

Welcome to the first issue of *Keshif*



If you read these lines, it means that you have already made the discovery of our journal – *keşf-i keşif*, so to speak.

It was last summer when two of the editors, Ercan Akyol and Gisela Procházka-Eisl, were sitting in the pizzeria of the University Campus, their bodies bent over a pizza and their full focus on a scan displayed on their smartphones. As they tried to decipher an intriguing detail from an Ottoman handwriting, they talked about the joys of reading Ottoman manuscripts, and of the manyfold surprising treasures they hide within. This seemingly unremarkable event actually marked the birth of later-to-be-named *Keshif* journal. It was not difficult to get Aysu Akcan excited about this idea. She was immediately on board too.

Now, almost a year later, we are thrilled to launch the first issue of *Keshif*. This volume gathers twelve contributions from internationally renowned scholars as well as from young researchers and, finally, also from us, the "hosts". *Keshif* became the colorful mosaic we dreamed for it to be, as it includes a broad range of texts— from a recipe for a paste against constipation, a book list and an Anatolian inscription, a stray letter from an Ottoman diplomat, the introduction to a hitherto unknown history of the Armenians, to notes on bibliomancy, genealogy and family matters, on the construction of a bridge in Bosnia, a calculation of the apocalypse and a polemic poem on the Turks.

Not all of the original texts included in the contributions are carefully and neatly written, it is, therefore, no surprise that some words have remained indecipherable. For this reason, *Keshif's* final chapter summarises these illegible or debatable words and text passages, in an attempt to encourage all our readers to take up the challenge to participate in solving them.

Without further adue, we would like to wish you a pleasant read and to kindly remind you that we very much appreciate your feedback — be it suggestions, constructive criticism or ideas for improvement.

Vienna, March 2023

Gisela, Ercan and Aysu

And please bear in mind: No text is too short to be published in *Keshif*!