

Crossroads of East and West:

European Travelers to Istanbul & Anatolia in the Long 19th Century

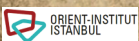


10 December 2019:

Workshop at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII)

March - May 2020:

A Series of Lectures at Big Hall, Cezayir Building



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Maria Georgopoulou is currently Director of the Gennadius Library at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Library of Greece and serves at the Board of Directors of the Consortium for European Research Libraries. Her scholarly work explores the artistic and cultural interactions of Mediterranean peoples in the Middle Ages and the early modern period. Her monograph *Venice's Mediterranean Colonies: Architecture and Urbanism* (Cambridge UP, 2001) examines the architecture of Venetian Crete. She has curated diverse exhibitions such as *Ottoman Athens* and *Flora Graeca*. She is currently working on portable objects within their economic and social Mediterranean context, and on Byzantine painting in its vernacular post-Byzantine transformations.

Constantinople around 1900 as a Literary World in Travel Writing

by Helena Bodin

With a focus on Western travelogues from Constantinople in the last decades of the Ottoman Empire, this lecture sets out to discuss issues of literary world-making as a matter of travel writing and world literature. Around 1900, Constantinople was still a multilingual, multi-ethnic and multireligious metropolis, not to say a cosmopolis, bordering between the Western and Eastern worlds. Travelers from – for example – Italy, France, Croatia, England, the U.S., and Scandinavia described their impressions of Constantinople in travelogues, private journals, letters, and reportages. My intention is to explore the crafting of Constantinople as a particular literary world by examining the significance of the moments of arrivals and departures, of multilingualism, of gendered experiences, and of readings of earlier travelogues set in



Constantinople in a selection of texts. They were written between 1877 and 1922 by – among others – Edmondo De Amicis, Pierre Loti, Alka Nesteroff, Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann, and Stéphanie Beyel. It is demonstrated that travelogues portraying Constantinople around 1900 exemplify a linguistically complex part of world literature which as a literary world, is accessible to readers still a century after the birth of the Turkish republic.

Helena Bodin is Professor of Literary History in the Department of Culture and Aesthetics at Stockholm University and Senior Lecturer at The Newman Institute in Uppsala, Sweden. Her research concerns the functions of literature at boundaries, such as between languages, nations, arts and media. She is a member of the Research Collegium of the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul. Recent publications include “Heterographics as a Literary Device. Auditory, Visual, and Cultural Features”, *Journal of World Literature* 3(2018): 2, and “Seclusion versus Accessibility: The Harems of Constantinople as Aesthetic Worlds in Stories by Elsa Lindberg-Dovlette”, in *World Literatures: Exploring the Cosmopolitan-Vernacular Exchange*, eds. Stefan Helgesson et al. (Stockholm University Press, 2018).

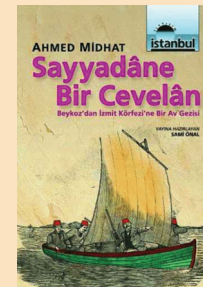
A Novel Travel on the Sea: Narratorial Preferences and Ideology in Ahmet Mithat's *Sayyadâne Bir Cevlân*

by Erol Köröğlu

Ahmet Mithat (1844-1912) was the most important literary figure in the Western-based modernization of the Ottoman-Turkish literature in the nineteenth century. He was an impressive polygraph with his more than 200 books in fiction and non-fiction genres and numerous amounts of writings in periodicals. This paper focuses on his short travelogue, *Sayyadâne Bir Cevlân* (A Hunterly Excursion), in which he narrates a sea voyage from



Bosphorus to İzmit Bay. He serialized it in his newspaper like his other books. Therefore the narrative voice in the travelogue is the voice of the roman feuilletonist, the novelist, and the journalist. Can we use Ahmet Mithat's very distinctive narrative voice as a connection point between this travelogue and other



novels that contain excursions or travels? This paper will focus on this question and try to problematize the interactions of Ahmet Mithat's travel writing in fictional and non-fictional works before and after *Sayyadâne Bir Cevlân*.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Erol Köröğlu teaches history of modern Turkish literature since the 19th century at Boğaziçi University, Department of Turkish Language and Literature. Publications (selected): *Ottoman Propaganda and Turkish Identity: Turkish Literature during World War I*, London 2007; “Novel as an Alternative Collective Remembrance Text: Poiesis, Storytelling, and Social Thinking in Yaşar Kemal's *An Island Story Quartet*,” in Catharina Dufft, ed. *Turkish Literature and Cultural Memory: “Multiculturalism” as a Literary Theme after 1980*, Wiesbaden 2009; “Propaganda or Culture War: Jihad, Islam, and Nationalism in Turkish Literature during World War I,” Erik-Jan Zürcher, yay. haz., *Jihad and Islam in World War I: Studies on the Ottoman Jihad on the Centenary of Snouck Hurgronje's “Holy War Made in Germany”*. Leiden 2016.

For a long time, travelogues and other autobiographical materials have almost exclusively enjoyed the interest of students of literature. Over the past two or three decades, however, the accounts of travelers to Asia Minor and Anatolia, in particular, have become a more popular and increasingly important source for historians in their study of the past of this geographical region.

This tendency finds its reflection in the increased number of recent publications and conference contributions based on travel literature. This shift has first become more widespread through the consideration of travelogues written in French, English, and other Western European languages.

The focus of a one-day workshop in December 2019 and a number of lectures in the spring of 2020 within our thematic series will center on the accounts of travelers from countries to the East, North and South-East of the more “classic” countries of descent of the more widely- known travelers from Western Europe. The fascinating and rich personal accounts of Czech, Hungarian, Swedish, and Greek travelers will for the first time be presented in Turkey and will thus introduce the audience to accounts in less-widely used or accessible languages.

The sequence of academic events is jointly organized by the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII), the Orient-Institut Istanbul and with the participation of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens.

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