

Summary

In the first issue of 2023, the editor must declare that no cultural topic can be discussed without our watchful eyes on the so-called “Ukrainian” — but in reality, global, or even the third world — war. This dilemma exists — what we are witnessing, however, is left to the analysts and portrayers of the coming ages to chronicle. We are not even done processing the Holocaust. (And if we did process it, how would that help us deal with the apocalypse we've just run into?)

An essay by Barbara Smitmans-Vajda, *Future? Hope? Utopia or dystopia? Thoughts on Helmut Fabrenbach's book Wesen und Sinn der Hoffnung [The essence and meaning of hope]*, discusses German collective remembrance and consciousness from the aspect of whether it was affected (or not) by facing the crimes of Nazism. The philosopher's husband, Mihály Vajda (Misu), has just celebrated his 88th birthday. One of the spiritual pillars of our magazine — so tragically left alone in this role — turned 88 in February. We celebrate the occasion with words of praise by Emese Ujvárosi, György Czifra and János Kőbányai.

Géza Jeszenszky remembers his recently deceased colleague, István Deák. Namely, he compiled a set of documents from their ten-year correspondence, which presents a discussion of the Hungarian Holocaust that is characterized by respectful disagreement and a cultured debate between conflicting views. This publication also highlights how important it is to properly archive e-mail correspondence, since the letters exchanged may serve as foundations of history. (But what will be the fate of digital correspondence?)

A study of Ginsberg by Enikő Bollobás not only commemorates the great American poet in connection with a volume compiled from his works, but also recalls his stay in Hungary in our (that is, the beat generation's) time.

Viktor Karády has written a fresh preface to his French-language sociological essay *Jews in Hungarian Nation-building*, co-written with István Kemény in the 1980s. After certain updates, this work will be published in Hungarian by *Múlt és Jövő* in the near future. The title of Péter Csunderlik's study, “Interpretations of the Proclamation and Fall of the Proletarian Dictatorship of 1919 in Horthy-era Newspapers”, reflects its content accurately. In his study, “One-person Majority. The Salom Peace Group, or a Jewish Opposition Voice in Hungary at the End of the Kádár Era (1983–1989)”, Attila Novák draws a portrait of a one-man samizdat and its representative, György Gadó — as proof of how our recent past is transformed into history.

The current issue of *Múlt és Jövő* commemorates two important Hungarian Jewish natural scientists. Compiled by Attila Grandpierre, Miklós Müller and Gábor Elek, a book on Ervin Bauer's life and work was recently published. On this occasion, Anna Geréb collected what can be known about the scientist's life, the circumstances of his death, and the fate of his children. And Máté Hidvégi evaluates the significance of his magnum opus, *Theoretical Biology*, from a scientific point of view. Balázs Hargittai and István Hargittai draw the portrait of chemist László Farkas, who also started from Budapest but built his career in Jerusalem.

Entitled “A Master of Shaping Cityscapes”, Ágnes Huszár wrote an appreciative study of Tibor Gottdank's book about the architect Emil Vidor. Levente Olosz's review, “New Distortions Around Kasztner”, gives a scathing account of Paul Bogdanor's *Kasztner's Crime* and Daniel Brand's *Trapped by Evil and Deceit: The Story of Hansi and Joel Brand*.

For this issue, instead of a reading journal, Orsolya Péntek wrote a journal on exhibitions. Her study brings psychological aspects to the review of an exhibition of self-portraits by Jewish painters organized at the 2/B gallery in Budapest. And on the occasion of the grand Greco exhibition in Budapest, she explores what Jewish art collectors in Budapest meant to the legacy of the great Greco-Spanish painter.

Tamás Féner (one of the greatest Hungarian photographers) wrote the opening speech for Éva Horvát's photos taken in Munkács during the regime change. This community, which has gone through many trials in history, no longer exists. And with this, we have touched upon reality, which — these times, mostly through non-existence — best characterizes our days.

György Dalos is currently writing his novel, *Ágyrajárók*, from which we will share an excerpt. It is also inspired by the Ukrainian war, and takes us back to the pivotal times of 1944-45. We also congratulate the Heinrich Mann award-winning author who is turning 80 this year.

In this issue, we publish poems by Balázs Györe and we introduce the poems of Kristóf Csillik.