

Most Likely Petr Weber's Grandmother, Zissl Königsberg



This is most likely a photograph of my grandmother Zissl Königsberg, mother of my mother, Lola Preiss, née Königsberg. When this photograph was taken, I don't know, but according to the label it was in Karlovy Vary. Karlovy Vary was a place where mainly Polish Jews liked to go visit. I also got to know Karlovy Vary, while I was still a child, because my stepsister got married and lived there for some time.

That was an incredible experience for a young boy, a city like that. I was around 12 or 13 at the time. What captivated me the most there? You know, Karlovy Vary is a nice place in every respect. I for example remember excellent whipped cream 'rakvicky' ['little coffins', sponge-biscuits with whipped cream] at Elefant, which was and is a renowned coffee and pastry shop in Karlovy Vary. Since that time, this is what reminds me of Karlovy Vary. And especially of that Elefant pastry shop. We used to sit there, though not really regularly, as it was expensive, but we were definitely there several times. The coffee shop is still there, it's been stylistically renovated, because it's something akin to Sacher in Vienna. Karlovy Vary wafers, they're in the colonnade, but this is somewhere else. When you walk from the old colonnade and pass through this place where it narrows, by the spring, then a bit past it, about 20-30 meters to the right, is one of the best places in Karlovy Vary, as far as desserts are concerned, the Elefant coffee shop. We also of course made the rounds to see the local sights, from Jelení Skok, to the springs, the Russian Orthodox church and so on.