



## Mehmet İnsan Tunay (İhsan Hoca) 1941-2023

Ara Altun<sup>1</sup> 



Born on May 10, 1941 in Bakırköy, İstanbul, after graduating from Pertevniyal High School, he enrolled in İstanbul University, Faculty of Letters, Chair of Archaeology. He graduated as an Archaeologist in 1965 with certificates in Classical Archaeology, Prehistory, Ancient History, Byzantine Art, New Age History and a Bachelor's Thesis on the Temple of Sardis. He was interested in cycling and won degrees and championships in various stages. In Bilecik, where he did his military service as a gendarmerie officer, he had the opportunity to be interested in environmental archaeology. He started his professional life as an assistant at Izmit Museum and soon continued at İstanbul Archaeological Museums. In the coastal areas of İstanbul and Yalova, he prepared many reports and had the opportunity to benefit from the files of the Council of Antiquities. As the Government Representative in the Knidos

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Excavation, he performed his duty meticulously. He married his colleague İnci Gülsevil, an art historian working at the museum. He published numerous research and promotional articles in periodicals such as TTOK Belleteni, Arkitekt and İlgi. In 1973, he was appointed as an Assistant to the Chair of Byzantine Art History at Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters. His PhD Thesis on Byzantine Stone-Brick Wall Techniques and Dating in Turkey, which he completed in 1984, is the product of a long and meticulous work that is widely referenced. In 1987, Mehmet İnsan Tunay was appointed as an Assistant Professor and taught Ancient Art, Byzantine Architecture, Byzantine Art in the graduate and postgraduate programs of Art History, as well as in the Museum Practice and Seminar programs.

Mehmet İnsan Tunay has traveled extensively in Europe and the USA, mostly by his own means and with his wife, and has also conducted research in Washington Dumbarton Oaks, Metropolitan and Greece. His lectures at Galatasaray High School and the Ministry of Tourism's National Guidance Courses had a special place in his life, and he instilled in many students an awareness of the importance of the site and conservation. M.İ.Tunay, who also served as a member of the Board of Conservation of Cultural and Natural Assets, was known for his honest, calm and honest personality that adhered to ethical values and legislation. He has contributed to many excavations and surveys with his suggestions, and was a core team member in the researches on Rough Cilicia conducted by Istanbul University. As the Scientific Advisor of the Rescue Excavation carried out by the Bursa Museum Directorate for the restoration of the Kurşunlu Aberkios Monastery, he provided field experience to his students. He has participated in national and international congresses and scientific meetings, published scientific articles in journals such as TTK Belleten, Turkish Archaeology Journal, Zograf, Sterinar, as well as book chapters and a multilingual guide. Mehmet İnsan Tunay, who has a son named Can Tunay, who is very devoted to his family, who loves his professional field and who has made important contributions, dear İhsan Hoca of his students and friends, passed away on December 15, 2023.