

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY PERSONALITIES

Achim, Viorel (b. 1961)

Senior Researcher at the Romanian Academy of Sciences, Bucharest. A historian, his main field of interest is the medieval period.

Bakó, Ferenc (b. 1917)

Ethnographer, Head of the Museums Directorate of Heves County. Doctor of History (1974).

Bakyth (Bakics), Pál (?–1537)

Border-fortress captain. Serbian family background, arrived in Hungary in 1522. For his bravery, Lajos II made him a noble. After the Battle of Mohács, he joined the forces of Ferdinand I. He was killed in battle during the Osijek (Eszék) campaign. His amputated head was sent as a trophy to Istanbul.

Bari, Károly (b. 1953)

Roma poet, literary translator, and artist. A collector of Roma folktales in the lyrical and epical genres. Awarded the József Attila Prize in 1984. In 1992, he received the Life-Work Award from the Soros Foundation.

Báthory (Báthori), István, of Ecsed (?–1493)

Military commander, Prince of Transylvania from 1779 until 1493. After Matyás's death (1490), he supported Ulászló II. His violence led Ulászló to remove him from power in 1493. Upset about his demise, he withdrew from public life and died shortly afterwards.

Báthory (Báthori), Zsigmond (1572–1613)

Prince of Transylvania whose unpopular anti-Ottoman policy led to civil war. He became increasingly active in the Counter-Reformation, to the dismay of the leading Transylvanian

nationalists, most of whom were Protestant. He gave up his throne, but later tried to reclaim it and was driven out. He died in obscurity.

Bătrân, Mircea cel (?–1418)

“Mircea the Elder” was one of Wallachia’s most important rulers. He strengthened the power of the state and organized the different high offices, promoted economic development, increased the state’s revenue, and minted silver money that enjoyed wide circulation in the neighbouring countries. He also proved to be a great supporter of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He maintained close relations with Sigismund, king of Hungary, relying on their shared interest in halting Ottoman expansionism. Towards the end of his rule, he signed a treaty with the Ottoman Empire which recognized the freedom of Wallachia in return for an annual tribute of 3000 gold pieces.

Bernáth-Mohácsi, Viktória (b. 1975)

Journalist at the Roma magazine *Amaro Drom* (1993–1994), reporter and presenter of the cultural programme *Múzsza Kulturális Híradó* (1995–1997). Awarded the Roma Civil Rights Prize in 1995. Worked for the European Roma Rights Center (1997–2002). In August 2002, she became Ministerial Commissioner responsible for the integration of Roma and other disadvantaged children. In 2003, the National Roma Self-Government awarded her its Public Life Prize.

Bihari, János (1764–1827)

Roma composer and violinist. Best composer and performer in the early nineteenth century and the greatest exponent of the Verbunko style. With János Lavotta and Antal Csermák, he created the so-called virtuoso triad of Hungarian musical romanticism. Around 1801, he came to Pest, where he established his well-known band, comprising five members (cimbalom and string-players). Beethoven and Ferenc Liszt heard him play on several occasions and admired his work. He was

restless and travelled through much of Hungary. He often performed in Vienna, too. The zenith of his musical career was in the early 1820s. A period of neglect began in 1823. In 1824, he broke his left arm and his career as a musician ended.

Bodgál, Ferenc (1932–1972)

Ethnographer. Worked at the Herman Ottó Museum in Miskolc from 1955 until his death. His special field of interest was folk metalwork, particularly smithery and copper moulding. Additional interests included brigand legends and folk art collections.

Charles V, Habsburg (1500–1558)

He initiated many wars with France during his reign. As Holy Roman Emperor, he called Martin Luther to the Diet of Worms in 1521, promising him safe conduct if he would appear. He later outlawed Luther and his followers in that same year but was tied up with other concerns and unable to try to stamp out Protestantism. He had been fighting with the Ottoman Empire and its sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, for a number of years. The expeditions of the Ottoman force along the Mediterranean coast posed a threat to Habsburg lands and the peace of Western Europe. In Central Europe, the Turkish advance was halted at Vienna in 1529. Charles later signed a humiliating treaty with the Ottomans, to gain him some respite from the huge expenses of the war. In 1545 began the Counter-Reformation. In 1556, he abdicated his various positions. In the last two years of his life he suffered from gout.

Charles VI, Habsburg (1685–1740)

King of Spain (1706–14), King of Hungary (as Charles III), and Holy Roman Emperor (1711–40). His reign in Hungary began with the Peace of Szatmár (1711). He launched two campaigns against the Ottomans, and his reign saw the establishment of a permanent army and the Vice-Regency Council in Pressburg (Pozsony) in 1723. After the death of his only

son, he arranged for the adoption of a law providing for the royal succession of females in the Habsburg family (the Pragmatic Sanction). Accordingly, his eldest daughter Maria Theresa succeeded him to the throne.

Csalog, Zsolt (1935–1997)

Writer and sociologist. Interested in and responsive to all groups—young people, artists, the poor, and Roma.

Csemer, Géza (b. 1944)

Writer, stage manager and dramatist.

Czeizel, Endre (b. 1935)

Physician and genetics expert. A genetics consultant since 1973. From 1984 he worked for the World Health Organization (WHO). His research has focussed on inherited and genetic diseases, birth traits, and epidemiology. Instrumental role in spreading knowledge of genetics. Editor and presenter of six television series. He received a degree in medicine in 1966 and a higher PhD in 1988. Founder of the Family Planning Centre. Member of many scholarly associations. In 1997, he was accused in a case involving Mariann Gáti and the adoption of Hungarian children by U.S. citizens, and he was fined.

Czinka (Cinka), Panna (1711–1772?)

Roma musician. Taught by János Lányi, a patron of music, in Rozsnyó. In 1730, she married a double bass player. With his two brothers, the married couple established one of the most popular gypsy bands of the era. Sadly, no authentic works have survived.

Dobó, István (c. 1500–1572)

Appointed fortress-captain of Eger in 1549. In 1552, with just 2000 soldiers and a crowd of peasant refugees, he successfully defended the strategically placed fortress of Eger from the Ottomans. The victory was important militarily and provided a moral boost. As a reward, in 1553, Ferdinand I made him

Voivode of Transylvania. In 1566, when Transylvania broke away from the Habsburgs once again, he was imprisoned by Queen Isabella but was soon free. Ferdinand compensated him with large estates and appointed him as Captain of Léva. In 1566, he took part in the defence of Vienna. He was arrested on false charges and was freed just before he died.

Durst, Judit (b. 1967)

Journalist, sociologist, and research fellow at the Department of Sociology and Social Policy of Budapest University of Economics and Public Administration. Her field of research includes poverty, ethnic identity and lifestyle.

Eichmann, Adolf (1906–1962)

German Nazi official. A member of the Austrian Nazi party, he headed the Austrian office for Jewish emigration (1938). His zeal in deporting Jews brought him promotion (1939) to chief of the Gestapo's Jewish section. Eichmann promoted the use of gas chambers for the mass extermination of Jews in concentration camps, and he oversaw the maltreatment, deportation, and murder of millions of Jews in World War II. Arrested by the Allies in 1945, he escaped and settled in Argentina. He was located by Israeli agents in 1960 and abducted to Israel, where he was tried and hanged for crimes against the Jewish people and against humanity.

Erdei, Ferenc (1910–1971)

Agrarian economist and politician. He participated in the March Front. A founder of the National Peasants' Party in 1939, he became its secretary-general. A member of the Interim National Assembly from December 1944; Minister of Interior between 22 December 1944 and 15 October 1945; Secretary of State (1948–1949); Minister of Agriculture (1949–1953); Minister of Justice (1953–1954). Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers (1955–1956), and Deputy Prime Minister in Imre Nagy's government. He

worked as a scientist from 1957. Chairman of the Patriotic People's Front between 1964 and 1970.

Erdős, Kamill (1924–1962)

Ethnographer and linguist. Commissioned at the Ludovica Academy, which had been uprooted to the West. Imprisoned by the French, he returned home with tuberculosis. From 1952, he worked as librarian in the medical library of the County Hospital in Gyula. Having learnt both Carpathian and Vlach dialects of Romani, he undertook linguistic and ethnographic research and distinguished the various ethnic groups of Roma in Hungary.

Esterházy, Ferenc, Count (1715–1785)

Chancellor-general, brother of the Archbishop of Eger (János Esterházy). From 1760, he served as Lord Lieutenant of Moson County, and in 1766, he was appointed to head the Hungarian Chancellery. His term saw the regulation of socage and the introduction of educational reforms in Hungary. He served as Ban of Croatia from 1783 until his death. He defended noble and ecclesiastical privileges at the time of Joseph II's reforms. He established a substantial library at his mansion in Cseklész.

Esterházy, Miklós, count (1582–1645)

Land-owning aristocrat, Palatine of Hungary, and the original founder of his family's wealth and power. Although of Protestant noble background, he converted to Catholicism at an early age. As a supporter of the Habsburgs, he increased his wealth by means of royal donations, while acquiring increasingly responsible posts. The Diet of Sopron in 1625 elected him as Palatine. In 1626, Ferdinand II, who gifted him the Castle of Fraknó, made him a count. As Palatine of Hungary, he defended the rights of the estates against Habsburg absolutism; but he also supported the counter-reformation efforts

of the Royal Court. He opposed the independence ambitions of the Transylvanian princes, the struggle of the serfs, and a reduction in their duties.

Ferdinand I, Habsburg (1503–1564)

King of Hungary and Bohemia (1526–64), King of Rome from 1531, Holy Roman Emperor (1556–64). After the death of Lajos II, he was elected king by the Hungarian diet at Pozsony. After a prolonged conflict, he and the other king, János I (Szapolyai), reached agreement in the Peace of Várad (1538), but the terms of the treaty were never implemented. He worked to centralize the Habsburg provinces and founded the Habsburg system of government in Hungary. In 1555, he signed the Peace of Augsburg on the settlement of religious issues.

Fráter, György (György Martinuzzi, original name Utiešenoviač) (1482–1551)

Hungarian statesman and later cardinal who worked to restore and maintain the national unity of Hungary. He was a skilled diplomat, and later became a close adviser to King János in his struggle against Ferdinand. In 1538, he concluded with Ferdinand the Treaty of Nagyvárad, which left King János with the royal title and most of Hungary, while Ferdinand became successor to the Hungarian crown. King János repudiated the treaty on his deathbed. The Ottomans recognized János Zsigmond (son of King János) as king, but occupied Buda. Martinuzzi, as guardian and regent, managed to retain Transylvania as an independent principality under Turkish suzerainty. He concluded an agreement with Ferdinand in 1551, by which he continued to be governor of Transylvania and became a cardinal. To forestall attack by the Ottomans, he resumed payment of the tribute to the Porte. Ferdinand grew suspicious of the Cardinal and had him killed.

Hieronymi, Károly (1836–1911)

Engineer, government minister, and conservative politician. From 1874, as State Secretary, he addressed such issues as river and floodplain regulation, road and railway construction, etc. In 1882, he was appointed as chairman of Austro-Hungarian Railways. From 1875, he served as a liberal Member of Parliament and as Minister of Interior (1892–1895). He played an instrumental role in the adoption of legislation on ecclesiastical issues, in public administration reform in Budapest (organising district councils) and the establishment of city water works. He served as Minister of Trade (1903–1905, 1910–1911), focussing on the technical development of industry and transport, in particular the construction of a canal between the rivers Danube and Tisza.

Horn, Gyula (b. 1932)

Politician, and Hungary's Prime Minister. In the 1960s, he received diplomatic postings to Sofia and to Belgrade. In 1989, he became Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1989, he and the Austrian foreign minister cut through the barbed wire separating the two countries, the "Iron Curtain." He then authorized East German refugees to pass over the border. He became a founder member of the Hungarian Socialist Party in 1989 and its chairman in 1990. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1990. Until 1993 he was chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Between 1998 and 2000, he served as deputy head of the HSP group. Between 1996 and 2003, he was deputy chairman (for Eastern Europe) of the Socialist International.

Horthy, Miklós (1868–1957)

Navy officer, Regent of Hungary (1921–1944). He put down a rebellion by sailors near Cattaro in 1918. Minister of Defence (1919), Commander of the National Army, co-operated with proponents of "White Terror." He retained the monarchy but prevented the return of Charles V. He took a tough stand

against communists. He relied on landowners and capitalists for support in domestic policy and on the Western powers, and latterly Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, in foreign policy. From early 1943, he put out various diplomatic feelers concerning Hungary's exit from the war. Attempts at a separate peace stalled, and a deal was prevented following a coup by the Arrow Cross. Horthy was taken prisoner by the Germans and then by the Americans. He lived in Portugal until his death.

Isabella, Queen (1519–1559)

Hungarian queen, daughter of Sigismund Jagiello, the King of Poland. Wife of János Szapolyai from 1539. After the death of her husband (1540) she chose as guardian of her son János Zsigmond, together with György Fráter, Péter Petrovics and Bálint Török, governor of Hungary. After the Turkish occupation of Buda (1541), she moved to Gyulafehérvár and tried to secure her reign over Transylvania with Ottoman assistance. In 1551, György Fráter forced her to resign in favour of Ferdinand I. The Transylvanian estates called her back from Poland and she ruled on behalf of her son until her death. At this time, Transylvania and Hungary were ruled separately.

Joseph II (1741–1790)

Holy Roman Emperor (1765–1790), King of Hungary (1780–1790). In order to promote a united empire, he made reforms based on enlightened absolutism. To preserve his independence from the Hungarian estates he did not have himself crowned (“king in a hat”). He took the Hungarian crown to Vienna, and refused to call together a Diet. He discontinued estate self-governments and governed with the help of appointed officials. He planned the taxation of nobles. At the same time, he tried to moderate the poverty of serfs, granting them freedom of movement and choice of trade. His educational and judicial reforms were based on enlightenment ideals. He declared the principle of all being equal before the

law. Such efforts as well as a policy favouring Germans caused considerable concern. The problems were accentuated by his difficulties in foreign policy and the setbacks of a war fought against the Ottomans in an alliance with Russia. He feared the collapse of the Empire. On his deathbed, he had no choice but to rescind his reforms—apart from his tolerance edict and his decree on serfs.

Joseph of Austria, Archduke (1776–1847)

Regent of Hungary (1795) and then its Palatine (1796–1847). During 51 years in the post of Palatine, he ran the affairs of the country in accordance with ideas emanating from Vienna, although he ran into conflict with the court on several occasions. Rather than raw violence, he sought clever agreements and advantageous compromises. During the French wars, he organized and led the Hungarian noble rebellion on several occasions (1797, 1800, and 1809). He was personally involved in efforts to make Pest a more attractive city.

Kiss, Elemér (b. 1944)

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Office (1989–1990), State Secretary at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development (1990–1991) and at the Prime Minister's Office (1997–1998). No political party membership. Minister in charge of Prime Minister's Office (2002–2003).

Kiss, Péter (b. 1959)

Organized, in 1988–89, of series of debates on reform. Founding chairman of the Leftist Youth Association. Founder member of the Hungarian Socialist Party; member of National Chairmanship from 1992–1996 and again from 2003; acting deputy chairman of National Executive from 1998–2000; deputy leader of Socialist group from 1998–2000. Since 1994, he has been a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Science. Minister of Labour (1995–1998, 2002–2003). He has been Minister in charge of the Prime Minister's Office since 2003.

Lajos II (1506–1526)

King of Hungary and Bohemia from 1516, and last monarch of the Jagiello line. He was the final king to rule all of Hungary before the Ottoman Empire conquered a large portion of it. He was sickly as a child but intelligent. To secure the succession, he was crowned King of Hungary (1508) and Bohemia (1509) and became king after his father's death. He was declared of age to rule in 1521. The Turks attacked Hungary in the summer of 1526, and Lajos, with an inadequate force, advanced against them. He died at the Battle of Mohács. After that defeat, Hungary was divided between the Turks and the Austrian Habsburgs.

Lehoczky, Tivadar (1830–1915)

Archaeologist and historian. He took part in the 1848/49 War of Liberation as an artillery officer. After studying law, he became a court official. He took the judge's examination in 1856 and the attorney's examination in 1861. He became Chief Prosecutor for the Munkács estate in 1865. He established a large collection of artefacts and coins, which later formed a museum. From 1864, he collected Ukrainian and Slovak folk songs and proverbs in the Carpathian region.

Lévai, Katalin (b. 1954)

She received a PhD in Sociology in 1992 and a higher doctorate in 1993. Worked as a researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1987–1990). From 1989, she founded and became chief editor of the social policy magazine *Esély*. She later served as Head of Department for Equal Opportunities at the Ministry of Labour and as Hungary's representative in the Council of Europe's Committee on Equal Opportunities (1996–1998). She was founder and chairman of the Equal Opportunities Foundation (1999–2002); Ministerial Commissioner for Equal Opportunities (from 2002), and Director of the Equal Opportunities

Department of the Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour. She served as Minister without portfolio responsible for Equal Opportunities (2003–2004).

Liskó, Ilona (b. 1944)

Doctor of Sociology (1992), scientific staff member of Institute of Sociology (1972–81), staff member and then senior staff member of the Institute for Educational Research (2003). Director of the Higher Education Research Institute since 2004.

Maria Theresa (1717–1780)

Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, Archduchess of Austria (from 1740), and Holy Roman Empress (from 1745). Had 16 children by Francis Stephen, Duke of Lorraine. After she assumed the throne, the Bavarian elector, Prussia and Spain failed to accept her succession as a female. During the War of Austrian Succession, she managed to defend her territories. She centralized government, withdrawing most of the privileges of the Austrian, Hungarian and Bohemian estates; she appointed no Hungarians to serve on the State Council. Her efforts in this field were in vain due to the resistance of the Hungarian nobles. Thereafter she did not tamper with the privileges of the Hungarian estates. Her decrees on labour payments prevented the severe exploitation of serfs. Her economic policy was characterized by a customs system that was unfavourable to Hungary as well as measures to restrict industrial development in Hungary and to channel agricultural exports to Austria. In the second half of her reign, her policies were characterized by enlightened absolutism. The *Ratio Educationis* removed the management of education from the church and made it a task of the state.

Matthias (Corvin; Mátyás Hunyadi) (1443–1490)

King of Hungary (1458–90), who attempted to reconstruct the Hungarian state after decades of feudal anarchy, chiefly by

means of financial, military, judiciary, and administrative reforms. After the death of his father (János Hunyadi) and elder brother, Mátyás became heir to a vast landed property and a prestigious name. After the death of László V, a general diet held in Buda and Pest in 1458 elected Mátyás king. After struggles to stabilize his reign against repeated attacks, Mátyás held back Ottoman invaders. He reorganized the Hungarian defensive system, taking the lack of forces into account. He did everything he could to increase state incomes and to improve and modernize his army and its mode of warfare. From childhood, he expressed an interest in learning languages, classic Latin culture, modern humanistic ideas, and ancient books. He supported artistic and scientific development. As a benefactor of all kinds of art, he founded a substantial library, the famous Corvina. His name later became a symbol of strength and independence.

Nádasdy, Ferenc, Count (1625?–1671)

Vice-regent. In 1646 he became royal court master and then country judge in 1664, Lord Lieutenant of Zala and Somogy County, internal privy counsellor. Regent (1667–70). He was a highly cultivated aristocrat who was a generous patron of science and the arts. He was a leading member of the Wesselényi conspiracy against the policies of the Court in Vienna. He was sentenced to death in Vienna and beheaded. The treasury confiscated part of his wealth.

Nádasdy, Tamás, Baron (1498?–1562)

Land-owning aristocrat, palatine. He sided with Ferdinand I after the Battle of Mohács. In 1527 he became Captain of Buda Castle. In 1529, he was captured by the Turks and handed over to Szapolyai, who later granted him enormous estates. He became the Ban of Croatia in 1537, country judge in 1540, and Palatine in 1554. In 1553, he was made a baron. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Reformation.

Orbán, Viktor (b. 1963)

Founder member of the League of Young Democrats (Fidesz) in 1988. On 16 June 1989, he gave a speech at Heroes' Square, Budapest, on the occasion of the reburial of Imre Nagy and other national martyrs. The speech brought him national and political acclaim. He took part in the Opposition Roundtable negotiations (1989). A Member of Parliament since 1990 and leader of Fidesz (1990–1993). Chairman of Fidesz (1993–1996). Vice-Chairman of the Liberal International (1992). Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration (1994). Prime Minister (1998–2002). In 2002, he became Vice-Chairman of the European People's Party (EPP). He has been Chairman of Fidesz–Hungarian Civic Party since 2003.

Rákóczi, Ferenc II, Prince of Transylvania (1676–1735)

Prince of Transylvania, and prince leading the allied estates in Hungary, leader of the anti-Habsburg Hungarian war of independence from 1703–1711. Son of Ferenc Rákóczi I and Ilona Zrínyi. He was raised in separation from his mother as a Habsburg loyalist. Nevertheless, the arbitrariness of Habsburg rule in newly acquired Hungary and excessive taxation, turned him away from Vienna. After one and a half decades of liberation wars, the war of independence could not succeed on its own. But Rákóczi's attempts to persuade France or Russia to offer assistance were fruitless. Having rejected the Peace of Szatmár, which lacked guarantees, he died in exile in Rodosto (Tekirdag) Turkey.

Rákóczi, György I, Prince of Transylvania (1593–1648)

Prince of Transylvania from 1630–1648. Son of Zsigmond Rákóczi. Intervened in the Thirty Years War to force Ferdinand III to respect the rights of the estates and religious freedom on Habsburg-controlled Hungarian territory. A result

of his successful foreign policy was the Peace of Linz, which compelled the Habsburg emperor to acknowledge Rákóczi's right to rule over six counties in northern Hungary that Gábor Bethlen had previously secured (1645).

Réger, Zita (1944–2001)

Studied French and Latin at Eötvös Lóránd University in Budapest, and began work as a researcher immediately. She initially studied bilingualism among Roma children, using revolutionary methods. Later, as a professor of the Institute of Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, she attempted to clarify the functions of imitation in conversation and study, based on child language material in Hungarian, and to examine the relationship between social status and linguistic development as well as the linguistic socialization of Roma children raised in traditional communities in Hungary.

Sárosi, Bálint (b. 1925)

Folk music researcher, senior staff member of the Folk Music Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (from 1958), PhD in Musicology (1966). Teaching diploma and doctorate in Hungarian and Romanian (1948), diploma in musicology and composition at the Academy of Music (1956). His fields of interest include Hungarian folk instruments, instrumental folk music, Roma musicians, and African music. Has published many articles on these topics in Hungarian and foreign journals.

Sigismund, Bishop of Pécs (?–1505)

Zsigmond Ernuszt, Bishop of Pécs from 1473–1505. Also served as Ban of Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia from 1494.

Sigismund of Luxembourg (1368–1437)

Holy Roman emperor from 1433, King of Hungary from 1387, King of Germany from 1411, King of Bohemia from 1419, and King of Lombardy from 1431. He married Mária, daughter of Lajos I (the Great) of Hungary. On her father's death in

1382, Mária became queen of Hungary, and Sigismund was finally crowned as king consort in 1387. He pursued an expansionist policy against his half brother, the king of Germany, but made peace with him in 1396. He led an army against the Ottomans but was decisively defeated in that same year. The extent of his complicity in the burning of the Czech reformer Jan Hus (1415), whom he had invited to the royal council to defend his views, has never been determined. On the death of Wenceslas in 1419, Sigismund inherited the Bohemian crown, but a series of wars fought against the Hussites during the 1420s, most of which were military disasters, delayed his coronation.

Skutnabb-Kangas, Tove (b. 1940)

Finnish linguist and educational expert.

Solt, Otilia (1944–1997)

Sociologist at the Institute of Economic Research and the Institute of Sociology and History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Taught at the Budapest Teacher Training Institute (1974–1981). After his dismissal, he worked as a teacher and librarian. In the 1970s, he began to examine the living circumstances of the poorest people in Hungarian society. Based on this research, in 1979, he founded the Poor Support Fund. In the same period, he began editing the illegal opposition magazine *Beszélő*. In 1988, he became a leader of the Network of Free Initiatives and a founder member of the Alliance of Free Democrats. He served as Member of Parliament (1990–1994) and then, as college lecturer, he trained prospective social workers.

Soros, György (George) (b. 1930)

Hungarian-born American stock trader and philanthropist. He emigrated from Hungary to Great Britain (1947) and studied at the London School of Economics (graduated in 1952). He then moved to the United States (1956). Soros worked as a

financial analyst; he founded his initial offshore hedge funds (Quantum funds) in 1969. The business grew tremendously, partly owing to speculation in foreign currency. In the late 1990s, such speculation helped destabilize Asian and Latin American national economies. As president of the Soros Management Fund, he used his wealth to create a network of foundations which aim to assist former Communist countries in creating an anti-Marxist “open society,” to fund health initiatives, and to help immigrants in the United States. He established the Central European University in 1991. In the United States, he has funded political campaigns opposed to President George W. Bush.

Szálasi, Ferenc (1897–1946)

A typical exponent of the right-wing military officers of the Horthy era. In 1930, he joined a secret racist body called the Association of Hungarian Life. In 1935, he formed the Party of National Will, which sympathized with the Nazis. He failed at the elections in 1936. Even Horthy’s supporters considered his right-wing views to be dangerous, and he was imprisoned (1937, 1938). With German support, he established the Arrow Cross Party (1939). On 15 October 1944, he took power in a coup and became Hungary’s national leader. As the so-called “nation-leader” he gave full economic and military support to the Germans. Many thousands of Jews, deserters, and left-wingers were murdered or deported. At the end of the war, he fled to Germany, where he was captured and imprisoned by U.S. forces. A People’s Tribunal sentenced him to death for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Szentgyörgyi, Péter (?–1517?)

Voivode of Transylvania from 1498–1510, country judge from 1500–17. In 1502, he fought alongside János Corvin against the Turks. In 1506 and 1515, he took part in negotiations on Habsburg succession. A member of the governing council in 1516.

Takáts, Sándor (1860–1932)

Historian and Piarist teacher, a correspondent member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1906) and then full member (1925). He was asked by the Hungarian government to analyse Hungarian material at the Court Chamber Archives in Vienna (1898–1903). From 1903 until his death, he was employed as parliamentary archivist. At first his main interest was the history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but later he concentrated on the Hungarian Reform Era of the nineteenth century.

Teleki, László (b. 1959)

He trained at college as a Romologist. In 1995 he became chairman of the Roma Minority Self-Government in Nagykanizsa and chairman of the Roma Minority Self-Governments Association of Zala County. He served on an international committee whose task was to construct a Roma Memorial at Auschwitz (1995–2000). A member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Foundation of Hungarian Roma from 1997. Since 1998 he has been a member of Nagykanizsa Council, and vice-chairman of the National Roma Self-Government. Since 2000 he has been chairman of the National Association of Roma Organizations. Member of Parliament, and in 2002 he became Political State Secretary for Roma Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office.

Thaly, Kálmán (1839–1909)

Politician, historian, and poet, correspondent member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1864) and then full member (1880). Member of Parliament (from 1878), deputy-chairman of the Independence Party. Vice-Chairman of the Hungarian Historical Association (from 1889), first editor of the journal *Századok* (1867–1875). Wrote numerous works on the Rákóczi era. Published many source data, but without any

critical analysis. His resolve meant that he was able to bring home to Hungary the ashes of Ferenc Rákóczi II and his fellow exiles.

Thurzó, György, Palatine (1467?–1521)

Chamber count (*comes camerae*). At a young age, he joined his father's business, Fugger and Thurzó Company, and then headed the company. Consul in Krakow (1511), chamber count of Körmöc (1509–1520). After his marriage, he moved to Augsburg. A year before his death, he suggested to Jakab Fugger that the business be wound up in Hungary.

Ulászló II, King (1456–1516)

King of Bohemia from 1471 and King of Hungary from 1490. Fought against King Matthias at Boroszló and was defeated (1474). Although the Pope recognized him as King of Bohemia (1487), he was unable to unite the country. After Matthias' death, the Hungarian barons elected him, because they considered him to be a weak ruler. In return for their support, they demanded the abolition of the war tax, the restoration of the "ancient rights" of the nobles, and the right of the council to make decisions on important issues. In 1504, he signed a seven-year peace agreement with the Turks, and in 1510 a new agreement was signed for three years. His rule was characterized by a struggle between the barons, János Szapolyai, and the noblemen. Meanwhile the peasants' situation grew worse. After the suppression of the peasant war led by György Dózsa (1514), the peasants were denied all rights in Ulászló II's retributive decree of 1514.

Várnagy, Elemér (b. 1930)

PhD in linguistics (1978). Head of the Romology Department—the first of its kind worldwide—at Zsámbék Catholic Teacher Training College. During his 40 years of teaching, he wrote 80 papers, edited 14 volumes, and gave lectures at conference held at universities throughout Europe. Continues to



work as a consultant and professional expert (UNESCO, Council of Europe).

Wislocki, Henrik (1856–1907)

Ethnographer and teacher. Studied at Kolozsvár University from 1876, where he received a doctorate. Analysed the lifestyle and language of Roma, and travelled with them, having given up his employment. He also conducted folklore surveys among the Hungarian, Sokac and Armenian ethnic groups and among Transylvania's Romanian and Saxon populations. Suffered a mental breakdown in 1897 and subsequently lived in great poverty.





CONTRIBUTORS

Jánky, Béla (b. 1972)

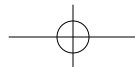
He was a visiting scholar at Indiana University, Bloomington (1998) and a visiting doctoral student at the Royal University of Groningen (2000). In 1997–1998, and again since 2004, he has been an associate editor of the *Hungarian Sociological Review*. He was an assistant lecturer (2000–2003) and is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology and Communication, Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Since 2002, he has been Secretary of the Economic Sociology Workshop of the Hungarian Sociological Association. He has received the Pro Scientia Gold Medal for young scholars of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1997); Bolyai Scholarship of the HAS (2001–2004); Deák Scholarship of the Hungarian Ministry of Education (2003–2004); Excellent Teaching Award of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (2005). He has been a reviewer for the *Policy Studies Journal* (USA).

Major publications:

István Kemény, Béla Janky and Gabriella Lengyel, *A magyarországi cigányság 1971–2003* [Roma in Hungary, 1971–2003], (Budapest, 2004).

Szolidaritás és jóléti preferenciák [Solidarity and Preferences for welfare], (Budapest, 2005).

Béla Janky, Miklós Králik and László Sipos, eds., *A fogyasztás társadalmi beágyazottsága Szöveggyűjtemény* [The Social Impregnation of the Consumption. Chrestomathy], (Budapest, 2005).



Kállai, Ernő (b. 1969)

He studied history, sociology, political science, and law. He was a founding member of the Minority Studies Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and currently heads the Romology Research Team. His research topics include the Social History of Roma in Hungary, minority self-governments, Roma musicians in the past and present, analysis of political and government programs, etc. He also holds training courses for Roma—the first of their kind in Hungary—at the Apor Vilmos College in Vác.

Major publications:

Ernő Kállai and Erika Törzsök, eds., *A Roma's Life in Hungary*, (Budapest, 2000).

Ernő Kállai, ed., *The Gypsies/Roma in Hungarian Society*, (Budapest, 2002).

Ernő Kállai and Erika Törzsök, eds., *A Roma's Life in Hungary. Report 2002: A Year of Changes, Promises and Expectations*, (Budapest, 2003).

Ernő Kállai and Erika Törzsök, eds., *A Roma's Life in Hungary. Report 2003: Illusory Politics and Standing Still*, (Budapest, 2004).

Helyi cigány kisebbségi önkormányzatok Magyarországon [Local Roma Minority Governments], (Budapest, 2005).

Kemény, István (b. 1925)

He received his high school diploma in the Royal University Catholic High School Budapest in 1943. Imprisoned in December 1944 for his involvement in the resistance movement, he escaped prison in January 1945. In 1947–48, he worked as a researcher at the Teleki Pál Institute, subsequently teaching at a school (1948–49). In 1950, he graduated from ELTE University, Budapest, with a degree in Philosophy, Economics and Education. In September 1950, he was

appointed as assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities, ELTE University, Budapest. In March 1951, he was dismissed from his post for “conduct hostile to people’s democracy.” From September 1951 until May 1957, he worked as a teacher. He was imprisoned from May 1957 until May 1959, owing to his participation in the 1956 revolution. From 1960 until 1969, he was employed as a librarian by the National Széchényi Library (Hungary’s national library). In 1963, he conducted representative research (in co-operation with Zsuzsa Ferge) on social stratification in Hungary. Between 1969 and 1972, he directed representative research on Hungary’s poor. In 1969–1970, he directed research on economic managers in Hungary. He directed national research on the Roma population in 1971–1972 and on Hungarian workers in 1972–1973. In January 1977, he settled in France, where he worked as a researcher at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (1978–1990). In 1990, he was appointed by the Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, where he served as director from 1992 until 1995. In 1995, he was appointed by the Sociological Research Institute, where he received the position of Senior Retired Fellow in January 2005. From 1990 until 2002, he was Senior Consultant to the Lord Mayor of Budapest. In 1992, he was chairman of the Hungarian Sociological Association. In 1994, he received a doctorate in Sociology from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He directed national research on the Roma population in 1993–1994 and (with Gábor Havas and Ilona Liskó) on the school segregation of Roma children in 1999–2000. In 2002–2003, he directed national research on the Roma population. He was awarded the Deák Ferenc Prize and the Széchenyi Prize in 2003.

Major Publications:

- Parasztágunk útja* [The Path of Hungary's Peasant Farmers], (Budapest, 1946).
- Elméletek a társadalmi rétegződésről* [Theories on Social Stratification], (Budapest, 1969).
- A Csepel Vas és Fémművek munkásai* [Workers at Csepel Steel and Metal Works], (Budapest, 1970).
- István Kemény, ed., *A szexuális élet szociológiája* [The Sociology of Sexual Activity], (Budapest, 1972).
- A magyarországi cigány lakosság* [The Roma Population in Hungary], (Budapest, 1976).
- István Kemény and Erika Törzsök, *Egy ipari szövetkezet munkásai* [Workers of an Industrial Co-operative], (Budapest, 1977).
- Ouvriers hongrois*, (Paris, 1985).
- Magyar munkástanácsok 1956-ban* [Hungarian Workers' Councils in 1956], (Paris, 1986).
- Velük nevelkedett a gép* [The Machine was Raised with Them], (sociological papers), (Budapest, 1990).
- Vagyongazdálkodás, városrehabilitáció és lakáspolitiká* [Economic Management, Urban Rehabilitation, and Housing Policy], (Budapest, 1991).
- Közelről s távolból* [From Anear and From Afar], (Budapest, 1991).
- István Kemény and László Gábor, eds., *XXX: 1963-ban alakult meg a Szociológiai Kutatócsoport* [XXX: The Sociological Research Team was Formed in 1963], (Budapest, 1994).
- István Kemény, Gábor Havas and Gábor Kertesi, *Beszámoló a magyarországi roma (cigány) népesség helyzetével foglalkozó 1993 októbere és 1994 februárja között végzett kutatásról* [Report on Research on the Situation of the Roma Population in Hungary, October 1993–February 1994], (Budapest, 1994).
- Representative Survey on the Gypsy Population in Hungary*, (Budapest, 1994).
- István Kemény, ed., *A cigányok Magyarországon* [Gypsies in

- Hungary], (Budapest, 1999).
- István Kemény, ed., *A magyarországi romák* [Roma in Hungary], (Budapest, 2000).
- István Kemény, ed., *A romák/cigányok és a láthatatlan gazdaság* [Roma/Gypsies and the Invisible Economy], (Budapest, 2000).
- Gábor Havas, István Kemény and Ilona Liskó, *Cigány gyerekek az általános iskolában* [Roma Children in Primary School Education], (Budapest, 2001).
- István Kemény, Béla Janky and Gabriella Lengyel, *A magyarországi cigányság 1971–2003* [Roma in Hungary, 1971–2003], (Budapest, 2004).
- Gábor Havas, István Kemény and Ilona Liskó, *Cigány gyerekek az általános iskolában* [Roma Children in Primary School Education], (Budapest, 2002).

Lakatos, Elza (b. 1969)

A journalist at the Roma Press Centre since its foundation in December 1995, she graduated from the *Magyar Hírlap*'s School of Journalism. Approximately fifty of her articles have been published in national newspapers, and she has also contributed to the publications of the Roma Press Centre. In 2001, she received second place in a reporters' contest organized by *Élet és Irodalom*. In addition to her work at the Roma Press Centre, she is editor and presenter of a program broadcast in Romani by Radio C.

Major publications:

- Romák/Cigányok és a láthatatlan gazdaság* [Roma/Gypsies and the Invisible Economy], (Budapest, 2000).
- Roma Holocaust—Túlélők emlékeznek* [Roma Holocaust—Survivors Remember] (Published in 2001 by the Roma Press Centre and based on oral history interviews).
- Zor-Sila najaripe—Kényszermosdatások a cigánytelepeken* [Zor-

Sila najaripe—Forced Washing in Roma Settlements]
(Published in 2002 by the Roma Press Centre and based on
oral history interviews).

Szuhay, Péter (b. 1954)

He received a degree in Ethnography in 1978 from ELTE University, Budapest, and a further degree in Sociology in 1980. Since that time he has worked for the Museum of Ethnography, where he is currently a museologist responsible for the Roma collection. His main field of interest was initially rural contemporary society, economy and lifestyle history. In the late 1980s, his interest turned to an examination of Roma culture in Hungary. In recent years, his two earlier fields of interest have come together in his research on the co-existence of Hungarians and Roma. He has presented his research at major exhibitions, in documentary films and in studies.

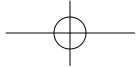
Major publications:

Images from the History of Roma in Hungary in the Twentieth Century (an Anthropological Photo-Album), (Budapest, 1993).

A magyarországi cigánység kultúrája: etnikus kultúra vagy a szegénység kultúrája? [The Culture of Roma in Hungary: An Ethnic Culture or the Culture of Poverty?], (Budapest, 1999).



Map 1: Pre-Trianon Hungary



Map 2: Present-day Hungary

