

Albert At A Wedding



This photograph was taken at the wedding of a cousin, together with my wife. To go along with the custom of those days, we had a picture taken for keepsake. I, Albert Arditi was born in 1923, in Kadıköy Yeldeğirmeni. The name of the school I attended was "Ecole Communale". I wanted to go to St Jozef after elementary school. I graduated from St. Jozef with Prix d'honneur (degree of honors). ... Every student also had to take what was called the university exams after graduation in order to be able to attend a university. Students who failed this exam had to enlist in the military. I wanted to attend ITU [Istanbul Technical University- it is the best engineering school in the country]. ITU accepted its students after only one test, but only the elite or really successful students, who came first, second or third in their class, generally made the cut. I took that test and graduated as an architectural engineer. My wife, Nina Silton, was born in Beyoğlu in 1932. She graduated from the St. Benoit Lycee. I met my wife at a restaurant in Yesilköy [a county close to the Atatürk Airport. It is a luxury neighborhood known for its greenery and one-story houses] through one of my cousins. My cousin had seen my wife making home-made tomato sauce. He said it was very good tomato sauce [Back then, during the summer, people used to make lots of tomato sauce in preparation for the winter. Tomatoes were scarce during wintertime. One was considered to be a very good house-wife if she knew how to cook tomato sauce, because this was a very rough task, and one had to know the ropes if she were to prepare it well]. My cousin believed that my wife could be a very good house-wife, and so he wanted to arrange a proposition meeting between me and her.[proposition stands for the arranging of a meeting between a woman and a man by a third party for the sole purpose of marriage. Back then, women and men, who had met by proposition, generally ended up marrying each other shortly after]. We were married in Hemdat

Israel synagogue in Yeldeairmeni.