

## The history of the Feleky Collection and its acquisition by the Library of Congress / Kenneth E. Nyirady.

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# THE HISTORY OF THE FELEKY COLLECTION

AND  
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KENNETH E. NYIRADY

EUROPEAN DIVISION

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# PREFACE

**I**t was my dream that the Hungarian government built a Hungarian House in New York, placed my library in it, and named me librarian. . . . I would become an official in my own library, and I would live for the completion of my bibliography.<sup>1</sup>

*Charles Feleky to Árpád Pásztor, 1924*

. . . though the collection in and of itself cannot serve as a reference library on Hungary, there is no doubt that this additional material fills important gaps in the Library of Congress's holdings and will be useful to many research workers who consult the sources of the Library of Congress on Hungary and related subjects.<sup>2</sup>

*Béla T. Kardos, Hungarian Specialist  
Slavic and East European Division  
Library of Congress, May 1953*

**I**n January 1953, the Library of Congress acquired the Feleky Collection from the United States Office of Alien Property for \$2,000. Originally the private library of Charles Feleky (1865–1930) and later purchased by the Hungarian Reference Library of New York (1937–1942), this acquisition contained more than 10,000 books, nearly 15,000 individual issues of various periodicals, plus numerous photographs, prints, music scores, maps, broadsides and posters, recordings, manuscripts, as well as a biographical/newspaper clippings file. The Library of Congress obtained this collection during a period when it was purchasing other Hungarian collections and rapidly amassing what was even then the nation's

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most complete collection of materials about Hungary and Hungarians, in both the English and Hungarian languages. Acquiring the Feleky Collection was a stroke of good fortune for the Library, as that collection contained thousands of books, especially rare volumes, that LC did not possess.<sup>3</sup>

However, part of the American-Hungarian community grew alarmed about LC's intention to "disperse" the Feleky Collection, to them a symbol of Hungarian culture during a time of foreign domination and communist oppression. Their opinion—communicated to at least 67 members of Congress—had great sentimental appeal: the Feleky Collection, a national treasure, the result of 40 years of sacrifice and devotion of one individual, should be maintained as a unit at the Library of Congress; if not, it should be donated, loaned, or sold to an American-Hungarian organization. The resulting congressional intervention stayed LC's hand in processing the collection, and, consequently, it was not until the early 1960s that the Library could actually extract the materials it needed, while sending the remainder to Columbia University. In turn, the items that Columbia did not want were sent to other organizations and individuals. Although this disposition helped build the Hungarian collections of at least two large research libraries in the United States and thus served the cause of scholarship about Hungary, it also deprived the American-Hungarian community in the United States of what many believed to be a cultural symbol, a symbol purposefully created by the efforts, albeit naive, of Charles Feleky, who believed he could build a library containing all information in the English language about Hungary and Hungarians.

# THE HISTORY OF THE FELEKY COLLECTION

Charles (Károly) Feleky was born in Budapest in 1863<sup>4</sup> and emigrated to the United States in 1885.<sup>5</sup> Initially supporting himself as a pianist in a nightclub, he later became a conductor for orchestras accompanying theatrical productions. The producers Klaw and Erlanger employed him for eleven years, during which time he became prominent in the American music world for his skill in conducting the music for the plays *Ben Hur* (for an estimated 1,500 performances<sup>6</sup>) and the *Prince of India*.<sup>7</sup> These itinerant productions led him from one end of the country to another, and it was during one of these tours that he came across the book that was to be the first acquisition in his future collection of English-language Hungarica. Feleky went on to work for Martin Beck (1869–1940), the founder of the Palace and Martin Beck Theatres in New York,<sup>8</sup> first as play agent and then as foreign representative during the period when Beck was president of the Orpheum group of theaters. Feleky later became manager of the Martin Beck Theatre, and remained in this position when the Theatre Guild took it over in 1928. Feleky's wife, Antoinette (1872?–1950),<sup>9</sup> later wrote that her husband's twenty-two year association with Beck was indeed fortuitous, as Beck allowed him "enough leisure time" to devote to "his great labor of love;" that is, his collection.<sup>10</sup>

Yet bibliophilia represented only one of Feleky's two passions; the other was music and the theater. During

the time he worked for Martin Beck he served as a musical conductor for an Arthur Hopkins play, and was offered a similar position for a play by Henry Savage. As conductor of *Ben Hur*, Feleky was known to spend his leisure time giving free lessons in advanced harmony to the musicians in his orchestra. He also helped advance the careers of artists and dramatists he believed to be promising, especially if they were Hungarian.<sup>11</sup> At the same time he supported local Hungarian theater groups and led the Hungarian *sing-verein* in New York.<sup>12</sup> But despite his professional success, Feleky never felt quite at home in the New World. He admitted to Árpád Pásztor (1877–1940), Hungarian newspaper reporter and editor, that he had lived in the United States "in vain"; that after 40 years he was "still not used to it."<sup>13</sup>

Feleky was well known and well liked in the New York theater community. According to Melchior (Menyhért) Lengyel (1880–1971), playwright and future author of *Ninotchka*, whenever he and Feleky walked down Broadway or Fifth Avenue together, "at every step we hear 'Hello Charlie.'" <sup>14</sup> Árpád Pásztor observed that he and Feleky were greeted "from all directions" when the two of them entered the dining room of the Lambs Club in New York. "Everyone recognizes and loves his laugh," Pásztor continued, "his noisy candor, his entire outspoken essence, his positive criticism, his humaneness."<sup>15</sup> Accessible to

all, Feleky was known to leave his apartment at 508 W. 114th St. unlocked while at home, so that friends could enter without knocking.<sup>16</sup> One scholar described Feleky's apartment as "a Mecca of students of Hungarian and Central European Affairs," visited by scholars and statesmen alike.<sup>17</sup> "[N]o one ever appealed to his magnanimity in vain," said one New York Hungarian weekly.<sup>18</sup> Lengyel described Feleky as "an educated and smart man," a "great enthusiast" who "knew everything about people, facts, things in general, from the past and present." As a "marvelous observer" he was able to see in other people "the things that lie beneath the surface." Lengyel held that few people knew as much about literature, art, or the theater as did Feleky. Possessing "a rich, inner life," he was, according to Lengyel, "the only wise man in New York who was not swept off his feet" by the business boom of the 1920s, "which got a hold of everybody here." Feleky did not save money, said Lengyel, he instead saved "something which will live on as long as the Hungarian nation lives," a book collection "of which every Hungarian could be proud."<sup>19</sup>

Feleky began collecting Hungarica one day in the mid-1890s, during a visit to Pittsburgh with the *Ben Hur* theater company. Out for a walk, he had stopped to look at some books displayed in the doorway of a bookstore. While browsing the display, he spotted a work about Louis Kossuth, the leader of the Hungarian revolt against the Habsburgs in 1848–49 and, consequently, an individual dear to the heart of most Hungarians. Curious to see what an English-language book had to say about the Hungarian patriot, he went inside and bought it. As he himself put it, his "curiosity" became a "passion" and "a fever for collecting."<sup>20</sup> Soon he purchased another book about Kossuth, and then another, and then his interests expanded to include all English-language Hungarica. Word of his collecting quickly spread, and Feleky soon

developed a network of book dealers in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, British Africa, India, and Australia who would contact him whenever they received a new English-language item about Hungary or Hungarians.<sup>21</sup> At one time Feleky was the sole collector of Hungarica who advertized in Clegg's *The International Directory of Booksellers and Bibliophile's Manual*.<sup>22</sup> His name also appeared in the directory *Private Book Collectors in the United States and Canada, with Mention of Their Hobbies* (New York: Bowker, 1928). He mailed out printed requests to antiquarian dealers he thought might possess material of interest to him, and he often advertized, together with other book collectors, under the name of a fictitious bookstore.<sup>23</sup>

Feleky's collecting early on became well known to individuals in the Hungarian National Library, to whom he "zealously" sent American newspapers and other publications.<sup>24</sup> He also alerted them to old Hungarian publications available on the American book market.<sup>25</sup> During the First World War, Feleky continued to send the Hungarian National Museum needed American materials despite the cessation of mail service between the United States and Hungary, by sending parcels to neutral countries, and having them sent on from there.<sup>26</sup>

Besides acquiring books, Feleky also collected magazine and journal articles on Hungarica. As a guide he utilized Columbia University's copy of *Pool's Index to Periodical Literature 1802–1906* (6 vols.; 1893–1908) and also enlisted individuals at various libraries in the United States and England to send him complete citations. He then attempted to acquire the issues of the periodical in which these articles appeared.<sup>27</sup>

Feleky also collected what could be called miscellaneous materials. In one instance, a book collector in Birmingham, England notified him in early 1912 about so-called Kossuth bank notes (Kossuth bankók)

for sale. These belonged to an elderly Birmingham man who had been employed in a publishing house in London that had printed these banknotes for the Kosuth government-in-exile in 1860. At that time the British authorities, at the request of the Austrian government, raided the shop and destroyed the notes, but this individual had saved a copy of each of the three denominations printed. Feleky purchased these notes, sending payment through a Birmingham book store, which put the banknotes in the mail on April 10, 1912. Unfortunately, they never arrived in the United States, for they formed part of the cargo of the Titanic when it sank in the North Atlantic on April 15 of that year.<sup>28</sup>

Feleky was said to spare neither time, energy, nor money on his collection.<sup>29</sup> His devotion to it was legendary; John (János) Pelényi (1885–1974), Hungarian Minister to the United States 1933–1940, admitted that he had seen Feleky “work painstakingly at his home on his indices with an alarm clock before him to remind him when it was time to go back to the office of his employer.”<sup>30</sup> The indices Pelényi mentioned were the bibliography of Feleky’s collection, something Feleky himself prophetically called his “never completed masterpiece.” Setting forth material in encyclopedic manner, this work contained listings and cross-references for books, magazine articles, bibliographical notes, and critical reviews.<sup>31</sup> Although this bibliography was never published in its entirety, a small portion of it formed the bulk of a bibliography in Count Paul (Pál) Teleki’s *The Evolution of Hungary and its Place in European History* (New York: Macmillan, 1923).<sup>32</sup>

The earliest published description of Feleky’s collection appeared in the journal *Magyar Könyvszemle* in 1912. In his article, Vilmos Fraknói (1843–1924), a bishop and historian, admitted that he at first discounted the glowing reports he had heard about Feleky’s library and bibliographical work, as he did

not think much of “such amateurs.” But as individuals in the Hungarian National Museum asked him to pay a courtesy call to Feleky, to thank him for the materials he was sending them, Fraknói “went over to browse around the books.” So doing, he ended up spending all of his remaining time in New York in Feleky’s apartment.<sup>33</sup> He wrote that Feleky’s collection “completely filled up” one of the rooms in his apartment. A little more than a decade later, Árpád Pásztor likewise admitted that he was simply awestruck by

books, books, and more books, from the floor to the ceiling all around the room. The sight fills you with reverence and inspiration. . . . Through the door leading to the second little room more books gaze upon you, books, books, and more books, and the same is true in the third room, and even the kitchen is filled with newspaper clippings and circulars are piled in orderly fashion close against the walls.<sup>34</sup>

Fraknói observed that Feleky possessed “many thousands of volumes.” Pásztor, who saw the collection in 1924, estimated that the library contained 5,500 books and over 100,000 clippings and magazine articles. Between this time and Feleky’s death in 1930, Pásztor states that an additional 2,000–3,000 volumes were added.<sup>35</sup> Feleky admitted that he had “no regrets” in investing some \$32,000 in his collection, as it had no match in the world, and that he was “very happy” when working on his bibliography at home, surrounded by his books.<sup>36</sup>

Charles Feleky died on October 4, 1930, several months after the *New York Times* had reported that he had undergone successful surgery.<sup>37</sup> In an address given at his funeral, a theater associate revealed that

although he had known that Feleky “was a widely read man, of obvious culture,” he did not know

that his home had no walls but books, books everywhere, in every room, from floor to ceiling. I did not know that he was a scholar of inexhaustible patience and energy, that he had spent his life on a colossal work whose purpose was to reveal to the world his beloved native land, Hungary. . . . In a life busy and useful in its devotion to the theatre—when did he find time to do his labor of love? How did he do all he accomplished?”<sup>38</sup>

## Evaluations of the Feleky Collection, 1930–37

In addition to Fraknói’s and Pásztor’s superficial descriptions of the Feleky Collection mentioned above, other evaluations were published after Feleky’s death, during the years that his wife maintained the collection; that is, from 1930–1937. The most complete description, which was probably written by Feleky himself in 1929 or 1930, later accompanied the bill of sale when the collection was sold to the Hungarian National Museum in 1937 [see Appendix 1]. Appraisals of the Feleky Collection made later in the 1930s, two of which appeared in print, merely repeat information found in the bill-of-sale document. One was written by Feleky’s wife, Antoinette,<sup>39</sup> the other by Stephen Duggan (1870–1950), a Professor of Political Science at the City College of New York. An unpublished estimate dated January 7, 1936, written by the future historian/librarian Henry Miller Madden (1912–1982) for Luther H. Evans (1902–1981), Director of the Historical Records Survey, Works Progress Administration, provides a more qualitative evaluation [see Appendix 2].<sup>40</sup> Coin-

cidentially, Evans would be Librarian of Congress seventeen years later, in 1953, when the Library of Congress acquired the Feleky Collection.

## The Hungarian Reference Library

After the death of her husband, Antoinette Feleky resigned her teaching position at Columbia University and devoted all her time to maintaining his collection. Already in late 1930 she had contacted the Hungarian-American historian Eugene (Jenő) Pivány, then in Budapest, offering to sell the collection to the Hungarian government. Pivány replied that the Hungarian government did not have the funds necessary to bring the collection to Hungary, although he heard that “some arrangements” had been made already to keep the library in New York. He added that Bálint Hóman, Director of the Hungarian National Museum, was especially interested in Feleky’s 274 manuscripts, particularly in the correspondence between Lajos Kossuth and Ferenc Pulszky, the Kossuth government’s agent in Vienna and, later, London and Paris. Feleky’s bibliography, Pivány continued, could be published in the future, “when economic conditions improve,” but in the meanwhile it ought to be placed in “safe and expert hands,” “lest by some unforeseen accident it get[s] into the possession of people who do not know what to do with it” and be lost. This was not the first time Pivány expressed concern about the future of the Feleky bibliography. In his 1927 book *Hungarian-American Historical Connections from Pre-Columbian Times to the End of the American Civil War* he urged that it be published “without further delay.”<sup>41</sup> Pivány suggested that Antoinette Feleky find an editor, one familiar with all the subjects present in the bibliography. As “[t]he

Hungarians you can find in New York are short either in their Hungarian or their Anglo-American education," Pivány offered himself as the person ideally suited for the task.<sup>42</sup>

The Hungarian government, meanwhile, showed increasing interest in establishing a cultural institution in New York City as a means to cultivate stronger ties to the United States, especially given Hungary's linguistic and increasing political isolation. John Pelényi, who had seen the collection previously, recommended that the Feleky Collection be purchased for this purpose, as did Paul (Pál) Teleki (1879–1941), geographer and statesman, whom Pelényi himself had introduced to Charles Feleky. The Hungarian Minister of Education, Bálint Hóman (1885–1953), likewise supported the acquisition.<sup>43</sup>

The purchase took place on April 29, 1937. The representative of the Hungarian government, László [de] Telkes,<sup>44</sup> who later became the first director of the future library, admitted that Antoinette Feleky proved to be "a very careful even difficult vendor." The purchase price of \$16,000 was far less than the \$36,000 Charles Feleky himself had estimated his collection to be worth as well as the amount Antoinette Feleky originally requested, but certainly the difficult economic times of the 1930s and Antoinette Feleky's precarious financial situation played a role in determining the purchase price.<sup>45</sup> According to the terms of the purchase agreement, the Hungarian National Museum was to pay Antoinette Feleky \$10,000 down, with the remaining \$6,000 paid at the rate of \$50 per month for ten years.<sup>46</sup> The agreement also stated that the Feleky Collection was to remain in New York for the ten-year period.<sup>47</sup> Although the Hungarian National Museum became the official owner of the collection, the Hungarian Ministry of Education would perform the actual task of managing it through the Hungarian Reference Library (HRL).

Perhaps in connection with this sale, Antoinette Feleky privately published a 48-page book entitled *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, to which she contributed short articles about his bibliography and the collection in general. The book also included short pieces from the Hungarian press about Feleky, and four obituary notices that had appeared in Hungarian-language and English-language newspapers in the United States. The "unpublished manuscript" referred to her late husband's bibliography, which she did not sell to the Hungarian Reference Library, but instead wished to complete and publish it herself.<sup>48</sup> She did recognize, however, that the bibliography could not be published "without outside assistance."<sup>49</sup> The *Hungarian Quarterly* likewise reported in the summer of 1939 that "financial difficulties" had delayed the publication of this nineteen volume, two thousand page masterpiece.<sup>50</sup> By the time the Library of Congress acquired the Feleky Collection in early 1953, Antoinette Feleky was dead and the bibliography had disappeared.<sup>51</sup> A relative of Mrs. Feleky subsequently offered to help the Library of Congress locate this work, but the Library never pursued it further.<sup>52</sup> Also unknown are the whereabouts of Feleky's Kossuth manuscripts, which remained in Antoinette Feleky's possession but were physically stored at the Hungarian Reference Library.<sup>53</sup>

## OPENING AND ADMINISTRATION

Although its doors had been open since October 1937, the Hungarian Reference Library held its official opening only on April 20, 1938. In a speech to those assembled for the occasion, Hungarian Minister to the United States, John Pelényi, stressed that the library was to be "not a propaganda organization," but rather "an important bond between the cultural lives of



*Portrait of Charles Feleky by Willy Pogany*

Hungary and the United States.” At the ceremony, László Telkes (b 1902),<sup>54</sup> the Director of the newly-opened library, read greetings from Bálint Hóman, the Hungarian Minister of Education, and also paid tribute to Charles Feleky and his vision of a reference library devoted to Hungarica. Also in attendance that day were two notable representatives from New York’s cultural establishment: Olin Downer, Music Editor of *The New York Times* and Harry M. Lydenberg, Director of the New York Public Library.<sup>55</sup>

Director Telkes was no stranger to the American-Hungarian community or to Hungary’s diplomatic representation in the United States. The nephew of an earlier Hungarian consul in Cleveland,<sup>56</sup> he had recently (1937) managed the American concert tour of the Budapest University Chorus, which had reciprocated the Yale University Glee Club’s tour of Hungary the previous summer. Before that time Telkes

had acquired an impressive resume, receiving advanced degrees in Administration (1923) and Political Science (1926) from the University of Budapest, and admission to the Hungarian Camara (bar of attorneys) in 1930. In 1931 he received the degree of Master of Law from Harvard Law School. While taking additional course work at Harvard for the next two years, he organized the Hungarian section of the Harvard Law Library. According to Géza Paikert, Counsellor in the Ministry of Culture, Telkes was “the right man in the right place.”<sup>57</sup> After finding a suitable location for the library,

. . . Dr. Telkes went to work with truly American energy and dispatch. With one typist, who at this time represented his entire personnel, he worked night and day at the preparations for the opening. He arranged and

furnished the premises, reserving four rooms for the books while a fifth was turned into a reading-room, a sixth into the Director's room and a seventh into an office; he wrote letters, drew up catalogues, issued prospectuses, telephoned right and left, with the result that the Library was opened in record time. . . .<sup>58</sup>

The library itself was ideally located in midtown Manhattan, on the third floor of the Berkeley Building at 19 West 44th St, near Fifth Avenue. Outgrowing its initial seven rooms in a short period, the HRL soon expanded into an additional four. The enlarged premises included a large (55'x30') entrance hall, lined with exhibition cases, which eventually displayed the Herend and Zsolnai porcelain collection from the New York World's Fair collection. The ceiling of this hall was painted like that of a Hungarian Transylvanian church. The lecture hall, which seated 150 people, contained a grand piano, a podium, and, after January 1940, a 6'x4' bronze relief by Sándor Finta of Colonel Michael Kovats, colonel commandant of the Pulaski Legion in the American Revolution.<sup>59</sup> Pictures of well-known Hungarian monuments, buildings, and landscapes decorated the walls of this room, which served as a banquet hall when needed. Smaller meetings were held in the club room, which seated 30. In addition to the Director's office and a secretarial office, the HRL also possessed a kitchen, a storage room, and a cloak room.<sup>60</sup>

Besides the director, the HRL employed a full-time librarian and support staff. The librarian, Joseph Szentkirályi (b 1913), who was also the HRL's deputy director, also taught Hungarian language and literature courses at Columbia University.<sup>61</sup> Director Telkes himself served under an "advisory committee," consisting of distinguished individuals in the arts and edu-

cation.<sup>62</sup> Because of the limited support received from the Hungarian National Museum, a group called the Friends of the Hungarian Reference Library was organized to provide assistance for maintaining and operating the Library. Some furnishings and equipment from the Hungarian Pavilion of the New York Worlds Fair were also obtained.<sup>63</sup>

## ACTIVITIES

The official purpose of the Hungarian Reference Library, as stated in a brochure, was to

supply free information on all questions pertaining to Hungary other than [that which is] political, commercial or tourist in character. The information thus furnished will be strictly factual, supplemented in all instances by the indication of scientific source. Neither personal opinions, nor views will be offered. Only strictly authoritative facts will be given.

Within a short period after its opening, the HRL found itself handling two to three hundred inquiries per week concerning all topics connected with Hungary and Hungarians. Besides the American public, the Library assisted scholars from Hungary who were researching the American-Hungarian community.<sup>64</sup> Antoinette Feleky herself was said to visit the Library daily.<sup>65</sup> In support of this reference activity, the Library received at least two hundred fifty journals and newspapers from Hungary.<sup>66</sup> However, according to its librarian, the library received only a few "first-rate" cultural papers because of the "miserly indifference of the people back home" (*az itthoniak szűkkeblű részvétlensége*)<sup>67</sup>

But the Hungarian Reference Library was more than a research institution. It also served as a cultural center,



*Director László Telkes (center, in dark suit)  
flanked by members of "Friends of the Hungarian Reference Library"*

presenting Hungarian and American-Hungarian artists, musicians, and scholars to the American public. It did so by offering a wide variety of cultural programs and exhibitions, sometimes in conjunction with other institutions, particularly Columbia University. The first of these programs dated back to November 1937, or before the library's official opening. Announced with professionally printed invitations, these programs attracted up to several hundred persons if held on the HRL premises, and sometimes between 500–800 individuals if held elsewhere; for example, at Town Hall. The audience consisted not only of those from the New York American-Hungarian community, but also those interested in Hungarian matters or just the particular performance of the evening. The American-Hungarian press faithfully and enthusiastically reported the various programs at the HRL. Noting this activity, a war-

time report of the United States Office of Strategic Services, observed the library "functioned at a very high level."<sup>68</sup> A survey of some of the outstanding programs will serve as illustration.

For its series of concerts, the HRL successfully tapped the New York music community, whose membership included many notable Hungarian and American-Hungarian musicians and singers. Both composer and pianist Béla Bartók and violinist József Szigeti appeared in concerts sponsored by the HRL.<sup>69</sup> Lesser known musicians included Metropolitan Opera Baritone Alexander Svéd, who provided the entertainment for a concert commemorating Washington's Birthday in 1941. A concert marking the 10th anniversary of Feleky's death featured pianist Lujza Meiszner, vocalist Renee Norton-László, and cellist Gábor Rejto.<sup>70</sup> In an

attempt to satisfy numerous requests from the American-Hungarian community for a large group to sing Hungarian choral music, the HRL organized a Hungarian choir, consisting of sections for men, women and children.<sup>71</sup>

Another participatory cultural activity the HRL sponsored for the American-Hungarian community were dance classes teaching American and Hungarian folk dancing. Separate classes were held for adults and children.<sup>72</sup>

The HRL also sponsored classes in Hungarian language, literature, and history, and other Hungarian-related topics under the auspices of its Hungarian Academy. Courses in language and literature were held at Columbia University, and taught by Librarian Szentkirályi. Other areas of instruction, taught in other locations, included English for Hungarians, Hungarian culture and history, dress design, interior decoration, and fashion. The instructors and lecturers came from all professions, including academia, medicine, religion, science, journalism, as well as from the art and music world. The Library also maintained a lecture bureau that sent out speakers at the request of various organizations in the New York City area and throughout the United States. For example, Professor Francis Deák of Columbia University delivered the lecture "Outlook for Peace in Central Europe" at the HRL on February 23, 1938. Director Telkes himself lectured a variety of groups, ranging from The Twentieth Century Association of Boston to an assembly of nearly one hundred New York City high school art teachers at the Washington Irving School. As evident from these examples, lectures were held both at the HRL and in other locations. When the HRL had none of its own activities scheduled, it offered its lecture hall to local Hungarian organizations for meetings that were not political in nature.<sup>73</sup>

The HRL also presented films about Hungary and

American- Hungarians. Worthy of mention is the showing on April 24, 1940 of a film about American-Hungarian communities in various parts of the United States.<sup>74</sup> Another film, "Hungary: A Rhapsody in Color," shown at Carnegie Hall's Chamber Music Hall, was accompanied by a lecture by Dr. Árpád Kovács, Professor of Modern European History at St. John's University.

During its relatively short existence, the HRL held numerous exhibitions by Hungarian artists and craftsmen, such as an exhibit of the paintings of Ferenc Erdélyi in May 1939, and the October 1940 exhibit of illuminated codexes from the library of Hungarian King Mathias Corvinus. The latter event, held at the New York Public Library, was arranged with the cooperation of that institution, the Morgan Library, and Yale University. An exhibit celebrating the 90th anniversary of Louis Kossuth's visit to the United States opened on July 17, 1941; it consisted mostly of in-house material: 261 books about Kossuth from the Feleky Collection, manuscripts, pictures, and other memorabilia.<sup>75</sup> The Hungarian Industrial Arts Society exhibit, which opened in February 1940 with a program featuring music provided by two American-Hungarian opera singers and a lecture, has been called one of the most popular exhibits held by the HRL. It soon became a permanent exhibition, as its popularity at the New York World's Fair (1939-40) and the dangers that the European war posed to sea-travel in the Atlantic prompted the Hungarian government to store in the United States, at least temporarily, all the artistic and ethnographic material displayed at the World's Fair. This exhibit was displayed prominently in the Library's lecture hall, where it was seen by those attending HRL programs. As the HRL lacked the space to display all this material at one time, new items were constantly rotated into the exhibit cases. Displayed materials included Herendi and Zsolnai porcelain,



*Librarian Joseph Szentkirályi (St. Clair) and his wife, Maria (to his right), with the clerical staff of the Hungarian Reference Library: (from left to right) Irma Chaky, Peggy Hornyak, Berry Collins, and Elza Petró*

Hódmezővásárhelyi and Gorka ceramics, Szerelmehegyi dolls, Hungarian carpets, hand-woven furniture covers, hand-printed textiles, large wood carvings, embroidery, lace, and items of Hungarian goldsmiths. It was hoped that in the future the Library would establish a permanent "Hungarian Museum" once additional office space was acquired, as well as hold smaller exhibits with this material in various places in the United States.<sup>76</sup>

In an attempt to reach a wider audience, the HRL, on March 3, 1939, aired the first of what was to be a weekly program of Hungarian music on local radio station WQXR. However, the inability to acquire Hungarian phonograph records in the United States hindered this effort.<sup>77</sup>

The HRL also established the "Books Across the

Sea Program," a way to provide American books and periodicals for cash-strapped Hungarian cultural institutions. An agreement with the Smithsonian Institution provided for the postage-free transport of these materials.<sup>78</sup>

In addition to the cultural activities mentioned above, the HRL engaged in more scholarly pursuits. The library published several books, including *Hungary. Past and Present* (New York: 1941), edited by HRL librarian Joseph Szentkirályi; and Emma Brace Donaldson, *The Life of Charles Loring Brace* (New York: 1941). The HRL's pamphlet series included *Modern Trends in Hungarian Education* (Reprinted from the *Phi Delta Kappan*, November 1939 issue, 5 p.), *Colonel Michael de Kovats. American Revolutionary War Hero* (1940, 14 p.), and *Béla Bartók. His Life and Music* (1940,

9 p.); all edited by József Szentkirályi.

Perhaps the most ambitious project the HRL undertook was the creation of an “American-Hungarian Register,” a biographical dictionary of notable American-Hungarians. About 1,000 biographical questionnaires were sent to notable individuals, and the respondents were also asked to submit the names and addresses of those who would possibly be of interest to the project.<sup>79</sup> At the same time, the HRL attempted to collect the works written by Hungarian-American authors, originals or reproductions of original works by American-Hungarian artists, as well as photographs of the activities of American-Hungarian organizations.

The HRL not only publicized the successes of the notable American-Hungarians, but also encouraged the establishment of closer connections between scholars and scientists in both the United States and Hungary.<sup>80</sup> It served as American coordinator for biographical works in progress in Hungary, such as the second edition of Ferenc Ványi’s *Magyar Irodalmi Lexikon* and Pál Gulyás’s forthcoming *Magyar Írók Élete és Munkái*.<sup>81</sup>

In spite of, or rather because of, these activities, there were those who believed the Library had forgotten its original mission as a scholarly library. One Hungarian observer, Elek Máthé, described the HRL as more “a New York Hungarian club, concert bureau, and information bureau” than a library, which, he asserted, was squeezed into “cramped” quarters in the most “unfavorable place” in the premises, with books and other materials stuffed on crowded shelves “up to the ceiling.”<sup>82</sup> Historian and a future President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Domokos Kosáry, who spent five months at the HRL in 1941, likewise stated that the books were crammed into one room in the back. Kosáry added that the noise stemming from dance lessons and other activities made it difficult to study in the library. He also lamented the

lack of a complete catalog of the Feleky Collection, but added that Librarian Szentkirályi’s proposals to create such a catalog “could not find an audience” (nem találtak meghallgatásra).<sup>83</sup>

## WORLD WAR II AND THE SEIZURE OF THE HRL

After Hungary declared war on the United States on December 13, 1941, the State Department ordered closed all official organizations of the Hungarian government in this country. Hungarian interests in the United States were subsequently looked after by the government of Sweden, with the Swedish Royal Consul-General representing these interests in New York. The Hungarian Reference Library received formal notification of the order to close on January 28, 1942, in a message personally delivered to Director Telkes by the legal counsel of the Swedish Royal Consul-General. Packing the property of the HRL, including the Feleky Collection, took eight days.<sup>84</sup> The library officially closed on February 15, and the Feleky Collection was sent to Columbia University, which had offered to store it. (Columbia’s president—Nicholas Murray Butler—was a member of the HRL’s advisory committee). Although the Alien Property Custodian of the United States officially seized the collection later that year, on December 30, 1942 (Vesting Order 592), it remained at Columbia University until the Library of Congress acquired it in January 1953.<sup>85</sup> The other property of the Hungarian Reference Library was placed in a Manhattan warehouse; the Swedish government paid the storage fees during the war, while the United States Government paid for them during the post-war period. No inventory of the Feleky Collection was made immediately before or during its storage. It is therefore impossible to deter-



*View of one of the rooms in the Hungarian Reference Library*

mine when the material disappeared that was found to be missing from the collection when the Library of Congress acquired it in 1953.<sup>86</sup>

The closing of the HRL, however, did not end the legal problems that had been plaguing it since the middle of 1941. To describe these problems adequately and fairly requires a separate study and access to the appropriate diplomatic and legal sources. Consequently, only a partial description of the HRL's woes during its last year follows.<sup>87</sup>

According to an article appearing in the New York *Amerikai Magyar Népszava* on February 4, 1942, the Hungarian Reference Library's troubles began on July 15, 1941, when Director Telkes's secretary, Elza Petró, cut her wrist on a broken display-case window. Soon afterward, she filed a suit against the library for \$25,000 in damages. Although a subpoena was handed

to Director Telkes in connection with the suit, he did not make arrangements for the library's defense.<sup>88</sup> Consequently, on December 8 of that year, a default judgment awarded \$1,700 to Ms. Petró. Two days later, on December 10, the New York City sheriff's office seized the property of the Hungarian Reference Library as a first step in the process of auctioning it to pay for the damages awarded.

Although Director Telkes had not acted, the Swedish consul-general of New York did when he learned at the end of December about the HRL's seizure by the sheriff. He registered an official protest, arguing that the property of a foreign government could not be seized to satisfy a legal claim. This assertion was countered by Elza Petró's lawyer, Aloysius Falussy,<sup>89</sup> who argued that the Hungarian Reference Library could not be so protected as it was not the property of the

Hungarian government but of the Hungarian National Museum, an autonomous institution.

Meanwhile, shortly after the HRL's closure on January 28, 1942, a second suit against the library was brought by László Telkes, who sued the Hungarian National Museum for severance pay and repayment of a loan he said he had personally made to the HRL.<sup>90</sup> At the same time, he also sought severance compensation for the staff of the HRL who had lost their jobs as a result of the closure, including Elza Petró, who had brought suit against the library. It should be mentioned here that Telkes, the Director of the Hungarian Reference Library and an officially registered agent of the Hungarian government, was not deported to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, with the other Axis diplomats as he had become an American citizen in April 1941.

In the meantime, Antoinette Feleky continued to receive monthly payments for her late husband's collection. At some time in December 1941 or January 1942, the Swedish consul-general, on behalf of the Hungarian government, allegedly offered Mrs. Feleky the remaining \$3,200 due her as a lump sum, but she refused to accept it.<sup>91</sup> She continued to receive the monthly payments during the war and after, until June 1947. At that time, according to Lajos Vaczek, head of the Consular Office of the Hungarian Republic in New York City in 1946–47, she did not want to sign the final statement when she received the last installment, but instead demanded that the Feleky Collection be returned to her and threatened legal action.<sup>92</sup> It is not known whether or not she carried out her threat. Nevertheless, despite law suits real or threatened, the Feleky Collection remained undisturbed in storage at Columbia University, under the jurisdiction of the Office of Alien Property.

## Acquisition by the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress was aware of the possible availability of the Feleky Collection as far back as December 1946, when Jean Campbell<sup>93</sup> examined it for the Library but concluded that it was not a "worthwhile buy."<sup>94</sup> But in a November 1951 memo written to John W. Cronin, Assistant Director of the Library's Processing Department, the Chief of the Slavic Division, Sergius Yakobson, called the collection "in many ways unique" and worthy of acquisition. Yakobson, who must have personally examined the collection or its unofficial catalog, noted that the Library possessed none of the Hungarian language items that he randomly chose from the collection, and this was "precisely the type of material" that LC needed. The Hungarian language portion formed 28–29% of the collection, not the 16–17% stated by Campbell. Of the English-language materials, the Library possessed 36%, but duplication was not a problem as the LC would be purchasing the collection at a "nominal price." And as to the value of the collection, Yakobson referred Cronin to Stephen Duggan's 1939 article in the *Hungarian Quarterly*, which detailed a few of its rarities.<sup>95</sup> To further reinforce his arguments, Yakobson attached to his memo a favorable evaluation of the collection by Béla T. Kardos, Hungarian Specialist of the Slavic Division. Kardos "warmly recommended" the collection's acquisition, considering it valuable even if half of it were duplicates, for the materials needed by LC that it contained were available nowhere else.<sup>96</sup> This was true especially for items added during its Hungarian Reference Library period, that is, for official and semi-official publications, which Kardos called "largely unique" in that they had not been available through the "usual book trade channels," and

were now unobtainable because “they reflect the activities of Hungarian organizations destroyed by totalitarian governments since 1940.”<sup>97</sup> Kardos mentioned the possibility that some type of litigation might be attached to the collection, as László Telkes had not been paid his salary “for some years.”<sup>98</sup> Also, although Kardos did not mention it at this point, the communist government in Hungary had made at least one attempt to claim the collection.<sup>99</sup>

### PURCHASE AND RECEIPT

On November 15, 1951, the Library officially notified the Director of the Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice, of its interest in acquiring the Feleky Collection.<sup>100</sup> A year later, in a memo to Verner W. Clapp (1901–1972), the Chief Assistant Librarian, the Special Assistant to the Librarian, Marlene Wright, suggested that LC bid \$2,000 and that duplicates be given to Columbia University on exchange. Columbia University had offered \$1,800 for the collection, but the State Department thought “political repercussions” in Hungary would be less if the Library of Congress acquired it (Columbia at that time did not offer Hungarian language courses). In January 1953 the Alien Property Office sold the collection to the Library of Congress for \$2,000 plus \$950 shipping.<sup>101</sup>

Béla T. Kardos likened the opening of the boxes containing the Feleky Collection to the “opening of the tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh by archaeologists.” “Cleared from dust, cobwebs, and moths,” he continued, “the precious material lay before us with all its rare values rescued,” having survived the political catastrophes that had engulfed Hungary during the preceding decade.<sup>102</sup> (For Kardos’s detailed description of the treasures of the Feleky Collection, see

Appendixes 3 and 6.) The Library reported this valuable acquisition on the front page of its *Information Bulletin* for January 19, 1953.<sup>103</sup>

When acquired by the Library of Congress, the Feleky Collection contained 10,330 books and pamphlets, 14,977 serial issues, 812 photographs, 262 prints, 535 music scores, 138 maps, 266 manuscripts, and large files of newspaper clippings. Approximately 58% of the books and pamphlets were published in the United States, 37% in Hungary, and the remaining 5% in 20 other countries.<sup>104</sup> About 2,000 of the volumes were added during the HRL period; these were mostly Hungarian-language publications of official and unofficial organizations that issued statistics (i.e., chambers of commerce, institutes, and educational institutions).<sup>105</sup> No complete inventory accompanied the collection, although typewritten cards identified the principal holdings. The extent to which the actual holdings were identical with the materials put into storage in 1942 cannot be ascertained.

### CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE COLLECTION’S “DISPERSION”

Library had barely received the collection in January 1953 when Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans (1902–1981) received a letter urging that the collection not be processed. Written by Stetson S. Holmes of the Mid-European Studies Center of the National Committee For a Free Europe (New York), the letter informed Evans that the proposed “dispersal” of the collection in the library was “causing great concern among the Hungarian emigration” and urged that the collection be kept intact until researchers had a chance to examine it. Holmes sent a similar request to Alton Keller, Head of the Library’s Exchange and Gift Division.<sup>106</sup>

In his reply of January 29, Evans assured Holmes that the Feleky-Telkes collection (as it was sometimes called) would be kept together for the moment, and that a Library representative would visit New York the following week and discuss several proposals for its disposition.<sup>107</sup> Those proposals were suggested to Evans by Lewis C. Coffin, Assistant Director of the Processing Department, who advised that the Library either catalog the material immediately or create a temporary catalog in the form of an appendix to the *East European Accessions List* (EEAL), an LC publication. However, it was recognized that full cataloging might take up to two years as the Library at that time employed only one Hungarian cataloger. Similarly, the EEAL lacked sufficient staff for the task of compiling a temporary catalog, and Coffin therefore suggested to Evans that Holmes's organization perhaps provide funds for "an assistant or two."<sup>108</sup> Certainly, Coffin and Evans must have been surprised by Holmes's subsequent letter of February 2, in which he declared that he had changed his mind and now believed that the collection's distribution among the various LC classes was "exactly what is needed!"<sup>109</sup>

A lull of about three weeks may have suggested to Evans and his staff that there would be no further controversy over the Feleky Collection and that its processing could commence. But in late February, Stephen (István) E. Balogh (1906–1976), Executive Secretary of the American Hungarian Federation (Washington, D.C.), visited the Library with the Reverend Edmund (Ödön) Vasváry (1888–1977),<sup>110</sup> intending to persuade Librarian Evans to keep the Feleky Collection intact. Unable to meet with Evans, they spoke with William J. Kurth, Assistant Chief of the Order Division. Arguing that the collection was unique, that its dispersion would preclude its reconstitution, and that it possessed symbolic value in the struggle against communist rule in Hungary, Balogh

repeated these ideas in a letter written to Librarian Evans on February 26.<sup>111</sup>

The following day, and at least a week before receiving a reply from Evans, Balogh sent out a press-release in Hungarian to the editors of American-Hungarian newspapers, urging them to ask their congressmen and senators in Washington to "halt the dispersal" of the Feleky Collection. Balogh wrote that although he initially received the news of the Library's acquisition "with great satisfaction," he soon became alarmed when he learned what the Library intended to do with it. That the Library maintained separate collections only for those languages that did not use the Latin alphabet notwithstanding, Balogh insisted that the dispersal of the collection could not be justified. Citing a letter that he had just written to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, whom he had asked to intervene in this matter, Balogh questioned the legality of the Library's acquisition of the Feleky Collection, pointing out that it was neither war reparations nor war booty, but the creation of a United States citizen on United States territory. Further, the dispersal of the collection would cause "unbelievable intellectual and spiritual damage to knowledge of the Hungarian past," especially at a time when the communists "revile the Hungarian past, defile the ancient customs, infect consciousness with lies, and rewrite books, and burn and destroy national relics and documents. . . ." <sup>112</sup> An abridged version of this press release appeared also in English translation.

As a result of Balogh's prompting, prominent American-Hungarians wrote to their senators and congressmen, stating their wish that the Library of Congress maintain the collection as a separate entity. By the end of March 1953, at least 12 senators and 55 representatives forwarded such requests from their constituents to Librarian Evans for comment and reply. In one such instance, Senator Prescott Bush of

Connecticut forwarded a letter to the Librarian from Tibor de Cholnoky, a surgeon and National Vice-President of the American Hungarian Federation; Bush appended the request that Evans comply "if possible."<sup>113</sup> Evans, for his part, answered these requests by explaining the Library's official stance on the subject, as set forth in the *Library of Congress Bulletin* of March 9, 1953. There, in a signed article, Lewis C. Coffin admitted that the Library "has received a number of communications" urging that the Feleky-Telkes Collection be maintained as a unit. Coffin stressed, however, that it was not the Library's policy to segregate every "associational collection" as it would be "difficult to administer" and "interfere with efficient research." Dispersing the books to various subject classes, he insisted, would result "in a much greater concentration of the record of Hungarian culture than if the Feleky-Telkes collection were maintained separately."<sup>114</sup> A Library press release on March 11 reiterated this position, noting that the Library of Congress had become the research library it now was precisely because, with few exceptions, it had integrated the special collections it acquired into a single great research collection."<sup>115</sup>

Meanwhile, in his response to Balogh dated March 3, Librarian Evans agreed that the Feleky-Telkes collection could not be reconstituted once dispersed, but added that there would be no need to put it back together. As part of the main collection of the Library, these books would be protected as were other valuable materials at LC. Evans also added that LC had acquired the collection "in a wholly legal and overt manner" and added that the processing of the books would not be interrupted.<sup>116</sup>

Toward the end of March, Balogh offered a proposal to Verner W. Clapp, now the acting Librarian: the Library of Congress should take what it needed from the collection and offer the remainder to the American

Hungarian Federation for preservation and safekeeping in Washington, D.C. This was especially desirable, Balogh added, as LC had no Hungarian expert "trained in Hungarian history or philology" who could make "competent decisions" on what to preserve or destroy.<sup>117</sup>

This was not the first request for custodianship of the Feleky Collection that the Library received. In late January, Librarian Evans received a letter from the Armed Forces Medical Library, which requested those books that LC did not plan to keep, specifically medical books, but also material "of a more general nature."<sup>118</sup> And in subsequent months, similar requests would be received from the Hungarian National Council (New York) and a Hungarian association in Cleveland, which asked that duplicates be sent to the Cleveland Public Library.<sup>119</sup> One such request was written by John Pelényi, who had been instrumental in establishing the Hungarian Reference Library in the 1930s. Now a professor of government at Dartmouth, Pelényi recounted his friendship with Feleky and the history of the collection, and informed Evans that "a group of Americans of Hungarian descent" were ready to buy the collection back from the Library of Congress, to provide adequate housing for it, and to make it available again as a reference library on Hungarian matters.<sup>120</sup>

Before answering Balogh on the question of duplicates, Verner W. Clapp wrote a memo to Lewis Coffin of the Processing Department, reminding him that LC had made a commitment to Columbia University to return those books not needed by LC, but wondering also if Columbia somehow could release LC from this obligation. If so, the duplicates could then be placed with the American Hungarian Federation for "indefinite deposit," or the Library could put them up for bid, or the Federation could have them for a nominal price (\$500 or less).<sup>121</sup> Balogh was then informed of

this possibility, and later Pelényi was notified that if duplicates were to be sold, they would be put up for bidding.

In early May yet another set of proposals dealing with the question of surplus duplicates from the Feleky-Telkes collection was put forward within the Library, this time from Jennings Wood, the Assistant Chief of the Exchange and Gift Division. In a memo to Lewis Coffin, Wood proposed three possible solutions for disposing of the duplicate material. Selling them to the highest bidder, however, was the last of his suggestions. Wood instead preferred that surplus books first be exchanged with other libraries or be transferred to other agencies within the government. John W. Cronin recommended that this memo be approved, but Verner W. Clapp, with Luther Evans's concurrence, recommended that approval be withheld, undoubtedly because by this time it began to be apparent that Congress was going to intervene in this matter, thus removing the fate of the Collection from the Library's hands.<sup>122</sup>

## CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION

In the middle of May, Congresswoman Francis Bolton (whose 22nd Congressional District in Ohio included Cleveland, home of one of the largest concentrations of American-Hungarians in the United States) informed John Pelényi that she planned to introduce a bill to authorize the Library of Congress to sell the Feleky Collection to an interested and responsible group. A tentative draft of the proposed bill was delivered to Acting Librarian Verner W. Clapp on May 18 for suggestions, and on June 1, 1953, it was introduced to Congress as Bill H.R. 5472. In a statement prefacing her introduction of the bill in Congress on June 1, Bolton briefly described the collection and

its founder, Charles Feleky. She credited Dr. Joseph Reményi, Professor of Comparative Literature at Western Reserve University, with convincing her of the need to keep the Feleky collection together as a unit, that a divided collection "would add only an infinitesimal value to the various divisions of the Library of Congress," whereas "a complete specialized collection [could] serve as an invaluable source of reference." Reményi argued that "dispersing the collection would show the world that the United States had no regard for the feelings of the Hungarian people," whereas "[m]aintaining it as a unit would show American solidarity with the people of Hungary against communist oppression, and restore its original purpose." Representative Bolton added that a "responsible group of Americans of Hungarian descent" was being formed to buy back the collection from the Library of Congress and to make it available to the public.<sup>123</sup>

H.R. 5472, also known as "A Bill To Provide for the sale of the Feleky Hungarian Collection in the Library of Congress," gave the Librarian of Congress the authority to sell it

. . . to such individual or private nonprofit association or organization as he determines to be most qualified and competent to protect and preserve the Feleky Hungarian Collection, to maintain it as a separate collection for a period of at least five years immediately following the date of the sale of such collection, and to make such collection available to the public on a suitable basis and under appropriate conditions. The purchase price of the Feleky Hungarian Collection shall be an amount which is sufficient to reimburse the United States in full for all expenses incurred by the United States in connection with the

acquisition, protection, preservation, maintenance, and sale of such collection by the Librarian of Congress.

Anticipating the introduction and enactment of this legislation, Librarian Evans informed Representative Bolton that the collection would remain intact. The Library officially announced this course of action in the June 15, 1953, issue of the *Library of Congress Bulletin*.<sup>124</sup>

### BÉLA T. KARDOS AND THE LIBRARY'S DEFENSE

Not all American-Hungarians believed it wise for the Library of Congress to maintain the Feleky Collection as a separate collection, let alone relinquish it. The most outspoken individual in this regard was Béla T. Kardos (1902–1974),<sup>125</sup> Hungarian specialist in the Library's Slavic Division (soon to be the Slavic and East European Division). Kardos believed that scholarship in general would be best served if the Library continued to buy various collections and integrate them with the main collection. As mentioned previously, he had seconded Sergius Yakobson's recommendation that the Feleky collection be obtained, and he soon became the leading advocate of its absorption into the general collection.

Kardos's involvement with the Feleky Collection began as soon as the Library had acquired it. In February 1953 he wrote a five-page, unattributed script for Radio Free Europe describing this collection and how LC obtained it. After providing background information about Charles Feleky and the Hungarian Reference Library, Kardos recounted how the collection had been stored by Columbia, seized by the United States Government, and then sold to the Library of Congress. He deemed the collection valuable because it contained

not only valuable antiquarian volumes, but also many 20th century works that had been banned and destroyed in Hungary either by the Nazis or, later, the Communists. Kardos avoided what he called "the question of ownership or legal problems" but stressed that the collection had been neglected and inaccessible for years, and that the Library of Congress had rescued it and was preparing it for public use.<sup>126</sup>

In connection with that preparation, Kardos, in a March 9 memorandum, presented recommendations on processing the Feleky Collection to Sergius Yakobson, Chief of the Slavic Division. Kardos proposed that the materials be sorted by language and by whether or not an item possessed a bibliographic card. Two sets of cards would then be made for those items that lacked them, one card for the Slavic Division, and the other for the National Union Catalog. Those cards without accompanying books (i.e., missing materials) would be noted. Of the English-language books, the most important (e.g., pre-1800 imprints, rare books) were to be processed immediately, while the more recent material would be given a low cataloging priority (so-called Priority 4). Kardos reiterated Lewis Coffin's suggestion that the National Committee for a Free Europe be asked to provide a grant so that citations for the books acquired could be included in the Library's *East European Accessions List*. He also recommended that Feleky's notations about the location of Hungary-related material within each book be recorded for future bibliographic purposes.<sup>127</sup>

Kardos soon discovered that the Feleky collection as received by the Library did not contain all the items thought to be in it. His partial enumeration of missing items, dated March 3, 1953, lists thirteen multi-volume sets of literary writings, seven other important books, and three serials, including a series published by the Magyar Tudós Társaság for 1831–1844, which Kardos considered to be especially valuable.<sup>128</sup>

After Stephen Balogh warned the American-Hungarian community about the proposed dismantling of the Feleky Collection, Kardos prepared various materials to be used to explain and defend the Library's policies and actions. As some of these documents lack dates and headings it is difficult to determine precisely when Kardos wrote them or how he used them. But the themes he developed link the documents into a general statement in defense of Library policy and course of action.

Kardos argued that it was indeed fortuitous that the Library of Congress had acquired the Feleky Collection. The Library already possessed the largest collection of Hungarica outside of Hungary, and continually expanded it by making substantial acquisitions through purchase and exchange with dealers and libraries in Hungary, while actively seeking out new collections to purchase in the West. The Library employed fifteen Hungarian speakers and, to reflect its increasing concern with non-Slavic materials from Eastern Europe, had renamed its Slavic Division the Slavic and East European Division. Through its East European Accessions List, the Library published bibliographical information plus annotations about its new Hungarian-language acquisitions. Along the same lines, the Slavic and East European Division had begun compiling a union list of Hungarian materials, both pre- and post-war, in both American and European Libraries. Scholars and the general public had access to all of the Library's materials through its reference and photoduplication services, and also through its interlibrary loan service, which took materials to readers all over the country. And whatever duplicates the Library would find in the Feleky Collection would not be "pulped," as Balogh had claimed, but sent to Columbia University Library, thus assisting the development of the Hungarian collection there. Kardos warned against the proposed privatization of the Feleky Collec-

tion by pointing out that Feleky's bibliography had not been sold with the collection to the Hungarian Reference Library in 1937 but remained in private hands and had subsequently disappeared.

Kardos viewed the opposition to the Library's absorption of the Feleky Collection as based more on emotion than reason, but whatever its source, this opposition was more than a nuisance—it was a danger to the future growth of LC's Hungarian collection. The delay in processing the Feleky collection—due to political and legal uncertainties—would result in the diversion of funds earmarked for Hungarian acquisitions for the 1952–53 fiscal year to other goals. The Library's plans to obtain microfilm copies of Hungarian language materials from European libraries would also be held up, as it could not be determined whether or not microfilms should be obtained for materials already found in the Feleky Collection. Kardos also wondered if the Library administration would continue to seek out and purchase private collections of Hungarian books if a potential controversy lurked behind each acquisition. The opposition of some American-Hungarians to the Library expanding its Hungarian collections in this manner, Kardos noted, could not but stand in sharp contrast to the cooperation and assistance rendered by various Slavic organizations in the maintenance and development of the Slavic Division and the Slavic collections.

Kardos also refuted what he believed were misleading claims made about the Feleky Collection. It was not, he insisted, a scientific "entity" but only a collection reflecting the interests and inclinations of Charles Feleky, who, for all his devotion to his books, was not an important figure in science or art. The Feleky Collection also was not a true reference library in that it lacked the many works that a true reference library ought to contain. Indeed, the collection should be considered "dead" in the sense that no materials had

been added to it for more than a decade. And finally, the Library of Congress would not “indiscriminately” disperse the books from Feleky’s collection, but add them to the various subject headings according to the Library’s system of classifying materials. Concerning the outcry against the Library’s paying only \$2,000 for this valuable collection, Kardos emphasized that the purchase price was only a “symbolic payment” between two government agencies and in no way reflected the true value of the collection.

Toward the end of May, Kardos sent the following materials to Librarian Evans: (1) a sketch of an article defending LC’s actions, in both Hungarian and English versions, to be sent to the American-Hungarian press, along with a cover letter in Hungarian; (2) a fact sheet to be given to university professors, the Hungarian National Council, and other Hungarians who, Kardos believed, had been misinformed; (3) a brief sketch of how LC classified and stored materials by individual subjects; and (4) an unofficial cover memo introducing the three preceding documents. All four documents are undated, but Verner W. Clapp’s handwritten comments, dated May 26, 1953, on the cover document urged that Kardos be permitted to send the article to a newspaper and added that further steps ought to be considered. Evans marked his approval on the same day<sup>129</sup> (for a concise statement on Kardos’s position, see Appendix 5).

Kardos sent a copy of this article with a cover letter to Benő Aczél, editor of the *Amerikai Magyar Népszava* (New York), as well as to the editors of *Magyar Bányászlap* (Detroit) and *Szabadság* (Cleveland). In the letter, Kardos admitted that the Library had been reluctant to reply publicly to Balogh’s circular letter, in that it did not want the dispute to be aired in public and become the subject of propaganda attacks by the communist government in Hungary. Kardos called unfounded the anxiety felt by some concerning the

“dispersion” of the Feleky Collection. He stressed that notable American-Hungarians who had visited the Library had become convinced that the Feleky collection was now in expert hands, and that integrating it with the other Hungarian language materials of the Library was in everyone’s interest. Kardos invited the newspaper to send representatives to the Library to see this for themselves.<sup>130</sup>

Kardos continued his offensive by publishing articles concerning LC’s Hungarian collections in *Amerikai Magyar Népszava* on June 12 and in *Új Hungarica* on June 26, 1953. In both, he reiterated the ideas he used previously in the Library’s defense; namely, that it would be irrational to maintain the Feleky Collection separately as it was not a complete reference library, that LC already possessed the largest collection of materials in the West about Hungary, that the Feleky Collection would not be indiscriminately dispersed, and that the Library employed sufficient ethnic Hungarians to process the collection.<sup>131</sup> Kardos also wrote a circular letter<sup>132</sup> of his own, dated June 9, which may have been penned in response to an unsigned article appearing in the *Amerikai Magyar Népszava* the day before. This article noted that Representative Frances Bolton had introduced a bill to “save” the “Hungarian character” of the Feleky collection by preventing its merging with the other material in the Library of Congress. Kardos also may have written a document entitled “Draft For a Speech on The Charles Feleky Hungarian Collection Recently Purchased by the Library of Congress,” dated May 1953, which was found among his papers dealing with the Hungarian Reference Library. Although his name does not appear on the document, the details it contains about the collection’s contents and the arguments used to support the Library’s retention of the Feleky Collection point to Kardos as its author.<sup>133</sup>

At the same time, others who supported the Library's position began to step forward and register their opinions. The earliest to do so was Stetson Holmes, of the Mid-European Studies Center of the National Committee For a Free Europe (New York). Béla Szász, formerly Librarian of the Budapest City Library and later the Director of the Hungarian Kossuth Publishing Company in Cleveland, wrote to Representative Bolton in May and to Representative Karl Le Compte, Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, in June, urging that the Feleky Collection remain at the Library of Congress and not be sold to private individuals or an association. Szász stressed that a private organization could not offer the professional library services provided by the Library of Congress, including access to the collection via interlibrary loan. John Lotz, Chairman of the Department of Uralic and Altaic Languages at Columbia University, likewise supported the collection's retention at the Library. In a letter to Béla T. Kardos dated May 28, 1953, Lotz wrote that he fully agreed that the Library of Congress "should be developed to the fullest extent as the greatest possible collection of *Hungarica*, and no other institution has even a remote chance of doing it under the present circumstances."<sup>134</sup> Support for this view was expressed also by Géza Teleki, Professor of Geology at the University of Virginia, and the son of Pál Teleki, the former Prime Minister of Hungary.<sup>135</sup> And finally, Professor Joseph Reményi, whose letter had prompted Representative Bolton to submit a bill to the Congress, indicated his second thoughts about his initial course of action in subsequent letters to Béla T. Kardos and Representative Bolton. Reményi credited Kardos with helping him change his opinion.<sup>136</sup>

## COMPROMISE

On June 30, the matter of the Feleky Collection

came before a meeting of the Subcommittee on the Library of the Committee on House Administration. Representative Bolton explained that she introduced the bill before the House to head off possible accusations by the Hungarian communists that the United States did not respect the cultures of other countries. She therefore proposed to sell the collection to a private American-Hungarian organization. Two congressional members of the subcommittee then read letters from constituents opposing any sale of the collection, who argued that researchers would have better access to it if it remained at LC. Stephen Balogh then read a statement, later inserted into the *Appendix* of the *Congressional Record*, in which he reiterated his argument for maintaining the Feleky Collection as a unit; namely, that it would be useful to researchers only if it were maintained as a separate collection. He also feared that the non-book materials (periodicals, clippings, pamphlets, etc.) in the collection that were not of interest to LC would be discarded and pulped. If the Library could not keep all the materials together as a unit, Balogh added, it should take the few books it needed and then sell the remainder to an organization that could maintain the collection's identity, namely, the American Hungarian Federation, of which Balogh was the Executive Director.<sup>137</sup> [See Appendix 4 for full text of the statement.] Verner W. Clapp then presented the Library's arguments for processing the collection, asserting that the Feleky Collection together with its Hungarian Reference Library addenda did not form a true reference library and would be better used to supplement LC's holdings. Clapp suggested as a compromise that the Library should retain ownership but lend the collection to a "responsible" organization. The committee was receptive to the idea of a loan, adding that the Library could require at any time that an inventory be taken, which would insure that the collection's "identity" be maintained for the time

it would have "an important propaganda value;" that is, for the "duration of the cold war." The Library itself was to undertake a search to locate an organization to receive the collection, but the final approval would be made by the House of Representative's Committee on House Administration.<sup>138</sup> Frances Bolton noted that such a compromise would remove the need for her bill as such a transfer would not involve a sale. On the same day, Frances Bolton appeared twice before Congress, made a revision and extension of her remarks of June 1, and inserted Balogh's statement into the *Congressional Record*.<sup>139</sup> The next day, July 1, Balogh wrote to the editors of American-Hungarian publications, thanking those who had contacted their representatives in Washington, asserting that Congress "cares for the cultural and historical heritage and tradition of Hungary," and calling Frances Bolton "one of the most understanding and the best friend the Hungarians ever had in the U.S. Congress."<sup>140</sup> (Edmund Vasváry would later write to Representative Bolton that she deserved the "everlasting gratitude" of American-Hungarians for her efforts.<sup>141</sup>) Also on July 1, in an article that Béla T. Kardos later called "questionable," the *Washington Post* described the agreement as "a gain in the Cold War for the West."<sup>142</sup>

A meeting in Representative Bolton's office on July 24 that included Tibor Eckhardt of the Hungarian National Council and Verner W. Clapp hammered out further details for the future of the Feleky Collection. Serving "as a nucleus for study and reference concerning Hungary, her history, and her culture," the collection would be loaned intact to a responsible organization, possibly to an organization in New York City created for the purpose.<sup>143</sup> Eckhardt, on behalf of the Hungarian National Council, was to initiate the founding of the new organization and to inform Representative Bolton and Verner W. Clapp on progress

made in this direction. An envoy present from the Committee For a Free Europe reputedly offered his organization's assistance to the new reference library.<sup>144</sup> Verner W. Clapp, on behalf of the Library of Congress, stated his acceptance of the proposal and his willingness to appoint a Library representative to the new organization's board of directors.<sup>145</sup> Representative Bolton on the same day notified Director Balogh of these plans to create an organization representative of the various American-Hungarian groups, of which his group, the American Hungarian Federation, would be a part.<sup>146</sup> Incidentally, Béla T. Kardos had recently warned Verner W. Clapp against lending the collection directly to the American Hungarian Federation, whose financial position at that time he considered precarious.<sup>147</sup>

## Establishment of the American-Hungarian Library and Historical Society

The Library of Congress thus commenced its search for an existing group to which it could lend the Feleky Collection. Béla T. Kardos drew up a list of the largest American-Hungarian organizations in the United States, and on September 21, 1953, Verner W. Clapp dispatched letters to ten of them.<sup>148</sup> All, including the American Hungarian Federation, would decline for various reasons.<sup>149</sup>

At the same time, plans went forward to create an umbrella organization to receive the Feleky collection. On December 15, 1953, Tibor Eckhardt notified Verner W. Clapp of a November 19 meeting in which various American-Hungarian groups agreed to form an association called "The American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association" (the name was soon changed

to The American-Hungarian Library and Historical Society—AHLHS). This organization was to be founded by 100 charter members (individuals and institutions), each initially contributing \$100. (The actual number of founding members would reach 108.)<sup>150</sup> The AHLHS received assurances of annual contributions from American-Hungarian social, religious, and fraternal organizations. At this meeting the founders of the future society also discussed a tentative budget for the organization, and the need to acquire materials published since the closing of the Hungarian Reference Library in early 1942. Subcommittees were formed to handle legal matters and public relations, and to find a site for the library.<sup>151</sup>

Clapp's reaction to this development is unknown, but Béla T. Kardos was skeptical of the proposed association's ability to establish and operate a reference library. He noted that only two of the fifteen founders were in a position to "contribute substantially," and that these two were the only U.S. citizens in the group. Thus, he observed, this group could hardly call itself representative of the American-Hungarian community, and therefore probably could not raise the funds necessary to buy books required for a reference library and to pay a librarian. Kardos noted that Edmund Vasváry had been invited to join the group but refused; in fact, Vasváry at that time was attempting to acquire the collection for the American-Hungarian Federation.<sup>152</sup> Kardos, in another document dated January 1954, suggested that the Library keep the books it needed and send the rest to either the American Hungarian Federation in Washington or Columbia University Library.<sup>153</sup>

However, more than six months passed and the Library received no word from the AHLHS about further developments. In the meantime, the American Hungarian Federation had informed Kardos that it could not meet the Library's requirements for housing and handling the Feleky Collection.<sup>154</sup> In July 1954

Verner W. Clapp informed Tibor Eckhardt that the Library of Congress would not continue to wait but would begin to seek out alternative organizations.<sup>155</sup> In a letter to Representative Bolton dated February 24, 1955, Clapp even suggested that the Library of Congress begin to process the Feleky Collection, given the lack of outside interest. Bolton consequently notified John Pelényi, who was now teaching in France, about this lack of progress. Pelényi expressed distress not only in learning that the "opportunities offered" had not been taken advantage of, but also that he could do nothing "at this distance."<sup>156</sup>

By April, however, the AHLHS was able to present a proposal to the Library. On April 18, 1955, representatives from the AHLHS met with Librarian of Congress Quincy Mumford and submitted their official request for the loan of the Feleky collection, the minutes of the meeting establishing their organization, and their proposed certificate of incorporation. After being given a preliminary approval by LC, the committee formally applied for incorporation from the New York State Board of Regents, receiving a provisional charter on May 27, 1955.<sup>157</sup>

In a letter to Librarian Mumford dated June 2, the AHLHS's legal counsel, Aloysius C. Falussy, announced the organization's incorporation and its acquisition of housing at 212 E. 85th Street in New York City. Falussy also informed Mumford that the AHLHS would hire a full-time librarian and recruit part-time, volunteer workers to help set up the collection, but noted that "[p]atience and time" were needed for the difficult job of cataloging. The collection would be housed in air-conditioned quarters and the AHLHS would have bound any materials requiring such treatment. The Library was to be open to the public approximately 36 hours per week, and its materials would be available to other libraries on interlibrary loan. Falussy also announced that Dr. Ida Bobula, a

former LC employee, had agreed to be the librarian.<sup>158</sup> However, in a letter to Verner W. Clapp some six weeks later, Falussy modified a few of his earlier proposals, stating that no final commitment had been made for the location of the library, that the time of public access would be a “minimum” of 25 hours, and that the library would hire a part-time cataloger.<sup>159</sup>

Notwithstanding these changes, on October 13, 1955, Librarian of Congress Mumford and Alexander St. Ivanyi (1902–1983),<sup>160</sup> President of the AHLHS, signed the papers to loan the collection. The contract stated that the Library of Congress was to lend the collection “for an indefinite period,” mark each item or group of items so as to identify it as Library property, pack the materials at no cost to the AHLHS, furnish copies of printed catalog cards and print cards where none existed, and provide the Society with a provisional inventory of the collection. The AHLHS, on its part, agreed

- to maintain quarters “of suitable character” in New York City, to maintain the collection and to keep it separate from other materials belonging to the AHLHS,
- to pay the cost of shipping the materials from Washington, D.C., to New York City,
- to provide a receipt of materials received within two months following the commencement of the loan,
- to unpack the collection and make it available within one year after commencement of the loan,
- to create and complete a catalog of the collection “identical with or equal to” those used in LC, including a shelf list and a file arranged by authors within ten years;

– to make the collection available to the public within a year for not less than twenty-five hours per week, with some modifications for holidays and summer months; provide reference service with a “competent reference librarian” present;

– to make the collection available on inter-library loan and through regulated photoduplication,

– to loan items back to the Library of Congress if requested,

– to maintain the collection, binding or rebinding items as needed,

– to augment the collection with supplementary materials for resource and study, provided that those materials were kept separate from the loaned collection;

– to provide the Library of Congress with an annual report,

– to admit authorized representatives from the Library of Congress during any stated hour of public opening,

– to insure the collection and to replace any lost, stolen, or destroyed items,

– to return the collection intact, at the end of the loan, to the Library of Congress, and

– to furnish the Library of Congress with the catalog created for the collection.

It was also agreed, in Article 13, that the Library of Congress possessed the right to retain “such occasional items . . . as in its judgement should be retained in the Library for use or preservation.” (John W.

Cronin on November 25 suggested to Clapp that the approximately 150 rare (pre-19th century) books already segregated by the Order Division staff be kept, and that someone in the Slavic and East European Division ought likewise select other materials for retention.<sup>161</sup> It was further agreed that the Library of Congress could terminate the agreement upon a year's notice if the society failed to fulfill its obligations specified by the agreement.<sup>162</sup>

### THE COLLECTION RETURNS TO NEW YORK

By the following February, the Library of Congress was ready to send the first shipment of 1,000 books, and notified the AHLHS in a letter dated February 13, 1956. The actual shipment began on March 1, but acknowledgement of the receipt was delayed until mid-May. A second shipment consisting of the remaining books in the Feleky Collection was not ready until the end of December 1956. In the meantime, however, the Hungarian Revolution of October–November 1956 had taken place, and the premises of the AHLHS that were intended for its library were given over to refugee relief work. The AHLHS consequently could not receive this final shipment until the second half of February 1957.<sup>163</sup>

Meanwhile, in the middle of this protracted transfer, the AHLHS published the first issue of its official bulletin, *Magyar Könyvtár*, which contained an article which Librarian Mumford believed to contain misleading and hostile allegations concerning LC's acquisition of the Feleky Collection.<sup>164</sup> In his June 27, 1956, letter to St. Ivanyi, Librarian Mumford complained that the article portrayed the LC administration as unsympathetic to Hungarians in that it had refused to show special consideration for the Feleky

Collection. It stated that LC had refused to create for the collection a separate Hungarian or "Ural-Altai" section, analogous to the separate Slavic, Latin-American, or Hebraic sections. LC was said to have refused to keep the collection together as a unit, planning instead to treat everything, except the few items it would keep, as "duplicates" to be "dispersed, sold, or given away," and to even "pulp" the unbound periodicals and pamphlets. Indeed, the article continued, all this would have happened had Representative Bolton and Congress not intervened. Although Representative Bolton "tried to induce" the Library to sell the Feleky Collection to an American-Hungarian organization for the same price it paid for it, "[t]his proposition was not accepted." The agreement reached called only for the collection to be loaned to a Hungarian organization, which would have to provide housing and "undertake the rather expensive task" of cataloging and binding. The Library reserved the right to "take back the whole deposit unconditionally, at any time." In order to "forestall the dispersion of this irreplaceable collection," the article continued, money was pledged and the AHLHS formed.<sup>165</sup>

In his reply to Mumford, St. Ivanyi agreed to rectify the statements made regarding the Library of Congress. He distanced himself from the language of the article, stating that he had been part of neither the early dispute nor the compromise agreement. He further wrote that if the "objectional points" in the article were not true, that is, if the Library of Congress did not indeed maintain any collection separate from the general collections, and if it did not "pulp" most of the material it did not need, then he did "not see why the Feleky Collection had to be "rescued" or saved by the American-Hungarian Library and Historical Society. In fact, St. Ivanyi continued, "it should have been left in your Library to augment the already considerable material of the 'Hungariana' there."<sup>166</sup>

## DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING A REFERENCE LIBRARY

In March 1958—a little more than one year after the final shipment of books arrived in New York—Deputy Chief Assistant Librarian Lucile Morsch paid an announced visit to the AHLHS. She discovered that the Society had unpacked only the first shipment of books, while storing the remainder in a former school building. She was told that the Society had plans to purchase a building but lacked the funds necessary for a down payment. She also learned that the AHLHS intended, once it established its library, to lend the books out to patrons for use off premises. Although this practice was not explicitly forbidden by the contract, Morsch noted that it was one certainly that should not fall within the activities of a reference library.<sup>167</sup>

After her return to Washington Morsch wrote to Francis de Vegvar, Vice-President of the AHLHS, asking him to inform LC by the end of the first week in April whether a decision had been reached to purchase space for the library and when a librarian was to be hired. Meanwhile, the AHLHS had found both the funds and the building, and informed the Library of Congress in a letter dated May 2, 1958, that the actual purchase would take place on May 20. LC consequently gave the AHLHS until September 1, 1958, to specify the date on which the books would be unpacked, the qualifications of the person who would be responsible for the collection once it was unpacked, and the date on which actual library service, as outlined in the agreement, would commence. At the end of May, Francis de Vegvar asked that this deadline be extended to the middle of September, as his summer vacation would take him out of the country until that time. This request was granted, although at the end of September de Vegvar asked the Library for additional time, and Lucile Morsch further extended

the deadline until November 1. At the end of October, de Vegvar again asked for an extension, this time for eighteen months, to allow time for the Feleky Collection to be cataloged.<sup>168</sup> In her reply on October 31, Lucile Morsch informed de Vegvar that she would be in New York on November 13 and would visit the quarters intended for the new library. De Vegvar's reply confirmed the November 13 date, but added that the AHLHS would be in the midst of moving on that day. This information surprised Morsch, who had assumed that the Feleky Collection had already been transferred to the new building. She therefore suggested that the two meet on November 28, when she would again be in New York.<sup>169</sup>

In the meantime, Librarian Mumford received a telegram from Representative Bolton, who stated that she had been informed that the Library of Congress intended to terminate the agreement between itself and the AHLHS, even though "extenuating circumstances" had prevented the latter from complying with the letter of the contract.<sup>170</sup> Mumford immediately sent copies of his correspondence with the AHLHS to Bolton to show that the Library of Congress had not raised even the possibility of terminating the agreement.<sup>171</sup> De Vegvar was likewise officially informed that the Library of Congress had no intentions of recalling the collection.<sup>172</sup>

Morsch met with representatives of the AHLHS in New York on November 28 but de Vegvar was conspicuously absent. As requested, the meeting took place at the site of the future AHLHS library at 352 East 84th St., but, instead of allaying any doubts Morsch may have had about the proposed library, the visit gave rise to additional questions. According to Morsch's official report on the visit, the building undergoing renovation was "cheap, dirty, and dilapidated," and, according to her hosts, would require \$60,000 for renovation alone. Tenants still occupied some of

the apartments, and would need to be evacuated before remodeling could proceed. Morsch was told that the AHLHS wished to rent out the basement for a Hungarian restaurant, but she doubted that one could be successfully established in this "undesirable" neighborhood.<sup>173</sup>

Besides doubting the AHLHS's ability to provide the physical setting for a reference library, Morsch also questioned the quality of the library service that would be given. She was told that a library committee was formed from "experienced librarians," but after a little investigation she discovered that only one of the members was actually employed by a library, but not as a librarian. She also gained the impression that the AHLHS leaders she spoke with viewed the Feleky Collection merely as a "prestige item," useful for attracting additional funding.<sup>174</sup>

In the conclusion to her report, Morsch observed that LC loaned the Feleky Collection "too soon" to the AHLHS, but, more importantly, "[t]he auspices and this location do not appear to be even remotely appropriate for the type of reference service envisaged by the agreement between the Library of Congress and the Society." She recommended that the collection be returned to LC for a year, at the end of which the Society's ability to fulfill the terms of the contract would be reexamined.<sup>175</sup>

On December 5, Mumford wrote to St. Ivanyi that he was "disturbed" about books being stored in a former school building, and the likelihood that the AHLHS library would not be operating before 1960. He suggested that he and St. Ivanyi meet to discuss the future of the collection. In his reply, St. Ivanyi agreed that LC was correct in asking the AHLHS to live up to the agreement signed, but that the events of October and November 1956 had hindered work. He also admitted that cataloging according to LC's specifications was a far greater task than had been

anticipated. The two men agreed to meet on January 27.<sup>176</sup> At that meeting, Librarian Mumford learned that the Feleky Collection had been moved from the former school building to the future library on East 84th St. Mumford subsequently asked St. Ivanyi to have the collection sent back to LC as "the hazards are too great" where the books were then currently held.<sup>177</sup> Mumford promised that the books thus returned would not be unpacked for a year; that is, not before March 1, 1960, by which time LC would consider a new agreement. But instead of returning the books to the Library of Congress, on February 19 the AHLHS moved them to a local warehouse. St. Ivanyi informed Mumford of the move and added that he hoped that LC's specifications for storing the books could "be regarded as observed."<sup>178</sup> Confronted with this *fait accompli*, Mumford suggested that an inspection of the books be made to check for possible insect damage. He also gave the AHLHS until March 1, 1960, or one year later, to meet the terms of the original agreement.<sup>179</sup>

Less than one week before this deadline, in the last week of February 1960, Alexander St. Ivanyi wrote Librarian Mumford that he planned to visit LC and inform Mumford "of some very interesting developments in connection with the Feleky Collection."<sup>180</sup> At the same time, the New York Public Library submitted to LC a request for custodianship of the Feleky Collection. Apparently, the AHLHS, realizing that it could ask for no more time, believed that the collection's acquisition by the New York Public Library was a way to meet LC's requirements as specified in the agreement between LC and the AHLHS, as well as to keep the collection in New York City. For its part, the New York Public Library did not mind acquiring valuable books that it did not possess, but did not wish to be obligated to keep the duplicates and other unwanted material in the Feleky Collection. When NYPL learned that it had been LC's original intent to take the needed

books from the Feleky Collection and discard (through exchanges) the duplicates and unwanted materials. It withdrew its request.

## RETURN OF THE COLLECTION TO LC

On June 2, 1960, Librarian Mumford informed Alexander St. Ivanyi that as the American-Hungarian Library and Historical Society had not succeeded in establishing a reference center using the Feleky Collection, the Library of Congress had no choice but to recall it. He noted that more than seven years had passed since LC acquired the collection and more than four and one-half since the AHLHS had received the books from LC, but the collection was still unavailable to the public. In a letter to Representative Bolton the same day, Mumford described the recent flurry of correspondence concerning the Feleky Collection and concluded that "with this background information and your interest in the Library of Congress, you will agree that I now have no alternative to recalling the collection."<sup>181</sup>

Upon learning of Mumford's decision, John Pelényi wrote a letter to Bolton, asserting that Mumford's patience with the AHLHS would have been more "rewarding" if the conditions placed on the housing and administration of the collection "had not been so onerous that the American-Hungarian Library and Historical Society proved unable to meet them." "No one can deny," he continued,

the most valuable books of the Felleki [sic] collection can be better taken care of by the Library of Congress than by any other organization. It is the disposal of the duplicates, which the Library of Congress does not keep anyway which can lend itself to criticism.

This seems to me could best be avoided by letting the society have at a moderate price

the books of which the Library of Congress would want to get rid of anyway and by letting the Society have microfilms of the valuable books which the Library of Congress wishes to keep.

Thus, the latter would have the valuable parts of the collection and the charge of dispersal would be avoided as the Felleki library would remain together with the Society—either in the original books or in [the] form of microfilms.

This solution appears very simple but I would not be surprised if it ran into regulation snags of one kind or another as things usually do.<sup>182</sup>

On Pelényi's suggestion, a copy of the letter was given to Mumford. Mumford, for his part, defended the Library's course of action in a letter to Bolton. "It seems to us most desirable," Mumford wrote,

that the Feleky Collection should become part of the collections of an established institution with strong patterns of service and with the machinery and resources which make possible the bibliographic control of materials and the acquisition of a steady flow of additional publications.

Scholarship would be best served, Mumford continued, if the duplicates went to research libraries, preferably an established institution in New York City. Both Columbia University and New York Public Library had expressed interest in acquiring the duplicates. On the other hand, Mumford noted that the AHLHS simply did not have the means to catalog, store, and make the collection available. He also

added that the Library of Congress lacked two-thirds of the books in the Feleky Collection, a figure much higher than previously thought.<sup>183</sup>

At the end of June, Mumford received a response to his June 2 letter to St. Ivanyi, who had been away on a lecture tour when the letter recalling the Feleky Collection arrived. St. Ivanyi wrote that he could not return the books without the approval of his Board of Directors. He also inquired whether the AHLHS could obtain, at its own expense, microfilm copies of the rare books, and a copy of the card catalog of the collection. In this way, he continued, the AHLHS would possess a record of the titles in the Feleky Collection.<sup>184</sup> Mumford replied that microfilming could be done, but that a microfilm copy of the catalog already existed; perhaps the New York Public Library would accept a copy as a gift and catalog it?<sup>185</sup>

St. Ivanyi and the AHLHS made no reply for several months. Consequently, in a letter to St. Ivanyi in the middle of October 1960, Mumford said he was "disturbed" about the lack of correspondence and asked when the Feleky Collection was to be shipped.<sup>186</sup> St. Ivanyi replied that nothing could be done until the Society's annual meeting, which was to take place on October 26.<sup>187</sup> At the end of November, St. Ivanyi told Mumford that the Board of Trustees had met and had designated a special committee, headed by de Vegvar, to handle "this problem."<sup>188</sup> In the middle of December, de Vegvar wrote Mumford that he would get in touch with St. Ivanyi to obtain "the final and irrevocable authorization" to return the Feleky Collection to Washington.<sup>189</sup> Nevertheless, Mumford needed to contact de Vegvar on March 9, 1961, asking him to explain the silence of the previous three months. De Vegvar replied on the 14th, stating that St. Ivanyi had been unable to come to New York in

January or February and thus a Board meeting could not be held. But as St. Ivanyi would "probably" come to New York in March and convene the Board. De Vegvar asked the Librarian of Congress for patience.<sup>190</sup>

On April 3, 1961, de Vegvar announced to Mumford that the Feleky Collection was packed, but as the Society had little money, could the books be shipped collect?<sup>191</sup> In his reply, Mumford reminded de Vegvar that the agreement between their two organizations stated that the Society would pay for the return shipping charges, but that the Library of Congress would pay the charges if the Society would provide reimbursement by June 30.<sup>192</sup> On April 17, the Society informed the Library of Congress that the books would be shipped,<sup>193</sup> and the Library received the Feleky Collection on May 23, 1961.<sup>194</sup> However, as of June 23, the Library had not received a bill from the shipping company and sent an inquiry to the AHLHS as to whether that organization had paid the shipper directly.<sup>195</sup> Apparently the Library received no answer, for in late February 1963, nearly two years later, a collection agency requested that the Library pay \$138 in shipping charges that were supposed to have been paid at the time the Library received the collection but were not because of an error on the invoice.<sup>196</sup> After discussions with its legal counsel, the Library notified the agency that it would pay the bill. And on March 22, 1963, more than ten years after the Library of Congress had acquired the Feleky Collection, Mumford wrote a letter to de Vegvar, asking for reimbursement in the form of a check for \$138, made out to the Treasurer of the United States.<sup>197</sup>

By February 1, 1962, the Library had processed the Feleky Collection and sent the duplicates to Columbia University.<sup>198</sup>

## Conclusion

What is the ultimate purpose of a single book or a collection of books? Are the contents of a book more important than its symbolic value? Is the value of a book collection equal to the sum of the individual books, or is it more than this? These questions lie at the heart of the controversy surrounding LC's acquisition of the Feleky Collection.

The Library of Congress acquired the Feleky Collection in 1953 with the intention of using this acquisition to fill in gaps within the Library's already-large collection of Hungarica. The individual books were valued for their use in research but not for their collective role as an ethnic symbol. The accessibility of the materials to researchers guided this and subsequent decisions made by the Library.

Charles Feleky intended his collection to be a self-contained, Hungarian-American research library, where readers could find all materials about Hungary in a single place. Accordingly, Feleky attempted to acquire all materials in English needed to answer any question about Hungary and Hungarians. His was the notion that one could collect together all "facts" about Hungary in one place, an idea that seems romantic and naive to us at the end of the 20th century, but one which seemed realizable in the first decades of the century. And as far as English-language material on Hungary was concerned, Feleky certainly collected more material

than any one individual had, before or since. But in addition to the physical impossibility for an individual to acquire "everything," there were whole subject areas where he did not collect (see Appendix 2). Nor did the Hungarian Reference Library add the materials needed to turn the collection into a true reference library. Moreover, by the time the Library of Congress acquired it, this collection had received no new materials for over a decade, a tumultuous decade as far as Hungary was concerned. Therefore, although the Feleky Collection remained a collection that contained many valuable and rare books, and was a testament to the vision of Charles Feleky, the Library of Congress could not justify holding it together as a separate unit.

Should the duplicates in the collection have been given or sold to an American-Hungarian organization? The Library of Congress again considered paramount the interests of scholarship, with availability and accessibility to researchers the guiding principle. There was nothing inconsistent in its actions in honoring an unwritten obligation to send duplicates to Columbia University, which also possessed an important research library, and which had stored the material—without reimbursement—for over a decade. In essence, once the Library of Congress acquired the Feleky Collection, it acted according to its interests as a research library, and according to the interests of all research libraries and the scholarly community that relies on them.

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Letter and report ("Feljegyzés a Hungarian Reference Library működéséről") of Domokos Kosáry to Géza Paikert, dated October 24, 1941. Courtesy of Joseph St. Clair, with permission of Domokos Kosáry.

FELEKY COLLECTION

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1

### “THE FELEKY LIBRARY AND A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MANUAL OF ENGLISH LITERATURE RELATED TO HUNGARY,” BY CHARLES FELEKY

The Feleky library is a unique research library that has not its like in the world. The principal aim of the work as well as assembling the books, magazine articles and pamphlets was to collect everything that pertains to Hungary or Hungarians recorded in the English language. One cannot write about Hungary or Hungarians unless the rest of the world is mentioned. There is absolutely no such thing as an isolated nation. Hence the library is a history of the World or what is known as the history of Civilization. It is, however, a specialized history of CENTRAL EUROPE which includes all the BALKAN STATES, Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Turkey etc. It also includes AMERICA, The Great British Empire, China, Japan, Central Asia, Madagascar, Africa, Greece, and the rest of the world. It also contains all the subject matter that is given in any of the large Universities.

There are about 6,000 volumes of which over 125 are very rare and of the 16th and 17th centuries. There are about 10,000 magazine articles which were extracted from 801 Magazines, and then bound in book form. There are 31 cases of pamphlets—some of them very rare and cannot be acquired again. There are a collection of letters, manuscripts and pictures—268

pieces in all. Newspaper clippings beginning from 1908–1929.

To give an idea of the scope of the work and library the following list of subject matter . . . may be illuminating.

Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Agriculture, Art, Artists, Astronomy, Astrophysics, Anthropological History of Europe etc. etc. etc.  
Balkan States, Banking, Bimetallist, Biographies, Balkanization of Agriculture, Chemistry, Commerce, Chamber of Commerce, Citizens of the World, etc. etc.  
Civil Engineers, Class Struggles, Literature, Current History, Colloid Chemistry, Drama, Diplomacy, Discoveries, Diplomatic History of Europe, Asia and Africa, etc. Encyclopedias: Encyclopedia Britannica; Encyclopedia Americana, Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics. The Encyclopedia of Sport, Cyclopedias of Education, etc. Education, Economics, Entomology, Engineering, Ethology, Electrical Engineers, etc. Fine Arts, Folk Lore, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Fiction, etc. Geology, Genealogy, Geography, Geographical Society, Gypsy Lore, Gypsies, etc.

History of the World: American, European, Roman, Central European, Hungary, Serbia, Jugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Poland, Turkey, Austria, Germany, China, Japan, Greece, Tibet, Madagascar, China, Japan, Russia, etc. etc.

History (Special) Iowa, California, Wisconsin, Ohio. HUNGARIAN NATION FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT DAY. Hungarian Music, Art, Etc. Industry, On grinding Wheat, Hungarian Wines, live stock, Forestry, Breweries Etc.

Immigration, Islamic Culture, International Law, etc. League of Nations, Law, Land Values, Literature America, Hungarian, British Etc.

Kossuth MSS. and relics, Kossuth books, pamphlets and Magazine articles.

Medical Science, Mathematical Science, Mechanics, Music, Moving Pictures, etc.

Natural Science, Numismatics, Newspapers (American and British) Ornithology, Official Documents, The Orient etc.

Physiology, Psychology, Philosophy, Political Science, Philology, Poetry, Press, etc.

Radioactivity, Religion (various denominations) Reconstruction in Europe, etc.

Sciences (various) Science and Arts, Sports, Statistics, Student Movement etc.

Theology, Technology, Teachers, Travels, Theatre, Treaty of Peace, etc.

Universities of Central Europe, University of Oxford, etc. etc. etc.

World Events, World War, World History, Women at the Hague, Woodrow Wilson, etc.

Zoology.

## Appendix 2

### EXCERPT FROM "REPORT ON THE FELEKY COLLECTION" BY HENRY MILLER MADDEN, DATED JANUARY 7, 1936

[Letter to Professor Luther H. Evans, Director of the Historical Records Survey, Works Project Administration. (From the Charles Feleky file, held in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.)]

. . . Perhaps even more important that [sic] the material, unique as it is, is the bibliography which Mr. Feleky considered his great achievement. It is typewritten in 19 folio loose-leaf volumes; it includes all the material in his library, and that material which he was unable to secure, either great rarities or ephemera. For most of the entries, there are notices of reviews and biographical material, as well as cross references. Without question, it is an exhaustive bibliography of all material in English on Hungary. Publication of this monument of scholarship should be highly feasible, for the following reason: There exists an admirable national bibliography of Hungary, and a work similar to Mr. Feleky's, although less ambitious in scope, for *French* material on Hungary, published in 1913 by Ignatz Kont. A rather superficial *Bibliographia Hungariae*, edited by the Ungarische Institut of the University of Berlin, 1923-34, covers chiefly *German* works. Thus the publication of Mr. Feleky's bibliography would fill the last lacuna in Hungarian bibliography.

A word about the general nature of the 6,000 volumes might not be amiss. Mr. Feleky realized the impossibility of dealing with an isolated Hungary; consequently, the history and culture of the Ottoman empire, the Balkan states, Transylvania, Slovakia, and Austria are generously represented. In addition, to show the position of Hungary in world affairs, Mr. Feleky tried to collect all works in English by Hungarian

authors, scientific as well as *belles lettres*. Inasmuch as the Columbia University Library has no more than 20 volumes, if that many, of Hungarian literature, this part of the Feleky collection would fill an embarrassing gap. There is also a section devoted to the history of Hungarians in America (Mr. Feleky contributed two articles to the Dictionary of American Biography), the visit of Kossuth, etc.

As to the uniqueness of the collection I can testify that many of the items which exist in profusion in the Feleky library are jealously guarded in the Rare Book Department of the Library of Congress—that is, those few which the Library of Congress possesses. The Ottoman collection at Harvard University is the only rival to the Feleky library, and it touches only the periphery of Hungary.

As to the monetary cost of the collection to Mr. Feleky, some of the sale-slips in the earlier volumes reveal much. I have seen receipted bills from English dealers and auctioneers amounting to 25 pounds for single items.

Apart from the bulk of the collection, there are a few German and French works, and all the Hungarian works necessary for bibliographical purposes, including the *Révai Nagy Lexikona*, the standard Hungarian encyclopedia.

Any institution which will possess the Feleky collection will have no rival in Hungarian and Central European studies, and will be in an advantageous position, at small cost and trouble, to amplify it by the purchase of books in the chief European languages. As it stands now, the Feleky collection is absolutely unique.

## Appendix 3

### EXCERPT FROM THE UNPUBLISHED ESSAY "THE FORMER FELEKY HUNGARIAN COLLECTION," BY BÉLA T. KARDOS, MAY 1953, EDITED BY KENNETH NYIRADY

. . . The Hungarian collection, as it has reached the Library of Congress, is divided into two parts. The first, collected mostly by Feleky himself, is predominantly English-language material. Besides about 6,000 volumes, there are many files of clippings from periodicals and newspapers. Some are mounted in scrapbooks but the greater part is still pressed together in files and folders and is difficult to handle.

The second part comprises about 2,000 volumes, mostly in the Hungarian language. They were added to the collection after it was acquired by the Hungarian Reference Library in New York. Up to the outbreak of the Second World War Hungarian ministries, institutes, statistical offices and economic organizations sent about 2,000 volumes of their publications. But, due to the war, the plan was never completed and, at the present time, the collection cannot be regarded as a representative reference library.

The English part of the collection naturally centers on the periods when interest in Hungary and Central Eastern Europe was the greatest for English-speaking peoples: (1) during the 17th century, when Turkish military power occupied half of Hungary and threatened all Europe. The other half of Hungary and what was then an independent Protestant Transylvania served as a bulwark to further Turcic penetration of Europe (Transylvania was also an Eastern outpost of Protestantism); and (2) during the Hungarian fight for constitutional freedom, liberal reforms, and later complete independence as championed by Louis Kossuth in the middle of the 19th century.

While the first epoch is represented in the Feleky Collection by several hundred old publications, some

of them now rare, and the second epoch by thousands of English books, pamphlets, posters, photographs, and some manuscripts, other epochs of Hungarian history are not as thoroughly represented. One possible explanation for this is that from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, Latin and German were used in Hungary for official purposes, although use of the Hungarian language in this capacity was increasing. Two of the very few Latin items in the collection deserve to be mentioned. One is *Chronicon Hungaricum quod ex codice membranaceo nunc primum excitat Alexius Horányi* (Vienna: 1781), written by Simon Kézai, a 13th century historian who was a priest at the court of King Ladislas (László) IV. The original text was written about 1270 and is interesting not only with regard to the early period of Hungarian history, but to the age when the Chronicle was written. The other Latin title deals with a much later period and was written by the Transylvanian nobleman, Joannes Bethlen (Bethlen János, 1613–1678), chancellor for the last prince of Transylvania, Mihály Apaffy (1676–1713), and has the title *Rerum Transylvanicarum libri quatuor continentes res gestas principum ejusdem ab anno 1629*. . . . The first edition was printed in Transylvania in 1663, but the collection has the 1664 Amsterdam edition. The Library of Congress already possesses the continuation of this work, *Historia Rerum Transylvanicarum* . . . , published in 1782–83 (2 vols.), which continues Transylvanian history to the year 1673.

As to the English material of the collection, it is interesting to note that the so-called Pipe Rolls or the Great Rolls of the Exchequer contain the oldest extant

record on a registered student at Oxford University, Nikolas de Hungaria, to whom Richard the Lion-Hearted gave a scholarship "of not less than one-half golden Marks." Other students are listed one hundred years later, according to historian of Oxford, Henry Churchill Maxwell Lyte.

Another special item in the collection is an original copy of the oldest extant newspaper in the English language, the *Corant or Weekly newes from Italy, Germany, Hungaria, Polonia, Bohemia, France, and the Low-countries*, dated October 11, 1621. Until Feleky found this copy in 1913, the earliest issue of this weekly newspaper known was the May 23, 1622 issue, kept in the British Museum. The small single sheet, two pages of yellowed paper in the Feleky Collection, is therefore more than seven months older. The first news item is dated Rome, September 1621, and concerns the death of Cardinal Bellarmine; the second, from Vienna, September 22, 1621, notes that difference between "outlandish" (Spanish) and German generals have been straightened out, but until this day "noe imperiall Generall has benee yet named" against the Transylvanian Prince Gabor Bethlen, whom it reports to be in Buda.

The danger which threatened the whole Western civilization from the East is well exemplified in the war declarations of the Turkish Sultans. One collection of these bears the title *Letters from the great Turke lately sent unto the Holy Father the Pope and to Rodulphus naming himselfe King of Hungariae, and to all the Kinges and Princes of Christendome* (London: 1606) and was translated from Hebrew into Italian, into French, and lastly into English. The "great Turke" wishes Rodulphus "all evill and mischiefe and the ruin of all thy countries, kingdomes and dominions, because that thou takest upon thee the name and title of king." The Sultan swears "to visit thee sooner than thou thinkest for, and to the end thou maiest the more

assuredly knowe it, it shall be with such an armie and force, that neither thou nor any of thy prediceors did ever behold the like. . .," and signed it the "great Turke Emperour of the earth and ruler of the sea." Similarly, *A vaunting, daring and menacing letter sent from the Sultan Morat, the great Turk, from his court of Constantinople, by his Embassadour Gobam, . . .* (London: 1638) testifies to the serious threat of foreign devastation which hung over Europe for a long time. William Crowne's *A true relation of all the remarkable places and passages observed in the travels of the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Howard . . .* (London: 1637) pictures life near the endangered areas. A survey of the historical struggle with the Turks during the preceding centuries is given in Tho. Mills' *The history of the Holy War began anno 1095 by the Christian princes of Europe against the Turks for the Recovery of the Holy Land . . .* (London: 1685).

The 1660s are well represented in the Feleky Collection. The advances made by the different Protestant sects amid the clash of arms is examined in the *Examen doctrinae Ariano-Socinianae . . .* (London: 1662) by Pál Jászberényi, a "Transylvanus-Hungarus." Several publications mark the eventful year of 1664. *The conduct and character of Count Nicholas Serini Protestant Generalissimo of the auxiliaries in Hungary* (London: 1664) was published in the year of the hero's death. Others from the same year were: *The history of the Turkish wars in Hungary, Transylvania, Austria, Silesia* (London: 1664); James Howell's *Florus Hungaricus or The history of Hungaria and Transylvania* (London: 1664); and Henry Blount, *A voyage into the Levant. A brief relation of a journey lately performed by Sir Henry Blount from England by the way of Venice into Dalmatia, Sclavenia, Bosnia, Hungary, Macedonia, Thessaly, Thrace, Rhodes and Egypt* (London: 1664). Several contemporary

biographies portray the famous soldier and strategist of the Austrian House, General Montecuccoli; and Henry Marsh's, *A new survey of the Turkish empire, history and Government completed* (London: 1664) familiarizes the West with the Eastern enigma.

Also of interest are two travel accounts of Englishmen who were eyewitnesses to the Turkish rule before its collapse in 1683. One, *A relation of a journey of the Right Honourable, My Lord, Henry Howard, from London to Vienna and thence to Constantinople . . .* by John Burbury (London: 1671), narrates the experiences of the 6th Duke of Norfolk as Ambassador to Turkey. After being received with great courtesy and festivity in Vienna (1664), Norfolk continued his way by ship down the Danube, saw the Turkish pashas in their baths at Buda, and also "the ruinous City of Pest where [there are] . . . several poor Christians, who are subject to many affronts and insolences of the Turks, especially when in wine, which albeit prohibited by their Law, yet many make bold with, especially the younger sort of people. . . ." [pp. 95–96] Another eyewitness of that time was Edward Browne "of the College of London, Fellow of the R. Society and Physician in Ordinary to His Majesty," who wrote *A brief account of some travels in Hungaria, Servia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Thessaly, Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and Friuli* (London: 1673). His curiosity boldly penetrated the Iron Curtain of those days. Brown made sketches of bridge-heads and fortresses, depicts the "crosses with Half-moons set over the churches in the Country which payeth contribution to the *Turks* in Hungary." "[I]t grieved me," he says, "to see in all the Confines a sort of Cross which our Heralds do not dream of, which is a Cross Lunated after this manner [picture] whereby the Inhabitants as they testify their Christianity, so they acknowledg the *Turkish* power." [pp. 82–83]

As a lover of books, Dr. Brown was also interested

in finding the remnants of the famous library of the former Hungarian King Matthias (Mátyás Corvinus, d. 1490), the Bibliotheca Corviniana in Buda. It had contained many thousand handwritten and beautifully illustrated codices. "[T]he Hungarians," says Dr. Brown,

may justly boast of a very Noble Library erected at *Buda* by their King *Matthias Corvinus* consisting of some thousands of Books, especially *Greek* and *Latin* Manuscripts, not to be met with or Purchased elsewhere; . . . part whereof was dispersed into the Turkish Dominions, when Solyman surprized that City . . . [Those remaining were] so carelessly kept by the Turks, that Wormes, mice and Ratts were like to have the spoil thereof. But the Fire of *Buda* in 1669 hath now consumed them all." [pp. 15–16]

Nevertheless, he saw some dozens of the Corvinas in the Innsbruck library and in Vienna. [At present (1953) there exist still 156 Corvinas, 43 in Vienna, 21 in Budapest and the rest scattered all over the world. A description with beautiful facsimiles of some existing copies may be found in another volume of the Feleky Collection, in André Hevesy's *La Bibliothèque de roi Mathias Corvin* (Paris: 1923). – BTK]

Ten years before the expulsion of the Turks, Dr. Brown found that "it is certain that they are unsatisfied with their present bounds and look beyond *Hungaria*, and I have heard them say, we must in due time come to *Beatch*, for so they call *Vienna* and try our fortunes again." Seeing "their hardy education, sober course of life, and obedience to their Superiors. . . . and that they so punctually observe the duty of their Charges," Dr. Brown says "I am apt to think, or fear, if he, who putteth bounds to the Sea and saith hither thou shalt come and no further, doth not, out of his

great mercy, put a stop to their further incursions, they may probably obtain and conserve a far larger Empire, and even all *Europe*, unto the Western Ocean." This statement shows that the Eastern danger existed long before the present threat and had to be met with Western help.

Turkish military affairs during this time were likewise discussed in a book translated and published by John Evelyn, son of the famous English scholar of the same name in the 17th century: *The history of the grand visiers, Mahomet and Achmet Coprogli, . . . the wars of Dalmatia, Transylvania, Hungary, Candia, and Poland*. (London: 1677)

Disaster soon overtook the haughty military power, as reported in *The history of the Turks, describing the rise and ruin of their first Empire in Persia*, anonymously published in London in 1684; Paul Rycaut's *The present state of the Ottoman Empire* (London: 1686), and *The wars of the Turks with Poland, Muscovy, and Hungary, from the year 1672 to the year 1683* (London: 1705), written in French by de La Croix (le Croy), secretary of the French Embassy at the Turkish Port. The English translator of the work, A. Chaves, noted that

the author had a free access to the principal ministers under the reign of Sultan Mohamet the fourth and knew all the secret springs which gave motion to the proceedings of that prince. . . . He would not have drawn so lively a picture of the Grand Visier, had he not been well acquainted with the original. His pride, avarice, cruelty, and ambition which made him, against all solemn treaties, invade the Western Empire, are things well known.

*A breviare of proceedings of France from the Pyrenean Treaty to this time*, published first in Cologne and reprinted in London in 1684 contains also the "cor-

respondence of Count Tekeli" of Transylvania with French statesmen. *The Memoirs of Emeric count Teckely* (four books with the supplement *History of Hungary from 1656 to 1691* (London: 1693) were translated from the French publication of the same year. *A relation or diary of the siege of Vienna* by Johann Peter von Vaelckern (London: 1684) presents us with the most dramatic scenes of the crisis, while *The present state of Hungary or, A geographical and historical description of that kingdom . . .* (London: 1687) relates also the subsequent relief of Vienna, and the battles of Pressburg, Harkan, etc., as well as the recapture of towns in Upper Hungary. John Shirley's *The history of the wars of Hungary* (London: 1685) and Gidion Pontier's *A new survey of the present state of Europe . . .* (London: 1684) reports not only war events but also, like most of the books mentioned, other interesting economic, religious-cultural, and social data on Hungary and other Danubian nations.

Other publications in the collection, some from a later age, on the Ottoman power and its relation to East European nations include *The history of the Turks* (London: 1684) and *A Compleat History of the Turks, From their Origin in the Year 755 to the Year 1718* (London: 1719, four volumes). *The Eight volumes of letters writ by a Turkish Spy who liv'd five and forty years undiscover'd at Paris* (London: 1753) gives details of the Turkish court life and intrigues around the Divan in Constantinople. *A secret history of Europe* (London: 1712-13) tries to analyze the French intrigues with the Turkish and other governments.

Soon, however, the Hungarians had to deal with other enemies besides the Turks. *Histoire du prince Ragotzi; où La guerre des mecontents sous son commandement* (Paris: 1707) describes the Hungarian Fronde movement of Rákóczi against Viennese centralized absolutism. One year later an "Impartial Hand" in *The history of the imperial & royal families of*

*Austria and Bourbon* . . . (London: 1708) attempted to describe the two dynasties at that time which determined the fate of Europe.

Other books in the collection testify how the Austrian government tried to influence England during the first years of Maria Theresa's reign, when she had to struggle against many enemies on the Continent. These publications include various "memoirs," and "declarations" of the Queen of Hungary (Maria Theresa), published and republished in different forms between 1741 and 1744. Note also *The Queen of Hungary's Manifesto, being a full Answer to the French Declaration of War* . . . (London: 1744) with the addition later of the *Definitive treaty of Christian, Universal and Perpetual peace, friendship and union, concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle* (London: 1748). Other books of this type are: *The History of the House of Austria, and the German empire* . . . (London: 1743) and *Memoirs of the life of John-Daniel Mentzel, Major General to the Queen of Hungary* (Dublin: 1744), which provoked a response from the Prussians in the form of Count de Dohna's *Confutation of the Memorial Published by the Court of Vienna* . . . (London: 1744). The numerous biographies of Prince Eugene of Savoy, such as anonymously published *The Life of Prince Eugene of Savoy, Generalissimo of the Emperor's army in Italy* (London: 1702), or another "By an English officer Who served under his Highness in Hungary . . ." (London: 1741), which covers "thirty campaigns made in Hungary, Italy, Germany and the Low Countries during the course of more than 50 years," all contain much data on Hungary.

Materials dating from late in the 18th century include *An accurate and impartial narrative of the war, by an officer of the guards* . . . *Comprising the campaigns of 1793 and 1794* (London: 1796, two volumes) by "an officer of the guard, epistles from head quarters" during the retreat through Holland. One

of the very few German-language items in the Collection is *Statistik des Königreichs Ungarn* (Pest: 1796) by Martin Schwartner, a university professor of Pest. This work represents one of the earliest statistical publications on Hungary. Aladár Ballagi's *Buda és Pest a világirodalomban* (Budapest: 1925) quotes the texts of all printed sources which mention Buda and Pest, the two constituent parts of the present Hungarian capital, in the years between 1473 and 1711.

In the linguistic field the dictionary and grammar of the Orientalist Hieronymus Megiser (1553–1618) *Institutionum linguae Turcicae libri quattuor* . . . (Lipsiae: 1612), dedicated to King Matthias II, may be of interest; also the 1801 edition of *Dictionarium Latino-Hungaricum* and *Ungaro-Latino-Germanicum* in two large volumes, originally compiled by Ferenc Pápai Páriz and Péter Bod, and revised by József Károly Eder (Posonium: 1801). But one of the greatest achievements in linguistics is the *Essay Toward a dictionary, Tibetan and English* and *A Grammar of the Tibetan Language*, in English (both Calcutta: 1834), prepared by the "Transylvanian-Szekler" Alexander Csoma de Kőrös, a Hungarian philologist who studied in Göttingen, Germany, then wandered from Egypt to India to find the ancestors of the Hungarians. Living for several years in Buddhist monasteries in Tibet, he learned the Tibetan language and prepared this large-size monumental dictionary and grammar published under the auspices of the Asiatic Society.

The Library of Congress possesses several dozen English travel accounts of Hungary and the Danubian area from the first part of the 19th century, when passenger steamships began to ply the Danube and traveling there became more comfortable. New acquisitions in this line are William Beattie's *The Danube, its history, scenery and topography* (London: 1834), richly illustrated by William Henry Bartlet and others. Still more colorful is *Hering's sketches on the Danube in*

*Hungary and Transylvania* (London: 1838), which contains twenty-six of his colored etchings. George Hering's artistic abilities are also shown by his Swiss and Tyrolean scenes, which the Library of Congress possesses. The three volumes by G. R. Gleigh *Germany, Bohemia, and Hungary visited in 1837* (London: 1839) depict life in the same years, while Adalbert Stifter's *Pictures of rural life in Austria and Hungary* (London: 1850) and Wilhemine Beck's *Personal adventures during the war 1848/49* (London: 1851) approach the Kossuth era.

The richest part of the Feleky collection is the literature on the events of 1849–49, the war for Hungarian independence. Kossuth himself is represented by his collected works in both original Hungarian editions and several incomplete translations. Kossuth dedicated to his friends some volumes from contemporary newspapers and clippings. It is of interest that Kossuth's plan of a Danubian Confederation does not appear in his collected writings because his editors feared that it would irritate his followers who were clamoring for Hungarian independence. The plan, however, was printed in the fifth volume of the collected speeches and writings of Kossuth's great adversary, Ferenc Deák. However, a now rare item of the collection *Histoire politique de la Révolution de Hongrie, 1847–1849* (Paris: 1859–1860) contains Kossuth's earliest and best principles for such a confederation, written in 1851 while he was confined in Asia Minor. He sent it to his Paris friends, who translated it into French and published it. The original and full Hungarian text was never published, though the greater part of the document appeared later in another rare publication, *A balavásári szüret. Történelmi rajz a kötélkorból* (Budapest: 1894), by Lajos Hentaller.

Almost of equal interest are the writings and documents published by Kossuth's friends and adversaries. *Életem és korom* ([second edition] 2 vols., Budapest:

1884), by Ferencz Pulszky, who was Kossuth's London ambassador, is both an autobiography and a picture of the age. Bertalan Szemere, Minister of the Interior in Kossuth's first cabinet, gives important information on nationality problems and other internal struggles within the country and within the cabinet in his *Összegyűjtött munkái*, (6 vols., Pest: 1869–1870). The literary testimony of István Széchenyi, another prominent rival of Kossuth, *Döblingi irodalmi hagyatéka* (Budapest: 1921–22, 2 vols.) appeared more than a half century after Széchenyi's death in 1860. Other outstanding sources are Sebő Vukovics, *Emlékiratai* (2 vols., Budapest: 1894); Sándor Veress, *Magyar emigráció a Keleten* (Budapest: 1878), which depicts the life of the Hungarian political emigrés in Turkey; while Henry De Puy's *Kossuth and His Generals* (Buffalo: 1852) is an American look at the tumultuous events of 1848–49. *Correspondence relative to the affairs of Hungary 1847–1849, presented to the House of Parliament, August 1850*, is a collection of on-the-spot reports sent by agents of the British government from Vienna, Pressburg, Bucharest, and other places. Several albums and map publications contain the history and strategy of battles, such as *Die Schlacht bei Pered, 29 Juni 1849*, or *Hungarian Album* (London: 1856), which shows scenes of the spring campaign of 1849, the entrance of the first Hussars into liberated Pest, and similar depictions. Other albums and posters of later date caricature the Austrian generals, especially Haynau, when he was boycotted and ridiculed during a visit to England. Feleky also collected and bound the contemporary issues of the English periodicals *Examiner*, *Dispatch*, and others which describe the reception of Kossuth and his companions in England and America. During the same period Agoston Haraszthy de Mokcsa travelled in the United States from town to town, visited President Tyler several times and also the Library of Congress (when its

collections contained 14,000 books). He collected the statistical and other data available and published them under the title *Utazás Északamerikában* (2 vols, Pest: 1850).

The era in Hungary which followed the 1867 compromise with Austria was less interesting to the British public, and consequently the number of English-language publications decreased. It is represented, however, by some good standard works on Hungarian constitutional development like those by C. M. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Albert Apponyi, and Julius Andrassy, plus W. B. Forster Bovill's *Hungary and the Hungarians* (London: 1908). This comparatively peaceful era in Hungarian history is reflected by a greater number of books and albums on arts, architecture, and historical monuments. These publications became especially numerous and lavish in 1896, when the millennium of the foundation of Hungary was celebrated. Paintings and drawings of the three leading artists Mihály Munkácsy, Mihály Zichy, and László Mednyánszky present us with the best of these years.

We were pleased to find in the Hungarian Reference Library or among the more recent additions to the Feleky Collection some standard works such as professor Jenő Czettler's *Magyar mezőgazdasági szociálpolitika* (Budapest: 1914), which is indispensable for the study of the agricultural and social policy of Hungary before the First World War. Károly Kaán's *A magyar Alföld* (Budapest: 1927) is a standard work on the economic development, irrigation, and reforestation of the Great Hungarian Plains. *Budapest áramellátásának története 1893–1933* (Budapest: 1934) describes the electrification of Budapest and the central regions of the country. Árpád Halász's *Budapest húsz éve 1920–1939* (Budapest: 1939) portrays life in Budapest between the two world wars. Some 60 volumes of the *Statisztikai közlemények* of the City

Statistical Office of Budapest document the social, economic, and cultural problems of the Hungarian capital.

Equally important are the yearly reports and special publications of the different Hungarian economic organizations which were disbanded or closed down by the present Communist regime, like the National Chamber of Agriculture's *Országos Mezőgazdasági Kamara évi jelentései*; the *Jelentés a Takarékpénztárak és Bankok Egyesületének működéséről* and *TÉBE Könyvtár: TÉBE évkönyv* which are the prewar publications of the Federation of Credit and Savings Banks. *Budapesti ügyvédi kamara . . . évi működése* preserves the records on the organization and activities of the Hungarian Bar Association before the war. *Magyar Textilgyárosok Országos Egyesülete. . . évi jelentés* and similar yearly reports were published by sections of the Hungarian Manufacturers' Association. *Magyar Szövetkezés* (Budapest: 1939–1941) of the Center of Hungarian Credit Cooperatives (OKH) is the source of information on pre-war cooperative movements in Hungary. *Országos Közegészségügyi Intézet évi jelentései (1930–1939)*, of the Institute for Health and Social Welfare, describes hygienic and social conditions in pre-war Hungary, while *Városi szemle* (1927–1938) depicts city administration and self-government. *Magyar sportalmanach* (1926–1939) records sports life and athletics during this period. *Országos Gazdaságkutató Intézet helyzetjelentései* (1932–1941) of the Hungarian Economic Research Institute provides statistics and research not published by the State and Budapest city statistical offices. The Feleky Library also contains a complete set of a unique daily statistical paper *Statisztikai tudósító* (1938–40) of the pre-war Central Statistical Office, with a five to ten page newspaper published every day.

Most of the publications listed in the last paragraphs are now unobtainable from communist Hungary. While the Feleky Collection was under foreclosure,

two sweeping purges hit the bookstores and libraries in Hungary, one under the National Socialists in 1943–44, and the other in 1945–46, while a third is presently eliminating all books and periodicals to which the ideology or momentary personal policy of the Communists are opposed. Consequently, the publications preserved in the Feleky collection have become rare material. This is true for political works such as *Bethlen István gróf, történelmi korrajz, egy kortárs feljegyzései* [n.d.], the life of Count Stephen Bethlen, who was Prime Minister of Hungary between 1921 and 1931 and carried away by the Russians in 1945, written by his Transylvanian compatriot Dénes Sebess (Budapest: 1927); and for *Múlt és jövő határán* by Béla Imrédy, another former prime minister of Hungary executed under the Russians. It equally

applies to the writings of Bálint Hóman, historian and Minister of Education in prewar cabinets and others, including the literary works of Ferenc Molnár, Ferenc Herczeg, János Kodolányi, Cecil Tormay, Mihály Babits, and many others to the right or left of the official ideology.

Though, as we said, in absence of a complete inventory of all the holdings of the Feleky library, its full value could not be as yet ascertained, and though the collection in and of itself cannot serve as a reference library on Hungary, there is no doubt that this additional material fills important gaps in the Library of Congress's holdings and will be useful to many research workers who consult the sources of the Library of Congress on Hungary and related subjects.

## Appendix 4

### STATEMENT PRESENTED BY MR. STEPHEN E. BALOGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION, TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 30, 1953

Mr. Chairman, honorable Members of the Congress, thank you for your deeply appreciated courtesy in extending the opportunity and time for my appearance before your committee.

I am the executive director of the American Hungarian Federation, a nonprofit, voluntary citizens agency with its headquarters in Washington, D.C. This federation was incorporated in the State of Ohio in 1907. The constituents of the federation are the churches and congregations affiliated with Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish church bodies; national fraternal organizations; Hungarian language daily newspapers; weekly, monthly magazines and periodicals; Hungarian language radio broadcast services; state, district, and local-level civic, patriotic, cultural, welfare, and similar type charitable organizations.

The approximate overall membership of this federation numbers more than a half million. Our services are maintained by voluntary subscriptions, organizational and individual contributions. The aims and purposes of this federation are to defend the Constitution of the United States and to maintain the principles of our American democracy through patriotic, civic, and cultural services rendered in behalf of our constituent organizations.

I was still the pastor of one of the largest American Hungarian Reformed Churches at Chicago, Southside, in 1938 when I received a personal letter from Mrs. Antoinette Feleky, the widow of Mr. Charles Feleky and the heir of the Hungarian Reference Library. Mrs. Feleky, a distinguished psychologist, author, and lec-

turer, left her studies at Columbia University and devoted all her time to the care of this unique collection. It was 15 years ago this year that I got acquainted with the Hungarian Reference Library, which includes more than 2,000 rare books, dating from the 16th century to the present time. This great library was created by a traveling conductor who devoted 40 years of his life to become the greatest scientist in Hungarian-English-American relationships, to whom college professors came from all over the world for specialized information. His collection contains all books, including translations, relative to Hungary written in English since the year 1562, as well as innumerable periodicals and pamphlets. One of its most valuable possessions is the oldest British newspaper in existence. An early issue of the Weekly News (1620-1621) in which a long article appears on Gabor Bethlen, ruling Prince of Transylvania, a champion of religious liberty.

As Mr. Stephen Duggan, a distinguished author and American analyst, has stated in his article which appeared in the publication of the Society of the Hungarian Quarterly, the Hungarian Reference Library contains about "6,000 volumes, 10,000 magazine articles, extracted from nearly 800 magazines, bound in book form; there are 31 cases of rare pamphlets as well as collections of letters, manuscripts, and pictures. In fact, material on all the arts and sciences is contained in this unusual collection." Study of the records shows for example, that the oldest registered student at Oxford University was a Hungarian, Nikolas de Hungaria, to whom Richard the Lion-Hearted, gave

a scholarship "of not less than one-half golden marks" as the Pipe Rolls document states. Nikolas de Hungaria was the first scholar at Oxford whose name has been preserved, other students being listed only 100 years later. Naturally, no one can write about Hungary or the Hungarians unless the rest of the world is mentioned. Since there is no such thing as an absolutely isolated nation, consequently, every library is a history of the world and its civilization. The Hungarian Reference Library is a specialized library of Central Europe which includes Hungary, Austria, Germany, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Rumania, and it also includes the British Empire, America, Asia, Central America, etc. It contains an inexhaustible wealth of material that could be tapped to furnish subject matter for thousands of research scholars. As Mrs. Feleky stated in her publication printed in 1938: "The collection is virgin territory for those who are interested in exploring a field more or less neglected in the past."

The American-Hungarian Federation and myself are convinced that the Hungarian Reference Library serves the interchange of cultural values between the United States of America and Hungary. It fosters mutual knowledge and understanding of the cultural achievements of the two countries, acquainting each with the fine arts, music, drama, poetry, and other artistic, scientific, and educational achievements of the two nations.

Since I firmly believe that the Hungarian Reference Library was established to document the friendliest feelings of the Hungarian nation toward the United States and it became a specialized research source on Hungary in America, to me it represents a cultural token and trust. The fact that unfortunately situated Hungary was dragged into World War II, and consequently, is now cut off from the West makes it even more important that this expression of the real feelings

of the millions of anti-Communist Hungarian souls should be fairly respected and safeguarded in the United States.

That is my reason why I contacted Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of the Library of Congress and requested a personal interview on February 25 of this year for myself and for our outstanding historian, Reverend Edmund Vasvary, of Washington, D.C. Our purpose was to inquire about the planned disposition of the Hungarian Reference Library recently transferred from Columbia University to the care of your Librarian. Dr. Evans' office informed me that his appointment schedule precluded such meeting and we were referred to Mr. Kurth, Acting Chief of the Order Division. He informed me that the Library intends to follow the policy of dividing this collection and integrate the books into the general collection, and that they are determined to disperse the material of the Hungarian Reference Library in the usual manner.

I stated repeatedly both orally and in writing that this homogenous unit should not be dispersed since this is the only compilation of its kind in existence outside of Hungary, a country presently behind the Iron Curtain. A plan to integrate this unit with the existing collections of the Library would forever preclude its reconstitution to the original entity. I firmly believe that in the present psychological world tension the Hungarian Reference Library symbolizes and represents an authentic collection of the Hungarian culture free from Communist ideology. I maintain that it would be a very important and effective cultural service to preserve the integrity of this collection under the protection of the Library of Congress. While the past masters of the Communist poison-propaganda contaminate the minds, falsify documents and books, abolish the traditions and culture of their satellite nations, we, the United States, who are the guardians of world freedom can and must afford protection to

the invaluable cultural documents of a Communist victim nation. A scattered collection can never serve this purpose.

The dispersion of this Library to the appropriate subject classes as the Library of Congress officials state will simply kill the Hungarian Reference Library, instead of adding any value to the concentration of Hungarian culture. The nature of the material contained in the Hungarian Reference Library is such that most of the books had been written on varied subjects and their special interest is often a single chapter or sentence referring to something Hungarian. This Library is only valuable if the books stay in rows, on the same shelves and the research worker is admitted to these rows where he can find in them a unique network of information.

It is a very fair estimate to state that out of the 4,000 English language volumes of the Hungarian Reference Library, the Library of Congress already possesses at least 3,600. So, ultimately, the Library of Congress would be enriched with the maximum of 300–400 volumes. The rest will be classed as duplicates and offered for sale and exchange. In other words, they will be really dispersed throughout the world. There is no earthly means by which a research worker, i.e. interested in Hungarian animal husbandry could again find those works in which special animals of Hungary are mentioned unless he reads all books on zoology in the Library of Congress. The books on Bulgaria or Serbia, but in some pages relative to Hungarian problems, can never again be integrated into a wonderful background which is the unique value of this collection, not to mention the western books which naturally will be hopelessly dispersed.

A person who happens to know each book and that there is something for his specialized studies in those books can ask for them by title or author in the reading rooms of the Library and would have a chance

of getting those books again, but if he just happens to look for special Hungarian material, there will be no living person able to point out to him where it is.

The Library officials promised “the same care for the Hungarian Reference Library as for other cultural documents.”

The question is who can decide what is a cultural document? As a rule the Library of Congress does not consider bundles of incomplete periodicals, packages of clippings, heaps of pamphlets, travel leaflets, pictures, and posters as documents. There is a natural tendency to discard such a material to be pulped. Yet an infinitely valuable, irreplaceable part of the Hungarian Reference Library is such material. It is uncataloged and as far as I know, the existing listing is of no value. Whom will the Library charge with the work of selection? As far as I know, the Library has not a single Hungarian expert trained in Hungarian history or philology who could be trusted to make competent decisions.

These are my reasons why I asked Dr. Evans that the whole Hungarian Reference Library should be kept separately like the Slavic, Spanish, Hebrew, and similar collections. Or, if this cannot be done, then the Library of Congress should select from the Hungarian Reference Library’s material those volumes which it does not already possess and since this will be only a small portion of the books, the rest of the material should be given to our federation which is competent to preserve the entity of this material. This would give the Library of Congress everything it wants, yet not destroy wholly and uselessly the Hungarian Reference Library.

On March 20, 1953, I addressed an appeal to this effect to Mr. Verner Clapp, Chief Assistant Librarian, who stated in his April 3 answer to me that this request raises several questions which must be resolved before the Library can give me a final answer, but that I may be assured that in the meantime, this suggestion will receive careful consideration.

It was at this point that Dr. Joseph Remenyi, a professor of comparative literature at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, contacted Mrs. FRANCES P. BOLTON who graciously introduced H.R. 5472 to authorize the Library of Congress to sell the Hungarian Reference Library to a nonprofit group which will preserve this collection intact for public use.

The board of directors of our federation held a special meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 18, 1953, and unanimously recorded their gratitude for the understanding of Mrs. BOLTON who is loved and respected by the thousands of her Cleveland Hungarian constituents.

In behalf of the board of directors and the rank and file of the American Hungarian Federation, I respectfully request the honorable members of this committee to give your consent to authorize and direct the Librarian of Congress to sell the Hungarian Reference Library to the American Hungarian Federation, a voluntary nonprofit organization of the American citizens of Hungarian origin. This federation is a responsible, incorporated agency of Americans of Hungarian descent which is able to provide for the adequate housing of this collection and thus will make it available for its original purpose, which is to serve as a nucleus for study and reference.

## Appendix 5

### “ANSWERS TO THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORMER CHARLES FELEKY HUNGARIAN COLLECTION,” BY BÉLA T. KARDOS, DATED MAY 1953, EDITED BY KENNETH NYIRADY

1. Is it an “entity”?
2. Is it a “Hungarian Reference Library”?
3. Is it liable to “dispersal” in the Library of Congress?

The Secretary of the American Hungarian Federation proposes to keep the Charles Feleky Collection as “an entity” or as a “Hungarian Reference Library,” separate from the other Hungarian holdings of the Library of Congress. He fears a so-called “dispersal” of the collection. A clarification of the terms used will perhaps help toward a better understanding of the situation.

1. Is the Feleky Collection an “entity”?

It is an “entity” only from a personal point of view, i.e. “a personal entity” showing the inclinations, ideas and sometimes the hobbies of an individual, enthusiastic collector. Every private collection expresses the intellectual interests of its owner. (A Hungarian proverb says: “Tell me what you like and I will tell you what you are.”) In this way the library of Jefferson or Wilson reflected their remarkable personalities and ideas. If the individual involved occupies an eminent role in the history of the US such as those mentioned, it is reasonable to keep the collection together as a personal entity as was done with the Wilson collection. It may even be necessary to reconstruct such a collection later, at least in a bibliographical form, if it has suffered damage or had formerly been incorporated into a larger stock of books.

Charles Feleky, with all respect to his love for books, financial sacrifices, efforts and their results,

has not played such an outstanding role in Hungarian or American history or literature. As a collector of books, however, he had a valuable although *limited* idea, restricting his activities to a *certain line* of books that corresponded with his purpose and numerous personal limitations. Because of these, his precious collection cannot be regarded as an impersonal or representative entity from a broader or scientific view.

What are the limitations of the Feleky Collection?

- a. The language limitation.

Feleky began with the idea of collecting, if possible, all books and other documents *in the English language on Hungary*. He collected about 6,000 volumes. How complete is the Feleky Collection in this respect? Our tentative evaluation is that he may have succeeded in buying the English, mostly historical, publications on Hungary which were available to him on the book market, up to 50 or 60 percent. Even here, important gaps are obviously caused by his own limitations (see below). Feleky had no interest in law, economic literature, or actual political problems and controversies. Consequently we miss, for instance, the Hungarian material published in English at the time of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919–20, both the standard works on it by Temperley, Thompson, Hunger-Miller or Toynbee and the memoranda (three large English volumes) of the Hungarian delegation, the memoranda of the Czech-Slovak, Romanian, Serbian, etc. governments on the Hungarian problem, memoirs of statesmen published mostly in English or translated from it.

Oscar Jászi's *The Dissolution of the Hapsburg Monarchy*, unquestionably a standard work, or the vast literature on the war guilt of Hungary, Count Tisza's role, etc., should also be in a representative collection on Hungary.

Between 1920 and 1938, a great number of petitions were sent to the League of Nations by organizations of the Hungarian minorities and the Hungarian government. These and the Committee hearings of the League of Nations, or the Court of Arbitration, and the counter-memoranda of the Czech-Slovak, Rumanian, and Yugoslav governments were all published simultaneously in French and English. These publications are all missing in the Feleky Collection.

After 1924, Hungary became a member of the League of Nations. The publications of the latter and those of the International Labor Office, International Bank, etc., contain first class material on Hungary, frequently in special volumes. For instance, the excellent economic reports by the representatives of the Financial Commission of the League of Nations on Hungary written by two Americans, Jeremiah Smith (between 1924–31) and Royall Tyler (1932–38), are missing. No economic history could be written of Hungary without consulting them. Feleky's interest lay elsewhere—in historical and cultural affairs.

As to historical materials, the limiting to the English language necessarily means essential incompleteness in this field because the main language of Hungarian historical sources is *Latin*, which was used from olden days to the eighteenth century. The many volumes of "Fontes Historiae Hungariae," the "Monumenta Hungariae Historica" or the Latin records of the Hungarian and Transylvanian Diets up to 1848 and innumerable Latin publications from the chronicles of Anonymous to George Pray, form the backbone of all Hungarian historical source material, which is well represented in the Library of Congress but

missing—with the exceptions of two or three volumes—in the Feleky Collection.

The second largest number of books on Hungary is written in German. Hungary was closely connected with Austria, the Habsburgs, and Vienna. Besides, Germany herself followed Hungarian affairs with great interest. In the Feleky Collection, the Latin, German, French, and Italian publications are not represented, with the exception of a few, mostly of the Kossuth era.

b. Limitations as to subjects.

As we have already said, Mr. Feleky had slight interest in law, economics, statistics, etc. Hungarians have been called "a nation of lawyers" because of their rich constitutional and other legal debates and law literature. But our Law Library will not find any new items to add to its holdings from the Feleky Collection. The same limitations exist in literature on economic problems, statistics before 1930, etc. (about the additions after Feleky's death, see the next paragraph).

c. Limitations caused by personal taste and inclinations.

In the first three decades of this century, Hungarian literature had a great period of revival marked by the names of Endre Ady, Zsigmond Móritz, Dezső Szabó, and Attila József, acknowledged literary geniuses of great political influence both in their day and ours.

The literary review *Nyugat* and the political-sociological review of Professor Oscar Jászi, *Huszadik Század*, were the chief representative publications containing the most important writings between 1900 and 1918. Later the reviews *Napkelet*, *Társadalomtudomány*, *Kelet Népe*, *Válasz*, and others became important between 1920 and 1930. None of the above are to be found in the Feleky Collection. It is almost

like Russian literature without Tolstoy, Pushkin, Dostoyevsky, and Gorky. Owing to these limiting factors, the Feleky Collection as it now is, cannot be regarded as a fairly complete, representative "entity" of Hungarian books.

## 2. Is the Feleky Collection a "Hungarian Reference Library"?

After Feleky's death (1930) some years of uncertainty followed, but finally, when the Hungarian state took over, the idea of enlarging the Feleky Collection into a "Hungarian Reference Library" was conceived. The result was that, between 1935–1940, a number of Hungarian books, about 2,000, and some periodicals reached the Collection. They were mostly gifts of the Hungarian state and its various ministries, and of the City of Budapest's Statistical Office, academies, scientific institutes, and semi-official economic organizations. Yet it seems that there was little or no money for purchases, binding, and cataloging. The serials for these years remained unbound, the newspaper clippings pressed into files and folders, with the exception of a half a dozen scrapbooks, which at least indicates that the good intention was there.

The main shortcoming of these years is that, because of lack of funds, almost no books were purchased at all. Therefore, private publications were not added to the collection, e.g. those of the publishers Cserépfalvi, Magyar Élet, Népszava, etc. Nor were the works of the more important writers who were in opposition to the prewar Hungarian government acquired.

The books of opposition leaders like Bajcsy-Zsilinszky, M. Matolcsy, D. Szabó, Péter Veres, Imre Kovács, Ferenc Erdei and other land reformists, socialists or Social Democrats, from both the right and left, were disregarded and omitted. Consequently, the Collection expresses rather the official ideology of

prewar Hungarian government circles. Yet even such scientific standard works as the four volumes of *Magyarság Néprajza* (Hungarian Ethnography) did not reach the collections; nor did the many volumes of Professor Elemér Mályusz and his disciples on the historical development of the counties and settlements of different nationalities throughout the ages, and the seven volumes of *Magyar irodalomtörténete* (History of Hungarian Literature) by Jenő Pintér, although all were published in the 1930s. The only addition to the law section of the Collection was the *Corpus Juris* series of Hungarian laws.

The time limit.

The Collection was closed at the outbreak of the war and the purpose to enlarge it into a truly representative Hungarian library remained unfulfilled. During the last war and ensuing Russian occupation, Hungary underwent such profound changes in its structure and life that a fragmentary collection of prewar publications could no longer serve as a reference library on Hungary.

## 3. Is the Feleky Collection liable to "dispersal"?

The duty of the Library of Congress is to care for all material acquired in the most appropriate manner and have it ready for use when needed. The Library of Congress, therefore, does not "disperse" the books and other source material but processes and arranges them mainly by subject. They are kept together according to subject (see *Outline of the Library of Congress Classification* [Washington: 1942], 22 p.). For instance, all books on Hungarian history receive the classification DB and are located with all other books on Hungarian history, which have the same classification. In this group, the Hungarian historical books are

arranged into eight time periods and by author. Similarly, under the classification PH, all Hungarian literature (fiction and poetry) is classified and kept together. Hungarian bound newspapers may be found together under PN 5168, Hungarian bibliographies under Z2141, and Hungarian Law Literature (K) goes to the Hungarian Section of the Foreign Law Library.

Though all Hungarian books are placed in their proper subject class, all the subject classes cannot be physically integrated into one Hungarian unit without disrupting the whole organization of the Library of Congress. The Hungarian section of the Law Library is in the Main Building on Decks 1 and 3, Hungarian economic and statistical literature on Deck 5, Hungarian fiction and poetry on Deck 10, Hungarian fine arts on Deck 30, while books on Hungarian history are on Deck 2 of the Annex.

Further difficulties arise in integrating a library on "Hungary" in consequence of the repeated frontier changes of the country. Where should we place, for example, the numerous books on Transylvania, which up to 1919 was united with Hungary, between 1919 and 1940 with Romania, and between 1940–45 was

divided between the two countries, and went to Romania? Hungarians would object to placing Transylvanian books in the Romanian Collection. Romanians would object to putting them under Hungary. The Library of Congress catalog has kept the geographical subdivisions of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, with Transylvania as a unit within the monarchy. Consequently, all books on Transylvanian history are kept together. Similar disputes may arise about books of Croatia, Subcarpathia, Slovakia, Burgenland, the Voivodina, etc., which once belonged to Hungary.

At present there is only one way to keep a collection together. Even this is only transitory. If all the books of the Feleky Collection were considered priority 4, they would all be stored on Deck 10 of the Annex awaiting final cataloging. In this case, however, only preliminary cards would be prepared, not printed ones for public use. [Added in different type style]: A much better solution would be, however, to provide a catalog or scientific bibliography of the Hungarian material with call numbers by which all research workers could have easy access to them.

## Appendix 6

### HUNGARIAN REFERENCE LIBRARY: TOTAL PIECE COUNT BY FORM OF MATERIAL AND BY COUNTRY (as received by the Library of Congress)

	TOTAL	BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS	SERIALS & PERIODICALS
Hungary	13,803	3,846	8,703
US	9,517	3,233	5,307
England	3,547	2,727	704
Germany	206	167	37
France	161	134	23
Canada	137	21	115
Austria	101	98	0
Romania	61	2	59
Switzerland	60	55	5
Other	78	44	24
TOTAL	27,670	10,327	14,977

Other materials (photographs, prints, music scores, maps, broadsides & posters, recordings, and manuscripts): (27,670 - 25,304 = 2,366)

SOURCE: Files of Béla T. Kardos; Library of Congress, *Information Bulletin* 12, no. 36 (September 8, 1953), p. 2.

## Appendix 7

### INTRODUCTION TO MATERIALS FOR AN AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN LEXICON: THE BIOGRAPHICAL FILES OF THE HUNGARIAN REFERENCE LIBRARY OF NEW YORK (1937-1942), FILMED BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IN 1993\*

## Introduction

The microfilm that follows, consisting of about 3,600 pages of biographical information in 919 files on 930 Hungarian-Americans, was collected during the late 1930s and early 1940s by the Hungarian Reference Library (HRL). Established in 1937 by the Hungarian National Museum as a research and cultural center in New York City, the HRL organized concerts, lectures, exhibitions, sponsored a radio program, held evening classes, and was, as one observer put it, the center of Hungarian-American middle-class life in New York. However, with the outbreak of hostilities between Hungary and the United States in December 1941, the HRL was closed and its property seized by the United States government.

Desirous of making the Hungarian-American community, as well as the general public, aware of the outstanding contributions that Hungarian-Americans had made to science and culture in the United States, the Hungarian Reference Library solicited information and maintained files about individual Hungarian-Americans with the intention of publishing a biographical dictionary. Although the library closed before it could create such a publication, an abridged version, containing 229 notable individuals with brief biographical information, appeared in the book *Hungary. Past and Present* (New York: Hungarian Reference Library, 1941), edited by Joseph Szentkirályi (St. Clair), the librarian of the HRL.

The Library of Congress obtained the HRL's bio-

graphical files together with the so-called Feleky Collection, which it purchased in January 1953. Although the books in the collection were the subject of controversy and were actually removed from the Library until processed in the early 1960s, the biographical files remained in storage in the Library's Manuscript Division until early 1991, when they were transferred to the European Division for disposition. During their subsequent examination, their value to research became apparent,<sup>199</sup> and the decision was made to microfilm them.

## Methodology

The Hungarian Reference Library maintained biographical files on about 1,620 individuals, of whom 700 were not Hungarian-American. Determining whether an individual was Hungarian-American or not needed to be made for each file. This was not always an easy task. In general, someone was considered to be Hungarian-American if the information in the file stated that (1) the individual was Hungarian-American, or considered him- or herself to be Hungarian-American; or (2) the compilers of the biographical files considered the individual to be such, as evidenced by marginal notes on the material or explicit mention in the HRL's publication *Hungary. Past and Present* (1941). Lacking such evidence, other means were employed to determine group affiliation. Someone was judged to be Hungarian-American if the material in

the file indicated that (3) the individual was born in Hungary and emigrated to the United States (but not those individuals from the eponymous nationalities of the successor states who happened to be born in historical Hungary); or (4) one or both of the individual's parents or more distant ancestors emigrated to the United States from Hungary, or (5) the individual was a citizen of or permanent resident (not necessarily in the legal sense) in the United States *and* possessed a Hungarian last name. The files of the few Hungarian-Canadians in the HRL's files have been included but those of Hungarian-Britons were excluded. Also excluded were most individuals who appeared to be only temporary visitors to the United States, whether as traveling musicians or artists, or because of political or ethnic persecution at home. If there is outside evidence (information published after 1942) that such a person stayed on permanently in the United States, they were considered to be Hungarian-American and included. Also included was biographical material from an incomplete "Protestant Minister File," which the HRL maintained separately (although files of many Protestant ministers were kept among the main group of files). Unfortunately, the source of the information given in some of these files was not indicated. In general, in the selection of material for filming we have tried to err on the side of inclusion, rather than exclusion.

The files on Hungarian Americans were maintained for individuals of vastly different backgrounds, including, of course, notable individuals from the arts and sciences, the legal and medical profession, religion, politics, and sports. Many of these names were and still are well-known to the American public and need not be mentioned here. The HRL also maintained files for individuals one would not expect to be mentioned in biographical dictionaries, such as local businessmen, students, those engaged in manual labor, and even children. We do not know if the HRL intended

to publish information on all the individuals for whom it kept files, but we made no attempt to edit out those individuals who were not "notable." While by no means completely representative of the American-Hungarian community during the late 1930s and early 1940s, these files show an interesting cross-section of the American-Hungarian community for that time.

## Contents

The materials in the biographical files consist of the following:

### BIOGRAPHICAL QUESTIONNAIRES

These were solicitations for information sent out by the Hungarian Reference Library to individuals, and undoubtedly are the most valuable source of information in these files. Unfortunately, less than half of the files possess these completed questionnaires. The HRL distributed several editions of the questionnaire, but they always more or less requested the same information: respondent's name, place and date of birth, name of parents, profession, education, organizational memberships, and titles of books or articles published. The final category, "Kindly give detailed description of your life history" was meant to elicit material not falling within any previous category. The respondents approached this question in many different ways; some were brief and modest about their accomplishments, while others were neither brief nor modest. Some typed their histories, while others wrote in elaborate longhand. Individuals in the professions, arts, or sciences sometimes replied with typed or printed information prepared previously. Where it exists, the completed questionnaire is always the first item in an individual's file.

## CLIPPINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

Forming much of the material in the biographical files, newspaper clippings were obtained from professional clipping services or were clipped in-house. Source information always appears on those from the clipping services but not always for the others, thus reducing the research value of the latter. In addition, some clippings are incomplete, especially in cases where an article appeared on more than one page. Most of the clippings came from English-language newspapers in the New York City area, but many were taken from the Hungarian language press, both from the United States and Hungary. Some of this material dates from before 1937; one may assume that most of it was clipped by either Charles or Antoinette Feleky. Newspaper clippings are often the sole item in an individual's file.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROGRAMS

The files for individuals involved in art and music often contained programs for concerts, exhibitions, and lectures, as well as announcements of these events. Only the covers and relevant pages of these items have been filmed.

## OFFPRINTS

Many offprints appear in the files for individuals involved in academia, technology, or medicine. Only the first page has been filmed for offprints of articles that can be found in scholarly or professional journals.

## OTHER MATERIALS

These files also contain letters or postcards that

individuals wrote to the Hungarian Reference Library, as well as other materials.

## File Arrangement

The files are ordered and indexed in English alphabetical order, with the American system of name ordering used for the primary entry, e.g. *family name, personal name*. If both the Hungarian and American (whether equivalent or merely adopted) versions of the name are given in the file, the American version will always precede the Hungarian version, e.g. Wilson (Dubniczky), John; or Vidor, Charles (Károly); or Curtiz, Michael (Kertész, Mihály). This ordering does not apply to diacritic marks, which will appear on the primary entry only if they appear in an individual's file. A woman's married name, if given, will generally appear in parenthesis after her maiden name, except where she appears to have been better known under her married name. (The material in the files should alleviate any confusion caused by this distinction).

## Mechanics of Editing

To insure that filming would be a smooth and uninterrupted process, as well as to ensure that the reader would not have to constantly rotate the microfilm image, all materials were arranged to fit into a standard 8 1/2" X 11" format. This meant cutting up and arranging some newspaper items, and reducing others via photocopying. In many instances, photocopies of the appropriate pages in programs, offprints, or bulletins were filmed instead of the original. Although great care has been taken in handling the newspaper clippings, some material inevitably crumbled during

processing. Every attempt has been made to make the material as readable as possible. The editor assumes responsibility for peculiarities and shortcomings of editing and arranging this material for filming, but reminds the reader that the staff of the Hungarian Reference Library carried out the original selection and compilation.

## Names [and Number of Pages in Files]

Abonyi, Erwin [1]  
Acknay, Vilma [1]  
Ács, Gedeon [1]  
Adler, Stephan René [2]  
Albok, John [5]  
Alexander, Franz [8]  
Alexay, Béla [1]  
Alvary, Lorenzo [10]  
Andahazy, Lorand [1]  
Angyal, Joe [2]  
Antal, Géza [1]  
Apostoli, Fred [1]  
Apponyi, Geraldine (Queen Geraldine of Albania) [33]  
Aranyi, Francis [23]  
Asbóth, Alexander (Sándor) [2]  
Aufricht, Gustave [1]  
Babos, Rosie [1]  
Bácskai, Béla P. [1]  
Bacsó, János [1]  
Bakay, Ilonka [1]  
Baklor, Elza [5]  
Bakos, Charles [1]  
Balázs, Frederic [9]  
Balint, Alex [1]  
Bálint, Lajos [1]

Balint, Lili [1]  
Balogh, Bálint [1]  
Balogh, Ernő [35]  
Balogh, Frank (Ferenc) [2]  
Balogh, Harry [1]  
Balogh, Stephen Elemer [1]  
Banay, Ralph S. [1]  
Banky, Vilma [3]  
Barata, Juliska J. [1]  
Baráti, George (György) [5]  
Bardoly, Leo/Louis [1]  
Bardos, B. [2]  
Bardos, Barbara [1]  
Barna, András [2]  
Barnai, Andrew Peter [2]  
Bársony, Margit [1]  
Bartal, László [2]  
Bartha, Mária [5]  
Bartók Béla [67]  
Bartók, Dennis (Dénes) [1]  
Bartos, Edna [1]  
Bató, Andrew A. [10]  
Baxter, Ruth [1]  
Baylos, Zelma [4]  
Baytel, Albert Bertalan [4]  
Bazil, [Father] [2]  
Beck, Bodog F. [2]  
Beck, Mária [2]  
Beck, Martin [4]  
Bede, László [1]  
Beke, István [1]  
Békésy-Bunyák, Antal [1]  
Benci, Charles [1]  
Bencze, Erzsébet [1]  
Benke, Emeric de [1]  
Bennen, Joan [1]  
Berák, Pál [5]  
Bereczky, Jenő G. [1]

Berger, Harry [1]  
 Berko, Geza [1]  
 Bernáth, Árpád [2]  
 Besseney, Gábor de [10]  
 Bestercey, Ilona [1]  
 Bieber, Joseph [4]  
 Binder, Joseph [1]  
 Birinyi, Louis (Lajos) K. [19]  
 Biró, Ferenc [1]  
 Biro, Joe [1]  
 Biró, Péter [4]  
 Biró, Sári [26]  
 Blau, Bela [3]  
 Bobula, Ida de [7]  
 Bodnar, Frank [1]  
 Body, John C. [1]  
 Bogár, Charles (Károly) [2]  
 Bogár, Lajos [1]  
 Bögre, András [1]  
 Böhm, Károly [2]  
 Bokor, Margit [5]  
 Bonsack, Edwin Jr. [5]  
 Borcsik, Gyula [1]  
 Boros, Ferike [5]  
 Borowsky, Charles [1]  
 Borsodi, Ralph [4]  
 Borsody, Emil [1]  
 Borsos, Helen [1]  
 Borsos, István [21]  
 Borsy-Kerekes, George E. [1]  
 Böszörményi Stephen (István) M. [5]  
 Brassoványi, Ernő [1]  
 Braun, Maurice [9]  
 Brenner, János [1]  
 Brieger, János [1]  
 Brull, Aladar [1]  
 Brummer, Andrew (Andor) [1]  
 Brunner, Endre K. [1]  
 Brunner, Sass and Elizabeth (Erzsébet) [5]  
 Brunswik de Korompa, Egon [1]  
 Buchler, Samuel [17]  
 Bucko, Ilona [1]  
 Bus-Fekete, Ladislaus (László) [9]  
 Cadle, Emma Lola (née Szathmáry) [25]  
 Chabina, Ferenc [1]  
 Chairman, Alice M. (née Heinrich) [2]  
 Chairman (von Csernyak), Imre [1]  
 Chatlos, William [1]  
 Chernitzky, Stephen F. [1]  
 Chizmadia, Tony [1]  
 Cholnoky, Tibor [7]  
 Comando, Harry N. [2]  
 Compas, James W. and Stephen A. [2]  
 Corda, Maria [1]  
 Csapó, Irén [1]  
 Császár, Ernő [1]  
 Cseke, Erzsébet [1]  
 Cserepy, Arzen de [1]  
 Csóka, Stephen (István) [8]  
 Csongradi, Joseph C. [1]  
 Csongrádi, Kornél [4]  
 Csonka, Ernő [1]  
 Csonka, Paul [2]  
 Cukor, Bela [1]  
 Cukor, George [2]  
 Cukor, Morris (Mór) [3]  
 Curtiz, Michael (Kertész, Mihály) [6]  
 Czine, János [1]  
 Czirbusz, József [1]  
 Danish, Joseph [5]  
 D'Antalfy, Dezső [6]  
 d'Aranyi, Jelly [4]  
 Daróczy, Alexander (Sándor) [3]  
 Daruvary, Gaspar Bela [1]  
 Dávid, Frank C. [1]  
 Deák, Francis [18]

Deák, Gusztáv [1]  
 Deák, Stephén [9]  
 Decsenyi, Frederick [1]  
 Dégenfeld, Joseph (József) [2]  
 Demeter, Bertalan [1]  
 Demeter, József [1]  
 Denes, Julius [2]  
 Déri, Otto [4]  
 Dery, Desidarius G. [2]  
 Detre, László [1]  
 Deutsch, Emery [2]  
 Dévai, Eugene (Jenő) [1]  
 Dezsoefy, John [1]  
 Dicker, Richard [1]  
 Dienes, Andre de (Ikafalvy, Andor Diénes) [2]  
 Dienes, Barnabas (Barna) [3]  
 Dienes, Sari [1]  
 Diettrich, Sigismund de Rüdesheim [2]  
 Dirman, Rose (Mrs. Sándor Kállai) [18]  
 Ditrichstein, Leo [1]  
 Dohányos, István [1]  
 Dohnányi, Ernst (Ernő) von [9]  
 Dokus, Gabriel (Gábor) [2]  
 Dolly, Jenny [6]  
 Domonkos, Imre [3]  
 Dorati, Antal [1]  
 Drozdy, Victor [2]  
 Dudás, Margit Gólya [1]  
 Dudas, Nicholas [1]  
 Dudas, Steve [1]  
 Duna, Steffi [4]  
 Eckhardt, Tibor [10]  
 Eggert, Marta [8]  
 Egri, Lajos [3]  
 Eichorn, Adolf [1]  
 Eisler, Károly [1]  
 Elek, Vilmos [1]  
 Endrey, Eugene [8]  
 Englander, Imre [3]  
 Enyedi, György [1]  
 Eördögh, Elemér [3]  
 Érdeky, József [1]  
 Erdely, Francis de [4]  
 Erdélyi, Michael (Mihály) [9]  
 Erdos, Leslie [3]  
 Ettl, John [1]  
 Evans, Etelka [1]  
 Fabian, John [1]  
 Fábri, Ralph [4]  
 Faragoh, Francis Edwards [1]  
 Farkas, Alexander [1]  
 Farkas, Andy [5]  
 Farkas, George [1]  
 Farkas, Géza Edward [1]  
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 Hilpert, Josef [2]  
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 Kish, Francis De Sales (Kiss Szaléz) [2]  
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Koháry, Merilla [2]  
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Kohut, George Alexander [1]  
Kohut, Rebekah (née Bettelheim) [2]  
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Kovács, Márta [1]  
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Kozlay, Charles Meeker [1]  
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Kubus, Mrs. F. [1]  
Kuhn, L. [1]  
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Landgraf, Alice [3]

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 László, Aladár [2]  
 László, Alexander [8]  
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 Spiegler, Marcel George [2]  
 St. George, Bela Jr. [1]  
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 Stark, Alexander [1]  
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 Stephenson, Stephen M. [4]  
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 Szécskay, George (György) [11]  
 Szegedy, László [1]  
 Szegő, Gábor [1]  
 Székely, Izsó [1]  
 Szekely, Kato Mendelssohn [7]  
 Szell, Georg [5]  
 Szemán, Jenő [1]  
 Szendy, Emil J. [4]

Szent-Györgyi, Albert [35]  
Szentkirályi, Joseph (József) [9]  
Szigeti, Joseph [42]  
Szilágyi, Miklós [1]  
Szilvási, Mihály [1]  
Szteczovics, Miklós G. [1]  
Sztupár, Péter [1]  
Tábory, Oszkár [2]  
Takach, Joseph P. [1]  
Takács, József [1]  
Takács, Zoltán [2]  
Takaró, Géza [6]  
Tarnóczy, Árpád [1]  
Techy, Margaret [4]  
Tegze, László [1]  
Telkes, László [64]  
Telkes, Maria [2]  
Thorek, Max (Török, Miksa) [4]  
Thury, József [2]  
Timár, James and Luke Jr. [1]  
Tolnay, Charles de [5]  
Toma, John J. [1]  
Tornay, Stephen Chak [5]  
Török, Ervin [3]  
Török, Joseph Jr. [1]  
Török, Mrs. R. S. [1]  
Toth, Alfred L. and Jerry Geza [7]  
Toth, Andor John [5]  
Tóth, Barnabás [1]  
Tóth, József [1]  
Tóth, Lajos [1]  
Tóth, Rudolf [1]  
Toth, Sándor [1]  
Toth, Stephen John [3]  
Toth, Steve Jr. [1]  
Toth, William (Béla) [2]  
Totto, Ida [1]  
Trunko, Jenő [1]

Tukacs, György [16]  
Turk, John [1]  
Ujfalusy, Gábor [1]  
Ujházy, László [2]  
Ujlaky, John J. [3]  
Ulreich, Eduard Buk [3]  
Vajda, Ernest [8]  
Vályi, Imre J. [1]  
Várady, Márton [1]  
Varga, Béla [1]  
Varga, Emil [1]  
Varga, Ferenc [1]  
Varga, Hugó E. [40]  
Varga, Juliska [9]  
Varga, Lajos [1]  
Varga, Margit [3]  
Varga, Mihály [1]  
Várkonyi, Béla [5]  
Varró, Margit [1]  
Vass, Anna Marie (Annuska) [1]  
Vasváry, Edmund [3]  
Vatsek, Joan [3]  
Vertes, Marcel [2]  
Vidor, Charles (Károly) [4]  
Vigh, János [1]  
Vincze, Charles [2]  
Virovay, Róbert [16]  
Vodilla, Lajos L. [1]  
Volkay, Mária S. [1]  
Wank, Roland Anthony [1]  
Waszak, Joseph [1]  
Webb, Josephine R. [2]  
Weiler, György [1]  
Weiss, Sámuel [1]  
Weiss, Soma [20]  
Weisz, Arnold [1]  
Weisz, Kálmán J. [1]  
Weisz, Mihály [1]

Wigner, Eugene P. [3]  
Wilson (Dubniczky), John [2]  
Wise, S. S. [1]  
Xanthus de Vesey, John (János) [5]  
Yakapovich, Gyula [1]  
Yantko, István [1]  
Yolland, Edgar H. [4]  
Yuhas, Charles [1]  
Yuhas, John [1]  
Zádor, Eugene [41]  
Zala, Michael [1]  
Zichy, Elizabeth [7]  
Zilzer, Gyula [7]

Zimmerman, Lajos [3]  
Zimmerman, Rezső [1]  
Zoldos, Frank J. [4]  
Zolinszky, Margaret Helen [1]  
Zolnay, Elizabeth (Mrs. George T. Summerlin, Jr. [1]  
Zolnay, George Julian [1]  
Zolnay, Margaret (Mrs. John Churchill Newcomb)  
[1]  
Zukor, Adolph [5]

\*A copy of this film (Microform 93/991; 5 reels) may be purchased from the Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-5230.

## NOTES

1. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.
2. Béla T. Kardos, "The Former Feleky Hungarian Collection" (unpublished essay, May 1953). [BTKF]
3. In the summer of 1991, the European Division of the Library of Congress received from the Manuscript Division the seven boxes comprising the Hungarian Reference Library's biographical files. These files contained biographical information on over fifteen hundred individuals, mostly for the decade preceding 1941, but had received no new material since that time and had been in storage ever since. After inspecting the materials, the European Division decided to microfilm the contents of the files on Hungarian-Americans as a means of preserving this valuable source of information for scholars and others interested in Hungarian-American ethnic history. In the course of assembling background materials for an introduction to the film, a rather fascinating story emerged of the interesting and often controversial history the Feleky Collection (the commonly used appellation for this LC acquisition), of which the biographical files were a part. The introduction took on a life of its own and is presented here. The microfilm of the biographical files can be found under the entry *Materials for an American-Hungarian Lexicon: The Biographical files of the Hungarian Reference Library of New York (1937-1942)*, edited by Kenneth E. Nyirady. (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Photoduplication Service, 1993). 5 reels of film.
4. According to a will Charles Feleky had drawn up on November 14, 1911, he was born "on or about" January 15, 1863, the son of Ignatius and Matilda (née Kraus). He married Antoinette Bley on February 11, 1894. This document is now in possession of the Országos Széchényi Könyvtár, Budapest. Published sources disagree over Feleky's year of birth or his age at the time of his death. According to the *Új Idők Lexikona*, Vol. 10 (Budapest: Singer és Wolfner, 1938), p. 2347, Feleky was born in 1865, which would have made him 64 or 65 when he died. The American-Hungarian historian Edmund (Ödön) Vasváry wrote that Feleky was 62 when he died, which meant that he would have to have been born in either 1867 or 1868. "Feleky Károly emlékezete," *Szabadság*, October 15, 1970. Feleky's obituary in the *The New York Times* (October 5, 1930, p. 28) correctly stated his age at the time of his death as 67.
5. *The New York Times*, October 5, 1930, p. 28.
6. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.
7. A reviewer of *Ben-Hur* called Feleky "a conductor who shows exceptional ability and willingness to

identify himself with the composer's ideas and aims." "The Play 'Ben-Hur,'" *Werner's Magazine* 26, No. 4 (December 1900), p. 331. The composer of the music for *Ben Hur*, Edgar Stillman Kelley, called Feleky "brilliant." "Edgar Stillman Kelley's Latest Success," *The Argonaut*, March 19, 1900.

8. Gerald Martin Bordman, *The Concise Oxford Companion to American Theatre* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 43. Beck, who was an immigrant like Feleky, eventually lost control of the Palace Theatre to Edward Albee. According to Bordman, the Martin Beck Theatre was the first major playhouse west of Eighth Avenue and the only legitimate theater in Manhattan without a mortgage. Beck also was born in pre-Trianon Hungary, in what is now Slovakia. Joseph Szebenyei, "Hungarians in New York Leaders in Art, Finance, Professions and Industry," *New York American*, October 24, 1927; *The New York Times*, November 17, 1940, p. 49.

9. Like her husband, Antoinette (Bley) Feleky emigrated from Hungary as a youth. *The New York Herald Tribune*, January 27, 1950, p. 16.

10. Antoinette Feleky, "Charles Feleky and His Books," in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, edited by Antoinette Feleky (New York: Representative Press, [1938]), pp. 7-8, 10; Menyhért Lengyel, "Charles Feleky" in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 36.

11. Antoinette Feleky, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, pp. 7-8. Ms. Feleky noted that her late husband provided composer Lajos Serly with "his first opportunity to work in the music field in America."

12. "Charles Feleky is Dead," *Szabadság*, October 6, 1930; translated and republished in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 43.

13. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.

14. Menyhért Lengyel, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 35.

15. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.

16. "Charles Feleky is Dead," in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 44.

17. Duggan, Stephen. "The Hungarian Reference Library in New York," *The Hungarian Quarterly* 5, no. 2 (Summer 1939), p. 364.

18. "Charles Feleky," *Az Ember*, October 11, 1930; translated and republished in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 45.

19. Menyhért Lengyel, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, pp. 35-37.

20. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.

21. Antoinette Feleky, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 10; for a breakdown of the items in the Feleky Collection by country of origin, see Appendix 6.

22. See James Clegg, *International Directory of Booksellers and Bibliophile's Manual* (London: 1910), p. 491; 1914, p. 531.
23. Vilmos Fraknói, "Egy magyar könyvgyűjtő New-Yorkban." *Magyar Könyvszemle* 20, part 4 (July–Sept. 1912), p. 216.
24. Fraknói 1912, p. 213.
25. Fraknói 1912, p. 213; Ödön Vasváry, "Feleky Károly és Fraknói püspök," *Szabadság*, September 10, 1976.
26. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.
27. Fraknói 1912, p. 217. Feleky lived across the street from the Columbia University campus.
28. Fraknói 1912, 218.
29. Fraknói 1912, p. 213; Árpád Pásztor, "Three Rooms in New York," in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 30.
30. John Pelényi, Professor of Government, Dartmouth College, to Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, April 20, 1953. (LCMD)
31. Árpád Pásztor, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 27; "Feleky Károly hatalmas kézírata és a Magyar Információs Könyvtár," *Magyar-ság* 14, No. 12 (February 18, 1938), p. 2; Stephen Duggan, "The Hungarian Reference Library in New York," *The Hungarian Quarterly* 5, no. 2 (Summer 1939), p. 367.
32. Pp. 245–312.
33. Árpád Pásztor, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 30.
34. Árpád Pásztor, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 27.
35. Árpád Pásztor, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 31.
36. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.
37. *The New York Times*, July 30, 1930, p. 21, and October 5, 1930, p. 28.
38. Edwin Milton Royle, "On the Passing of Charles Feleky," in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 41.
39. Antoinette Feleky, "Charles Feleky and His Manuscript," in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, pp. 23–25.
40. The Historical Records Survey was a Depression-era, WPA program designed to assist unemployed white-collar workers. The HRS made inventories of state archives, and carried out surveys of book collections and papers of scholarly interest.
41. Eugene Pivany, *Hungarian-American Historical Connections from Pre-Columbian Times to the End of the American Civil War*, (Budapest: Royal Hungarian University Press, 1927), p. 43.

42. Eugene Pivány to Mrs. Charles (Antoinette) Feleky, April 25, 1931.[LCMDCFF] At the end of this letter Antoinette Feleky jotted down some notes that perhaps formed a reply to Pivány: “Mr. Pivany waited five months to answer my letter some time ago. I told him that an expert bibliographer was needed for the work. He was anxious to take the whole work in charge and edit it. I thanked him and said that if he were in New York his cooperation would be valuable. I could not send Charley’s only MSS. over to Europe. There would have been no sense in doing it for it would have been on the shelves as they had no money, and in Pivány’s hands. He is the man who is mentioned in the Congress pamphlet. He is a sick man, and the Hungarians in New York told me not to answer this letter as they had no money.”

43. John Pelényi to Luther Evans, April 20, 1953. (LCMD); Archives of the Országos Széchényi Könyvtár, Fol. Ang. 12; and Géza Paikert, “A Hungarian Reference Library in America.” *The Hungarian Quarterly* 7, no. 1 (Spring 1941), p. 174. Árpád Pásztor claimed his article “Három szoba Newyorkban” sparked the Hungarian government’s interest in the Feleky Collection. Árpád Pásztor, “Feleky Károly és könyvtára,” *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938.

44. As nearly all of the written sources for this study refer to László de Telkes simply as László Telkes, this writer will do the same in the text.

45. Pásztor observed that the choice facing Ms. Feleky was between buying food and maintaining the library; Árpád Pásztor, “Feleky Károly és könyvtára,” *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938; unattributed LC memo “The Hungarian Reference Library (The Feleky-Telkes Collection), dated June 29, 1953; letter from Henry

Miller Madden to Luther H. Evans reveals that Feleky had paid up to £25 for individual items in his collection. (Note that the value of the pound generally ranged between \$4.00–\$4.87 from 1915–1930. Robin L. Bidwell, *Currency Conversion Tables: A Hundred Years of Change* (London: Rex Collings, 1970), p. 1. Citation from László de Telkes from Document 8 of materials he sent to the author in late 1992.

46. Pál Nadányi, “Telkes Lászlót a State Department rendeletére elmozdították állásából,” *Amerikai Magyar Népszava*, February 4, 1942, p. 3.

47. Rónai, Tamás, “A New York-i Magyar Tájékoztató Könyvtár történetéhez,” *Magyar Könyvszemle* 94, no. 1 (1978), p. 82; Paikert 1941, p. 174.

48. Information about its title appears to be taken from a short, undated essay by Charles Feleky entitled “The Feleky Library and A Bibliographical Manual of English Language Literature Relating to Hungary” [see Appendix 1.]

49. Antoinette Feleky, in *Charles Feleky and His Unpublished Manuscript*, p. 25.

50. Duggan 1939, p. 367.

51. *The New York Times*, January 27, 1950, p. 23.

52. The relative, Sidney Ungar, recollected that Antoinette Feleky’s apartment at the time of her death “was littered with books, which undoubtedly represent the balance of Mr. Feleky’s [sic] manuscripts.” Sidney Ungar to Verner Clapp, February 4, 1954. See also Verner Clapp to Sidney Ungar, February 11, 1954. (LCMD)

53. Árpád Pásztor, "Feleky Károly és könyvtára," *Pesti Napló*, February 27, 1938; Ödön Vasváry, "Feleky Károly esztendeje," *Szabadság*, [no date given] 1968.

54. László Telkes, also referred to as László de Telkes, was born in 1902. After the HRL closed in 1941, he passed the New York state CPA and bar examinations, and found employment first with an international auditing firm and then with the U.S. Department of State. After his retirement from the latter, de Telkes was employed by the United Nations and the World Bank. At the time of this writing he resided in North Miami, Florida. His sister, Mária (b 1900), carried out pioneering studies in the 1930s and 40s on the use of solar energy for residential and commercial heating. These two individuals were members of a family whose history, according to historian William O. McCagg, Jr., "suggests with remarkable clarity the degree to which the nineteenth-century social mobility . . . contributed not only to capitalist imitation of the court banker ideal in Hungary, but also to the formation of Hungary's scientific geniuses." William O. McCagg, Jr., *Jewish Nobles and Geniuses in Modern Hungary* (Boulder, CO: East European Quarterly, 1972), pp. 67–69. This author is grateful to Mr. de Telkes for supplying copies of the documents that outline the details of his career, and for unpublished information about the HRL.

55. "Hungarian Library Opens: That Nation's Minister Calls It 'Important Cultural Bond.'" *The New York Times*, April 21, 1938, p. 15.

56. McCagg 1972, p. 68.

57. Géza Paikert, "A Hungarian Reference Library in America," *The Hungarian Quarterly* 7, no. 1 (Spring 1941), p. 175.

58. Paikert 1941, p. 175.

59. Physical description of the HRL provided to the author by László de Telkes. For the dedication of the Kováts sculpture, see "Hungarian Hero Honored," *The New York Times*, January 25, 1940, p. 21.

60. Paikert 1941, p. 176.

61. "Magyarországi Miklós volt az oxfordi egyetem első hallgatója," *Nemzeti Újság*, June 6, 1940. József Szentkirályi (also referred to as Joseph Szentkirályi, now Joseph St. Clair), was born in Pozsony (Bratislava) in 1913, and educated at the Péter Pázmány University (now Loránd Eötvös University) and the Teachers' Training College in Budapest. He came to be Librarian at the HRL as part of his participation in the Hungarian-American Student Exchange, which operated under the auspices of the Institute of International Education (New York). Returning to Hungary after the outbreak of war between Hungary and the United States, he again returned to the U.S. in 1948, immediately finding employment with the Army Language School (now the Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Branch) in Monterey, California. He retired in 1978. He and his wife live in Santa Cruz, California. The author is grateful to Mr. St. Clair for the photographs and other material, both published and unpublished, that he provided for this study.

62. The original advisory committee consisted of Nicholas Murray Butler (President of Columbia University), Isaiah Bowman (President of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore), Edwin M. Borchard (Professor of International Law, Yale University), Stephen P. Duggan (Professor of Political Science, City College of New York), Manley O. Hudson (Bemis Professor of International Law, Harvard

University, and Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague), Eldon James (Professor of Law, Harvard University, and Director of the Harvard Law Library), Ernest M. Patterson (Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania), and six professors at Columbia University: Joseph P. Chamberlain (Professor of Law), Robert M. Haig (Professor of Political Economy), Philip C. Jessup (Professor of International Law), Rosswell P. Magill (Professor of Law), Lindsey Rogers (Professor of Public Law), and James T. Shotwell (Professor of History).

63. This information provided to the author by László de Telkes.

64. "Felhívás az amerikai magyar írókhoz," *Magyarság* 16, no. 20 (May 17, 1940), p. 2.

65. Duggan 1939, p. 365; "Dokumentációs szolgálat a newyorki magyar könyvtárban," *Magyar Könyvszemle* 62, (1938), no. 3, pp. 323–24.

66. "Magyar folyóiratok – ajándékba," *Magyarság* 16, no. 22 (May 31, 1940), p. 4, lists 43 titles, the back issues of which the HRL wished to give away to whomever would take them; and "Az amerikai magyarságot szolgálja a N.Y.-i magyar információs könyvtár," *Magyarság* 16, no. 6 (February 9, 1940), p. 4.

67. "Magyarországi Miklós volt az oxfordi egyetem első hallgatója," *Nemzeti újság*, June 6, 1940.

68. "Kiváló amerikai tudósok a Hungarian Reference Library Tanácsadó Bizottságában," *Magyarság* 14, no. 19 (April 8, 1938), p. 3; Duggan 1939, p. 367; K. Kalassay, report dated March 20, 1945, in United

States Office of Strategic Services. *Foreign Nationalities Branch Files*. 1942–45. 2 v.

69. "A Magyar Könyvtár őszi programja," *Magyarság* 16, no. 38 (September 20, 1940), p. 2.

70. "Feleky Károly emlékhangverseny a magyar könyvtárban," *Magyarság* 16, no. 10 (March 8, 1940).

71. "Hatalmas énekkart alakít a new yorki magyar könyvtár. A Hungarian Reference Library az új magyar zenekultúra szolgálatában." *Magyarság* 16, no. 16 (April 19, 1940), p. 1.

72. "A Magyar Könyvtár őszi programja," *Magyarság* 16, no. 38 (September 20, 1940), p. 2.

73. "Az amerikai magyarságot szolgálja a N. Y.-i magyar információs könyvtár," *Magyarság* 16, no. 6 (February 9, 1940), p. 4.

74. "Ingyenes filmbemutató és zenei program a magyar információs könyvtárban," *Magyarság* 16, no. 16 (April 19, 1940), p. 2.

75. "Kossuth-kiállítás New-Yorkban, Kossuth-év Amerikában," *Külvügyi Szemle* 18, no. 5 (September 18, 1940), p. 488. For a list of the articles exhibited, see *Kossuth Memorial Exhibition. In Commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of Louis Kossuth's Visit to the United States of America in the Hungarian Reference Library, 19 West 44th Street, New York City. List of Exhibited Items*. (Copy held by the New York Public Library).

76. "Állandó Iparművészeti Kiállítás a Magyar Könyvtárban," *Magyarság* 16, no. 5 (February 2, 1940), p. 3.

77. József Szentkirályi, "A Newyorki Magyar Információs Könyvtár közleményei," *Nagymagyarország*, September 15, 1939; "Megnyílik a new yorki Magyar Múzeum," *Magyarság* 16, no. 36 (September 6, 1940), p. 4.

78. József Szentkirályi, "A Newyorki Magyar Információs Könyvtár közleményei," *Nagymagyarország*, September 15, 1939.

79. "Készül az amerikai magyarok lexikona," *Magyarság* 16, no. 1 (January 5, 1940), p. 1; see Appendix 7 for description of files and their filming by the Library of Congress in 1993.

80. "Az amerikai magyarságot szolgálja a N. Y.-i magyar információs könyvtár," *Magyarság* 16, no. 6 (February 9, 1940), p. 4.

81. "Felhívás az amerikai magyar írókhoz," *Magyarság* 16, no. 20 (May 17, 1940), p. 2.

82. Elek Máthé, *Amerikai magyarok nyomában. Útirajz az amerikai magyarság települési térképével* (Budapest: Dante, 1942), p. 84.

83. "Feljegyzés a Hungarian Reference Library működéséről," a report attached to letter of Domokos Kosáry to Géza Paikert, dated October 24, 1941, a copy of which Joseph St. Clair (Szentkirályi) recently donated to the American Hungarian Foundation, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

84. Lajos Vaczek to Béla Kardos, February 10, 1954. [BTKF]

85. Unattributed LC memo "The Hungarian Refer-

ence Library (The Feleki [sic]-Telkes Collection), dated June 29, 1953 (BTKF); USOSS report, March 20, 1945, p. 1.

86. Memo from Béla T. Kardos, Hungarian Specialist, Library of Congress, entitled "Recommendations for handling the former 'Hungarian Reference Library' (Feleky Library)," to Sergius Jakobson, dated March 9, 1953 (BTKF); Béla Kardos, "List of books and serials missing in the former Hungarian Reference Library," dated March 3, 1953. (BTKF)

87. This description for the most part is taken from an article by Pál Nadányi, "Telkes Lászlót a State Department rendeletére elmozdították állásából," *Amerikai Magyar Népszava*, February 4, 1942, pp. 1, 3.

88. Telkes told reporter Pál Nadányi that he originally believed that the HRL's insurance carrier—Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company—would satisfy Elza Petro's claim. The carrier, however, refused to give compensation for an accident it claimed was covered by New York State Workmen's Compensation Insurance. However, the Workmen's Compensation Board would not honor the claim either.

89. Falussy's name will appear again in connection with the Feleky Collection during the 1950s.

90. In a telephone conversation with the author on October 7, 1992, László de Telkes stated that he brought suit against the Hungarian National Museum because he feared that that organization would attempt to ship the Feleky Collection to Hungary.

91. Nadányi 1942, p. 3.

92. Lajos Vaczek to Béla Kardos, February 10, 1954. (BTKF)

93. I have not been able to identify Ms. Campbell's position in the Library.

94. Unattributed memo "The Hungarian Reference Library (The Feleki [sic]-Telkes Collection)," June 29, 1953. (BTKF)

95. Memo from Sergius Jakobson to John W. Cronin, Assistant Director, Processing Department, November 6, 1951. (LCMD)

96. Document entitled "The Hungarian Reference Library in NY," by Béla Kardos, October 26, 1951. (LCMD)

97. Memo of Béla T. Kardos, "The Hungarian Reference Library (The Feleky-Telkes Collection)," September 1, 1953. (LCMD)

98. Memo of Béla T. Kardos to Sergius Jakobson, October 26, 1951. A memo entitled "Hungarian Reference Library," dated June 30, 1953, from Verner Clapp to John W. Cronin, summarized a telephone call between Charles P. Moran, Office of Alien Property, and Stephen E. Balogh of the American Hungarian Federation. The memo states that László Telkes had recently visited the OAP office and at that time informed Louis E. Rubin, Chief, Management and Liquidation Branch, OAP that he (Telkes) intended to place a bid for the entire inventory of the Hungarian Reference Library as the Hungarian government still owed him part of his salary and that he intended to sell some of the art items of the HRL as partial settlement. In addition, Telkes told of his plans to organize a group of individuals to buy the Feleky Collection

in order to reestablish the HRL. Later in the memo it is mentioned that "three or four" paintings, which were loaned to the HRL for exhibition purposes, had claims against them by artists living in Hungary. (LCMD)

99. Béla Kardos, "A Feleky-Gyűjtemény és a Kongresszusi Könyvtár," *Amerikai Magyar Népszava*, June 12, 1953. p. 2.

100. Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, to Harold Baynton, Assistant Attorney General, Director of Alien Property, Department of Justice, dated November 15, 1951. (LCMD)

101. Unattributed memo entitled "The Hungarian Reference Library (the Feleki [sic]-Telkes Collection)," June 29, 1953. (LCMD)

102. Béla T. Kardos, script for Radio Free Europe dated February 1953, entitled "A Feleky-féle angol-magyar könyvtári ritkaságok Washingtonban," p. 3. (BTKF)

103. Library of Congress, *Information Bulletin*, January 19, 1953, p. 1.

104. The Library of Congress, *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 11, no. 2 (February 1954), p. 125.

105. Unattributed document "The Hungarian Reference Library," June 29, 1953. (LCMD)

106. Stetson S. Holmes, Mid-European Studies Center of the National Committee For a Free Europe, to Luther Evans, January 23, 1952. (LCMD)

107. Luther H. Evans to Stetson S. Holmes, January 29, 1953. (LCMD)

108. Lewis Coffin to Luther H. Evans, January 29, 1953. (LCMD)

109. Stetson S. Holmes to Luther H. Evans, February 2, 1953. (LCMD)

110. Vasváry, like Feleky, avidly collected materials dealing with Hungary and Hungarians in the United States. But the fate of the Feleky Collection convinced him of the necessity to plan the future of his collection after his death. In 1972 he bequeathed it to the Somogyi Library in Szeged, Hungary, where it is currently maintained. The American Hungarian Foundation, New Brunswick, New Jersey, possesses a microfilm copy of Vasváry's numerous notebooks and clipping files. From 1968–1976 Vasváry wrote at least four articles about the Feleky Collection, which he had personally seen during its stay at the Hungarian Reference Library; see Ödön Vasváry, "Feleky Károly esztendeje," *Szabadság* [sometime in 1968]. In an unpublished version of his article "Feleky Károly és Fraknoi püspök," (*Szabadság*, September 10, 1976,) Vasváry wrote "My own collection, on which I worked more than fifty years, was somehow of a different nature than Feleky's. The reason for the 'somehow' was that I never had as much, rather much less, money for pursuing the same work. I could only devote labor and time to the work, but not money, or only as much as would come out of my empty pockets. For this reason, Feleky's amazing collection was not approached. What Feleky created is lost and broken up. Perhaps the fruits of my labor will avoid this fate."

111. Stephen E. Balogh to Luther H. Evans, February 26, 1953. (LCMD)

112. American Hungarian Federation, *News Release Number 8* (to Federation members), February 27, 1953. (SLVC) An English-language version was also released the same day. (LCMD)

113. Prescott Bush to Luther H. Evans, March 9, 1953. (LCMD)

114. The Library of Congress, *Information Bulletin*, March 9, 1953, p. 9.

115. Library of Congress press release "Library of Congress Acquires Valuable Collection of Materials Relating to Prewar Hungary," March 11, 1953.

116. Luther Evans to Stephen E. Balogh, March 3, 1953. (LCMD)

117. Stephen E. Balogh to Verner W. Clapp, March 30, 1953. (LCMD) This is probably a reference to Béla Kardos, Hungarian specialist in the European Division, who was by training an economist. Nevertheless, Kardos soon demonstrated his familiarity with Hungarian bibliography, as well as his broad knowledge of Hungarian history and literature, in his subsequent analysis of the collection.

118. Frank B. Rogers, Lt. Col. MC, Director of the Armed Forces Medical Library, to Luther H. Evans, January 26, 1953. (LCMD)

119. Representative Michael A. Feighan to "Librarian of Congress," May 16, 1953. (LCMD)

120. John Pelényi to Luther Evans, April 20, 1953. (LCMD)

121. Memo of Verner W. Clapp to Lewis Coffin, April 2, 1953. (LCMD)
122. Memo of Jennings Wood to Lewis Coffin, May 5, 1953; approval of John W. Cronin handwritten on page two. (LCMD) Memo of John W. Cronin to Luther H. Evans, May 14, 1953, with Clapp's recommending that approval be withheld and Evan's concurrence handwritten on memo. (LCMD).
123. *Congressional Record* 95, Part 5, pp. 5844, 5982.
124. Library of Congress, *Information Bulletin* 12, no. 3 (June 15, 1953), p. 6.
125. Béla Kardos was born in Hungary and received a doctorate in statistics from the University of Budapest. He first came to the United States in 1934 as a Rockefeller Fellow at Harvard University. He married an American who returned with him to Hungary, where he was an economist with the Hungarian government, receiving two gold medals for his efforts. At the same time, he served on the finance committee of the League of Nations. His wife later had great difficulties avoiding detection by the Germans, who occupied Hungary on March 19, 1944. Kardos returned to the United States in 1947, and was later employed by the Library of Congress, first as a consultant in Hungarian literature from October 1951, and then as Hungarian specialist from November 1952 until January 1955. He later wrote for the Voice of America. *Washington Post*, May 2, 1974, p. C6.
126. Béla T. Kardos, "A Feleky-féle angol-magyar könyvtári ritkaságok Washingtonban," a radio script prepared for Radio Free Europe, February 1953; also "Summary of Radio Script: The Former Anglo-Hungarian Library of Charles Feleky in Washington." February 18, 1953. (BTKF)
127. "Recommendations for Handling the Former 'Hungarian-Reference Library (Feleky-Library)'" from Béla Kardos to Sergius Jakobson, March 9, 1953. (BTKF)
128. Attachment to "Recommendations for Handling the Former 'Hungarian Reference Library (Feleky-Library)'" from Béla T. Kardos to Sergius Jakobson, March 9, 1953. (BTKF) A comparison of Kardos's list of the serials actually received and the Library's current card and electronic catalog also reveals missing items.
129. Cover document by Béla T. Kardos entitled "The Hungarian Feleky Collection," no date; "The Hungarian Feleky Collection and the Library of Congress," no date; "Facts about the Hungarian Collection of the Library of Congress," no date; and excerpt by Kardos from Ida Bobula's 1950 study "The Hungarian Materials in the Library of Congress," p. 3. (BTKF)
130. Béla Kardos to Benő Aczél, Editor-in-Chief of the *Amerikai Magyar Népszava*, no date; handwritten comments on letter state that similar letters were sent to the editors of *Magyar bányászlap* and *Szabadság*.
131. Béla T. Kardos, "A Feleky-Gyűjtemény és a Kongresszusi Könyvtár," *Amerikai Magyar Népszava*, June 12, 1953, p. 2; "Magyarok a Kongresszusi Könyvtárban," *Új Hungaria* (Munich), June 26, 1953, p.5.
132. (Béla T. Kardos), "Körlevél. A Library of Congress (LOC) magyar gyűjteményei és a Feleky Könyvtár ügye," June 9, 1953. (BTKF)

133. "Draft for a speech on the Charles Feleky Collection recently purchased by the Library of Congress," March 1953. (BTKF)
134. John Lotz to Béla T. Kardos, May 28, 1953. (BTKF) Lotz had recently turned down an offer from the Library of Congress to purchase his own extensive collection of Hungarian language material.
135. Memo of Béla T. Kardos to Verner W. Clapp, entitled "Feleky Hungarian collection," June 4, 1953. (BTKF)
136. Joseph Reményi to Frances P. Bolton, June 13, 1953. (LCMD); Joseph Reményi to Béla T. Kardos, June 13, 1953. (BTKF)
137. Statement presented by Mr. Stephen E. Balogh, Executive Director, American Hungarian Federation, to the Subcommittee on the Library, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., June 30, 1953, in *Congressional Record* 99, Part 11 (Appendix), pp. A4001-03.
138. Representative Karl M. LeCompte to Verner Clapp, July 28, 1953.
139. *Congressional Record* 99, Part 11 (Appendix), pp. A4001-03; Béla Kardos, "Press Release Draft: The Library of Congress keeps full ownership of the Feleky Hungarian Collection," dated July 7, 1953; and notes of meeting of Congressional Subcommittee on the Library. (LCMD)
140. Letter from the American Hungarian Federation presumably to editors of Hungarian American publications, dated July 1, 1953; the letter begins as follows: "Gentlemen: The following summary is written to you in the English language. Please extract or translate for your own publications as much of this report as you desire." [SLVC]
141. Edmund Vasváry to Frances Bolton, July 7, 1953. (VCSL)
142. "House Group Acts to Save Feleky Books," *The Washington Post*, July 1, 1953, p.31.
143. Verner Clapp, in a letter to Tibor Eckhardt dated July 31, 1953, wrote that the Library of Congress considered the establishment of a new organization in New York City to receive the Feleky Collection as "possibility" that was discussed, not a "finality." [LCCFU]
144. Béla T. Kardos, "American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association," January 1954, and "Comments on the founders and plans of an 'American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association' sponsored by Tibor Eckhardt," no date (LCMD); (draft of this memo, dated January 6, 1954, can be found in BTKF).
145. "Notes from conference held on 24 July 1953 in the Washington office of the Honorable Frances P. Bolton," July 29, 1953. (LCMD)
146. Draft of letter of Frances Bolton to Stephen E. Balogh, July 24, 1953. (LCMD)
147. Memo of Béla Kardos to Verner Clapp, July 7, 1953. (LCMD, BTKF)
148. Verner Clapp's letter of inquiry to ten Hungarian-American organizations on September 21, 1953; Memo of Béla Kardos to Verner Clapp, dated August 24, 1953, entitled "Names and Addresses of the Largest Hungarian Associations in the USA" (LCMD, BTKF):

Béla T. Kardos, "Addresses of the Largest Hungarian Associations in the USA," (no date) (LCMD, BTKF) The ten organizations were: The Hungarian National Council (New York), the Eastern Branch of the American Hungarian Federation (New York), the Magyar Society (Cleveland), the Hungarian Catholic League of America (Trenton), the American Hungarian Federation (Washington, DC), the American-Hungarian Catholic Society (Cleveland), the American Life Insurance Association (Bridgeport, CT), the Rákóczi Aid Association (Bridgeport, CT), the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America (Washington, DC), and the Verhovay Fraternal Insurance Association (Pittsburgh, PA).

149. Draft of memo from Béla Kardos to Verner W. Clapp, July 14, 1954. (BTKF) In December 1954, Librarian Quincy Mumford would offer the Feleky Collection to the Cleveland Public Library on permanent loan, but this institution would not be interested either. In the early spring of 1955, the Library received a request for the collection from Elmhurst College, which possessed a Hungarian Studies department, but by that time the Library had officially committed itself to a New York library. L. Quincy Mumford to Emelia Wefel, Administrative Committee, Cleveland Public Library, December 7, 1954; August J. Molnár, Elmhurst College, to L. Quincy Mumford, April 23 and May 13, 1955; L. Quincy Mumford to August J. Molnár, May 10 and 27, 1955. (LCMD)

150. Aloysius Falussy to L. Quincy Mumford, June 2, 1955. [LCCFU]

151. "Notes on the meeting held in New York City on the 19th of November 1953 in the law offices of Mr. Victor Bátor concerning the organization of an "American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Associa-

tion." (LCMD) Individuals present: László Acsay, Magda Bárány, Victor Bátor, Ida Bobula, Tibor Cholnoky, Francis Durugy, Tibor Eckhardt, Joseph Emődy, Béla Fábián, Andrew Frey, Andrew Gellért, Stephen Révay, Martin Szily, Béla Teleki, and László Varga. Béla Kardos would later point out that seven of these individuals were employed by the National Committee for a Free Europe, including former LC-employee Ida Bobula. Béla T. Kardos, "American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association," dated January 1954, and "Comments on the founders and plans of an 'American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association' sponsored by Tibor Eckhardt," no date (LCMD). (Draft of this memo, dated January 6, 1954, from BTKF)

152. Béla T. Kardos, "American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association," dated January 1954, and "Comments on the founders and plans of an 'American-Hungarian Library and Cultural Association' sponsored by Tibor Eckhardt," no date (LCMD) (Draft of this memo, dated January 6, 1954, from BTKF).

153. Béla T. Kardos, "Names and Addresses of the Largest Hungarian Associations in the USA," and "Notes on the Hungarian Associations in the United States," August 24, 1953. (BTKF)

154. Draft of memo from Béla T. Kardos to Verner Clapp, July 14, 1954, entitled "Pending Issue of the Hungarian Feleky Collection." (BTKF)

155. Verner W. Clapp to Tibor Eckhardt, July 19, 1954. (LCMD)

156. Copy of letter from John Pelényi to Frances Bolton, March 2, 1955. (LCCFU)

157. Aloysius Falussy to L. Quincy Mumford, June 2, 1955. (LCMD)

158. Aloysius Falussy to L. Quincy Mumford, June 2, 1955. (LCMD)

159. Aloysius Falussy to Verner W. Clapp, July 18, 1955. (LCMD)

160. Born in Marosvásárhely (now Tirgu-Mureș, Romania), Alexander St. Ivanyi held several important positions in the Unitarian Church of Hungary before and during the Second World War. He was a member of the Hungarian Red Cross and was instrumental in the escape of hundreds of civilians and Allied soldiers with the assistance of the Hungarian resistance. He was later decorated for this feat by Field Marshall Harold R. Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theater. After the war, St. Ivanyi became a leader of the Civic Democratic Party but left Hungary in 1948. He emigrated to the United States and served as a Unitarian pastor in various places in Massachusetts, but chiefly in Lancaster. At the same time, he also undertook broadcasting work for Radio Free Europe for the thirty years following 1948. Many of his papers can be found at the Hoover Institute, at Stanford University. *The Boston Globe*, October 19, 1983, p. 47.

161. Memo of John Cronin to Verner Clapp, November 25, 1955. (LCCFU)

162. Indenture of agreement between the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. and the American Hungarian Library and Historical Society of New York, NY, dated October 13, 1955. (LCCFU)

163. Verner W. Clapp to Ida Bobula, February 13,

May 24, June 8 and 22, 1956; Ida Bobula to Verner W. Clapp, June 1 and June 19, 1956; L. Quincy Mumford to Ida Bobula, December 28, 1956; Ida Bobula to L. Quincy Mumford, January 4, 1957; Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, February 6 and 25, 1957; L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, February 14, 1957; and Alexander St. Ivanyi to Jennings Wood, March 4, 1957. (LCCFU)

164. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, June 27, 1956. (LCCFU)

165. "Hungarian Library," *Magyar Könyvtár* No. 1, 1956, p. 16; memo from L. G. Ruhmann to William J. Welsh, Head, EEAL Project, Jennings Wood, Acting Chief of Exchanges and Gifts, and John Cronin, Director of Processing, June 12, 1956. (LCCFU)

166. Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, July 3, 1956. (LCCFU)

167. Memo from Lucile M. Morsch to L. Quincy Mumford, entitled "Visit on March 11, 1958 to the American Hungarian Reference Library and Historical Society," March 14, 1958. (LCCFU)

168. Lucile M. Morsch to Francis de Vegvar, March 18, May 7, September 30, and October 30, 1958; Francis de Vegvar to Lucile M. Morsch, March 21, April 11, May 2 and 28, September 29, and October 30, 1958. (LCCFU)

169. Lucile M. Morsch to Francis de Vegvar, October 31, November 6, and 10, 1958; Francis de Vegvar to Lucile L. Morsch, November 5, 1958. (LCCFU)

170. Telegram from Frances Bolton to L. Quincy Mumford, November 4, 1958. (LCCFU)

171. L. Quincy Mumford to Marjorie Clough, Secretary to Frances Bolton, November 7, 1958. (LCCFU)
172. Lucile M. Morsch to Francis de Vegvar, November 6, 1958. (LCCFU)
173. Memo from Lucile M. Morsch entitled "Conference With Representatives of the American Hungarian Library and Historical Society on November 28, 1958," to L. Quincy Mumford, dated December 3, 1958. (LCCFU)
174. Lucile M. Morsch, "Conference With Representatives of the American Hungarian Library and Historical Society on November 28, 1958." (LCCFU)
175. Lucile M. Morsch, "Conference With Representatives of the American Hungarian Library and Historical Society on November 28, 1958." (LCCFU)
176. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, December 5, 1958; Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, December 22, 1958. (LCCFU)
177. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, February 13, 1959. (LCCFU)
178. Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, February 23, 1959. (LCCFU)
179. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, March 13, 1959. (LCCFU)
180. Harald Ostvold, Chief, Reference Department, New York Public Library, to Rutherford D. Rogers, Chief Assistant Librarian, Library of Congress, February 25, 1960; Rutherford D. Rogers to Harald Ostvold, February 29, 1960; Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, February 29, 1960. (LCCFU)
181. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, June 2, 1960; L. Quincy Mumford to Frances Bolton, June 2, 1960. (LCCFU)
182. John Pelényi to Frances Bolton, June 11, 1960. Nearly twenty years later, as a graduate student at Columbia University and a bibliographic assistant in its International Affairs Library, I found some of these non-book materials—hand-painted postcards, pictures of exhibitions, photographs—in a canvas library cart, waiting to be thrown out. The items bore two stamps: "Hungarian Reference Library," and "Property of the Library of Congress." It is needless to say that these items were rescued. (LCCFU)
183. L. Quincy Mumford to Frances Bolton, June 21, 1960. (LCCFU)
184. Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, June 27, 1960. (LCCFU)
185. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, July 7, 1960. (LCCFU)
186. L. Quincy Mumford to Alexander St. Ivanyi, October 13, 1960. (LCCFU)
187. Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, October 17, 1960. (LCCFU)
188. Alexander St. Ivanyi to L. Quincy Mumford, November 29, 1960. (LCCFU)
189. Francis de Vegvar to L. Quincy Mumford, December 14, 1960. (LCCFU)



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