

# ARIT Newsletter

American Research Institute in Turkey



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Since 1995, ARIT has had the privilege to administer for Turkey the East-Central European Research Fellows program, generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. As in other important endeavors, our partner has been the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). The Program was visionary. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Mellon Foundation realized the need for scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences working in former-bloc countries to become repatriated into “Western” scholarship. Working closely with CAORC, the Foundation developed a plan wherein each year scholars from select countries could spend up to three months conducting research at a center for advanced study outside the former Soviet bloc. Since the inception of the program, ARIT has welcomed over 40 East European scholars to its centers in Istanbul and Ankara. They came primarily from Bulgaria and Hungary, but also from the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. Their fields of study have been diverse. Nearly half pursued historical topics ranging from antiquity into the 20th century. About half as many again conducted archaeological research, while others carried out investigations in fields including linguistics, musicology, and Assyriology. The scholars brought new perspectives and diversity to the ARIT centers, which in turn facilitated scholarly contact and exchange.

In a reordering of its priorities, the Mellon Foundation has decided to discontinue the exchange program. We are sorry for this but are also grateful that the program has prospered for so many years. On a similar note, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation’s Pre-doctoral Fellowships in Archaeology and Art History are coming to an end. This program was highlighted in the spring, 2008 issue of the Newsletter. We are again grateful for the support the program has given for a good number of young scholars.

I am sorry to report that Dr. Ellen L. Kohler, a staunch and loyal supporter of ARIT, passed away in early November of last year. Her many contributions to the ARIT-Ankara library will be long appreciated. She also helped to edit several issues of the Newsletter, where her eye for grammar and Turkish orthography was always most welcome.

ARIT is healthy. We stand to be in even better shape once we realize the goals of the NEH Challenge Grant to support the libraries in Turkey. For where we are in our 45th year, we are thankful to many. In Washington we receive welcome and necessary support from the U.S. Departments of State and Education, and we are also grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities. From the private sector, the Joukowsky Family Foundation continues to provide an annual Freely Fellow, while the Friends organizations in Turkey and the U.S. carry on in their loyal and generous support of ARIT. Back in Washington, CAORC and its Executive Director Mary Ellen Lane are our constant supporters. We profusely thank them all and others who go nameless.

I write this shamefully late transmission from Gordion, where we, on the gloriously beautiful plateau of central Anatolia, wish all of you the very best.

G. Kenneth Sams, President

## ARIT-ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

### ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

The weather in Turkey was mild this winter, but not so the economic climate. It is not clear how hard the world economic crisis has hit and/or will hit Turkey, but certainly it has been a rough winter and spring, and retrenchment is everywhere. As I write there is cautious optimism on the part of many about Turkey's situation, but the outlook for the future is far from clear. For ARIT there has been one silver lining to this cloud, and that has been, somewhat miraculously, the rise of the dollar against the TL. It looks like this will not continue, but while it does scholarly dollars have stretched a bit further over this past year than we have become used to, and it made life easier for fellows and for the Institute.

The Institute hosted a variety of scholars of different backgrounds and interests this fall and winter. In contrast to most years, many of them were long-term residents, so that the hostel was always more than half full even in the often slow months of early winter. The rich and varied fare of lectures listed below helped keep the intellectual climate lively:

**Professor Heath Lowry** (Atatürk Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies, Princeton University) "“Oh By The Way, We're Here To Stay”: the Ottoman Pattern of Urban Conquest in the 14th Century Balkans”

**Dr. Jan Kostelec** (Department of Monument Care, Municipality of Prague, ARIT Mellon Fellow) "New Evidence for the Architecture and Decoration of the Byzantine Hagia Sophia Complex in Istanbul”

**Dr. Oya Pancaroğlu** (Department of History, Boğaziçi University) "Crafting a Romance in Medieval Anatolia: a Text-Image Question from the Illustrated Manuscript of Varqa and Gulshah”

**Dr. Helga Anetshofer** (ARIT-John Freely Fellow): "Women, Sexuality and Gender in Late Medieval Anatolian Hagiography”

**Johann Büssow** (Oriental Institute, University of Halle-Wittenberg): "The Exalted State and the Aneze Bedouin: Ottoman Tribal Politics in Syria

before and after the Tanzimat Reforms”

**Andrew Vorkink** (Department of Political Science, Boğaziçi University) "Turkey's Dilemma: International Waterways, Archaeology and Development”

**Professor Giancarlo Casale** (Department of History, University of Minnesota) "Imperial Identities: Maps, Geography, and the Idea of “Ottoman-ness” in the Sixteenth Century”

ARIT's oldest fellowship program in Turkey is its **Dernek scholarship program**, which has been supporting young scholars at Turkish universities for more than thirty years. This year application numbers were down, especially compared to the record number we received last year, but the quality was high. **The Dernek Fellowship Committee**, consisting of Professor Alan Duben (Bilgi University), Professor Günay Kut (Boğaziçi University), Professor Zafer Toprak (Boğaziçi University), and Professor İnci Delemen (Istanbul University), considered 16 applications, and decided to fund the following:

#### Post-doctoral level:

**Dr. Rana Özbal** (History Department, Boğaziçi University) "Preparation for the Publication of the Excavation Results at Tell Kurdu (Hatay)”

**Dr. Mehmet Fatih Yavuz** (History Department, Çanakkale 18 March University) "The History and Archaeology of Byzantium”

#### Doctoral level:

**Ms. Bilge Ar** (Architecture Department, Istanbul Technical University) "Structural Change in the Church of Aya Irine over Time”

**Ms. Ü. Melda Ermiş** (Art History Department, Istanbul University) "An Evaluation of Byzantine Period Architectural Activity in the Iznik Region”

**Mr. Edip Gölbaşı** (Ataturk Institute, Boğaziçi University) "Ottoman Policies towards the Kızılbash and Nosairian Communities in the Hamidian Period”

**Ms. Müge Özbek** (Atatürk Institute, Boğaziçi University) "The Regulation of Prostitution in the Late Ottoman Empire (1875-1922)”

We have entered the second year of **CAORC's center exchange program funded by the Getty Foundation** that provides scholars in countries with American overseas research centres the opportunity to travel and do research in other countries with such centers. Over the past winter and spring life at ARIT was enriched by the presence at ARIT of two fellows from the first year of the program, Dr. Theofanis Mavridis, working on Late Neolithic connections between Anatolia and the Aegean Islands, and Dr. Senzil Nawid, working on Turko-Afghan relations in the early 20th Century.

In the second year of the program ARIT will be hosting three fellows, **one from Algeria, Dr. Yousef Hocine**, working on Sufi Manuscripts in the Süleymaniye, and **Dr. Naseer Arafat and Dr. Shadi Ghadban, both from Palestine**. Their projects both relate to 19th-century Ottoman architecture in Palestine. From Turkey ARIT will be sending two scholars to other Mediterranean countries this year. **Sehriğül Yeşil-Erdek**, who works on the mosaics at Perge, will be going to the **Center for Maghrib Studies in Tunis** to study mosaic conservation and exhibition. **Bülent İşler** of Pamukkale University will be going to **American Academy in Rome** to do research related to his study of the early Byzantine settlement at Karabel-Asarcık in Lycia.

**Generous donations of books** keep our library going, and have made it the invaluable resource it is. For this ARIT and all its users are tremendously grateful. We are particularly grateful this spring to **Dr. Caroline Connor** of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for a donation of some 200 books in the area of Byzantine and classical studies, and to the **American Board library**, which has given us an interesting selection of late 19th- and early 20th-century mission publications and other duplicates from their library. A warm thanks to the following individuals and institutions for their recent donations:

Individuals: **Eliot Bates, Harriet Blitzer, Caroline Connor, Burak Çetintaş, Ertan Daş, Lydia Domaradzka, Suraiya Faroqhi, Nenad Filipovich, Richard Foltz, Gergana Georgieva, Joanne Greenwood, Robert Irwin, Brian Johnson, Klaus Kreiser, Heath Lowry, Bruce Masters, and Amy Singer.**

Institutions: **The American Board, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, ENKA Holding Company, Istanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi, OBIV, Sadberk Hanım Museum, and ISKİ.**

## ISTANBUL FRIENDS OF ARIT NEWS

There is no end to the new and fascinating places to visit in Turkey. After 25 years of arranging tours around the country, as many as fifteen a year, it sometimes seems like FARIT has just scratched the surface. The ideas, the proposals for trips to places unseen and sites as yet unvisited, bubble up much faster than FARIT can find the time to make the arrangements. More importantly, it takes time to find the kind of knowledgeable guides that make these trips special. We appreciate the many suggestions we receive from Friends for places to organize trips to, and regret that we are not able to act on them as often as we would like.

That said, this past season FARIT did manage to present a number of new itineraries; in fact every one of the trips that FARIT did had something new in it.

We began in the late fall with a trip to **Kaş and the Lycian coast** led by **Professor Julian Bennet** (Bilkent University). From Kaş, the group did a mini Mavi yolculuk to **Kekova**, travelling by boat eastward first to **Aperlai**, where they clambered around the site and then hiked over the headland to **Teimiusa**. There they were picked up by the boat and had a hearty lunch, then went on to **Simena (Kale)** and came back to Kaş for dusk and dinner by the harbor. The next day they spent the morning at **Xanthos, the Letoon and Patara**, the latter entirely transformed in recent years by the removal of the sand covering many monuments. In the late afternoon they visited the spectacular site of **Tlos**, enjoying the beautiful view over the plain in front and the winter sun over the snow-covered mountains behind.

In the early spring the Friends set off on an ambitious variant of a trip done several times before but always in smaller pieces. Led by the redoubtable **Dr. Geoffrey Summers** (Middle East Technical University), they began in **Urfa**, with a trip around the city and down to **Harran**. The following morning they visited for the first time the newly discovered sanctuary of

**Göbeklitepe**, the world's oldest temple, a site with spectacular animal-carved megaliths dating back to at least 9,000 BC. Then it was on to **Mardin** and to the **Monastery of Deyrülzaferan**, then back to Mardin for sunset at the **Kasımiye Medrese**. The following day the group toured **Midyat** and the **Monastery of Mar Gabriel**, then spent the afternoon at the dramatic Artukid remains at **Hasankeyf**, spectacularly located on a narrow passage of the Tigris. Finally on the last day they went to see the picturesque remains of the Roman garrison town at **Dara**, and then returned to tour the **walls of Diyarbakir** in the afternoon before flying back to Istanbul.

Later in May, one of ARIT's oldest friends and guides, **Professor Scott Redford** (Koç University), lead a FARIT group on another foray off the beaten track to an untouched and tourist-free part of Anatolia. This time the destination was the wild and little known **western coast of the Black Sea**. The group spent a day strolling through picturesque **Sinop**, on a peninsula at the northernmost tip of Anatolia and an important trading post throughout history, where Professor Redford is currently engaged in research. They then drove up over the mountains to **Kastamonu**, rich in Islamic period buildings, visiting en route the wooden mosque at **Kasaba**. The evening and following morning was spent in Kastamonu, strolling the city at leisure, and visiting its authentic markets, before moving on in the afternoon through **Boyabat** and **Taşköprü** to catch a return flight from the newly opened Çorum airport.

Over the past 25 years FARIT has organized many tours to different sections and different periods of the city's historic waterworks, from the aqueducts along the long walls and the late antique supply line in Northern Thrace to the cisterns in the city and the Ottoman aqueducts around the city. This spring FARIT did a different kind of waterworks tour, focusing only on the **Ottoman waterworks in the Belgrade forest**, the Taksim and Kırkçeşme systems, which are comprised of one aqueduct, five reservoirs and one pool. What made this tour special was that the group saw almost all parts of the system, and that it was all done on foot along forest paths (no cars to disturb them). The route linking the various parts of the system was a little over 8 kms long. Towards the end, after seeing

the remains of the original village that gave the forest its name, the group stopped for lunch at a very simple restaurant in the woods, a perfect end to a splendid day. Our guide was **Gencer Emiroğlu**, a member of FARIT, a trekking and nature sports enthusiast and a pioneer in Turkish orienteering, who worked out the route for this trek especially for our group.

The only sad note to the spring was the announcement by **Semrin Korkmaz**, FARIT Coordinator for seventeen years now (with a hiatus of one year in 2000), that she had decided to leave us in order to be able devote more time to her new passion, glassmaking. Fortunately for us she left slowly, coming in frequently on her own time to help us with major projects (like the annual dinner). Nevertheless we have already begun to miss her good humor and invariable good cheer, not to speak of her tremendous competence, both in the office and on all our tours. We wish her the best of luck. She is succeeded in the position of **FARIT Coordinator by Begüm Mutluer**, who brings with her a background in finance and a fascination with travel. We look forward to working with her on many new trips.

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## ARIT-ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

### ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

Winter activities began with the **bi-annual meeting of the directors of American overseas research centers** organized by the **CAORC**, our association of U.S. research centers abroad, and hosted by the **West African Research Center (WARC)** in Dakar, Senegal, which I attended alongside Nancy Leinwand and Tony Greenwood. Immediately following the CAORC meeting, I arrived in Philadelphia for my first ARIT board meeting in Philadelphia, where I had the wonderful opportunity to meet the board of directors and the body of ARIT member delegates.

The month of January maintained its active nature with numerous **ARIT and Friends of ARIT lectures** scheduled for late January – early February. In addition to a series of lectures sponsored by the Friends, a three-lecture series, traditionally sponsored by the Turkish American Association (TAA), brought together three scholars of different interests and backgrounds with diverse topics of research. In March, **Dr. Dylan Bloy** (Department of Classics, Gettysburg College) joined the Ankara crowd to discuss his work on the significance of goddess Cybele and Troy in East-West relations during the Roman era, in a lecture entitled “Cybele and Trojan Heritage in Rome’s Early Interactions with Anatolia.” Also in March, **Dr. Ann Killebrew**, an Associate Professor of the Archaeology of Levant at Pennsylvania State University and an ARIT fellow, delivered her findings during her ongoing archaeological survey project in southeast Turkey, in her lecture “The Mopsos Survey 2004-2008: Archaeology of Mediterranean Identities in Issos and Iskendrun Plains (Cilicia, Turkey).” Finally, **Dr. Owen Doonan** (Program in Art History and Art Department, California State University Northridge), who was spending a sabbatical semester at the Settlement Archaeology Program, Middle East Technical University (METU), delivered his survey and research findings in his lecture “Sinop Landscapes: Towards an Archaeology of Community in the Hinterland of a Black Sea Port.”

ARIT also co-sponsored a lecture and seminar held by the Anthropology Program of the Sociology Department at METU, where **Professor Robert Hayden** (Department of Anthropology, Pittsburgh University) and **Dr. Tuğba Tanyeri** (Director, Science of Technology Museum at METU) discussed with students and scholars the progress of their ongoing collaborative work, a lecture

entitled “Hidden in Plain Sight: Comparative Sharing of Religious Sites.”

A **celebration commemorating the late Professor Machteld J. Mellink** and the donation of a substantial portion of her personal library to Ankara ARIT stood out as a highlight among the spring activities. One of the greatest American scholars of Anatolian archaeology, Miss Mellink had retired in 1988 after teaching for five decades at the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College. She had passed away in 2006 at the age of eighty-eight. Many scholars in Ankara, as well as many others passing through Ankara on their way to Denizli to attend the 31st Annual Archaeological Symposium, joined ARIT’s celebration, which was entitled “Seeds for Anatolian Archaeology: ARIT and the Legacy of Machteld J. Mellink.” Several of Miss Mellink’s former students took part in the celebration, including the Executive Director of ARIT, **Dr. Nancy Leinwand**, who joined us from Philadelphia, and the Secretary of the American School of Classical Studies, **Dr. Robert Bridges**, who arrived from Athens. Other former students and speakers included **Dr. Ash Özyar** from Istanbul and **Dr. Marie-Henriette Gates** from Ankara, who each shared with the audience a variety of memories and insights into the mind, soul and teachings of this amazing archaeologist. **Melik Ayaz**, of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, also provided an evocative speech about experiences he had with her throughout decades of research she carried out in Turkey.

The collection of the **Toni M. Cross Library** increased since the beginning of January by 369 volumes of books, 37 issues of 38 journals and 15 newsletters. Of these, 66 books and 91 off-prints come from the Mellink donation and are now integrated into the library. The continued efforts of our librarian **Özlem Eser** resulted in the shipment of about 750 duplicate books and journals in six boxes to the **Eskişehir Anadolu University**, an institution which conferred an honorary doctorate in history upon Professor Mellink.

This spring several institutions and many individuals contributed to our collection with a large number of donations. We thank the **Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, the British School at Athens, and the Römisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts (DAI)** for their contributions. In addition, we are grateful to **Christopher Lightfoot, Christopher Roosevelt, David Schloen, Dilek Gungen,**

**Elif Denel, Duygu Çelik, Hatçe Baltacıoğlu, İlknur Özgen, Lee Ullmann, Lidia Domaradzka, Melih Arslan, Nicholas Cahill, Nicholas Postgate, Nimet Özgüç, Peter Ian Kuniholm, Rezan Hürmen, Robert Bridges, Şener Oktik, and Zeynep Çizmeli Ögün** for their donations of books and off-prints. Ten scholars used the library 28 times in January, seven scholars 27 times in February, seventeen scholars 47 times in March, thirteen scholars 37 times in April, fourteen scholars 40 times in March, and sixteen scholars 54 times in June.

Following the departure of our assistant, **Ms. Duygu Sapmaz**, we added a part-time member to our staff, **Ms. Melis Rona**, a recent graduate of Bilkent's Department of Art History and Archaeology. Melis has been helping mainly our librarian Özlem on various projects, including the incorporation of the Mellink donations into the Toni M. Cross Library.

A jury composed of Ankara and Istanbul ARIT Dernek members met in April in Ankara. The jury selected six scholars worthy for **George and Ilse Hanfmann and Machteld J. Mellink Fellowships** to carry out research outside of Turkey. **Dr. Canan Çakırlar** (Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations) will travel to Tübingen to carry out her research project, "A Zoo-archaeological Approach to Acculturation and Regional Transition Between Anatolia and Syria during Second Millennium BC: Case Studies from Kinet Höyük and Tell Atchana." **Ms. Güzden Varinlioğlu** (Ph.D. candidate at Bilkent University, Interior Architecture and Environmental Design) will travel to Texas A&M University to carry out her project, "Virtual Museum of Underwater Cultural Heritage," as part of her dissertation. To support of her dissertation research, **Ms. Aliye Erol** (Ph. D. candidate at Istanbul University, Ancient History) will conduct a research project titled "Ancient Anatolian Festivals from the Evidence of Coins" at the American Numismatic Society in New York, the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and the Ashmolean. **Mr. Aytaç Coşkun** (Dicle University, Archaeology) will travel to the German Archaeology Institute in Berlin, the Ephesus Museum and the Austrian Archaeology Institute in Vienna and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens to carry out a project in support of his dissertation work, called "The Development of Attic-Ionic Bases in Anatolia." **Ms. Özgü Çömezöglü** (Istanbul University, Art History) will conduct research at the Dumbarton Oaks and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens for her project, "Byzantine Period Pottery at the Settlement of Rhodiapolis (Kumluca-Antalya)." Finally, **Ms. Ebru Fatma Fındık** (Hacettepe University, Art History)

will travel to the Sackler, Oxford and Bodleian libraries and to the British Library to continue her investigations into medieval ceramic traditions in her project, "Medieval Glazed Ceramics Found on the Excavations of the Saint Nikolaos Church at Demre-Myra."

## ANKARA FRIENDS OF ARIT NEWS

The Ankara Friends of ARIT organized a lively series of lectures this winter that covered a wide range of topics. **Professor Charles Gates** (Bilkent University) and I initiated the 2009 lecture series with lectures we had delivered in the fall of 2008 at the ASOR meetings in Boston. Dr. Gates presented recent developments at Kinet Höyük excavations in his talk, "Achaemenid Persian and Hellenistic Periods at Kinet Höyük," while I delivered the presentation which I gave in the sessions organized to honor Harvard Professor Irene Winter, at which she was presented by her students with a Festschrift entitled "Between the Natural and the Supernatural: Eunuchs and the Kings in Assyrian Artistic Representation."

**Dr. Edward Kohn** from the American Culture and Literature Department at Bilkent University gave a widely attended lecture entitled "American Engagement with Turkey in the 20th Century." Dr. Kohn's presentation generated many questions and extensive discussion. **Mr. Abdülkadir Ersoy**, who owns a popular carpet shop in Ankara, shared his endeavors to establish weaving co-ops at the villages of formerly nomadic Yörük tribes in the Taurus Mountains in a presentation entitled "Fascinating World of Nomads." His insight into the lives of these spellbinding carpet and kilim makers was enhanced through a presentation of actual carpets and kilims from his own collection. Another local collector, **Alper Yurdemi**, delivered a hands-on lecture, "The Ottoman Legacy in Cloth and Embroideries," which highlighted the history of embroidery tradition in Turkey. During the evening, Alper Bey brought along rare examples from his extraordinary and rich embroidery collection for the audience to view.

Two Georgian art historians, **Dr. Nino Kavtaria and Dr. Irene Giviashvili**, joined forces for an in-depth presentation, "Medieval Georgian Monasteries of Turkey: Architecture and Illuminated Manuscripts," which shed light into a rarely known and understudied topic in the wider Anatolian cultural heritage. Finally, **Dr. Marie-Henriette Gates** (Bilkent University) shared with the Friends the experiences she had and the observations she made while she spent a semester as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in a lecture she titled "Practice of Archaeology in Israel."

The Friends of ARIT lectures for the spring were brought to an end by an interesting and pleasurable talk, "Pillars of the Sate: Ottoman Women and Architecture" delivered by

the keynote speaker, **Dr. Lucienne Thys-Şenocak** (Koç University), at the **Annual Dinner** in early June at the American Ambassador's Residence.

We grateful to **Ambassador James and Mrs. Gudrun Jeffrey**, who graciously opened up the Ambassador's Residence to the Friends for not only the **Annual Dinner** in June, but also the **Antiques Road Show** in April, soon after their arrival in Ankara. The Jeffreys are not new to Turkey, having lived in different parts the country on several occasions over the past twenty years. We are fortunate to have among us Gudrun Jeffrey, who has been extremely active in ARIT, not only as the honorary President of the Friends. She has already become an invaluable member of the Steering Committee.

The spring trips to a variety of fascinating regions in Turkey attracted substantial attendance by the Friends community here in Ankara. **Dr. Yaşar Ersoy** (Bilkent University), who is the director of Klazomenai excavations at Urla near Izmir as well as a native of Izmir, led the Presidents' Day trip in February to **Ephesus and the environs of Izmir**. A tour in **Ankara**, directed by **Dr. Julian Bennett** (Bilkent University), not only covered great church and local architecture, history, and archaeology, but also turned out to be a terrific investigation of local traditions of gastronomy. Great food!

The season's final long trip was in June and led by no other than Ankara ARIT's former director, **Dr. Bahadır Yıldırım**, who guided the Friends through **Aphrodisias and Nysa** and provided special access to new explorations currently carried out at both sites. Architectural historian **Dr. Elvan Altan Ergut** (Middle East Technical University) also provided special access to currently closed buildings

during the walking tour she directed in April through the **Republican architecture of Ankara**. Finally, the friends gained first-hand information on the archaeological progress made at **Gordion** from **Professor Ken Sams**, University of North Carolina, the President of ARIT, who is also the director of the Gordion excavations.

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**NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ARIT CONTRIBUTIONS 2008-2009**

**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 well 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. We deeply appreciate the support 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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## REPORT ON ARIT FELLOWSHIP

**Dr. Nicolas Trépanier**, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 2008-2009, History Department, Harvard University, *Land Use in the Avkat Region, 1250-1600*

During the 2008-2009 academic year, ARIT-NEH generously provided me with a postdoctoral fellowship for a project entitled “Land Use in the Çorum Region, 1250-1600.” Although intended for a six-month tenure, this grant was able to support my research throughout the entire year, during which I collected place and individual names, as well as complementary information, from endowment deeds (*vakfiyes*).

The first step in my research project consisted in visiting the National Directorate of Endowments (Vakıflar Genel Müdürlüğü) in Ankara, the central depository of *vakfiyes* in Turkey, in order to collect the relevant documents. I obtained approximately twenty *vakfiyes* from the province of Çorum (ranging from 670/1272 to 1057/1647). Unlike *vakfiyes* from later periods, written in Turkish, most of these documents use the Arabic language.

The next step was to set up the databases for the place names and the individual’s names appearing in these documents. These databases were crucial to my work, since they included possible alternative spellings, the role of the person or place in the document (e.g. endowed village, location of a supported hospice, legal witness, appointee, etc.), geographical or familial links between recorded items, and a number of other details for particular cases, such as references to the profession of an individual or unique geographical features. The database of people now contains nearly five hundred entries and the number of place references stands over six hundred and fifty. Although these numbers include duplicates, such entries are extremely useful insofar as they multiply the number of links it is possible to establish between the various entries, making it easier to locate a place or reconstruct an individual’s family or social network.

The primary objective of my research was to contribute to the Avkat Project, a large-scale archaeological survey studying the region of the antique Euchaita from Roman to Ottoman times. Although the name “Avkat” itself does not appear among the places mentioned in the documents I surveyed, the large number of entries in my database, coupled with the fairly limited geographical area covered (the province of Çorum), makes it relatively likely that neighboring places will eventually be identified. I have handed over the database of place names

to Professor John Haldon, director of the Avkat Project, and it will be put in relation with cadastral surveys (*Tapu Tahrir Defterleri*) of the region to identify the relevant contents.

Beyond a contribution to the Avkat Project, this research will also serve as the core dataset for a personal research and publication project. I intend to sift through the databases in order to find the core examples (villages, people and/or families) that will serve as the basis for a micro-historical study of the pre- and early Ottoman history of the Çorum region. This project will constitute the follow-up to my dissertation book, and is the main item on my research agenda once the latter is published.

During the course of the 2008-2009 academic year I had the opportunity to present a number of papers while in Turkey. Most important among these were two lectures given in October, 2008: “Belly, Soul and Neighbors: Food and Religious Identity in Late Medieval Anatolia,” presented at ARIT-Istanbul in October, and “Food and the Experience of Late Medieval Anatolia”, presented at Istanbul’s Orient Institut. I also completed an article entitled “Starting Without Food: Fasting and the Early Mevlevî Order,” which is currently under review for publication for a special issue of the *Princeton Papers in Near Eastern Studies*.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to ARIT and the NEH for supporting my research. A formal affiliation with ARIT and the many months I spent residing in ARIT-Istanbul’s hostel created wonderful opportunities for me to establish and nurture professional contacts and friendships with a large number of colleagues, all of which are a testament to the central place that ARIT, as an institution, holds in the field of Ottoman history.

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