

Zuzana Minacova With Her Sister Anna Engelsmannova And Mother Pavla Severova



This photo was taken in the 1930s. It shows me as a little girl in our Bratislava apartment. I was probably a quite fidgety child, as I didn't even sit still for the photographer, and so in the photo I'm blurred. Sitting beside me is my older sister, Anna Engelsmannova (nee Silbersteinova). Sitting on the right is our mother, Pavla Severova (then Silbersteinova, nee Löwyova). My mother was the first girl in Nitra to graduate from high school. She couldn't even attend school, but studied privately at home, and then took the exams. She went to study medicine, which in those days was absolutely exceptional, for a woman to go study like this. She became a doctor. I don't know where or how my parents actually met, but I think that probably in medical circles, as both my father and mother were doctors. Both my parents were Jews, but the religious side of things wasn't observed much in our family. We already lived in a non-religious way. We lived in Bratislava on Stefanikova Street, in a beautiful five-room apartment. My sister and I had a Christian nanny. Our father was a well-known doctor, and had his practice in the same building. When the harassment and persecution of Jews began, I was small, but I remember that my father had to have a sign at his practice where it was written that he was a Jew. We also had to wear a yellow star sewed to our clothing.