

BYZANTINE MONUMENTS *of* ISTANBUL

This is the story of the Byzantine monuments of Istanbul, the city known in the medieval period as Constantinople and in classical antiquity as Byzantium. Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine Empire from 330 until 1453 and was renowned for the beauty and grandeur of its churches and palaces. The extant Byzantine monuments of Istanbul include more than twenty churches, most notably Hagia Sophia, as well as the remains of the land and sea walls, the Hippodrome, imperial palaces, commemorative columns, reservoirs and cisterns, an aqueduct, a triumphal archway, and a fortified port. They are described here in chronological order and in the context of their times, through the political, religious, social, economic, intellectual, and artistic developments in the dynasties that came to power during the turbulent Byzantine age. A major part of the architectural and artistic heritage of Byzantium, these monuments also serve as a link between the world of classical antiquity and the new epochs of early modern Europe and the Ottoman Empire.

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Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-17905-8 - Byzantine Monuments of Istanbul
John Freely and Ahmet S. Cakmak
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521179058

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First published 2004
First paperback edition 2010

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

ISBN 978-0-521-77257-0 hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-17905-8 paperback

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IN MEMORY OF HILARY SUMNER-BOYD
COLLEAGUE AND TEACHER



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are most grateful to Selçuk Altun and the Yapı Kredi Bank for making a generous grant toward the cost of illustrating this book. We thank the German Archaeological Institute in Istanbul, particularly Dr. Axel Filges and Nurhan Özgenler, for allowing us to use photographs from their archives, and we also thank Tahsin Aydoğmuş and Anthony E. Baker for supplying the other photographs used as illustrations. In addition, we wish to thank Emin Saatçi for the invaluable assistance he provided in arranging for our photographic work and Tansel Kaya and Sinan Ozay for their help in computer graphics.

During our research, we benefitted from the assistance of Anthony Greenwood, director of the Istanbul branch of the American Research Institute in Turkey, and Gün Kut, head of the library at Boğaziçi University. The senior author is grateful to the administration of Boğaziçi University (University of the Bosphorus) for a leave of absence to work on this book, particularly to the rector, Sabih Tansal; the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Ayşe Soysal; and the chairman of the Physics Department, Ömer Oğuz. He is also thankful for enlightening discussions on Byzantine architecture with Robert Ousterhout and Cecil L. Striker. The junior author learned much from Slobodan Ćurčić and Robert Mark, his colleagues at Princeton University, and he also benefitted from discussions with his colleagues at the Kandilli Observatory in Istanbul, particularly Ahmet Işıkara, the director, and Mustafa Erdik, chair of the Department of Earthquake Engineering. He is also grateful for the encouragement he received from Üstün Ergüder, former rector of Boğaziçi University. Both authors would like to express their thanks to Beatrice Rehl, senior editor at Cambridge University Press, for her help in preparing our manuscript for publication. We are very grateful to Robert Ousterhout for his constructive criticism of the manuscript, though he is in no way responsible for the deficiencies that remain. Both of us also owe a great debt to the late Hilary Sumner-Boyd, professor at Robert College in Istanbul and Boğaziçi University, which can only be partially repaid by the dedication of our book to him.

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