

Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

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Dear friends,

MKCSBK Newsletter # 9, January 2010

I hope you had a joyous Christmas as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, and that you will have a peaceful and healthy New Year.

We are moving ahead with our plans for this year's Csendőr Day meeting, which will be more of a remembrance of the csendőrség than an all-day conference. The prohibitive cost of travel, the expenses incurred with the digitalization of the Közlönys, and the limited funds and donations available preclude us from the luxury of inviting a guest speaker from Hungary as we have done in the past. We will still hear some presentations, updates on ongoing issues, and a year-end summary. The meeting will be held on Saturday, February 13th, at the Petőfi Club in Venice, Florida. If you can, plan to attend and invite your friends to come also.

I cannot give any meaningful new information regarding the csendőr school building in Tata, of which I wrote in the last newsletter. It appears that with the depressed economy and consequent poor housing market the owners do not wish to sell at this time. They hope that with the anticipated change this year in the political and economic situation in Hungary, the economy will improve enough to give a favorable market for selling homes. So until then, we are on hold.

In my last letter, I wrote of the unpleasant incident regarding the recently released book on the "history" of the csendőrség, written by Poto-Levai. To recapitulate, I was contacted by the publisher (Vagabund) and asked permission to use some photos from our website. After receiving assurances that the book would in no way defame the honor of the csendőrség and that a draft of the book would be sent to me for my inspection before publication, I gave permission. No draft was forthcoming during the next few months. Three months later while visiting Hungary, I was surprised to find the book was already in print, and shocked to hear it was degrading in the most extreme sense. In addition, I was credited by name for the use of the photographs. Upon returning home, I expressed my disappointment and disgust to the editor. I told him he had lied to me and had used me. He apologized and offered me 20 pages in the next printing of the book to write on those things with which we disagreed. But I decided that I did not want to be associated any further with this book, that my name would not appear in any capacity in the book, and that the use of our photographs was rescinded. Through the kind offer of Dr József Parádi, historian and president of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, we could make a counteroffer. Dr Paradi was willing to give

the publisher a previously unpublished book of his on the history of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, without an honorarium, to be published in place of the planned second addition of the odious Poto-Levai book. The publisher accepted the offer, and we expect the book to be available early this year. This book will help negate to some degree the lies and misinformation of the other book, which we hope will never receive a second publishing.

The digitalization of the Csendőr Regulations is moving ahead as planned. Two-thirds of the material has now been photocopied and digitalized, and we hope to have it on the website by the time you receive this letter. The website has a word search capability to facilitate locating topics of interest, which will greatly enhance its usability. The Regulations have expanded tremendously the available csendőr material on our site and will make the site a primary source for research. We hope to have the remainder of the material available by this summer. By the way, we have now passed 30,000 visits to our website since the summer of 2006.

It is all our responsibility to do what we can to preserve the legacy of the csendőrség. This not only includes the saving of all csendőr uniforms, artifacts, photos, documents, etc. but also the recording of csendőr accounts. Therefore I would ask that all who can recall some personal episode as a csendőr or as a witness to the workings of the csendőrség, please, put it down in writing or dictate it onto a cassette tape and send it to me. These I can transcribe and place on our website for all to enjoy, and at the same time preserve a bit of the history of the csendőrs.

While visiting Hungary this past September, I had the opportunity to visit Mrs. Eva Kossuth, widow of László Kossuth, and her son László. László Kossuth was a csendőr captain who was commissioned along with my father in 1939. They were good friends. I had the pleasure of meeting Laci bácsi on three separate occasions during previous visits to Hungary before he passed away a few years ago. It was an enjoyable visit with Mrs. Kossuth as we discussed past times. Since my return home, Mrs. Kossuth and László have decided to present me with László Kossuth's remaining csendőr kis attila tunic to be placed in my csendőr collection. I feel truly honored and thankful by this very kind gesture and will preserve this tunic for future generations.

With thankfulness to God, I announce that my son László, honorary csendőr, and the creator, technical director and advisor of our website, recently completed the translation of the epic historic poem Zrinyi: *The Siege of Sziget (Szigeti Veszedelem)* into English. This important work recounts the siege by the Turks in the mid 1500s and is a required reading in most Hungarian high schools. It is written in the style of Homer's *Iliad*. Outside of Hungary, the book is all but unknown. Now László's alma mater, The Catholic University of America, is in the process of publishing the book, which will be used by universities to complement studies on medieval history and literature. This is a significant accomplishment, and all the world will now be able to see the beauty and depth of one of



**Kossuth László as 1st lieutenant
(later csendor captain)
Painting by Bill Csatory**

Hungary's greatest classical literary works. Congratulations, László, for promoting our Hungarian heritage.

We again gratefully acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to the work of the MKCsBK. At the start of 2009, we carried over \$1408. We received a total of \$2480 in donations during the course of the year, with our expenses amounting to \$7370. The digitalization of the Közlöny was by far the greatest expense. My family made up the difference.

Advocate: Mike Peterdy, Zoltán Kőrössy

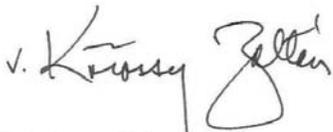
Patron: —

Supporter: Mátyás Eszes, Ilona Kostka

As always, it is my sad duty to report the recent loss of László Rodnai csendőr first lieutenant in Budapest, Hungary; György Mészöly, csendőr second lieutenant in Australia; Márta Fráter, wife of János Fráter, csendőr first lieutenant; and Dr. Jozsef Zachar, in Hungary. I extend my condolences to their families.

Please keep me informed of any events that would be of interest to our organization.

Best regards,



Zoltán v. Kőrössy
Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül