

SUMMARY

The whole of number 93/2 of **Past and Future** shall be devoted to **Budapest**. (As last summer's 92/2 number was devoted to the city of cities: Jerusalem. In this way our periodical will initiate a new tradition, namely the devotion of half of certain numbers to a **place** affecting the spirituality of the whole world from a cultural point of view.)

At the beginning of the number **Gábor Demszky**, the first freely elected Mayor of Budapest for forty years, welcomes the endeavours of **Past and Future**. This is followed by János Kőbányai's essay, *Budapest: the magic and mystical meeting point of cultures*, concerning the historical role of this great city in Europe and its spiritual contacts with the city of cities, Jerusalem.

We will continue to publish **Sándor Scheiber's unpublished speeches throughout the year**. This time we have selected from those related to the **Rabbinical Seminar in Budapest**, the institution many thought of as the centre of Jewish culture before the establishment of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. **György Haraszi**, the historian (and Director of the American Foundation School, heart of one of the most dynamic Jewish institutions in Budapest) in his study 'On the border of two worlds' demonstrates the history of the Jewish people through the history of a synagogue in Rumbach Sebastyén street in the Hungarian capital. A study by **Aurél Budai** presents data concerning Jewish life and synagogues in Buda in the Middle Ages. The study directs the reader's attention to a Gothic synagogue excavated in the 1970s and then buried again, that could be a sensation at the World Expo if it was at last brought to light. A lyric essay by **Ferenc Fejtő**, an author living in Paris and considered to be the last of the great generation of liberals, entitled **The most beautiful city on the Danube** concerns intellectual life in Budapest and developments in this regard in the 20th century. A study by the scholar **Péter Hárs Gy.** tackles another side of the same period: it portrays the development of the **Budapest school of psychoanalysis** from the beginning of the century to the present day. The autobiographical extract by **Avigdor Hameiri**, the Hebrew poet who started his career in the Hungarian capital, is a literary sensation: the documents of his eventful **friendship with Endre Ady** enrich the legends surrounding Hungary's great poet and our knowledge of intellectual life in Budapest in the beginning of the century with further original details. **Péter Nagy Sz.** deals with a less familiar topic: the **nationalist/urban controversy dividing Hungarian culture**, clearing the dust from works by representatives of the latter

tendency. **Marianna D. Birnbaum** investigates Budapest itself in the mirror of the literature of the of the turn of the century.

The image of the Hungarian capital emerging from **Past and Future** is enriched by many essays and articles illuminating smaller details alongside more comprehensive studies on the topic. **Viktor Karády** (researcher at the CNRS in Paris) publishes the findings of his new historico-statistical research under the title '**Mixed marriages in Budapest before 1950**'. **József Kiss**, the legendary orthodox Chief Rabbi describes **the family and career of Koppel Reich**. **Raphael Patai** recalls his relations with the Hatvany family, leading progressive figures at the beginning of the century. **Miklós Hernádi** provides a review of the source of the extract published in **Past and Future**: Patai's famous work *Apprentice in Budapest*, hopefully to be published in Hungarian too at some time on the future. **György Beke** the writer repatriated from Transylvania in his essay entitled **Budapest from below with the eyes of a Székely** points out what the lights of Budapest meant in Transylvania. **Sándor Bacskai** describes the life of Orthodox communities in the present day in a brilliant sociographical study. **Ágnes Heller**, the world famous philosopher – presently Professor at the New School for Social Research and the G. F. Philosophy Department at New York University – recalls the memories of her alma mater, the Jewish Gymnasium in Abonyi street. Even within this rich material particularly outstanding and sensational are the two short stories translated from Italian by our colleague Katalin Dorogi, taken from **Giorgio and Nicola Pressburger's book 'The Eighth District'**, about the working class district most densely populated by Budapest Jews, written with a **lyricism filtering through childhood memories**.

The short stories of **Dezső Tandori**, **Balázs Györe**, **Judit Fenákel** and **Endre Lábass**, and the poems of **Zsófia Balla**, **Péter Kántor** and **Ádám Tábori** are about moods, dreams and associations connected with the Budapest of today. **Vilmos Ágoston's** essay is a review of books on Budapest at the turn of the century published for this year's Day of Books, and at the same time compares the previous and impending turn of the century with bitter irony. **György Szegő** analyses 'Secession', the architectural style prevalent at the end of the last and at the beginning of our century in anthropological terms. With the good grace of the printhouse, our readers will be able to see some extraordinary photographs taken by **Endre Lábass**, the writer and photographer but, first of all; „Budapest traveller”.