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**In Memoriam Katharina Otto-Dorn:
A Life Dedicated to Turkish Islamic Art and
Architecture**

Joachim Gierlichs*

Katharina Otto-Dorn passed away on Easter Sunday 4 April 1999 at the grand old age of 91. Responsible for her scholarly bequest, I want to use this opportunity to present a paper in memory of her. I would like to thank the organizing committee of this conference for their willingness to replace my paper on *Miraj* representations in Ottoman Art with the one I am presenting now. One may ask whether it is appropriate to present a paper on the subject of a scholar who is longer with us at an International Conference such as this. In my opinion, the true value of presenting a paper in memory of one of our famous scholars lies in showing us the origins of our own research in the field. The *curriculum vitae* of Katharina Otto-Dorn is unusual and exciting, and she was one of the few Islamic specialists who have strongly influenced Islamic art history through her scholarly contributions.

My first contact with Katharina Otto-Dorn took place in Heidelberg ten years ago when I was preparing my doctoral thesis on Anatolian Seljuk animal reliefs. At that time I had an excellent opportunity to discuss many problems on Anatolian Seljuk art and architecture with Katharina Otto-Dorn, sitting around a "*sini*", drinking many cups of delicious Chinese tea. After a few of these meetings I became fascinated with the idea of having direct access to the scholarly founders of Islamic art history through her.

Researchers and scholars such as Friedrich Sarre (1865-1945),¹ Ernst Herzfeld (1879-1948),² Josef Strzygowski (1862-1941),³ Ernst Diez

* Dr. Joachim Gierlichs, The Islamic Art Society, London. I would like to express my thanks to Gregory Minissale for help with the final English version of this article.

¹ Even after more than 70 years, the important collection of Islamic art in Berlin is still influenced by the "taste" of the collector, scholar and first (honorary) director, Friedrich Sarre. In 1921 Sarre became a paid director and at the same time he bequeathed more than 700 objects to the Museum of Islamic Art (then 'the *Islamische Abteilung*'). A detailed study on Friedrich Sarre's life and scholarly merits has still to be written, but some information can be found in E. Kühnel, "Friedrich Sarre", *Der Islam*, 29, 1950, pp.291-95;

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF KATHARINA OTTO-DORN

(Book Reviews Excluded)

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- Türkische Keramik*. Schriften des Kunsthistorischen Institutes Nr. 1. Ankara, 1957. Pp. 194, 95 figures, 8 color plates.
- Kunst des Islam*. Holle Verlag. Baden-Baden, 1964. Pp. 262, 121 figures, 61 color plates, 51 plans, 7 maps. Second German Edition 1965. Italian edition Milano, 1964; Spanish edition, Barcelona, 1965; French edition, Paris, 1967; Serbo-Croatian edition, Beograd, 1976; Revised German edition in paperback, Baden-Baden, 1980; fully revised English edition in press at University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.

II. Articles

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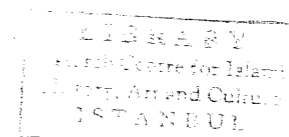
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Katharina Otto-Dorn

FOREWORD

The dedication of this volume to Katharina Otto-Dorn by her colleagues and students demonstrates their high respect and affection for her. Its presentation is a very personal homage to a scholar who has been able to achieve a lasting effect in her field of study.

Katharina Otto-Dorn was born in Wiesbaden on March 5, 1908. She began her studies in Vienna with the outstanding and highly imaginative art historian Joseph Strzygowski, to whom she submitted her dissertation, *Das Sasanidische Silber und seine Sinnbilder* in 1934. While in Vienna she also studied with Ernst Diez, who at that time was a special assistant to Joseph Strzygowski, and Ernst Kühnel, who taught her the minor arts of Islam.

Early in her career, Katharina Otto-Dorn demonstrated with such articles as "Östlicher Einfluss auf eine Gruppe iranische Silberschalen" an interest in the cultural relationships between China, Central Asia and the Islamic world. Later, upon her joining the German Archeological Institute in Turkey (Istanbul and Ankara), this interest became focused onto a detailed examination of Seljuk art. Since then her studies on this period have brought forth manifold perceptions on the origins and iconography of Seljuk art.

The study of art, however, was never an end in itself. It provided the basis for the understanding of culture and its people. In her study "The Figural Stone Reliefs in Anatolia" she emphasized the cosmic and astrological aspects while her work on the tomb towers illuminated the Seljuk burial rites. Likewise, her studies of the ruler's representation shed light on some aspects of political iconography in medieval Islam.

The excavation of the Seljuk palace at Kobadabad on the shores of Lake Beyeshehir (dated 1236), conducted under the supervision of Katharina Otto-Dorn and in collaboration with Turkish archeologists, was one of the highlights of her career. The finds of wall tiles with human and animal representations enriched the previously meager knowledge of Seljuk art in Anatolia.

Her interest was, however, not limited to Seljuk art. Her excavations at Rusafa, Syria uncovered parts of an Umayyad palace from the eighth century. And her work on the mosaics of the Great Mosque of Damascus revealed the political and social symbolism of the art among the Umayyads (*Die Kunst des Islams*). She also conducted several studies on the interrelationships between the Armenian and the Islamic cultures ("Türkisch-Islamisches Bildgut in Figurenreliefs von Achtamar").

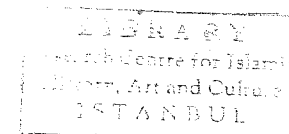
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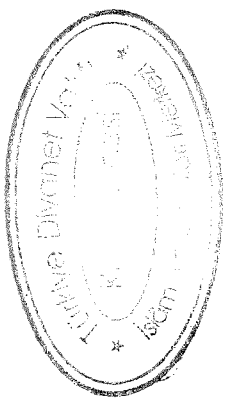
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Katharina Otto-Dorn (1908–1999)

Von JOACHIM GIERLICH, Berlin

Nur wenige Wochen nach ihrem 91. Geburtstag ist KATHARINA OTTO-DORN am Ostersonntag, dem 4. April 1999 in ihrer Heidelberger Wohnung verstorben.

1908 in Wiesbaden geboren, studierte sie in Wien an der ‚Lehrkanzel‘ des ebenso genialen wie umstrittenen Kunsthistorikers JOSEF STRZYGOWSKI (1862–1941), bei dem sie 1934 mit der Dissertation „Das sasanidische Silber und seine Sinnbilder“ promoviert wurde. Während sie durch STRZYGOWSKI ideengeschichtlich geprägt wurde, erlernte sie das ‚praktische Handwerk‘ als wissenschaftliche Volontärin („freiwilliger wissenschaftlicher Hilfsarbeiter“) an der Islamischen Abteilung der Berliner Museen (heute Museum für Islamische Kunst) unter ERNST KÜHNEL (1882–1964), der zwei Jahre zuvor FRIEDRICH SARRE (1865–1945) als Direktor nachgefolgt war. ERNST KÜHNEL sollte fortan ihren Lebensweg als Mentor und guter Freund begleiten.

Noch vor Ablauf ihres Volontariats reiste sie im Frühjahr 1935 – 27jährig – mit dem Zug über Budapest nach Istanbul,¹ um an der 1929 gegründeten Abteilung des Deutschen Archäologischen Institutes (DAI) – mit einem viermonatigen Werkvertrag ausgestattet – die Keramik von Iznik zu bearbeiten. Zunächst beschäftigte sie sich jedoch mit den Keramikfunden, die bei der Grabung im Hof der Hagia Sophia zutage kamen, eine Tätigkeit, die in der Cumhurriet vom 17.4.1935 mit ihrem Photo dokumentiert wurde. Mit Unterbrechungen in den Jahren 1936 und 1937 blieb sie insgesamt zehn Jahre in Istanbul, ab 1942 als ‚Referentin‘ am DAI, bis nach dem Abbruch der Beziehungen zu Deutschland am 3. August 1944 alle nicht emigrierten deutschen Staatsangehörigen die Türkei verlassen mußten bzw. interniert wurden.² In

¹ Ihr erster handgeschriebener Bericht aus Istanbul an Direktor E. KÜHNEL in Berlin datiert vom 17.3.1935. KATHARINA OTTO-DORNS jahrelanger Briefwechsel mit E. KÜHNEL und K. ERDMANN ist eine interessante Quelle, deren weitere Auswertung vom Verfasser geplant ist.

² Eine Ausnahme stellt nur HELMUT RITTER dar, der als einziger deutscher Nicht-Emigrant auch weiterhin auf freiem Fuß bleibt. Siehe TH. LIER: „Hellmut Ritter in Istanbul 1926–49.“ In: *Die Welt des Islam* 38/3 (1998), S. 359, Anm. 80 sowie H.R. ROEMER: „Ein Übermittlungsfehler und die Folgen. Im Gebäude des Generalkonsulats interniert.“ In:

- Otto-Dorn, Katharina**, born 5 March 1908 at Wiesbaden, Germany, she received a Dr.phil. in 1949 at Heidelberg with a thesis entitled *Türkische Keramik in Kleinasien*. She was affiliated with the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Istanbul, since 1936. In 1953 she accepted the chair of history of art at Istanbul Üniversitesi; in 1967 she went to the U.S.A. Her writings include *Das islamische Iznik* (1941), *Türkische Keramik* (1957), and *Kunst des Islam* (1964), and its translation, *L'art de l'islam* (1967). She was honoured by the jubilee volume, *Essays in Islamic art and archaeology in honor of Katharina Otto-Dorn* (1981). She died in Heidelberg, 4 April 1999. Kürschner, 1950-1976; Schwarz; *Wer ist wer*, 1962-1976/77; Widemann, p. 226, Nr. 69; ZDMG, 152 (2002), pp. 5-9
- d'Ottou-Loyewski, Stanislas Witold Charles**, fl. 1962. He was a French officer and served in French West Africa with the rank of colonel. His writings include *Rezzous sur l'Adrar* (1942). LC
- Ötüken, Adnan Cahit**, born in 1911 at Manastir, Turkey, he studied Turkish and French language and literature at Istanbul and was sent to Germany by the Turkish Ministry of Education to study library science. He was briefly a lecturer in library science at Ankara before he was made director of publications of the Ministry of Education. In 1946 the Ministry assigned to him the task of founding the Turkish National Library at Ankara. His writings include *Bibliyotek bilgisi ve bibliyografi* (1940), and *Millî Kütüphane kurulurken* (1946). He died in Istanbul, 2 March 1972. CurBio, 1954; IntAu&Wr, 1977; IntWWW, 1974-1983; Meydan
- van Oudenhoven, Nicolaas Johannes Antonius**, his writings include *Debielen in de maatschappij* (1969), a work which was submitted as a doctoral thesis in the same year at the Rijksuniversiteit te Utrecht. He also wrote *Common Afghan street games* (1979). Brinckman's; LC
- Ould Cheikh, Yédali** see Cheikh, Yédali Ould
- Ould Daddah, Moktar**, 1924- see Daddah, Moktar Ould
- Ould Jiddou, Ahmed** see Jiddou, Ahmed Ould
- Oulié, Marthe**, 1901-1941, she received a doctorate in 1926 from the Université de Paris for her thesis, *Le cosmopolitisme du prince de Ligne, 1735-1814*. She was a writer of travel literature including *Bidon 5, en rallye à travers le Sahara* (1931), and *Les Antilles, filles de France* (1935). NUC, pre-1956
- Ouseley, Sir Gore**, born 24 June 1770, he was privately educated and went to India in pursuit of commercial interests. He learned Persian, Bengali, and some Arabic. In 1810 he was made ambassador extraordinary to Persia and, in 1812, negotiated the Perso-English Treaty. After his return home he was engaged in learned orientalist institutions. His writings include *Biographical notices of Persian poets* (1846). He died 18 November 1844. Buckland; DcBIPP; DNB; Riddick; Wright
- Ouseley, Sir William**, born in 1767 in Monmouthshire, Wales, he studied Persian at Paris and Leiden and accompanied his brother, Sir Gore, on his diplomatic mission to Persia as a private secretary. His writings include *Persian miscellanies; an essay to facilitate the reading of Persian manuscripts* (1795), *Travels in various countries of the East, more particularly Persia* (1819-1823), the translation, *The oriental geography of Ebn Haukal* (1800), and he was the editor of the periodical, *Oriental collections* (1797-1799). He died in Bologne in 1842. DNB; EncBrit; Henze; Wright
- Oustry, Maximilien**, born 9 May 1886 at Dra-el-Mizan, Algeria, he enlisted in 1905 in the French Army and became *interprète stagiaire* in 1907, and, in 1909, *interprète de 3e classe*. He left the army in 1910, but was recalled in 1914 for war-time service with the Service aux Renseignements du Maroc. He was assassinated at Tafilalet on 3 June 1918. Peyronnet, p. 872
- Outram, Sir James, Baronet**, born 29 January 1803, at Butterley Hall, Derbyshire, he was educated at the Marischal College, Aberdeen. He entered the Indian Army in 1819 and served in India and had brief spells of duty in Aden and Persia. He retired to England in poor health and died in Pau, 11 March 1863. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. Frederic John Goldsmid wrote *James Outram; a biography* (1880). Buckland; CelCen; DcBIPP; DNB; EncAm; EncBrit; Riddick; WhoMilH, 1987; Wright, pp. 60-61
- Ovchinnikova, Irina Konstantinovna**, born 11 March 1923 at Penza, Russia, she was a graduate of Moscow State University, where she also received her doctorate in 1951 for her thesis, *Синтаксическое использование персидского послелога «ра» в его истории*. She was a lecturer since 1954. Her writings include *Учебник персидского языка* (1956), and *Русско-персидский словарь* (1965). She died 18 May 1979. Millband; Millband*
- Oved, Georges**, born 9 February 1921 at Lyon, he gained a diploma at l'École normale d'administration, Paris, and was affiliated with the Commissariat général du Plan from 1953 to 1956. Thereafter he was an economic and financial adviser to the Moroccan government until 1961. His writings