

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.

John Freely is professor of Physics at the University of the Bosphorus in Istanbul. He is distinguished author and coauthor of more than thirty books on travel, including the renowned *Strolling through Istanbul* and, more recently, *Istanbul, the Imperial City* and *Inside the Seraglio*.

Ahmet S. Çakmak is professor emeritus in the Department of Civil Engineering and Operations Research at Princeton University. He has written extensively on aspects of Byzantine architecture and served as coeditor of *Hagia Sophia: From the Age of Justinian to the Present*.

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John Freely and Ahmet S. Cakmak
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John Freely
University of the Bosphorus

Ahmet S. Çakmak
Princeton University



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IN MEMORY OF HILARY SUMNER-BOYD
COLLEAGUE AND TEACHER



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