

The Turkish Library

Novels, Tales, Essays, and Poems of Modern Turkey
A 20-volume collection

An initiative by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Stuttgart

Edited by Erika Glassen and Jens-Peter Laut
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The Turkish Library

The Turkish Library presents highlights in Turkish literature from 1900 to the present. Its aim is to introduce German-speaking readers to the cultural and intellectual world of modern Turkey.

The collection features select texts by renowned authors whose works have not yet been made accessible to German readers despite their significance in Turkish literature. It ranges from novels, autobiographies, traditional narratives, modern short stories, and poetry to literary as well as cultural-historical essays – all translated into German for the first time. The collection includes classic early 20th century novels that have become mainstays of Turkish literature as well as recent works by contemporary Turkish authors. Each work captures the essence of the era in which it was created, and thus reflects the diversity of Turkish literature and the fascinating wealth of lifestyles and mentalities in Turkish society.

The literary work in this collection illustrates how Turkey broke free from rigid rules and conventions of Ottoman tradition and opened itself to Europe from the foundation of the Turkish Republic in 1923 onward. Straddled between Anatolian and Western cultures, Turkey has been living in an atmosphere of creative tension that spawned masterpieces yet to be discovered by German audiences.

Publication

The first volumes of the Turkish Library will be published in August 2005. Each volume is an excellent translation of its Turkish original, accompanied by an illustrative epilogue, the author's biography, and a glossary.

Promotional Activities

One of the objectives of the Turkish Library is to bring authors and artists in direct contact with the German-speaking readership, which includes second- and third-generation Turkish immigrants in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Each new publication, starting with the launch of the collection in August 2005, will be supported by public readings in several cities, discussion forums, and diverse cultural activities.

Teaching materials will enable teachers to incorporate the Turkish Library into the classroom. More resources on the books, their authors, and the topics of the Turkish Library can be found online at www.tuerkische-bibliothek.de

An Initiative by the Robert Bosch Stiftung

Germany has considered Turkey its European neighbor for quite some time. This special relationship is due not only to changeful yet close historical ties, but also, and even more significantly, to the presence of 2.5 million Turkish immigrants in Germany. But do we really know each other? How can we capitalize on our special historical relationship for our common future? What can be done to broaden our view on Turkey?

The Robert Bosch Stiftung addresses these questions in its focus area “German-Turkish Relations”. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. It represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of founder Robert Bosch and fulfills his legacy in a contemporary manner by taking on challenges of modern day society, developing forward-looking concepts, and putting them into practice in exemplary fashion. With its projects the Robert Bosch Stiftung strives to enhance an equal dialogue between Germans and Turks. The Turkish Library opens a window to a fascinating culture of a country still to be discovered.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung already has a history of discovering literature from neighboring countries widely unknown to German readers with its successful Polish Library (1981-2000) and the Czech Library (since 1999). In order to promote the Turkish Library and to deepen the contact between the authors and the German speaking readership, the foundation also facilitates nationwide public readings, teaching materials for schools and intensive media and press services.

Volumes

The following is a preview of the planned volumes:

A) Anthologies

- ◆ *Kultgedichte (working title)* (edited by Erika Glassen and Turgay Fişekçi): a unique bilingual anthology of poetry. Personalities from the realms of culture and politics were asked to write a short essay on their favorite poem.
- ◆ *Von Istanbul nach Hakkari – Eine Rundreise in Geschichten* (edited by Tevfik Turan): A literary journey through the diversity of the Anatolian peoples, lifestyles, and landscapes in more than 30 narratives by renowned Turkish authors.
- ◆ *Liebe, Lügen und Gespenster – Erzählungen II (working title)* (edited by Börte Sagaster): The younger generation discovers new ways and perspectives to deal with the challenges of modern Turkish society. This volume includes contemporary stories in a variety of genres.
- ◆ *Geschichte der türkischen Literatur in Dokumenten (working title)* (edited by Mark Kirchner).
- ◆ *Geschichte der Türkei in Dokumenten (working title)* (edited by Hülya Adak).

- ◆ *Traditionelle Stoffe aus der anatolischen volkstümlichen Literatur (working title)*
(edited by Hasan Özdemir).

B) Modern Classicism

- ◆ Halit Ziya Uşaklıgil: *Aşk Memnu* (Verbotene Liebe, 1900)
- ◆ Halide Edip Adivar: *Memoirs*
»Memoirs of Halide Edib« (1926, Turkish version: »Mor Salkımlı Ev«, 1963)
»The Turkish Ordeal« (1928, Turkish version: »Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı, 1962)
- ◆ Memduh Şevket Esenal: *Ayaşlı ve Kiracıları* (Herr Ayaşlı und seine Mieter, 1934)
- ◆ Sabahattin Ali: *İçimizdeki Seytan* (Der Dämon in uns, 1940)
- ◆ Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar: *Huzur* (Seelenruhe, 1949)
- ◆ Yusuf Atılgan: *Aylak Adam* (Der Müßiggänger, 1959)
- ◆ Leyla Erbil: *Tuhaf Bir Kadın* (Eine seltsame Frau, 1971)
- ◆ Adalet Ağaoğlu: *Ölmeye Yatmak* (Sich hinlegen und sterben, 1973)
- ◆ Oğuz Atay: *Bir Bilim Adamının Romanı* (Roman eines Wissenschaftlers, 1975)

C) Contemporary Novels

- ◆ Murathan Mungan: *Doğu Sarayı* (Palast des Ostens, 1996)
- ◆ Hasan Ali Toptaş: *Gölgesizler* (Die Schattenlosen, 2002)
- ◆ Aslı Erdoğan: *Kırmızı Pelerinli Kent* (Die Stadt mit der roten Pelerine, 2002)
- ◆ Ahmet Ümit: *Sis ve Gece* (Nacht und Nebel, 1996)
- ◆ Murat Uyraklı: *Tol* (Rache, 2002)

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