

A Note from the Editor

Paul Olchváry¹, literary translator, publisher of New Europe Books

With this issue, *Hungarian Cultural Studies* enters its sixteenth year of publication, under the guidance of a new editorial team, including a much-expanded editorial board.

As the journal's new editor in chief, I would here introduce myself and the rest of our new team, and share with you some thoughts on my vision for *Hungarian Cultural Studies* and its role in the fast-shifting cultural, sociopolitical, and academic circumstances of this new millennium.

However, I wish to first express my gratitude to the former editor in chief, Louise O. Vasvári, for the many years she dedicated to building this journal into one of the foremost academic publications in the field—a journal known for its rigorous scholarship and interdisciplinary approach, and, not least, for being open access, free to all.

Louise's exhaustive answers to my many questions last summer helped fill in some of the gaps in the learning curve that my many years as an editor, publisher, translator, and writer, as well as a young(er) adulthood spent in Hungary, could not. How did I come upon this path? In 1988 I began my MA in writing at Indiana University, Bloomington. Unbeknownst to me then, with that decision I was in fact starting a life more steeped in matters Hungarian than my bilingual Hungarian American childhood could have prepared me for. That's because I had landed at the university that was home to North America's foremost Hungarian studies program. Soon after stepping into the graduate dormitory, I heard Hungarian being spoken, whereupon I introduced myself to several young Hungarian scholars. We became fast friends, and that led to my life in Hungary before I resettled in the US to work at a leading academic press and later founded my own, East-Central Europe-focused press.

Over the past year I have been blessed to work with a team: Deputy Editor Zsuzsanna Varga, PhD, Senior Lecturer of Central & East European Studies at the University of Glasgow, has been an indispensable partner for me in this editorship. Our foremost aim this past year has been to ensure continuity at *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, and we trust that Volume 16 reflects this.

Of immense help to us has been the nine-member, international editorial board we assembled. All authorities in their respective disciplines, these associate editors include János Csapó, Zsuzsanna Cselényi, Paul Hanebrink, Sarah M Lucas, Andrew Ludányi, Judith Kesserű Némethy, Andrea Parapatics, Balázs Varga, and Kristóf György Veres.

Thanks also to our new book review editors, Ákos Farkas & E. M. McQueen; our many peer reviewers; our new copy editors, John Puckett & Andrea Thürmer; and our outgoing layout editor and editorial management system expert, Katalin Vörös, whose role is now being assumed by Klára Papp.

And then there is the scholarly body that has long published this journal, the American Hungarian Educators Association. While *Hungarian Cultural Studies* is editorially independent

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of AHEA, we are grateful to be able to draw on its membership and resources in our efforts to produce a journal of distinction.

Looking to the future, we envision a journal as daring as it is rigorous, as timely as it is timeless; a journal in which no perspective is excluded, even if it challenges either conventional scholarship or the perspectives of many readers, perhaps even our own. The core criteria for publication: scholarly rigor, contributing to and/or advancing scholarship, and sound writing.

We seek also to substantially expand our reach to potential contributors far and wide, both established and budding scholars in relevant disciplines and reflecting a range of perspectives. In keeping with this aim, we will engage the resources of social media.

In closing, let me add that with Issue 16 we are introducing a new section, "Perspectives on Hungarian Studies," which provides a home for articles woven through with more personal reflections than are the other articles. Add to this our nine general articles on a broad range of subjects, thirteen book reviews, and our plenary invited paper, Emőke Szathmáry's thoroughly informed, refreshingly objective, and absorbing consideration of what makes a Hungarian, a Hungarian.

Our journal's next chapter now begins.