



NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISE TURQUIE

No 35

JUNE 2022

As everyone has already received the flash announcement of our next Republic Ball at the Pera Palace in Istanbul, it is very fitting that in this edition we give you some background on this famous, stylish, glimmering and luxurious belle-époque hotel.

Pera Palace Hotel began its journey in 1895 for the purpose of hosting the passengers of the Orient Express. Its architect Alexandre Vallaury, Ottoman of Levantine origin, designed a neo-classical exterior façade and an orientalist interior, such as the Kubbeli Saloon. The result was charming and has astonished generations of visitors. Pera Palace played host to some of history's most remarkable figures, and has lasted through the reigns of three Ottoman sultans, the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and the rise of the New Turkish Republic.

Room 101 is a museum to keep the memory of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The hotel was his favorite place and he stayed there many times between December 1915 and October 1917. On the 100th anniversary of his birth, in 1981, his favorite room was transformed into a museum where his personal objects of interest such as ebony chairs, exotic oriental carpets, and a rare black silk prayer rug are displayed.

A frequent visitor from 1926 to 1932, crime story novelist Agatha Christie's favorite room in the hotel was number 411. It now carries her name. During her lost 11 days, of which the mystery has not yet been solved, it is thought that she had been staying at Pera Palace Hotel, and that she wrote her famous novel, *Murder on the Orient Express*.

As the first modern hotel in Istanbul to have electricity during the late Ottoman period, Pera Palace Hotel's fame as a leader in improvement was further approved when it was the first hotel to establish an electric lift. With the deluxe assistance of a lift boy, famous guests like Zsa Zsa Gabor and Ernest Hemingway did enjoy traveling in the ascending cage up to their room. Ernest Hemingway was a resident of the hotel after the World War I, when he was a reporter.

Other famous guests include King Edward VIII, Queen Elizabeth II, Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph, Shah Reza Pahlavi, Greta Garbo, Sarah Bernhardt, Alfred Hitchcock, Pierre Loti, Jacqueline Kennedy and Mata Hari.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the ball in Pera Palace Hotel. We also wish you a wonderful summer and great holidays till we meet again at our next edition in October.

Editors

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

JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Association Events

Happy Hour – June 16 at 6 pm at Studio ART

Exhibition opening of “Behind my Strokes”, paintings by Ms. Izim Çetindağ sponsored by Association Suisse-Turquie

Istanbul Swiss Day – September 23-25

The annual 3-day event organized by the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Turkey, promotes a unique platform to promote Switzerland and Swiss companies. Our association will participate to it with the book “Lausanne Bizim Lozan”.

Republic Ball– October 29

Pera Palace Hotel, Istanbul

We will be celebrating the 99th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey in this special location.

For future Association events : www.assoctr.ch

Member Events

Exhibition of Melis Candan Mumcular – June 23 at 6pm

Theatre Madeleine, Geneva

In this exhibition of art and book, author and painter Mumcular offers a unique approach: her paintings reflect the world of thought and emotion which, she believes enriches multicultural environments; her first book Ganbatte was born from her wish to share experience and a desire to direct value to her country

Voyage October 15-22

Travel to Carya Golf Club, in Antalya’s Belek Region, at Hôtel Regnum, organized by our member golf coach, Leila Üngün.

Information and pre-registration: info@golf-fit.ch

Presentation of Ali Rıza Tuna on his new book “From Myth to Art: Anatolian Kilims”

To be scheduled

Ali Rıza Tuna, who is also our member, is an independent researcher and textile collector in various aspects of early Anatolian carpets. His research focuses on aesthetics and design development of Turkish carpets from 13th to 16th centuries, as well as on Anatolian kilims and other weavings.

Other Events

50th Istanbul Music Festival – till June 24

Istanbul Music Festival is back live! As in the past, international and national artists, orchestras, cameratas will meet with music lovers through many concerts that will take place in various locations such as Atatürk Cultural Center, Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Şerefiye Cistern, Süreyya Opera House... For the full program and tickets : <https://muzik.iksv.org/en/programme>

Exhibition “Şahmeran 34” – till August

This street exhibition which will last till August unites 34 artists who painted 34 versions of Ayla Turan’s Şahmeran statue. Şahmeran, the name of the queen of snakes, is part of an Anatolian legend. Why 34? Because it is Istanbul’s post code. These statues are spread through main centers of Istanbul such as Taksim, Mecidiyeköy, Beşiktaş, Maçka, Bebek, Eminönü, Kadıköy, Bağdad Caddesi. In the autumn, these statues will be auctioned in order to provide scholarships to young girls. (more on the exhibition and the story of Şahmeran are in the link: <https://lepetitjournal.com/istanbul/a-voir-a-faire/istanbul-rendez-vous-exposition-rue-sahmeran-34-339236>)

Gaspare Fossati and the Dominican Complex of Ss Peter and Paul in Galata – till September 30

Friday, Saturday, Sunday | 14.30 – 17.30. To book a visit: info@senpiyer.org. Free entry
Priory of Sen Piyer, Kuledibi, Galata Kulesi Sk. No: 26, Beyoğlu, 34420 Istanbul

Housed in one of the churches they designed, this exhibition curated by Paolo Girardelli, offers insights into the Fossati brothers’ Istanbul through the story of the church of Saints Peter and Paul in Galata, and its neighbourhood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New website

Please note: to improve the security of our website, we have changed our web address to www.assoctr.ch

“Lausanne Bizim Lozan”

The much-praised book published by our Association is available for purchase at:

Bookstore Letu in Geneva

Online on our website www.assoctr.ch

And also

on <https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=22298731039&searchurl=sortby%3D0%26vci%3D601833>

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

Cornucopia Magazine

Our annual sponsor and the source of many events that take place in Turkey and around the world, is now also digital and includes all the past editions.

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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

2nd Beyoğlu Culture Route Festival

The festival that took place between May 28 and June 12 englobed 1'500 events in each branch of arts and culture in 40 venues, 62 halls, 3 open-air stages and 15 street stages with the participation of 4'953 artists.

ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

Exhibitions

Özgür Demirci: Anthology of Promises

Pilot, Sıraselviler Caddesi No. 83/2, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Until June 18

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/oezguer-demirci-anthology-of-promises/>

The Prince's Extraordinary World: Abdülmecid Efendi

Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Istanbul

Until July 3

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-princes-extraordinary-world/>

David Hockney: The Arrival of Spring, Normandy 2020

Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Istanbul

Until July 29

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/david-hockney-the-arrival-of-spring-normandy-2020/>

And Now the Good News: Works from the Nobel Collection

The Pera Museum, Istanbul

Until August 7

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/and-now-the-good-news/>

Intersecting Past and Present

ANAMED Research Center, Istanbul

Until October 17, 2022

https://www.cornucopia.net/events/intersecting-past-and-present/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March+2022+Arts+Diary&utm_source=YMLP

Miscellaneous Istanbul

Yapı Kredi Bomontiada, Istanbul

Until December 31°

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/miscellaneous-istanbul/>

Lasting Impressions : People, Power, Piety

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, Washington DC

https://www.cornucopia.net/events/lasting-impressions/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March+2022+Arts+Diary&utm_source=YMLP

Festivals

Bodrum Art Fair

Bodrum Herodot Culture and Fair Center

From June 28 to August 29

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/bodrum-art-fair/>

Rich Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop

Blue Guide: Mediterranean Turkey: From Muğla to Antakya, by Paola Pugsley

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/blue-guide-mediterranean-turkey/>

Vol 2 of Impressions of Istanbul: Voyage to Constantinople,

A magnificent compendium of selected titles in the Ömer Koç Collection, covering the years 1821–1850

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/impressions-of-istanbul-voyage-to-constantinople-vol-2/>

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