

The severe economic problems at the end of the 1920s and in the early 1930s made it extremely difficult for Hungarian American communities to maintain their institutions. Accelerated Americanization was the answer offered by all parties, including the churches, which themselves became bilingual. Many of the Hungarian Americans were gravely affected by the Depression since they worked in the iron and steel industries. Consequently, they became staunch supporters of F. D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. It is to this period that the Democratic leanings of many Hungarian Americans can be traced back.

Generation problems began to appear at around the same time. Hungarian Americans born in the United States had very little to do with the ethnic links of their parents' generation. Puskás duly emphasizes the unfavourable climate surrounding children who "heard nothing but negative reflections on Hungarians both at school and in the streets. Hungary's 20th century political history still further alienated any sympathy a child growing up in a bourgeois democracy might have had for the land of his forefathers." The author goes on by way of conclusion: "Most of the second-generation Hungarian immigrants were prone to disown their past, and even changed their names in the attempt to show that they were Americans." It is consequently not surprising that the author found much higher social mobility in the second generation.

Puskás' excellent study is extremely richly documented: more than 200 pages of interviews, bibliographical and statistical data are attached. The book as a whole presents a basic critical reappraisal of the history of Hungarian emigration, arranging the vast material in a systematic and most convincing way. Dr. Puskás' genuine findings include the actual demographic loss Hungary suffered during the process, the geographical and ethnic distribution of regional emigration centers and the typical adaptation problems of immigrant Hungarians. One of the most important contributions to the study of emigration is the detailed analysis of Hungarian American organizations and the ways and means by which they sought to aid adaptation. The historiographical analysis at the beginning of the study gives a balanced view of methods and theories on emigration. All in all, Puskás has rendered very important services to the study of *Americanization*, the particular process whereby citizens of the United States established a national identity.

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Ráckeve '83

International Workshop Seminar for Students of Architecture

Editor: Polinszky, Károly

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According to a widely held view the architecture of our days is going through a crisis: the essence of this crisis can be defined so that the principles advocated by modernism half a century ago have mostly failed in reality. The shaping of the environment has entirely changed, unfortunately in an undesirable direction, consequently the historical and aesthetic values of the environment and the traditions of the settlement structure have been lost, as a result of which the settlements have become characterless, monotonous, and alienation has increased. The greatest ambition of the organizers of the Ráckeve workshop seminar, in all probability, was to offer the architects of the future something more than included in the curriculum of the faculty, to call their attention to values other than the ones they had been familiar with until then, to make the students reach a better understanding of the role and mission of architects.

If—on the basis of the program—we take into consideration the values that can be set the students as an example today (among whom there were foreigners as well), it is mostly the creations of the past that can be pointed out besides the contemporary works of art that created new value from the traditions. If we follow the excursions there is a scale of values taking shape that is by no means complete, but doubtlessly has a

character of its own: the reconstructed historical ensemble of the Buda Castle Hill, the preserved townscape of Szentendre, the Castle once erected by Prince Eugene of Savoy at Ráckeve restored with a view to its new functions, the recreational facilities at Visegrád by Imre Makovecz, the planning of Kecskemét and the new establishments there. The principles underlying this scale of values can be pointed out on the basis of the lectures: the lessons of the universal history and theory of architecture (a lecture by József Kerényi), the traditions handed down by the monuments of the Hungarian history of architecture (Jenő Rados, Miklós Horler), the model of folk architecture (Tamás Hofer, János Bitó).

For two reasons Ráckeve has proved to be an appropriate scene for translating all this into architectural design. On the one hand, there is a small town environment similar to Szentendre's in more than one aspects, where it is easy to find some outdated architectural-urbanistic phenomena ready for alteration. (Let us quote Horler: "There is an alarming example for this [outdated attitude—G. H.], the planning program of Ráckeve, a plan approved of and valid at present, which is completely strange to the traditional settlement structure and building pattern of the village..." etc. p. 38). On the other hand, the stage proper for the seminar was the magnificent Savoie Castle built by Hildebrandt, restored not long ago, and turned into a resthouse for architects. During their work the designers had tried to establish a development pattern corresponding to the potentialities of the neighbourhood (agricultural model) and suitable for new functions (recreation, ecology) starting from the values of the past (identity).

In the volume published about the workshop seminar the objectives and the program are outlined, the lectures delivered are published (also in the original foreign language), finally the accomplished plans are also presented on the nearly 200 pages. A merit of the book is that the editors have not left out of consideration the non-Hungarian readers either. Although most of the Hungarian texts have an English equivalent, texts in German and French can also be found in the volume. The high quality graphic representations have to be specially mentioned: through this it is not only the mental climate of the course that comes to life on the pages, but the world the participants moved about and created during their stay there gets visually represented as well.

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Csoóri Sándor

Wings of Knives and Nails

Translated by I. L. Halasz de Beky

Toronto, Vox Humana, 1981. 37 pp.

Kálnoky László

Flash of Lightning

Translated by I. L. Halasz de Beky

Toronto, Vox Humana, 1984. 27 pp.

I work as I live: without hope. When I sit down to write
I never know where I'll end up. And it is only this
risky and uncertain adventure itself which is capable
of resolving my hopelessness.

This statement (from *A Half-confessed Life*) is not only representative as an expression of Sándor Csoóri's attitude to his activity as a writer, but is, more significantly, suggestive as to the nature of his popularity. Aphorisms—like anecdotes and essays, which form the larger part of Csoóri's popular *œuvre*—