

Maria Koblik-Zeltser And Her Mother Soibel Kozhushnyan



This is my mother Soibel Kozhushnyan and me, Maria Koblik-Zeltser. The picture was taken by a street photographer when we were sauntering in Kishinev in 1939.

When I turned seven, I started going to the Jewish school Tarbut. It was a secular school, where along with common subjects, Hebrew, Jewish history and religion were taught. We studied Jewish literature, read and recited large excerpts from literary works. I had quite a good command of Hebrew at that time, but now I don't remember anything unfortunately. After finishing elementary school I went to the Romanian State Lyceum. It was a co-ed, where boys and girls studied. It wasn't hard for me to pass the entrance exams and I was accepted without any bias. There were a lot of Jews in our class as the town was predominantly Jewish, and there was no Jewish lyceum.

In 1939 Leibl, who had finally settled in Liege, sent money for Mother and me to come and visit him. I was looking forward to our trip. First, we went to Kishinev. Then we left for Bucharest. In Kishinev my mother and I went shopping and bought fashionable crêpe de Chine dresses and took pictures. We went to Belgium from Bucharest. I don't remember much about Belgium. Leibl met us at the train station. He was so handsome in a dressy three-piece suite. We were with his fiancée. From the train station we went to some spa and stayed there for a month.

When we came back to Rezina my family decided that I should go on with my studies. In September mother took me to Orhei and I entered a lyceum there. I lived with Aunt Rivka for some time. Then Mother rented a room for me. I shared it with two more girls from the lyceum. I lived in Orhei for a year. My parents often came for a visit. My brother Abram came once. I went home for

Jewish holidays. Abram used to come as well. Both of us were at the festive table.