

BEVEZETÉS MAGYARORSZÁG TÖRTÉNETÉNEK FORRÁSAIBA ÉS IRODALMÁBA, vol. 1. By *Domokos Kosáry*. Budapest: Tankönyvkiadó, 1970. 900 pp. 104 Ft.

Published under the auspices of the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, this is the first general part of a new five-volume edition of Kosáry's earlier tripartite *Bevezetés a magyar történelem forrásaiba és irodalmába* (*Introduction to the Sources and Literature of Hungarian History*), which appeared in the 1950s. The author needs no special introduction to experts on Central European, particularly Hungarian, history. Kosáry has written numerous monographs on eighteenth and nineteenth-century Hungarian history, including two book-length studies on Arthur Görgey, a military leader of the anti-Habsburg war of 1848–49, and on Lajos Kossuth's activities in the Age of Reforms. His recent writings include a study on Napoleon and Hungary; other manuscripts such as the one dealing with Széchenyi's Döbling period (of which a chapter had appeared in print) or another on Hungarian culture in the eighteenth century are either in the wings or being prepared for publication.

Kosáry's work is one of two comprehensive bibliographical enterprises undertaken in Hungary since World War II. The other is *Magyar történelmi bibliográfia, 1825–1867*, a four-volume work published in 1950–59, which contains about 72,000 entries. Compiled and edited by a collective of the coworkers of the Institute of History, this valuable tool is somewhat impaired by the absence of annotations (except where the title must be explained) and a subject index, whereas Kosáry's three-volume set, a select bibliography of archival and printed sources as well as the more important literature pertinent to the whole sweep of Hungarian history prior to 1825, is judiciously annotated and has an analytical index.

Despite the merits of Kosáry's earlier work, which has been out of print for several years, it included materials only up to 1955, and the need for a completely revised edition was obvious. This new volume has a cutoff date of 1967. Moreover, the considerably enlarged new edition reflects a structural rethinking of the original opus, the first volume of which covered over seven hundred years of Hungarian history in 480 pages (!), whereas the 638 pages of the second volume were devoted to the period 1711–1825. The nearly 900-page-long first volume of the new edition contains two sections of the general part of the entire work, the first of which deals with libraries and bibliographies (pp. 33–128), and the second describes the archival holdings and source publications of governmental authorities, national institutions, and territorial, county, city, community, and family archives (pp. 131–771). The place and name index runs over one hundred pages. The idea of a synoptic approach to the published and unpublished sources of Hungarian history, already present especially in the second volume of the old edition, is thus fully validated in the revised and expanded first volume.

Four additional volumes are planned. Volume 2 will continue with the third and fourth sections of the general part containing the description of source materials in, and published by, ecclesiastic and foreign archives; it will also include the first sections of the survey of sources and literature in a chronological order. Volumes 3 and 4 should bring the chronological survey up to 1790, and the last volume will focus on the subsequent period, ending with 1848 rather than 1825 (the date at which the original set stopped).

The restructuring and increased coverage of the new edition has led to a more

flexible handling of the chronological frame of reference. Also praiseworthy is the slight but important shift in emphasis: the new edition is called an introduction to the sources and literature pertinent to "Hungary's history" rather than "Hungarian history." The change implies that in accordance with the "historic symbiosis" of Magyars with other peoples within the common framework of the old kingdom of Hungary, efforts will be made to take into account, in greater depth than in the past, the recent results of historical research in neighboring countries, especially Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Rumania. In preparing the revised edition, the author not only visited several of the more important foreign archives in person but was able to rely on the collegial help and professional advice of Slovak, Yugoslav, and Rumanian archivists and historians. This kind of cooperation, if continued and further developed, may help solve some difficult problems, not only in the realm of scholarship. Perhaps the most significant new contribution of the volume is the detailed description of the archival depositories, the characterization of their holdings and tribulations, and the listing of the relevant guides and literature. If one keeps in mind that the majority of the county and city archives of historic Hungary are not within the confines of present-day Hungary, one may easily conclude that Kosáry's work is going to be mutually beneficial to Hungarian and non-Hungarian historians alike.

It is encouraging to see the author's truly ecumenical approach. His list of foreign historical bibliographies and periodicals is impressive. After a brief survey of the evolution of the genre of historical bibliography, both domestically and internationally, he gives a critical evaluation of Hungarian bibliographies in the field of history and related sciences, and goes on to discuss bibliographies published in and on the Habsburg Empire and Austria, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans, and the individual countries in the area (except Albania) and in Central, Western, Southern Europe, and Scandinavia (except Luxemburg). Although not included under a separate heading, American works and serials are well represented among the specialized bibliographies dealing with world history or individual problems and periods. If there are some gaps, they were probably unintentional. Aside from important works published since 1967 (Horecky's two recent comprehensive bibliographies on *East Central Europe* and *Southeastern Europe* and the *Dictionary of Russian Historical Terms from the Eleventh Century to 1917* compiled by Pushkarov, Vernadsky, and R. T. Fisher come to mind) it would be worth including in a subsequent volume (if possible) such works as Horecky's guide to Western-language publications on Russia and the Soviet Union (1965) and the three volumes of Maichel's *Guide to Russian Reference Books* (1962-67).

Instead of nitpicking, however, this reviewer should like to express his indebtedness to Professor Kosáry for another bit of information concerning the forthcoming volumes. The chronological sections, which will begin with the concluding part of volume 2, will have a unitary organizational structure, each being subdivided into (1) general, (2) economic and social, (3) governmental-administrative and political, and (4) cultural subsections. Within these thematical units related groups of information will be arranged by and large in the same order in each of the four remaining volumes. On the basis of this first volume, archivists, historians, and librarians may look forward with anticipation to the ones to come.

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