



## Famed Pilvax Café is 125

**T**he famous Pilvax Café, one of the landmarks of historic Budapest which has made its name inseparable from the memory of the 1848-49 War of Independence and the great lyrical and revolutionary poet Sándor Petöfi, celebrates the 125th anniversary of its foundation this year.

It was one of the first literary cafés to have been opened in 1842 in Pest, then a city with no more than 100,000 inhabitants (Budapest today has almost two million). The visitors to this café, representing all the layers of Hungarian society of the time, secretly read French revolutionary newsheets and saw pictures of the Bastille, Marat, Robespierre and Lafayette displayed on the walls.

It was the visitors to this café who first know about the outbreak of the 1848 revolution in Vienna. And they were the first to hear the historic call of Sándor Petöfi, one of the torch-bearers of the fight against the Habsburg rule of Hungary.

Today, the café still preserves its attractive historic atmosphere. Its period dining rooms, antique chandeliers and fine china have a charm of their own. In glass cabinets, relics of the great period present a panorama of Hungarian history.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary, Café Pilvax revives the Candle—Light Balls—for which it had been justly famous in the past. And the choice dishes going with the old-world atmosphere are said to match the splendour of the candelabra.