In the Canadian literary context ethnic writing tends to be an orphan. It is ignored by most of the traditional critics of Canadian literature whose concern is only for English and French materials. Until quite recently, Hungarian writers in Canada...
have been temporarily displaced from their homeland, and as John Miska's bibliography demonstrates, this displacement has also caused critics in Hungary to ignore their work.

John Miska was born in Hungary and emigrated to Canada in 1957 in that turbulent time of the Hungarian revolution. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto [both B.A. and B.L.S.], and has served Agriculture Canada for many years as a librarian in several different cities; he is currently the area coordinator of the Ontario Field Libraries. He has been a tireless and careful bibliographer as well as a critic and writer of Hungarian literature. Of the 1,271 entries in this bibliography, 62 have been written by Miska. In addition, Miska is a founding member, first president, and honorary life president of the Canadian Hungarian Authors' Association.

The purpose of this enumerative bibliography is 'to unearth the vast amount of literature on Hungarians' written in Canada. Canadian Studies on Hungarians, 1886-1986 is divided into two parts. The first part contains writings by Canadians on Hungary and Magyars and the second, and much larger, part 'writing by and about Hungarian Canadians.' Miska's criteria for inclusion are the following: [1] a publication had to be written by a Canadian; or [2] if related to Hungarians, it had to be published in Canada; [3] if an article, published in a trade journal or a newspaper, it had to contain some important information or vital statistics not covered by scholarly publications.'

One characteristic of ethnic writing is the passionate need many immigrants have to create literature and to distribute it to members of their community. Miska's bibliography is full of examples of Canadian authors who have produced works in Hungarian and then must rely on their own resources for publishing. Small societies have been formed as a means of making interested people aware of the appearance of new literature. Much of this literature is never available through commercial publishing channels. There have been recently a few good critics of this work, but these critics are almost always from within the group itself. Hungarian works written by Canadians may not be in the mainstream of Canadian literature, but if Canadians ignore it they will end up with a very lopsided understanding of the Canadian experience; collectively ethnic literature is large, beloved and irrepressible.

Hungarians number about 120,000 in Canada, and yet, as Miska has shown, they have produced a sizeable body of fiction, poetry, plays and writings on history, mostly their own history. The vast majority of this literature output has appeared since the mid-1950s after the arrival of the émigrés of the 1956 revolution.

The introduction to Miska's bibliography nicely explains the arrangement of materials and how to use the work. The contents are placed in a variety of easy to use subject sections such as 'Reference Works,' 'Economy,' 'Demography,' and 'Individual Authors.' The layout of the bibliographical entries is clear and orderly. Most entries have concise annotations, usually two to six lines in length. The bibliography also has three indexes: author, title and subject. The work concludes with two appendices, one giving a list of periodicals with abbreviations and the other addresses of relevant archives in Canada. Overall this is a very useable and attractive bibliography.

The first part, which consists of Canadian works on Hungary and Magyars, is
very complete and includes all items in all previous bibliographies on Hungary in addition to a few new items.

The second part, which lists works by Hungarian Canadians, contains entries extracted from Miska's much larger bibliography: Ethnic and Native Canadian Literature 1850-1979: A Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Materials [Lethbridge, Alberta, 1980]. This latter bibliography was unfortunately only published in microfiche format. Recent publications since 1980 are also recorded by Miska in part two. Here are listed many privately published works and those of limited circulation. Only a patient, diligent, bibliographical expert in Hungarian materials could have ferreted out such esoteric publications.

Although Miska has listed more items than any previous bibliography, he has missed some items in this part. Kenneth Peacock's name is mentioned in item 310 in an annotation of an article by Renee Landry entitled 'Archival Sources.' However, Peacock's book Twenty Ethnic Songs from Western Canada [Ottawa: National Museums of Canada, Bulletin No. 211, 1966] which contains a chapter on Hungarian songs is omitted. By reading 50 pages of Who's Who in Canada is an attempt to find Hungarian-born writers and by examining several standard Canadian bibliographies such as Claude Thibault’s Bibliographia Canadiana [Don Mills, 1973], I came across three more items that should also have been included: Merle Storey, 'Hungarians in Canada,' Canadian Geographic Journal 55, no. 2 [August 1957]: 46-53; Tibor Horvath, Encyclopedia of Human Ideas on Ultimate Reality and Meaning [Toronto, 1970]; and George Faludy, My Happy Days in Hell [London, 1962]. Miska also fails to mention that scientific and technical writings by Hungarian-Canadians are excluded from this part of the bibliography.

In part two there is also a section, 'Archival Collections of Hungarian Materials,' which lists 120 items in eight different archives. This is the most detailed listing in any published inventory of Hungarian archival materials, and is a good start in indicating where primary resources can be located. Unfortunately, it is quite incomplete. Using the Archives of Saskatchewan as an example, it should be noted that this archive is housed in two repositories, part in Regina and part in Saskatoon. Miska lists record groups from both places [identified respectively as ‘R’ and ‘S’], yet he gives no indication of the Saskatoon office. In addition, much material from both locations has been missed. The record groups of Homestead, Department of Education and Oral History all contain extensive Hungarian material. To be fair to Miska, a detailed inventory of all Hungarian archival materials in Canadian archives would be a formidable undertaking and probably would have doubled the size of his bibliography. He is to be commended for indicating the rich resources in archives available to researchers.

In conclusion, this is a bibliography that deserves to be on library shelves and in scholars' libraries. It is comprehensive in most areas, well organized, easy to use, and will be the standard bibliography for Hungarian-Canadian studies for years. It attests to the contributions to Canadian society that a small number of highly literate people can make.

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