



NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

No 49

October 2025

This edition marks the 10th year anniversary of the Newsletter of the Association. Over the years, it has been a joyful adventure to discover and share news that resonates with both Swiss and Turkish members, helping us learn more about each other's cultures. To celebrate this milestone, which coincides with the centenary of the friendship treaty between our two countries, it seems fitting to turn to music, and to a music that, in its very essence, calls a friend from afar.

The imagery of Swiss Alps with snow-capped ridges, green valleys dotted with cows, and wooden chalets adorned with geraniums, would not be complete without the sound of the cor des Alpes. Haunting yet majestic, its notes drift across the mountains and valleys, as much a part of the landscape as stone and sky.

The cor des Alpes has no single inventor, no single workshop where it first came to life. Instead it emerged slowly, shaped by geography and necessity. Mountain peoples around the world have long relied on large wooden horns to project sound across distances. In Scandinavia there is the *lur*, in Tibet the enormous dungchen. In the Alps, shepherds and herdsmen developed their own version, fashioned from trees that grew curved on the slopes, hollowed and bound into tubes, with a mouthpiece carved from hardwood. The finished horn stretched three or four meters along the ground, sometimes longer. Archaeological traces go back as far as Roman times: a mosaic at Orbe depicts a musician playing a horn nearly two meters long. By the sixteenth century, Swiss abbeys were already paying players to use what they called the "alphorn," and the naturalist Conrad Gessner described the instrument in his writings. What began as an improvised tool gradually took on a recognizable form.

At first the purpose was entirely practical. Life in the high pastures meant distance and isolation, and sound had to travel. The cor des Alpes served as an acoustic bridge, able to carry clear tones for kilometers. Herdsmen could summon their cows at milking time with a particular call, or alert one another to danger. Slowly, as the calls grew more elaborate, music crept in. A herdsman experimenting with breath might turn a simple signal into a melody, and from there the line between tool and instrument began to blur. Musically, the cor des Alpes is what specialists call a natural horn. It has no valves, no keys, no holes. The player controls pitch solely with the lips, tightening or loosening them to climb the harmonic series of the tube.

By the nineteenth century, as Europe fell in love with folklore, the cor des Alpes was rediscovered as a cultural emblem. Festivals began to feature alphorn playing, and paintings and postcards portrayed the horn as a symbol of rustic purity. What had once been a shepherd's tool became a badge of Swiss identity. Today one of the great gatherings is the festival in Nendaz, held each July, where hundreds of players perform together, the horns tilted toward the sky as the notes roll across the ridges and echo the enduring voice of the Alps.

We wish a relaxing "vacances de patate" to all in school and a Happy Republic's Day on the 29th.

Bezen Hong

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

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER EVENTS

Association Events

Republic Ball – November 1

We will celebrate both the 100th anniversary of Swiss-Turkish Friendship Treaty and 102nd anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

RSVP at assosuisseturquie@gmail.com

For future Association events: www.assoctr.ch

Member Events

Women Presidents Organisation (WPO) – October 9 at 6pm

Our member Ms. Hülya Kurt is launching the Geneva chapter of this organisation for woman leadership. For event details and rsvp: <https://lnkd.in/dhXweh3j>

Our member Ms. Özgür Mumcular creator of **Studio-Ozz Geneve-Digital Originality**

<https://studio-ozz.ch> is happy to offer her creative solutions for your websites.

Please contact her directly for further information at info@studio-ozz.ch

Other Events

Festival Jazzcontreband – Till October 30

Taking place in various locations in Geneva and Annecy, this is a great festival for jazz lovers. For the full program: <https://jazzcontreband.com/programme-festival/>

62nd Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival – from 24.10 to 2.11

Antalya

One of Türkiye's major film festivals it selects best Turkish movies of the year.

31st Geneva International Film Festival – from 31.10 to 9.11

Geneva

While an international event, the festival also aims to promote Swiss film industry. Apparently, this edition will spotlight three Swiss series including a transalpine crime drama! The full program will be available on October 9 at:

<https://www.giff.ch/en/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Lausanne Bizim Lozan"

100th year Edition

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

Online on our website 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!

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>

Ile de Prince book series

Akillas Millas' quadrilogy, Büyükada, Burgazada, Heybeliada and Kınalıada (in Turkish) can be ordered through our member Rea Pournaras (reapournaras@gmail.com)

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.

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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

"Golden Age of Archaeology" Exhibition in Ankara

In September 2025, Türkiye opened a major exhibition in its national library that displays over 570 artefacts newly excavated in recent years. It features, among others, a Roman statue of Marcus Aurelius that was returned after legal dispute in the U.S. The show is part of the government's large-scale heritage initiative.

"Legacy for the Future" Project (Türkiye)

In August 2025, Türkiye officially launched or renewed a heritage initiative under the name "Legacy for the Future," aiming to transform traditional archaeological workflows and expand excavation efforts across 251 sites. One goal is that in four years, the project's output will equal what was achieved in sixty earlier years.

Archaeology & Museum Reopenings (Türkiye)

In June 2025, Türkiye reopened museums like the Manisa Museum (after a 25-year closure) and the Trabzon Museum (after major restoration). The June archaeological news roundup also mentions night museum programs in places like Ephesus and Topkapı Palace, and restoration of historical sites like Ünye Castle

Glaciers shrink sharply (Switzerland)

Switzerland's glaciers lost about 3 % of their ice volume between October 2024 and September 2025 — their fourth-largest annual retreat on record. This continues a troubling trend: over the last decade, around a quarter of Switzerland's glacial mass has disappeared. The report links the accelerated melt to low winter snow and intense summer heatwaves.

ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

Exhibitions

Timurtaş Onan: Transforming City

Barın Han, Çemberlitaş

Until October 26

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/timurtas-onan-transforming-city1/>

IKSV's 18th Biennial: The Three-Legged Cat

In 8 venues around Istanbul

Until November 23

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/iksvs-18th-biennial/>

Dark World: a film on the life of Aşık Veysel

Salt Galata, Istanbul

Until December 14

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/dark-world-a-fim-on-the-life-of-ak-veysel/>

Rick Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop

Fishermen of Kumkapı by Ara Güler (2024)

With colour and black and white photographs. In Turkish and English.

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/fishermen-of-kumkapi/>

City Cats of Istanbul by Marcel Heijnen (2025)

For the cat lovers!

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/city-cats-of-istanbul/>

The Palace Lady's Summerhouse and other inside stories from a vanishing Turkey

By Patricia Daunt

From Istanbul's palatial old embassies to its glorious Bosphorus summerhouses, from Ottoman Paris to Ankara's Art Deco, from rainforest mansions to a mad mosque in the mountains... a diplomat's wife reveals surprising secret histories. This book brings together essays by Patricia Daunt written for Cornucopia Magazine over the past twenty-five years. It concludes with her latest article, on the magnificent ruins of Aphrodisias, newly listed as a World Heritage Site, but long one of her greatest loves.

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/the-palace-ladys-summerhouse/>

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