

ERNŐ SZÉP

Autobiographical Statement (1947)

I was born in 1884, but my life began before that: my father was a teacher who learned to play the violin very beautifully, and my mother was such a sensitive soul that in the spring-time the first peeps of the newly hatched chicks were enough to bring tears to her eyes. I think that's where the music I made in poems comes from, including the impulse that drove me to write poems.

I went to school in Hajdúszoboszló, Debrecen, Mezőtúr and Budapest.

I don't know why people feel compelled to describe their schooling even in the briefest résumé. One's life history shows in one's thinking. What took place in my head constitutes my life; the other things that happened to me were not really my doing and do not belong to me.

I had many beautiful thoughts, believe me; so much I would have liked to write would have made more worthwhile

reading than what I did write. My God, if you could only read the poems I never wrote. I always needed the money, so I wrote feuilletons, I wrote articles, I wrote cabaret songs, plays; I wrote novels and I wrote filmscripts that nobody bought.

I, too, labour under a delusion that I am getting younger by the day, and will have the money at last to begin what I had planned, so that I can lie in peace in my grave, having accomplished what was entrusted to me: publishing my whole heart.