

Jan Sokal's Sister Genia Bilan



This is my sister Genia, Eugenia Bilan. The photo was taken in Zakopane in 1924. I don't know who took it. Some photographer, I think.

We were four brothers and four sisters A typical Jewish, large, numerous family. Exactly as God told: 'Procreate and give birth.' We kept very close together. These memories of those young family years are still alive in me. Maybe it's my weakness.

Genia, Eugenia was a very nice, beautiful girl. She was always regarded as very attractive. Tadzio Bilan's wife, right. His family used to live on Zasanie. They were non-Jews. But it was a healthy, beautiful family. Athletic, all boys were football players. And my brother-in-law was a good football player too, he used to play for good clubs. And what is characteristic, they had very Aryan opinions. National ones.

And it's her my sister correspondence with her husband from the pre-war times that I've got. It used to arrive to our home address until 1939. At 3 Slowackiego Street. My entire knowledge, wisdom, traces from the back-then world, all that came to me thanks to my brother-in-law's brother. One day after the war, when I was already working on the western territories, Leszek, brother of my brother-in-law Tadeusz Bilan, probably brought this treasure of mine to me. Their family also tragically died. Genia spent the entire occupation in Poland. She went through both occupations. She probably wasn't in the ghetto. Genia died in Cracow in 1945. In June or July, something like that.