

The Department of History

December 10, 1975

The Most Reverend James Malone
Bishop of Youngstown
Chancery Office
144 W. Wood Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

Dear Bishop Malone:

In response to your kind invitation to express views about the life of our diocese, and help facilitate the work of the Diocesan Synod, I am taking this opportunity to voice a deep concern on two issues, both related to the intellectual growth of this Christian community.

Since the fall of 1964 I have been teaching Medieval--Renaissance--and Reformation history at Youngstown State University. For the first six or seven years I was always very much impressed and gratified by the performance of students from Catholic High Schools in my classes. Not only were they generally better students, but when it came to the discussion of Church history and theology, they seemed very well prepared, and proud of the heritage of their Church. This unfortunately, has changed drastically. Although the number of students from Catholic High Schools in my classes is probably proportionally higher now than ever before, their understanding of the most fundamental beliefs of our Church is so poor that it constitutes a scandal. Most of the recent graduates have no concept of the evolution of the Christian Church, can not explain such fundamental concepts as "sacrament," "virtue," "sin," "indulgences," "transubstantiation," etc. The fact that many of these students have been in the parochial school system for twelve years, makes the situation even more shameful. As a historian, I feel very strongly that we cannot understand ourselves and our institutions unless we understand our history, our heritage.

The Church has a great tradition, it has inspired the best intellects and the greatest artists of the past. If we, however, do not nurture this tradition, do not understand our roots, and have no concept of its fundamentals, then there is little hope for our survival in an increasingly secular oriented society.

I most sincerely urge you and the Synod to take up this matter seriously and bring about major improvements in the religious education of our youth. "Relevance, social concern" and all the other "innovations"

are great but they are not a substitute for knowledge and understanding of the very basic fundamentals of our faith and heritage. May I also point out that I am not some ossified traditionalist unwilling to accept change. I am a 37 year old Professor, was progressive in outlook even before it became fashionable, in the Post-Vatican II era.

The second problem is tied to the first. The lack of knowledge among our youth is probably a reflection of the poor intellectual preparation of their teachers. In this connection, I would like to point out that since 1969 Youngstown State University has offered a Masters Degree in History. During this period not one of our graduate students was a member of the Roman Catholic clergy. We have had a very large number of Protestant clergymen enrolled in our program, in fact I would estimate that about 20% of our M.A. candidates have been clerics. I find it rather distressing that our clergy have not shown any interest in furthering their studies. As an example, several years ago I offered a graduate seminar in Medieval Church History. The response was: one Lutheran minister, one Byzantine Rite priest (auditor), one Orthodox priest, three Protestant lay students, one Jewish student, and one lay Catholic student. Unfortunately this is not a very impressive record. Coupled with the decline of excellence in the students which I mentioned in the first part of my letter and the unbelievable lack of intellectual sophistication shown by our clergy in their Sunday sermons, I would very strongly recommend that members of the priesthood, and especially those who teach, be encouraged, in fact required, to deepen their historical and theological knowledge by further study at any institution of higher education. This will not only make them better teachers, but they will be able to perform their other priestly functions in such a fashion, that the intellectual life of the parish as well as the diocese will greatly profit from them.

With the increasing number of well educated parishioners, the ministers of God must realize that there is an obligation to constantly grow intellectually. If this does not occur, the number of laymen who will be alienated by the ignorance of the clergy will only grow with each passing year.

In the sincere hope that these comments will be helpful to you and members of the Synod, I remain in the love of the Lord

Sincerely yours,

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

LSD:sf

The Department of History

December 9, 1975

Rev. Robert Gibas
St. Christine Parish
3165 Schenley Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44511

Dear Reverend Gibas:

Over four weeks ago you gave a presentation during the meeting for the parents of children who will be recipients of First Holy Communion. Following your lecture I came to you and expressed my dissatisfaction with the historical accuracy of your talk and indicated that you would need a solid refresher course in Church History.

Upon further reflection on that evening, I realize that my comments, although true, were not presented in a Christian, charitable fashion. Furthermore, criticism without solution is not the proper method to correct errors.

There are basically three items which keep bothering me and which prompt me to write to you.

1. I am still mystified by what you were trying to do that evening. I was prepared to hear about the preparation of my child by the school to receive the Eucharist. What I heard was very disappointing. I obviously did not expect quotations from Schmauss' Geschichte der Dogmatic nor the new insights into Rahner or Kung. I am rather surprised that at a parish where there certainly must be many educated and intelligent members, the clergy refuses to rise to their level.
2. As I indicated to you, I feel that your presentation was inaccurate, misleading and missed some major points completely.
3. Finally, when we talked briefly and I urged you to look into some of the problems, you indicated that you intended to use the same presentation again, and felt that it was accurate. This I find most disturbing, but realize that it was probably a reaction to my tactless approach.

As I indicated before, criticism without solutions has no meaning. This is why I am addressing myself to you, with the sincere hope that I can be of assistance to you.

December 9, 1975

Please do not feel offended by my letter, it is not intended to embarrass or humiliate you. Also keep in mind that you are in good company: Pope John XXII, in the fourteenth century, was condemned by the Faculty of Theology of the University of Paris for preaching heretical doctrines from the pulpit. Your situation is far less serious.

My own interest in ecclesiastical history goes back many years. I received my doctorate in Medieval Studies from the University of Notre Dame and also took a number of courses in Church History from a distinguished list of professors at the University of Vienna. Since my appointment to the university faculty here, I have been teaching Medieval--Renaissance--Reformation courses, both to undergraduate and graduate students, and in all cases there is a strong emphasis on the development of the Church, its history and theology.

It is in a true spirit of friendship that I invite you to call me so that in the future you can avoid the unfortunate mistakes and distortions which were evident in your presentation. I would be delighted to be of assistance to you, to help you revise your presentation, improve its organization, to raise it to an adult level, and correct the historical misjudgments.

Although the Christmas vacations are beginning this week you can usually reach me at the University (746-1851, Ext. 436) or any evening at home (783-0501), and we could set up a mutually convenient time to discuss the problems raised.

In the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

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

LSD:sf

April 10, 1975

Miss Rita Abraham
Program Specialist
Division of Fellowships
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Miss Abraham:

Last December I inquired concerning your program for Independent Study and you were kind enough to respond immediately and promised to send the required applications forms which have since arrived.

Since my initial letter of inquiry my plans have changed and a colleague and I have submitted an application for a Planning Grant to the NEH. This obviously means that if we receive the desired funds it will be impossible for me at this time to pursue my own research as I had hoped with a Fellowship for Independent Study.

Would you be so kind and keep my name on your mailing list and as soon as matters become more definite I will be able to decide if and when I should apply for a Fellowship in your program.

Sincerely yours,

L.S. Domonkos, Ph.D
Assoc. Prof. of History

LSD/ck

The Department of History

April 8, 1975

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

Dear Professor Dreisziger:

Thank you for the good news that my article will be published in your next issue. I certainly sympathize with your problem as editor with the postal difficulties you face. Hopefully all will go well and there will be no more strikes or disruptions of postal service to delay publication.

In response to two of your questions:

- 1) The title of Marki Sandor's book is indeed Dosa Gyorgy and not Dozwa. I also was puzzled by this when I prepared the footnote and double checked it. So please do not change, or have any of the readers change it.
- 2) Your second query concerns the translation of Hungarian titles and their place within the footnote. Looking over the paper I do see the problem but feel that it can be handled by the editor without any difficulty. Please use your editorial prerogative and place these translations either before the place and date of publication or after it. I will go along with any system that you will adopt and promise to follow it faithfully if I would submit other articles in the future.

Once you have decided where the translation should go, this can be indicated to the printer with arrows. If this is complicated or causes you excessive work, please return it to me for re-typing. I hope that this will not be necessary.

Please accept my sincere thanks for all your work in my behalf, and I hope that my article will be well received by the readership. In the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos

The Department of History

April 8, 1975

Dr. Oleh S. Pidhainy
Department of History
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama 36830

Dear Oleh,

Several months ago, in reply to the call for articles which you sent out, I did forward to you a paper that I had read at the Duquesne University History Forum. I have not heard from you since, furthermore the New Review issues at the Youngstown State University Library are running far behind. I wonder what happened to it?

Would you please let me know if you will be able to publish my paper for if this is not the case, I will seek another journal where publication would take less time.

I hope you are well and that all is going smoothly for both you and your family. Please drop me a note to explain your long silence.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

The Department of History

April 8, 1975

Mrs. Elizabeth Story Donno, Editor
Renaissance Quarterly
The Renaissance Society of America
1161 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10027

Dear Mrs. Donno:

Last summer the publishing house of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Akademiai Kiado) sent me a copy of one of their recent publications with a note that they would like to have the book reviewed in the Studies for the Renaissance.

Knowing that the above mentioned publication does not have a Book Review section I wrote to the Academy Press in Budapest asking for clarification. I have not received a response from them and so I am turning to you for advise.

The book I received is from Budapest is:

Robert Dan, Humanizmus, Reformacio, Anti-Trinitarizmus es a Heber nyelv Magyarorszagon. [Humanism, Reformation, anti-Trinitarianism and the Hebrew Language in Hungary] Akademiai Kiado, 1973, pp. 272.

Since both the Studies as well as the Renaissance Quarterly are published by the Renaissance Society of America I presume that the Akademiai Kiado intended the review to appear in the Quarterly and not in the Studies. The whole matter is somewhat confusing and their method of seeking a review for the book unorthodox.

I have read the volume, found it to be excellent, and would like to review it for your journal. Obviously I would like to know if you would be willing to publish such a review before I put in the time and effort required for such a task. The Hungarian Renaissance is my field of specialty and I am in the process of writing a monograph on Matthias Corvinus (1458-1490), Hungary's great Renaissance ruler. I have done research in Vienna and Budapest in this area.

In the hope of learning from you on this matter, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos, Ph.D.

The Department of History

March 13, 1975

Miss Ida Greiner
Chief Case Work Supervisor
Children Services Board of
Mahoning County
700 Stambaugh Building
Youngstown, Ohio 44501

Dear Miss Greiner:

I am writing to you in the hope that in your capacity as Chief Case-Work Supervisor you can help us in our hour of need.

Last year my wife Eva and I applied as prospective foster parents for the county and were approved after the usual visitations and interviews. In December we had our first foster child, a little boy who stayed with us for about 10 days.

On January 5 of this year we received a new born infant, Julie, who has been with us since. From the first day in our home we have fallen in love with this beautiful child and this love does not only emanate from my wife and myself but also from our three children.

On Monday of this week we were informed that Julie will soon be taken from us and placed into a permanent home. We have indicated to both Mrs. Jones and Miss Zeman that we would like to keep Julie permanently, but received no encouragement. I am therefore, appealing to you, Miss Greiner, for your assistance.

The desire on our part to adopt a child is not a sentiment that has suddenly appeared under the influence of Julie's presence in our home. After having lost two infants we decided to adopt and made application to the Catholic Agency in 1972. Unfortunately the severe illness of my wife in 1973 led us to drop these plans. Since her complete recovery we decided to be at least foster parents and this is how Julie was placed in our home. This baby fits all the qualities, physical and emotional, that we wanted in an adopted child and our wish is to keep her. Let me assure you that you would not find a more loving and secure home for this little child in all of Mahoning County than our home.

Obviously your objective is to place a child into a home where she will find security and love. We feel strongly that we can provide this. I also know that you have certain rules that have to be followed in getting a home approved for adoption. We are obviously willing to follow all these rules. We would like to make formal application immediately to adopt Julie and would like to ask you to keep the baby in our home as a foster child until the time that the adoption process is complete.

Let me again assure you that this is not a sentimental, spur of the moment decision, but a desire on our part which has roots that go back many years. I appeal to you as a kind human being, to please help us in this problem. We are willing to do anything to make this adoption possible. Please contact us either at home (783-0501) or at my office at Youngstown State University (Ext. 436) at any time.

Wn the hope of hearing from you at your earliest convenience, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos, Ph.D.
Assoc. Prof. of History

LSD:sf

The Department of History

March 6, 1975

Kultura H
Hungarian Trading Co. for Books
P. O. B. 149
Budapest, Hungary

Gentlemen:

For over a year I have not received a Catalogue from Kultura and would like to be placed on your mailing list again.

In the past years I have purchased books from your company for the Youngstown State University Library as well as for my personal use. While in Hungary for the academic year 1970-1971 I made extensive purchases from Kultura and have always been satisfied with your services.

My primary interest is Hungarian Medieval and Renaissance History. Would you please send me your catalogues in the Hungarian History category.

In the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

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

LSD:sf

December 18, 1974

Prof
Pach Zsigmond Pal, Director
MTA Tortenettudományi Intézet
Uri n. 51-53
H-1250 Budapest I, Hungary

Dear Professor Pach:

On the two occasions that I have spent time in Budapest at the Historical Institute you were always extremely kind and solicitous, for which I am always grateful. This kindness prompts me to ask you for a favor, which I hope, will not be difficult to carry out.;

I have for years been following with interest your most valuable work in agrarian history and other related fields and am familiar with your publications, which I intend to include in my study on the Age of Matthias Corvinus in Hungary. In a recently published popular journal published in Hungary for the information of Hungarians living abroad, I read an account by Dr. Kőpeczi from the Hungarian Academy about the discussion concerning the question of Nationalism. He refers to several comments which you have made at the meeting of the Academy on this subject and naturally I am very much interested in reading about them in more detail. Would you be so kind, therefore, and send me any reprint of your position on this most interesting question. I will be very grateful to you for your kindness.

Allow me to extend to you my most sincere personal good wishes for the coming year. With warm regards, I remain,

L. S. Domonkos Ph.D.

L. S. Domonkos, Ph.D.
Assoc. Prof. of History

Dear Prof. H. Kreisiger

Thank you for a letter mailed from Fairhaven, N.Y. which arrived here yesterday. I was not aware of Canada had a postal strike but your original letter must indeed be stranded somewhere because it has not reached Glogau yet.

I was delighted to hear that in your judgment the article appears acceptable. I do hope you find an expert who will agree with your judgment.

Had you not written to me concerning the footnote and acknowledgments I would have brought it up once the paper was accepted. I would very much like to have the following footnote to the title inserted:
single → This paper was presented at the 16th C. Conference in St. Louis, Mo. in Oct. 1974. The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of the International Research & Exchange Board (IREX) of N.Y. and the Historical Literary Institutes of the Hungarian Academy for supporting and aiding his research. He would also like to acknowledge the ^{(guidance) support} assistance of Mr. A.L. Gabriel of the Medieval Institute of the University of Notre Dame and the financial assistance of the Graduate Research Council of YSU.

Would this addition be agreeable to you? There are obvious reasons why I would have to or would like to include them.

February 21, 1975

Ms. Susan Bolotin
Educational Director
for Social Services
Random House 11-1
201 East 50th St.
New York, New York 10022

Dear Ms. Bolotin:

Please send me the following two titles for possible class adoption in my history courses in Medieval Civilization and Reformation Europe:

Maxine Rodinson, Mohammed - /71677

E. M. W. Tillyard, The Elizabethan World - /70162

Thank you for the opportunity to see these books for possible adoption in classes.

Cordially yours,

L.S. Domanikos, Ph.D.
Assoc.Prof. of History

LSD/ck

The Department of History

February 14, 1975

Dr. N. F. Dreisziger, Editor
Canadian-American Review of Hungarian Studies
Department of History
Royal Military College of Canada
Kingston, Ontario CANADA

Dear Professor Dreisziger:

It was with great pleasure that I received your letter of January 29, 1975 and was particularly interested in the five reprints you were kind enough to include. I have read them with great interest and commend you on your excellent scholarship.

Enclosed you will find two reprints of my own. I have run out of two other reprint sets but will send you other articles as they appear.

At the time your letter arrived I was in the final stages of work on my article on Education before Mohacs. It is now complete and I am enclosing it. As I had indicated to you in my initial letter the paper was delivered at the Annual Sixteenth Century Conference in St. Louis, Mo. My presentation was very well received and there was special enthusiasm on the part of Prof. Paul Knoll of USC (an expert of the University of Cracow in the Renaissance) who was the chairman of the session, and Prof. Harold Grim of Ohio State, the doyen of American Reformation Scholars. Both encouraged publication, indicating that nothing in English is available on this phase of Hungarian cultural history. I was particularly gratified to read in your letter that the journal would like to publish an article dealing with education in Hungary. I sincerely hope that my article will fill this need.

Thank you for the reassurance that if you decide to publish my article, it will probably be this year. I am looking forward for word from you concerning the decision of your editorial board. In the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos
Assoc. Prof. of History

LSD:sf

The Department of History

February 19, 1975

Dr. Asa S. Knowles, President
Northeastern University
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Dear President Knowles:

Your letter of February 14, 1975 arrived yesterday and I am most impressed with the project you have undertaken. The International Encyclopedia of Higher Education will fill a need for a reference work of this type.

I would be delighted to participate in this project and feel deeply honored that you are asking me to write an article for the Encyclopedia. The topic of "History of Higher Education" is challenging and I hope to be able to write an article which will be informative, scholarly and of a broad scope. Most of my own work has been in the history of Medieval Universities and this is probably why Prof. A. L. Gabriel recommended my name to you. For years I have had a personal interest in the historical development of higher education and so I am looking forward to develop an essay of 4,000 words in this area.

In order to facilitate my work I would very much appreciate if you would send, at your earliest convenience, some material and instructions on the following items:

- a. A more detailed description of the topic to be treated, i.e. the chronological span of the article, the geographic spread, if there are areas which should or should not be stressed. I do realize that the international character of the Encyclopedia dictates that the article emphasize the various cultures which have contributed to the rise of Higher Education.
- b/ Information on the format. Does the Encyclopedia give bibliographical information for further reading (as in the case of the Brittanica) if yes, how extensive. Are any articles signed?
- c. When do you want to receive an outline of the article. I realize that the completed article should be in your hands by July, 1975.

Let me again indicate my enthusiasm for the project and hope that my contribution to the Encyclopedia will be of the calibre that you, as Editor-in-Chief will be pleased to include in this scholarly publication.

In the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos, Ph.D.
Assoc. Prof. of History

LSD:sf

The Department of History

February 10, 1975

Dr. Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr., Editor
Phi Kappa Phi Journal
Cullom-Davis Library
Bradley University
Peoria, Illinois 61625

Dear Dr. Lightfoot:

In the spring of 1973 I was asked by the Vice President for Academic Affairs to deliver the Honors Day Address at Youngstown State University. It was with great pleasure that I undertook the task of writing a speech which would be informative, interesting and would fit the occasion. The result was an essay entitled "The Relevance of the Renaissance Idea of Man." The speech was very well received by colleagues and students and was circulated in a mimeograph copy among a large number of people on campus.

While reading the Fall issue of the Phi Kappa Phi Journal I decided to send you my essay for possible publication in the future. Please read the enclosed nine pages and determine if it would be suitable for publication in the Journal. If you decide to print it, you have full editorial right to make whatever changes you feel would enhance the value of the essay.

IN the hope of hearing from you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours,

L. S. Domonkos
Associate Professor
Department of History

LSD:sf

To Dr. Leon Rand, Dean of the Graduate School
From, LCD, Dept. of History.

Subject.

Enclosed you will find authorization from the editor of the New Review to have my article on the University of Pozsony reproduced.

~~Since the first~~ I would like to request that Mrs. Portridge be allowed to run 75 copies of the reprints instead of the 50 I originally requested. This would not up the expense significantly and based upon the response I received from the mailing of my article on the "State of Education", 50 copies would not be enough. A telephone call from you to the print shop would probably be sufficient.

Thanking you for your continued kindness,
I remain,