

LÁSZLÓ DÁNYI

STUDIES IN ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CULTURE

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Edited by Lehel Vadon

The 338-page-long volume is published by Károly Eszterházy College of Education, Eger. There are 30 essays in the thick book and the essays are put into four categories. 11 essays are written in the Literature section, 2 essays cover Civilization and 14 essays are written in the field of Linguistics. 3 essays belong to the Education section. Most of the writers are from Eger and Debrecen but professors from Budapest and Szeged and Pécs can also be found among the authors. Two authors from foreign universities—Donald E. Morse, USA, and Tran Van Thank, Viet-Nam—offered their proceedings to the volume. Most of the articles are written in English and three of them are in Hungarian.

The publication of the proceedings is a major event in the history of English and American studies in Hungary. It is the first time that the conference on English and American studies has been held in Eger. The collection of essays and the conference prove that Károly Eszterházy College of Education has become one of the major centers of English and American studies.

Csilla Bertha analyzes "The Human Miracle in Thomas Murphy's Plays". The essay deserves special attention. The thorough analysis of the relationship between reason and imagination is further extended by

references to Hungarian literature. The consciousness of Irish people is linked to that of Hungarian people. The dialectal logic of both/and is examined and the coherence between suffering and redemption, guilt and forgiveness, hopelessness and hope, damnation and salvation is regarded as being rather in a dialectal unity than in the logical succession of cause and effect.

Pál Csontos' "Bernard Malamud: Human, Humane, Humanitarian?" focuses on the acceptance of life and art in Malamud's *Pictures of Fidelman* and *The Tenants*.

Unfortunately not many articles have been written on African literature. Katalin Egri's "An Interpretation of 'The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born' by Ayi Kwei Armah" observes the effect of corruption on culture in Ghana.

József Hruby also touches the corruptive influence of power in his essay "Writers in Arms: G. Orwell and A. Koestler on the Spanish Civil War." By analyzing the two authors' works Hruby draws the conclusion that Orwell was the great writer and Koestler was the great thinker.

Mária Kurdi introduces the poetry of Len Roberts whom she knows personally. In "On the Poetry of Len Roberts" she analyzes some poems by Roberts and reveals Roberts' past when he began his career as translator by rendering contemporary Hungarian poetry into English.

Éva Miklódy contrasts the traditional stereotypical roles of black women to their actual roles in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

In "Postmodernism, Modernism, Premodernism and the Fantastic Meet the American Consciousness and Literature Midway in the Twentieth Century" Donald E. Morse observes the shift in attitudes from the premodern and modern to the postmodern. The writer of the essay takes the example of three American presidents—Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Richard Milhous Nixon—whose careers typify the three types of consciousness.

Klára Szabó's "From Environmentalism to Right Brain Theater" begins with the history of Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway theaters. The

major tendencies that have emerged within the Off-Off Broadway movement are described in details.

Péter Szaffkó analyzes the role of historical drama in Canadian literature in his "History as a Subject in Modern English–Canadian Drama". He shows how history as a subject in Canadian Drama has contributed to the emergence of a truly Canadian form. Károly Szokolay illustrates the peculiarities of Dezső Mészöly's interpretations of Shakespeare.

Lehel Vadon writes about the reception of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in Hungary. The essay regards Longfellow as being rather a genuine American poet growing up from American soil than a derivative poet imitating the manners of English poetry. The extensive notes prove that the essay covers a wide range of material. After the essay a full bibliography of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in Hungary follows. The bibliography is divided into the following sections: Longfellow's works in Hungarian translation, his poems in Hungarian anthologies and in periodicals, the *Hiawatha* in Hungarian periodicals and a list of secondary sources in Longfellow's reception in Hungary.

Two articles were published in the Civilization section. Tamás Magyarics discusses the Anglo–Irish Relations between 1825 and 1848. Zsolt Virágos analyzes the relationship of myth and ideology in the American civil religion.

In the Linguistics section all the essays except one are written in English. One third of the authors in this section are from the College of Education in Eger. The Education section closes the volume, in which three articles are published in the field of methodology.

The volume is of high standard and is well-arranged. It reflects the thorough research carried out by scholars all over Hungary at the end of the 80s.