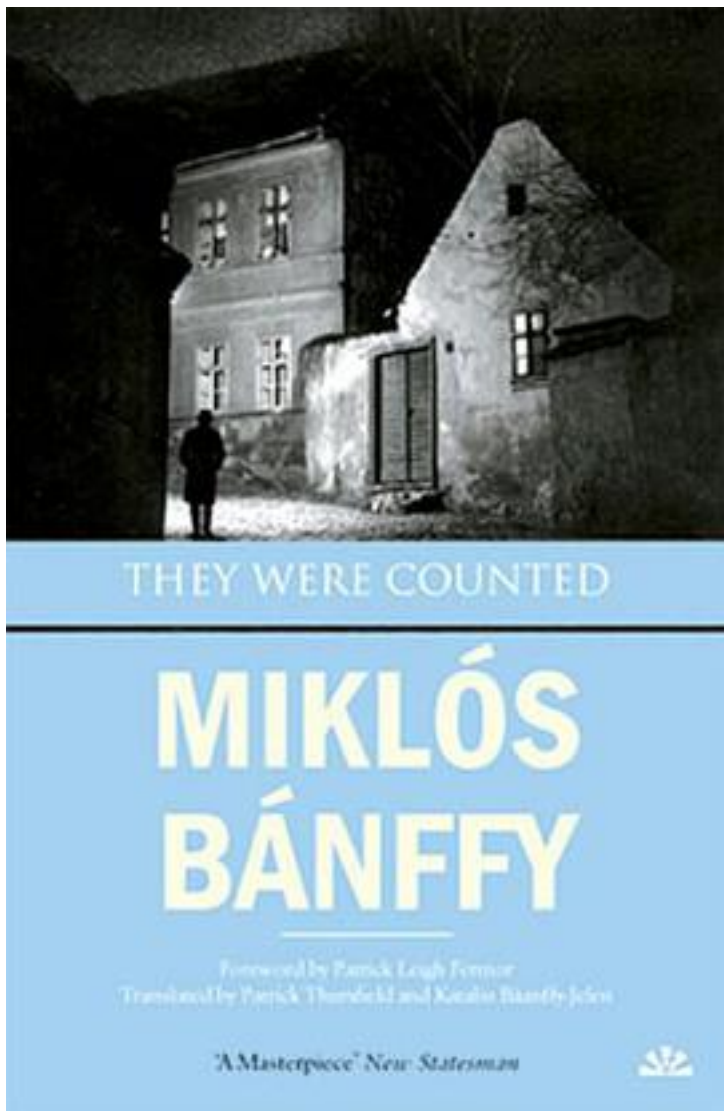


They Were Counted (The Writing on the Wall)



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著者:Miklos Banffy

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Painting an unrivalled portrait of the vanished world of pre-1914 Hungary, this story is told through the eyes of two young Transylvanian cousins, Count Balint Abady and Count Laszlo Gyeroffy. Shooting parties in great country houses, turbulent scenes in parliament, and the luxury of life in Budapest provide the backdrop for this gripping, prescient novel, forming a chilling indictment of upper-class frivolity and political folly, in which good manners cloak indifference and brutality. Abady becomes aware of the plight of a group of Romanian mountain peasants and champions their cause, while Gyeroffy dissipates his resources at the gaming tables, mirroring the decline of the Austro-Hungarian Empire itself. The first book in a trilogy published before World War II, it was rediscovered after the fall of Communism in Hungary and this edition contains a new foreword.

作者介绍:

米克洛斯．班菲 Miklós Bánffy

生於1873年，卒於1950年，出身外西凡尼亞的匈牙利貴族世家，也是心胸寬大的政治家，身邊除了權傾一時的貴胄，也和藝文界有密切往來，後來甚至無懼社會壓力，娶了演員為妻。他對晚期奧匈帝國的發展深具影響，1916年，他負責策畫哈布斯堡王朝最後一位皇帝的加冕典禮；1920年驅逐匈牙利共產主義領導者貝拉（Kun Bela）後，接任匈牙利的外交部長，期間與美國簽署和平條約，爭取讓匈牙利加入國際聯盟，甚至在二〇與三〇年代援助羅馬尼亞治下所有外西凡尼亞的匈牙利人。同時間，他也主持布達佩斯國家劇院，以實際行動支持作家與藝術家。1926年他結束公職生涯，返回故鄉，隱居在祖傳的城堡裡，從此全心投入文學與藝術的創作，直到去世。著作頗豐，而其中最為人稱道的成就，正是這部雋永有味的經典三部曲。

呂玉嬋

以筆譯餬口養心數年，歡迎來信指教：yctranslator@gmail.com。

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