

JEWISH ETHNOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN HUNGARY

INTRODUCTION

There has been a great deal of research in Hungary in the last 10–15 years on Jews in the fields of history, sociology and psychology, and the results can be read in numerous publications.

Acta Ethnographica Hungarica has given me the opportunity to present a selection of this research conducted in the fields of ethnology and anthropology.

Study of the Jews has never been in the centre of interest of Hungarian ethnology and few research projects and publications have dealt with the subject. However, its importance is indisputable: I believe that ethnology and anthropology can and must have something to say on this question. To prove that this is so, I have selected a few studies on this theme, exploring the economic and cultural role, characteristics and community life of Hungarian Jewry, and the problems of coexistence.

I have included both theoretical essays and case studies in an attempt to give a picture of Jewish culture in Hungary and its different elements. I have deliberately chosen writings on different themes and with different approaches to give an idea of the directions in which research is currently being conducted.

The book reviews give a selection from the books published in Hungary in the past 6–7 years on Jewish themes and of interest to ethnology. I have not attempted to cover the whole output, selecting mainly from works by Hungarian authors which I believe have something new to say on the subject also for foreign readers.

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