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Zsuzsa Hetényi is Professor at the Department of East Slavic and Baltic Philology (ELTE, Budapest). She began to work on the history of the Russian-Jewish literature during her year at Geneva University (1993–1994) on a grant from the Swiss Confederation, and continued with the aid of the Soros Foundation at Florida International University (1996–1997). Her main fields of interest include Russian prose of the 1920s–1930s, Isaak Babel, Mikhail Bulgakov, Andrei Platonov, and others; Biblical motifs, eschatology, and messianism in twentieth-century Russian literature; and the history of Freemasonry in Russia. Hetényi has lectured and given conference papers in Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the USA. She is co-author of the first volume of the *History of Russian Literature* (Budapest: Universitas Tankönyvkiadó, 1997) in which she wrote on the period between 1917 and 1940, and is also editor and co-author of the second volume (forthcoming 2002). Her two-volume *In the Whirlpool. The History of Russian-Jewish Prose 1860–1940* (2001, in Hungarian) is a survey and detailed analysis of the topic.
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Born in Budapest, Victor Karády started his university studies in his native city. After emigrating to the West in 1956, he studied in Vienna and graduated from the Sorbonne, Paris. He has been a full-time research fellow at the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique since 1968, and he has also lectured at universities in France, Hungary, and other European countries. His main research topics include Jewish social history, elite education, and the history of social mobility. He is an external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and author of over a hundred scholarly publications.

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Martha Keil studied history and Jewish studies in Vienna and Berlin and Hebrew in Israel. She graduated in 1988, and completed her doctorate in 1998 on the Jewish community of Wiener Neustadt in the Middle Ages. She has been a staff member of the Institute for the History of Jews in Austria since 1988, and its deputy director since 1995. In her research she focuses on the cultural and social history and the history of the everyday life of the Jews in the Middle Ages, especially in Austria and Germany. In 2002 she received the Charlotte Bühler fellowship of the Scientific Research Development Fund for the research project ‘Jewish women in the Middle Ages’. She is a lecturer at the University of Vienna. Her publications include ‘„Maistrin” und Geschäftsfrau. Jüdische Oberschichtfrauen im spätmittelalterlichen Österreich’, in Die jüdische Familie in Geschichte und Gegenwart, ed. Sabine Hödl and Martha Keil (Berlin–Bodenheim/Mainz, 1999); ‘Rituals of Repentance and Testimonies at Rabbinical Courts in the 15th Century’, in Oral History of the Middle Ages. The Spoken Word in Context, ed. Gerhard Jaritz and Michael Richter (Krems–Budapest, 2001); and ‘Die Familie im Judentum’, in Handbuch zur Geschichte der Juden in Europa, Vol. 2: Religion, Kultur, Alltag, ed. Elke-Vera Kotowski, Julius H. Schoeps, and Hiltrud Wallenborn (Darmstadt, 2001).

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