

SUMMARY

The first number of *Past and Future* shall be devoted to two somewhat abstract topics: "The Desert and Monotheism" and "Jewish Music". (Current events, which are becoming less and less tolerable, have been confined to titles listed under section Observer, Bibliography.)

The basic tone of the present number is set by István Bella's philosophically inspired sonnets of the desert, followed by Smuél Trigano's essay of poetic beauty, merging theology, Hebrew semiotics and Judaistics, and dealing with the significance of the desert for Jewish religion and thought. The same genesis-mystery is described and explained in Eli Auerbach's essay and in the prose-poems of Edmond Jabès. These three outstanding thinkers are published in Hungarian here for the first time. An Essene community living in Judea became world famous when their literary remains – the Dead Sea Scrolls – were discovered, also in the desert. Even though the Dead Sea Scrolls were made available to the public as early as the 1950s and a number of books have been published on them, they are the subject of sensational stories even today. The debates and scandals which have raged in connection with the validity and scientific credibility of new critical editions and newly published fragments of the scrolls are presented in Ida Frölich's exhaustive study. János Kőbányai's documentary novel extract concerns a desert hero from the present day: a little girl ends up in the desert from an orphanage in Szeged, Hungary; plays a part in the modern desert wars as a nurse and then participates in the construction of the small desert town, Arad, which flourished in Biblical times. Katalin S. Nagy's essay "Jerusalem?!" is an analysis of the impact on fine art of the eternal theme of a "love of the urban" on the edge of the desert. Alfréd Schöner, not so long ago Chief Rabbi in Hungary and now professor of fine art at several Israeli high schools, has launched a "history of art" series entitled "Figurative representation in Jewish fine art".

The section dealing with music in the present number opens with Sándor Scheiber's speeches on music. *Past and Future* will publish some of his short, still unpublished masterpieces in the course of the year. It will not be difficult to find a place for them regardless of the profile of the particular number of the periodical, because Sándor Scheiber had something interesting to say about virtually everything. The musical articles have been grouped around a significant event: the newly re-

leased album by the folk group Muzsikás entitled "Jewish Folk Music From Máramaros". The study by Judit Frigyesi, professor of music at the University of Philadelphia, analyses exhaustively the sources of the album. The study by Bob Cohen, American klezmer musician and scholar living in Hungary, summarising his historical and individual research, also deals with Jewish folk music. In his short writing Avigdor Herzog – founder-director of the Jerusalem Phonotheca – welcomes the playing of music, believed dead or lost, with deep joy. Enrico Fubini's study analysing the relation between Schönberg's twelve-tone music and Jewish tradition, will most probably prove very useful for students of the Music Academy. Mária Ember's interview is a portrait of an extraordinary musician – Lajos Kathy Horváth, who is Jew, Gypsy and Hungarian all at the same time – and whose contemporary gypsy music is unique in the world.

Marianna Birubbaum's study is a historical survey of experiments carried out on human beings from the Middle Ages to the Shoah. The study by Béla Tábor, the recently deceased philosopher, entitled "Professional Judaism or the Jewish World View" is now re-published *in memoriam* of the philosopher now lost forever, but whose contemplative search for the true path has not lost its validity even today.

Our book review section focuses on publications concerning the history of the Jews in Hungary. Most of the studies in the memorial book prepared for the seventieth birthday of József Schweitzer are devoted to the same topic. The author of the review is József Patai, the world famous anthropologist, son of Raphael Patai, founding editor of *Past and Future*. József Patai started his career in the "old" *Past and Future* and now returns to the magazine's staff with a brilliant piece of writing. Gábor Schweitzer reviews the special number of magazine "Századok" (Centuries) devoted to Jewish topics. Judit Lakner in her essay, going beyond the usual boundaries of a review, gives an account of another collective effort: a collection of studies published in Jerusalem in English and edited by Michael K. Silber, entitled "Jews in the Hungarian economy 1760–1945", to which the best scholars in this field from all over the world contributed one study each. A new section commences at the end of the present number, giving an account of the doings of our magazine, the most interesting news being that the staff of *Past and Future* plans to branch out into publishing.