

BETWEEN CONTINENTS

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*Proceedings of the Twelfth Symposium on Boat and Ship Archaeology
Istanbul 2009*

Edited by
Nergis Günsenin

ISBSA 12

Sponsored and Hosted by the
Istanbul Research Institute of the Suna and İnan Kır a  Foundation

Under the auspices of the Underwater Technology Program at Istanbul University's
Vocational School of Technical Sciences in partnership with
the Faculty of Letters, Department of Restoration and Conservation of Artefacts

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To the memory of

Ole Crumlin-Pedersen (1935-2011)
and
Claude Duthuit (1931-2011)

Crumlin-Pedersen founder of the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde heralded a whole new area of archaeological fieldwork and remained a seminal and inspirational figure in nautical archaeology. Duthuit not only acted as director of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), but made lifelong contributions to the field. It is thanks to his dedication and his passion that several excavation efforts, including those at Cape Gelidonya, have come to life.

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Preface

The island of Tatihou in France was the site of the first ISBSA meeting I attended in 1994. Encircled by seminal figures in our field, it was the most inspiring event of my academic career. At the time, it became clear that the attendees were eager to hold one of their future meetings in Turkey. Their wish was the driving force that finally led me to this special day.

Positioned between two continents, Istanbul was the perfect place to hold the Symposium. Throughout history, the exchange of goods and cultures between east and west, as well as north and south, was realized in the waters off the Anatolian coast, with the Black Sea to the north, the Sea of Marmara to the north-west, the Aegean Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Given the vast area of interest, we invited participants to focus on the four seas and address their pivotal role not only for Turkey but also for the rest of the world.

The Turkish coastline had already been the site of pioneering underwater excavations since the 1960s. Indeed, nautical archaeology was initiated

in Turkey under G. F. Bass and further developed under the auspices of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA). Today, the development of nautical archaeology and boat and ship archaeology on an international level far surpasses the initially limited field of underwater archaeology. Moreover, the discovery of the harbour of Theodosius, one of the most outstanding archaeological events of our era, has further enriched our field and added yet another dimension to our symposium.

The excavations in the harbour are still ongoing. Thirty-six shipwrecks dating from the 5th to the 11th centuries have been excavated. Their study will make an enormous contribution to our understanding of ship construction and the transition from shell-first to skeleton-first techniques. It will also allow us to re-examine Byzantine trade and the economy of the period. Furthermore, the remains revealing settlements dating back to 6500 BC, will shed new light on our understanding of the history of the ancient peninsula.



Fig. 1. Group photograph of the participants of ISBSA 12 (Photo: Engin Şengenç).



Fig. 2. Group photograph of the participants of the Amasra excursion.

The ISBSA 12 was held under the auspices of the Underwater Technology Program at Istanbul University's Vocational School of Technical Sciences in partnership with the Faculty of Letters, Department of Restoration and Conservation of Artefacts. It was sponsored and hosted by the Istanbul Research Institute of the Suna and İnan Kırac Foundation and was held at the Foundation's Pera Museum on 12-16 October, 2009.

More than 200 participants from 24 countries attended the Symposium where 50 papers, 25 posters, and various films were presented (Fig. 1). This also allowed numerous young scholars to present their work and contribute to ongoing debates in our field and even launch new areas of research based on recent discoveries. The papers for the symposium were selected by the ISBSA committee from among a multitude of excellent proposals. The mission of the ISBSA is focused on ship construction. While related subjects are welcome, the main thrust has traditionally been a discussion of the ship itself.

It is our hope that the conference theme which has helped bring together numerous scholars from around the world, will also bring together the two sub-fields of archaeology which have until recently

remained separate. It is believed that a genuine thematic and methodological dialogue between land and underwater archaeology can only enrich the field and uncover the mysteries of past civilizations. "Between Continents" will thus re-map our field and reset its intellectual boundaries.

Following the Symposium, an excursion to Amasra on 16-18 October offered the opportunity to visit workshops that still continue the traditional art of shipbuilding in *Tekkeönü* and *Kurucaşile* in the Black Sea Region. Participants learned methods of ship construction directly from the local shipbuilders. The Shipbuilding Program at the *Kurucaşile* Technical High School, the Amasra Castle, and the Amasra Archaeological Museum were among the local sites included in the itinerary (Fig. 2). Hüseyin Çoban was pivotal to the success of this excursion; his hospitality and his immense knowledge of traditional shipbuilding enriched our trip.

Like many other scholars in our field, I owe my presence here today to George Bass who not only accepted our invitation to attend the symposium but also graciously delivered the keynote address. Frederick van Doorninck, Jr., the late Claude Duthuit, Don Frey and Robin Piercy from the Institute of Nautical Archaeology further enriched

this symposium with their presence. It was a genuine honour to have them in our midst. As in all scholarly disciplines the master - apprentice relationship is central to our field. This was made amply clear during the course of this symposium.

However, our field is based not only on scholarly research. The constant interaction between nature and humans is an inextricable part of it: sailing on a fickle sea, working in the hostile underwater environment, and living in often difficult conditions are among the challenges that make our field so special.

May God save sailors and nautical archaeologists for future research and many more symposia!

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Suna, İnan and İpek Kır aç, founders of the Suna and İnan Kır aç Foundation, and  zalp Birol, General Director of the Suna and İnan Kır aç Foundation Culture and Art Enterprises; they made it possible for us to hold the meeting at the Pera Museum. The hospitality of the museum staff was also central to the success of this meeting.

My thanks also go to G lru Tanman of the Istanbul Research Institute whose help and friendship made it easier to navigate through a complexity of organisational issues. Erkan Bora, also of the Istanbul Research Institute, deserves special thanks for his assistance, not only during the Symposium, but also during the excursion to Amasra. Else Snitker welcomed everyone with her endless energy and friendly, familiar countenance.

I want to express my gratitude to Zeynep Kızıltan, directress of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, who made it possible for us to visit the Yenikapı excavation site.

Commandant Ali Rıza İŐipek generously opened storerooms of the Istanbul Naval Museum, which is presently under construction. Thanks to him, participants had the opportunity to see the sultans' *kayiks* and the famous *kadırga*.

The *Setur* Travel Company team contributed to a remarkable organisation.

My heartfelt thanks also go to Carlo Beltrame, Ronald Bockius, Anton Englert, and Fred Hocker, who shared their invaluable experience as previous ISBSA organisers.

I would also like to acknowledge Aysin Akyor for providing much needed editorial help with the English text.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to Rezan Benatar for her valuable intellectual and editorial contributions. She not only helped create a seamless text but also attempted to make rather complex material intelligible to the reader.

The success of a symposium is always determined by the contributions of its participants. I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of them for an intellectually stimulating exchange.

This volume is published by Ege Yayınları which has a long-standing commitment to archaeological research. I would like to thank its owner Ahmet Boratav for his interest in our work. My thanks also go to H lyya Tokmak for her patience with the layout of the manuscript.

