

XXIInd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS

According to the decision of the XXIst International Congress of Orientalists in Paris (23-31 July 1948), the XXIInd Congress was to take place in Istanbul 1951. The Turkish delegates who were present at the Congress in Paris warmly approved of this decision. The Ministry of Public Instruction invited the University of Istanbul to convoke the Congress, with the cooperation of the University of Ankara and the Turkish Historical and Linguistic Societies.

The Congress will be held under the patronage of the President of the Turkish Republic on the premises of the Faculties of Law and Economics of the University of Istanbul, from September 15th to 22nd.

I. COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS :

A Committee of Patronage has been set up consisting of : the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Public Instruction, the Rectors of the University and the Technical University of Istanbul, the Rector of the University of Ankara, the Mayor and "Vali,, of Istanbul.

In addition an Honorary Committee and a National Advisory Board have been elected, the latter with a view to its later incorporation in an Organizing Committee on a broader basis, as a part of the International Advisory Committee which will be elected at the Congress itself.

The Rector of the University of Istanbul has invited representatives from the University of Ankara and from the Turkish Historical and Linguistic Societies, and has set up an Organizing Committee (October 1950) under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Zeki Velidi Togan.

The subcommittees for accomodation, exhibitions, excursions and scientific questions have been attached to the Organizing Committee.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE CONGRESS :

At the Congress in Paris no instructions were issued and no desires expressed, concerning the tasks of the XXIInd Congress. After several discussions with Turkish scholars and foreign Orientalists, the Organizing Committee arrived at the conclusion that the Congress in Istanbul should be organized on a rather larger scale than the preceding ones, since Istanbul forms a most important point of contact between the Christian Occident and the Moslem Orient, Europe and Asia, and is the scientific and cultural centre of the Turkish State. The following sections will be represented at the Congress : 1. *Ancient Orient*, 2. *Ancient Anatolia*, 3. *Semitic Studies*, 4. *Islamic Studies*, 5. *East Asia* (China, Japan, Indonesia), 6. *Central Asia*, 7. *Turcology*, 8. *Indology*, 9. *Iranian Studies*, 10. *Christian Orient*, 11. *Old Testament*, 12. *African Studies*, 13. *Egyptology*, 14. *Byzantino-Islamic Studies*, 15. *Islamic Art* (As the Congress is to take place in a centre which contains the most outstanding Turco-Islamic works of art, the Organizing Committee determined on the addition of this section).

Owing to the large number of contributions, the sections will be divided into subsections. For such separate fields as Philology, Ethnography, Archaeology, Prehistory, History it will be necessary to form subsections without overlapping. For example in case of need the section "Ancient Orient,, would comprise as subsections "Ancient Oriental Archaeology", "Ancient Oriental Philology"; the section "Islamic Studies,, the subsections : "Moslem Religion", "The Law and Sociology of the Islamic States", "Common Aspects of political, cultural and economic History in Islamic countries", as well as "The Historical Geography of Islamic Countries". In accordance with suggestions received, the "Turcology,, section has been given the title "Section of Turcology and Ural-Altai Languages"; this section, besides comprising "Turkish dialectology" and "Turkish History" may have a separate branch for "Ural-Altai Languages". In the section "Islamic Art" such subjects as "Turkish, Moslem - Indian, Arabian or General Islamic Arts and Music" will be divided into subsections if this appears necessary. It is planned to avoid overlapping among various sections, and there will be joint sessions of the kindred sections on common subjects.

III. MEMBERSHIP :

For the members of the Congress the participation fee is 15 T. L. ; accompanying persons are charged 10 T. L. each. This sum should be sent in by the middle of July 1951 but if a member is prevented from doing so, he may still pay his fee in Turkish currency on his arrival, at the Registrar's office.

IV. TRAVELLING CONDITIONS AND ACCOMODATION IN ISTANBUL :

Members coming from Europe can make use of Turkish boats from Marseilles, Genoa and Naples, those coming from the East can board Turkish boats in Alexandria and Beyrouth, at a reduction of 50 % on the usual fares.

In Turkey the members will profit from a 50 % reduction on trains as well as on boats. All members from abroad should apply to Cook Wagons-Lits Company.

The Organizing Committee has fixed three grades of accomodation in Istanbul. Details will be given in the second circular which will be published by the end of April 1951.

V. EXCURSIONS :

After the close of the Congress, the following excursions will be arranged :

1. For specialists of the sections "Ancient Orient,, and "Ancient Anatolia,,: Ankara - Yerköy - Yozgat - Alacahöyük - Boğazköy - Boğazhyan - Kayseri - Kültepe - Kayseri - Nevşehir - Göreme - Arapsun - Hacı Bektaş - Kırşehir - Ankara.

2. For specialists of "Turkish History,, and "Islamic Studies,, : Ankara-Kayseri-Niğde-Konya-Akşehir-Afyonkarahisar-Manisa-Bahkesir-Bursa-Istanbul.

3. For specialists of the sections "Byzantino-Islamic Studies,, and "Christian Orient,, a journey to Pergamon and Ephesus will be organized with İzmir as centre.

4. If the number of scholars interested is sufficient, an excursion to the excavations of Karatepe (Cilicia) will be organized. In the second circular details of these journeys will be given.

VI. EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES :

The following exhibitions and performances will be organized for the members of the Congress :

From the hundreds of thousands of books stored in the public and private libraries of Istanbul, Ankara, Kayseri, Niğde, Konya, Afyonkarahisar, Manisa and Bursa, rare works and works of art will be selected and exhibited ; special committees of experts are already busy with this task. In Istanbul an art Exhibition will be organized showing the Old Turkish art traditions reflected in the Turkish painting and Cartoons of today, the process of evolution of the old Turkish Music and the phases of development of Turkish decorative art. In this connection old musical instruments, notes and manuscripts concerning the history of music, figures of the old and new *Karagöz* will be shown. There will be performances of the Turkish National Music, of *Karagöz* and *Orta Oyunu*.

In another exhibition rare coins, of exceptional interest and importance to numismatists, and valuable historical documents from the Turkish State Archives will be shown.

In the buildings of the University where the Congress will take place a book-exhibition will be organized, to which western and eastern publishers as well as the Turkish Ministry of Education, the Universities, the Turkish Historical and Linguistical Societies, the Geographical and Folklore Societies and other institutions will contribute. A group of Istanbul booksellers will exhibit old Turkish works published in Arabic characters.

In Ankara the Ethnographical Museum will organize an exhibition of works concerning Turkish Ethnography, folklore and folkloristic performances of different regions of Anatolia. At the same time there will be an exhibition of Cappadocian tablets, tablet envelopes, small finds etc. from Kültepe (Kaneş) organized by the General Direction of Museums and Antiquities and by the Turkish Historical Society.

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