

Summary

This issue is concerned with both beauty and ugliness. (We are now in mid-2019, when we have yet to receive any support from the Hungarian state and have only one refusal from the Ministry of Human Resources.)

In the 1920s and 30s several Jewish girls were victorious in the early national and international beauty contests, but, just as in other areas of Hungarian culture and society, this did not help them either in being accepted in society or later in escaping the Holocaust. The two studies by Lujza (Louise) Vasvári and Szilvia Czingel (who is contributing the first time to our journal) are concerned with this phenomenon, from the point of view of the “New Woman” and the “flapper”, and the development of the modern fashion and beauty industry.

In modern Jewish history the cultivation of the beautiful body includes the creation of social and organizational conditions for sport. Following the ideological foundations of the great Zionist thinker and leader, Max Nordau’s “New Jew” or “Muscle Jew” sport was envisioned as a means of Jewish integration into non-receptive societies. Hedvig Ujvári, a Nordau scholar whose monograph on the subject is forthcoming – discusses the birth of Nordau’s theory of “Muskeljudentum.”

Ujvári’s study is all the more timely because this year the Jewish Olympics, the Maccabi Games, are being held in Budapest between July 29 and August 7. Through the edited papers of the historians’ conference held in this context, we look back at the glorious past of Hungarian Jewish sports, as well as at its less heartening present. It was precisely at the same time as this international event was held that the Hungarian football club MTK (which in interwar Hungary dominated football), again fell out of the NB I, the Hungarian profession league for football clubs. We provided the papers by Tamás Deutsch, Dr Katalin Szikora, Dr Lajos Szabó, Ádám Jusztin, and Stella Syrkin’s with plenty of pictures from that heroic era.

For Ágnes Heller’s ninetieth birthday we published a *Festschrift*, as well as another large volume of six hundred and thirty nine pages, selected from her publications in this journal. But there still remained other articles for the occasion, which are published here. In the *Festschrift* Gábor Kelemen analyzes the relationship between Ágnes Heller and Marx, while in this issue he discussed Heller’s relationship with Georg Lukács as his disciple, as well as her scholarly accomplishments beyond that of her master.

Károly Bárd, who is the Head of CEU’s Legal Studies, in the Heller *Festschrift* explored the legal and philosophical problems of the Eichmann trial, while in his study in this issue he draws a portrait of the jurist Fritz Bauer. The two studies are closely linked in that it was Bauer who achieved the most in bringing to justice those guilty of Holocaust crimes, for cultural mourning, and for the postwar development of a policy of memorialization, as well as for peace in post-Holocaust societies.

Vilmos Voigt’s lyrical essay is rather more than a mere review of the first volume of a major undertaking, Imánuel Löw’s *Selected Writings*, edited by Tamás Ungvári and Máté Hidvégi.

Gerda Széplaky writes about the posthumously published photo and interview volume by the photo artist, Ildi Hermann, deceased this January at a tragically early age. The volume, *Missing Stories*, recounts and illustrates the lives of Hungarian Holocaust survivors living in New York. Ágnes Huszár’s “Reading Diary” also deals with recently published works in Hungarian and German.

The many beautiful memories and writings in this issue, most related to the past, are ruptured in the present by the story of a lawsuit in relation to Andor Peterdi and Zseni Várnai, who were the most faithful representatives and most published authors in the former *Múlt és Jövő*. Therefore, the present *Múlt és Jövő* saw it as its task to preserve their memory. Katalin Dezsényi, an intellectual and a descendant of this family, thought so, too, until later she no longer thought so. With the collaboration of a law firm she initiated a lawsuit against *Múlt és Jövő* for having published her grandparents’ verses, a lawsuit which almost brought to an end our journal, which is already suffering because of the bad political and economic climate. The documents related to this lawsuit not only illustrate a specific story but also point to a narrative of a moral decline in our present time.

Nevertheless, even this unfortunate affair had a happy end – the beautiful overcame the ugliness – because our readers and authors contributed the fee to be paid for the rights to republish Peterdi and Várnai’s poems, originally published over a hundred years ago, a sum that to date no successful living Hungarian writer has received. Here, too, we thank our friends for their solidarity.