

local archives and libraries. Eperjessy's prolific research has produced many outstanding monographs and innumerable articles. More recently he has published two standard works, including the history of the Hungarian village (*A magyar falu története*, 1966).

In his present volume the history of the cities of East Central Europe is excellently surveyed, with heavy emphasis on greater Hungary. The volume consists of eight chapters, each chronologically subdivided. The chapters deal with the origins and development of cities, economic life, society and nationality, legal structure, forms of settlement, place names, city culture, and descriptions of post-1945 Hungary's seventy-five cities with county and district rights. The book is the first historical survey of the cities in the Middle Danube area. Its value to scholars is enhanced by 164 maps, diagrams, and graphs, a well-compiled bibliography, and a place and personal-name index. This monumental work is absolutely free of nationalistic prejudice, a bias very few authors in Central and Eastern Europe have been able to rid themselves of up to now. Eperjessy, basing his stand on archival sources, has refuted the old school's dogmatic views and has proved that not only Germans and Hungarians but Slavs and several other ethnic elements had a hand in establishing and developing cities in the Middle Danube Valley. He has also convincingly proved, in the light of primary sources, that Germany's or any other nation's exclusive priority in land settlement cannot be accepted concerning the area as a whole. According to Eperjessy this problem should be treated individually to bring out significant regional differences. In order to justify his findings he has also made use of the best available multilingual literature.

There is only one significant statement made by the author with which I cannot agree: "In the period after the liberation, chiefly from 1949, the increase in population in our [Hungarian] cities can be explained partly by the natural growth, partly by industrialization" (p. 83). It is true that the process of excessive industrialization did initiate large-scale internal mobility whereby a goodly portion of, for example, the peasant youth invaded the industrial centers, especially in Budapest, Miskolc, Pécs, and Debrecen. But the part of the author's thesis which refers to natural growth is not evident from the official statistics. On the contrary, these figures show that since the enactment in June 1956 of Hungary's extremely liberal law, its birth rate has fallen so sharply that in respect to natural increase of population the country has occupied last place in world statistics.

Eperjessy's pioneering work has opened new vistas in local history research, and its well-proven results and methodology will be used also by scholars whose main geographical interests lie outside East Central Europe. The work is well worth translating, because it also sheds new light on city history from a socio-economic angle, which up to now has been a conspicuously ignored aspect of the topic.

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TWENTIETH CENTURY HUNGARIAN PAINTING. By *Zsuzsa D. Fehér*
and *Gábor Ö. Pogány*. 4th rev. edition. Budapest: Corvina Press, 1971. 19
pp. and 48 color plates.

This book is commendable mainly for its forty-eight color reproductions, which are large and generally of good quality. The paintings represent the work of

thirty-three artists, from the turn of the century through World War II—not through the present, as the title might imply. All but seven of the works reproduced are in the Hungarian National Gallery, so the illustrations supplement material about the gallery published in *Budapest* (A. S. Barnes and Co., 1970) and in the painting section of the catalogue for the exhibition "Art Hongrois, 1896–1945," which was held at that museum in 1969.

Fehér provides an extremely compact introduction, which acknowledges the conservatism of Hungarian art in relation to European avant-garde developments, and emphasizes a perpetually renewed concern for Hungary's own people and problems as the thread linking varied artistic tendencies. Social and political traumas of twentieth-century Hungary are briefly alluded to, and major artists and schools are introduced with succinct characterizations of their styles and interests. The brevity of the text and its retrospective cast (which seeks to establish connections with the companion volume, *Nineteenth Century Hungarian Painting* by Pogány) give the reader little sense of the artists dealt with, and even less of the background for notable Hungarian expatriates such as László Moholy-Nagy, Marcel Breuer, or Victor Vasarely, or for the role of postwar Hungarian painting in current East European fantastic and postsurrealist art.

The plates selected by Pogány do in general bear out points made in Fehér's introduction. Yet the correlation is often not very precise, and sometimes the plates represent a different aspect of an artist's work than is dealt with in the text. This inhibits the emergence of a clear image of individual painters, as does the strictly chronological sequence of plates, which separates works by the same artist. There is no index, no biographical section on the artists, and no text accompanying the plates. Thus *Twentieth Century Hungarian Painting* is less useful as an introduction to the subject than as a supplement to a more extensive treatment such as Lajos Németh's *Modern Art in Hungary* (Corvina Press, 1969).

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VOIEVODATUL TRANSILVANIEI, vol. 1. By Stefan Pascu. 2nd edition.
Cluj: Editura Dacia, 1972. 595 pp. Lei 33.

Voievodatul Transilvaniei (*The Principality of Transylvania*), volume 1 of a two-volume work, has now appeared in a second edition. Professor Stefan Pascu, head of the Department of Rumanian History at the University of Cluj, is a scholar known for his works on medieval Transylvania. His book *Meșteșugurile în Transilvania pînă în secolul al XVI-lea* (*Trade in Transylvania to the Sixteenth Century*), with its socioeconomic perspectives, is an important contribution to the history of Central Europe.

With *Voievodatul Transilvaniei* the author inauguates a major study in which he reconsiders the medieval history of the province, using the much richer sources now available. Because of Transylvania's importance in the history of central and southeastern Europe, this work fills a definite need. Although there exists a rich bibliography for the history of Wallachia and Moldavia, especially for the period of the origins of statehood, there does not exist a similar one for Transylvania. The tendency has been to treat the principality mainly at a polemical level, from the point of view of its political significance. I believe that the fundamental merit of