

LECTURES AT THE MOONLIGHT MONASTERY ON CUNDA

Summer 2017

Sponsorship: Suzan Sabancı Dinçer

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III
2017

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Suzan Sabancı Dinçer CBE
Chairman and Executive Board Member, Akbank

Having reached the third year of the summer lectures at the Moonlight Monastery of Cunda, the event is now eagerly anticipated by scholars and the public. Our vision to give life to a long-deserted religious monument and to make it a place of knowledge and culture has borne fruit.

The annual lecture cycle that takes part each summer aims at bringing new academic knowledge to students of the Intensive Summer School of Ottoman and Turkish Studies from around the world, as well as to the wider public, on a variety of aspects concerning the history and culture of the Ottoman Empire and the World of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Heartfelt thanks go to the distinguished speakers who accepted our invitation and to all those who have quietly worked month after month to prepare these academic events. Sincere thanks also to the many contributors whose assistance ensures that the events are impeccably organized. They are the ones who implement and keep alive our vision for the Moonlight Monastery.

Istanbul, June 2017

Suzan Sabancı Dinçer CBE
Chairman and Executive Board Member, Akbank

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Foreword

We have successfully reached the third year of the academic meetings which Suzan Sabancı Dinçer and her husband Haluk Dinçer had the inspiration to hold in the Moonlight Monastery (Ayışığı Manastırı). This year as well, the series of lectures comprises three cycles, each dedicated to one particular aspect of the coexistence of the peoples in and around the World of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The first session is dedicated to the collective memory of Turks and Greeks following the 1923 Compulsory Exchange of Populations. The study of memory has been one of the major growth industries over the last two decades or so, not just in History but also in the related disciplines of Anthropology, Sociology, Literature, and Psychology. The 1923 events show us just how important the collective understanding of the past is, and how the process of social remembering is forged and maintained by the personal recollection of the refugees. Personal recollections, family narrations and 'tradition' have all played a distinctive role in the

social remembrance of the tragic events. The topic will be discussed by two prominent scholars, Prof. Çağlar Keyder and Prof. Gregory Jusdanis.

The second topic focuses on folktales and their role as a carrier of common cultural heritage. As Prof. Ulrich Marzolph underlined, "Pondering the question of whether folklore belongs to anyone in terms of ownership, it is hard to think of anything but a negative answer. Folklore as an intellectual concept encompassing a variety cannot be owned, purchased or possessed in the same way as material goods". Today, folktales, with their common textual and social features, are studied for the common characteristics of coexistence between peoples in the same or adjacent areas. This session will be presented by Prof. Ulrich Marzolph, who will speak about the 14th-century Ottoman Turkish collection of folktales *Ferec ba'd eş-şidde* and its international connections, while Assist. Prof. Marianthi Kaplanoglou will present the topic of "Folktale variation in living folklore systems:

analyzing some micro-data from Greece and Turkey".

Finally, the third session will cover the field of the history of Science in the Ottoman Empire. Research has revealed an interesting network of scientific activity in South-eastern Europe, particularly after the 17th century, when Western science gradually became dominant throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. In the modern Ottoman Empire, scientific knowledge stemmed from both the Islamic and Western traditions of knowledge. Two experts in the field, Dr. Sara Nur Yıldız and Prof. Feza Günergun, will present the key figures in the practice and development of science in the Ottoman Empire and they will examine them in the light of examples from different branches of science, human mobility

and the transfer of scientific information from Europe to the Ottoman Empire.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge this year too the help of various individuals in the implementation of the series of Lectures. First and foremost my colleagues who accepted our invitation, as well as all those who met the various needs of the event. Lastly sincere thanks go to the initiators and sponsors of this academic event, Ms. Suzan Sabancı Dinçer and Mr. Haluk Dinçer.

Evangelia Balta
Research Director

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