



ARIT NEWSLETTER

American Research Institute in Turkey



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I think it would fair to say that the year 2020 has been unlike any other that we've experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ARIT has continued to function well, with a wide range of new online programming, even though we were forced to shut temporarily the branch offices in Ankara and Istanbul until the virus is under control and restrictions on in-person interactions are lifted. When precisely that will happen is still unclear, although we are hoping to have the offices open again in the spring of 2021, and to welcome twice as many Turkish language fellows and summer interns in 2021.

We are at our best when things around us are at their worst, and this year has witnessed a striking level of creativity in the development of online programs. For that we need to thank our branch directors in Ankara

and Istanbul, Elif Denel and Zeynep Simavi, as well as their staffs. Even though, in a way, we are further apart than we have ever been due to the quarantine, we're also closer together. Our programming and social events used to be restricted to those who were physically present in Istanbul and Ankara, but now that our public events are broadcast and recorded on Zoom, we can reach members of the ARIT community wherever in the world they might be. Although the transition from actual to virtual events has not been easy for many of us, it has had a transformational effect on every American Overseas Research Center, including ARIT, and we will accelerate our virtual programming as we move forward, even when the threat of COVID-19 has faded.

Against all expectations, American field projects have continued with in-person work at Turkish archaeological sites (figs. 1, 2). For several months, between March and May of 2020, we



Figure 1: The Sardis excavation team in August 2020.

were uncertain whether any kind of fieldwork would be possible this year. In the end, most of the projects had a shortened season in July or August, although in most cases without new excavation. All of us followed safety procedures throughout our seasons, including the wearing of masks, morning temperature checks, the installation of several hand-sanitizer stations, and staggered seating at meals. We're hoping for full seasons with excavation in the summer of 2021 if the health situation allows us to do so.

Maintaining the strength of the branches in Istanbul and Ankara has not been easy in 2020 due to a decline

in donations across the board, so I ask those of you who can to consider increasing your contribution to the Institute this year, so that we can continue to provide the levels of service that we have continually strived to offer. As I wrote to you last year, if we are to maintain the strength of our fellowship program, we need to begin endowing them. This is an excellent opportunity for you to honor your mentors or supporters with a named fellowship, and it can of course be a provision in your estate planning.

I close again by extending my thanks to all of you for your energetic support of ARIT. With your resilience,

creativity, and perseverance we have been able to navigate nearly a year-long pandemic and maintain the Institute's stability and programming. This is especially true for Elif, Zeynep, and Nancy, who consistently searched for new and innovative ways of highlighting the Institute's programs while disseminating information about our activities to an increasingly wider audience.

C. Brian Rose
President



Figure 2: Emre Şahinoğlu and Muradiye Öztaşkın analyzing ceramics at Aphrodisias in July of 2020.

ARIT-ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

Istanbul Branch News

Looking back to the last year, like everyone else across the world, we at ARIT Istanbul have gone through two completely different experiences. Until the first case of COVID-19 announced in Turkey in mid-March, our programs and operations in Istanbul went on as usual with in-person interactions. Since then, though we adjusted our work to be compatible with our new reality of social distancing, we are very much looking forward to the time when it is safe again to gather our fellows, colleagues, and Friends in person for ARIT programs.

As we ended 2019 and welcomed 2020, ARIT Istanbul continued its robust programs of book talks and scholarly lectures on a variety of topics, from Ottoman history to Turkish art, from Jewish music in Istanbul to Turkish literature by ARIT fellows. There were also talks by established scholars and recent PhDs with the aim of showcasing new scholarship on Turkey subjects in the humanities and social sciences. Some highlights of these programs, which are fully listed below, include a joint lecture given by our Toni M. Cross-William D. E. Coulson Aegean exchange fellow Dr. Georgios Theotokis and his partner in this project Dr. Aysel Yıldız, bringing together their expertise in Byzantine and Ottoman history respectively to examine Esirî Hasan Ağa's "Advice to the Commanders and Soldiers." Their goal is to understand the transmission of military knowledge along the Habsburg-Ottoman frontiers. Our ARIT fellow Dr. Joseph Alpar's talk on the Shabbat musical practice in the Jewish community of Istanbul was co-organized with our colleagues at the Orient-Institute Istanbul, while our ARIT-NEH Fellow Dr. Berin

Gölönü (State University of New York at Buffalo) spoke on "Nativist Modernism and Cultural Difference in Turkish Republican Painting" (fig. 3). There was also Dr. Gareth Winrow's talk on his new book, *Whispers Across Continents: In Search of the Robinsons*, in which he traces the history of the Robinson family from Lincolnshire to Constantinople and other parts of the world, as the political and economic upheavals of the late 19th and early 20th centuries impacted the lives of its members.

When the pandemic hit Turkey, we had to postpone in-person programs and started to work remotely following government regulations. Currently ARIT Istanbul's main library collection remains inaccessible due to the closure of the ANAMED facility until Spring 2021, however our American Board of Missions library collection has been welcoming researchers since June at our Kallavi Sokak location.

It was an unusual summer in Istanbul as our Turkish language

fellowship and internship program with Hillsdale College had to pause. However, our summer language fellows will retain their fellowships for the following summer. The good news that the Turkish language fellowship program received another year of funding, and Hillsdale College rolled over their internship funds to 2021, cheered us all, as we hope to welcome twice as many Turkish language fellows and summer interns in 2021, COVID-19 permitting.

Although it was a lonely summer without our fellows and interns in Istanbul, it was not a quiet one. More material from The American Board of Missions Archives became available on SALT Research website <https://archives.saltresearch.org/handle/123456789/1>. Another exciting development to bring more attention to this important collection in Turkey is an undertaking by Dr. Batu Bozoğlu, faculty member at Istanbul Okan University and performance artist. Batu is working on a performance art project about



Figure 3: ARIT-NEH fellow Dr. Berin Gölönü speaking on "Nativist Modernism and Cultural Difference in Turkish Republican Painting" at ANAMED Auditorium in January 2020.

trauma narratives in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. This summer, he led a four-week workshop entitled “Photographs of Pain: Reading American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Archives” hosted online by SALT Research, where our librarian Brian Johnson introduced the archive to the workshop participants. To ensure the continuity of the cataloguing and digitization of the collection, we set up an online program with our project partners at SALT. Our long time FARIT member, Mary Berkmen, is now safely volunteering from home, and we will have virtual interns this Spring to work on the collection until it is safe to resume the work on site.

It was a robust summer for the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Project

as well (fig. 4). In June, we published a visitor’s guide <http://www.ferikoycemetery.org/visitor-guide/> authored by Brian Johnson and Richard Wittmann, acting director of the Orient-Institute Istanbul. German and Turkish translations of the guide are underway. The ongoing documentation of the site results in constant new discoveries, hence we decided to share new research findings via a newsletter to keep interested parties abreast of the work carried out at this important landmark. The first issue will come out at the end of this year and will be available on the Initiative’s website <http://www.ferikoycemetery.org/>. Last, but not least, another project that Brian undertook at the Cemetery was to conduct research to identify, locate, and arrange the restoration of a family

tomb on behalf of Mr. Timothy Rawe. Mr. Rawe graciously made a generous donation to ARIT to support the work of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative, for which we are very grateful.

Istanbul Friends of ARIT enjoyed an underground city walking tour of Byzantine Istanbul in November 2019 (figs. 5, 6), followed by a weekend trip to Mudurnu which brought the Ankara and Istanbul Friends together. In January 2020, Brian Johnson led a ten-day long trip to Egypt, which was our last tour. Once it became clear that in-person programming could not take place any time soon, we switched our scheduled FARIT tours for the Spring and Summer to online presentations. Dr. Ivana Jevtic, who was going to lead a tour in Greece for FARIT Istanbul,

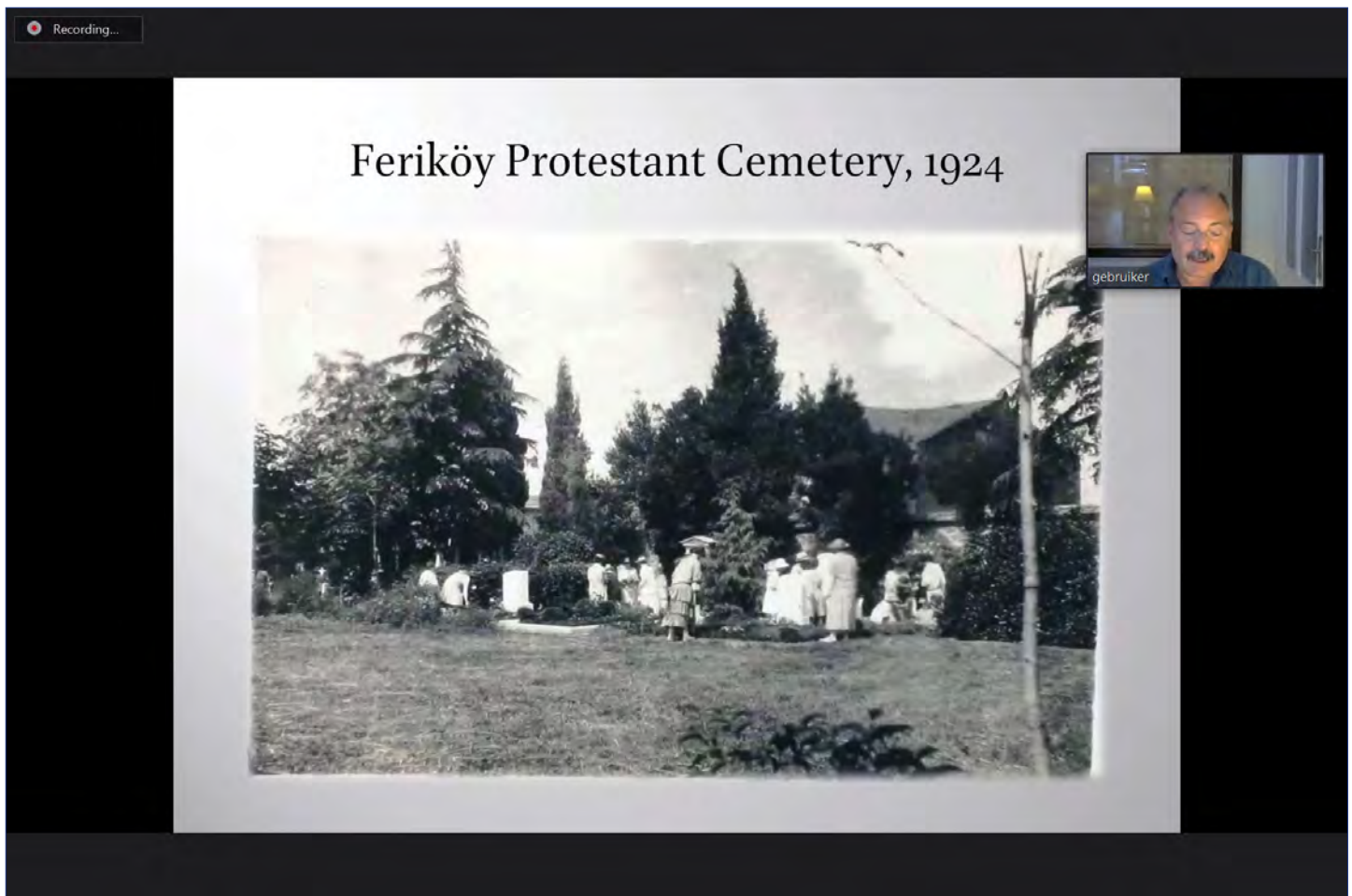


Figure 4: Dr. Brian Johnson, ARIT-Istanbul librarian, giving a Zoom presentation on the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery in July 2020.

gave an online presentation on the Byzantine heritage in Thessaloniki, and Brian Johnson's annual Feriköy Protestant Cemetery tour was also conducted online. Our former fellow Timur Hammond's plans to come to Istanbul and lead a tour of Eyüp for FARIT Istanbul had to be cancelled, but he gave a presentation via Zoom on his upcoming book instead.

One positive result of online programming is that ARIT friends and supporters can participate in our programs no matter what part of the world they are in, and it has been very rewarding to see many long-time friends as well as new faces at our online lectures. ARIT Ankara and Istanbul work together more closely as we align our schedules to allow for more joint programming, and this year we organized the FARIT open house jointly via Zoom.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the scholars and colleagues who took the time from their busy schedules to give book talks, lectures, and tours, and to serve on fellowship committees; to all FARIT members and program participants for their support; with a special mention of the FARIT Steering Committee members: Aylin McCarthy, Ali Ertenu, Neslihan Tonbul, Başak Kızıldemir, Sinan Ceylan, Nedret Butler, Yaprak Archibald Uras, and Alan Mellaart.

It has been quite an unexpected and challenging year, but also one filled with generosity, understanding, resilience, and creativity demonstrated every day by each and every person with whom we cross paths to fulfill the mission of ARIT in Istanbul despite hardships. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ARIT Istanbul team and to all our colleagues, Friends, and supporters in Turkey and abroad.

Zeynep Simavi
Istanbul Branch Director



Figure 5: Istanbul Friends visiting Şerefiye Cistern with Dr. Feridun Özgümüş during the underground walking tour of Byzantine Istanbul.



Figure 6: Istanbul Friends exploring the Byzantine and Seljuk heritage in Istanbul in an underground tour led by Dr. Feridun Özgümüş.



ARIT ISTANBUL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE:

Zeynep Simavi, Director
ARIT-Istanbul
ANAMED
İstiklal Caddesi No. 181
Beyoğlu, İstanbul
34433 Turkey

Tel: +90 (212) 393-6072
E-Mail: zeynepsimavi@gmail.com

ARIT ISTANBUL ANNEX:

Dr. Brian Johnson, Librarian
ARIT-Istanbul
Kallavi Sokak 30, Ece Han Kat 6
Beyoğlu, İstanbul
34430 Turkey

Tel: +90 (212) 257-8111
E-Mail: bdjohnson62@gmail.com

2019-2020 ARIT-Istanbul Lectures (in chronological order)

- ❖ Dr. Gareth Winrow (Oxford University), “Whispers Across Continents: In Search of the Robinsons”
- ❖ Dr. Aysel Yıldız and Dr. Georgios Theotokis (Ibn Haldun University, Toni M. Cross-William D. E. Coulson Aegean Exchange Fellow), “Es-irî Hasan Ağa’s “Advice to the Commanders and Soldiers”: A case study in the transmission of military knowledge along the Habsburg-Ottoman frontiers”
- ❖ Dr. Berin Gölönü (State University of New York at Buffalo, ARIT NEH Research Fellow), “Nativist Modernism and Cultural Difference in Turkish Republican Painting”
- ❖ Dr. Joseph Alpar (Bennington College, ARIT ECA Fellow of 2015 and 2020), “Between Tradition and Transformation: Shabbat Musical Practice in the Jewish Community of Istanbul”
- ❖ Dr. Özge Koçak Hemmat (University of Chicago), “The Turkish Novel and the Quest for Rationality”
- ❖ Doğa Öztürk (Ohio State University), “An “Ottoman Moment” in Egypt: The Young Turk Revolution of 1908”

2019-2020 FARIT Istanbul Tours and Online Presentations (in chronological order)

- ❖ A walking tour of underground Istanbul, led by Dr. Feridun Özgümüş
- ❖ A weekend tour of Mudurnu, led by Dr. Ayşe Ege Yıldırım
- ❖ A 10-day trip to Egypt, led by Dr. Brian Johnson
- ❖ Dr. Ivana Jevtic (Koç University), “Byzantine Art and Thessaloniki”
- ❖ Dr. Brian Johnson (ARIT Istanbul), “Graves of the Franks: From Galata and Beyoğlu to Feriköy”
- ❖ Dr. Timur Hammond (Syracuse University, ARIT ECA Fellow of

2012), “Making Islam Public: Eyüp and the Geographies of Print Culture in 1950s Istanbul”

Ilse and George Hanfmann and Machteld J. Mellink Fellows 2020- 2021

The fellowships for academic year 2020-2021 are shared among five winners, whose funding periods vary between three and seven months. The scholars will conduct research at a wide range of institutions in the United States, Austria, Belgium, Greece, and the United Kingdom.

- ❖ Gencay Öztürk (Ege University) will conduct archival and library research at Harvard University, and receive Gemology training from Dr. Çiğdem Lüle for his project *Lydian Archo-Gemology in the Light of Sardis Findings*.
- ❖ Dr. Yedigözü Doğan (Akdeniz University) will be conducting research at the University of Vienna for her project *Contributions to Epigraphic Studies of the Milyas: The Inscriptions from Elmalı Museum*.
- ❖ Dr. Orçun Erdoğan (Hatay Mustafa Kemal University) will be at Oxford University for his project *Settlement Pattern and Architecture of the Late Antique Villages in Southern Anatolia*.
- ❖ Burak Sönmez (Süleyman Demirel University) will be at the Leuven University to conduct research on his project *Ceramic Production and Trade Relations in the Seleukeia Sidera Antique City during the Roman Period*.
- ❖ Özge Acar (İstanbul University) will be at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens for her project *Greek Theatrical Performances during Principatus Period Asia Minor: Roman Perspectives and Imperial Policies*.

Ankara Branch News

In the fall of 2019 and well into 2020, Ankara ARIT continued in operation, maintaining as much normalcy as possible during the global COVID-19 pandemic, and planning for future events in anticipation of the return of normalcy.

Archaeological projects initially hoped to carry out a full season of field work during the summer of 2020, but those plans had to be revised when the 42nd International Symposium of Excavations, Surveys, and Archaeometry was cancelled, and most fieldwork could be conducted only in an extremely limited fashion and with small numbers of participants. New restrictions on sample collection and analysis also recently emerged, which may have some effect on the research agendas of archaeological projects. This development made it clear that the scientific aspects of archaeological research in Turkey need to be more widely disseminated.

All public events were also deeply affected, in Turkey as in the rest of the world, with the new necessity of social distancing. ARIT had planned to collaborate with Ankara University on the organization of the colloquium *Hermogenes and his Legacy*, focused on the work of an important second century B.C. architect who worked extensively in Asia Minor. The colloquium was initially scheduled for March 18, 2020 at the Muzaffer Göker Conference Hall of Ankara University, and was to be followed by the conference *Hermogenes and Hellenistic-Roman Temple Building in Greece and Asia Minor* on March 28, 2020 at the Penn Museum in Philadelphia. Both events were indefinitely postponed when social distancing and curfews began in mid-March in Turkey.

We are now adjusting to the new

dynamics of online conferences, symposia, meetings, and even socializing. Interestingly, these new dynamics reduced the distance between us, whether we reside in the same city or across continents. Nevertheless, they made us appreciate the personal and intellectual value of in-person interaction and face-to-face communication. We have had no online meetings or lectures in which participants did not reminisce about our past lecture gatherings.

Toni M. Cross Library

A total of 134 books and offprints and 66 issues of 40 journals have been added to Toni M. Cross Library since the fall of 2019. We extend our gratitude to our donors, Amy Pett, Bahadır Duman and the Tripolis Team, Catherine Peppers, Elif Denel, Engin Coşar (TANAP/Trans Anadolu Doğal Gaz Boru Hattı Projesi), Hatçe Baltacıoğlu, Kudret Emiroğlu, Matthew Harpster, Nick Cahill, Fikret Yegül, Göç İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü, Hacı Bektaş Veli Dergah Vakfı, Koç University, Mersin University—The Research Center of Cilician Archaeology, Municipality of Nilüfer at Bursa, Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, TINA/Turkish Underwater Archaeology Foundation, and METU-TAÇDAM.

While our library collection continued to grow, we were unable to remain open to the general public due to the initiation of COVID-19 restrictions in mid-March. We did, however, provide help to those who needed articles or book chapters by sending pdf copies through e-mail, and we allowed students and scholars to visit the library by appointment. As such, we had 29 visitors (4 Americans and 25 Turkish nationals) since the late fall of 2019, who visited the library 92 times. Most visitors were advanced

scholars who came from a wide variety of institutions: Ankara University, Atılım University, Bilkent University, Hacettepe University, TED University and METU in Ankara, Istanbul University, Mimar Sinan University, Boğaziçi University and Koç University in Istanbul, Mustafa Kemal University in Antakya, Kastamonu University, Sivas Cumhuriyet University, Ahi Evran University in Kırşehir, Karabük University, Kastamonu University, Durham University in England, Penn Museum, and Princeton University in the U.S. In addition, one Fulbright scholar and another independent scholar used the library resources frequently before the onset of the pandemic.

Our librarian, Özlem Eser, contacted the Adnan Ötügen Library to donate Adnan Ötügen's personal collection of books, which ARIT had



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received in 2018 along with the library collection of art historian Prof. Yıldız Ötüken from Hacettepe University. Adnan Ötüken, who passed away in 1972, was Prof. Ötüken's father, as well as a prominent educator, librarian, and one of the founders of the National Library in Ankara. The Adnan Ötüken Library accepted 39 of these books, the rest of which we hope to donate to Hacettepe University or other institutions with a specialization in education and Turcology. Finally, we are deeply saddened that Yıldız Hoca became a victim of the recent pandemic in early September. She was

not only a world-renowned scholar, but also Özlem's professor and thesis advisor at Hacettepe University.

W. D. E. Coulson and Toni M. Cross Aegean Exchange Fellows 2020

There are two winners of the Coulson-Cross Aegean Exchange Fellowship for 2020. They both plan on conducting their studies in Greece as soon as conditions enable them to travel across the Aegean and resume their ongoing research.

❖ Çiğdem Maner (Koç University, Department of Archaeology and

History of Art), *Water Source Management of the Mycenaeans and the Hittites: Profane or Cult?*

❖ Elif Kevser Özer (Boğaziçi University, History Department), *Apelasis, An Attempt to Map Memory and Belonging*

ARIT-Ankara Lectures

❖ Jeremy Salt, who has recently retired from the Political Science program at Bilkent University, gave a lecture at Ankara ARIT in November 2019, "Some Ruminations on Late Ottoman History," based largely on his recent publication, *The Last Ottoman Wars: The Human Cost, 1877-1923*.



Figure 7: The Istanbul and Ankara Friends visited the Pertev Naili Boratav Cultural House at Mudurnu, which had functioned as the headquarters of Kuvay-i Milliye at Bolu. The President of the Mudurnu Association of Culture, Tourism, and Solidarity, Necdet Akay, provided a tour and a lecture on the involvement of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the region of Mudurnu during the War of Independence.

❖ Ayşıl Yavuz (METU, Architecture) lectured on her ongoing research on rural structures she discovered on the Çeşme peninsula in the İzmir region in February 2020. Her talk was entitled “An Unknown Type of Building for Bathing: Cold Water Baths in the Rural Aegean”.

With the impact of the pandemic, lectures moved to a virtual platform in the summer months of 2020. Ankara ARIT collaborated with the British Institute in Ankara (BIAA) on the organization of a lecture by Nick Cahill (University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Art History), “Recent Discoveries at Sardis: From the Bronze Age Until the End of Antiquity”, and another by R.R.R. Smith (University of Oxford, Lincoln College), “New Insights at Aphrodisias: Recent Research and Discoveries”.

Also in the summer of 2020, Stephen Batiuk (University of Toronto, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Department) provided a lecture on Zoom, “Exploring the Roots of Vine: How Archaeological Work in Georgia is Changing the History of Wine”, that focused on the progress of his fieldwork at Gadachrili Gora in the Republic of Georgia.

In the fall of 2020, Nilüfer Baturayoğlu Yöney (Hatay Mustafa Kemal University, Architecture Department) discussed “The Transformation of Sümerbank Kayseri Textile Factory into the AGU (Abdullah Gül University) Sümer Campus” as a recent architectural and technological heritage preservation project.

Also in the fall, Athena Trakadas (National Museum of Denmark) gave the only talk of the 40th Annual Lecture Series, traditionally co-sponsored by Ankara ARIT and the Turkish American Association. Her presentation, “Vikings and the Sea”, focused on the emergence and development of the Vikings as a maritime power, whose long-distance exploration during the Medieval period expanded all the way to the shores of modern-day Turkey.

Friends of Ankara ARIT

The Friends of ARIT supported us by sponsoring lectures at the Toni M. Cross Library of ARIT and organizing specialized educational trips to archaeological and historical sites with scholars and specialists. These activities continued until restrictions due to the pandemic brought fundamental changes to our lives. Lectures and events then moved to the internet during the summer of 2020. While we lament our loss of face-to-face interaction with scholars, students, and friends, we are now able to reach those who are far away from Ankara, whom we meet during our on-line lectures. We miss the trips organized by the Friends even more now that we have been home-bound for many months.

We were able to organize a number of educational trips before the pandemic began. The Ankara and Istanbul Friends of ARIT came together for a weekend trip to the Historic Guild

Town of Mudurunu (UNESCO World Heritage Candidate) with Ege Yıldırım in early December of 2019 (fig. 7). Lale Özgenel (METU, Architecture Department) directed a day trip looking at the architecture of the Cinnah Caddesi area, during which we had a tour of the Indian Embassy, which the renowned architect Sedat Hakkı Eldem designed in the 1960s along with the Ambassador’s Residence (fig. 8). Dr. Özgenel completed the day trip with a short lecture at the office of the Mimarlar Derneği 1927 (Architectural Association 1927) along with a tour of the building, which stands out as an early modernist building in Ankara and an architectural heritage site.

The Ankara Friends organized a Movie Night in January 2020 to watch the 2005 documentary film, *Queen of the Mountain*, about Theresa Goell’s archaeological endeavors in the 1950s at the shrine of King Antiochus I Theos of Commagene (first century B.C.), located on Nemrut Dağ near



Figure 8: Lale Özgenel (METU, Architectural History) talking about the Statue of ‘Children playing Long Donkey’ (‘Uzun Eşek Oynayan Çocuklar’) at the Ankara Botanical Garden on the walking tour, “Axes of Ankara: Cinnah Caddesi”.



Figure 9: Looking at the sea-port city of Kaunos (Dalyan) from the north, where the modern entrance to the archaeological site is located. Visited by the Friends of ARIT-Ankara during the Trip to Kaunos (Dalyan).



Figure 10: Looking at the Latin inscription (301 A.D.) inscribed on the older Bouleuterion (1st century B.C.) that regulated prices on goods sold in the city, visited by the Friends of ARIT-Ankara during the Trip to Kaunos (Dalyan).

Adıyaman in eastern Turkey.

In February, soon before the initiation of travel restrictions in Turkey, the Ankara Friends organized a trip to Kaunos for the Presidents' Day weekend led by Zeynep Çizmeli Ögün (Ankara University, Classical Archaeology Program) (figs. 9, 10, 11). During this magical trip, not only did we visit the amazing Classical and late Antique remains of Kaunos and its vicinity, but we also traveled to the abandoned Greek village of Kayaköy, which allegedly provided the inspiration for the setting of the 2004 novel, *Birds without Wings*, by Louis de Berniers.

Charles Gates represented ARIT and the Ankara Friends on a virtual lecture entitled, "Slightly Off the Beaten Track in Archaeological Turkey", which ARIT and the U.S. Embassy in Ankara organized in September 2020 for the members of the Foreign Service in Turkey.

Our Open House event, which we had been organizing on the grounds of the Turkish American Association until the pandemic, also moved to a virtual platform, with short presentations from the Ankara and Istanbul Directors, as well as our Executive Director, Nancy Leinwand, and our President, Brian Rose. Although we miss the conviviality and the festivity of our annual party, we did manage to bring together, virtually, the Friends in Ankara and Istanbul as well as members of our community who are scattered throughout the world. Our encounters with the virtual world will unquestionably result in more such on-line programs even after the end of the pandemic.

We extend our gratitude to each member of the Ankara Friends of ARIT Steering Committee, Baybars Alpaslan, Marlene Elwell, Shirley Epir, Charles Gates, Marie-Henriette Gates,

Jennie Lane, Ron Tickfer, Shauna Tufan, Elif Denel and Burcu Yıldırım, who never hesitate to lend their support, assistance, and encouragement to the organization of ARIT and Friends of ARIT events as well as public outreach programs.

Elif Denel
Ankara Branch Director



ANKARA ARIT ADDRESS
ARIT Center:

Dr. Elif Denel
Şehit Ersan Caddesi, No. 24/9
Çankaya, Ankara
06680 Turkey

Tel: +90 (312) 427-2222
Fax: +90 (312) 427-4979
E-Mail: elif.denel@gmail.com
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Figure 11: Group photo at the Bouleuterion of Stratonikeia, visited by the Friends of ARIT-Ankara during the Trip to Kaunos (Dalyan).

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CONTRIBUTIONS 2019**

ARIT thanks all those who supported our centers and activities over the past year, through October 2019. Your support ensures our future work.

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ARIT-NEH Fellows

ARIT-NEH Fellowships are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

❖ Professor Leyla Kayhan Elbirlik, Western Languages and Literatures, Boğaziçi University, *Negotiating Matrimony: Marriage, Divorce, Children and Property in Istanbul, 1750-1920*. Professor Elbirlik traces the history of the Ottoman family, with a specific emphasis on the role of women and the position of children. In studying marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other property allocation practices, she examines the changing dynamics in the way both the marital union and the family are envisioned from the mid-eighteenth to the early twentieth century. At the same time, she is conducting a digital study, feeding the collected data on to the map of Istanbul and its households. The findings and analysis vis-à-vis gender relations within the family, women's agency in the public sphere, and the consistent patterns relating to matrimony may have a great bearing on our understanding of similar issues in the contemporary Middle East.

❖ Professor Sonia Seeman, Ethnomusicology and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas, Austin, *Bread Money—Musical Movement: Turkish Roman ("Gypsy") Life Stories*. Professor Seeman will conduct fieldwork and archival study to complete research for her monograph of the same title as her project. The work melds ethnographic writing that is grounded on solid anthropological theory with consultants' conversations, observations, and responses. The book is structured around interviews together with information from archives, recordings, and newspapers, thus providing historical and social

contexts for the first-person stories. The study engages with regional specialists as well as those from allied disciplines.

ARIT U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellows

ARIT ECA Fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

❖ Mr. Nader Atassi, Ottoman and Middle Eastern History, Columbia University, *Thinking Capital in Arabic: Classical Political Economy and its Afterlives in the Late Ottoman Empire*. Mr. Atassi explores the history of economic thought in Arabic and Turkish in the late Ottoman Empire, from the growth of the Arabic press in the 1880s to the partition of the empire in 1920, especially its engagement with the discourse of classical political economy. He will examine the periodical press, newspapers, state archives, personal papers, and university curricula in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish. The first part of the work focuses on the Arabic press of the late nineteenth century; the second part focuses on the economic thought of the Young Turk movement in the early twentieth century, which featured debates on political economy by Arab and Turkish thinkers. Once the concepts of political economy permeated the public sphere, they critically shaped the emergent political tendencies of the time, such as socialism, collectivism, and variants of nationalism, as well as Islamism.

❖ Ms. Rebecca Ella Biermann Gurbuz, Archaeology, University at Buffalo, *Out of Africa and into Eurasia: A Functional Investigation of Acheulean Handaxes in Southeastern Anatolia*. When first leaving Africa, human ancestors (hominins) almost certainly migrated via the

Levantine corridor into Anatolia, utilizing Acheulean handaxes along the way. Understanding Acheulean technology sheds light on the behavior of these hominins. I propose to employ never-before used computational methodologies (finite element analysis and shape optimization) in tandem with more traditional techniques (geometric morphometrics) to study this technology. The research will provide new and unique insights into the relationship of form and function in Acheulean handaxes and what kind of tasks handaxes may have been used for, thus developing new understanding of hominin behavior.

❖ Ms. Ellis Garey, Ottoman and Middle East History, New York University, *Becoming Workers: Labor Activism and Mass Politics in Greater Syria, 1880-1936*. This project focuses on the emergence of the "worker" as a key participant in the new forms of mass politics in Greater Syria during the late Ottoman and early post-Ottoman periods. Relying on material in Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, and French, Ms. Garey will examine the mass politics which arose in the 1880s, which included work stoppages, public protest, and petitions to the government. By addressing workers' collective action and its impact on capitalist development and state formation, she reconsiders debates on capitalism in the Global South and reintegrates the history of the late Ottoman era with that of Mandate Lebanon.

❖ Mr. Marshall Watson, Ottoman and African History, Yale University, *Writing the Ottomans back into Africa: 19th Century Colonialism and a Sub-Saharan Resource Frontier*. Mr. Watson's research seeks to recover the history of Ottoman relations with sub-Saharan polities throughout the long nineteenth century. The work follows the networks of merchants and statesmen, exploring

how Ottomans understood their place in a world increasingly dominated by extractive colonial enterprises. It engages the debates regarding Ottoman colonialism while examining the socio-environmental impacts of both the slave and ivory trades. In expanding the scope of Ottoman-African history beyond the scramble for the Sahara, this focus on Central Africa fills a scholarly lacuna and documents the heretofore neglected Ottoman role in the shaping of modern African colonial and post-colonial states.

❖ Mr. Zavier Wingham, History and Middle East Studies, New York University, *Becoming 'Zenci:' Formulating Race in the Ottoman Empire, 1840-1914*. This dissertation research project seeks to elucidate changing elite discourses and policies regarding race, slavery, and blackness in the Ottoman Empire, from the 1840s until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Mr. Wingham examines the discourses and practices that contributed to new forms of racialization of people of African descent in this period. The work also seeks to examine how enslaved and formerly enslaved black people in the Ottoman empire, particularly in Istanbul and Izmir, experienced these processes of racialization and sought to create new kinds of communities and ways of living.

John Freely Fellow

These fellowships are awarded in memory of John Freely, the author of many travel and history books on Turkey, and a great supporter of ARIT.

❖ Mr. Samet Budak, Middle East Studies, University of Michigan, *A Mediterranean Ecumene: Intellectual Networks and Trends in the Late-Medieval Eastern Mediterranean*. This project

aims to challenge isolated cultural and intellectual histories of the Mediterranean in the premodern period. While focusing on intellectual contacts between seemingly disparate parts of the region, through analyzing the lives, networks, and ideas of three philosophers from the day, it aims to prove that the Mediterranean was a unity culturally and intellectually in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when an unprecedented amount of movement and intercommunication across the region were observed. To do so, the project will engage in a campaign of empirical research in the libraries and archives of Turkey.

Istanbul Friends of ARIT Fellow

Fellowship funded by the Friends of ARIT, Istanbul.

❖ Ms. Ayşe Ercan, Turkey, Christian and Byzantine Archaeology, Columbia University, *Fashioning a Medieval Capital: The Topography and Archaeology of the Mangana Quarter in Constantinople (843-1453 C.E.)*. Ms. Ercan's project deals with the archaeology and historical topography of the Mangana quarter of Byzantine Constantinople, identified with the largest, albeit least-studied, archaeological site located in the eastern gardens of the Topkapı Palace in Istanbul. Two years of archival work and recent geo-radar survey (GPR) of certain areas have led to a better understanding of the connectivity of these monumental building complexes. Taking into account the new archaeological evidence brought to light by the survey as well as the new excavations conducted by the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, the study reevaluates previous scholarship, and redefines the Mangana quarter.

ARIT Fellows in Intensive Turkish Language, Summer 2020

The U.S. Department of Education, Georgetown University Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages, and ARIT, provide support for participants in the Boğaziçi University Summer Program in Intensive Advanced Turkish Language.

The 2020 language program was deferred until summer 2021. The 2020 fellows may participate in the program next summer, conditions permitting.



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**George M. A. Hanfmann,
Ilse Böhlund Hanfmann, and
Machteld J. Mellink Fellows**

The Hanfmann and Mellink Fellowships are supported by the Merops Foundation in honor of George M. A. and Ilse B. Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink.

George M. A. Hanfmann Fellows

❖ Ms. Özge Acar, Classics, İstanbul University, *Greek Theatrical Performances in Asia Minor in the Principatus Era: Roman Perspective and Imperial Policies*. Ms. Acar will carry out philological studies at the National and Kapodistrian University in Athens, expanding her study of Greek theatrical performances in Asia Minor during the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

❖ Mr. Gencay Öztürk, Classical Archaeology, Ege University, *Lydian Archaeo-Gemology in the Light of Sardis Finds*. Mr. Öztürk will study gemology

at Harvard University, also working with the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis in Cambridge, MA. Ancient Lydian Sardis is the origin of the name for the gemstones now called sard and sardonyx; it is also the source for the Lydian gemstones that are the focus of the study.

❖ Mr. Burak Sönmez, Classical Archaeology, Süleyman Demirel University, *Ceramic Production and Trade Relations in the Ancient City of Seleucia Sidera during the Roman Imperial Period*. Mr. Sönmez will go to Leuven University in Belgium to study the Roman pottery connected with the ancient nekropoleis of Seleucia Sidera in Pisidia, in southwestern Asia Minor. He will focus on the ceramic production and its implications for trade.

Ilse B. Hanfmann Fellows

❖ Dr. Orçun Erdoğan, Art History, Hatay Mustafa Kemal University,

Settlement Pattern and Architecture of the Late Antique Villages in Southern Anatolia, at Oxford University. While at Oxford University, Dr. Erdoğan will study the rural architecture and settlement patterns of the Late Antique period in southern Anatolia, exploring the continuity, reuse, and evolutions of meaning at sites in the region.

Machteld J. Mellink Fellows

❖ Dr. Yadigar Doğan, Ancient Language and Cultures, Akdeniz University, *Contributions to Epigraphic Studies of the Milyas: The Inscriptions from Elmalı Museum*. Dr. Doğan will conduct research at the University of Vienna that focuses on the historical geography and the administrative, sociocultural, and religious structures of the Milyas and Kabalia regions of southwestern Anatolia in the light of ancient inscriptions.



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REPORTS ON ARIT FELLOWSHIPS

**Dr. Berin Gölönü, Art History/
Visual Studies, State University
of New York at Buffalo**

ARIT-NEH Fellow 2019-2020

*People's Parks (Millet Bahçeleri):
Structuring Public Leisure Space in the Late
Ottoman Empire*

The prolonged stay in Turkey afforded by the ARIT/NEH fellowship proved invaluable for expanding and deepening my research on two separate projects which I carried out simultaneously. I am sharing a description of one of these projects here. *People's Gardens (Millet Bahçeleri): Structuring Public Leisure Space*

in the late Ottoman Empire, looks at the establishment of European-style public gardens or parks in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and traces their transformation through the years. I ask how these parks are both a symptom and cause of the modernizing changes that Ottoman society placed on display in outdoor leisure sites located in key urban centers. I had finished writing a research article on the history of the Taksim People's Garden (1870) in the months preceding the start of my ARIT/NEH fellowship. While in Turkey, I furthered my research on other historical parks that had been contemporaries of the Taksim People's Garden and made progress on the manuscript I am preparing on this topic.

There were close to a dozen late Ottoman-era parks in Istanbul alone,

in neighborhoods such as Galata, Pera, Bakırköy, Üsküdar (fig. 12), and the historic peninsula. In a verdant city of orchards, meadows and vineyards, the significance of Istanbul's new public gardens or parks may have had more to do with teaching city residents how to behave like modern, cosmopolitan subjects rather than providing needed spaces for outdoor recreation. Many of these new spaces were built on sites that were already being used for leisure activities.

Realizing that they could profit from these sites by gating and landscaping them as formalized municipal parks, city leaders leased the parks to property managers to run as businesses. Abiding by a changing set of park rules and regulations and self-monitoring their behavior, a range of Ottoman citizens learned new social



Figure 12: Doğançılar Parkı, Üsküdar, Istanbul, 1934. Istanbul postcards and photographs collection, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

norms in these spaces. A pre-existent Ottoman culture of viewership and spectacle was transformed into the habit of looking and being looked at in urban space, as well as establishing what or who was permitted to be seen. Some of Istanbul's oldest European-

style parks, the Makriköy Millet Bahçesi (1904-05), the Doğançılar Millet Bahçesi (1914-1917), and the Gülhane Millet Bahçesi (1914) are still in existence today. I traveled to these parks and took field notes on their appearance, maintenance, and use.

My manuscript will include an account of the current use and appearance of these historical parks in order to highlight the importance of preserving them as sites of urban heritage and collective memory.

My manuscript also looks at the modern parks of Thessaloniki (Selanik, fig. 13) and Smyrna (Izmir), two Western-centric and trade-oriented Ottoman cities that offer a good point of comparison to Istanbul's leisure culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Thessaloniki and Izmir also share similar, if not opposite paths of nationalization. The urban fabric of Thessaloniki was nationalized as a Greek city by erasing traces of the existence of its displaced Muslim population, similar to the way in which Izmir was nationalized as a Turkish city by erasing traces of its displaced Greek population. My project will show how Thessaloniki's urban parks became staging grounds for Greek nationalism after 1912, and how Izmir's urban parks similarly became display grounds for Turkish nationalism after 1922. Taking a research trip to Thessaloniki in August 2019, I visited several archives and located photographs and maps of two important Ottoman-era parks within these collections. I hope to conduct extensive research on Izmir's past and extant parks on my next research trip to Turkey.

As far as immediate next steps, Duke University's libraries have just acquired three collections of late Ottoman and early Republican postcards of Izmir, Thessaloniki, and Üsküdar. The Thessaloniki and Üsküdar collections have been digitized. To celebrate these acquisitions, they have invited me to give a lecture on some of these images in fall 2020. My lecture will bring together images of the recreation sites documented within these postcards, with a discussion of some of the other images I discovered during my ARIT/NEH fellowship.



Figure 13: Entrance gate of the Beşçınar People's Garden in Thessaloniki, 1911. Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive (ELIA), part of the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation (MIET).

**Mr. Michael B. Sims, History,
University of Washington**

ARIT-NEH Grant Fellow 2017-2018

*‘Without a Purpose, Misfortune Will
Befall Our Land:’ Discourses of Nation in
Late Ottoman Kurdistan*

My period of research supported by the ARIT Research Fellowship was integral to the success of my fieldwork (fig. 14). My dissertation, entitled “‘Without a Purpose, Misfortune Will Befall Our Land:’ Discourses of Nation

in Late Ottoman Kurdistan” explores identity formation, nationalism, and interfaith and intercommunal relations in Late Ottoman Kurdistan. Through this fieldwork in Istanbul and Mardin supported by ARIT, I was able to work on various archival collections, periodicals, and literature related to the Syriac Christian, Kurdish, and Yezidi histories of Southeast Anatolia. During this time, I came to more clearly understand the significance of institutions and networks in the processes of identity formation and national awakening, and how to frame

these discourses as reactions to events within the region or elsewhere in the Ottoman Empire. More specifically, this in-depth work has enabled me to present how questions such as proper education, religious leadership, and political participation were the dynamics central to establishing an idea of communal past, present, and future. I wish to thank the funders of this grant: The U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Istanbul Friends of ARIT.



Figure 14: ARIT Department of State fellow Michael B. Sims conducting research in Mardin.



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Editorial Committee:
Ardeth Anderson
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C. Brian Rose

American Research Institute in Turkey
Penn Museum
3260 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6324

Tel: (215) 898-3474
Fax: (215) 898-0657

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