

The American Hungarian Library and Historical Society,
The East Central European Institute of Columbia University, and the
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING WITH

Jaap Scholten

AUTHOR OF

Comrade Baron

**Wednesday, May 18,
2016**

7:00 pm

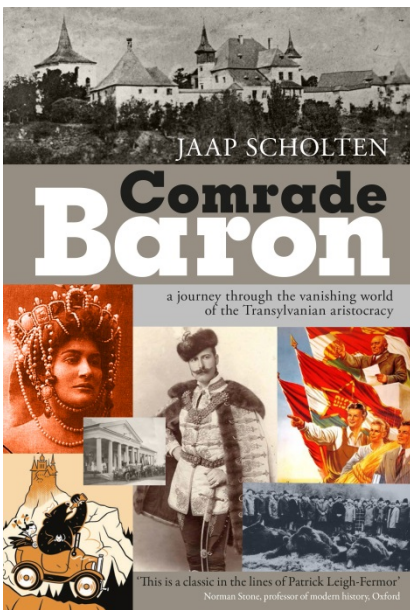
AT THE NEW YORK HUNGARIAN LIBRARY

215 East 82nd Street
(between 2nd and 3rd Avenues)
New York, NY

A best-seller in The Netherlands with more than 30,000 copies sold, *Comrade Baron* has been translated into French, Hungarian, Romanian, and now English.

Reception to Follow

The book will be available for purchase and dedication by the author



Suggested donation: \$10.00

In the darkness of the early morning of March 3, 1949, practically all of the Transylvanian aristocracy were arrested in their beds and loaded into trucks. That same day the Romanian Workers' Party was pleased to announce the successful deportation and dispossession of all large landowners. Communism demanded the destruction of these ultimate class enemies. Under the terror of Gheorghiu-Dej and later Ceaușescu, the aristocracy led a double life: during the day they worked in quarries, steelworks and carpenters' yards; in the evening they secretly gathered and maintained the rituals of an older world.

To record this unknown episode of recent history, Jaap Scholten travelled extensively in Romania and Hungary and sought out the few remaining aristocrats who experienced the night of March 3, 1949. He spoke to people who survived the Romanian Gulag and met the youngest generation of the once distinguished aristocracy to talk about the restitution of assets and about the future. How is it possible to rebuild anything in a country that finds itself in a moral vacuum?

An extraordinary, passionate and important work, *Comrade Baron* is “in part, an oral history of a group we know little about, in part the account of a journey through one of the most beautiful and mysterious regions of Europe and in part a record of a Dutchman’s impressions on finding himself in an extraordinary milieu in the company of some exceptional families.”

“Combining a warm heart with the tenacious pursuit of truth, Jaap Scholten restores to vivid life the world of the Transylvanian aristocracy from its glory days to its tragic finale. Scholten thereby captures a missing piece of history and provides the reader with a gripping journey through a lost world.” **Kati Marton, author & award-winning former ABC News correspondent**

Jaap Scholten studied Industrial Design at the Technical University in Delft, Graphic Design at the Willem de Kooning Academy of Arts in Rotterdam (BA), and Social Anthropology at the Central European University in Budapest (MA). He has published seven books: collections of short stories and three novels. His novel, *De wet van Spengler* (Atlas Contact, 2008), was chosen “novel of the year” in the Netherlands. *Kameraad Baron* (Atlas Contact, 2010) was awarded the prestigious Libris History Prize in 2011. He has lived in Budapest since 2003. The English edition of *Comrade Baron* is published Helena History Press and distributed worldwide through Central Europe University Press.

