

would prompt her to come to the defence of the radical leftist writer Miklós Haraszti when he was accused of inciting the workers of Hungary against the state in the mid-1970s. The same quest would induce her to establish a home for stray dogs. She remained a sort of a communist to the end of her life.

Few written sources had survived about Júlia Rajk. Some that had existed, were destroyed by those who wanted to leave no evidence. But very few were created about her in the first place — she was a woman. In fact, she had spent much of her life typing men's documents — about men. Andrea Pető has located all the written sources that had survived about Júlia Rajk and she interviewed everyone who had known her. She asked everything a woman would want to know about another woman. She inquired about even matters that writers of political biographies might consider trivial. In fact, she insisted on inquiring about such matters. The result is a real book about a real individual.

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[adopted from the Hungarian, from <http://www.es.hu/old/0142/index.htm> by Nándor Dreisziger]

Editor's note: László Rajk (1909-49), a high-ranking Communist Party official and Minister of the Interior between 1946 and 1948, was one of the chief architects of the totalitarian one-party state in Hungary. In May 1949 he was arrested on trumped-up charges of being a Titoist spy, was found guilty along with many "co-conspirators," and was executed. In 1956, during Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinization campaign, he and some of his associates were partly rehabilitated. On 6 October they were re-buried in a public funeral attended by a crowd of one hundred thousand. The event is seen by some as the opening salvo of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

Daisy Chorin (Mrs. R. Strasser) and András D. Bán. *Az Andrássy úttól a Park Avenue-ig: Fejezetek Chorin Ferenc életéből (1879-1964)* [From Andrássy Boulevard to Park Avenue; Chapters from the life of Ferenc Chorin (1879-1964)]. Budapest, Osiris Kiadó, 1999. ISBN 963 379 7179.

Introduced by Otto Habsburg, this book is compiled as a memorial to an extraordinary human being and an outstanding citizen of Hungary who had done unique service to his country all his life, but especially during the interwar years.

The book is made up of two parts. The first part is a short biography of Ferenc Chorin. Ferenc had an exceptional childhood and upbringing and came from a family of high moral and intellectual standards. His great-great grandfather had been the chief rabbi of Arad [now under Romanian rule] who through

his writing, in the Hebrew language, fought for the emancipation of the Jewish people. His son became a doctor, who in turn had two sons, one of them becoming also a doctor, while the other, Ferenc senior (1842-1925), studied law. Ferenc was a versatile man with a practical turn of mind who possessed great knowledge of law, economics and politics.

This book is about Ferenc's son, Ferenc junior, Daisy Chorin's father. He was born in 1879 in Budapest. He studied at a special secondary school and took law at university. All through his years of studying, his results were the best. He obtained his doctorate in 1901 receiving the "royal ring" personally from Ferenc Joseph, a special honour bestowed by the Emperor-King on university graduates who finished with outstanding results. All his life he was proud of that event. In May 30, 1919 Chorin converted to Roman Catholicism — thereby widening his circle of friends by members of Hungary's Roman Catholic clergy. At the end of 1919 he was appointed by Hungary's government as economic advisor to the Hungarian Peace Delegation sent to the negotiations concluding the First World War. He married in 1921, had two daughters and a son. He was very bright, had a great sense of humour, and was interested in everything — at one point he had studied economics in Berlin. In addition to his native Hungarian, Chorin spoke German, French and Latin — all fluently. For example, at the World Eucharistic Congress of 1928, he made the introductory speech — in Latin, without notes. In the legal field his interest and speciality was law regulating manufacturing and related economic activities.

In 1906 Chorin became one of the directors of the Salgótarjáni Kőszénbánya Rt. [Coal Mine of Salgótarján], the largest coal-mining company in Hungary. In that capacity, he worked towards improving production in the mine. He also undertook the role of a director for firms connected to the coal company, such as glass, cement, brick, and so on. After the death of his father in 1925, he became the CEO of the Salgótarjáni Kőszénbánya Rt.

In 1922 he formed the Hungarian Employment Centre and was its president until 1933. The centre's mandate was the securing of undisturbed flow of production in manufacturing, the regulation of workers' pay, and dealing with questions relating to social security and the companies' social responsibilities towards their employees. In 1926 he became vice-president of Hungary's Manufacturers' Federation, and two years later he was appointed by Regent Miklós Horthy to the Upper House of Parliament. And, because he enjoyed the respect and the Regent's trust in all economic questions, later he was made "Privy Counselor to his Excellency." His contacts and friendships were wide-ranging: among his friends were the President of the Hungarian General Credit Bank, the Papal Legate to Hungary, the British Minister to Hungary, as well as numerous Hungarian politicians.

After the Nazi occupation of Hungary in March of 1944, he and his family had to flee the country, abandoning their wealth to the Nazi-controlled

government of Hungary. After a two-years' stay in Portugal as refugees, he and his family immigrated to the United States where they settled in New York. Although not young any more, Chorin managed to establish a new and successful life for himself and his family in his new homeland, and continued his philanthropic activities — which had been an essential part of his earlier life (never obvious because of his modesty) even in Hungary.

The second and larger part of the book is a collection of his speeches which reveal his brilliant mind and clear insight into all aspects of the economy. Especially moving is the speech in which he expresses his growing concern over the laws enacted in Hungary on the eve of World War II, putting tighter and tighter control on the freedom of Jews — and, of course, the negative impact of these laws on the whole country's economy. This part of the book also contains correspondence both sent and received, as well as contemporary commentaries on his work. The latter illustrate the affection and high regard for him of his friends, and of those whose lives he had touched.

This book is a source of most interesting and valuable information; reading it is a pleasure and an inspiration in every sense. An English language edition of this book is in preparation.

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