

The History of a Blue Cruet

By Andor Isépy

Motto:

” What do ye know
Ye soon disappearing men
If lively imagination
Doth not play with thee?
It opens heaven,
Or hell before thee, -
Look deeply,
Your soul lost in wonder.”
Vörösmárty

I was born about one hundred and fifty years ago in Venice in a glass factory on the island of Murano.

The marriage of the shoemaker Jacopo and the honorable lady Placida produced a single child, a daughter Beatrice. They lived in Venice on Cale Karampani near the Frari church in a small single story house whose walls had blackened a long time ago.

They brought Beatrice up carefully and religiously. They lived life quietly and happily. By the time she was 14, she was well developed both bodily and spiritually. She was middling in height, slim, with an abundant dark brown hair surrounding her face. At the base of her round forehead shone two large brown eyes. The long, dark eyelashes gave her a dreamy look. If we add the full lips and pink coloration of her oval face - we have before us the lovely Beatrice.

One day Master Jacopo and Placida decided to take Bea for employment at a glass factory. The master put on his best clothes. Placida wore black and the customary long, fringed shawl of Venetian women. Bea was also dressed in dark clothes as they set off for the Murano glass factories.

Meeting the factory manager - after a short discussion - the winning, elegant Bea got employment first in the glass blowing division, then later in the polishing and cutting divisions.

Meanwhile Bea developed herself. Her spirit found much nourishment in the treasures of Venice - the Palace of the Doge, St. Mark's Basilica with its the three bronze horses over the entrance and St. Mark's square with its white marble pavement (which Napoleon called the world's most beautiful space). Further on, the Grand Canal with its beautiful palaces on both sides, the many famous statues in the museums or more precisely in the churches, the accumulated gorgeous paintings -- these early influences refined and ennobled Beatrice's sensitive soul.

She was particularly affected by the works in the Chiesa dei Frari church: Titian's world famous "L'Assunzione dello Vergina" (The assumption of Mary) and Palma

Vechio's painting "St. Barbara" at the church of Santa Maria Formosa. She visited these two little churches often. And she delighted in seeing the Royal Academic museum's "Leda and the Swan" statue created by Michelangelo. She imagined in oblivious rapture the swan's trembling feathers as he lovingly kissed Leda's lips.

Bea lived and worked filled with all these spiritual beauties. She poured her noble soul into all her works. She created me, The Blue Cruet. The factory director placed this masterpiece in the factory museum.

So let us say farewell to the lovely, wonderful Beatrice! Surely she married, had children and lived a happy married life till the end.

From now on, I, The Blue Cruet, will begin to tell, for the benefit of the children of Andor Isépy, my long, interesting, perhaps educational history.

In the spring, around 1820, Paul Feutcher, a wealthy furniture manufacturer from Vienna, went on a trip to Venice "to see the world" accompanied by his wife Anna Hobbe and their only daughter, Isabella.

This is how they came to the Murano glass factory where The Blue Cruet, created by Beatrice, was housed. Paul Feutcher was able to purchase me and take me home to Vienna.

In Vienna, my master had a beautiful home decorated with neo-baroque furniture. I was very comfortable. I particularly loved Isabella, who took care of me and talked to me and spent time with me.

The wonderful sojourn in Vienna did not last very long. Izabella got married to a noble Hungarian gentleman named Antal Kutka from Dorog. He came from a Ukrainian family that had obtained a Hungarian patent of nobility. The proof of the antiquity of this title is the simplicity of the family crest. The crest is a sitting dove.

(To this day some Kutka's still live in the counties of Zemplén, Ung, Bereg, and Máramaros, that is, in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. – Master Andor met Aladár Kutka, an uncle, who was a forester there, while on an 1890 tour of the Ivan Pop Mountains. He, Aladár, had started his family there. Kálmán Kutka, the overseer at Máramaros Island, had died only a few years earlier. He was a popular, worthy, and prestigious man.)

Izabella met the above mentioned gentleman in Magyaróvár while visiting family. The young husband had many talents: He had legal, agricultural and surveying degrees besides being an excellent pianist. He was a dear, polished young man with a pleasant disposition who won even my respect and admiration.

After the wedding, Izabella moved to her new home in Zemplén County to the town of Homonna and naturally took me along. This trip, if I remember correctly, took place in 1840.

In 1842, the now Mrs. Antal Kutka had a daughter, Ilonka (Ilona), who was very important in my life. The years in Homonna were so long ago, that I hardly remember anything. Besides I don't think anything important really happened there.

We could not have lived in Homonna long, because during the 1848 Hungarian civil war, we lived in the village of Kluknó in Szepes County. This is where we survived the glorious Battle of Branyiszko. We lived quite close to the battlefield, since we distinctly heard the artillery or as Ilonka liked to say – a few of the artillery shells flew over the house. I clearly remember crawling under the table with Ilonka in our panic.

The fighting stopped and the revolution failed.

We had to move from Kluknó to the city of Lőcse. We lived there more than 10 years since my master, Antal Kutka, worked as the manager of animal husbandry and later as surveyor and (authenticating) engineer for the count Vidor Csáky.

My master was popular on account of his great education and cultivation but especially because of his happy disposition and since his wife Izabella's lively and warm disposition won everyone's love, we had many visitors. You might say we were never without visitors.

Besides Count Csáky, the Görgey's, Máriásay's, Ujfalussy's, Nemessányi's and the members of the Tőke family were frequent visitors.

All the visitors eagerly examined me and praised me which did not cause me happiness. On the contrary, it caused me discomfort. I much preferred to be with Ilonka and to listen to her girlish conversation.

I was happy to listen to my master from whom I learned that the Saxons had moved into the area in the time of Géza II and refugees fleeing the Mongol invasion founded Lőcse in 1245.

In the year 1271 King Stephen V, in a document giving the Saxons of Szepes their freedom, named Lőcse as their principal town (capital).

In 1474 King Mathias came to Lőcse.

In the time of Francis Rákóczi II's freedom fight (1709-1710) Löffelholz, the imperial general had besieged Lőcse (shot with artillery) for three months.

It was during this fight, that the wife of János Korponay (born Julianna Géczy of Garamszeg) as the lover of István Andrassy, the general in charge of the Rákóczi defenders, betrayed the town to the imperial forces. Later, in 1715, Julianna was beheaded by the imperial forces in the marketplace of the castle at Győr because of their distrust of her.

I know that there had been a painting of a woman in white dress, (reputedly painted by János Czirok) by one of the small wooden gates to the city. Legend has it that the picture showed Julianna calling the attackers. Master Andor had seen the picture in

place at the turn of the century. Nowadays it is in the Art (Szépművészeti) Museum in Budapest.

In the main square at Lőcse stands the gothic church of St. James built during the 14th century. It is filled with many beautiful paintings and statues. The main altar was built in 1508 (a magnificent Gothic carved and painted wooden altar, the largest in Europe, (18.62 m. in height), created by Master Paul). Also in the main square stands the arcaded city hall built in 1551, the colonnaded Thúrzó house, and the memorial to the Battle of Branyszko, fought on 5 Feb 1849. These are all monuments worthy of attention.

Otherwise my life in Lőcse was uneventful. Besides Ilonka, Izabella had four other children; Aladár, Mariska, Géza, and Sándor. Between raising children, running a household and all the visitors, Izabella had little time to spend with me.

To my great disappointment, Ilonka was sent to Eger to live in the English Sisters convent for her education and finishing. She stayed for three years. Ilonka's mother tongue was German because as we all know her mother was from Vienna. At the convent she became fluent in Hungarian and learned some French as well. She learned to play the piano and had beautiful handwriting.

The years passed. Ilonka returned from the convent a beautiful and wise young lady.

We moved again. This time we moved to the village of Komjáti in the county of Abauj. The important events happened after we were there a while.

In the summer of 1868, Ilonka went on a family visit to the house of Ágoston Revicky. They were family in that the named gentleman's wife, the warm and beautiful Zsófia Kutka was my master's, Antal Kutka's sister.

One day the Revicky's, accompanied by their three children and the visiting niece Ilonka, went on a short trip to the nearby Töketerebes, mostly to entertain Ilonka. They went to visit the beautiful mansion that belonged to Gyula Andrássy, the foreign minister. There the visitors were greeted and escorted by steward of the estate, Ödön Isépy. Upon her return home, Ilonka explained to me that the steward appealed to her. He was kind, serious, courteous, and modest.

Ödön Isépy descended from an old noble family from Magyar-Izsép. This circumstance was very important at the time as nobility was highly prized.

(The Hungarian peasant is wise, intelligent and aristocratic. These are the people who during the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries were given nobility wholesale, as entire villages, in the so-called "arms lists"/lesser nobility/booted nobility were given noble rank. Even today, these people will with raised fist, puff up their chests proudly and proclaim that "I am Hungarian nobility". And even now, they do not take it lightly, if their sons or daughters marry outside the nobility.)

Only a few weeks passed and Ödön Isépy appeared in Komjáti, to inspect the home fires, so to speak. The entire family, me included, was favorably impressed by the young man. We were all amazed when Ödön announced that he wished to speak with

Ilonka's father privately. Ilonka naturally turned red and fled the room, as young ladies are wont to do.

The end result was that Ödön asked for Ilonka's hand and she agreed. The steward had to return home urgently on business; but before he left he expressed his desire to marry as soon as possible.

The engaged couple met only in letters thereafter. They decided that the wedding should be held that fall (1868). These events affected me as well. I was very happy for Ilonka – filled with hope as she was - but I was sad that in the future I would only see her infrequently or at worst never again.

The wedding took place in Komjáti in October of 1868 with only the family in attendance. Beside the family the only other guests present were Ágoston Reviczky with his wife and two daughters; Géza Szentléleky, the officiating priest; and Gábor Péchy, the groom's colleague who served as second witness.

The bride wrote letters which shown with her great happiness. She wrote with great joy that her husband had a good disposition, was industrious and humble. He was very much in love with her and treasured her greatly.

Soon the news came that Ilonka was pregnant. Márta was born in September 1869. In 1871 Irénke followed, and on 21 Nov 1872, a boy, András Domonkos, called Andor was born.

1872 and 1873 were years of cholera epidemic (the last ones) in Hungary. Töketerebes was not spared. Ödön returned infected from the World's Fair in Vienna. He took to his sick bed. On 13 July 1873 Ödön, the husband and father, died. On July 15, Mrs. Antal Kutka, Izabella, Ilonka's mother, who came to Töketerebes to help with the sick, also died and on July 17 Irénke, who was barely three years old became an angel.

It is impossible to express the effect that the fateful news of these three deaths had on my master, Antal Kutka. It can only be said that he lost his mind. He did not want to, could not believe, the Izabella, his wife, who had left home healthy a few days earlier had already been buried.

I, too, was depressed and in great pain especially knowing the great happiness that her husband had brought Ilonka –that this happiness was forever broken. Why did this have to happen? Why? This is the unfathomable will of God...

Soon the news came that the widow Ilonka and two children Márta and Andor lived and that their health was improving. In fact, they were feeling strong enough, that she was thinking of moving to Magyar-Izsép in Zemplén County. The move was especially urgent, as my master, her father, who still lived in Komjáti, was sick and morose. She wanted him brought to Magyar-Izsép.

A comment here, that my master's other daughter; Mariska had married earlier and lived with her husband, István Kassay of Eger in the village of Kinizs in Borsód County. Aladár was a pharmacist in Eperjes – later he was a forester in Mármaros. Of

Antal Kutka's sons, Géza was an army officer in Nagyvárad and Sándor became a Roman Catholic priest and immigrated to America.

In October 1873, the pregnant widow moved with her two children from Töketerebes to the nearby town of Magyar-Izsép, the ancestral home of the family.

This is a good place to relate, that in June 1872 Antal Isépy, Ödön Isépy's father, divided his estate, a house and its furnishings along with 600 acres of land, between his two children. Part of Ödön's share was the house and its furnishings. This is the house where the widow, Ilonka, moved in October 1873. That same month, Marika, Ilonka's sister, brought their ill and aging father from Komjáti to Magyar-Izsép along with me, the Blue Cruet.

Since it was of some interest, I will now describe this little house which became our home. It stood approximately 80 -100 steps back from the street. It was quite tall with a tiled roof and had a porch with wooden pillars on the front. From the middle of the front of the house, the entryway led to two wide wooden steps one to the left and the other to the right, leading to a central courtyard. Directly across the courtyard was the kitchen. On both sides of the entry there were a larger and a smaller room. The windows of the smaller rooms opened onto the courtyard garden and the windows on the larger rooms opened toward the porch. The larger room on the right was the dining room and the smaller room next to it, the bedroom. The large room on the left served as the parlor and the small room next to it was the guest room. The guest room had an additional door that led to the kitchen. It was in this small room that my master lived.

The pillared porch had wild grape vines growing on it. The front of the porch was decorated with a flower bed which had 20 tree roses planted in the middle surrounded by verbena, reseda, violet and phlox. From the street, next to the ditch, the plot was fenced in by some acacia trees. Next to the small gate rose a magnificent poplar. We, that is, Ilonka and I, dearly loved this tree. We often admired its slim appearance and listened to its whispering voice... Surely it was talking to the acacias... The garden extended on the left side and behind the house. It had vegetables but more particularly fruit. In the garden there was an old almond tree and many cherry, plum and walnut trees as well. Next to the paths were red currant and gooseberry bushes. The entrance to the cellar opened from the garden, beneath the parlor. The chamber was at the end of the porch and it was from here that wooden steps led to the attic.

We slowly settled into this little house, accepting God's will.

Winter set in and Ilonka made a point of visiting all the relatives who lived in the village. At that time, Andor's grandfather, Antal Isépy who was born in 1789, was still alive and lived in the village. Everyone called him "Atya" (an old formal word for father. The Our Father in Hungarian begins *Mi Atyánk*).

I must relate here Grandfather's interesting life. When he was 42 years old, he eloped with Veronica Szunyogh who was 16 years old at the time. Her family, who were landowners in the same village, was unwilling to give permission for their marriage because of their great age difference. The happy (in love) couple was married without parental permission by a Reformed priest, since the groom provided the priest with an

income. The marriage was a happy one. They had nine boys and three girls, one of which was the previously discussed Ödön.

Antal "Father" was a brilliant, well educated man. He was the judge in the Appellate Court for many counties. When in the mid 19th century the various appeals courts were established, Antal was offered the chief judgeship in Debrecen. Unfortunately he did not accept; he did not want to leave the comforts of life in Izsép.

Two more brothers-in-law lived in the village: Miklós Isépy and Géza Isépy and their families. A sister-in-law, Ilda Isépy, Mrs. Ferencz Karsa, also lived there. Other more distant relatives were: the widow Mrs. Gábor Isépy with her three lovely daughters and József Horváth with his wife Rosalia Szunyogh with their five boys and a daughter. Mrs. Horváth was a first cousin to Ödön on his mother's side.

Again family events occurred.

On January 19th 1874 a daughter, Panna, was born to Ilonka. In 1877, my old master Antal Kutka, Ilonka's father, died. If I remember correctly he was age 75. The loss was as painful for me as it was for Ilonka. The children Márta and Andor did not understand the pain and sadness of the loss, and jumped up and down on the parlor couch in their joy that they were to receive new clothes for the funeral.

The wise and exceptionally unselfish Ilonka brought up her three children as best she could in the ancient home of her husband's family. Amid the vicissitudes of life and all our common problems, she accepted her fate and hoped for a better and happier future.

I now speak of the people of the village; with the greatest of praise.

The peasants were Hungarians who had become Slovaks. They were diligent, honorable, economical, sober lived, religious people, who are not apt to fight, most did not even cuss. The virtue of the women and girls was above reproach.

The peasants lived in perfect harmony with the nobility. They had a beautiful, slender bearing with white skin. They cared a great deal about order and cleanliness. They believed in family. Their clothing: in the winter men dressed in black, in the summer homespun white. Their black boot pants were decorated in front and worn with white short sleeved shirts and black felt or straw hats. The women wore many-colored, wide, knee length skirts, at least eight of them. On top they wore bodices either with sleeves or with a white home spun shirt with cross-stitch decorations at the shoulder and underarm. In their hair, the girls wore wide multicolored ribbons that reached down to the bend of the knee. The married women wore head kerchiefs with combs.

It was a great pleasure to watch the hurrying women in the many colored skirts and black boots (with an occasional red booted one) as they hurried home from the three churches on Sunday mornings. With all the beautiful, slim, young, peasant women, the street looked like a sunny colorful wildflower field gently blowing in the breeze.

The village had eight streets. Four of them met, one can say, at the small square on the small hill in the center of the village. The century old Reformed church with its bell

tower stood in the square. In front of the church door were three massive stone steps. (It was from this safe place that the six year old Andor saw a fight between two large black Hungarian bulls. It was only through the intervention of some brave herdsman, that tragedy was averted.)

Near the Reformed church, stood the other two churches, namely the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches. To the left of the Reformed church was the street that led to our house. The Horváth's and the widow Mrs. Gábor Isépy lived along here as well. At the far end was the ancient cemetery where the ancestors of the Isépy family sleep their eternal sleep under the many broken marble monuments.

I have to write about the occupants of the house as well.

Marcza, the healthy and beautiful peasant girl worked in the kitchen. Helping her were an older woman and Kulyos, a lame old man who walked with a cane. He was the one who looked after the two cows and the two pigs and in general did the heavier housework that ordinarily men would do. These tasks were a side occupation for him however, as he was really a gardener, to whom the title "Pan Kertisz (Pan, the Gardner)" was applied. Kulyos-bacsi was helped (?) by the young Andor, who even at this early age competed with his mother to see who could grow the first salad, that is, the first turnips.

The love of nature appeared in the young boy even at this early age. This is how, when he was seven years old, he persuaded his younger sister and two of her friends, Mariska Horváth and Mariska Nádaskay, on a warm June day, to go on an adventure to an oak forest an hours' walk away. This unauthorized expedition ended in a kneeling punishment meted out to all by Ilonka but Andor kept the pleasant memory of the first adventure.

But this happy, peaceful village life ended. We had to move again.

A suitable school had to be found for Márta and Andor. The only school in the village in the 1870's belonged to the Reformed church. István Egyed was the excellent teacher who taught in this one-room school. In this one room were all the students for the first four years, boys and girls together. Márta attended the school for four years and Andor two. (When the street was muddy, Márta went on wooden legs and Andor was carried to school by Marcza.)

The school in Magyar-Izsép, however wonderful it was, just did not provide the education required by the nobility. To resolve this problem, Ilonka decided to move the family to Eperjes.

Ilonka rented out the house, its contents and fields and in November 1880 arrived in Eperjes with Márta, Andor, Panna, Marcza the servant girl, and me, the Blue Cruet. The large black dog named Bardár, much to my and the children's sorrow, had to remain with the renters in Magyar-Izsép. (Bardár had an interesting habit which I must mention. Whenever Ilonka or any other woman appeared at the gate, he would run over and gently taking the end of their skirt in his mouth, escort them into the house.)

Eperjes: the Athens of Upper Hungary. Eperjes was one of the most cultured and lively cities in Upper Hungary.

The city was built on the left bank of the Tarca River at the bottom of a forested region. According to legend, the city was founded in 1132 by King Béla the Blind. During the time of Géza II, German colonists arrived. Károly Róbert surrounded the city with a wall. In 1514 Ulászló II made it a royal free town. The city suffered much from the wars and was burnt on many occasions. We too survived one of these fires when on 6 May 1887 two-thirds of the city burnt down.

In 1673 the city fortifications were destroyed by the imperial army. The religious persecutions started at the same time. On 16 Feb 1687 Antal Caraffa, the imperial commander, began arresting and torturing the followers of the Evangelical Thököly. This bloody court was one of the most gruesome of the Counter Reformation.

The Commander, Caraffa, watched from the window of his home as 24 wealthy nobles, mostly evangelical men, were tortured and executed. There was such revulsion throughout the country that the counties and eventually even the Palatine went to complain to the Jesuit-influenced Emperor Leopold and had the torture stopped. There was an inquiry instituted against Caraffa, but instead of punishment he was awarded many distinctions. One of the distinctions was the Order of the Golden Fleece.

The Jesuits erected a statue of Mary on the site of the torture to commemorate the victory over the Evangelicals. The refurbished statue stands at the north end of college.

In 1908, a marble plaque was placed on the north wall of the Evangelical College to commemorate the Caraffa martyrs. The following names are inscribed there: Zsigmond Czimmerman, Árpád Reusher, Ferencz Bányay, András Kazer, Gábor Katzer, Márton Sárossy, György Schönleben, Sámuel Medveszky, Dávid Fájva, András Székely, György Kovács, János Bartók, Gábor Palásthy, György Radvánszky, Simon Feldmajer, Frigyes Weber, Dániel Weber, György Bezegh, N. Fazekas and N. Lányi.

I just remembered a wonderful event that took place in Eperjes on a fall evening in 1882. Around 8 PM three battalions of the 67th Infantry Regiment returned home from the Bosnian front. Soldiers filled the illuminated wide main street and the great and small of the city including Ilonka with her three children surrounded them. There sounded the command “Zum Gebet” (Let us Pray) and the many thousands attending fell silent. Then prayers of thanksgiving rose from the crowd – higher and higher to God in the highest. Many eyes filled with tears that evening.

The city of Eperjes is filled with many monuments.

The Evangelical Academy, which was built in 1531, has functioned as a law school and as Evangelical theological school and a school for training teachers. Andor attended the school from 1880 to 1894. There, he finished 3rd and 4th grade, eight years of high school and four years of law school.

Our homeland's most perfect Gothic cathedral stands on the north-south main street. The Roman Catholic Church is named after St. Michael. Its steeple is 42 meters tall and it was originally built in the 14th century. It was rebuilt in 1750 and again in 1903 since it burned in the fires of 1887 and 1888.

The old Rákóczi house and many other architecturally interesting old houses stand on the right side of the main street. These were built in the 16th century in the style of the high Hungarian Renaissance.

In 1845 Petőfi, Tompa and Kerényi met in Eperjes. This meeting is commemorated with a column on "Vilecz", the mountain close to town. Andor went there often.

While he was in Eperjes, Petőfi Sándor wrote a poem, in his own hand, in the school memory book entitled "Érdemkönyv". I must mention here, that on a vote of his classmates the humorous novella "Furcsa Atyafiak" (Strange Relatives) that Andor wrote in the 7th year of high school is also in the book.

Andor was not an outstanding student; only a good middling one. Occasionally he got his marks up to 6.4. Mathematics, geometry, physics, the natural sciences, Hungarian literature and later Greek literature were his favorite subjects. In these subjects, he had outstanding results. When he was in the first year of law school, he read Homer's Iliad – admittedly with the aid of a dictionary- in the original language.

In 1885, when he was in the 3rd year of high school, Andor learned from his tutor, the 4th year theological student Jozsef Kozlay, the art of bookbinding. He made, as a gift for his mother, a photo album with a purple velvet cover. (This album still exists.)

That same year, from the same young man, Andor learned the art of watch making. He repaired a watch which had stopped for a long time. Uncle Sándor asked for this watch.

In the 4th year of high school, Andor was so outstanding a student in geology that his teacher, Frigyes Hazslinszki, gave him as a mark of distinction, a cigarette case decorated with minerals from the Selmencz mine district. The clasp for the cover was a beautiful amethyst crystal. (The cigarette case still exists.)

Frigyes Hazslinszki was a famous naturalist, a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Science. He was Andor's teacher of science and mathematics. Andor, barely thirteen years old, was filled with pride and happiness when he received the cigarette case from such an outstanding scientist.

From the time he was ten, Andor collected butterflies, bugs and minerals and from the 2nd year of high school until the 6th he collected plants as well. While his classmates played ball, wrestled and otherwise got into mischief, Andor daily changed the paper on his collection of plants. Additionally, from the time he was in the 5th year until he was already in law school, he taught elementary and lower grade high school boys and girls. In fact he also prepared one of his classmates in the 7th year for a make-up test in mathematics. I relate all these things so that it is clear that even as a boy Andor was a bright, diligent, and serious child.

Andor was particularly taken with nature. From the time he was eight years old, he went on nature hikes in the hills and forests. On many occasions he went with Frigyes Szeztorisz, his teacher, an outstanding naturalist, just the two of them.

Additionally, Andor had another delight. Girls were very interesting to him. Until he was 14 years old he admired them from afar; he did not want to meet or talk to them as most young boys do not. This reticence suddenly disappeared when at age 15, he went to dance school.

Andor fell in love with a lovely young lady. Margit Hannel returned the innocent, hot feelings. Naturally, this puppy love passed. Other girls came. There always was someone who interested Andor. It was fortunate that the women of Eperjes or more precisely of Sáros County were famous for their beauty, culture, kindness and wonderful disposition and of course their good taste.

I must mention here that Andor, at age 18, had a friendly relationship with Dora Glósz which lasted four years but it never grew beyond that; this despite the fact that she was a beautiful, intelligent, and cultured woman. She was never able to arouse love in him.

A great deal of Andor's time was taken up with entertaining girls and going to balls. But it was through this means that he became acquainted with the most illustrious families of Eperjes and Sáros: Szinyei, Nerse, Bánó, Semsey, Berzeviczky, Dessewffy, Gombos, Bornemissza, Péchy, Piller, Dobay, Bujanovich, Boskoványi, Hrabóczy, Baron Ghillányi, Mattyasovszky, etc. – All 16th century families who were the so-called “old nobility”.

Andor lived in this rarified social setting from the time of his graduation in 1890. He passed the graduation tests; enrolled in the law school at Eperjes and got a job at a law office and later at city hall. The years from 1890-1894 were the most carefree, happy and perhaps the best years of his life. From the cultured, honest, well-mannered, beautiful, well-dressed, (because he is not a native of Sáros he can't be accused of favoritism) men and women, the young Andor learned so many wonderful things that these gifts lasted him for the rest of his life.

From a certain point of view, Andor was effeminate. He had an easy going personality and the manly occupations did not interest him. He did not like to exercise, not even to play ball. As a result his muscles were less developed and he grew into a slight, slim man. Andor was barely eight months old when he lost his father so he was raised entirely by Ilonka, his mother. She provided an excellent upbringing but could not provide a male influence.

The young man passed both his examinations on time in 1894 and was awarded a diploma and was admitted to the bar in June 1894. The following month, that is 4 July 1894, he was appointed to the royal district court at Szilágy-Somlyó as an intern. He reported for work on the 15th of July.

His mother and two sisters as well as I missed him greatly. As consolation we had his cousin Zoltán Isépy live with us. He was an attorney in Eperjes. His jokes, happy disposition and many kindnesses brought us many happy days.

And now I will relate stories of the two girls.

Both girls were enrolled in the convent school of the English Sisters and both finished the first four years of high school with excellent results. Márta continued her education with the same order at their teacher's school in Budapest. There she obtained her teaching credentials.

Ilonka raised her daughters wisely and religiously. She taught them to sew and introduced them to housekeeping duties. She made a pleasant and, if not without worries, a happy life for us. During summer, the girls would take walks and outings with the mother's chaperoning. In the winter, they went skating and went to one or two balls. They had boyfriends but neither girl was wild for boys.

I want to make an aside here to tell about the famous balls in Eperjes. Every year the Lawyer's Ball and the Women's Club Ball at New Year's were the biggest and the most fun. It was at these two balls that young ladies made their debut to society. Unselfconsciously, with great joy, nicely blushing (without rouge), lightly powdered, the little girls danced the French-four, the waltz, the triple waltz, the polka and the czardas. The young man whom they invited to the dinner table during the break; after dinner, would dance the von Suppé czardas and the second four. (Both of these dances were lovers' dances.)

Suppé czardas!! It lasted at least two hours - and no one got tired, saying "Az legyen a hites párod, -akivel kivilágos kivradtig frissen járod." (Let the one whom you love be the one with whom you dance 'til the break of dawn without tiring.)

Naturally the music for the czardas was provided by the famous gypsy band of Sándor Farkas. They were like a military band to those who reeled. There were plenty of dancers; even the less pretty girls (if such existed) were not wallflowers. At that time there were two hundred and twenty law students in Eperjes and many military officers (there were four battalions of infantry and three batteries of artillery) so every girl had a partner.

The Women's Club Ball was generally a masked ball but the Law Student's Ball was the brighter, the more distinguished. Usually there were two or three beautiful women - queens of the ball - who were like shining jewelry in the pantheon of women. This was the ball to which the women wore their more beautiful, more expensive ball gowns. Upon entering, every young lady received a dance card. In 1892 this card was a miniature copy of the "Corpus Juris" (The Body of the Law). The following year it was an imported fan made of cockatoo feathers colored to match the color of each dress. The card was attached to a handle. The chaperones received a fancier version; one in a silk lined case and a large bouquet of roses and if they had daughters in attendance then the girl received a bouquet as well. Whoever danced at one of these balls in Eperjes or even if they simply watched, left with such wonderful memories that they could not be forgotten. Even now they bring great joy when called to mind. For three years in a row, Andor and his friend Andor Fuhrman from Váralja organized the Law Student's Ball.

I must say that I was very happy during these times – seeing the great love which Ilonka showed toward her children and the appreciation and love that the children returned to her. It has been my great pleasure to live in such a high minded and religious family where everyone lived according to God’s main commandment: “Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.”

This situation was of great comfort to me at nearly 90 years old. (Although I don’t precisely know my age and even if I did, I would not tell, since I am feminine.)

Szilágy-Somlyó The town is located on the banks of the Krassna River at the foot of the Magura Mountain. An interesting feature is the ruin of the castle built in 1597 by Zsigmond Báthory. Further on, is the high-arched church built by István Báthory. István Báthory was born in this city in 1533. He was unanimously elected king by the orders in 1576. On May first of that year he was crowned king of Poland in Krakow. He married the last of the Jagiellos, Anna, who was fifty years old at the time. They had no children. To this day, he is affectionately remembered by the Poles as an outstanding ruler. He died in 1586 at age 53.

In the year 1797, on Magura Mountain a hoard of golden dishes from the Roman period was discovered. These dishes are in the Imperial Museum in Vienna. In a nearby location, in 1889, further discoveries were made of a 3rd century golden hoard. These finds are now located at the National Museum. These finds have given the town its fame.

It was in this romantic setting in an old city that the newly graduated law student began his career in the courts. The young man shortly wrote a letter to his mother in Eperjes. It was evident from the letter that Andor was well satisfied with his circumstances, and colleagues. Life was inexpensive, the bed and the noon and evening meals were plenty; all for 14 forint a month. The people were nice; the girls pretty and the parties were good.

But Andor stayed only a short time in this pleasant place. At the beginning of December 1894, after a few short months, he was assigned as deputy clerk in the county of Szatmár at the district court in Nagysomkút. He reported to work on 1 Jan. 1895. In Eperjes we were pleasantly surprised and pleased at this extraordinary promotion. It was nice to see this 22 year old young man have a position where his pay was sufficient for him to live well on.

Nagysomkút is the county seat of the ancient region of Kővár. In 1876, this ancient county was merged with the county of Szatmár.

The village is located in a hilly region, just beside a large forest. This village, as the rest of the region, is 90% Rumanian. Only a few villages have Hungarian inhabitants. A famous place in the region is the birthplace of Count Sándor Teleki, the village of Koltó. It was here at the Teleki manor from 8 September to 20 October 1847 that Sándor Petőfi spent his honeymoon with his wife Julia Szendrey.

There were no important events until August of 1895. I must mention however, that Andor made a trip to the nearby Nagybánya. This was an ancient mining town in a beautiful forested, mountainous region. In this month, (which day I no longer

remember) the young people organized a summer party. To this party, Gábor Nagy, the tax assessor, from whom Andor, the deputy clerk, rented a furnished room, invited his long time friend and associate János Szabó, the Comptroller of Part, who lived in Nagykároly with his family. The named gentleman arrived with his wife, Magdolna Brandtz, and his 20 year old daughter Mathilda. Naturally they stayed with the Nagys. At the festivities Andor danced the second four with Mathilda. Otherwise they danced with each other a lot and out of courtesy Andor spent a great deal of time with his landlord's young guest. The young lady, as she later confessed, became interested in the honest, open, gallant young man even at the party. The parents returned home. Mathilda, however, stayed for a few days longer. Mrs. Gábor Nagy probably suspected something... Surely women are born with the matrimonial-intermediary genes... The young people spent a lot of time together. Mrs. Nagy tried her best to entertain her young guest. She invited company, they went for many walks and they even went on picnics in the nearby forest.

The final result was that the fiery Andor fell in love with the placid, charming, smart, young lady with a velvety glance, white skin, light brown eyes and full dark brown hair. On the thirteenth day of their acquaintance, sitting on the small sofa next to each other, they hugged and kissed. This is how the little Mathilda became engaged to be a bride.

The next day she went home. Afterwards the prospective groom's letter arrived in Eperjes. His mother, sisters and I were very surprised by the great news. Our joy was tempered by fears that perhaps Andor rushed into this decision too quickly. What does she look like? What kind of personality does she have? Naturally the future groom, in love, wrote all the best and most beautiful about his fiancée.

The formal engagement not announced until October, in Nagykároly, at the girl's parent's home. At the same time, they decided that the wedding would be delayed until after the groom had taken his examinations to the judgeship. After all, he was still very young.

Andor visited his fiancée once a month, always on Sunday, at her home in Nagykároly. Otherwise, they wrote frequent letters to each other. It was through these honest, dear letters that their true love was revealed for each other and in these letters they came to know each other. And they were never disappointed.

I must mention that on June 8th 1896, at the Millennium Jubilee in Budapest, Andor attended the grand parade of the entire nation and saw Queen Elizabeth in her royal carriage with the king where together they accepted the homage of the nation.

In the spring of 1896, Andor was drafted into the army on having given up the right to volunteer. He was enlisted in the reserves and went through eight weeks training with three subsequent five week courses in weapons training.

Summer 1896 arrived and Andor was reassigned to the circuit court at Szatmár-Németi. Since Mathilda's parents got to know him well, they became convinced that he was a serious and well mannered gentleman. They agreed, at the request of the betrothed, that the wedding take place in December of 1896 despite the original demand that the wedding take place only after the judicial examination, as they could

see that the betrothal would not extend into the spring of 1898 without great anguish on both sides. One could apply to take the examination only after a three year internship, and in Andor's case this time would be up only in the second half of 1897.

The bride's parents outfitted the apartment on the 23rd of December 1896. The wedding took place quietly among close family in Nagykároly on December 26th 1896. Those present on the groom's side were Ilonka (Mrs. Ödön Isépy) his mother; Panna Isépy, his sister, and his uncle, Géza Kutka, Ilonka's younger brother. For the bride, those present were her parents and Béla Szabó, Ödön Szabó, and Árpád Szabó, the bride's brothers and Zsigmond Barthos and Gábor Nagy, witnesses.

The young couple traveled that evening to nearby Szatmár. There the landlady, Mrs. Zsigmond Kanizsay, greeted them with a warm room. This is how their new, quiet, and altogether different life began. They lived a quiet, withdrawn life totally happy in each other's company.

In the summer of 1897, the young couple traveled to Eperjes for a three week holiday. The mother and two sisters were very happy to see Andor and his pregnant wife within their family circle. We all came to love the meek, kind, undemanding and accommodating bride. This was Márta's first meeting with Mathilda as she was unable to leave school in Budapest to attend the wedding. The three weeks passed quickly. The young couple returned to Szatmár. The mother and two sisters were in a depressed mood when they came home from the train station after seeing them off. Indeed, I too, cried a bit.

The city of Szatmár-Németi lies near the river Szamos. It is a very old city. Tas, Töhötön and Szabolcs, the Hungarian leaders, had a very hard fight conquering the earthen fort at the top of the castle hill. Around this castle grew up the towns, Szatmár and Németi. It was only in 1712, that the two cities became one. In 1241 the Tatars destroyed the city and since then it has suffered many battles. The treaty of Trianon in 1920 gave the city to Rumania. The young couple lived in this city til June of 1899. Meanwhile, on December 21st their first child was born in Nagykároly at the home of Mathilda's parents. The little boy, Tibor, died on the 30th of December. The little boy appeared to be fully formed and in good health and yet died so soon. The doctors could not say what was wrong with him. The young parents were very depressed by this painful event. But they had to console themselves.

The following months were filled with studies because Andor had applied to take the judicial examinations and the dates were set as the 4th, 5th and 7th of March 1898. He went to Budapest at the beginning of February for the specific purpose of observing the testing. His wife spent her time with her parents in Nagykároly. During the time Andor was in Budapest, in February of 1898, he attended the Life Saver's Association Ball at the Vigadó. At the time this was the most fashionable ball in the country. Even Franz Joseph, the king, attended. By then, he was bent, appeared tired and greeted the attentions of Dezső Bánffy, the chief minister, with a smile. Andor watched him with interest.

The examination day arrived. Andor, the young deputy clerk received his judicial diploma. Great was the happiness in Nagykároly when Andor arrived on March 8th 1898. The following day the happy young couple returned home to Szatmár.

At the courthouse in Szatmár, the chairman, the judges, and his fellow clerks greeted Andor with good wishes. They were especially impressed because in those days it was quite rare for anyone to get their diploma on their first attempt at the tests. Andor was very pleased that he passed this most difficult test on the first try. Our congratulatory letter, wishing all the best, arrived from Eperjes.

There was a little sour note in all the happiness. It turned out that the deputy clerk was only 25 years old and legally he could not be promoted to a judgeship until he was 26. It did not matter that he had the diploma, he could not even apply. Andor had to wait til the spring of 1899 for the appointment to a judgeship.

Knowing the education he received, and the great lack of qualified judges, Andor hoped and waited with great confidence that in the spring of 1899 he would have his appointment. He was not mistaken. Without having to apply, the Justice Minister requested his appointment and sent the following announcement: “Andor Isépy, deputy clerk of the Szatmár-Németi judicial district, is appointed by His Majesty the King, to the assistant judgeship of the Ungvár judicial district, bypassing the 10th rank of clerkship.”

How beautiful the phrase “His Majesty, the King”! What wonderful happiness this appointment generated. How happy we were!

In June of 1899, they moved from Szatmár to Ungvár. They took with them Erzsi, the maid, and their white cat. Mathilda dearly loved cats. They lodged in a beautiful, modern apartment on Szobránczi Street that belonged to the Darvas family. The Darvas's were very kind to Andor and his family. They had two children: a daughter, the round and sweet Boriska and a son, Pista. Pista lived an interesting and varied life. But by now Pista is past seventy years old. He and his wife were Andor's good friends.

Ungvár is located on both sides of the river Ung. It is an ancient city. It was already in existence at the time of the founding of Hungary. Laborcz was the name of the ruler at the time. The Hungarians hung him. After that, Álmos, the leader, occupied the castle and had his son, Árpád, elected king. The castle played a large role in Hungarian history. In 1322 the town was given to the Drugeth family of Naples by Károly Róbert. This family ruled the city for more than a century. The male line died out and Krisztina Drugeth who was the wife of Miklós Bercsényi, became the heir. This is how Bercsényi became the ruler of Ungvár. The walls and bastions still stand today. They were built in the 14th century under the Drugeth family rule.

Andor and Mathilda's second child was born on September 19th 1899. The little girl was named Magdolna in honor of her maternal grandmother. She had a beautiful face. She was big and strong, had brown hair and a pleasant personality. We will write about her later.

In September of 1899 there was another family event in Eperjes. Ilonka's younger daughter Panna married Marcell Nemessányi. He was the director of the county real estate register in Lőcse. On their wedding day the young couple traveled to Lőcse.

Life was pleasant for Andor and his family in Ungvár. There was a great deal of work at the office and Andor had many meetings but the off-hours were pleasant because there was a busy social life as well. The people were friendly, kind and hospitable. Many of the gentlemen owned vineyards. Life was gay with all the excellent wine. The families visited a lot. I still remember the Tomcsányi, the Grabovszky, the Bánóczy, the Lám, and the Kail families. Mathilda did not much care for all the coming and going. She was more interested in playing with Magduska and running the household. Nevertheless, they occasionally went to a ball and she had a good time. On one occasion, the group put on an amateur theatrical performance of Ohnet's play "Ironmonger". The title role was played by Tihámér Margitay, the painter, who was painting in Ungvár at the time. Andor played "Oktáv" but not very well. Márta Tomcsányi played the role of "Susanne", Oktáv's wife. They had daily practice for five weeks. They had a lot of fun.

Their 1900 summer vacation was spent with us here in Eperjes. Magduska's first tooth emerged here. Once again a stork was knocking on the chimney. The baby, Nora, arrived on November 14th of 1900. She was a truly beautiful, round, golden haired little girl. The parents were happy indeed. They loved and took great pleasure in their two beautiful daughters. By this time Mathilda had completely given up playing the piano, and sacrificing herself, lived for her daughters and, of course, her husband, whom she loved with the highest respect and devotion.

In 1901, more news came from Eperjes. Márta got engaged to Hugó Herczogh, the director of an agricultural school. The wedding soon followed and the couple moved to Törökszentmiklós.

There was no news from Ungvár in 1901. Andor and his wife lived quietly and happily because of their two beautiful girls.

The three goddesses Klotó, Lachesis, and Atropos, but most especially Atropos, the one who cuts the thread of life, became jealous of all this happiness.

In January of 1902, one day Mathilda became feverish and felt weak. The doctor did not think it a serious concern; it was just a lung infection. She even got better. So much so, that the doctor gave her permission, against Andor's fears, to attend the officer's ball. Surprisingly, Mathilda really wanted to attend and was overjoyed at the arrival of a blue and white gown from Nagykároly.

Sometimes she was better, sometimes worse. With the help of a servant she looked after the housekeeping and without acknowledging particular fatigue looked after the two little girls. Tirelessly, she wiped the parquet behind Nóra's little feet. But the fever never left. As a consequence, it was decided that the entire family should go for a change of air to Szilágy-Somlyó, where Mathilda's parents had meanwhile moved. They spent the entire summer there. But she did not fully recover. Despite great mental and physical fortitude, she was still feverish and lost weight.

At the lack of results, the young couple traveled to Budapest to get a consultation from a famous university medical professor. The results of the examination were depressing. In fact, when Andor privately asked the professor when the next visit should be scheduled, the reply was that that no further visits would be necessary.

Since his wife seemed strong and was capable of climbing stairs; had made several long trips with no problems, and had no particular pains; Andor was convinced that the doctor was mistaken. Mathilda, instead of going home and risking infecting the girls, went back to Szilágy-Somlyó to her parents. Grandmother Ilonka came to take care of the children in Ungvár.

From time to time Andor visited his wife, whose health continued to decline even though Mathilda herself was hopeful of a recovery. On January 27th in 1903, Andor visited his wife. At the time she was sitting on the couch in a pink blouse, they joked back and forth. The next day Andor had to go home. At the farewell neither suspected that this was their last meeting and the last farewell in this life.

On December 19th of 1902, the Justice Minister re-assigned Andor to the Judicial District of Kassa for service as clerk of the court. The move from Ungvár to Kassa occurred on the 30th of January 1903. Andor, the two girls and their grandmother traveled to Lőcse that day to stay until the arrival of their furniture in Kassa. On their arrival in Lőcse, they received a telegram informing them of Mathilda's death. Mathilda died as beautifully as she had lived - in her sleep, without pain, her noble soul left slowly and silently like a beautiful white flower opening.... Andor went to Szilágy-Somlyó the next day. The funeral was on February 2nd. A short time later Andor had a monument erected for his wife.

Andor was stricken with great pain and suffering by the loss of the children's most unselfish, loving mother; his true, wise, faithful wife - one as without fault.

It was difficult to find housing in Kassa, so that it was weeks later that the children arrived with their grandmother. I must mention here that on the marriage of her daughter Márta, the grandmother, along with me, moved in 1902 from Eperjes to Lőcse to live with her other daughter Panna.

In 1902, Márta and her husband, Hugó Herczogh, had a daughter Anna-Maria (Baby). In 1904 they had a son Ödön and in 1906 another son Béla. This third child died in 1910 in Lőcse at the age of four. The Herczogh's moved from Törökszentmiklós to Ada (in the county of Bács-Bodrog) and from there to Kiskunfélegyház and finally to Lőcse. Hugo Herczogh, the father, died in Lőcse in 1910. In 1922 Márta moved with her children to Sátoralujhely. Later, Baby married Dr. László Sziráky and the marriage resulted in four children Éva, Judith, Gábor, and Klára by name. Ödön married the virgin Olga Esztergály in 1943. They had two daughters: Erika and Hanna.

Márta died in 1950. Mrs. Marcell Nemessányi, Panna Isépy, had no children. Her husband died in 1920 and she died in 1954.

Nothing of note occurred in Kassa in 1903. The family lived in this famous beautiful old noble city raising the children and delighting in the sweet little girls.

Kassa - The city of Kassa is located on the right bank of the Hernád River, surrounded by wooded hills and mountains. The forest extends to the edge of the city. One of the parts of the forest "Bankó" is a particular favorite picnic area for the residents. Kassa

was mentioned in a document dated 1249 as a “villa regia” that is, a locale which was a royal domain. In 1347 it was made a royal city. In the 17th century it had great political weight in the fight for constitutional and religious freedom. The Bocskai, Bethlen, and Rákóczi families fought for it. In 1792, Kassa briefly became a center of literature with Ferenc Kaziney, János Batsányi and Dávid Baróti-Szabó’s “Magyar Muzeum”.

The Elizabeth Cathedral is the most notable building in Kassa. It is located on the south side of Fő (Main) street. The cathedral is one of the most notable gothic buildings in Hungary. The church was built during the reign of King Sigismund (Zsigmond). The most beautiful parts are from King Mathias’ time: the organ, the reliquary, and the so-called royal steps. The three main entrances are masterpieces of medieval sculpture. The golden reredo of the main altar, with its 48 paintings, was erected in 1477.

Since 1906, Ferenc Rákóczi II, his mother, Ilona Zrinyi, and his son, Joseph, rest in the lower church. Further on rest Miklos Berceseni and his wife, Miklos Sibrik, and Antal Eszterhazy -- fugitives from the failed rebellion.

To the north of the cathedral stands the 13th century chapel of St Michael. Further north still is the Baroque style church of the Premonstran order erected in 1681. Ferencz Rakoczi I, who had the church built, is buried there with his mother Zsofia Bathory. The barracks of the National Guard are also on Main St. (Andor was stationed there in 1896 while in the military.) The other noteworthy items are the Dominican church of 1330, the house of Sebastien Tinodi Lantos, and on Kossuth Lajos St., the Evangelical church built in 1804 in the “ampir” style.

I must relate here that the Rákóczi funeral held on 30th of October 1906 in Kassa was fit for a king. People from all the northern counties gathered for the event. Andor was there too. He had tickets to the funeral. In connection with the Rákóczi funeral, I mention the following strange event which was related to me by an eye and ear witness. A great cry went out from the gathered crowd that greeted the train carrying Rákóczi’s body as it slowly pulled into the Szeged station “Long Live Rákóczi!”

According to history, the Rákóczi and the Isépy families sprang from the same root. The noble Rákóczi family died out long ago but in contrast, the Isépy family tree blooms and grows. Thirty children were born in the last two decades, among them, Andor’s twelve great-grandchildren (six boys and six girls).

In the spring of 1904 while they were living at the Turkish house on Kossuth Lajos St., Grandmother took the two girls almost on a daily basis to the nearby Szecsény Valley park. At the park, she became acquainted with a young lady, Stephanie Balsay, who was caring for her recently deceased sister-in-law’s daughter Sari. Sari happened to be the same age as our two girls. It turned out that Grandmother and Stephanie Balsay’s mother had attended school together long ago in Lócse. Rapidly the girls became friends and played together in the valley. One evening Andor took the girls to the park. He became acquainted with Stephanie and Sari and since they lived quite close, they all walked home together. When Andor got home, he immediately said to his mother, “If the girl would have me, I would marry her.” “Well, try it” replied Ilonka.

From then on, Andor went frequently to the valley to meet Stephanie and for her part, she was happy to see him and did not stay away. Afterwards Andor and Ilonka paid a visit to the Balsay's. They received a warm welcome and after a few more walks with Stephanie's older sister present, things progressed quickly. Three weeks after they met in the valley Stephanie went home a happy fiancée. All this happened in June of 1904. In July Stephanie went on vacation with her sister Anna to the baths at Ruschbach (near Poddin and Lublo). Andor went to the sea, to the island of Istria. They both returned after three weeks. Happy days followed.

Somewhat unwillingly, Andor applied for a position as manager of the court at Alsóberecki – because Stephanie thought it would be good to live there. On September 2nd he received the appointment. So at age 31 he became a chief judge. He started on the 3rd of October 1904. The engagement party soon followed and the wedding date was set for the 21st of November. Meanwhile, that is during October, Andor moved his belongings to Alsóberecki followed shortly by Ilonka and the two girls.

A side note: during the move Andor decided to grow a beard. Since the thick, dark blond beard met with Stephanie's approval, the beard remained for the next 24 years.

A small family wedding was held on the appointed day. The groom's mother and sisters could not attend. Present were the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. Jenő Balsay, the widow Mrs. Leonard Lovanyi, born Georgina Balsay, and Anna Balsay, the bride's sisters, Dr. Joseph Balsay, the bride's brother, as witness and Dr. Tihamer Isépy, the groom's nephew, as the second witness.

That evening the young couple traveled to Budapest. They enjoyed a week there and returned to Kassa. They stayed two days and finally went to Alsóberecki. On their return, they were warmly greeted by Ilonka, who hugged her son and his new bride. The couple hugged and kissed the two girls and happily settled into their home.

Alsóberecki is a small village in Bereg County. It had hardly 2000 Ruthenian (Ukrainian) and Jewish inhabitants. It was located on the banks of the Latorca River. This is the beginning of the 2700 ft. high pass that leads to Gallacia and crosses the Carpathian range. A monument was erected on July 21st 1896 on a northeasterly facing cliff overlooking the Latorca commemorating the millennial of the Hungarian migration through the pass.

The climate was quite alpine. The entire mountainous region was covered with forests. Even during winter, on sunny days, children were taken out for walks. Andor spent a great deal of time hiking the beautiful mountains. The Voloc mountains were a particular favorite.

Close to Alsóberecki and the previously mentioned monument lies the village of Rákócziszallas. The village was named for the fact that Ferencz Rákóczi II stayed there on his way to a Polish exile.

The children delighted in the many wild animals. There was a deer, three foxes, wild rabbits, on one occasion, a beautiful “flame-owl” landed on the chimney, and on another, the children saw a wild boar on the hill across from the yard.

On his many outings and official travels, Andor saw many deer and wild pigs but never any wolves. The Russian peasants, on the other hand, had many terrifying stories about wolves.

It was here, in this healthy and beautiful place, that Andor and his new family began their happy and satisfied new life. Their home consisted of four rather small rooms. The large yard was surrounded by hundred year old linden trees. Every year on Stephanie’s name day, Aug 20th, dinner was served under the lindens.

There was some social life, with a nice casino where the men played cards. The many young ladies and girls met at Andor’s house. Why there? Well, Stephanie soon became pregnant and it was more convenient for them to find her at home. Ethel Lakatos, the teacher, and Nusi Staudt, the kindergarten teacher, were two of her best friends.

Stephanie’s eldest daughter, Ilona, was born on September 13th 1905. Seemingly she did not want to enter this world, however, the doctor was stronger. She was born feet first. Ilonka was a colicky baby and later a headstrong girl. She was not beautiful, but has great personality and she was strong and full of life.

Stephanie really wanted a boy. God heard her request and she became pregnant again. But an error occurred because on October 30th 1906 a little girl was born. It upset Stephanie a bit that it was a girl again, but she and her husband rejoiced at the brown eyed, long legged girl. At her christening she was named Klára. Her grandmother Klothild was present for the christening, although somewhat reluctantly, since she really wanted to go to the Rákóczi funeral which was held on October 30th in Kassa.

No children were born in 1907. In the fall of the year Andor and his wife wanted to go to Budapest for a vacation. Ilona, Andor’s mother, came to care for the children. The young people returned after a week. Ilona went home to Lócse despite entreaties to stay.

Meanwhile Stephanie again wished for a boy, but once again on July 9th 1908 another girl was born. She cried when she heard the news. The little girl was a strong, beautiful, blonde baby. They named her Adrienne.

Earlier that year, on March 3rd, Ilona, my beloved Mistress, died at age 66 in Lócse. Andor immediately traveled to Lócse. As far as I know all three of her children were present. There was great sorrow in the house at the loss. I had been with her since her birth. You can just imagine my pain. As one gets older one becomes more sensitive and I was already more than a hundred years old.

The funeral was held three days later. Her three children along with Marcel Nemcsanyi, one of the sons-in-law, Odon Herzogh and Baby Herzogh, grandchildren and many friends and acquaintances were in attendance. These all loved and honored

the wonderful, religious, truly noble Hungarian Lady. (Hugo Herzogh, the other son-in-law could not attend as he was bed-ridden.)

The day after the funeral, the three children divided Ilona's possessions in the greatest of harmony. The largest part of her estate came from the sale of the house in Izsép. Next were the items of personal value. I was among these. And this is how I became Andor's.

I was happy with the result. I had observed his life in Izsép and Eperjes. I took part in his happiness as well as his troubles. The next day we left for Berecki. During the trip Andor was careful to ensure my safety. We got off the train at Voloc Station. We had to travel for another hour in a wagon over the mountain.

Everything was OK at home. All four children were in good health. Stephanie naturally hugged her husband lovingly and greeted me with the same warmth that she might extend to a close relative. (Literally "God Brought You" a common greeting.)

I already knew Stephanie well, ever since we met in Eperjes. As a result I soon felt at home in the household and among the lively children. As I previously stated, Adrienne was born in July of that year, 1908. From that time Andor had five little girls. Magdus and Nora were already going to school and Ilona to kindergarten.

Life was pleasant and inexpensive in Berecki. In addition to the pleasant climate, everything was cheap. A quart of milk cost only a few pennies at the agricultural school. The excess milk was even less. We bought 1.5 gal milk every day, and what we did not consume was fed to the animals we kept for meat. Beef was cheap as well. In fact everything could be had inexpensively. In the barnyard we had chickens, hens, ducks, geese, turkeys and capon. There must have been in excess of 100 of them.

Out of the great kindness of God we were all in good health. Despite all of this, it was impossible to remain among the Carpathian Mountains in Alsóberecki – even for the sake of the children. On Jan 9th 1909 Andor received notification of his transfer to Sátoraljaújhely. The move occurred on Feb 3rd. It took 12 sleighs to transport everything to the train station at Voloc. I was carefully packed, so that as a senior member of the family, nothing untoward would happen to me.

We arrived safely at Sátoraljaújhely. We were greeted with a four room apartment that had been previously rented by Andor. The rooms had been heated and we were served freshly warmed milk courtesy of Mrs. Dezsó Fuzessery, a noble lady, who was also one of the residents.

Sátoraljaújhely – The town is located at the foot of Mount Sator (Tent), on the banks of the little Ronyva River. It was a neatly laid out city of 20,000; the seat of Zemplén County. During the Arpad dynasty the city was a small village by the name of Sátoralhalma. It was destroyed by the Mongols during their incursion. It was rebuilt nine years after its destruction. In the time of King Louis the Great, the town belonged to Prince Todor Kartiatovics. He built the city on the castle hill and populated the town. The town had many hard times. In the 16th century, it was captured and destroyed by Count Imre Teleki. There were devastating fires in the years 1758-1764 and again in 1865.

The town has only one monument. It is located on Fő (Main) Street and stands in front of the County Offices. It consists of an obelisk and commemorates the valiant men who opposed Napoleon at Győr. Magyar-Izsép, Andor's ancient family home, is located about 20 km. from this town.

Andor's family, myself included, lived among the vineyard covered hills and mountain from the 2nd of February 1909 'til the 1st of December 1925. Many relatives lived there, among them Dr. Tihamer Isépy, Dr. Janos Kossuth and his wife Lenke Isépy, their two daughters Jerne and Iza and son, little Ödön, Nandor Ambróczy and his family and Zoltan Isépy. At the moment I can't remember the rest. In a short time we felt completely at home.

The wonderful Steffi was much occupied with the many children and all the housekeeping activities; as a result she could not lead an active social life. Andor noticed the cares and worries of his beloved wife. Since she was pregnant again, they decided to go on a vacation to the baths to give her a chance to rest and recuperate.

In July of 1909, Andor, his wife Steffi and the weak Ilona traveled by train to the health resort at Ruschbach in the pine forests of Szepes county. They had pleasant and happy times during the four weeks they spent there. From morning 'til night they were in the woods. Everyone was happy in each other's company. Andor took side trips to the nearby Lublo Baths and the castle there as well as the Scsavinyicza baths in Galicia near the border. They went there on a raft trip on the Dunajecz River. On several occasions he went fishing in the nearby Poprad River. The Poprad and the Dunajecz rivers are famed for trout fishing. They are close to Ruschbach and flow north to Poland through the Carpathian Mountains.

The four weeks quickly passed. Magdus and Nora returned from Szilágysolyóm and Klára and Adrienne from Kassa where they had stayed with grandparents.

Nothing important happened 'til December 10th 1909. On that day, Judith, a beautiful round baby girl was born. Somehow God just did not want Steffi to have a son. This did not bother Andor in the least, nor did it affect his and Steffi's happiness. They were very happy with the new baby but life was not easy since Steffi was so occupied with the children.

On July 20th 1910, a pregnant Steffi went to visit her parents in Kassa for a planned one or two day stay taking Ilona with her. The following day a telegram came to Andor to come immediately to Kassa. The doctors were confident in Steffi's strong constitution and hoped that a miscarriage she had suffered would not cause any further problems.

The worrying and praying lasted three weeks. Andor stayed day and night by the sickbed of his stricken wife. He cared for her and comforted her. She never took her eyes off her husband and bore her suffering bravely.

Nothing helped. The childbed fever won. On August 11th 1910 at 9 PM the worn out heart could beat no more and the wonderful loving soul quietly departed.

She left behind her bereft life partner, the 10 year old Magdus, the 9 year old Nora, the 5 year old Ilona, the barely 4 year old Klára, the 2 year old Adrienne and the 8 month old Judith. Andor bore this indescribable loss with Christian fortitude and prepared himself for the difficult task ahead. He gave thanks to God for his mercy and kindness in giving him such an outstanding, noble, loving life partner. Magdus and Nora were much depressed by the loss of the one who meant so much to them. The rest of the children were too young to understand what had happened – the loss of their mother's love.

The funeral took place on the 13th of August in Kassa. Steffi was buried in the beautiful old Rosalia cemetery. The children and Andor's sisters could not attend the funeral. She was escorted by her parents, sisters, Andor and his fellow jurists from Sátoraljaújhely. The grave is marked by a great stone and is located off the main road on the left, next to the grave of Margaret Aranyi. The two older girls went to Szilágysolyóm and the rest to Kassa, to their grandparents while Andor and his sister and her husband traveled to the Tátra Mountains (the lakes at Poprád, Csorba, and Tatra-Lomic) to recover a little bit.

On September 3rd 1910, Márta's husband, Hugó Herczogh, died after a long illness. This made it possible for her to move to Sátoraljaújhely with her two children and live with Andor.

In October 1910 a measles epidemic broke out. The doctor suggested that one room be reserved for the sick, another for those suspected of being sick, and the third room for those who were well. The final result was that all eight children got sick; just not all at once but one at a time. The last one to contract the disease was the 10 month old Judith. After three days of illness, on account of superficial medical treatment, she passed away in Andor's arms. Having taken three great breaths she joined her mother in heaven. The rest of the children survived the experience without further complications.

In 1911 Andor took Nora and Ilona on vacation to Lake Balaton. The other children went to relatives. A few weeks later everyone was back home. The older ones started school.

Many important events occurred in 1912. Márta went to Parád to the baths. While there, she made the acquaintance of Mrs. Kálmán Csermák (maiden name Etelka Móré), a lady, and her 26 year old sister Margit Móré both of Sátoraljaújhely. A friendship sprang out of this acquaintance. Márta took a fancy to the younger lady. She attended church daily and enjoyed the company of her nieces who were the same age as Ilonka, Klára, and Adrienne. When Márta returned home, with the best of intentions, she brought up the idea of Andor's marriage to Margit Móré.

Andor could see that the care of looking after so many children was putting a strain on Márta. She had expressed a desire to return to her own home to Lócse with her two children. This forced Andor to consider finding someone suitable to care for his five girls. A meeting was arranged with the Móré family. Since Margit agreed to undertake the large assignment, they got engaged. The wedding occurred on November 23rd 1912. The witnesses were Etele Matolay, alispán (a govt. official), and Dr. Tihamér Isépy, nephew.

A side note: Etele Matolay was a well known and outstanding government official. During the revolution of 1848-49, he served as captain in Lajos Kossuth's army, as an aide to Kossuth.

The newlyweds traveled to Budapest for their honeymoon. A week later they came home. Only the three youngest children were home as the two older ones attended school in Lócse. For a few months Margit took a loving and caring interest in the children. Everyone lived in harmony.

As 1913 arrived, Margit became pregnant and she was not as patient with the children as before. No doubt this was due to the pregnancy. The months passed uneventfully. On October 2nd 1913 she delivered a son, Andor, with medical help. There was great rejoicing that finally a son was born. Andor was a big boy and developed into a fine blonde young man.

There was peace in the house for a few months. But in a little while they could not get along. Andor came to realize that his wife's nature was quite different from his own and that they did not understand each other. There were times of peace and quiet and times of bitter fighting and a general bad mood. There were many sad days, and the arguments got so bad that by 1916 both parties were thinking divorce. Love of the shared child again brought them closer together. Another positive development was Andor's promotion to the Court of Appeals.

The girls grew. Magdus and Nóra, who were in the same class, finished middle school and again came home to live. Magdus learned to sew and was a great help in running the household, she particularly helped to care for her younger sisters. She was an outstanding seamstress, so much so that she could sew her own street garments.

Nóra was enrolled in a teacher training program. She finished two years, but announced that teaching was not for her. Her good father relented, and she was allowed to withdraw. She then enrolled in the Sátoraljaújhely high school as a private student in the senior year with the goal that she would prepare for the medical profession. The arrangement was that she and her friend, Lenke Bodor, were tutored at home by the same teacher.

But God decided otherwise. Lenke contracted diphtheria and scarlet fever and died a few days later. As a result, Nóra was forced to suspend her home studies, so she enrolled in the Sátoraljaújhely trade school. She successfully finished it. Later, she earned her living with this diploma.

In November of 1916, Andor and his wife jointly bought a four room house with a garden. During 1917 and 1918 life improved somewhat for the couple. The political and economic events of the war years of 1918 and 1919 brought great difficulties and cares and these somewhat pulled the couple together. 1920 was a quieter and more peaceful year.

During that time Andor began a new business helping people with the redistribution of property both real and personal. As a result, for the next six years, he was gone a great deal of the time to visit villages in Zemplén, Abauj, Szatmár, Bereg, Szabolcs counties. This official absence had taken him to more than 100 villages.

In August of 1920, during a tennis outing, due to a sudden change of weather, Magdus came down with pneumonia. After a three week bed rest, the doctors thought that she was well enough to get out of bed. She lived her life during October and November without fever. In fact she appeared well enough, that with medical permission, she was allowed to attend dances and evening parties. During the first days of December, the fever returned and the doctor ordered her back to bed. The outlook worsened day by day. She seemed vigorous enough. She had a good appetite and she had no pain but as a result of the continuous fever, she was weak. She was so dizzy that she could not sit up. By January of 1920, it was obvious that she was beyond help. Nevertheless Andor remained hopeful. Magdus, however, did not get any better. On March 3rd at 10 in the morning, she asked for a glass of milk and drank it and with full presence of mind asked Andor, who was sitting by her bedside, whether she would survive this crisis. Suddenly, at noon she lost consciousness and after a few deep sighs ceased living.

We had deeply loved the modest, kind, diligent, unselfish, clever, innocent and beautiful Magdus. Andor's pain was exceedingly great as she had been particularly loving and kind to him. We can truly echo the poet and say "Angels, God needs angels!" We buried her earthly remains in Sátoraljaújhely in the old cemetery in the Matolay sepulcher.

The remaining children attended school.

In 1921 and 1922 life became sadder and the marriage partnership deteriorated. In June of 1923, Andor took Ilona, Klára, and Adrienne to Erdöbénye on vacation. Nóra went to Szilágysomlyó to visit her grandparents. At the same time his wife made it known that she had filed for divorce. The divorce process began but only ended six years later on December 3rd 1929 when the courts having taken note of Andor's pain, granted it.

During the 1923 vacation in Erdöbénye, Andor's family made the acquaintance of Karoly Berecz, a young man from Pecs. After three weeks, the 16 year old Klára became privately engaged to him. The public engagement took place a few weeks later at Sátoraljaújhely. Participating in the festivities were István Berecz, the groom's younger brother, Mrs. Miklós Papp (b. Sarolta Berecz), the widow Frigyes Szieberth (b. Mária Berecz) the groom's sisters, as well as Andor and his daughters and Andor's nephew, Tihamér Isépy. The plan was, as Klára was very young, she should finish her second year at the technical school in Székesfőhérvár and only then get married. Ilonka and Klára returned to school at Székesfőhérvár but the groom was unwilling to wait. As a result a small family wedding took place in March of 1924 in Sátoraljaújhely. The witnesses were: Dr. Tihamér Isépy and István Berecz. The young couple traveled to Budapest on their wedding day. A week later they traveled to Pecs, where the groom's parents met Klára with open arms.

The young bride soon got comfortable in her new surroundings and lived a happy and contented life until October 1944, when she and her family fled to Budapest to find refuge with Andor.

The family was blessed with the following children: on March 1st 1925 Nóra was born. Klára was born in 1926 and died a few months later of influenza. On March 9th 1929 Judith was born and on August 9th 1931, they had a son, Károly.

Nóra was 18 years old when she married Dr. Stephen Sziebert in June of 1944. The wedding was a formal affair. If I remember correctly the wedding party arrived at the church in 10 carriages. The bride was dressed in a flowing veil and a long white gown. The groom was dressed in tails. The bridesmaids were all in light colored dresses. Even Andor, the grandfather, had tails and a top hat. The reception was held at the Casino with a sit down dinner for 47. The couple had five children: Maria, Imre, Elizabeth, Steven and Leslie. In 1956 the entire family left Kaposszekcső fleeing to Vienna, ultimately they flew to California and currently live in Los Angeles.

In 1948, Judith married András Theil, who was at the time in medical training. Their wedding was held in Budapest. The couple planned to go through Vienna to Munich Germany where the groom's grandmother lived. Unfortunately, they were caught by the Russians at the border and returned to Pecs. They lived there until January 1957, when Judith and her husband escaped to Vienna and from there to Regensburg in Bavaria. Prior to leaving, the couple had three children: Andreas, Nóra, and Hella. When they fled to Germany, they left their three children with Judith's mother, Klára Isépy Berecz, in the hope that they would soon be reunited through the auspices of the Red Cross. The couple had an additional child, Klára, in Regensburg.

The young Károly Berecz, son of Károly Berecz, applied and twice failed to be accepted in engineering school. He is currently working as a driver and studying to be a mechanic.

In April of 1924, Andor was assigned to the court in Budapest. Unfortunately he could not take the position since at the same time he was assigned to the National Court of Property Disputes by the Justice Department. It was not until December 1st of 1925 that he could move to Budapest, since it was difficult to find housing there. On December 12th of 1925, Andor was promoted again. This time he had the rank and pay equivalent to a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Andor, Nóra, Ilona and Adrienne lived comfortably in Budapest. They attended theater, opera and dances. They had company. There were suitors as well.

In the fall of 1927, at Andor's request, he was relieved of his prior duties and became President of the District Court in Budapest.

On November 3rd 1930, Ilona married 1st Lieutenant Béla Friczere. The formal wedding was held at the downtown church. The groom's fellow officers of the St Andrew's Guard participated and greeted the new couple with an arch of drawn swords as they processed out of the church. The witnesses were Lieutenant General Aladár Isépy, Andor's nephew and László Szabó, furniture dealer, the groom's uncle. The entire family attended with many other relatives and friends. The large church was full. After the great reception the couple traveled to Szentendre where the groom was posted. The marriage was/is a success. They lived through many problems and difficulties but they have great happiness in their children and grandchildren. They had two boys and a girl. Michael married Ildikó Zeglíny and has a son István. The

second son, Béla, is 17 years old and a student. The daughter, Tamara, is married to Zoltán Biró a former 1st Lieutenant. They have two children: Nóra and András.

On December 2nd 1931, Andor informed his family that he had gotten married. He married the widow Mrs. Francis Troll (born Mária Bója). Andor wanted the best for his family. He thought, let there be someone, should he die, who would protect and keep the family together. The girls had met the woman and since they had no objections, he married her. Unfortunately, she did not want to assume her maternal or her housekeeping responsibilities. It became clear that she did not marry for love, only out of a calculated plan to marry a prominent man. She wanted to be a Lady and live without care, hoping that her 59 year old husband would die soon. Andor was unwilling to live under these circumstances. In June 1932, he asked her to leave his home. On September 1st 1932, Mária Bója moved out since she was neither capable nor willing to perform her duties. She now lives in Siklós.

In June 1932, Bandi (Andor Jr.) got excellent results on his final examination from high school (note: this test is similar to but not identical with our SATs. It is a comprehensive test to ensure that the individual has a good education) and was admitted to the Ludovika military academy. In 1936 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the artillery. Later he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and Captain. In 1944 he was sent from Nagyvárad, where he was instructor in the artillery school. Later he went to Karinthiá commanding his cadets. He returned home in the fall of 1945. He then was employed at the National Geodetic Survey. He married Magdolná Bolcsházi in December of 1950. They had two children: Gábor born on July 31, 1952 and Judith born on 11 September 1958. She is Grandpa Andor's favorite. As an aside I must note that Bandi is a serious, kind, solid individual, a wonderful father and husband and a loving son. He is well educated, reads widely, speaks German, French and a little English. He received honors for his military service.

Andor was named the chief judge of the circuit court in Budapest on July 6th 1937. This promotion to an outstanding judicial post caused great happiness in the family. This was the third time that Andor had been named chief judge in the court. He was congratulated by among others, Dr. István Oszvald, the president of the Supreme Court, Dr. Tihamér Fabinyi, the Secretary of the Treasury and Dr. Barna Buza, past Secretary of Agriculture.

As he had reached the highest rank and position and the time seemed right, Andor applied for retirement after serving in the judiciary for 43 years. His request was granted, and he retired on September 1st 1937. On this occasion, it is appropriate to look back on his distinguished service in a demanding occupation. He was appointed chief judge of his jurisdiction when he was still young, only 31 years old. At age 37 he was promoted to the presidency of the appeals court and continued to hold that position for the following 25 years. He served in eight different districts and at each he received the highest rating. He was held in high esteem not only by his colleagues but by the justice-seeking public as well.

The following extract serves as a memorial for his children:

From the director of the Royal Judicial District of Ungvar, 1903.E1.19/1. As he is assigned to serve as a Justice to the Royal Court of Appeal of Kassa, I in my capacity as director for the Royal Judicial District of Ungvar, release him from his work at the Royal Judicial District of Ungvar, as of the 22nd day of the month.

At the same time, while serving Mr. Justice (of the Peace) with the assignment and release documents, please allow me to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for his outstanding expertise and unflagging work at the Royal Judicial Court of Ungvar, under my management for 3 ½ years, wishing that Mr. Justice, by obtaining a higher level of qualification in his area of work will remain always a pride of the justice system of our country. At Ungvar, the year 1903, 19th of January.

Gyula Kozma, Chairman of the Royal County Court, by my own hand

On the occasion of his retirement, Andor purchased a two room condominium in Budapest. It had a hall as well as a balcony. It is a very nice condominium located in the XI district on Eszék Street. Since Ilona's husband was a field-grade officer and Klára's husband was well-to-do and Bandi had been promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Andor put the condominium in Nóra and Adrienne's names so that in the event of his untimely death, they would not be homeless. We moved into the condominium on May 3rd of 1938. We have lived there, or more precisely in its larger room, ever since then. We, that is, Andor and me, the Blue Cruet; as well as Adrienne and her husband, (she had since married) lived here in a single room.

In September 1939, World War II broke out. After much hardship and suffering, Budapest was besieged from December 1944 until March of 1945. Fortunately, we survived the siege in relatively good condition.

In the following years, however, much trouble befell the family due to the Communist occupation of Hungary. Béla Ficzeré, a major in the Hungarian army, was a prisoner of war. Nóra and her husband were forcibly relocated to Egyek. Andor's condominium in Budapest was confiscated by the state. His retirement pay was taken away (although a small portion was later reinstated.) The room with the balcony was sublet by the state to other occupants.

However, there were happy occasions as well. Nóra was married on January 2, 1947 to Dezső Papp, a retired colonel. They presently are happily living in the village of Gyal. On August 14, 1958, Adrienne married Pál Bella, an official in the freight railroad managed by the Hungarian state. They live with us in a happy and peaceful life.

After retirement, Andor's life changed substantially. He rises later in the morning and he bathes daily in both hot and cold water with a sponge bath. As a result, his preparations take longer and he leaves home around 11 AM. His daily constitutional is to walk along Mányoki Street, on the side of Gellért Mountain. He assists with the daily shopping. After a nap, he reads and listens to the radio. Later in the day, there is conversation, additional reading, and on Saturday nights between 6 and 8 PM visits from family and friends. He retires to bed at 10 PM.

Naturally ever since the fall of 1928, he has made regular Sunday trips to the woods and fields as even in his youth he had been an enthusiastic outdoorsman. His hiking group was known as the “Hunchbacks” because of the backpacks they wore under their coats. Andor was lucky to have found this group for companionship after his marriage disintegrated in 1932. Andor’s soul was seeking an understanding companion and true friend. He began a relationship with a young lady, Maria, who was looking for companionship herself. As a result of their many meetings, they got to know and understand each other as true friends. This unbreakable and true friendship has lasted now for 25 years. Such an unselfish friendship renewed his soul.

It is right to inject here that Andor; with the exception of 1886, 1919, 1945, and 1946, had taken an annual summer vacation since 1880. In the 1880s he visited with his Zemplén County relatives during his holidays. In 1890 he crossed the Carpathian Mountains from Munkács via the viaduct to Lemberg. On his return, he visited Ilona Zrinyi’s famous castle. Then he went to Mármaros Island where he visited the Szlatina salt mines; the Sugatag and Rónaszék. Then he went to the banks of the Tisza River, and visited Prince Rudolph’s estate, Kuzi. Kuzi is a hunting lodge located in a lovely wilderness area.

Andor climbed with two companions, Jozsef Hork, 19, and Elek Szirmai, 16. They started at Terebes and climbed the 2000 meter Pop Iván Mountain. They stayed two days in a rundown climber’s hut, but they enjoyed the breathtaking views and ancient wild woods. They ended up in the village of Rahó, which is located on the Tisza. They jumped on a raft and rafted down the Tisza all the way to Mármaros Island. This was an unforgettable trip, the rafting portion took about 7 hours. From the island, they took the railroad to Debrecen. The three men had never been on the Alföld so they were fascinated by the endless flat area. As they were short of time, they could only spend two days in Debrecen. They climbed the bell tower of the great church there and used that as their viewpoint to survey the surrounding areas. They toured the ancient Lutheran College there and were introduced to the early day Hungarian students’ daily life. From Debrecen they traveled to Sátoraljaújhely and visited the Sóstó Baths. Nyiregyház was their final destination, where Andor’s mother awaited them. Andor’s re-telling of this three week trip, his first major trip, was joyfully related. Thereafter they returned to Eperjes.

In subsequent years, he visited the castle ruins at Nagysáros, Kopivár, and Sóvár. The castle at Nagysáros had been the sometime residence of Ferenc Rákóczi. These sizable ruins showed how well built and large this castle had been.

The following summer, he went to the village of Kozma in Zemplén to visit the mountain lake, Izra; and then went to the Füzéri castle to see the beautiful 100 year old oak trees. He went to the ceramics factory at Hollóház. Then he went to his birthplace at Töketerebes and saw both the house and the actual room where he was born.

Later trips include:

The city of Nagymihály where a relative, Geza Szentléleky, Ilona’s uncle, was the parish priest and pastor.

Homonna, where Ilonka was born. This town was also famous as the site of the palace of Count Sándor Andrásy.

Andor, even though he was not a hunter, would participate in hunting parties in the country. Beaters drove the game toward the hunters. Andor served as a beater. A particularly pleasant memory arises from the hunt on the 2000 acre hunting park owned by Count Andre Barkóczy Hadik located in Taverna in Zemplén. There Andor participated in hunting for wild pig, deer, and fallow buck. The first hunt resulted in no kills but Andor was not discouraged by this lack of success. He accepted an invitation to hunt pigs at the village of Varannó in Zemplén. This two day hunt was arranged by the Count for Andor's pleasure. On the first day they had three drives with 11 gunners and bagged seven pigs. Early that morning it had snowed and every tree wore a crystal coating as if in a cathedral. It was a real pleasure to see the pigs running among these crystal trees. At the end of the third drive, as the sun was setting, the hunting party returned to the hunting lodge for dinner. At the gate of the hunting lodge, the beautiful, plump wife of the hunt master said "It's good to see you, gentlemen." The dining hall was warm and the company, after their day's exertions, immediately sat down to dinner. The servants brought steaks and galuska (dumplings from sheep's milk cottage cheese). The hunters needed no encouragement to eat and drink. The courses were so outstanding that everyone thought himself Jupiter's guest and one by one each swore to Saint Ganymede that they had never had such wonderful food before. The Tocsvai wine was delectable. Conviviality broke out...jokes practical and verbal caused such laughter that finally the host stood up and shouted "Boys, enough! Tomorrow the drive starts early." The hunters gulped the remaining wine and lay down to sleep. The lodge fell silent. Only the dogs' yelps disturbed the quiet forest. This showed that the dogs were on guard and everyone could sleep peacefully.

Count Andre Barkóczy Hadik, who at one time was the President of the Förend House, was quite rich and cultivated, smart but without any airs; an outstanding man who honored Andor with a portrait which Andor still has. The young Count, Gyula Andrassy, was also a cultivated man. He was the Minister of Internal Affairs. He held Andor in great esteem and as a memorial of his esteem gave him a three volume set entitled "On the Requirements for Maintenance of the Hungarian State." Andor, as a Judge, had a 17 year acquaintance with him.

Let us stay a while longer in Zemplén. Andor spent many pleasant summers in the villages of Bezottó, Pelejte, Vásárhely and Lozony where he was a guest of Pál Görgey. In the company of the Görgey family he was often at Lazstomér where there were two families named Szemere from the tribe of Huba namely the families of Gyula and Géza. Both families had eight children. Andor preferred to stay with Gyula. On the occasion of his last visit, the five Szemere boys had a concert with each playing a different instrument. Andor and Andor Fuhrmann of Váralja, his companion, were best friends. Andor Fuhrmann was courting Gyula Szemere's daughter, Margaret, a talented pianist. He was whispering to the temperamental, bright-eyed 18 year old with visible effect. In the other corner of the salon, Andor was entertaining the precocious 14 year old, serious and bright, Malika. She was not bored with Andor because she knew that he was genuinely interested in her.

The visit ended. They met only once more that year at Felsöméra in Abauj County. Here Viktor Vitéz held a new house blessing to which many Zemplén and Abauj

County girls and young men were invited. Malika and Andor did not meet again. Malika died suddenly when still quite young. Andor thought of her often.

Borsi, immediately next to Sátorajújhely on the banks of the Bogrog River, was the birthplace of Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II. Twice Andor visited in this village the small palace which is now the Rákóczi Museum. On June 4, 1920, the unjust Trianon Peace treaty assigned this totally Hungarian village to Slovakia.

The village of Széphalom lies about six kilometers from Sátorajújhely. Ferenc Kazinczy, the great revivalist of the Hungarian language, worked here. He was born in Ersemjén in Bihar County in 1759 and died in Széphalom in 1831. His main goal was to inject into Hungary the culture of the west and to further the Hungarian language. He was the one who elevated the Zemplén dialect into the literary language of Hungary. For his patriotism to Hungary he received a seven year prison sentence from the Hapsburgs. In 1830 the Hungarian National Academy elected him a member as one of the most important literary figures in Hungary.

The most important feature of Sárospatak, an important historical location, is the castle on the Bogrog which was already in existence during the time of King Endre II. Andor visited here many times. The other claim to fame for this town was that in 1530 a large Lutheran school was founded here.

In the middle of the 19th century the wealthy enjoyed attending harvest festivals during the grape harvest. There were famous parties (Madi balok = balls at Madi). Not a few beautiful girls suffered hangovers as a result of these parties. Andor particularly enjoyed the grape harvests in the Tokaj region at Erdőbény, Olaszliszka, Tály, Mád, Tolcsva, Tarcál and Tokaj, Szőlöske, Sátorajújhely, Nagy and Kisterenye and Szerednye. But tastes changed and the wealthy began to spend their money as tourists outside Hungary. It was a great shame because the wine was so outstanding, shining and notable especially at Mád and Tarcál that you cannot find a comparable wine anywhere else in Hungary.

Let's go to the other side of the Bogrog. Miskolc's origins go back to the Hungarian conquest. The region was settled by the Miskolc tribe under the leadership of Bars. The County Bars is named for him. The most notable attraction here is the high-arched Lutheran Church on the Ávas mountain.

The next stop was two towns, Ózd and Farkaslyuk, the site of an anthracite coal mine. An electric train descends many kilometers into the mine. Andor made this trip. He saw the difficult and dangerous work of the miners. Emerging from the mine, he was convinced that every miner was a national hero and one should only stand before them with cap in hand.

In 1930, Andor joined a tour group traveling from south to north starting in Felsőtarkány. He hiked through the Bükk Mountains on a two day tour with stops at Ómasa, Bánkut, and ending at Lillafüred. Before the hike, they visited the city of Eger and the castle there. Eger is one of the oldest cities in Hungary. St. Stephen founded the Church and the Diocese there. In 1203, King Imre died here and was buried in this Church. In 1242 the Mongols destroyed it completely but in 1261 under King Bela IV it was rebuilt. One of György Dózsa's commanders, Barnabás, burnt it

to the ground in 1514. The most notable event in Eger's history was the Turkish siege from Sept. 11 through Oct. 18, 1552. István Dobó and the women of Eger withstood thirteen assaults in that time. In 1596 however, Mohammed III after a three week siege overwhelmed the city with an army of 200,000. In 1708 Ferenc Rákóczi II retreated here after his loss at Trencsen. In 1809 the French overran the city. During this time, the wife of Francis I, along with the heir to the throne, were brought here.

After the Bükk Mountains, the tour group went to three different resorts in the Mátra Mountains; Mátrafüred, Mátraháza and Gallyatető. Gallyatető is one of the highest peaks in the Mátra at 963 meters. It has a spectacular view and is surrounded by a great forest. In good company, Andor had a wonderful time for three weeks. He particularly enjoyed the company of the beautiful, natural, honest and wise young Maria. This 18-year-old girl dressed simply but in excellent taste. Every day she appeared in freshly ironed cotton print dresses. It was almost as though she was perfumed with cleanliness and fine grooming. For Andor's 70th birthday she sent a nice letter of congratulations (the original document says "three months later" but in context this does not make sense as Andor was 70 in 1942). Andor remembers her fondly and treasures this letter. They met only once after the tour, somewhat by accident in Budapest of Kossuth Street. Maria was the daughter of a Cabinet Minister. Her father was arrested and Maria along with her mother emigrated to Australia. Surely she subsequently married as she was an outstanding and beautiful lady. Or who knows, the three graces never married even though all three were beautiful, benevolent goddesses.

Drégely castle, Nógrád castle, Buják castle, Buják village

Our tourists toured Buják village on two separate occasions. On the second visit it was Trinity Sunday, a time when every young girl and woman dresses in the famous beautiful, colorful and full-skirted folk costume. In church, the floor was entirely covered by the colorful skirts of the kneeling women. They looked like they were many colorful bells. Here they met with the famous painter, Oszkár Glatz, now deceased. He lived many years in Buják and painted his fine art there. On a whim, this famous painter arranged for a picnic for the tour group. The party was in the woodlands adjacent to the castle walls. Glatz provided bouquets for the tourists. This party allowed the group to appreciate the folk costumes in a the beautiful setting.

Balassagyarmat, Nógrádverőcze, Romhány

Romhány is a town with an ancient filbert tree which Andor photographed. The story of the tree is that Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II watched the battle of Romhány from this spot. The tree is not really that old.

Magyarkut, Nagymaros, Törökmező and the nearby mountains of the Börzsöny range, Mária-Nostra, Kaspallag, Csoványos, Hideghegy and Magas-Taksz were the next stops of the group. In that neighborhood was the lovely and famous Visegrád Castle and viewpoint on the bend of the Danube.

Estergom, the seat of the Hungarian Catholic Church, was the next stop. The princely palace of the Cardinal archbishop has a large library of between 40 and 70 thousand volumes. In addition, the palace has a fine museum and art exhibit. The collection

includes antiquities, coins, jewelry and fine art. Recently, there have been new archeological digs here where some buildings from the time of the Arpads have been uncovered.

Above Vác looms the Nagyszál peak. On a clear day, you can see the Tátra Mountains from this peak.

The next mountain range encountered is the Buda mountains with the major peaks; Hármashatár, János, Csucs, Sváb and Csiki. Further on we find Pilis, Kohegy, and Dobogoko. The next towns were Szentendre, Pomáz, Csobánka, Leányfalu, Tahí, Tahitótfalu, Tata, and Tatatóváros with its large fish hatchery.

OK, now let's go back to northern Hungary. Starting from Abos in Sáros County, we find the Hernád valley, the Szepes valley and the mining town of Gölnic; then Thurzófüred, Szepesvárálja, Igló and the baths at Lőcse. In the Tátra mountains, we find the baths at Ótátra, Tátralomnic and the lakes Csorba and Poprád.

A little story: Andor, on the path between the two lakes, met a blue-eyed, rosy, oval-faced young girl. They greeted each other. The girl suddenly stopped and related that she was from Breslau and is hurrying to the post office at Csorba where her clothes had just arrived. She was so impressed with the Tátra Mountains she wanted to extend her stay. With this she bade farewell. Andor was so impressed with this lovely German girl that he was speechless....

He just stared after the hurrying/running girl who glanced back from time-to-time and waved with her little hand until she disappeared from view. She so impressed Andor that he would have married her on the spot had this been a possibility. But Venus who according to mythology arose from the waves in Cyprus and who still rules the earth, did not permit this. Surely she had other plans. But Andor never forgot her.

Next comes the little town of Rózsahegy and the nearby waystation at Fenyőháza, at the bottom of the south slope of the Tátra. The Vág river runs past Fenyőháza. The forest here is a mix of hard and soft woods. Here Andor met the actress, Louisa Blaha, who by then was grey-haired. She was a wonderful, courtly Hungarian lady.

Andor's touring partners were Vilma Kis from Vizkelet, a piano teacher, and Elizabeth Vikár, an aerobics instructor. Elizabeth was the younger sister of the linguist, Béla Vikár, who translated into Hungarian the Finnish epic, Kaleval. Andor has read this. Elizabeth Vikár had just returned from the Stockholm Olympics and spoke effusively about the competition.

On one trip Andor challenged Elizabeth Vikár to a little race. Elizabeth surveyed the slight 45-year-old Andor, smiled and accepted the challenge. They started in a lovely flower-strewn meadow. After about 5 minutes Andor began to pull away and after teasing her with his speed, he easily won the race from the fit aerobics instructor.

Another memory from Fenyőháza: A small group traveled to Árva-vár. That ancient castle stands on a 136 meter hill. It is in habitable condition. It withstood many battles and defeats. In 1474, King Mathias captured it and awarded it to his son, John Corvin. In 1556, Ferenc Thurzó overran it. Georg Thurzó is buried in the castle's

chapel. His monument includes a life-sized statue. Among other things, the castle museum has a six-legged baby sheep with a double body and a single head.

Sadly, now we must leave the tour group, the beautiful forests, the River Vág with its many fish, and the memorable Louisa Blaha.

He traveled the valley of the Vág with its castle ruins, stopping at Zsolna and Lipot. They visited the Buffa farm located in Vágfarcas in the Nyitra County where Martha's adopted son, Arpád Herczogh, lived. He was the farm manager (uradalmi förtiszt). Andor had spent two summers as his guest and saw there for the first and last time, a bustard. He then went to Pzsony (Bratislava) but was there only a day.

Transdanubia

The tour group first sought out Székesfehérvár. This town was built by the Romans and was a substantial stop on the Roman military road. The Roman name for this place was Herculia. According to legend, Arpád founded Székesfehérvár but the real growth of the city happened during St. Stephen's time. He built a wonderful basilica and palace here. There are outstandingly beautiful chapels for King Louis the Great and King Mathias. For three hundred years this was the seat of the kings. There were 36 coronations, 15 royal funerals and 47 national congresses here. St. Stephen, King Kálmán, King Károly Robert, King Louis the Great and King Mathias are all buried here. From 1543 to 1688 the town was under Turkish rule. During the siege of 1601, the basilica, along with the royal mausoleum, was destroyed. During excavations in 1848, the royal tombs and the basilica's foundations were rediscovered.

The tourists participated in a rowdy harvest festival in the nearby town of Mór. Andor can't forget the many beautiful and vivacious ladies there particularly the 21-year-old, Klára, who sought him out and spent considerable time with him. She had an innocent and captivating personality. In the Vértes mountains, the tourists visited the Gesztes and Vitany castles. They returned each May over many years to pick violets here in expansive, fragrant fields of dark-eyed, long stemmed, large blossomed blooms. On the Bakony mountain, he only visited two towns, Zicz and Herend. In Herend, he visited the famous, 100-year-old porcelain factory.

Veszprém is an ancient city. During Roman times it was called Cimbriana. When the Hungarians arrived, it belonged to the Roman province of Pannonia. Özséb and Öse were the tribal chiefs who conquered the city. In St. Stephen's time, Kupa, the Somogy tribal leader was defeated and killed here. St. Stephen founded the diocese here and made it the right of the bishop of Veszprém to crown the queen. This city, just as all the other Hungarian cities, suffered greatly during the wars between the Turkish and the Rákóczi. In 1809 it was destroyed by the French.

Lake Balaton

Andor visited Lake Balaton in 1911 for the first time when he brought his daughters Nóra and Ilona to Balatonlelle. Subsequently Andor visited other towns surrounding the lake: Balatonboglár, Balatonszemes, Siófok, Balatonfüred, Balatonföldvár, Révfülöp, Balatonalmádi, Balatonkenese, Tihany, Fonyód and Béla.

Pécs

As I had previously related, Andor's daughter, Klára, married and moved to Pécs in 1924. From 1924 on Andor visited Pécs often and was a guest of his daughter and her husband for weeks at a time. He became familiar with the city and often visited the Mecsek mountains north of the city. At the center of Pécs is the Szécsényi square. Here stands a statue of the Holy Trinity by sculptor George Kiss. On the same square is the downtown church, a Turkish mosque converted to a church. On the north side of Szitovszky square stands the city's most beautiful building, the famous cathedral with its high belltower. This cathedral was built during the time of St. Stephen or King Peter. It is an outstanding example of architecture and interior decoration. Károly Andreve, Mór Buckeráth, Károly Lotz and Bertalan Székely were the artists who painted the interior and George Kiss was the sculptor. On the Kórház (hospital) square, is the chapel of St. John, another converted Turkish mosque with its minarets and cupola intact. Another famous place in Pécs is the world renown Zsolnay majolica factory.

Pécs was known as Sopianae in Roman times. Roman catacombs have been excavated here. This city was one of the favored places of King Mathias. After the battle of Sárvis his son, John Corvin, fled to the city to entrust the crown of St. Stephen to Bishop Sigismund. After the Turkish occupation, the town was retaken in 1664 by Michael Zrinyi, the author, and Count Hohenlohe, his fellow commander.

Andor also visited the 12th century castle in Siklos. Part of this castle is still livable. He went right through the city of Kecskemét and on to the farm at Bugac. There they observed the genuine ancient Hungarian lifestyle. It made his heart pound, to see the proud Hungarian horsemen and their working dogs, the Pulis, herd horses, cattle and sheep. (I must mention that on Hosszúhegy (long mountain) there is a white-washed country wine bar where someone had left the graffiti "Whoever loves wine, women and song, deserves to live 100 years".)

Martha, Andor's sister, lived in Kiskunfélegyháza and in Ada in Bacs County and Andor would visit her there. During the summer of 1893, Andor spent three days at the national firemen's congress in Szabadka as a honorary fireman because he was their attorney. He spent a pleasant day on the Palics lake, near the town hall. Andor's uncle, Géza Kutka from Dorog, lived in Nagyvárád but Andor was able to spend less than three days there. He only passed through Szeged. For three years, he vacationed at Egyek to which his daughter Nora and her husband had been displaced. This is near the famous Hortobágy state horse farm. When her exile ended, she lived in Gyál, a village in the county of Pest, and Andor would visit her there. (I must mention that during his lifetime, Andor found many four-leafed clovers. In 1959 after a few years of interruption, he, at the age of 86, found five examples in the yard at Gyál.)

Let us go to Transylvania. In 1917, we spent a day each at Kolozsvár and Brassó; and three days in Gelence, three Szek county villages and celebrated Tihamér Isépy's nephew's wedding to Borbala Csoma of Körös. The Csoma's are an ancient Transylvania family. On the border between Szilágy and Kolcs Counties is the Meszes Mountain. Here Andor saw a beautiful beech forest; so lovely that he had never seen anything like it in his many decades of touring. Reaching for the sky, these dense light green bowls rise like a cathedral among the midget men. The sight caused wonder and rapture.

In 1943 Andor vacationed in Beszterce-Naszód County and stayed at Radna-Borberek, a settlement at the foot of the 2280 meter Únókő, a snow-capped mountain in a beautiful pine forest. The deep pink rose, the ancestor of the azalea, grows wild on the side of the Únókő. It has a fine fragrance. Unfortunately wherever this wildflower grows, there is a viper snake that inhabits the same area. This was the favorite resting place of Sándor Reményik, the poet, who wrote many fine poems here.

The Sea

In the summer of 1904, Andor went to Fiume for the first time. He was just passing through Abbáziá at that time. At the same time he also went to Voloska and Laurana. These places are on the Istra peninsula. On the way home he stopped off at Susak village, which is separated from Fiume by the small Fiume stream. This is the site of the Torzato, the ancient castle ruin of the Frangepan clan. From there, you have an outstanding overlook of the bay of Kvarner.

In 1914 he returned to Abbáziá accompanied by his son, Bandi, and his mother. There they learned of the start of WWI and returned home immediately. On his 1929 vacation, Andor spent three weeks in Venice, Italy. Here he found a Hungarian lady from Arad who ran an inn. She and her guests were pleasant company. With the exception of one couple, all the guests were from Buda. There were two young divorcees; female painters. There was also a married couple and both were teachers. Most days, prior to 11 AM they would visit the two sides of the Grand Canal, the ancient houses, the museums and churches with their collections of fine art and antiquities. Among other things they looked at the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica. Then they went by boat to Lido Island for brunch and spent the rest of the day on the beach enjoying the sunshine, the ocean breezes and the company. At 8 PM they returned by boat to the inn. There they had dinner which lasted until 9 or 10 PM. In the evening the group went downtown to their usual café for frozen cappuccino. This beverage is black, frozen coffee with whipped cream. They often stayed to 1 or 2 AM. This is how they spent their days in Venice. On the last day of July, the Venetian holiday, Redemptore, took place. For this holiday, every family moves into open air booths in the streets and celebrates with eating, drinking and singing. In the evening, they board the boats, barques and gondolas and continue the party with practical jokes the order of the day. The group rented a barque (which was difficult to obtain) and they participated in the fun by attacking their neighbors with confetti and cotton balls. They ambush passing boats while their occupants are "misbehaving". The Redemptore holiday is very ancient in Venice. It commemorates the end of a great plague in the Middle Ages. I did not list all the wonderful arts and antiquities because doing so would require a much larger volume.

In his lifetime, Andor visited approximately 135 cities, towns and vacation destinations. I must relate that Andor was well read. Beginning in 1933 and particularly after his retirement in 1937, he had the leisure time to read. He created notes from his readings. These notes are contained in three heavy notebooks which he carries with him and adds to when possible. Looking over this anthology, you can see the breadth of the authors Andor has read. Among his favorites are the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer, the Odes of Horace, the Cattulus' verses, poems by Petrarch (this

poet had an unrequited love for a young lady named Laura that lasted for 24 years). He liked Pushkin, Tolstoy (War and Peace), the novels of Balzac, Zola's Roma, and Shakespeare's tragedies and Schopenhauer's Works. Favorite Hungarian authors are Jozsef Eötvös' work, Thoughts, and his novels entitled, The Village Magistrate and Sisters; Mihaly Vörösmarty's Zalán's Race; Janos Arany's poems Toldi and Family Circle; Sándor Petőfi's poems, Imre Madách's The Tragedy of Man. Andor enjoyed reading Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, who as we know did not actually write his thoughts down. His students at the Atheneumperapitatis (ambulatory academy) wrote down his most important philosophical ideas after their daily walks. (Aristotle was Alexander the Great's teacher. Alexander's father was Phillip of Macedonia who was wise enough to hire the famous philosopher, Aristotle. It was Phillip who first said "An ass loaded with gold can go through the strongest fortifications".)

Finally I have to tell you the many reasons, circumstances and customs which helped Andor live a long and healthy life. He is outstandingly cultured, smart, a little too serious but really loves his children. His beloved mother, Ilonka, showed him how to behave properly and live a simple, orderly life. As a ten-year old he slept in an unheated room, and he was stripped to the waist and washed in cold water every day. Breakfast consisted of milk or coffee with milk and buttered bread. A couple of apples were his snack. Lunch was meat soup with dumplings, or boiled meat with potatoes and gravy. If this was not available, then the main course was vegetables and apples or other fruit. This was the usual fare for weekdays except Friday. By custom, there was no meat on Fridays. The children loved the bean soup and bread with jam that was typically served on Friday. At 5 PM they had fruit. At 8 PM they had coffee or milk or perhaps some leftovers. Andor occasionally had a little bit of meat in the late evening. On Sundays, they had a roast and sweets, cookies or breads. Homework was done before dinner. After dinner, was the time for play or relaxation. Andor went to bed at 8 PM while a child and later at 9 PM. He said his evening prayers and wished his Mom good night. I related this to you in such detail because this was the basis for his practice throughout his life: The simple, everything in moderation lifestyle.

I must emphasize that Andor's soul, even as a young man, received from his mother the commands "Do not lie." And "Love your neighbor as yourself." If one had the courage to lie or to hurt one's fellowman, then you must also have the courage to admit it and to make it right and to take your punishment. Hurts must be forgiven and one must try to forget. It was in this spirit that Andor grew into a man. Through me, the Blue Cruet, Andor has related his life, the many events which shaped him and enriched his soul. Even at his advanced age, he is at peace with himself. He dearly loved nature and beauty. After all, this is one and the same. He loved the rainbow colors of the ocean spray, the shushing sound of the breeze in the whispering pines, the lovely hues of the forest in autumn, the colorful and fragrant wild flowers, the birds and the thousands of insects; and all the sounds the solitary hiker hears in the forest. The ocean and the forest have an otherworldly beauty. But now I will come down from the clouds.

Andor does not seek revenge. He is not angry or full of hate. He never swears. An ugly word has never left his mouth. He sought always to follow the commandment to love his fellow man. He had many opportunities to demonstrate his love of neighbor as a result of his occupation as a judge. He was always moderate in eating and

drinking; did not play cards, and did not even smoke. He loved cleanliness. He was always clean and well-turned-out. Since he believed that the body was the vessel of the soul, he had to maintain his body well. The fashionable clothing he wore was not out of vanity but to feed his soul. As a result of these practices, he has not been ill from age eight to seventy-eight. He had an easy-going and optimistic personality. He slept well with a clean conscience and still does so in his eighty-seventh year.

Now that I, the Blue Cruet, am 150 years old and quite tired; and Andor has reached such an ancient age that he wants only rest and quiet, it is unlikely he will have further adventures needing to be included in this memoir. Thus I close this story. It feels good as the evening comes, when light and shadow meet; and the living room is filled with shadows, to be surrounded by the art of a lifetime. The ink drawing of grandfather, Antal Kutka, made in 1847; the 1856 Miklos Barabás etching; the oil by Wagner purchased in Vienna in 1873; the many family photographs and earlier painting and etchings. I sit among the 120-year-old neo-Baroque furniture of which we are only caretakers for future generations. You are invited into the comfortable chair to sit with Andor looking back over our long lifetime, remembering our departed loved ones. (As Anatole France used to say, “It is a good deed to remember. To sit beside the fireplace and spend the evening recalling departed loved ones.”)

Here is what Andor says. I would like to thank women for their many kindnesses and love shown to me through my entire life. I had many more happy days than sad. I wish to express thanks to God for his great mercy that he gave me such a wondrous rich and healthy life. He blessed me with wonderful children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He blessed me with wonderful memories to recall the past vividly. I now say the “Our Father” and with that prayer close my account. Lord have mercy.

Budapest, December 1959

Isépy Andor