



NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

No 41

DECEMBER 2023

This year was a bitter sweet one, with many happenings. In our newsletters we tried to share some of them. Following the February earthquake in South East Turkiye, our April edition was dedicated to Prof Nuriye Pınar, Turkiye's first female geologist and earthquake specialist. In June, in the context of a sustainable future, we talked about the dams in Switzerland, real engineering masterpieces. And in our October edition, dedicated to the 100th year anniversary of the Republic of Turkiye, we talked about Atatürk.

To finish the year on a cultural and savoury note, we would like to tell you about Turkish tea and coffee, both in the Unesco's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list, they are the symbols of identity, hospitality and social-interaction.

Turkish coffee or Türk kahvesi, has already been in Unesco's list since 2013. How it is cooked, how it is served, when it is served and what social role it plays are all components of the cultural heritage of the Turks. For instance Kahvaltı, Turkish word for breakfast, is defined and timed in its relationship with coffee, meaning it is a meal that precedes the coffee time. In the context of social interactions, the coffee prepared by the daughter of the house when the groom candidate visits with his parents to ask her hand in marriage, is the essential part of the ritual that has been in place for hundreds of years. Indeed, apparently in the past, if the girl was not keen on the proposal, she would add salt in the coffee to express her feeling. And of course, all of us had at least had his or her coffee fortune read once. It is also another ritual with its own disclaimer of "do not believe in but do not be without it".

As for the Turkish tea or çay, it entered the Unesco's list just one year ago. We had briefly mentioned the production of tea in Turkiye, as the 5th largest producer in the world, in our February 2020 edition. One other fact to add is that Turks are the largest consumers of the leaves harvested mainly in the Karadeniz region of the country. Indeed the taste and the flavour of Turkish tea leaves are very distinct, very special. It is not easy to find leaves in other parts of the world that would give the same result even if they were cooked in the traditional Turkish way. The making of Turkish tea is an art of daily life. Cooked in and served from two pots, it is the only drink that is consumed from breakfast till after dinner. The glasses it is served in, the "ince-belli" or with a literal translation, narrow-waisted, are also part of the cultural heritage. They are also somewhat painful part of the childhood souvenirs, as so many of us definitely had their fingers nearly burned by trying to hold them.

As we are all gathering with family and friends to celebrate the New Year, Turkish tea and coffee, let them warm our hearts and chats. We wish you all a cheerful festive season and a very Happy 2024!

Bezen Hong

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com

DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

Association Events

Fondue Night – February 8

Geneva

For RSV, please contact assosuisseturquie@gmail.com

General Meeting of the Association – March 26

Geneva

Details to follow

For future Association events : www.assocotr.ch

Nuri Bilge Ceylan's Exhibition at Istanbul's New Museum

Istanbul Modern, the new museum in the Karaköy neighbourhood designed by Genoa-born architect Renzo Piano, who had also designed the Centre Pompidou in Paris, is modernity itself reflecting dockside features, most likely inspired from the original purpose of the location where it is situated. The museum itself houses art, mostly by Turkish artists, ranging from photography to mid-century abstractions and AI.

Currently on display at the museum is an exhibition by Nuri Bilge Ceylan : In Another Place. The film director, winner of several Palmes d'Or, displays portraits taken both in Türkiye and around the world. For more information on the exhibition and museum <https://www.istanbulmodern.org/en>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Lausanne Bizim Lozan"

100th year edition. The much-praised book published by our Association is available for purchase at:

Letubooks Librairie d'Art in Geneva

Online on our website www.assocotr.ch

Bookstore Boyut Yayınevi and at D&R in Türkiye

We believe it will be a much-appreciated gift by your friends and family!

Cornucopia Magazine

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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Année Pierre Loti is Nearly Ending But His Re-edited Biography is Just Published

The author of Aziyade, the lover of Istanbul and a member of Académie Française, Pierre Loti is one of the first foreign authors Istanbulites may come to know from childhood, as the hill with his name overlooking the Golden Horn is well known and visited for its café and view (<https://www.pierrelotitepesi.com/hakkimizda2.asp>)

2023 was the 100th year anniversary of the death of the author. Gisèle Durero-Köseoğlu re-edited Loti's biography written by Claude Farrère and it was published this month. For more information :

<https://lepetitjournal.com/istanbul/comprendre-turquie/reedition-du-loti-de-claude-farrere-entretien-avec-gisele-durero-koseoglu-374688>

100th Year Anniversary of the Republic Conference on Lausanne Treaty was on October 29

The conference organized by the Federation of Turkish Associations in Swiss-Romandy was held at Palais Rumine in Lausanne, an historic building and most importantly the place where the treaty which decided

the final borders of the Turkish Republic was held. The conferenciers included Prof. Patrick Walsh, Prof. Maxime Gauin, Prof. Jean-Louis Chancerel and Prof. Tolga Yarman.

ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

Exhibitions and Events

In the Forests of the Night: Exhibition by Melike Kılıç
C.A.M. Gallery, Çukurcuma, Istanbul
Until January 27

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/in-the-forests-of-the-night/>

In Pursuit of an Ideal: Atatürk and Alaca Höyük
Yapı Kredi Kültür, Galatasaray, Istanbul

The exhibition explores the archaeological mobilisation initiated under Atatürk and displays 235 original artefacts from the excavations

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/in-pursuit-of-an-ideal/>

On the Spot: The Panoramic Gaze on Istanbul
Pera Museum, Istanbul

Until March 24

Exhibition on how images of Istanbul intersect with the historical evolution of the cityscape.

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/on-the-spot-panoramic-gaze-on-istanbul/>

In the Realm of Three Inland Seas
Salt Beyoğlu

Until April 14

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/in-the-realm-of-three-inland-seas/>

Lecture

Byzantium as Europe's Black Mirror
February 16 on zoom

Anthony Kaldellis, University of Chicago, discusses the role of Byzantium in Europe's idealization of itself.
Registration Details

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/byzantium-as-europes-black-mirror/>

Rich Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop

The Palace Lady's Summerhouse by Patricia Daunt

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