively French and fashioned after the one in Versailles, featuring immense, symmetrical, planting beds which formed geometric designs; fountains, and stairs which led from one level to the next.

However, tastes and styles change. To reflect the times, his grandson transformed the garden in the 19th century. Thus, emerged a beautiful English landscape garden or park. Such a garden has no symmetrical character; it is spacious and open, often has a lake, rolling lawns with groves of trees, bridges, and attractive architecture. This was vastly different from the French garden where nature was used to create a view of geometric designs; the intent of the English garden was to enjoy nature, not control it.

In 1841, the last male descendent

of the Grassalkovich family died, and the castle was passed to the female line. Once this happened, the palace was sold numerous times until it was acquired by the Hungarian State in 1867. Great care was taken in renovating the palace which was then given as a coronation gift to Emperor Franz Joseph I and Queen Elizabeth in 1867.

Franz Joseph received the Royal Palace of Gödöllő as a present, but was also required by his pledge at the coronation to spend regular intervals in Hungary. Elizabeth treasured spending time there; it was her summer home. She loved Hungary and its people; they too were very fond of her. She found staying at the palace peaceful and relaxing. When she longed for solitude, it was hers. When she preferred company, grand activities were designed for her – horse racing, pigeon shooting, etc. She particularly enjoyed horseback riding; elite Hungarian equestrians often visited the castle, including Count Gyula Andrássy who some believe loved her

activities, for his work consumed his time in Hungary as it did in Vienna. Sensing the burden as the ruler of a dual monarchy, he worked very long hours. However, he did participate in hunts which involved shooting big game. The palace symbolized Hungary's independent statehood; in addition, it served as a political center in its own right. It was during this era that the palace again saw new enlargements and modifications in order to better accommodate the royal family. Work included enhancing the residential suites, constructing a marble stable and coach house, and renovating the riding-hall. Thus, having the royal family in residence, the picturesque palace in Gödöllő delighted in its second golden age.

Franz Joseph died in 1916; upon his death his grandnephew, King Charles IV (1887-1922) became King of Hungary. Charles and the royal family spent only a brief period at the palace due to the difficulties of World War I. In 1920, Miklós Horthy (1868-1957) became

the Regent of Hungary and enjoyed the manor as a summer respite until 1944. During World I and World War II, no construction occurred to enhance the palace. However, an air-raid shelter was built during World War II. Unfortunately, all glimpse of a golden age of the palace faded, for Germans and Russians alike depleted the castle of its treasures.



Ornate façade of Gödöllő royal palace

From 1945 until 1990, the Russian military utilized the southern wing and outbuildings while the main portion of the palace provided housing for the elderly. In addition, the grounds were portioned off into small lots. The Soviets left in 1990, and housing for the elderly was discontinued. Thus, after years of neglect, the palace had suffered extensive damage.

Restoration of the palace began already in 1985; for this reason, some of the mansion was partially cleared. The more extensive restorations commenced only upon the departure of the Russian troops and the elderly.

Restoring the palace was a tremendous undertaking which also required reconstruction in some parts of the manor. The roof of the riding-hall and the stable-wing was severely damaged and necessitated rebuilding. Structural support was also needed; for example, both the central wings and the double cupola required reinforcing. Great care was taken to maintain the integrity of the mansion. Utilizing information found in the archives helped recreate its authenticity. Removing paint which shrouded walls and rooms unveiled the beauty of the previous centuries. Architectural structures were unearthed as were the former designs of the palace gardens.

The goal in the reconstruction was to allow the best use of the main

front wings of the castle; a well thought out, elaborate architectural plan was implemented. Twenty-three rooms on the first floor were restored to reflect the period of the royal residence at the palace. Also, included is the time the Grassalkovich family occupied the manor. Great emphasis was placed on the Baroque church.

We must note that one of the rooms replicated is a room from the 17th century constructed by the first resident of the castle for Empress Maria Theresa. Striking features in this room included colorful stucco and red marble.

Restoration of the first floor of the castle includes the ceremonial room which is located at the center of the main wing. It was used for special events such as state dinners, concerts, pageantry, etc. The suites occupied by the royal family include the family dining room. Some of the suites occupied by Franz Joseph included his office where he completed especially important duties, as well as the office of his adjutant-secretary. Also located here we find a small Coronation Room where one of the walls displays an immense painting of the coronation.

The predominant color utilized in the suites used by Elizabeth is her favorite violet blue. It's featured on the walls, curtains and incorporated in

the furnishings, especially on seat coverings. Numerous paintings of the King and Queen can be spotted throughout the palace.

In 1996, the Royal Palace of Gödöllő opened its doors to the public as a museum, with only eight rooms completed for exhibition. Over time, the number of rooms ready for display exceeded thirty. Now, in addition to viewing the splendid manor there are so

many more options to enjoy: classical concerts, activities for children, conferences.

The grounds of the estate today reflect those of an English garden of yesteryear. There is an abundance of natural scenery, and a sprawling park with ample space for enjoying the outdoors is located behind the castle. Lovely flowers thrive on the estate with tender care. Some are near the rear façade of the manor. Others appear and bloom along the park's border. Strolling along, one can view a statue of Maria Theresa. Further on, nestled between the trees sits the only Baroque structure which has been renovated. This royal pavilion is rather small with seating available for but a few. The walls here contain portraits of Hungary's former rulers.

A good number of years ago, I had a chance to visit the royal palace myself. It was well worth the trip as I stepped back in time, taking delight in a magnificent Hungarian wonder, the Royal Palace of Gödöllő.

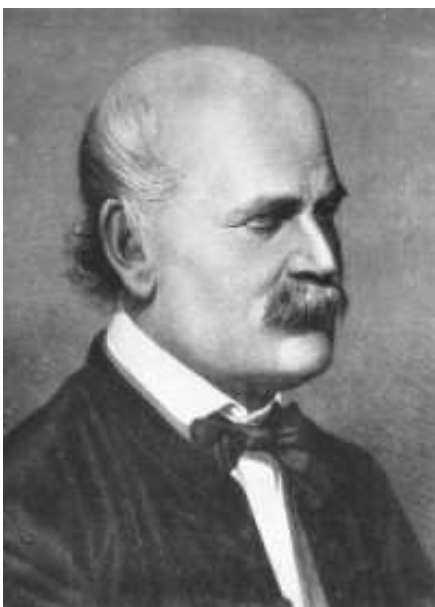
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Semmelweis, Father of Infection Control

By Olga Vállay Szokolay

In the civilized modern world, everyone's mother has been constantly reminding her offspring: "Wash Your Hands". Yet most people have no idea where the currently ubiquitous household slogan, used daily in these COVID-19 times, originated. The more informed might have heard the story of the 19th century physician Semmelweis who spent his short and miserable life saving lives of young mothers by preaching and teaching hygiene in the delivery room. But precious few ever knew that this life-saving obstetrician was – yes, you guessed it – Hungarian!

In the age of public telephone booths and pertinent phone books in Budapest, one would have found names of the most diversified nationalities, representing the historic ethnic composition of the country. In my opinion, Hungary has been one of the ethnically most mixed nations, second only to the United States.



Semmelweis Ignác Fülöp

The name is German, as many Magyars' name is. The fifth child out of ten, by parent's successful grocery store owner Semmelweis József and Müller Teréz, *Semmelweis Ignác Fülöp* was born on July 1st, 1818 in the Tabán section of Buda. Considering the size of their family, lack of information about his early years is understandable.

At age 19, Ignác began studying law at the University of Vienna. Next year he must have heard his calling and he switched to medicine. He was awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1844. After failing to obtain an appointment in a clinic for internal medicine, he was relegated to specialize in obstetrics.

In the mid-19th century, about five women in 1,000 died in deliveries performed by midwives or at home. Yet, when doctors working in the best maternity hospitals in Europe and America performed deliveries, the maternal death rate was often 10 to 20 times greater. At the Vienna General Hospital there were two obstetrical clinics. One under the supervision of a professor, assisted by Dr. Semmelweis teaching medical students, the other clinic teaching midwives. The mortality rate at the first one was far greater than that of the second.

Invariably, the cause was *puerperal fever* or *childbed fever*, with its raging fevers, putrid pus oozing from the birth canal and painful abscesses in the abdomen and chest, leading to an irreversible descent into an absolute hell of sepsis and death, within 24 hours of the baby's birth.

Women assigned to Dr. Semmelweis' jurisdiction were begging him on their knees to be dis-

charged, because they believed these doctors to be the "harbingers of death". Some opted for delivering in the street on their way to the hospital, since their chances for survival seemed better that way.

He listened, while he was severely troubled. He was on the verge of depression trying to find the cause of the puzzling reality. The only difference between the two clinics was the group of medical students who would come to obstetrics, to mothers delivering babies, *straight from the morgue* just as they were, *without any means of disinfection*. Horrifying as it may be for us today, that was the medical norm of the day.

Though Semmelweis' observations conflicted with the established medical opinion, he ultimately made the vital connection that childbed fever was caused by the *doctors transferring some type of "morbid poison"* from dissected corpses in the autopsy suite to the women laboring in the delivery room. That morbid poison is now known as the bacteria called *Group A hemolytic streptococcus*. Simultaneously, other theories were circulating about the cause of puerperal fever. In international medical circles, the idea of the disease's contagiousness spread by doctors was accepted. Harvard anatomist *Oliver Wendell Holmes* published "The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever" in 1843, in which he recommended that actively practicing obstetricians abstain from performing autopsies on women who died of childbed fever.

Concurrently, Dr. Semmelweis ordered his medical students and junior physicians to *wash their hands* in a chlorinated lime solution until the putrid smell

of the bodies they dissected in the autopsy suite was no longer detectable. In 1847, soon after this protocol was instituted, *the mortality rates* on the doctor-dominated obstetrics service *plummeted*.

170 years ago, on May 15th, 1850 he presented the "Wash Your Hands" idea to his illustrious colleagues at the grand and ornately decorated Vienna Medical Society's lecture hall. Despite his rather obvious data, he met with enormous resistance and criticism.

Semmelweis had two strikes against him from the beginning: he was Hungarian and he was Jewish. This was aggravated by his difficult temperament and inconsiderate manners. Against the repeated urging of his supporters, he refused to publish his "self evident" findings until 13 years after making them. To make matters worse, he hurled outrageously rude insults to some of the most powerful doctors who questioned his ideas.

This unhappy man was increasingly becoming so angry at each criticism that he lost his clinical appointment at the Vienna General Hospital. That prompted him to abruptly leave for Pest-Buda in October 1850, without even telling his closest colleagues. In May, 1851 he took the unpaid honorary head-physician position of the obstetrics ward of Szent Rókus Hospital, at Pest. At his first visit to the location, he found deplorable conditions, childbed fever being rampant. After taking over he virtually eliminated the disease. In four years, only eight patients out of 933 who gave birth died from it. In 1857, he declined an offer to become professor of obstetrics at the University of Zürich. Instead, he married Weidenhofer Mária, 19



years his junior, with whom he had five children.

Finally, in 1861, he published his work "The Etiology, Concept and the Prophylaxis of Childbed Fever". In this work he explained his theories on the disease, the ways to avoid spreading it by means of vigorous hand washing as well as an attack on every one of his critics "with a vitriol that still leaps off the page".

As his behavior became more and more erratic, his contemporaries, including his wife, believed he was losing his mind. Nearly twenty years after his breakthrough, Semmelweis was committed to a provincial insane asylum in Döbling, Austria on July 30th, 1865 for what may have been an unbridled case of bipolar disease. He died two weeks later there, on August 13th, 1865, at age 47, of septic shock.

Historians still argue over what caused his mental breakdown and subsequent death. Some point to an operation he had performed where he infected himself with syphilis that would also explain his insanity. Others suspect his

guards beat him to death.

The professional timing of Semmelweis could not have been worse. He made his landmark discovery long before the medical profession was ready to accept it. He was derided as eccentric at best and, at worst, as an angry, unstable man who ought to be drummed out of the profession. The unstable political situation between Austria and Hungary did not work in his favor either.

Pasteur's germ theory of disease occurred in the early 1860s. A few years later, the Scottish surgeon Joseph *Lister* (who had never heard of Semmelweis!) advocated the theory and practice of antiseptic surgery, including *hand washing* with carbolic acid to prevent infection.

It was not until the dawn of the 20th century that Semmelweis and his theory became accepted and appreciated. Since then, physicians and historians have highly praised his work and expressed sympathy for his emotional troubles and premature death. Today, in every school of medicine and public health, his name is uttered with great reverence whenever the importance of hand washing is mentioned. And, most appropriately, Semmelweis University in Budapest is proudly saving his name forever.

His detractors were wrong and he was right. For that, Semmelweis paid a heavy price as he devoted his short, troubled life's obsession pushing the boundaries of knowledge in the noble quest to save lives.

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The "Spanish" Flu in Hungary

Olga Vállay Szokolay

At long last, something that was not invented by a Hungarian... Even the Spaniards were associated with it totally unfairly.

Although there are a few different versions, the "Spanish" flu most likely originated at a military camp in Fort Riley, Kansas, in the spring of 1918, where American soldiers gathered before their transfer to Europe. In that last semester of World War I, in an effort to boost morale and avoid panic among both the military and the civil population, newspapers of both sides involved in the war euphemized the situation, trying to diminish both the medical seriousness and the death toll of the disease.

Spain was one of the few countries that did not partake in the war, thus her press was not restricted by censorship. Therefore, their news could be printed freely, including some gruesome details about the new disease. Hence the name "Spanish Flu", even though it did not originate in Spain.

The Hungarian press, including the most respected papers, was no exception. They euphemized, even falsified the data. We will deal with it in more detail below.

In my childhood, the grownups still talked a lot about the "Spanyol" – referring to the so-called *Spanish Flu*. Not only claimed the controversial 1918 pandemic astronomical numbers of lives, it allegedly left some recovered patients with latent side effects that made the victims extremely *vulnerable* to undisclosed maladies.

Years later I learned that both my husband's parents, afflicted with the disease in their younger years, died prematurely – although six years apart – both at age 49, due to a residual susceptibility and weakness of some of their organs.

Following the pandemic, doctors shared the opinion worldwide that various side effects were commonplace.

The disease was mysterious on many levels and was further camouflaged by the media. Even the most famous doctors declared that it was nothing more than a regular cold or flu, same symptoms, lasting 2-3 days, full recovery. In reality, as confirmed by recent analysis of corpses and their genetic material cold-preserved in Alaska, the Spanish flu pandemic was caused by an *avian influenza virus*, more specifically the *A type H1N1 variant*. The 1918 pathogen was allegedly 39,000 times more virulent than flu viruses today. The virus was so fast that someone could wake up with a severe cough, leaves for work and could die on his way.

Data on the disease in the spring of 1918 is vague. If any, it appeared in the countryside. All we know is that on June 14th, 1918 the reputable daily paper *Pesti Hirlap* wrote that the Spanish flu was *remitting*. Three days later the virus appeared even in Budapest.

Based on scattered contemporary news, it seems that initially, in June, the virus involved only smaller groups, especially ones in contact with prisoners of war and soldiers. Accounts of the disease appeared during the rest of the summer, but the situation became really tragic only later.

After months of the authorities and the press whitewashing the seriousness of the situation, the disease gained new strength in September. To make the circumstances more

severe, there were not enough physicians, since many were still with the troops at the battlefields. Some of them were released from the military to help against the pandemic only in October. Also, communications as well as health care conditions of the day were far from adequate in Hungary, even in Budapest. Ambulances did not take "pandemic patients". According to an article in *Friss Ujság, October 9th, 1918*, a girl was found roaming in the street looking for a hospital. Since it took *three hours* from the first call for the vehicle of the disinfection institute to get her, by then the girl had developed a pneumonia-related heart weakness and died after a short agony of a heart attack in the street, "among the ringing tram cars".

The September 28th edition of *Pesti Napló* blamed the authorities for being unprepared and waking up to reality *after* the Spanish flu had ravaged for three weeks, and put in force certain regulations *only then* instead of at the onset of the pandemic. The mayor of Budapest, after consulting with his medical adviser, ordered establishing separate wards to take care of Spanish flu patients. He *considered* closing all locations where people meet in large numbers, primarily schools, *if the pandemic does not stop*. Thus, all precautionary measures were implemented too late.

One of the most serious complications of the pandemic was pneumonia. Yet the Hungarian press denied any relation between the two, even in September. They had to admit later that they were wrong, very wrong.

Ultimately, they closed schools in the autumn of 1918. While the closing was meant for two weeks only, the school breaks lasted several months. Various compromises were initiated for the operation of cinemas and theaters, as well as street-

cars. Adequate ventilation was required which meant open windows on the trams, even in the winter.

The second wave was extremely severe. In September-October 1918, it was no longer possible to conceal the destruction of the pandemic. Hungarian newspapers wrote regularly about the infection and the health officials published a regular daily summary report. The disease slightly eased in late October and early November but intensified again by the end of November.

Oddly, the virus devastated not the elderly, but the healthy young people between the ages of 20 and 40. Scientists speculated that while older people might have become exposed to and immunized against such infections earlier, the younger age group had not yet encountered this type of virus in their lifetime. Among middle-aged people, the virus primarily threatened those already having a serious illness. The mega-famous poet *Ady Endre* died at the end of January 1919 and in its January 28th necrology, the daily *Népszava* mentioned the *Spanish flu* as the direct cause of his death. Another famous literary figure, *Kaffka Margit*, also died of the disease, together with her young son.

A few days after the murder of former Prime Minister *Count Tisza István*, the November 7th issue of *Népszava* reported that his son, *Huszár-Lieutenant Tisza István Jr.* died of the Spanish flu on the family estate at Geszt.

In the complicated times with the end of the war and its chaotic aftermath (see elsewhere in this issue) involving the Aster Revolution, *Népszava* reported the victory of the revolution *on the front page*, while mentioning the public healthcare orders of the National Council

on the sixth page. The pandemic also took its toll in the rural areas, as scores of newspaper articles across the country testified.

To aggravate the pandemic, the water was shut off at night in Budapest. Citing the need for repair work on pipes and lack of material for the venture, the situation remained unresolved for months.

Numerical data of the sick and deceased by January is so conflicting that it is not worth mentioning. February 1919, however, was the first month with only one casualty.

The Spanish flu was the worst pandemic of the 20th century, probably of recorded history, claiming far more victims than World War I itself. The worldwide numbers, however, are as loose as the ones of Hungary. For ease of conceiving the magnitude, the global numbers were **established** as follows:

Spanish flu infections: 500 million, about one third of the world's population at the time.

Spanish flu deaths: 50 million, or 10% of the infected

Numerical data for Hungary would probably dwarf by comparison. Due to the inconsistent and often contradicting records, not even a reliable estimate is available. For orientation, we can accept a report by *Az Est*, of January 3rd, 1919, based on flimsy national data that by October 1918, 44,000 Hungarians had died of the pandemic. This number was considered underestimated.

Had the authorities and the press been more sincere and prudent about the disease, ordering stricter limitations of gathering, social distancing and hygiene, the numbers probably would have been significantly lower. Yet, considering that



virology was still in its first decades, the possibility of medical intervention would have been questionable at best.

Trying to make sense of our today's predicament with the Coronavirus, we naturally *compare* it with the 1918 Spanish flu and try to *draw conclusions* from it. If there is anything we should learn, it is the need for honesty and early preventive measures.

Better safe than sorry!

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A Short History of Polish-Hungarian Friendship

Charles Bálintitt Jr.

There is a connection between Poland and Hungary that dates back to the late Middle Ages. On April 9th 1241 the Mongols invaded Poland and defeated a combined Polish and Moravian army at the Battle of Legnica. Two days later the beginning of a much more overwhelm-

ing defeat took place in Hungary at the Battle of Mohi (Muhi Csata), where the Hungarians were aided mostly by the Croats, since Hungarian King Béla IV was also the king of Croatia. Most of the Hungarian army was killed and in the aftermath of the battle the rest of the population was devastated, with estimated losses ranging from 15% to almost 50% of the population.

I believe that as a result of the shared suffering due to these defeats, the few times that these countries were united by a single ruler, and for various cultural similarities as well, Poland and Hungary came to aid each other numerous times over the coming centuries. Here then are just a few of the many connections between these two countries:

Not long before the Mongolian invasions of 1241, Kinga, the daughter of King Béla IV of Hungary, married a Polish duke, who would become the High Duke of Poland in 1243, later known as Boleslaw V the Chaste. Approximately 15 and 13 respectively, at the time of their marriage, they were both very religious and took a vow of chastity; so they never had children. She became known as Kinga of Poland and at the age of 45, upon the death of her husband, she sold all of her worldly possessions, gave the money to the poor, and became a Poor Clare nun. In 1690, she was beatified by Pope Alexander VIII and five years later she was named the chief patroness of Poland and Lithuania. She was canonized by the Polish Pope John Paul II on June 16, 1999. It is also interesting to note that her aunt was Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (canonized in 1235) and that her sister became Saint Margaret of Hungary (she was canonized in 1943 after earlier attempts in 1640 and 1770).

From 1370 to 1382, the Hungarian

King Louis the Great also became the king of Poland. He was named heir to the throne by his mother's brother, King Casimir III the Great, since he had no sons. This initial union did not go over so well with the Polish nobility. They did not want to be ruled from Hungary, so after the death of Louis, they chose his younger daughter Jadwiga (Hedvig, in Hungarian, and also known as Jadwiga of Poland, and later Saint Jadwiga – she was beatified on August 8, 1986 and canonized on June 8, 1997 by Pope John Paul II) to be their new Queen. Her older sister, Mary, became the Queen of Hungary. Both ascended to their respective thrones in their youth and neither reached the age of 26.

The two countries were united again from 1440 to 1444 when Wladyslaw III of Poland also became the King of Hungary as I. Ulászló. And then in 1572, when the Polish King Sigismund II Augustus died without any heirs, there was a dispute over the succession. One faction wanted Maximilian II, the Holy Roman Emperor, from the House of Habsburg, while others wanted a Polish king. In the end they asked the Prince of Transylvania, Báthory István, to marry Anna Jagiellon, the sister of King Sigismund II Augustus. Thus in 1576, Báthory István became king of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He brought some of the customs of Transylvania with him, as well as introducing Poland to some good Hungarian wines and saber makers. At the time, the saber, in Poland, was called the "Hungarian saber" (later renamed after a couple of Polish kings). He also formed the first unit of Polish hussars. There are other connections as well, and the intermarriage of many members of the nobility.

Before the Treaty of Trianon in 1920 and the creation of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland shared a com-

mon border for hundreds of years. They also helped each other many times over the years. In the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, Polish General Józef Zachariasz Bem (Bem József), who was already a national hero in Poland, became one in Hungary as well, when he came to the aid of the Hungarians in their battle against the Habsburgs. During the Polish-Soviet War (1919-21), Hungary offered to send troops to Poland, but when this turned out to be impossible in the aftermath of World War I, they found a way to send them ammunition instead. After Hitler's takeover of the Sudetenland, in late 1938 and the subsequent return of southern Slovakia to Hungary, a Polish Hungarian border was restored, also with diplomatic assistance from Poland. Then in 1939, when Hitler wanted to go through Hungary to invade eastern Poland, Admiral Horthy refused as a matter of honor because of the old friendship with Poland. Later, when the Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland, as many as 120,000 Polish troops were allowed to escape through the new Hungarian border.

The Poznan workers' protest that began in Poland in June of 1956 may have actually been the catalyst that led to the Hungarian Uprising in October of 1956. When news reached Budapest, students and workers showed their solidarity with their Polish brothers by gathering at the statue of General Józef Bem, eventually making their own demands for similar reforms in Hungary. On October 23rd, after Hungarian protesters were fired upon by soldiers and the Revolution began in earnest, over 11,000 Poles gave blood and sent other medical supplies to help their Hungarian friends.

Hungarians and Poles have a lot of similarities in their cultures. The above mentioned events are just a few examples of what has drawn these two societies together over

We would like to invite you to participate in the
III. Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day in New York



which will take place on
Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 4 PM
 at the
Hungarian House of New York
 312 E 82 St., New York, NY, 10028

Children's Activity for 5-12 year olds from 4 to 6 PM with registration only.

Kindly RSVP by April 15, E-mail: svp.ny@wfa.gov.hu



Invitation to the III Polish - Hungarian Friendship Day in New York; State seal of Queen Jadwiga (Hedvig); State seal of Louis of Hungary as Polish king; Portrait of Queen Anne Jagiello in coronation robe; Portrait of King Stephen Báthori; Portrait of General Józef Bem; Arcaded courtyard at the Wawel Royal Castle; Tombstone of Queen Anne Jagiello; Tombstone of King Stephen Báthori.

the centuries. A dear friend of our family, de Görgey Guido (who would have turned 100 this year and is a descendant of the famous Hungarian General, de Görgey Arthur), was married to a wonderful Polish woman, Maria (born Maria Gieysztor, who actually wrote 2 cookbooks that can still be found online, about Polish and Lithuanian cuisine). Both have departed this world, but I still remember some of my good conversations with Maria. Every time I would mention something that was invented by a Hungarian, she would always say something like: "You know that the Polish actually invented it first." There are a couple of sayings, or short poems, that date back over 200 years, with each country having a slightly different version. Here I am just giving a literal trans-



Pendant attributed to princess Kinga

Polak, Węgier — dwa bratanki,
i do szabli, i do szklanki,
oba zuchy, oba żwawi,
niech im Pan Bóg błogosławi.*

Polish, Hungarian - two brothers*
And to the saber and to the
glasses,
Both courageous, both lively
May God bless them both!

(*brat is brother, bratanki can also
be translated as "nephews")

*Lengyel, magyar – két jó barát,
Együtt harcol s issza borát,
Vitéz s bátor mindkettője,
Áldás szálljon mindkettőre.*

Polish, Hungarian – two good
friends,
They fight together and drink their
wine,
Gallant and brave are they both,
May blessings fall on them both!

lation, to maintain the meaning; but Perth, Australia.
the rhyme is evident in each original version:

As a result of the great history of comradery between these two nations, on March 12, 2007 the Hungarian Parliament, by a unanimous vote, declared March 23rd as Polish-

Hungarian Friendship Day. The Polish Parliament did the same four days later. Since then, this day has been celebrated in both countries. The main celebration is held in each country on alternating years. This year the President of Poland was scheduled to come to Hungary, but the trip was cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. In New York, the celebration has taken place a few times at the New York Hungarian House and at a Polish venue in alternating years, but often at a later date, generally sometime in April. Celebrations also take place in various cities around the world, where Poles and Hungarians have a presence, such as Minneapolis, Minnesota or

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(Mushrooms with paprika and sour cream)

A wonderful spring dish, which includes – among other things – three indispensable Hungarian ingredients: onions, paprika and sour cream. How can you go wrong?

1lb mushrooms
1 large onion
3 Tbs. sour cream
oil, salt
1Tbs. flour
red paprika (according to taste)

Chop onion and sauté in the oil.
Add the paprika, ½ cup of water and the salt.
Clean the mushrooms with a wet paper towel, slice them and add them to the onions. Cook until the mushrooms are tender.
Mix flour with the sour cream until smooth, and add to the mushrooms.
Cook another few minutes.
May be served with any kind of pasta (dumplings, macaroni, or shells).



Hungarian Jacobins of the 18th Century

Karolina Tima Szabo

Absolutist rule, by its very nature, usually engenders opposition and revolt.

People want to have a say in the way they are governed. Even if the goal is unattainable, they dream of bringing about change. Such was the case of the Hungarian Jacobins. The execution of most of them in May 1795 is our excuse for running this article at this time.

The 18th century French Revolution sowed the seed in the Hungarian soil. Francis II (1792-1835), Holy Roman (and later, as Francis I, Austrian) Emperor and King of Hungary, was not a smart man or highly educated. He had no hostility toward Hungary, but his patriarchal rule was unsuited to the period of time in history, and was harmful for the countries he ruled. He distanced many of the reform-minded people with his conservative absolutism.

One of these was Martinovics Ignác, who was a brilliant man. He spoke, wrote and translated from 10 languages, but he had a restless soul. He attended the Piast school in Pest. Having finished the lower grades there, he joined the Franciscan Order, and received a doctorate in Theology and Philosophy in Baja in 1773. Because of his restless nature, he moved around a lot. At one point he was an army priest, where he met a Polish count. With the count's money he traveled all over Europe. During that time, he met many scholars, and many Freemasons, and he became a believer in the Enlightenment.

His written studies sparked the

interest of the Habsburg court, and he was invited to teach the Natural Sciences at Lemberg University, then was appointed Dean of Philosophy. A year later he became a secret agent for the Royal Court. He reported on the Freemasons and the Jesuits he was associated with. For this work, and also for his knowledge, he became a Court Counselor. After the death of Emperor Leopold II, he kept writing his reports, but King Francis I disliked him, and sent him away, naming him abbot of Szászvár. By that time his views had changed, maybe because he could not get into Francis' favor, and he became an atheist. He still sent his reports to the Court, but was ignored, and eventually fired. He kept writing his atheist works in secret, three of which were confiscated by the king. He attacked imperial censorship, and the Monarchy's Hungarian politics.

With the French Jacobin Society serving as an example, Martinovics started the Hungarian Jacobin movement in 1794. He established two clubs, and was the "president" of both. The leader of the moderate club, the *Reformátorok Társasága* (Society of Reformers) was Sigray Jakab. This group was the more conservative of the two. They wanted to address the most important issues:

- Hungary was to become a noble federal republic, which would include Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, Slovakia, Transylvania and Bánát;
- each of these were to have their own constitution, use their own language and keep their own religions;
- all minorities were to have equal rights;
- the rights of the serfs were to be expanded, short of giving them property rights
- the composition of Parliament was to be changed, to consist of

two houses, one for the nobility, the other for the commoners;
- taxes were to be cut, support given to the arts and sciences, and the rights of man were to be observed.

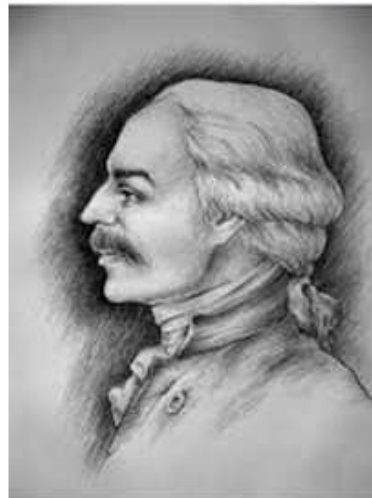
Basically, they advocated for social reforms, without violence.

Leaders of the more radical group "*Szabadság és Egyenlőség Társaság*" (Society of Liberty and Equality) were Hajnóczy József, Szentmarjay Ferenc and Laczkovics János.

Members were from noble families, and educated men, such as Kazinczy Ferenc, Verseghy Ferenc. During the rule of Emperors Joseph II and Leopold II, these people had a promising future. As with Martinovics, all changed after Francis became King. This group wanted a dictatorial regime, to nationalize the Church's and King's lands, and eliminate some taxes. It is interesting that the Society of Reformers did not know of the existence of the other group.

The movement had supporters in Romania, Slovakia, and Croatia, but despite the request that each member recruit two new members, they did not establish close contact with the majority of Hungary.

The French Jacobins (which had their meetings in the Rue St. Jacques monastery, where the name came from), had been organized by Maximilian Robespierre, who became their leader. Originally, they wanted to represent the city's poor, the unemployed, the small bourgeoisie; but they eventually became an extremely radical society. After they took over power, with the help of the poor people of Paris, they became a terror group. They wanted to eliminate religion, close all thea-



The Execution, Martinovics, Kazinczy, Batsányi, Laczkovics, Szentmarjai, and Hajnóczy

ters and music halls, to control every aspect of people's lives. (One minor change: they eliminated the 7 day-week and replaced it with a 10-day week!) The more moderates left the club, but they were quickly eliminated, as were the opposition. The exact date of the start of the Jacobins' Reign of Terror has been disputed, with some placing it as early as 1789. (It ended on July 27th, 1794, with the death of Robespierre.)

During that time, they had executed close to 17 000 people, including King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

The Hungarian Jacobins were working in secret, still in July 1794 they came to the attention of the imperial secret service. On July 23rd, Martinovics was arrested in Vienna, where his real character appeared: he was a spineless but egotistic man. He did spill the names of the Society's members, and exaggerated the importance of what he did. On August 16th, all the leaders were apprehended. The trial was moved from Vienna to Buda, and the Seven Member Court of Appeals deliberated for five months, to make the case sound more serious than it actually was. The charge was high treason. What was on paper didn't constitute treason, but the prisoners were bribed to tell on the others, or were told that the others had already told on them. The charges were beefed up and the sentences were way too severe, to serve as an example for the future.

Thirteen were sentenced to death, but six of them were pardoned. Three were sentenced to 10 years in prison, three to 5 years in prison, nine to 3 years in prison, and 15 were pardoned. While in prison, two committed suicide, one lost his mind, one died during the trial, one died in jail. In most



Graves of the Jacobins

cases, the King lowered the sentences that were handed down by the Court.

Those who were sentenced were sent to the most severe prisons - Kufstein, Spielberg and others.

On May 20th, 1795, Martinovics, Sigray, Hajnóczy, Szentmarjay and Laczkovics, were beheaded at what was then called the General Meadow (*Generális rét*) in Buda;

Óz and Solártsik were executed at the same place on June 3rd. The area has since then been called *Vérmező* (Blood Meadow).

While the French Jacobins had about 400 000 members in Paris and in the region, the Hungarian Jacobins numbered about 100. What can a hundred men do? Physically, they did nothing. All Martinovics did was to put his program on paper, as in a catechism. It was no danger to the Monarchy whatsoever. They were nowhere near as dangerous as the Robespierre Jacobins. The Hungarians didn't walk their talk. Theirs was only a wish, a dream, but it did serve as an example for the 1848's Youth of March.

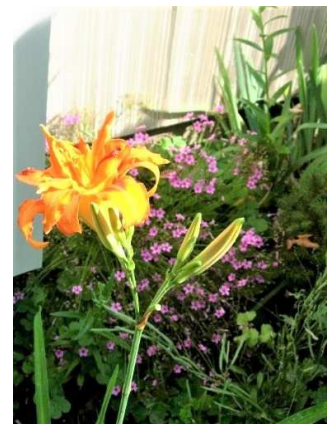
Karolina Tima Szabo is a retired Systems Analyst of the Connecticut Post newspaper and Webmaster of Magyar News Online. She is the proud grandmother of two.

Mennék eléd

Áprily Lajos

Every year, we can hardly wait for spring to come. Áprily Lajos expresses this primeval yearning in this lovely poem.

Menék eléd, mert itt vagy már közel.
A déli oldalon leskedel.
Gyökerek hallják könnyű léptedet,
átküldesz egy-egy halk lehetet,
mely szűzies még és illattalan,
de sejtető, jó langyossága van.
Csak arcom érzi még, nem sejtí más,
varázs van benne, keltető varázs.
Ahogy jársz, néma éberséged fogad,
keresd a rügyes sombokrokat,
hogy langyosságoddal rájuk lehelj
s kipattanjon a sárga kis kehely.
Feljössz az élre, melyet hó erez,
új válladon, a hátadon tegez,
benne az arany nyilakat hozod,
melyekkel a telet megnyilazod.
Mennék eléd, s mint fényváró anyám,
még utoljára elkiáltanám
nevedet, melyből napfény sugaraz:
Tavasz, tavasz! Tavasz, tavasz, tavasz!



It's a Small World!

EPF

This year, Pentecost Sunday occurs on May 31st. That's why we are running this piece on another "meeting" in a surprising place in this particular issue. Scene: the Csíksomlyó shrine in Transylvania. Date: 2006.

My friend Piroska H. and I, from the US, went with two other ladies, from Europe and Canada respectively, to Csíksomlyó, Transylvania for the annual Pentecost pilgrimage in 2006. Having made reservations for several nights, we arrived the day before the actual festivities, and immediately went to see the church housing the miraculous statue. (For a report on Csíksomlyó, see the July 2017 issue of Magyar News Online).

me over with a feather! My Mother was born in Vajdahunyad! Of the over 400,000 pilgrims who attended that year, I actually ran into someone from my Mom's birthplace??? Was this a case of a "Small World" episode, or was it a message? While it is tempting to say it was a "small world" encounter, I like to think Mom wanted me to know she was there with me!



Csíksomlyó church

It is the custom for pilgrims, who come in groups from near and far, to ring something like a Swiss cowbell as they enter the church. We were just leaving when a fresh group arrived and rang their bell. I asked one of the ladies where they were from. To my great surprise, she answered "Hunyad".

Now there are two Hunyads in Transylvania: Vajdahunyad and Bánffyunyad. To clarify, I asked her, "You mean Vajdahunyad?" "Yes", she replied. Well, you could have knocked



*Mary's miraculous statue (photo EPF);
cross in monastery courtyard (photo: Karolina Tima Szabo)*

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