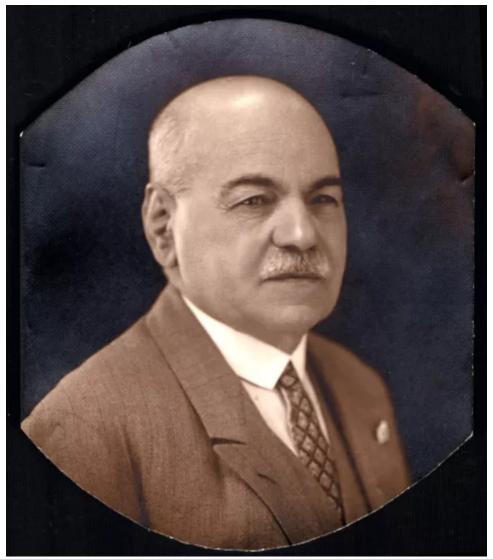


Kati Andai's Maternal Grandfather, **Zsigmond Brichta**



Grandfather Brichta. My mother's whole family lived in Oberland [today in Slovakia]. I don't know anything about them, they all died, nobody survived. My grandparents lived in Kassa [today: Kosice]. Grandfather was a sportsman, he was tall and neat, a very neat man. He swam splendidly. He had a little moustache. They were not orthodox (nobody was in the family), no, they weren't religious at all. He was completely uneducated, but he educated himself. He was a very curious man, he read a great deal; he spoke Hungarian, German, Slovakian impeccably. He also wrote in these languages. He had a beautiful handwriting - he wrote with Gothic letters. I think their mothertongue was German. They talked to me in Hungarian, but not to my mother. My grandfather always wrote to her in German. He 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. My grandparents poisoned themselves in the ghetto of Kassa, so they were not [deported]. My grandfather was over 80 when he died in the ghetto.