

2022-2023 U.S. Senior Researcher Dr. Amanda Phillips Meets with Professor Suraiya Faroqhi

Dr. Amanda Phillips (Dept. of Art, University of Virginia / Archaeology and History of Art, Koç University), based in Istanbul, continued her research into textiles, architectural decoration, and other topics, working mostly at the Ottoman archives in Kağıthane, with sources at Koç's ANAMED library, and with online databases of manuscripts in Türkiye and elsewhere. She travelled to Bursa to look at textiles in the Merinos Museum, as well as their collection of industrial looms and other weaving-related machines. In Istanbul, she has also met with friends and colleagues, including one of her first mentors, Professor Suraiya Faroqhi, who is pictured here with her most recent book, aptly titled *Surviving Istanbul*.

Pictured: Dr. Amanda Phillips and Professor Suraiya Faroqhi "Surviving Istanbul"!



"From One Singer to Another"

Brett Umlauf

2022-2023 Greece-Türkiye Joint Research Award Grantee



I head to Istanbul's Fatih district on April 1st for a tradition at "Ayin Biri Kilisesi." On the first day of every month, pilgrims of many faiths come to this Orthodox church. Today's line stretches beyond sight, the large number of pilgrims perhaps due to Ramadan and Lent coinciding in the Muslim and Christian calendars.

My audio recorder is with me; I am searching for sounds from this ritual in a shared sacred space. The sounds will become part of an installation called "KASSIA: SOUND ICON". The project centers on 9th-century composer Kassia of Byzantium, who founded a monastery in Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul. The installation weaves Kassia's liturgical hymns and gnomic verses together with recordings from my fieldwork. In Thessaloniki, I gathered sounds from living in a monastery and singing in a Byzantine choir. Istanbul is rich with sounds resonant of Kassia's historical home city.

Standing in line, I record indistinct murmurs of pilgrims outside the gate. Inside awaits their opportunity to make a wish, receive a blessing, light a candle, kiss the icons or collect holy water from a sacred spring. Vendors along the line sell little gold charms on ribbons, each to aid a

particular wish: a turtle charm for a home, a heart for good health, a lock for freedom, a coin for fortune.

I explain to one vendor, through my spouse's Turkish translation: I am a musician, collecting sounds for a performance piece. May I record? I like the gentle jingling the charms make as visitors sift through them at her table. "Hiç sorun değil" (No problem), she agrees and holds up her cellphone. It shows a photo of her younger self, once a cabaret singer. I tell her she is still glamorous. She demurs and pats my back.

In her warm, smoky voice, she explains: if my wish comes true, I must return the charm next time I come. "One worthy of friendship when he meets a loving friend vigorously rejoices as if he found a large sum of money," wrote Kassia (Tripolititis, translator). I leave Ayin Biri, charms clinking in my pocket, feeling fortunate indeed.

Pictured: Brett checking out the charms and sounds – Photo credit: Noah Amir Arjomand April 1, 2023

