



NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

No 45

DECEMBER 2024

In this last month of 2024, when everybody is busy choosing gifts that come from all over the world, some of us might be reminded of the Silk Road, which effectively was the world's first global trade network. One of the most prominent cities of this trade network was Bursa in Türkiye. Having joined the Unesco World Heritage list in 2015, the city has a very special background. Nestled against the slopes of Mount Uludağ, Bursa's story is one of silk, sultans, and sublime architecture. In the early days, its reputation grew under the Byzantine Empire, when Emperor Justinian introduced silk production to the region. This innovation made Bursa a key player in the silk trade, a status it would carry into its golden era during the Ottoman period.

When the Ottomans established Bursa as their first capital in the 14th century, they transformed the city into a model of urban design and governance. The kulliyes—multi-functional complexes built by successive sultans—were at the heart of this transformation. These architectural ensembles included mosques, schools, public baths, kitchens, and tombs. Cumalıkızık, a rural waqf village providing income for these kulliyes, adds another layer of historical significance, showcasing the connection between rural and urban systems under the Ottoman waqf framework. Bursa represents the early Ottoman urban system, where kulliyes served as the nuclei for city planning. Its integration of architecture, community, and commerce set a template for Ottoman cities that followed. Among the notable buildings, the Grand Mosque, Ulu Camii, commissioned by Sultan Bayezid I, remains a monumental example of early Ottoman architecture with its distinctive 20 domes and elegant inscriptions. Similarly, the Green Mosque, built by Sultan Mehmed I, is a masterpiece of intricate tile work and harmonious design.

Parallel to its architectural innovations, Bursa flourished as a centre of the silk trade. By the 15th century, it had become a pivotal point on the Silk Road, linking Eastern and Western markets. Raw silk from China and Persia arrived in abundance, with Italian merchants, from Venice, Florence and Genoa playing a key role in trade. Bursa also became an essential stop for merchants seeking quality textiles. Koza Han, a grand marketplace constructed in 1491, became the nucleus of Bursa's silk commerce, where traders negotiated deals for precious fabrics, a symbol of wealth and prestige. Its silk products were sought after for their exceptional quality, and the city remained a vital player in the global textile market.

The integration of silk production with urban development underlined Bursa's role as both a cultural and economic powerhouse. In addition, Bursa retains a spiritual importance with the tombs of early Ottoman sultans, including Osman, the empire's founder, are located here, preserving the city's status as a place of reverence. Today, Bursa's legacy endures in its stunning architecture, vibrant markets, and its role in shaping Ottoman urban and economic identity.

We wish you all a joyful festive season and a very Happy New Year!

Bezen Hong

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

DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

Association Events

Happy Hour – December 18 from 6pm

Geneva

We look forward to seeing our members at this last Happy Hour of the year to raise a glass to 2025.

RSVP at assosuisseturquie@gmail.com

Fondue Night – February 5

Geneva

For RSVP, please contact assosuisseturquie@gmail.com

For future Association events: www.assoctr.ch

Other Events

Course de l'Escalade – December 7 and 8

Geneva

The 46th edition of this running and walking event will once again fill the streets of the Old Town with runners from all ages and increasingly from many other countries including Kenya and Ethiopia. This year there is a record of 57 thousand participants up from 54 thousand last year. For more information and details: <https://escalade.ch/>

La fête de l'Escalade – December 14 and 15

Geneva

The Grand cortège will be starting at 5pm on Sunday the 15th. For the full programme and the itinerary: <https://www.1602.ch/les-corteges/>

The Taviloğlu Collection – Exhibition in Istanbul until December 15

The collection which Mustafa Taviloğlu started with great excitement in 1972 and has continued to expand with passion and dedication for 52 years, stands out for its diversity of artists, periods, styles, techniques, and mediums. Containing 2412 works by 903 artists, it offers an essential memory of modern and contemporary Turkish art history. From painting to photography, video, sculpture, installation, and digital works, from masters of Turkish painting to today's young contemporary artists, the collection provides an extensive overview of Turkish art. For more information:

<https://taviloglukoleksiyon.org/bkh.php>

Christmas Market in Geneva – Noël au Quai until December 24

This year Geneva's Christmas market moved to Quai du Mont Blanc. There are gift and food stands, a Chalet à Fondue with views over the lake, a Christmas Pub and activities for kids. More details on

<https://www.noel-au-quai.ch/>

Bô Noël in Lausanne – until December 31

Various locations

The Christmas market and activities in Lausanne are spread out in 8 locations through the town. For details: <https://bo-noel.ch/>

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”

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.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/>

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

46th Istanbul Marathon took place on November 3

This unique experience of running on two continents was enjoyed by runners from more than 100 countries, with Kenyans and Ethiopians dominating the top places.

17th Swiss-Turkish Forum took place on November 17

The forum served as a dynamic platform, uniting visionaries, industry leaders, and experts to deliberate on the indispensable role of renewable energy in shaping a secure and sustainable future. Various speakers delved into the economic advantages of embracing renewable energy solutions, highlighting not only the environmental benefits but also the strategic and financial advantages for businesses.

Internationally acclaimed Turkish scholar on ancient Sumeria, Muazzez İlmiye Çığ died in November

Born in 1914, she was known for her research in Sumerology and her contributions to the field of ancient Near Eastern studies. Sumerology is the study of the history, language, and culture of the Sumerians, the earliest known human civilization, emerging in the historical region of southern Mesopotamia during the Chalcolithic and early Bronze Ages between the sixth and fifth millennium BC.

ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

Exhibitions and Events

Prinkipo Mon Amour: Büyükada’s 19th century photographs

Splendid Palas Hotel

Until January 5, 2025

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/principi-mon-amour>

Sorry to Say but Art is not a Kodak Photograph: Avni Lifiç’s reborn photographs

1851. Gallery, Akatlar, Istanbul

Until January 18

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/sorry-to-say-but-art-is-not-a-kodak-photograph/>

Calculations and Coincidences: Algorithmic Art from the Central Bank of Hungary Collection

The Pera Museum

Until January 26

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/calculations-and-coincidences/>

Beyond Words: Calligraphy from the World of Islam

David Collection

Copenhagen

Until January 26

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/beyond-words/>

<https://www.davidmus.dk/exhibitions/beyond-words>

Elisa Zonaro's Istanbul

Kazlıçeşme Sanat, Zeytinburnu

Until January 31

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

Silk Roads

British Museum

Until February 23

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/silk-roads/>

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/>

The complete selection: <https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books>

Gift subscriptions to Cornucopia: <https://shop.exacteditions.com/cornucopia>