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## PROBLEMS AND PATTERNS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ETHNIC HUNGARIANS IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIRST DECADES OF THE 20th CENTURY

### Introduction

Hungarian library collections are a very important source of identity maintenance among Hungarians living abroad. What kind of libraries have served the Hungarian immigrants in the US, what kind of development they have gone through and what kind of role they have played during the decades since Hungarians settled in the US are questions which have so far been discussed in only a few studies.<sup>1</sup> No effort, however, has been made to follow the development of libraries maintained by Hungarian associations, although the early history of the libraries of Hungarian associations represents the beginning of the history of Hungarian library collections in the US. This study, however, does not strive to give a full picture of the question from the beginning until the present day. Instead, it attempts to describe the main pattern of one aspect of their development and to analyse their circumstances during the period of mass immigration, which lasted until 1914.

### Background

The reasons for founding these libraries are based on the main motives and features of the mass immigration which took place at the turn of the century. This generation of immigrants left Hungary to escape from misery and to solve their hopeless economical conditions. Although they had chosen to emigrate, most of them did not give up the hope of one day returning to their homeland – indeed many of them have in fact done so.<sup>2</sup> This provided the initiative for their strong desire to maintain fluency in their mother tongue and to learn the literature and history of their native land even in their new country, in the United States of America. They themselves were conscious of this need. In contemporary publications and in requests sent to the Hungarian authorities we frequently find the manifestation of their patriotic feelings.<sup>3</sup> To serve their social and cultural needs, Hungarian–American associations were soon born. These organizations played an important role in the national identity maintenance of this generation. By 1911 the different kinds of Hungarian–American associations numbered 1339.<sup>4</sup> Besides the main social, political, religious or cultural goals of these associations, most of them included in their directives the goal of fostering the Hungarian culture among immigrant Hungarians. Their by-laws often described what their objectives were in this respect.<sup>5</sup> Forums available to them in the pursuit of these objectives were the Hungarian press (published by them), Hungarian theatre performances, readings and verse recitals and celebrations of the traditional national festivities.<sup>6</sup>

No matter whether they were religious or different kinds of political or cultural organizations, soon they all strived for the foundation of cultural centres – so-called Hungarian Homes or Hungarian schools. Books were also assigned an important role in their cultural policy and its concern for Hungarian identity. They supported the publishing of Hungarian books<sup>7</sup> and the distribution of Hungarian books<sup>8</sup>, but above all they supported the creation of a library service for the members of the associations and the Hungarian communities.

### The Role of Cultural and Political Motives in the Development of the Libraries of Early Hungarian–American Associations

To maintain libraries was not an entirely new programme for Hungarian associations. By the turn of the century an increasing number of associations in Hungary had organized libraries for their members, and many of the associations had been organized especially to provide a library service for certain groups of society. It was, however, a new kind of task to create libraries in an alien environment to serve the community as an ethnic group. In the beginning the Hungarians did not regard themselves as ethnics, a special group of the new society. Rather, they still regarded themselves as part of the old country, failing to adjust their objectives to ethnic goals. Although they lived in a society in the United States that had established a good library service for its English-speaking citizens, they could not cope with these developments. In their cultural isolation they turned to the

home country for ideals and sources, and in their organizational work they followed Hungarian patterns.

What kind of library development in Hungary could serve as an example for the emigrants? By the second half of the nineteenth century a great number of reading 'cabinets', so-called casinos (clubs) and reading circles with libraries had been established.<sup>9</sup> They were small collections and they all served a small group of different social strata of the society – thus they served only a small proportion of the whole population. A public library service did not yet exist at that time in Hungary. The largest classes of the society, the peasants and the industrial workers, were in the greatest need of a library service. To solve this problem the National Committee of Museums and Libraries (*Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Bizottsága*) – later called the National Council of Museums and Libraries (*Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsa*) – was organized by the government in 1874.<sup>10</sup> Its main mission was to launch the free library movement by providing economical support to the libraries of certain cultural associations and later by distributing entirely new library collections to associations and communities requesting them. A list of books to be offered was compiled. Different library collections, including standard bookcases, were assembled according to size: there were libraries for 2000, 1000, 500, 400, and 300 crowns. These libraries were mailed on contract by two editorial offices, the Franklin and the Athenaeum, to the addresses selected by the Council. A manual was published describing how these libraries should be maintained.<sup>11</sup>

The character of the life of associations in Hungary and the role of the libraries in their activities set the standards for Hungarian Americans in their organization of libraries. Not only were the ideals taken from the home country, but they were also dependent on Hungarian resources during their organizational work. They applied to Hungarian authorities for support. Many of these applications have been preserved in the Hungarian National Archives (*Országos Levéltár*, Budapest)<sup>12</sup> and provide the opportunity to follow the pattern of how these libraries were organized.

The applications were addressed to three Hungarian authorities: the Hungarian Ministry of Religion and Education, (*Vallás- és Közoktatásügyi Minisztérium*), the Ministry of Agriculture (*Földművelésügyi Minisztérium*) and the National State Alliance (*Országos Nemzeti Szövetség*). In general all the requests were processed, as they coincided with different initiatives found in the policy of the Hungarian government concerning emigrants who had left Hungary.

During this period a movement was launched under the name 'American action'.<sup>13</sup> It had its roots in the nationality problems alive in both Hungary at that time and preserved in America among immigrants who had come from Hungary.

The Slavic emigrants who left East and North-East Hungary originally belonged to the Greek Catholic Church. In America the Greek Orthodox Church opened its doors to them, where they had the chance to become acquainted with the ideas of the panslavic movement. In case of their remigration they could have become the distributors of these not very welcomed ideas in Hungary. The cultural support provided in the frame of 'American action' through the Greek Catholic Church aimed to retain them in its sphere of influence and away from the panslavic ideas.<sup>14</sup> Soon the 'American action' was

extended to the Hungarians as well, who mainly belonged to the Roman Catholic and the Reformed Church.<sup>15</sup> This extension of the programme was based on the recognition that the readjustment of the returning masses would cause severe problems for those who remigrated and for the whole society – without the continuity of their native culture, and without preserving the political views of the home society and its national feeling. So for the programme called 'National Sponsorship for Hungarians living abroad', money was provided for the organization of Hungarian schools in the United States and to send them teachers and textbooks. The Hungarian–American press was sponsored as well as the foundation of Hungarian library collections. This library programme was an extension beyond the borders of the Hungarian free library movement. It signified a particular pattern in library development for Hungarian–Americans. Compared to the public library service already developed in the United States, the Hungarian free library movement had its weak points and the professional librarians of Hungary strived to remodel the Hungarian library service according to the modern public library system they had encountered in Western Europe and in the United States.<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless, as has been mentioned, the source of a library ideal for the ethnic Hungarians in the United States remained the system of the home country. This led to the rather singular situation of Hungarian–Americans becoming familiar with the American system through the changing Hungarian system.

#### Facts about the Organization of the Libraries of Hungarian Associations

According to the documents available in the Hungarian National Archives, applications for books or entire library collections arrived in Hungary in 1906 from the following sources: *First Hungarian Sick Benefit Society in Woodbridge, N. J. (Woodbridge-i I. Magyar Betegsegélyző Egylet)*<sup>17</sup>, the *Hungarian Greek Catholic Youth Association in Bridgeport, Conn. (Bridgeporti Magyar Görögkatolikus Ifjúsági Egylet)*, *Baross Gábor Benefit Society in St. Paul, Minn. (St. Pauli Baross Gábor Társas és Segélyező Egylet)*: Mihály E. Martin on behalf of the Hungarian residents of Chicago, Ill. and its surroundings; in 1907 from the *Saint Joseph Sick Benefit and Funeral Society for Men and Women in Aurora, Ill. (Aurorai Szent József Férfi és Női Betegsegélyző és Temetkezési Egylet)*, the *First Hungarian Youth Association in Cleveland, Oh. (Clevelandi Első Magyar Ifjúsági Egylet)*; in 1908 from the *Hungarian Social Circle in Trenton, N. J. (Trentoni Magyar Társaskör)*, the *Hungarian Educational and Musical Circle in Chicago, Ill. (Chicagói Magyar Önképző és Dalkör)*, the *Hungarian Educational Circle in Lorain, Oh. (Loraini Magyar Önképzőkör)* and in 1909 from the *Saint Emerich Educational Circle in Norwalk, Conn. (Norwalki Szent Imre Önképzőkör)* and Mihály Bíró, the priest of the Reformed Church in Buffalo, N. J.<sup>18</sup> Of course, this list is far from being complete. Although the applications of many other Hungarian communities or associations could not be found, references to the processing of their applications prove that their requests reached Hungary.

These applications were processed in the following way. They were examined and judged by the office of the Prime Minister with the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Külügyminisztérium). Information was gathered on the political and economical status of the applicants by the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D. C. and by the appropriate Hungarian consulates.<sup>19</sup> If a request was reviewed favourably, it was forwarded by the Prime Minister either to the Ministry of Religion and Education or to the Ministry of Agriculture, so that one of these could execute the decision and send the collection to the applicants. The method of processing is illustrated in a letter written by the Agricultural Minister and addressed to the Prime Minister:

Referring to your Honoured official communication of March 31 of this year. No. 461, I have the honour to inform you that I have called the Franklin Editorial office to mail a free library collection, charged to my portfolio and containing 100 volumes selected according to the defined library standard of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> type of library collections, to the Saint Joseph Benefit and Funeral Society for Men and Women in Aurora, Ill. The attached enclosure is to be sent back.<sup>20</sup>

Those applications that were sent to the Ministry of Religion and Education for execution were then forwarded to the National Council of Museums and Libraries. This is documented, for example, in a letter from the Educational Minister written on August 14, 1907 to the Prime Minister:

Referring to your Honoured official communications of January 4 of this year, Nos. 5623 and 6115, I have the honour to inform your Dignity that I have given permission to the Council of Museums and Libraries to provide 100, namely one hundred, crowns for books to be given to the Baross Gábor Benefit Society in Saint Paul and I have also permitted them to mail a library collection valued at 300 crowns plus a bookcase to the association in Bridgeport.<sup>21</sup>

Data concerning the measure of support provided by the Ministry of Agriculture is not available. However, that concerning the Council's activity is given below. These data are based on the Archives of the Council<sup>22</sup> and its minutes published in its official review, the *Múzeumi és Könyvtári Értesítő* 1907–1916. The list of the Hungarian–American associations, institutions and communities and the money allocated to them by the Council from 1906–1914 reads as follows:

1907	Chicago, Ill.	1000 crowns
	Bridgeport, Conn.	300 crowns
	Baross Society in St. Paul, Minn.	100 crowns
	New York Public Library, N. Y.	2000 crowns
1908	Hungarian Conversational and Reading Circle in Pecks Hill	300 crowns
1909	Philadelphia Public Library, Pa.	500 crowns
	Newark Public Library, N. J.	200 crowns
	Hungarian Invalids of the Pittsburgh Hospital, Pa.	400 crowns
1910	Hungarian Educational Circle in Lorain, Oh.	150 crowns
	Hungarians of Southnorwalk	200 crowns

1911	Hungarian Cultural Circle in Akron, Oh.	100 crowns
	The Hungarian Colony of Buffalo, N. Y. (Károly Böhm vicar)	150 crowns
	The Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Sub-Consulate in Cleveland, Oh.	400 crowns
	New York Public Library, Yorkville Branch, N. Y.	500 crowns
	Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, Pa.	400 crowns
	Hungarian Educational and Choir Circle in South Bend, In.	100 crowns
	Youth Association of the Hungarian Reformed Church in West Cleveland, Oh.	200 crowns
1912	Youth Association of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Bridgeport, Conn.	250 crowns
	Hungarian Reformed Church in Homestead, Pa. (later for- warded to Hamburg)	250 crowns
	Youth Association of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Perth Amboy, N. J.	300 crowns
	Roman Catholic Reading Circle in Scranton, Pa.	100 crowns
	Hungarian Reading Circle in Throop, Pa. (later forwarded to Chicago, Ill.)	100 crowns
1913	Hungarian Reformed Church in Mac-Keesport, Pa.	100 crowns
	First Hungarian Association in San Francisco, Cal.	400 crowns
	St. Louis Public Library, Mo.	500 crowns
1914	Hungarian Reformed Church in Mac-Keesport, Pa.	100 crowns
	First Hungarian Association in San Francisco, Cal.	400 crowns
	St. Louis Public Library, Mo.	500 crowns <sup>2 3</sup>

Thus the Council supported 22 out of 28 requests from Hungarian-American libraries from 1906-1914, altogether contributing 9,750 crowns.<sup>24</sup> Of the 22 grants 3 founded entirely new libraries; in all the other cases the money served to expand existing collections.

During this entire period, funds of the Council for library support totalled 489,115 crowns, of which 21,870 crowns were used for the support of Hungarian library collections abroad. The 9,750 crowns sent to Hungarian-American libraries constituted 44.5% of this sum. As is obvious, the free library movement provided very modest financial help to Hungarian-American libraries. However, almost half of the whole sum sent abroad was sent to America.

Did any specific policy guide this distribution and if so, how was it developed? Applications for libraries, which arrived at random from abroad, drew the attention of Hungarian cultural policy to the need for a planned library programme for Hungarians living abroad. The question was raised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1908, as referred to in a letter sent to the Educational Minister by the Prime Minister:

As regards the last paragraph of the official communication of the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning the library service to be planned and organized for American-Hungarians, I deem it

expedient to assign the project to the National Council of Museums and Libraries – to be studied and handled confidentially. From the point of view of Hungary I should like to take a stand on the basis of its report.<sup>25</sup>

As a result the support of libraries had grown into a fullscale programme by 1919. This programme included not only the Hungarian–American libraries but the sponsorship of all Hungarian collections existing abroad. In 1919, at the request of the Hungarian Prime Minister, the Hungarian embassies and consulates conducted a survey to find out where and to what extent library support was needed for Hungarian communities abroad. The Government attempted to form a policy for action in this field and launched a programme through the National Council of Museums and Libraries. This attempt of the Prime Minister is cited in 1913, in the minutes of the Council:

In 1909 Count Charles Kuen Héderváry, Prime Minister, requested the Joint (Austro–Hungarian) Minister of Foreign Affairs to instruct all our foreign representatives to inform us where Hungarian library collections already exist in our official districts and where they need to be enlarged or where new libraries should be established. A great number of reports have arrived from which it appears the foundation of Hungarian libraries is needed in approximately 70 places abroad. László Lukács, the [present] Prime Minister suggests the distribution of these libraries should be spread over the course of five years, 14 libraries being donated in each year. Of these, 7 or 8 should be sent to America if possible, where the Imperial and Royal Embassy in Washington, D. C. would take charge of their placement. A plan for distribution should be prepared.

The programme of the council is also described in the minutes:

The task has been assigned to Dr. Zoltán Ferenczy, who in his report suggests that of the libraries' 500 crowns each year, 8 should be sent to America and 6 to European countries: first of all to Romania, Bulgaria, Germany and Switzerland, England, Italy, Turkey, France and perhaps to Bukovina.<sup>26</sup>

In line with this programme, the Council set aside 7000 crowns for 14 Hungarian collections abroad in its budget for 1914. However, no evidence can be found in the reports of the Council that this programme was in fact carried out – in all probability due to the outbreak of World War I. No further mention is made of the sponsorship of foreign Hungarian library collections in the minutes of the following year concerning the budget for 1915/1916.<sup>27</sup>

Given the lack of data, the only conclusion to be arrived at is that this programme was not revived after World War I.

#### **Data on the Character and Activity of the Libraries of Hungarian–American Associations**

These libraries generally numbered not more than 100 or 200 volumes. For example, the library of the First Sick Benefit Association in Woodbridge, N. J. owned 155 volumes in 1906,<sup>28</sup> the Baross Gábor Benefit Society in St. Paul, Minn. had 156 volumes in 1914

and 230 volumes in 1920,<sup>29</sup> and the First Hungarian Youth Association reported 254 volumes in 1907.<sup>30</sup>

Their collection development was based either on further support coming from the Council — as in the case of the First Hungarian Association in San Francisco, Cal. — or on their own sources. What were these sources? They comprised the loan fee, a few cents per book,<sup>31</sup> modest donations from members,<sup>32</sup> and the income from different social events organized by the association, e.g. balls, bazaars etc.<sup>33</sup>

The content of these libraries was probably very similar to that of collections organized by the National Council of Museums and Libraries in Hungary. The main goal of the free library movement was to serve the uneducated masses.<sup>34</sup> The requirements described by the Hungarian emigrants in their applications themselves were based on this ideal. They applied for books of the following kinds:

... Mainly easy-to-understand historical works, descriptions of Hungarian folk life, the works of the best-known Hungarian writers and books dealing with agriculture should be sent.<sup>35</sup>

How was this demand satisfied, based on the lists published by the Council for book selection? The remains of one of the surviving libraries of this kind shows that feature. It is the library which belonged to the *Baross Gábor Benefit Society in St. Paul, Minn.*<sup>36</sup> It contains works by the following writers: László Arany, Elek Benedek, József Gaál, Ferenc Herczeg, Mór Jókai, Miklós Jósika, Zsigmond Kemény, Mignet, Kálmán Mikszáth, Viktor Rákosi, Zsigmond Sebők, Ede Szigligeti, Szikra (Mrs. Sándor Teleki), Kálmán Thaly, Károly Vadnai, and Gereben Vas. All of them can be found in the lists of the Council.

What kind of service were these libraries able to provide for their readers? Although the answer needs further research, the data uncovered so far have led to the following hypothesis. The libraries were small, the educational level of the readers was low and the opportunity to borrow books was insufficient. In some places the lending service was well organized, although in most places the hours when this service was available were rather rare, usually only on one or two Sundays a month. This service was probably well organized in Woodbridge, N. J. because they complained that their 155 books were not enough to meet the demand. It was probably less satisfactory in St. Paul, where 26 out of 156 books were borrowed in 1914 and 19 in 1916.<sup>37</sup> What was the real reason for this low book circulation and what caused the great interest for the books in Woodbridge? This question and, generally, the question about the way in which the motives of the service of the libraries of Hungarian associations were defined, need more research before an answer can be given. What can be stated now is that the characteristics and the differences were mainly based on local conditions: the size of the Hungarian community, the extent of the membership of the association, its social composition, the measure of activity of the association, the level of service provided by their library and, last but not least, the quality and content of the library collection and the possibility for book supply to refresh the collection. This is the most important question to be examined. At this point we know that the contemporary criticism of the free library movement in Hungary



drew attention, in 1906, to the inadequacies concerning the content and book supply of the libraries in Hungary.<sup>38</sup> Knowing this, it is still safe to say that Hungarian-American libraries probably had an important role because they served as the primary source of Hungarian reading material for Hungarian-Americans in the first years of mass immigration. The role of the Hungarian collections developed in American public libraries is not discussed in this article. It will be the subject of another study. Here, let it suffice to say that the libraries maintained by the associations offered more attractive access to Hungarian material than the Hungarian collections of the American public library system for the first generation of immigrants who did not strive to step out from their Hungarian-American environment. Use of the American libraries required further adjustment to American institutions.

### Further Developments

Further developments can be followed on two tracks. First, how has this library movement been expanded? Second, how have these early library collections survived and changed and how has their function been modified during their history? Research must be continued in order to give complete answers to both questions.

To answer the first one, the history of the support for Hungarian libraries from the Hungarian Reformed Church and the Catholic Church in Hungary has to be examined. According to data available in the Hungarian National Archives, both churches played a role in the expansion of the free library movement for Hungarian-Americans. It seems the programme initiated by the Hungarian Reformed Church was more successful than that of the Catholic Church. By 1906, 10 congregations out of those that had joined the Hungarian Reformed Church had free libraries.<sup>39</sup> By 1907 the foundation of free libraries for Hungarian-Americans became a programme of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Among the instructions for László Bede, who was sent to the US as the representative of the Hungarian Reformed Church, one included the following statement:

The board of the Convent has decided to establish libraries for all those scattered settlements in addition to the congregation, that are large enough to be able to take advantage of such a library service.<sup>40</sup>

To answer the second question, data concerning the history of the individual libraries must be collected. The history of these early libraries is very diverse. Many of the early associations were short-lived, disbanding in a short time, as was the case with the reading circle in Throop, Pa. and in Scranton, Pa. Thus the National Council of Museums and Libraries had to change its earlier decision in 1912 and the 100 crowns allocated to each had to be forwarded to a different institution; to the Home of Women in Chicago.<sup>41</sup>

But many of those libraries that were founded in the early decades of the century have survived until the present day. It is interesting to follow their adjustment to the new features of the Hungarian ethnic community. During the following decades the Hungarian-Americans became permanent residents of the US. The Hungarian ethnic group was

joined by members of the higher educated social classes, who created their own Hungarian-American intellectual life. They published books of their own and, as a result, their libraries started to build a new type of book collection, the collection of Hungarian-American book-publishing. A good example of this kind is the library of the St. Stephen Catholic Church in Los Angeles. The album published for its 50th anniversary writes about this goal:

... besides the 1200 books that we have now, we are going to purchase new books to make sure, if it is possible of representation for all those Hungarian writers who live abroad...<sup>42</sup>

### Conclusions

Research on library services for Hungarian-Americans can provide valuable information on the questions of their assimilation and identity maintenance.

Much work is still needed to study the role of different types of library services and their importance for different generations.

The historical background provided here raises the urgent question of the present needs of ethnic Hungarian-Americans, including their need for the further supply of Hungarian books.

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19. Ibid. OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no. 748.
20. Ibid. OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no. 748 (XXII 1908 4237). "Folyó évi március hó 31-én 461. szám alatt kelt nagybecsű átirata kapcsán a melléklet visszavárása mellett van szerencsém Nagyméltóságodat tisztelettel értesíteni, hogy egyidejűleg felhívtam a Franklin Társulatot, hogy az aurórai magyar Szent József betegsegélyző és temetkezési egyesületnek (Aurora, 111. Un. St. of America) egy 100 kötetből álló, s a megállapított minta szerint az I. és III. könyvtár-csoportokból egybeállított népkönyvtári gyűjteményt tárcám terhére díjtalanul küldjön meg."
21. Ibid. OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no. 748 (XXII 1907 4320). "Hivatkozással Nagyméltóságodnak f. év január hó 4-én 5623 sz. alatt kelt, továbbá ugyancsak f. év január hó 4-én 6115. sz. alatt kelt nagybecsű átiratára van szerencsém Nagyméltóságodnak nagybecsű tudomására hozni, hogy a St. Pauli Baross Gábor Egyletnek adandó könyvekre 100 azaz száz k.t, a bridgeporti egyesület részére pedig egy szekrényvel ellátott 400 k-ás könyvtár adományozását engedélyeztem a Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Orsz. Tanácsának."
22. Ibid. OL MNM K737 Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsa.
23. See the annual reports of the National Council of Museums and Libraries in *Múzeumi és Könyvtári Értesítő*:

1 (október 1 1907):	109–112.
2 (március 1 1909):	53.
3 (június 15 1909):	178.
4 (december 15 1960):	261.
5 (július 1 1911):	300–301.
6 (július 15 1912):	223.
7 (március 1 1913):	288.

24. Ibid.
25. National Archives, Budapest – Record Group OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no. 748 (XIX 1906 4997).  
 “Ami pedig a külügyminiszteri átirat utolsó bekezdését illeti, mely az amerikai magyarságnak könyvtárakkal leendő tervszerű és szervezett ellátását illeti, erre vonatkozólag megjegyzem, hogy célszerűnek látszanék e kérdést bizalmas tanulmányozás végett a Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsának kiadni, mely szerv szakvéleménye alapján kívánnék e kérdésben itthoni szempontból állástfoglalni.”
26. Ibid. OL MNM K 736 Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsa 1913, p. 419.  
 “. . . gróf Khuen-Héderváry Károly miniszterelnök még 1909-ben felkérte a közös külügyminiszter urat, utasítsa összes külképviseleti hatóságainkat, hogy tájékoztatást adjanak afelől, vajjon hivatali készletekben mely helyeken vannak már magyar könyvtárak, továbbá, hol van szükség a meglévő könyvtárak kibővítésére, illetőleg újak létesítésére. Erre nagy számú jelentés érkezett be, amelyekből kitűnt, hogy kb. 70 külföldi helyen volna magyar könyvtár létesítésére szükség. Lukács László miniszterelnök azt javasolja, hogy a könyvtárak szétküldése 5 esztendőre osztassék, öt évenként 14 könyvtárnak adományozása mellett. Ezekből azonban évenként 7–8 lehetőleg Amerikába küldessék, hogy a washingtoni cs. és kir. nagykövetség gondoskodnék azoknak elhelyezéséről. A szétküldés sorrendjére tervezet készítenőd. Az ügy kiadatott Ferenczi Zoltán dr. urnak aki jelentésében javasolja, hogy a könyvtárakból (á 500 k) évenként 8 küldessék Amerikába, 6 pedig európai helyekre és pedig elsősorban Romániába, Bulgáriába, Németországba, továbbá Svájcba, Angol–Olasz–Török–Franciaországokba s esetleg Bukovinába.”
27. Ibid. OL MNM K737 Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsa 1916, p. 159.
28. Ibid. OL ME K26 XIX 1906 package no. 660 (XIX 1906 1980).
29. IHRC, St. Paul, Minn. – Baross Gábor Benefit and Aid Society in St. Paul. Minutes. (1904–1916), p. 197. and (1916–1930) p. 97.
30. National Archives, Budapest – Record Group OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no. 748 (XXII 1907 2843).
31. *A St. Paul-i Baross Gábor Társas és Betegsegélyző Egylet alapszabályai (By-laws of the Baross Gábor Benefit and Aid Society in St. Paul)* [3. ed] (New York: Amerikai Magyar Népszava, 1918), p. 10.
32. IHRC, St. Paul, Minn. – Working's Sick Benevolent and Educational Federation. Branch 116. Minutes. (November 12<sup>th</sup> 1924), p. 7. and (January 21<sup>st</sup> 1927), p. 46.
33. IHRC, St. Paul, Minn – Minutes of the Hungarian American Organizations.
34. *Utastítás a népkönyvtárak tervezésére. A népkönyvtárak számára ajánlható művek jegyzékével kiadja a Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsa (Guide-lines for the planning of free-libraries including the list of recommended books published by the National Council of Museums and libraries).* (Budapest: Athenaeum, 1902) p. 7.
35. National Archives, Budapest – Record Group OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no 748 (XXII 1908 5563):  
 “. . . főleg könnyen érthető történeti munkák, a magyar népeletből vett leírások, a legismertebb magyar írók és költők művei, s mezőgazdasági kérdésekkel foglalkozó könyvek küldessenek.”
36. Ilona Kovács, “St. Paul-i Baross Gábor Társas és Betegsegélyző Egylet könyvtárának története, mint az amerikai–magyar egyleti könyvtárak egy példája (The history of the Baross Gábor Benefit and Aid Society Library, St. Paul, Minn.)” *Az Országos Széchényi Könyvtár Évkönyve* 1980 (1982): 577–582.
37. IHRC, St. Paul, Minn – *Baross Gábor Benefit and Aid Society in St. Paul*. Minutes. (1904–1916), p. 197. and p. 241.
38. Ervin Szabó, Általános irányelvek népkönyvtárak könyveinek megválogatására (Guide-lines for the selection of books for free libraries, in *Szabó Ervin könyvtártudományi cikkei és tanulmányai* (Budapest, 1959) pp. 87–98.

39. National Archives, Budapest – Record Group OL ME K26 XXII 1908 package no. 748 (XIX 1906 5102).
40. Ibid OL ME K 26 XXII 1909 package no. 797 (XXII 1907 4588)  
 “A konvent elnöksége elhatározta, hogy gyülekezeten kívül mindazon szórványokon is fog egy-egy népkönyvtárat felállítani, hol a lélekszám elegendő arra, hogy a könyvtár használatából eredményt lehessen elvárni.”
41. Ibid OL MNM K737 Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Tanácsa 1912 798 és 8450.
42. *St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church* (Los Angeles, 1969), p. 18 and 47.

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### HUNGARIAN STUDIES IN NORTH AMERICA: THE HUNGARIAN STUDIES REVIEW

The *Hungarian Studies Review*, formerly *The Canadian-American Review of Hungarian Studies*, is a biannual inter-disciplinary forum for work in Hungarian Studies, currently edited at the University of Toronto. It first appeared under the earlier title in 1974, and over the twelve years of its existence has produced a highly impressive body of scholarly work unparalleled in range, depth and consistency by any other contemporary venture of its kind in the Anglophone world.

Plans for the establishment of a North American periodical to be devoted entirely to Hungarian studies were already being made as early as 1971, but only came to fruition when the late Ferenc G. Harcsár (1910–79) founded the Hungarian Readers' Service in Ottawa in 1974. *The Canadian-American Review of Hungarian Studies* was launched by Dr Harcsár and N. F. Dreisziger (Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the Royal Military College of Canada) in the same year, and has been published by the Hungarian Readers' Service ever since. The opening volume of the *Review*, combining the first two numbers in a single issue, ran to a modest forty eight pages and carried no editorial introduction of aims or statement of policy. Its leading article – ‘A Canadian Meets the Hungarians’ – was by Watson Kirkconnell, one of the foremost pioneers of Hungarian studies in Canada, and the translator of several volumes of Hungarian poetry. From 1975 until his death in 1977, Kirkconnell was Honorary Editor of the *Review*, and also, in the words of Dreisziger, ‘one of the journal's mentors’. A special issue of the *Review* appeared in the Autumn of 1977 as a tribute to Kirkconnell, containing the first part of his translation of János Arany's epic poem *Toldi*, and an extensive account of his life and activities by Dreisziger, who edited the journal single-handed until 1981.

If the first (double-issue) volume of the *Review* had left room for some apprehension as to its editorial and financial resources and chances for survival, any such doubts were quickly dispelled by the length and quality of the numbers which followed.