

Augusta Blochova With Her Cousin And Sister-In-Law



In this photo Aunt Gusti (Augusta Blochova, nee Diehlova), my father's second wife is in the middle. Standing on the right of her is Mrs. Vlasta Jiraskova, her cousin, and on the left is my aunt's sister-in-law, Anna Diehlova, who married her brother. The picture was taken in Konstantinovy Lazne in 1959. My parents were divorced in 1929. My mother then married Dr. Viktor Hahn. During the divorce my parents came to an agreement, that my almost six year older sister would stay with our mother, and that I'd go live with my father. So I remained with my father in Dubi, and my sister lived with our mother in Teplice with 'Uncle' Viktor. My father also remarried. His second wife was named Augusta, born Diehlova in 1894. She had converted to Judaism when she had married her first husband, Mr. Neumann, who however died. He was a member of the B'nai B'rith Society, where there was this custom that upon a member's death, one of the others would be designated as the widow's guardian. And by coincidence her guardian became Josef Freund, who was the husband of my father's youngest sister, Marketa. And this Mr. Freund realized that he had a divorced brother-in-law in Dubi, who should probably get married, when he's raising a little daughter. There used to be a sanatorium in Dubi, which is around to this day, Tereza's Spa, which used to rent out rooms when there weren't enough patients. And so Augusta arrived there for a week to inconspicuously check things out. My 'aunt' was a very merry creature, and I liked her very much, and she also looked upon me as a daughter. She didn't have children of her own, her first husband had been almost 20 years older, and I guess they hadn't been able to have them. She got

along better with my father than my mother had. Although she and my mother were both the same age, it was as if each one was from a different century. And 'auntie' from the century in which in short everything was done so that the husband would like it, so it wouldn't burden him and so he wouldn't have any worries. While our mother was from the century where more equal partnerships already existed. When my father and auntie were married, I had only one condition: that I won't have to call her Mom. So for me she was Aunt Gusti.