

The Bakery Of Ilona Seifert's Paternal Grandfather Bernat Riemer



My grandfather's bakery. This photo was taken in Budapest, but I don't know when. My grandfather, Bernat Riemer, was born in Obuda (Budapest) in the 1850s or '60s. He studied baking as an apprentice and then became a baker's journeyman. He worked diligently, and later bought the bakery where he had worked. Next to the bakery there was a shop where different kinds of breads, baker's wares, and all kinds of other foodstuffs were sold. The bakery also made challah.

Besides this, grandfather had a soda water workshop. My grandfather taught all his sons the bakery trade because he said it was a very good trade; no matter what the world came to, people would always need bread and water. So, all of his sons became bakers. Among the employees of the bakery, there were Jews and non-Jews, but their religion didn't matter to my grandfather. He had such a developed social sense, that all his employees, as well as all members of his family sat down to eat lunch at the same table each noon. My grandparents' apartment was almost next-door to the shop, and in the dining room stood a long table where from twenty-two to twenty-four people sat down every day for their noonday meal. Everyone ate the same meal together, as grandfather didn't distinguish between family and employees, but everyone had to be extremely punctual for lunch. Grandfather was awfully fussy about that.