

*Without doubt, every country possesses beauties which remain to be discovered, mostly by the curious eyes of a foreign visitor. No one knows why the inhabitants of a certain location fail to notice the splendor around them. Is this a question of one becoming accustomed to his/her own environment? I do not know. But whatever the answer to that question may be, it does not preclude us to savor the excellent illustrations, and the detailed narration in Mr. Bixio's book, as he recounts every single detail of his expeditions to Cappadocia, one of the most interesting and overwhelming places on earth.*

*Dating back to over 9000 years, Cappadocia is indeed an important archeological and natural site which was inhabited by a multitude of civilizations, which in turn, gave it a significant cultural richness. To a great extent this richness can be observed within the cave systems, in the form of wall paintings, especially those of early Christian era. Moreover, the logic behind the structures comprised of interconnected rooms of various shapes and sizes still continues to amaze the scholars.*

*The degree of interest shown by Italian researchers to Cappadocia is a most welcome one. Their expertise in the field of archeology is well known and appreciated throughout the world. I believe there exists few examples of research in comparison to this one, considering the amount of research done by a 49 strong team of scientists covering various disciplines, in a short span of time.*

*It is my sincere wish that the results of these efforts will contribute to the better understanding and presentation of the historical legacy of Anatolia, crossroads of many civilizations.*

*Mr. Bixio and his colleagues successfully rendered us a glimpse of a time long forgotten, but whose marks were ever so evident. We hope that they will be able to proceed with their efforts and continue to both enlighten and delight all of us. We wish them every success.*

**Ünal Ünsal**  
*Ambassador of the Republic  
of Turkey to Rome*