



Dear Friend of Literature,

P.E.N. is an international/ist movement.

P stands for *Poets* and *Playwrights*.

Thus it also implies *Planet*.

Fraternally,

Tarık Günersel

Turkish PEN Centre, President

A moment of silence

for Ms. Siobhan Dowd,
activist of English PEN Centre and
PEN International.

For 21 years novelist Siobhan Dowd
helped thousands of writers
in prison worldwide.

www.siobhandowd.co.uk

The Day of the Imprisoned Writer

to be celebrated all around the world.

Organised by: *All centres; Writers in Prison Committee*

Date: *10 November 2007*

P.E.N.

The World Association of Writers

founded 1921

www.internationalpen.org.uk

*“a place where
writers from all cultures
meet to discuss, debate
and communicate”*

What is International PEN?

International PEN is the only worldwide association of writers. It exists to promote friendship and intellectual co-operation among writers everywhere, regardless of their political or other views; to fight for freedom of expression and to defend vigorously writers suffering from oppressive regimes. PEN is strictly non-political, a Non Governmental Organisation with Category A status at UNESCO. It is composed of Centres, each of which represents its membership and not its country. Membership is open to all qualified writers, regardless of nationality, language, race, colour or religion, and every member is required to sign the PEN Charter and by so doing to observe its conditions.

When was International PEN founded?

Mrs. Catharine Amy Dawson Scott founded International PEN in London in 1921. Its first president was John Galsworthy. Among early members were Joseph Conrad, George Bernard Shaw and H.G. Wells. Over the years members have included Nobel Prize winners and other eminent writers from all over the world; among PEN's Presidents have been Alberto Moravia, Heinrich Böll, Arthur Miller, Pierre Emmanuel, Mario Vargas Llosa and György Konrád.

How is International PEN governed?

PEN's highest authority, the Assembly of Delegates, consisting of representatives from each Centre, meets at the annual PEN Congress, where, in addition to the work of the Assembly, cultural events and literary forums are held through which PEN seeks to mobilise the intelligence and imagination of its members in support of its ideals. The international and diverse character of International PEN is reflected in its Board, which consists of the President, the Treasurer and seven members elected from among PEN's worldwide membership. International PEN also has Vice Presidents, all of whom are PEN members and distinguished writers who have rendered outstanding service to International PEN and its ideals. Vice Presidents are elected for life.

Why is PEN not fully represented in every country around the world?

PEN Centres are autonomous and writers wanting to form a Centre must organise themselves rather than being directed to do so by the International Secretariat. An initiative may also come from the International Secretariat. The key word is always 'cooperation'. A minimum of 20 writers must be willing to join, and there is a considerable amount of voluntary work necessary to begin a Centre. As a result, not all countries have PEN representation. Anyone wishing to form a PEN Centre should contact the International Secretariat.

What do the letters P.E.N. stand for?

PEN originally stood for Poets, Playwrights, Essayists and Novelists. However, membership is now open to all qualified writers, journalists, translators, historians and others actively engaged in any branch of literature.

Does International PEN maintain its own archives?

International PEN's archives up to 1974 were sold to the University of Texas at Austin and remain there. When they were sold it was agreed that photocopies could be sent to bona fide researchers. Please e-mail reference@hrc.utexas.edu for further information.

How many members does International PEN have?

International PEN currently has 145 Centres in 105 countries, of which 139 are currently active.

The PEN Charter is based on resolutions passed at its International Congresses and may be summarised as follows:

PEN affirms that:

- Literature knows no frontiers and must remain common currency among people in spite of political or international upheavals.
- In all circumstances, and particularly in time of war, works of art, the patrimony of humanity at large, should be left untouched by national or political passion.
- Members of PEN should at all times use what influence they have in favour of good understanding and mutual respect between nations; they pledge themselves to do their utmost to dispel race, class and national hatreds, and to champion the ideal of one humanity living in peace in one world.
- PEN stands for the principle of unhampered transmission of thought within each nation and between all nations, and members pledge themselves to oppose any form of suppression of freedom of expression in the country and community to which they belong, as well as throughout the world wherever this is possible. PEN declares for a free press and opposes arbitrary censorship in time of peace. It believes that the necessary advance of the world towards a more highly organized political and economic order renders a free criticism of governments, administrations and institutions imperative. And since freedom implies voluntary restraint, members pledge themselves to oppose such evils of a free press as mendacious publication, deliberate falsehood and distortion of facts for political and personal ends.
- Membership of PEN is open to all qualified writers, editors and translators who subscribe to these aims, without regard to nationality, ethnic origin, language, colour or religion.

Committees:

Translation and Linguistic Rights:

Established in 1978, the T&LRC works to promote the world's linguistic and cultural differences, the translation of contemporary literature and the creation of a Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights.

Writers in Prison:

The Committee works on behalf of persecuted writers worldwide and monitors the cases of writers who have been imprisoned, tortured, threatened, attacked and killed for the peaceful practice of their professions. The WiPC campaigns to end these attacks and oppose suppression of freedom of expression wherever it occurs.

Women Writers:

Created in 1991, the Committee co-ordinated by Melbourne PEN works to promote women's writing and publishing and to encourage women to know, translate and popularise one another's work.

Writers in Exile:

Formed in 1999, the Network works to establish placement opportunities for exiled, immigrant and refugee writers at universities, colleges and learning centres around the world. Since 2002, the network has been chaired by PEN Canada.

Writers for Peace:

Founded in 1984 at the height of the Cold War, the Committee is dedicated to promoting the cause of peace and celebrates Writers for Peace day each year on 3rd March. The Committee is co-ordinated by the Slovene PEN Centre.

International Board of PEN

International President Jiri Gruša, Austrian PEN

International Secretary Eugene Schoulgin, Norwegian PEN

International Treasurer Eric Lax, USA PEN

Mike Butscher Sierra Leone PEN

Takeaki Hori Japanese PEN

Mohamed Magani Algerian PEN

Elisabeth Nordgren Finnish PEN

Kristin T. Schnider Swiss-German PEN

Cecelia Balcázar Colombian PEN

Haroon Siddiqui Canadian PEN

HQ

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Toni Morisson

Boris A. Novak

Antonio Olinto

Michael Scammell

Thomas von Vegesack

Per Wästberg

Sister PEN Centres

International PEN currently has 145 Centres in

104 countries of which 139 are active:

Afar Speaking Centre
Afghan Centre
African Writers Abroad Centre
Albanian Centre
Algerian Centre
American Centre
Argentinian Centre
Armenian Centre
Austrian Centre
Azerbaijani Centre
Bangladeshi Centre
Basque Centre
Belarusian Centre
Belgian (Dutch Speaking) Centre
Belgian (French Speaking) Centre
Benin Centre
Bishkek Centre
Bolivian Centre
Bosnian Centre
Brazilian Centre
Bulgarian Centre
Cameroonian Centre
Canadian Centre
Catalan Centre
Chechen Writers Centre
Chilean Centre
Chinese Centre
Chinese Writers Abroad Centre
Colombian Centre
Congolese Centre
Costa Rican Centre
Croatian Centre
Cuban Writers in Exile Centre
Cypriot Centre
Czech Centre
Danish Centre
Egyptian Centre
English Centre
Esperanto Centre
Finnish Centre
French Centre
Galician Centre
Georgian Centre
German Centre
German Speaking Writers Abroad
Centre Ghanaian Centre
Greek Centre
Guadalajaran Centre
Guangzhou Chinese Centre
Guatemalan Centre
Guinean Centre
Hong Kong (Chinese Speaking) Centre
Hong Kong (English Speaking) Centre
Hungarian Centre
Hungarian Writers in Romania Centre
Icelandic Centre
Independent Chinese Centre
Indian Centre
Indonesian Centre
Iraqi Centre
Iranian Writers in Exile Centre
Irish Centre
Israeli Centre
Italian Centre
Ivory Coast Centre
Jamaican Centre
Japanese Centre
Jordanian Centre
Kazakh Centre
Kenyan Centre
Korean Centre
Kosovo Centre
Kurdish Centre

Latvian Centre
Lebanese Centre
Liechtenstein Centre
Lithuanian Centre
Macedonian Centre
Malawian Centre
Melbourne Centre
Mexican Centre
Moldovan Centre
Monegasque Centre
Montengrin Centre
Moroccan Centre
Nepalese Centre
Netherlands Centre
New Zealand Centre
Nicaraguan Centre
Nigerian Centre
Norwegian Centre
Pakistani Centre
Palestinian Centre
Panamanian Centre
Paraguayan Centre
Perth Centre
Peruvian Centre
Philippine Centre
Polish Centre
Portuguese Centre
Pretoria Centre
Puerto Rican Centre
Quebecois Centre
Romani Centre
Romanian Centre
Russian Centre
Salta Centre
San Miguel de Allende Centre
Sardinian Centre
Scottish Centre
Senegalese Centre
Serbian Centre

Shanghai Centre
Sierra Leone Centre
Slovak Centre
Slovene Centre
Somali-Speaking Centre
South African Centre
Spanish Centre
Sri Lankan Centre
Sudanese Writers in Exile Centre
Suisse Romand Centre
Swedish Centre
Swiss German Centre
Swiss Italian and Reto-Romanish Centre
Sydney Centre
Tapei Chinese Centre
Tatar Centre
Thai Centre
Tibetan Writers Abroad Centre
Trieste Centre
Turkish Centre
Ugandan Centre
Ukrainian Centre
Uruguayan Centre
USA Centre
Venezuelan Centre
Vietnamese Writers Abroad Centre
Writers from former Yugoslavia Centre
Writers in Exile, American Centre
Writers in Exile, German Centre
Writers in Exile, London Centre
Yiddish Centre
Zambian Centre
Zimbabwe Centre

Turkish PEN Centre

founded 1950

www.pen.org.tr

Born in Istanbul in 1950,
Turkish PEN's first
president was a leading
woman novelist: *Halide
Edip Adıvar*. The centre was
closed after the military
coup in 1980. After a
decade of darkness, it was
re-established by a group
of writers led by the great
novelist *Yaşar Kemal*.

Each person has (or should have) the right to write and publish in any language. Turkish PEN Centre has members who write not only in Turkish, but also in Kurdish, Armenian, English...

We strongly protest against the murder of our citizen *Hrant Dink*, also a PEN member. We are actively concerned with the judicial process—though nothing can bring him back. Among the 73 poets who joined pens and co-wrote a poem in Dink's honour, most were our members.

Members in Memories

We re-member them

by reading

Halide Edip Adivar, Fikret Adil, Dursun Akçam,
Teoman Aktürel, Tahir Alangu, Zihni Anadol,
Burhan Arpad, Duygu Asena, Behçet Aysan,
Nurullah Berk, Necati Cumalı, Aziz Çalışlar,
Abidin Dino, Sulhi Dölek, Müştak Erenus,
Muhsin Ertuğrul, Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu,
Memet Fuat, Macit Gökberk, Reşat Nuri Güntekin,
Vedat Günyol, İbrahim Hoyi, Rıfat Ilgaz,
İsmet Kemal Karadayı, Refik Halid Karay,
Feyyaz Kayacan, İ.Gündağ Kayaoğlu,
Samim Kocagöz, Cenk Koyuncu, Kerim Korcan,
Fuat Köprülü, Cevdet Kudret, Şükran Kurdakul,
Onat Kutlar, Berna Moran, Nadir Nadi,
Yaşar Nabi Nayır, Aziz Nesin, Erdal Öz,
Emil Galip Sandalcı, Abbas Sayar, Zeyyat Selimoğlu,
Sabri Esat Siyavuşgil, Salim Şendil,
Nermin Streater, Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar,
Semih Tiryakioğlu, Cavit Orhan Tütengil,
Tomris Uyar, Nermi Uygur, Bekir Yıldız,
Hür Yüner, Adnan Yücel

May their works inspire more and more people.

Committee for Children's Literature (CCL)

Our members *Glten Daynođlu* and *Yalvaç Ural* have recently led the establishment of *Foundation for Children's Literature (Çocuk Edebiyatı Vakfı)*.

To increase intercultural understanding, Turkish PEN Centre is organizing a *Committee for Children's Literature*.

In each country, the school books should include poems and stories from neighbouring countries. Maybe PEN Centres can do something about it.

At the 73rd International PEN Congress,

which took place in *Dakar, Senegal* –among many fruitful interactions:

The friendship between the delegates of *Kurdish* and *Turkish* PEN Centres was inspiring for many delegates from different corners of the world.

Racine Senghor of *Senegalese PEN* and *T.Gnersel* of *Turkish PEN* signed a protocol for cooperation.

Network of Balkan PEN Centres was born with the cooperation of the *Bulgarian, Croatian, Makedonian, Serbian, Slovenian* and *Turkish Centres*. We invite all Balkan Centres to join the network.

Network of Turkish-speaking Centres was initiated by *Bishkek PEN Centre*. *Uyghur PEN* is a centre-in-progress, which will hopefully join the international PEN community.

*Turkish PEN Centre proposed two
Days to International PEN*

World Short Story Day *February 14*
pioneered by story writer *Özcan Karabulut*
and *Prof. Dr. Aysu Erden*,
accepted by *69th International PEN Congress*
in Mexico City in 2004

and **World Poetry Day** *March 21*
led by *Gülsele İnal* and *Tarık Günersel*
Şiir Uzayı Laboratuvarı / Poetic Space Lab,
accepted by *Turkish PEN* and
67th International PEN Congress in Edinburgh
in 1997 -then by *UNESCO*

Presidents of Turkish PEN Centre

after 1950

Halide Edip Adivar *Novelist*

Refik Halid Karay *Novelist*

Sabri Esat Siyavuşgil *Writer and translator*

Yaşar Nabi Nayır *Writer and publisher*

Tahsin Yücel *Novelist and critic*

Military coup in 1980

since 1989

Yaşar Kemal *Novelist*

Şükran Kurdakul *Poet and literary historian*

Alpay Kabacalı *Researcher and non-fiction writer*

Nebile Direkçigil *Professor of English Literature*

Üstün Akmen *Drama critic and story writer*

Vecdi Sayar *Film critic and journalist*

Tarık Günersel *Poet and playwright*

Honorary Members

Somali PEN Centre website emphasizes that membership to a PEN centre implies membership to all the centres. True. Still, presenting Honorary Membership is a sign of gratitude. So some of the personalities here are members of other PEN centres.

Adalet Ağaoğlu - Turkish novelist and playwright, for her works and struggles for democratization

Çetin Altan - for his novels, plays, articles, his time in prison for his ideas

Judith Buckrich - Melbourne PEN, Chair of PEN International Women Writers Committee, for her cooperation and contributions

Terry Carlbom - Swedish PEN, General Secretary for International PEN 1998-2004, especially for his contributions to the promotion of World ShortStory Day, 14 February.

Fazıl Hüsnü Dağlarca - for his all-embracing poetry and outstanding use of Turkish language

Tacettin Diker - master of Karagöz, traditional Turkish shadow play. He still performs for children every week - at the age of 84.

Güngör Dilmen - for his plays and translations of several Greek classics

Gutenberg - for being himself

Osman N. Karaca - President of his brainchild ONK Writers' Agency since 1958, the first such organization in Turkey, for protecting copyrights and promoting literature

Cumhur Kılıçcıoğlu - for having been publishing a weekly journal in Siirt, Eastern Turkey, for more than 45 years

Kata Kulavkova - Macedonian PEN & and Chair of T&LRC (Translation & Linguistic Rights Committee), for her fair attitude and contributions

T. Yılmaz Öğüt - for giving up his successful business life 25 years ago and having been publishing theatre books since then

Judith Rodriguez - Sydney PEN, former Member of International Board, for having seconded Turkish PEN's proposal of World Poetry Day in Edinburgh, Scotland, at the 67th Congress of PEN in 1997

Jose Saramago - Portuguese PEN, Nobel Prize winner, for enriching the intellectual life in Turkey with his novels and his presence in Istanbul

Eugene Schoulgin - Norwegian PEN, highly respected in Turkey for his novels, already an Honorary Member before he was elected the International Secretary of PEN at the 73rd Congress

Sara Whyatt - English PEN, Director of the International Committee of the program for imprisoned writers, for her cooperation and contributions.

Organization of PEN Turkey:

Honour Board

Leyla Erbil - Deniz Kavukçuođlu - Cengiz Bektaş
Osman Şahin - İnci Aral - Necati Tosuner

Executive Board

Tarık Günersel *President* tarik.gunersel@pen.org.tr

Ülkü Ayvaz *Vice President*

Sabri Kuşkonmaz *General Secretary*

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Ayten Mutlu *Finance*

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Salih Aydemir - İnan Çetin - Süreyya Evren

Representatives

Turkey:

Adana: Şebnem Sema Tuncel

Ankara: Özcan Karabulut

Diyarbakır: Şeyhmus Diken

İzmir: Hayri Kako Yetik

Muđla: Tülay Akkoyun

Germany: Gültekin Emre

Scandinavia: Özkan Mert

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Nihat Ateş

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Dursun Özden

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Yasemin Yazıcı (Chair)

Sezer Ateş Ayvaz

Leyla Ruhan Okyay

Nemika Tuğcu

Some of Turkish PEN's annual activities:

18 January Assassinated Writers' Day

14 February World Short Story Day

21 February Babel Languages Day

21 March World Poetry Day

10 April Secularism Day

22 April Earth Day

1 May Labour Day

21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity

2 July Commemoration of the 35 writers, poets, and students burnt in a hotel by religious fundamentalists in 1993.

1 September World Peace Day

10 November The Day of the Imprisoned Writer

AFE organized the 5th Gathering for Freedom of Expression

Association for Freedom of Expression (AFE) organized 5th Gathering for Freedom of Expression in Istanbul in May. Members of Amnesty International and PEN International were among the 36 participants from 15 countries. NGOs and individuals from Turkey and neighbouring countries decided to collaborate in their work for freedom of expression. The next gathering will take place between 29-31 May 2009. We are grateful to Şanar Yurdatapan, the founder and President of AFE. Your visit to their website will be fruitful:

www.antenna-tr.org

A few more words about 2007

Rumi in celebration of the 800th anniversary of the legacy of Sufi Mystic, Poet and Scholar *Mevlana Jelalludin Rumi*- UNESCO has named 2007 International Year of *Rumi*. Celebrations take place in the countries where Rumi lived and died - Afghanistan, Persia (Iran) and Turkey –and the other parts of the world.

Adalet Aġaoġlu was the Guest of Honour at *Muġla University* and *Akyaka*. Her novels and plays were analyzed by several scholars. Her *Diaries* were published in two volumes by *Türkiye İş Bankası Yayınları*.

Yeşim Aġaoġlu's works were published in *Azerbaijan*.

Gülten Akın was presented the *Poetry Award* of our Centre. Her new poetry books were published by *YKY*.

Hüseyin Alemdar won the *Attila İlhan Poetry Award* - *Türkiye İş Bankası Yayınları*.

Poet and Director *Orhan Alkaya* wrote articles on culture and politics in *BirGün*

Ulviye Alpay's recent novel *Çalkantı* was published by *Altın Kitaplar*.

İnci Aral's new novel *Safran Sarısı* (*Safran Yellow*) was published by *Merkez Kitaplar*.

Novelist and essayist *Duygu Asena*, whom we lost in 2006, inspired Doġan Publishing House to set an annual *Novel Prize* in her name.

Theatre critic *Hayati Asilyazıcı* was presented an award from *Russia* for his intercultural contributions.

We celebrated *Yusuf Ziya Bahadınlı* on his 80th birthday, just as the 4th edition of his memoirs was published.

Mehmet Başaran was the Guest of Honour at the International Meeting of Poetry hosted by *Konak* Municipality in Izmir.

Enis Batur's new collection of poems ("Neyin Nesisin Sen") was published by *Kırmızı Yayınları*.

Ataol Behramoğlu, winner of *LOTUS Prize* and Turkish PEN's *Poetry Award*, wrote articles on culture and politics.

İlhan Berk, whose 90th birthday will be celebrated in 2008, has delighted us with his book of aphorisms *Adlandırılmayan Yoktur* (*What is not Named does not Exist*) was published by *Yapı Kredi (YKY)*.

Abdülkadir Budak's *Collected Poems* appeared among *YKY* publications.

Peride Celal is busy with a new novel, in her nineties, after her last novel in 2002.

Gökhan Cengizhan, the President of Edebiyatçılar Derneği (Writers' Association), was active in several international gatherings –including the *International Story Festival* in Ankara.

İpek Çalışlar's biography *Latife*, Atatürk's wife, was awarded *Duygu Asena Prize* -organized by Turkish PEN soon after our member *Duygu Asena* passed away in 2006. The jury members were: *Duygu Asena*'s sister, poet and novelist *İnci Asena*, *Orhan Pamuk*, *Prof. Nazan Aksoy*, *Emel Armutçu*, *Prof. Dr. Fatmagül Bertkay*, *Prof. Dr. Oya Köymen*, *Prof. Dr. Şirin Tekeli*, Journalist *Serpil Gülgün* and *Vecdi Sayar* - President of Turkish PEN.

Cevat Çapan's *Collected Poems* was published by *YKY*. Professor of English Literature and Drama, he has also been fruitful in translating poetry.

Fahrettin Çiloğlu has become the Editor-in-Chief of the Georgian-Turkish journal published in Turkey. Its title is *Pirosmani* –after the great Georgian painter.

Our Women Writers Committee is organizing a conference for *Prof. Dr. Güzin Dino*, who contributed a lot to Turkish studies in France.

Translator of Fredrich Jameson's *Postmodernism*, poetry critic *Mehmet. H. Doğan* is back to his studies –after recovery.

For her several translations from German into Turkish, *Sezer Duru* was awarded a prize in Germany: *Frankfurt Literature House Translation and Cultural Ambassador Prize*.

Novelist and story writer *Nazlı Eray* wrote about the life of Eva Peron in her new book.

Leyla Erbil, a leading novelist proposed to the Nobel Committee as a Nobel candidate by our Centre in 2002, has suffered from a health problem but she is active both as a writer and as the head of our Honour Committee. Her recent novella *Üç Başlı Ejderha (Three-Headed Dragon)* was published by *Okyanus*.

Enver Ercan was busy with *TYS (Writers' Syndicate of Turkey)* - in addition to his editorial work.

Dramaturg *Emre Erdem* has been active planetwide while also working on his PhD. Before he was 30, he was elected Vice-President of UNESCO–TEC (Theatre Education Committee) –by unanimous decision of the delegates from 90 countries.

Aslı Erdoğan's recent book *Hayatın Sessizliğinde (In the Silence of Life)* is composed of poetic prose pieces.

Haydar Ergülen's new poetry book *Üzgün Kediler Gazeli (Poem for Sad Cats)* was published by *Merkez Kitaplar*, is dedicated to cats.

Nezvat Erkmén, founder and head of the Brain Team of Turkey, received a thank you letter from the *President Of Irish Republic* for his translation of James Joyce's *Ulysess* into Turkish.

Poet *Turgay Fişekçi* has been active as the editor-in-chief of the bimonthly literary journal *Sözcükler (Words)*.

Metin Fındıkçı translated and prepared an *Anthology of Contemporary Arabic Poetry*.

Critic *Semih Gümüş* has concentrated on a new story journal, *Notos Öykü*, as the editor-in-chief.

During 4-12 July, *Tarık Günersel* represented our Centre at the 73rd *International PEN Congress* in Dakar, Senegal.

The first *Minister of Culture* of Turkey, the founder and head of the Department of *Turkish Literature* at *Bilkent University*, former member of *UNESCO's Executive Board*, *Prof. Talat Halman* has recently encouraged the preparation of *Selim Temo's* rich two-volume bilingual *Anthology of Kurdish Poetry*.

Memoirs of *Doğan Hızlan* got published by Doğan Publishing House. Critic and journalist, Hızlan was the Guest of Honour at TÜYAP Istanbul Bookfair in 2006.

Gülsele İnal's new poetry book *Çocukluğun Son Günü (The Last Day of Childhood)* was published by *Telos* –with drawings by *Burhan Uygur*.

Ahmet İnam, Professor of Philosophy at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, has been contributing to the *Science and Technology Supplement* of *Cumhuriyet*. His *Aşk Üstüne Denemeler (Essays on Love)* was published by *Aşına Kitaplar*.

Özdemir İnce won the *Melih Cevdet Anday Poetry Prize* - presented by Ören Municipality and TYS (Writers' Syndicate of Turkey).

Researcher and non-fiction writer *Alpay Kabacalı*, our *President* during 1997-2001, has contributed greatly to our knowledge and understanding of history –with his works on the Ottoman Empire, Sultan Abdulhamid II, The Republican Era, and Istanbul -all published by *Denizbank*.

Prof Dr Suat Karantay, who used to be the editor-in-chief of our annual journal in English, has been concentrating on his studies and students at *Bosphorous University*.

Deniz Kavukçuođlu's *Kedi Gülüřü (Cat Smile)* reminds us of the fact that we are responsible not only to humanity...

Yařar Kemal's novel *Yulanı Öldürseler (Killing a Serpent)* has been declared in France as one of best 40 novels in the world in the past 40 years. The opera based on his novel *Teneke* started at *La Scala* with great success.

More of *Arif Keskiner*'s memoirs appeared in his new book, "*Yine mi Çiçek?*" ("*Flower again?*")

Prof Dr *Emre Kongar*, with his daily articles in *Cumhuriyet* and TV discussions, focused on warning against the growing danger of religious fundamentalism.

In Diyarbakır, *Lis Publishing House* -founded and directed by *Lal Laleř*- has published more than 20 bilingual (Turkish-Kurdish) books of poetry and prose including works by *řeyhmus Diken* and *řener Özmen*.

Mario Levi has been teaching at Yeditepe University. His novel *Istanbul Bir Masaldı (Istanbul was a Tale)* has been among the most stimulating books in recent years.

Mıgırdıç Margosyan's essays ("*Kırveme Mektuplar*") were published by *Lis*

Nezihe Meriç was presented the *Mersin City Honour Award* for her works.

Murathan Mungan's poems were published in a bilingual (Turkish-Kurdish) edition ("*Balgıfa Mar / Yılan Yastığı*") by *Lis*.

Lale Müldür, whose *Selected Poems* appeared in English, was invited by *Princeton University*. She won the 2007 *Altın Portakal (Golden Orange) Poetry Prize*.

Yılmaz Onay was presented the *Peace Award* at *BarıřaRock (Rock for Peace)* in İstanbul.

Halil İbrahim Özcan wrote a biography of *Fikriye*, who was desperately in love with Atatürk and committed suicide.

Mahir Öztaş, poet, story writer and novelist whose works are published by *YKY*, was presented an *Honor Award* by *KALID* –Association of Graduates from *Kadıköy Maarif Koleji* and *Anadolu Lisesi*.

Adnan Özyalçın, author of "*Âşık Garip*" -a famous folk poet- has also been active in journalism in *Evensel* newspaper and peace efforts.

Our first member to win the *Nobel Prize*, *Orhan Pamuk* has been presented several Honorary PhD's worldwide –including one by *Bosphorous University* in İstanbul.

Yüksel Pazarkaya, a forerunner of concrete poetry who has been living in *Germany*, attended the *International Poetry Festival in Konak, İzmir*.

Nuray Pekdemir, made important analysis regarding the relationship of Islam and politics –and social life, in the left-wing newspaper *BirGün*.

Hüseyin Peker won the *Behçet Necatigil Poetry Prize*.

Our former President *Vecdi Sayar* is focusing on interesting international projects as the *President of Association for Intercultural Communication*.

Eugene Schoulgin, the leading Norwegian novelist who is our Honorary Member, is the new *International Secretary of PEN*.

Dinçer Sezgin, our former Izmir Representative, has recovered from an illness and he is back to literature and drama.

Seçkin Selvi's 50th year in translation has been celebrated by *Can Publishing House*.

Publisher *Müge Gürsoy Sökmen* has been leading the cooperation process with Ministry of Culture regarding the *Frankfurt Fair in 2008* –where *Turkey* will be the country in focus.

Elif Şafak was presented *The Freedom of Expression Award* by the *Union of Turkey's Publishers* for her works and activities for freedom of Expression.

Osman Şahin was the Guest of Honour in Ankara, International Short Story Festival organized by Writers' Association (Edebiyatçılar Derneği).

Latife Tekin's *Gümüşlük Academy*, an international Writers' House in Bodrum, Turkey, has been under pressure unethically by certain authorities. *Tekin* was invited to Holland in September for a series of literary events.

Prof. Dr. *Afşar Timuçin* wrote essays on culture and philosophy.

Hıfzı Topuz, one of the first members of Turkish PEN and a former member of *UNESCO*, won the *Orhan Kemal Novel Prize*.

Necati Tosuner won the *Ömer Asım Aksoy Essay Prize*. We hope to see his novel about Germany translated into *Deutch* –for bookshelves in *Frankfurt* in 2008.

Murat Tuncel's novel *Inanna* has been translated into Korean, after the Arabic translation.

Mehmed Uzun's Kurdish novels have been translated and published in Turkish among other languages –by *Ithaki*.

Buket Uzuner's new novel *İstanbulular (Istanbulians)* has been among the favourite books this year.

Halim Yazıcı successfully led the organization of the 3rd *International Poetry Festival* with *Konak Municipality* in Izmir.

Can (pronounced like American *John*) *Publishing House* (established by *Erdal Öz*) published two novels by *Nihal Yeğınobalı*, our delegate at 67th Congress in *Scotland*..

In addition to his new novel *Gökdelen (Skyscraper)*, several novels and linguistic studies of Prof. Dr. *Tahsin Yücel*, our *President* before the 1980 military coup, have recently been (re)published. With his creativity in all fields of literature and his contributions as a critic, linguist and translator, he is among the peaks of Turkish Literature.

For his extraordinary struggle for truth regarding genocides, *Ragıp Zarakolu* was given an award by *IAGS (International Association of Genocide Scholars)* in *Bosnia*, 9-13 July. He was also presented *The Freedom of Expression Award* by the *Union of Turkey's Publishers* for his works and activities for freedom of Expression.

Turkish PEN Honour Awards

Turkish PEN Centre has been giving an Honour Award in poetry to a Turkish poet each year. In addition, we would like to present three Honour Awards for international literature each year. Not for a specific work but for lifetime achievement.

Every language and literature should have a say in tomorrow's world society. Good literature is sometimes left in the shadow of big capital and/or manipulation. We wish to do something about it. Hence, we have decided to present these awards to international writers:

Halide Edip Adıvar Novel Award

-at Istanbul TÜYAP Book Fair in November

Dede Korkut Story Award

-on 14 February World Short Story Day

Yunus Emre Poetry Award

-on 21 March World Poetry Day

H.E. Adivar was a novelist. She was also the first president of Turkish PEN Centre -in 1950.

Dede Korkut: Story telling / writing in Turkish language is accepted to have begun with his stories. A previous sign of our Centre's respect was the international conference held in İstanbul in 2000.

Yunus Emre was the first great poet of Turkish language. A humanist, he lived in Anatolia in C13. Rumi wrote in Persian, Yunus Emre in Turkish.

In order to select the writers and poets, we will ask for sister centres' recommendations. We welcome suggestions from scholars, critics and translators worldwide.

We wish to do some translation and publication. And we would like to host the writers in Istanbul for a week.

3 Masters of Literature

Translations by İlyas Tunç

Halide Edip Adıvar (1884-1964)

by Yaprak Zihnioğlu

The founder and first President of *Turkish Pen Center*, Halide Edip Adıvar, was also a feminist political leader, a fertile writer, a novelist criticizing the low social status of women, an exemplary teacher, and an intellectual instigator in sociology, philosophy and culture. There are many references to her works, biography and activities. This year, Turkish Pen will present an award in her name to introduce her to new generations in our country and in the world. Since 1924, there have been some efforts to dispute her political attitudes and to take a biased view of her authorship and intellectual life. By creating this prize, Turkish PEN will oppose those who wish to ignore her, and contribute to enriching our cultural heritage with her works. Briefly, if the award helps people to rediscover her, to criticize her in an impartial way, and make her works known throughout the world, it will have achieved its goal.

Halide Edip became the herald of modern literature soon after she started to write. She was actively involved in politics. When the multi-party system was finally established in Turkey, in the 1950's she served one four-year term in Parliament. She participated in meetings and organizations, and contributed to social life with her writings. What she brings us in her novels are social situations and the contradictions that the transition from the Ottoman régime to modern Turkey was bringing. She didn't just write novels but also short stories, essays, histories, criticism, poetry, translations, plays and even a mystery story. Her works were translated into English, French, German, Russian, Hungarian, Finnish, Urdu, Serbian and Portuguese.

Milestones in the Life of Halide Edip Adıvar:

1884 Born the daughter of Bedfiram Hanım and Mehmed Edip Bey, the head clerk of Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid II. Educated by private tutors at home, she learned Greek at school.

1893-94 She attended the American Girls' School in Üsküdar for one year only, because the Sultan decreed that Muslims could not be students in Christian schools.

1894-97 She was introduced to Western Literature, Philosophy, Sociology, Mathematics, Arabic and the Classics by private tutors.

1897 *Mother* by Jacob Abbott was her first translation, which was awarded *The Order of Charity* by Sultan Abdülhamid II .

1899 She restarted her education in the American Girls' School in Üsküdar.

1901 Immediately after graduating from the American Girls' School, she married her math teacher, Salih Zeki bey.

1903 Their first son, Ayetullah, was born.

1904 Their second son, Zeki Hikmetullah, was born.

1908 She began writing for the newspaper called *Tanin* under an assumed name, Halide Salih. After the 31 March Incident, a reactionary uprising, she went to England via Egypt.

1909 She published her novels *Heyula* and *Raik'in Annesi*.

1910 *Seviye Talib* was published. She wrote essays and articles on education. She left home with her children when she heard Salih Zeki was to take a second wife, and she divorced him. So she began to use the name Halide Edip in her writings.

1910-12 She became one of the foremost figures in Türk Ocağı, a group of nationalists. She founded *The Society for the Elevation of Women*. During the Balkan War, she served as a nurse in the hospital of this *Society*.

1913 When the Balkan War ended, she became a general inspector of *Evkaf Girls' Schools*.

1914 She worked as an inspector at Evkaf Girls' Schools during World War I.

1916 At the request of Cemal Pasha, she went to Lebanon and Syria to found schools and orphanages for girls.

1917 In Syria, she met Dr. Adnan Adıvar at a meeting of the Committee for Union and Progress. They married. In March, when the schools were closed and educational services were interrupted, she went back to Istanbul.

1918 She started to lecture in Western Languages and Literature at Istanbul University.

1919 After the occupation of Izmir by Greek Forces, she became involved in the national struggle, and took a post in the illegal *Karakol Teşkilatı*, an organization transporting soldiers and weapons to Anatolia to support it. She addressed the women of Istanbul at the meetings of Fatih, Üsküdar, Kadıköy and Sultanahmet. She found a place among the permanent writers of the newspaper *Vakit*, and became the editor of *Büyük Mecmua*.

1920 Following the occupation of İstanbul, her life was in danger, and together with her husband Adnan Adıvar she fled to Ankara to join Mustafa Kemal for the national liberation movement. She supported Yunus Nadi publishing the newspaper *Hakimiyet-i Milliye*.

1921 She was promoted to the rank of corporal, and she took a post in the War Crimes Inspection Commission.

1922 *Ateşten Gömlek* and *Dağa Çıkan Kurt* were published. When the national struggle ended in victory, she returned to Ankara. But she had to come back to Istanbul because her husband, Adnan Adıvar, was appointed to the agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1923 After the declaration of Republic, she wrote for the newspapers *Akşam*, *Vakit* and *İkdam*. The novel *Vurun Kahpeye* was published.

1924 She went to Vienna for medical treatment. But from there she continued to send her writings to *Vakit* newspaper. She released her novel, *Kalp Ağrısı*. Later, she went to London with her husband.

1926 In London, her *Memoirs* was published in English.

1928 She became the first woman to lecture on politics at the Williamstown Political Institute, in USA.

- 1930 *Turkey Faces West* was published - in English.
- 1931 She taught Turkish History at Barnard College of Colombia University.
- 1935 She went to India to give a conference for the opening of Jamia Millia Islamic University. In the same year her novel *The Clown and His Daughter* was published in English. The book caused so much curiosity all over the world that it made twenty-five editions. It was also serialized in Turkish for the newspaper *Haber*.
- 1937 She put her impressions of India together in *Inside India*. And her novel *Yolpalas Cinayeti* appeared.
- 1939 She returned to Turkey with her husband.
- 1940 She started to teach at the Faculty of Arts in Istanbul University as professor of English Literature, and became the chairwoman of the department for ten years.
- 1942 She won the *Novel Prize of the Republican People's Party* with her *Sinekli Bakkal*.
- 1950 She was elected Izmir deputy for Democratic Party.
- 1954 She left the Parliament and returned to Istanbul University.
- 1955 Her husband Adnan Adıvar died.
- 1959 Publication of a novel and a book of memoirs: *Sevda Sokağı Sakinleri* and *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı*.
- 1963 Her last novel *Hayat Parçaları* was published.
- 1964 She died in Istanbul on March 9, and she was buried in the Merkezefendi Cemetery.

Yunus Emre

Gülseki İnal

I.

A soul outside all time, a herald of love, the most talented pen of sufism, a student of existence. However, a mystic who imagines life as a field to be visited for a short time and then to be left, and who ignores it in spite of being an excellent observer. Exposed to the rage of bigots and religious fanatics, despised by the poets of the Sultans, so ironic, so involved in life, sophisticated, and living in a period of chaos, a people's poet: *Yunus Emre*.

Living in the 13rd century, the most barbarous period of the history of mankind, when so many major battles brought bloodshed to Anatolia, the devastating Mongol invasions, the whole land laid waste by the Crusades, he was beloved of Anatolian people with his words of love, mercy, and tolerance amidst this blood-stained atmosphere, a glorious spirit: *Yunus Emre*.

Filled with the admiration for the perfect order of God and Universe and living as a traveller of love in the period when people suffered from wars, massacres, drought and famine, a monument of wisdom: *Yunus Emre*.

The conditions of the bloody age in which he lived are the same as those we know today. Nothing has changed. It was his mission to be a herald of love in those violent and cruel days. With his concrete references to the age, with his surprising and metaphysical style, with his poems full of wisdom and the power of observation, with his pure lines, and with his thoughts of existentialism appearing at all times, a messenger: *Yunus Emre*.

Writing his verse in Oghuz dialect of Turkish, and speaking of friendship, peace and beauty in Anatolian lands, where verbal culture prevails, a missionary of love: *Yunus Emre*.

Educated in philosophy, the Law of Islam, Greek and Arabic mythology, astronomy, geography and the history of Sufism, and very talented in the Arabic and Persian languages, carrying smooth firewood to the Home of

Taptuk Emre for twenty years, taking long journeys to explain the thoughts of his teacher, and entirely making mention of God's love in the days when people died of hunger, tried to survive in scarcity and drought in Anatolia, the Caucasus, Azerbaijan, and Syria, a dervish: Yunus Emre.

Aware of the difference between Divine Justice and the greedy treatments of worldly people, unbiased, and unsuspecting of his fellow humans, author of countless poems written with a heart full of love and a clear mentality: Yunus Emre.

II.

Anatolian people adopted Yunus Emre by naming their children after him, by erecting monuments to his memory, and by singing his songs for centuries. And many poets felt themselves dissolved into his poems. It is not known where he was buried. There are a lot of graves attributed to him in different parts of Anatolia: In the Tuzcu village on the foot of the Palandöken Mountain, in the Emre Sultan village between Kula and Salihli, in a village near Keçiborlu, on a tumulus in Aksaray, on the way to Sivas, in the Yeniçay village of Sandıklı, in Eğridir, in Karaman, and in Sarıköy where the Porsuk stream mixed into the Sakarya river. But it is obvious that all these graves were made as a sign of respect and love to him. The researchers of folklore declare that the true grave is the one in Sarıköy, where there is a mausoleum to his memory. On the upper ledge of this mausoleum, his best-known line can be read: "Let's love and be loved." A huge crowd of about 25,000 people, watched his burial in great respect at the moment of transferring his bones to the new grave. Incidentally there is a small mosque and a dervish lodge in Karaman. It is believed that they belonged to this dervish. Yunus Emre, whose graves Anatolian people can't share, really lies in their hearts.

It is said that Yunus Emre wrote three thousands poems. All these poems were collected in a book during his lifetime. A bigot called Molla Kasım got the book one day, and started to read it on the shore of a river. He burned

a thousand poems, each of which, in his opinion, was against Islam. And he threw a thousand of them into the water. Meanwhile, he read the two thousandth couplet:

*“Dervish Yunus, don’t tell this word in a double sense
A Molla Kasim will come, and cross-examine you”*

When Molla Kasim read this prediction, he became aware of the greatness of Yunus, and he immediately stopped destroying the poems. The burned poems were read by angels in the sky, the drowned ones by fish in the sea, and the poems which we have read for centuries are the ones which escaped destruction in this way. But, in the process, two thirds of his entire poetic output was presumably ruined. Yunus Emre, the founder of Tekke Literature, a dervish, and beloved of people, was scorned by the poets of the Sultans. The reason why the *madrasah* teachers got very angry with him was because his poems went against the Sharia Laws. Moreover, people were sentenced to death for reading his poems during the rites in dervish lodges.

According to Yunus, all beings on earth are unimportant compared to the love of God. God is inclusive of the universe. Existence can not be independent of God. This worldly life is a bridge to be crossed quickly. God is presence beyond all time and space. God comes from eternity and goes to eternity.

Yunus Emre created an image of a silent, peaceful and beautiful world by means of his poems, and love’s energy spreading all around. For him, there is only one source: God. And all creatures move towards this source.

Despite all the troubles in the age in which he lived, he offered people an order of existence and dying for God’s love seven centuries ago. These are the essential dynamics of his worldly and spiritual life. He opened the doors of the secret world for us by discovering what there was behind the curtain of unknown things. He brought us all these good feelings with his poems full of love, brotherhood, hope, and tolerance.

Dede Korkut

Hikmet Temel Akarsu

Turkish PEN Centre has decided to present literary awards befitting the prestige of PEN, and has determined the manner of carrying out this project using symbolic and universally accepted names from Classical Turkish Literature. On the strength of this decision, Turkish PEN has chosen: A novel award in the name of *Halide Edip* - one of the foremost figures of Turkish Literature and the National Struggle, a poetry award in the name of the unique *Yunus Emre*, and a story award in the name of *Dede Korkut*, a wise master whose epics have endured throughout the centuries. These three foremost writers each in his own field symbolise PEN's attachment to the classics.

Who was Dede Korkut? And why is he so important in Turkish Literature?

Dede Korkut's stories are the first fiction texts in our Literature -if we don't consider the 8th Century Orhun Inscriptions related with state affairs and some anonymous legends. His stories were probably transcribed onto paper in the 15th Century when the Akkoyunlu established a dynasty in northeast Anatolia. *The Book of Dede Korkut*, in which prose and verse parts are interspersed with each other, reflects a well-developed literary mind. In these epics, Dede Korkut appears as a white-bearded man, an advisor or sage, solving the difficulties faced by tribal members. He performed the poems with his instrument called 'kopuz', and stressed a proverb or the moral side of each tale.

This text was based on "*Stories of Dede Korkut*" (Varlık Publications, 1970) which a foremost literary researcher, *Cevdet Kudret*, simplified. In the preface of this book, the author explains: "*These epic tales are 'folk stories'. They have appeared to substitute the legends after the epic ages. Indeed, it is obvious that there are some impressions from the old Turkish legends, sagas, and myths in Dede Korkut stories. These kinds of stories performed at gatherings, with musical instruments, mimics and gestures by the story-tellers, are the collective heritage of peoples.*"

Probably based on the conflicts between the Oghuz, and the Pechenegs and Kipchaks, these epic tales give us knowledge about ethnic identity, history, customs, and the value systems of the Turkish people throughout history. Silence, wisdom and virtue rule in the atmosphere of the stories.

Turkish PEN is proud to initiate a story award in the name of Dede Korkut.

May these awards contribute
to intercultural understanding.

Dear Friend of Literature,

Thank you for your visit.

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