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KOSSUTH SICK-BENEFIT ASSOCIATION COLLECTION

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Prepared in 2002 by George Demmer and Art
Grenke for the Social and Cultural Archives

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culturelles

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INTRODUCTION

The first Hungarian sick-benefit association was formed in Western Canada in 1901, followed by the establishment of a similar association in Hamilton in 1907. Hungarian sick-benefit associations in Eastern and Western Canada united to form the **Hungarian Canadian Mutual Benefit Federation** (HCMBF), which received its charter in January, 1928. It changed its name to the **Independent Mutual Benefit Federation** (IMBF) when communist-oriented sick-benefit associations of other ethnic groups joined it as affiliates. In 1940, the three largest members of the Federation, the Hungarian, Slovak and English, formed separate sections of the IMBF, with the Hungarian communist section assuming the name **Kossuth Sick-Benefit Association**.

As the Communist Party of USA was influential in Hungarian workers' organizations in Canada, its paper, the *Új ElÁre* [New Forward], wielded considerable influence until it lost its mailing privileges in Canada. To replace it, the *Kanadai Magyar Munkás* [Canadian Hungarian Worker] was launched by the **Hungarian Publishing Association**, on July 16th, 1929. Published until 1967, it served as mouthpiece of the communist-oriented Hungarian workers' movement. The publishing company also published the official organ of the Independent Mutual Benefit Federation, "*Az ÚttörÁ*" [The Pioneer]. In addition, to provide women workers with politically correct reading material, it brought out the monthly periodical *A NÁ* [The Woman], from 1940-1961.

To promote and assist the *Kanadai Magyar Munkás* [Canadian Hungarian Worker] financially, a number of communist-oriented workers' clubs were formed in Eastern Canada in the 1930s. On the 26th of April 1931, eight such clubs united to form the **Workers' Clubs Association**, with headquarters in Hamilton. When these Clubs were forced to close immediately after the outbreak of World War II, club members reorganized themselves to form the **Canadian Hungarian Democratic Federation**, which in 1948 changed its name to the **Hungarian Literature Association**. The Association imported books, periodicals, scripts for plays and other reading material from communist Hungary, for distribution and sale in Canada. **The Hungarian Film Distributors**, in turn, imported movies from Hungary, for Hungarian-speaking audiences in Canada. Through such means, these organizations sought to recruit new members, be this for their own organizations, for the IMBF, or for the Communist Party of Canada.

After the Second World War, the **United Hungarian Canadian Relief Committee** (1945-1948) was formed to aid war-ravaged, post-World War II Hungary. It was supported by all Hungarian organizations, no matter what their political or religious orientation. Working through the **United Canadian Relief Fund** and the **Canadian Red Cross**, it collected and distributed some \$90,000 among needy Hungarians of the old homeland.

Kossuth Sick-Benefit Association Collection

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Container	File	File Title	Date
KOSSUTH SICK-BENEFIT ASSOCIATION Kossuth Betegsegélyző Egylet			
1	1	Names and addresses of Branch secretaries	n.d.
1	2	Circulars (in Hungarian)	1962, 1974
1	3	Correspondence	1957-1982
1	4	Clippings	1972-1983
1	5	Samples of booklets (in Hungarian) published in Moscow (1933) and Toronto (by the Progressive Labour Party, 1945-1953 and the <i>Kanadai Magyar Munkás Könyvtár, 1932</i>)	1932-1953
1	6	Ledger of distribution and sale of various Hungarian books and periodicals	1936-1939
INDEPENDENT MUTUAL BENEFIT FEDERATION (IMBF) Független Betegsegélyző Szövetség			
Administration			
1	7	Correspondence	1950-1977
1	8	Minutes of Meetings held by Trustees	1940-1962
1	9	Minutes and Reports of the National Conventions	1944-1959
1	10	Minutes of meetings of the Grand Council	1950-1953
1	11	Minutes of meetings of the Grand Council	1954-1956

Container	File	File Title	Date
1	12-13	Minutes of meetings of the Administrative Committee (one file per three years)	1949-1954
1	14	Minutes of meetings of the Administrative Committee	1955-1956
1	15-21	Minutes of meetings of the National Executive Committee of the Maple Leaf Mutual Society [hereafter MLMS] (one file per year)	1944-1950
1	22	Minutes of meetings of the National Executive Committee of the MLMS	1952-1953
1	23	Invitations to meetings of the National Executive Committee of the MLMS	1953-1954
1	24	<i>The Guide</i> , periodical, the official organ of the IMBF (1-7)	1938
1	25	<i>The Guide</i> (No. I/8 – III/12)	1939-1942
1	26	<i>The Guide</i> (No. 12, 14-26, 28, 32, 34-40)	1943-1950
1	27	<i>The Guide</i> (n.n.)	1951-1960
1	28	<i>The Guide</i> , proof of the Dec. 1956 issue	1956
2	1	<i>The Guide</i> , manuscripts for the periodical	1952-1954
2	2	Circulars	1948-1963
2	3	Membership List Membership fluctuation in Branches	1938 1952-1954
2	4	Lists of dropped members	1937-1944
2	5	List of members by year of birth	[1943]
2	6	Membership Standing (one file per year)	1949-1951
2	9	Sick Benefit Statements, by Provinces	1945-1963
2	10	Membership Lists, by branch	n.d.
2	11-12	Membership of Branch 12, Toronto (one file per year)	1960-1961
2	13	Associated Medical Board, Monthly Reports (Br. 12)	1960-1961
2	14-15	Lists of Recruiters for the annual Membership Campaign and lists of new members (four years per file)	1955-1962

Container	File	File Title	Date
2	16	Miscellaneous (Invitations, manuscripts, Application for Membership, various periodicals, etc.)	1952-1978
General Financial Records			
2	17	Ledger - Group Insurance, Mortgages (1953.I.-1955.XII)	1953-1955
2	18	Ledger – Income (1956.VIII.-1959.VIII)	1956-1959
3	1	Ledger – Income (1960.I.-1961.XII)	1960-1961
3	2	Ledger – Income (1962.I.-1963.IX)	1962-1963
3	3	Ledger – Income (1963.X.-1965.IX)	1963-1965
3	4	Ledger – Income (1965.X.-1967.IX)	1965-1967
3	5	Ledger – Income (1967.X.-1969.X)	1967-1969
3	6	Ledger – Income (1969.XI.-1971.XII)	1969-1971
3	7	Ledger – Income (1972.I.-1974.VI)	1972-1974
3	8	Ledger – Income (1974.VII.-1977.V)	1974-1977
3	9	Ledger – Income (1962.VII.-1966.XII)	1962-1966
4	1	Ledger – Expenses (1959.III.-1961.X)	1959-1961
4	2	Ledger – Expenses (1964.X.-1967.IX)	1964-1967
5	1	Ledger – Expenses (1967.X.-1970.XII)	1967-1970
5	2	Ledger – Expenses (1971.I.-1974.VI)	1971-1974
6	1	Ledger – Expenses (1974.VII.-1978.VI)	1974-1978

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Container	File	File Title	Date
6	2	Ledger listing income and expenditures (1946.I.-1950.VIII) (see: „Canadian Federation of Democratic Hungarians” Vol. VIII. No. 18)	1946-1958
7	1	Financial Statements	1951-1978
7	2	Ledger - Financial Account of the Associated Medical Board	1949-1954
7	3	Stub-book of Federation members’ receipts (1974.VII.-XII)	1974
7	4-6	Stub-books of Federation members’ receipts (one file per year	1977-1979
7	7	Stub-book of receipts for Federation members at large	1974
8	1-3	Bank Statements (cheques enclosed; one file per year)	1977-1979
8	4-5	Bills and Receipts (one file per year)	1977-1978
8	6	Bills and Receipts related to the 50th Anniversary Celebration	1978
8	7	Bills and Receipts	1979

**CANADIAN FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC
HUNGARIANS**
Kanadai Demokratikus Magyarok Szövetsége

Administration

8	8	Circulars	1946-1948
8	9-11	Correspondence (one file per year) (Orders, Invoices and related correspondence)	1946-1948
8	12	Distribution and sale of various Hungarian books and the <i>Kanadai Magyar Naptár</i> [Canadian Hungarian Year Book] (see oversized container: Volume 6, File 2)	1944-1946
8	13	Distribution and sales of the <i>Kanadai Magyar Naptár</i> [Canadian Hungarian Year Book]	1947-1948
8	14-15	Income Tax (one file per three years) (Tax Deductions, Returns and related correspondence.)	1943-1948

Container	File	File Title	Date
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General Financial Records

8	16	Bank Statements	n.d.
8	17	Ledger listing income and expenditures (194.IX.-1945.XII)	1941-1945
8	18	Ledger listing income and expenditures (1946.I.-1950.VII)	1946-1950

HUNGARIAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
Magyar Irodalmi Társaság

Administration

8	19	Constitution, Aims, Objectives, Minutes, Reports	1951-1957
8	20	Circulars	1948-1955

Correspondence

Importation

Correspondence related to the importation of books and sale of Canadian periodicals (arranged chronologically)

9	1	Correspondence with the Hungarian World Federation	1948
9	2	Correspondence with the Hungarian World Federation	1949-1953
9	3-10	Orders, Invoices and related correspondence (one file per year)	1950-1956

Distribution

Orders, Invoices and related correspondence - mainly with individuals in Canada and the USA (arranged by geographical location)

Container	File	File Title	Date
9	11	Alberta	1953-1956
9	12-13	British Columbia	1954-1958
9	14	Ontario	1954-1958
9	15	Brantford	1953-1957
9	16	Delhi	1954-1957
9	17	Fort William	1954-1957
9	18	Hamilton	1954-1958
9	19	Niagara Falls	1953-1957
9	20	Oshawa	1953-1958
9	21	Ottawa	1954-1955
9	22	Port Colbourne	1953-1957
9	23	St. Catharines	1955-1957
9	24	Sudbury	1954-1957
9	25-30	Toronto (one file per year)	1953-1958
9	31	Wallaceburg	1954-1958
9	32	Welland	1954-1958
9	33	Windsor	1953-1957
9	34	Manitoba	1953-1958
9	35	Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Yukon	1954-1957
10	1	Quebec	1954-1955
10	2	Saskatchewan	1953-1958
10	3	U.S.A.	1953-1958

Material for Dramatic Performances

(Poems, scripts for plays and music for public performances at different national holidays or social events)

Container	File	File Title	Date
10	4	Selected Hungarian poems	n.d.
10	5	Hungarian Folk and Patriotic Songs (text only)	n.d.
10	6	Hungarian Folk and Patriotic Songs (text and music sheets	n.d., 1951-1956
10	7	Music Scores (Vocal, instrumental)	1948-1957
10	8	„Sixty Poems by A. Petőfi (1823-1849)” Translated into English verse by E. Bayard and E. Dalmár	1949
10	9	Text of Selected Poems in English, French, Spanish, Slovak (Plays)	n.d.
10	10	List of Hungarian Plays	n.d.
10	11	Monologues	n.d.
10	12	One Act Plays	n.d.
10	13	Jókai, Mór: <i>Szabadság szerelem</i> , ..., (play in 3 acts)	n.d.
10	14	Móricz Zsigmond: <i>Rokonok</i> (play in 4 acts) [1932]	n.d.
10	15	Móricz, Zsigmond: Relatives (translation of <i>Rokonok</i>)	n.d.
10	16	Illyés, Gyula: <i>Az ozorai példa</i> (play in 3 acts) [1952]	n.d.
10	17	Reményik, Zsigmond: <i>Kard és kocka</i> (play in 3 acts) [1955]	n.d.
10	18	Szigligeti, Ede: <i>Liliomfi</i> (play in 3 acts)[1849]	n.d.

General Financial Records

10	19	Distribution and sale of Hungarian books and the Canadian Hungarian Year Book (1949,1950)	1947-1950
10	20	Distribution and sale of the Canadian Hungarian Year Book	1950-1953
10	21	Ledger listing income and expenditures (1950.VIII.-1953.XII)	1950-1953
10	22	Ledger listing income and expenditures (1954.I.-1955.II)	1954-1955
11	1-2	Bank statements and cheques (three years per file)	1949-1954

Container	File	File Title	Date
11	3	Bank statement and cheques	1958
11	4-7	Invoices, receipts, bills (six months per file)	1949-1950
11	8	Income Tax Deductions, Returns, Unemployment Insurance and related correspondence	1948-1958
11	9	Payroll (1947.X.- 1957.XII)	1947-1957
11	10	Financial Reports	1953-1959

HUNGARIAN FILM DISTRIBUTORS

11	11	Agreements, Pamphlets, List of Films, Correspondence	1948-1977
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CANADIAN HUNGARIAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

Kanadai Magyar Kiadóvállalat

11	12	Mailing List of the <i>Kanadai Magyar Munkás</i> (Canadian Hungarian Worker) with insurance numbers of IMBF members)	n.d.
11	13	Correspondence	1948-1949
11	14	Manuscripts of articles selected for the <i>Kanadai Magyar Naptár</i> (Year Book)	n.d.
11	15	Manuscripts of poems selected for the <i>Kanadai Magyar Naptár</i> (Year Book)	n.d.
11	16	Income Tax Forms (T, T4)	1941-1953

Container	File	File Title	Date
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**A NŐ [THE WOMAN] PUBLISHING
ASSOCIATION
A N Kiadóvállalat**

General Financial Records

11	17	Ledger and list showing income and expenditures (1940.IV.-1945.V)	1940-1945
11	18-20	Invoices, Bills, Receipts (one file per year)	1944-1946

**UNITED CANADIAN HUNGARIAN RELIEF
COMMITTEE
Egységes Kanadai Magyar Segély Bizottság**

11	21	Correspondence related to the 1946 conference	1945-1947
11	22	Stubs of receipts issued to the delegates of the 1946 conference	1946
11	23	Letters of credence given to delegates for the 1947.X.12 Hamilton conference	1947
11	24	Ledger – „United Canadian Hungarian Relief Fund,” listing income and expenditures (1945.IX.-1948.I)	1945-1948
11	25-26	Administrative Expenses (Bills) (two years per file)	1945-1948