



A University Museum: **Istanbul Ex-libris Museum**

<http://ekslibris.isikun.edu.tr>

Hasip Pektas

Işık University, Faculty of Fine Arts
Istanbul - Turkey

hasipp@isikun.edu.tr



Museum and Museology

Museums are cultural institutions that pass the treasures they host on to the future generations.

The mission of modern museology is to educate the community and to contribute to its sociocultural development.

Istanbul
Ярославля

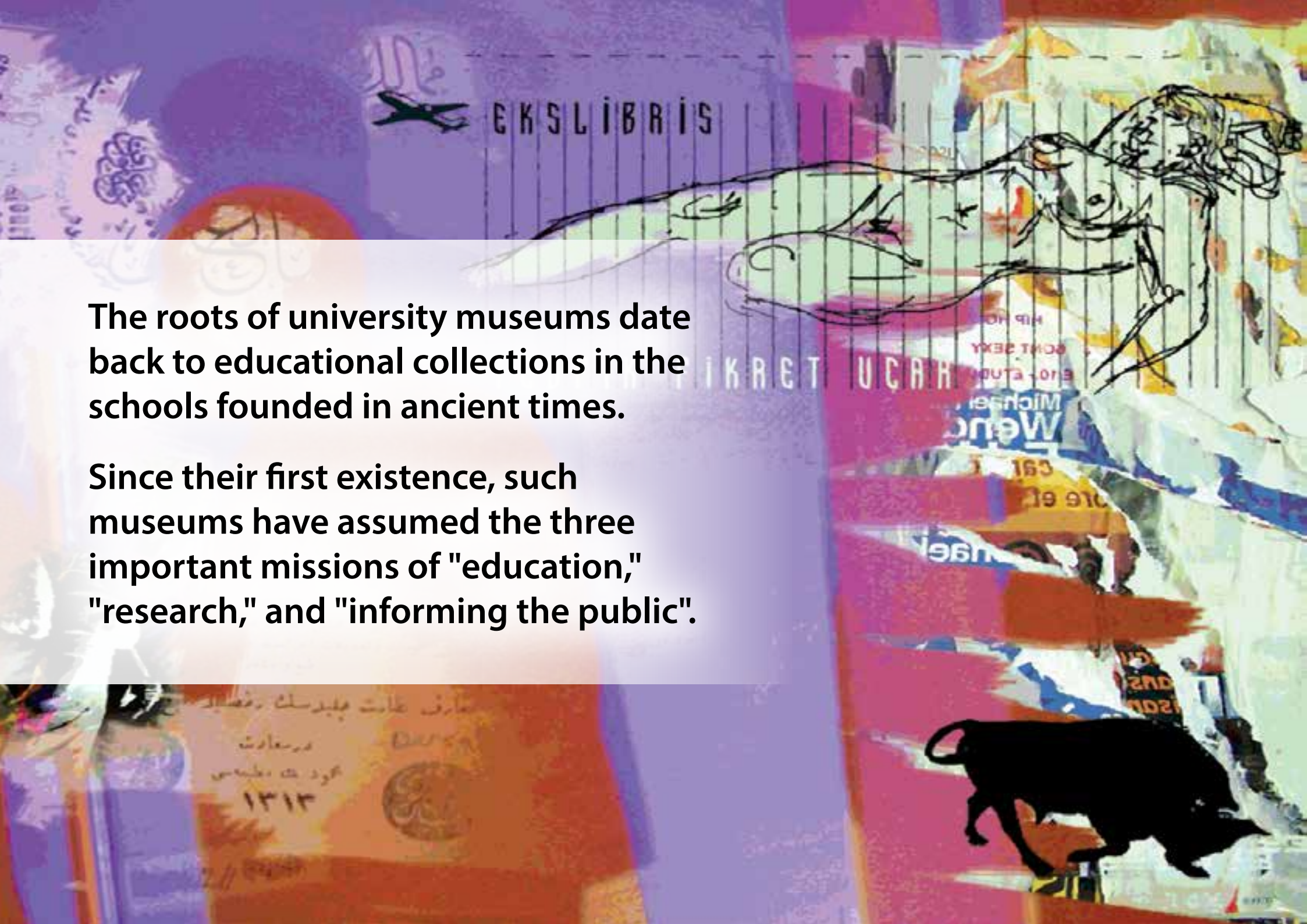
nadya derkatsch
ex-libris

University Museums

The world's first and oldest university museum is the Ashmolean Museum. Founded in England in 1683.

Universities support the scientific, cultural and economic development of the locations they are within while university museums contribute to the development of the cultural infrastructure.





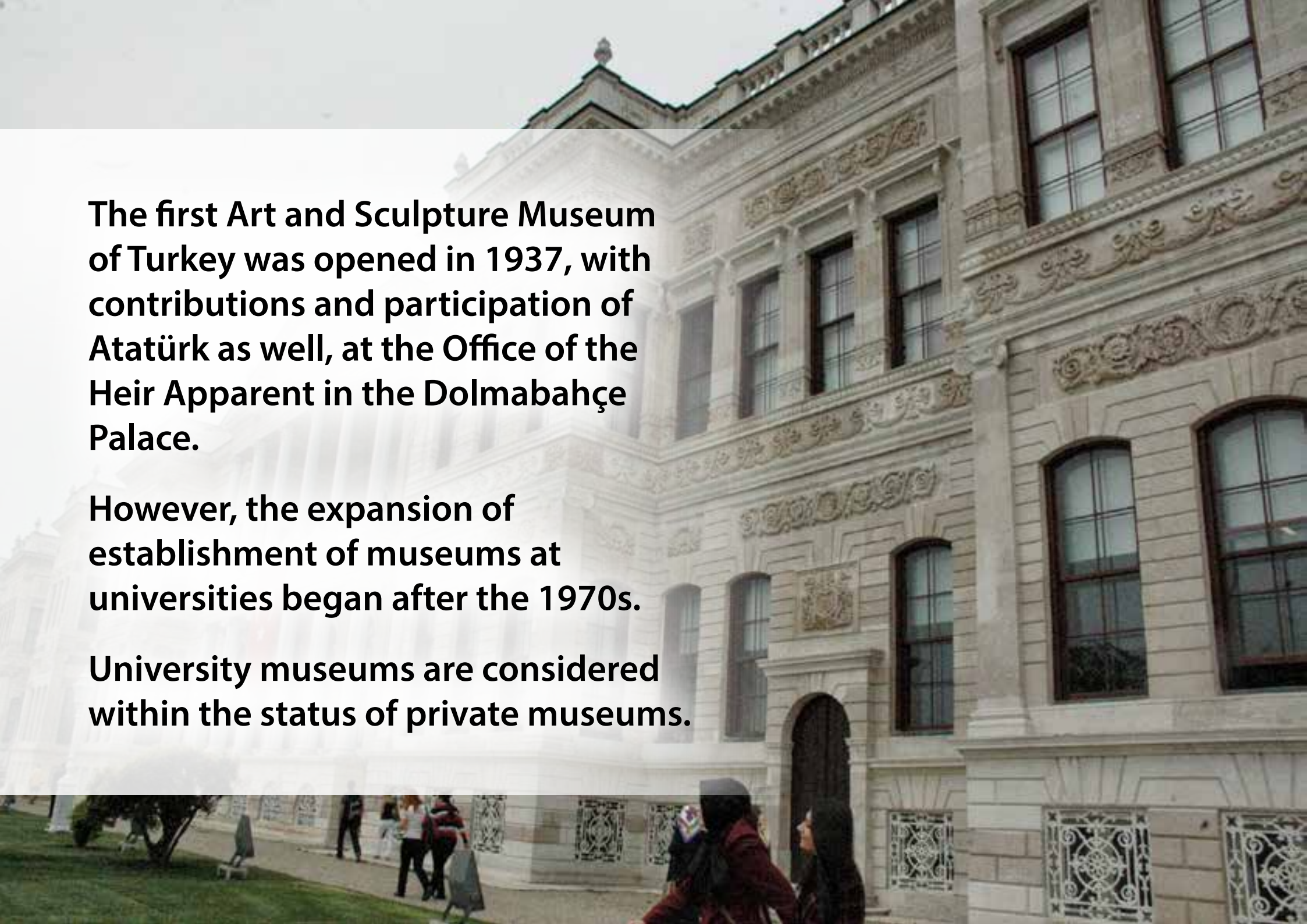
The roots of university museums date back to educational collections in the schools founded in ancient times.


Since their first existence, such museums have assumed the three important missions of "education," "research," and "informing the public".

The first Art and Sculpture Museum of Turkey was opened in 1937, with contributions and participation of Atatürk as well, at the Office of the Heir Apparent in the Dolmabahçe Palace.

However, the expansion of establishment of museums at universities began after the 1970s.

University museums are considered within the status of private museums.



The background image shows a large, modern museum interior. The architecture features a curved, multi-level structure with a glass roof that allows natural light to enter. The space is filled with various exhibits, including large-scale models and interactive displays. The overall atmosphere is bright and open, with a focus on showcasing scientific and technological achievements.

University museums in Turkey can be collected in three groups namely those "with an art collection", those "with a scientific collection", and "other types".

Art Museums of Mimar Sinan, Hacettepe, Anadolu and Sabancı Universities are some of the museums that own an "Art Collection". The Middle East University Science and Technology Museum and Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa History of Medicine Museum have "Scientific Collections".

A man with a beard, wearing a dark blue and black striped sweater, is operating a large industrial printing press. He is carefully guiding a sheet of paper through the machine. The background is a gallery wall covered with numerous framed prints, mostly in green and gold frames. The scene is well-lit, and the man's focus is on his work.

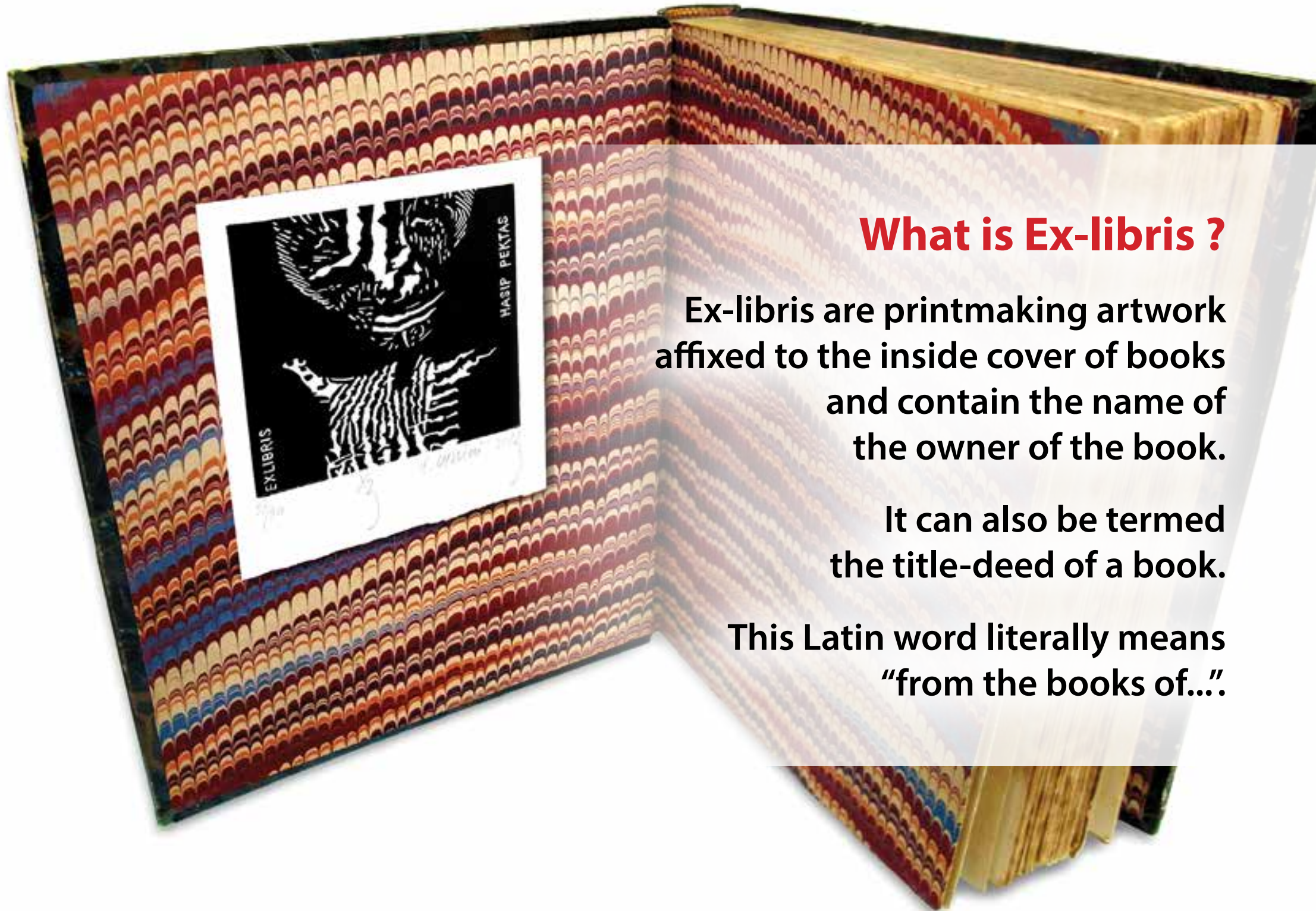
Organizing training activities for all ages and groups in the society is among the missions of university museums. In this way, universities also gain the opportunity to spread the knowledge they produce to the community.

Although economic developments have negative effects on museology, ensuring their continued presence must be a task we embrace.

There are 196 universities in Turkey. However, the number of university museums does not exceed 30. One of them is the **Istanbul Ex-libris Museum** established in the Işık University.

Small but highly functional, this museum has a collection of great value and has undertaken the mission of ensuring the expansion and recognition of Ex-libris, which is a relatively new branch of art for Turkey.





What is Ex-libris ?

Ex-libris are printmaking artwork affixed to the inside cover of books and contain the name of the owner of the book.

It can also be termed the title-deed of a book.

This Latin word literally means "from the books of...".

Ex-libris are made on order for living people or institutions and reflect the properties of theirs.

Ex-libris can be reproduced with engraving, woodcut, linoleum, lithography, silk screen, offset, and photography techniques and they can be designed with computer aid.

Ex-libris is a piece of art form that everyone can own, touch, carry, and share.



Vladimir Suchanek, Czech Rep., L2, 2005

The first ex-libris on paper was made in the name of a German Priest, Knabenberg, known with the nickname “hedgehog seller”.

Dürer, Klee, Picasso, and Klimt made ex-libris, too, in their lifetimes.

It is estimated that approximately more than 3 million pieces of ex-libris have been made so far.



Albrecht Dürer, Germany, X1, 1502

Turkey was introduced to ex-libris through books with ex-libris that come from Europe. When the owners of the books died, their relatives donated such books to libraries.

Since the 2000s, there has been growing attention, particularly among the youth, in ex-libris in fine arts education institutions thanks to encouragement by faculty in these institutions.

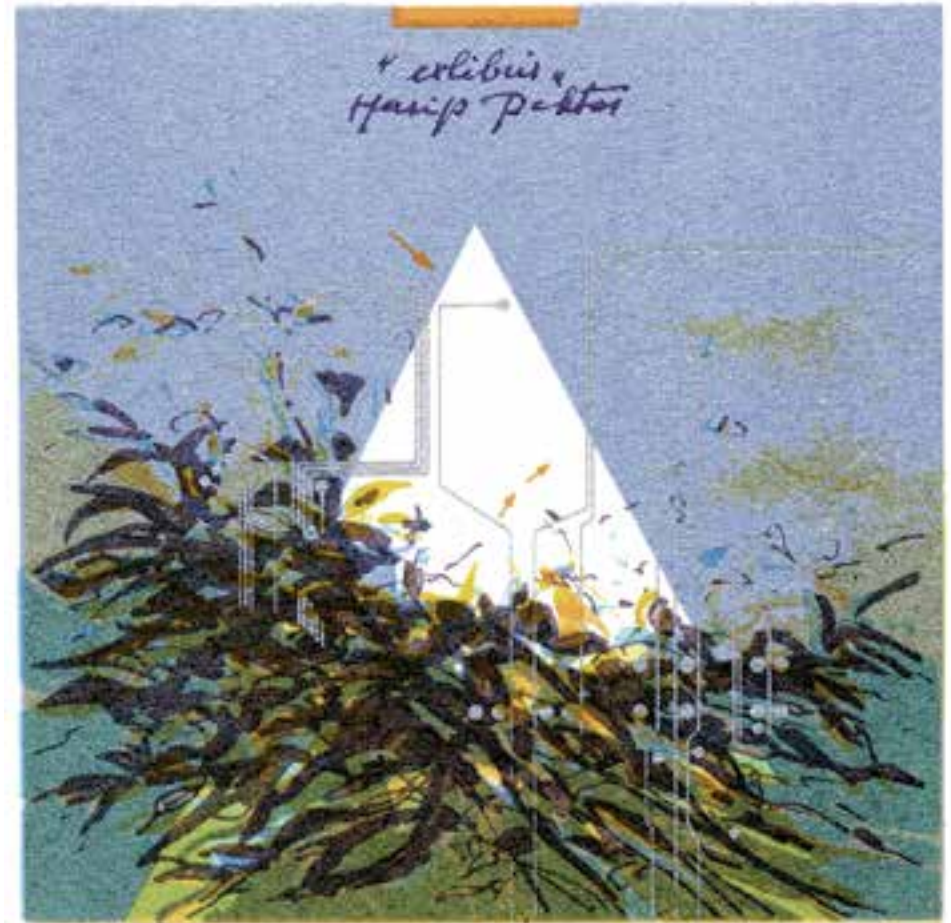


Onur Aşkın, Turkey, CGD, 2013

Ex-libris Museums

The most important ex-libris museums are Frederikshavn, Gutenberg, Sint Niklaas, Moscow, Mediterraneo, Shanghai; Nancy Library in France, Ex-libris Centre in Bulgaria and Lewych Museum in Odessa.

The Frederikshavn Museum has over 1 million ex-libris covering the whole history of the art; Gutenberg and Sint Niklaas have about 800,000.



Martin R. Baeyens, Belgium, S/10, 1990

However, to these museums, it would be necessary to add the many very important collections which are in public institutions (libraries, and museums) which are open to the public and works can be consulted.

There are maybe 15 in Britain, close to 20 in Germany, about 5 in France, in the USA and in Austria. In Russia, both the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg have very important collections.

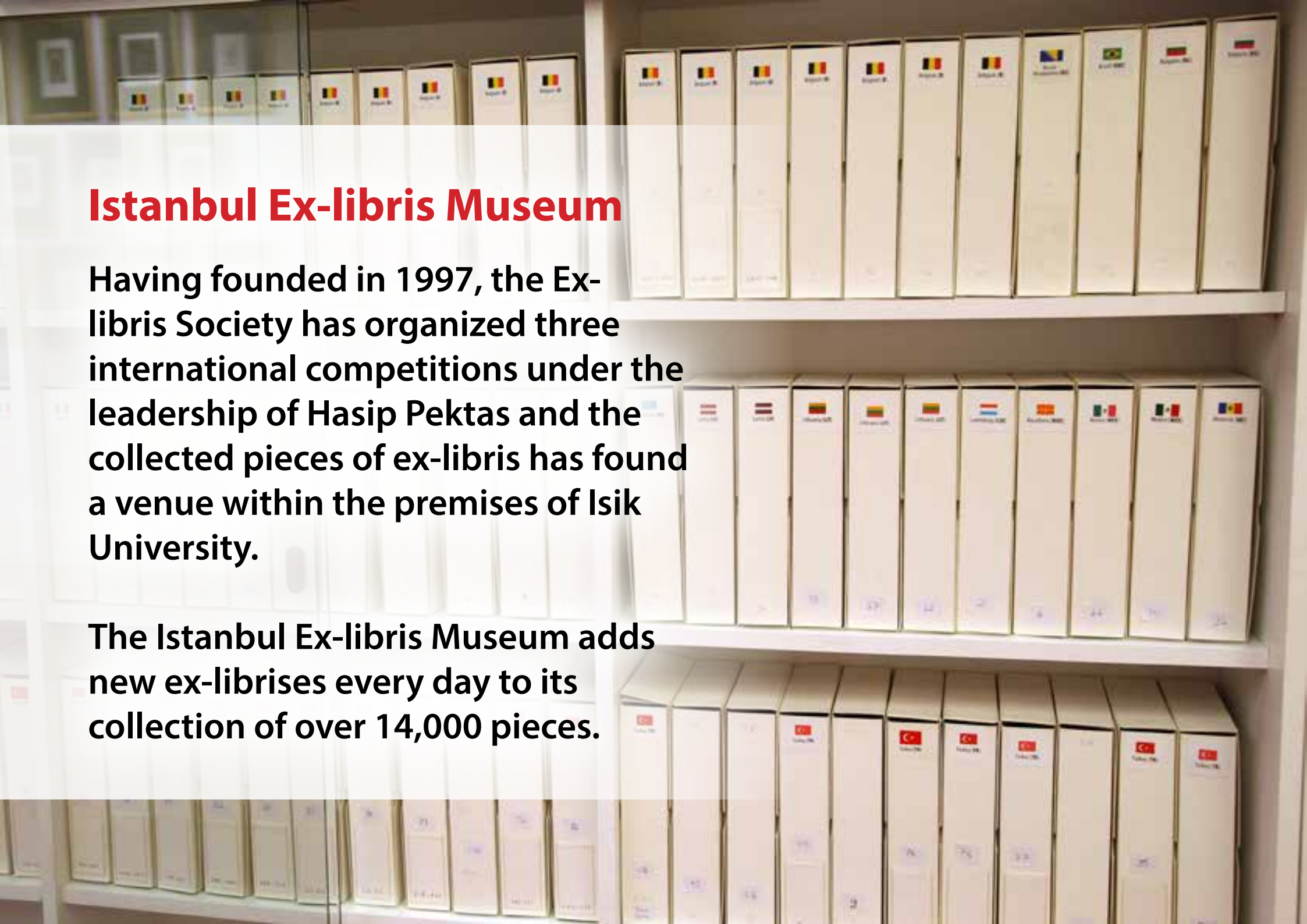


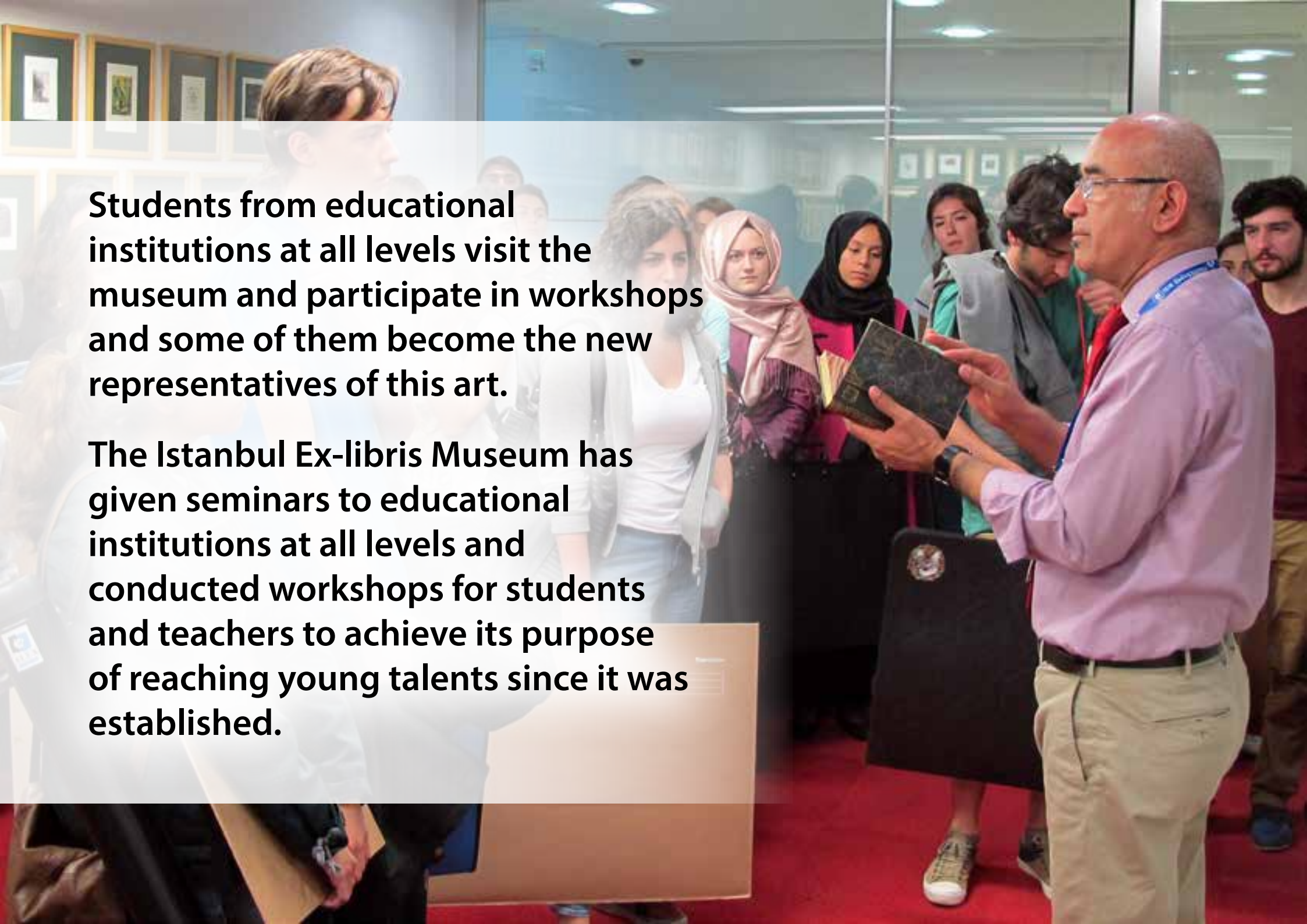
Eduard Penkov, Bulgaria, C3+C5, 2005

Istanbul Ex-libris Museum

Having founded in 1997, the Ex-libris Society has organized three international competitions under the leadership of Hasip Pektas and the collected pieces of ex-libris has found a venue within the premises of Isik University.


The Istanbul Ex-libris Museum adds new ex-librises every day to its collection of over 14,000 pieces.



A man in a pink shirt and glasses is showing a book to a group of students. The students are standing in a line, looking at the book. The background shows a museum setting with framed pictures on the wall and a red carpet.

Students from educational institutions at all levels visit the museum and participate in workshops and some of them become the new representatives of this art.

The Istanbul Ex-libris Museum has given seminars to educational institutions at all levels and conducted workshops for students and teachers to achieve its purpose of reaching young talents since it was established.

The background image shows a large room filled with people, mostly men, seated at long white tables. They appear to be working on or displaying ex-libris (bookmarks). On the walls, there are several framed displays, each containing a grid of small, square ex-libris designs. A woman in the foreground, seen from the back, has long brown hair and is wearing a red and white patterned sleeveless top. Other people in the background are engaged in conversation or looking at the displays. The room is well-lit, and the atmosphere seems to be one of a busy workshop or exhibition.

In 2012, the Museum organized the First National Student Ex-libris Competition with support from the Işık University. This ex-libris exhibition opened within this contest was carried to the galleries of other schools as well.

In 2014, the Museum held the first National Ex-libris Congress for professional artists. A national ex-libris exhibition and an Ex-libris Researches Conference were held under the convention.

Apart from the missions of the museum to exhibit and train, considering the obligation of the museum for promoting research studies, the publication of the “EX-LIBRIST”, an Online International Peer-reviewed Journal of Ex-libris, has been initiated. (www.exlibrist.net)

As is the collection of the Istanbul Ex-libris Museum that is open to examination, its library is also open to the utilization of visitors.



Arkady Pugachevsky, Ukraine, X6, 2002

The goal of the museum is to appeal not only to the country but also to the world. It also aims to stay for the future as an online museum using modern technologies as well. To this end, the efforts to transfer the museum collections to digitized environments are continuing.

In the very near future, the Istanbul Ex-libris Museum will share its collections with its visitors online, too.



Julian Jordanov, Bulgaria, C3+C5, 2002

Conclusion

Aiming to become an educational institution museum, the Istanbul Ex-libris Museum should keep the museum alive to ensure arrival of visitors. For this purpose, arranging for exhibitions, panels, conferences, and workshops are among its targets.

Announcing the activities of the museum with an effective promotional campaign and through social media channels will increase interest.



Levas Serstenojus, Lithuania, X2, 1987

Thank you.

www.hasippektas.com

Have you not seen
any Ex-libris Museum yet?



Hasip Pektaş, Turkey, C3, 1995