

S U M M A R Y

Our 96/2 issue opens with two memorial speeches on Hungarian Jewish past and present by Bálint Magyar, the new Hungarian Minister of Culture. In one of his speeches, Magyar remarks that he is the descendant of Bertalan Szemere, the first Prime Minister to grant Hungarian Jews equal rights. Relating to this topic the present issue deals mostly with questions of Hungarian Jewish history and historiography. There are two reasons for this choice. One is an incredible manuscript that has surfaced recently, the monograph of Aladár Komlós, entitled "The Literary Contribution of the Hungarian Jewry During the 19th Century". The other is the translation of a book by Jacov Katz, the greatest figure in Jewish historiography, on a Hungarian-related topic, entitled the *Unhealed Breach. Past and Future* wishes to make these works known by the broader public by publishing a chapter of both. (The staff of *Past and Future* has already been working on the publication of these two books.) We have been enriched not just by new summaries, but by a new approach that is useful for the newly revived Hungarian Jewish historiography and Hungarian Jewish identity. This role is emphasized by the essay of János Kőbányai, titled "Identity Found".

The fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust has revealed a number of new data, research and memories not always advertised in the popular media. *Past and Future* wants to put publications in the limelight that still deserve our attention. The essay of Viktória Radics reviews the Jewish issues of *Thalassa* (94/2), *Budapesti Negyed* (95/Summer) and *Soproni Szemle* (95/Winter). The essay of Miklós Hernádi analyses a publication of the Esztergom Archives, containing fundamental studies. Hernádi also reviews the totally rewritten *Hungarian Holocaust* by Randolph Braham. The book was altered even in its line of thought by the honourable and exemplary scholar, based on newly discovered documents and research. The larger-than-a-book review by Judit Lakner tells us about a universal Jewish history book, whose methods and team work suggest the coming of the future multimedia (*The World History of the Jewish People*, Elic Barnavi ed.). The historian György Haraszti – who hides his life's work in footnotes – has written reviews on two books entitled "Season of Blood Charges", on charges of ritual murder that were published last year. Everyone who is dealing with this topic must read the article. (We have to thank Mr. Haraszti for his assistance in compiling this historical issue, too.)

We haven't stopped paying attention to the Balkans although times are different now. The writings of Jovica Acin and Goren Samardzic reflect the post-war situation. The speech of László Simon honours Efraim Kishon, the Grand Prize winner of the 1996 Budapest Book Festival.

This year's last issue of *Past and Future* is going to be a thematic issue on French Jewry, with the help of the Institut Francais (Budapest) and two of our friends, Péter Bálint and Tivadar Gorilovics, as guest editors (following the pattern of our successful Polish issue). Because of the amount of the material, we already have to start publishing a few pieces, namely the essay of Péter Bálint entitled "Towards a New Proust Image", an essay by Marcel Proust, so far unpublished in Hungarian and two chapters of Elie Wiesel's interview with Francois Miterrand, dealing with some difficult questions.

We say goodbye to Paula Volenszky, who has been working on our Observer for half a decade now. She passes on the torch to Gabriella Körmendi.