



ARIT NEWSLETTER

American Research Institute in Turkey



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have had the honor of serving as president of ARIT for six years, and since my term will end in January, I wanted to summarize the current state of the Institute as well as the changes we've experienced since 2017. There are many of them. Our long-time Istanbul branch director Tony Greenwood retired in 2019 after 37 years of dedicated service, and Zeynep Simavi joined the Istanbul branch as the new director. The Istanbul headquarters shifted from Arnavutköy to Beyoğlu, thanks to the assistance and support of ANAMED, the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations. We also have a subsidiary office in Karaköy, not far from ANAMED, which means that ARIT now benefits from a synergy of research institutes in the center of the city.

The innovative programming of

the Istanbul and Ankara centers has demonstrated the central role that ARIT plays in analyzing some of the most pressing issues of today. I single out three of their conferences: *The Protection of Cultural Heritage in Emergency Situations, Refugees and Migrations in Historical Perspective*, and *The Joint Heritage of the Maritime Micro-Regions of Lesbos and Pergamon*. Such conferences have succeeded in attracting a large international community, and they provided an opportunity for us to form partnerships with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the German Archaeological Institute, the British Institute at Ankara, and the Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Center (KUDAR) at Koç University. The branch library collections now rest on a stronger foundation since we were able to bring our NEH Challenge Grant to completion, for which I thank Peter Kuniholm and Bülent Gültekin, in particular.



Gözde Doğan, Brian Rose, and Günsel Özbilen Güngör at the 2022 Independence Day party at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.

Our fellowship program continues to serve as an invaluable resource for scholars studying all aspects of Turkish civilization and society. In its 58 years of service, ARIT has supported almost 800 fellowships for U.S. scholars conducting research in Turkey, nearly 90 of which have been ARIT-NEH fellowships, while providing financial assistance to approximately 560 Turkish scholars. Nearly 700 U.S. students and scholars have benefited from our advanced Turkish language training programs each summer, and over 100 scholars from Greece and

Turkey have taken part in our exchange program with the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA). Most U.S. scholars working today in humanistic studies related to Turkey have either held ARIT fellowships or have been otherwise affiliated with the Institute, as a center guest, a recipient of facilitative services, or a library user. The fellowship program received a major boost last year due to a substantial bequest from Drs. Evan and Leman Fotos, whose generosity has enabled us to create an endowment fund to support grants focused primarily on

non-U.S. applicants who are ineligible for U.S. federal program support. The fellowship bears their names, and I again record our thanks to Robert Pollock, Bahar Yolaç Pollock, and Onur Ulgen for their help in finalizing the gift. Despite the generosity of this bequest, our fellowship program and the Institute's operations in general remain vulnerable as prices in Turkey continue to skyrocket, so I ask you to consider a gift to our Annual Fund tied to whatever program you value most.

We would not be able to navigate the bureaucracies with which we deal without the support and guidance of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara and the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul. I cannot count the number of times in which Gözde Doğan at the Embassy has come to our rescue, and we are lucky to have had the honor of working with U.S. Consul General Jonathan Henick, Ambassadors David Satterfield and Jeff Flake, and Deputies Chief of Mission Jeff Hovenier and Scott Oudkirk.

Our most significant challenge during the last three years has involved the COVID pandemic, which affected virtually all of our programs and operations, but the combined creativity and resilience of the staff in Istanbul, Ankara, and Philadelphia enabled us to weather each emergency as it appeared. I close with my thanks to all of you for your support of ARIT during the last six years, especially Elif Denel, Zeynep Simavi, Nancy Leinwand, and Sylvia Önder, the Friends of ARIT in both Istanbul and Ankara, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The state of the Institute is strong because you are a part of our community, and I'm delighted that I've had an opportunity to meet so many of you while serving as ARIT president.

C. Brian Rose
President



Our branch directors Zeynep Simavi (Istanbul) and Elif Denel (Ankara) during the Friends of ARIT trip to Mudurnu.

ARIT-ISTANBUL BRANCH NEWS

Istanbul Branch News

The year 2022 has been quite an active period for ARIT-Istanbul with some projects coming to completion, others ongoing, and many new ones planned for 2023.

As some of you may remember, last year we announced our receipt of a generous grant for a two-year-long digitization project, administered by the Endangered Archives Programme at the British Library and funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin. Entitled *Preparing 'The Messenger' to go online: digitally preserving Avedaper and other rare publications of an Istanbul missionary press*, our project aimed to catalogue and digitize the periodical and pamphlet collection of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM). Thanks to the hard work of the team at ARIT-Istanbul, Brian Johnson, Selin Hogopian, and Sevil Üzrek, we are now in the final stages of the project. The entire collection of the newspaper *Avedaper* in Armenian and the Armeno-Turkish language has been completely catalogued and digitized, and the work on the pamphlets and tracts portion of the collection is currently underway. In February, to showcase our collection and the digitization work being conducted at ARIT-Istanbul, our intern Emmanuel Houalla produced a short video for the Endangered Archives Programme, which can be seen at <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP1355>.

Our ongoing cataloguing and digitization project for the ABCFM Archives with SALT Research continues thanks to the time and effort of our FARIT member Mary Berkmen as well as the ARIT interns, Emmanuel and Ebrar Başığit, who helped with cataloguing under the supervision of



2022 Summer Turkish Language Fellows with Sylvia Önder in Karaköy.



Ivana Jevtic presenting at the Interdisciplinary Textiles Studies Workshop.

Brian and Mary. This past summer we could not host student interns from Hillsdale College, but Dr. Charles Yost, assistant professor of medieval history, visited us in Istanbul with his students. Dr. Yost is now in charge of the summer internship program and we look forward to welcoming student interns from Hillsdale for an in-person internship experience in the summer of 2023.

After a two-year break, we were delighted to have our Turkish Language Fellows in the country again this summer. We resumed the ARIT tradition by organizing a welcome dinner at our neighboring restaurant *Ficcin* in Beyoğlu, and our generous host, Koç University's ANAMED Center, opened their library for us on Sunday morning for the Turkish testing,

which was followed by a visit to ARIT's Annex Office in Karaköy. In addition to the ARIT activities, our colleagues at Boğaziçi University also offered a wide range of programs for the summer fellows, which the program's leader, Professor Sylvia Önder, describes in detail in the newsletter.

While our online lecture series with ARIT-Ankara continues (see below for the full list of 2022 programs), we resumed our in-person academic programs in Istanbul in March, the first since the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Amanda Phillips and Dr. Ivana Jevtic organized an interdisciplinary textiles studies workshop at ANAMED, bringing together experts from various fields to discuss the past, future, and potential of textile studies to a diverse group of students studying at universities in Turkey. In June, Professor Nick Cahill gave an in-person lecture on the Sardis Expedition at the Pera House, and in early July, we were able to hold a three day international conference, *Occupied Istanbul: Urban Politics, Culture, and Society, 1918–1923*, which was initially scheduled for fall 2020. This took place at SALT Research and Boğaziçi University, and all sessions were livestreamed on YouTube. Since September, our lectures in Istanbul have been in hybrid format, taking place at the ANAMED Auditorium for in-town participants and livestreaming on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

The work on the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery this past year has been as busy as ever. Restoration of the Cemetery's gate and the Chapel was completed with financial support from Mustafa Rahmi Koç and the Hungarian Consulate General in Istanbul for the former, and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality for the latter. On October 31st, the renovated chapel officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and Şişli



ARIT intern Daniel Bártla recording tombstones in the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery.



Brian Johnson and Richard Wittmann unveiling the ASCE membership plaque at the Annex Office to other Initiative members.

Municipality Mayor Muammer Keskin, along with the Diplomatic Governing Board and the Initiative members.

Over the summer, thanks to the hard work of ARIT interns Daniel B trla, Mai Bakr, Defne and Melis Ak akayaliođlu and interns from the other Institutes of the Initiative, the recording of the Cemetery's tombs is almost complete. Additionally, this summer an ecological survey of the site was initiated by the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA) to further document the site and preserve its environment.

In September, before departing for Uzbekistan, the U.S. Consul General Jonathan Henick paid a visit to the cemetery along with Fleur Cowan and Seda Arslan, as the U.S. took over the presidency of the Diplomatic Governing Board from Hungary this fall. ARIT-Istanbul has already started to work closely with Kirsten E. Thompson and Seda Arslan from the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul.

A major milestone for the Initiative's efforts to bring recognition to the site was achieved when our application to become a member of the Association of

the Significant Cemeteries of Europe (ASCE) was accepted. As Initiative members, we celebrated this with an unveiling of the ASCE plaque and a special cake designed for the occasion at the ARIT Annex Office. Then, on December 8th, the U.S. Consulate General and ARIT-Istanbul, together with the Orient-Institut in Istanbul, organized a special reception at the cemetery for the Diplomatic Governing Board to highlight this development.

A major project that ARIT-Istanbul will be working on during the U.S. presidency of the Diplomatic



Opening Ceremony of the Ferik y Protestant Cemetery Chapel after restoration.



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Governing Board is to oversee the conservation of eight endangered historic tombstones in the U.S. section, and the replacement of the Robert College Memorial plaque, thanks to a generous grant of \$25,000 from the U.S. Mission to Turkey. The conservation work is being planned for Spring 2023, and we will also be partnering with Robert College for events to highlight the US-Turkey ties represented by these monuments and those they commemorate.

As the documentation, research, and restoration activities on the cemetery continue, they can be followed from *Ledger*, the biannual online bulletin, accessible from the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative website (<https://www.ferikoycemetery.org>).

Compared to the past two years which were marked by the uncertainties of the pandemic, this year we received a record number of applications for both the Hanfmann-Mellink and the Dernek Fellowship Programs. While the Hanfmann-Mellink fellowship committee found seven projects worthy

to be supported, the Dernek jury members awarded six fellowships for the 2022 cycle, for which a detailed award list can be found below.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the scholars and colleagues who took time from their busy schedules to give lectures and serve on our fellowship committees; to all staff members at ANAMED; and to all FARIT members and program participants who supported us, with a special mention of the FARIT Steering Committee members: Nedret Butler, Ali Ertenu, Anthony Greenwood, Başak Kızıldemir, Aylin McCarthy, Alan Mellaart, Neslihan Tonbul, and Yaprak Archibald Uras.

As we end the year 2022 on a high note in Istanbul, we wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Zeynep Simavi
Istanbul Branch Director

2022 ARIT Istanbul Programs (in chronological order)

- ❖ Ms. Naz Yücel (George Washington University), “Rethinking Economic Sources of Hamidian Legitimacy” (online)
- ❖ *Interdisciplinary Textile Studies: Past, Future, Potential*. Workshop organized and led by Dr. Amanda Phillips (University of Virginia) and Dr. Ivana Jevtic (Koç University) (in-person)
- ❖ Dr. Nathan Young (Ohio State University), “Modernity’s Other: Nostalgia for Village Life in Turkey” (online)
- ❖ Dr. Ümit Kurt (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “An Attempted Pogrom in Early Twentieth-Century Ottoman Society: Let Adapazarı not be Adana!” (online)
- ❖ Ms. Hazal Özdemir (Northwestern University), “‘They Vowed to Never Return:’ Photographic Documentation and Armenian Mobility at the End of Empire” (online)
- ❖ Dr. Nick Cahill (University of Wisconsin-Madison), “The Sardis Expedition: Restoration of the Roman-Era Synagogue, and other Recent Developments” (in-person)
- ❖ *Occupied Istanbul: Urban Politics, Culture, and Society, 1918–1923*. International conference organized with the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA), Boğaziçi University (BU), Institut Français d’Études Anatoliennes (IFEA), and SALT Research (in-person and online)
- ❖ Dr. Sonia Tamar Seeman (University of Texas at Austin), “Bread Money: Musical training and transmission among Roman (“Gypsy”) Professional Music Families” (in-person and online)
- ❖ Dr. Kate Dannies (Miami University), “Mobilizing Gender and Family for the Ottoman First World War” (in-person and online)
- ❖ Ms. Zeynep Simavi (ARIT-Istanbul) with Dr. Nancy Micklewright, Dr. Sana Mirza, and Mr. Jeffrey Smith (National Museum of Asian Art), “Network Analysis and Forming a National



Brian Johnson with the U.S. Consul General Jonathan Henick, Fleur Cowan, and Seda Arslan at the U.S. section of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery.

Collection: The Case of Charles Lang Freer,” as part of ANAMED Library Digital Scholarship Program (online)
❖ Dr. Kenan Sharpe (University of California, Santa Cruz), “Anatolian Rock and 1960s Social Movements in Turkey: Between the Countryside and the World” (in-person and online)

Iranian threats to tourists in Istanbul. On Monday, without incident, we were able to move the Fellows who selected dorm accommodation into the Boğaziçi SuperDorm, although many preferred to find their own accommodation using internet housing services and personal connections. We

were warmly welcomed to Boğaziçi University (BU) by Program Directors Mine Nakipoğlu and Metin Bağrıaçık, as well as our able administrator Özge Bakay, along with the twelve language faculty and seven teaching assistants.

The Boğaziçi Turkish Language and Culture Program (TLCP)

SUMMER LANGUAGE PROGRAM

ARIT-BU Summer Fellowships for Advanced Turkish, 2022

After our successful yet online Summer Program for thirty ARIT-BU Fellows in 2021, it was a great delight to be able to return to Turkey for the summer of 2022. This year, with continued funding from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, we were able to support a good cohort of 17 ARIT-BU Fellows: one faculty, five PhD students, five MA students, and six undergraduates. Their fields ranged from our usual applicant fields of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Ottoman History, Ethnomusicology, and Political Science to the less common applicant fields of International Education, Nursing, and Classical Studies.

On June 18th and 19th, we met for orientation in Istanbul with a shared meal and then the inevitable barrage of pre-program testing at ANAMED on Istiklal Avenue, hosted by Istanbul ARIT Branch Director Zeynep Simavi. We also visited the new ARIT office in Karaköy, an area which has become a lively destination for dining and shopping. The ARIT Istanbul staff was very helpful throughout the summer as we all adjusted again to in-person instruction. That first weekend was somewhat nerve-wracking because the Israeli government had put out a most severe warning against travel to Turkey because of plausible



ARIT-BU Fellows at the Byzantine Yoros Castle.



The BU TLCP Bosphorus Boat Trip.

included intensive hours of class time at five levels with multiple instructors each weekday, with film showings, lectures, and field trips in addition. Project Director Sylvia Önder gave a lecture, “Americans in Turkey: A Dotted Lineage,” for the entire TLCP. Our ARIT-BU Fellows also benefitted from special activities, including a walking tour around the Byzantine walls and through the neighborhood of Yedikule which has been undergoing extensive renovations, led by 2013 ARIT-BU Fellow Paul Osterlund—who took us to a top-notch location for lahmacun after our walk. Another unique benefit for the ARIT-BU

Fellows was a 24-page paper on *Turkish Protest Music* extensively illustrated and linked to music and videos by author and 2013 ARIT-BU Fellow Kenan Behzat Sharpe. The traditional ARIT ferryboat trip, hike to the Byzantine Yoros Castle, and fish lunch happened on July 23rd. This occurred without the guidance of retired Istanbul ARIT Branch Director Tony Greenwood, who was missed (he, however, quite likely did not miss us, as he was happily ensconced at his summer place near the Aegean). In his absence, Tony Bey’s favorite Lord Byron poem about the Black Sea, which famously rhymes “Euxine” with “pukes in” was duly

read aloud to the assembled Fellows.

Altogether, the ARIT-BU Fellows had a marvelous summer. In the final evaluations, one Fellow wrote: “The program provides many different avenues and opportunities for language improvement, both in the various skills emphasized in class and also in the excursions and events hosted outside of class.” Another said: “In my opinion, there is no other way to effectively learn a language without being surrounded by the language and staying in the country where the language is spoken. I really liked the energy and vibe of BU, plus the TA’s were very warm and accepting.” A third remarked: “I improved in a lot of ways—I definitely gained more confidence in using my Turkish. It was an immersive program so I was able to learn and explore Turkish culture.”

Our final dinner in the open air near campus was very special because quite a few of our 2022 Fellows are talented musicians—so we had several performances and a general singalong. We hope to be able to take a similar number of ARIT-BU Fellows to Turkey in the summer of 2023.

Sylvia Wing Önder
ARIT-BU Fellowship Project Director

ARIT-ANKARA BRANCH NEWS

Ankara Branch News

As Turkey came out of the long period of lockdowns and limited social interaction, we continued to require appointments for public access to the Toni M. Cross Library, while lectures, meetings, and events continued largely to be held online. With increased normalcy, we will likely continue to be connected to the international ARIT community through the internet, as we move toward a hybrid format for our



The ARIT-BU End-of-Program Dinner.

lectures and meetings, even when we start in-person events in 2023.

Before leaving his post in Ankara, Ambassador David Satterfield held a holiday get-together at the Ambassador's residence in December of 2021. This was the first event for the Friends of Ankara ARIT as well as the ARIT community in general since the beginning of the pandemic. Many of us saw one another for the first time

in a period of about two years. The hospitality of Ambassador Satterfield and his wife, Elizabeth Fritschle, and the warmth of this greatly appreciated event were not only huge contributions to our morale but also tone-setters for the new year. As before, Friends of ARIT Steering Committee member and the current Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, Scott Oudkirk, provided great assistance

and support.

In January 2022, Ankara welcomed former U.S. Senator Jeffrey Flake as the new Ambassador and his wife, Cheryl Flake. Upon their arrival in Turkey, they showed great interest in ARIT and American archaeological projects, as they started traveling to sites and attending ARIT events.

Archaeological field projects returned to full seasons in Turkey



**ARIT SUMMER
FELLOWSHIPS FOR
ADVANCED TURKISH
LANGUAGE STUDY**

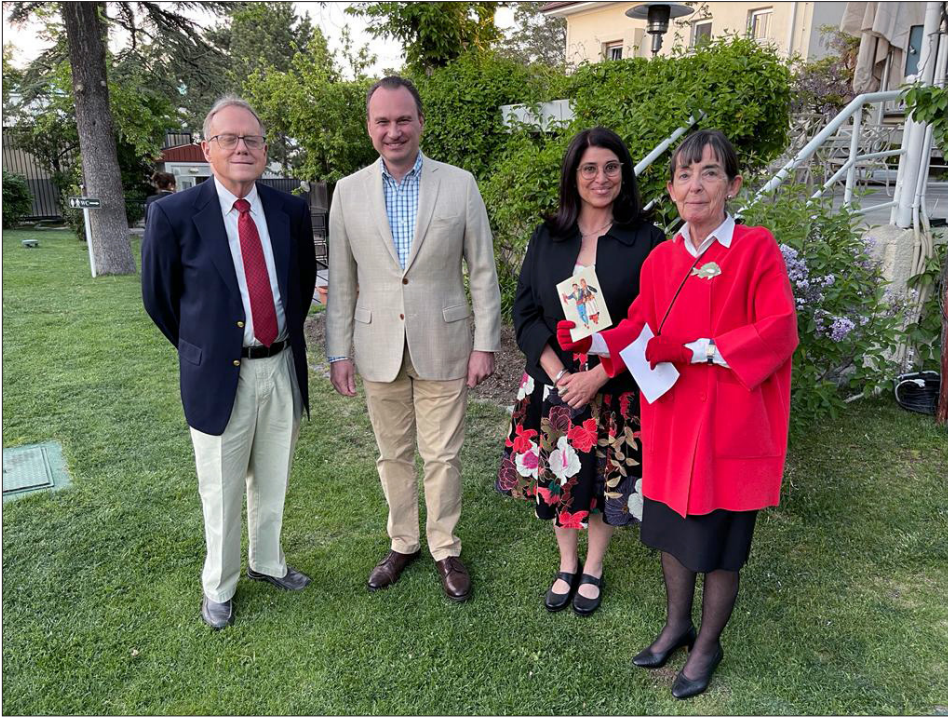
Application deadline
February 2023

<https://aritweb.org/fellowships/arit-summer-fellowships-turkish/>



Ambassador Jeffrey Flake, Deputy Chief of Mission Scott Oudkirk, and Ankara branch director Elif Denel at the retirement party for Charles and Marie-Henriette Gates at the residence of the Deputy Chief of Mission.

during the summer of 2022. Ankara ARIT continued to assist American and Canadian projects and researchers during the period of readjustment by facilitating communication between permit applicants and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Charles Gates, Scott Oudkirk, Elif Denel, and Marie-Henriette Gates at the retirement party at the residence of the Deputy Chief of Mission.



The 2021 holiday celebration dinner that Ambassador Satterfield held for the Friends of ARIT at the Ambassador's Residence.

Fellowships

While Istanbul ARIT operated the Ilse and George Hanfmann and Machteld J. Mellink Fellowships for 2021–2022, Ankara ARIT provided support by sponsoring the meetings of the jury. As for the W. D. E. Coulson and Toni M. Cross Aegean Exchange Fellowships for 2022, one scholar was chosen, Dr. Saffet Hülya Canbakal from Sabancı University in Istanbul, who traveled to Crete to conduct research mostly in Rethymno and Chania on her project entitled *The Economics of Gender Inequality in the Ottoman Empire: An Interregional and Intercommunal Comparison / Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda Cinsiyet Eşitsizliğinin Ekonomisi: Bölgeler Arası ve Cemaatler Arası Bir Karşılaştırma*.

Ankara Friends of ARIT

We would like to thank the Ankara Friends of ARIT Steering Committee for their great support and assistance throughout these difficult times. The members of the Committee are Baybars Alpaslan, Elif Denel, Marlene Elwell, Shirley Epir, Jennie Lane, Ron Tickfer, Shauna Tufan, ARIT Assistant Burcu Yıldırım, and Scott Oudkirk, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy. The Ankara Friends also welcomed Marco Sims to the Steering Committee in early fall of 2022. He recently retired from the Foreign Service and took up residence in Ankara.

We are very saddened that Charles and Marie-Henriette Gates, both from Bilkent University's Archaeology Department, took their retirement at the end of the summer of 2022. They have been avid supporters of ARIT and the Friends of ARIT for decades during their tenure at Bilkent. We are all grateful for their endless contributions to ARIT, and I would like to extend my gratitude to them for sharing their wisdom with me on

many issues and on many occasions, not only concerning ARIT but also archaeology in general. As the Gates relocated at the end of the summer to Paris, the Ankara Friends passed the torch on to the Louvre Museum with a gift to them of a year-long membership as ‘Amis du Louvre.’ Also, we would like to extend our thanks to Scott Oudkirk, who organized a fabulous farewell reception on May 13th, 2022 in the beautiful garden of the residence of the Deputy Chief of Mission. The reception was attended not only by the Friends and our supporters in Ankara, but also by the new Ambassador Jeffrey Flake and his wife Cheryl.

The Ankara Friends of ARIT provided great support for the lecture series, which continued online through the period of the pandemic. We all miss in-person lectures and events, but the online lectures have brought us friends and supporters from all corners of the world.

Following the holiday get-together at the Ambassador’s residence hosted by Ambassador Satterfield and Elizabeth Fritschle, the Ankara Friends organized a trip to Gordion, hosted in July 2022 by Brian Rose and the entire research team. In the fall, Suna Güven of Middle East Technical University again provided us with a wonderful tour of Roman Ankara. We hope to increase our specialized tours with expert guides as the current health conditions allow.

Lectures

Ankara ARIT continued to hold lectures, events, and meetings on Zoom between the fall of 2021 and 2022. In addition to ongoing collaboration with the Turkish American Association in organizing lectures on the art and archaeology of Turkey, ARIT co-sponsored an online lecture with Bilkent University’s Archaeology Department. A new on-line lecture series was initiated

in 2022 that was co-sponsored and co-organized by ARIT, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), and Koç University’s Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Research Center (KUDAR). Also in 2022, lectures in Turkish were initiated by ARIT and Türk Amerikan İlimi Araştırmalar Derneği, which is a Turkish association (*dernek*) that operates under the umbrella of ARIT.

Most of these lectures can now be accessed on the YouTube channel of ARIT (<https://www.youtube.com/@americanresearchinstitutei3409>):

❖ Tuğba Sarıcaoğlu (Independent Scholar), “Digital Archaeology and the Heroon of Erythrae: A Data-Driven Conservation Action Plan with HBIM.”

❖ Aslıhan Yener (Director Emerita–Alalakh Excavations, Professor Emerita–Koç University and University of Chicago, the Oriental Institute, Research Affiliate–ISAW, New York University), “Defining Tin Ore Provenance for the Bronze Age Mediterranean with Sn and Pb Isotopes: A New Look.”

❖ Wendy Shaw (Independent Scholar), “From History to Poetry: Reframing Islamic Art.”

❖ İdil Üçer Karababa (Istanbul, Bilgi University), “Domus et Imperium: The Roman Imperial Family as a Political Concept.”

The 42nd Annual Lecture Series: Art and Archaeology in Turkey, co-sponsored with the Turkish American Association (TAA):

❖ Ela Alanyalı Aral (Ankara, Middle East Technical University), “Ankara Tumuli: Pursuing the Remnants of a Historical Landscape in Maps and Aerial Photographs.”

Bilkent University, Department of Archaeology / ARIT co-sponsored lecture:

❖ Robert Ousterhout (Professor

Emeritus—University of Pennsylvania), “The Architecture of the Caucasus in the Global Middle Ages.”

ARIT-INA-KUDAR Lecture Series:

❖ Deborah Carlson (Texas A&M University, President of INA), “The Classical Shipwreck at Tektaş Burnu, Turkey.”

❖ Alkiviadis A. Ginnalis (German Archaeological Institute, Istanbul), “The Byzantine Aegean: A Connecting Sea.”

Türk Amerikan İlimi Araştırmalar Derneği Lectures, in Turkish:

❖ Nur Urfalıoğlu (Istanbul Yıldız Teknik University), “İstanbul’un Çeşme ve Sebilleri / The Public Fountains of Istanbul.”

❖ Berk Kesim (Kayseri Abdullah Gül University), “Ankara Sokakları. Modern Bir Başkent’in T a s a r ı m ı Üzerine / The Streets of Ankara. On the Design of a Modern Capital City.”

Toni M. Cross Library

In-person library usage remained low between the fall of 2021 and the fall of 2022 due to the pandemic. We continued to accept visitors with appointments and provided PDFs of articles and books for those who could not come in person. Eighteen visitors used the library in person, thirteen of whom were of Turkish nationality, while five were American. Two were undergraduates; the others were scholars with advanced degrees. The affiliations of the Turkish scholars included Kayseri Abdullah Gül University, Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Ankara University, Middle East Technical University, Hacettepe University, TED University, Hatay Mustafa Kemal University, Kahraman Maraş Sütçü İmam University, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Those of U.S. nationality were affiliated with Koç University, the University of

Michigan, the University of Central Florida, and the U.S. Embassy.

The Ankara ARIT librarian, Özlem Eser, recorded a total of 191 books added to the collection of the Cross Library, 130 of which were purchased and 61 were donations. We would like to thank the following individuals and institutions for the 64 books donated as gifts into our collection: Ben Claasz Coockson, İhsan Çetin, Coşkun Kökel, Fahri Dikkaya, Elif Denel, Serim Denel, Ron Tickfer, Vasıf Şahoğlu, Bursa Uludağ University Mosaic Research Center, ÇEKÜL Vakfı, the Gaziantep Directorate of Museums, General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, British School at Athens, Göç İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü, Mersin University Research Center of Cilician Archaeology, Koç University, Römisch-Germanische Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Turkish Institute of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Turkish Underwater Archaeology Foundation (TINA), and Yunus Emre Enstitüsü. We are particularly grateful

to İhsan Çetin, the husband of former Ankara ARIT Director, Toni Cross, who donated eleven boxes of books to Ankara ARIT in June of 2022. ARIT also signed a contract with Gemini, a company that provides the Koha Library Program, in order to transfer the Cross Library collection to a digital platform that is efficient to use and maintain.

We extend our gratitude to all those who support ARIT, especially the Ankara Friends of ARIT, for their ongoing and enthusiastic support. We are also very grateful for the support of Ambassador Satterfield and Ambassador Flake. Scott Oudkirk has been a great source of wisdom and help, both as a Friends of Ankara ARIT Steering Committee member and as the Deputy Chief of Mission. In addition, Gabrielle Price, the Cultural Attaché, and Gözde Doğan, Public Affairs Specialist from the U.S. Embassy, have provided great help and support on a variety of issues, both for ARIT and for U.S.-based researchers and specialists in Turkey. We would like to thank them profusely

for their many contributions to our operations. Finally, we would like to thank the fellowship committees and our lecturers who supported ARIT during the difficult period of the pandemic. Your support and guidance have enabled us to continue to promote research on Anatolian culture, history, and archaeology.

Elif Denel
Ankara Branch Director



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Group photo at the Ankara Citadel: the Roman Ankara tour with Prof. Suna Güven, fall 2022.

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ARIT-NEH Fellows

ARIT-NEH Fellowships are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

❖ Prof. Perin Gürel (American Studies, Notre Dame University), *Turkey, Iran, and the Politics of Comparison*. From Cold War modernization theory to promoting “moderate” Islam after 9/11, policy oriented scholars often approach Turkey and Iran in a comparatist fashion. This project investigates how comparisons between Turkey and Iran have operated politically and culturally from the Cold War to the War on Terror.

❖ Dr. Kenan Sharpe (International Studies, Independent Scholar), *Rockers and Radicals in Anatolia: Turkish Psychedelic Music and the Global 1960s*. This project offers a cultural history of Anadolu Rock, a genre of popular music combining Turkish folk music with global rock ‘n’ roll. In the 1960s and 1970s, musicians like Barış Manço and bands like Moğollar brought together traditional lyrics and melodies from the Anatolian countryside with modern instruments like the electric guitar, drum kit, and synthesizer. The study shows how Anadolu Rock can serve as a window onto political ideologies during the turbulent 1960s.

❖ Dr. Sarah Yeomans (Art History, Classical Archaeology, University of Southern California), *Roman Medicine in Rhodiapolis: An Imperial-Era Medical School*. Excavations of the Graeco-Roman City of Rhodiapolis (Kumluca, Turkey) have revealed a second-century CE medical complex, which functioned as a center of medical training. This project will complete an analysis of the material from Rhodiapolis and conduct a comparative study in Turkey. The work will alter our current paradigm for how medical knowledge was transmitted and acquired in the Roman world.

ARIT-CAORC-State
ECA Fellowships

❖ Ms. Bayan Abubakr (Middle Eastern and African History, Yale University), *The Forty Days’ Road and the World Around It: Race, Slavery, and Society in Ottoman-Egyptian Sudan, 1821–1904*. This project examines the movement, experiences, and networks of enslaved peoples and slave-trading merchants in Ottoman-Egyptian Sudan along trans-Saharan trading routes. The study shows how these processes influenced the way the groups racialized themselves and were themselves racialized, and how they structured the governance of Ottoman-Egyptian Sudan.

❖ Dr. Donovan Adams (Bioarchaeology, University of Central Florida), *Biological Diversity and Community Structure at Early Bronze Age Karataş-Semayük*. Karataş-Semayük was an Early Bronze Age settlement in modern-day southwestern Turkey. Though small in spatial and population size, emerging social stratification is evident in the monumental architecture and special treatment of an individual burial. The social context and the large skeletal collection representing a well-seriated time frame offer a unique opportunity to assess the biocultural changes of the period. This study analyzes dental metric and morphological data from adult and juvenile individuals to understand biological diversity and kinship as expressed through mortuary practice.

❖ Mr. Henry Clements (Middle Eastern History, Yale University), *History and the Struggle for Distinction: The Syriac Christians of the Ottoman Empire*. This project presents an account of how the Syriac Christians came to conceive of themselves, and to be interpellated by others, as a distinctive, historical community. Considering modernizing Ottoman reform, Orientalist knowledge production, and Protestant missionary interactions, the study tracks a shift in late-Ottoman

society from a sociopolitical order rooted in Islamic tradition to one in which the authority of secular history dominated.

❖ Ms. Deren Ertaş (Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University), *Making the Keban-Ergani Mining Nexus: A New Materialist Examination of Late Ottoman Statecraft (1708–1908)*. This project investigates how the Late Ottoman effort to develop and govern the Taurus Mountain region transformed prevailing attitudes of government and forms of sociability in an Ottoman interior frontier. The study examines how transportation, communication, and military infrastructures created and maintained the Keban-Ergani Mining Nexus from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

❖ Ms. Elena Gittleman (Byzantine Art History, Bryn Mawr College), *Legacies of Ancient Theater in Middle Byzantine Visual Culture (ca. 843–1204)*. This new analysis stands at the intersection of traditional Byzantine art history and archaeology and contemporary critical theories of

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cultural memory and performance theory. Through an examination of architecture, manuscripts, frescoes, ivories, and jewelry, the study illuminates the ways in which the cultural memory of theater was made manifest in medieval Byzantine visual culture, as a mechanism through which imperial power and elite identity were performed, largely as part of the conscious cultivation of *romanitas*.

❖ Mr. Patrick Willett (Prehistoric Archaeology, State University of New York at Buffalo, and University of Leuven), *Revealing a Middle-Late Paleolithic Landscape in Central Anatolia*. Despite its ideal location for studying Middle-Late Pleistocene hominins, Anatolia remains an under-researched region for Paleolithic archaeology. Securely dated Middle Paleolithic sites number just five, while the Upper Paleolithic only two. New research has revealed artifacts from these periods and information about their contexts. The project uses the data in Turkey to model deposition events, correlating the artifacts with dated strata, and to develop new fieldwork informed by the study.

ARIT Fellowships

John Freely Fellow

These fellowships are awarded in memory of John Freely, the author of many travel and history books on Turkey, and a great supporter of ARIT.

❖ Mr. Anıl Aşkın (Ottoman History, Brown University), *The Capital Which Brings Peace and Security in Two Worlds?: Ottoman Extractivism in the Early Nineteenth Century (1800–1850)*. This project disaggregates Ottoman extractivism into three circuits of capital—mining, merchant, and military-industrial—through examining the operations around the Ottoman Imperial Mint. The study focuses on the mobility of Ömer Lütfi Efendi (d. 1836), whose career moved through all three arenas. Moving

beyond the Istanbul-centric, hyper-local, and overgeneralizing historiographies of capitalism, the study shows how Ottoman extractivism moved between the urban and rural zones by revealing the state-capital and class-labor relations constituting it.

Evan and Leman Fotos Fellows

Fellowships funded by the Evan and Leman Fotos Foundation.

❖ Ms. Özge Karagöz (Art History, Northwestern University), *Refiguring Art across Revolutions: Turkish and Soviet Artists in Alliance, 1933–1938*. Between World Wars, Turkey and Soviet Russia became allies as post-revolutionary states reacting against anti-Western-imperialism. Mobilizing Turkish and Soviet archives, this research explores how Turkish and Soviet artists elaborated a crucial component of their alliance as they sought to refigure art beyond Eurocentric norms.

❖ Mr. Onur Arslan (Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Davis), *Terrorism Expertise and ‘Suspicious’ Signals: Remaking the War on Terror in Turkey*.

Friends of ARIT Fellow

Supported by the U.S. Friends of ARIT.

❖ Ms. Neşe Kaya Özkan (Linguistic Anthropology, University of Arizona), *Language Loss, Environmental Change, and Activism in Homshetsi Lands, Turkey*. The Homshetsis are an ethnic group living in the eastern Black Sea Region of Turkey who speak Homshetsnak, an endangered Armenian language. Against a background of assimilationist Turkish nationalism leading to the endangerment of Homshetsnak, recently the Homshetsi lands have faced intensive development projects impacting Homshetsi people’s lives. This project investigates how Homshetsi people in Turkey understand and respond to the restructuring of life

after large-scale “development” projects and Turkish-only language policies.

ARIT US Education Group Projects Abroad, Turkish Language, Summer 2022

The U.S. Department of Education, Georgetown University Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages, and ARIT, provide support for participants in the Boğaziçi University Summer Program in Intensive Advanced Turkish Language.

- ❖ Michael Aboutboul (Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles)
- ❖ Nazrawith Tibebe Alemayehu (International Studies, University of North Carolina)
- ❖ Michael Gregory Battalia (Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University)
- ❖ Andrew Bonney (Middle East Studies, Brigham Young University)
- ❖ Nicholas Brenner (Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania)
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- ❖ Katherine Anne Costello (Ottoman



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and Turkish Studies, University of Chicago)

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W. D. E. Coulson and Toni M. Cross Aegean Exchange Fellows

Aegean Exchange Fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of State, Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

Turkey

- ❖ Ms. Saffet Hülya Canbakal (Ottoman History, Sabancı University), *The Economics of Gender Inequality in the Ottoman Empire: An Integrational and Intercommunal Comparison*. Ms. Canbakal is travelling to Crete and Mainland Greece to visit archives and universities for her comparative study.

Greece

- ❖ Mr. Dimitrios Bartzis (Archaeology, National Technical University of Athens), *The Early History of the Ionic Capital and the Mediterranean Origins of Greek Temple Architecture*. Mr. Bartzis will travel to sites and museums in western Turkey to study the local evidence.

- ❖ Mr. Petros Kastrinakis (History and Archaeology, University of Crete), *An Ottoman Port in the 19th Century: The Case of Chania (Ottoman Hanyá)*. Mr. Kastrinakis will carry out research in archives and libraries in Istanbul on the history of the Ottoman port at Chania.

- ❖ Ms. Dimitra Sikolidou (Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), *Consideration of Methodologies and Historical Interpretation in the Study of Palaiologan Church Architecture*. Ms. Sikolidou will carry out her comparative study in museums and sites in Istanbul and its environs.

- ❖ Mr. Dimitrios Stergiopoulos (Center for Hellenic Studies, University of California, San Diego), *Making a Fortune in a Time of Crisis: The Bankers of Athens and Istanbul in the 1870s*. Mr. Stergiopoulos is conducting research in archives and libraries to document the banking business in the late 18th century.

George M. A. Hanfmann, Ilse Böhlund Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink Fellows

The Hanfmann and Mellink Fellowships are supported by the Merops Foundation in honor of George M. A. and Ilse B. Hanfmann, and Machteld J. Mellink.

George M. A. Hanfmann Fellows

- ❖ Mr. Ozan Yıldırım (Istanbul Technical University), *The Necropolis of Larisa (Aeolis): Topography, Architecture, and Social-Representational Patterns*. Mr. Yıldırım will travel to Oxford University to conduct library research. He also will visit the museum collections in Stockholm, Uppsala, and Lund in Sweden, and Göttingen in Germany.

- ❖ Ms. Dicle Kaya Derinoğullu (Archaeology, Istanbul University), *Roman Bridges in Eastern Thrace and Anatolia in Late Antiquity: A Collective Evaluation from a Typological and Architectural Perspective*. Ms. Derinoğullu will visit the Institute for Medieval Research, Division of Byzantine Research, of the Austrian Academy of

Sciences (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften) to conduct library research (publications and ancient maps) and to attend seminars with the guidance of Prof. Andreas Külzer.

Ilse B. Hanfmann Fellows

- ❖ Ms. Arzu Güler (Landscape Architecture, Istanbul Teknik University), *Tracing the Past with Historic Landscape Characterization: Alaca Höyük*. Ms. Güler will carry out research at Newcastle University, UK, with Prof. Sam Turner on the HLC modeling method to measure the possible consequences of land cover changes in Alaca Höyük and its surroundings.

- ❖ Ms. Serap Yinsel (Art History, Hacettepe University), *The Monastery of Stylos at Bafa Lake (Latmos)*. Ms. Yinsel is travelling to the University of Athens for library research. She also will visit monasteries in Greece for comparative study.

Machteld J. Mellink Fellows

- ❖ Ms. Pinar Özükkurt (Prehistory, Istanbul University), *A Bioarchaeological Approach to Tepecik-Çiftlik Zooarchaeological Remains*. Ms. Özükkurt will conduct research at the Groningen Institute of Archaeology in the Netherlands to study oxygen stable isotopes and individual amino acid analysis with Dr. Canan Çakırlar.

- ❖ Dr. Ümit Gündoğan (Archaeology, Batman University), *Early Bronze Age Cult and Ritual in Western Anatolia and the Aegean in Light of the 'Open-Air Sanctuary' at Bakla Tepe*. Dr. Gündoğan will visit Durham University, UK, to conduct research and consult with Prof. Graham Philip on the burial and mortuary rituals of Bakla Tepe.

- ❖ Ms. Zeynep Beyza Ağırsoy (Prehistory, Ankara University), *The Neolithic Chipped Stone Industry of Gre Filla (Diyarbakır, Turkey)*. Ms. Ağırsoy is traveling to Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée (MOM) in France to conduct research with the guidance of Dr. Frederic Abbes at the Laboratoire Archéorient.

ARIT Turkish Dernek Fellows

❖ Mr. Tolga Kaan Kıyak (Archaeology, Hacettepe University), *The Significance of the 2nd Millennium BC Çine-Tepecik Ceramics in Western Anatolian and Aegean Archaeology*. Mr. Kıyak is analyzing pottery from the Late Bronze Aegean site of Çine-Tepecik, using digital tools to understand economic conditions, commercial relations, and connections with other cultures.

❖ Ms. Emine Öztaner (Art History and Archaeology, Koç University), *Reconstructing Nurbanu Sultan's Neighborhood and Recreating its Community: The Biography of a 16th-Century Üsküdar Community*. Ms. Öztaner is using archival resources to study the spatial evolution of a neighborhood within a diverse community.

❖ Ms. Sultan Sarı Ertaştan (Archaeology, Batman University), *Understanding the Neolithization of Northwestern Anatolia in the Light of Animal Remains from the Bilecik Bahçelievler Excavations*. Ms. Ertaştan is completing scientific analysis of the finds from her excavation project to understand diet and food resources in the 9th millennium BCE.

❖ Mr. Fatih Toumpan (Archaeology, Ankara University), *Alexander the Great on Roman City Coins: Iconography, Symbolism, and Cities*. Mr. Toumpan studies the iconography of Alexander the Great through Roman city coins connected with his fieldwork at Zeugma and other ancient cities.

❖ Ms. Ebru Tuna (Archaeology, Ege University), *Socio-Cultural Development of the Konya Basin in the 4th and 3rd Millennia BC in the Context of Ceramics Ecology*. Ms. Tuna is analyzing materials and results from the Konya regional archaeological survey.

❖ Ms. Uğurgül Tunç (Art History and Archaeology, Koç University), *Places of Healing and Hospitals in the Late Ottoman and Early Republican Periods*. Ms. Tunç is pursuing her research interests in the history and architecture of healthcare spaces.

REPORTS ON ARIT FELLOWSHIPS

Myrsini Manney-Kalogera, University of Arizona

ARIT Fellow, Department of State, Educational, and Cultural Affairs, 2021–2022

Greek Schools and Ottoman Patronage Networks in the Late Eighteenth/Early Nineteenth Century

My dissertation, provisionally titled “Greek Schools and Ottoman Patronage

Networks in the Late Eighteenth/Early Nineteenth Century,” explores the networks of Greek schools in the Ottoman Empire from approximately 1750 to 1820, highlighting the roles played by different actors as teachers, students, patrons, and intellectual leaders. My main purpose is to situate Greek language education within its broader Ottoman context, thereby including not only Christian, Greek-speaking intellectuals but also Muslim provincial notables, merchants residing in Europe, Orthodox clergymen, and private patrons.



Myrsini Manney-Kalogera in the course of her research in Istanbul.

Specifically, I ask: (1) How was the proliferation of Greek schools linked to elites like wealthy merchant families, Muslim provincial notables, and the Orthodox church? (2) How did the changing relationships between the groups cited above contribute to educational developments? (3) What broader imperial social anxieties and intellectual developments were Greek schools responding to? (4) In what way does a reconsideration of Greek-language education inform questions of Ottoman periodization and the relationship between nationalism and society?

To answer these questions, I drew upon archival material from the *T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı* (Presidential State Archives, BOA), the archives of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, and the collections of the Benaki Museum, Gennadius Library, National Archives and National Library of Greece, as well as published primary sources from the Ottoman Empire and beyond.

During my tenure as an ARIT Fellow, I refined my research aims, the focus of my project, and my skills as a historian. I spent most of my time collecting key primary source documents at the BOA, where I began by conducting a series of keyword searches in the archive catalogue using terms such as “Tepedelenli,” “Yanya,” and “*patrikhane*.” During this initial period, I focused on my paleography and translation skills by transcribing, transliterating and translating key documents. While my earlier Ottoman language training focused mostly on *rika*, the nineteenth-century cursive script, researching at the BOA in fall 2021 enabled me to become proficient in *divanî*, the chancery script of the Ottoman court. By January 2022, I was able to quickly scan documents for keywords relevant to my research.

After spending October through

January working on paleography, understanding the structure of the archive, and doing some background research, I dedicated the remainder of my time (February through June) to documents directly relevant to my project. During this time, I worked with the *Hatt-ı Hümayun* (imperial edicts), *Mühimme Defterleri* (registers of important affairs relating to borderland provinces and diplomacy), *Rumeli Ahkâm Defterleri* (registers of financial information for Rumeli province), *Maliyeden Müdevver Defterleri* (finance registers specifically relating to property), *Kilise Defterleri* (registers relating to the churches and religious spaces of the non-Muslim communities), and *Gayr-i Müslimler Kalemî* (documents relating to the non-Muslim communities) collections. Though I originally began by skimming through *ahkâm* and *mühimme* registers in chronological order, I eventually narrowed my search down to specific ranges around key events, for example 1749–1750, when the influential *Athoniada* Academy was founded on Mount Athos by Patriarch Kyrillos V. While concentrating on registers from specific years, I scanned for relevant place names such as Yanya, Aynaroz, Tirnova, and Golos. I was able to review other smaller, uncatalogued collections, like the *Gayr-i Müslimler Kalemî*, in their entirety, skimming through all documents for the period under study (approximately 1740–1830).

The sheer volume of archival material presented a challenge throughout my fellowship tenure, but assistance was continually provided by the ARIT Istanbul branch director, Zeynep Simavi. Many of the collections I utilized, like the *ahkâm* and *kilise* registers, are not fully catalogued and cannot be searched by keyword. This motivated me to improve my paleography skills and develop strategies for faster reading, like scanning for place names and

keywords (e.g. *mektepe*, *Rum*, *zimmî*). Another consistent challenge was understanding the ways in which the Ottoman bureaucracy recorded and collected information. Prior to the establishment of a bureaucratic structure specifically related to non-Muslims during the *Tanzimat* period (1839–1876), information regarding schools was not consistently collected.

In general, my research indicates that the proliferation of Greek schools in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was not a result of the rising tide(s) of nationalism, but was rather the product of the work of different networks of actors, who operated within a framework of political decentralization, intense commercial activity, and intellectual exchange particular to the Ottoman Empire in the early modern period.

**Dr. Nancy Micklewright,
Smithsonian Institution,
National Museum of Asian Art**

ARIT Fellow, 2021–2022
*Fashion and the Camera in the late
Ottoman Empire*

The research project for which I received ARIT support will lead to a book, *Dressing for the Camera, Fashion and Photography in the late Ottoman Empire*. The book will contribute to an expanding body of work on fashion and the dressed body in contexts outside of the Euro-American, as well as to the social history of the late Ottoman Empire. The project depends on the close examination of examples of contemporary dress and photography, as well as extensive secondary source material from a variety of disciplines. Since applying for the ARIT fellowship in 2019, I was able to spend a year as a research fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which gave me the

opportunity to examine their collection of Ottoman dress as well as to read extensively in secondary sources. For this 2022 research trip, I planned to examine important Turkish collections of dress, use Istanbul library material, and visit relevant museum exhibitions, all subject to the vagaries of access, holiday closures and other realities of conducting research in Istanbul.

One of my primary objectives for this research trip was examining garments held in the Sadberk Hanım Museum (SHM) collection. This collection, together with the Topkapı Palace collection, is the most important repository of Ottoman women's dress in the world. I had the opportunity to study some of the garments in the museum in the 1980s, but a large number had been added to their collection in the ensuing decades, and new research has been undertaken, so a second visit was essential. The director, Hülya Bilgi, and senior curator Lale Görünür, were extremely kind and welcoming. I spent three very full days in the museum, examined a large number of garments, photographed everything on display in their extensive costume galleries, and had long discussions about arcane points of fashion history with the staff. I will be sharing my images with the team at their request and look forward to keeping in touch going forward. Several of the pieces I examined provide important evidence of the fashion transformation that I am tracking in my work and will certainly appear in the book. Apart from the significance of their collections, the SHM is exemplary in the degree to which they welcome visiting researchers and share access to their collections.

As a result of the research and writing that I have done on the book project since my original grant application in 2019, the shape of the book has advanced. I am now planning an afterward that will look at the



The author with some of the staff who hosted her at the Sadberk Hanım Museum in Istanbul. From left to right, Lale Görünür, Samed Ercan, Nancy Micklewright, and Havva Furat. Not pictured: Elif Kuran and Büşra Sarıkaya.



Garment examination: Samed Ercan and Havva Furat, together with the author (taking the photo), looking closely at one of the costumes in the collection of the Sadberk Hanım Museum.



Gown in Bursa Bridal Shop, as part of the research for the book's afterward, a discussion of the afterlife of Ottoman women's costume in 21st century Istanbul.

afterlife of Ottoman women's costume in 21st century Istanbul. A new interest in extremely elaborate, Ottoman inspired gowns worn primarily for weddings has probably been driven in large part by the popularity of Turkish television programs like *The Magnificent Century*, but also by the cultural changes that have taken place during Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's tenure in government. I want to understand this phenomenon, particularly the

appeal of such dresses in the imaginary of the young Turkish women who wear them. As a beginning, I photographed dresses in bridal shops in Istanbul and Bursa, visited the businesses where people dress up in Ottoman clothes to have their photographs taken, and talked with a few Turkish women (recent or prospective brides) about their impressions of this trend and the clothing they wore or plan to wear at their own weddings. This is

a complex subject, and my research is still preliminary. I will need to return to Istanbul to complete work for this section of the book.

Before this trip I had not had a chance to work in the Istanbul Research Institute, which has an important library and photograph collection. That was my first stop when I arrived in Istanbul, and a useful way to dive back into research. Their librarian, Furkan Sevim, was very helpful. Since my last extended visit to Turkey a number of new museums have opened in Istanbul, and I was able to see quite a few of these. There were three which had particularly relevant collections for my project: the National Palaces Painting Museum in Beşiktaş, the new Istanbul Painting and Sculpture Museum in Tophane, and the Uluumay Museum of Ottoman Folk Costumes and Jewelry in Bursa. I was also looking forward to seeing my professor in Turkey, Dr. Nurhan Atasoy, who shared with me the proofs of her soon-to-be-published new book, *Ottoman Kaftans*.

Finally, in the time that had elapsed since my 2019 grant application and my actual tenure in June-July 2022, I began a new project, and took advantage of my time in Istanbul to advance that project as well. This new project is an article-length study of an Istanbul carpet seller, Hasan Semerci, who opened a shop, *Adnan and Hasan*, in the Kapalı Çarşı in the late 1970s and sold it this year to his long-time employee, Erol Avcı. His tenure in the Bazaar thus encompasses the period of unprecedented growth of tourism in Istanbul, and Turkey more broadly, as well as the enormous economic and social changes generated by the influx of foreigners and their spending. The economic downturn of the early 2000s, the changing demographics and tastes of tourists to Istanbul, and the challenges facing hand-weaving production of carpets in Turkey are all significant stressors in a

business that has been a key aspect of Turkish trade since the 15th century. This article, written in collaboration with the carpet seller and other key figures, will use this one shop and one person as a way to look at a much larger complex of institutions and practices in a core aspect of Turkish culture. During my time in Istanbul, I was able to conduct several interviews with Hasan, Erol, and other staff members, as well as to read all of the press clippings and other documents that have been kept over the decades of the shop's existence. I also copied the photographs that Hasan and his colleagues could find from the past decades, none of which is digitized or on the web. The research trip was busy, productive and completely rewarding. I am extremely grateful to the ARIT support which allowed me to make the trip.

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2021–2022

*Redefining 'Rural': Culture and Identity in
Roman Bithynia in the 1st–4th Centuries CE*

With generous funding support from ARIT, I was able to travel to Istanbul from August–December 2021 to conduct the research necessary for the completion of my dissertation on rural cultures in Bithynia during the Roman imperial period. My project explores how rural communities in the province of Bithynia, located in northwestern Turkey, responded to Roman annexation. Although Bithynia was home to important cities such as Nicaea and Nicomedia, the vast majority of its territory consisted of rural settlements, such that we might speak of cities there as “islands” among the countryside. Substantial

evidence for the inhabitants of these villages, estates, and small farmsteads survives today in approximately 1,200 inscribed monuments, set up primarily for religious and funerary purposes. Broadly speaking, my research in Turkey was twofold: first, to visit all of the major museum collections located in Roman Bithynia (this included the archaeological museums of Istanbul, Bursa, İznik, İzmit, Bolu, Konuralp, Adapazarı, Eskişehir, and Bilecik); second, to become acquainted with the modern topography and landscape of the countryside through travel.

In order to complete the first portion of my work, I traveled by bus, train, and ferry to each of the major archaeological museum collections in the region. When visiting each museum, I took photographs of every object from the Roman imperial period that I thought would be relevant to my study. To my surprise, along the way I found that there were several interesting objects which had only recently been displayed at the museums and of which I was unaware prior to my travels. This was especially true of “small finds,” such as clay votive figurines. At the same time, objects that I had already studied very closely from publications in New York also surprised me—I was constantly struck by the size and detail of many ancient funerary stelai whose inscriptions were at the heart of my dissertation. Walking around the garden area of the Bilecik museum was especially exciting in this regard, and I spent several hours examining the stelai in person.

The second portion of my work (the study of the countryside) was one that was iterative and ongoing throughout my time. Whenever I traveled to cities outside of Istanbul, I tried to take the “slow” route and make frequent stops. For example, on my way to Bursa, I took the ferry to Yalova so that I could see the rich agricultural fields which

were producing all sorts of fruit and vegetables. Since my research focused on rural communities in the Roman period, I was always eager to study modern agricultural development, and to try as much local produce as I could find. My most memorable example of this was the delicious quince which I enjoyed while in Gebze, in whose town center was proudly displayed a large sculpture of the fruit.

I also had the chance to meet up with two ARIT fellows, Akiva Sanders and Myrsini Manney-Kalogera, with whom I traveled to İznik (ancient Nicaea). Not only was our trip great fun (we walked around the entire outer wall of the ancient city), but I also learned a great deal about Anatolian history in the long durée, since their specialties ranged from the Bronze Age to the Ottoman era. We ended our day with a late lunch of local catfish overlooking Lake İznik.

Besides these travels around ancient Bithynia, I spent the bulk of my time in Turkey in Istanbul, where I continued to research and write using the ARIT library. In addition to the access this provided me to secondary scholarship, especially Turkish publications, I also found it much easier to access the regular Turkish publications about ongoing archaeological work which I could not obtain in the United States. One particularly useful journal was *Aktuel Arkeoloji*, whose rich photographs and detailed articles allowed me to learn about the many new discoveries which are constantly being made in Turkey today. I had the chance to purchase several copies, and already incorporated some of the wonderful photographs into my teaching presentations.

When I returned to the United States in late December, I had finished all of my dissertation research. After several months of final writing, edits, and revisions, I passed my dissertation

defense at Columbia University in early June. The familiarity which I developed with Turkey and its landscape allowed me to speak about regional trends with far greater confidence than if I had not had the opportunity to spend time there. In my final analysis of the evidence from Bithynia, my dissertation showed how Bithynian country dwellers preserved many indigenous as well as rural customs while also adopting and adapting some Greek and Roman ones,

thereby rejecting scholarship which considers rural groups to have been culturally polarized from their urban counterparts. For example, many country dwellers chose to decorate their tombstones with scenes from rural life, such as oxen, plows, and sickles. The frequent use of this imagery is unattested elsewhere in the empire, and therefore represents an aspect of Bithynian culture which persisted well into Roman rule. Yet at the same time,

many of these same Bithynians also adorned their tombstones with imagery of the city, such as writing instruments and strigils. I argue that this seeming “juxtaposition” of rural/urban scenes underscores the symbiotic relationship between town and country in antiquity. Such a connection has been debated by economic historians, but my work is the first which demonstrates this in terms of culture.



Deborah Sokolowski at the Roman/Byzantine gate in Iznik (Nicaea).



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