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Kömürçüoğlu, Eyup Asim: *Das alttürkische Wohnhaus*, (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Istanbul, 1966), 61 pp., bibliography, DM 21,—. Distributed by Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden.

Das alttürkische Wohnhaus is the outcome of the studies of an architect, on Turkish dwellings, within a historically and geographically restricted framework. The author has made some research in an area extending from Istanbul to Anatolia and to the regions inhabited by Turks on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. The investigation has not been extended to further regions populated by Turks, nor to the phases of the history of the Turkish dwelling before the Ottoman period. The work may thus be classified in the group of former studies on the same subject, such as S. H. Eldem's *Türk evi plan tipleri* (Istanbul 1955) and the chapter devoted to dwellings in C. E. Arseven's *Türk sanatı târihi* (Istanbul 1959). Mr. Kömürçüoğlu's new monograph brings also some additional material to the history of Anatolian houses which so far have been locally viewed, by Mr. Kömürçüoğlu himself (*Ankara evleri*, Istanbul 1950) and others (see the bibliography provided in *Das alttürkische Wohnhaus*).

Das alttürkische Wohnhaus consists of the following parts: in the introduction, the author states his particular interest in timber construction. Part II provides a list of Turkish architectonic terms. Part III alludes to the ancient history of the Turkish dwelling and outlines the mode of living and the ideological atmosphere which determined the character of the Turkish dwelling. In part IV, the author outlines the geographic conditions which dictated certain aspects of the Turkish dwelling. Some examples are given in part V. Parts VI—IX are devoted to the study of the architectonic elements, parts X and XI deal with the methods of construction.

Mr. Kömürçüoğlu's new work provides some important technical information which only an experienced architect could give on the Turkish dwelling of Istanbul and Anatolia in the Ottoman period. Yet, the title *Das alttürkische Wohnhaus* promised an approach from the point of view of the history of art, which has been indicated on part III, but not even attempted. The timber and brickwork houses of the Central Asian Uygurs, the log cabins of the Altaic Turks, even the wooden kiosks of the Selçuks, on which some source material is available, might have provided an interesting background to the comments on the Ottoman timber house. Mr. Kömürçüoğlu's expert knowledge and deep interest in the subject of the Turkish dwelling permit us to look forward to the publication of several new monographs which will no doubt reveal many other aspects of the Turkish dwelling.

Istanbul

Emel Esin

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