



EVKAF

Newspaper of Goodness and Culture

"Be tolerant so that you may be tolerated."

November 2024 - Issue: 132



THE PRECIOUS OTTOMAN MANSION THAT HAS SURVIVED TO THIS DAY:

DERVISH PASHA MANSION

NEWS

KVI Is Trying to Announce the Existence of Evkaf with the Symposium Held

"International Symposium of Turkish Cypriot Foundations with their Legal Dimensions" was held on November 7-8, 2024.

Page 2

NEWS

Warm Visits from Kindness Volunteers on Teachers' Day

Kindness Volunteers visited special education centres on the occasion of Teachers' Day this year and celebrated the dedication and sacrifices of teachers.

Page 2

CULTURE

The Education System in the Ottoman Empire and Cyprus Island

The Ottomans have systematically organized education and trainings, which has become established in the Islamic world over time, during the periods of establishment and rise.

Page 4

The Cyprus Evkaf Administration is trying to Announce the Existence of Evkaf with the Symposium Held

The “International Symposium of Turkish Cypriot Foundations with their Legal Dimensions” was held on November 7-8, 2024 with the collaborations of the Cyprus Evkaf Administration and the Ankara University of Social Sciences Northern Cyprus Campus, along with the supports of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency and Saray Hotel Grand Pasha.

The first day of the symposium was held in the Closed Marash Bilal Aga Cultural Center, and the second day was held in Nicosia Bedesten. This event, which was held in the foundation properties for two days, was recorded as a first in history.

The local and international legal dimensions of Turkish Cypriot Foundations were discussed at the symposium. 18 scientists shared their current knowledge and developed new perspectives on topics such as Foundation Law, Turkish Cypriot Foundation Goods in the Context of the Sea of Islands, International Law and the History of Foundations. In addition, a roadmap was created to be followed by offering solutions to existing problems.

“Evkaf, is trying to announce the foundation issue and the existence of Ahkamul Evkaf to the world.”



With the conquest of Cyprus by the Ottoman Empire in 1571, various foundations were established on the island and these foundations were managed within the framework of the law called “Ahkamul Evkaf” until 1878. However, with the temporary transfer of the island to the British in 1878, these rules were violated and many foundation properties were usurped.

The Cyprus Foundations Administration has been trying to make its voice heard

legally for many years through the written documents found in its archives. In this context, the “International Symposium on Turkish Cypriot Foundations with their Legal Dimensions” will provide new information and suggestions to the literature by making significant contributions to the evaluation of existing documents and information by addressing the legal status of foundations, their shortcomings and the problems encountered.

Warm Visits from Kindness Volunteers on Teachers’ Day

Kindness Volunteers visited special education centres on the occasion of Teachers’ Day this year and celebrated the dedication and sacrifices of our teachers.

Among the schools visited were Nicosia Special Education and Job Training School, Famagusta Special Education School, Ötügen Special Education and Job Training School, Ziyamet Special Education School, Yeşilyurt Special Education Center and Güneşköy Disabled Rehabilitation Center for Over 18 Years.

The volunteers expressed their gratitude to the teachers by giving gifts to them.

Emphasizing that special education teachers are guides who touch the lives of students and help them reveal their potential, the young volunteers stated that all our teachers, who are the architects of our future generations, work with love and dedication every day, celebrated Teachers’ Day with their sincerest wishes and thanked them for their efforts.



New Projects Adding Value to the Society carried out by Cyprus Evkaf Administration

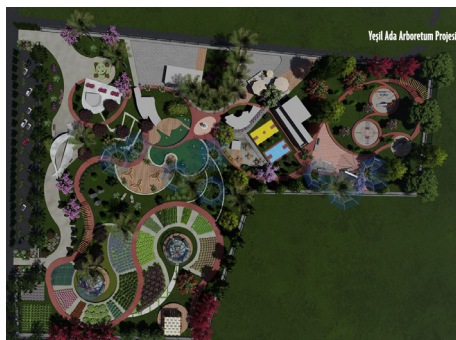
Cyprus Evkaf Administration (Evkaf) continues to contribute to the country with its projects focusing on social benefits. Recently, with two important protocols signed with the Shooting Speciality Association and Endemic Garden and Landscaping, the lands belonging to Evkaf are offered to the use of the society for social and environmental purposes.

With the ATAK Project, which will be implemented with the joint works of Evkaf and Specialized Shooting Association, it is aimed to spread the shooting sport among young people in our country,

which is very popular in Europe. Within the scope of the project, a modern shooting and extreme sports facility is being built on the land belonging to Evkaf in Karaagac region and it is aimed to provide both amateur and professional shooters with a sports experience intertwined with nature. In addition, the facility is also planned to host international shooting competitions and bring sports tourism to the region.

Another collaboration protocol signed includes the Green Island Arboretum Project. The project, initiated in cooperation with

Endemic Garden and Landscaping, aims to protect and promote the endemic plants of Northern Cyprus. In addition to the plant species indigenous to the country, different plant species are to be brought from abroad and they will be produced in the arboretum area. With the “Plant Museum” section included in the project, it is aimed to provide visitors with an unforgettable experience and to educate the younger generations by integrating their education with nature.





DERVISH PASHA MANSION

Dervish Pasha Mansion is a historical mansion located in the Arabahmet district of Nicosia. The mansion, which is located on Belig Pasha Street and was built in 1801, currently serves as an ethnographic museum and attracts attention as one of the rarest buildings where Gothic architecture and Ottoman architecture intertwine.



Historical and Architectural Features:

Dervish Pasha Mansion, which is one of the most beautiful examples of Ottoman architecture in Cyprus, belonged to one of the most famous and rich people of Nicosia, alWan Tradesman Haji Mehmet Efendizade Haji Dervish Ahmet Efendi.

Dervish Pasha Mansion is one of the rarest buildings where Gothic architecture and Ottoman architecture meet. The lower floor of the mansion has a Gothic architecture, while the upper floor has Ottoman architecture.

It is seen that the lower floor of the mentioned structure is made of stones and the upper floor is made of adobe. In addition, the mansion

has two separate entrance doors for women and men.

Foundation Information:

The mansion was donated by Derviş Pasha to the foundation he established on July 31, 1884 under the name of "Tradesman Hacı Mehmet Efendizade Hacı Dervish Ahmed Efendi Foundation". Other properties belonging to the Foundation include: 5 shops and 1 coffee shop in Tüccarbaşı bazaar, a shop in Basmaclar bazaar, 1 Acre garden on Paphos Gate street in Arabahmet District and 1 masura water right from Arabahmet water.

The Restoration Process:

The Dervish Pasha Mansion was in danger of being demolished in 1979 and was expropriated according to the rules of the foundation. After the restoration works, it was opened to the public as an ethnographic museum on March 21, 1988. The Mansion, which was kept closed for a while in 2017 due to maintenance and repair works, reopened its doors to its visitors on May 23, 2017.

Tourist Importance:

Dervish Pasha Mansion continues to serve actively as a museum today. The museum consists of 5 sections: the head room, the bridal room, the circumcision room, the bench room and the kitchen room. In these rooms, Cypriot-style clothes, kitchen utensils, sewing samples,



swords and many other cultural items belonging to Cyprus are being exhibited.

The museum is open to visitors between 08:00 – 17:00 on weekdays.

Educational Institutions In the Ottoman Empire

The Ottomans systematically organized education and training, which became established in the Islamic world over time, taking advantage of the accumulation of previous states, especially during the establishment and rise periods. Formal education in the Ottoman Empire, as was in the Seljuks before it, began in mosques or masjids and continued in primary schools and madrasas. Non-formal education was carried out in mosques, tekkes, shrines and libraries. These units were either found alone, or they were built together with the logic of a social complex.

I. Formal Educational Institutions

a) Primary Schools

They are basic schools where boys and girls, usually aged between 6-12, study together or separately. The aim of these schools is to teach the child to read the Noble Qur'an in accordance with the rules of education. Every child was given an alphabet book to help him read the texts of the Qur'an, and the basics of reading were taught using an individual teaching method. The first educational institution that was opened by the Ottoman after conquering the island was the "Hagia Sophia (Mazbuta) Primary School" in Nicosia.

Mazbuta primary schools are the educational institutions which were established and managed by the state foundations and all expenses were covered by these foundations. It is known that 6 "Mazbuta Primary Schools" were opened in Cyprus between 1573-1600 Dec. In addition, 5 "Neighbourhood Primary Schools" were also opened between these dates.

b) Mekteb-i Ibtidaiyye

These schools are directly among the state organizations and are connected to the "Ministry of Education and Public Instruction". The teaching period is three or four years. In these schools, basic knowledge of literacy, arithmetic, religious

knowledge, history, geography, handicrafts, etc. was taught.

c) Ottoman Junior High Schools

It was decided to open "Ottoman Junior High Schools" as an upper school where those who graduated from state primary schools and other schools could continue their education, after the establishment of the "Ministry of Mektib-i Rustiye" in 1838. The first secondary school in Cyprus was opened in 1862 in Nicosia under the name of "Ilmiyye Mektebi" or "Selimiye Secondary School". This school later took the form of a secondary school and formed the basis of today's Nicosia Turkish High School.

The teaching period of the students in secondary schools was three years. Turkish and Arabic, Qur'an reading, religious knowledge, arithmetic, fine writing, agriculture and etc. were taught in these schools. In addition, courses such as Persian, painting, geometry and health information were added according to their necessity.

d) Madrasas

Another educational institution of the Ottoman Empire is the "Madrasa". The word meaning of the term madrasa is "a place where lessons are read". These educational institutions consisted of primary, secondary and higher levels within themselves. In madrasas, lessons were given by "Teachers" and their

assistants, the "Muids".

Education was free of charge, and the students' food, housing and clothing needs were met by the madrasa administration. In addition, pocket money was also given to the students from time to time. The first madrasa in Cyprus was established in 1573. The name of this first madrasa is "Great Madrasa". Later, in 1578 the "Petit Madrasa" was opened. Over time, these institutions have multiplied under the protection of mosques and foundations.

II. Non-Formal Educational Institutions

a) Tekkes

The word Tekke, literally means "a place to rely on and trust". From the interpretation of the Qur'an with some meanings, "sects" and "ways (denomination)" that are instrumental in reaching God and the truth" have emerged as an extension of these sects. Tekkes have usually formed the education and training areas of these sects.

In addition to religious education; art, language, sports and music education were also provided in tekkes. In addition to these mentioned areas, Tekkes, which were public schools, have played an important role in teaching and spreading science and literature, especially folk literature. In Cyprus, the Mevlevihane in Nicosia has served as a public education centre as

well as providing religious education for many years.

b) Mosques and Libraries

Mosques, which are Islamic shrines, are not only places where certain prayers are held, but are public education centres where people of all ages and cultures are educated. In Cyprus, mosques have played an important role in keeping the national consciousness alive by collecting religion, science, art and music within their structure. Furthermore, mosques were centres of interaction between the state and its citizens. In Cyprus, Bayraktar, Hagia Sophia, Omeriye, Cami-i Kebir mosques and Kutup Osman Masjid in Famagusta were pioneers in this field.

Libraries, on the other hand, are important centres that protect science and enable it to be passed from generation to generation as a result of the love and respect felt by the Ottomans towards books. Muradiye, Mevlevihane, Hagia Sophia, Sultan Mahmut and Omeriye Mosque libraries have served as public libraries for the Turkish Cypriot community for many years.

Did You
Know

The Cyprus Evkaf Administration is one of the most established and rooted institutions on the Island.



General Directorate of Cyprus Evkaf Administration

11-13 Kyrenia Street, PK118, Nicosia - TRNC

tel: 0392 22 83 134

tel: 0392 44 40 494

email: evkaf@evkaf.net

Evkaf on Social Media

www.evka.org

Facebook: @evkaf

Instagram: @evkaofficial

Twitter: @evkaofficial

