



Dear Les,

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to benefit from your Renaissance class. It reminds me so much of years past.

With Gracie's sitter in Florida for most of November and with the Phi Alpha Theta Book & Sale coming up, I find that the hours in each day are just too few.

If I miss some of your final lectures, please accept my apology. I need to use the time between my two classes to "catch up."

One of your students will give me the notes.

Jack's son is getting married out-of-town, so we leave next Friday and return late Tuesday 11/30. I gave my students a library day to finish researching paper projects.

Happy Thanksgiving and be sure to visit the Book & Bake sale 11/23.

Fondly,

Carol
Carol

Kedves Janoskam!

Thank you for your long letter of late October. It was delightful to read that you are still full of life, wit, and good cheer. Sorry about your back problems. I hope that the plan for a (last?!?) sabbatical will materialize and that you can find a congenial place to spend it without going broke.

Was happy to hear that the Tripartitum will be published in 2005. You certainly have worked hard to bring this project to completion.

This is the last week of classes this semester for me, than a week of examination and I will be finished for this academic year. On Dec. 16th, Eva and I are leaving for Heidelberg to spend Christmas with our daughter Piroska and her family. Her husband, who is a major in the medical corps, will be deployed to Afghanistan for a year. As you can imagine, we are filled with anxiety about this development. On Dec. 27th, we will fly to Budapest and spend New Years Eve with a second cousin. Will call you to see if we can see each other, even if briefly. Our plan is to return to Heidelberg on Jan. 3rd, to the US on the 6th. After adjusting to jet lag, unpacking and repacking we will drive to Florida and spend the next 6-7 months there. We hope all these plans work out without major plans.

"Now to business," to use your expression! As promised I am enclosing the list of books I would like to sell to CEU with your kind cooperation. The books, (about 1,300 volumes) cover the Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation periods. A large proportion of them are paperbacks, therefore I do not expect a large sum for the collection. As you will see on the enclosed list, there are a number of "classics" in the collection and many out of print volumes which are valuable. I calculated the average price of the books to be about \$12.00 per volume and would like \$15,000 for the entire collection. Furthermore, I would be most willing to divide this amount into two or even three installments of \$7,500 or \$5,000 respectively. I am trying to work with CEU to make this a "win-win" situation.

Jánoskam, please study the enclosed list carefully and at the appropriate time speak to people who handle these matters to explore all the possibilities. If a commitment can be made to purchase the collection, then we can work out the details.

Wishing you continued good health and with warm regards for the upcoming Holidays, I remain,

PS. I am entering the 21st century. My university e-mail is: lsdomonkos@ysu.edu.

Holidays

yearly

^

x new

Professor Janos Bak
Department of Medieval Studies
The Central European University
Nador n. 9
H-1051 Budapest, Hungary

Kedves Janoskam,

It was wonderful to hear your voice a few months ago and to renew contact with you. I was happy to hear that you are in good health and continue to enjoy life. Following our conversation I felt nostalgic and looked up a copy of my old C.V. to see when we first met. It was in November of 1972 at Vancouver. And here we are thirty-two years later, two old "Emeriti." Nine years have passed since I spoke at CEU about Matthias' health and the circumstances of his death. How times flies!!

As I mentioned to you in our phone conversation, I retired from active teaching in May of 2002. According to my contract with YSU I can continue to teach one semester per year for five years. I ~~shall~~^{do} enjoy the stimulus of teaching, at least for now. It is good to be among young people, it helps to keep the mind active and focused.

For some fifteen years before retirement we have spend our annual family vacation in Florida, near Tampa, on the Gulf coast. We decided that since our children are scattered throughout the US and beyond (our youngest daughter now lives in Heidelberg), there is ultimately nothing that ties us to this damp and cold part of Ohio, especially since my Mother died in January of 2003. Many of our local friends have either moved or have died. We did purchase a retirement home in Sarasota, FL in August of 2002 and have been dividing our time between the two locations. We will be here until the end of the semester, plan to fly to Germany to spend Christmas with our daughter Piroska and her family. (Her husband, who is a Major in the Army will be sent for a year to Afghanistan in February, poor guy!) It is possible that Eva and I will make a quick side trip to Bp. for News Year, at which time I would love to see you, if you plan to be in town. Upon returning to the US in early January we ~~plan to~~^{will} head for our Florida home and stay there until the start of the Fall Semester. There is a very good chance that in the spring of 2006 we will put our Canfield home up for sale and make Florida our permanent and only residence.

Travel between Sarasota and Canfield (1150 miles) is getting to be an increasingly more tiring and exhausting experience. Furthermore, the upkeep of two houses is quite an expense. It is also true that our home here in Canfield, which you have visited, is very large for just Eva and me. We have to sooner or latter "simplify" our life, and do it while we have our health and strength.

One of the major problems I have to solve is the fate of my library. Naturally I am taking a good portion of my Hungarian books to our Florida home so that I can continue to do some research, but the space there is limited. I have to dispose of my Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation books, although parting with them I like giving away my children.

Before taking ~~my~~^{any} steps to liquidate my library I wanted to ask you if CEU would be interested buying the books. We are talking about 1300 volumes containing many "classics" in the field. I do have an alphabetical list of the volumes ready. If you think

that CEU is interested in acquiring this collection, please let me know and I will send you a printed list. I am convinced that this could be a "win-win" situation for both parties. CEU would get some valuable, often out of print books, and I would not have to seek out a variety of antique book dealers. Janoskam, please look into this possibility and see if we could work out a mutually agreeable solution. Let me know as soon as possible if there is any chance for this to work.

Let

On a completely different subject: what is the status of the Decreta project? Were you able to continue without NEH support? Was the translation of the Tripartitum completed?

One of your CEU students Elod Nemerkenyi, who spent a year at Notre Dame, had contacted me when he was here. Two years ago he wrote to me asking for my advice. I responded thinking that he had returned to CEU but my letter was sent back saying "Ismeretlen." What ever happened to him?

Excuse the very long letter but I wanted to bring you up to date on a number of developments. Hope to hear from you soon. Until then "Vale",

Cordially,
L.S. Domonkos
Professor Emeritus

Royal Military College of Canada
Collège Militaire Royal du Canada
PO BOX 17000 STN FORCES
KINGSTON, ON K7K 7B4

Department of History
30 June 2005

Professor Laszlo Domonkos
59 Camelot Drive
Canfield, OH 44406
USA

Kedves Laci!

Now that I have your home address...

Vols. 31 and 32 of the *HSR* (each a "special volume" of ca. 160 pages) are at the printers in Budapest, and there are 2 more "special volumes" in the preparation (one of them dealing with Transylvania). But, before these 2 will be ready, there will be a regular issue into which your paper on Mátyás Corvinus could fit, if only we had some footnotes from you. Is there a chance you could do these?

I hope my letter finds you in good health and spirit.

Sincerely yours,



N.F. Dreisziger
Professor of History

Telephone (home): 613-544-9308; Telephone and voice-mail (office): (613) 541-6000-6224;
Fax (office): 613-536-4801; **E mail (office): dreisziger-n@rmc.ca (home): nandor@kingston.net**
Websites: RMC: <http://www.rmc.ca/> http://www.rmc.ca/academic/history/personnel/dreisziger_pub.htm
The **HSR**: <http://www.oszk.hu/kiadvany/hsr/hsr.htm> (replacing <http://www.ccsp.sfu.ca/calj/hsr/>)

I envision two large volumes when the results of the whole project are published. I believe the resulting set will be of great benefit to the scholarly world, the Reformed church and ordinary brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is a 'not for profit' scholarly enterprise; our only goal is to cover our costs, i.e., publishing, advertising, translating and editing.

THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL REVIEW

Editorial Office • Room 320, Mullen Library
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
Washington, D.C. 20064 • Tel. & Fax: 202-319-5079
E-mail: cua-chracha@cua.edu

May 25, 2005

Professor Leslie S. Domonkos
Youngtown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44555-3452

Dear Professor Domonkos:

I learned only today that our dear friend Astrik Gabriel died on May 16. Father Blantz kindly sent me some memorial cards and a note in which he described the funeral. I know nothing, however, about the circumstances of his death.

I wish to publish an obituary of our distinguished friend, who was a member of the American Catholic Historical Association from 1948 to 2002 and president in 1973. I am sure that he would have wanted you to write the obituary. Could you do me that favor? Unfortunately, it is too late to place an obituary in our July issue, because all the material must be forwarded to the composition company next week. If you could send me an obituary by the third week of August, however, I would publish it in our October issue. You may make the obituary as long as you wish. Please use double spacing and send either a hard copy or a Microsoft word attachment to e-mail. I will be grateful if you let me know by e-mail, if that is more convenient, whether you will send me an obituary by the time I have indicated.

I wish you a pleasant but productive summer.

Sincerely yours,



(Rev. Msgr.) Robert Trisco
Editor

THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL REVIEW

Editorial Office • Room 320, Mullen Library
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
Washington, D.C. 20064 • Tel. & Fax: 202-319-5079
E-mail: cua-chracha@cua.edu

May 25, 2005

Professor Leslie S. Domonkos
Youngtown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44555-3452

Dear Professor Domonkos:

I learned only today that our dear friend Astrik Gabriel died on May 16. Father Blantz kindly sent me some memorial cards and a note in which he described the funeral. I know nothing, however, about the circumstances of his death.

I wish to publish an obituary of our distinguished friend, who was a member of the American Catholic Historical Association from 1948 to 2002 and president in 1973. I am sure that he would have wanted you to write the obituary. Could you do me that favor? Unfortunately, it is too late to place an obituary in our July issue, because all the material must be forwarded to the composition company next week. If you could send me an obituary by the third week of August, however, I would publish it in our October issue. You may make the obituary as long as you wish. Please use double spacing and send either a hard copy or a Microsoft word attachment to e-mail. I will be grateful if you let me know by e-mail, if that is more convenient, whether you will send me an obituary by the time I have indicated.

I wish you a pleasant but productive summer.

Sincerely yours,

(Rev. Msgr.) Robert Trisco
Editor

2005. június 13.

Dr. Erdő Péter, Biboros-Érsek
Főegyházmegyei Hivatal
Mindszenty tér 2
H-2500 Esztergom

Kedves Biboros Úr!

Bizonyára Biboros Úr értesült Dr. Gábrriel Asztrik, O. Praem., Professzor haláláról és tudja, hogy úgy a Notre Dame-i egyetemen mint a Daylesford-i Prémotrei apátságban nagy tisztelettel és szeretettel búcsúztatták.

Pár évvel ezelőtt, mikor Biboros Úr még a Pázmány Péter egyetem rektora volt, több levélben kerestem fel, melyekben Gábrriel Professzor disz-doktori címmel való kitüntetését ajánlottam. Nagyon hálás vagyok, hogy ezt az ügyet Biboros Úr támogatta. Mikor a múlt ősszel és újra 97-ik születés napja alkalmából (dec. 10) meg látogattam öreg barátomat, meghatódva és büszkén mutatta a szépen berámázott diplomát mely szobája fő disze volt. "Látod, ezt a Biboros Úr küldte nekem!", mondta könnyes szemmel. Azt is tudom, hogy Érsek Úr South Bend-i látogatása alkalmával, nagy nyilvánosság előtt, kimagasló kedvességgel tüntette ki az akkor már testben hanyatló nagy tudóst. Mint Asztrik régi tanítványa (MA, 1963, Ph.D., 1966), majd kollegája és hű barátja, szívből köszönöm figyelmességét! Ugyan akkor végtelenül sajnálom, hogy nem lehettem ott a disz-doktori diploma átadása alkalmából mert senki sem értesített a rektori hivatalból, hogy ajánlásom és kérésem eredményes volt.

Halála előtt pár nappal beszéltem még vele és jó kedvben volt. Mikor telefonáltak, hogy elhunyt, fel repültem Florida-ból Indiana-ba, hogy részt vehessek a temetési szertartásokon. Notre Dame-i, Sacred Heart Baziliká-ban, hol Érsek Úr is járt. Ottlétem alatt értesültem, hogy én vagyok (három közül) végrendeletének egyik kivitelezője.

A végrendeletének egyik tétele, magyarra fordítva, így szól:

"A Budapest-i Szent Margit Szigeten lévő Szent Mihály Templom papjának, \$1,000.00 (ezer dollár) összeget a templom fentartására és, hogy imádkozzon lelkem üdvéért és szüleim lelkei üdvösségéért."

Biboros Úr segítségét kérem ez ügy elintézésében. Szükségem volna a pap nevére és a pontos címére, hogy az ügyvéd, ki a végrendelet anyagi részét kezeli, a pénzt, bank-utalvány (check) formájában el tudja juttatni.

from the desk of— June 15, 2005

REV. MSGR. ROBERT TRISCO

Dear Professor Domonkos,

Thank you for sending me the material regarding the death of our beloved Atrik. As you will see in the enclosed letter, I wrote to you on May 25; we used your old address at Youngstown State University, and obviously you have never received my request for an obituary, but there is still ample time. — Is it not mistaken to call Professor Gabriel "Abbot"? He was titular mitred provost of St. Margaret on the Island (which I visited with Clara and Bill Graff in 1996). — I will be most grateful if you provide an obituary for our October issue.

Sincerely,

Robert Trisco

Catholic Historical Review



2005.06.17.

Dr. Szögi László, Főigazgató
ELTE Egyetemi Könyvtár
Ferenciek tere 6.
H-1053 Budapest V. Hungary

Kedves Főigazgató Úr! Kedves Laci!

Bizonyára értesültél már, hogy kedves közös barátunk, Gábrriel Asztrik Professzor, meghalt. A helyi (Indiana) ujságban megjelent nekrológiát mellékelem.

Halála előtt pár nappal beszéltem vele és jó kedvben volt. Mikor telefonáltak, hogy elhunyt, fel repültem Florida-ból Indiana-ba, hogy részt vehessek a temetési szertartásokon. Ott létem alatt értesültem, hogy én vagyok (három közül) a végrendeletének egyik kivitelezője.

A végrendeletének egyik tétéle, magyarra lefordítva, így szól:

"A Budapest-i Egyetem Főkönyvtárának, Ferenciek tere, [ajándékozom]
M. Crévier, Histoire de l'Université de Paris, 1761, hét-kötetes művét."

Nevedet és a könyvtár pontos címét megadtam a Notre Dame-i egyetemen dolgozó egyik barátomnak, ki a könyvek pakolását és elküldését intézi. Gondolom, hogy eltelik egy pár hónap mielőtt a szép és értékes ajándék Pestre megérkezik.

Nagyon örülök, hogy Te továbbra is a könyvtár főigazgatója vagy! Mi a helyzet a Nemzetközi Egyetem Történelmi Bizottsággal? Nagyon régen nem kapok hírt Robinson-Hammerstein titkárnőtől.

Én 2002-ben nyugdíjba mentem. Akkor vettünk egy házat Florida-ban. Azóta, minden évben, még tanítok egy szemesztert a Youngstown-i egyetemen és időnként Ohio és Florida közt osztjuk meg. Jövő tavasszal viszont eladjuk az északi házunkat és végleg Florida-ba költözünk. A tanítást is feladom. Negyven-egy év után itt az idő egy kicsit élni.

Ha van időd, kérem írd. Florida-i címünk ahol k.b. augusztus 10-ig megtalálász:

DR. L. S. DOMONKOS
8492 Idlewood Court
Bradenton, FL 34202

Baráti üdvözléssel,

Dec 8, 2005

Dr. Helga Robinson-Hammerstein
General Secretary, ICHU
3113 Arts Building
Trinity College, Dublin
Dublin 2, Ireland

Dear Helga,

Enclosed you will find an obituary I wrote for A.L. Gabriel which is being published in the American Catholic Historical Review. I give you and Hilde full editorial authority to cut, change or amend the text in whatever way you want. I am not eager to write a new obituary and simply re-hash the same material. Maybe you or Hilde could add a sentence or two about his term as President of our organization and the role he played when he was still in "his prime."

It is with a heavy heart that I am taking leave of you and other friends in the Commission. In May of 2002 I retired from full-time teaching but have taught one semester per academic year since then. The time has come, however, to give up teaching completely and on May 15 '06, I will sever my relationship (41 years) with the University. Eva and I plan to sell our home in Ohio and become full time Florida residents. We bought a home in Sarasota in 2003 and have been dividing our stay between our two residences. The commute of over 1600 km one way, the maintenance of the two houses, has become a burden and it is time to simplify our lives. I still have a major monograph on Matthias Corvinus and the Hungarian Renaissance to complete and hope that my strength and energy will hold up until that is done.

One of the major tasks before me is how to dispose of my extensive library. I am donating a large portion of my Medieval Hungarian collection to my Alma Mater, (Univ. of Notre Dame) other books will go to book dealers or will be distributed among friends and students. This is indeed a difficult process, especially for people that love books.

Eva and I will always remember your kindness to us in Dublin and in the years that have passed since. I hope that we can keep in touch in the future simply because we have great affection toward you.

In the hope that the enclosed material will be of some use to you, I remain,

With sincere friendship,

L.S. Domonkos
Professor Emeritus

Wed, 13
Apr 2005
20:11:16
-0400

From: "Eleanor Congdon" <eacongdon@ysu.edu>  View Contact Details

To: "EVA DOMONKOS" <evalaco@prodigy.net>

Subject: Re: Medieval Classes

Dear Eva,

It is an honor, and even a little frightening, to be hired to follow as good a teacher and as beloved as Les. I had a similar situation at my previous job as well. I do believe that learning is a cumulative process – a golden chain, if you will. If that is so, then gratitude is appropriate to those who have gone before. And that is what I feel to him. I can't say that everyone here views the retiring generation the same way – I choose to remember and reach out to the contribution my elders make, not the personal rubs and mistakes along the way. But I also choose to reach out because he is such a kind and supportive person – you are fortunate to have such a wonderful person as partner. I tried to use his YSU email as listed in the campus directory, but it did not work. The secretaries gave me this address. I am glad it reached you. :)

Eleanor

PS: Yes, I try not to admit it, and even joke about being in the "stone ages" in terms of technology because I am the medievalist, but I do find that women offer are better than men with basic computer operation. :)

EVA DOMONKOS wrote:

Dear Eleanor,

Though I've not met you yet, Les speaks very nicely of you. This note certainly reflects that! I thank you for your considerateness and am sure Les will no doubt express the same. I am in FL and he in OH as you know. He never does anything on the computer except to check his e-mail when at YSU. I'm the computer tech in our family.

Your note will be read to him when we speak by phone tonight. He has already told me about your kind offer earlier. It is truly sweet and considerate of you and much appreciated.

Thanks again on his behalf.

Eva

Eleanor Congdon <eacongdon@ysu.edu> wrote:

Dear Les,

I want you to know that after our conversation last week, I wrote a note to Martha. What it said was that I have found the emotions around the department quite sad to see because of the anger and hurt people feel. It reminds me of when my dad retired and of events at my former school. Therefore, if I could bring a bit of happiness to somebody doing their last teaching, I would. I noted you had expressed concern about your schedule. I then offered, if it is your will and pleasure, and it suits Martha, to switch class assignments with you so that you can have what you prefer to teach (i.e. Reformation) or not be burdened with things you do not want to teach (capstone – could trade to a 1511 or High Medieval.) I want to be a force of good-will around here, maybe the little step that turns the department around. Hence my offer – which is ONLY an offer, not a demand or any sort of pressure. It is an offer, no more, no less.

With my love and bet wishes

Eleanor

Kedves Évi és Laci!

Szerencsésen hazaérkeztünk kedden délelőtt, pontosan a tervezett időpontra.

Budapesten teljesen száraz időjárás , minusz 2 C fok fogadott , és a nap

is sütött. Az előrejelzésben azonban hóesésről beszéltek , ami be is következett ma reggelre.Remélem nem tart sokáig, mert itt a városban nagyon lelassul a közlekedés.

A szabadságunk Floridában nagyon jól sikerült, sok kellemes emlékünk van.

Köszönjük a kedves vendéglátásokat, Éva finom vacsoráját.Jó volt egy kicsit személyesen is beszélgetni, és megnézni új házatokat.

Gratulálunk

hozzá és kívánjuk,, hogy sokáig élvezzétek jó egészségben.

Sajnálom, hogy a beszélgetés közben elfelejtkeztünk a fényképezésről , illetve videóról.

Corával beszéltem, hogy hívja fel Piroskát István levele miatt, de nem tudom, hogy megőrizte-e Piroska telefonszámát. amit továbbítottam mailen,

ezért jobb lenne ha Piroska keresné.

Ha nincs itéletidő-nagy hóesés- február 4.én hazajönnek kocsival ismét egy

hétvégére, / Marci papája ekkor lesz 60 éves./ Jó lenne, ha a boritékot ezidő előtt átadná Corának. , De ha nem sikerül a találkozás ez időpontig,

az sem baj, lesz még más alkalom, mert elég sűrűn hazajönnek.

A lakástelefon néha rögtön faxra kapcsol, de én napközben a munkahelyén

mindig elérem:49-621 8773125

vagy mobil: 49-160 1783220

Mégegyszer köszönjük a vendéglátást, sok puszi:Esztiek



January 14, 2005

Dr. & Mrs. L. S. Domonkos
59 Camelot Court
Canfield, OH 44406

Professor Domonkos thank you so much for calling to talk with Dr. Gabriel during the holidays, he remembered who you were and was very delighted to hear from you. Thank you for the lovely Christmas card and birthday card, may the new Year bring both health and happiness to you and your wife. I don't know if I told you but Prof. Gabriel lives on St. Mary's campus at Dujaric House a home for the Brothers it is very nice over there, he has adjusted well and is in good health. Keep him in your prayers and we will also continue to pray for you and your wife.

Eileen Williams

Secretary to Prof. Gabriel

TEXTS AND STUDIES
in the History of Mediaeval Education
Editor: Dr. A. L. Gabriel
University of Notre Dame
P.O. Box 578,
Notre Dame, Indiana #46556, USA
Telephone: (219) 631-5076
Fax: (219) 631-6772

Kedves Laci!

Sajnos csak mostanában kaptam meg karácsonyi leveledet. Az elmúlt évben elköltöztünk Miskolcra Keszthelyre, talán már írtam. Tehát most mindenképpen keszthelyi lakosok vagyunk, a nagy művelet megtörtént. Leveledet a miskolci címen kaptuk meg, de csak az ünnepek után, mivel decemberben mindketten már Keszthelyen voltunk.

Tehát címünk: Keszthely 8360, Honvéd u. 49b, tel: 83-317-470, e-mail: endre33@axelero.hu Amennyiben sor kerül újabb utazásra, természetesen örülnénk, ha felkeresnétek bennünket, szállást Balaton melletti környezetben tudunk biztosítani. Ez természetesen vonatkozik a gyerekekre, rokonságra is.

Az új környezetünk nagyon kellemes és kielégítő. Mivel születésem helye, tehát nem ismeretlen részemre. Ezenkívül jól átvészelt a szocializmust, jelenleg, mint régen fürdőváros és üdülőváros. Jól érezzük magunkat. Még foglalkozom egyes irodalmi munkákkal, azonban a nem tudományos életem is kialakult és helyet kap a mindennapokban. Figyelemmel kísérem a magyar tudományos életet, időnkint valamit írok, de a jövő megoldása az új nemzedék feladata. Nem lesz könnyű dolguk. De hát ez a múltban is így volt.

Beszámolódból látom, hogy nagyon aktívak vagytok és hogy költöztök Floridába. Nagyon örülnénk, ha erre felé jönnétek és találkozhatnánk. Nem nagyon utazunk, tehát elérhetőek vagyunk.

Keszthely, 2005-02-09

Baráti üdvözlettel,

Pali

2011/2005

Budapest, 2005. július 8.

Tisztelt

Prof. Dr. Domonkos László

úrnak

Bradenton, FL 34202

8492 Idlewood Court

USA

evalaco@prodigy.net

Igen Tisztelt Professor Úr!

Gábrriel Asztrik professzor úr haláláról annak idején szomorúan értesültem, szentmisét is ajánlottam fel érte.

A Margitszigeti Szent Mihály templom illetékes papja /Spányi András plébános úr, 1023 Budapest Bécsi út 32./, akinek az összeget el lehet juttatni.

Fáradozását hálásan köszönve maradok

őszinte nagyrabecsüléssel:



+ Erdő Péter
bíboros, primás, érsek

Hi, Les & Eva,

187 Sierra Vista Dr.
Boone, NC, 28607
March, 2005

Dear friends and family,

Many of you on our email lists know why we are not getting out our 2004 Christmas letter until now. To those of you who haven't been receiving our e.journals, we returned recently from a five-month stay in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), once part of the former Yugoslavia. Maria received a Fulbright scholarship, and with Bob in the role of "Fulbright spouse" (a title which evoked some humor among our hosts there) we moved to Sarajevo on September 13. But let us back up and relate our comings and goings before our sojourn.

For the first six months of 2004 life for Bob was pretty ordinary. He taught a section of New Testament Literature at ASU and worked on his "Science and Faith" project: two new essays went on line and he wrote most of a third before the multitude of tasks one has to take care of before renting the house and going abroad caught up with him. Luckily, we were able to find renters who took good care of our place and Joshua as well.

Maria's story was different. In addition to teaching two courses, including one on women in religion, she worked hard as a local activist for the presidential campaign of Democratic Congressman Dennis Kucinich: fund-raisers, many meetings, and a trip with Dennis around North Carolina as he campaigned here. She thoroughly enjoyed meeting this decent, thoughtful and well-read man (how many congressmen do you know that can discuss Wittgenstein?), with a well-developed philosophy of government and society, and a profound compassion for the poor and marginalized. Maria also attended the Boston Social Forum, held in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention the last week of July. It was the highlight of her summer. Thanks to a friend, a Kucinich delegate from Asheville, she was able to attend functions of the NC delegation and even get on the convention floor for speeches and voting. She returned excited, filled with stories about her meetings and conversations there. Expect us both to continue to support grassroots organizing for a more progressive Democratic Party in North Carolina.

Family time was somewhat limited this year due to our travels, but we were able to spend some time with Catherine, Ben, Ian and Dylan, and during our time abroad Maria and Catherine kept in close touch by email and phone calls. Both of our grandsons continue to be a great joy in our lives. Ian, now nearly nine, has enjoyed another growth spurt and is developing intellectually; he is now reading about the world's mythologies. Dylan is a healthy four-year old with immense energy, and an interest in knights and castles, and Bionicles (Google the word if you're ignorant). He has been taking speech lessons, and his enunciation is now pretty close to the Queen's English. We visited with them both before and after our trip, and during our sojourn the boys missed their "Little Grandma."

Now to the rest of the year. How can I capture in a few paragraphs the most exciting adventure of our life together? We came to Sarajevo after a few days in Vienna (where we retraced the steps of Maria's father Carl and his parents), and after a couple of weeks were fortunate to get an apartment just around the corner from the Faculty of Islamic Studies. Decorated with Bosnian furniture, gorgeous oriental carpets, and in a splendid location in the heart of the old city (Bascarsija, the district of craftspersons and shops),

we lived comfortably and received the best care from our landlords, Mubera and Muhamed Tafro. Maria was the first Fulbright Scholar appointed to this Faculty (equivalent to a "school" in an American university), which is housed in a beautiful neo-Moorish building dating from 1887, and offers degrees in Islamic theology and religious pedagogy. Maria was invited to lecture in a course on comparative religion taught by a brilliant and kindly professor, Reshid Hafizovic; she lectured on American religions. I was also given an appointment, and during the latter half of the term tutored students in English conversation. I also gave a few lectures on religion and science, including one on evolution and creation to the Association of Muslim Scholars.

We were shown incredible hospitality. Dean Enes Karic was constantly solicitous; and he arranged for a junior faculty member, Aid Smajic, to squire us around the country. Thanks to him we visited Mostar, Travnik, Gorazde, Bihac, and places in between (check your map). We also became close friends with Bosnian Fulbrighter Azra Jaganac, and university professor Nevad Kahteran and his wife Amira. Nevad opened many doors for us (as did others): among the most stimulating and at times moving experiences were the many meetings and interviews with Sarajevans in the religious and political communities who gave us valuable insights into this country and its people, the 42 month siege of Sarajevo (1992-1995), the tragic war and genocide the people of BiH suffered, and their efforts to rebuild their country and a common civic life. Maria has invited many of these people (Muslims, Catholics and Orthodox) to contribute essays to a collection she hopes to edit and publish here: one that will introduce others to their stories. These wonderful people and their inspiring tales were the subjects of many of Bob's dispatches, which he plans to put in a blog and then in print. (If we don't have your email, please send it to us at rjschn39@bellsouth.net.)

It will take weeks to reflect on this experience, but here are a few thoughts. One of the most admirable things about the Bosnians is their ability to look reality squarely in the face. While suffering terribly in the war and the siege, they are bent on moving forward. We were struck by how little bitterness we heard from our friends and acquaintances, even as they told of terrible experiences. Another is their hospitality and generosity of spirit. Neither of us before had ever experienced such kindness and openness to strangers as the Bosnians showed us. A former Fulbrighter had advised Maria, "Just be yourself and love them, and they will love you back." And so they did. We established enduring friendships that we cherish, and our new friends in turn have taught us to better appreciate how valuable are the friendships we enjoy back home. One more thing: the Bosnians are a people who have lost much—loved ones in war, an economy that was ravaged and set back, and future opportunities. But they showed us how possible it is to live a valued life in the midst of great difficulties. We have come back to a land of Too Much: too much consumption, too much privilege, too much general wealth and too many choices (except for the poor and marginalized). We should like to import a company of Bosnians to the USA to teach us perhaps a better way to live: SLOW DOWN, be generously hospitable, don't make so many human encounters a commercial exchange, spend a lot of time with friends, live the day fully, talk about what is truly meaningful in life, give, be faithful—to God and to your neighbor.

Love,

Bob & Maria

Good to get all your good news. We were in Budapest this January. Will save for next year's letter. It was delightful.



the cleveland hungarian heritage society,

in collaboration with other Cleveland Hungarian organizations,
cordially invites you to a reception honoring

His Excellency
Dr. Otto von Habsburg

Humanitarian and Statesman

a clevelandi magyar történelmi társulat,

a clevelandi magyar egyesületek együttműködésével,
szeretettel meghívja Önt es kedves családját

Dr. Habsburg Ottó
Excellenciás Úr

tiszteletére rendezett fogadásra

Sunday, April 17, 2005
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Galleria at Erieview
1301 East 9th Street
Downtown Cleveland

The reception is free
Donations are appreciated

Due to space limitations, reservations are required.
Please call (440) 442-3466 or (216) 523-3900, or
e-mail maria@stratos.net before April 11, 2005.

Free parking in the Galleria
underground garage