

International Symposium « Rousseau and Turkey »

Notre-Dame de Sion High-School (Istanbul), May 2-4, 2012

Call for papers

Dear colleagues and friends,

The tricentennial of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's birth in 2012 will be the occasion for Notre-Dame de Sion High-School and its Educative Foundation to organize a series of events (symposium, exhibition, concerts, etc.) around this great intellectual figure of the eighteenth century. The main purpose of this symposium is to clarify Rousseau's and the Encyclopedists' philosophical, political and literary influences on modern and contemporary Turkey. Curiously, there has been little research into the effects of *Du Contrat social* on Atatürk's political thought, and generally speaking into the reception of Rousseau's works by Turkish politicians, writers and intellectuals. We will also think about Rousseau's influence on the literary orientalism (18th and 19th centuries), and about Rousseau's own representations of Orient, İslam, Ottoman Empire and Turks. In relation to a renewed interest shown in Rousseau's thought over the last twenty or so years, this symposium will also provide an opportunity to consider afresh the ways this thought is currently presented and taught in Turkey. This renewed interest is neither an effect of style nor a mere matter of chance: Rousseau's social, political, religious and aesthetic reflections can clarify and enrich the current debates about the crisis of modernity in which Turkey holds a singular and paradoxical position.

Proposals for a 20mn speech must be received by **December 1, 2011**. Please address them to Martin Stern: martin.stern@nds.k12.tr

Symposium proceedings will be published in December 2012 by Review *Littera Edebiyat Yazıları*, *Journal for the Study Reserch of World Literatures*, Hacettepe University, Ankara - <http://www.littera.hacettepe.edu.tr/index.html>

Scientific commitee:

Doç. Dr. Nami Başer (Galatasaray University, NDS), Prof. Michael O'Dea (Rousseau Association, Lyon 2 University, UMR Lire), Prof. Dr. Cengiz Ertem (Hacettepe University), Prof. Dr. Tuna Ertem (Ankara University), Remi Hildebrand (Pres. of J.-J. Rousseau European Commitee, Genève University), Prof. Sarga Moussa (CNRS, UMR Lire), Prof. Nora Şeni (Dir. of İFEA, CNRS), Ahmet Soysal (French Cultural Institute), Dr. Martin Stern (NDS, Rousseau Association).

Institutional supporting bodies:

Swiss and French Consulates, Istanbul; French Cultural Institute of İstanbul; French Anatolian Studies Institute (İFEA).

Contacts:

Martin Stern: coordinator

Yann Delansalut: NDS High-School Principal

Notre-Dame de Sion Lisesi, Cumhuriyet Cad.127
Harbiye 34373 İstanbul
TURKEY