

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I THINK WE ARE LIVING VERY PECULIAR MOMENT NOW.

TWO OPERATIONAL REPLICAS OF 10TH CENTURY SHIPS ARE SIDE BY SIDE. BOTH THEIR ANCESTORS WERE DISCOVERED UNDER THE SOIL, AWAY FROM THE SEA. BOTH WERE VERY LUCKLY, WELL RECOVERED AND THEN VERY WELL PRESERVED AND THRU THE REPLICAS THEY HAD NEW HULLS WITH NEW SPIRITS WHICH CAN FLOAT AND SAIL TODAY.

THIS IS A UNIQUE COINCIDENCE WHICH TOOK PLACE ALMOST 900 YEARS AFTER THE REAL BOATS I.E. THE ANCESTORS OF THESE TWO BOATS SISTERS WERE IN THE SAME WATERS.

SAGA FARMANN IS REPLICA OF A KNARR AGROUNDED AT LARVIK NORWAY 1000 YEARS AGO. THE WRECK WAS FOUND IN 1970.

YENIKAPI 12 IS A REPLICA OF A EASTERN ROMAN MERCHANT SHIP SUNK AT THE THOEDOSIUS PORT (YENIKAPI) 1200 YEARS AGO. THE WRECK WAS FOUND IN 2007.

WE ALL KNOW THE VIKINGS WERE AT ANATOLIA AND ISTANBUL. STARTING FROM THE EIGHTH CENTURY, THEY SAILED DOWN THE VOLGA, MAKING THEIR WAY SOUTH TO MEET THE GREAT TRADE ROUTES. SOME REACHED THRU DNIEPER TO THE BLACK SEA THEN ISTANBUL. THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO RURIC INSCIPTURES IN HAGIA SOPHIA.

WE ALSO KNOW THE EASTERN ROMAN PALACE GUARDS OF VARANGIANS THE MIXED NORSEMEN WHICH WERE RECRUITED FROM 10TH CENTURY ON. THE FINAL EXCAVATIONS IN BATHONEA TODAY'S BÜYÜKÇEKMECE WHICH WAS AN INTERNATIONAL PORT THEN HAVE SHOWN VIKINGS AND VARANGIANS LIVED THERE BETWEEN THE EIGHTH AND THE 11TH CENTURIES IN DIFFERENT PERIODS.

A RECENT DISCOVERY IN 2018 WAS A VIKING SWORD AT PATARA NEAR KAŞ/ANTALYA. THAT WAS THE SECOND SOLID MATERIAL EVIDENCE AFTER 2010 DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER 10TH CENTURY VIKING SWORD AT YUMUKTEPE MERSIN EXCAVATIONS.

NOW VIKINGS ARE AT THE GOLDEN HORN. THIS TIME NOT WITH SWORDS BUT KNOWLEDGE TO SHARE. IN THIS PANEL OUR DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS WILL TALK ABOUT THE 1000 YEARS OLD SHIPBUILDING TECHNIQUES OF NORTH AND SOUTH REGIONS OF THE EUROPE TODAY. WE WILL ALSO LEARN MORE ABOUT SAGA FARMANN EXPEDITION.

USING THIS OPPORTUNITY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PROF. KOCABAŞ FOR HIS SUPPORT IN REALIZING THIS PANEL, MRS MINE SOFUOGLU FOR PROVIDING THE PREMISES OF THE MUSEUM, AND THE OSEBERG VIKING FOUNDATION FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN THIS PANEL.

I WISH THE AUDIENCE AN EXCELLENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE TWO SHIPS BORN 3000 KM APART 10 CENTURIES AGO.