

SUMMARY

Never has the publication of *Múlt és Jövő* been so late in coming. As we had foreseen, the death of Tünde Kálmán, our typographer, has significantly delayed our publication plans. Her forceful personality was a defining feature of our enterprise and we hope that our new appearance, which we had already planned with Tünde, will accord with the original plans.

Our long-projected number is dedicated to Israel. One of the motivations for this shift of focus is that on the 70th anniversary of the Hungarian holocaust we wished to introduce our readers to a new landscape. The other is that “this little land surrounded by flames,” which we consider our second home, is also threatened by the enveloping dangers of neighboring wars. (The summary of this theme, János Kőbányai, “Israel: In the Shadow of a Collapsed World,” has also appeared as a separate publication in order to preserve its timeliness.)

Géza Röhrig, our regular and outstanding contributor, sent us his poems even before his success at Cannes. We extend our congratulations to him, as well as to the other creators of the “Son of Saul.” Clara Royer, the scriptwriter, has already appeared on the pages of our magazine and represents the “collective memory” of a third post-Holocaust generation. She fully exemplifies the maxim of Imre Kertész, who has argued that the trauma of the Holocaust can only be cured by its transformation into a cultural phenomenon.

Michael K. Silber’s study, “Lev ha-Ivri,” takes us back to the early roots of Zionism in Hungary. He argues that the idea of returning to Zion had originated not only with Theodore Herzl, but with Hungarian Orthodox Jews. He explores an important motif in the founding of modern Israel through the story of one of the founders of Petah Tikva, Akiva Yosef Schlesinger, who fused with the concept of Zionism the progressive Hungarian nationalism of Lajos Kossuth. Silber’s important historical narrative, which was originally published in Hebrew, can now be read in Hungarian.

Any discussion of the founding of Israel in Hungarian circles automatically evokes the name and work of Avigdor Hameiri. We publish here two chapters from his unpublished Hungarian autobiography, which evokes the moment when he first stepped onto the Holy Land in Jaffa’s harbor in 1921. (János Kőbányai provides notes about the unusual fate of the book, which will hopefully be published in its entirety by *Múlt és Jövő*.)

Few realize that Felix Salten, the world famous author of *Bambi*, was a Zionist and had been born in Budapest. Ágnes Huszár explores this little-known topic in her study, which also presents a fragment of Salten’s Palestine travel account.

Steve E. Aschheim, a professor of history in Jerusalem, writes about the cultural environment, diplomatic aspirations, spies and adventurers of Palestine between the two world wars, which, incidentally, echo some contemporary themes and concerns. (*The Great War, Islamic Jihad, Zionism and Exotic Jewish [and non-Jewish] Spies.*)

Heller Ágnes analyzes an important letter of her philosophic colleague and personal acquaintance, Hans Jonas, written from Palestine during the Second World War. (The letter examines the problem of the role of the Jews of Palestine in the war against Hitler.) Ágnes Heller’s reader’s diary provides us some thought about Shlomo Avineri’s recently published biography of Herzl.

János Dési’s study explores the role of Jenő Lévai, the first historian of the Hungarian holocaust, in the trial of Eichmann in Jerusalem.

We end this volume dedicated to Israel with a new translation of the poems of Hava Pinhas Cohen. (Interpreted by Anna T. Szabó.)

Rudolf Ungváry reflects on the life of the recently departed film director András Sipos.

János Kőbányai examines the life of Anna Lesznai, as part of a posthumous reception of her great novel, *In the Beginning was the Garden*, (*Kezdetben volt a kert*), which is shortly to be republished.