

**Title:** In Memoriam: Bosnian Epigraphic Polyglossia  
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This paper addresses the value of epigraphic material, both narrative (epitaphs and inscriptions) and iconographic (images) ones, for the study of Ottoman and post-Ottoman Bosnian culture. The paper's focus is specifically on the landscape of death. As the Ottoman rule consolidated and its polyglot culture spread throughout the Balkans, local epigraphy and iconography encapsulated cultural tensions between continuity and change, individuality and collectivity. Funerary iconography, with its visual clues, communicated main aspects of the belief system and its eschatological sensibilities. Because of the similarities in the Christian and Islamic visions of the cosmos, Bosnian Ottoman iconography underwent very slow and often negligible change. In contrast, the epigraphic text, including both formulaic evocations and epitaphs, incorporated changes brought about by the new religious culture, imperial acculturation, and literacy. As cues evoking vignettes of personal experience, the epitaphs thus incorporated aspects of change that subjected commemorative culture to linguistic diversity but also disunity. As such, the textual and visual components interacted so that they simultaneously grounded the dead in local culture and allow their release from it. It is through this rich interplay of epigraphic and iconographic components that this paper will address the questions of identity, cultural sensibilities, and memorial practices as reflected in Bosnia's polyglot space of death.

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