

The Other Tchaikowsky



Courtesy of Piotr Paszkowski

André's Grandmother, Celina Janina Sandler-Czajkowska (c. 1910)

In 1910 Celina was 21-years old and married to Dr. Ivor Rappaport, a Russian Army doctor. In this winter outfit, she is wearing a seal skin coat with full length stole, a fur and satin hat with plume, and a large muff. Celina would buy the latest fashions in Paris and then return to Warsaw to dazzle her friends.

Chapter 2 - The Beginning (1935-1939)

André Tchaikowsky was born Robert Andrzej Krauthammer on November 1, 1935 in Warsaw, Poland. He was born to a Polish mother, Felicja Alexandria Rappaport-Krauthammer, and a German father, Karl Ignacy Krauthammer. Normally, the birth of a healthy first child to a young marriage is the happiest of events for the parents, binding them into a family nucleus. But at his birth, André's parents were already estranged, separated by a thousand miles in distance, and by a million miles in temperament and disposition.

Grandmother Celina

How the Rappaport-Krauthammer union came about in the first place and how it deteriorated so rapidly had a lot to do with Felicja's mother, Celina. She, instead of her daughter, was also the dominant influence on Robert Andrzej in his formative years. Celina Janina Swieca was born in 1889 to the family of Isaac Swieca and was the fourth of eleven children. Her father was married three times, the last two times to sisters of the renowned Zionist Nachum Sokolow (1860-1936), a founder, with Theodor Herzl, of the State of Israel. In Jerusalem today, the graves of Nachum Sokolow and Theodor Herzl are side by side. Celina was the daughter of his third wife. The Swieca family in Warsaw, Russia (Poland didn't exist at the time), was affluent and Grandmother Celina grew up with a taste for the finer things in life. She played the harp, spoke four languages fluently (Polish, Russian, German, and French), and was known for her strong will and her ability to drink liquor and play poker as well as most men. Always beautifully dressed and well coiffured, she was an intelligent, attractive woman who fully embraced the pleasures of the post-Victorian era.

Celina was married in 1910 to Ivor Rappaport, a medical doctor in the Russian Army. They had two children, a son Ignacy, born September 6, 1911, and a daughter Felicja, born December 19, 1913. Dr. Rappaport was called into service during the First World War and returned in 1918. Unfortunately, he returned with syphilis, and Celina promptly divorced him. Alone with two children, Celina accepted an offer of marriage from a former friend and lover, a wealthy Warsaw lawyer named Nicholas Sandler. Sandler was an old fashioned, well-behaved man, who neither smoked nor drank. He had been in love with Celina since they were in their twenties. The marriage between Celina and Nicholas was a formality; it was understood Celina could pursue her own lifestyle, and pursue it she did. She had lovers, she travelled, and the children ran wild.

Poland reappeared on the map in 1919 as a result of the Treaty of Versailles, and now included a portion of Upper Silesia, Eastern Galicia, Lithuania and Russia, as well as custodial rights in Danzig. The new Polish government faced the immense task of integrating the peoples, institutions and traditions of the country's many disparate elements. Contending political forces kept the country in a continual state of unrest. The May Coup of 1926 transformed the government into a dictatorship and suppressed the economic and political rights of Jews and other minorities. Celina's son Ignacy, then 15 years old, joined the Polish communist movement (KPP) and became an active party member. In school he excelled in science, languages, and music (piano). After completing his secondary schooling in 1929, he was sent abroad to the University of Liege, Belgium, to study chemical engineering.

During the economic boom of the roaring 1920s, Celina became rich. She had long been accustomed to travel to Paris to obtain the latest cosmetics, items unavailable in Warsaw. In fact, very few things related to the beauty industry were available in Poland. She had an entrepreneurial idea -- start a world-class cosmetics business in Warsaw in conjunction with a school of cosmetology. When the students became practitioners, they would become customers of the cosmetics factory. She would thus manufacture not only the products but also the customers for the products, in increasing numbers. In 1927, Celina and Felicja moved to Paris so that Celina could attend a Parisian school of cosmetics. Felicja, then 14 years old, began her studies at the Lycee while Celina enrolled in a two-year cosmetology course at the Institut de Beauté Cedib. In 1929, Celina completed her course and applied for a franchise to manufacture the Beauté Cedib line of cosmetics in

The Other Tchaikowsky

Warsaw and to operate a cosmetology school of the same name. The franchise was granted and Celina and Felicja returned to Warsaw with a Cedib chemist who brought materials and formulas to begin the operation.

The family knew very well that Celina was an extraordinary woman, wonderfully persuasive, energetic, and bright, but they also were wary of her financial ability. No one doubted her ability to earn, but could she limit the spending so as not to exceed the income? Celina convinced her younger brother, Michael Swieca, to invest in setting up and operating the Institut de Beaute Cedib factory in Warsaw. He agreed, but Celina was to have no part in the business except for the purchasing of Cedib cosmetics at wholesale prices. A small factory was set up and a chemist was trained by the Cedib representative. Celina borrowed money from friends, some of whom received jobs, and established her Institut de Beaute School of Cosmetology in Warsaw at the fashionable Three-Crosses Square.

Celina quickly became a successful and wealthy businesswoman. Her School of Cosmetology graduated hundreds of students, who started their own beauty businesses, paying Celina for franchise rights and buying the Institut de Beaute Cedib cosmetics. Celina's vision almost single-handedly introduced modern cosmetics to Poland. The demand for Cedib cosmetics spread to other major cities in Poland and Celina rose to the top echelons of the social and economic strata. She knew everyone and everyone knew her. Full of promotional ideas, she managed to alienate her four sisters when she added ten years to their actual ages, then claimed they looked ten years younger due to the Institut de Beaute Cedib facial cream. She was as adept at the "show biz" aspects of the cosmetics business as at the entrepreneurial aspects.

1930 was a great year for Celina. Ignacy was doing well at Liege University with his studies in chemistry. Felicja, slim and attractive, was an excellent pianist, although rather lazy with her practice and studies. In contrast to her firebrand brother, Felicja was passive, quiet, and avoided anything too strenuous in the way of work or study. She was mostly interested in fashion, friends, and fun.

Then came the worldwide economic Depression of the early 1930's and like many countries, Poland was plunged into financial chaos. Unemployment reached 40 percent. Celina, accustomed to the lavish lifestyle of a wealthy entrepreneur, was unable to adjust abruptly to the harsh changes brought by the Depression. Business dropped off drastically at her School of Cosmetology, but her spending continued. Michael Swieca adapted production at the cosmetics factory to the reduced demand, and his economic life, if not prosperous, was at least stable. In a desperate gamble to save her school, Celina borrowed what money she could and risked it in high-stakes gambling. She lost everything. Facing bankruptcy, she started to sell suits from her husband's closet for a fraction of their worth, and then in final desperation, she sold Cedib cosmetics at the factory back door, and at below wholesale prices. Discovering Celina's betrayal, Michael Swieca demanded payment for the cosmetics. Unable to pay, Celina was forced to sell her School of Cosmetology. She and Felicja fled to Paris in 1933, hoping somehow to get a fresh start.

In Paris, Celina moved into a tiny apartment with Felicja. Nicholas Sandler provided her with an adequate allowance, permitting a comfortable life but not the ostentatious lifestyle Celina loved. If Celina wanted more money, she would have to earn it herself. A year went by. Celina was restless for something to happen, something interesting and remunerative. She disliked living in "poverty."

Twenty years old in the summer of 1934, Felicja was studying cosmetology but interested mostly in having a good time. Her talent seemed to be for discovering the best nightclubs around the Champs Elysees. On one warm summer evening, Felicja Rappaport and her best friend, Zofia Neuman, decided to visit one of these nightclubs for an evening of drinking, dancing, and conversation. The man she met there had a background as unsettled as her own.

Karl Krauthammer

Karl Krauthammer was born in Chernovtsy, Austria (later Rumania, currently Byelo Russia) on April 12, 1909. In 1915 the Krauthammer family had to flee Chernovtsy to escape Russian-instigated pogroms against the Jews. They emigrated to Leipzig, Germany. Karl's father had been a lawyer, but in Leipzig he turned to commerce and started a fur-trade business. Slowly, through years of hard work and sacrifice, the business became a success. Instead of entering the family business, Karl chose to become a lawyer and in 1928 he entered a law school in Berlin. He was an excellent and serious student, even writing a law book that was published while he was still at school. He graduated in 1932 and returned to Leipzig where he joined a small law firm of Jewish lawyers.

In January 1933, the Nazi party gained control of the German government, and on April 7, 1933, a law was enacted prohibiting admission to the bar of lawyers of "non-Aryan" descent and denying permission to practice law to those already admitted to the bar. Karl's law firm was forced to dissolve, leaving Karl unemployed and without prospects. Most Jews in Germany waited to see what was going to happen next, but the Krauthammers decided that things would only get worse, and made immediate plans to leave. The family fur business was liquidated and a phony Polish passport was obtained for each family member in the name "Glasburg." In the summer of 1933, the Glasburg family -- father, mother, sons Karl and Herman, and daughter Gisele -- left Leipzig for Paris.

Officially, the Glasburg family was allowed to live in France, but could not seek employment. Nevertheless, the family started a fur business in the center of the fur-trade area of the 9th Arrondissement. It is understandable that Karl, trained as a lawyer and hating the fur business, should be unhappy in his situation, but the family needed his help to survive. Still, he refused to commit himself to the fur business. He learned that if he wanted to be a lawyer in France, he would have to repeat his education, studying French law and taking new entrance examinations. He viewed that as a hopeless possibility, since funds were not available for that purpose.

To prevent confusion of past and current identities, the family hyphenated their last name as Krauthammer-Glasburg, except for Karl who used only his birth name of Krauthammer. Years later, when obtaining French citizenship, all the other family members officially became Glasburgs, while Karl remained Krauthammer.

By early 1934, Karl saw no alternative and reluctantly joined the family business. He used his income primarily to purchase an impressive wardrobe. If he couldn't be the person he wanted to be, at least he could look the part. Karl especially liked to put on his best clothes and visit the nightclubs around the Champs Elysees. On one warm summer evening in 1934, Karl Krauthammer decided to visit one of these nightclubs for an evening of drinking, dancing, and conversation. The woman he met there shared his designs for the evening.

Romance and Marriage (1934)

The romance that started that summer evening and led to marriage had its setting in the frivolous and pleasure-seeking atmosphere of the Parisian boulevards of the 1920s and 1930s. Karl Krauthammer at the age of 23 was a good looking man with a domineering attitude that passed for commanding presence and self confidence. The evening he entered the Champs Elysees nightclub he was hoping to have a pleasant time, an interlude that would distract him from the recent reversals in his life. He tended to present himself as an intellectual, a member of the intelligentsia, and thought of his present occupation -- salesman in the family fur store -- as a temporary derailment of his legal career caused by being forced out of Germany by the New Order.

Felicja Rappaport knew how to have a good time, having practiced during many a carefree evening at this and other nightclubs. She was attractive in the style of the day, beautifully dressed, and she carried herself

with style and grace. She exuded wealth and privilege, and had obvious intelligence coupled with a sharp wit and ready laughter. She was completely at ease in her surroundings, radiating a confidence and warmth that naturally drew people towards her and kept her at the center of attention. Her own life was unsettled by the decline of her mother's cosmetology business, but when she was enjoying the evening's pleasures she didn't care to think about that or any other matter related to the mundane workaday world. She was 20 years old; she would like to get married to an agreeable, rich, and handsome man, have children and settle into a comfortable life.

Karl, scanning the nightclub crowd, noticed Felicja and introduced himself. She found him quite agreeable; he was fascinated with her and her ability to speak fluent German as well as French. They conversed freely and enjoyably, and then the posturing started. Felicja explained how her family had homes in Warsaw and Paris, and was supported by the family business, the largest cosmetics business in Poland. In fact, she was practically an owner of the company. Also, her father had a law practice with so much work that he always needed more legal assistants. Karl's interest began to grow keener. He related his own situation: his parents, having recently come into a large sum of money from selling the fur business in Leipzig, were now investing in a similar business in Paris. But he made it clear that he was not a permanent member of the family business; he was making plans to return to the legal profession.

Karl was definitely interested in Felicia. Besides being from a wealthy family, she was beautiful, fun, and easy-going; she spoke perfect German; she was Jewish. Felicia was also impressed. This was a real man, handsome, charming, and from a wealthy family. He was strong and took charge of things. The attraction was immediate and they soon began an intense love affair. Karl sized up the situation and knew he also had to charm Felicja's mother, Celina. Many years later, André Tchaikowsky described the meeting of his parents in his unfinished and unpublished autobiography:

Felicja had fallen incredibly for Karl's whole pathetic bag of shop-worn tricks. The cheap panache, the ostentatiously bulging wallet, the threadbare old device of seeming at first to court Celina rather than her daughter. Felicja gazed, listened, smiled, wondered, daydreamed, and saw further encouragement for it all in Celina's face. Felicja at 20 was a most accomplished and charming young lady, dressed like a dream and fluent in four languages, but worldly wisdom had not been part of her expensive Lycee curriculum; she relied on her mother for that. Facing that handsome, dapper, confident young man who combined the distinction of a German law doctorate with the touching predicament of having to flee his adopted country (Karl had made them a present of his entire biography within that first meeting), Felicia hoped, felt, and knew that her mother could only approve. How brave he was. How cheerfully he bore his wrongs.

"All I have is my youth and good health," he said, and his smile revealed brilliant teeth, unquenchable courage and a hint of underlying sadness. He could have been an exiled Romanoff. And where the girl saw good looks, optimism, pathos, and romance, Celina had found what she had sought, a brilliant match. She took in the smart clothes, the fashionable restaurant he had chosen, his long fastidious consultation with the sommelier, and the lavish tip. She decided that there were other grounds for Karl's optimism besides health and youth. This was the son-in-law she needed -- energetic, adaptable, resourceful, obviously capable of putting the ailing cosmetics business back on its feet. Less than a year in Paris and he had already managed to find lucrative employment, due no doubt to his command of French and his worldly manner. Or did he perhaps have private means? Either way he would be an asset.

Celina followed such speculation with a clear conscience. She wanted nothing for herself. It was merely her duty as a mother to see her child happily settled. And of the child's happiness there could soon be no doubt. Day after day Celina watched her rapt, dreamy face and

realized that she could no longer hold Felicia back even if she wanted to. Was it really so wrong of Celina to keep a few facts out of sight? Whose business was it that her ravishing child's latest outfit was not yet paid for, or that her impeccable education, which had produced such admirable results, had long been subsidized by a distant relative? What decent man in love with an adorable girl would want to hear dreary details of mortgages and loans? Surely it was an insult to her well-to-do prospective son-in-law even to suppose him capable of worrying about such matters. Felicia herself was a treasure. No further dowry was needed. No man of perception could fail to see that.

Indeed Karl's awareness of his own good fortune was now almost embarrassingly evident. The barrage of flowers, invitations, compliments, and gifts very nearly made Celina jealous. Neither of her two husbands had put themselves out for her to anything like this degree. Karl treated her with painstaking, almost old-fashioned respect. But this was no substitute for the ambitious gallantry of the first few days. He kissed her hand as he might tip a porter.

Celina soon became impatient of the lengthy courtship. All right, it's just the means to an end, but why wasn't the end yet in view? Was he perhaps afraid of marrying beneath him? Wasn't her daughter grand enough for him? And while she was too shrewd a business woman to show her eagerness for clinching the deal, she began to hint the imminence of their return to Poland to supervise the family's fortune and estates. And of course there were Felicia's brilliant prospects in the high society of Warsaw now that her French upbringing had proved such a success.

The marriage of Karl and Felicia was proposed. Although Karl had moved very quickly in the romantic relationship, he now hesitated about marriage. Yes, it was true the family fur business was able to support him comfortably but he wanted his own "situation" if married. Felicia pressed for marriage; if the only problem was Karl's "situation," then it was no problem at all because they could live in Warsaw where Karl could choose between an important position in the family cosmetics business and the practice of law in the Nicholas Sandler law office. There was no reason to postpone marriage.

Although Felicia in fact knew of no genuine opportunities in Warsaw, she rationalized that he was from a wealthy family so why worry about it. Celina began to see through the self assurance to the domineering male underneath. She developed a dislike for Karl's attempts to dominate her as well as Felicia. If there was dominating to be done, she would be the one to do it. After first being polite, she became increasingly confrontational. Felicia was caught in the middle, finding herself a battle ground for their contest of wills. Despite this development, Felicia and Karl grew more intent on marriage. Perhaps Celina's opposition intensified their resolve to marry.

The civil marriage took place on December 11, 1934, and shortly afterwards a full Jewish Orthodox service was performed at Beth Hakeneseth Temple in the 9th Arrondissement. Ominously, the happy couple had insufficient resources for a honeymoon, or even a place of their own. They moved in with Celina as an interim measure, with plans to remain in Paris until everything had been arranged in Warsaw. Among the information missing from Karl's initial assessment of a life with Felicia was a more complete knowledge of her formidable mother, Celina. He also misread Felicia's vagrant temperament. But Karl's background and underlying attitudes were equally unknown to Felicia. This is perhaps not so uncommon a situation at the beginning of a marriage, but love, of course, is expected to conquer all. In this case, the revelations made a mincemeat of love.

Problems immediately arose between Felicia and Karl. Felicia refused to do housewifely chores like cooking, ironing, and keeping the living space tidy. She insisted on sleeping late into the morning, and began to side with Celina in various matters. Karl insisted that, as his wife, she would do exactly as she was told.

The Other Tchaikowsky

Felicja quietly ignored Karl, or answered him in a meek noncommittal tone. Celina took it upon herself to straighten out Karl about how to behave, and the trouble increased.

In March 1935, Felicja returned from the doctor's office with the news that she was pregnant. Plans were made for a return to Warsaw, for two reasons. First, Karl was unable to support the family in Paris and second, both Celina and Felicja wanted the baby to be born in Warsaw. Within a few months, Karl, Felicja, and Celina were at the doorstep of the Sandler apartment at 1 Przejazd Street, near the center of Warsaw.

Karl was disagreeable at every turn and complained about everything. Michael Swieca laughed at the idea of Karl working at the Cedib cosmetics factory. Celina still owed Michael money, business was slow, and besides whatever work they could find would be unacceptable to Karl. Celina asked her husband to find Karl a job in the legal office. Nicholas Sandler already had an assistant, Celina's nephew Anatol Swieca, and he didn't need another, but what else could be done? Karl unofficially joined the Sandler firm.

Karl soon found that he didn't fit into Celina's and Felicja's social and political circles. He could not understand this volatile family of dilettantish communist activists and their dedication to constant socializing and idle pursuits. The family didn't practice their Jewish faith; they ate everything, Kosher or not, and ignored the Sabbath. Felicja was always off with her girl friends. Karl's blustering and tirades became a joke.

Despite the obvious need for it, Karl didn't seem to learn Polish very quickly. When asked about it, he belligerently told Nicholas Sandler that he had no intention of learning Polish. Three months after Felicja and Karl had arrived in Warsaw, Nicholas told Celina, "Karl is fired -- he's out. I don't know what you're going to do with him, but I can't use him." Celina was furious that Karl refused to make any effort to modify his behavior; she told him to pack his bag and leave. Felicja, now five months pregnant, didn't argue. Karl was tiresome and boring, and no fun at all.

Karl borrowed money for a rail ticket to Paris from Anatol Swieca and left Warsaw. He began corresponding with Felicja and insisted that after the birth of their child, the three of them, without Celina, should live in Paris. He explained that he now was working in the family fur business and could provide comfortable housing and a good life if she would come back. But Grandmother Celina must stay in Warsaw. She was the source of their discontent, and if Felicja would please come to Paris with the baby, everything would be fine.

Life at 1 Przejazd Street (1935)

Polish newspapers do not publish birth announcements and thus André Tchaikowsky arrived in the world on November 1, 1935 unheralded. The entire family was thrilled with the birth of a baby boy, and no one more than Grandmother Celina. Her first grandchild was a handsome little fellow with thick black hair. He was named Robert Andrzej Krauthammer. Felicja specifically wanted his first name to be "International," something neutral in the disturbing political scene around them. A name like Isaac or Mordecai was out of the question. Karl was advised of the birth. Felicja also advised him that she wasn't returning to Paris, then or ever.

Three families lived at 1 Przejazd Street -- Celina and Nicholas, Felicja and baby Robert Andrzej, and Felicja's brother Ignacy and his wife Irena -- and there were plenty of activities to keep things lively. Little Robert Andrzej was everyone's favorite. Ignacy became his surrogate father. Ignacy had been booted out of Liege University for leftist political activities. He returned to Warsaw and enrolled in the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute, from which he graduated in 1936 with a degree in chemistry. He found a job in the cosmetics business, but not with Michael Swieca at the Cedib factory. While Ignacy held leftist-communist political views, the horror of Stalin's Moscow Trials starting in 1936 caused him consternation. He had looked to Russia as a model society, but the execution of thousands of Bolshevik leaders and peasants was clearly unacceptable. Nevertheless, he remained active in communist politics, and he was not the only political

Chapter 2 - The Beginning (1935 - 1939)

activist in the family. Celina's sister, Dorka Swieca, had fallen in love with Edward Lanota, a prominent member of the Communist Party of Poland. André's cousin, Halina Swieca-Malewiak remembers Dorka:

"Her milieu included young artists and revolutionaries. She was living in our house with a girlfriend as well. She then invited into the house some of her young boyfriends looking for shelter for the night as they were afraid of arrest. This was not so amusing for my parents and I think it was perhaps why Dorka and her girlfriend left us, although she visited very often. It was in the late 1920s that she telephoned us to announce that she was going to visit with 'her dearest one, Edward.' Edward turned out to be a strongly-built, blond young man who made a very good impression with all of us. He was born Jewish but had converted to Catholicism when he was a teenager. Nevertheless, he considered himself an atheist and party member. I don't remember when, but Dorka and Edward were married. They moved to Przemysl and Dorka gave birth to a son. Shortly after this event, Edward was arrested for his political activities and judged in the famous 'Brest Trial.' Edward went to jail and Dorka and her baby went to live in Warsaw."

After a heroic effort by Dorka, Edward Lanota was released from the Brest Fortress. To some members of the family -- Ignacy, for example -- Edward was a hero. To most, he was a family scandal. Edward and Dorka moved to Gdynia, a Polish port on the Baltic next to Gdansk, but returned to Warsaw in 1937 so their son could be educated at a progressive non-religious school.

By 1937, Grandmother Celina had repaired her relationship with Michael Swieca. Felicja and Michael's wife, Renata, spent hours together, rolling their baby carriages along the sidewalks of Warsaw. Felicja's Robert Andrzej (Andrzej to everyone in the family) was now two years old and Renata's Andrzej was one year old. Robert Andrzej's rapid intellectual growth was a source of joy and growing amazement. At the age of two, he couldn't stop talking and his vocabulary was impressive. By the summer of 1939, Robert Andrzej, at the age of 3-1/2, was reading Polish newspapers, magazines, and books. Grandfather Sandler had explained to young Andrzej the phonetic sounds of the Polish alphabet. Robert Andrzej grasped immediately that words spoken were also written. Certain letter combinations had certain sounds; so simple, to just pronounce the sounds. Effortlessly, he began reading. Grandfather Sandler then taught Robert Andrzej the phonetic sounds of written German, and then Russian, and Andrzej almost immediately began reading German and Russian, although he didn't understand what he was saying.

Andrzej was a capricious, very outgoing child, who could join in any conversation, and did. He was interested in everything, and his desire to learn was boundless. Grandmother Celina was delighted with her gifted grandson. She began projecting his future. He would have the best schooling in the world; he would rise to the top of his profession, whatever it was. This was no ordinary child. But on September 1, 1939, plans ended for people all over Poland, dreams ended, and as the first German bombs fell on Warsaw, lives ended. For the next five years, the family of Robert Andrzej, and those of more than three million other Jews in Poland, concentrated on one goal: to stay alive.



Courtesy of Halina Janowska

André Tchaikowsky's Mother and Friends (c. 1929)

André's mother, Felicja Rappaport, at age 15 (second from left), also her brother Ignacy Rappaport (second from right) and Ignacy's best friend, violinist Roman Totenberg (far right). The gentleman in the uniform is Grandmother Celina's brother, Marian Swieca, and just behind him, a nephew, Fredrick Zeiden.



Courtesy of Halina Janowska

Karl Ignacy Krauthammer (c. 1932)

André Tchaikowsky's father, age 23, at a Berlin law school where he graduated in 1932. In 1933, Hitler prevented Jewish lawyers from practicing law in Germany. Karl and the rest of his family left Germany and relocated in France, where they started a fur-trade business.

The Other Tchaikowsky



Courtesy of Piotr Paszkowski

Felicja Rappaport (c. 1934)

Felicja Rappaport, André Tchaikowsky's mother, at age 22. The photo was taken at about the time of her wedding to Karl Krauthammer in December 1934. She often change her hair color and was remembered by different people as blond, brunette, or redhead. All remembered that she dressed in the latest fashions.



Courtesy of Piotr Paszkowski

Grandmother Celina (c. 1930)

Celina at age 41. She was then living at the family apartment in Warsaw with her husband and both of her children. Business was excellent at her School of Cosmetology, and equally successful at her husband's law practice and her brother's cosmetics factory.



Courtesy of Piotr Paszkowski

Grandmother Celina and son Ignacy Rappaport (c. 1937)

Ignacy at age 26 and Celina at age 48. Ignacy was working at a cosmetics factory, having graduated from the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute in 1936 with a degree in chemistry. His earlier studies in Belgium were terminated because of political activities in the Communist Party.



Courtesy of Piotr Paszkowski

André Tchaikowsky (c. 1937)

André at age 2-1/2. He was already talking like an adult, with an excellent vocabulary. André's grandfather taught him how to pronounce Polish, German, and Russian text. With little effort André was able to read in all three languages, although not always knowing what he was saying.