

*The Wind and Beyond: Theodore Karman, Pioneer in Aviation and Pathfinder in Space.* By Theodore von Karman with Lee Edson. (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1967. Pp. 376.)

The first part of the book was written as an auto-biography by von Karman—the outstanding aeronautical scientist—in collaboration with Lee Edson, a journalist. After von Karman's death in 1963, at the age of 81, the work was completed by Edson.

Von Karman was born in Budapest, Hungary, where his father was a university professor and leading figure in the reorganization of the Hungarian secondary school system. At an early age, he exhibited the traits of a mathematical genius and, upon graduating from Budapest Technical University, became an assistant professor there. Later he resumed his studies at various German and French Universities and this led to his appointment as professor of aeronautics at Aachen University. From 1933 on von Karman was on staff at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and in this capacity was instrumental in the development of modern aviation in the United States. He took part in the scientific development of supersonic aviation, rocketry and space technology and acted as adviser to the U.S. Air Force and NATO during and after the war, respectively. Consequently his name has become inexorably linked with a number of important aeronautical discoveries. In addition to being a theoretician, von Karman was also a founder of Aerojet General Corporation, the world's largest rocket manufacturing company.

World wide recognition of von Karman is documented in the Appendix of the book which lists 29 honorary doctorates, 10 decorations and orders and 35 awards in testimony to his extraordinary contribution to twentieth century science.

In his private life he was a colourful personality who led an active social life. He counted Einstein, Bohr, Fermi and many other greats among his friends. He never married and his beloved sister ran his household for decades.

*The Wind and Beyond* is written in a vivid journalistic style and the story vies for interest and suspense with the best science-fiction novels. The only regret one feels in reading it is that the author does not dwell in more detail on von Karman the man as opposed to von Karman the scientist.

Mississauga, Ontario

G. Bethlendy

*Habsburg Otto - egy különös sors története* [Otto Habsburg: the Story of an Extraordinary Life]. By Emil Csonka. (Munich: Új Európa Kiadó, 1972. Pp. 580.)

What happened to the Habsburg dynasty after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire? What has been the life of the first Habsburg heir who could not occupy the throne of his ancestors? Emil Csonka, a Munich historian, undertook to answer these questions and thus to relate the life-history of Otto, King Charles' eldest son, from the time he was the heir-apparent, to his recognition as a European statesman.

This well-organized, scholarly work, written in excellent Hungarian, will be welcomed by those interested in modern political literature. Its topic is not only Otto Habsburg's life, but rather the era in which the eldest son of the last Hungarian King was born and brought up.

Otto was forced to leave Vienna with his parents at the age of six losing, at ten, his father the Emperor-King while in exile in Madeira. He was twenty when, at the request of his mother, Queen Zita, he launched a political campaign to regain the thrones of Austria and Hungary. According to Csonka, Queen Zita never gave up hope that political developments both in Vienna and Budapest would be such as to require return of Otto as Emperor-King. The extremely energetic widowed Queen worked hard on the restoration of the Monarchy. She obtained the cooperation of several outstanding politicians of the twenties and thirties and was successful in building up contacts with the royalist groups of the Austrian Republic and the Hungarian Kingdom. (After 1918, constitutionally, Hungary remained a Kingdom and the prerogatives of the King were exercised by a Regent).

The course mapped out for Otto by his mother was not an easy one. Neither socialist Vienna nor the majority of patriotic Hungarians wanted another Habsburg in the Viennese 'Hofburg' or the royal castle in Buda. Csonka gives a detailed account of Otto's political career in the Europe of the thirties. A royalist restoration is not an easy cause at best and is rarely successful. The exceptions were the Stuarts in England and the Bourbon King who returned to his throne after Napoleon's defeat. Once, very briefly, Otto also came close to success: immediately before the annexation of Austria his return was a distinct possibility, but Schuschnigg hesitated at the last moment and instead of Otto, Hitler marched to Vienna.

The anti-nazi attitude of the Habsburgs is well-known. Otto himself is a humanist, a democrat, and an enemy of dictationships. Accordingly, he and his family tried to promote the Austrian cause in France, England and the United States during the year of 1939 to 1945, but to little avail. The book describes the amazing political ignorance