

repulsing this relieving force. Baron Mercy was one of the swiftest and most formidable artillery commanders. Followed by his men he threw himself on the galloping Turks, and his brave soldiers slaughtered so many of them that only three or four hundred of the three thousand Janissaries remained to tell the tale. It was no wonder that when they reported their defeat to the Grand Vizier, they said that they had "charged like Lions, but had been received by Devils".⁷ About fifty flags and pennants, eight cannon and a rich booty fell to the victors.⁸

The third and last attempt of the Grand Vizier to relieve the fortress was also frustrated by a daring cavalry movement led by Baron Mercy. It ended badly for him, however, for he died of a wound received in the head. His death was the greatest loss sustained by the English at the siege of Buda.⁹

September 2nd brought the long-awaited event. Buda again passed into Christian hands. All through the month of September thanksgiving services were held almost everywhere in Europe. In Vienna, Rome, Berlin, Paris and Madrid the firing of cannon, bonfires and memorial medals proclaimed the great victory. The news reached London on September 12th, and solemn Te Deums were sung in Whitehall and Windsor.¹⁰

The English volunteers bravely did their part in battle and shared in the glory of the victory. We owe a debt of gratitude to those foreign heroes who were led by a lofty ideal — the ideal which in the Middle Ages ruled in the hearts of all faithful Christians and inspired them with the glorious idea of the Crusades. They came from their distant country, ready to die for the faith, for the triumph of their ideals. It therefore behoves us to recall with reverence this little group of unknown heroes.

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CHAIR OF ENGLISH IN UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST CELEBRATES ITS FIRST JUBILEE

by

Dr. Stephen Ullmann

Just fifty years ago — on April 30th, 1886 — *Arthur J. Patterson* was appointed Extraordinary Professor of English Literature in the University of Budapest.

But, although no Chair of English was established in the University of Budapest until 1886, the teaching of English in that university can be traced as far back as the eighteenth century. In 1792 several Hungarian Counties (Pest, Zala, Csongrád) applied to the Government for English teachers. In 1823 John Lemouton, who was a Frenchman by birth, began to lecture in the University of Budapest on English; but his lectures were not systematic: and he did not even write regular reports on the results of his activity. It was not until 1849 that the teaching of English in Budapest University was officially begun, — and that was due to the efforts of Thun, Austrian Minister of Public Instruction. For some time, however, there was no separate Chair of English Philology; the teaching of the language was entrusted to private teachers (Lewis Egan); later on one of the private teachers (G. Dallos) obtained an appointment as "reader" or "Privat-Dozent".

The first really important event in the history of the Department of English in Budapest University was the establishment, just fifty years ago,

of a Chair of English Literature. Its first holder, Arthur J. Patterson, an M. A. of Cambridge, who was already Corresponding Fellow of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, remained an active professor until his death in 1898. Professor Patterson was well known as an authority on Hungary who had already rendered his adopted country eminent services as a publicist. His splendid library, now — through the courtesy of the University Library — in the possession of the Department of English, contains fine collections of poetical works and of scientific publications on language and literature.

From 1899 to 1908 *Arthur B. Yolland*, a graduate of Cambridge who subsequently proceeded to the degree of Phil. D. in the University of Budapest, functioned as lecturer. In 1908 he was appointed Extraordinary Professor of the English Language and Literature; in 1914 — just prior to the outbreak of the Great War — he was appointed Ordinarius and the Chair was made an ordinary chair.

During the past twenty years the Chair of English has developed rapidly and on a very considerable scale, as is shown clearly enough by the enormous increase in the number of students enrolled in the Department. This upswing is due primarily to the rapid headway made by English in

⁷ J. Richards, *A Journal of the Siege and Taking of Buda* . . . p. 32.

⁸ *Árpád Károlyi*, *Buda és Pest visszavétele 1686-ban*, p. 372.

⁹ J. Richards, *op. cit.* p. 36.

¹⁰ *John Evelyn's Diary*.

the public and social life of Hungary, as also to the introduction into Hungarian secondary schools of English as an ordinary subject. In 1924 English was included among the subjects for examination before the Secondary School Teachers Examination Board. Since 1917 a reader has also been attached to the Chair of English in the person of Dr. Alexander Fest, whose research work is concerned primarily with connections between Hungary and Great Britain.

Today the Department of English is one of the most popular and attractive departments of Budapest University. Since 1928 there has been a seminar connected with the Chair; and the library is well equipped and quite up-to-date. There is also a lecturer attached (Major J. C. Lawrance) and a professor's assistant (Dr. Eva Róna), while two prae-seminar classes are preparing the students for serious work in the Seminar. Every year a few dissertations are published under the auspices of the Department; since 1929 these dissertations have formed a collection of "Publications of the Department of English of the University of Budapest". The number of such disser-

tations is already 15. The popularity of the Department was strikingly illustrated in 1933, when the Members celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first appointment of their professor. On this occasion Professor Julius Németh, then Dean of the Faculty of Arts, gave expression to the esteem of his colleagues for Professor Yolland and his Department.

The number of students working under the auspices of the Department — originally about 20 — has risen to nearly 150.

Quite recently the Department issued the first of its Annuals — "Studies in English Philology" — containing dissertations by Dr. Eva Róna and Stephen Ullmann. It contains also a most valuable bibliography of works, articles etc. illustrating the literary and political connections between Hungary and the English-speaking peoples. This bibliography will be continued; the Department hoping that thereby it may contribute also towards elucidating many problems incidental to the history of the relations which have existed for so many centuries between the Hungarian and the British and American peoples.

P O L I T I C A L M O S A I C

THE BELGRADE CONFERENCES

Early in May Belgrade was the scene of two important conferences. First the Balkan Alliance and then the Little Entente Council assembled in the Yugoslav Capital for the usual periodical discussions; and, seeing that Rumania and Yugoslavia are in both groups, the two conferences were connected, not only in point of time, but also politically.

The Balkan Conference had to face the fact that Turkey — by one-sidedly proclaiming the fortification of the Dardanelles — had foreclosed the relevant Article of the Treaty of Lausanne. Of the allies of that country, Rumania in particular felt that her interests had been injured; and according to the press reports which found their way to the outside world she endeavoured to obtain from Turkey a declaration to the effect that even in the event of the closing of the straits she would guarantee Rumanian boats the right of unimpeded navigation. However, — again according to the reports — Turkey was only prepared to make a promise to the effect that she would not in the future demand any further revision of the treaty provisions. So the Balkan Alliance will willy-nilly be compelled to acquiesce in the revision of the provisions of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey relating to the Dardanelles which will probably be put into effect at the conference to be held at Montreux on May 24th.

Equally serious were the difficulties arising as a consequence of the attitude adopted by Greece in respect of the interpretation of the obligations devolving on the allies. Whereas Yugoslavia would apply the terms of the treaty extensively and would regard the *casus foederis* as ensuing also in the event of any violation of her Central-European frontiers too (thus not allowing the relevant provision to refer only to her Balkan boundaries), according to the Greek in-

terpretation the obligations of the allies do not extend to attacks from States outside the Balkans (that referring to attacks from Albania too), seeing that the Athenian Government does not consider the latter country either — which in respect of international politics is controlled by Italy — in the light of a "Balkan State". This interpretation the other three allies had to accept; for otherwise they might have induced the break-up of the Alliance.

There were differences of opinion also regarding the eventual armament of Bulgaria. As a consequence of the *rapprochement* between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria the official circles of Belgrade do not regard the restoration to Bulgaria of equality in military matters to be so impossible as people do in Bucharest. In Constantinople and Athens, indeed, people are apparently prepared to support Bulgaria's endeavours to that end. And, seeing that the Balkan Pact was aimed primarily against Bulgaria, the differences of opinion that have arisen on the subject have made a breach in the political unity of the members of the group even wider than that caused by the two other questions in dispute referred to above.

Under such circumstances we could not help smiling when we read the stereotype phrase in the official *communiqué* issued relative to the Balkan Conference to the effect that the four Foreign Ministers were "in perfect agreement". The same is true also of the Little Entente Conference — now held for the first time without M. Beneš —, of which the whole world knew in advance that it would have to cope with the shoals of conflicts of a bitterness never previously experienced. For on the eve of the Conference "Le Temps" — the mouthpiece of the French Government, the protector-in-chief of the Little Entente — openly pointed to the serious differences of