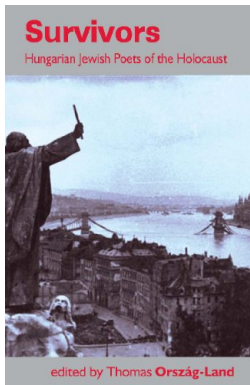


The Germans' Mercenaries by György Faludy

translated from the Hungarian & edited by Thomas Ország-Land (February 2014)



The historical setting of this poem – published anonymously in 1937 in protest against Hungary's alliance with Nazi Germany – was intended to deflect the wrath of the authorities. György Faludy (1910-2006) is a towering figure of European literature described throughout his long and prolific writing career as the reigning king of Hungarian poetry. He spent much of his life in exile. During World War Two, he served as honorary secretary of the Free Hungary Movement in America and fought with the US Air Force in the Far East. He returned to Hungary afterwards to be imprisoned and tortured by the Communists. He remains an enduring source of controversy in his homeland where his work is adored by a doggedly loyal public and loathed by the ultra-Conservative government and its servile literary/cultural establishment. This translation will appear in