



EVKAF

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"Your compassion will bring compassion."

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HISTORY WOVEN INTO THREAD

LEFKARA LACE



THE CULTURE OF WAQF MARKETS IN CYPRUS

ARASTA

Visit to Ankara from the Cyprus Evkaf Administration



The Director General of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tümer, and his delegation met with Sinan Aksu, Director General of the Turkish Republic Foundation Administration, in Ankara. The meeting focused on opportunities for cooperation to ensure more effective and

sustainable waqf services between the two countries.

During the visit, evaluations were made regarding the work carried out in the areas of archives, real estate and digital transformation; experience sharing and joint applications were emphasised.

The coordination of Ramadan month activities was also among the topics discussed.

Prof. Dr. Tümer expressed his gratitude to Sinan Aksu for his gracious hospitality and stated that the visit would strengthen inter-institutional cooperation.



The Tradition of Ahi in Cyprus Discussed at Bedesten



The "Ahi Workshop in Cyprus" held at the Lefkoşa Bedesten addressed the historical, cultural and economic reflections of the Ahilik tradition in Cyprus. Organised by the Cyprus Evkaf Administration in collaboration with various

institutions, the workshop featured academic presentations and debates. Speaking at the opening of the workshop, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Tümer, General Manager of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, emphasised that Ahi tradition and the foundation

civilisation were shaped on the basis of morality, justice and social responsibility. Participants expressed that Ahi tradition is not only a historical legacy but also a value-based system that can guide today's social and economic structure.



Visit to President Erhürman's Wife Nilden Bektaş Erhürman



The Evkaf Volunteers Team, operating under the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, visited Mrs Nilden Bektaş Erhürman, wife of President Tufan Erhürman.

During the visit, the team provided information about their volunteer and social responsibility work, emphasising the importance of social solidarity and a culture

of volunteerism. Mrs Erhürman expressed her appreciation for the dedicated work of the Evkaf Volunteers.

The visit concluded with a commemorative photograph after the exchange of good wishes.



ARASTA MARKET

One of the rare places that invites you back to the past while walking through the historic streets of Nicosia is the Arasta. With its narrow alleys, stone-paved roads and shops lined up side by side, the Arasta is not just a bazaar; it is a living memory of Ottoman waqf civilisation.

In the Ottoman approach to urban planning, bazaars were designed not merely as places of commerce, but as waqf structures serving the needs of the community. Arasta is one of the strongest examples of this approach in Nicosia.

A Market Shaped by Waqf Culture

Arasta was planned within the waqf system during the Ottoman period; the income generated from the shops here was used for the maintenance of mosques, the needs of madrasas, the repair of fountains, and various charitable activities. In this respect, Arasta was a structure that fostered social solidarity along with trade.

Each shop was not merely a point of sale but a link in the chain of the waqf. This system clearly demonstrates the Ottoman approach to urban planning, which centred on people, and the role of waqf culture in social life.

Architectural Texture and Social Life

Arasta's narrow passageways and

adjoining shops offer an aesthetic and functional architecture. These areas are not just places for shopping; they are living spaces where people come together, chat and form social bonds. Its architecture, which has preserved its historical texture, evokes the spirit of the past for visitors while reflecting the simplicity and order of Ottoman urban aesthetics. The Arasta stands out as one of the rarest examples of harmony between architecture and social life.

Arasta, Today

Lefkoşa Arasta continues to keep the spirit of the waqf alive to this day. Visitors have the opportunity to get to know traditional handicrafts up close, while also tracing the footsteps of a culture that dates back centuries.

Arasta reminds us that the waqf is not just about stone and shops. The waqf is a concept of kindness that touches people and sustains society. Every step, every purchase, and every conversation is part of this chain of kindness stretching from the past to the present. Arasta, a living example of Ottoman waqf civilisation, is a silent but powerful teacher that carries the culture of sharing, solidarity, and kindness into the present day.



Photos: Nicosia Turkish Municipality



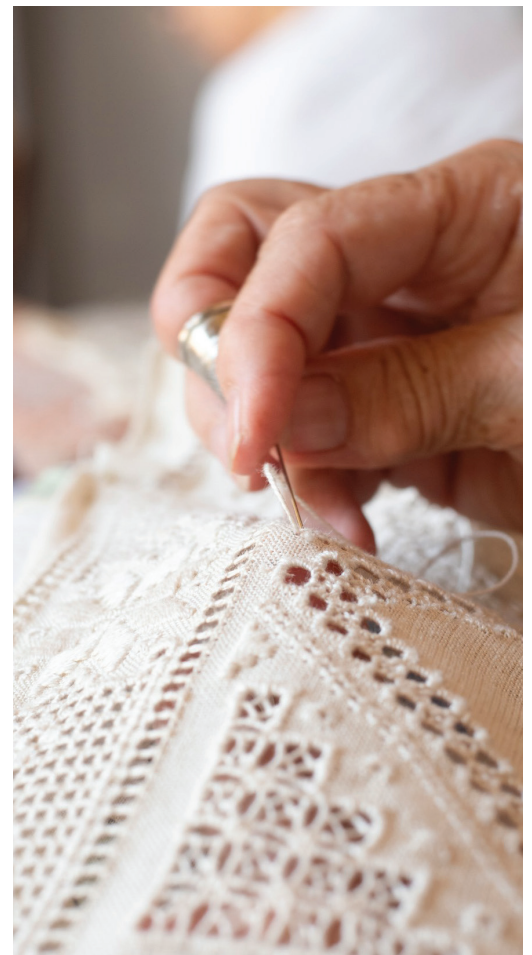
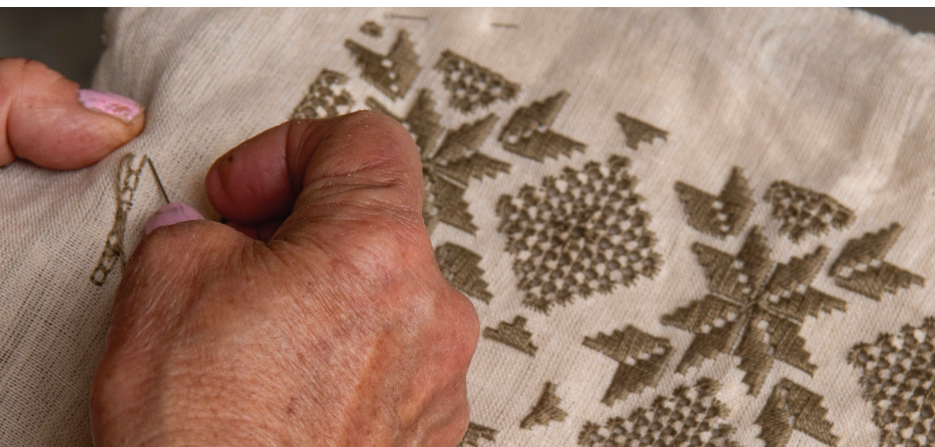
History Woven into Thread: Lefkara Lace

Lefkara embroidery is one of the most important local handicrafts made by the women of Cyprus. With roots dating back to 16th-century Venice, Lefkara embroidery takes its name from the village of Lefkara in the district of Larnaca, where it first emerged. Lefkara embroidery is divided into two groups: Lefkara embroidery on linen and needlework Lefkara.

During the production of both types, pillows or hoops made by wrapping fabric around stiff cardboard are used. Some threads of the linen

fabric are removed or cut in places to create gaps. Motifs are embroidered onto these gaps in various shapes, usually using beige-coloured threads.

Although there are hundreds of motifs, some motifs are worked on continuously, making them easier for the producer and therefore more popular. While Lefkara embroidery was made in the past for the people's own use, such as bedspreads and tablecloths, today it is also used for decorative purposes in mobile phone cases, glasses cases, panel making and clothing.



Photos: Ada Kibrisim



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