

## *New Exhibition at the Ottoman Bank Museum: “Consuming the Orient”*

The Ottoman Bank Museum (OBM) will be hosting a new exhibition from **November 15, 2007** through **March 2, 2008**. Curated by **Prof. Edhem Eldem**, the exhibition **Consuming the Orient** focuses on images of the Orient created and developed, from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on, in western consumer culture in response to the imagination and desires of consumers, as well as on the different sorts of media used to convey these images.

The main thematic strands that make up the backbone of the exhibition are four recurring motifs in western depictions of the Orient: exoticism, ethnography, eroticism and history. On display are objects and documents reflecting these themes, selected among everyday products of mass consumer appeal such as travel posters and handbooks, popular novels, comic books, and industrial objects.

The exhibition also approaches the subject from the viewpoint of the Ottoman Empire and later the Republic of Turkey, who, in their attempts at modernization, alternately rejected this 'eastern' image created by the West or conformed and identified to it, going so far as to create their own orientalism.