

## *Keepers of the Word*

An Educational Tour to Turkey  
17-26 April 2012

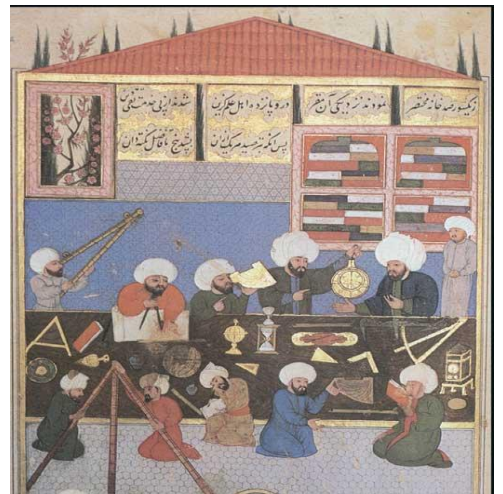
The subcontinent of Asia Minor, now the modern nation of Turkey, boasts more than nine millennia of human settlement. This travel program has been designed to introduce library professionals and academics to Turkey's museums and libraries, overflowing with evidence of man's desire to communicate through imagery and the written word. Their holdings range from Neolithic votive figures to cuneiform tablets and parchment scrolls to exquisite gilt Byzantine illuminations, intricate Ottoman miniatures, and calligraphy.



Antiquarian Map of Asia Minor, also known as Anatolia

Meanwhile scholars-- the archeologists, anthropologists, historians, and ethnographers delving into Turkey's past— have created and recorded extraordinary volumes of material. Their findings--housed in mosques, universities, museums, and private foundations-- light the way for the rest of us and generations of future researchers.

Today students in the courtyard of a school founded in the 15th century can check their smart phones to read anything from a foreign scientific journal to an out-of-print volume to Facebook.



Turkish miniature of the royal astronomers; 16<sup>th</sup> century (Istanbul University Library)

Inside public and private libraries, the Dewey Decimal system on hand-written file-cards coexists with digitized catalogues and early inventories in Persian, Arabic, and Greek.



The Beyazit Gate of Istanbul University

Whether materials are housed in new, climate-controlled buildings or in historic edifices, Turkey has much to preserve--and so much more waiting to be discovered.

Within this dynamic, multicultural society, Turkish engineers and other scientists stand center-stage in the development of digital technologies to preserve historic materials and make their content more accessible to both Turkish and international scholars.

Come with us this spring as we explore Turkey and meet the Turks!

While our tour includes several elements of special interest to library professionals and bibliophiles, anyone with an interest in history, the arts, and archeology is welcome to join this introduction to Turkey's illustrious past and contemporary attractions.

We begin in Istanbul, the only city to straddle both Europe and Asia. We'll have private access to collections that range from 15th century documents of the early Ottoman Sultanate to the extraordinary photographic archives of the German Archeological Institute. With our archeological guide, we'll travel to the Aegean region and visit the acropolis of Pergamon (whose library treasures were Marc Anthony's wedding gift to Cleopatra). Pondering the glory that was Rome, we can contemplate the magnificent Library of Celsus in Ephesus, the grandest city of the eastern Roman Empire.



Istanbul's Old Book Bazaar



Library of Celsus at Ephesus

persist in central Turkey, and we'll learn about one of the region's earliest social entrepreneurs who worked to increase literacy and bring the printed word (via donkeys laden with books!) to remote villages.



Springtime in Cappadocia

The Pergamon Asklepion where Galen practiced medicine... Ephesus's famous colonnaded street and theatre where St. Paul addressed the populace .... the flower-strewn site and sculpture museum of Aphrodisias, sacred to the pagan Goddess of Love. Rumi's brilliant turquoise-tiled shrine, and the lunar landscape of Cappadocia.

Springtime in Asia Minor presents us with a riot of native blooms, and those with serious or amateur botanical enthusiasms will enjoy the journey as we trace the Meander River eastwards to Konya, center of the mystical Whirling Dervish sect. Here, as in so many Turkish provincial cities, there are private museums and libraries open to public.

Crossing the high Central Anatolian Plateau, we proceed to Cappadocia—whose eerie, wind-sculpted, volcanic valleys are dotted with hundreds of early churches. Traditional agrarian rhythms

Through all of this we'll include the famous highlights that have drawn visitors to Turkey for centuries— Haghia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome, Topkapi Palace, the fanciful waterfront mansions of the Bosphorus....



Sultanahmet, Istanbul's Blue Mosque  
Photo © 2011, Holly Chase

**Land Program in Turkey: \$2,425.00 per person, double occupancy.**

The tour begins and finishes in Istanbul, 17 April - 26 April 2012.

Separate extensions for Istanbul or other regions of Turkey can be made on a customized basis.

Airfare to/from Turkey is NOT included, but we are happy to advise you about economical flights or help you make the most of your frequent flier miles.

For the complete, day-by-day itinerary of this tour or other programs, please email either—**Equinox Travel** [info@Equinox.com.tr](mailto:info@Equinox.com.tr) or **Holly Chase** [Holly@HollyChase.com](mailto:Holly@HollyChase.com)



A modern example of *ebru*, the Turkish art of paper marbling