

40th Annual Conference MELCom International 2018

Suna Kıraç Library Manuscript Collection between the Digital World and Printed World

**Naz Özkan, Koç University The Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED)
Branch Librarian**

**Dr.Ali Emre Özyıldırım, Yıldız Technical University, Turkish Literature Department,
Faculty Member**

Abstract

The most remarkable feature of our manuscript collection in the Suna Kıraç Library is that the materials have been passed down to the library's possession mostly by the scholars who recently passed away and were well known in their fields of work. Among these people, diplomat, poet and author Fuat Bayramoğlu (1912-1996) who was descended from a 14th century Turkish Sufi, and the founder of the Bayrami Sufi order, Hacı Bayram Veli is significant. Also, the famous Turkologist and linguist professor Şinasi Tekin (1933-2004) should be emphasized. These manuscripts are currently available online and the printed version of the catalog will be published soon.

Manuscripts in the first section of the collection consists of 425 works in 261 volumes. Manuscripts have originally written with different languages; 331 of these works are in Turkish, 61 of them are in Arabic, 24 of these works are in Persian and the rest 9 are bilingual works (majmuas) in Persian-Arabic, or Arabic-Turkish. In the Manuscripts Collection in SKL, the main topics are mainly on Sufism, especially Anatolian / Ottoman Sufism (Bayrami, Melami and Mevlevi paths), Turkish literature, Islamic morality and ethics, Islamic law, Quranic works, fatwas, hadith. Among these books, there are many works written by the authors themselves, unique copies. Chronologically, the oldest manuscript in the collection copied back to 777 / 1376.

By transferring these manuscripts to a digital platform, they are being protected from usage-based worn-outs and they have also become accessible through internet to the interests of the researchers. In addition to these, SKL prepared a book named Union Catalogue of Manuscripts to provide accessibility of bibliographic identities of manuscripts. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the general description of the library collection and the catalog, the writings of various aspects and privileges; also to question the relationship between writing and the donor's personal interests in the context of book culture.

Introduction

Koç University Suna Kıraç Library was established in October 1993, simultaneously with the foundation of Koç University in İstinye, where it was located back then, the first core collection was created in the same year. Over the past 25 years, the number in the printed book collection in Turkish, English, French, Russian, Spanish, German, and Italian are routinely acquired has reached 250,000, while the total number of materials has reached 350,000. SKL subscribes to roughly 64,000 electronic journals and 157,000 electronic books and serves approximately 56,000 visitors per month during the busiest period. With a solid purpose to support and advance research, Koç University Scholarly Community is supported by branch (peripheral) libraries in Antalya, Ankara and İstanbul.

Suna Kıraç Library also houses a rich manuscript collection. Apart from İstanbul University, Ankara University, Boğaziçi University's Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute and Ataturk University in Erzurum most university libraries in Turkey do not have manuscript collections. Additionally, it is not possible to talk about a university library that stands out in this respect compared to the private universities which have been founded recently. Unlike several state and private university libraries, SKL enjoys a privileged position in this regard by hosting a library collection through by means of donation and purchase. Moreover, the opening of SKL manuscripts collection to the public is undoubtedly a pioneering practice that should be taken as an example by universities in our country. It is also important to emphasize that SKL manuscript collection which are published over the Internet, is gradually becoming the subjects of academic studies, researches and publications in Turkey.

The manuscripts from the donors' private libraries arrived to SKL between 1995 and 2005. Manuscripts in the first section of the Suna Kıraç Library Collection consists of 425 works in 261 volumes. Manuscripts are in different languages; 331 of these works are in Turkish, 61 of them Arabic, 24 of them in Persian and the rest 9 are bilingual works (*majmuas*) in Persian-Arabic, or Arabic-Turkish. In the Manuscripts Collection in SKL, the main topics are mainly on Sufism, especially Anatolian / Ottoman Sufism (Bayrami, Melami and Mevlevi orders), Turkish literature, Islamic morality and ethics, Islamic law, Quranic works, fatwas, hadith. Among these books, there are many works written by the authors themselves, unique copies. Chronologically, the oldest manuscript in the collection copied dates back to 777 / 1376.

Number of volumes and works according to book owners

F. Bayramoğlu	53 Volume	104 Works
M. Sertoğlu	18 Volume	19 Works
J. Powell	9 Volume	13 Works
Ş. Tekin	181 Volume	289 Works

Number of works according to language

331 Turkish

61 Arabic

24 Persian

9 Bilingual works – majmuas (Turkish / Arabic / Persian)

Number of works according to their subjects

Astronomy	7
Chemistry	1
Education	2
Encyclopedia	3
Geography	4
Grammar / Dictionary	36
History	9
Islamic Philosophy	50
Law	2
Literature	157
Majmuas	23
Mathematics	3
Medicine	9
Music	2
Occultism	13
Philosophy / Logic	4
Religion (Islam)	121

The most remarkable feature of our manuscript collection is that the materials that have been passed down to the library's possession. They are mostly coming from the prominent scholars in their fields who recently passed away. When we analyze the donator's manuscript collections according to subjects, we realized that these scholars did not collect these manuscripts accidentally. Through the collecting process of manuscripts, donators were directed by some socialiser institutions. As a French sociologist, anthropologist, philosopher Pierre Bourdieu claims, socialiser institutions such as family networks, education or working place create possibilities of passing their symbolical values, knowledge, tastes or many other indicators called as habitus, from one member of a group to another from generations to generations.¹ Any member of a society with or without knowing it acquires their taste and interiorizes it. Accordingly, social groups produce and reproduce some tendencies over personal tastes. Now, I want to demonstrate that the preferences and taste for manuscripts which were collected by these scholars were not simple result of personal caprices of their heart, but these taste and

¹ Pierre Bourdieu, *Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture* (London: Sage Publications, 1990), 152-153.

preferences were shaped according to their family connections, educational and social status and in their turn these tastes and preferences produced the hierarchy as well.²

Fuat Bayramođlu Manuscript Collection

As diplomat, poet and author, Fuat Bayramođlu (1912-1996) who was descended from a 14th century Turkish Sufi, and the founder of the Bayrami Sufi order, Hacı Bayram Veli. His father, Őeyh Tayyip Efendi, served also as deputy in the First Parliament. Bayramođlu graduated from Ankara and Liege Universities. After 1939, he played important roles in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in different stages of bureaucracy through many years and he represented Turkey as an ambassador in several countries. Lastly, he served as the Presidential Secretariat between 1972 and 1977. In addition to his brilliant bureaucratic career, Bayramođlu was an extremely cultured and artistic man with his poetry written in the form of rubai or *rubaiie* as well as many books. His work titled Hacı Bayramı-1 Veli Yaşanı-Soyu-Vakfı first published in 1983 must be mentioned as the most comprehensive work in the field based on original information and documents on Hacı Bayram-1 Veli or *Haji Bayram Veli*.

Fuat Bayramođlu was also a relative of the Koç family because his wife Nesteren is Vehbi Koç's nephew, and he donated a rich collection of books and personal archive of 5158 works to Koç University Suna Kıraç Library shortly before his death in 1996. At the time of this donation, the 53 volumes of manuscripts constitutes the cornerstone of the SKL Manuscript collection. Some of the writings of Bayramođlu, as predicted, are the works he inherited from his family members. Nevertheless, Fuat Bayramođlu, a researcher and a bibliophile, undoubtedly shaped a significant portion of his library in the direction of his interest and research. The manuscript collection of Fuat Bayramođlu consists of works on Ottoman Sufism (Bayrami, Melami and Mevlevi orders, evrâd and ilahi majmuas (miscellaneous), Menkıbenames (Epic Story) and the works which directly or indirectly concern the city history and social life of Ankara.

One of the most important feature of Fuat Bayramođlu's manuscripts are the fact that they have seals and tamalluk notes (ownership statement). Examining the names on the seals shows that Fuat Bayramođlu received these manuscripts from his father, Mehmet Tayyip and the Müderriszâde family. The Muradrizâde family, a different descendant of the great Hacı Bayram sultanate, is also known to Ankara's long-established ulema families; and Sadberk Hanim, Vehbi Koç's wife, was a member of this family. The Leme'ât Transcription (No.62), which was written by Fahreddin-i İraqi from the basic mystical texts and translated into Turkish with the request of Hacı Bayram, contains a very rare gigantic tarikat (religious order) seal. All these seals as the artistic and fitting signs used to identify the belongings of the great families and reminder of cultural and intellectual background of these families which descended from founder of the Bayrami Sufi order, Hacı Bayram Veli.

Mithat Sertođlu Manuscript Collection

Mithat Sertođlu [Istanbul, 1913 - 1995] originally was a member of a family from Sarajevo who came to Istanbul as a refugee. After graduating from Istanbul University Faculty of Literature, he started working at a young age as a journalist as well as in the Directorate General of the Archive. Sertođlu was appointed as manager to the office of this institution in 1960.

² Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction : A social Critique of the Judgement of Taste* (Cambridge:Harvard University Press, 1984),169-175.

Sertoğlu, known for his efforts in cataloging, organizing and opening the Ottoman archives in particular, lectured at the İstanbul University where he graduated at the same time, conducted journalism and magazine activities, and received numerous permanent works on Ottoman history. To name an example, “The six volume Mufasssal Ottoman History” written together with Mustafa Cezar, was one of the most important works of him. 354 volumes of Mithat Sertoğlu's personal books were donated to Koç University by his successor in 2008 after his death, and 18 of them are written works in this catalog.

Just looking at the manuscript collection of Sertoğlu quickly, various works of Elif Efendi attracts attention. Mehmed Elif Efendi (d. 1927), who was the last sheikh of Hasrîzâde Tekkesi in Sütlüce, served as the chairman of the Meclis-i Meşâyih for a short time and produced a lot of works both in the last period of the Ottoman period and the first years of the Republic. As we examine donated manuscripts of Fuat Bayramoğlu, Mithat Sertoğlu also received many manuscripts through the kinship. By the marriage with Elif Efendi's granddaughter, he became the owner of the naturally selected collection of Elif Efendi. Thus, I can say that both manuscript collections of Bayramoğlu and Sertoğlu are part of familial culture which has passed down from generation to generation and been shared between the family members.

Şinasi Tekin Manuscript Collection

Şinasi Tekin who was a professor of Turcology [Dursunbey (Balıkesir), 1933 - 2004] started his education life at the İstanbul University and completed at the University of Hamburg. Between 1958 -1965 he gave lectures at the newly founded Atatürk University and received his professorship title. Tekin continued his studies at Harvard University in 1965. Since 1977, Tekin has both published book series entitled “Sources of Oriental Languages and Literatures” and journal entitled “Journal of Turkish Studies” with his wife Gönül Alpay, who was also a professor of Turcology .These ongoing publications have a privileged place among the long-standing and respectable academic publications of the field of Turcology. Şinasi Tekin is one of the expert of the Old Uyghur language and Old Anatolian Turkish, which has its own specialized field of books and articles. Şinasi Tekin also gave many lectures as the founder and manager of the Ottoman Summer School, which has continued its activities as the joint organization of Harvard University and Koç University in Cunda, Balıkesir from 1997 until his death. Following the death of Şinasi Tekin, his personal books, which consisted of the manuscript collection were included the collection of SKL through his family.

Unlike Bayramoğlu and Sertoğlu, Şinasi Tekin primarily focused on works that he thought were important in terms of the history of the Turkish language. Therefore, the fundamental characteristic of Tekin manuscripts is that they should be written and copied Turkish words in the early periods of Anatolian Turkish. His collection mostly consists of books in written Mevlid genre which have a wide audience among the people, Tefsir (interpretation), translations among the Qur'an, early medical books which are very important for the historical development of the old Turkish language, folk tales and dictionaries which are the part of his research. All this makes the manuscripts collection of Şinasi Tekin part of his cultural capital which is shaped by the level of his education, cultural background and his professional interest.

Josephine Powell Manuscript Collection

Josephine Powell who was a photographer, collector and ethnologist [New York, 1919 - 2007], lived in Rome for a while after she left Rome to work at various international organizations in

the United States where she completed his higher education. She traveled around the world as a traveler and in 1973 she came to Turkey to work on rugs. For many years, Powell, who traveled through the villages in Anatolia, especially in the areas where the nomadic population lived, accumulated countless objects belonging to local life as kilims, Anatolian rugs woven products. By writing books on these countless objects and local art and opening exhibitions, she presented these local art products all around the world. Powell has recently donated enormous weaving and handcraft collection with the archive of tens of thousands of photographs taken in Anatolia to the Koç Foundation, which is still part of the donations of Sadberk Hanım Museum and the SKL. This nine volume manuscript in the collection of 1,500 books that were transferred to the library during the donation which makes a small part of the manuscript collection in the Suna Kır a Library.

The Manuscript collection of Josephine Powell has same characteristic with the manuscript collection of Őinasi Tekin. In the same manner, Powell collected these manuscript through her professional interest and personal taste. Especially manuscripts such as Dua (prayer) and Evr d mejmuas (Pamphlets), popular works written on Fikhi (canon law) issues, Qur'anic suras and commentaries, publicized and anonymized Sufistic works and Islamic divine compilations also reflect a small but widely popular pieces of material culture of Anatolia where she mainly focused in her researches

Unique Manuscripts of the Collection of SKL

In the manuscript collection of SKL, chronologically, the oldest manuscript dates back to 1110, yet the most recent manuscript dates to 1969. Among the ones specified in the collection are 93 manuscripts are predominantly from the eighteenth century. These are followed by 84 manuscripts dated to the nineteenth, 65 manuscripts to the seventeenth, 27 manuscripts to the sixteenth, 23 manuscripts to the fifteenth, 8 manuscripts to the twentieth, 4 manuscripts to the fourteenth centuries, respectively. Publication dates of 175 of the manuscripts are not clear. However, the uniqueness of this manuscript begins with not only their date but also different genres and subjects' of manuscripts.

For example in the collection of Fuat Bayramođlu, D v n-ı N r  Baba,(No.50) is an interesting and unique manuscript which gives important details of Ankara's social and local life. Nur  Baba, who died in 1263/1847, is a relatively famous poet mentioned in his biographical sources and he comes from the line of Hacı Bayram-ı Veli. In his Divan, N r  Baba analyzed and wrote in a realistic approach of the various districts of Ankara, sources of drinking water in the city. Thus, in his Divan, which is written like Őehrengizs in Turkish Literature, he tries to bring direct observational determinations in terms of city history to today.

In addition to this, the manuscript collection of SKL do not house so much manuscripts which has an artistic value and was an example of the art of ornamentation. However, in the Bayramođlu's collection the book named *Gurer 'l-Ahk m* is important in artistic terms. It is an example of the various features of classical Ottoman art in terms of bind and tezhib. The very well-known love story copy of undated Leyla v  Mecnun was written by Mekteb-i Őirazi in Persian also consists of four different miniature.

In the collection of Sertođlu, a young Ottoman officer who lived in the last period of Ottoman Empire named Ortak yl  Ő kr  shows that the manuscripts were not concerns for only religious subjects such as Islamic morality and ethics, Islamic law, fetwas, hadiths, mysticism, sufism,

Mevlevi and Mevlevi literature but also silent witnesses that shows problems and realities of their times. “Orduda İnzibat Yahud Şikeste Ribât” was written in 1915 and has two copies, (No.119 and 121). The first book mentions about problems of the army, especially the issues on soldiers' training. It was written in the hatt-i Enverî, which has been used very little for a short period of time and gives the soul of this period. The other work of Ortaköylü Şükrü is a notebook consisting of memories and poems were written in 1914-15. It is certain that this young officer's diary, decorated with his drawings of various places, is an important resource in memoirs genre of the near future in terms of giving details of the military expeditions he participated in.

The other important piece of Sertoğlu collection belongs to Elif Efendi, previously I mentioned in the biography of Sertoğlu, and is entitled İrşâdu'l-gâvîn bi-reddi nazariyyeti'd-Darvin. The book has crucial importance for studies on the evolution theory which Charles Darwin formulated in the mid-19th century. In this book, we observe how Elif Efendi stands opposite on this theory.

As expected and seen, Şinasi Tekin collection includes many important works on history of Turkish language and literature such as the Risâletü'l al-Islam (No.367) and Kitâb-ı Güzîde from the first half of the 14th century. As mentioned above, almost all of the works written in Turkish were written in Anatolia in the early period and some of them have been published can be started from Mevlid (No.155), written by a poet named Kemâl. This work, which was originally written in 842/1439, is valuable in the sense that it is one of the earliest examples of the works. Another of these works is Şem' ü Pervâne Mesnevi (No. 331), which was written by an unknown poet named Feyzî Çelebi. It is an extraordinary preference that this mesnevi is written in syllabic meter. In order to be an example of the reflections of the literary life that develops outside Istanbul, it is necessary to mention the Şerh-i Pend-i Attâr which was written as a unique copy by Aydın Karacasulu Yemez-zâde Süleyman Rüşdî Efendi in 1820. Keşf-i Esrâr-ı Ulum ve Mugayyebât-ı Fuhûm also differed from the other manuscripts because it is an encyclopedia on medical history.

Lastly, as a matter of fact, it could not be expected that Şinasi Tekin would be uninterested in the dictionaries. These works, which are included in his books and whose numbers approach to thirty, constitute a small but valuable collection of dictionaries on their own. There are various works ranging from medical linguistics to different versions of the most popular dictionaries such as Ferišteoğlu Lugati and reflecting an impressive panorama of Anatolian Turkish literature. Among these dictionaries, a late-dated (1266/1850) one-copy dictionary and conversation guide (No.380) are so remarkable due to being a comparative dictionary in Arabic, Farsi, Turkish and Greek. This dictionary also as a conversation guide contains example sentences has been prepared by Girit Hanyalı Hafız İbrahim. The work is important in terms of reflecting multilingual and multicultural Ottoman social life.

Manuscripts from Digital World to Print World

As we see in the manuscript collection of SKL, the manuscripts with their scientific and artistic importance are the silent witnesses of transmission of the written knowledge throughout the history. As the most valuable, scarce, or most important materials in Libraries' collections, manuscripts are able to support in-depth research, especially in the fields of History, Civilization, Religion, Literature and Culture and they are part of cultural heritage. Through this heritage, each single piece of manuscripts demonstrates the process of knowledge

production and the value of written culture and intellectual life of that time the manuscript was produced. For becoming accessible through internet to the interest of the researchers and making contribution to academic world, SKL is take serious mission among the university libraries by digitalizing its manuscript collection and making manuscripts of cultural heritage more visible in the world of digital humanities.

Shortly after the transferring these manuscripts to a digital platform between 2013 and 2016, they have been protected from usage-based worn-outs. During this process, firstly leaf numbers were given to manuscripts in the collection by the Ali Emre Özyıldırım and the process of tagging was continued at the same time. In each of the volumes in which more than one piece of work is regularly placed, a separate tag was created for each piece. At the same time, works on writers and authors were studied, each work was submitted to at least one different copy of the possible extent, and at least one source for each title except exceptions was shown. The digital collection also informs researcher about title, author, name, volume, subject, date, content, binding and script features, physical description calligraphic style, language, paper type. Therefore, the SKL digitalized manuscript catalog has been systematically prepared to ensure the ease and speed of access in expediently.

On the other hand, the manuscripts were not indexed in the digital catalog of SKL. Without index of manuscripts, it is not so easy to see the chronological order of manuscripts. In addition to this, without the detailed bibliographic identity it is difficult the control of information of manuscripts in the collection. For this reasons in 2017 SKL prepared a book named Union Catalogue of Manuscripts to provide accessibility of bibliographic identities of manuscripts. This union of catalog was not organized according to the subjects of manuscripts but rather according to their donators. The union catalog of manuscripts was not included all information's on manuscripts in the catalog but as "a starting point for searching" makes this process easier and fast. Also this catalog will help to update information' on manuscripts in the digital catalog.

By combining digital catalog of manuscript collection with Union Catalogue of Manuscripts, the SKL reveals that, university libraries especially private one could be housed the manuscript collection and provide this collection for academic researchers like the research libraries and archives which gives priority to improve their collections by collecting rare and in-depth books about a wide variety of topics. In addition to SKL could be pioneer for the other private and state libraries for maintaining this written culture from generation to generation.

In conclusion, in 2018, with the prestigious Catalogue which creates ways to connect scholars, experts and the general public around the priceless collection, the SKL will celebrate its 25th anniversary. After the publication of first volume, second volume on the manuscript collection consists of bibliographic identities of manuscripts which were donated by Salim Erel, who was a Turkish politician and a former deputy. Numerous donated manuscripts of collection of Salim Erel mainly consist of Arabic works and Persian works which will form the center of gravity of the second volume, which is planned to be prepared soon.

We will keep you inform! Thank you for your attention!

