What Melek Remembered, Those Who Remember Melek

What Melek Remembered, Those Who Remember Melek: The Story of a Medallion

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Melek and Medallion Design

After Atatürk's death on November 10, 1938, Melek designed a commemorative medallion for Atatürk in 1939.



Melek and Medallion Design



Atatürk'e Türk Kadınının İhtiram ve Minneti

Atatürk'ün hatırasını taziz, fakat aynı zamanda Türk kadınlığının büyük ölüye olan minnetini İfade için ressam Melek Celâl yukarıda resmini gördüğünüz kompozisyonu vücuda getirmiştir. Bu kompozisyon küçük bir madalyondur. Ressam Melek Celâlin fikri bu madalyonu bütün Türk kadınlarının göğüslerinde görmektir. Madalyonun bir tarafında Atatürk'ün önünde huşu ile eğilen iki kadın resmi, öbür tarafında Türk kadınının Atatürk'e olan minnetini ifade eden bir cümle yardır.



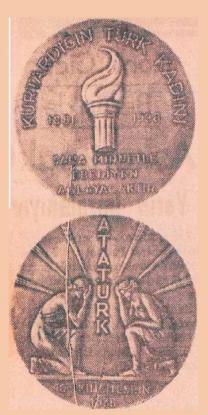
Turkish Women's Reverence and Gratitude to Atatürk

To honor the memory of Atatürk and at the same time to express Turkish women's deep gratitude to the great leader, painter Melek Celâl created the composition you see above. This composition takes the form of a small medallion. Painter Melek Celâl's vision is to see this medallion worn on the chests of all Turkish women. On one side of the medallion is a depiction of two women bowing in reverence before Atatürk; on the other side is an inscription expressing Turkish women's gratitude to him.

Tan Gazetesi 24.05.1939 – Sakıp Sabancı Müzesi (SSM) Koleksiyonu (Sakıp Sabancı Museum Collection)

Melek and Medallion Design

Bn. Melek Celâlin madalyası



Bayan Melek Celâl Sofuyu gerek okuyucularımız, gerek memleketimizin sanat âlemi pek iyi tanır. Arada sırada makalelerini bastığımız bayan Melek Celâl, muhtelif resim sergilerinde teşhir ettiği tabloları ve heykelleri ile ve bilhassa geçen sene hattat Kâmil Akdik hakkındaki pek özenli eseri ile kültür hayatımızın seçkin bir siması olmuştur. Ebedî Şefimiz Atatürk'ün ölümü üzerine Türk kadınlığının vefalı ve münevver duygularını tecessüm ettirmek üzere sanatkârımızın bizzat vücuda getirdiği madalya, estetik itibariyle pek değerli olduğu ve meşhur Heykeltraş Poisson'un büyük takdirini kazandığı için her iki cephesinin de resmini neşrediyoruz. Bu eser yalnız sanatkârın maharetini değil, Türk kadınlığının ileri duygularını da pek iyi tebarüz ettirdiğini görmekten çok sevindik. Ve madalyanın teksir edilerek kız enstitülerinde mükâfat olarak dahi verilebileceğini düşündük. Bayan Melek Celâl Sofu'yu samimiyetle tebrik ederiz.

The medallion designed by Mrs. Melek Celâl

Both Our Readers and the Art World of Our Country Are Well Acquainted with Mrs. Melek Celâl Sofu. Mrs. Melek Celâl, whose articles we occasionally publish, has become a distinguished figure in our cultural life through the paintings and sculptures she has exhibited in various art shows. and especially through her meticulously crafted work on the calligrapher Kâmil Akdik last year. Following the passing of our Eternal Leader Atatürk, our artist created a medallion to embody the loyal and enlightened sentiments of Turkish womanhood. This medallion, highly esteemed for its aesthetic value and having earned the great admiration of the renowned sculptor Poisson, is being published here with images of both its sides. We are pleased to note that this work not only showcases the artist's talent but also beautifully reflects the progressive emotions of Turkish women. We have even considered the idea that copies of this medallion could be distributed as awards in girls' institutes. We extend our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Melek Celâl Sofu.

The Medallion - 1961 Version

On one side of the medallion that Melek redesigned in 1961, this time it features the phrase: "The Turkish Woman You Liberated Offers You Her Devotion" along with a small MELEK inscription in capital letters placed at the bottom of the medallion. On the reverse side, the medallion bears the inscription "ATATÜRK" and the date "10 November 1938."





Personal Collection

An Article on Melek in Kadın Gazetesi



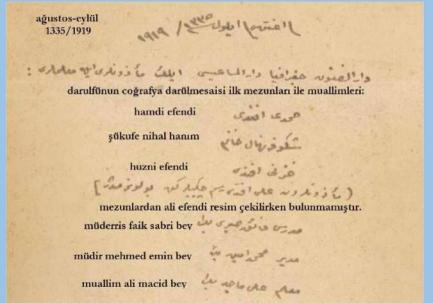
Şükûfe Nihal



Şükûfe Nihal (1896–1973) was a poet, writer, teacher, women's rights advocate, and activist. In 1914, she enrolled at *İnas Dârülfünûnu* (Women's University). Later, due to the merging of the schools, she had the opportunity to transfer to *Zükur Dârülfünûnu* (Men's University), and after completing the required additional courses, she graduated from the Department of Geography. She became the first woman to graduate from the Darülfünun (Ottoman Imperial University).

- She served as a member of the administrative board of the Müdafaa-i Hukuk-u Nisvan Cemiyeti (Women's Defense of Rights Association), and took part as general secretary in the founding of the Women's People's Party (Kadınlar Halk Fırkası).
- Şükûfe Nihal stood beside Halide Edip Adıvar at the Sultanahmet Rally, and also delivered a speech at the Fatih Rally.
- She held important positions within the Association for the Defense of National Rights (Müdafaa-i Hukuk Cemiyeti), and also worked—together with her sister, Muhsine Hanım—on safeguarding secret documents within the Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa (Special Organization, Ottoman intelligence unit).
- Until 1953, she taught literature and geography in various schools across Istanbul, including Istanbul Girls' High School, Vefa Girls' High School, Nişantaşı, Kadıköy, and Kandilli Girls' High School.







İffet Halim Oruz



İffet Halim Oruz was a prominent advocate for women's rights and was also known for her work as a poet, writer, and economist.

She was the founder and editor-in-chief of the magazine Kadın Gazetesi (*Women's Newspaper*), where she also served as its proprietor. During this period, she collaborated with influential women poets, writers, and educators such as Halide Nusret Zorlutuna, Şükûfe Nihal, and Hasene Ilgaz.

• Actively engaged in civil society, İffet Halim Oruz served as the President of the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze (Ottoman Poorhouse), and later became both a Founding Member and President of the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes (Huzurevleri Kurma ve Yaşatma Derneği). She also held various roles—such as founder, president, and board member—in many prominent organizations including the Turkish Women's Union, Association of Philanthropists, Women's Council, and the Women's Solidarity Union.



Darülaceze



• After the 1877 Ottoman-Russian War, among the migrant groups arriving in Istanbul from Rumeli, there were large numbers of sick and disabled individuals, as well as orphaned women and children. To provide shelter for these individuals—and for the growing number of beggars in the city—it was decided to establish an institution. Thus, the Darülaceze (Ottoman Poorhouse) was officially opened on January 31, 1896, under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior.

Darülacezeye Yardım Derneği (The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze)

- In 1941, The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze was established with the aim of supporting the Darülaceze, which had fallen into difficult conditions, partly due to the impact of World War II.
- Until 1958, the association could not operate with full effectiveness, and on November 2, 1958, its Board of Directors was restructured.
- Following the May 27, 1960 military coup, Staff Colonel Adnan Çelikoğlu, who had been appointed as Director of the Darülaceze, dismissed the former Board of the association and established a temporary Board of Directors on August 11, 1960.
- The members appointed to this temporary board were: İffet Halim Oruz, Ruhi Erman, Zekeriya Salıcı, Ali Topuz, and Kemal Özbek.

The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze

"Upon the recommendation of Staff Major Rauf Gökçen, I appointed to the association's board a group of friends whom I refer to as the 'Beylerbeyi Group' (Ruhi Erman, Zekeriya Salıcı, Ali Topuz). Around that time, Mrs. İffet Halim Oruz, who had come for a visit, also agreed to take part in the association's activities. The Beylerbeyi Group and the İffet Halim Oruz Group joined forces, and together they succeeded in putting the association's operations back on track."



President Cevdet Sunay's Visit to the Darülaceze

The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze



İffet Halim Oruz – Presidential Visit – Ankara / 1970

The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze

- Applications from elderly individuals expressing their desire to reside at Darülaceze were submitted to the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze and to Darülaceze Director Adnan Çelikoğlu.
- However, almost none of the applicants met the official admission requirements of Darülaceze.
- At that time, there was no institution in Istanbul capable of meeting the needs of these individuals.
- In fact, İffet Halim and her colleagues had previously identified this need and, during their travels abroad, had visited similar institutions to explore the possibility of implementing such a model in Turkey.

Melek and The Medallion

• After the May 27 Coup, Melek met with General Tulga, the Governor and Mayor of Istanbul at the time, and spoke to him about her medallion sketch. She sought his support for the evaluation and realization of the medallion. General Tulga then referred Melek to İffet Halim Oruz, whom he knew through his wife, Jale Tulga.

• Shortly after her meeting with General Tulga, Melek met with İffet Halim Oruz, who was at that time the President of the İstanbul Branch of the Women's Solidarity Union and also the Chair of the Board of the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze.

Melek and İffet Halim

On April 7, 1964, during a broadcast on İstanbul Radio, İffet Halim spoke about the founding of the İstanbul Nursing Home and described her meeting with Melek as follows:

"It was around 1960. One day, one of our women artists, Painter Melek, went to Refik Tulga, who was then the Governor of İstanbul, and showed him a medallion model she had created in deep sorrow following Atatürk's death in 1938, while she was working on medallion sketches in Paris. She explained her wish: this medallion had been made to express Turkish women's gratitude to Atatürk. If the medallion could be minted and sold by women, she would use the proceeds to have a monument built in his honor. However, since 1938, she had been unable to realize this initiative, and she asked Mr. Tulga to support her endeavor. He, in turn, recommended that she speak with us. And eventually, we met."

Melek and The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze

- During their meeting, Iffet Halim made the following proposal to Melek, in summary: "Let's have the medallions minted. But instead of using the proceeds to build a monument, let's establish a nursing home. Let this home become a living monument of our gratitude to Atatürk." With Melek's agreement, it was decided to proceed with the minting of the medallions. Melek also prepared a second version of the medallion.
- Thus, the "Medallion Campaign" was launched. Throughout the campaign, the medallions would at times also be referred to as the "Medal of Serenity" (Huzur Madalyası).

The Medallion Campaign

- The medallions were minted by the Turkish State Mint (Darphane) in two different sizes, using a special alloy.
- The large medallions measure 86 mm in diameter, 4 mm in thickness, and weigh 216 grams. They were produced in gold-plated or oxidized finishes and came with a wooden base, which was crafted by Bahattin Dursunoğlu.
- The small medallions measure 40 mm in diameter, 2 mm in thickness, and weigh 28 grams. They were produced in gold-plated form and included a loop for attachment.
- The large medallions were sold for 50 Turkish Lira, while the small medallions were priced at 10 Turkish Lira.





The Medallion Campaign

- Melek's wish for the medallion to be promoted by women and for the benefit of women came to fruition through the collaboration of several organizations. Alongside the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze, the project was supported by the Women's Solidarity Union, whose Istanbul Branch was chaired by İffet Halim, and the Istanbul Social Services Coordination Committee, led by Hasene Ilgaz.
- The medallions were sold through the following channels:
 - At a charity ball titled "Friendly Hands" (Dost Eller), held at Beylerbeyi Palace on August 30, 1961, where they were auctioned off,
 - At all branches of Ziraat Bank, selected by the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze for nationwide distribution,
 - And through neighborhood headmen (muhtars) across all districts of Istanbul.

The Medallion Campaign

- In addition to the sale of medallions, the Board of the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze was also actively searching for a suitable building to serve as a nursing home. Eventually, an appropriate property was found in Bahçelievler, Istanbul. The building was purchased on June 3, 1964, for 600,000 Turkish Lira.
- During the Medallion Campaign, approximately 40,000 small medallions and 1,500 large medallions were produced. Together with other campaign efforts, the total amount of donations collected from medallion sales reached approximately 500,000 Turkish Lira.

İstanbul Nursing Home Building – 1960s



İstanbul Nursing Home Building – 1960s



İstanbul Nursing Home Building and The Medallion

ISTANBUL NURSING HOME

Eski Londra Asfaltı No. 38 Bahçelievler - Bakırköy

Tel.: 71 56 06

71 63 22 Santral Telg.: HUZUR

No: 138



The Nursing Home Was Established Through These Medallions

İstanbul, 8/February/1965

A concert will be held for the benefit of the İstanbul Nursing Home, established by The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze, on Sunday, March 7, 1965, from 9:30 PM to 12:00 midnight at Şan Cinema, featuring soloist Leonid Kogan accompanied by the Presidential Symphony Orchestra. In order to ensure the success and quality of this concert, it has been deemed appropriate for the event to be organized under the supervision and oversight of a Concert Management and Planning Committee.

The committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 1965, at 3:00 PM, at the İstanbul Nursing Home. As you have been selected as a member of this committee, we kindly request your participation in its activities and extend our respectful regards.

İstanbul Nursing Home Director HASENE ILGAZ a.

The Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes Foundation

- The Society for Assistance to Darülaceze decided to establish a separate organization to carry out the efforts for founding a nursing home.
- Thus, the Association for the Establishing and Supporting of Nursing Homes (Huzurevleri Kurma ve Yaşatma Derneği) was founded in Istanbul on February 11, 1963, and in 1967, it was officially granted the status of a public benefit association.
- Hasene Ilgaz was appointed as the Director of the Istanbul Nursing Home, and Zekeriya Salıcı was appointed as Deputy Director.

The Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes Public Benefit Decision

The decision for "The Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes," based in Istanbul, to be considered as one of the associations working for the public benefit was made by the Council of Ministers on May 17, 1967, in accordance with Article 37 of Law No. 3512, based on the letter dated March 14, 1967, and numbered 81-103/137 from the Ministry of the Interior and the decision of the Council of State General Assembly dated April 20, 1967, numbered 1967/142-143. The decision was published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. 12633, on June 28, 1967, on page 7.

Decision No: 6/8229

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PRESIDENT C. SUNAY

The Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes The Founders

Fahri Atabey

Resmiye Boysan

Şefika Çakmur

Adnan Çelikoğlu

Ulviye Çelikoğlu

Ayla Demiroğlu

Ferzan Ener

Ruhi Erman

Seniha Ersöz

Nazlı Gaspralı

Rauf Gökçen

Ayşe Gübgüb

Halit Gürol

Hasene Ilgaz

Türkan Ilgaz

Fethiye Karaman

Harika Lefiş

Faika Onan

Necmettin Ormancı

İffet Halim Oruz

Zekeriya Salıcı

Selma Sedet

Nermin Süer

Ali Topuz

Neriman Tuna

The Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes The Association's First Boards

The Board of Directors

No	Name Surname	Title
1	Faika Onan	President
2	Fethiye Karman	Vice President
3	Ulviye Çelikoğlu	Secretary General
4	Necmettin Ormancı	Tresurer
5	Ruhi Erman	Accounting & Finance
6	İffet Halim Oruz	Member
7	Nazlı Gaspralı	Member
8	Şefika Çakmur	Member
9	Ayşe Gübgüb	Member

The Audit Committee

No	Name Surname	Title
1	Zekeriya Salıcı	Auditor
2	Ali Topuz	Auditor
3	Halit Gübgüb	Auditor

The Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes The Opening

- The İstanbul Nursing Home (İstanbul Huzurevi) was established by the Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes (Huzurevleri Kurma ve Yaşatma Derneği) on July 1, 1964, in Bahçelievler, Istanbul.
- The concept and term "Huzurevi" (Nursing Home) was used for the first time by the founders of this association. The Istanbul Nursing Home became the first institution in Turkey to be opened under this name.
- Additionally, the Istanbul Nursing Home is the only institution in Turkey that is run by a public-benefit association and operates on a non-profit basis.
- The nursing home building, which is owned by our association, currently serves with a capacity of 45 residents. Since its establishment, it has continuously provided care and has served more than 1,000 elderly individuals to date.



İstanbul Opening Ceremony of the Istanbul Nursing Home İstanbul, Bahçelievler / July 15, 1964



The Opening Day of the İstanbul Nursing Home İstanbul, Bahçelievler / July 15, 1964



The Opening Day of the İstanbul Nursing Home İstanbul, Bahçelievler / July 15, 1964



The Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes
The İstanbul Nursing Home - Early Period Activities



The Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes
The İstanbul Nursing Home - Early Period Activities



The Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes
The İstanbul Nursing Home - Early Period Activities

The Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes (The Contributing Members)



İffet Halim Oruz

She was a poet, writer, and economist. She served as a founder, board member, and president in numerous associations. She was the founder of the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes. Within the association, she served as a Board Member and as President from 1968 to 1984.



Hasene Ilgaz

She was a teacher, writer, and politician, and one of the first female members of parliament in Turkey. She was a founder of the Association for the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes. She served as the Director of the Istanbul Nursing Home from 1964 to 1971.



Ruhi Erman

He was a professional football player, banker, and insurance specialist. He played football for Beylerbeyi, Davutpaşa, İstanbulspor, and Hacettepe. Later, he worked as a bank manager and in the insurance sector. He was a founder of the Association for the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes, where he served as a Board Member and as President from 1996 to 2002.



· Zekeriya Salıcı

He received an education in Business Administration. He served as a founder, member, board and supervisory board member, president, and administrator in numerous civil society organizations, including the Beylerbeyi Cultural Association, the Turkish Philanthropists Association, and the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze. During Aytekin Kotil's term as Mayor of İstanbul (1977–1980), he held the position of Director of Municipal Sales Operations at the İstanbul Municipality. At the İstanbul Nursing Home, he served as Deputy Director and later as Director between 1971 and 1981. He was also a founder of the Association for the Establishment and Supporting of Nursing Homes, where he served as an Auditor and Board Member.

The Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes (The Contributing Members)

Ali Topuz



He was an architect and politician. He served as a Member of Parliament, and held ministerial positions in the Ministry of Reconstruction and Settlement as well as the Ministry of Village Affairs and Cooperatives. He was among the founders and leaders of numerous associations and organizations, including the Beylerbeyi Cultural Association and the Society for Assistance to Darülaceze. He was a founder of the Association for the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes, where he served as a Member of the Supervisory Board.

Adnan Çelikoğlu



He was a retired Staff Colonel. Following the May 27 military coup, he served as Director of the Darülaceze under the Istanbul Municipality, Deputy Mayor of Istanbul, and Regional Director of Istanbul Foundations. He was also engaged in commercial activities. He was a founder of the Association for the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes, where he served as a Board Member and as President from 1984 to 1996.

Rauf Gökçen



He was a retired Staff Colonel. Following the May 27 military coup, he served as a member of the Constituent Assembly. He was also involved in commercial activities. He was a founder of the Association for the Association for Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes, where he served as a Board Member.

• Prof. Dr. A. Saffet Alpar



Türkiye'nin She was Turkey's first female university rector. She served as the Rector of Karadeniz Technical University between 1972 and 1974. She was the daughter of Field Marshal Hasan Rıza Pasha, the defender of İşkodra (Shkodër) during the Balkan War. One of Turkey's first female chemists, she initiated the construction of a nursing home building, which she was unable to complete, and donated it to the Association for the Establishing and Supporting Nursing Homes.

İstanbul Nursing Home Building



İstanbul Nursing Home Building



İstanbul Nursing Home Building





www.huzurevleri.org.tr



www.istanbulhuzurevi.org.tr