

SUMMARY

Our idea for an issue on the subject of Transylvania was born just a year ago in Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures, where as guests of our colleagues of the journal *Látó* we decided on this new phase of collaboration. Zsolt Láng, who is the co-editor of this issue, is a longtime colleague, loyal supporter and follower of the endeavours of *Múlt és Jövő*.

We are well aware that for Hungarian Jewish history and spirit Transylvania is more than a specific geographic region with significant Jewish imprints. It is an area that carries much broader and much deeper dimensions, as it has an internal relationship with Jewish fate, and, more broadly, with the eternal fate of minorities. It is for this reason that in this issue we did not adhere exclusively to Jewish themes, since to be a Transylvanian Hungarian, to be active in Transylvanian Hungarian culture, means an “engagement” similar to being a conscious Jew.

The pivotal figures in the literary section of this issue are the author-editors of the journal *Látó*, András Ferenc Kovács, Zsolt Láng, Róbert Csaba Szabó and Evelin Márton, who graciously invited me to join them and who listened with great interest to the problems of the fate and culture of Hungarian Jews.

It is not a coincidence that most of the writings in our collection – yes, still today! – are concerned with the Holocaust, since it is here in this catastrophe of the fate of a minority, that is also a Hungarian catastrophe – that its suicidal character becomes even more evident.

Professor Randolph Braham of the City University of New York Graduate Center, the most influential scholar of the Hungarian Holocaust, is himself from Dés in Transylvania. His comprehensive study based on the freshest data and research deals with the annihilation of the Jews of Northern Transylvania. With the aid of authentic documentation Zoltán Tibori Szabó (Kolozsvár/Kluj) presents the fate of Hungarian Jewry in post-Holocaust Transylvania, specifically the course of the decay of their culture. The paired studies of the Hungarian author Attila Seres and the Romanian Ottmar Trasca study with the help of newly available archival documents the rare human uplifting lessons of the Holocaust as exemplified in the resolutions of Bishop Áron Márton. Dániel Lőwy of Washington, the outstanding scholar of Transylvanian-Hungarian Jewish intellectual history leads us into the depths of the world of the ghetto of Nagyvárad/Oradea.

In his study he discusses the career of János Markovits Rodion Szekernyés, who was world famous but unfortunately – and characteristically – a writer who did not enter the Hungarian literary canon. Both the interviews with blues musician Attila Weinberger and with György Sebestyén art gallery owner illuminate the sporadic positive movements of Transylvanian Jewry. Naturally, our Family Column also deals with Transylvania, where Judit Simon wrote a poignant testimony, accompanied by Levente Szabó's photos.

Our issue is illustrated with the poetry of Ernő Ligeti, Tamás Emőd, Ernő Salamon, András Ferenc Kovács and László Salamon, who among them represent various various thriving periods of Transylvanian poetry.