

Maria Koblik-Zeltser With Her Family



My mother Soibel Kozhushnyan is sitting, I am standing first from the left, my father Yankel Kozhushnyan, is sitting on the right, my brother Velvl is standing. The photograph was taken in Rezina in 1931. The picture was to be sent to my brother Leibl to Belgium.

One of the things that I remember from my childhood is saying goodbye to my eldest brother. In 1929 he finished lyceum and ranked top among the students, having an exceptional talent in humanities – philosophy and history. Leibl wanted to go on with his education, but he understood that our father wouldn't be able to pay for it, as there were two more people in the family who needed to go to lyceum, and besides my mother and I were to be taken care of as well. Leibl and three of his friends decided to go to Belgium to enter a university there. Father gave him money only for the trip. My brother wasn't hurt as he understood that Father did all he could.

The four friends came to the town of Liege. Leibl entered the Pharmaceutical Department at the university. His friends also became students. They lived together in a rented apartment. One Jew from Bessarabia found a job for them. They were lodging in turns at the electric station. Leibl managed to graduate from the institute and began to work. I remember how my parents rejoiced when he sent them his first salary. By that time my brother Abram had graduated from the lyceum and entered Iasi University, the Law Department. The youngest son, Velvl, studied in the lyceum in Soroca. Mother's brother Aron took Velvl to him. Having finished lyceum Velvl entered the Medical Department of Bucharest University. Father had to support two students.

Mother spent almost all her time with me. We went shopping together – to the stores and to the market. We enjoyed having our picture taken rather often – sometimes the three of us, sometimes

the whole family was in the pictures. There were two photography shops. One of them belonged to Golovanevskiy, and the other one belonged to Zilberman. Our family preferred having pictures taken at Golovanevskiy's. They often took my pictures free of charge and placed them in the window case. They said I was a very pretty child. We took pictures to send them to Leibl in Belgium. He was missing us very much and he couldn't afford to come home for a visit.