

Mehmet Akif Ersoy commemorated

Ankara (A.A)- Mehmet Akif Ersoy, the poet who wrote the Turkish National Anthem, has been commemorated on the 53rd anniversary of his death.

Members of the Turkish Writer's Union, authors, intellectuals and scientists paid a visit to Tacettin Lodge at Hacettepe University Ankara, where the poet stayed during the years of the struggle for national independence and which has been turned into a museum.

During the commemoration ceremonies, speeches were made about Ersoy's work and life, and poems that he had written at the lodge were read.

Commemoration ceremonies were also organized in Konya for Mehmet Akif Ersoy, by the Governor's office and Selçuk University.

In his opening speech at the panel entitled "Mehmet Akif" at Selçuk University, the Dean of the University Prof. Halil Cin said that Ersoy was a shining idealist, renowned for his art, high morals, virtue

and patriotism.

Papers were later read at the panel relating to "Akif's place in Turkish history and education" and "Mehmet Akif's outlook on the Turkish language and literature".

At the ceremonies organized by the

Governor's office in the State Theatre, a selection of poems by Mehmet Akif were read and an account given of his personality.

Mehmet Akif Ersoy died on Dec. 26, 1936

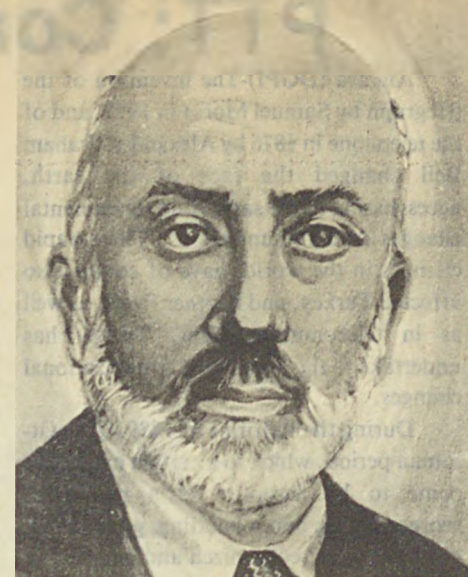
National Anthem

The "İstiklâl Marşı" (The Independence March) was officially adopted as Turkey's National Anthem on March 12, 1921. Seven hundred and twenty-four poems were submitted in the competition organised for this march, and the one by the poet, Mehmet Akif Ersoy was adopted unanimously by the Turkish Grand National Assembly. In the competition for the music for the National Anthem, 24 composers participated. The Council, which

**Fear not and be not dismayed,
This crimson flag will never fade.
It is the last hearth that's burning for my nation and
we know for sure that it will never fail
It is my nation's star that ever forth will shine.
It is my nation's star and it is mine.**

could not convene before 1924 due to the War of Liberation, adopted the music composed by Ali Rifat Çağatay and the words were sung to this tune for eight years. Then it was changed to a composition by Zeki Ungör, conductor of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra and the words have been sung to this ever since.

The words and music of the Independence March are as follows:



Mehmet Akif Ersoy

**Frown not, fair crescent, for I
Am ready e'en to die for thee.
Smile now upon my heroic nation, leave this anger,
Lest the blood shed for thee unblessed be.
Freedom's the right of my nation.
Yes, freedom for us who worship God and seek what's right.**

Tempo di Marcia

1. Kork - ma iön - mes bu sa -
- fak lar - da yü - zen - al san - cak. Sun - me - den
yur - du - mun ü - tün - de tü - ten en son o - cak. O

be - nim mil - le - ti - min. Yıl - dı - zı -
- dir par - la - ya - cak. O be - nim - dir, o be - nim
rall. and volta
mil - le - ti - min - dir an - cak. 2. Çat -
rall. and volta

