

Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi

and

Ottoman Architecture
in the Balkans

SYMPOSIUM

Mostar, 24-25 July, 2004



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"Mostar was established in a location where the Neretva River constitutes a narrow strait between two stiff slopes. The city is situated in a valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. This city attracts great attention thanks to the wild beauties of this river which runs in foamy waves and beats the rocks. Would Mostar have been the city of Mostar today had those beautiful mosques and that magnificent bridge not been built?"

"Thanks to a synthesis of architectural genius, this bridge was filled with a legendary meaning and soul, and looks as if it is not a construction made of stone, but a concrete form of imagination."

SYMPOSIUM TOPICS

✍️ Introductory remarks

✍️ Meaning of Ottoman Architecture and S.&E.H. Ayverdi's Contribution in Understanding its Intellectual Milieu

✍️ Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi and studies on Ottoman architectural works in the Balkans

✍️ The typological Process of the Balkan house and fabric

✍️ Transfer of Knowledge for Saving the Human Life

✍️ A Search of Roots of Traditional Balkan Architecture

✍️ Bosnian houses in the Balkan Context

✍️ The Djami-I Atiq of Mostar

✍️ The use of water wheels in Near East and the Balkans

✍️ Treatment of the Ottoman Monuments in Macedonia and the Urban Experience

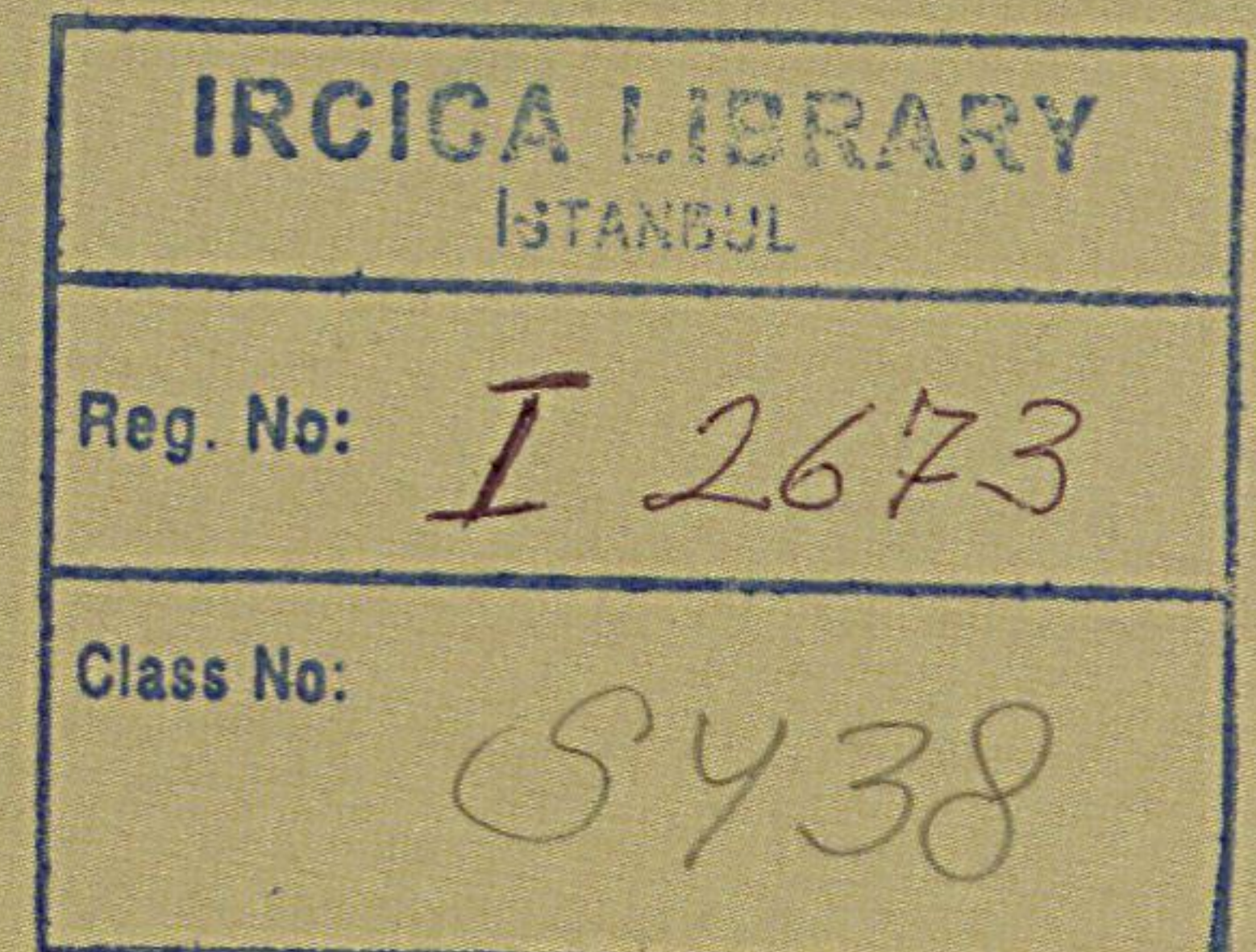
✍️ Rehabilitation of the Old Bridge in Mostar

✍️ Cultural monuments which were destroyed during the war in 2001 in Macedonia

✍️ Ottoman's Unknown Powder Mills in Bulgaria

✍️ II. Mahmud's journey to Bulgaria in 1837 and the memory of this journey, the obelisks

✍️ "General Evaluation of Ayverdi's Ottoman Architectural Monuments in Europe,, complete work and today's documentation works in Balkans,,



SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

Professor Dr. Zeynep Ahunbay, Professor Judith Bing, Professor Dr. Atilla Bir, Professor Dr. Yusuf Halacoğlu, Professor Brooke Harrington, Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Associate Professor Dr. Mehmet Z. İbrahimgil, Associate Professor Dr. Mustafa Kaçar, Professor Dr. Enes Karić, Professor Dr. Machiel Kiel, Researcher Neval Konuk, Professor Dr. Nedžad Kurto, Professor Dr. İbrahim Numan, Professor Dr. Amir Pašić, Researcher Zoran Pavlov, Professor Dr. Željko Peković, Professor Dr. Attilio Petruccioli, Researcher Behicüddin Şahabi, Dr. Lazar Šumanov, Researcher Barış Yağlı, Dr. İ. Aydın Yüksel

EKREM HAKKI AYVERDİ

Born in Istanbul on December 22, 1899, Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi was the son of Piyade Kaymakamı (infantry lieutenant-colonel) Ismail Hakki Bey and Fatma Meliha Hanım. His sister Sâmiha Ayverdi relates that his grandfather on his father's side belonged to the dynasty of Ramazanoğulları and the predecessors of his mother reached up to Gül Baba who was martyred during the Buda Campaign of Süleyman the Lawgiver and was buried there.

In one of his articles, Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi wrote the following about his relationship with Istanbul: "I was born in Istanbul in 1899. My grandfather came to this city from Bolu 150 years ago. My relatives on my grandmother's side come from Isparta. They came to Istanbul about 200 years ago. That is to say, I am from Istanbul. However, in a conference that I once had given I said the following: "I am from Bosnia, from Buda, from Skopje, from Athens, from Sofia, from Erzurum and from Erzincan, but at the same time I am from Istanbul. I don't make any difference between them." Without doubt, this perception reflects the consciousness of belonging to an empire.

Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi began his education in 1907 and he graduated from the School of Engineering (Istanbul Technical University) in 1920. Having worked at Istanbul Municipality for one and a half years, he then pursued independent business. During this period, which lasted until 1950, he undertook various construction works besides the restoration of several historical buildings in Istanbul and Thrace. Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi acquired the identity of an intellectual and an artist rather than a technical man dealing with construction work thanks to the lively environment of his childhood in Şehzadebaşı quarter, his father's conversations at selâmlık, the religious and patriotic family hearth and various artistic and scholarly milieus of the period. Besides restoring old architectural works, he collected and preserved various works of art, the samples of calligraphy and illumination, Holy Qur'ans, murakkaas, bindings, rare cloths and tiles, various kinds of vessels, glass objects as well as the materials related to the art of calligraphy.

Despite his busy and effective business life, he left all construction work in 1950s, starting to pursue intellectual activities and writing. He answered those who wished to know the reason for this decision saying that keeping promises and being an upright person, preserving the values of loyalty and integrity are no longer valid in the business world; therefore he quit business life. Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi who was known for his success and honesty in the business world till then produced very valuable works as a researcher of architectural history from that date onwards.

All of these research studies lasted almost until the end of his life. His numerous research trips, studies on the sources, the evaluation and compilation of information went on continuously. He examined the Turkish architectural works in Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary in 1952, 1956 and 1975, respectively. From 1950 onwards, he traveled in various parts of Anatolia several times.

Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi was a person who had firm faith in his nation and nationality and the foundation stones of his personality were his customs, traditions, the feelings of pride, language, religion, belief, history, culture and the values of the past. According to him, the foundations of nationalism should be sought in national and spiritual values that characterize the Turks. He was a man of thinking who believed that the Turkish intellectual had no other choice than being in peace with his national history and his past. He was an exceptional person known for his honesty, decency and charitableness. As his friends said, he was a man of friendship, a man of heart and a man of art.

Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi was an honorary member of Mühendisler Birliği (Union of Engineers) and Türkiye Turing ve Otomobil Kurumu (Turkish Touring and Automobile Association); founding member and chairman of Istanbul Fetih Cemiyeti and member of Türk Tıp Tarihi Kurumu (Turkish Society of History of Medicine), Türk Ocağı and Aydınlar Ocağı.

He donated the various objects of art, collections and all of his properties that were accumulated during his life to Kubbealtı Akademisi Kültür ve Sanat Vakfı (Kubbealtı Academy and Foundation for Culture and Art), which he established in 1978. At present, his wife İlhan Ayverdi is the head of this foundation.

He was presented an honorary doctorate in literature from the Senate of the University of Istanbul in 1979 and the "Prize of Superior Service" from Aydınlar Ocağı. He also received a "Warrant of Superior Service" from the Institute of the History of Science and Technology attached to Istanbul Technical University in 1981.

He published 81 articles in various periodicals and newspapers since 1946. Some of them were published as a book by Istanbul Fetih Cemiyeti which also published all of his other works. There are several reviews and studies about Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi. In addition to his articles, he has 16 compilations of small and large size some of which were produced jointly with other authors.