

Vitali And Merkada Amon



This is a photo of my uncle Vitali Amon and his wife Merkada Amon (nee Saltiel). My elder uncle Vitali Amon, was not like Nisim (my other uncle who was very serious) at all. He was handsome, and full of life. He really liked enjoying himself. But he wasn't like my younger uncle, who was sensible and responsible. He would never help his younger brother, who took care of both his mother and us. When he was doing his military service in Tekirdag, he met Merkada Saltiel, the daughter of one of the rich families of the city. They fell in love, and got married. They immigrated to Cuba in 1924 after their three daughters (Estreya, Vida, Fortune), were born due to unemployment. There, they had a son, whom they named Izak. They stayed in Havana for six years, and returned to Istanbul in 1930, when the circumstances over there also got worse. I remember the day on which they arrived, on a big ship, at the Istanbul Port very well. We, my mother, my uncle and I, went to meet them. They settled down in Azap Kapi, [a district on the European side of Istanbul] later on. His wife was a dress-maker. My uncle on the other hand, never had a decent job all his life. He did everything, but never stuck to any of the jobs. He even opened up a hamburger shop sometime in Persembé Bazaar (a trade center in Karakoy). He died at a hospital in 1955 having lost his sanity due to diabetes.