

Preface:

2006-07 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the coming of the refugees of the 1956 anti-Soviet revolution in Hungary to North America. With the arrival of those refugees, the writer of these lines included, the life of North America's Magyar colonies was revitalized.

To celebrate this anniversary we undertook to publish two volumes of our journal, both of them bulkier than has been our tradition in the past. In the first of our "1956" commemorative issues we presented a collection of essays that dealt with or touched on the subject of the image Hungary and Hungarians at home or abroad. This was vol. 33 of the *HSR*, and it was published for 2006.

The second of our commemorative volumes, entitled *1956 in Hungary*, we publish as vol. 34, for the year 2007. A third compendium of studies is in the making as well, also dealing with aspects of 1956, since not all the papers collected fit in one volume of less than 250 pages. This third volume will be published for 2008.

The first essay of the present 2007 special volume deals with the subject of the treatment of Hungarians by Hungary's post-1945 Soviet masters, as illustrated by the fate of those Magyars who fell into Soviet captivity at the end of the Second World War. The next paper deals with the role of Hungary's Churches in the Revolution and the impact of the 1956 events on them. The following study examines the days when Hungary was free of Communist rule especially in the context of the functioning of the country's newly re-born political parties. This is followed by an examination of the interrelationship of the events of 1956 and the country's working class. Most appropriately, the next study deals with the subject of the revolution and Hungary's peasantry, focusing especially on the impact of the events of 1956 on the country's villages. The subsequent study examines the attempts by Hungary's post-1957 regime to re-write the history of the revolution through the means of films made for popular consumption. The volume's penultimate article surveys the reactions of writers and poets to the Revolution all over the world, while the last article reviews some of the most important recent books on the subject.

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These studies, while offering comprehensive analyses of their subjects, represent only a sampling of the historical analyses that had appeared in connection with the celebrations of the Revolution's fiftieth anniversary. More studies will be forthcoming even in our journal. Some of these will be concentrating on the Canadian aspects of 1956: Canada's reactions to the Revolution — and, specifically, to the refugee crisis it generated — as well as the experiences of some of the refugees in Canada.

As usual in our collections of essays on a particular subject our offering is somewhat eclectic. While some important aspects of the events of 1956 in Hungary are well covered, such as the interactions of the regime on the one hand and the country's workers and peasants on the other, other aspects of the Hungarian revolution are hardly touched on in this volume. Some of these aspect will receive attention in Part II of this collection of essays, others will not be covered. Readers will have to turn to other publications for those topics. We would also suggest that they examine what has been published in our journal in previous years.*

NOTES

* In 1976 we published a collection of essays. Although many original documents relating to the history of 1956 in Hungary have become public in the intervening time — especially regarding the reactions to the Revolution in Moscow and Washington — some of the studies in this collection might still be of interest, as should be the studies that appeared in our journal after 1976. Here is a list of both the 1976 compendium and the papers that we published later:

Aczél, Tamás. "Between the Awakening and the Explosion: Yogis and Commissars Reconsidered, 1953-1956." III, 2 (Fall, 1976), 107-114.

Gollner, Andras B. "Foundations of Soviet Domination and Communist Political Power in Hungary: 1945-1950." III, 2 (Fall, 1976), 73-105.

Gosztony, Peter. "The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 Viewed from Two Decades' Distance." III, 2 (Fall, 1976), 139-153.

Granville, Johanna. "The Soviet-Yugoslav Detente, Belgrade-Budapest Relations, and the Hungarian Revolution (1955-56)," XXIV, 1-2 (1997), 15-63.

Klay, Andor C. ed. "Document: Budapest-Washington, 1956." VII, 2 (Fall, 1980), 145-162.

Nagy, Karoly. "Gyula Illyes' Poetry of Hope." V, 2 (Fall, 1978), 53-61.

Pilisi, Paul. "La Revolution Hongroise de 1956 et l'Idée de la Confédération Danubienne." III, 2 (Fall, 1976), 125-132.

Volgyes, Ivan. "Social Change in Post-Revolutionary Hungary, 1956-1976." V, 1 (Spring, 1978), 29-39.