

ACADIA UNIVERSITY
WOLFFVILLE, N. S.

May 4, 1955.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Edmund Vasvary,
The Hungarian Reformed Federation of America,
1801 P Street, N.W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vasvary:

As requested in your letter of April 21st, I am enclosing a brief message to my friends in Hungary. If you feel that the "Voice of America" will gag on the last sentence, it may be dropped.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Watson Kirkconnell

Watson Kirkconnell,
President.

WK/c
Encl.



1955

Greetings to Hungary on my Sixtieth Birthday (May 16, 1955)

It is almost seventeen years since I breathed in the fragrance of acacia blossoms in Alföld villages, or stood on the Gellert-hegy at night and watched the Danube lie lustrous with its diamond necklaces of lights, or lectured on Magyar poetry to sympathetic audiences in the Stephen Tisza University in its fine new buildings at Debrecen. I was only forty-three then and now I am sixty. The interval seems longer still when I think of the blood and tears that have flowed in Saint Stephen's unhappy realm since those idyllic summer days between the Wars.

In that millennial year 1938, I gave my heart to Hungary. Since then my heart has learned to break. So many noble lives have been blotted out, or crushed in prison torture, or sent to nameless and anonymous oblivion in the taiga and the tundra, that the personal grief of it all has often seemed unbearable. Open sympathy to surviving individuals would invite the hounds of tyranny to sniff them out. I dare only send my affectionate greetings to the whole Hungarian nation and bid them keep their courage up. The Magyar legacy is too precious to be lost forever under a glacier of spurious russification.