

Gyorgy's Wife With A Friend Of His



This is a school/student time photo. It might have been left with my wife and so I only got it back [after WWII]. It could have been taken around 1937-38 probably in Kolozsvár. My wife can be seen in it; she was then a first year university student at the language department's English- French section. Her name was Agnes Raab and she was from Arad. I was in the third year of the university, in the medical department, when I met my wife. It was on the 25th of December, 1936, one Saturday afternoon at a dance party. In 1942 I was taken to Ukraine to force labour, [later Gyorgy ran away to the Russian front and was put in a prisoner of war camp]. Agi went home to Arad thinking that I was missing, that I was no longer alive. The war ended and she did not have any signs of life from me. She was twenty-five by then. She was teaching at a school and one of her colleagues, a mathematics teacher courted her and in a desperate moment she said yes to him

and they got married. They went to Bucharest, as the boy was there and both got jobs right away. I arrived home to Kolozsvár in September 1946 after the Russians released me. We had not seen each other for six years, and she had had no letters from me for four years, and I had had no news about her for two years. I sent a letter to her, as there was nothing much in it. [Months passed before the situation was clarified. Agnes divorced her husband amiably and married György.] One of my form mates, István Grosz, a doctor colleague, also Jewish, is standing beside her. They met each other through me. We were not really close to him, but we were friendly. He was from Temesvár [in Romanian: Timișoara], a well-to-do boy who was specialising in surgery at the university. We became doctors in 1940, and he returned to Temesvár. The Jews were not harmed there, because it was under Romanian rule. I know nothing of his family. Perhaps under communism he made aliya, but I know nothing precise about him.