



Reference Series #1128

Senator William E. Borah: Gift Books From Hungary

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In December of 1932, the Idaho State Historical Society received a magnificent handmade, illuminated manuscript book from Senator Borah. The book, a gift to Borah from the people of Hungary in recognition of his long-standing support for Hungary and opposition to the Treaty of Trianon, had been presented to him in late September by Victor Drozdy at the request of the League for Revision of the Trianon Peace Treaty of Hungary.

This book has been on public display on several occasions since 1932. A description of the book and the circumstances of its presentation to Borah is detailed in the Fall 1957 (Volume 1, Number 3) issue of *Idaho Yesterdays*.

Earlier, in 1931-1932, Borah also received at least two other presentation books from Hungarian communities in gratitude for his support. The city of Vác (located about fifteen miles north of Budapest) presented a volume bound in in-laid hardwood boards made locally at the King's Prison. The volume, titled *Justice for Hungary*, consists of approximately 160 pages and contains photographs and scenes in and around Vác and signatures of city and area residents. Senator Borah gave this volume to his close friend, political ally, and Boise resident Ray McKaig. In 1993, McKaig's daughter, Jean McKaig McCown, donated it to the Society, where it is now held, along with Borah's earlier gift, in the Library & Archives.

A second book, now in the Borah papers held by the Library of Congress, was presented to Borah "the noblehearted protector of Hungarian justice" by the city of Nyíregyháza (located about 115 miles northeast of Budapest). This volume, more simply bound in buckram (?), contains approximately 200 pages of tributes with signatures representing varied social associations of Nyíregyháza and the surrounding area. A microfilm copy (MF414) of this book is available at the Library & Archives.



One other item presented to Borah in November of 1932, came from the Chorus Palestrina of Budapest. It is a map of inlaid wood (18" x 14 3/4" x 1 1/2"), constructed by Peterdy Bela, and represents the political area and government of Hungary before and after World War I. This was given to the Society by Borah, and has been on occasional display, and is in the collections of the Library & Archives.



For More Information About Idaho History, Contact:
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