

Haim And Mazaltov Kalef



These are my maternal grandparents Mazaltov Haim Kalef, nee Sidi and Haim Kalef. The photo must have been taken after their wedding. It was taken in Katzarovi brothers studio in Plovdiv. On the back of the photo it is written that the studio was awarded a gold medal at an exhibition under the auspices of King Ferdinand. It was probably taken in the late 1890s, early 1900s. I remember that my maternal grandmother wrote in Ladino. She was a very calm and kind woman. She used to tell me fairy-tales - she was very eloquent and had an endless list of tales. My favorite ones were those from the 'A Thousand and One Nights' collection. My grandma was very intelligent and good and everybody in Plovdiv respected and loved her a lot. She died after we had already moved to live in

Sofia, when I was in the 7th class of high school. My maternal grandfather died when I was just six years old. I remember that I heard some women talking about that on the street while I was going for a walk in town. I was a very little girl then and I couldn't understand very well what was going on. I understood it only after my mother explained it to me. According to our traditions women don't go to the cemetery so I don't remember my grandfather's funeral. [Rebeca Gershon thinks that women should not go to the cemetery]