

SUMMARY

Shall I stay or shall I go? Where to? How long? Shall I come back? To where and providing what conditions are met? When...? Those and similar questions and doubts permeate the Hungarian world today – an in more than a few parts of that world. Not just those of younger generations but their parents as well, for whom they are equally involved and are tormented with much the same intensity by the challenge

One thing is for sure, though, and that is: no intellectual workshop can dodge them. One is bound to do so by historical experience, which teaches that we are where we are as a result of past choices that ere made. The magazine would in any way be obliged by the need to set down for history the questions which are piling up for readers, and such answers as can be given. It is these painfully conflictual dilemmas that we shall be seeking to put on record in these columns in our forthcoming issues. It is to be hoped that some of our writers will feel up to the challenge of writing about a phenomenon which is agitating the whole of Hungarian society, including the element within it which is Jewish.

For the time being, we celebrate the 80th birthday of György Konrád – we are carrying his essay “Marginalia About Jewry” – and questions in that vein were levelled at him by the accompanying laudation (János Kőbányai, “A Hard Fête: György Konrád at 80.” Then again, somewhere toward the end of July that we were celebrating the centenary of the birth, on November 2, 1902, of the poet and writer Gyula Illyés (born Illés). A hazardous age from the viewpoint of posterity, which is all too willing to leave his life’s wok in the shadows is favour of the living. It is clear, though, that he was the *last* poetic personality (following János Arany, Endre Ady and Mihály Babits) who was looked on as a leader of Hungarian literature as a whole. For that reason his relationship to Jewry and to certain Jewish writers is of great importance – all the more as he took the relay baton from Babits at a truly perilous time in 1942, Through the good offices of István Horváth, curator of the Illyés estate a new chapter becomes clear about that network of contacts (his correspondence with Ernő Salamon, the ‘Transylvanian Miklós Radnóti’).

The name of Shimon Peres, the ninth and current President of the State of Israel, has long had a significance beyond his political role, being one of the more notable intellectuals who guide the world. His portrait of David Ben Gurion, produced in conversation with journalist David Landau, (A Hungarian edition of the book, an extract from which appears now, will soon appear in full

2013 is being designated as a year of Italian-Hungarian Culture. A group of articles with an Italian theme has been collected together with this in mind. An article by Gábor Andreides entitles ‘For Me Nothing Is Worse Than Having to Enter a Dispute About My Italy,’ his 2nd study to throw a light on a light on the nature of fascism in Italy, dealing with the anti-Semitic measures which marked it from The Manifesto of Race of July 1938 to the fall of the Italian Social Republic around 25 April 1945, László Benke’s study, entitled ‘Aleph, Bet. Gimel, Dante: Immanuel the Roman’s Hebrew Adaptation of the *Divine Comedy*’ plunges one into the Renaissance era in the 14th century and the *Ha-Tofet ve-ha-Eden* (‘Hell and Paradise’) segment at the end of his *diwan* (collection of poetry) entitled *Mehaberot*. By contrast, an extract from Alessandro Piperno’s first novel of 2005 entitled *Con le peggiori intenzioni* (translated into English as *The Worst Intentions*), gives a sense of the present-day Italian Jewish world and its mundane conflicts Katalin Dorogi’s reading diary passes on reflections on Italian literature that has references to Hungary and would be worth reading in full length sooner or later in Hungarian renderings. The selection is knitted together by a superb but undeservedly neglected series of poems produced by László Bródy during a trip to Italy.