

**THE HIDDEN
TREASURE
OF RASMOLA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649602162

The Hidden Treasure of Rasmola by Abraham Mitrie Rihbany

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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ABRAHAM MITRIE RIHBANY

**THE HIDDEN
TREASURE
OF RASMOLA**



At the close of that day Abu-Nasif, Abu-Rostum, and I found ourselves standing around the hole (page 66)

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THE
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of **RASMOLA** -
by Abraham Mitrie Rihbany -



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
BOSTON AND NEW YORK - THE
RIVERSIDE PRESS - CAMBRIDGE

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TO
MARGUERITE AND EDWARD



PREFACE

A few years ago I published in the *Atlantic Monthly* an account of this adventure. The limitation of space in the magazine made necessary the omission of many details, which have been added to that account in the story as now told. As was mentioned in the *Atlantic* at the time, this is a true story and a personal experience of mine. So far as memory can be trusted, I have recorded the events which attended the digging for the treasure substantially as they occurred. My telling and retelling of this story for so many years before its publication kept it as fresh in my memory as if its scenes had been enacted but a short time ago.

The character of this adventure made it possible for me to introduce my readers to such regions of Oriental psychology and life as I had no occasion to traverse in my former books, and

PREFACE

which in reality constitute the essential value of the present publication. The scenes here portrayed are not only real phases of the life of the common people of Syria, among whom I was born and brought up, but were in one way or another actually connected with our activities in the secret and dread enterprise. They have been reproduced in this work with only such dramatization as every writer knows is necessary to raise such a piece of literature, as far as possible, from the sphere of mere photography.

I have deemed it necessary also to give its participants, excepting Faris, other than the names given in the earlier account.

Finally, I offer this story to the reading public as the fullest known commentary on the parable of the "treasure hid in a field" (Matt. 13:44), and I ardently hope that our life-quest may be the wealth recommended in that parable, and not mere silver and gold.

A. M. R.

Boston, Massachusetts.