

Kati Andai's Maternal Family



This is one of the very rare photos about my mother's family. Mother is the middle girl, on her left is her sister Olga and her right Bella. My mother's family lived in Oberland [today in Slovakia]. I don't know anything about them, nobody survived the Holocaust. My grandparents lived in Kassa [today: Kosice]. They were not orthodox (nobody was in the family), no, they weren't religious at all. My opinion is that they spoke German more easily than Hungarian. They talked to me in Hungarian, but not to my mother. My mother knew German like a native speaker, and she wrote letters in German. My grandfather tried all kind of things. He had a pawn-shop, then a hotel, then he was a book-keeper. I think they went a bit bankrupt. When I was born there was a private house, and it seems that they sold it, because when I went there in the summer they only had a flat that opened onto a yard. The toilet was inside. There was a wash-hand stand in the kitchen, where one could wash oneself. [This was] in a one-storey house; the sun shone into the yard, and there was an oleander in a pail. Grandmother didn't work, she raised her three daughters, kept the house. When I was born they had a servant, and moreover she was always a Slovak, or as they used to say, a Tot. Later [in the '30s] they had no servant any more. Grandmother wasn't jolly, she was always timorous. She was afraid of everything, and she always saw the dark side. She couldn't really show her feelings; she probably loved me as a grandchild, but I didn't really feel that. She could cook splendidly, and the house was pristine all the time. I went there for the last time when I was 15 years old, never after that.