

Summary

These editorial notes to our final issue in 2021 are not directly connected to its contents. Instead, they examine the dilemma whether the new waves and variants of the Covid pandemic (such as *Omicron*) can actually call into question the so-called normal activity of our journal, and by extension, our entire traditional culture.

We are commemorating 140 years from the birth of Zoltán Somlyó and 15 years from the death of György Somlyó, an outstanding father-son poetry duo. Due to the Covid menace, there were only a handful of people in attendance on 8 November 2021, when we organised a collaborative commemorative event at the Kelet Café cultural space on Bartók Béla út – the area where the two poets had spent the last part of their lives. The writings by János Kőbányai, Bálint Somlyó and Sándor Zsoldos published here were first shared live on this occasion. Géza Szilágyi (1875 - 1958) – a poet awaiting to be rediscovered – remembers Zoltán Somlyó with the insider knowledge of a contemporary, a decade after the latter's death.

János Kőbányai's essay on Avigdor Hameiri – 'Writer of the Hungarian and Israeli Communities of Fate' – was written to mark the Hungarian publication of the Hebrew writer's novel about war-time captivity, *Hell on Earth*. The essay highlights that the persona and work of this author is the very link that embodies the similarities between Hungarian and Israeli culture – despite the fact that few people in either country know about the poet, writer, translator and initiator of several other literary genres in Israel, born a century ago. (In addition to translating Madách, Petőfi and Ady and thus introducing Hungarian culture to the Middle East, he also transplanted the very spirit of Hungarian culture, for example by founding a comedy theatre and paving the way for the still flourishing stand up comedy genre.)

Zsuzsa Arany's study of Margit Kaffka's lesser-known novel *Stations* explores the intellectual milieu of the early twentieth century, in situations where the modernisation of Jewish life has taken place and, as a result, a series of social conflicts came to the fore.

A generation later, this conflict was further accentuated, as we can see in the first five chapters of Péter Nagy's memoirs (1920 – 2010), published here for the first time accompanied by Márton Soltész's notes: 'Simulation and Assimilation. Introduction and Additional Thoughts on the First Five Chapters of Péter Nagy's Memoirs'. László Surányi's essay on the Torah's Adam and Eve story is also a salute to the memory of his mentor, Béla Tábor (1907 – 1992). Károly Bárd's study 'Who Is Entitled to Write About Jewish Collaboration?' examines a most delicate issue – that of Jewish collaboration in the Holocaust. Viktória Radics, in her feuilleton 'Balkan Medallions', evokes the fate of Holocaust victims in the Southern area of Zombor (now Sombor/Сомбор in Serbia) and its surroundings. Anna Gergely's study introduces the reader to the work of a lesser-known artist – Alfréd Lakos, a painter of devout Jewishness. We are also introducing Dávid Turbucz, who publishes an excellent review of a book by our regular contributor László Bernát Veszprémi – a work that scrutinizes Miklós Horthy's rise to power and the consolidation of his regime. Norbert Haklik reviews the novel *Jewish Funeral* by Márk Mezei, and the important historical monograph *The Massacre of the Nagysármás Jewry* (published only online to date) by emerging scholar Szabolcs Kovács.

As appropriate to this occasion, our literature section includes poetry by Zoltán and György Somlyó (the father writing about the son, and the son about the father.) We are also publishing poems by Ákos Szilágyi and Éva Petrőczy, and a short story by Imre Goldstein.