
The **OSA Archivum** cordially invites you to a series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution on the 4th of November.

The commemoration is dedicated to those who left the country in 1956 and 1957 as a result of the suppression of the Revolution.

OSA Archivum (Goldberger House, Budapest V, Arany János u. 32.)

www.archivum.ws



The First Minutes of the Kádár Era

Audiovisual presentation in Galeria Centralis
November 4, 2006. / at 5:16 a.m.

Perhaps the most famous voice of the 1956 Revolution is that of Prime Minister Imre Nagy, in the early morning radio proclamation which was first broadcast at 5.20 a.m. by Free Kossuth Radio, five days after it started transmitting. It is not widely known, since it is rarely mentioned, that broadcasting in the morning of November 4 did not actually start with the dramatic appeal: it began at 5.00 a.m. with the latest detailed news followed by the weather forecast and medical advice (!). After this, without any notice, the second Hungarian national anthem was broadcast three times, followed by the Prime Minister's proclamation, recorded a few minutes earlier. The attentive listener could clearly hear the thunder of heavy cannon and the rattle of machine guns in the background. Who would have thought that these noises of battle, the hollow sounds of the Soviet operation "Whirlwind", were recorded by a technician in the temporary radio studio operating inside the Parliament? The tape - which was discovered in the Research Institute of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich - leads us up to the present: exactly 50 years later the first minutes of the Kadar Era, the dawn of November 4, can be reconstructed. The staff of OSA Archivum have decided to present this remarkable and shocking uncut recording to the public at exactly the same time as the attack and the original radio broadcast 50 years ago: at 5.16 a.m. on November 4: the gunfire, the Prime Minister's proclamation in four languages, together with the national anthem four times, followed by the firing of the Soviet troops, dogs barking and a confused babble of voices. We know now that this was when Imre Nagy, Zoltán Tildy and József Mindszenty left the building for different destinations. There are only two hours to go before the Soviet forces occupy the Parliament and Free Kossuth Radio stops transmitting - for ever.

The Hungarian Question after 1956

A documentary about Claire Héderváry
November 4, 2006. / at 4.30 p.m.

Claire Hedervary was one of the most remarkable figures on the international political scene in the years when turbulent Hungarian history was closely connected to international events. She recalls in great detail her unique family history, stories worthy of history books about her father's commitment to Karolyi's party, her mother's role in the Belgian resistance movement during World War II, her grandfather as founder of the Hungarian News Agency, and her grandmother as one Hungary's most talented painters. In short: the role of the Hungarian aristocracy and bourgeoisie in the early 20th century.

This background was to determine her future at the UN when the Hungarian Question appeared on the agenda of the Security Council as the result of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. Hedervary started to play an increasingly active role in the work of the Special Committee set up to examine the Hungarian situation, and then acted as the principal assistant to the Mediator on Hungary until the early 1960s. Thanks to her brilliant language skills and intelligence she was involved in decision-making and high-level communication within the UN. From the late 1960s onwards her professional career led in other directions, but partly due to this change, she was able to preserve files containing confidential information on relations between Hungary and the UN in 1956.

The film focuses on Claire's personal story rather than on historical events, it highlights the character of a modern women whose life was affected by both the glorious and the embarrassing moments of our history. She talks about it all with grace and humour.

A documentary made by> Tamás Szűcs and
Gabriella Ivacs, 2006, 50 min.

Opening remarks by András Nagy, writer

Prints of Remembrance / Exhibition

Drawings by Endre Rozsda, Interviews with 1956
Refugees / November 4, 2006. / at 6 p.m.

Endre Rozsda was one of the most formidable Hungarian modernist painters of the twentieth century. His visual diary from the period between 1948 and 1956, which contains well over four hundred drawings, mostly in charcoal, has also been exhibited in Paris. The diary can be perceived as if it had been structured in well-defined chapters: among them show-trials and the courts, cultural life, the Budapest Music Academy, work in an agricultural cooperative, everyday life in Budapest, life in the baths, and scenes of the Revolution. This collection of drawings has never before been exhibited as a whole. Rozsda's work will be complemented by interviews conducted with Hungarian refugees immediately after the defeat of the Revolution. The interviews come from the collections deposited with the Bakhmeteff Archive of the Columbia University in New York and the Hungarian Széchényi Library.

Presentation of the '56 Digital Archive

November 4, 2006. / at 6.30 p.m.

The digital archive is dedicated to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its 50th Anniversary with special focus on the refugee issue. The collections of the 1956 archive (except for the Zwack collection) have been digitized by OSA to make crucial documents of the history of the Revolution publicly available for the first time. The creation of the digital archive has been generously funded by Donald and Vera Blinken, and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Columbia University, Hoover Institute, the National Széchényi Library in Budapest and Péter Zwack.