

role that Emanuel saw himself, and he dramatized the situation to the full. His letters for the next couple of years are full of complaints about the meagerness of his allowance. The knowledge of his mortality, Klein says, "of which he never spoke [*sic!*] must have had a great deal to do with his being rebellious and at times difficult." Quite clearly, the whole family was so terrified of tuberculosis that the dread word was never used.

In the meantime Moriz Reizes gradually faded away until one day people realized that he was actually dead. The cause of his death on April 6, 1900, is listed officially as pneumonia; but since Klein has been describing him as "senile" for some years, it is likely that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease or some comparable disorder. There is no photograph of him among the numerous family mementos.

In any event, his death precipitated a crisis; and the ensuing events reveal something of the complex family dynamics. In the first place, Emanuel was not told of his father's death until two months later — when he returned to Vienna in June. This might suggest that he and Moriz Reizes had parted on bad terms. Apart from his romantic aspirations, which were focused on the Mediterranean, he was irritated by his mother's constant fretting. A deeper and more disturbing element seems to have been Melanie's impending marriage.

Family circumstances may have been extremely stringent, but somehow enough money was found for a number of photographs of Melanie to have been taken during this period. She is a voluptuous dark beauty with heavy-lidded eyes, and already fully aware of her striking profile. She was aware, too, of her desirability, as all her brother's friends seemed to be falling in love with her. When she was only seventeen she met her future husband (then twenty-one), a second cousin on her mother's side, who was visiting Vienna from his home in what was then the Slovak part of Hungary.

Arthur Stevan Klein was a serious young man who was studying to be a chemical engineer at the elite Swiss Federal Technical High School in Zurich (a kind of M.I.T.). His unpretentious looks — small head and slight frame — were unimportant in comparison with his intellectual gifts. Emanuel was impressed by him, a fact that would weigh heavily with Melanie. Very soon after he met Melanie, Arthur proposed, or so she implies. What on earth made this ambitious young woman so ready to accept him, when clearly it meant the end of her professional ambitions? In later years she told some of those close to her that it was her "passionate temperament." She admits that she was not in love with him at first, but claims that "it did not take very long for me to fall in love with him." She then adds: "From that time I was so loyal that I refrained from any entertainment where I might have met other young men and never expressed a feeling that I already had in my mind, that we were not really suited to one another. Both loyalty to my fiancé, with whom I was up to a point in love, and circumstances, prevented me from mentioning this to my mother or my brother." There is no reference to what they did