fejlesztésének nincs már akadálya, folyamatban van – rövid- és hosszú távú – szerződéses kapcsolatrendszerünk kiépítése is, a legkülönbözőbb területeken. Ezt előmozdíthatja az is, hogy bár egymástól földrajzilag viszonylag távol levő két kis országról van szó, különböző okokból mind Magyarország, mind a Koreai Köztársaság nagyságát, potenciálját meghaladó nemzetközi mozgástérrel rendelkezik. Nem kis szerepet játszanak a különböző témájú kerekasztal-konferenciák, találkozók, mivel még meglehetősen kevés ismerettel rendelkezünk egymásról, kapcsolatfejlesztési lehetőségeinkről.

Fentiekben megkíséreltem áttekinteni a magyar-koreai kapcsolatok 100-150 éves előzményeit, a Korea-kép ("image") magyarországi kialakulását, elsősorban az 1945 előtti időszakban. Sajnos, a nagy földrajzi távolság, az eltérő történelmi fejlődés és politikai érdekeltség következtében ez a folyamat mindkét ország, mindkét kultúra számára kölcsönösen meglehetősen periferikus maradt a felszabadulás előtti évtizedekben, bár találunk érdekes, ma is figyelemre méltó elemeket. Közös érdek ezek feltárása, felhasználása mai együttműködésünkben.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HUNGARIAN-KOREAN RELATIONS

About a hundred years ago, on 23 June 1892 the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Kingdom of Korea signed a treaty on friendship, commerce and navigation which was unanimously ratified by the Hungarian Parliament on 20 April 1893. The ratification documents were exchanged in Seoul in autumn the same year. The Monarchy was the sixth power in Europe that signed a treaty of this kind with Korea, however relations between the two countries remained marginal because of the long distance, Korea's annexation by Japan and the fall of the Monarchy. Still I think that approaching centennial provides an excellent opportunity for exploring the preceding events and the early relations of our countries.

At the same time, the present improvement of the Hungarian-Korean relations in a wide range and the mutual need for enhancing knowledge about each other have resulted in increasing interest in the past history and culture of our countries and people both in Hungary and Korea. This kind of justified interest is almost naturally accompanied by a "trendy" search for possible historic ties and mutual relations mainly in the press of both countries. It is therefore by all means necessary to join forces in pursuit of real historic facts, cultural and other events which in spite of the substantial geographical distance, played a role one way or another in past centuries and which may offer useful conclusions for the future. At the same time we should make efforts now to prevent that former misconceptions or legends become renewed or any new ones start spreading.

In the light of what I have mentioned so far, I will try-without aiming at a full description-to give a brief outline of the events of the past 100-150 years of the Hungarian-Korean relations, focusing mainly on the period before 1945. It is understandable that my study takes a relatively emphatic Hungarian approach all the more so since I have mostly relied on Hungarian libraries, archives and other sources. This study also made it possible to trace back how and when Korea came to be part of public knowledge-however marginally-how the image of this ancient country in the Far East evolved in Hungary in the early 19th century before any official and other relations were established. In other words, what were the first reports about this "isolated" country which preceded the wealth of articles and studies on the "little dragon" or the "little tiger" that keep appearing in Hungary these

days. What road led from the almost accidental Korean visit of the first Hungarian travellers in the Far East to the successful participation of several hundreds of Hun-

garian sportsmen and sportswomen in the Olympic Games in Seoul.

In the 19th century it became increasingly common in Hungary to publish vaious types of lexicons and encyclopedia running to several volumes that contained up-to-date scientific knowledge and were quite widely used. To our present knowledge, such works included the first reports on Korea. For example, Volume 7 of the Közhasznu Esmeretek Tára" (Collection of Useful Facts) published in 1833, which was based on the British "Conversations Lexicon," contained almost half a page about Korea.

It gave a summary of facts of physical and economic geography, a description of the social and political system and government, the latter referred to as "rather despotic." It specifically mentioned "the famous library of the capital" which was

headed by the royal prince.

Although there was no special entry on Korea in the "Ujabb Kori Ismeretek Tára" (Collection of Facts of Modern Times) published in the early 1850s, Volume 10 of the "Egyetemes Magyar Encyclopedia" of 1872 (Universal Hungarian Encyclopedia) devoted again proper length to Korea, referring also to the country's isolation and the failure of the French expedition in 1866.

Dr. László Toldy's "A Föld és népei" (The Earth and Its Peoples), an adaptation from the German author, Fr. Hellward, was issued in 1880. Its third volume included a chapter of close to six pages on the "Korean peninsula." The work containing five volumes was published several times, last in the early years of the 20th century. It gave detailed account of Korea's geography, climate, major products, political and administrative situation and economy. We should note that this book was the first to publish an illustration of Korea, i.e., a Korean man with a pipe and a fan.

That lifelike drawing of quite good quality set a new trend in a way: for about thirty years Hungarian publications and travel books about Korea contained a fairly large number of contemporary photographs and drawings which are useful as eth-

nographic sources even today.

From then on, no lexicon or encyclopedia could have been published without an entry on Korea. For example, "Az Athenaeum Kézi Lexikona" (Athenaeum's Concise Lexikon) in 1892 (Volume 1, p. 939). The "PALLAS Nagy Lexikon" (PALLAS Great Lexikon) of 1895, which is still in wide use, published about two pages summarizing the country's geography, climate, products, facts on its population, industry, trade and administration. It was the first of its kind, giving a brief overview of the country's 19th century history, quoting the Korea King's manifesto of March 1895 and including an attached list of references to British, German, French, Russian and Hungarian literature.

By the early 20th century, Korea was already included in the curricula of Hungarian universities. The famous Hungarian geographer, Dr Jenő Cholnoky, held six lectures on East Asia in November and December 1904, and the printed notes are still available, "On Korea's position in the world and the Korean people, Korea is extremely important, indeed the Italy of the East Asian Mediterranean sees," wrote Professor Cholnoky, who himself had been to the Far East.

In addition to a number of less significant publications ("Franklin Kézi Lexikona" – Franklin's Concise Lexicon-of 1912; "A Napkelet Lexikona-Lexicon of the Orient-of 1927), outstanding importance is attached to a two-page entry on Korea that appeared in the RÉVAI Nagy Lexikon" (Révai's Great Lexicon) of 21 volumes

in 1915. Besides already known facts, that entry gave a historic overview looking back on two thousand years and contained a special section that dealt with the issues of Korean language and literature. The "TOLNAI ÚJ VILÁGLEXIKONA" (Tolnai's New World Lexicon) of 1927 was of superior quality with a four-page entry on Korea including several interesting illustrations, for example photograps of Sökkuram, the Namdaemun of Seoul, etc. It is interesting to read the "Katolikus Lexikon" (Catholic Lexicon) of 1932 which briefly described the position of religious missions and gave the numbers of believers, priests and churches, etc.

In addition to relatively short entries that appeared in "Uj Lexikon" (New Lexicon) in 1936 and "Uj Idők Lexikona (Lexicon in Modern Times) in 1939, Dr Jenő Cholnoky wrote again a six-page chapter on Korea with his own photographs in the Volume On Asia in the series A Föld és élete" (The Earth and Its Life) from 1936.

In general we can say that the lexicons and encyclopedia issued in Hungary in the 19th and 20th centuries published up-to-date facts about Korea comparable by contemporary scientific standards, although they were not fully devoid of errors and mistakes. They include certain erroneous statements about the origin of the Korean people and language, the internal situation and economy, etc. and there are occasionally fictitious and exaggerated elements mainly adapted from Western literature. It is interesting to note that the latter features were temporarily confirmed—and not dispelled—in the wake of travels to the Far East and direct on-site explorations that started towards the end of the 19th century. Such "colourful features" were often reflected even in the otherwise high standard "Földrajzi Közlemények" (Geographical Bulletins) which the Academy's Geographic Society began to publish in the 1870s (e.g., "A Korea hét csodájáról"—On the Seven Wonders of Korea—Volume XX, 1982, pp. 195–160.).

The first visit from the Austro-Hungarian monarchy to the Far East, which immediately gained political importance, was made in 1890. On government assignment, Corvette Zrinyi made a cruise in Asia with one of the most important official missions being to establish contacts with Korea with a view to making preparations for a treaty of friendship and commerce. The ship's surgeon, Dr Ferenc Gáspár published an illustrated travel book of 600 pages, "Negyvenezer mérföld vitorlával és gőzzel" (Forty Thousand Miles with Sails and Steam) on the cruise in 1893. In his book, the author devoted about 40 pages to Korea, the "isolated country" (adapted from Griffith). On 21 September 1890, Corvette Zrinyi set anchor in the port of then Chemulp'o from where the captain and his attendants rode on horseback to Seoul. They met several representatives of the Korean government and the Court on negotiations but no agreement was signed because of the funeral of the Oueen Mother and the court mourning. Unfortunately, the personal impressions and notes of the ship's surgeon about Korea are rather superficial and inaccurate, some of his statements are unfounded and biased. Apart from the fact of reporting, the publication has therefore hardly any value as a source for research. The first cruise was soon followed by Franz Ferdinand Archduke's journey aboard "Kaiserin Elisabeth" in the Far East in 1892 during which the Monarchy's Ambassador, Baron Rüdiger Biegeleben and Kwong Chee-Hueng, charge d'affaires and interim on behalf of the Korean Kingdom signed the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the two states on 23 June 1892. The Preamble to the Treaty stated this as its objective, "...being sincerely desirous of establishing permanent relations of Friendship and Commerce between Their respective Dominions and of facilitating the commercial intercourse between Their respective subjects, have resolved to conclude a Treaty for that purpose."

Further down, Section I of the Treaty pointed out, "There shall be perpetual Peace and Friendship between His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, Apostolic king of Hungary and His Majesty the king of Corea, and between Their respective subjects. Austrian and Hungarian subjects in Corea and Corean subjects in Austria-Hungary shall enjoy full security and protection for their persons and property."

We can say about the Treaty as such that it was signed by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy with the Kingdom of Korea recognized as an autonomous and independent state (it was also emphasized in a letter King Kojong sent to our Ambassador, a copy of which I attach here). The Treaty focuses on the promotion of trade and consular/personal relations, although the Monarchy was undeniably at an advantage over Korea in this regard. Besides, Article 2 in Section IX of the Treaty in quite remarkable and its spirit is valid even today, stating, "Subjects of one of the High Contracting Parties who may proceed to the country of the other to study its language, literature, laws, arts or industries, or for the purpose of scientific research, shall be afforded every reasonable facility for doing do."

Unfortunately, no representation was set up subsequently in Seoul and the official relations were maintained between the respective Embassies of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and Korea in Tokyo all along.

After the turn of the century, several Hungarian travellers went to Korea and despite all their inaccuracies and errors, they made the first attempts to give comprehensive descriptions about Korea's people, history and culture in their reports. As I mentioned already, those publications are rendered especially valuable by the photographs, ethnographic and other illustrations. The daily press generally reported on Korea only in the context of the war between China and Japan.

In the very first years of the 20th century, in 1902–1903, Count Péter Vay, Bishop went on a journey visiting Petrogard, Siberia and Mongolia, later Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo. The Bishop, descending from one of the eldest Hungarian airstocratic families, spent several months in Seoul and Korea from November 1902. On his travels, he published a 500-page book with abundant illustrations including his own paintings and drawings, "Kelet császárai és császárságai" (Budapest, 1906) (Emperors and Empires of the Orient). In his work, he reported about his stay and experience in Korea on about 140 pages.

With proper erudition, he described the country's history, people, customs, Seoul and its surroundings as well as Chemulp'o, Masan and Pusan, etc. and gave an account of his meetings with King Kojong and the Heir Apparent, and of the country's internal and foreign political situation. The outhor's sharp wit and excellent political and factual knowledge made his work autstanding among contemporary reports and travel books for Korea. He saw the fight of great powers for Korea and the motives of the events with sharp eyes and witnessed several important political developments, etc. We can learn a great deal from the way he evaluated the situation even today, "Seoul is split into two parties. One of them is a staunch opponent of Russia... The other one is the Russian party that mightily defends its interests against Japan's supporters. Because one serves the Russian, the other one serves the Nipponese. The latter is a stalwart of Japan-but there is hardly a party yet that would fight for its own country, for independence and defend its freedom. There are very few Koreans who are enthusiastic about Korea." (p. 323) We cannot preclude that Count Peter Vay's position and his sympathy may also have stemmed from Hungary's subordinated role in the Monarchy.

The first reports and articles of the last century and later the travel books and finally the treaty of friendship and commerce made Korea gradually known in Hun-

gary. Parallel with them, the official circles, the Austro-Hungarian Government also showed increasing interest in the Far East, specifically in the events in Korea. This fact attributes special importance to the documents of the Monarchy's Embassy in Tokyo, covering about three decades. In this context, let me refer to the fact—which was also pointed out by an Austrian researcher—that there were quite many Hungarians among the Embassy's leaders and diplomatic corps who, similarly to Count Vay, were not always able (or did not want) to disregard the contemporary Hungarian traditions and events whenever they gave evaluation of the Korean situation.

As already identified documents of archives show, the Monarchy's embassy in Tokyo gave regular accounts of Korea's internal and foreign policy events and of the great powers' Korea policy from 1884 on. Vienna and Budapest reserved political interests and pronounced "active neutrality" as regards the affair of the Far East enabled it to follow the events and relations there mainly as an observer, a kind of witness. As a result of that interest and familiarity with local political affairs, I have found about 250 reports in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy's archives, running about 1,700-1,800 pages, from the period of 1885-1912. Some less well-known or even unknown documents have also come to light, dealing with the relationship between Korea and Japan and between Korea and the great powers at the end of the 19th century.

The Ambassador's reports closely follow the events in Korea's internal and foreign policy. It is also supported by the statistical analysis of their frequency. The Embassy sent 18 political reports in 1893, 22 in 1894, 10 in 1895, 14 in 1896 and 15 in 1900, whereas only few reports were made in the interim years. The subjects of those reports are also worth mentioning.

Ambassador Zaluski, for example, showed keen interest in the stormy developments in the internal affairs of Korea between 1884-1885 and the race of the great powers, mainly Japan, China and Russia for Korea. His successor, Count Condenhove, devoted great attention to what he called the "Korean revolution" in 1894-1896. In several of his reports and coded cables he referred to the Tonghak movement and peasants' uprising as revolution. With excellent political insight, he depicted the deepening conflicts between Japan and China, and later the outbreak and events of the war.

It is also interesting to read the four or five reports that dealt with the assassination of Kim Ok-kyun, its political background and international implications. They are specially valuable sources because Ambassador Condenhove knew Kim Ok-kyun personally and witnessed his activities and life. The Ambassador also gave detailed account of the assassination of Quenn Min and attached the plot diagram of the palace.

After the annexation by Japan, reports from the Embassy in Tokyo became substantially scarcer: we only know of five reports from 1911 and two from 1912.

I think what gives particular value and relevance to the documents from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy's Embassy in Tokyo covering almost 30 years is that they invariably discussed Korea's internal and international situation, internal political developments and the great powers' Korea policy as an integral whole, in firm consistency. In this context, the analyses and findings about Korea's independence and autonomy deserve special attention. So for example, in his letter to the joint Foreign Minister of the Monarchy, on the subject of recognizing Korea's annexation by Japan, Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Khuen-Héderváry condemned Japan's policy, and recommended that the Monarchy should not hasten to recognize it.

The history of Hungarian-Korean relations in the decades before World War I

would not be complete if we were not to explore what was known about Hungary in Korea, what image Hungary had in the years around the turn of the century. Although it is naturally a task for our Korean colleagues, I would like to refer briefly to the facts known thus far.

In order to popularize and propagate their reformist efforts and views, the supporters of kyemong undong, an enlightenment movement that was evolving around the turn of the century, translated into Korean the biographies and works of famous personalities of Western countries and nations and the history of independence wars. It was at that time when, for example, the book "Stories on the Heroic Kossuth, the Leader of the 1848-1849 War of Independence" was translated. As far as we know, it was the first book on Hungary that was published in Korea. What happened to the book thereafter is still a bit mysterious. Several publications issued in North Korea mention the fact of the book having been translated but so far I have not been able to find it either in P'yongyang or Seoul. I cannot rule out that it may be the Korean translation of the work by the Japanese author, Tokai Sansi, who knew Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894) in person. His book was published under the same title in Japanese in 1885. After all, it would be an important milestone in our cultural relations if a copy of the book on Kossuth could be found with your assistance.

With Korea's annexation by Japan (1910) and the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1918), official and other relations between Hungary and Korea came to a halt for a long time. Between the two world wars, Hungary maintained diplomatic relations only with Japan in the Far East (1928-1942). So we only know about scarce contacts with Korea in those years. Of them, I would like to note in particular the study tour An Ikt'ae (1906-1965), the renowned Korean composer of the national anthem of the Korean Republic, made in Hungary. In 1937-38 he studied the music of the Hungarian and East-European people under Zoltán Kodály's guidance.

We can note that the Hungarian press reported extensively on the sensational victory of Son Ki-jong it the marathon race at the Berlin Olympic Games, making a special point of his Korean nationality.

Although not directly relating to Hungary's relations with Korea and still unexplored in full detail, I should mention the involvement of Béla Kun, one of the leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic in 1919, in the Korean communist movement (1922-1931) and in the three-member Korea committee of Komintern.

As I have already mentioned, we can trace only scarce Korean Implications in the official foreign relations between Hungary and Japan in the 1930s.

What is perhaps more important in this respect is the way Japan's policy was judged in Hungary in general. There is some ambiguity to note in this regard. On the one hand, it was fashionable in both countries in the 1920s and 1930s to search for and publicize an alleged kinship of the two nations and to form friendship societies, etc. On the other hand, however, we can trace an element of contempt in diplomatic reports and official documents as regards Japanese fascism and Japan's plans for expansion. For example, the general staff of the Hungarian Army prepared monthly "status reports on the Far East" for the foreign minister with particular regard to the developments in Manchuria, the relations between Japan and China, Japan and the Soviet Union, etc. Those reports regularly followed events such as the dislocation and movements of the Japanese army, etc. Illustrating it on a map, the reports also recorded the position and the force of the two Japanese divisions sta-

⁴ As it is known, Hungary joined the Anti-Comintern Pact in 1939.

tioned in Korea, with a designation "Korea". The 19th division was stationed around P'yongyang and the 20th around Seoul, altogether with a force of 15-20 thousand. The summary of the status report in June 1935 reads "Having made use of the favorable opportunity and position, the chiefs of the Japanese army took the initiative. as usual, in state leadership and are about to lay the foundations for Japan as a great power on "the Asian continent with bold determination." The same evaluation is brought forward in a report of the Hungarian Embassy in Moscow of 21 August 1936 on "the promotion of the hated General Minami to be Korea's Governor General." Describing "Minami's military and political career, the report stated that Minami is one of the major factors in Japan's expansionary policy on the continent...," "his function is to thoroughly organize and establish posts in Korea for a more extensive action by Japan on the continent, all the more so since two new Korean military ports have been complete recently and their favourable location can significantly shorten the transportation of Japanese troops." On another occasion, in relation to the high-level negotiations between the Soviet Union and Mongolia, the Hungarian Ambassador in Moscow emphasized from Mongolian Prime Minister, Genden's interview that Mongolia did not wish to become the victim of Japan as Korea and Manchuguo had.7

Even such indirect relations were broken off in the years of World War Two. Developments in the Hungarian-Korean relations after 1945 are well-known; briefly speaking they were generally determined by the international political situation and the internal situation in Hungary and Korea at any given time. Therefore, I would like to touch upon this subject only in short.

Hungary established diplomatic relations with the Korean People's Democratic Republic on 11 November 1948 and set up official contacts with the Korean Republic forty years later in 1988. Then in February 1989, diplomatic relations were established and embassies opened mutually.

The history of Hungarian-North Korean relations is well-known.⁸ In spite of periodic minor fluctuations motivated by political reasons, relatively wide-ranging relations have been developed in political and economic fields, trade, culture and sciences between the two countries. They are reflected in the contractual relations between them. By now, specific images have evolved mutually about Korea and Hungary, partly in relation to the Korean issue.

It is also one of the results of the past few decades that several hundreds of people in the Korean People's Democratic Republic have learnt Hungarian at different levels of fluency, making it possible to publish Hungarian and Korean literature in translation.9

Unfortunately, very few people are familiar with the Korean language in Hungary. In my view, the biggest shortcoming is that no centre, no education has been introduced for Hungarian and Korean studies either in Korea or in Hungary, respectively, up until now.

In spite of the short past, the relations between Hungary and South Korea are

⁵ Hungarian National Archives, 1936. k. 63. 114, cs. 15.

⁶ Ibid., 281/1936. k. 63, 15/28. f. 15.

⁷ Ibid., 1936 15/28. f. 43.

⁸ See: Péter Faludi, Mit kell tudni a KNDK-ról (What to know on DPRK), Budapest, 1981. pp. 182-186.

⁹ See attachment.

developing rapidy. It is also suggested-among else-by the upcoming visit of president Roh Tae-woo in Hungary and by the increasing frequency of high-level contacts. With mutual efforts, it is possible to lay the grounds for Hungarology and Koreanistics and the introduction of language education and country studies today.

As there are practically no obstacles to the development of relations between the two countries both short-term and long-term contractual relations are being established in various fields. We should devote due attention to all this future if we really want to achieve stable and well-founded cooperation. The latter can also be promoted by the fact that although both countries are relatively small and geographically distant, both Hungary's and Korea's international importance is larger than their size or potentials—for different reasons, of course. A significant role is also played by round-table conferences and meetings on a variety of subjects since we still know rather little about each other's countries.

In the foregoing I tried to give a brief overview of the 100-150 years preceding the present Hungarian-Korean relations, the way Korea's image has developed in Hungary-mainly the period before 1945.

Unfortunately, because of the great geographical distance, the different historic developments and political interests, this process remained rather peripherical for both countries, both cultures in the decades before 1945 although it treasures some interesting and still noteworty elements and facts. In this respect I refer of all to some cultural events but I mainly consider it important to explore and process the sources in Austro-Hungarian and Hungarian archives. I cannot rule out that a few random reports may be found in the Hungarian archives of Catholic and Protestant missionaries as well. The same can be said about the legacies of Hungarian travellers and geographers from the end of the last, beginning of this century. And as I mentioned in the introduction, the picture of the preceding events of Hungarian-Korean relations can be complete only if my Korean colleagues also explore their respective sources.¹⁰

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