

Via Bocca di Leone " "
00187 Roma.
Italy.

14th January, 1972.

Dear Zinad,

What a delightful surprise awaited me on my return to Rome last week! I am truly enchanted with the beautiful embroidered Turkish towel and after I have had it dry-cleaned I think I shall have it framed. Do you agree that this is the best way of enjoying it and displaying it at the same time?

I am very cross that you have gone to such trouble!! You already were so very kind to me in the summer and now I am once again in your debt! But I do thank you so very much because this gift will be a most happy reminder of

of Turkey - a country which
I am only just beginning to
discover and which I find
full of interest.

I have just read a
book on Turkey written in 1935
by a young German girl. She
made a quite remarkable trip
alone from Istanbul by sea to Samsun
and then by camion to Sivas /
Erzurum / Kars / Hoper, then back to
Samsun, (calling at several ports
en route) Malatya, Adana, Kayseri,
Konya, Izmir and Ankara. Her
interest is mainly in the progress
of the country and her reports
of the "leap-forward" leave me
full of enthusiasm and
admiration for Atatürk and the
people. What a tremendous
difficult transformation. I
wonder if progress lapsed
during the war and with the
death of Atatürk? How

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impressed I was to read of
the anti-malaria and anti-rachoma
campaigns, both of which achieved
so much in a comparatively short
time. My only prayer now is
that your town and coast
developments will not allow your
beautiful country to be ruined,
which is what has happened
in Italy.

I hope that you had a
happy stay with your daughter.
I went to England at Christmas
to be with my mother; my home
is in the west country - Devonshire -
which is unspoilt but extremely
quiet after Rome! I can only
say positively that the sea always
does me good even though the
boredom doesn't!

I look forward to seeing you
in Rome and send you my most
grateful thanks and good wishes.

Joan (McConnell)

P.S. - Greeting to Kâmina Celebi.