

Isak Levi At The Esperanto Course In Vratsa



This is a picture from an Esperanto course in Vratsa. In the center with the glasses is the lecturer Trichkov, holding in his lap his little daughter, whom he had given the name Esperantina. She is holding the flag of Esperantists with a green five-pointed star. I am sixth from the right in the second row. This picture was taken in 1931. I studied in Vratsa until the seventh grade, but seeing how difficult it was for my father to provide for our large family, I realized that I wouldn't have the opportunity to continue my education. I envied the students who went to Sofia in order to study. When I understood that my parents wouldn't be able to provide for me to continue with my studies, I quit high school in the seventh grade, and the last high school grade is the eighth one. I left and enrolled in the local two-year textile school in Vratsa. I attended it for one year and simultaneously I studied as a private student and took the exams for the seventh high school grade also. While we still lived in Vratsa, I used to go to Sofia as I had practice in the textile factories. Together with that I prepared well and took the second-year exams at the textile school and in 1932, at the age of 18, I went to Sliven and later to Sofia in order to work as a textile worker. It was a good job, a well-paid job and I took care of the whole family. When they worked, my brothers got a salary of 1000 leva, which was a very low salary at that time. Being a textile worker I got 6000 leva. Yet, I had a large family to provide for, and, to give you but one example, my friends were able to order suits for themselves at the age of 18, while I couldn't afford it until my 25th birthday. However, I was pleased with my situation because I had fulfilled my duty and my siblings grew up thanks to me as well. I owe very much to my mother. She supported me in everything. She was a martyr, a saint, because it was she who built our decent family.