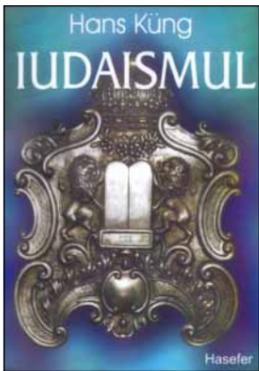


JEWISH REALITY

A MONUMENTAL WORK ON JUDAISM WRITTEN BY A GERMAN SCHOLAR



"Hasefer" Publishing House recently published an important volume, "Judaism", by Hans Küng, the author, between many other works, of the trilogy that includes the mentioned title, beside "Christianity" and "Islamism". Hans Küng, a well-known personality in Vatican and the Catholic world of theology, analyses the stages of evolution of the Jews' history, from the Ancient world to 1990 (the year he finished the work). He proves his erudition and synthetic spirit, fights prejudice and condemns the Holocaust, and he also dares to deal with the Middle East present reality. On this subject his commentaries are questionable and sometimes unacceptable. Limited to 1990, the author couldn't comment upon the evolution of the negotiations made by the Israeli prime ministers (Yitzhak Rabin, Ehud Barak, Ariel Sharon), upon the restitution of the Gaza territory, or upon the 11/9 2001 terrorist attack on U.S.A., and all these have changed a lot the general image of the Middle East politics. After the discussion that took place at the Federation office, we are mentioning excerpts from the following interventions: Dr. Hary Kuller, L.Z. Herscovici, M. M. Katz, D. Hincu, A. Oisteanu, B. Marian, A. Devenyi, M. Shafir, A. Cornea, T.G.Maioreescu. Some of the opinions will appear in the next editions of our review.

PAGES FROM THE CHRONICLE OF THE PRESENT



**DR. LYA
BENJAMIN
AND
THE POET
STEFAN
IURES -
AT 75**



The anniversaries weren't the nucleus of the June 4th Sunday morning at the Cultural Center of the Federation, the focus of our meeting was on our need to assess our present, to achieve a contemporary chronicle, that will increase our trust in the future of our community. The present outlines the spiritual vitality, the youth that is not linked to our identity papers or cards, but to the joy of living, to the achievement feeling, to the awareness of the social usefulness. These were some of the common themes mentioned by the portraits of the two celebrated on the occasion, who were both 75 in the "beautiful month of May", remarkable Romanian Jewish intellectuals, Lya Benjamin, historian and Stefan Iures, writer: tenacity, intellectual force. The event was moderated by Dr. Aurel Vainer, President of F.J.C.R. and member



of the Parliament, and became through the quality of the speeches an authentic symposium on history as *magister vitae*, and on literature as a way of life. Each portrait was of course accompanied by an interesting self-portrait and by the eulogy of the work of the two celebrated personalities.



THE POSTURE OF THE ONE WHO EVOLVES IN TIME: ANATOL VIERU

In this edition we dedicate a special space to one of the most outstanding Romanian Jewish composers, disappeared at the peak of his creative force: Anatol Vieru. Anybody opening a 20th century encyclopedia, can discover that Anatol Vieru, the composer, conductor, musical critic, theoretician, survived through his great and remarkable work: symphonies, concerts for cello, flute, piano, clarinet, saxophone and orchestra, cameral music works, chorals, quartets, operas, sonatas, oratorios music. Professor Anatol Vieru, loved by his disciples, was the teacher of several generations of musicians. The distinctions he had received during half a century in Bucharest, Geneva, Washington, are reflecting the high appreciation he won. This year he would have been 80 years old.

A LITERARY HISTORY

Henri Zalis, literature critic and historian, published a two volume work, "A Condensed History of the Romanian Literature (1880 - 2000)", at the "Bibliotheca" Publishing House. It represents an editorial event, keeping in mind that few historians made a similar effort after G. Calinescu. Many chapters of the two volumes, in total 700 pages, include different aspects of the literary life, the politic life influence in the period, as well as many portraits of personalities of the Romanian literature, including Jews. It might be useful to fill some lacuna with a continuation, for instance, the literature of the Romanian writers from outside the Romanian borders, including Israel. Probably the author has reflected to this project.



THE ANTI-SEMITISM CHRONICLE

In this edition we are presenting the position of the Israeli government concerning the inclusion in the Polish cabinet of the Polish Families League, the extreme right-wing party with anti-Semitic orientation, as well as information regarding the attack upon the Great Rabbi of Warsaw. We also present the special emissary of the U.S. State Department for monitoring and fight against anti-Semitism, Gregg Rickmann. A report of the League against Defamation from Ukraine draws attention upon the intensification of the anti-Semitic manifestations in this country, beside a statistic regarding the number increase of the anti-Semitic incidents in Germany and Switzerland and the vandalism in the Jewish cemetery from Milan.



**The 8th
International
Conference
of the Jewish
community
from Debrecen
and of the
brotherly
communities
from outside
the borders**

For the 8th time, the Jewish Community from Debrecen organized on May 26th - 28th, a meeting with the brotherly communities from the neighbor countries, where representatives from Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine were present. The central theme of the meeting this year: "Hineni - here I am", a symbol of the spiritual and material commitment of the individual, of the believer to the Divinity. The themes of the discussions were related to Jewish personalities from Hungary and from other countries, religious movements and trends with great influence upon the Central and East Europe Jewish history, the Holocaust and its consequences, moments from the life and the activity of different communities, and the last became authentic experience exchanges. In fact, as Peter Weisz, President of Debrecen community underlined, the aim of these meetings is to get to know each other, to create stronger inter-personal relations and an authentic Jewish life atmosphere, religious and secular as well.

A six-person high delegation of F.J.C.R., led by Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of the Federation, and several community presidents represented Romania to this conference. From the 30 Romanian participants, 10 were members of the Leadership Committee. Two

**All
Together**

Romanian participants, architect Tiberiu Benedek and engineer Tiberiu Roth received distinctions for their life work.

The Romanian participants held several presentations. In a competent

and detailed analysis, Dr. Aurel Vainer presented the situation of Jews in the world and in Romania in the third millennium. It was an optimistic approach, speaking about the Jewry and the Jewish spirit renaissance, despite the vicissitudes it has been through, about the resuscitation of the anti-Semitism, and he underlined in this context the crucial role of the creation of the State of Israel for the future of the Jews in the world. The presentation of Dr. Lya Benjamin that focused on the personality of professor Cajal, and eng. Tiberiu Roth's presentation on the fate of Central and Eastern Europe Jews were highly appreciated. Other presentations dealt with the situation of some communities, with the activity of some centers for Judaism study and with the Jews' deportation as reflected by the archives.

On the occasion, the president of F.J.C.R discussed with the leadership of Debrecen community, as well as with MAZSIHISZ (the Union of the Jewish Federations from Hungary), and reached a cooperation agreement with the latter. Her Excellency Ireny Comarovschi, Ambassador of Romania in Hungary, honored the conference with her presence, and underlined to the participants her esteem and respect for the Jewish people.



REALITATEA EVREIASCĂ

www.romanianjewish.org
E-mail: re2000@rdslink.ro
realitateevreiasca@yahoo.com

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ANCA MEȘINĂ,
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Administrație:
EMIL FINCHELSTEIN
N. GHERBEZEANU

REDACȚIA: București,
str. Popa Nan, nr. 70.
Tel. / fax: 322.75.60

ADMINISTRAȚIA:
Str. Vasile Adamache nr. 11
Telefon: 314.96.90

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