

Maria Koblik-Zeltser And Her Mother Soibel Kozhushnyan



This is me, Maria Koblik-Zeltser, and my mother Soibel Kozhushnyan. The picture was taken in Rezina in the 1930s.

I had a wonderful childhood. My mother was deeply immersed in looking after me and taking care of the house. Father loved me very much as well. In spite of the fact that there were four children in the family, I was raised as an only child, because my siblings were much older than I was. They were interested in other things, but it didn't mean that they didn't care for me. They treated me very well, even pampering me sometimes. I didn't see them very often. When I got a little older they left Rezina to continue their education.

Mother spent almost all her time with me. We went shopping together – to the stores and to the market. We enjoyed having our picture taken rather often – sometimes the three of us, sometimes the whole family was in the pictures. There were two photography shops. One of them belonged to Golovanevskiy, and the other one belonged to Zilberman. Our family preferred having pictures taken at Golovanevskiy's. They often took my pictures free of charge and placed them in the window case. They said I was a very pretty child. We took pictures to send them to Leibl in Belgium. He was missing us very much and he couldn't afford to come home for a visit.

I don't know whether Mother got some education. I think she finished a couple of classes in the lyceum. Mother was very literate: she could read and write in Russian and Romanian. She was an erudite. Besides, Mother was very strong-willed. She was actually the head of the family. She had

the last word in decisions made by her siblings and later on my father didn't take any actions, even connected with his work, without having a word with my mother.