

Clairette Schuller



My mother, Clairette Schuller, in 1910. She posed on the model of a Leonardo painting. She wrote it there in French as a joke [in Italian: Madonna della Affectata]. Part of the family communicated with each other in French, because I had two aunts, very distinguished ladies. They taught my two aunts, Dinora and Henriette, French so much so that later they were unable to learn Hungarian. My mother must have been born around 1890. She was born in Pest. I don't really know anything about her childhood, because either it wasn't a topic, or I don't remember hearing anything about it. At that time it was in fashion in the family to give the children French names, that's why she was called Clairette. If anyone talked about my mother in the family they always referred to her as Clairette. I don't think that anyone had French origin, but at that time a little bit snobbish child rearing was in fashion. My mother was very beautiful and very strict and I adored her. I adored her unconditionally. Otherwise she must have been a playful young girl, she put on my grandmother's stage costumes - at that time it was customary that not the theater provided the costumes, but the soloists had to bring their own costumes, and my mother took a liking to them and put on my grandmother's costumes.