

Preface to the review series

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Why a Hungarian *History of English Literature*, one might ask. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall, as the country's borders opened, the paradigm of English Studies in Hungary changed: teaching through discussions wrapped in soft pipe smoke late into the night as it used to happen in scholarly or university circles during the Socialist regime was not enough anymore. The then young authors of the volume had to understand that to establish themselves on the international academic stage they need to publish in English journals, and in English. Yet, István Géher (1940–2012), a revered mentor and even father figure to the several present generations of Hungarian scholars insisted that Hungarian scholars should care to publish in Hungarian, for a Hungarian audience.

The volumes of the new Hungarian history of English literature fulfil that mandate, addressing the Hungarian public and offering their findings, also in tribute to Géher's enduring legacy. In fact, the entire series fulfils another legacy, the one of Géza Kállay (1959–2017), too. The venture of the Hungarian *History of English Literature* was Kállay's brainchild – a mission that, a decade ago, seemed almost impossible, especially when he passed away prematurely, leaving behind only a gigantic dose of inspiration and a mission statement of the principles of the project, as laid out in his article “Az angol irodalom magyar története. Elvi kérdések” [The Hungarian history of English literature: Clarification of principles] in the appendix of volume 1. Kállay's original project proposal has now been accomplished; the publication of the series (at the moment six out of the seven volumes) celebrates the collective effort of the Hungarian scholarly community of English Studies.⁴ The Hungarian *History of English Literature* is not only a professional achievement but also a deeply human one.

In the following review series, teachers and PhD students related to the Institute of English and American Studies at Pázmány Péter Catholic University offer their insights into the published volumes of the new Hungarian *History of English Literature*. Several of the reviewers have also authored chapters in various volumes of the series, but none of the reviewers presents volumes in which they have contributions. With this review series, the Institute of English and American Studies at Pázmány, as well as *Pázmány Papers*, wish to congratulate all authors and editors of the new Hungarian *History of English Literature* on their achievement.

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⁴ As to date, by the closure of the editing of this number of *Pázmány Papers* in early November 2024, six volumes of the seven-volume *History of English Literature* came out of print. Volume 5, covering the literature of the Victorian period and modernism, is forthcoming later in 2024 and will be reviewed separately in a subsequent issue of *Pázmány Papers*.