

Historic Fountains of the Southern Marmara Islands

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District of Marmara, Merkez Neighbourhood, Marmara Fatima Kadın Fountain GPS: 40°35'08.1"N 27°33'11.0"E	Bursa KTVKKBK - 15.01.1996 - 4904
District of Marmara, Merkez Neighbourhood, Marmara Ali Beğ Fountain GPS: 40°35'08.7"N 27°33'17.6"E	
District of Marmara, Merkez Neighbourhood, Marmara Taxiarches Fountain GPS: 40°35'10.4"N 27°33'24.8"E	
District of Marmara, Gündoğdu Neighbourhood, Agios Georgios Fountain GPS: 40°34'49.5"N 27°35'53.3"E	
District of Marmara, Gündoğdu Neighbourhood, Pera Fountain GPS: 40°34'52.1"N 27°35'56.5"E	
District of Marmara, Gündoğdu Neighbourhood, Martzoukis Fountain GPS: 40°34'54.3"N 27°35'48.2"E	Unregistered
District of Marmara, Ekinlik Neighbourhood, Aşıklar Fountain GPS: 40°32'55.0"N 27°28'22.9"E	
Construction period/date: 17 th - early 20 th centuries	Ownership: State Treasury
Current status: In use via the town's water supply	

History

A total of seven fountains with heritage significance have been identified in the Merkez Neighbourhood, Gündoğdu Neighbourhood, and on Ekinlik Island in the District of Marmara. Four of these fountains bear inscriptions – two in Ottoman Turkish and two in Greek.

Fatima Kadın Fountain and Ali Beğ Fountain are in the western part of the Merkez Neighbourhood in the District of Marmara, where the Muslim Turkish and Jewish houses once clustered (Pl. IV. nos. 15-16). Fatima Kadın Fountain has the inscription *Mashallah* (What wonderful Allah has willed!) within an oval cartouche. The date AH 1304 (AD 1886/87) is inscribed on the bottom contour of this cartouche, which is at the top of the fountain. The rest of the inscription is arranged in the four lines in each of the two cartouches. This states that the fountain was commissioned by Fatima Kadın, daughter of Ali Chavush in AH 1181 (AD 1767/68). The fountain on the east side of the mosque at the pier square has an inscription in two lines in each of the

two cartouches, revealing that it was commissioned by *al-fakir* Ali Beğ, son of Abdullah, in AH 1037 (1030?) (AD 1627/28). The inscription panel on the fountain by the Church of Taxiarches in the eastern quarter of the Merkez Neighbourhood was chiselled out but the date (1862) is still legible on the top right; this suggests that the original inscription was in Greek.

Only one of the three fountains in the Gündoğdu (Prastio) Neighbourhood has an inscription in Greek. Known as the Martzoukis Fountain (Gedeon 1895, 102), one of its inscriptions reveals that it was commissioned by a Greek called Nikolaos in 1665. The other inscription is on a marble plaque on the southern façade of the fountain and records a repair from the congregational budget in 1908. The very modern-looking fountain by the mosque in the village square was commissioned by the Charitable Brotherhood 'Progress' of Prastio in 1911 and it was known as Agios Georgios Fountain (Papachristou 2019a, 26). The third

fountain in Gündoğdu is locally known as Pera Fountain but its construction date is unknown (Papachristou 2019a, 128).

The Aşıklar, literally ‘lovers’ in Turkish, Fountain on Ekinlik Island was commissioned by D. Ioannou, son of [Fo]tios, in 1847 according to its Greek inscription. Another marble plaque by the fountain bears the date 1910, which must indicate a repair as in the case of Martzoukis Fountain in Gündoğdu.

Architecture

The three fountains in Marmara and the three in Gündoğdu all have a single façade with a single arch and an attached water tank; they all stand independent from other buildings. The tympanum, tap panel, basin, and resting benches of Fatima Kadın Fountain in Marmara are all of marble. Its water tank is covered by a barrel vault of brick masonry (Fig. 1). The stone parts are plastered with lime mortar; part of the vault has collapsed. The basin is wide and deep. The Fountain of Ali Beğ is built of marble (Fig. 2); its water tank of stone masonry is plastered. It also has a deep and wide basin, as well as resting benches. Rosettes embellish the keystone of the arch and link the inscription cartouches. Taxiarches Fountain was originally located in the square by the Church of Taxiarches, but it was moved and integrated into the wall of the hotel; as a result, its water tank is not visible or accessible (Fig. 3). The inscription panel of Taxiarches Fountain was chiselled away. It also has resting benches, as well as a deep and wide basin. Similar to Ali Beğ Fountain,

rosettes decorate the keystone and the panel of Taxiarches Fountain.

Agios Georgios Fountain in the village square of Gündoğdu is a plain with a small tank (Fig. 4). The marble façade is bounded by pilasters on both sides and the basin is flanked by a resting bench on either side. Pilasters rise from the top level of the benches and flank the main panel, which is decorated with a radiating, circular motif around tap. Its panel is a single, large, marble plaque between the basin and the crown moulding. The main façade terminates in a profiled, marble cornice on top. Pera Fountain, an independent structure, does not have a niche or an arch on its only marble façade, unlike the other fountains on Marmara Island (Fig. 5). The basin is built from a spoliated sarcophagus lid. It is flanked by a marble resting bench on either side, from which rectangular pilasters rise. The façade is crowned with a cornice. On the top, there are clamps connecting the marble blocks. The brick vault that covers the water tank is damaged. A rosette motif decorates the panel behind the tap. On the eastern and western façades are traces of original pipes connected to the water tank.

Martzoukis Fountain in Gündoğdu is another public square fountain, with a water tank that faces the west. This rectangular fountain has a single, decorated façade that is richer than that of the other fountains in Gündoğdu (Fig. 6). The pointed arch is the prominent element on the eastern façade, which is built entirely in marble. The basin is flanked by the

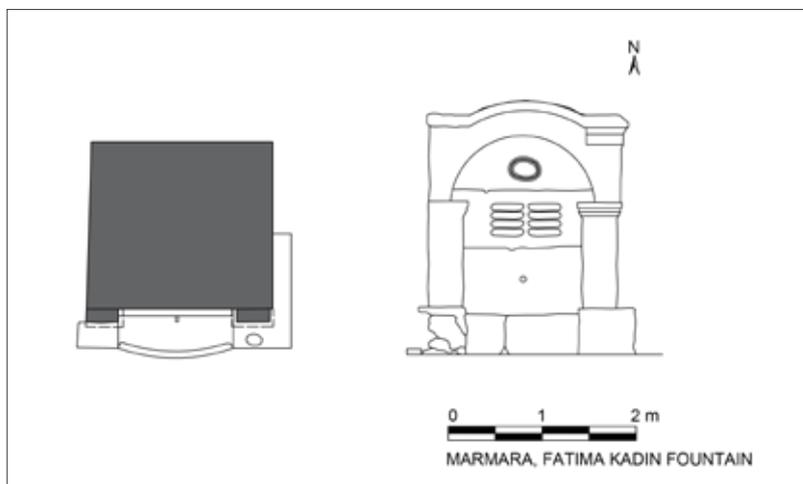


Fig. 1: Marmara Fatima Kadın Fountain

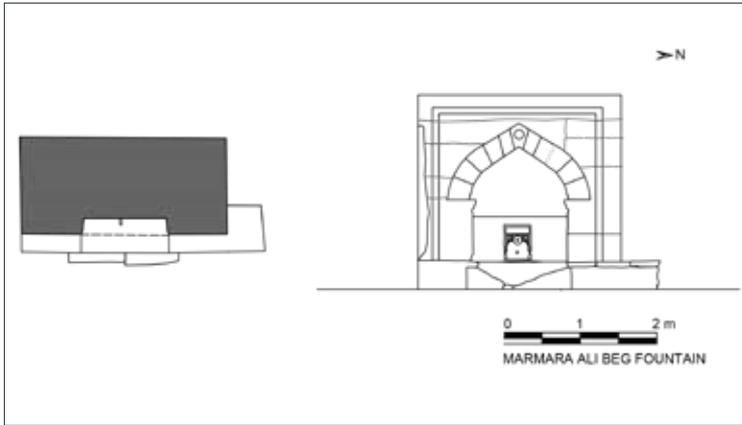


Fig. 2: Marmara Ali Beğ Fountain

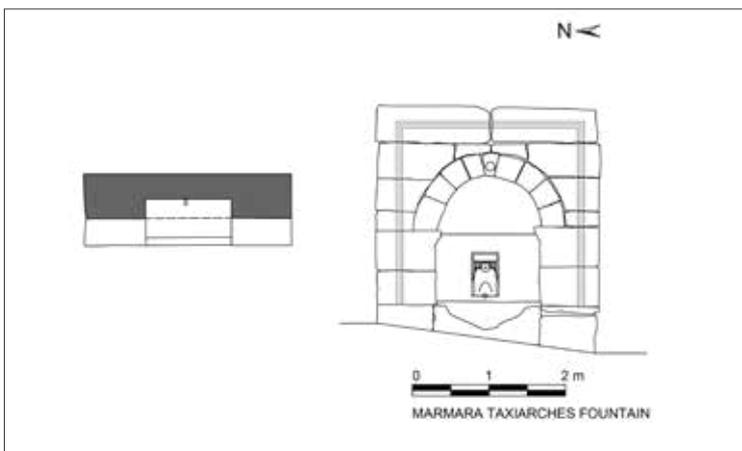


Fig. 3: Marmara Taxiarches Fountain

resting benches and surmounted by the tap panel, the inscription, and the pointed arch. The southern resting bench has a depression, most likely to place the drinking bowl. The three-line inscription dating the fountain to the 17th century is placed over the springing line and bounded by a relief of three bands of lozenges at the bottom. The tap panel is a single, large plaque placed between the basin and the springing line of the arch. At its bottom level, there is a square frame of 36x36 cm framing the tap under an ogee arch motif with a rosette in the spandrels. The tap panel is flanked by two floral compositions in relief. There are rosettes on the keystone of the pointed arch and over the springing line on the spandrels. The eastern façade terminates in a profiled marble moulding. The inscription panel about the repair in 1908 is placed on the southern façade, which is plastered over with *Khorasan* mortar. The body walls of the tank were built with rubble and its east-west oriented barrel vault was built with

blend brick. The moulding extending along the eave all around the structure is of marble, probably obtained from spoliated material. Iron clamps were used to connect the marble blocks and plaques. Near the western edge of the tank's vault, there is an opening with a lid for maintenance.

The fountain on Ekinlik Island comprises an almost-cubic water tank with a marble fountain plaque embedded on its seaward, northern façade (Fig. 7). The plaque has Baroque-style decoration and an inscription in Greek. The tank was built with broken stones, brick fragments, and lime-based mortar; it is plastered with cement-based mortar to a great extent on the exterior. The cubic body of the tank is surmounted by an irregular barrel vault in the east-west direction. On the eastern tympanum of the barrel vault, there is a window opening, which is 60 cm wide and 52 cm high, for maintenance purposes. Through this opening it is seen that the

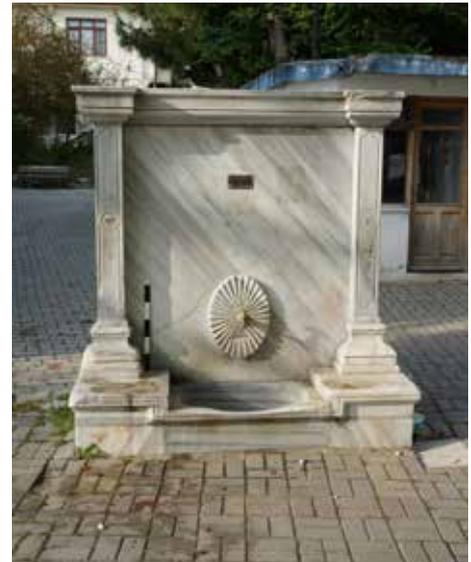
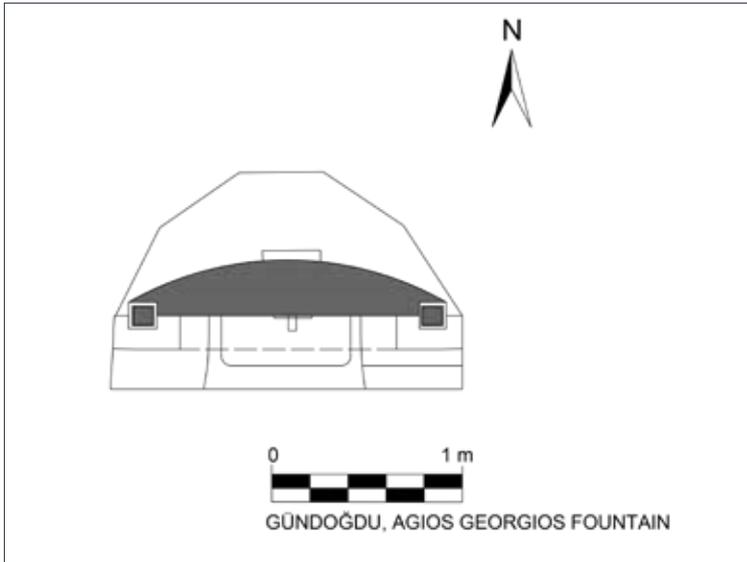


Fig. 4: Gündoğdu Agios Georgios Fountain

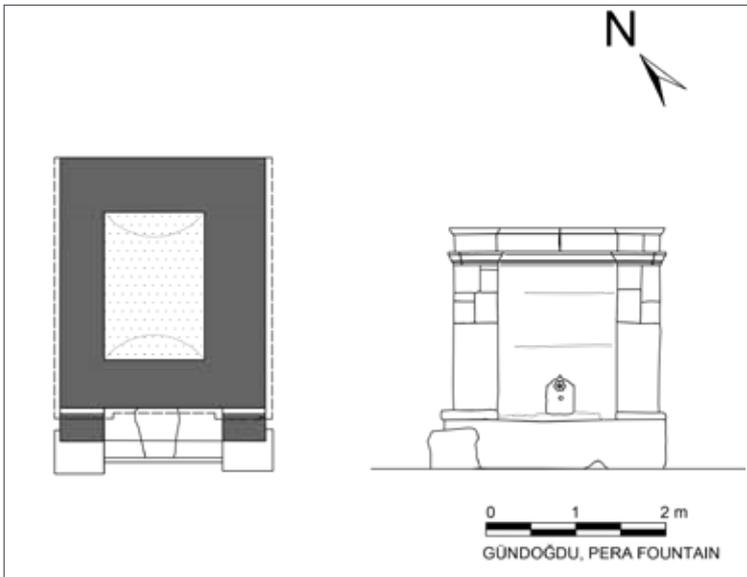


Fig. 5: Gündoğdu Pera Fountain

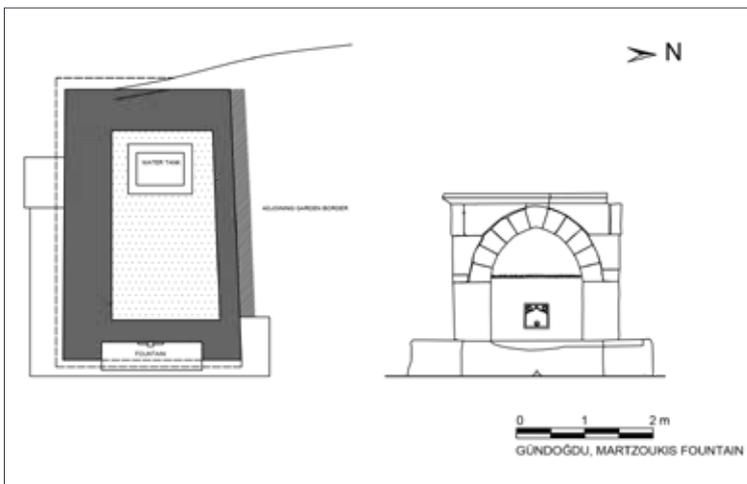


Fig. 6: Gündoğdu Martzoukis Fountain

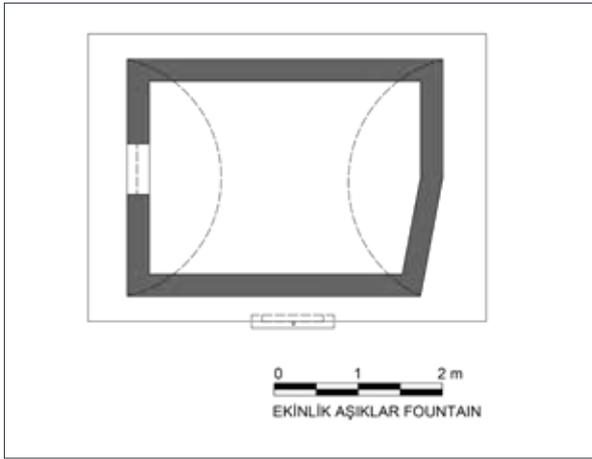


Fig. 7: Ekinlik Aşıklar Fountain

interior is plastered. The marble fountain panel embedded on the northern wall reflects typical features of the Westernization period in Ottoman art. Bounded by a pilaster on both sides, the inscribed area is crowned with a tri-lobed composition; all this is framed by another set of pilasters on the sides and a composition with C-S curves and acanthus leaves; there is a bowl of fruit on the very top. The inscription is black and has a letter height of 3 cm. The parts without lettering bear various, incised names – graffiti of its time.

Current Condition

The fountains in Marmara's Merkez Neighbourhood are in better condition than those in Gündoğdu and on Ekinlik; the former underwent small scale alterations in the 1990s. Only the brick vault of the Fatima Kadın Fountain is heavily damaged. The inscriptions on the Fatima Kadın and Ali Beğ Fountains were not translated so the locals do not know anything about them. The water tanks of all the fountains on Marmara have been decommissioned and the taps have been connected to the town's water supply system.

The fountains in Gündoğdu have their own issues. Like those in Marmara, these fountains are also connected to the town's water supply system. Agios Georgios Fountain is now somewhat buried as the ground level rose during the landscaping work carried out in recent years. Regarding Pera Fountain, the vault has collapsed partially; furthermore, dense overgrowth is noted on the main walls and the interior of the water tank. Martzoukis

Fountain has not been maintained for a long time, so it has deteriorated to some extent. Plants are growing in the mortar joints, plaster is lost on the southern façade, marble blocks on the eastern façade are shifting and causing the mortar joints to expand, pieces of moulding are shifting, and some of the clamps are disappearing.

The lower part of the Aşıklar Fountain, which contains the basin and tap, is concealed because of the recent construction of the modern, reinforced concrete tank. The marble plaque bearing the date of 1910 must have been removed from its original place and placed on the side. There is a new construction that appears to house a pump to the southwest of the original water tank, at a higher level. This is one of the two sources supplying the islanders, the other being the one at Ayazma Locality. The tank is vandalised with graffiti. The structure is unprotected and neglected.

Risk Assessment and Recommendations

Overall, the fountains do not have structural damages that will lead to losses. To prevent overgrowth, which is attested in many of the fountains, it is necessary to conduct periodical cleaning work. Plant and young tree growth in the damaged water tanks pose a future risk for the main walls. It is recommended that upon the removal of rooted plants, restorers and conservators should repair the brick vaulting. Following a thorough cleaning, it is necessary to place information boards around all the fountains.