

## Summary

The debates of this hot summer have been dominated by the meeting between Netanyahu and Orbán in Budapest in the context of the demonizing Soros posters. János Kőbányai's essay tries to analyze this complex situation, which some Hungarian Jewish observers have perceived as a betrayal of Hungarian Jewry by the prime minister of Israel. It is interesting to republish Gábor Dénes' 1990 interview with György Soros in the immediate aftermath of the regime change, because it clarifies Soros' Jewish identity and shows the relationship between his defining experience of the Holocaust and the ideal of the Open Society to which he dedicated his life. Károly Bárd, the chair of the legal studies program at the CEU, appears in our journal for the first time with an introduction of Michael Ignatieff's monograph about Isaiah Berlin. The article sheds light on the scholarly career of the rector of the CEU, providing a new context for his very different current struggles. Miklós Konrád's article, written on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the emancipation of Hungarian Jewry, presents a less than enthusiastic assessment. In his view, the Hungarian political leadership demanded the virtual abdication of the collective principles of Judaism in exchange for emancipation. The Jewish cemetery of Kozma Street connects the present with the past. At the graveside of Tamás Somló, we sadly remember the great poet of our generation. We illustrate this grief through the speeches of his good friends, Pál Léderer and József Székhelyi. Another great poet, Zoltán Somlyó, has only recently had his gravesite refurbished. We hope that the lovers of his verses will soon be able to visit the poet on these pages. Sándor Zsoldos anticipates this pleasure with the publication of the poet's forgotten verses. The fragment of the documentary novel by János Pelle sheds light on the literary figure of Sándor Török, who played a significant role in the spread of the Auschwitz notebook. Iván Kiss evokes the memory of the orientalist scholar Gyula Germanus. Sándor Bacskai, not for the first time, uses the saga of a provincial orthodox Jewish family to depict the fate of Hungarian Jewry in the twentieth century.

István Hargittai appears in our journal for the first time. His generous essay catalogues the list of Jewish scholarship lost in the Holocaust and examines how contemporary Hungary honors the memory of its lost scholars.

The Israeli writer, Etgar Keret, is not a newcomer to *Múlt és Jövő*. His current writings are more bitter and critical than his earlier ones, something that resonates with the contemporary situation as well as with the content of the present number. Jara Ben-David's poem, "Refugees," occupies the opening page of the journal, reflecting present world conditions.