

FOREWORD

by

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IREX

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) has been pleased to sponsor the preparation and publication of this landmark reference work. When our academic exchanges between Hungary and the United States began over two decades ago only a handful of American scholars had any experience there, while the United States was all but *terra incognita* to most of the Hungarian scholarly community. Since then, relationships have matured and flourished. This pioneering research guide reflects our continuing resolve to acquaint scholars in the United States and elsewhere in the English speaking world with the extraordinary intellectual resources of contemporary Hungary.

While ultimate responsibility, and credit, for the compilation and presentation of the volume lies with our Hungarian colleagues, I would like to acknowledge the important contributions by IREX staff and consultants. The project was initiated on the American side by Dorothy Knapp, formerly IREX Assistant Director, and was completed under the supervision of Vivian Abbott, Director of IREX's East European programs, with the assistance of Livia Plaks of the IREX staff. The principal editorial work on the English text was carried out for IREX by Gloria Deák, whose contribution to the final product has been of critical importance.

We salute all of our Hungarian colleagues for their courage in undertaking such a massive task—and for their patience and skill in carrying it out.

Allen H. Kassof

December 18, 1987
Princeton, New Jersey

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by

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The complete collection of data related to Hungary's research and development system is here published in English for the first time. The book is aimed at promoting international cooperation in scholarship science and technology by giving a picture of the current state of Hungarian research and technological development. It also presents a detailed description of the institutional systems directly or indirectly serving the purpose of this development. Fostering international cooperation in an endeavor which expresses our true and real interests; it is in harmony with one of the fundamental principles of the country's foreign policy whereby Hungary is ready to cooperate with any country or foreign institute on the basis of equality and mutual advantages. It is an openness that reflects our willingness to participate in the international division of labor in scholarship, science and technology.

I sincerely hope that this volume will constitute a genuine contribution to the realization of these efforts. On behalf of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, I express my gratitude to the International Research and Exchanges Board and to the American Council of Learned Societies for their assistance in the realization of this English-language volume.

That such a joint publication could be arranged is of great importance not only for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, but also for the entire scientific community of the country. Although Hungary is anxious to assume an active role in the world of international science, her lingual isolation is often a barrier. By presenting, in English, the state and institutional systems of our scientific research, a new door is opened. I do not want to insist on the difficulties that Hungary may suffer because of her language, since scientists and scholars—Western and Eastern alike—have managed fruitful cooperation with their Hungarian colleagues for a long time. But this book goes beyond the usual contacts between scientists, furnishing information also for those who would gladly receive more news on Hungarian science but have found any comprehensive survey on the subject unavailable. Everyone interested in the topic will now be amply served.

The International Research and Exchanges Board effectively fertilizes international science through the promotion of such indispensable publications. I wish much success to the Board in the future. In a world where the development of peaceful relations among nations is best advanced by mutual knowledge and respect, the Board's work is of inestimable value.

Iván T. Berend