



Netherlands Institute in Turkey
Annual Report 2017

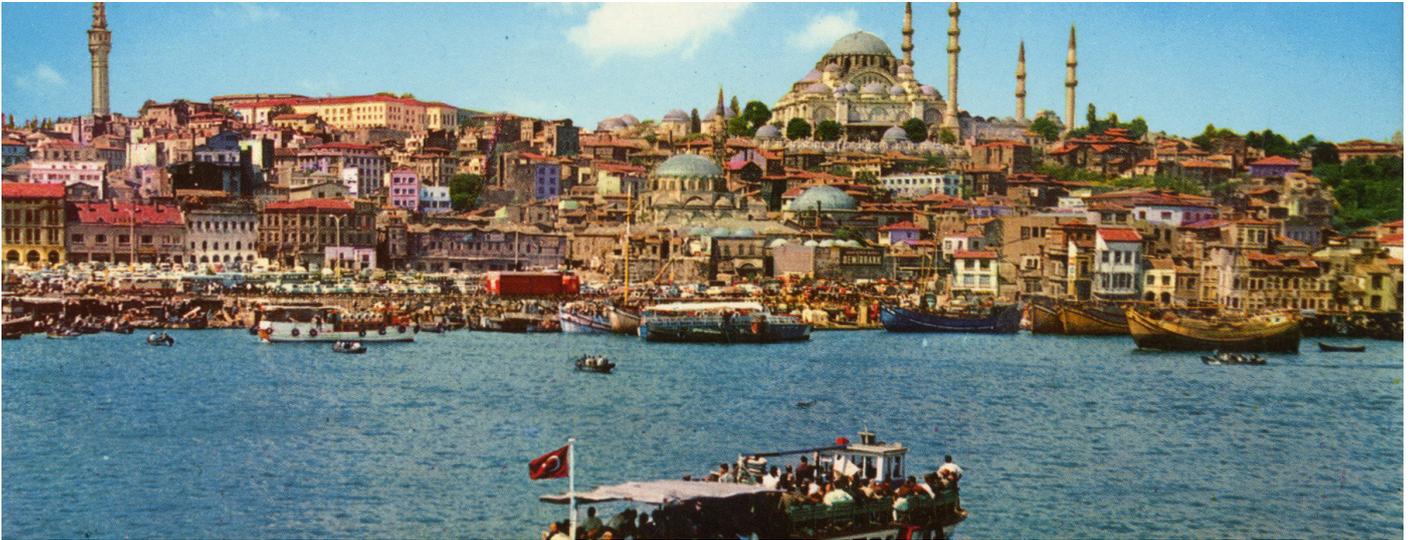


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Photo front page: boats on the Golden Horn, 2018;

Photo page 3: boats on the Golden Horn, 1950s (SALToonline)



1. NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE IN TURKEY

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey's core aims are to conduct and facilitate scholarly research on Turkey and its region through the ages and to stimulate academic cooperation between the Netherlands and Turkey.

The NIT has been based in Istanbul since 1958 and is a subsidiary of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO), located in Leiden. The NIT is well connected to the universities and research institutions of Istanbul. Having its offices and library in Koç University's Merkez Han building in central Istanbul, the institute benefits greatly from the close interaction with the staff and fellows of ANAMED, the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations. The collections of the NIT library form a valuable resource for ANAMED fellows who have 24/7 access. Conversely, NIT guest researchers and fellows benefit from the other libraries in the building and from being part of the stimulating Merkez Han research environment. In December ANAMED, NIT and the *Journal of Field Archaeology* co-organized a successful workshop, *Publishing Archaeological Data Online*.

In 2017 a new program was launched that provides a semester of undergraduate education to Leiden University students at the NIT in Istanbul. Having previously organized and hosted mainly short, intensive courses such as the History and Heritage of Istanbul Summer School, this new program gives a more structural basis to the ambition of the institute to use its facilities and network to the benefit of students. The semester offers courses on historical and contemporary Istanbul and Turkey as well as Turkish language education.

The NIT again received generous support from the Netherlands Consulate-General in Istanbul enabling it to organize public activities such as lectures, panel debates and literary walks. We hope to intensify this cooperation in future years.

Looking ahead, in 2018 the NIT will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of its doors in Istanbul. We look forward to celebrating this with our friends and colleagues, in Turkey as well as in the Netherlands.

2. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

A major component of the mission of the NIT is to conduct and support research related to Turkey, defined in a broad geographical and temporal sense. The institute maintains its own research programs, focusing on archaeology, architectural history and heritage. In addition, its library, facilities and fellowship program support students and scholars with their research in these as well as numerous other disciplines. The range of topics addressed by the 2017 NIT fellows, reported below, gives an impression of the breadth and variety of research supported by the institute.



Barcın Höyük Project

Due to circumstances beyond our control, plans of the Barcın Höyük research team for a study season during the summer to analyze finds that are stored in the excavations depot in Yenişehir, Bursa, had to be put on hold. Instead, efforts were directed towards desk-based and lab-based analyses in Istanbul and publishing.

In October, project director Fokke Gerritsen was hosted for a week by the Anthropology Department of the University of Arkansas. In addition to giving a public lecture on the Barcın Höyük Project, he discussed ongoing and planned research on the materials from the site with staff and students of the Department. His host, Professor Marvin Kay, has been part of the team that studies the chipped stone tools from the site. Using powerful microscopes, he and his students conduct use-wear analyses to determine the specific activities that tools – sickles, scrapers, arrow heads, drills etc. – were used for and the materials that they were used on.

In the course of 2017, the following publications relating to the excavations appeared.

Bursalı, A., H. Özbal, R. Özbal, G. Şimşek, B. Yağcı, C. Yılmaz and E. Baysal, 2017: Investigating the Source of Blue Color in Neolithic Beads from Barcın Höyük, NW Turkey in: T. Pereira et al. (eds), *Raw Materials in Archaeology*, 491-504.

Bursalı, A., R. Özbal, E. Baysal, H. Özbal, B. Yağcı, 2017: Neolithic Blue Beads in Northwest Turkey: The Social Significance of Skeuomorphism, in: M. Cifarelli, L. Gawlinski (eds), *What Shall I Say of Clothes. Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Dress in Antiquity*, 123-141.

Erdalkıran, M., 2017: Barcın Höyük 2015 Yılı Kemik Aletlerinin Ön Raporu, 32. *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı*, 235-250.

Gerritsen, F.A., R. Özbal, 2017: The Barcın Höyük Excavations in 2015, *NINO-NIT Annual Report 2015*, 14-17.

Gerritsen, F.A., R. Özbal, M. Erdalkıran, H. Özbal, L. Thissen, 2017: Barcın Höyük. A Neolithic Village in the Yenişehir Valley, *Actual Archaeology Magazine* 18, 48-53.

Groot, B. de, L. Thissen, R. Özbal, F. Gerritsen, 2017: Clay preparation and function of the first ceramics in north-west Anatolia: A case study from Neolithic Barcın Höyük, *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 16, 542-552.

Özbal, H. 2017: Arkeolojik Cömleklerde Organik Kalıntı Analizleri: Balmumu, 32. *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı*, 219-234.

Özbal, R., F. Gerritsen, M. Erdalkıran, H. Özbal, 2017: 2015 Yılı Barcın Höyük Kazıları, 38. *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı*, vol. 3, 17-32.

Özbal, R., H. Özbal, F. Gerritsen, A. Türkekul Bıyık, T. Doğan, 2017: New observations for the Late Chalcolithic Settlement at Barcın Höyük, in Ç. Maner, M.T. Horowitz, A.S. Gilbert (eds), *Overturing Certainties in Near Eastern Archaeology. A Festschrift in Honour of K. Aslıhan Yener*, Leiden/Boston, 503-520.

Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans

Senior Research Fellow Machiel Kiel continued his long-term research on the Ottoman Balkans. In 2017, the following publication appeared:

Kiel, M., 2016 [2017]: Corinth in the Ottoman Period (1458-1687 and 1715-1821). The Afterlife of a Great Ancient Greek and Roman Metropolis, *SHEDET* 3, 45-71.



Moreover, at the 14th International Congress of Ottoman Social and Economic History (ICOSEH), Machiel Kiel was presented with the first copy of a collection of all articles by him on the Ottoman Period in Bulgaria: *Bulgaria pod Osmanskiya Vlast, Sabrani sacineniya* (Bulgaria under Turkish Rule, Collected Works), edited by Grigor Boykov and Mariya Kiprovska, Izdatelska Kasta (2017, Tendril).

This hefty volume is testimony to the significance of Machiel Kiel for the study of the Ottoman Balkans. One of the editors of the volume, Grigor Boykov, is affiliated with the NIT as a Research Fellow and Curator of the online archive of images by Kiel (nit-istanbul.org/kielarchive/).



Tophane's Material and Immaterial Urban Heritage

Although the Tophane Heritage Project was deactivated in 2015, this endeavor of the NIT to document and study the drastic social, demographic and physical changes in the Tophane neighborhood through the lens of material and especially immaterial heritage continues to produce output. Former NIT staff member and current NIT Research Fellow Karin Schuitema conducted filmed interviews with neighborhood residents, to provide material for a short documentary that will appear in 2018. Some of her photographed portraits were selected for an exhibition that opened in November 2017 at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, titled 'Minority'.



Tophane - Kabataş Road (Photo SALTOline)

Fethiye Camii as a Cultural Heritage Site

Nijmegen University Lecturer and NIT Research Fellow Mariëtte Verhoeven continued her research on the Pammakaristos Church or Fethiye Mosque, located on Constantinople's fifth hill. Originally built as a church in the 12th century, transformed into a mosque in the late 16th century and now part mosque part museum displaying Byzantine mosaics, the complex allows Verhoeven to study the building's historical transformations in the context of changing and varying attitudes towards the past. As part of the project she will investigate the potential of virtual reality techniques to present the multiple pasts of the building to the public. In 2017 she explored this topic in a paper *Revealing and Presenting the Past(s) for the Public. Fethiye Mosque and Museum as a cultural heritage site in Istanbul*, to appear in print in 2018.



Fethiye Camii (photo Richard Mortel, flickr)

2017 NIT Fellows

Junior researchers working on theses or dissertations at a university in the Netherlands are eligible for a NIT fellowship. In some cases, fellowships have also been awarded to artists and others. NIT fellows live in the institute for a period of up to a month, and devote that time fully to archival or library research or writing. Eight fellowships were awarded during 2017. Below you can find brief mentions of the projects they conducted. More extensive reports can be found on the NIT website.

Investigating Late Bronze Age cultural identity and social dynamics in western Turkey

Francesca Slim (Groningen University)

My project concerns the study of archaeological animal bones from the Late Bronze Age (3000 years ago) site of Kaymakçı, located in the province of Manisa, Western Anatolia. I use ancient pig bones to reconstruct demographic and metric features of the Late Bronze Age pig population in order to understand hunting and animal husbandry practices. My stay at the NIT allowed me to study an essential part of the faunal assemblage from Kaymakçı, as the study of archaeological materials needs to take place in Turkey.



Anatolian wild pigs

Interconnectivity in Troy: a diachronic

approach Bart Rendering (University of Amsterdam / VU University)

My stay in Istanbul in the month of March 2017 gave me many opportunities to collect data and literature on Troy in the libraries of the NIT and the DAI (the German Archaeological Institute). Moreover, I was able to visit the Troy collection in the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, which helped me in my understandings of the materials collected from the site, especially the ceramics and its complex sequences. A five day trip to Çanakkale gave me the opportunity to do research on site as well. It was nice to go back to Troy and see our excavation of last summer, but with a different aim and new perspectives, focused on interconnectivity to better understand the site.



Bart Rendering at Troy, with the West Sanctuary in the background.

Turkish Children's Films Deepti Rao (University of Groningen)

As a fellow I was able to research and write a chapter on films for children in the Turkish language. The chapter delves into tracing a history of Turkish films for children and about children. Through this, I encountered the fact that there are

not many films for children in the Turkish language and the rest of my research finds out why this is so, what consequences it has, what children are watching if not Turkish films and what are they learning from it. This chapter is a part of my Master thesis titled 'Film as a means of Arts Education: its influence on empathy in middle childhood'.

Performing Modernity: Atatürk on Film (1919-1938) Enis Dinç (University of Amsterdam)

In my research project, I examine the historical changes in the image of Atatürk and the involvement of cinema in the production of concepts of the nation and cultural memory. A significant part of the films and documents concerning my research are located in Turkish Film & TV Institute at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in Beşiktaş, Istanbul and the Turkish General Staff Archives (ATESE) in Ankara. The central location of NIT was a great advantage to access these and other research facilities. Moreover, it allowed me to discover and enjoy Istanbul's social and cultural life.



Courtesy of the Akkasah: Center for Photography

Modernity, Memory and Identity: Vernacular Photographs from Turkey Özge Calafato (University of Amsterdam)

My research project focuses on photographic representations of the urban middle class in Turkey between the 1920s and the 1950s in the context of a society undergoing rapid secularization and Westernization. My fellowship at NIT in July 2017 gave me the unique opportunity to further my research on site. I was able to track and talk to several dealers, which offers a very valuable set of data regarding the photography market in Turkey. During my fellowship, I also visited several archives and libraries such as the İstanbul Research Institute, Women's Library in Balat and Bosphorus University Archives that include images of the late Ottoman and early Republic era for a comparative study. My stay in Istanbul was very productive and the many conversations I had with scholars, collectors and archivists helped me rethink the parameters I've been working with for my thesis.

The Social-Political Context of City Fires of Late Ottoman Istanbul According to European and Ottoman Sources Burak Fıçıcı (Leiden University)

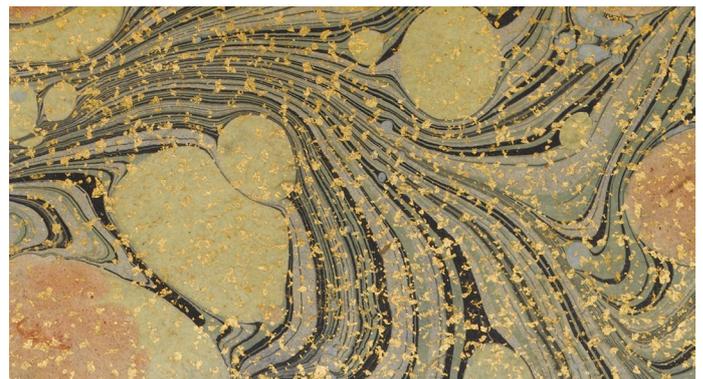
During my research in Istanbul I collected data to make a comparison between the European (Dutch, French and British) and Ottoman reports of fires. I am interested in whether arson (sometimes in combination with plunder) was used by groups, such as the Janissaries, in order to ventilate protest and put pressure on the authorities. The city fires of Istanbul were sometimes more than mere accidents. This fact, in combination with the frequency of city fires raises numerous interesting questions: What were the major causes of the frequent city fires in Istanbul and if arson was the cause what were the circumstances which led to these cases of arson and what were the aims of the arsonists? What were the social and political implications of the fires, how did the Ottoman authorities react to the fires and how are city fires reflected in both Ottoman and European source material?

The Süryani of Istanbul Lisette Scholtens (Leiden University)

I conducted research on the little-known Syrian Orthodox community that resides in Istanbul. Except from being mentioned, as Assyrians and Arameans, in ancient sources like the Bible, why are they so unknown? What are the factors that keep them together as a community? I followed and wrote about three families and by portraying them I hope to give a small glimpse of this community in Istanbul.

The Art of Abrī: Paper Marbling in the Early Modern Islamic World Jake Benson (Leiden University)

I am currently completing my dissertation entitled *The Art of Abrī: Paper Marbling in the Early Modern Islamic World* at the Leiden Institute for Area Studies. By translating more than 75 primary sources about the art in conjunction and interpreting them together with surviving physical evidence, I seek to explain how marbled paper technically evolved over time and shed light on how technical knowledge about paper marbling reached Europe from the Islamic world.



Detail from marbled margin of a page from the Mantiq al-Tayr, Metropolitan Museum of Art, c. 1600.



3. CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

The NIT regularly organizes meetings – lectures, workshops, conferences – that serve to give scholars a platform to share and discuss their work with colleagues as well as the wider audience. Partly with the support of the Netherlands Consulate-General, and often in collaboration with partner institutions, the NIT organized and (co-)hosted a series of events in 2017. Most were open to and well visited by the public, and thus helped to reach out to society beyond the walls of academia.

10 Feb: Fountains and Water Culture in Byzantium. Book Launch organized in collaboration with the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul.

21-22 April, 6 May: Istanbul. A Literary Stroll Lecture & city walks by Hanneke van der Heijden

26 April: Art as Alternative Archive: the Role of Contemporary Art and Theatre in the Urban Context. Panel discussion with Ahmet Sami Özbudak (Playwright), Antonio Cosentino (Artist), Ayşe Erek (Art Historian) and Esra Almas (NIT Research Fellow).

29 April: NIT / Leiden University Turkish Studies in Istanbul Network Meeting.

31 May: “Those wondrous pleasure spots”: Fountains in eighteenth-century Istanbul. Lecture by Shirine Hamadeh (ANAMED fellow, Koç University), organized in collaboration with the Consulate-General of the Netherlands in Istanbul.



Discovering Istanbul in Turkish literature with Hanneke van der Heijden.

29 June: Mamulat-ı Dahiliye İstihlaki Kadınlar Cemiyet-i Hayriyesi: An Ottoman Muslim Women’s Organization in Times of Economic and Political Turmoil (1913 - 1918). Lecture by Nicole van Os (Leiden University).

3 July: Anatolian Migrations – prehistoric style. Lecture by Fokke Gerritsen (NIT) for the Leiden and Istanbul Universities Summer School on Human Rights and Trafficking, Migrant Smuggling and Refugees.



Shirine Hamadeh speaking in the Dutch chapel on 18th century fountains.

14 September: Transformation and turmoil in the Ottoman county of Foça: Turks and Greeks at the end of the Ottoman Empire. Lecture by Emre Erol (Sabancı University).

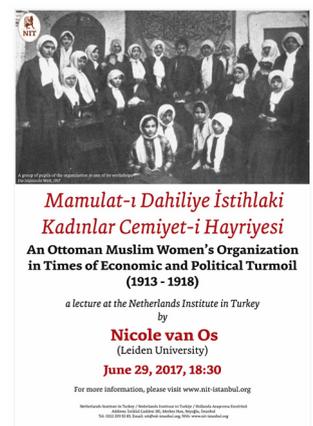
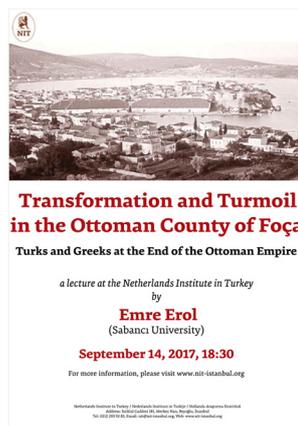
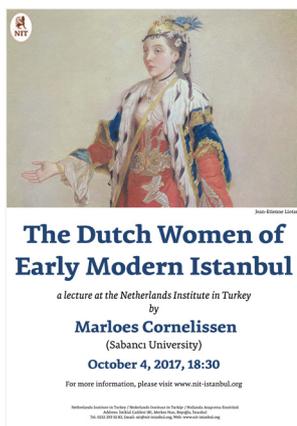
26 September: Atatürk on Screen: Documentary Film and the Making of a Leader. Lecture by Enis Dinç (University of Amsterdam).

4 October: The Dutch Women of Early Modern Istanbul. Lecture by Marloes Cornelissen (Sabancı University).

31 October: The Advent and Early Development of Paper Marbling in the Islamic World. Lecture by Jake Benson (Leiden University).

9-10 November: Mediterranean Cities: Urban Poetics, Urban (geo)Politics. Conference, public lectures and workshop organized with ARTES of the University of Amsterdam and the Consulate-General of the Netherlands in Istanbul. Key-note lectures by Iain Chambers of Naples University and Murat Germen, photographer and lecturer at Sabancı University.

1 December: Publishing Digital Archaeological Data Online. Workshop organized with Koç University's ANAMED and Journal of Field Archaeology.



4. EDUCATION

Between February and June, the first edition of the Turkish Studies in Istanbul Semester took place at the NIT.

Students of Leiden University took three undergraduate level courses and followed an intensive program of Turkish language acquisition. The courses are designed to immerse the students in numerous aspects of Turkish life and culture, history and contemporary issues, and are taught by selected faculty of universities in Istanbul. In addition, the students followed a varied program of social activities, going to theater plays, visiting museum and exploring the city history with professionals. The location of the institute in Beyoğlu made them experience life at the heart of Istanbul. An excursion to Ankara, seat of the government and many state institutions, helped the students experience a different character of Turkey. Upon completion of the exams at the end of May, the semester concluded with a trip to Izmir and the west coast.

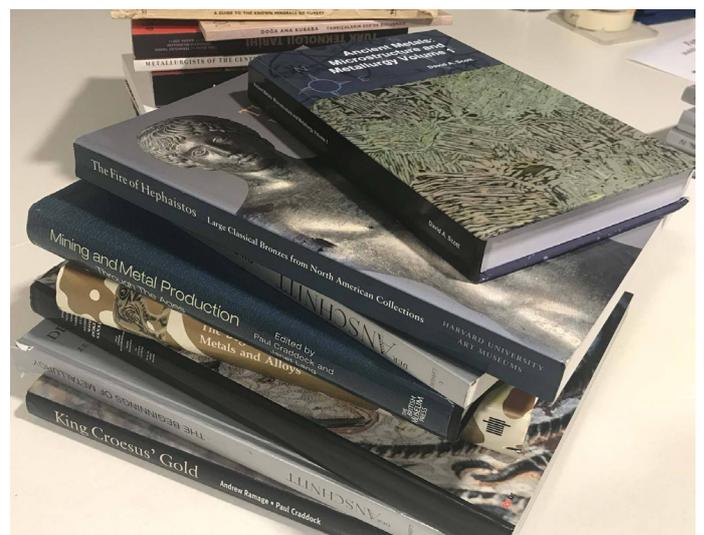


A visit to Hagia Sophia with Koç University art historian Ivana Jevtic.

5. LIBRARY

The library of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey is an important resource for scholarship on the archaeology and history of Anatolia, the Near East and Southeast Europe.

The NIT library participates in the Bibliopera network and shared online catalogue of ten research libraries located in the Beyoğlu district. Through acquisitions, exchanges and gifts, the collections of the library expanded by about 325 volumes over 2017, adding to its collection of c. 25.000 monographs and journal volumes. The library received a generous donation from Professor Hadi Özbal of Boğaziçi University, consisting of some 100 books and technical reports on ancient metallurgy, Anatolian metals and mining, and on ancient and historical technology. Hadi Özbal has been one of the pioneers of the archaeometric study of mining and metallurgy in Turkey and the donated books are an important resource for further study of these topics.



Selection of books donated by Hadi Özbal.

6. ORGANIZATION

The NIT is set up as a foundation in the Netherlands, and its activities are conducted through a representation in Turkey. The NIT receives its main funding from the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO). NINO and NIT are directed by a Curatorium (Board of Governors). During 2017, plans were developed for a new cooperation agreement between NINO and Leiden University that will go into effect at the start of 2018. Additional funding for 2017 programs came from Leiden University Faculty of Humanities and the Consulate-General of the Netherlands in Istanbul.

The staff of the NIT in 2017 consisted of Dr. Fokke Gerritsen (director), Güher Gürmen (assistant). Staff of the Turkish Studies in Istanbul Semester were instructors Dr. Lerna Yanık (Kadir Has University), Dr. Eda Yücesoy (Istanbul Şehir University), Dr. Esra Almas (Haliç University) and coordinator Sevinç Kula. İrem Ünal of the Suna Kıraç Library of Koç University is the NIT librarian.

COLOPHON

Where not specified otherwise, texts written and edited by Fokke Gerritsen and Güher Gürmen.

The Netherlands Institute in Turkey is a subsidiary of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) in Leiden. The NIT's library and offices are located in the Merkez Han building, the premises of Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations ANAMED.

For more information about NIT activities: www.nit-istanbul.org.

