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# Ottoman Empire Day, August 31, 1893

## at the Worlds Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

The Exposition was indebted to Turkey for much that was rich, novel, and picturesque, all of which combined to make the observance of Ottoman Day one of the characteristic events of the season.



*OFFICE OF THE TURKISH COMMISSIONERS.*

This day was the seventeenth anniversary of the accession of His Imperial Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamed II to the throne of Turkey. It was opened with special prayer at the mosque in the Midway, and all day long the faithful subjects of the Sultan in that street of nations celebrated enthusiastically. Each one wore a badge with "Ottoman Day" inscribed in gilt letters thereon, the red fez was carried jauntily with



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pride, and the Star and Crescent streamed from every available point. At noon Ibrahim Hakki Bey, Commissioner General for Turkey, accompanied by Ahmed Fahri Bey and other members of the Commission, also by Charles Henrotin, Turkish consul in Chicago, arrived at the Turkish Village, where a banquet was served.

In the afternoon a procession was formed to the Turkish pavilion, the Commissioners riding in silk palanquins on the backs of camels led by boys on donkeys, and followed by the wild Bedouin horsemen and the whole of the picturesque Turkish contingent. Arrived at the pavilion, the guests were received into the inner chamber and seated on divans. Robert Levy, as the head of the concessionaires, made a graceful speech in English, to which Hakki Bey, resplendent in official uniform, replied, also in excellent English. In the evening a *fête champêtre* [1] was given by the Imperial Commissioners in Sylvan Dell.

Turkish drapings and rugs concealed the roughness of the enclosure, and rich rugs were spread upon the ground. Hundreds of Chinese lanterns hung in the trees cast a soft glow upon the lawn, and over the entrance ^ blazed in Turkish characters the motto, "Long live the Sultan."

[1] A Fête champêtre was a popular form of entertainment in the 18th century, taking the form of a garden party.