



# HISTORICAL KNIGHTLY ORDER OF VITÉZ NEWSLETTER



The Blessed Virgin Mária and the Christ-Child  
Ancestral picture in Esztergom, Cathedral



Bálint Balassi (Zólyom, Upperland, 1554 – †Esztergom, 1594)

## GRANT ME TRANQUILLITY

*Grant me tranquillity,  
calm impassivity,  
heavenly Lord!  
Guard my poor sanity,  
my heart in captivity,  
put to the sword!*

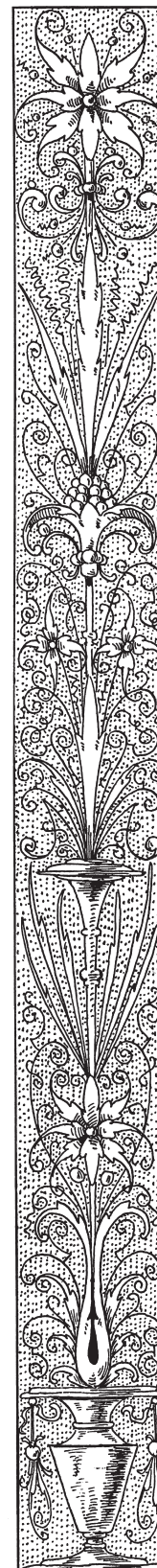
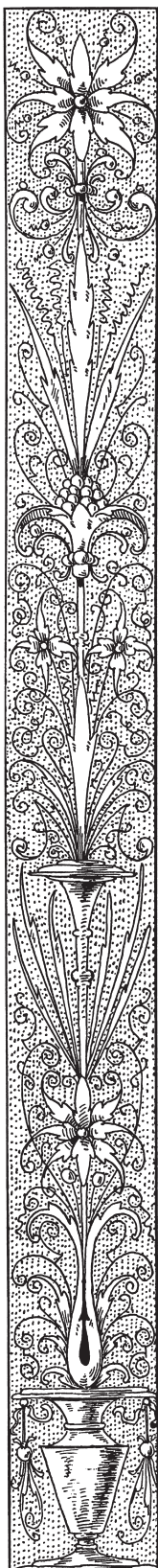
*Through long years of penitence,  
my spirit craved sustenance,  
desiring salvation;  
Shield me and watch with me,  
let not your enmity  
cause my damnation.*

*Flying, I'd bless you,  
adoring address you,  
my trespass defying,  
Thus practiced in flight,  
my soul being healed might  
I rise in my dying.*

*Why should I doubt,  
when despair is cast out  
in trust of your word;  
Freely you'll grant me  
the grace not denied me,  
the faithful's reward.*

*Lord, do not resist me,  
unclench your great fist,  
be tender and kind,  
Forgive my beginnings  
and heal the torn wings  
of my pitiful mind.*

(Translation:  
George Szirtes)



## Greeting from the Hungarian Historical VITÉZI REND, the Knightly Order of Vitéz

### Message from the General to the Knights of the Historical Hungarian Vitéz in exile, born abroad

My very best regards to our readers. The publication you are reading is a special issue in English of the periodical (Vitézi Tájékoztató, or The Chronicle of the Vitéz) published by the Historical Knightly Order of Vitéz with its seat in Hungary and covering five continents. Our history is told, in short, elsewhere in this issue. The reader will get an impression of the origins of the Vitéz Order, and what happened during the reign of (communist) terror, and during the 40 years of exile of the Order. The story leads us through the period of re-organisation to unify the heroes of the World Wars and their descendants. The Vitéz Order was re-born nearly twenty years ago in Hungary, but had lost direct contact with the greater part of the youthful vitéz outside Hungary.

This issue of our paper is aimed at finding and calling on the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those Hungarian Vitéz (knights) who were thrown into the tempestuous storms of history during the twentieth century. We try to reach out to them in the language of their homeland, since they had no chance to learn the language of their parents or grandparents, not having schools that could have taught them. It is hoped, nevertheless, that they still have some interest in learning of the Knightly Order that was driven from Hungary by Soviet arms, but returned in 1993. This Order of the defenders and builders of the nation honoured their fathers or their grandfathers choosing them and bestowing knighthood upon them. The vitéz

were shining examples of soldiers fighting bravely in wartime, peaceful, god-fearing, morally sound builders of families in peacetime, raising their children to be patriots – in the best sense of the word.

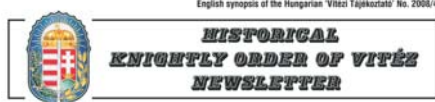
The life and fate of our nation was never an easy one. It is not easy today either. Therefore, we welcome the support of the descendants of the Vitéz Knights wherever they live, to aid our efforts to defend the nation and to improve its conditions. The support of the nation, of Hungarians having had hard times in the Carpathian Basin for over 1100 years does not mean money, necessarily. The nation can be supported through the preservation and improvement of our cultural heritage, showing the world our friendliness and guest free traditions, keeping up our famous folksongs and dances, remembering our national holidays, and so on. Be goodwill ambassadors of the Hungarian nation, spread the word about our famous scientists, inventors etc., who had made mankind so much richer.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us having seen our publication(s), our homepage or website, or if you liked what you just read.

Budapest, July 2009



László vitéz Hunyadi  
General of the Order



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## ORDER OF VITÉZ NEWSLETTER

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## About the Knightly Order of Vitéz – in short

by Field Captain Szabolcs vitéz Hajdú

The Regent of Hungary, Miklós vitéz Horthy de Nagybánya founded the Knightly Order of Vitéz (vitéz means valliant) in 1920 following the mutilation of the country by the Peace Treaty of Trianon. It was formed from the highly decorated heroes of the World War I. His aim was the establishment of an organisation with strong national dedication to brace the sagging spirits of the economically



Regent Horthy knightng war heroes – 1923

ruined nation. This organisation was planned to form the backbone of the nation, evolving in time into a nationally strong middle class.

He knighted such persons who volunteered to join, and earlier had proven their bravery in the theatres of war, and were highly decorated, showing their dedication towards the nation. The democratic base of the Vitéz Order is shown by the fact that the higher the military rank of the applicant, the higher decorations for bravery were pre-requisites of acceptance. The Vitéz were eligible also for the so-called 'vitéz homesteads', in order to strengthen the middle class.

Following the occupation of Hungary by the Soviets in 1945, the activity of the Vitéz Order was declared illegal and the Vitéz were subjected to the most vile oppression, jailing and deportations. The former supreme commander of the Hungarian Army, Hugo vitéz Sónyi (a four star general) started the reorganisation of the Vitéz Order in 1953 among the members remaining in the West, outside the sphere of the Soviet occupational zones. The former Regent, Miklós vitéz Horthy agreed to the initiative in his exile in Portugal, and in 1956 raised Hugo vitéz Sónyi to the rank of vice general of the Order. The Regent died in February 1957, shortly after the suppression of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. The seriously ill Hugo vitéz Sónyi followed him soon after. The Vitéz living in the West requested Archduke Joseph Ágost vitéz Hapsburg the field-marshal of the Hungarian Army and the first person to be raised to the Vitéz knighthood in 1921. The supreme authority of the Order, the Great Council of Vitéz was elected, the Archduke Joseph Ágost elected to general

of the Order and the Order had re-started its activities. The success of Archduke Joseph Ágost resulted in the acceptance of the Vitéz Order by the International Congress of Genealogy and Heraldry and its subordinate, the I.C.O.C. (International Committee on the Order of Chivalry) as an approved member of the orders of chivalry. The official name is: The Knightly Order of Vitéz, and the protector is the Holy Crown of Hungary.



Miklós vitéz Horthy de Nagybánya – Founder of the Order

The Soviet occupation of Hungary ended in 1991 and the Order of Vitéz returned home in 1993. The Great Council of Vitéz has been in Hungary since. Under the leadership of the General László vitéz Hunyadi, the Order has 10 territorial Seats active in Hungary, 2 in Transylvania (today in Rumania), one in Europe, one in the USA and in Canada, as well as in Australia – New Zealand. The world wide membership is approximately 2700 persons. Information on the Order of Vitéz and news of the activities may be found on the internet: [www.vitezirend.hu](http://www.vitezirend.hu) (for the time being only in Hungarian).

The aims and activities of the Historical Order of Vitéz nowadays are as follows:

The members and their families should be strong persons, Christians in faith, considerate, in peacetime resolute in their work; in war brave patriots. They should form an organisation faithful to the nation, patriotic and dedicated to the country, strengthening the social fabric of Hungary. Its aim is to honour and decorate those, who had proven their dedication to the nation and showed bravery in the wars and national uprisings of the past. Its aim is to appreciate and honour persons for their patriotic stance, and to strengthen the dedication of others by presenting to them these examples.

Regent Horthy knightng war heroes – 1929, Margaret Island



## Investiture in Kenderes, 6 September 2008

Last year, the Knightly Order of Vitéz held the ceremonial investiture of the newly admitted members in the town of Kenderes, in Eastern Hungary, the birthplace of Miklós vitéz Horthy de Nagybánya, founder of the Order and regent of the Kingdom of Hungary during the inter-war years and throughout most of World War II.



Moments preceding the investiture

Knighting of crown guard István vitéz Szentpétery



Entry of the representatives of the Transylvanian branch of the Order



Flag consecration of the Western Hungarian branch of the Order

The glorious day of having the General of the Order touch our left shoulders with the original broadsword and investing us with the title of 'vitéz' remains memorable for all of us – forever. Kenderes truly managed to accentuate the magnitude of this day – this was the town which gave our homeland the first person of the nation, who was the most outstanding Hungarian politician of the 20th century.

General László vitéz Hunyadi with the Hungarian Crown Guards and the parade squad of the Order



During the years of communism the Order was banned in Hungary. The deeply ignorant bolshevik, Moscovite residents stigmatized the heroically enduring vitéz community as fascists, and disinherited the nation of it, along with the aristocracy – the elite of Hungary (including Széchenyis, Tizsas, Apponyis, Andrássys and Telekis). After the change of political system in 1992, the leaders of the Order appeared in front of the President of the Republic of Hungary and applied for the acknowledgement of the Order, allowing and ensuring its operations within Hungary.

The Order is alive and active, we are present in the daily life of the nation, and thanks the God, there are more and more people who recognize our significance, who support us – and the worthy of admission.

It's not enough to have an ancestor who was a vitéz. It's not enough to have fought in the battlefields or have risked one's life or job in the revolution – much more is needed. National endurance, outstanding conduct, Christian morality, impeccancy – the attitude of a vitéz is required.

In the above-mentioned spirit, the Knightly Order of Vitéz is accepting the applications.



### 15th Anniversary of the Reburial

On 7th of September 2008, we commemorated the reburial of Regent Miklós Horthy and his family. The moments in 1993

were hard to believe: the ill-fated governor was finally buried in his final resting place here, in his homeland.



(pictures of scene)

## People We Are Proud of

### Memoires of György vitéz de Pott

György de Pott was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on 20 August 1943. He requested to join the 16th Infantry in Győr where his father, the late Colonel Gusztáv de Pott had also served.

‘We were mobilized in March of 1944. I was unexpectedly appointed the commander of the heavy anti-tank squadron of the 49th Infantry. I had to check in with the commander of the 6th Division by Tatárhágó, who happened to be my commander at the Ludovika Academy, Lieutenant General Ferenc Farkas de Kisbarnak. Unfortunately, the 49th Regiment was almost completely annihilated in the battle of Tatárhágó. We were then sent to the 19th Regiment and equipped with all kinds of automatic weapons–this is how we were created a flying squadron. Our tasks were reconnaissance, counter-attack and rearguard action. At the beginning of October 1944, a higher command was sent ordering us to retreat to the Árpád line of defense. My squadron was the rearguard, retreating last. We stopped at the country’s borderline, at Toronyai-hágó. By the time morning came, Russians had arrived. According to our command, we had to resist for three days. One night, among the hills, during the rearguard battles, we managed to meet other Hungarian defenders. Hardly had we moved into defensive positions, when the great abandonment took off, right down to the village of Csap. There was a day when we had come about 93 kilometers. We fought big battles and our losses were significant. On 19 November, I was informed about our relay and we left to get some rest. We were crossing a forest near Királyhelmece and to our surprise, we bumped into Russians from the West. Suddenly we heard the song »It’s useless to run, useless to flee, you cannot avoid your destiny« through the loudspeakers. After this, people started to abscond en masse – to an extent that our regiment disbanded’.



picture of ret. Lieutenant Colonel vitéz de Pott

**György vitéz de Pott**  
ret. lieutenant colonel

### Sándor vitéz Csantavéri, Sergeant of the Hungarian Royal Army

picture of v. Csantavéri The Pápa subgroup of the Knightly Order of Vitéz commemorated my grandfather, Sándor vitéz Csantavéri, and laid a wreath on his tomb on the anniversary of his 115th birthday. It is him who I should be thankful to for getting this beautiful badge and being a member of the Order together with my children. The feeling I felt at my investiture is indescribable – the blade that touched my grandfather’s shoulder in 1926 has touched mine as well!

Sándor Csantavéri joined the 19th Infantry in Győr during the first days of WW I, in August 1914, as a draftee.

He was sent to the Russian frontline in the middle of October where his arm had been shot through. Hardly had he recovered from his injury when he went back to the Russian battlefield in March 1915. Just within four short weeks, he became worthy of the highest merit, the golden Medal of Bravery. That young soldier had the brightest ideals of the true Hungarian warrior who managed to preserve his presence of mind even under the most hopeless circumstances.

Sándor Csantavéri had fought through WW I, and had proved his heroism. After the war, when he was discharged from the army as a sergeant, his chest was full of military medals.

**Iлона vitéz Kovács, Nemesgörzsöny**  
Pápa Subgroup of the Northern Dunántúl branch

### Dr. László vitéz Szirmay

I was born in Eger, in Northeast Hungary. My family has been living there for at least five generations. One of my uncles was a builder of the Eger Hospital of Mercy between 1907–1909.

My father was wounded five times, he was declared a 75% invalid, and he had to flee in disguise from the 1918 ‘National Council’ government. In 1922, he was knighted by Regent Miklós Horthy and appointed a reserve captain.



picture of vitéz Szirmay

I enlisted in the army’s sergeant training school in Jutas in the fall of 1944. In December, we were sent to German-occupied Poland. Escape, Bavaria, American captivity... I arrived back in Eger in October 1945, my parents’ small factory destroyed... I managed to get back to university in October of 1946 and obtained my diploma. In August 1949, we were ‘nationalized’, not only our house and business but our furniture as well, were taken away by the communists. Towards the end of December 1957, after midnight I swam across the Hanság Channel at Fertőd and through the ‘iron curtain’ – I arrived at the British Embassy of Vienna.

I established my professional recognition at the Technische Hochschule, then I worked at the Nitrogen Works in Linz. However, I gravitated towards Canada. After a short period of brick carriage, I got a job in the Esso laboratory, then Falcombridge. I went back to study and received a Master’s in chemical engineering at the Jesuits in Detroit. I worked for two years for GE in atomic reactor development and continued my studies at Ames University, Iowa, to get a Master’s in atomic reactor engineering. I earned my Ph.D. in 1969 in Denver, and became a professor at Youngstown, Ohio (YSU). I launched a course on atomic reactor engineering and atomic physics. I taught for 30 years there about environment pollution and renewing energy.

After 40 years of marriage, my beloved French wife, Simone died in 2003. I buried her in the family tomb near Nevere, in France and not much time later, I returned to my hometown, Eger.

## TRANSYLVANIA

### Consecration of Memorial Tablet – Fehéregyháza, Petőfi Museum

On 27 July 2009, we commemorated the 159th anniversary of poet-revolutionary Sándor Petőfi's death. After the worship in Fehéregyháza's (Transylvania) reformed church, we continued our remembrance by the Petőfi me-

morial. It was an elevating experience to see and hear Dániel vitéz Emődy, the offspring of Baron Dániel Emődy (a good friend of Petőfi), cultivating Petőfi's spirituality and, together with his 7 children, placing a plaque.

*Lines encarved in the tablet:*

*Dániel Emődy 1819–1891  
One of the March Youngsters  
Friend to Petőfi and Jókai  
orderly officer of Dembinszky  
Governing officer of Felvidék  
Chief editor of "Közlöny"  
'CUM DEO PRO PATRIA ET LIBERTATE'*

*Set up by his great-grandchild, Dániel Emődy  
Segesvár, 2008*



### Meeting of the Order on the Anniversary in the Gyimes Region



At the end of August 1944, after the Romanian desertion, Russian troops broke through the frontline in the Eastern Karpatians into Hungary. The border-troops consisting mostly of Székelys were defending Hungary at several locations and paid heavy sacrifices. The Russians entered the Gyimes-gap, too. Due to the tremendous numbers of Russian troops, they managed to seize Bilibók-top. The handful of surviving soldiers of the 4th Székely Borderguard Division testifying their unique, heroic courage, initiated a fast counterattack by bayonet assault and reconquered this strategically significant post. They managed to hold Bilibók-top until they were commanded to retreat. Year by year, we commemorate their self-sac-

rificing, victorious battle of great importance – and more and more people take part in it.

The Historical Knightly Order of Vitéz had a memorial set up on the battlefield. The stone was taken from the Sánc stream nearby, originally indicated the historical borderline. The tablet displays Greater-Hungary on the double-cross surrounded by a crown of thorns. The inscription reads 'TRIANON – Tribute to the heroes, attackers and defenders, rest in peace. 1944.' On the upper part of the stone, there are runic letters incised: 'I believe in Hungary's resurrection.' The encarving was made by Ferenc vitéz Orbán from Csíkszépvíz, a 84 years old Székely veteran, who participated the battle himself.



**Árpád Tóth**  
(Arad, Transilvania, 14 April 1886 – † Budapest, 07 November 1928)

### From soul to soul

*I stand beside the window late at night,  
And through the vast, incalculably far  
Distances of space, my eyes receive  
The signals of a gently pulsing star.*

*Its light has journeyed through a billion miles,  
Through icy darkness, lightless barren spheres  
Of emptiness, presistent and unflagging  
Across who knows how many thousand years,*

*A cosmic message that has found its way  
To me at last, its terminus my eyes,  
Which, thus fulfilled, is quite content to die;  
I close my eyelids on it, coffin-wise.*

*And I have learned how sieved through the fine crystal  
Instruments of science as through a mesh,  
This alien light brings news of elements  
At one with our sad planet and my flesh.*

*I lock it away, absorb it in my veins,  
Observe it with a hushed presentiment;  
What primal woe weeps light to blood, the sky  
To earth, and element to element?*

*Perhaps it grieves the stars to be alone,  
Those million solitudes dispersed through space?  
The fact that they can never meet again  
Through night, through ice, through monstrous emptiness?*

*O star, why do you weep? You're no more isolated  
Than earthly spirits, dwelling at removes!  
Who is to say which is the further off,  
The dog-star Sirius, or those we love?*



#### Support our efforts – donate the Árpád Ház Foundation

You can help our activity, publications and events by donating the Árpád Ház Foundation.

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Many thanks!



#### Contacting the Order of Vitéz Newsletter

Send an e-mail to  
[tvradmin@vipmail.hu](mailto:tvradmin@vipmail.hu)  
to comment on any article you have read in the Order of Vitéz Newsletter or on [www.vitezirend.hu](http://www.vitezirend.hu). Unless you state otherwise, e-mail to this address will be considered for publication. Don't forget to include your postal address. Published letters will be edited for length and style.

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