

Cities and Urban Spaces | Architecture and Construction | Monuments

There is a long tradition of commemorating events and immortalising personalities by erecting outdoor structures for public exposure.

There are many definitions for the term “monument”. Today we tend to nominate all built structures that are considered important to national or international cultural heritage as monuments, and insist on their preservation and protection. But in this exhibition a narrower definition is employed, to include outdoor constructions erected to commemorate or remember a person or an event; outdoor columns, obelisks, figurative statues, memorials, such as those to commemorate wars, triumphal arches, and in a wider sense, historical inscriptions, fountains and mausoleums as well. Although outdoor figurative statues have a long history in the West and in the ancient East, the first truly public statues in Arab and Ottoman lands appear only in the 19th century when, inspired by European examples, Isma‘il Pasha revived the tradition in Egypt.



Working Number: UK 166

Name: The Black Obelisk of Assyrian King Shalmaneser III

Holding Museum: The British Museum

Date: Obelisk: 825 BC; photo: 1876

Materials: Stone

Curator Justification: The obelisk immortalises and glorifies the king, with representations praising his acts. Erected during a civil war, the monument pays homage to the king's power and is a reminder to the people of the power and the glory of the country under his reign.



Working Number: TR2 135

Name: Hippodrome, Sultanahmet

Holding Museum: Istanbul University, Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi (Rare Books Library)

Date: Late 19th century

Materials: Photograph

Curator Justification: One of the obelisks was originally erected to venerate Pharaoh Thutmose III, while its relocation to the Hippodrome glorified the reign and the power of the Roman Emperor Theodosius the Great; and since under his rule the state religion became Orthodox Nicene Christianity, also to promote the Orthodox Christian faith. The other obelisk was erected to immortalise the power of Constantinus Porphyrogenitus and the Christian faith.



Working Number: AT 020

Name: Parthian Monument: the adoption of the Emperors

Holding Museum: Kunsthistorisches Museum, Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities

Date: After 169 AD

Materials: Marble

Curator Justification: Part of the magnificent Parthian Monument, the frieze was erected as a tribute the Antonine Roman Emperors. Commissioned to

honour Lucius Verus and Marcus Aurelius, it also represented the legitimisation of their dynastic lineage through adoptions.



Working Number: AT 019

Name: Statue of Athlete – Ephesos

Holding Museum: Kunsthistorisches Museum, Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities

Date:

Materials: 2nd century AD (copy after a Greek original from the last quarter of the 4th century BC); found in 1895

Curator
Justification: Bronze

These bronze figures of athletes of the Apoxyomenos (Apoksimene) type were erected to pay tribute to the human body and its victorious efforts. Statues of athletes were commissioned to commemorate Olympic champions.



Working Number: TR2 182

Name: The statue of Hadrian

Holding Museum: Istanbul Archaeological Museums (Tiled Kiosk)

Date: The Tiled Kiosk: 15th century; the photograph: 19th century; emperor Hadrian: 76—138 A.D.

Materials:

Curator

Justification: -
Commemorating his victorious military campaigns and his reign, Emperor Hadrian is depicted here as a glorious and majestic ruler and general of the military, nemesis of the enemies of the Empire.



Working Number: DZ 078

Name: Section of a Roman triumphal arch

Holding Museum: Musée Public National des Antiquités

Date: 1840–1843

Materials:

Curator
Justification: -
Triumphal arches are perhaps the most significant and powerful memories erected to commemorate or pay tribute to a victorious and glorious human being.



Working Number: FR 113

Name: Gustave Eiffel. The Eiffel Tower in 1889.

Holding Museum: National Library of France

Date: 1889

Materials:

Curator
Justification:

The Eiffel Tower was erected to glorify and commemorate the 1889 World's Fair in Paris, the theme of which was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution.



Working Number: TN 032

Name: Statue of Jules Ferry

Holding Museum: Musée d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine de Kassar Saïd

Date: 19th century

Materials: Iron, bronze

Curator Justification: The statue of Jules Ferry, a former Prime Minister of France and a strong supporter of French colonialism in Africa, once stood on the Place d'Afrique in Tunis as a symbol of the French Protectorate.



Working Number: LB 033

Name: Lady of Harissa

Holding Museum: -

Date: 1908

Materials: -

Curator Justification: One of the most powerful symbols and manifestations of the Christian faith and its communities in the Arab and Ottoman territories, the Lady of Harissa represents the Virgin Mary's solicitude, her outstretched arms protecting the people of Harissa and all of Lebanon.



Working Number: TN 086

Name: Statue of Cardinal Lavigerie

Holding Museum: Institut Supérieur d'Histoire Contemporaine de la Tunisie

Date: 19th century

Materials: Paper

Curator Justification: At one of Tunisia's most important 19th-century public squares is a statue of Cardinal Lavigerie, Archbishop of Carthage and Algiers and Primate of Africa, to commemorate his missionary works and his efforts to end the slave trade.



Working Number: TR2 002

Name: Saliha Sultan Fountain

Holding Museum: Ömer M. Koç Collection

Date: 1857

Materials: -

Curator Justification: A jewel of 19th-century fountain architecture in Istanbul, this elaborate freestanding fountain commemorates the acts, the reign and the dynasty of Valide Sultan Saliha; in terms of its structure, which follows earlier prototypes, it is also a reminder of the history, legacy and

continuity of the Ottoman Empire; and in terms of its function, it represents the pious act of the gift of sweet water to the public.



Working Number: LB 020

Name: The Ottoman Clock Tower

Holding Museum: -

Date: 1897

Materials: -

Curator Justification: The clock tower commemorates and glorifies Ottoman rule and the reign of Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid II in Beirut, Lebanon.



Working Number: TR2 157

Name: Izmir Clock Tower

Holding Museum: Istanbul University, Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi (Rare Books Library)

Date: Beginning of the 20th century

Materials: Photograph

Curator Justification: The clock tower was erected to glorify and commemorate the reign, dynasty and personality of Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid II. Designed by a French architect and displaying a clock presented by the German Emperor Wilhelm II, it also signifies European ideals and cultural interests, not least the political connections of the Sultan.



Working Number: LB 045

Name: The Tell Clock Tower

Holding Museum: -

Date: 1906

Materials: -

Curator Justification: The clock tower signals modernity and European influences, but as it was erected to pay tribute to Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid II, it also symbolises Ottoman rule and hegemony in Tripoli.



Working Number: DE 017

Name: Clock tower, Beirut

Holding Museum: Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum, State Museums

Date: 1900

Materials: -

Curator Justification: As a tribute to modernity and Ottoman hegemony, the clock tower commemorates the anniversary of the reign of Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid II.



Working Number: DE 018

Name: Monument commemorating the installation of the Hijaz-Damascus telegraph connection, Beirut

Holding Museum: Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum, State Museums

Date: 1910

Materials: -

Curator

Justification: Its presence, particularly at this location, symbolises 19th-century Ottoman hegemony, but it also pays tribute to the technical achievements of humankind and thus celebrates modernity.
