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SUMMARY

We deliberately publish the last issue of 2004 at the beginning of the New Year. Since we dedicate the entire volume to the memory of the Hungarian Holocaust, we wish to emphasize with the gesture of the last issue the symbolic significance of two dates: the liberation of the ghetto of Budapest on 19 January 1944 and the freeing of Auschwitz on 19 January 1944. These two dates embody the end of the destruction of Hungary's Jewry.

Randolph Braham's article discusses the historical dimensions of the Auschwitz Album. As the most eminent social scientist of the Hungarian Holocaust, he assesses the historical message of these pictures which have been available in Hungary since 1963 and which were exhibited during the jubilee year, unfortunately, without context. János Kőbányai's part two of his "On the Land of Accomplices", which originally was written under the title "Items from the Hungarian Holocaust Museum" for the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Collection and Documentation Centre, exposes the hopelessness of expert leadership of the said institution. The author demands an open debate with the involvement of the entire Hungarian society and world experts. Kőbányai, in his other article, "The Gates of Auschwitz" reviews the special Holocaust editions of História (Nos. 1-2, 2004) and Rabicon (No. 11, 2004). In these two journals, the elite of the Hungarian historical profession provide research results that may bring a fundamental turn to our knowledge of the Holocaust.

György Válas, once a tenant of a Jewish children's refuge, does not recall the Christmas of 1944 as a celebration of the Christian spirit. József Koczó in his "Vámosmikola" erects a memorial to the history and the destruction of the Jewry of a village on the bank of the Ipoly River. His plea for forgiveness is as good as if the head of state would have announced it. Norbert Kerényi's recollections about the last days in the life of György Bihari and his student association most of whose members (with the notable exception of the well-known American politician Tom Lantos and the philosopher Ágnes Heller) perished during the Holocaust. Lajos Erdélyi's report brings to life a little known but enlightening episode of the Hungarian Holocaust. He describes how following Romania's desertion of its Nazi allies, the Hungarian army occupied most of southern Transylvania and massacred the local Jewish population in a mere two weeks.

The next part of the issue is preoccupied with the impact of the Holocaust. Katalin Fenyves characterizes the publications that appeared on the sixtieth anniversary of the Holocaust. Klára Szarka reviews the arts exhibition of the Hungarian Jewish Museum. The artist András Böröcz presents his plans for a Budapest Holocaust memorial that he wishes to execute together with the architect Lészló Rajk. György Fehéri's essay summarizes decades of debates about the Berlin Holocaust Memorial to be opened on 10 May 2005. Fehéri also presents a Berlin railway station from where Jews were deported and where today stands a memorial for the victims. Zsóka Lendvai's report describes another deportation point, the Aspang railway station of Vienna, where the Viennese plan to erect a memorial. Our cover page shows the Budapest Józsefváros Railway Station. This was the true gate to Auschwitz, suggests Kőbányai, and adds that the museum of the Hungarian Holocaust should be located here rather than in the unsuitable Páva Street. Andrea Dunai's study deals with German compensation and Communist authorities and how the latter began the falsification of Holocaust history and the devaluation of compensation.

The literary contributions to our Holocaust anniversary volume are provided by Ágnes Gergely and Itámár Jáoz-Keszt's poems, the short stories of the Ida Fink, who writes in Polish but lives in Isrsel, and Judit Mezei, in whom we can welcome a new translator and critic of Paul Celan's works.