



## NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

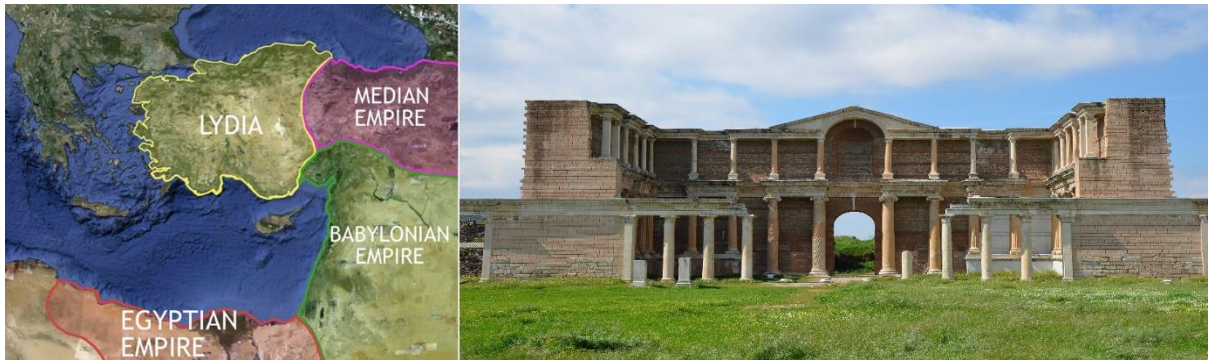
No 43

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After a long period of cold and rain, summer finally seems to have arrived. Many have already done the plans, but for those who are still hesitating, here are some ideas in Türkiye.

Going eastwards from Izmir, at 40km, there is Manisa, the city of Shehzades (princes). Historically, Manisa served as the training ground for the sons of sultans, where they received education and learned the arts of governance and military command. Due to its importance, Manisa was considered a second capital during the Ottoman era. For instance, Fatih Sultan Mehmet who arrived there at the age of ten, on and off, spent ten years in the city. The old town of Manisa is rich in historical edifices dating from 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. These include schools (medrese), mosques, hammams, hospitals, hotels (kervansaray) and fountains. Muradiye mosque and its complex was designed by Mimar Sinan. Topographically, Manisa is happily situated, just at the foot of the Mount Spil which provides a lush green backdrop to the city's elegant architecture. The hand-woven fabric sector is centuries old in Manisa and is preserved through handcraft schools. Shops are adorned with cotton fabrics shimmering like silk in hundreds of colours. One of the most celebrated events in Manisa is the annual Mesir Macunu Festival. This tradition dates back to the 16th century and celebrates the Mesir paste, a unique blend of 41 spices believed to have medicinal properties. The festival includes parades, cultural performances, and the distribution of Mesir paste from the Sultan Mosque's minaret, attracting visitors from all over Türkiye.

Between Manisa and Uşak, there is the ancient town of Sardis (Sart). The seat of Lydian empire which ruled the western Anatolia between 1200 BC and 547 BC, Sardis holds a unique place in the history. Lydians played a vital role in the cultural interchanges between Greece and the great civilizations of Mesopotamia and the Near East.



Lydian Empire at the time of King Croesus and the Roman Gymnasium

Unesco describes Sardis as “one of the preeminent cities of the ancient world, the capital of an empire that ruled western Anatolia, the birthplace of coinage, and the home of Croesus, whose name became

synonymous with unimaginable wealth". The city was an exemplary model of urban planning, encircled by the largest fortification outside Mesopotamia, competing with the great cities of the time such as Nineveh, Nimrud, and Babylon. The devastating fall of Sardis to the Persians in 547 BC ended this empire, but the location was later used and rebuilt by Romans and Byzantines. Today, there is not much left from the Lydian period, except the tumulus cemetery at Bin Tepe, considered one of the largest tumuli in the world, rivalling the pyramids of Giza for sheer size. However, excavations continue. Sardis' well-preserved Roman buildings include a monumental bath-gymnasium building and the largest synagogue of the ancient world.

Continuing further east, the city of Uşak awaits. Known for its famous carpets that can be seen in the paintings by Vermeer, Holbein and Lotto among many others, Uşak has a rich cultural heritage. The city suffered greatly during the Greek occupation, with a third of it being burned by withdrawing Greek forces in 1922. In the last three years, some old Turkish streets are being reborn from the ashes thanks to a large-scale renovation project. The greatest attraction of Uşak is its archeological museum. It houses the permanent exhibition "The treasures of Croesus" which has over 400 objects from the period of Lydian empire. The craftsmanship, detail and beauty of these objects have no equal in its time and for many centuries thereafter.



We wish you all a very nice summer and great holidays.

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at [assosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:assosuisseturquie@gmail.com)

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### **Association Events**

Republic Ball – November 16

Save the Date

For future Association events: [www.assoctr.ch](http://www.assoctr.ch)

### **Member Events**

Our member Hülya Kurt gave a complimentary Masterclass on 18 th of June - Break Free Mastery. You can follow her future events on <https://innkick.com/>

## **Other Events**

### **Montreux Jazz Festival – from July 5 to 20**

As ever, the 58<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival offers a very rich program with Zucchero, Sting, Duran Duran, Dionne Warwick and many others taking the stage. All the details, tickets and the full program can be found in: <https://www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/>

### **Carouge Dessiné – Until August 30**

This open-air exhibition by 22 artists in the streets of Carouge returns for its second edition. Details and the plan of the streets are in the following link: <https://www.carouge.ch/carouge-dessine-2eme-edition>

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Donation**

We made a donation to celebrate the April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day for the young students of the Yağmurlu village school in the Akçadağ district of Malatya, which was affected by the earthquake disaster. To help the children at the school return to their normal lives, the Sevgi Volunteers have been working to set up library, music, and sports sections. As the Association Suisse-Turquie, we contributed to the sports section with a table tennis table, balls, and rackets.

### **“Lausanne Bizim Lozan”**

**100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**

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.

Subscribe to Cornucopia Magazine in time for the next issue  
<http://www.cornucopia.net/store/subscriptions/>

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## **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

### **52<sup>nd</sup> Istanbul Music Festival took place between May 20 and June 12**

This year's programme included Festival Strings Lucerne and Maria Joao Pires, Gülsin Onay and Khatia Buniatishvili.

### **Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year**

Founded in 1984, the chamber has more than 150 members from both countries.

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## **ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine**

## **Exhibitions and Events**

### The Josephine Powell Collection at the Vehbi Koç House

Büyükdere

Until June 30

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/josephine-powell-collection-in-the-vehbi-koc-house/>

### Kilims and Flatweaves from Private Collections

Tophane

Until July 7

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/kilims-and-flatweaves-from-private-collections-at-the-historical-tophane-i/>

### The Splendid Topkapı Palace Collection at Dolmabahçe Palace

Beşiktaş, Istanbul

Until July 7

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/topkap-textiles-exhibition-at-dolmabahce-palace/>

### On the spot: Panoramic Gaze on Istanbul

The Pera Museum, Istanbul

Until August 18

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

### A Special Textile Exhibition for ICOC

Turkish and Islamic Art Museum

Sultanahmet

Until September 3

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/turkish-and-islamic-arts-museum/>

## **Lectures**

### Remembering and Forgetting: Britain, Turkey, and the Occupation of Istanbul, 1918-1923

By Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal

The Royal Anthropological Institute

July 9, at 6pm U.K. time

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/remembering-and-forgetting-britain-turkey-and-the-occupation-of-istanbul-19/>

## **Rich Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop**

The Adventure of the Second Wife

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/the-adventure-of-the-second-wife/>

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