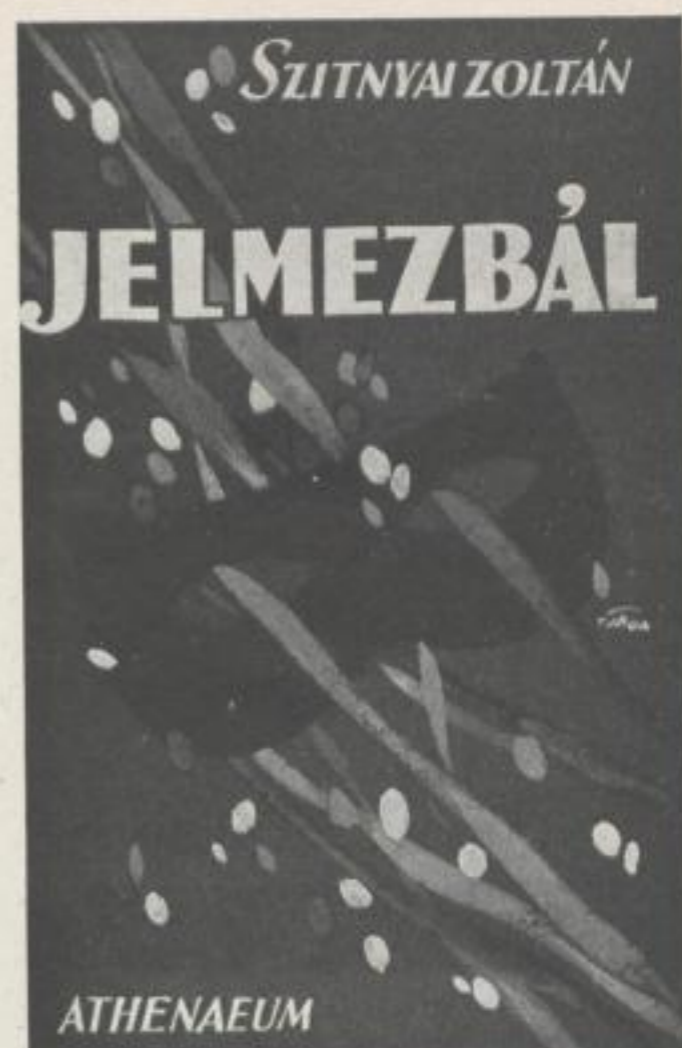


The style of Hungarian book art is today mainly determined by two elements. On the one hand there is the tendency apparent in Europe wherever books are produced, and on the other, a typically Hungarian style, which, thanks to the elemental spontaneity of its creative power bars the way to the slightly levelling influence of the present trend in European book-production. It is this element that gives Hungarian book art a specifically national character. The book-jacket today can hardly be regarded as an actual part of the book itself, for in its capacity as a medium of



publicity it has long since moved into the domain of advertising art. All the same the two elements just quoted are clearly apparent in its design. Hungarian book-jackets with all their adaptability to the prevailing European tendency display obvious efforts towards an independent form of expression and one that is typically Hungarian. True, certain vacillations are noticeable also in some of the work reproduced in this issue thus proving the difficulty confronting this striving after a vigorous and typical form of expression. However, beside this work which is not

