

SUMMARIES

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VIKTOR ORBÁN, Prime Minister of Hungary, Budapest. *Greeting Ferenc Mádl on His 80th Birthday.* In his personal tribute the author emphasizes courage and the acceptance of roles the historical moment demands as the dominant characteristics of the former President of the Republic, along his almost proverbial qualities of poise and modesty.

ZOLTÁN BALOG, pastor, State Secretary for Social Inclusion, Budapest. *Preface – A Greeting.* A personal assessment of Ferenc Mádl, which heads the limited edition of essays published for this 80th birthday on January 25, 2011. A selection of these writings is published in the present issue of Magyar Szemle.

GYÖRGY GRANASZTÓI, historian, Chairman of Magyar Szemle Foundation, Budapest. *A Counter-Example.* In an age of harsh public relations and streamlined image-making, Ferenc Mádl has been a counter-example of personal restraint in politics. His sparse but powerful public utterances have been strengthened by his writing, both public and scholarly. His ability for compromise issues from a firm character and firm faith.

GÁSPÁR GRÓH, literary historian, Editor, Magyar Szemle, Budapest. *Service as Self-Realization.* As Head of the Office of Ferenc Mádl for eight years now, Gáspár Gróh has concluded that the love of serving the common good is the dominant trait of the personality of the Former President.

GÉZA JESZENSZKY, historian, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Budapest. *Three Moments of Hope.* Memories of three personally shared moments from the public career of Mádl, which

began when he accepted a ministerial position in the first democratic Hungarian government of József Antall in May 1990.

GYULA KODOLÁNYI, writer, Editor-in-Chief, Magyar Szemle, Budapest. *Glimpses of Ferenc Mádl*. Ferenc Mádl's love of reading dates back to his farmer father's modest library of Hungarian classics, the Bible, and an English copy of Walt Whitman's poems – while his touch of reality and his appreciation for the common man goes back to physical labour he shared with his family on the farm until his twenties.

JÁNOS ZLINSZKY, legal scholar, Former Judge of the Constitutional Court, Budapest. *Celebrating Ferenc Mádl*. A brief personal homage by the friend and colleague of many decades who says the friendship of Ferenc Mádl has been a the major gift for his life.

BORIS KALNOKY, journalist, correspondent for Die Welt, Istanbul, Turkey. *"Solid, Professional Work"*. An overwhelmingly positive assesment of the performance of Hungary as the President of the European Union in the first semester of 2011 on the part of German politicians and officials is contrasted with vehement political incriminations from the press and politicians of the German Left, on acctont of the new Hungarian media law.

TAMÁS FREUND, brain researcher, Director, Institute of Experimental Medicine (KOKI) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. *Natural Selection and Evolution as Tools of the Creation of the Living World*. A leading scientist and a believer, Dr. Freund refutes both agnosticism and Intelligent Design, and sketches up a concept of evolution that accords with the findings of Charles Darwin, and with the cosmologies of Teilhard de Chardin, Francis Collins and Stephen Hawking.

MIKLÓS KIRÁLY, Dean, Faculty of Law, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. *Constitutional Governance and the Common Good*. The common good has been a time-honoured category of political thought from Aristotle on. However, the term is hardly mentioned in the revised Constitution of 1989, where the historical moment gave an emphasis to individual liberties at the cost of public interests. This balance has to be re-adjusted in the entirely new Constitution of 2011.

GÁBOR NÁRAY-SZABÓ, chemist, Director of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. *Law and Morals in Hungarian Public Life Today*. A brief survey of the historical process in

the course of which law and morals have widely diverged since the Middle Ages. An especially corrupted variant of this divergence has come into dominance in Hungary during the last two decades, when the terms of the Transition have been partly defined by the transformed nomenclature of the failed communist State. The ensuing impasse of jurisprudence also requires a new Constitution.

LÁSZLÓ SALAMON, legal scholar, Member of Parliament, Budapest. *Points of Contention in the Conception of the New Constitution*. The head of the parliamentary committee in charge of the drafting of the new Constitution gives a point by point response to the most frequent political and formal complaints against details of the law that is in the making.

JENŐ SZMODIS, legal historian, Budapest. *Constitutional Forms and Principles*. A summary of the structural and theoretical aspects of Constitution-making, the historical precedents and the demands of the age.

ENDRE MÁNYOKI, critic, Budapest. *The Sculptor of Absolute Presence: Ildikó Várnagy*. Essay on the monograph and annotated catalog, by Katalin Keserü, of a significant contemporary sculptorial oeuvre that has remained almost entirely outside public spaces and public collections, in its intimacy of internal – imaginary – spaces. The present issue of Magyar Szemle is illustrated with work by Ildikó Várnagy.

ILDIKÓ VÁRNAGY, sculptor and essayist, Budapest. *Back to Ottlik*. Ildikó Várnagy also writes idiosyncratic essays – here we are publishing another of her short, elegant and often weird pieces, on the major 20th century novelist Géza Ottlik.

1% METAPHYSICS. For his column of classic quotations, György Szabados has selected a passage from *On Aggression* by **KONRAD LORENZ**.

Book and Events

AMBRUS MISKOLCZY. *German History Re-Interpreted*. Romanian historian Lucian Boia, who lives in Paris, wrote an elegant review-essay that re-interprets modern German history and the historical factors that made Nazism possible (*Tragedia Germaniei 1914-45*. Bucuresti, Humanitas, 2010).

GÁSPÁR GRÓH. *The Protection of Intellectual Rights.* A review of a new book of critical essays by Debrecen literature professor Béla Márkus, *A Heavenly Receipt*. In accordance with Lévinas' "ethical closeness", Márkus defends, against the incursions of postmodernist relativism and political incorrectness, the values of Populist and other classics of recent Hungarian literature. (*Mennyei elismervény*, Nap Kiadó, Budapest, 2010).

ZOLTÁN FÁY. *Scandal at Pécs.* Our columnist on religious affairs attempts to present a properly complex examination of the layers and aspects of the resignation of Bishop Mihály Mayer of Pécs, in connection with charges of corruption in his ecclesiastical chapter.

KLÁRA TÓTH. *Roots and wings.* Our movie columnist writes on the documentary, directed by the truly adept Gyula Gulyás, on the forty years' history of the Muzsikás Group. Made of five one-hour sequences, *The Musikás Story* explores the living roots and human networks in the folk music of the Carpathian basin that nurtured the group, the dance house movement as a social phenomenon of political resistance during the Kádár regime, and the personal stories – while the tensions, crises and wounds of the internal story remain in the background.

MIHÁLY KUBINSZKY. *Fellner and Helmer Restored.* The famous Austrian architectural enterprise built about two hundred theatres, department stores and sumptuous residential buildings in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and wider Central Europe in the forty years after 1873, in a neo-Renaissance and neo-Baroque style, but using steel, glass and concrete for structural and other purposes. While most of the buildings still stand today despite the destruction of wars, in Austria a true rediscovery of the firm is taking place.

JÁNOS G. GÁSPÁR. *One who "owns little debt in the matter of human meanness".* The spectacularly failed Prime Minister of 2005–2009, Ferenc Gyurcsány has undoubtedly launched a new latent bid for leadership in his recent "state of the country" address. Our analyst examines all the gags and fads that will act as the hallmarks of the new – truly unpopular – bid.

PÉTER ÁKOS BOD. *Actions and Corrections of Economic Policy.* The former Governor of the Hungarian National Bank examines in his regular column the pros and cons of the flat tax flaunted by

György Matolcsy, the chief Minister of finance and the economy in the current Orbán government.

BÁLINT TÖRÖK. *Apologia Telekiensis. Pál Teleki Died Seventy Years Ago.* One of the youngest men to begin his career at the Teleki Institute for social and political research during World War II, the author takes an inventory of the many valuable projects initiated by Teleki the geographer and politician – and the unsolvable historical dilemma that brought his violent death.

GÁBOR BAROSS SOCIETY. *What Should Budapest Be Like?* A statement of ideas for a re-examination of the city's development priorities, as a new ambitious Mayor, István Sarlós is beginning his first term.

The present issue of Magyar Szemle is illustrated by works of sculptor Ildikó Várnagy.