

# Discover, Integration, and Resilience: Journeys of Albanian and Aromanian Immigrants to the United States.

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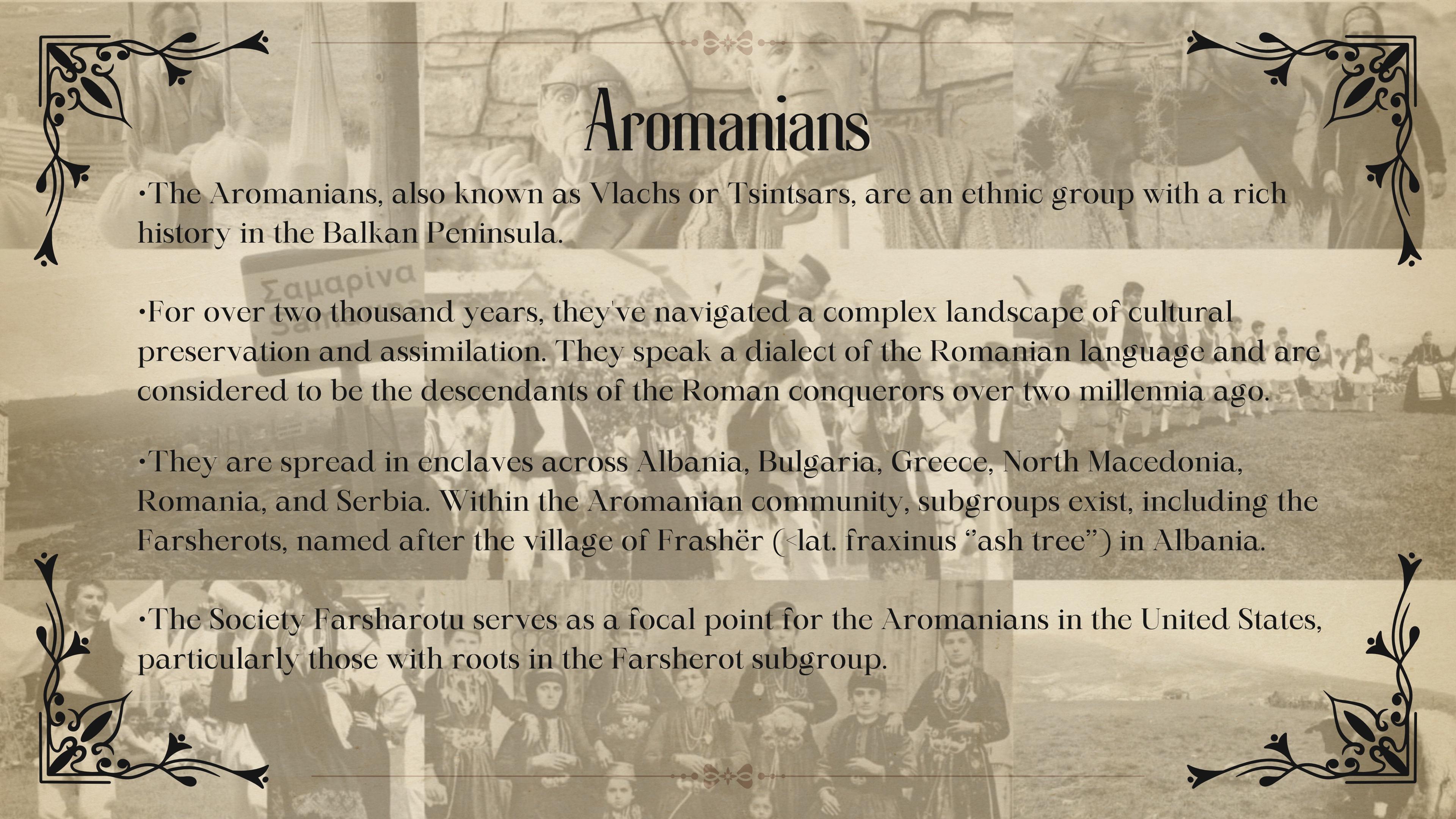
# Structure

- Introduction
- Comparison between Albanians' and Aromanians' patterns of immigration and integration into the American nation.
- The Albanian-American Association "Vatra".
- Fan S. Noli, founder of the Albanian autonomous Orthodox Church in USA and Albania, member of the Vatra founding group.
- The Aromanian Cultural Society "Fărsherotu".
- Gjion Mili, a photographer of Aromanian origins from Albania, who left an indelible mark on the world of visual arts.
- Conclusions
- Questions

# Introduction

- The largest concentrations of Albanians outside Albania are in the bordering countries of Kosovo (where ethnic Albanians constitute a majority population), North Macedonia, and Montenegro.
- There are also Albanian communities in Greece, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Romania.

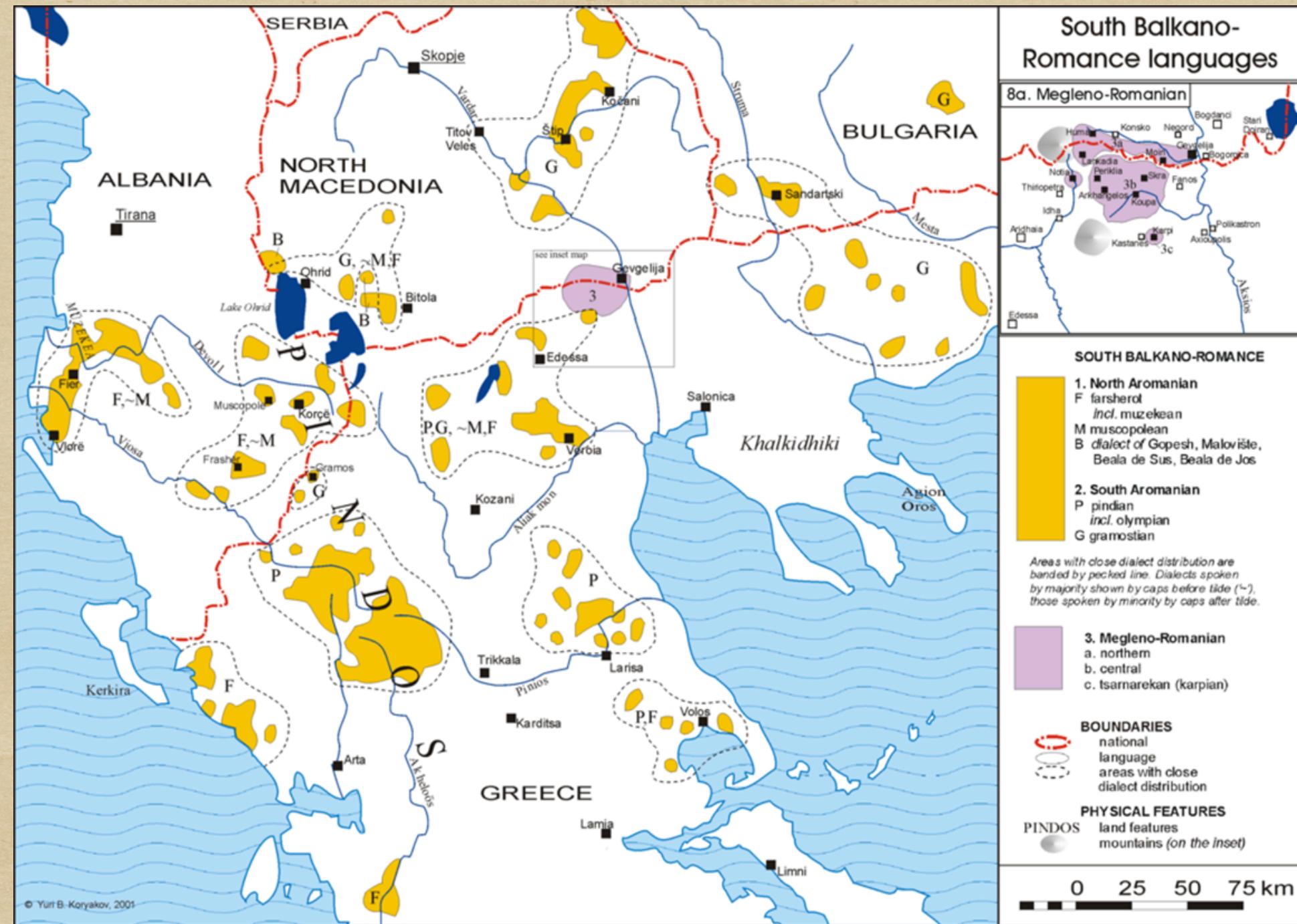




# Aromanians

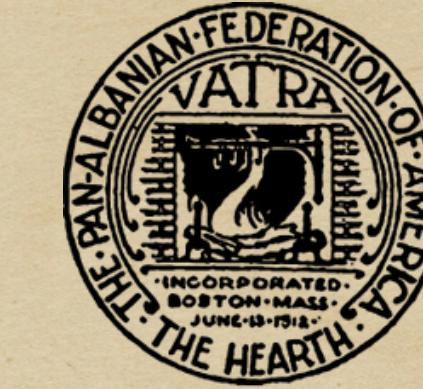
- The Aromanians, also known as Vlachs or Tsintsars, are an ethnic group with a rich history in the Balkan Peninsula.
- For over two thousand years, they've navigated a complex landscape of cultural preservation and assimilation. They speak a dialect of the Romanian language and are considered to be the descendants of the Roman conquerors over two millennia ago.
- They are spread in enclaves across Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia. Within the Aromanian community, subgroups exist, including the Farsherots, named after the village of Frashër (lat. *fraxinus* "ash tree") in Albania.
- The Society Farsharotu serves as a focal point for the Aromanians in the United States, particularly those with roots in the Farsherot subgroup.

# The Distribution of Aromanian populations in the Southern Balkans





# VATRA



- The seeds of Vatra were sown on December 24, 1911, in Boston, during a meeting initiated by the "Besa-Besën" association.
- Key figures: Faik Konica, Fan S. Noli, Kristo Floqi, Marko Adams, and Paskal Aleksi.
  - The official establishment of Vatra was on April 28, 1912.
- A temporary board was appointed during this historic meeting, with Fan Noli as Secretary, Llambi Chikozi as Treasurer, and Kristo Kirka as the "Dielli" Manager.
- Faik Konica and Kristo Floqi were named Federation Branch Managers, while Paskal Aleksi, Elia Tromara, and Kosta Vasili in charge of the "Dielli" Newspaper.

# Fan S. Noli (1882-1965)

- Born Theophan Stylian Noli in 1882, in a village near Edirne, Turkey
- Noli's journey took him from the stages of Athens to the lumber mills of Buffalo. Noli's initial foray into the United States in 1906 was marked by hardship.
- Noli spearheaded the movement to establish an autonomous Albanian Orthodox Church in America.
- In 1908, he was ordained as a priest by Archbishop Platon of the Russian Archdiocese. This marked the formal beginning of Albanian Orthodoxy in America.
- He became a prominent voice for Albanian independence, advocating for international recognition after World War I.



# Fan S. Noli (1882-1965)

- Returning to Albania in 1921, Noli immersed himself in the country's political landscape.
- His multifaceted background – as a bishop, writer, translator, and orator – made him a formidable figure.
- In 1922, the Albanian Orthodox Church declared its autocephaly and elected Noli as its first archbishop.
- His political activism culminated in 1924 when his supporters overthrew King Zog, and Noli briefly served as prime minister and regent. However, his government was overthrown within six months.
- Forced into exile, he returned to the United States in 1932 and reorganized a small Albanian jurisdiction with about a dozen parishes, mainly in New England.



# THE SOCIETY FARSHAROTU

- Founded in 1903 by Nicolae Cican, the Society Farsharotu stands as the oldest and largest Aromanian association in America.
- Headquartered in Trumbull, Connecticut, the Society Farsharotu operates as a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to cultural preservation.
- Its mission is to safeguard the Aromanian language, traditions, and identity for future generations.
- The society achieves this through various programs and initiatives, offering resources such as literature, music, and other materials related to Aromanian culture.

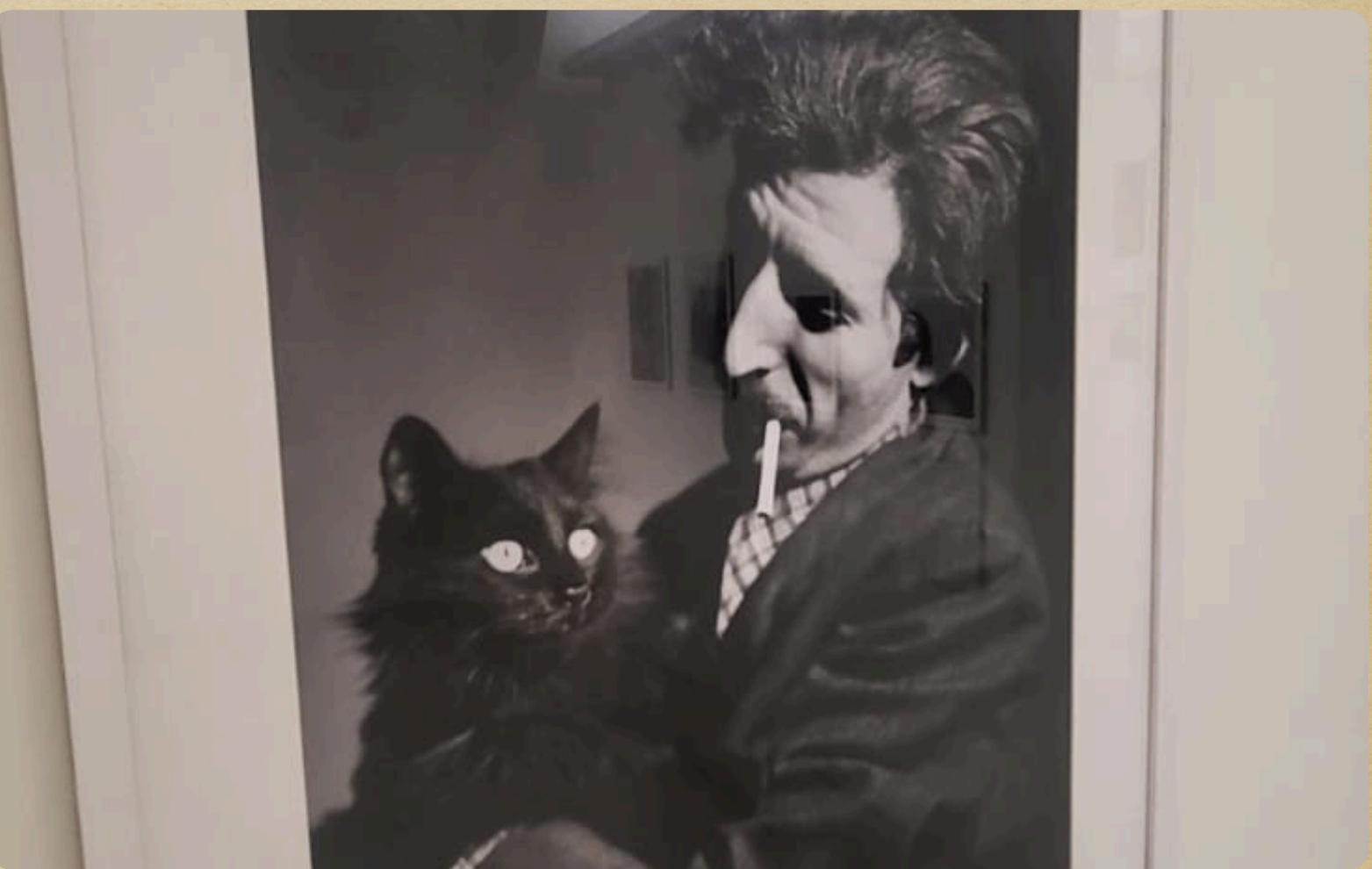
<https://farsharotu.org/>

# GJON MILI (1904-1984)

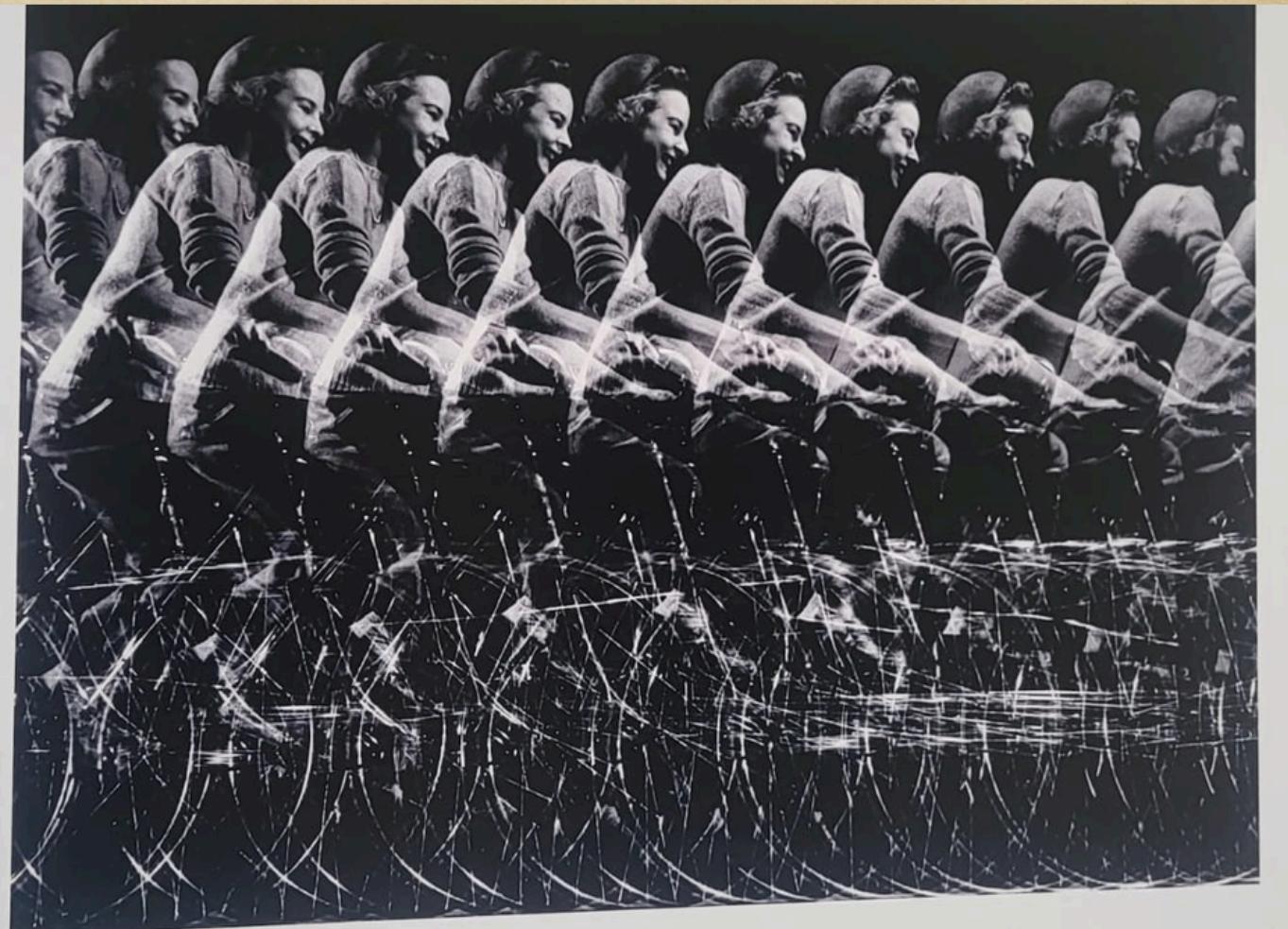
- Born on November 28, 1904, in Korçë, Albania, was a photographer of Aromanian origin who left an indelible mark on the world of visual arts.
- His journey took him from Albania to Romania, where he spent his childhood, and eventually to the United States in 1923.
- Mili's innovative techniques and artistic vision made him a prominent figure, particularly for his work in Life magazine, where he captured iconic images of artists like Pablo Picasso.
- He passed away on February 14, 1984, in Stamford, Connecticut, leaving behind a rich legacy of photographic innovation.

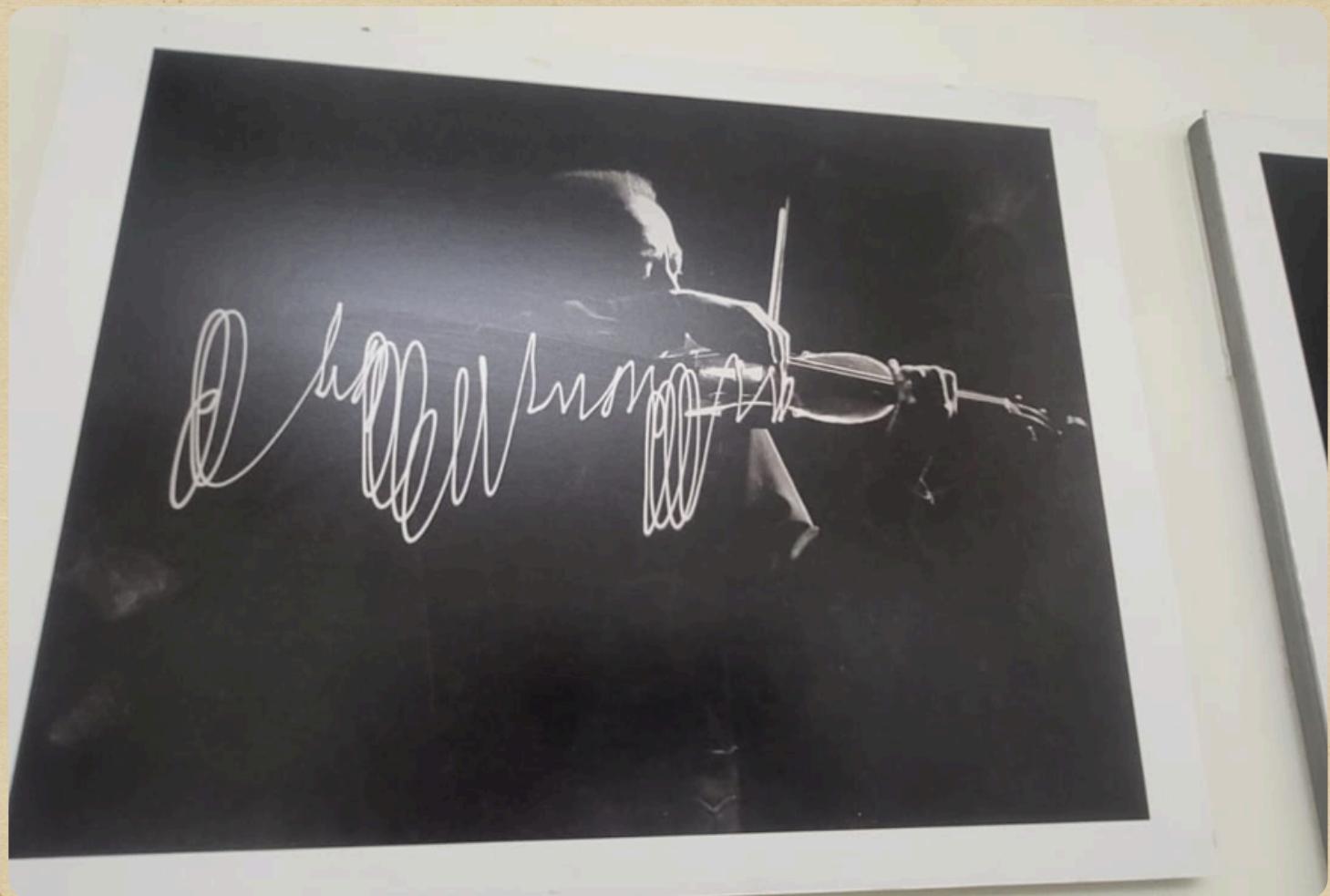


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# Conclusions

- In summary, the multifaceted experiences of Albanian and Aromanian immigrants reflect resilience concerning the experience of immigrants.
- Their stories provide essential insights on the current dialogues that surround the migration, identity and construction of the community in the contemporary context.
- The legacy they create through cultural practices, community organizations continue to reverberate, showing that migration does not only concern the displacement, but the potential for new identities and social landscapes emerge in the middle of the complexity of modern America.
- By committing to these narratives, scholars are better equipped to understand the shaded realities of immigrant life and the lasting impact of their contribution to society in general.
- These explorations open the way to a deeper understanding of the rooking of cultures within a globalized world.

Thank you for  
your attention!