

## Recent Books from Turkey - Aug 2021

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### Anthropology / Archaeology

Colloquium Anatolicum, No. 19, 2020 / (Ed) Eser Kortanoglu  
(et al.)

Istanbul: Institutum Scientiae Antiquitatis, Turk Eskicag  
Bilimleri Enstitüsü, 2020

196p.

ISSN: 1303-8486 ; 9771303848002

\$ 180.00 / PB

604g.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776613>

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### Architecture

The Balyans : Ottoman Architecture and Balyan Archive / Buke  
Uras (Ed) N. Muge Cengizkan (Translator) Tugce Selin Tagmat  
Istanbul: Korpus Kultur ve Sanat Yayincilik, 2021

352p.

9786055495671

\$ 200.00 / HB

2422gm.

The Balyans is a prominent family of architects who designed and built architectural works for the Ottoman sultans for three generations and achieved a unique interpretation of the Ottoman local architectural language, thereby shaping the architectural taste and preferences of the palace and marking

the last century of Istanbul as an imperial capital. The Balyan architectural practice, participated by various family members, especially Krikor (1764-1831), his son Garabed (1800-1866) and grandsons Nigoğos (1826-1858), Sarkis (1831-1899) and Hagop (1838-1875), was formed by their personal histories, as well as the professional knowledge passed down through generations. The Balyans, who designed many important buildings such as Dolmabahçe Palace, never wrote down texts revealing their architectural thoughts. In the absence of such texts, which would have helped us in understanding their design philosophy, the Balyan architecture was evaluated only in the light of their constructed buildings. For the first time, journalist and author Viscount Alfred de Caston (1821-1882) wrote the detailed biographies of the family members based on their constructed works in his article published in *Revue de Constantinople* in 1875 and defined the methodology to be followed for the Balyan historiography for the years to come. In addition to Caston's approach, this book aims to provide an insight into the history of Balyan practice with a detailed review of unconstructed projects from the Balyan Archive, which was preserved with great care by architect Levon Güreğyan (1869-1950) and later on by his family for more than a century up to the present time. The Balyan archive, with its unique and precious content reflecting the design process of the imperial constructions, was taken as a primary source, not only for the "drawing" but also for the "drafter". In the Balyan Archive, drawings of Beylerbeyi, Çırağan and Fer'iye palaces, projects for the extension of the Büyük Mâbeyn Kiosk of Yıldız Palace and the organization of the Dining Hall at Şale Kiosk where the mother-of-pearl inlay doors from Çırağan Palace were used, a renovation proposal for Bâb-ı Âli (Sublime Porte), a plan of the Esma Sultan Mansion in Kabataş, Galatasaray High School, an important plan for the Ottoman museum history about the repository of old weapon collections at Hagia Irene (Aya İrini), projects for industrial facilities such as Dolmabahçe Gasworks and

Imperial Fez Factory (Feshane Fabrika-i Hümâyunu), and probably most important of all, drawings from the design process of the Aziziye Mosque, a little-known masterpiece of Sarkis and Hagop Balyan, which was the only selâtin mosque commissioned by an Ottoman sultan to be built with four minarets after centuries, were identified and reintroduced into the Ottoman architectural history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776614>

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### **Biography**

Walter G. Andrews : Writer, Poet, Playwright, Unitarian  
Universalist / (Ed) Ozgen Felek

Istanbul: The Isis Press, 2021

264p.

9789754286625

\$ 35.00 / PB

418gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776616>

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### **History**

Fifteenth Century Ottoman Realities : Life on the Aegean Island  
of Limnos (Limni) / Heath W. Lowry

Istanbul: Mentora Yayincilik, 2019

x, 370p.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical references

9786056986239

1. Christian – Turkey – History.
2. Peasants – Turkey – History.
3. Limnos (Greece: Municipality) – History.
4. Turkey – History – 1453-1683.
5. Turkey – History – 1683-1829.

\$ 100.00 / HB

1740gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776618>

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A Brief History of English Language Teaching in Turkey /

Nuray Okumus Ceylan

Ankara: Pegem Akademi, 2021

84p.

9786257676205

\$ 20.00 / PB

138gm.

This book aims to provide the history of English language teaching in Turkey briefly through the changes in the policies that indicate the development of teaching English. The beginning of the political and commercial relations with England and America in the nineteenth century might be considered as the beginning of English in Turkey. The focus of this book is English as a subject to be taught in state schools since the establishment of the Turkish Republic. As English language teaching plays the key role in achieving international quality education, this book aimed to provide a summary through the efforts spent to review and reform the teaching and learning of English as a foreign language to understand the current state of English language teaching and learning in state schools in Turkey. It also aimed to underline the reasons behind the relatively low level of success in English language teaching and learning in the state educational system through the studies conducted.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776619>

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The Empire's Longest Century / Ilber Ortayli (Chief Ed) Adem

Kocal (Translator) Jonathan Ross

Istanbul: Kronik Books, 2021

384p. ; 15x23,5cm.

9786257631266

\$ 65.00 / HB

484gm.

Throughout history, the Ottoman territories were linked with Europe both politically and economically. The Ottoman Empire was a mosaic of languages and religions, and its dramatic modernisation process influenced not just the Turkish part of the Empire but Muslim societies elsewhere too. Indeed, the history of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century was decisive for all the nations within the Empire. Every one of them underwent change and embarked on building their own future. In this sense, the 19th century was a tragic period for the Ottomans: while the Empire as a whole was trying to catch up with its contemporaries, its constituent nations were endeavouring to modernise in their own right.

This book is an attempt to understand how a classic Mediterranean empire faced up to the conditions of the modern world. Translated into several languages, it also points to the benefit of collaborative historiography for arriving at an accurate assessment of the history of an empire. At the same time, it reminds us how the Tanzimat period, and the years before and after it, contributed to the emergence of the Republic of Turkey, a subject that still needs to be explored and discussed more thoroughly. The history of the Tanzimat Era is the history of a key region of the world and of the various peoples who inhabited what was a vast territory. Since the mentality of the Tanzimat has not died out, the history of the Tanzimat lives on, sometimes giving rise to dramatic developments. Written by the internationally-renowned doyen of Turkish historiography, Professor İlber Ortaylı, *The Empire's Longest Century* considers the transformation of the Ottoman Empire from numerous perspectives, including government, politics, education, law, culture, and historical and social awareness, resulting in a truly remarkable work.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776621>

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## **Literature**

A Majestic Love : The Grand Architect Sinan and Mihrimah Sultan / Murat Aykax Erginoz (Translator) Stuart Kline

Arion Publishing – Play Series: 009  
Istanbul: Arion Publishing, 2021  
108p.  
9786059366182  
\$ 22.00 / PB  
100gm.

A Majestic Love is a play about the connection between love and Mimar Sinan’s work.

The writer Murat Aykaç Erginöz has woven Sinan’s life and works into the storyline of the play, breathing life into the famous personalities and events of the Ottoman Empire during the 16th century.

Erginöz relates how a true love doomed by a difference in rank and status inspired Imperial Architect Sinan to turn undressed stone into works of art that survive to this day as architectural masterpieces.

Penned for its readers and spectators to learn and contemplate the past, A Majestic Love is destined to take its place among Murat Aykaç Erginöz' architectural and literary accomplishments. It is a melancholy, tragic and occasionally comic journey back through time.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=776622>

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### **Philosophy**

Being and Existence in Sadra and Heidegger : A Comparative Ontology / Alparslan Acikgenc (Ed) Savas C. Tali

Istanbul: Ibn Haldun University Press, 2020

256p. ; 21cm.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical references

9786050690521

1. Sadr al-Din Shirazi, Muhammad Ibn Ibrahim, 1651.
2. Heidegger, Martin 1889-1976.
3. Philosophy, Islamic.
4. Ontology.

\$ 35.00 / PB

232gm.

Ontological concepts –from the branch of metaphysics concerned with the nature of being- occupy a central position in philosophy. This is primarily because human beings are interested in understanding the nature of existence, the question of why there is “something” rather than “nothing”, of enquiring into the meaning of existence and so forth. Şadr al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī (d. 1661), known as Şadrā or Mullā Şadrā, developed a new philosophical system based totally upon the concept of existence (wujūd). The same attempt was made by the German Philosopher Martin Heidegger (d. 1976).<sup>[1]</sup> This book is a fascinating comparative case study of both philosophers and demonstrates how, from the Islāmīc and the Western traditions, they both base their philosophy on the concept of existence.

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