

**A PIONEER IN HUNGARIAN STUDIES—HUNGARIAN
STUDIES NEWSLETTER**
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It is axiomatic that the essential ingredient of intercultural understanding is good communication. Good communication, in turn, calls for media comprehensible to all parties involved. For this reason, publications in the Hungarian language contribute little to the interpretation and understanding of Hungarian culture abroad. It would be quite presumptuous on our part to expect intellectuals all over the world to learn Hungarian for the sole purpose of reading an article or book or attending a course with Hungary-related content (although I have heard of a few such cases). Hungary has been linguistically isolated ever since it was established in the Carpathian Basin over 1,000 years ago, and this linguistic isolation has been aggravated by the reluctance of Hungarian scholars to address their foreign counterparts in their own languages.

This situation has, however, been changing. Mainly because of the emigration of large numbers of intellectuals from Hungary during the past fifty years or so, hundreds of books, doctoral dissertations, and articles related to Hungary and Hungarians have been published in many languages, most extensively in English. The HSN (= *Hungarian Studies Newsletter*) alone has reported on 400 scholarly English-language, Hungarian-related books, 380 articles, and 70 doctoral dissertations during its first eleven years. The problem facing us now is not so much the scarcity of sources as the dispersed nature of the data, which makes research tedious and time-consuming. Computerization may eventually ease the hardship of Hungarian studies, but for the time being other means of assistance are clearly necessary if such studies are to continue and expand.

The HSN is one attempt to remedy the situation. It was founded in 1973 and has been edited ever since by Bela Charles Maday (Máday Béla), a cultural anthropologist and research professor at The American University in Washington, D.C., with the assistance of many like-minded people, of whom Enikő Basa deserves special mention for her seven years of service as journal editor. The burden of publication and dissemination has been undertaken by the *American Hungarian Foundation* at New Brunswick, N.J. The newsletter is a quarterly with a circulation of 1,200 and is basically self-supporting.

In addition to up-to-date reports on books, dissertations, and articles, the HSN presents the tables of contents of such Hungarian-oriented English journals as *Hungarian Studies in English* (Debrecen), *Studies in English and American* (Budapest), and *The Review of Hungarian Studies* (Toronto). In general, the newsletter aims at an overview of who is doing what in Hungarian studies among English-speaking scholars and scientists. Thus, it regularly reports on relevant papers presented at scholarly meetings and conferences, on announcements and awards of governmental and private funding agencies, and, in general, on programs of scientific exchange between Hungary and North America. Thus, the exchange and support programs of the academies of

sciences, the *National Science Foundation*, the *International Research and Exchange Board*, (*IREX*), and the *American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)* receive regular coverage. Besides this, less well-known programs such as the collaboration for medical research and training between the University of Pennsylvania and the Semmelweis University in Budapest, the Senior Fulbright-Hays Program, administered by the *Council for International Exchange of Scholars*, and the ACLS joint program in the social sciences also receive detailed descriptions, including names, academic affiliations, scientific areas of interest, and when appropriate, the names of participating colleagues. The index, covering the first 34 issues, lists over 2,000 names, 80 periodicals, and 150 organizations, all involved in one way or another in Hungarian studies.

In addition to its regular features, the newsletter also contains special reports—for example, on teaching aids (no. 11), on selected master's theses prepared in U.S. and Canadian universities (no. 13), on studies in semiotics (no. 16), on the White Stag program (no. 25), on economic cooperation (no. 22), and on Hungarian academic chairs in North America (no. 21). It has republished the entire Hungarian country profile of the Population Council (no. 6).

In brief, the HSN has been a pioneer in the field of Hungarian studies carried out in English, and it hopes to be able to serve members of the academic and scientific communities with interests in Hungarian culture. According to Prof. I. T. Sanders of Boston University, the HSN "is the kind of publication that helps one keep in touch with a wide variety of activities and materials. It is certainly the best of the several newsletters issued (in America) by nationality-based associations."

The American University, Washington, D.C.

Bela C. Maday

There exists an *Index for Hungarian Studies Newsletter, Nos 1-30*, with a name index of 2,000 entries, 80 periodicals, 150 organizations listed in the first thirty issues of HSN, available by order from the *Hungarian Research Center—American Hungarian Foundation* (Post Office Box 1084, New Brunswick NJ. 08903, USA).
(Editorial Remark)