

Gabor Paneth's Parents Lajos And Margit Paneth On Their Honeymoon



My parents, Lajos and Margit Paneth, at the seaside in Croatia shortly after their wedding in 1925 in Budapest.

My father Lajos was born in 1887 in Papa. He grew up in a very religious environment. He went to the local Jewish elementary school and also spent a year in yeshiva. He then graduated from the Teacher Training College in Papa and became an elementary school teacher. He first taught in the Jewish elementary school in Nagymarton (one of the so-called sheva kehilot, the "seven communities" of Jews in the present-day province of Burgenland, Austria), but was soon transferred to Liptoszentmiklos, in what is now Slovakia. When he moved to Budapest, he worked in a state elementary school. He married my mother in 1925.

My mother came from an assimilated, Neolog (Conservative) family of Budapest. Her father, Adolf Bergsman, was a traveling salesman of textiles. They lived in an elegant bourgeois neighborhood. My mother graduated from the Academy of Music and became a piano teacher. My parents married in 1925. I was born a year later. I think I don't have a sister or brother because my mother wasn't completely healthy. We lived in a big three-room flat in an elegant neighborhood of Budapest, which we shared with my maternal grandfather until his death in 1939.