

György Kopányi

Summoning the Deceased
/Idézés elhunytaknak/

György Kopányi was born at Pécs in 1921. He studied at the Budapest High School for Applied Arts, he took his degree in 1941. The years following the war he spent at Pécs as a journalist, then he moved to Budapest and from 1951 till 1960 he was a research worker at the Institute of Popular Culture. Since 1960 György Kopányi has been dramaturgist at the Hungarian Radio.

György Kopányi's literary activity is many-sided. He has written a novel, two plays, a volume of his poetry as well as that of his short stories have also been published, he has written 32 one-act plays and 12 radio plays. From among the latter the following have proved to be the most popular: "Johnny Bang" /a musical radio comedy/, "The Wife's Comedy" /a radio comedy/, "The Young Man who was in Heaven" /a radio comedy/, and the radio dramas entitled "In Straits" and "Summoning the Deceased".

The plot of "Summoning the Deceased" takes place in our days. An information is laid with the police on an old woman who looks for non-existing graves and carries flowers to empty parts of the

cemetery. In the course of the police investigation gradually a sad life unfolds itself before us, the life of a woman deserving a better lot, left to herself completely at her old age. The old woman believes that all her former benefactors, who have forgotten her and have not kept their promises, are dead. One or another of the benefactors supposed to be dead would be ready to help her now, but it is too late, the old woman goes mad.

The author of the radio drama - simple in its means, poetic in its language, - attracts one's attention to a topical social problem: while we are working hard at establishing and strengthening the most humane society the worries of life and our human weaknesses bring about a tendency to forget our fellow-beings who are in need of our help and thus, unintentionally, we cause human tragedies.

The "Summoning the Deceased" was successfully produced by the Hungarian Radio in June, 1966.