

footnotes, and one wonders why Spielman did not carry this work somewhat further. It would have given his book a richer texture than it now has, drawn as it is from standard secondary sources and published materials.

Although Spielman has a good grasp of the seventeenth century, his knowledge of other periods of Habsburg history is not as solid, leading to both judgmental and factual mistakes in his introductory chapter. Louis of Hungary, who died at Mohács in 1526, is described as the son of the last Jagellonian king of Bohemia and Hungary when Louis himself was the very last king. Ferdinand I is presented as less willing to compromise in matters of faith than was his brother, Charles V. Yet, it was Ferdinand who engineered the Peace of Augsburg in 1555 which, with its famous *cuius regio eius religio* formula, aroused the wrath of Pope Paul IV and sealed Charles's decision to resign as emperor rather than sanction the existence of Lutheranism. Moreover, the manuscript would have been better had it been read by someone who knew Hungarian. Spielman uses the Magyar forms of given names, such as "Ferenc" for "Francis," but occasionally slips up, as, for example, when he calls the aforementioned Louis "Ladislás" instead of "Lajos." On page 64, "István" collides with its English equivalent "Steven" and emerges as "Stevan." The victim of this error, István Bocskay, who participated in a 1670 uprising in Hungary against Habsburg rule, also has his last name appear as "Bockskay." There is also some confusion between old and new Hungarian orthography; for example, on page 84 we find the seventeenth-century Magyar raiders from Turkey into Habsburg Hungary written with the modern spelling "kuruc," and on page 94, the plural of the word appears with a "cz" instead of the simple "c." The plural is also misspelled as "kuruczók" rather than "kuruczok."

PAULA SUTTER FICHTNER  
Brooklyn College, CUNY

MOHÁCS EMLÉKEZETE. Selected and edited by *Károly Kiss* and *Tamás Katona*. Budapest: Magyar Helikon, 1976. 275 pp. Illus. 120 Ft.

The four-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the epochal battle near Mohács, an event generally reckoned as signaling the end of the medieval kingdom of Hungary, has triggered a number of topical publications, and the present volume is the most ambitious and most elegantly produced of all. Its 16,550 copies were sold out within a few weeks of publication. Other best sellers which appeared during the anniversary year included collections of articles reflecting the heated debates on the alternatives Hungary may have had in the decades before and after the battle. Thus far, the best summary of recent research is the volume by Ferenc Szakály (*A mohácsi csata* [Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1976]), recommended as additional reading by the editors of this *Prachtwerk*. Important papers were presented at a conference in August 1976 which will also be published sooner or later.

The volume under review, containing written and pictorial sources, offers nothing new for students of the period, but presents material in Hungarian that was not easily available in such a handy and beautiful collection. It opens with four major reports on the events of 1526 by contemporary Hungarian authors (Brodarić, Verančić, Szerémi, and Istvánffy), augmented by letters of King Louis II and Paul Tomori, the commander in chief, about preparations for the battle and the meet. In the second chapter dispatches from the Venetian ambassador and the papal nuncio represent the views of Western observers; the Hungarian translation of a *Zeitung* and a Czech historical song (printed here for the first time) are appended to this material. The Ottoman sources include selections of J. Thúry's old translations of the diary of Sultan Suleiman and the histories of Kemalpashazadeh, Lufti Pasha Ferdi, Jelalzadeh Mustafa, and Kiatib

Mohammed Zaim. Several Turkish miniatures on the events are offered here as well. It is laudable that a chapter has been devoted to the reports of the recently deceased archaeologist László Papp, who, in the 1960s, explored the battlefield with exemplary thoroughness despite initial bureaucratic difficulties and disinterest. His findings shed new light on a few details which are important for reconstructing the events of August 29, 1526.

Allow me to add a kind of *Selbstanzeige*: the participants of a panel on Mohács, held at the 1976 annual convention of the AAASS, are presently preparing a volume of studies which will also contain English translations of some of the sources printed in this memorial volume. Although it will hardly match its appearance, it may be useful for those who do not read Hungarian, Latin, and Osmanli fluently.

JANOS M. BAK  
*University of British Columbia*

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF A SOCIAL CLASS IN HUNGARY DURING THE REIGN OF YOUNG FRANZ JOSEPH. By *Peter I. Hidas*. East European Monographs, 26. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1977. xvi, 140 pp. \$12.00. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

The title of this book is unfortunate, because the text never makes clear which social class underwent a special metamorphosis in Hungary. Rather, the text effectively demonstrates that society as a whole changed between 1849 and 1853, the period discussed in the book (a much briefer span, incidentally, than the reign of "Young" Francis Joseph). Problems of title aside, this is a well-documented, though greatly abbreviated, report concerning a few years of Hungarian and Habsburg domestic policy, complete with statistical tabulations and economic charts.

Earlier historians, the author maintains, tended to confuse the period of absolutist centralism (1853–60) with that of liberal centralism (1849–53), and they branded Prince Felix Schwarzenberg and Alexander Bach as sham liberals. Professor Hidas argues that Absolutist Centralists and Liberal Centralists were worlds apart and that, up to 1853, the Vienna-based Liberal Centralists governed the Monarchy—and Hungary in particular—according to enlightened principles. Far from being lost with the defeat of the revolutionaries in 1848–49, liberty flourished under such men as Schwarzenberg, Bach, Baron Philipp Kraus, and Count Leo Thun, all of whom respected the so-called Ocrotyed Constitution of March 1849, and did their best to unify and modernize the Monarchy in preparation for its ultimate political and economic union with Germany. The Liberal Centralists purged the sluggish Austrian bureaucracy and the undisciplined army, and strengthened those institutions, such as the municipalities, that were likely to assist in the work of modernization. The result was a number of significant administrative and juridical reforms, the reorganization of the economy, and the construction of many new railways, highways, waterways, banks, and factories; in brief, the beginnings of an industrial revolution even in relatively backward Hungary. Because of general prosperity, it is small wonder, the author explains, that most nationalities and social classes—including a large part of the formerly rebellious Hungarian nobility—supported the regime. Unfortunately for all, the Liberal Centralists gradually succumbed to the concerted attack of the absolutist emperor, the reactionary old regime bureaucrats, the obscurantist high clergy, and the anti-Centralist "Old Conservative" Hungarian aristocrats. By 1853, the Liberal Centralists had been defeated.

All this is intelligently presented, despite a few obscure chapters and debatable statements. It is hard to fathom from the text who the oft-cited Hungarian gentry were