

Editor's Foreword

It is difficult to decide in what way appropriate tribute can be paid to a departed mentor, in this case our journal's Honorary Editor. We could have planned the publishing of a book of essays, a kind of belated Festschrift, as an expression of our last respects and sorrow. But such an ambitious undertaking would have involved years of preparations and could have strained our meagre financial resources. As an alternative we chose to dedicate one of the Review's issues to Watson Kirkconnell's memory, and fill it mainly with essays and reviews fitting for the occasion. Accordingly, in the first part of this issue we feature studies on subjects that had been dear to Kirkconnell in his lifetime: Hungarian poetry and verse translation. The exception is the first article which examines the historical significance of Kirkconnell's literary and other-than-literary activities as far as Canadians of Hungarian background are concerned.

In Part II of this issue we are proud to offer a taste of Kirkconnell's verse translation from Hungarian. Our sample is taken from his rendering of János Arany's epic poem, Toldi, into English. The poem celebrates the exploits of Miklós [Nicholas] Toldi, a Hungarian lad of legendary strength, during the middle ages. A complete version of Kirkconnell's translation of Toldi will be published separately by the Hungarian Readers' Service as soon as circumstances permit.

The third part of this special issue contains book reviews in the various fields of Hungarian studies. Although most of them do not relate to the realm of poetry or literature, it was thought best to print them in this volume rather than in the spring issue of 1978.

Many people have worked hard to make the appearance of this special issue possible. Drs. E. M. Basa, Joseph St. Clair and Stephen Scheer, as well as Mr. Maxim Táborny have each helped with the adjudication of one or two of the manuscripts. Professor Thomas Spira spared much of his valuable time to do most of the copy editing. Mrs. Hope Kirkconnell has sent us pictures of her late husband. Janet Kirkconnell supplied us with the manuscript of her late father's rendition of Toldi. Dr. F. Harszar has performed many of the innumerable chores involved in getting this volume on our subscribers' desks. To each of them we extend our thanks.

We also wish to acknowledge the offer of financial support which has been received from the Hungarian Helicon Society of Toronto, and the "matching grant" which has been provided by Ontario's Department of Culture and Recreation.

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