Anglo-Turkish Society hybrid lecture, 13 July 2026, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Eve Lacey

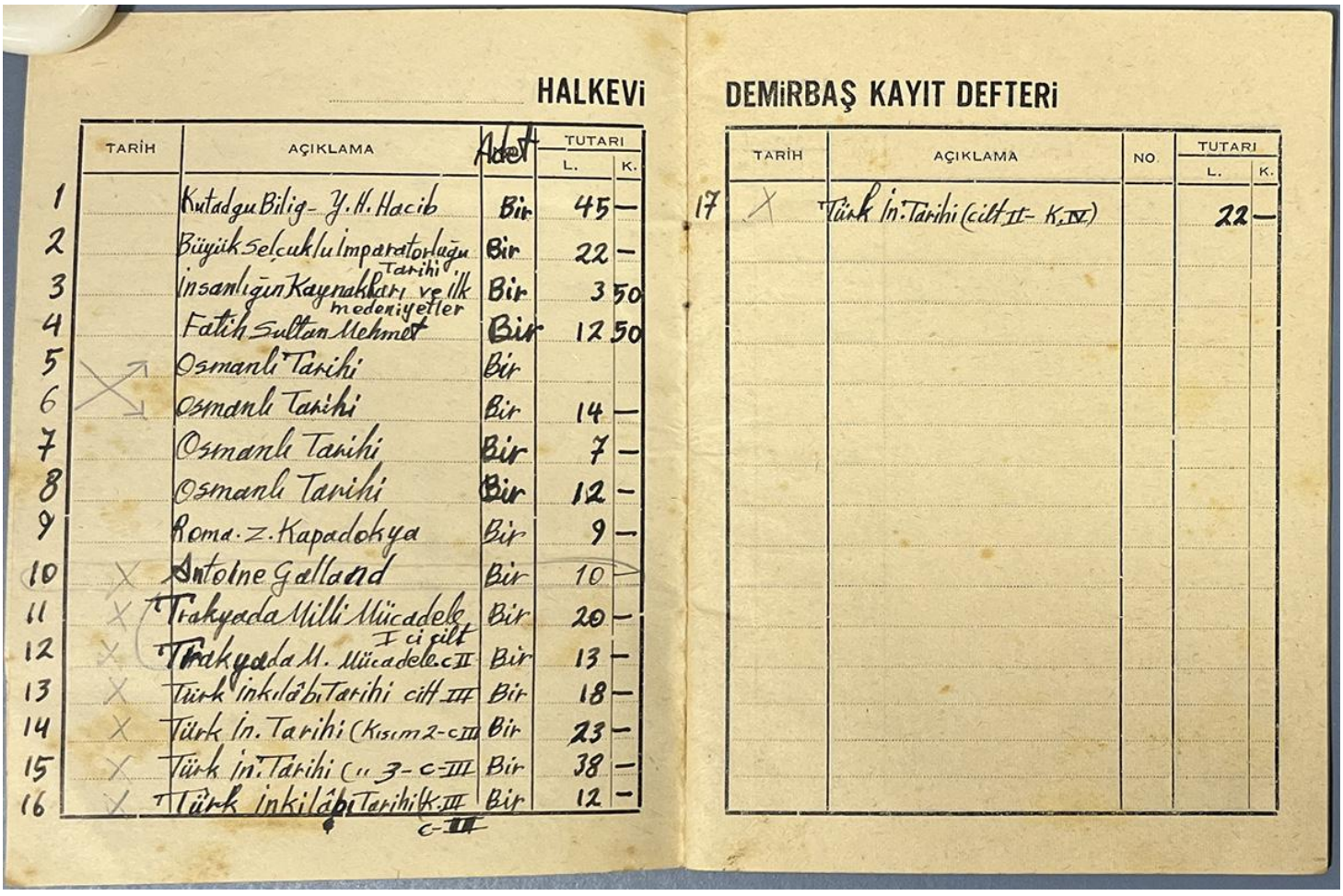
Venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, Fitzrovia, London W1T 5BT

Title: 'The role of Halkevi libraries in the early Turkish Republic'

The tenure of the Halkevleri ('People's Houses', 1932–51) spanned most of the single-party period of the early Turkish Republic (1923–46), and their work took place during a widespread public education campaign that focused on literacy, healthcare, and the construction of a national identity. In the aftermath of an alphabet reform and in the midst of a major language reform, Halkevleri libraries were tasked with helping a largely illiterate population to read and write. Their journals, bibliographies, and library instruction manuals reveal the policies (circulation, collection development, public education, and the twinned operations of publishing and archiving) that prepared these institutions to develop a readership for government propaganda. These strategies were employed to stretch literacy as far as possible throughout the *halk* (people), enabling community libraries to create and conserve a culture that could absorb their readers in a shared project of nation-building.

Booking essential: https://eve-lacey-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



HALKEVi

	TARİH	AÇIKLAMA	Adet	TUTARI L.	K.
1		Kutadgu Bilig - Y. H. Hacib	Bir	45	—
2		Büyük Selçuklu İmparatorluğu Tarihi	Bir	22	—
3		İnsanlığın Kaynakları ve İlk medeniyetler	Bir	3	50
4		Fatih Sultan Mehmet	Bir	12	50
5		Osmanlı Tarihi	Bir		
6		Osmanlı Tarihi	Bir	14	—
7		Osmanlı Tarihi	Bir	7	—
8		Osmanlı Tarihi	Bir	12	—
9		Roma. Z. Kapadokya	Bir	9	—
10	X	Antoine Galland	Bir	10	—
11	X	Trakyada Milli Mücadele I ci cilt	Bir	20	—
12	X	Trakyada M. Mücadele c II	Bir	13	—
13	X	Türk İnkılâbı Tarihi cilt III	Bir	18	—
14	X	Türk İn. Tarihi (Kısım 2 - c III	Bir	23	—
15	X	Türk İn. Tarihi (" 3 - c III	Bir	38	—
16	X	Türk İnkılâbı Tarihi k. III c - III	Bir	12	—

DEMİRBAŞ KAYIT DEFTERİ

	TARİH	AÇIKLAMA	NO.	TUTARI L.	K.
17	X	Türk İn. Tarihi (cilt II - K. IV)		22	—

Titles and cost of reading resources listed in a ledger book in one the libraries



Eve Lacey studied English at King's College, Cambridge, and Library and Information Studies at University College London. She is Librarian at Newnham College Library and the Skilliter Centre Research Library and Archives. The Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies supports research into the history, literature, and culture of the Ottoman Empire and the early Turkish Republic. Eve's article on "The role of Halkevi libraries in the early Turkish Republic" appeared in *Library & Information History* in 2023 and won the 2024 Donald G. Davis Article Award and the Library History Essay Award 2024.