

Jóna's, Paul

Born 1922, Bpest, son of a tailor
arr. by Nazis 1944, freed 1945
Pres. of H. Univ. Students' Feder.

Doctorate in economics 1946,
empl. Research Institut.

Arrested by AVO 1947, freed
shortly, denied right to vote

Arrested 1948, 5 yrs in Comm.
prisons, incl. Recsk "death camp"
Freed 1953

Takes part in formation of Petöfi
Circle, Pres. of it Oct. 29-56
Memb. Revol. Council of Intellectuals

Part. "East Europe" July 1957

~~Jóna's~~
Passed his 1/2 yr exam's at Yale
(1958) with good success. At Yale he
shared a room with Ferenc Aladar
Györgyey, with whom he was
imprisoned in Hungary, in the worst
Communist camp at Recsk, for 6
years - at the beginning of the semester

György did not pass the exam in French language, bec. he just started to study it. At the end of the semester, in spite of the fact that he studied day + night, he was very excited, fearing that he will not pass the exam, and thus loses the semester + his scholarship -

Immediately before the exam Jónás said to him: Don't worry, I'll go in with you, prepare the thesis + hand it in in your place -

The supervising instructor however, knew György + noticed that someone else handed in the thesis.

Before the committee of 3 professors, Jónás explained that for 6 yrs they were such intimate friends and they tried to help each other under any circumstance, when torture + death was lurking around them every minute - that seeing his plight did not weigh his own actions



he saw only that his friend is
in serious trouble & he must help
him. Gy. passed all his subjects
successfully - because of lack of
time, his preparation in French
was not satisfactory - and he
could not bear the thought, that
on acct of this, the future of his
friend will be lost. Only those
can understand this who - like
them - spent 6 yrs in the
death camps of the Communists

The professors were under-
standing, but because several
persons knew about the
incident, they were obliged to
apply the rules of the University.
They were apologetic that they
are obliged to do this. They saw
to it that he will be admitted
to Columbia for the next semester
& he will be reinstated at Yale
after that, acknowledging the
semester spent at Columbia

Jonas was app't'd asst prof
at Brooklyn College 1963