

The Union Catalogue of Manuscripts in Turkey: Türkiye Yazmaları Toplu Kataloğu (TÜYATOK)*

by *Barbara Flemming*

In 1978 the Turkish Ministry of Culture decided to organize a great Union Catalogue of all Turkish, Arabic and Persian manuscripts (Türkiye Yazmaları Toplu Kataloğu, in short TÜYATOK) belonging to it, but also to collections preserved in museums and other institutions throughout the country. Preference was to be given to the many thousands of manuscripts which had not yet been described in printed catalogues, and which were not even card-catalogued as are the holdings of the famous Süleymaniye library in Istanbul and the National Library, Milli Kütüphane, in Ankara. Two offices were established in Ankara and Istanbul. Dr. Müjgan Cunbur, director of the Milli Kütüphane, is a founding member. İsmet Parmaksızoğlu (1924-1984), the dedicated manuscript scholar, directed the project until his death. Abdullah Uysal, in Ankara, now signs as co-director: Doc. Dr. Günay Kut directs the Istanbul office. The names of 35 other cataloguers are mentioned.

The new series of catalogues brought out by the Directorate-General of Libraries is reason for rejoicing among Islamicists and Turkologists. Seven volumes have been published so far, which (their titles being somewhat misleadingly alike) can be cited thus:

Adıyaman, Ankara (1979)
Giresun, Ordu, Rize (1980)
Istanbul I (1981)
Antalya I (1982)
Antalya II (1982)
Antalya III (1983)
Antalya IV (not seen)
Antalya V (1984)
Istanbul II (1984).

As can be seen, the catalogue follows the pattern of the modern province boundaries of Turkey. Grouped and numbered by province, the following collections have been catalogued. The holdings of the Eastern province of Adıyaman (no. 02) together with three important libraries in Ankara (province no. 06), namely that of the mausoleum of Atatürk, of the President of the Republic, and of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. These entries were published in the volume Adıyaman, Ankara (1979). In the province of Antalya (no. 07), the manuscript holdings of the museum and of the Tekeli library in Antalya, the library of Yeğen Mehmet Paşa in Akseki, and the public library of Elmalı were catalogued in volumes Antalya I (1982), Antalya II (1982; this collection is now in the Süleymaniye), Antalya III (1983), and Antalya V (1984).

In the province of Istanbul (no. 34) the collection of professor Ali Nihat Tarlan (1898-1978) in the Süleymaniye library was described in Istanbul I (1981), and the holdings

of the library of the besieger of Vienna in 1683, Kara Mustafa Paşa from Merzifon, were catalogued in Istanbul II (1984). The collection formerly preserved in Giresun (no. 28) is now actually kept in the Süleymaniye library in Istanbul. Nevertheless, it has been catalogued in the volume Giresun, Ordu, Rize (1980), together with the manuscripts of Ordu (no. 52) and Rize (no. 53). Each fascicule or volume covers one complete collection.

The volumes were printed very carefully, the first three by the Türk Tarih Kurumu, the following five by the Faculty of Letters of Istanbul University, and one by the Prime Minister's printing press. The TÜYATOK is conceived as a catalogue of titles and authors, with the manuscript's call (shelf number(s) and a short physical description of each manuscript. The title of each work is given in Arabic script, in scholarly transliteration and in Turkish transcription. Authors' names also appear in transcription and in Arabic script. Both the first and the last text line of each work are given; the language of the work is mentioned as well as the scribe, the script and the date, if given in the colophon (no approximate dates are suggested). Different copies of the same work follow without mention of author and title. A single manuscript, if it contains more than one work, is divided into separate entries, each with its own catalogue number. Works are grouped by subjects; there are about 34 main headings. Under each heading the works are arranged alphabetically by title. At this stage, there are few references to extant copies of a work (especially in Istanbul I (1981)), but there is some crossreferencing within the TÜYATOK. References to the fundamental bio-bibliographical literature are very economical. Only in Adıyaman, Ankara (1979) and in Istanbul I (1981) does one find references to recent research, to the cataloguers' own research, and to recent editions. Such relentless brevity robs the reader of much helpful detail. Turkish libraries being a great way off, the TÜYATOK might be, not a catalogue for the intending visitor, but a work of reference. However, the Turkish compilers intend, when they have finished the catalogue of Turkish libraries, to see how they can incorporate recent research into the cumulative index to the Union Catalogue. At the present stage, indexes of titles and authors are given at the end of the description of a collection, or of a volume (except for 07 Antalya). Each volume is illustrated: full-page plates show bindings and water marks; the captions refer to the call (not the catalogue) numbers of the mss.

It is yet too early to form an impression of the story of Islamic manuscripts in Turkish lands surveyed by TÜYATOK. It will cover a very long period, from the Anatolian Seldjucks to the Ottomans and, finally, to the days of Gazi Mustafa

Kemal Atatürk, of whose library a number of handwritten documents are described, such as his opening speeches to the Assembly and the *berāt* with which the honorary freedom of the city of Istanbul was bestowed on him. And it will range over an area much greater than that of the Republic now; from Pečūy in Hungary where, in 1627, an Ottoman scholar collected the writings of Ibn al-ʿArabī, to the Arabic provinces.

The cumulative indexes will, it is to be hoped, give information on remarkable manuscripts, provide a survey of dates of copying and point out examples of Islamic calligraphy, of illumination and, possibly, of miniatures.

But let us not ask too much. It is a good thing that the active compiling of the fiches (*fişleme işi*) is now well under way, and that publication of separate volumes began so early. Thanks to the initiative of Turkish librarians and manuscript scholars, we are getting nearer to the aim of filling a huge gap in our bibliographical knowledge regarding the Islamic manuscripts of Turkey.

* Türkiye yazmaları toplu kataloğu. The union catalogue of manuscripts in Turkey. Vol. I, Ankara, 1979, xiv + 78 + 58 p. (= Adıyaman, Ankara (1979)); vol. 2, Ankara, 1980, 266 p. (= Giresun, Ordu, Rize (1980)); vol. I, Ankara, 1981, 188 p. (= Istanbul I (1981)); vol. I, Istanbul, 1982, vi + 320 p. (= Antalya I (1982)); vol. II, Istanbul, 1982, 480 p. (= Antalya II (1982)); vol. III, Istanbul, 1983, 480 p. (= Antalya III (1983)); vol. V, Istanbul, 1984, 367 p. (= Antalya V 1984); I have not seen vol. IV of Antalya; vol. II, Ankara, 1984, 203 p. (= Istanbul II (1984)).

Note: For a detailed history of this project see E. Birnbaum, "Turkish Manuscripts: Cataloguing since 1960 and Manuscripts still uncatalogued. Part 5: Turkey and Cyprus" in: *JAOS* 104 (1984), 468-472.