

CompLit 410/510, Spring 1996

Thu 15:30-18:20

Chapman 203

Instructor: Enikő Bollobás

Office hours: Wed 1-3

Office: Humanities Ctr153, 6-1003

Modern Hungarian Literature in Translation

LITERATURE AND SOCIETY IN POST-COMMUNIST EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE

April 4 The region: an overview

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" (Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993)

Zoltan Grossman, "Erecting the New Wall" (Z Magazine, March 1994)

Jenő Szücs, "The Three Historical regions of Europe"

April 11 Hungarian society -- the legacy of communism

Readings: *R. Andorka, "Changes in Hungarian Society ..."

*E. Bollobás, "The Future of Our Past ..."

April 18 Fin-de-siècle Mittel-Europa

John Lukács, Budapest 1900

Readings: E. Ady, "The Kiss," Gy. Krúdy, "The Last Cigar at the Grey Arab,"

S. Hunyady, "Adventure in Uniform" (all in The Kiss)

April 25 Psychology & literature

Readings: G. Csáth, "Little Emma," D. Kosztolányi, "Omelette à Woburn"

(in The Kiss)

PRESENTATION: Sándor Ferenczi

PRESENTATION: M. Babits, The Nightmare

PRESENTATION: A. Szerb, The Traveler

May 2 Jewish writers and the Jewish community

Readings: M. Radnóti, poems (in Sulfur and on *handouts)

*Gy. Konrád, "The Ides of October," "Bihar County Homecoming"

*Ch. Fenyvesi, When the World was Whole

(selected chapters or PRESENTATION)

May 9 Faces of oppression/1

Readings: Bora Cosic, "Russians by Trade," Drago Jancar, "Repetition,"

Slavenka Drakulic, "The Balkan Express," Hanna Krall, "Retina,"
Jerzy Pilch, "The Register of Adulteresses," Pawel Huelle, "Mina,"
Victor Paskov, "Big Business" (in Description of a Struggle)

May 16 **Faces of oppression/2**

Readings: P. Nádas, "Vivisection," P. Esterházy, "Down the Danube,"
L. Grendel, "The Contents of Suitcases," Bohumil Hrabal, "The Pink
Scarf," Eda Kristeová, "The Unborn," Ana Blandiana, "The Open
Window," Svetlana Vasilieva, "The Time of Peonies," Viktor Lapitskii,
"Ants" (in Description of a Struggle); F. Juhász, "The Biography of a
Woman," G. Szöcs, "Commentary on an Old Review" (in Sulfur)

May 23 **Women in Eastern Europe -- women writers**

Readings: *E. Bollobás, "'Totalitarian Lib': the Legacy of Communism..."
*E. Bollobás, "How to Go on Living as an East-European (Woman)?"
*poems of G. Hervay, J. Tóth, M. Szécsi, Zs. Takács, A. Nemes-Nagy

May 30 **Postcommunism**

Readings: G. Ottlik, "Logbook," P. Esterházy, "The Transporters"
(in The Hungarian Quartet)

June 6 **Wrapping up**

Texts:

Description of a Struggle, ed. Michael March

The Kiss. 20th Century Hungarian Short Stories, ed. I. Bart

Sulfur, #21 (optional)

A Hungarian Quartet. Four Contemporary Short Novels, ed. Mária Körösy (optional)

Copies of readings marked with an asterisk (*) shall be supplied to students or placed on RESERVE at the Library.

Grades shall be based on (i) class participation and (ii) a term paper. You may (also/only) wish to give a lengthier and more formal presentation (15-20 minutes) on one of the marked topics. The 10-15 page term paper is due June 6; I would like you to discuss your topic of choice with me before starting to work on it.