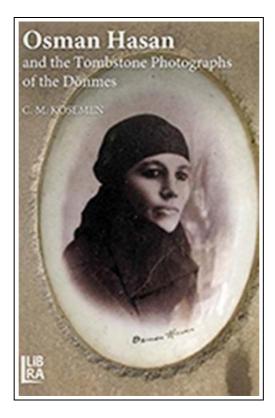
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(Mr. Ronaldo Kulas)

OSMAN HASAN AND THE TOMBSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DÖNMES.



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Libra, Istanbul, 2014. Hardcover. Condition: New. Limited Edition. Original bdg. HC. 4to. (26 x 20 cm). In English. 525 p. Ills. 500 copies were printed. "This is really a remarkable work, and will surely interest and delight many people who would otherwise never have known about the existence of the Donmeh. In a way, you give a new life to one of the most remarkable and enigmatic groups ever to emerge in Ottoman Thessaloniki. What a lovely book." - Mark A. Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History, Columbia University Author of Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews 1430-1950. Almost a century ago, massive political and demographic changes in the Balkans swept the members of the crypto-Jewish sects known collectively as the Dönme from their homeland in Salonica to Istanbul and other parts of Anatolia. While appearing outwardly to be Muslim, in their private life the Dönme held a set of syncretic beliefs based on, Jewish mystical texts such as the Kabbalah, Sufi Islam and their own, unique traditions. In their last gasp of group cultural autonomy, the Dönme buried their dead in often very unique graves in different cemetaries throughout Istanbul. Most Dönme tombs differed from traditional Muslim practice by featuring the portraits of the deceased. Osman Hasan was a Dönme artist who created most of the tombstone portraits found in in these cemeteries. With a superior skill of portraiture and a mixed media technique that combined photographs with painting, he captured evocative portraits from the members of his community. This book represents the first ever attempt to record, preserve and decipher the legacy of Osman Hasan and the other photograph-bearing tombs of the Dönme in Istanbul, and also to identify and explain certain symbols and tombstone designs unique to the Dönme community."



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