

States mines and factories, he thought that Canadian homestead settlement would provide a better haven of protection for them. This aspect of Esterhazy's activity is worthy of further exploration, since it would clarify the background of East European peasant migration from the United States to Western Canada.

In publishing the pamphlet compiled by Esterhazy in 1902, Professor Kovacs had made accessible an important historical record for all scholars of immigration relating to Western Canada. In addition to a brief historical survey of the colony, it includes 22 contemporary photographs of early homesteads and homesteaders, the personal statements of 31 original settlers on their Canadian life prior to 1902 and a map of the colony.

The present study offers, essentially, an indispensable foundation for a badly needed scholarly assessment of Canadian-Hungarian life. It is to be hoped that the author will continue his scholarly efforts by preparing such a comprehensive historical study relating the story of Hungarian immigrants in 20th century Canada.

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The Hungarians in America 1583-1974: A Chronology & Fact Book. [Ethnic Chronology Series Number 18]. Edited and compiled by Joseph Széplaki. Dobbs Ferry, New York: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1975. Pp. vii + 152. \$6.00.

Joseph Széplaki's *The Hungarians in America 1583-1974* is one of the volumes in "The Ethnic Chronology Series" initiated by Oceana Publications, Inc. in 1971. Currently the series contains close to two dozen volumes, with several others in various stages of preparation.

Oceana's Ethnic Chronology Series is one of several such serial publications that came into being in consequence of the so-called "ethnic revolution" of the past decade. Its editors claim that this series "seeks to reflect unpolemically and objectively the role of America's minorities in the development of a democratic, multi-ethnic society." This is indeed an ambitious and commendable goal, although one may perhaps question whether such basic "fact books," geared to the non-specialists, can really fulfil all that. The Oceana ethnic volumes are neither histories, nor synthetic assessments of the contributions of the individual ethnic groups to the general makeup of American civili-

zation. Rather, they are compilations of basic factual information. Thus, while they are useful as handy reference works, they can hardly hope to reflect their subjects' real contributions to the making of America.

Joseph Széplaki, the editor-compiler of the Hungarian volume in the series, is known to us from several similar publications, all of which contributed something to our knowledge about Hungarians in America. He again did his best to give us a factual summary of Hungarian-American history, and to compile many other useful and hardly easily accessible information about Hungarian contributions to American civilization. Thus, in addition to about 40 pages of chronology, stretching from Stephen Parmeneus' landing in 1583 to our own ways, he has compiled over 50 pages of useful documents. These include a wide selection, from Parmeneus's letter of 1583, to U.S. Governmental documents pertaining to the admission of over 30,000 Hungarian immigrants after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. The documents are followed by a series of useful lists, containing the names of "famous Hungarian Americans," the titles of Hungarian American newspapers, journals and serial publications, the names and locations of Hungarian societies, churches and schools, statistics on Hungarian immigration and on Hungarian population in the United States, the names and location of American universities offering Hungarian language courses, as well as those that have courses in the history, politics and culture of East Central Europe. Moreover, Széplaki's work also contains a list of Hungarian book collections (both public and private), as well as a selected bibliography of Hungarian-American publications in English. All in all, Széplaki made an honest and commendable effort to be comprehensive in his coverage. If he did not fully succeed, this is due less to the lack of effort on his part, and more to the pioneering nature of his work—a fact that must not be overlooked.

Insofar as there are problems with Széplaki's *Hungarians in America*, these are twofold: there are a number of factual mistakes, and the inclusion or exclusion of facts, events, personalities, university programs, book collections, etc. in his list appears—at times—to be less than fully balanced. Some of the factual mistakes were undoubtedly unavoidable, for the facts of the Hungarian-American past are not always easy to ascertain. Others could perhaps have been eliminated had the editor-compiler consulted a number of other specialists in the area, before publishing his work. These specialists

could also have expanded and balanced his chronology and his list of notable events, institutions, publications and personalities; and the result would have been an even more useful work on Hungarians in America.

Széplaki's work is thus not without flaws. Even so, however, it is a useful pioneering work, and a good beginning in the right direction. We would still urge the author that—before preparing the second edition of his work—he should consult with several specialists in the area (e.g. Rev. Edmund Vasváry and others), even though we know that such efforts are not always successful. We are certain that by doing so, his work will improve considerably, and it will become an even more useful handbook in the rising field of Hungarian-American studies.

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Attila József, Selected Poems and Texts. Ed. by George Gömöri and James Atlas. Carcanet Press, Cheadle. 1973.

Proletarian by origin, representative of a special brand of Marxism and Freudism, Attila József (1905-37) is one of Hungary's outstanding poets. The present collection of his poetry is thus far the most extensive available in English. The translator's John Bátki's brief note is followed by George Gömöri's expert introduction, discussing the poet's "psychoanalytic Marxism," "humanistic socialism," and suicide. The extensive supplementary material includes the often cited Curriculum Vitae (1937), a list of the main events of the poet's life, three letters written by him, a note on an early attempt at suicide, and an English language bibliography.

The fifty poems selected are fairly representative of Attila József's poetry. They include the celebrated socialist pieces (*A Breath of Air*, *Night in the Slum*), samples of the Freudian poetry (*Belated Lament*, *It hurts a lot*) and his most famous love poem, the *Ode*. The editors may well be right in giving less share to the great political poems of socialist persuasion than to personal lyrics (*Coral Beads*, *Summer Afternoon*, *Without Hope*). Their translation would, the editors contend, involve enormous thematic and technical difficulties and no poet in the English language is up to the task at present.

When compared with the 1966 selection of twenty poems, this