

SUMMARY

This issue has been arranged among some unfortunately adventurous and somber circumstances. The whole already edited issue, together with all of our Macintosh equipments, has been stolen from our editorial office. These machines, which we bought and assembled with considerable effort, have been crucial for the maintenance of the quality of the journal and the book publication program which we have just started. But as this very issue proves, we answer the challenge and continue to publish, no matter what the motivation of this assault against the Múlt és Jövő was. The chief editor would like to express his appreciation to all of our editorial assistants whose devotion made the publication possible against all odds. Now let us turn back to the number itself.

According to our original plans, the main theme of this collection is the Arab-Israeli peace process. The tone for the issue is set by Ezra Fleischer's speech, Alas, the language, music and spirit of which resonates with the Torah. A professor of literature from Jerusalem who is of Hungarian origin, born in Temesvár, Fleischer offers a self-critical review of the Arab-Israeli relationship in the consternation of the Hebron massacre. Simon Peres is the most active manufacturer of this peace process. His erudition and philosophical sensitivity is very rare among statesmen. It is also shown by his new book about his dream, The New Middle East, from which we publish the chapter titled The Dawn of Peace. (According to our agreement with the Henry Holt publishing house, we are going to release the whole book in 1995.) A. B. Jehosua is a widely acclaimed writer who is praised for two of his novels also in Hungary. The central topic of the interview János Kőbányai has made with him is also the rapturous perspective of the Israeli-Arab peace progress. His short story, Early Summer, 1970, presents the human dimension of the war. His fellow writer, Amos Kenan addresses similar issues. The essays by Andrei Cornea, the Rumanian dissident writer and Teddy Kollek, the legendary former mayor of Jerusalem, also speak for the necessity of reconciliation. A forgotten judaist, Ignác Gábor explores the common cultural heritage in his piece on the Arab translations of Alcharizi, the mediaeval hebrew poet. Caspar Lorand, the French poet and photographer of Hungarian origin who spent a long time in East Jerusalem as a surgeon, is represented by his wonderful essay and his photographs with which he fosters the cause of the peaceful coexistence of the two desert people.

As A.B. Jehosua mentions in the interview, much blood has to be spilt before the train of peace arrives at its end station. But, at least, the train is on the track - unlike in the case of the terror around Sarajevo. Múlt és Jövő records the ever gloomier developments in Bosnia because it considers this the most revealing disaster of our civilization. Jack Miles's shocking essay, Sarajevo and Auschwitz, cast a sharp light on this point. Elma Softic, whom we know from our 1/93 issue, contributed with another letter on the terrors of „peace“ in Sarajevo.

We celebrate the ninetieth birthday of our ageless friend and contributor, one of the greatest masters of Jewish historiography, Jacob Katz, by publishing the first chapter of his autobiograph. Mihály Vajda, the philosopher friend and student mourns over the death of Ferenc Fehér who was too young to leave us.

1994 is the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust. In this issue we emphasize some aspects of fine art reflections. Eszter Götz's interview recalls the tragic life path of the excellent young sculptor, István Örkényi-Strasser, who died in the Holocaust and discusses the undeserved fate of his heritage. Miklós Hernádi reviews a book commemorating another artist victim of the Holocaust, István Farkas. György Szegő's essay analyzes the problem of Holocaust memorials. Péter Nagy Sz. contributed with an article on the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Exhibition. We also publish the well-known opening address by Gábor Fodor, Minister of Culture and Education. Sándor Bacskai reports on the pilgrimage of Jews from all around the world to Makó, the soil of their roots, and on their commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of that terrible year. We publish two true sensations: Avigdor Löwenheim's study on Samu Stern, and two chapters from the diary of the last pre-Holocaust president of the religious community in Pest. Poems by András Mezei and Géza Röhrig, pictures by Pinhas Golan give a frame to this multithematic issue of Múlt és Jövő. Last but not least, Paula Wolenszky reviews those books and articles about the Holocaust which were abundantly published for the anniversary.