

In Memoriam



Egon F. Kunz 1922–1997

Dr Egon F. Kunz, librarian, social historian and a prominent student of refugee movement worldwide, died on 19 July 1997 in Canberra, Australia. He held degrees from the universities of Budapest and Sydney. Frank, to his friends, was born in Budapest and after the Soviet occupation he escaped to Austria. As a refugee he became eligible for migration to Australia in 1949. In his work "Displace Persons; Calwell's New Australians (1988)" he gave an account of the refugee experience he had involved.

In Australia Kunz completed the two year contract as a refugee and became then a librarian in the Mitchell Library in Sydney where he organized the first historical map collection in Australia. After 17 years in Sydney Frank Kunz became a Senior Research Fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University in Canberra. When I was there as a Ph.D. student in 1969–72 Frank Kunz was my supervisor together with Dr. Charles Price. Later Frank Kunz was a senior librarian at the ANU and at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Frank Kunz was an internationally recognised expert on the history and theory of refugee movements. In his years of retirement Frank Kunz continued his work on the history of Hungarians in Australia, based on his book "Blood and Gold; Hungarians in Australia" in 1969. Another volume was published in 1985 and an updated Hungarian language version will be published later this year and has been recognised by the Hungarian Government through a Cross of Merit award.

Frank Kunz is survived by his wife Elsie, a professional librarian and author, and three sons. A large number of colleagues and friends are missing Frank Kunz, a modest person and a patriot of Hungary and Australia, an emigrant and refugee of a divided heart.

Olavi Koivukangas