

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

A SERIES OF LECTURES

Big Hall, Cezayir Building
Hayriye Cad. 12 Galatasaray-Beyoğlu
34425 İstanbul

March - May 2020, Wednesdays
at 19:00h

11 March

Gábor Fodor: **Hungarian Memoirs from the Ottoman Empire, 1848-1918**

1 April

Jitka Malečková: **Traveling Outside the Colonial Framework. Czech Travelers to Istanbul, 1860s-1923**

22 April

Ulla-Karin Warberg: **Fredrik Robert Martin: A Journey to Konya**

13 May

Christina Angelidi: **Exploring Cappadocia: Observing, Describing and Studying the Land of the Fairy Chimneys**

Hungarian Memoirs from the Ottoman Empire, 1848-1918

by Gábor Fodor

11 March 19:00h

After the failure of the Hungarian revolution and freedom fight of 1848–1849 against the Habsburg Monarchy, thousands of soldiers found asylum in the Ottoman Empire. Even though most of them left the empire within a year, hundreds preferred to stay, live, and work in a society about which they knew virtually nothing.

Improvements in Hungarian-Turkish political relations, particularly after the 1877-78 Russo-Turkish war, led to an increase of Hungarian journalists, politicians, orientalist, tourists, soldiers and even representatives of the Catholic Church who spent longer or shorter period of time both in Istanbul, in Asia Minor and in the Middle East. The increasing number of visitors also boosted by the foundation of the Hungarian Geography Society, led to the first golden age of publication of Hungarian travelers' accounts, booklets and memoirs. Young



Turkologists like Ignác Kúnos, Gyula Mészáros, and Gyula Németh pursued their research along the Aegean shores. During the Balkan Wars, Hungarian journalists appeared in the field to cover the manoeuvres of the Turkish army, while the outbreak of the war in 1914 caused an intensification of mutual visits. In this presentation the speaker intends to shed light on the published and unpublished Hungarian-language sources within the time frame of 1848-1918 by highlighting the changes in trends, way of travelling, and storytelling throughout this 70-year period.

Gábor Fodor studied at the Departments of Turkish Philology and History of the University of Eötvös Loránd under the eminent Ottomanist Prof. Géza Dávid and Academy member Prof. István Vásáry. In 2018 he defended his PhD. thesis under the title of “The Armenian Question in the Light of Hungarian Sources, 1849 –1939”. He started his career in the research group of doyen Prof. György Hazai in 2009 as assistant and worked there until 2014 in the framework of three different research centers of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From 2014-15 he spent one year as an assistant researcher at the Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies under the leadership of Prof. Miklós Maróth. In 2015 he was appointed as the first director of the Hungarian Cultural Center in Istanbul, founded in the previous year by the Hungarian Government, where he is still working.

Traveling Outside the Colonial Framework:

Czech Travelers to Istanbul, 1860s-1923

by Jitka Malečková

1 April 19:00h

Although by the 19th century the Czech lands had no direct contact with the Ottoman Empire Czechs were not so remote from the Ottoman Empire as to pay no attention to it at all. The 19th century witnessed a rise in Czech travels to various parts of the world, and from the 1860s an increasing number of Czechs were describing their travels to the Ottoman Empire and particularly to Istanbul. Their travelogues were eclectic and were influenced by earlier Czech and foreign travelers, French exotic novels, and even the tales from *One Thousand and One Nights*. What distinguished the Czech travel accounts from their British counterparts was the absence of an “imperial” background - the lack of more pragmatic direct interests in the Ottoman Empire (leaving aside the Balkans). The talk will show what interested the Czechs who

visited late Ottoman Istanbul. While in most cases they did not stay in the Ottoman territories long enough to gain insight into important issues in the turn-of-the-century Ottoman Empire, their travelogues focus on things and people that were expected to amuse Czech readers and contain intriguing information.



Jitka Malečková teaches Middle Eastern history at the Charles University's Faculty of Arts in Prague. Her research focuses on the 19th- and early 20th- Century Ottoman Empire and Central and Eastern Europe, gender and nationalism. With Petr Kučera, she authored a book on Ottoman travelers to Europe and to the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire, titled “From Istanbul to the End of the World: Ottoman Travel Writings from the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries” (*Z Istanbulu až na konec světa: Osmanské cestopisy z přelomu 19. a 20. století*, 2019). She has written numerous articles on political violence, gender and national identity and on relations between Europe and the Middle East.

Fredrik Robert Martin: A Journey to Konya

by Ulla-Karin Warberg

22 April 19:00h



In 1905 the Swedish prince Wilhelm was a guest at the the Swedish legation in Istanbul. As his host he had the Swedish orientalist and art dealer Fredrik Robert Martin (1868-1933), who served as a dragoman at the legation. Together with the princely entourage they travelled to Konya to meet with the German consul Julius Löytved-Hardegg. During their visit to Konya they went to the Alaeddin mosque where a most spectacular discovery of unique Seldjuk carpets

took place. The carpets are to be seen today at the Türk ve Islam Eserleri Müzesi (TIEM) in Istanbul. The discovery initiated an academic battle between two of the most distinguished orientalists of their time: Fredrik Robert Martin and Friedrich Sarre. It is also the story of the desire for and the business with Islamic cultural heritage in the early 20th century and the formation of the Islamic museums and private collections in Western Europe at the time.

Ulla-Karin Warberg is a curator at the Nordic Museum and lecturer at the University of Uppsala, Campus Gotland (since 2004) and Linköping University (since 2008). She is a board member at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul's Friends Association and at the Stockholm Oriental Carpet Society Pazyryk. She did a lot of travelling as a guide with Art historian groups to Istanbul, Anatolia, Rome, Madrid, Vienna, Bruges and to the TEFAF Art fair in Maastricht, Holland. Publications: *Textile Treasures at Nordiska museet in Stockholm; The tulip's way from the Ottoman court to the Scandinavian double cushions*, HALI Magazine, London, 2019 (December issue).

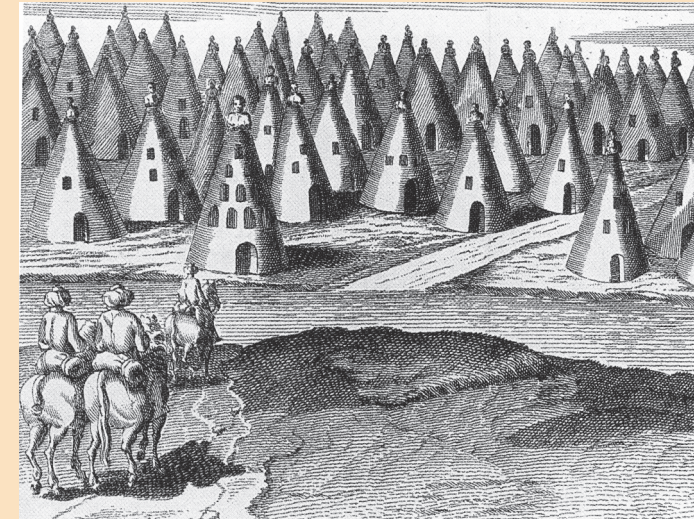
Exploring Cappadocia: Observing, Describing and Studying the Land of the Fairy Chimneys

by Christine Angelidi

13 May 19:00h

With the exception of Roman and Byzantine official records and seals, Cappadocia is poorly documented in late antique and Byzantine literary sources, which focus on it as the native place of saints, tough warriors, horse breeders, wealthy landowners and families of military aristocracy aspiring to the throne. Indeed, the landscape particularity is only indirectly attested in tenth-century historiography, which designates the inhabitants as "troglodytes". The Cappadocian scenery emerges from the travel literature in the early eighteenth century and up to the mid-nineteenth century the narratives provide interesting yet incidental insights into

the natural and anthropological aspects of the region, gathered during the quest for remains of pre-historical and classical heritage. Gradually, Cappadocia became a research subject of its own, and this paper intends to propose a comprehensive survey of this process provisionally contextualizing its successive stages.



Christine Angelidi Emeritus Director of Research in the National Hellenic Research Foundation – Institute of Historical Research. She taught Byzantine History and Literature at the Universities of Crete and the Aegean and lectured at French, British and American universities. I wrote on Byzantine hagiography, history, literature, and art. I collaborated on the two volumes of A. Kazhdan's "A History of Byzantine Literature", and edited several volumes in international conference acts. I organized and participated to international Congresses and Symposia, I am member of international committees of project evaluation, serve on editorial boards of scientific journals and regularly peer-review articles on history, literature and Byzantine art.

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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