



## NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

No 47

April 2025

To students, the spring's arrival has always brought renewed energy for the upcoming exams in May and June. In Istanbul, they are often seen studying in outdoor cafés and tea houses. One such place is Beyazıt Meydanı (Beyazıt Square) in front of Istanbul University. The square, as well as the university buildings surrounding it, were renovated in 2022. The emerging beauty of these buildings immediately invites inquiry into their history.

Architecturally, the university's Beyazıt campus is iconic, reflecting a fascinating blend of Ottoman heritage and European influence. Initially the site of the Eski Saray (Old Palace), the area transformed in the 19th century when architect Marie-Augustin-Antoine Bourgeois designed the central stone building in 1865, initially serving as the Ottoman Ministry of War. Later, after significant earthquake damage in 1894, it underwent meticulous restoration under renowned Italian architect Raimondo D'Aronco. The grand entrance gate and distinctive clock towers, constructed in an eclectic style by Mustafa Şem'i Pek, further added to the university's architectural grandeur, making it one of Istanbul's most recognizable landmarks.

While the buildings are relatively recent, the origins of the university itself is much older. Founded at the crossroads of history and culture, Istanbul University traces its roots to the Sahn-ı Seman medreses established by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror immediately after the conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Officially recognized in its modern form and name in 1933, Istanbul University has continuously served as a prestigious institution of higher learning.



Istanbul University hosted eminent scholars such as Wilhelm Röpke and Fritz Neumark, and produced distinguished alumni whose impacts resonate globally. Notably, the university proudly claims two Nobel laureates: Orhan Pamuk, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2006, and Aziz Sancar, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2016. Additionally, the university boasts a remarkable array of alumni including David Ben-Gurion, the primary founder and first Prime Minister of Israel, and several Israeli ministers who significantly shaped the nation's history and renowned authors such as Yahya Kemal Beyatlı, Halide Edip Adivar, and Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar, whose literary contributions have profoundly influenced Turkish literature and culture. As Istanbul University progresses into the future, its motto, "Bridge from History to the Future," remains profoundly relevant.

We hope that on your next visit to Istanbul, you will take a moment to sip tea or coffee under the century-old plane trees of Beyazit Square, enjoy a view of the bustling student life, and admire the beauty of the surrounding buildings. We wish you a lovely spring season and a very Happy 23 April Children's Day!

Bezen Hong

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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## **APRIL AND MAY EVENTS**

### **Association Events**

#### Golf For Beginners – May 18

Golf de Lavaux

Details to follow

#### Happy Hour in June

Geneva

Date and details to follow

RSVP at [assosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:assosuisseturquie@gmail.com)

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

### **Member Events**

#### Golf Voyage to Antalya between 17.10-24.10.2025

For more information on the annual trip organised by our member Leila Ungun kindly write to [info@golf-fit.com](mailto:info@golf-fit.com).

#### Tasting Istanbul

Our member, Nalan Miri Sözer, is organizing Tasting Istanbul. To register, please contact [nalanzozer@gmail.com](mailto:nalanzozer@gmail.com)

### **Other Events**

#### Research Festival at the Graduate Institute – May 13 at 12:00

Graduate Institute, La Fabrique de la Paix

This interesting dedicated to bring students, researchers and intellectually curious will together have interactive exhibits, dynamic discussions and inspiring exchanges:

<https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/communications/events/research-festival-graduate-institute>

#### 55th Fête de la Tulipe -Until May 12

Parc de l'Indépendance, Morges

The annual tulip festival showcasing over 120,000 tulips of 300 varieties, celebrating spring with floral displays.

<https://www.tempslibre.ch/val-de-romandie/manifestations/424758-f-te-de-la-tulipe-morges>

#### Friendly match between Turkiye and Switzerland – June 7

In preparation for 2026 FIFA World Cup, a friendly match will take place in the US, the host of the next cup, in Connecticut. More information and link to ticketing at:

<https://findingconnecticut.com/pratt-whitney-stadium-at-rentschler-field-to-host-turkey-vs-switzerland/>

#### 53<sup>rd</sup> Istanbul Music Festival – June 11-26

This year's theme is 'Beyond Borders', redefining boundaries in music and moving through geographical boundaries. Geneva Camerata's concert will take place on June 18. The full program and ticket information can be found: <https://muzik.iksv.org/en/programme>

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Donations

Our association makes regular donations to various foundations and schools both in Switzerland and Türkiye. Our website has a specific page on these: <https://www.assoctr.ch/fr/yardimlarimiz>

### "Lausanne Bizim Lozan"

100<sup>th</sup> year Edition

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

Online on our website [www.assoctr.ch](http://www.assoctr.ch)

Bookstore Boyut Yayınevi (<https://www.boyutstore.com/bizim-lozan-lausanne>)

and at D&R in Türkiye

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

### Cornucopia Magazine

Our annual sponsor and the source of many events that take place in Türkiye 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

### Centennial of the Türkiye-Switzerland Friendship Treaty – March 20

A special program was held in Ankara to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the treaty (19 Eylül 1925 Dostluk Anlaşması) with the event featuring a cultural exhibition and an economic forum focused on sustainable development.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkiye-switzerland-celebrate-century-of-friendship-future-ties?>

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## ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

### Exhibitions

#### The Volcano Lover

Galerist, Istanbul

Until April 26

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-volcano-lover/>

#### Elisa Zonaro's Istanbul

Kazlıçeşme Sanat, Istanbul

Until May 31<sup>st</sup>

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/elisa-zonaros-istanbul/>

### Creatures of Comfort

OMM Odunpazarı Modern Museum, Eskişehir

Until July 20

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/creatures-of-comfort/>

### Doug Aitken: Naked City

Borusan Contemporary, Rumelihisarı, Istanbul

Until August 17

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/doug-aitken-naked-city/>

### Fikret Mualla: A Route Beyond the Limits of the Mind

Erimtan Archaeology and Arts Museum, Ankara

Until September 7

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/fikret-mualla-a-route-beyond-the-limits-of-the-mind/>

## **Events**

### Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra with Kian Soltani

Atatürk Cultural Centre (AKM), Beyoğlu, Istanbul

April 18, 2025

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/istanbul-state-symphony-orchestra-with-kian-soltani/>

### Ayten Alpman: A Timeless Jazz Journey

Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall (CRR), Maçka, Istanbul

April 18, 2025

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/ayten-alpman-a-timeless-jazz-journey/>

### András Szalai (cimbalom) & Péter Szűcs (clarinet)

All Saints Moda, Moda, Istanbul

April 24, 2025

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/andras-szalai-cimbalom-peter-szucs-clarinet/>

## **Rick Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop**

### Tulips and Peacocks: William Morris and Art from the Islamic World by Rowan Bain

Yale University Press

An introduction to William Morris's personal collection of artworks from the Islamic world and how they came to influence his pattern-making. One of the principal founders of the Arts and Crafts movement, William Morris was responsible for hundreds of patterns for wallpapers, fabrics, tapestries, and carpets that are iconic of the late nineteenth century and continue to resonate today. It is now widely acknowledged that his artistic production was stimulated by his deep familiarity with embroideries, woven velvets, silks, carpets, and metalwork from Iran, Syria, and Turkey, which he collected throughout his lifetime.

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/tulips-and-peacocks-william-morris-and-art-from-the-islamic-world/>

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