

Estera Guth's Graduation Diploma



This here is my mother Estera Guth's graduation diploma from the Jewish Tarbut Lyceum in Cluj-Napoca. She is the one in the middle of the first row. My mother was born in 1907 in Sibiu county, near the village of Scoreiu, and she studied in Cluj, at the Tarbut Jewish Lyceum in Hungarian. [It was a Jewish high school founded in Kolozsvar/Cluj-Napoca in 1920 and operating until 1927. The school was reopened in 1940. The staff consisted of Jewish teachers and professors who had lost their jobs in 1940 as a result of the anti-Jewish laws. Many teachers and students of the school perished in Auschwitz during the Holocaust. The Jewish lyceum was closed in 1948 as a result of the nationalization of denominational schools.] She always considered that period, 1920-1924/5, her 'golden times': she enjoyed high school very much; she was a star in that place, very, very popular, and from what I understood, her Jewish and Zionist feelings there were very strong. The man, 3rd from right in the second row, is Antal Mark; he was a mathematics teacher I think, and a very famous teacher in Cluj-Napoca. [Mark Antal, 1880-1942, not only a mathematics teacher but the director of the Tarbut Jewish Lyceum, from 1920 and 1927. In 1940 he convinced the Hungarian Minister of Education to approve the reopening of the Jewish Lyceum, and he was its director until his death.] When I went to study in 1950 in Cluj-Napoca, there was also a street named after him, I don't know if it is still so. [There is no street named after Mark Antal anymore.]