



# **Forgotten Faces: A Window Into Our Immigrant Past (Forgotten Faces - America's Lost History)**

*By Ronald William Horne, Lisa Montanarelli*

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## **Forgotten Faces: A Window Into Our Immigrant Past (Forgotten Faces - America's Lost History) By Ronald William Horne, Lisa Montanarelli**

Forgotten Faces - A Window Into Our Immigrant Past reveals, for the first time, lost American history encapsulated in a beautiful but neglected art form.

Forgotten Faces is the first book to explore memorial portraiture as a distinctive art form and acknowledge its contribution to our country's valued history. In doing so, it reveals a never-before-published photo-panorama of American immigration at the turn of the twentieth century.

Forgotten Faces presents a first-ever collection of over 350 well-preserved photo-ceramic memorial portraits. The beginning of a series titled, Forgotten Faces – America's Lost History, it demonstrates how a similarly beautiful collection of memorial portraits awaits discovery and exhibition from every major city in the United States.

Photo-Ceramic memorial portraits are photographs of the deceased mounted directly on their tombstones. They are made of ceramics the quality of the finest china but made to last outdoors for centuries. This edition now includes 10 pages of color plates - including rare images of immigrants from 28 different nations. It includes examples from Colma, California's historic Holy Cross and Italian cemeteries as well as other U.S. and European locations.

Forgotten Faces details the technology, history and cultural influence of memorial portraits as both art and artifact. Forgotten Faces alerts readers to the fact these treasured artifacts are vanishing from our heritage and recommends methods for documenting them before they disappear.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Brimming with rare photographs and historical commentary, this book is captivating. -- *Kim Carrow of Odyssey Books, Book Reviewer for The Union newspaper (7/17/04)*

a fascinating book, beautifully presented. -- *Jim Kerr, News Director and Host of "On the Town" for ABC/KNCO's radio*

a stunning gallery, beautifully photographed. an important addition to the study of cemeteries and immigrant life in the U.S. -- *Gary Collison, Editor of Markers, A Journal of the-Association for Gravestone Studies (Art and Antique Magazine 12/03)*

eloquently expresses California's immigrant roots ...the faces in the portraits speak movingly. I highly recommend this beautiful and unique book. -- *Laura Lent - Adult Collections Coordinator for San Francisco's Public Library – Main Branch*

involved in this field for 25 years, I feel that *Forgotten Faces* is an important work, well presented. -- *Prof. Richard Meyer, co-author of The Revival Styles in American Memorial Art and Editor of Cemeteries and Gravemarkers Voices of American Culture*

#### From the Publisher

America possesses stunningly beautiful art that it does not even know exists. Resting quietly in the fields of its ancestors, America contains an enormous cache of valuable historical artifacts overlooked and neglected by historians for almost a hundred years. Yet this precious art and valuable artifacts are disappearing from our culture's legacy before we even know it is there.

*Forgotten Faces* is the first book to explore photo-ceramic portraits on tombstones. It is the first book to present a stunning collection of this art and demonstrate its inherent beauty and value. It is the first book to tell our country about the continued loss of these priceless relics. It is the first book to explore this art form in depth and instruct us how to document and preserve this vanishing heritage for future generations.

Ron Horne's work is a compelling call to action for historians and artists to rescue an art form long neglected and misunderstood. His beautifully photographed collection demonstrates the engaging appeal of this art. His words tell us how and why we need to act now save what still remains. The chapters contributed by Lisa Montanarelli detail the history and cultural influence of this art form and adds valued insights to understanding the considerable contribution it makes to our society. Read *Forgotten Faces* today and discover these "Rembrandts in America's Attic". Join the effort to preserve the thousands that still exist across every city in our nation.

#### From the Author

It has always been about the faces in the photographs. I believe these portraits represent remarkable works of art. I consider them compelling and valuable supplements to our history. They show us unheralded immigrants trying to forge new lives in a new nation, not cultural icons or embellished historical legends. There is value in that. These surviving photographs of our ancestors deserve recognition, preservation and protection.

I urge amateur and professional photographers throughout the United States to explore their cemeteries and capture the essence of these forgotten faces. I appeal to historians to help recover this hidden heritage. I encourage gravestone enthusiasts, who are the real experts and true guardians of the art, to document them and organize their findings.

Yet, more people vandalize these relics than preserve them. The first in the series *Forgotten Faces – America's Lost Art*, other editions from the cities of Chicago, New York, Boston, Atlanta and many more will follow. Together they will represent an entirely original photo-history of America's immigrants at the turn of the 20th century.

If you experience the faces of these portraits as so many do, reaching across the partition of time and coming alive in the mind's eye, then this book will fulfill its objective, to acknowledge these portals to the past as valued art and artifacts.

## Users Review

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#### **Christina Mundell:**

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**Ronnie Chaney:**

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