

**Spring 2024 Arts of Asia Lecture Series**  
**Echoes of the Past, Visions of the Future**  
**Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art***

**The Medieval Ghost City of Ani: A UNESCO World Heritage Site**

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February 2, 2024

**Dynasties and People:**

Bagratid (Bagratuni) dynasty. Notable rulers:

King Gagik I (ruled 989-1020), patron of several churches at Ani

Queen Katramide, wife of Gagik I. completed Ani Cathedral in 1001

Seljuk Sultanate of Rum, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century

Shaddadid dynasty, a Muslim dynasty of Kurdish origin, 951–1199

Ottoman dynasty, ca. 1299-1923.

Tigran Honents, an Armenian merchant who commissioned the Church of Saint Gregory when Ani was under Georgian rule

Trdat (940s-1020?), Architect of Ani Cathedral. Repaired the Hagia Sophia's dome in Constantinople

Nikolai Iakovlevich Marr (1864-1934). Director of excavations at Ani, 1904-1917 on behalf of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg

Toros Toramanian (1864-1934). Ottoman-Armenian architectural historian on Marr's excavation team.

**Selected buildings and artworks:**

Zoroastrian Fire Temple, one of the oldest and least understood structures at Ani

Ramparts of Ani. Several construction campaigns. The double walls in the North date from the reign of the Bagratid King Smbat (977-989). The Lion Gate was the city's main entrance.

Cathedral (989–1001).

Church of the Holy Redeemer (1035).

Statue of King Gagik I, presumed lost or destroyed

Church of the Holy Apostles (ca. 1031)

Mosque of Manuchihr. Ca. 11<sup>th</sup> century. Named after a ruler of the Shaddadid dynasty. Used as a museum during the Russian excavation

Church of saint Gregory of Tigran Honents (1215)

**Photographers:**

Ohannes Kurkdjian (1851-1903?), photographer active in the South Caucasus and Indonesia

Ara Güler (1928 –2018), Turkish-Armenian photographer and journalist known "the Eye of Istanbul"

**Cultural heritage organizations:**

World Monuments Fund, New York

Anadolu Kültür, Istanbul

**Further Reading:**

[www.virtualani.org](http://www.virtualani.org)

Eastmond, Anthony. "Inscriptions and Authority in Ani." In *Der Doppeladler: Byzanz und die Seldschuken in Anatolien vom späten 11. bis zum 13. Jahrhundert*, edited by Neslihan Asutay-Effenberger and Daim Falko. Mainz : Verlag des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, 2014. 71-84.

Eldem, Edhem. "Cultural Heritage in Turkey: An Eminently Political Matter." In *Essays on heritage, tourism and society in the MENA Region*, edited by Dieter Haller et al. Paderborn : Wilhelm Fink: Ferdinand Schöningh, [2015]. 67-91.

Kévorkian, Raymond, ed. *Ani, capitale de l'Arménie en l'an mil: Pavillon des arts, 7 février-13 mai 2001*. Paris: Paris-Musées, Actes Sud, 2001.

Maranci, Christina. "The Architect Trdat: Building Practices and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Byzantium and Armenia," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 62:3 (2003): 294-305.

Maranci, Christina. *The Art of Armenia : An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Maranci, Christina. "Armenian Architecture." *Oxford Companion to Architecture*, edited by Patrick Goode et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Marchand, Laure, and Guillaume Perrier. *Turkey and the Armenian Ghost: On the Trail of the Genocide*. Trans. Debbie Blythe. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015.

Pravilova, Ekaterina. "Contested Ruins: Nationalism, Emotions, and Archaeology at Armenian Ani, 1892–1918." *Ab Imperio* vol. 2016 no. 1 (2016). 69-101.

Smith, Adam T. "Unseeing the Past: Archaeology and the Legacy of the Armenian Genocide." *Current Anthropology* 63: 25 (2022). 56-90.

Watenpaugh, Heghnar Zeitlian. "Preserving the Medieval City of Ani: Cultural Heritage Between Contest and Reconciliation," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 73:4 (December 2014): 528-555. Winner of the Article Prize from the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, 2015.

Watenpaugh, Heghnar Zeitlian. "The Cathedral of Ani, Turkey: From Church to Monument." In *Sacred Precincts: The Religious Architecture of Non-Muslim Communities across the Islamic World*, edited by Mohammad Gharipour. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2015. 460-473 (text) and 528-530 (bibliography).

World Monuments Fund, "Ani in Context Workshop, September 28-October 5, 2013, Kars, Turkey," 2014 <https://www.wmf.org/sites/default/files/article/pdfs/Ani%20in%20Context%20Report%20Final.pdf>