

The Portrait Of My Older Sister



My older sister Elvir, who was born in 1917 and raised in Balat finished Saint Benoit like the rest of us and spoke French as well as a French person. In 1942, she married a Bulgarian Jew who was a drummer in Zülfaris Synagogue [in Istanbul, on the European side, where the Jewish museum is located now], unfortunately this marriage did not last long, they stayed married for only one year and separated; they did not have children. Following this experience, my very sensitive older sister unfortunately became schizophrenic, she was constantly in poor health, and would be cared for. The last 15 years of her life were spent in "La Paix" [Private psychiatric hospital then and now]. Together with my older sister Ester, we would take Elvir out on those weekends when she was relatively better and when the doctor gave permission, sometimes we took her to the movies. My older sister had this photograph taken in 1948. We unfortunately lost her in 1957. We buried her in Hasköy where a lot of our family members rest.