

# **Organizations**

**George Weber, University of Munster**

## **Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center**

The Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center is a non-profit organization whose purpose it is to promote knowledge about all aspects of Carpatho-Rusyn culture through the publication and distribution of scholarly and educational material concerning the Rusyn heritage in Europe and America. A number of publications are available from them, including a substantial newsletter issued quarterly. The newsletter includes articles on Rusyn folk culture, important Rusyn and Rusyn-American personages, Rusyn history, news of Rusyn-American communities, and relevant bibliographic information. It costs a mere \$7.00 a year. Those of you interested in East European ethnicity should be particularly interested.

## **U.S.-Albania Friendship Association**

The U.S.-Albania Friendship Association was formed in 1978 with the aim of creating friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and the Peoples Socialist Republic of Albania. The Association conducts a variety of educational work, highlighting diverse aspects of life including history and ethnography, literature and the arts, music, film, health care, the educational system, economic development, law, political life, and international policy. The organization attempts not only to inform those who are unaware of Albania, but to provide a resource for those who are engaged in research about Albania. The Association issues a quarterly publication, *Albania News*, and operates an active press service. Annual membership dues are \$5.00, \$15.00, or \$25.00, to be determined by the individual. To join, or for further information, write USAFA, P.O. Box 2534, Gary, Indiana 46403.

## **Association for The Study of Transylvania**

*We continue our sporadic series on relevant institutions in Europe. George Weber university of Munster) recently toured the United States and left behind this description of The Association for*

*the Study of Transylvania) in which he is active. It is particularly important information for those readers interested in Transylvanian Saxons.*

The Arbeitskreis für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde (AKSL) or Association for the Study of Transylvania, was founded in 1962 as a registered association in Heidelberg, German. It supports scholarship on Transylvania on the basis of new issues and methods, in the spirit of international understanding and tolerance. The AKSL has published 118 archival and quarterly volumes and is one of the most important sources of information relating to the history and culture of Transylvania. The foundation of its predecessor, the Verein für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde", in the years 1840-42 happened out of the insight that economical efficiency was not enough. Men at that time realized, living in the age of awakening, that it was necessary to work out the basis of existence as well in its intellectual meaning. One way to achieve that goal was through research. In our time it is required to think of the history, present and future in a new way. It is even more necessary now than it was during the Transylvanian Vormärz. As conditions in Germany as well as in Transylvania changed, so the basis for Saxon self-understanding changed. The most important thing is the value of scientific insight with which we can break through the forest of prejudice. The scientific work of AKSL is divided up into a number of working sections, consisting at present of didactic and school history, genealogy, German philology, history, history of art, ecclesiastical history, natural sciences, sociology and social history, folklore, anthropology, economic history, *Zeitgeschichte*, and a study group for urban monographs.

The Verein für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde succeeded years ago in involving a large part of Transylvanian Saxon society in its work. This was to the benefit of its endeavors and explains its tremendous sense of mission. At the present time, membership is about 600. Because the number of interested people is now smaller and more dispersed, we are trying to find others who are willing to support our work by becoming members of the association. Dues are DM 25 a year, which can be reduced for special reasons; donations are always welcome. More important than the annual contribution is the purchase of our publications. The *Siebenbürgisches Archiv* (Transylvanian Archive) is a series published irregularly by the Boehlau Verlag, Cologne and Vienna. Members of AKSL are able to purchase copies at a reduction of at least 35 percent off the bookstore price. The biannual *Zeitschrift, für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde* ( Journal of

Transylvanian Studies), containing short essays, research reports, announcements and book reviews, can be subscribed to by members for 19 DM a year. In addition, membership in the association makes it possible to receive special publications for highly reduced prices. Finally, members are invited to annual congresses. There it is possible to renew personal contacts, listen to lectures given by international experts and discuss new research results.

The office of the AKSL is located in Gundelsheim at the Neckar at Schloss Horneck. The manager also attends the Siebenburgische Bibliothek mit Archiv und Arbeitsstelle, which is a collecting center for all publications about and from Transylvania. At the end of the year, the library contained 26,000 titles. The AKSL has a formal contract of cooperation with the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen in Stuttgart, the oldest German institution for cultural exchange.