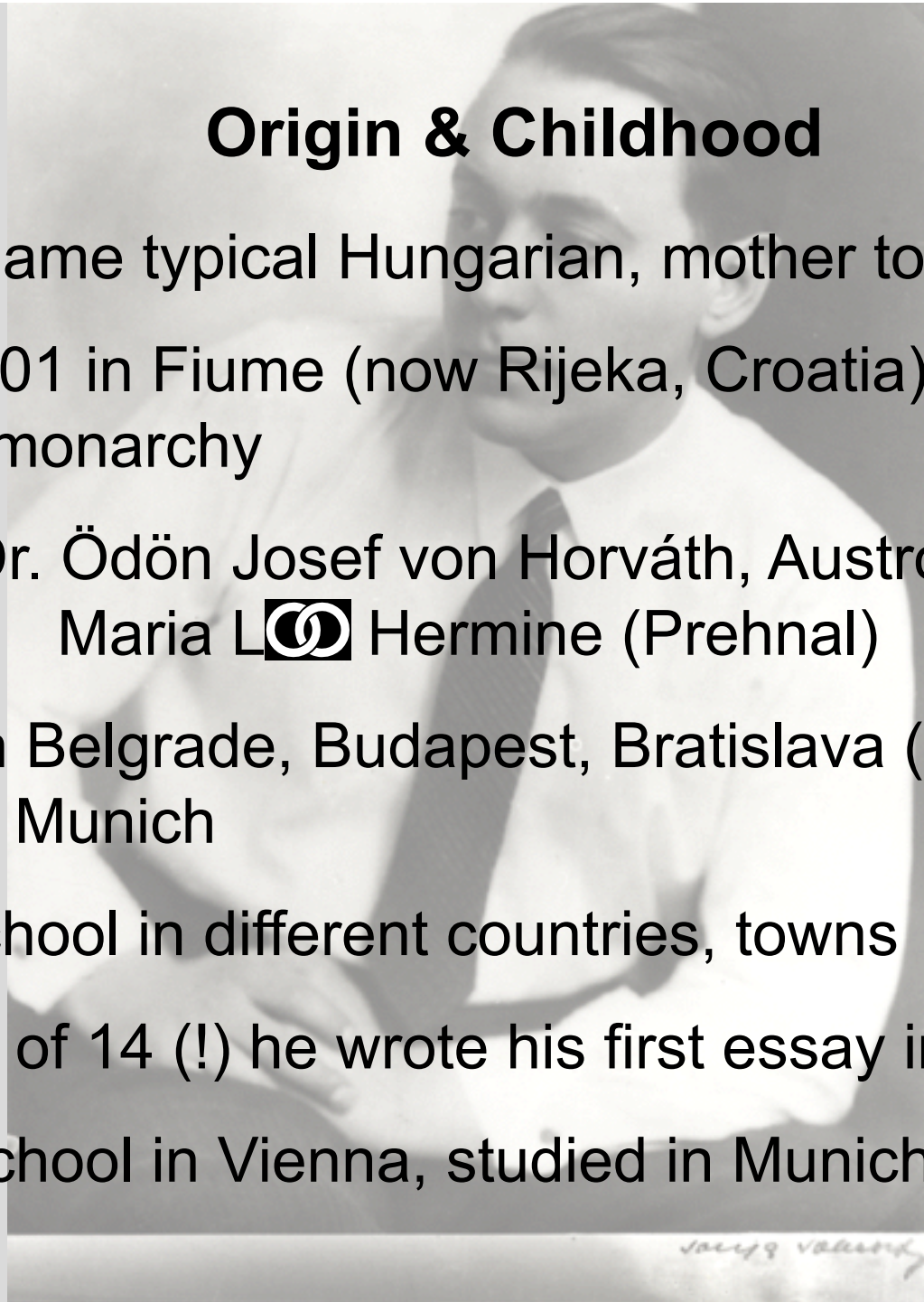


Getting to know Austrian literature

Ödön von Horváth:
The Age of the Fish

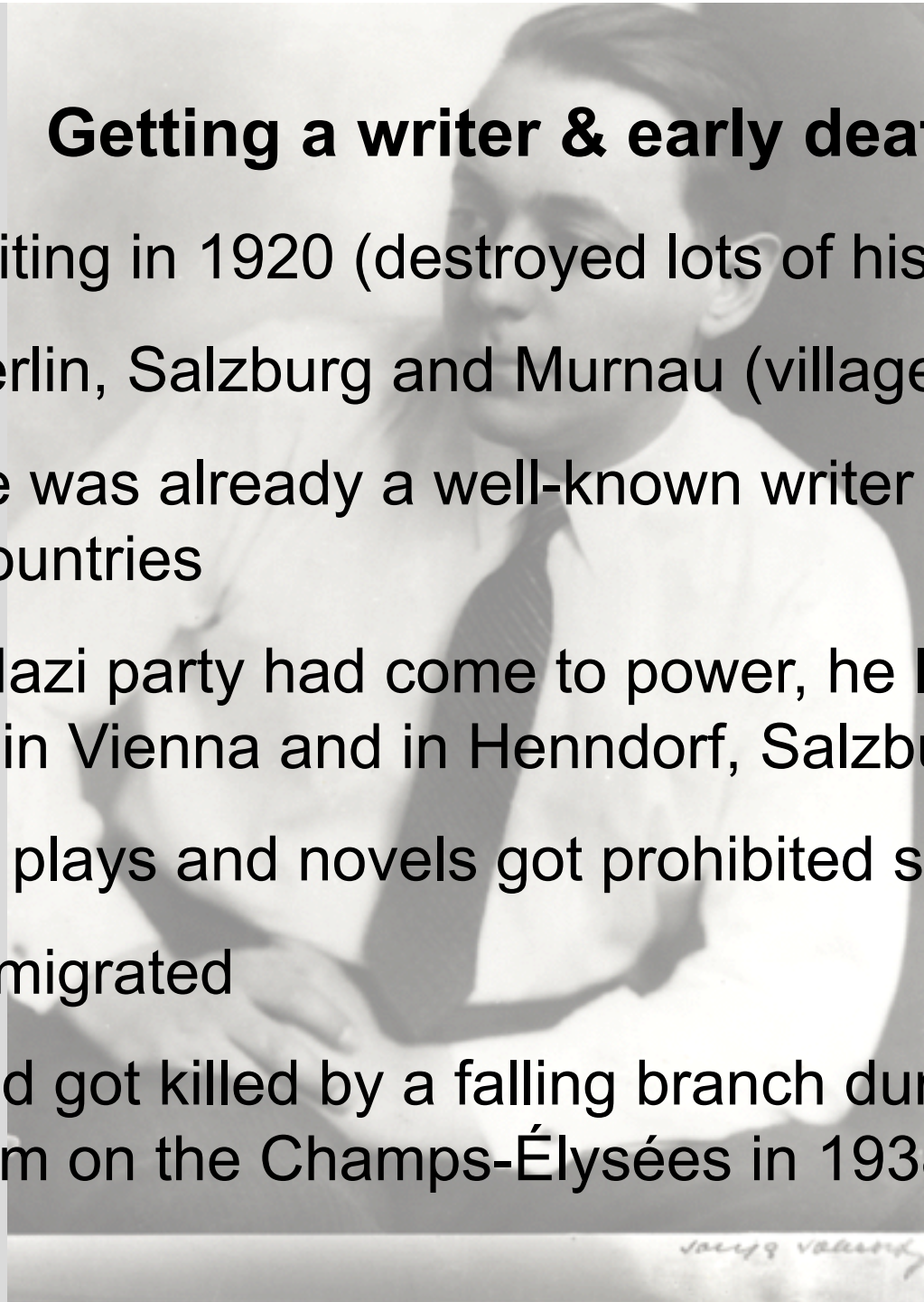
Origin & Childhood

- author`s name typical Hungarian, mother tongue: German
- born in 1901 in Fiume (now Rijeka, Croatia) → Austro-Hungarian monarchy
- parents: Dr. Ödön Josef von Horváth, Austro-Hungarian diplomat, Maria L. Hermine (Prehnal)
- grew up in Belgrade, Budapest, Bratislava (Preßburg), Vienna and Munich
- went to school in different countries, towns
- at the age of 14 (!) he wrote his first essay in German
- finished school in Vienna, studied in Munich



Getting a writer & early death

- started writing in 1920 (destroyed lots of his first texts)
- lived in Berlin, Salzburg and Murnau (village in Bavaria)
- in 1931 he was already a well-known writer in German-speaking countries
- after die Nazi party had come to power, he left Germany in 1933, lived in Vienna and in Henndorf, Salzburg
- his critical plays and novels got prohibited soon
- Horváth emigrated
- was hit and got killed by a falling branch during a thunderstorm on the Champs-Élysées in 1938





The Age of the Fish

We are expecting a cold age, the age of the fish. [...] The earth is coming under the influence of the Zodiac sign of the fish and Man's soul is becoming as rigid as the face of a fish.