



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség
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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter #12, October, 2010

Dr. Béla Rektor , csendőr captain and author of the seminal work on the csendőrség, *A Magyar Királyi Csendőrség Oknyomozó Története*, was a close friend of my family (we have a few copies of his book for purchase, thanks to István Molnár's donation, and the book is also available to read in our website's library). During our correspondence in the eighties, he shared with me his dream of someday establishing a Hungarian Csendőr Research Center, as he called it. He went into great details about what the purpose, functions, and organization of this center would be. He summarized it in five points:

1. A place to research the history of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie and to make comparative studies with similar organizations of other countries.
2. A home for a library of books on the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie for interested individuals to learn about them and for historians to study.
3. A gendarme museum and archive, to preserve and study csendőr documents and memorabilia.
4. A print shop to print books to make them once again available to the public and to historians worldwide.
5. A financial department to provide funding for the above.

This was Dr. Béla Rektor's dream, but as to where and what form it would have taken, he did not know. I believe that the MKCsBK website now in a real sense and to a large degree, fulfills Rektor's dream. It brings this "Csendőr Research Center" to all homes, where everyone can browse through photos, documents, books, and articles. Entire books are available on the site to read, study, download, or print out at will. This, I believe, has not only accomplished but surpassed Dr. Rektor's dream. I only wish he were here to see it.

Until our website, there simply was no place one could find, or refer an interested person to, a reliable original source on the topic. None was available. Through the website, for the first time in 65 years, anyone with computer access can now read in full about the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie's organizational makeup, works, regulations, uniforms, training, etc.

The only way this would be even better if a physical site were also established. Hungary still does not have a museum, nor even a permanent exhibit in the existing Military Museum, dedicated to the csendőrs. God knows, maybe this dream will also come true one day

through the miracle of the generosity of some people to help purchase the old csendőr school in Tata. One can always dream, can't he?

As to the financial provision of all this work: this aspect of Dr. Rektor's dream still shows no sign of being fulfilled, or rather, is being fulfilled in an extraordinary way. Only a few MKCsBK supporters contribute financially, so most of the work is done by those who sacrifice their resources freely for a cause they deeply believe in, who think it is time to bring out the true facts for the world to see. So we express our heartfelt thanks to Zoltán Kőrössy (my son) for providing the domain (csendor.com), the housing of the website, and all the technical help in the photographing and digitization process; to László Kőrössy (also my son) for creating, expanding, and maintaining the website; to Dr. József Parádi, President of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság for his expert guidance and work in developing the bibliography of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie (only available through the website) and directing the digitization process from a scientific and practical point of view; to Mag. Nándor Simon for all his footwork in finding the books in the various libraries in Hungary and copying the material; and to my wife, who helps with the digitization and organization of all the raw material and places them on the website.

**Dr Rektor Béla around 1942,
(taken from a group picture)**

Our website is growing at an astonishing rate (almost 40,000 visits to date, 815 visits last month). In my last letter, I reported on the completion of the digitization of the csendőrség's laws and regulations (Törvények és Rendeletek), which was a year-and-a-half process. Now, we are in the midst of a larger project, the digitization of all available csendőr books. Of the 250 some books we are aware of, probably only about 150 can still be found, and only in certain libraries or in private hands. As Dr. Parádi put it, this is the eleventh hour to save this material, for it is quickly disappearing and the existing copies are literally falling apart due to age. He considers the making of these books available to be akin to destroying the Hungarian "Berlin wall" with which the topic of csendőrség has been surrounded in the past half century. The Hungarian Military Institute and Museum, also seeing the need for saving and recovering this material in order to evaluate the organization objectively and without political overtones, permitted us to photograph their csendőr books for the purpose of digitization. Of course, this way they, too, will have the material in a digitized format for all their visitors to use.

The Museum also greatly suffered and suffers from a political climate that is still hostile toward objective evaluation of Hungary's history and fuels a public anti-csendőr sentiment. The majority of csendőrség- and military-related books and documents were destroyed during the communist era, and some were carried abroad by people forced into exile. Most of their descendants find no use for these books and old papers, so there is a great danger of losing them permanently. Therefore, we, and the Museum's Library, ask our readers to contact us if they are aware of or own any material (books, objects, photographs, documents) relating to Hungary's military past. See also the Museum's call for such material on our website's "News" section.

We have received praise for our website from numerous sources. Historians and Hungarian police officers already find it helpful. With the Lord's help, our site will continue to grow to satisfy an ever-growing interest in the csendőrség, providing the much-needed truth regarding them, with a two-fold purpose. We desire to restore their honor and dignity which they so rightfully deserve, and to help our nation discover their useful csendőr heritage in order to improve the safety of persons and property in the land today.

If you have not done so recently, I would encourage you to visit our website to see what is now available. I plan to highlight a book in each of my future newsletters. Let me direct your attention first to a favorite book of mine (unfortunately, all books are still only in Hungarian): *Basics for the Moral Development of the Gendarmes (Alapvetés a csendőr erkölcsi neveléséhez)*, written by Endrődy Géza. Can you imagine the impact if our current police officers would start to embrace the same moral principles of honesty, truthfulness, respect for authority and people, care for the good of the community, incorruptibility, etc.?

We gratefully acknowledge and thank those who have contributed to the work of the MKCsBK.

Advocate: István Molnár, Family Society of Hungarian gendarmerie, Zoltán Kőrössy

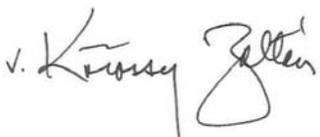
Patron: –

Supporter: Mathew Eszes

A memorial service will be held for Endre v. Tamáska, csendőr captain, at the Petőfi Club Center in Venice, Florida, on October 10 at 10:00 a.m. It is my plan to attend, not only as the central director of the MKCsBK and the representative of the Order of Vitez, but also as a personal friend of Bandi bácsi.

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

Best regards,



Zoltán v. Kőrössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül!