

Cordially invites you to the first public lecture

**“From blissful indifference to anguished concern: the transformation of Ottoman perceptions of antiquities, 1799-1869”**

**EDHEM ELDEM**

**Boğaziçi University, Istanbul**

While the promulgation, in 1869, of the first Ottoman law on antiquities can be considered as the formal beginning of Ottoman archaeology, we have very little direct information, other than western accounts and reports, concerning earlier attitudes and policies of the Ottoman State with regard to archaeological sites and remains. As a preliminary to an ongoing effort to produce an “Ottoman History of Archaeology,” this lecture analyzes, on the basis of Ottoman archival sources, the evolution of the Ottoman perspective on antiquities, from the Elgin marbles to the Venus of Milo, from the siege of Athens to the ‘discovery’ of Nineveh, and from the first Ottoman attempt at creating a museum to the 1869 bylaw.

Edhem ELDEM is a professor at the Department of History of Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, and has taught as visiting professor at the University of California at Berkeley, Harvard University and at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, in Paris. Among his fields of interest are foreign trade in the Levant in the eighteenth century, Ottoman funerary epigraphy, the development of an urban bourgeoisie in late-nineteenth-century Istanbul, the history of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and late-nineteenth-century Ottoman first-person narratives and biographies. He has also realized a number of exhibitions on historical themes. His latest project, in collaboration with Zeynep Çelik and Zainab Bahrani, concerns the history of archaeology in the Ottoman lands. His publications include:

*French Trade in Istanbul in the Eighteenth Century* (1999); *A History of the Ottoman Bank* (1999); *The Ottoman City between East and West: Aleppo, Izmir and Istanbul* (1999); *La Méditerranée turque* (2000); *Pride and Privilege. A History of Ottoman Orders, Medals and Decorations* (2004); *Death in Istanbul. Death and its Rituals in Ottoman-Islamic Culture* (2005); *Consuming the Orient* (2007); *Un Ottoman en Orient. Osman Hamdi Bey en Irak (1869-1871)* (2010).

**Thursday, 22 September, 17:30**

**Nádor 13. Room 001**

**Reception to follow**