

Ferenc Kormendi, 72, Novelist, VOA Editor

↓
* 1900, Budapest

+ 1972 July 20.

Marianne P. Kormendi

Marianne Panni Kormendi, 73, widow of the late Ferenc Kormendi, author and editor with the Voice of America's Hungarian service, died Wednesday at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda.

Born in Budapest, Mrs. Kormendi moved to London with her husband in the early 1930s when he became head of the East Central European Division of the British Broadcasting Corp.

They moved to New York in 1947, where he became a producer-director for Radio Free Europe.

In 1961, the Kormendis came to the Washington area. Mr. Kormendi served with the Voice of America from 1961 until his retirement in 1969. He died in July, 1972.

Mrs. Kormendi lived at 5401 Westbard Ave., Bethesda.

She had specified to friends that after her death, expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Hungarian Study Center at the University of Indiana, which she and her late husband had supported for many years.

Ferenc Kormendi, 72, a retired editor with the Voice of America's Hungarian service, died yesterday at George Washington University Hospital after suffering a stroke.

A well-known novelist and critic, Mr. Kormendi's books were published on five continents and in 21 languages.

He learned just a few days ago that his latest novel, "Atlantic Remembered," was to be published in Germany in August.

Mr. Kormendi won note as a novelist in 1932 when his "Escape to Life" won the international novel competition sponsored by the British and American Book Publishers group. A few years later, another novel, "Happy Generation" was on the best-seller list in this country.

Born in Budapest and educated at Budapest University, he left Hungary in the early 1930s and lived in London, where he was a commentator and writer for the British Broadcasting Co.

He came to this country after World War II and was a producer-director for Radio Free Europe in New York from 1955 to 1961 when he joined the Voice of America. He received USIA's meritorious service award before his retirement in 1969.

He is survived by his wife, Panni, of the home, 5401 Westbard Ave., Bethesda.

+ 1973 Oct. 31 - 1973