



NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

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In Switzerland, as in much of Europe, many children grow up in the fairy-tale tradition shaped by Perrault and the Brothers Grimm: Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Bluebeard, Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Snow White, Rapunzel. It is a world of forests, cottages, and royal courts. The forest is where children lose their way, where wolves and witches appear, and where the safety of home gives way to danger, trial, and enchantment. The cottage stands for fragile domestic life and modest beginnings; the palace for glitter, rank, ceremony, and the hope that somewhere beyond hardship there may be a prince, a marriage, or a sudden reversal of fortune. In this European tradition, fairy tales often move between the humble household and the royal court, with the dark wood in between.

Children in Türkiye, by contrast, often grow up with both European fairy tales and the rich world of Anatolian, Middle Eastern, and Arabian Nights stories. And The Arabian Nights opens quite a different door. It is older, wider, and far more urban in its imagination: a many-layered collection first referred to in the 9th century and developed over many centuries, with estimates of more than 550 stories across manuscripts, editions, and translations. The frame story begins in a Persianate world in Samarkand. At its heart stands Shahrazad, the great storyteller, saving her life night after night by keeping the Persian King Shahryar listening. From there the tales spread across Baghdad, Basra, Cairo, Damascus, Alexandria, Shiraz and Isfahan. This is a universe of bazaars, ports, caravan routes, sailors, merchants, caliphs, and crowded streets, but also of marvels: palaces of gold, silver, and crystal; trees of pearls, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones; islands of shining crystal; hidden realms beneath the water; and descents into worlds below. Scholars note that many of the tales are centred above all on Baghdad and Basra, and that Baghdad is often the city described most vividly, as a prosperous, cosmopolitan place full of goods arriving from many lands, where Muslim, Christian and Jewish merchants alike trade, bargain, and tell each other stories of wit, wisdom and adventure. So if Grimm and Perrault often lead us into the forest, The Arabian Nights leads us into the city of a vast, connected world.

As 23 April, Children's Day, approaches, *Arabian Nights*, or *One Thousand and One Nights*, makes a delightful read for children and adults alike. Payot has suitable editions for readers of every age.

<https://www.payot.ch/Detail/9782013226035>; <https://www.payot.ch/Detail/9782324033032>

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

APRIL AND MAY EVENTS

Association Events

General Assembly of Association – Tuesday April 21 at 7pm

Geneva

RSVP at assosuisseturquie@gmail.com

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Leyla Elçi, who has served as president of our association for the past two years and has been part of the committee for more than fifteen years. During this time, she has contributed enormously to the association and played a central role in helping it grow into the lively community it is today. We would like to express, here as well, our sincere gratitude for her tireless work, dedication, and many years of commitment.

Golf in Lavaux – Sunday April 26 – From 11am to 12:30pm

For beginners and pros

Our committee member and golf fitness specialist, **Leila Üngün**, will give an introductory lesson at the special event she is organizing in **Lavaux** for those who have never played golf before. Members who already have golfing experience and would like to play on the course are also welcome to take part in the event.

RSVP at assosuisseturquie@gmail.com

Happy Hour – Thursday June 11

More details to follow

Save the Date – Republic Ball – 31 October

More details to follow

For future Association events: www.assoctr.ch

Other Events

Cully Jazz Festival – 10-18 April

Cully (Lavaux area)

One of the loveliest spring festivals on the lake, with prestigious concerts and rising artists spread across the alleys and wine cellars of Cully. More info: <https://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/fr/evenement/cully-jazz-festival/>

Does Humanitarian Work Have a Future? – 14 April at 18:30

Geneva (Graduate Institute)

A public conversation with Filippo Grandi, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees — very much an International Geneva event in the best sense. More info:

<https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/upcoming-events>

AI in Diplomacy: Opportunities, Risks, and Institutional Readiness – 15 April at 18:30

Geneva (Graduate Institute, Maison de la paix)

A public panel on how artificial intelligence is beginning to reshape diplomacy and international affairs. More info: <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/communications/events/ai-diplomacy-opportunities-risks-and-institutional-readiness>

Fête de la Tulipe 2026 – till 10 May

Morges

The classic spring outing by the lake: more than 140,000 tulips and nearly 350 varieties, with this year's theme "Tales and Legends". Free, photogenic, and very easy to combine with a walk through Morges. More info: <https://www.morges-tourisme.ch/fr/Z38861/fete-de-la-tulipe>

"Lausanne Art Fair" – 7 to 10 May

Lausanne

A contemporary-art fair at Beaulieu, with more than 80 galleries and works ranging from painting and sculpture to photography. More info: <https://www.tempslibre.ch/vaud/expositions/442409-lausanne-art-fair>

Vevey Spring Classic – 5 to 11 May

Vevey

A lakeside classical-music festival devoted to young talent and artistic exchange. More info:

<https://www.montreuxriviera.com/en/E214404>

Riviera Museum Night – 30 May

Vevey / Montreux Riviera

A free spring museum night across the Riviera, with 11 museums, special programming and vintage shuttles between sites. More info: <https://www.montreuxriviera.com/en/PA436/the-night-of-the-museums>

Ella Maillart: Photographic Encounters – till 1 November

Lausanne

Photo Elysée pays tribute to the Geneva-born writer, explorer and photographer Ella Maillart and her Central Asian journeys. More info: <https://www.cornucopia.net/events/ella-maillart-photographic-encounters/>

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:

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.

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<http://www.cornucopia.net/store/subscriptions/>

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

2026 FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup was in Erzurum

Palandöken hosted the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup, with around 300 athletes from 20 countries, reinforcing Erzurum’s growing place on the international winter-sports map. Together with the Frozen Festival in February, it showed how eastern Türkiye is pushing more confidently into the sports-and-tourism space.

Türkiye Energy Outlook was held on March 17

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye hosted a 3-Country Business Webinar on Türkiye's energy outlook, as part of the Switzerland-Austria-Germany embassies' business meeting series.

Jungfrauoch, "Top of Europe" was on March 14

The Swiss-Turkish Business Council organised a networking day at Jungfrauoch, combining one of Switzerland's iconic tourism destinations with business exchange. It was a nice example of how bilateral networks often mix commerce, hospitality and image-building in a very Swiss-Turkish way.

Recent Winter Olympics results

At the recent Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina 2026, Switzerland enjoyed a superb Games, winning 23 medals in total — 6 gold, 9 silver, and 8 bronze. Alpine skiing provided the biggest share, led by Franjo von Allmen, who struck gold in the downhill, super-G, and men's team combined; Loïc Meillard, who won the slalom; and Marco Odermatt, who added several podium finishes of his own. Swiss success extended well beyond alpine skiing: Mathilde Gremaud retained Olympic gold in slopestyle, Fanny Smith took silver in ski cross, and Noé Roth won two silvers in freestyle aerials. With further medals in cross-country skiing, curling, ski mountaineering, ski jumping, bobsleigh, and women's ice hockey, Switzerland confirmed once again that it remains one of the great all-round winter-sports nations.

ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

Exhibitions

Yan Yana (Side by Side) - Melahat and Eşref Üren with Eren and Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu

İşbank Museum of Painting and Sculpture, Beyoğlu

Until July 10, 2026

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/yan-yana-side-by-side/>

By the Water: The Life and Art of Halil Paşa

İstanbul (Pera Museum)

Until August 23rd

A Cornucopia-recommended exhibition on the 19th-century Ottoman painter Halil Paşa.

More info: <https://www.cornucopia.net/events/by-the-water-the-life-and-art-of-halil-paa/>

Semiha Berksoy: Aria of All Colours

İstanbul (İstanbul Modern)

Until September 5

A major retrospective devoted to the soprano-turned-painter Semiha Berksoy.

More info: <https://www.cornucopia.net/events/semiha-berksoy-aria-of-all-colours/>

Rich Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop

Painters of the Ottoman World

Vol I: British, Maltese and Levantine Artists in the Ömer Koç Collection

Vol II: European Artists in the Ömer Koç Collection

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/painters-of-the-ottoman-world/>

Fausto Zonaro: The Sultan's Italian Court Painter

Erol Makzume with a foreword by Philip Mansel

The beautifully printed book dedicated to the life and works of Fausto Zonaro (1854-1929), does full justice to the works of an Italian artist best known for his paintings of life and history of the Ottoman Empire. Erol Makzume is the leading authority on the artist, and the volume contains a foreword by the historian Philip Mansel. Makzume provides an account of the artist's life and fascinating excerpts from the personal diary of the artist's beloved youngest sister, Leonia, which is introduced by her great grandson, Giovanni Gaidoni.

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/fausto-zonaro-the-sultans-italian-court-painter/>

City Cats of İstanbul 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 İstanbul'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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