

The Department of History

September 26, 1975

Rev. William Hinnebusch, OP.
Dominican House of Studies
487 Michigan Avenue N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20017

Dear Rev. Hinnebusch:

Thank you for your note of August 18, and I am very sorry I could not respond to your inquiry sooner. I was preparing myself for a presentation at the International Congress of Historical Sciences in San Francisco. Unfortunately while on the West Coast I developed heart problems and did not return until after Labor Day to Youngstown. I am still not completely well and my workday is somewhat limited.

The Studium Generale of Buda will probably not be treated by me in a separate article as far as I can see at this point, the main reason for this is that the amount of material available on it does not exceed twelve or fifteen typewritten pages. If, however, you think that a Dominican Journal would be interested in its publication, I would be very much interested in having it published.

My work with the Dominican Studium of Buda goes back to my Doctoral Dissertation which I wrote at the University of Notre Dame under the direction of Professor A. L. Gabriel. The dissertation was entitled; A History of Three Early Hungarian Universities: Obuda, Pozsony, and Buda. The dissertation was completed in the Spring of 1966 and is available both through the Inter-Library Loan from the University of Notre Dame Library, or on microfilm at Ann Arbor, or I would be delighted to send you a Xerox copy of the pertinent pages of the dissertation.

Unfortunately, the Dominican Studium seems to have remained a rather limited institution and never developed into a full scale Studium Generale, as the Renaissance king Matthias Corvinus, tried to change it in 1475 or so. A number of overly eager Hungarian scholars talk about this Studium Generale as an institution of higher learning which served the whole nation. I unfortunately, find no indication that this is true. In fact it seems to me that it remained thru its whole existence, until its destruction by the Turks, an institution designed solely for the training of members of the Dominican Order in Hungary.

September 26, 1975

In about two weeks or less, I will be receiving reprints from an article entitled "The State of Education in Hungary at the Eve of the Battle of Mohacs;" and will send you a copy of it. In this rather general article I am treating not only university education but education of the religious orders, the cathedral and gentry schools, even the village and urban schools. In this study I deal with the Dominican Studium Generale of Buda just in a very cursory fashion. However, the article as a whole might interest you.

In the hope of hearing from you in the near future, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos, Ph.D.
Professor of History

LSD:sf

Dr. Karol Rips, President
Polish-Hungarian World Federation
2639 N. Kimball Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Dear Dr. Rips,

Thank you for your kind letters inviting me to join the Polish-Hungarian World Federation. Enclosed you will find a check for my membership in the organization.

Dear Dr. Rips, I am delighted with the excellent work you are doing for the cause of Polish-Hungarian relations and I wish you continued success and many more years of fruitful labor.

Because of many commitments and an important project I am working on, I am not able to accept your invitation to be a Vice-Delegate. I am in the process of writing a book on Matthias Corvinus Hunyadi and so my time for any other project is very limited. I hope you will understand.

Wishing you continued ~~good~~ success in your excellent work, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos, Ph.D.

Assoc. Prof. of Hist.

The Department of History

September 26, 1975

Rev. James K. McConnica
59 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto 5, Ontario
Canada

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your kind letter and for your attempts to reach me in San Francisco in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Francis Hospital. I am sorry that they did not put your call through especially since after the first few hours, I was up to talking to friends and in fact would have been delighted to chat with you. I do, however, greatly appreciate your kindness, I know from Dr. Gabriel that you have inquired and am deeply touched. After a stay of 72 hours at the hospital I was released and by that time my wife had already arrived and we stayed in San Francisco for a few days in order to regain my strength. Since my return to Youngstown I have been under a physician's care and am responding well to medication which is designed to enlarge the flow of blood in my arteries and my electrocardiogram shows only slight irregularity, indicating that my recovery, hopefully, will be complete. This is, no doubt, a way of a warning which I am taking very seriously and am following my physicians instructions, especially when it comes to diet. Because of the very severe restrictions, I have already lost eight pounds with roughly thirteen more to go. In other words the next time we see each other I will be thin and healthy looking.

Either this fall, if my health permits, or next spring my wife and I definitely intend to visit Toronto and I would very much like to take you up on your offer and spend a few hours with you. In the few short meetings that we have had I have been immensely impressed with you and I hope that a lifelong friendship may develop between us. Naturally, I will let you know well in advance when we would be coming so that we could work out some plans which would be mutually convenient.

In the next few days, I am expecting a number of reprints from the new journal published in Canada at Kingston Military College called the Canadian-American Review of Hungarian Studies in which a paper

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"The State of Education in Hungary" will be published. As soon as the reprints arrive I will send you a copy. I am also in the process of putting on the finishing touches on the article based on the paper I delivered at Notre Dame two years ago when we first met on the Hungarian Humanists and Italian Universities. As soon as that is completed I intend to submit it for publication probably in the Catholic Historical Review or some other journal. The only problem with the Catholic Historical Review is the very long time required for them to run an article in fact, the waiting time sometimes exceeds two years.

Thank you again for your very kind concern and I promise to keep in touch with you. With warm personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

The Department of History

December 13, 1974

Dr. Tibor Klaniczay i.h.
MTA Irodalomtudományi Intézet
Menesi ut 11-13
H-1118, Budapest, Hungary

Kedves Tibor,

It has been so long that we exchanged correspondence that I do not even remember who wrote last. A few days ago I did receive the reprint of your excellent article on Matthias and Italian Humanism. Many thanks for sending it to me as well as mentioning my article of Pozsony in your notes. Hopefully I will be able to reciprocate with a reprint in the near future. I have three articles which will be ready for publication after I make some revisions on them during the Christmas vacations. A few weeks ago I completed a review of Venezia e Ungheria edited by V. Branca for the Jahrbucher fur Geschichte Osteuropas. After almost a year of lethargy I have again found my "joie de vivre" and my energy. In October I delivered a paper at the Conference for Reformation Research in St. Louis on the subject of "The State of Education in Hungary on the Eve of the Battle of Mohacs." It was very well received by the assembled scholars, who as usual did not know much about the subject since Hungary has always been the stepchild of historians. I tried to synthesize both old and new material on the condition of universities, schools of the religious orders, municipal schools and education in the villages.

The considerable burden of teaching does not leave me much time or energy for my book on Matthias but progress is being made even on this project. I now have an almost complete detailed outline of the book which runs to over 40 typed pages. Hopefully this summer I will be able to complete the first draft, begin the revisions and start negotiations for publication. Your kind assistance, which you offered last year will be probably requested at that time. Unfortunately the generally dismal economic picture in the United States is also reflected in the field of scholarly publishing. The number of books printed by the American university presses has declined ~~drastically~~ and this will make my task of finding a respectable publisher more difficult. The best solution would still be a possible joint publication between the Academiai Kiado and University Press here.

The Department of History

September 23, 1975

Professor Gray C. Boyce
3201 Bayo Vista Avenue
Alameda, California 94501

Dear Prof. Boyce:

First of all, let me thank you for your kind concern over my health and for the visits to the hospital at a time when I seemed rather abandoned in the big city of San Francisco. I was delighted that you were able to attend the luncheon and that Professor Gabriel's presentation was what one always expects of him. I am very disappointed that I was unable to give my resumes and brief commentaries to the three excellent papers, and regret that I did not have the presence of mind to at least leave my comments with somebody to read them. However, as you probably well know my mind was probably on other matters at that time more important to me. Hopefull in the next thirty years or so I will have ample opportunity to read papers and present resumes at other international conferences.

Since my return to Youngstown I have been under the care of a very competent physician who has run a number of electro-cardiograms on me and finds that in all probablility I will be able to recuperate of my engina completely although I have to amend my life style, concentrate more on things that are really important and take better care of myself. Since my return from San Francisco I have already lost seven pounds and am on a low cholesterol, low carbohydrate and low salt diet which ~~is~~ you can imagine, does not leave me much choice of culinary delight.

I am enclosing two short articlesreprints which might interest you. In the very near future I will have a number of other reprints which I will send to you.

Thank you again for the great kindness and concern which you showed, I have always known you to be a fine human being, you certainly proved that to me three weeks ago. I hope to remain in touch with you and hopefully we will meet again at some other conference under more normal circumstances. Wishing you the best, I remain

Sincerely,

The Department of History

June 27, 1975

Dr. Nandor Dreisziger
Department of History
Royal Military College of Canada
Kingston, Ontario K7L 2W3

Dear Nandor,

Enclosed are the corrected proofs of my article. Except for a few pages where the printer must have been getting tired the number of mistakes are few. I hope that the re-setting will not produce many problems.

Please let me know what the policy of the Review is on reprints, and also when the next issue with my article will appear.

With warm personal regards, I remain

The Department of History

September 23, 1975

Professor Paul W. Knoll
Department of History
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your kind phone call and for the immense amount of kindness and sympathy you showed during our meeting in California. I am happy to report that my condition is improving daily and I have become accustomed to the medication which I am taking four times a day. At first this proved rather difficult since the medication caused intensive headaches which lasted from morning to night. Fortunately, this has ended after about four or five days and now my condition is improving. The electro-cardiograms run by my local physician do show a small irregularity, however, it is hoped that this will not cause any major problems for the rest of my life, if in fact, I do change my life style and take better care of myself than I have been.

Since I have talked to you on the phone, I have managed to lose seven pounds which is obviously a step in the right direction. I am on an extremely strict diet which means my intake must be low in carbohydrates, low in fats, low in calories, low in cholesterol, and low in salt. If you examine what this leaves for me to consume you can pretty well understand that besides cottage cheese and grazing on the front lawn there is not much else left for me to do. Fortunately, Eva is able to vary the limited number of things that I can consume so that the diet has at least to this point not become overly burdensome.

I am eagerly awaiting the reprints of my St. Louis paper on the state of education in Hungary which should appear any day now, in fact, I have been promised for mid-August. Naturally, as soon as I have it, I will send a copy to you. Although, I have written several letters, some extremely angry ones, my Vitez article in the New Hungarian Quarterly still has not come off the press. I have never seen a more irresponsible outfit than these people who asked for the article in 1970, had it reviewed and may I say that I have seen the reviews and they were excellent and still after five years have not

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printed it. This is probably a remnant of the efficiency of the famous Austro-Hungarian monarchy of which you, I am quite sure, are also sometimes the victim in places like Cracow.

I am overjoyed to hear that you will visit us in the not too distant future. Would you please, as soon as it is possible give me an indication of when you will be in Youngstown whether you are flying into the Youngstown Airport or if more convenient I could pick you up either in Cleveland or in Pittsburgh. Both of these airports are about an hours drive from our house and it would not produce any great difficulty for me to pick you up.

In the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely,

The Department of History

August 15, 1975

Mr. Paul Pulitzer
P.O. Box 2203
Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Mr. Pulitzer:

Thank you for your letter of August 11, 1975 which I received on Wednesday. Immediately I went to the library and put in a form for the Inter-Library Loan of the Teleki volume. As soon as it is here (about two weeks) I shall send the relevant pages to you in Xerox.

Enclosed you will find the glossy pictures which you asked for. I hope that they will please you. I am also sending you a color slide of the Hunyadi coat-of-arms from 1453. The photos are for your use as a small gift from me. The slide I would like back. If you care to have a color print made from it, please do so.

I have finished reading the "Raven and the Ring" and find it to be very good. There is a good flow in the story and you present a vivid picture of events. You are to be highly commended for the work you have produced and it has great possibilities with some minor changes.

Obviously you did not send me the type script for a standing ovation but for critical observation. There are a number of places where a change in wording, the elimination of some phrases and some explanation would be needed. I am in the process of making extensive notes on the typescript and these notes will run dozens of pages. You, naturally, will be free to accept or reject my criticism as you see fit. The work is time consuming and I have a conference paper to prepare for August 25-28, when I will be in San Francisco. I will, however, try to get the material back to you at the earliest possible time. You obviously have a lot of time and money invested in this project and I hope that a delay of about two weeks will not cause you any hardship. I also hope that you will find my comments to be helpful and valuable.

With warm personal regards, I remain

Cordially yours,

The Department of History

August 12, 1975

Dr. Paul L. Csonka
Institute of Theoretical Sciences
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403

Kedves Baratom,

Thank you for your long letter which has finally arrived as well as your telephone call a few days ago. You are to be highly commended for undertaking this most worthwhile project and I wish you the very best on this labor of love.

As I told you over the telephone, the 225 years that you want me to cover in my segment of the project, will be one with a strong cultural slant and only a cursory treatment of political--military--dynastic events. I fully support your view that ideology, chauvinism, religious controversy has no place in such an undertaking. The facts present a picture which we can take pride in anyway!

Wishing you a most pleasant trip to Europe, I hope to meet you personally in the future. With best regards, I remain

The Department of History

July 17, 1975

Dr. Bruce A. Beatie
Department of Modern Languages
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Professor Beatie:

This spring, when it became apparent that Prof. Oszlanyi would not be able to continue to teach at CSU, I suggested to him that I would like to contact you concerning the possibility of teaching some of the Hungarian culture courses in your department. At that time I gave him a Vita form with the request that he forward it to you. Unfortunately I am not certain if he has ever talked to you about this matter seriously for he had made up his mind that some young undergraduate woman would continue to teach in his stead. Although I questioned the academic wisdom of this effort, I had the distinct impression that Prof. Oszlanyi did not support my request with enthusiasm.

Enclosed you will find a fairly up-to-date Vita sheet to acquaint you with my academic and professional background. I do not claim to be an expert on everything Hungarian nor have I written any "textbooks" in the field. However, since 1961, when I started my work at the Mediaeval Institute at the University of Notre Dame, I have been doing research in Hungarian history and culture. Since then I have been in Europe three times, for a combined period of almost two years, gathering material in my field and doing primary research. I am in constant correspondence with the major scholars in the field of both history and literature in Hungary, men I met and worked with during my extensive stays in Budapest and Vienna. In other words, I know what is being done in Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern Hungarian Cultural history and my own scholarship reflects this.

Cleveland State offers two courses, Hu 347, Hu 348 which I would be very much interested in teaching and feel that I have the qualifications to do a respectable job. I am quite aware, dear Dr. Beatie, you will find in Cleveland a multitude of "experts" who will claim that this course can be taught by them. There is, unfortunately, no shortage of dilitants, ultra-nationalists and pseudo-experts in the Cleveland Hungarian community. Unfortunately well trained historians do not abound. Being Hungarian and having received a University degree in Hungary 25-30 years ago does not in itself make an individual into a scholar.

Keres Andras,

Enclosed you will find the contract that the faculty has negotiated with the Administration at YSU. As I promised to you at our last meeting I am enclosing the copy of the Agreement for your information.

Of special interest is the section on Salaries and on the Academic Department. Fortunately we received a salary settlement which will put YSU in the upper bracket of Ohio state universities.

Also enclosed is a \$5.00 for the IIT-OTT which we miss very much. In a few weeks I will send along another contribution but I am still broke and the next contract will not go into effect until fall.

I did distribute your course descriptions for Portland State to some of my Thurgood students, but do not know what the response will be. It is unfortunate that Portland is so terribly far away.

Andras, please come and see us after your return from the West Coast. We enjoyed seeing you so very much and hope that next time you can stop for a few days instead of a few hours. Much love to Pauline from all of us.

Why should you consider me for these courses is the obvious question. There are a number of reasons, which I think you will agree with.

1. If CSU wants the Hungarian culture courses to be academically respectable, it is necessary to have an instructor who is familiar with the field and can present the material on a university level. Since the course is part of your East European program it is even more important that the courses be solid. In eleven years I have taught on the university level both on the undergraduate and graduate level. I know American academic life well and am acquainted with the needs and problems of students both from a native and immigrant background.

2. Although I am acquainted with the Cleveland Hungarian community, I am and never was part of it. I do not belong to any factions, hate groups or social organizations. My orientation is basically progressive and liberal and I am most adamantly opposed to the introduction of politics both local and international, into the instruction process. Scholarship knows no boundaries and this is why I carry on an active intellectual exchange with colleagues abroad. Although I teach in Youngstown, Ohio I am by no means provincial. (

3. Having a background similar to that of some of the students in the courses I would like to teach, I can be of help to them. To have two cultures presents a problem and even causes trauma in some students. The efforts by parents to maintain an ethnic heritage often results in the misunderstanding of both the American milieu and the ethnic roots. Super nationalism and xenophobia are not uncommon problems of these students. An unbiased, scholarly approach to the past is what is really needed and not nostalgia over a situation which never existed.

4. Without sounding immodest, I can assure you that my style of lecturing has filled my classes at YSU for the past eleven years. My students know me as a fair, well prepared and interesting instructor. In teaching the Hungarian culture courses, you can expect the same rigorous, impartial and professional performance.

5. The sharing of faculty by state universities is not unusual and I am certain that an accommodation could be found by our institutions which would allow me to teach a course at CSU periodically. My relation with the department chairman is excellent and we would be able to work out a schedule which would be agreeable to all parties involved.

This letter is becoming terribly long and I feel that there is nothing to be gained by extending it even more. Based on the Vita sheet enclosed and upon some of the points I tried to make, you will obviously be able to determine if you would be interested in pursuing this any further. Please contact me either by telephone or letter at the university or at home. I shall be home for the rest of the summer except for a trip in late August to read a paper at the International Congress of Historical Sciences in San Francisco.

Single space

Dr. James F. Walsh
Associate Professor of History
San Jose State University
San Jose, California 95192.

Dear Professor Walsh,

Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa... Your note of April 4, 1975 has been collecting dust in my "To be answered" basket and I feel very badly that I have not responded sooner. Hopefully the other member of our committee, Sister Joseph Damien Hanlon, has been more conscientious. I has already submitted some names to you. You also have possible candidates yourself so I will limit my suggestions to the following individuals:

Either for the First or Second Vice President -
Prof. Bernard Norling - Univ. of Notre Dame.

Either for the Second Vice President or Executive Council -
Prof. Paul Knoll - Univ. of Southern California.

Either for the Executive Council or Comm. on Nominations
Prof. Zoltan Kosztolnyik - Texas A+M Univ.

Prof. Norling's field of specialization is Modern European and historiography. He has published extensively and is a first rate scholar + human being.

Prof. Paul Knoll is a Renaissance historian with emphasis on Polish Humanism, and the Univ. of Colorado. He is an Assoc. Professor and former Chairman of the Department at UC. He has published a book (U. of Chicago Press) and numerous articles. (See CHR, 60(1974), 381-401)

Prof. Kosztolnyik is a Medievalist with a special interest in ecclesiastical history in East Central Europe. He has published a number of articles. (See CHR 59(1974), 569-586)

I hope that these candidates will fit in with the slate you have in mind and that the committee can present a strong group of ~~candidate~~ nominees to the membership.

Once again, please excuse the delay, dear Professor Welch, and I promise to respond immediately to any communication from you.

With best personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Dowonkos
Associate Professor

Single space

Professor Denis Sinor, Chairman
Asian Studies Research Institute
Goodbody Hall
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Dear Professor Sinor,

For many years I have wished that the opportunity would present itself for me to meet you, for I have been a great admirer of your work ever since the publication of your excellent history of Hungary almost two decades ago. Somehow it never worked out. For four years I was at the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame but never got the opportunity to visit Bloomington. I also hoped to possibly see you on one of your visits to Hungary when I was there for longer period doing research but again our paths did not cross.

Last month I looked as if I may finally meet you, and I was preparing to attend the "In Service Institute" sponsored by the Dept. of Ural + Altaic Studies, but had to make an unexpected trip to Florida instead.

Having exhausted all hope of seeing you in the flesh, I am writing to you in the hope that at least by letter we will get to know each other and that you will keep my name on the mailing list of the Institute. I am very much interested in the work of the Dept. of Ural and Altaic Studies.

Attached I am including a "Vita" form so that I do not have to introduce myself to you in detail in this letter. As you can see from the "Vita" my interest is in Medieval-Renaissance Hungary and I am in the

process of writing a full length monograph on Hungary in the Age of Matthias Corvinus. You will agree that there is so little in English available to scholars in this field, that this lacuna should be filled.

Dear Professor Sincor, when your time permits, please send me a brief note and I hope that we will indeed meet someday either at a conference here in the US or preferably in Budapest.

With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

L.S. Downkoog
Associate Professor

Fortunately I had the opportunity to spend considerable time on this research project in Hungary on IREX grants. We spent 10 months in Budapest during the 1970-1971 academic year and I returned again for a month in the late summer of 1973. All my research is complete, my material is assembled all I need now is time to write.

To: Dr. Lawrence E. Looby, Special Assistant to the President
From: L. S. Douvanos, History Department.
Subject: Dr. Gabriel [A.L.]

Dear Dr. Looby:

In a recent conversation you asked me to send you a note concerning Dr. H. L. Gabriel of the Medieval Institute of Notre Dame as a possible speaker for Commencement.

When I proposed the name of Dr. Gabriel to Vice President Edgar as a superb possibility as Commencement speaker, I was motivated by two considerations:

1. This university has not been very successful in attracting Commencement speakers of great excellence. In the eleven years that I have been associated with YSU very few of the addresses delivered at Commencement were of the calibre which would inspire the students and the faculty. I realize that inspiration and elevation might be considered rather "square" in our blasé world but I personally believe that there are times when an appeal to the more sublime, the intellectual side of our being is in order, in fact, is necessary. Commencement is such a time.