

ARIT NEWSLETTER

American Research Institute in Turkey



Number 51, Spring 2011

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Considering the ARIT facilities in Istanbul...

Essentially, ARIT operations consist of three things: grants, information, and buildings. Even when grants were few and there was no one around to provide information, ARIT had its hostels that gave both short- and long-term researchers a place to stay and – just as important – to interact with other researchers.

ARIT's first "hostel" was the house of the scholar and statesman Fuad Köprülü (1964). After that ARIT lived a Turkmen existence, moving from place to place until it washed up in Beşiktaş, on Serencebey Yokuşu, a location that brought many a scholar close to cardiac arrest as s/he climbed to the library. This location also trimmed scholars' weight since descending and then ascending that hill for a meal in the mediocre Beşiktaş restaurants of those days, hardly appealed. ARIT lived precariously – at one point ARIT's treasurer (a noble man!) even mortgaged his house to pay ARIT's bills. We were always no more than one small expense away from catastrophic disaster.

Thanks to CAORC, the Department of State and the Department of Education, ARIT received grants to support infrastructure (administration, hostel, library). When these grants came through, we moved to our present quarters in Arnavutköy, the place at 5 Üvez Sokak that many of you know.

Stability, when coupled with ambition, has its downside: in the 15 years we've been in Arnavutköy, our library has matured – in Byzantine studies with the Kenneth Snipes Collection, in the Ottoman and Turkish sections with a good selection of monographs and reference works, and even Arabistics (an important field of research due to the Süleymaniye's magnificent Arabic and Persian manuscript collection).

We have more demands for our hostel services, and for the support that Tony Greenwood and his staff provide. With the addition of the American Board of Missions library and the projected addition of the ABM archives, it is time once again to move. Rent has gone up year by year, and we are paying a fortune for our inadequate and now somewhat shabby building.

It's time to move. It's also time to buy a building because Istanbul is not going to get cheaper in the coming years. So in conjunction with our NEH capital campaign, we are trying to develop resources and support in order to purchase a building somewhere adequate for our future needs, located closer to the resources our researchers come to use (e.g. the Başbakanlık archive, the Archeological Museum, the Süleymaniye library, various university collections). Right now, in our view, that means somewhere in the greater Taksim area.

In the next year or two we'll be asking for your support in various capacities – perhaps as lecturers, advisors, cultivators of contacts, and yes, as donors of whatever amount – as we seek to raise approximately \$3 million to put ARIT on a firm physical and financial foundation. We'll be asking our Friends and all those whom ARIT has helped over the years to join us in moving ARIT to the next level of stability, one that reflects the academic importance of Asia Minor, the Ottoman Empire, and Turkey in our present scholarly firmament. All our scholars and staff will appreciate your help.

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ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

As previewed in the last newsletter, **the library of the American Board of Missions** has now come to rest in the ground floor of ARIT Istanbul, where the double bedroom next to the kitchen has been set aside for the collection, which totals about 1200 items. The catalogue of the collection is hosted on the **Digital Library for International Research website** and can be accessed from the ARIT website through the ARIT Istanbul Associate Library link. All material in the collection can be accessed by scholars, with permission, at ARIT during weekday working hours. Some of the highlights of this collection include numerous early dictionaries, 19th-century traveller and missionary biographies, books on the missionary movement in general and in the Balkans and Anatolia in particular, full runs of the *Missionary Herald* and other journals, the publications of the Redhouse Press, including complete runs of journals it published in in Armenian and Armeno-Turkish, and in Karamanlija, and the brochures and pamphlets published by the Board and affiliated institutions. Together these are an invaluable resource not only for the study of the missionary movement in Anatolia and the Balkans in the 19th and early 20th century, but also for the social and economic history of the period at the local level.

In addition to the collection itself, ARIT also has taken on as its new branch librarian **Dr. Brian Johnson**, the American Board librarian from 2001 to 2010 and a scholar who obviously has an intimate knowledge of this collection. He commenced working with us three days a week in January 2011. Brian trained as an Ottoman historian and numismatist, and has extensive experience in Istanbul in publishing. He will be responsible for overseeing the challenging task of integrating the new library and archives into our collection as well as digitizing and making available on the web this material.

The Board has also generously given us other items associated with the collection, including much of the paraphernalia they had been using in the digitizing process such as equipment like cameras, computer, printer, lighting table, archival supplies, etc. This equipment has allowed **a small digitizing station to be set up in the library** for the use of library patrons, and a larger station downstairs in the office for our own use.

With this new capacity we intend to begin some digitization at the Institute. Projects already in the

pipeline foresee the digitization of some of the more valuable and/or unique material in the library collection. We expect to begin this May with **a project to digitize the brochure collection**, which consists of perhaps 1,000 items published by and about Board-related institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.) in Anatolia in the second half of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. It includes school programs, speeches, commencement exercises, etc., as well as some larger pamphlets. Most of this material is ephemera and much of it is unique. This project will probably take us about eight months. After that we intend to digitize some of the more unique journals and serial publications, including the *The Levant Trade Review* and *The Orient* newspaper. Together, these two periodicals offer a unique record, as well as a distinctive American perspective, of contemporary Turkish and Middle Eastern politics, economy, and society in the early 20th century.

Unlike the library, **the archives of the American Board** are not held at ARIT, but rather are in storage with Garanti Kültür A.S. (or what used to be known commonly as the Ottoman Bank Archives), awaiting the signing of necessary protocols. Until these formalities are completed (not long, we presume), the archives as a whole will be off-limits to researchers. When completed, the material that has already been digitized – over the past three years the American Board had completed the digitization of some 50,000 documents; there are perhaps another 450,000 to go – should immediately become available to researchers at ARIT, at the Ottoman Bank archives, and possibly at a few other sites designated in the protocol. We will also work quickly then to determine how best to put this already digitized material up on the internet, and to recommence the digitizing of the remaining material.

Setting aside one room to house the American Board Library has of course meant that we have one less bedroom to offer visiting scholars. Given **the high level of demand for residential space at most times of the year this is unfortunate**. We have tried to limit the effect by using for this purpose the room that was in least demand, the ground floor double (the one we always gave out last), but even so this will increase the difficulty of finding space in the hostel, especially in the late spring, summer and early fall. Potential guests should keep this in mind; as this goes to press, for example, we are already fully booked through early August.

In addition, **the pressure on space in Istanbul** has forced us to begin a new policy in regards to short-term

hostel stays. As of the beginning of April 2011, **we will no longer confirm more than one week in advance any reservation for less than four nights**. Confirming short-term stays long in advance results in a very inefficient use of space, with potential long-term research stays turned away because a few nights here or there are blocked out due to a reservations by a scholar quickly passing through. If space is available one week in advance of the projected stay, we will be glad to give it for such short-term stays. However, if a potential guest wishes a secure reservation long in advance for only one or two nights, they should also make a backup reserve elsewhere.

We hope this situation is temporary, and that once we move we will be able to offer more rooms for lodgings. Unfortunately, however, while still on the top of our agenda and part of our everyday working routine, a move has not come any closer to realization in recent months. We continue to look, and remain optimistic that we will suitable space by the end of the current year.

Moving to the research front, **conditions at major libraries** remain largely unchanged since the last newsletter. **The Topkapi Palace Library and Archives** will remain officially closed for the remainder of 2011. This means that applications for research permits should not be based solely on work in those places; they will not be accepted. Scholars who have already worked in these collections should find it possible, however, to work on material that has already been digitized, especially in the Topkapı Archives, or that has been set aside for them by agreement. Conditions have not changed at **the Başbakanlık Ottoman Archives**, with the set limit of 20-documents-a-day one of the primary factors to consider in planning a research trip. Plans proceed apace to move the Archives to **a new dedicated facility in Kağıthane**, where all of the collection will be stored together in properly controlled conditions. Official projections slate the move to take place in about two years time, but it may of course take considerably longer.

The **Institute Lecture Series** continued in late fall and early winter, with a number of fascinating lectures, as follows:

Dr. Metin Yüksel (Political Science and Public Administration, Hacettepe University) “Hidden Transcripts, Sentiments, Historiology: Listening to Dengbêj Reso (1910-1983)”

Dr. Gregory Stournaras (Ph.D in Urban and Regional Planning, National Technical University of Athens, W. D. Coulson and T. M. Cross Aegean Exchange Program Fellow) “Dervish Orders: their Presence and the Network

of Tekkes in Ottoman Thessaly”

Dr. Miri Shefer (Middle Eastern & African History, Tel Aviv University, Israel) “In Sickness and in Health: Ottoman Thoughts on Health and Illness”

Dr. Rachel Goshgarian (Senior Fellow, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University) “Coexistence and Competition in Some Late Medieval Anatolian Cities as Reflected in Armenian, Persian, and Turkish Texts”

Professor Geoffrey Summers (Settlement Archaeology Program, Middle East Technical University) “Death and Destruction: Archaeology at an Iron Age Capital on the Kerkenes Dağ in Central Turkey”

Our **library** continues to grow through generous donations from friends. Indeed, over the last two years, almost three out of every four books entering the collection has come as donation. Major donations over the last six months have come from **Alice Mary Talbot**, with 35 books in Byzantine Studies, and a generous gift from **Alan Fisher**. In addition the following individuals have donated books: **Elena Alberini, Pinar Dost, Zülal Kılıç, Peter Kuniholm, Timur Kuran, Heath Lowry, Muat Metinsoy, Adrien Papp, Amy Singer, and Madeline Zilfi**, as have the following institutions: **Boğaziçi University, Pamukkale University, Sabancı Museum, Sadberk Hanım Museum, and SEV Vakfı**. We urge all readers to consider ARIT as the most suitable place for a donation of academic books in the areas of the late Antique, Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman Eastern Mediterranean and in all areas of Turkish history. For information on donations and shipping please consult with the ARIT office in Philadelphia.

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ISTANBUL FRIENDS OF ARIT NEWS

Astonishing as it may seem, **the Istanbul Friends of ARIT** has now been around for 27 years. Over these years it has maintained a fairly stable level of size and activity. FARIT membership levels, for example, have remained fairly steady at between 120-160 annually. The lack of further growth is something we have been resigned to, mostly out of a concern that we did not have the facilities to support a larger group. We have not tried to advertise widely, preferring instead to rely on word of mouth, and on discrete advertising in local institutions where people may be interested. The only significant membership drive activity has been the annual **Friends Open House at ARIT** in late September, which is timed to coincide with the opening of the new academic year and which always kicks off the fall season. This past year was the event's sixteenth in a row, the 16th annual FARIT Fall Open House, and as always it was a good party, producing a significant number of new memberships and keeping us up to our normal levels.

Slowly, however, as interest in ARIT and ARIT's needs for fellowship funding and other causes have increased, we have begun taking steps to increase the size and scope of our activities. The first step in this process was the creation of a formal Friends Association, the **Bilimsel Araştırmalar Destekleme Derneği**, which began several years ago and was not properly completed until this past winter. The second has been **the creation of a Facebook page**, which has just gotten off the ground. This page will serve to advertise FARIT activities as soon as they are conceived, usually well in advance of the formal flyers that give notification to members only of the full details of each trip. For Friends (or potential friends not yet members) who may wish to follow our activities from abroad, and for those who can use more lead time in planning trips to or in Turkey, this new Facebook page should be of particular value. To find the FARIT page, just go into Facebook and search for FARIT. The page is still in test form and has limited functions, but already you will find notices of up-coming events. You don't have to be a FARIT member to access the page.

The first Friends tour of the Fall season was led by **Professor Haluk Çetinkaya** of Mimar Sinan University, and covered a self-selected group of **Byzantine and Ottoman-period monuments in the Aksaray region and on the seventh Hill**, most of them churches converted to mosques. It began at the **Şehzade Camii** (Sinan's first major mosque in the city), then continued on to the **Kal-**

ender Camii, the Bodrum Camii (the Myrelaion), the Studon or İmrahor **Camii** (from the outside only), **Surp Kevork**, and finally **Koca Mustafa Paşa Camii**. Lunch was at one of the few remaining typical meyhanes in the area, the Sefa.

Over the week-long vacation provided by Kurban Bayrami in November, the Friends took off on one of their more ambitious and exotic trips in recent years, to **Ethiopia**. The trip was planned through a local agency who did a wonderful job (with the exception perhaps of one difficult night). It focused on **the northern highlands**, with their spectacular natural beauty, and their ancient and unique Christian religious architecture and vibrant culture. The itinerary took the group, in order, to **Addis Ababa, Lalibela and Nakutelab, Gonder, Bahirdar, Lake Tana and the Blue Nile Gorge, and then back to Addis**.

In the early winter, in a repeat of a tour he did several years ago, **Professor Ethem Eldem** led an in-depth exploration of **the graveyard and complex surrounding the Türbe of Şeyh Yahya Efendi in Çırağan, Beşiktaş**. Nestled in the hill above the Çırağan Palace, this picturesque Sufi complex contains one of the older and more venerable graveyards in the city. Professor Eldem, who has completed an inventory of all the gravestones there, showed the group around a few representative graves, answering questions about who was buried there and why, styles of gravestone, decorative elements, the language and literature of the inscriptions, and Ottoman mortuary practices in general. From there he took us to **the small Bektaşî graveyard** on the top of the hill above Boğaziçi University, where, in so far as the driving rain permitted, other questions about preservation, symbols, construction, contestation and appropriation of identity came to the fore.

In the early spring the Friends were led on **a stroll in the upper Golden Horn area** by **Claire Karaz**. This was a walking tour that began with the land walls at the Edirne Gate, and then proceeded to the **Kariye Camii**, the **Fethiye Camii** and then down through the picturesque neighborhoods of **Balat** and **Fener**, ending up with a visit to **the Patriarchate**.

Finally, again in the early spring, the Friends were taken by **Gencer Emiroğlu** on a tour that introduced them to **the traditional wooden maritime craft of the Bosphorus**, upon which the economic and social life of the city have traditionally depended. From Sultan's caiques to fishermen's rowboats, from passenger transport to market vessels, hundreds, even thousands of these boats, used to

ply the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn during daylight hours. Today very few of any age have survived, and the best collections are now in the Naval Museum and in the Rahmi Koç Museum. The tour started by exploring **the Naval Museum in Beşiktaş**, especially the section containing the galleys of the Sultans. (The Naval Museum has been closed to the public for several years and was opened specially for us.) From there the group went by

boat to **the Rahmi Koç Museum on the Golden Horn**, which has a rich collection of small rowboats and sailboats, mostly used for recreation and fishing. During the course of the trip participants learned about the materials and construction techniques used in building these boats, who built them, about the ways in which they were used, and about the ways building techniques and usage developed over time and moved across cultural boundaries.

ARIT-ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

Excitement in Ankara has been building, with the approach of **the 2011 archaeological field season** as well as the political elections in Turkey. In an attempt to develop the tourism potential of different regions, the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism – the bureau which issues excavation and survey permits – has been progressively encouraging all excavations in Turkey to focus on conservation and restoration alongside archaeological excavation. **The new General Director, Murat Süslü**, has emphasized frequently in numerous speeches at a variety of events that restoration, conservation and even reconstruction at archaeological sites will attract tourists, local and foreign, and will contribute to economic growth in those areas which possess substantial cultural remains and concentrations of archaeological research. This growing emphasis on restoration and conservation is certain to influence the research problems, research agendas and financial frameworks of both Turkish and foreign excavation projects. In addition, the General Directorate remains reluctant to issue permits for new excavation and survey projects, since Turkish government representatives are insufficient in number. Student research projects, however, continue to receive support, with the expectation that it will generate greater commitment to Turkish archaeology among future generations.

Lectures which take place in the library at ARIT are generally sponsored by the Friends of ARIT. In the spring, an additional series of three lectures traditionally takes place at the Turkish American Association (TAA), located not far from the ARIT office at Çankaya. Co-sponsored by the TAA with ARIT, this year's event, **the 31st Annual Lecture Series: Art and Archaeology in Turkey**, featured three scholars with a broad range of archaeological interests and field projects.

The first speaker was **Dr. Christopher Roosevelt**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology

at Boston University and a Visiting Researcher/Fulbright Senior Scholar at Ege University in Izmir. He spoke about his research in the Marmara Lake area, nearby Sardis, in his lecture, "The Central Lydia Archaeological Survey and Second-Millennium BCE Western Anatolia." During his extensive survey of the area, Dr. Roosevelt and the project's co-director, Christina Luke, identified over a hundred burial mounds (tumuli) dating to Lydian and Persian periods. They also discovered and recorded a 2nd millennium BC site of approximately 30 ha. in size, a settlement that was accompanied by at least three contemporary smaller fortifications on nearby hill-tops. He demonstrated that landscape in the area of Sardis was acknowledged and even described by Homer, and that late 2nd millennium BC Hittite textual sources illustrated Hittite interaction with this western region, which they called the Seha River Land.

Dr. Stephen Batiuk from the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Koç University delivered the second lecture of the series at the TAA. Dr. Batiuk's talk, entitled "The Fruits of Migration: Understanding the Early Transcaucasian Culture and Its Socio Economic Effects on Syro-Anatolia," focused on the economic dynamics associated with the distribution of a very specific type of Early Bronze Age pottery, known alternatively in different regions as the Khirbet Kerak, Kura-Araxes, Karaz, Red-Burnished, Yanik or Burney Ware. He demonstrated that this very widespread pottery type can be associated with wine production – especially in 3rd millennium B.C. – which once occurred across a vast region, from the Caucases in the north, through east Anatolia, Iran and north Syria and to the Syria-Palestinian coast in the south.

We are anticipating a very exciting third lecture at the TAA from **Dr. Ömür Harmanşah**, who is a Senior Fellow at the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations over the past year and is normally at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University. In his lecture, "Plato's Spring, Tud-

haliya's Pond: Water and Place in Hittite Landscapes", Dr. Harmanşah will speak about the close relationship of the Hittites with nature in their process of generating religiously charged areas. These areas acted as significant elements in shaping the physical and conceptual boundaries of the Hittite cosmos.

A **small workshop on Cultural Heritage** was held at ARIT – Ankara in early April, with the participation of **Chris Roosevelt, Christina Luke, Matthew Harpster and Zeynep Çizmeli Ögün**. With its focus upon issues involving current policies of cultural heritage in Turkey and elsewhere, the workshop aimed to introduce to one another concerned individuals from a variety of disciplines and to articulate specific issues across a range of topics that included looting, changing policies in governments, underwater cultural heritage, and site management. We hope to continue to further dialogue among scholars who maintain different areas of interest and to host additional workshops on similar topics in the future.

Every winter ARIT-Ankara hosts a jury process for the **W. D. E. Coulson and Toni M. Cross Aegean Exchange Program** to honor up to three Turkish scholars with a fellowship to travel from Turkey to Greece for travel and research. This process is reciprocated by the **American School of Classical Studies**, which also provides housing and assistance for the Turkish recipients of this fellowship. This year three scholars were chosen to use this opportunity to travel to Greece for up to three months. The first is **Dr. Koray Durak**, who holds a PhD from the Department of History and Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University and is currently an Associate Professor in the History Department at the Bosphorus University in Istanbul. His project, "Investigation of the Medieval Greek Sources for the Study of Byzantine-Islamic Trade from the Seventh to the Eleventh Centuries," will take him to the ASCSA and the Gennadius Library in Athens. The second exchange scholar is **Dr. Ayşe Özil**, who holds a PhD in History from the University of London, Birkbeck College and is also currently teaching in the History Department at Bosphorus University. She plans on also relying on the ASCSA and the Gennadius Library, among other resources in Athens, for her research project, entitled "Greek Orthodox Communities and Education in 19th Century Istanbul." Finally, **Zeliha Gider Büyükozer**, a PhD candidate in Classical Archaeology at Selçuk University in Konya, will focus upon "Doric Architecture in the Caria Region." She plans on using the library at the ASCSA and traveling to sites and museums in Greece.

Although **hostel occupation** is generally low during the winter months, several ARIT and Fulbright fellowship scholars have occupied our rooms over the duration of the 2010-2011 academic year. In terms of hostel resources, **we are currently in need of new beds and chairs, among other items**. We believe that fund-raising at the Friends' Annual Dinner at the Ambassador's Residence in June will be fruitful for the specific needs of the hostel and the library.

Since January 2011, the **Toni M. Cross Library** was visited by more than twenty scholars and students from Ankara, Atılım, Gazi, Hacettepe and Middle East Technical Universities, the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, Erciyes University at Kayseri, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Bodrum, and Boston University, Penn State University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Washington from the USA. Some of these researchers are independent and use the library as the main basis for their work, while others sporadically visit our collection to gather missing resources. We have asked many professors and researchers to **share with us lists of books essential for their research**, in order that we give priority to their needs.

We have been experiencing a **change in the office staff in Ankara-ARIT** in the past few months. Our assistant, **Pelin Gürol Öngören**, has been on leave since last fall with the arrival of her son, Ali Kaan. Our other assistant, **Melis Rona**, also left ARIT this spring for a new career in permaculture, the design of ecological systems for sustainability in all aspects of human endeavor. We are excited about her progress in this new approach to human settlements and agricultural systems and hope to learn a great deal from her in the future. In her place we welcomed to our staff **Burcu Yıldırım**, a graduate of Bilkent University who is no stranger to Turkish world of archaeology.

We are always grateful for donations to the **ARIT-Ankara library**. Since January 2011, we added to our collection 193 items, of which 32 are purchased and 144 are donated books and 17 are off-prints. We also added 69 issues of 13 journal titles in gifts, and 13 issues of 12 titles in subscription to our collection of periodicals. We never turn down donations of duplicates, since extras in books, journals and off-prints contribute to our library in exchanges with other institutions or donations to newly established archaeology and art history departments in different parts of Turkey. Our librarian, **Özlem Eser**, has recently prepared and sent seven boxes of items, including 200 issues of the *American Journal of Archaeology*

and 62 books, to the Archaeology Department at the Süleyman Demirel University at Isparta.

For contributing to the depth of our ever-growing collection, we are thankful to the following donors: **Seymour Gitin, Matthew Harpster, Cengiz Işık, Henry and Susan Jakubiak, Fikri Kulakoğlu, Elif Denel, Peter Ian Kuniholm, late Machteld J. Mellink, Nancy Micklewright, Francesco Servida and Italian Institute of Culture in Ankara, Elizabeth Simpson, Alice Mary Talbot, Ron Tickfer, William Tobin and Numan Tuna.** We also would like to give thanks to the **American Institute for Yemeni Studies, the British School at Athens, Art History Department at the Pamukkale University, PATTU Mimarlık, Araştırma, Tasarım, University of Pennsylvania, Albright and Dorot Foundation and Ankara University.**

ANKARA FRIENDS OF ARIT NEWS

The Friends hosted several academic events this winter and early spring. **Dr. Matthew Harpster**, from the Department of Archaeology and Art History at the Eastern Mediterranean University, returned to Ankara in December 2010 to deliver a lecture for the Friends of ARIT on the heritage management of North Cyprus, in a talk entitled "Protecting Maritime Cultural Heritage in Disputed Territory: the Karpaz Maritime Heritage Program, 2007-2010." In January, the Friends welcomed in 2011 with a workshop led by **Abdülkadir Ersoy**, a specialist of carpet and kilim weaving. Mr. Ersoy spoke to the Friends about different styles of weaving not only in Turkey but also in neighboring cultures, giving tips on how to recognize different levels of quality in carpets and kilims.

In early February, **Dr. Ann Killebrew**, an Associate Professor of Classics and Ancient Medical Studies and Jewish Studies at The Pennsylvania State University who is currently in Turkey as a Fulbright Research Fellow, discussed general definitions of cultural heritage and their political and economic connotations in a lecture entitled "Who Owns the Past? Presenting Archaeological Sites to the Public in Israel." We have more talks planned for the rest of the spring, a busy period for both talks and workshops.

We welcomed to Ankara this winter **Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and Mrs. Marie Ricciardone**, who are

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SENDING BOOKS TO ARIT LIBRARIES,
PLEASE CONTACT THE ARIT BRANCH OR
U.S. OFFICE FOR SHIPPING INFORMATION

certainly not newcomers, but have served more than one posting in Turkey over the past few decades. As the Honorary President of F/ARIT, Mrs. Ricciardone and Ambassador Ricciardone have already been most graciously helpful in the organization of our events. We are looking forward to our **Annual Dinner** in June, which will take place at the Ambassador's Residence and will include a **lecture on Roman Ankara** by **Professor Suna Güven** from the Architectural History Program at METU.

F/ARIT organized a very interesting **trip to Bodrum** in the early spring. We are most thankful to **Tuba Ekmecki**, the director of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Bodrum, and **Matthew Harpster** for giving us a tour of the Institute and the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology at the Castle of the Knights of St. John. Two fellows at the Institute, **Rebecca Ingram** (an ARIT fellow) and **Michael Jones** from the Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University, provided a hands-on account of their work on the conservation and analysis of Byzantine shipwreck hulls recovered from the Yenikapı excavations in Istanbul. The trip also included the ancient sites of **Stratonikeia** and **Lagina**, as well as the site of the newly discovered "**tomb of Hecatomnus**" at **Milas**. We now anticipate at least two more equally exciting trips in the spring, to **Kütahya and environs** under the guidance of **Dr. Julian Bennett** from the Archaeology Department at Bilkent University, and to **Erzurum and Bayrurt** under the leadership of **Dr. Scott Redford**, the Director of Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Studies.

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NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ARIT CONTRIBUTIONS 2010-2011

ARIT National Endowment for the Humanities Endowment Challenge Grant Update

Thanks to the generosity of loyal donors and the legacy of Machteld J. Mellink, ARIT is on its way to meeting its challenge fund goal and earning the National Endowment for the Humanities' matching grant of \$550,000 that was awarded to ARIT in 2007.

ARIT deeply appreciates the generosity of our friends and donors. Your contributions not only support the mission of the Institute to foster research and exchanges in Turkey, but now also will help build ARIT's future through the NEH Endowment Challenge Fund.

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REPORTS ON ARIT FELLOWSHIP

“Women, Legal Reform, and Social Change in the Ottoman Empire, 1876-1922”

Allison L. Keane (History, Binghamton University)
Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs
Fellow

My dissertation project on Ottoman women, legal reform, and social change in the late 19th and early 20th century builds on a body of scholarship that challenges the dichotomous notions of the traditional East and the modern West. The project explores the social and political bearing that late Ottoman legal reform (1860s-1922) had on women and Ottoman notions of gender. Specifically, I investigate the ways in which the introduction of the Nizamiye court system in the mid-1860s and the subsequent family law reform of 1917 affected the lives of Ottoman women and definitions of gender. The study also emphasizes female agency by examining the extent

to which Ottoman women and women’s organizations took advantage of, resisted, and aided in the development of the new legal system through both discourse and action.

Most of the primary sources needed to complete this ambitious project are housed in libraries and archives in Istanbul, where I focused on gathering and sorting through materials from three main archival sources: The Women’s Library (Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi), the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archive, and Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi. The Women’s Library proved to be very useful to my project, and it is a very open, relaxed and friendly environment. It houses every publication of Ottoman women’s journals as well as just about every article, book, dissertation, and thesis that has been written on Ottoman women’s history (in Turkish and English). The search engine for the online catalogue is designed to facilitate research on women’s

history and feminism in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey, enabling scholars to think and research through the lens of women's history as a primary subject. Beyond the valuable collection of Ottoman women's journals, the Women's Library has created a collection of primary and secondary documents on individual female artists, writers, and feminists as well as a collection on Ottoman women's organizations. These collections contain scholarly articles, ephemera, and primary state and private documents related to the persons and organizations. Scholars can access all of the materials housed at the library immediately by filling out a short form, and for a fee the librarians will photocopy them. I opted to photograph the materials myself with my digital camera, paying the same price per page as a hard copy. (See illustration here.)

Using this collection, I was able to cross-reference my findings with the documents from the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archive, which was the source of many documents in these collections. One preliminary finding of my work done at the Women's Library relates to the Ottoman women's movement, specifically that feminism seemed by-and-large to be an upper-class phenomenon. While other scholars have already suggested this idea, I observed that this class difference resulted in the exploitation of working and minority women by Ottoman feminists. They write with disdain and irreverence, for example, about the women who worked for them (most of them forcibly). This discovery led me to begin thinking about the nature of female slavery in the Ottoman Empire and what consequences the abolishment of slavery (a legal change of the late 19th century) had for women of all classes.

The Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives proved equally important in my research. Since this rich collection of materials is mostly written by Ottoman state bureaucrats, I was not able to find many documents that gave true voice to Ottoman women. However, I was able to compile a collection of over 500 documents that give us some clues about ordinary and working women's lives. This group included police reports, complaints made by or about individual women to various offices of the state, and legal documents outlining the changes in family law at the end of the 19th century. The Ottoman state was concerned about its women – about their well-being and about their public behavior. One of the most prevalent types of police records showed that women whose public behavior was not acceptable to the state were simply removed from their dwelling place and sent somewhere else, usually to the city or province of birth. Regarding

the treatment of slave women and domestic workers, Ottoman state documents also give us a glimpse into their lives; numerous police reports, for example, document the return of a runaway slave or concubine.

My research at the Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi (ISAM), which houses the Islamic court records for the Ottoman period in all Anatolian provinces and some Arab-speaking provinces, was the least successful. The court records are organized according to city and year, and they are available on microfilm to be read at the center (photocopies can be made but are extremely pricey). As I had not yet narrowed down my research to a specific year and place, use of these court records in that particular form would have demanded enormous time. While working there, however, I did learn that some Turkish graduate students have begun to focus theses and dissertations on court records from a particular place and time. They have published translated and transliterated sets of court records, including copies of the original documents, and their work is readily available for scholarly consultation. These works have turned out to be invaluable to my dissertation research.

A Mediterranean Network: Spanish Moriscos in the Ottoman Empire and Beyond, 1570s-1620s.

Dr. Tijana Krstic (Medieval Studies, Pennsylvania State University) ARIT National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

Prior to starting my research on the ARIT/NEH grant in Istanbul in March 2010, I had a chance to work in Archivio di Stato in Venice, which proved invaluable for my project, "A Mediterranean Network: Spanish Moriscos in the Ottoman Empire and Beyond, 1570s-1620s." In the Venetian *bailos'* reports from Constantinople (*dispacci*) in the period under consideration I found numerous references to the Morisco community in Istanbul and the Ottoman Empire in general. The *dispacci* allowed me to trace the Ottomans' relationship with Spanish Muslims from the Revolt of Alpujarras in 1568 to the promulgation of the expulsion edict in 1609 and well into the 1640s. I found records of the Ottoman sultan's reactions to the expulsion as well as diplomatic actions that were undertaken and names of the Ottoman officials and envoys sent to Venice and France in 1609 to plead for kind treatment of the refugees passing through the territories of Venice and France on their way to the Ottoman Empire. Moreover, the *dispacci* gave me fascinating insights into the process of the Moriscos' settlement in the Ottoman capital and the progressive erosion of their relationship with their protectors, Venice and France. Venetian *bailos* detailed

names and specific cases of interactions between various Morisco individuals and Catholic residents in Istanbul, in terms of trade, espionage, political alliances, etc. Most importantly, the *dispacci* record the attempts of certain prominent Moriscos to persuade the Ottoman authorities to expropriate Catholic churches in Galata and turn them into mosques. I found this aspect of the sources particularly fascinating as it spoke directly to one of my principal research questions, namely how both the Ottomans and Moriscos engaged in religious politics in the age of confessional and imperial polarization in the early modern Mediterranean.

Armed with this information, I returned to the Ottoman archives and libraries in Istanbul to try and find echoes of the relationships discussed by the Venetians in the Ottoman sources. Since Venetian sources suggested that the Morisco refugees were settled in Galata neighborhood of Istanbul, among various Christian foreign residents, my research was at first very localized, focusing on the administrative genres where interactions among various groups living in Galata could be recorded, namely the Galata court records for the period in question (available on microfilm at ISAM) and the records of the foreigners' affairs (*ecnebi defterleri*) housed at the Başbakanlık Ottoman Archives (BOA). Given the volume of these sources, and the time it would take to work through them in a systematic fashion, I decided to simultaneously develop other lines of investigation in order not to put all proverbial eggs into one basket.

One of those avenues of research was to look into the endowment charters and account books for the vakıfs (particularly relating to Galata) of various Ottoman officials, including Sultan Ahmed I, involved in the diplomatic correspondence about and settlement of the Moriscos in Istanbul and North Africa, as it was their charity and support that sustained the Morisco refugees upon arrival to the Ottoman territories. Thanks to thousands of new documents from the Topkapı Palace that became available through the BOA database in February 2010, I was able to get a sense of the patronage networks that various Ottoman officials maintained at the time of the Moriscos' arrival.

My other line of investigation led through the narrative sources produced by well-known Morisco individuals, such as Ahmed al-Hanafi. Al-Hanafi started his career as a Maliki legal scholar before his flight from the Iberian Peninsula in the early 1600s, and spent over ten years studying with Hanafi scholars in Ottoman Bosnia and Bursa, later taking position as the Hanafi judge of Tunis. Through various contemporary chronicles I tried to reconstruct the social network that Ahmed al-Hanafi belonged to during his sojourn in the Ottoman lands. Most of my research in this direction took place in the Süleymaniye Library.

These combined investigative strands kept me busy for six months during my stay in Istanbul and I am still working through the materials I collected. Although my research experience was very enjoyable, it was at the same very frustrating since my subject apparently did not interest the Ottoman administrators nearly as much as it interested me or the foreign ambassadors to Constantinople in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Although there is considerable evidence of Sultan Ahmed's and various grand viziers' energetic involvement with the Morisco issue prior to their settlement in Istanbul, once the boats that brought the refugees to the Ottoman capital docked, the Moriscos seem to disappear into the woodwork, at least as far as the Ottoman sources are concerned. They are mapped onto the landscape of Galata only by the foreign observers who are tenacious in identifying *granatini* (in the Venetian *dispacci*) or *Granadins* (in French reports) among the active participants in the religious, political, and commercial life of the neighborhood, and especially in the dealings of the foreign residents with the Ottoman authorities. I am currently working on two articles that both explain this blind spot in the Ottoman sources and seek to contextualize the formation of the Morisco diaspora in the broader Ottoman and Mediterranean religio-political trends of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, with an emphasis on the Morisco refugees in Istanbul. I plan to present further aspects of my research at the International Congress for Ottoman Social and Economic History at Retz, Austria in July 2011 and at the conference entitled The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe, 1492-1700, scheduled to take place at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) in October 2011.

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