

## Summary

Our current publication is longer by a sheet than usual. The cause for this is not because *Múlt és Jövő* is doing so well, nor is it because it has been overwhelmed with manuscripts. The case is just the opposite. The experience of our thirtieth anniversary and our entry into our fortieth decade has brought to the fore a number of spiritual and existential questions. It seems as if every one of our numbers will be the last one!

Will we become victims of the new, so-called *kulturkampf*, which is determined to transplant the results of the 2018 national election into the realm of culture? (The current editor, who considers reacting to this subject inseparable from defending his own integrity, has expressed his strong opinions about the issue. The same can be said about his views on the Soros debate, which was also aired on the pages of this magazine.) And we may as well confess here: the series of obituaries that we continue to present in our current number does not appear to be counterbalanced by the appearance of a new intellectual generation. If one does appear at some point, will it be in our life time?

It is appropriate to acknowledge these doubts and anxieties about our future, so that we may gather strength for the race that will take us to our next 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In our present number, we will get acquainted with the sociological and psychological inner worlds of a central figure of Hungarian intellectual life. Julia Vajda is known for the unique psychological techniques she used in her interviews with Hungarian Holocaust survivors. In this instance, she multiplied the impact of her writing by producing a self-interview along with an interview with her father, the philosopher, Mihály Vajda, which gives central focus to the trauma of the Holocaust. This revealing piece, titled, "Background stories," presents the inner world of a defining segment of Hungarian intellectuals from a rare angle. Related to this writing is Mihály Vajda's essay, "Potential notes, which apply to Stefan Zweig's experiences", and the contribution by Vajda's German second wife, Barbara Smitmans-Vajda, titled, "Hope and utopia or resignation and despair?" Smitmans-Vajda appears in our journal for the first time in Mihály Vajda's translation.

A coincidence with names gives us another Vajda, this time a study about Lajos Vajda's recently opened exhibition in Szentendre. (Dániel Véri analyzes Lajos Vajda's Jewishness.) Miklós Konrád's essay, "The dark underside of Hungarian Jewry's golden age," challenges the commonplace that Hungarian Jewry experienced a happy "golden age" in the years immediately after the Compromise of 1867. János Kőbányai's article analyzes the Jewish implications of the controversial Sargentini Report – and reaches some surprising conclusions. The hundredth anniversary of the birth of the poet, Stefánia Mándy, was marked by a commemorative evening that was organized by her son, Ádám Tábor, at the Petőfi Literary Museum. We remember the artist by publishing the poems recited at the event, and an essay by Borbála Faragó, written especially for the occasion. We publish memoirs by two Hungarian prisoners of war, who had spent the final years of the First World War in a Siberian prisoner of war camp. It is noteworthy that neither account was written in Hungarian: the first, by Avigdor Hameiri, was in Hebrew, and the second, by Tivador Soros, in Esperanto. The shift in language also suggests new revelations into a topic neglected by professional historians: the fate of almost half-a-million Hungarian men, who found themselves in a Russia swept up in the storms of revolution and civil war. Andrea Lengyel presents an overview of the prolific art of Lajos Kozma, whose work has been exhibited at the Kunsthalle Budapest. The editor of *Múlt és Jövő* once again fulfills a sad duty in saying good-bye to György Berkovits and József Székhelyi, who were not only contributors and supporters of the magazine, but also personal friends. Maté Hidvégi greets Rabbi Alfréd Schöner on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In what is unfortunately a rare occurrence, our number is strong in prose contributions. Sándor Tatár translated and brought to our attention the Czech-German writer, Leo Perutz. Norbert Haklik has contributed a novel fragment and Gábor Nógrádi, a string of short stories.