

Both a practising lawyer as well as a professor of international trade law and private international law at the Faculty of Law of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Budapest, István János Molnár has been researching and writing about issues relating to Canada since the time of his university studies thirty years ago.

István János Molnár's PhD thesis dealt with the main aspects of the Quebec question in the framework of the Canadian Constitution, and constitutional issues and Quebec have remained one of his central concerns. This is reflected in scholarly articles on such issues as the constitutional legal basis of Canada's system as a state; the constitutional and legal system of French Canada before the creation of the Canadian federation; the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Quebec Secession Reference Case; minority rights, immigration and refugees in Canada; Quebec and French-Canadian law; and the new (1991) Civil Code of Quebec. A series of more popular articles and radio broadcasts have dealt with aspects of Canadian history, among them the history of New France; Canadian aspects of the War of 1812; the history of the Hudson's Bay Company; the year 1848 in Canada; and the RCMP fort and museum at Fort Macleod.

In addition to his articles, István János Molnár has published no fewer than three monographs with Canadian themes: *The Most Important Elements of the Constitutional Legal System of Canada* (1990); *Canada and the Quebec Question* (1996); and most recently *A History of Canada: From the Beginnings to Confederation, 1000-1867*, issued on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. As the dates indicate, it deals with the "pre-history" of the Dominion from the appearance of the first Europeans in the "Canadian space", covering the First Nations, the French regime, the British conquest in 1759 and the developments that followed. This lengthy book - over 500 pages - is the first monograph written in Hungarian on Canadian history, thus filling a major gap in both Canadian as well as North American history.

In view of his important scholarly and popular contributions to Canadian Studies, the Central European Association for Canadian Studies takes great pleasure in awarding this Certificate of Merit to István János Molnár.

