

Sait Faik's museum reopened to visitors following restoration



The Sait Faik Abasıyanık Museum -- featuring the personal items, book and essays of 20th century eminent short story writer/poet Sait Faik Abasıyanık -- on Burgazada on the Marmara Sea has been reopened to visitors following a four-year restoration.

The museum, which was once the frequent residence of Abasıyanık, was opened on Saturday after a ceremony organized to commemorate Abasıyanık's 59th death anniversary. Representatives from the Darüşşafaka Association, which started restoration work on the museum in 2009, officials from the Adalar Municipality and the winner of the 59th Sait Faik Short Story Prize, Sine Ergün, were among the guests who attended Sat-

urday's event, the Anatolia news agency reported.

Talha Çamaş, the president of the association's administrative body, delivered a speech at the ceremony. "The restoration work was carried out with utmost care and without distorting the original structure of the museum. ... The museum can be visited free of charge according to the wishes of Abasıyanık... and continues to take visitors on an enchanting travel to the spiritual and literary world of Abasıyanık," Çamaş stated.

After the death of his father, Abasıyanık started passing his summers in a home -- the present museum building -- on Burgazada. Before he passed away in 1954, Abasıyanık visited the Darüşşafaka High School, run by the asso-

ciation and providing education to the children who lost their families. Admiring the hardworking students in the high school, Abasıyanık decided to leave his properties to the association. Later, the writer's mother donated the home, his properties and copyright managements to the Darüşşafaka Association, according to the Abasıyanık's will. The home was turned into a museum and was opened to visitors in 1959.

Famed for his vivid and honest depictions of nature and people in his work, Abasıyanık is considered to be among the leading figures in modern story writing. Many acclaimed writers, including Adalet Agaoglu and Ferid Edgü, were inspired by the writing style of Abasıyanık. **İstanbul Today's Zaman with wires**