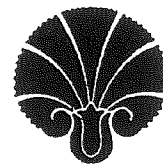


ARIT Newsletter

American Research Institute in Turkey



Number 28, Fall 1999

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I reported in the spring Newsletter, ARIT-Ankara was then seeking new quarters for both library and hostel. That same Newsletter went on to give you the new addresses for ARIT in Ankara. Finding decent flats in the same building proved to be impossible. So, hostel and library are now separated by a few blocks of choice Ankara property. The new hostel was an immediate success: 8th floor in a modern high-rise with spacious commons, generous balconies, and great views over the city. The transferred guests were so elated by their new surroundings that they were moved to host a party there within a week of the move. The library and offices now occupy a full floor in a vintage Gaziosmanpaşa building that stands virtually in the shadow of the Sheraton hotel. The move gained us considerable space, with room for the library to grow, and an effective separation of offices and library. Ankara Director Toni Cross now receives you in her wood-paneled office and, if the weather is nice, treats you to tea on a grand balcony that runs well-nigh the width of the flat. Istanbul Director Tony Greenwood got to sample all this when he came to Ankara in early August for the annual get-together of the Tonies and me.

My ears perked up last May when Toni's assistant Cennet Köse informed me that there was still room on the Ankara Friends' Memorial Day weekend trip to Kars and Erzurum, places I had never been. From beginning to end the trip was pure delight, and I can now see why ARIT tours are so popular for so many people in Istanbul and Ankara. The keys to the success of the trip were tour leader Suna Güven, architectural historian at METU, and Cennet, both long-time veterans of ARIT trips. Suna had us mesmerized as she unfolded the architectural riches of Ani, the old Armenian capital on the border of present-day Armenia, and no less so in taking us through the glorious Seljuk and later monuments of Erzurum. Cennet, meanwhile, was there to attend to our every creature need and very politely keep us on schedule. The moral to all this: never pass up an ARIT tour if the opportunity strikes.

I am happy to report that ARIT was successful in its application for program and operating funds through CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) from the US State Department. What had been three separate grants from the then USIA have now been rolled into one generous allocation. CAORC is also instrumental in a move to upgrade computer-based library resources among the AORCs, thanks to the initiative of Executive Director Mary Ellen Lane, our ever-constant voice in Washington. We reapply later this fall to the US Department of Education for the generous operations grant that has meant so very much for our existence since 1994. September saw us doing the same for the generous NEH grant that supports post-doctoral fellowships.

Our good friends at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology have established a relief fund for the horrible earthquake of August 17 last. If you have been wanting to help but were unsure how to do so, you can send a contribution to: Earthquake Relief Fund, Institute of Nautical Archaeology, PO Box 2310, College Station, Texas 77841-9932.

G. Kenneth Sams

ARIT-ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

ARIT-ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

The spring and summer of 1999 brought more than the normal share of momentous events to Turkey, events which affected even the most reclusive of ARIT scholars in one way or another. First there were the national elections, closely watched around the world to see if they would tell us what direction the country was heading. ARIT hosted its share of political scientists for the event, and the results were analysed formally in two lectures on the premises. While some analysts were delighted to find confirmation of certain trends and predictions, for all of them the election results also contained important surprises. For those of us living, working, or researching here, the results, as is often the case, simply seemed to open up new avenues of uncertainty, even after, to many people's surprise, a new government was successfully formed.

An exceptionally hot and humid August brought us the last full eclipse of the millennium. The hostel almost emptied out as everyone sought to position themselves somewhere between Kastamonu and Diyarbakir for the best vantage points. For those who went east, the eclipse apparently lived up to its billings. Here in Istanbul, the eclipse was about 95% complete; we were a bit disappointed when all it meant was that we had to turn on the office lights in the middle of the afternoon.

I was away from Istanbul when the disastrous earthquake of August 17 struck. It was a great relief to learn, more than a day later when phone connections first became possible, that no damage had occurred at ARIT or to any of the scholars in Istanbul affiliated with ARIT. The jolt woke all residents up, and sent them into the streets, and the aftershocks continued to keep everyone up and uneasy all that night. Several months later, the aftershocks continue; several have been felt strongly at ARIT. The experts say that Turkey must be prepared for more major quakes in the Marmara region. ARIT is fortunate to be located in one of the lower risk areas of the city, on solid ground and relatively far from the fault lines south of the city that cross the Marmara Sea from east to west. To date, no damage has become visible in our building.

Other parts of the city were more strongly affected. Significant damage has been reported at a number of the city's monuments, including several important mosques and a few areas of the walls of the city. To my knowledge, no full report on the extent of this damage has yet been released. Of particular interest to scholars planning research trips to the city, no major museums or libraries have had to close. The only exception is Millet Kütüphanesi, which was badly damaged and will undergo a restoration that may last for several years. The

manuscripts in this collection are being transferred to the Bayezit Devlet Kütüphanesi for the interim. In addition, long planned restoration work in the Topkapı Library is slated to begin in November, and will keep it closed for several months.

Of a different nature, but still high on the list of momentous events, was the Byzantine Studies Conference held at Boğaziçi University last April. It was the first major conference on Byzantine studies to be held in this country in decades, and brought scholars from around the world, many affiliated with ARIT, and a large and enthusiastic turnout from Turkish universities. ARIT was proud to host a cocktail party for the participants and to acquaint them with our new Kenneth Snipes Byzantine Studies Collection.

Turning to more immediate activities, in the late spring the results of the annual Dernek fellowship competition for Turkish scholars were announced. Fellowships went to four Turkish doctoral candidates:

Tahir Kodal, Ankara University "The Mosul Affair in the Turkish Press, 1923-1926"

Petek Kovancı-Shehrin, METU "The Importance of the Study of the Historic Residential Fabric of the City for Urban Renewal Planning"

Leyla Şen, Bilkent University "Post-World War II American Economic and Technical Aid Programs: the Examples of India and Turkey"

Fehmi Yılmaz, Marmara University "Tobacco in the Ottoman Empire: a Social and Economic History"

Post-doctoral awards are to be announced in the fall.

The lecture program continued to attract large audiences from both the lay and scholarly community. This past spring emphasis was laid on the Friends' Lecture Series (see the Friends News), but in May the following occasional lectures also aroused wide interest:

William Hale, SOAS, and Ali Şarkoğlu, Boğaziçi University, "Turkey's Elections: Results, Trends and Prospects"

Jane Hathaway, Ohio State University, "Ali's Sword Zülfikar as Icon in Ottoman Egypt"

Finally, after several years of doing without, scholars doing research in the manuscript libraries of the city will be glad to hear that ARIT once again has a functioning microfilm reader.

Let me close by expressing my gratitude to the following individuals and institutions for their donations to the ARIT library in the spring and summer of 1999:

Books: Güven Arsebük, Bodrum Sualtı Müzesi, Michael Bonine, Mehmed Coral, Ethem Eldem, Buğra Erşanlı, Caroline Finkel, Pal Fodor, German Oriental Institute, Dina Khoury, Naomi F. Miller, Nenad Moacinin, Gisele Odhner, Viktor Ostopchuk, Viorel Panaite, Robert College Library, İhsan Tuna

Offprints: Gabor Agoston, Hatice Aynur, Cem Behar, Pal Fodor, Charlotte Jirousek, Gabriel Piricky, Alessandra Ricci, Martin van Bruinessen, Stefan Winter.

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ISTANBUL FRIENDS OF ARIT NEWS

There was something for everybody in the Friends' Lecture Series last February and March, with subjects ranging from the more academic (the shape of the first dome of Aghia Sophia) to the more popular (Turkish cheeses, with a tasting of those available in Istanbul at the Mısır Çarşısı and the Siirt Pazarı). The following lectures were presented, in several cases to a SRO audience:

A Study of the Structure of the Hagia Sophia from the Age of Justinian to the Present" Professor Ahmet Çakmak, Department of Civil Engineering and Operations Research, Princeton University

"Turkey's New End Game. Do the Politics of Oil and Gas Mean Energy Dependence or Regional Strength?" David Tonge, Managing Director of International Business Services

"Elections, Party Preferences and the Party System in Turkey" Professor Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, Political Science Department, Boğaziçi University

"Wild Istanbul: Saving the City's Hidden Treasures" Andrew Byfield, Society for the Protection of Nature

"An Introduction to the Cheeses of Turkey", followed by a tasting. Professor Artun Ünsal, Galatasaray University, author of a new book on Turkish cheeses

In mid-March about 25 Friends, led by Dr. Turgut Saner of ITU, went on a weekend trip to Pergamum and Aegae. It was the first time the Friends had been to Pergamum since the completion of the impressive restorations at the Trajaneum, and the first time we'd ever been to Aegae. It was a long, difficult walk to the latter, on a cold, blustery March day, with a swollen stream to be forded, but the harsh beauty of the setting and the fascinating ruins made it well worth it.

Later, at the end of the month, taking advantage of the five-day religious holiday, the Friends went on their first-ever trip to Lebanon, so long inaccessible. Highlights of the trip were the outing to Byblos, the visits to mountain villages, and the day spent at Baalbek and vicinity.

Also in March was the 15th FARIT Annual Dinner. About 150 persons attended at the Robert College Alumni Club (Bizim Tepe), relatively inexpensive and close by, just up the hill from us. Novelties this year included advanced sales of lottery tickets, more free long distance tickets than ever, and the auction of a FARIT Steering Committee Catered Dinner (which sold for a lot of money, believe it or not). Total profits from the dinner were over \$6,000. Many thanks go to the local businesses and individuals who donated to the lottery, and to the airlines who gave tickets--Delta, Cathay Pacific, and especially to Cem Kozlu and Turkish Airlines for their generous gift of two round trip tickets to Chicago.

Later in the spring the Friends ran three more trips, two of them Istanbul walking tours and one an out-of-town weekend tour. In early May, Paolo Ghirardelli, an Italian architectural historian, led a tour of 19th-century Italian-built buildings in Beyoğlu, while in June, our favorite guide John Freely led us on a tour of the mosques of Üsküdar. Later in the month, we repeated a trip to Cilicia that was pioneered last year, with Scott Redford taking us once again to important sites and favorite haunts around Antakya, and Marie-Henriette Gates showing us the new developments at Kinet Höyük and Karatepe.

Finally in mid-summer, the Friends repeated a favorite trip to Aphrodisias, where the biggest excitement was the chance to see the new depot, and Sardis, where the thrill of the ruins themselves is only matched by the incomparable hospitality of Crawford Greenewalt. An addition to the itinerary this time was a trip over Boz Dağı to Birgi, the Aydınoğulları capital, with its picturesque 14th-century mosque, the (finally) restored Çakır Ağa Konağı, and the Türbe of Birgevi Mehmet Efendi.

Regular readers of this newsletter will recognize the names of almost all of our tour guides mentioned above. I cannot thank each of them enough for the way they have given of their time selflessly to help ARIT out year after year.

ARIT-ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

ARIT – ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

ARIT Ankara's 19th Annual Lecture Series co-sponsored by USIS and the Turkish-American Association was held once again this spring. Individual lectures included:

"The Making of Modern Ankara," by Margaret Lynch, University of Texas at Austin graduate student, SSRC and ARIT fellow

"In the Steps of Marco Polo: Excavations at Medieval Kinet, a Mediterranean Port Town," by Professor Scott Redford, University of Georgetown, director of Georgetown's McGee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at Alanya

"Excavations at Clazomenae and the Current State of the Archaeology of Ancient Ionia," by Dr. Yaşar Ersoy, Bilkent University

The archaeology symposium organized each year by the Turkish Department of Antiquities and Museums was held in the last week of May. ARIT gave its traditional cocktail party for symposium participants thanks to the generosity, and kindness, of hostess Dr. Marie Ricciardone (member of the FARIT Steering Committee), Dr. Helena Kane Finn, Public Affairs Officer, USIS, and the US Embassy-Ankara. An occasional shower could not dampen the enthusiasm of more than 250 guests, who, archaeologists all, simply popped open their umbrellas and carried on. Various institutes and embassies host the participants throughout symposium week, but "as always, ARIT's cocktail is the best," said one guest. "It's the perfect combination of sophistication and fun."

With the symposium back in Ankara this year, we were able to present ARIT's own mini-version on the American contribution to the 1998 season. Our sincere thanks to the following participants, who proved that you can indeed convey a great deal of accurate information in five minutes:

Mitchell Rothman, Widener University, "Tilbes Höyük"
Aslıhan Yener, University of Chicago, "Amuq Valley Project: Excavations at Tell Kurdu"

Tim Matney, University of Akron, "Titriş Höyük"

Ken Sams, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, "Gordion"

Crawford Greenewalt Jr., University of California, Berkeley, "Sardis"

Robert L. Vann, University of Maryland, "Aperlae Harbor Survey"

Owen Doonan, University of Chicago, "Sinop: Sea, City, and Countryside"

George Bass, Texas A & M University and Institute for Nautical Archaeology, "Selimiye-Bozburun Shipwreck, the Final Season"

Joel Walker, University of Washington at Seattle, "Tahirler (Beypazarı) Byzantine Survey"

Peter Kuniholm, Cornell University, "Aegean Dendrochronology Project"

In the midst of organizing lectures and cocktails, providing hostel space for visiting project directors, and attending symposium sessions, the Branch faced the entirely unwelcome and unexpected, task of finding new quarters. But asked by our Horasan landlord to move out, we had no choice and little time. The not-so-good result is that the library/office and the hostel are now four blocks apart. The good news about the new headquarters on Kenedi Caddesi, a five-minute stroll from the BIAA, is that the library space is better laid out and separate from the office, which has room for the administrative assistant, lectures, and the director, who now occupies a rather large and pretentious room, wood-paneled from floor to ceiling ("It's like being inside the Midas tomb," declared Ken Sams). The Kent Sitesi hostel boasts a spacious living/dining area, large kitchen, 2 -1/2 baths, four bedrooms, central hot water, and a splendid view from the main balcony (one of five), along with an elevator and helpful watchmen, on duty daily from 8 AM to midnight. Major complaint to date: it's hard to resist the temptation to indulge in one more coffee on the balcony, admiring the view, instead of getting that planned early start.

The move would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our staff of three - Cennet, Burçak, and housekeeper Elmas Demirel - and the generous donation of goods, time and slave labor by resident scholars and Friends of ARIT. There is space here to note only a few: Sumerman Nakliyat, which did a splendid job at a no-profit price (the hostel is on the 8th floor of a building that has everything except a freight elevator!); Professor Ken Harl, Tulane University, who for the second time in three years led a team of volunteer book packers and reshelvers, and my own husband, whose chest is already so crowded with ARIT medals that I'm not sure where to pin this latest one. Thanks are also due to Mildred Patterson, for her thoughtful contribution toward moving expenses, and to Ankara FARIT's Carol and David Self, for a new table and chairs for the hostel kitchen; Phyllis Becker for a vacuum cleaner; Ellen Benjamin and George and Jo Ann Harris for household goods ranging from bookcases to measuring cups, and to Founding Members Ann Robbins and Pat McGill for small ladders, one each for the library and the hostel.

By August 11, 1999, we were firmly settled into our new quarters and ready for the solar eclipse. The staff celebrated the event here in Ankara with President Ken Sams, and in the process learned there is a substantial difference between 96% (a somewhat darkened sky and unnatural stillness) and the 100% experienced by colleagues near Amasya and Sivas (total darkness and a fantastically eerie sensation). A natural phenomenon no one was prepared for occurred just a week later, when the terrible earthquake struck in the early hours of August 17. Those of us in Ankara are fortunate to have suffered nothing worse than a rude awakening and severe shaking.

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 arit2@tr-net.net.tr (include guest name in heading)

ANKARA FRIENDS OF ARIT NEWS

After a year's sabbatical at Cambridge University, Charlie Gates was back in Ankara and presiding over the FARIT Steering Committee. Spring 1999 activities began with Term III of our Seminar on the History and Archaeology of Turkey, which was devoted to Iron Age civilizations:

- Class 1: *The Urartians* Instructor, Dr. Geoffrey Summers, Middle East Technical University
- Class 2: *The Neo-Hittites* Instructor, Dr. Norbert Karg, Bilkent University
- Class 3: *Phrygians & Lydians* Instructor, Professor Ilknur Özgen, Chair, Department of Archaeology and the History of Art, Bilkent University
- Class 4: *The Lycians* Instructor, Dr. Jean Öztürk, Bilkent University

The term ended at the Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civi-

lizations, where Dr. Marie-Henriette Gates led the Friends on a tour that emphasized the museum's collection of Iron Age material. Marie-Henriette also served as guide on the Friends' next event: a splendid Kurban Bayram trip to Jordan, with visits to Amman, Jerash, and the desert castles, topped off with a full tour of Petra. In May, Maggie Lynch followed up her ARIT lecture on the growth of modern Ankara with a walking tour of the Ulus area. Those Friends who kept up with Maggie, a dedicated walker as well as scholar, were rewarded with lunch at the Ankara Palas. The month ended with an extremely popular three-day visit to Kars, Ani and Erzurum, led by Dr. Suna Güven, METU.

On June 4, our Honorary President Joan Parris and her husband, Ambassador Mark Parris, kindly hosted the annual Members' Dinner at their Residence. The sixty Friends in attendance took this occasion to honor twenty special guests, including present and past directors of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara; Dr. Wendy Matthews, just back from a semester at Berkeley; our seminar instructors and lecturers; former ARIT NEH Fellow Kenneth Harl, and current ARIT Mellon fellow Dr. Maya Vassileva, from the Bulgarian Institute of Thracian Studies. The speaker was Dr. Robert Ousterhout, University of Illinois, who was granted full indulgence following his splendid presentation, "Confessions of a Troglodyte: the Mysteries of Cappadocia Revealed." This was followed by a sit-down dinner, where the combination of excellent food, drink, and company made for a most lively and stimulating evening.

The Friends' final event was a three-day trip to Şanlıurfa, Harran, and the Nemrud Dağı area, with a stop at the Atatürk Dam. Although it was June, an intrepid group of Friends let neither heat nor sun stop them from learning about these fascinating places under the expert guidance of Suna Güven.

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ARIT FELLOWSHIPS 1999- 2000

1999-2000 ARIT FELLOWSHIPS

Isa Blumi, New York University, Middle East Studies, "*The Consequences of Empire: the Ottoman Empire and the Emergence of National Identity in Albania and Yemen, 1874-1918*"

Sarah Brooks, NYU Institute of Fine Arts, Art and Archaeology, "*Commemoration of the Dead: Late Byzantine Tomb Decoration (mid-13th to mid-15th Centuries)*"

Christopher Dole, Case Western Reserve University, Anthropology, "*Religious Healing and Muslim Identity within a Turkish Squatter Settlement*"

Elsbeth Dusinberre, University of Michigan, Art History, "*Seals and Sealings from Gordion*"

Kathryn Ebel, University of Texas, Austin, "*Images of Empire: City Views and the Ottoman Imperial Vision in the 16th Century*"

Howard Eissenstat, University of California, Los Angeles, History, "*Turkic Immigrant Communities in the Republic of Turkey*"

Jennifer Grocer, University of Texas, Anthropology, "*Discourses of Affiliation: Turkey's Post-Soviet Relations with the Turkic Republics of Central Asia*"

Kevin Meskill, Indiana University, Anthropology, "*The Implications of Religious Schooling in Turkey: Education, Identity, and Religious Mobilization*"

Bradley Parker, University of Utah, History, "*The Talavaş Tepe Indigenous Cultures Project*"

Nicholas Rauh, Purdue University, History, "*Amphora Production and Kiln Sites in Western Rough Cilicia*"

Michael Reynolds, Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies, "*Ottoman Foreign Policy toward Russia, 1908-1922: Identity, Ideology, and Geopolitics*"

Steven Rosen, Ben Gurion University, Archaeology, "*The Lithic Workshop at Tiriş, Stage 2*"

Sonya Suponic, University of California, Berkeley, Anthropology, "*Daily Practice at Çatal Höyük: the Role of Clay Balls in Everyday Life*"

Charles Wilkins, Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, "*Elite Households in 17th Century Ottoman Aleppo*"

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FELLOWS

Owen Doonan, University of Illinois, Classics and Archaeology, "*Sinope Regional Survey I: the Near Hinterland Survey*"

Mine Ener, Villanova University, History, "*Providing for the Poor of Late-Ottoman Istanbul*"

Ariel Salzman, New York University, Near East Studies, "*Fluid Frontier: States, Markets, and the Making of Economic Subjects in the Eastern Mediterranean (1739 - 1789)*"

Lucienne Thys-Senocak, Koç University, History, "*The Ottoman Fortifications of Kumkale and Seddulbahır*"

ARIT - SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION FELLOWS

Esra Akcan, Columbia University, History of Art, "*The Memory of the Turkish House*"

William Aylward, University of Cincinnati, Classics "*The Agora at Ilion from Xerxes to Constantine*"

Amy Raymond, University of Toronto, Archaeology, "*Miletus in the Middle Bronze Age and Minoan presence in the Eastern Aegean*"

ARIT-USIA-BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAM IN TURKISH LANGUAGE, SUMMER 1999

Febe Armanios, Ohio State University

Teresa Burns, Claremont Graduate University

Mitra Brewer, Georgetown University

John Curry, Ohio State University

David Cuthell, Princeton University

Michael Ellison, University of California, Santa Barbara

Garner Gollatz, Georgetown University

Leila Harris, University of Minnesota

Denice Hill, Cranbrook University

Jeff Jurgens, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Noushin Lavasani, University of California, Los Angeles

Matthew Kocher, University of Chicago

Ruth Miller, Princeton University

Amy Mills, University of Texas, Austin

Michael Pittman, University of North Carolina

Maria Richter, Columbia University

Jennifer Utrata, University of California, Berkeley

ARIT MELLON POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS 1999 - 2000

Dr. Malgorzata Grebska-Kulova, Historical Museum, Blageovgrad, Bulgaria "*Anatolian Origins of Late Neolithic Painted Pottery in the Struma Valley*"

Dr. János Sipos, Attila József University of Szeged, Hungary, "*A Comparative Study of Turkic Laments*"

Dr. Tsoni Tsonev, Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Science, "*Hunter-Gatherers and Early Farmers in Anatolia and Eastern Balkans*"

ARIT INSTITUTIONAL FELLOWS

Selma Krody, The Textile Museum, "*Ottoman Embroidered Textiles Research Project*"

Thomas Kühn, New York University, Middle East Studies, "*Shaping Ottoman Rule in Yemen, 1872-1919*"

Oğuz Soysal, University of Chicago, Hittite Dictionary, "*Ortaköy-Sapinuwa Epigraphical Research*"

Nazan Ustundağ, Indiana University, Sociology, "*Modernity as Experienced by Migrant Women in Turkey*"

ARIT TURKISH FELLOWS

The ARIT Turkish Fellows sponsored by the Dernek are listed above in the *ARIT-Istanbul Branch News*, page 2 above.

FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Professor Dina Rizk Khoury, George Washington University, ARIT-National Endowment of the Humanities Fellow, *Urban Rebellions in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire: Studies in Popular Political Culture in Baghdad, 1620s-1830s*

My research interest lay in studying the transformation in popular political culture in the city of Baghdad between the 17th and early 19th centuries. I divided my six months' research time between the Prime Minister's archives and the Suleimaniye library in Istanbul. I collected a number of documents, drawn from different classifications, in which complaints by subjects of the sultan were recorded, as well as registers in which orders by the state to redress such complaints were preserved. In addition, I looked at a number of registers pertaining to the mobilization and composition of the military regiments stationed in Baghdad, who were often the instigators and perpetrators of urban rebellions. In the Suleimaniye library, I examined an array of manuscripts that offered narrative accounts of the rebellions or shed light on some of the ideological issues involved in such rebellions. I spent most of the winter and spring at ARIT in Arnavutköy, making use of its excellent library and collegial atmosphere.

I narrowed my study to examining a few critical rebellions in the city of Baghdad for which there are literary and archival sources. These rebellions coincide with time of severe political crises for the Ottoman state. They thus provide a window onto the links between local popular actions and crises at the center of the Empire. At the same time, the existence of narrative accounts of these rebellions allows me to trace the transformation in the organizational culture of popular political activity over a long period of time. The accounts often list the neighborhoods involved in the rebellion, rituals of rebellious crowds, and the perception of self and other in the heat of the battle. They may also betray the chroniclers' perception of the

state or its representatives. Some sufi texts, polemical tracts, and a number of didactic works on proper conduct for political rulers, permit a glimpse of the politico-religious milieu of the period. While the first part of my research seeks to find links between popular political action and transformations in state hegemony, the second part focuses on the articulation of political and religious identities during periods of unrest.

I concentrated first on a major rebellion in the 17th century, that of Bakr Subasi, a Janissary leader. In 1622, after the Ottomans refused to appoint him as governor, Bakr Subasi surrendered Baghdad to Shah Abbas, with the support of a large contingent of mercenary troops as well as some local notables. That his betrayal of his Ottoman sovereign came in the aftermath of the deposition of the sultan by Janissary troops in Istanbul may not have been coincidence. In my study of this rebellion, I utilized two histories of Baghdad written in the 17th century, as well as a number of documents from the Istanbul archives pertaining to troop recruitment and mobilization. My preliminary findings point in two directions: first, that the rebellion had a great deal to do with the struggle for control among different contenders over the organization of coercion in the Empire; and second, that in Iraq such struggle was compounded by the ambiguity of religious and political allegiances of local populations to the Ottoman state.

I continued work on a cluster of rebellions between the 1760s and 1830s that had some features in common with the earlier rebellion. The instigators were often military regiments and the rebellions were often instigated at a time of political, military, and economic crises at the center. Beyond these generalized common features, however, there were differences between the 17th-century rebellion and the later ones. The Baghdadi population was now organizing itself in new ways, was privy to a number of religio-political movements with activist adherents, and appears to have become adept at defining its identity by appeal to "meta-narratives." These derived from a number of sources and depended on which group mobilized them. They could be derived from a pristine Arab tribal past, a puritanical Islamic community, an activist/reformist Sufi order, allegiance to a local mamluk household, or loyalty to the Ottoman political vision. What is clear from these narratives and the multiple identities they proclaim is that despite some overlap between them, each is often strong enough to generate political action. It is as yet too early to link changes in the organization of political action by Baghdadis with these different "meta-narratives." Nor is it easy to decipher at this point the connections between the local and the imperial. I hope to do so when I examine all the documents I have collected.

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