

## Mena Shumiacher And Her Governess Jenny



This is my older sister Mena Shumiacher and her governess Jenny. This photo was taken by a street photographer during a stroll in the park in Tallinn in 1928. My father was a violin player. My father earned all right and could provide well for his family. My mother didn't work after her wedding. My older sister Mena, their first child, was born in January 1922. I was born in October 1926. I was given the name of Bluma. Our father was not involved in raising the children or any household duties. My mother was responsible for raising the children and keeping the house. My father



brought money home, and it was my mother's part to take good care of it. My sister studied in a Jewish gymnasium in Tallinn. There were two gymnasiums sharing one building on Karu Street, though they both had the same staff and director, Samuel Gurin. In one gymnasium subjects were taught in Hebrew, and in the other one in Yiddish, while Hebrew was just another subject. My sister studied in the Yiddish gymnasium. When my time came to go to the gymnasium, I went to the Yiddish one. It was quite a distance from our house and my mother took me there in the morning and met me after classes. My father insisted that my sister studied music. We both attended piano classes, but it was impossible to practice at home, when our father was there. God forbid, you play a false note. Father made a real blow-up yelling that no good musicians will come out of us. This was the worst oath he could think of. Therefore, Mama was always watchful that we did not sit at the piano, when Father was at home.