

Klara Karpati's Father Herman Grunberg



This is my father. The photo was taken in Budapest in 1934. My father was born in 1887. He was seven years younger than my mother. His name was Hirsh-Leib Grunberg. He wanted to magyarize his name and he went to the ministry repeatedly until he was given the permission to change his name. Then he was called Herman Grunberg. This could have been around 1926-27. He worked at the neolog Jewish community, as a sort of a secretary under the chief secretary. For long years there was a very famous secretary at the community, Sandor Epler, whom my father liked a lot. He was quite busy, because Epler was a workaholic. He worked late into the night on many occasions and my father did the same. I was twelve or thirteen when my mother died. My father and I were left alone. I could not bear loneliness, and it often happened that I went to the community office where my father worked and laid down there and he had to take me home half-asleep. It was not good, because my dear mother had spoiled me an awful lot. When I was fourteen my father married (again), to a very observant woman, who started teaching me to be more observant.