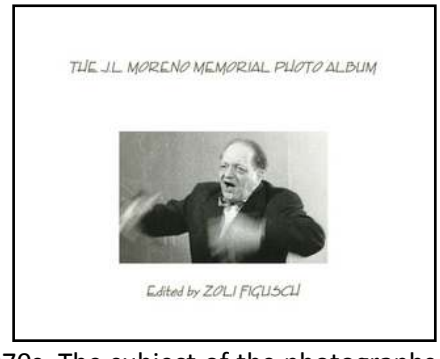
J.L. Moreno Memorial Photo Album

Edited by Zoli Figlisch

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Reviewed by
Paul Baakman



The J.L. Moreno Memorial Photo Album was presented at the 2014 London International Psychodrama Conference which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the first International Congress of Psychodrama held in Paris in 1964. A series of black and white photographs follows a loose chronological order, spanning a period from 1893 to the 1970s. The subject of the photographs are Moreno himself, his family members, colleagues and trainees.

This 'story in pictures' reflects Moreno's intensity and charisma and is a delight to take in and give a sense of Moreno's personal social atom.

I find myself studying the pictures for clues; who are these characters? What is the nature of their relationship? What is this captured moment about? Only after this 'sleuthing' I take in the liberal sprinkling of anecdotes, personal experiences and stories which give a further background and interpretation to the visual feast that is this book.

The quality of the old photographs is overall surprisingly good. There are some stunning pictures of a vibrant Zerka. Toward the end the book we see Moreno as an old man, frail, yet alive with a warm and open gaze.

I am disappointed with the poor glue-binding which made the pages fall apart pretty quickly. The pages are not numbered.

The pictures, as well as the accompanying stories and reflections, provide snapshots; frozen moments in time. There is no narrative that knits it all together into a coherent whole. I don't mind this as the writer makes it clear from the start that he does not aim for a comprehensive biography. This book forms an excellent companion to some of the biographies written about Moreno. Overall, I feel privileged and delighted with such an intimate look into some of Moreno's life.