

Who is Buried in Lenin's Tomb?

The following transcript is reprinted from the March 1986 issue of Encounter. According to Encounter, it is the translation of a survey conducted in Budapest and was spontaneous and unrehearsed. Radio Budapest sent two of its reporters first to Marx Square to ask passers-by who Karl Marx was.

A Passer-by: Oh, don't ask me such things.
--not even just a few words?

I'd rather not, all right?
--why not?

The truth is, I have no time to study such things.
--But surely you must have heard something about him in school?

I was absent a lot.
Another Voice: He was a Soviet philosopher. Engels was his friend. Well, what else can I say?
He died at an old age.
A Female Voice: Of course, a politician. And he was9 you know, he was what's his name's --
Lenin's. Lenin, Lenin's works -- well, he translated them into HunRarian.
An Older Female Voice: It was mandatory to studv him. so that we would know.

--Then how about a few words?
Come on, now, don't make me take an exam on my eighth-grade studies. That's where we had to
know it. He was German, he was a politician, and ... I believe he was executed

--Whom was Marx Square named after?
A Very Old Female Voice: Well, wasn't he that great German philosopher? No? Marx, Engels,
Lenin? No?
The radio reporters then went to Engels Square:

--Do you know whom Engels Square was named after?
A Passer-by: After Engels.

--And who was Engels?
He was an Englishman, and he screwed around with Communism. [Laughter]

--Do you know whom Engels Square was named after?
An Older Female Voice: I don't know. I am not from Budapest. I don't know.
A Male Voice: Well, let's see, Engels? A revolutionary.

--And do you remember his other [first] name?
Engels. Engels...Marx Engels. Marx, wasn't it?
Another Voice: One of his names was Marx, the other Engels?
Another Voice: That's it.

--Where did Engels live?

A Female Voice: Well, where did he live, you ask. Well, he lived in Leningrad, that is. in Moscow.

--Could you tell me whom Marx Square was named after?

Karl Marx.

--Where did he live?

Well, he died.

--But where did he live?

Well, partly, so far as I know, in the Soviet Union. That's where he studied for a while, and then I think he also spent some time in Hungary. I wouldn't know exactly.

--Do you know whom Marx Square was named after?

Several Voices: No, we come from Szeged. We are from Szeged so we don't know.

--Do you know whom Engels Square was named after?

A Male Voice: No.

--And Marx Square?

I don't know that either.

--And Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Street? [Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky was a Hungarian antifascist politician, executed by the Nazis in 1944.]

Well, after Bajcsy-Zsilinszky.

--Who was Bajcsy-Zsilinszky?

An Old Female Voice: Well, actually, he was a Hungarian, and he didn't like the Horthy era.

--What was his other [first] name? What Bajcsy-Zsilinszky?

I don't know. Was it Bela? [To another person] Do you know whom Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Street was named after?

An Older Male Voice: Bajcsy-Zsilinszky. He was a revolutionary.

--Do you remember his first name?

Gyorgy Bajcsy-Zsilinszky.

--Who was Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Street named after?

Another Female Voice: Endre.

--Who was he? I don't remember that school stuff anymore

A Male Voice: Well, so far as I know, Engels was originally a German.

--And his first name?

The Same Voice: Karl, wasn't it? Wasn't it Karoly [Hungarian for Karl]? Or was Marx called

Karoly? I don't know. I don't know. It's not important either. At the seminary they just keep referring to him as Engels, because once he was mandatory. 6te