

## Summary

Israel, our journal's persistent theme, inspiration and cause, has reached a significant milestone: its seventieth anniversary. The fact that we also celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of our journal suggests the astonishing fact that the existence of the two have had a considerable degree of overlap. This coincidence fills us with both joy and anxiety: will the contemporary global situation allow Israel to surpass the lifespan of the ancient Jewish state, which did not prove to be long lived? And how long will we be permitted to bear witness to the struggles, growth and destiny of the young Jewish state? I would be less than truthful if I did not acknowledge that the anniversaries fill me with concern for the future of Israel and for that of Hungarian Jewry. For this reason, there is no need for special celebration; the very fact of our very existence and continuing publication is cause enough for celebration.

In his introduction, the editor compares the original *Múlt és Jövő* (1911–1944) with its contemporary incarnation, arguing that Palestine and Israel formed the focal point of each iteration of the journal. Today's *Múlt és Jövő* was created within the intellectual orbit of Jerusalem, which continues to define its general perspective and foster its spiritual energies. In memory of the inspiring examples of Ezra Fleischer and Jakov Katz, the journal's Jerusalem friends and mentors all appear in our number with their contributions. They include Michael K. Silber (the editor's friend, mentor and *doctordvater*), Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, Richard Cohen and Steven E. Ascheim. Our number opens with the verses by Avigdor Hameiri, as well as excerpts from his important, unpublished diaries, written in Hungarian, which focus on familiar Palestine portraits and founding Israeli politicians. It is our conviction that as a Hungarian, his contributions to the spiritual life of the early Israeli state is unprecedented. (It is a shame that, like many others, he also fails to be prophet in his own country.) Joseph Natonek's essay, "Messiah", which happens to overlap with Michael Silber's research area, argues that Zionism was not the brainchild of Theodore Herzl and Max Nordau (both Hungarian Jews), but the idea of Hungarian religious rabbis, working under the influence of Kossuth and the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. Our number evokes the figures of David Ben Gurion, Menachem Begin and Simon Peres, who created the basis of the Israeli state. László Bernát Veszprémy and Attila Novák's articles provide guidance into the organizational world and diplomatic initiatives which furthered the emergence of the future state of Israel. In their capacity as translators and teachers, Miriam Neiger-Fleischmann and Szilvia Peremiczky introduce the great, recently deceased Israeli poet, Haim Guri, who spent a short, but significant part of his life in Budapest as a "sliach". Timea Jablonczy writes about the transformative turn in the life of the forgotten, but important Hungarian Jewish poet, Erzsi Szenes, who, after surviving the Shoah, made aliah to the emerging Jewish state. The Israeli writings of Erzsi Szenes revealingly illustrate the everyday life of immigrants at the time of the great wave of aliah. Sándor Jonathán Szénási, a former contributor to our journal, who is also a Protestant minister, an outstanding scholar of Judaism and a committed friend of Israel, tells the story of the seventy-year history of Israel as mirrored in its stamps. (The illustrations of our number are indebted to his collection.) György Háy, a New York lawyer, reflects on the history of Israel by examining the story of El Al based on the book and collection of Marvin G. Goldman. János Dási reviews Yossi Klein Halévy's book, titled *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*: The chapter excerpt, as the entire book, analyzes the paradoxes of coexistence with the Palestinians. János Kőbányai evokes a report made in Hebron in 1994, one of whose central figures is his friend and fellow journalist, Yossi Halévit. Judit Niran Frigyesi, professor of musicology at Bar Ilan University, focuses on one slice of contemporary musical life in Israel. István Pál's study uncovers the activities of socialist Hungary's secret service conducted in the Israel of the 1960s. The bookreview of Orsolya Péntek comments on the work of the Israeli writer Zeruya Salev, whose work has been published in Hungarian.