



Exhibition

YAHYA KEMAL

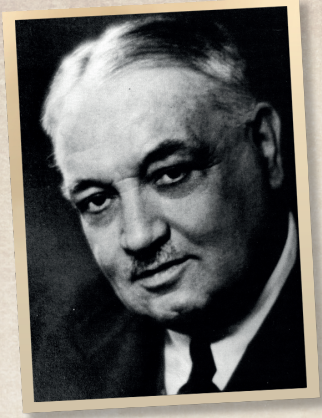
Beyatlı

**PORTRAIT OF A POET AS THE FIRST
TURKISH AMBASSADOR
TO PAKISTAN**

8-11 OCTOBER 2023



Arts Council
of Pakistan Karachi



Y A H Y A K E M A L

Beyatli

Yahya Kemal Beyatli, born on December 2, 1884, in Skopje, an Ottoman city at the time, was the first son of İbrahim Naci Bey and Nakiye Hanım, the court executive officer of Skopje. His early years were spent in Skopje, where he commenced his education. However, tragedy struck at the tender age of 13 when his mother, Nakiye Hanım, succumbed to tuberculosis. This loss left an indelible mark on his young life.

Following a period living with his father in Thessaloniki and attending Thessaloniki High School, Yahya Kemal was sent to Istanbul for further studies. However, he decided to study in France, in line with the prevailing tendency among young people of his time.

In Paris, he immersed himself in Western literature and found inspiration in the teachings of the renowned historian Albert Sorel, who ignited his passion for history. His sojourn in Paris lasted nine years, during which he also explored various European countries.

Upon returning to Türkiye, Yahya Kemal began an illustrious career as an educator, teaching literature and history at institutions such as Darüşşafaka Mektebi (Ottoman Secondary School for Orphans), Heybeliada Bahriye Mektebi (Heybeliada Naval School), and Daru'l-fünun (the first modern university in Istanbul).

During the tumultuous Turkish War of Independence, he published numerous articles to defend and support the cause of Turkish independence against imperialist occupation of Türkiye. His writings on this topic were posthumously compiled and published in the book "Eğil Dağlar" (Bow Down, Mountains!).

In the post-war era, Yahya Kemal attended Lausanne Peace Conference in 1922 as a delegate advisor. Upon his return to Türkiye, he took on the mantle of representing Urfa in the Turkish Grand National Assembly. His influence extended to the commission responsible for delineating Türkiye's border with Syria, where he made invaluable contributions. In 1926, his diplomatic journey commenced with his appointment as Chargé d'Affaires to Warsaw, followed by similar roles in Madrid (1929) and Lisbon (1931). In 1933, he returned to his homeland and continued to serve as a Member of Parliament until 1948. In a momentous diplomatic assignment, he became Türkiye's inaugural Ambassador to the newly-established state of Pakistan in 1948. Following his retirement in 1949, he returned to his roots in Türkiye.

After spending his final days at Cerrahpaşa Hospital in Istanbul, Yahya Kemal passed away on November 1, 1958. His eternal resting place can be found in the serene Rumelihisarı Cemetery.





"Poet of Istanbul": Yahya Kemal

The nine years Yahya Kemal spent in Paris played a significant role in the formation of his views on both art and literature, as well as history. During that time, he not only delved into the works of the renowned French Romantics, whose fame still echoed, but also followed the works of realist novelists and acquainted himself with symbolist and Parnassian poets. He aimed to establish a poetic language in Turkish that would contribute to modernization and simplification.

Furthermore, he sought a way forward for his understanding of history. He believed that a civilization had been forged between the present-day Turkish nation and the Anatolian land. He accepted the need to recognize the new civilization the Turks had created in Anatolia after their arrival and the elements that constituted this civilization.

Poetry Books:

- ◆ "Kendi Gök Kubberniz" (Our Own Dome of Sky)
- ◆ "Eski Şirin Rüzgarıyla" (With the Wind of The Old Poetry)
- ◆ "Rubailer" (Rubaiyyat)
- ◆ "Bitmemiş Şiirler" (Incomplete Poems)

Published Volumes:

- ◆ "Aziz İstanbul" (Dear Istanbul)
- ◆ "Eğil Dağlar" (Bow Down, Mountains)
- ◆ "Tarih Musahabeleri" (History Conversations)
- ◆ "Edebiyata Dair" (On Literature)"

In his poetry, he primarily employed the Aruz poetry style, renowned for its precise regulations concerning syllable counts and patterns of long and short syllables. Translations do not faithfully reproduce the metrical rules and patterns found in his original works. Birçok şürişarkı olarak bestelenmiştir ve klasik Türk müziğinden popüler müziğe farklı türlerde şarkılar yapılmıştır. (buna benzer bir cümle çevirilmiş)

Yahya Kemal in Karachi:

Excerpts from Yahya Kemal's letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye:

“Upon our vessel's mooring at the Port of Karachi, we were welcomed aboard by Mr. Zafer Ali from the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following his warm greeting, wherein he uttered the words “Safa geldiniz” (You are most welcome), he politely introduced us to Colonel Sergeant Major Şah, the Director of Protocol, and Afıtab, the aide-de-camp to the Quaid-i-Azam”

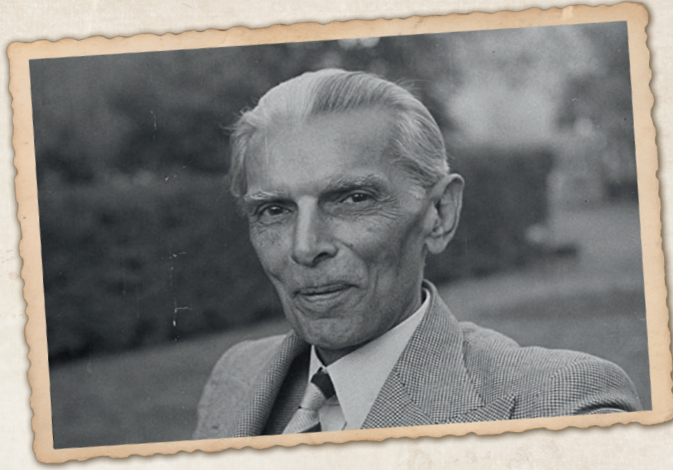


“I was formally introduced to the Qaid-i Azam by Mrs. Ikramullah. It was a standing reception. I delivered my speech in Turkish. I had previously submitted its translation to the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After concluding my speech, I humbly proffered my letter of credence. Mr. Jinnah, in turn, read the reciprocating speech that I had handed over to him earlier. Following the delivery of speeches, I requested permission and introduced our Secretary to his highness. The Qaid-i Azam shook hands with both of us and, though it was not on the program, invited us to sit beside him. Later, he graciously summoned us to his private chamber.”

“Qaid-i Azam began the conversation by inquiring about my impressions of Karachi. I apologized for not speaking the Urdu language and expressed my determination and willingness to learn the language in the near future. They kindly replied, ‘You would do well, for the Urdu language is quite similar to Turkish and you will often come up with Turkish words in Urdu. Even the Word ‘Ordu’ (army) is Turkish’.”

“Mrs. Ikramullah invited us to the drawing room for tea. Punjab Prime Minister Iftikar Hussein Khan was also present. He invited us to visit Punjab. I told him I would pay my visit at the earliest opportunity. The government’s photographer captured some images during the tea. This was followed by discussions revolving around the Turkish revolution and the courage displayed by the Turkish nation during the War of Independence.”





MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

“It gives me great pleasure to welcome you as the first Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan. But my pleasure is enhanced as there is a unique significance about today's ceremony to the people of Pakistan, for historical reasons. Your Excellency has yourself observed that many spiritual and sentimental ties, born and grown in the course of a long history, bind the people of Türkiye to the people of Pakistan. Not only this but by a turn of the world situation during the past 50 years or more,

Türkiye has been in our thoughts constantly and has drawn our admiration for the valour of your people and the way in which your statesmen and leaders have struggled and fought almost single-handed in the midst of Europe for your freedom and sovereignty which have been happily maintained. The exploits of your leaders in many a historic field of battle; the progress of your Revolution; the rise and career of the great Atatürk, his revitalization of your nation by his great statesmanship, courage and foresight - all these stirring events are well known to the people of Pakistan.

In fact, right from the very birth of political consciousness among the Muslims of the great Subcontinent, the fortunes of your country were observed by us with deep sympathy and interest. I can therefore assure your Excellency that the Muslims of Pakistan entertain sentiments of affection and esteem for your country, and now Türkiye and Pakistan both as free, sovereign and independent countries can strengthen their ties more and more for the good of both.

We hope that with your Excellency's assistance and co-operation we may be able to build up closer political and cultural ties with your State, and thus contribute our share to the attainment of peace and prosperity throughout the world. Finally I extend a most cordial welcome to Your Excellency as the first Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan - a welcome charged with the deepest affection, born of historical and cultural ties and traditions of the past. ”





Yunus Emre Institute:

The Yunus Emre Institute has been conducting its activities since 2009 to establish connections between Türkiye and other countries, increase global awareness about Turkish culture, support the learning of Turkish, and promote extensive interaction in the fields of art, culture, science, and education.

It operates 85 cultural centers in 65 countries and maintains over 100 contact points globally. In Pakistan, the Institute has three contact points: one cultural center in Lahore and two contact points in Islamabad and Karachi.

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