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Dear Friends,

*MKCsBK Newsletter #4, October 3, 2008*

As Central Director of the MKCsBK and webmaster for our csendőr website, I have the privilege of reading the letters and emails addressed to our organization. Many express their appreciation for our work, but a theme that consistently comes across is a lament for a bygone era when the csendőrs patrolled our homeland and one could feel secure knowing they were near. There is also a sense of awe and fear, mingled with respect and appreciation. Let me quote a few lines from a recent letter (translated from Hungarian). “ It is difficult to counter the influence of 45 years of communist propaganda because even up to this day people are afraid to mention the name of ‘csendőr.’ I use every opportunity in my village though to talk about them. After cautiously looking around, the villagers will slowly open up and share their thoughts. They recall by name the csendőrs whom they feared. They share that, yes, an occasional needed slap or two was given by a csendőr to help guide an individual in the proper direction. With longing memory they recall when their doors to the street did not need to be locked and there was no fear for children playing outside day or night. They say that when the csendőrs walked through the village, everyone greeted them and showed respect. And if anyone had something to hide, he crossed over to the other side of the street.” Often they write, “if only the csendőrs were here again, things would be much better.”

It may seem a little premature, but we have already set the date for the next csendőr conference here in the U.S. in Venice, Florida, with God’s help, for Saturday, February 21, 2009. This should give those who would like to attend plenty of lead-time to make preparations. It is always a pleasure to meet old friends and renew acquaintances at these conferences.

We made many changes to the website in recent months to make it more user friendly and also to enhance its usefulness as a reference source for those doing research on the Hungarian gendarmerie. The most notable changes:

1. As a result of a dialogue with Dr. József Parádi, president of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-Történeti Tudományos Társaság (Hungarian History of Law Enforcement Academic Society), we added a summary of the gendarmerie’s history to the website, and updated the content and format of the Bibliography section of the website’s *Library* to meet professional standards. We also included a brief history of the MKCsBK with the history of the gendarmerie, and made it available both in Hungarian

and in English through the opening page of the respective languages (click onto the underlined word in the last line of the page to access it).

2. The layout of the web site has been changed and the topics of *Legal Archives*, *Document Archives*, *Literature Archives*, and *References* are now located under the general heading of *Library*.
3. The newly added *Legal Archives* already contains the gendarmerie-related *Laws*, which Dr. Parádi compiled, digitized and made available for the website. It eventually will contain the *Regulations* as well, which directed all aspects of the gendarmes' work and life. These were published in the (mostly) annual *Csendőrségi Közlöny a Magyar Királyi Csendőrség Számára* between 1912 and 1918, and later in the *Csendőrségi Közlöny*, between 1924 and 1945. The communist regime destroyed these and kept only a few copies in locations not available to the public. Now anyone may research them, but their small number and limited locations forbid easy access. Their digitization would make them available worldwide for anyone interested in the more in-depth study of this great law-enforcement body. As the government is seemingly uninterested in this task, it is up to private efforts to make this happen. At Dr. Parádi's request, Dobai Miklós, the previous president of the Horthy Miklós Society, took upon himself the tedious and time-consuming task of scanning this material into computer for our website. The MKCsBK is indebted to him for this great service.
4. Dr. Csaba Csapó, historian, has permitted us to place onto the web site a useful research tool, his index of words pertaining to the gendarmerie in all published materials between (1867-) 1881-1914 (under *References* of the *Library*).
5. The most recent newsletter is now also available on website, both in English and in Hungarian, under the **recently added heading of News**. This heading also includes other news items.
6. The Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-Történeti Tudományos Társaság annually hosts a conference where historians present their latest research on Hungary's law enforcement history. The presentations are then bound in one annual volume. These volumes are now listed on the website under the heading of the *Szemere Bertalan Journals*, along with a short synopsis of each article, and are also made available for purchase.
7. A **Search button** has been added to the site (below the pictorial category headings) allowing one to find a particular word on our web site or on the Internet in general.
8. The site was enriched with many more pictures (now nearing 1,300) and articles.

In the past three years there were over 15,000 visits to our website, 600-700 a month in recent times.

Dr. Sándor Szakály compiled a list of senior csendőr officers (found on the website under *Writings about the Csendőrség (Hungarian)* in the *Document Archives* of the *Library*. This is Dr. Szakály's ongoing project, and the list is still far from being complete. **If anyone of our readers has information** about the missing data, please contact us.

We have finished updating and digitizing the address list of those people expressing an interest to receive our Newsletters. Therefore, now we can use the computerized address labels on the mailing envelopes. We ask you to **let us know if there are any errors** on your address label, if your address has changed, or if you should move in the future. And let us know, if you have not done so already, **if you desire to stay on our mailing list**.

We appreciate the continued financial support to the work of the MKCsBK. We acknowledge and thank our recent donors:  
*Advocate:* Károly Bartha, Kálmán Beothy  
*Patron:* Clara Solymos, Gyula Szalay.  
All donations are tax deductible.

One of the csendőrs in Hungary recently made us aware of the financial need of a former csendőr's son. Faithful to the original purpose of the MKCsBK, we have forwarded \$200 as a financial aid.

Since the last Newsletter, we have received the sad news of the passing of yet another three csendőrs: András Lengyel szakaszvezető, Károly Ratky, and Louis Fazekas. We are indebted to them for their service to our homeland and wish to extend to their families our deepest condolences.



We recently ordered white polo shirts with a Hungarian gendarme embroidered on the left chest, as can be seen on the picture above. The text reads, "Magyar Királyi Csendőrség 1881-1945, Híven, becsülettel, vitézül. We still have three medium size shirts and eight large ones. Their price is \$20 each, plus shipping. If you are interested in ordering, please contact us through the website or by mail.

We continue to **solicit information** from you that would be of interest to the csendőr community. Thank you for all those who have contributed with letters, pictures, resources, and encouragement.

With best regards,

Zoltán v. Körössy  
MKCsBK Central Director

*Híven, becsülettel, vitézül*