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Armenian Studies Catalogue



Burning Orchards

Gurgun Mahari

Translation by Dickran Tahta, Haig Tahta and Hasmik Ghazarian

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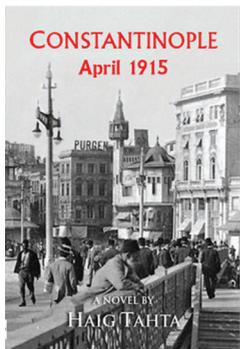
Subjects: World, Literature, Eastern European Literature, Central European Literature, Soviet Studies, Literature in Translation, Armenian Studies

Gurgun Mahari's controversial novel, *Burning Orchards*, is set in the Ottoman city of Van, Eastern Anatolia, during the period leading up to the Armenian rebellion of 1915 and relates the epic story of the events which culminated in the catastrophe of the following years, wonderfully told by one of the great writers emerging from Soviet Armenia. Written with an abiding humanity, Mahari's characters are portrayed as complex and flawed – neither hero nor villain but keenly observed and evoked with a tender humour. *Burning Orchards* offers a version of events leading up to the siege of Van different from the received, politically charged accounts, even daring to reflect something of the loyalty many Ottoman Armenians had felt towards the former Empire. First published in Armenian in 1966 after Mahari's long exile in Siberia, *Burning Orchards* (*Ayrvoğh Aygestanner*), was banned and publicly burned in the streets of Yerevan, even though the authorities in Moscow had eventually agreed to its publication. Much against the wishes of his wife he tried to rewrite the novel, removing passages criticising some Armenian political parties and leaders, but dying before it could be finalised. The translation offered here is of the banned 1966 publication. A brilliant work, epic in scope and masterful in its depiction of the cruel displacement of an ancient people from their historic homeland, *Burning Orchards* is a re-discovered classic.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE TRILOGY

Haig Tahta

Subjects: Ottoman Empire, Turkish Studies, Armenian Studies

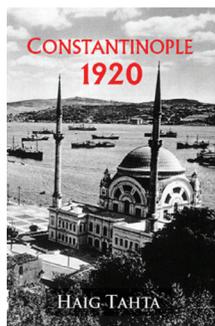


April 1915, the first book in Tahta's Constantinople Trilogy, is focused around the brutal expulsion of the Armenian community from Anatolia. Seen from the perspective of four families, Tahta examines this momentous period with insight and compassion.

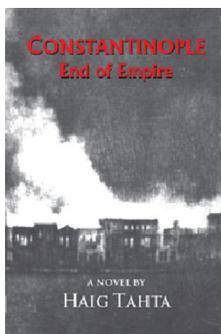
Intellectually challenging and sometimes provocative, Tahta has written an inspired literary account of a critical period too often ignored but essential in understanding the roots of contemporary European hostilities. Compellingly told through stories of personal lives, this is historical fiction at its best – demanding, humane and deeply moving..

ISBN: 9781900355698 / £13.95

Constantinople 1920, the second book in Haig Tahta's trilogy, chronicles the impending fall of the Ottomans and explores the circumstances and atmosphere of Constantinople during the British occupation of the city from 1920 to 1922. It carries forward the same characters from Mr. Tahta's first novel, *April 1915*. Olga, an Armenian girl, and Selim, a Turk, are impossibly in love. Their relationship, much more difficult and problematic than Romeo and Juliet, develops and unfolds during the Greco-Turkish War, reaching its shocking climax in the burning of Smyrna. An historical novel of deep insight and high passions, *Constantinople 1920* brings to focus a time which echoed throughout the world and set in train events that would engulf Europe in flames a few decades later. Written with a rare sense of humanity and peopled with a plethora of characters, bold, sensitive, articulate and always fascinating, *Constantinople 1920* is that rare novel of ideas and drama that appeals to both the heart and the intellect.

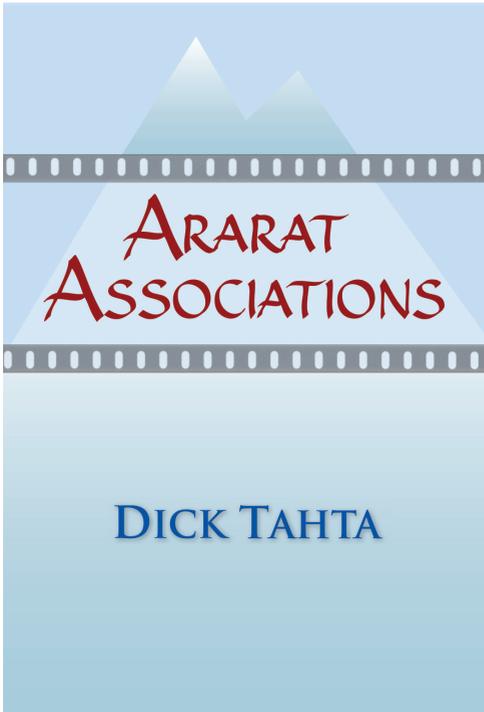


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Constantinople - End of Empire is the third book in Haig Tahta's marvellous trilogy set in and around the city from April 1915 to the end of 1923. The starting point of this final part of the trilogy is the day after the catastrophic fire that destroyed Smyrna. It follows the same characters and the fate of those forced to flee their ancestral homes, culminating in the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the end of the once great Imperial City - Constantinople.

ISBN: 9781900355667 / £13.95



ARARAT ASSOCIATIONS

Dick Tahta

£13.95

Paperback

ISBN 9781900355506

Subjects: Armenian history and culture, Film studies

Using Atom Egoyan's film, *Ararat*, as a launching pad, Dick Tahta offers some fascinating interpretations of Armenian history, religion, language and literature. His digressions into youthful memories, family history and his own travels through Eastern Anatolia, give this book a warm and personal feel.

When he first saw Atom Egoyan's film, *Ararat*, Dick Tahta was intrigued by the many associations it summoned up for him. The film is crammed with brief conversations and scenes that linked with memories of his childhood in a small Armenian community in Manchester in the nineteen-thirties and with the various aspects of Armenian culture that are - as in any immigrant community - carefully nourished by Armenians all over the world. Above all, the film delicately raises the issue of what later generations have made of the terrible experiences of their ancestors in the last years of the Ottoman Empire. As well as giving a penetrating insight into Egoyan's film, Tahta offers some fascinating interpretations of Armenian history, religion, language and literature. His digressions into youthful memories, family history and his own travels through Eastern Anatolia, give this book a warm and personal feel. Dick Tahta was born in Manchester, of parents who had survived the events of 1915. They were keen for their children to have an English education but made sure that they spoke Armenian at home. As a second-generation immigrant, he was interested (like some of the characters in the film) in the nature of identity and its definition by criteria other than ethnicity.

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