



Dimech s Lost Prison Poems (Hardback)

By Henry Frendo

Midsea Books Ltd, Malta, Malta, 2014. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Professor Henry Frendo, who unearthed the utterly unknown or tabu-ridden figure of Manuel Dimech (1860-1921) in three books between 1969 and 1972, and researched his non-repatriation from Egypt in 1918-1921 (2012), has struck on a new manuscript find which, he says, is almost unbelievable. This is a fascinating find of a former street urchin, orphan and ragamuffin, what Neapolitans would call a `scugnizzo , who had been apprehended for petty infringements several times, and who in 1878, at the age of 17, had landed a 20 year prison sentence for complicity in a brutal murder. But this new batch of manuscripts proves how, incredibly, within four years of his confinement at Kordin, this young man was composing poetry. Not only had he learned how to read and write in an impeccable orthography, but he embodied a remarkable sensitivity to what went on around him, including the insect and animal world, and an ability to philosophize on life, hope and human foibles. Not only that, he had mastered a literary command of three languages. His preferred language was Italian but he could also write well in French and...



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