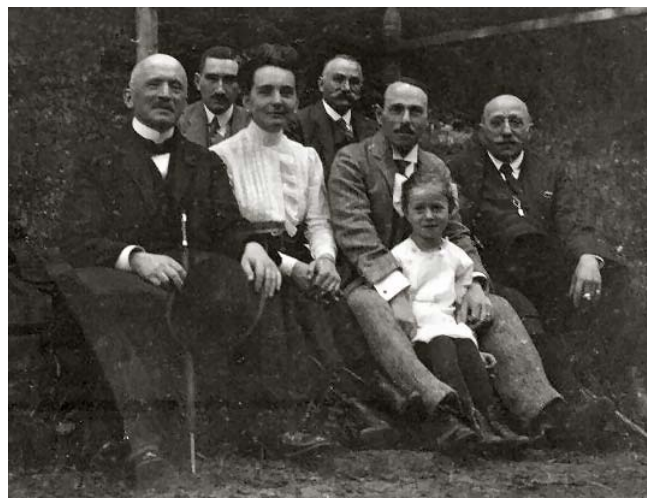


A Pictorial History

Some episodes of the life of the Beran family told through old photographs and documents.



The very old photograph on the left is of Moritz, the Father of Alois (or Lazar) and Samuel who together made up the family business, Moritz Beran und Söhne. Alois sits on the far right in the group photo with Samuel behind him. The sketch of Alois is contemporary but the oil painting, believed to be Samuel, is clearly later in life.





Alois, as paterfamilias, heads this 1910 register. Note the death of Hermine, his wife, and Rudolf, his second son.

Einheimisch		Geburts:		Wohnort	Stand	Charakter oder Beschäftigung	Titel und Zeit der Gemeindegewähltheit oder des Bürgerrechtes und besondere Bemerkungen
Name		Ort, Pfarre, Land	Datum Geb.				
1. <i>Perun</i> (Leipziger Kreis)	<i>LAZAR</i>	<i>Swietlowitz</i> 7/6 1850	1850			<i>Leipziger Kreis</i> am 23/7 1891 7 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892	
2. <i>Polen</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Swietlowitz</i> 7/6 1850	1850			<i>Leipziger Kreis</i> am 23/7 1891 7 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892	
3. <i>Pöhl</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Swietlowitz</i> 7/6 1850	1850			<i>Leipziger Kreis</i> am 23/7 1891 7 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892	
4. <i>Polen</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Swietlowitz</i> 7/6 1850	1850			<i>Leipziger Kreis</i> am 23/7 1891 7 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892	
5. <i>Perun</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Swietlowitz</i> 7/6 1850	1850			<i>Leipziger Kreis</i> am 23/7 1891 7 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892 am 10/11 1892	



Irene (née Subak) at 16 on the left, possibly a year or two older in the fan-framed group shot above. Thanks to Peter Rohel's genealogy web site we have a fairly complete picture of the Subak family line stretching back to the 18th c.

Home Life ...

...revolved around the children, Minnie born in 1907 and Rudolf, born 1913. Each had their own nurse; Rudolf knew his as Minnola, pictured together below. I remember Rudolf continuing to write to her regularly for the rest of her life.



These charming family snaps show grandfather Alois with the two grandchildren and Irene and Philip spending time.



A full and busy life

As well as running the home and factory, and an operatic career, the couple also ran a dog “dealership” specialising in the Chinese Palace Dog breed,



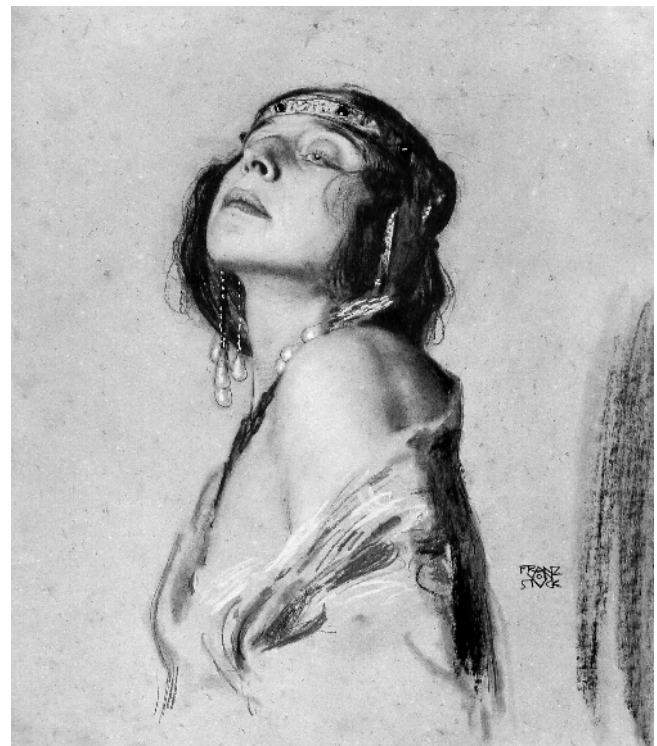
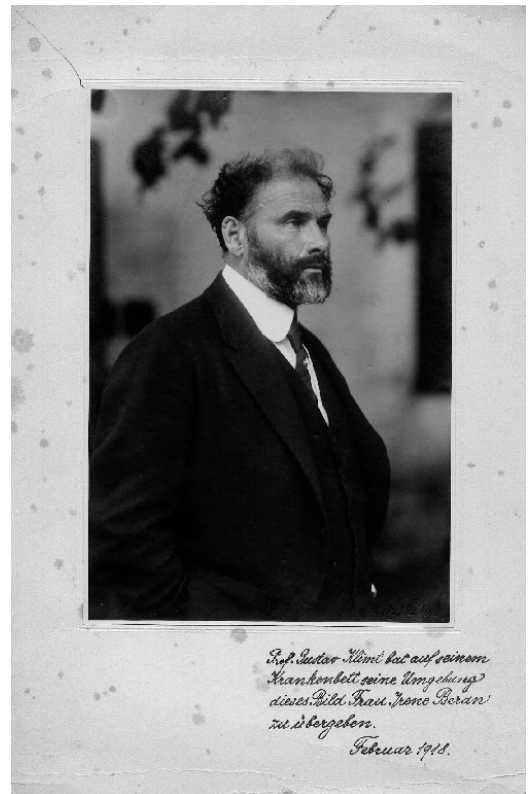
With Bruno also living at home after WW1, they moved in illustrious artistic circles not just in Brno, but also in Vienna, and increasingly in Munich, finally Paris, with Irene spending increasing amount of time with Bruno on his travels.

A signed photograph from Gustav Klimt on the right.



Above, her Ophelia pose, though I'm not aware that it was ever used.

Irene posed as Salome for Von Stück. This was a favoured pose of Irene, maybe dating from her operatic days in Vienna (but this is my speculation).



Irene was also a collector of art in her own right. You can see the full Exhibition catalogue on the "Irene Beran Art Collection" page.

Family Holiday in Austria



Irene and Philip on right, Alois (Bruno and Philip's father Alois) seated, Hermine (known as Minnie) and Rudolf next to him and the children's Nannies back left. The backdrop to this Studio photo is of the picturesque village of Hallstatt nestled in Austria's Salzkammergut. Sophie Lillie, an expert on Gustav Klimt, informs us "Having your picture taken before a local backdrop (often in Dirndls and Lederhosen) was a very popular thing to do during

"Sommerfrische", the traditional summer sojourn to the country."



Irene seated. Behind her stand Philip, and Bruno. The woman between them is possibly Irene's sister, Emma (familiarily known as Dittie) who went on to run a Pharmacy in Vienna.

The family home



Alois had constructed this magnificent edifice around 1907. It is in the “Jugendstil” (Art Nouveau) manner, located in a dominant situation at the corner of Parkstrasse and Speckbachergasse (nowadays Drobneho and Erbenova) and opposite an old established Brno city park. He divided it into 16 flats, one for his own use. Philip was living there at the time it and its contents were confiscated and he himself was transported to Theresienstadt and then to a death camp.

Some of the objects of art in the flat. The picture on the right shows part of the library. Two of the cabinets are in our Oxfordshire home, but now with mirror doors.

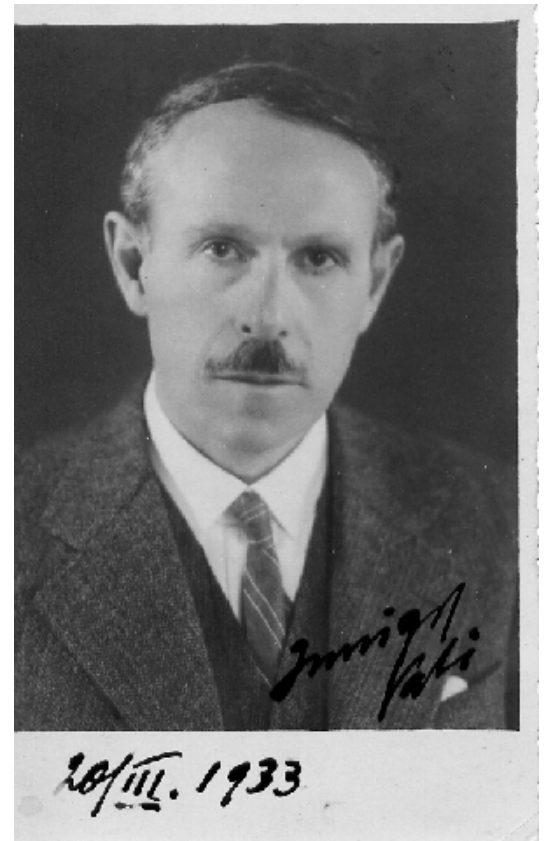
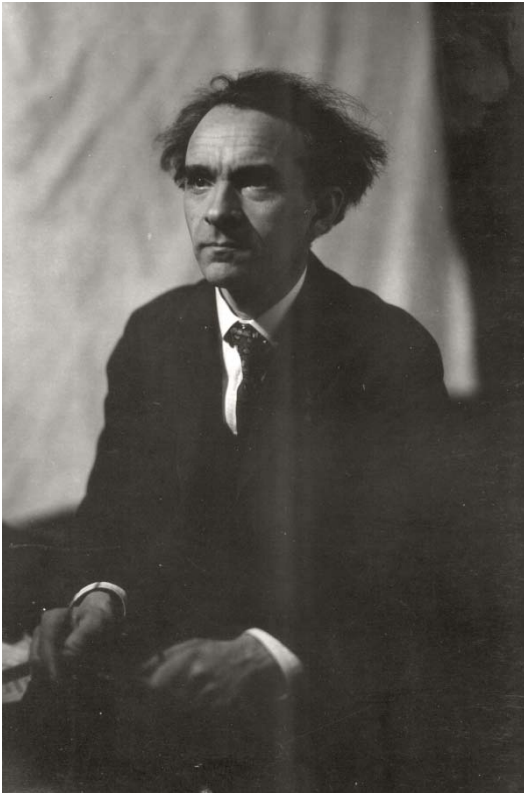


Early Kokoschka on floor level, “Mädchen mit Arm vor der Brust”, unsigned but authenticated by Dr Wingler of Berlin, an authority on that artist, and sold to Marlborough Gallery, London in 1983. The bust of Irene mentioned by my father as lost. He doesn’t recall the name of the sculptor, only that he was an important figure.



Other family treasures, now lost.

The Triangle



Note the word “Vati” on Philip’s card to Minnie. The family situation was complicated. Irene and Philip were married with the two children. Bruno used their family home as his base between travels and increasingly Irene would accompany him on these.

This was an entirely amicable arrangement which lasted 20 years until the divorce in 1935. Irene was a flamboyant character and Philip was a quiet bookish man, Bruno offered much more possibility for excitement and travel.

Son Rudolf always considered Bruno as his father and had little contact with Philip. Daughter Minnie maintained much stronger bonds with Philip and it is mainly through Rudolf’s conversations with his sister that he has the reminiscences of Philip described here.



Palma Days

They became a familiar pair around Calle Soledad and La Lonja in Palma, hardly missable by their age and diminutive stature; neither reached 5 ft in their last years.

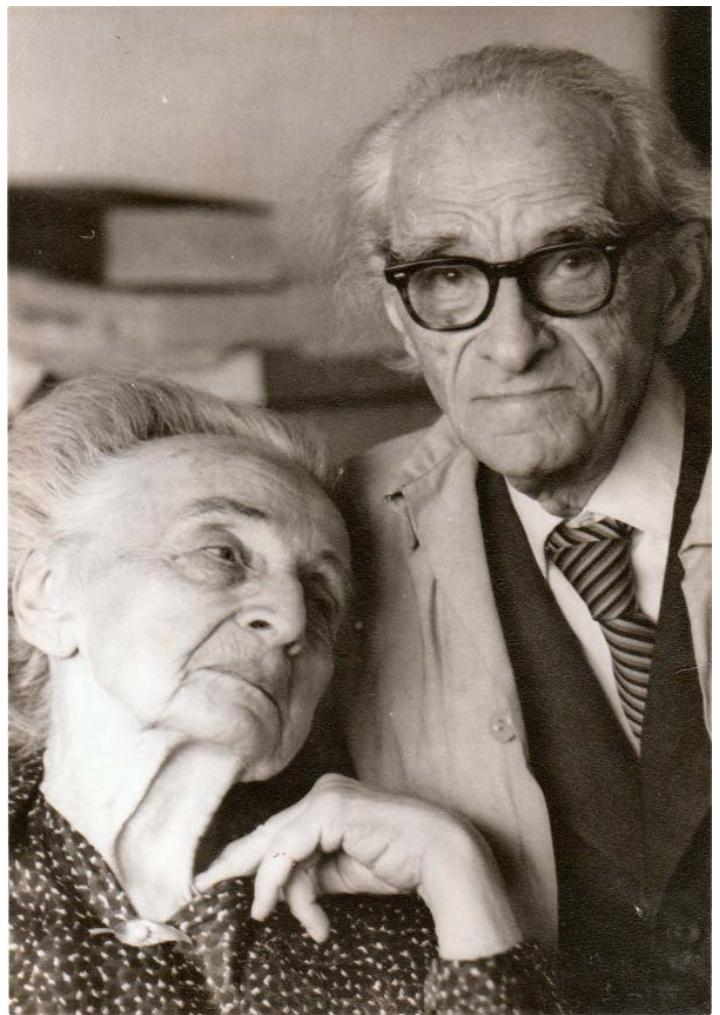


These last years in his beloved Balearic Islands were never more than semi-retirement. There were still pictures to choose for exhibitions that were being organized, his donation to the Museum to arrange, and even late portraits and other works to complete. His services to art in Spain were recognized by this state medal – Caballero de la Orden del Merito Civil.



As an old couple

A touching portrait photograph taken in 1972 during one of their last visits back to Washington



Together in Paris, 1963. It needed the services of the Red Cross to bring back together the three dispersed families after WW2. I remember the excitement of my father flying out to America in 1947 for the first reunion, something quite unusual for the time.

Daughter Minnie had remained in Paris throughout WW2 protected by her husband's Swiss nationality. This also allowed the storage of a large number of Bruno's pictures, much of which is now part of the family legacy.





Irene and Bruno died within weeks of each other in Palma Majorca and are buried at the Jewish cemetery at Marratxi. Though they lived such a nomadic life and had US citizenship at the end of their days, they thought of the Balearic islands as home. Bruno loved the light, the landscape and the Island way of life although he was an insightful portraitist and portraits “paid the rent”, he always yearned for the freedom to paint other things.

