I. Introduction

Periodicals as historical material have considerable importance for historical studies of the modern Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey. Only in the 1980s, however, did the studies adequately utilizing them begin to make great progress [Arai 2005: 88-89]. That full-dress catalogues of periodicals were published one after another at that time(1) is therefore no accident.

In recent years, some major libraries in Turkey have been preserving and exhibiting collections in the form of electronic media.(2) This trend also helps re-inspection and renewal of bibliographical information, and occasionally new information never before known can be discovered. The project of the Hakki Tarık Us Library (Hakki Tarık Us Kütüphanesi), sited in Istanbul, is one of the best examples of such rare cases. This library is famous for its plentiful number of collections but, regrettably, has been closed for a long time. This catalogue, covering all the periodicals of the Hakki Tarık Us Library, is an excellent product, emerging from the front line of that trend. This book review will first report the short history of the library and the contents of the catalogue, and will then make some comments from the viewpoint of a user of the library and a researcher on the history of political thought within the modern Ottoman Empire. Incidentally, this catalogue can be used and downloaded freely from the website of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (T.C.
Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı), although the catalogue itself is not for sale.

II. Hakkı Tarık Us and His Library

Hakkı Tarık Us (1889-1956) is known as a famous journalist active from the late Ottoman period to the Republican era. His two brothers, Mehmed Âsim Us (1884-1967) and Hasan Rasim Us (1903-1967), also prospered in journalism. In addition to being a successful journalist, Hakkı Tarık worked as a teacher of the Turkish language in various high schools in Istanbul from 1914 to 1923, and was a member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi) from 1923, when the Republic of Turkey was established, to 1939. After resigning as an assembly member, he was active in journalism, publishing most of his own works himself. He also served as president of the Turkish Language Society (Türk Dil Kurumu) from 1951 to 1954, and passed away on 21 October 1956.

Hakkı Tarık was single all his life, and thus able to allocate most of his income to buying numerous books and periodicals. After his death, in accordance with his will, the foundation of a library was planned. In spite of difficulties in finding a site, the library was eventually opened at a former primary school (sibyan mektebi) in Beyazıt on 21 October 1965 [Öztürk 2006: 140; Akbayar and Koloğlu 1996: 112]. Whereas in the 1960s Turkey had 266 libraries and the average number of collections was 10,198, the private Hakkı Tarık Us Library, founded with a waqf (Islamic pious foundation), had about 20,000 books and more than 2,400 periodicals in those days [Öztürk 2006: 143]. Since the opening, a professional staff has managed the library. Opening hours are 12:00-17:00 every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and the number of users including foreigners averages six per day [Koç 1994].

In the early 1990s, the library was closed, mainly because of financial problems of the waqf, and its collections fell under the authority of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Then, in 2003, the collections themselves were transported to the Beyazıt National Library (Beyazıt Devlet Kütüphanesi) [Öztürk 2006: 140; cf. Gökçe 2006: 79]. The collections, having no systematic serial numbers by nature, were reportedly left in “complete disorder such as a kind of chaos,” partly because of the process of shifting [Arai 2005: 92]. After the shifting, plans at first were to make order and classify them, and make up their catalogue only. At that very time, Prof. Masami Arai (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, TUFS) proposed collaboration to digitize all the Ottoman Turkish periodicals of the collections in the form of electronic media as a part of the project of the Center for
Documentation and Area-Transcultural Studies (C-DATS) of TUFS. In this way, the Hakki Tarık Us Project was begun in October 2003, planning both to make up a catalogue and to digitize the collections. The catalogue to be reported below is one of the valuable products of the project.

III. Contents of Catalogue

The contents of this catalogue are as follows: Preface (iii-iv)/Life, Works and Will of Hakki Tarık Us (v-xiii)/Directions for Catalogue (xv-xix)/Abbreviations and Explanatory Notes (xx-xxi)/Catalogue] (1-456)/Name Index (457-480)/Printing Office (Basimevi) Index (481-490)/Editors’ Curricula Vitae (491).

This is a complete catalogue listing all the information of periodicals housed in the Hakki Tarık Us Library. The following editors’ words sum up its significance succinctly: “We consider that a large part of our country’s blank space as to information in periodicals has been filled by this catalogue.” (p. iii) According to the editors’ explanation, the total number of titles is 2,662. Of these, 2,412 titles are substantial items with serial numbers, whereas the other 244 [sic] are shown as sub-items with no serial numbers because they overlap with some substantial items due to title change, etc.

Each substantial item consists of the following information: Serial Number/Name of Periodical/Name of Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, etc./Location of Publication/Dates of Publication/All Volumes and Issues/Name of Printing Office/Measurements/Language/Catalogue Number of Duman [2000a] (if any)/Old Serial Number of the Hakki Tarık Us Library/Housed Volumes, Issues and Their Dates of Publication/Commentary. According to the editors, dates of publication are taken from original texts of periodicals (p. xvii) and therefore were not classified by the Hijra calendar, the Rumi calendar, or the Christian calendar (p. xviii). Whenever issues of a periodical are scattered through other volumes, or bound up in disorder, or have misprinted issue numbers, etc., notes are given in the commentary (p. xvi). Information about the lack of pages is not given, however, unless all pages of an issue are completely lacking (p. xvii). Some titles of yearbooks, especially provincial yearbooks (vilayet salnamesi), are changed into the same form (Salname-i Vilayet-i ...) in order to place them together (p. xvii). The bibliographical information of this catalogue is basically taken from Duman [2000a; 2000b] and Özege [1971-1979] (p. xv), although supplemented with the editors’ original notes in some cases.

This catalogue lists a wide variety of periodicals: newspapers, magazines, yearbooks, annals of New Year (nevsâl), statistics, official gazettes, compendiums of laws, pro-
ceedings, scholarly and trade journals, and reports. In addition to such periodicals, there are various specialized items that were published by individuals, public offices, political parties, the military, educational institutions, and academic and trade associations. The contents of periodicals in this catalogue cover almost all genres: politics, the economy, social issues, culture, science, hobbies and entertainment, etc. A considerable number of satirical gazettes (mizah gazetesi) are in the politics category, including some from the Ottoman period, and many other publications provide the statistics of commerce, industry, and market trends in the economy category. The social issues category includes a number of periodicals for women and children, also published in the Ottoman era. The culture category includes periodicals on literature and thought, journals and annals published by academic associations, and special periodicals on art. Many periodicals on natural sciences are also included, covering a wide range from basic fields (physics, chemistry, mathematics, astronomy, etc.) to practical ones (medical science, pharmacy, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, mining, engineering, architecture, etc.). The medicine and hygiene category offers some periodicals for the general population as well as those for specialists. There is also a variety of periodicals on journalism and publication, bibliographies, and entertainment, as well as hobby magazines on sports, railroads, stamp collecting, etc.

One of the most significant points of this catalogue is that it gives full and detailed information for all periodicals housed in the Hakki Tank Us Library, much of which has not been fully known so far. The information, based on careful inspection of original texts, is exact, certain, and specific, largely owing to the efforts of the editors, who have both librarian licenses and adequate knowledge of the modern history of Turkey and Ottoman Turkish. This catalogue is therefore quite different from similar works, which are usually based on library card indexes. No doubt this catalogue will make a great contribution not only to improvement in utility for users, but also to the progress of studies on the history of Turkish journalism and publication, which will be revised as catalogues and digitizing materials evolve. Also of significance, this catalogue reminds us that periodicals are important as historical material. Indeed, the various periodicals housed in the library will serve not only for historical studies but also for those in other fields.

Nonetheless, the catalogue has some problems. First, the total number of periodicals housed in the library varies depending on who is reporting it. As mentioned above, the total number of periodicals in the catalogue is 2,662 (2,412 of them are substantial items and 244 are sub-items), according to the editors' explanation. According to Pala and Öztürk [2005: 85], however, it is 2,614, of which 243 are overlaps; also, 1,282 are in Ottoman Turkish, and 82 were published in the transition period from Arabic to Latin script. On the other hand, Öztürk [2006: 140-141] gives 2,407 (1,275 in Ottoman Turkish,
Finally, point between periodicals languages, Third, to library which catalogue and sales we such whenever we have my experience has revealed, the originals are not necessarily in good condition, and they have never been repaired on a large scale. Surely the periodicals digitized and edited can be read to a considerable extent; it would be better, however, to refer to the originals whenever materials are highly pale, blotted, or damaged, because they occasionally have such subtle information as is unable to be discerned in the electronic media. Furthermore, we can gain information as to the quality of paper and characters, which often indicates sales and momentum of a periodical. Most important, those originals have their own value as a historical and cultural heritage, and thus need prompt repair and preservation.

IV. Details of Languages

In this chapter I will show the details of languages and their tendency. As for the inspection of the details, I assigned original serial numbers to each substantial item, one by one, and verified 2,412 titles, which is also the total given by the editors for all substantial items. Hereafter, the words "a single type" and "a multiple type" represent a periodical published in a single language or in more than one language, respectively.

Using the classification of this catalogue, I verified the following 26 languages: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Azerbijani, Bulgarian, Chaghatay, Chinese, Circassian, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Kazan Tatar, Kurdish, Ottoman
Turkish, Persian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Turcoman, (modern) Turkish, Urdu, and Uyghur. The 16 languages underlined have their own single types, and there are also 45 combinations in multiple types.\(^{(11)}\)

The table appended to this review shows the percentage of the language details of the substantial items. We can see from the table that about 90 percent of all (2,165 titles, 89.7 percent) are in Ottoman Turkish (1,276 titles, 52.9 percent), Turkish (799 titles, 33.1 percent), and Ottoman Turkish/Turkish (90 titles, 3.7 percent). It could be inferred from those data that 50 percent of all the substantial items are in Ottoman Turkish and 30 percent are in Turkish, even if some problems both in classification between Ottoman Turkish and (modern) Turkish and in classification of multiple types to be mentioned below should be taken into consideration.

As was mentioned above, we can see no definite standard for classification between Ottoman Turkish and Turkish. The editors seem to tend to classify Ottoman Turkish periodicals into the Turkish category in the case of multiple types. Indeed, many of the periodicals classified into “Turkish/French” and “Turkish/Arabic” should belong to “Ottoman Turkish/French” and “Ottoman Turkish/Arabic” categories respectively.

Clearly, the data in the table that are based on examination from the viewpoint of language only are not relevant to the contents or value of the periodicals themselves. Despite their relatively small percentage, the number of periodicals issued in French, English, Arabic, and Persian, including both single and multiple types, is substantial. We can also find, in the category “Other,” 12 Urdu periodicals (9 single and 3 multiple types) and 8 Turkic ones (7 single and 1 multiple types).\(^{(12)}\) Remarkably, the library has few periodicals published in the languages of non-Muslims (3 multiple types in Greek, 1 single and 5 multiple types in Armenian, and 1 multiple type in Hebrew). While there is no periodical published in Japanese, the catalogue has a few periodicals relating to the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)\(^{(13)}\) and the \textit{Yani Yapon Mohbiri} (\textit{Yeni Japon Mukbiri}) (New Japan Herald), an Ottoman Turkish (correctly, Tatar) periodical published in the 1930s in Tokyo. Finally, the catalogue lists a few periodicals issued after the death of Hakkı Tank Us.

Today we can use the periodicals of the Hakkı Tank Us Library by writing the new serial numbers given in this catalogue on a request form and giving it to library staff at the counter of the reading room on the second floor of the Beyazıt National Library. We can also, on a payment basis, acquire copies of periodicals that the staff photographed using a digital camera in the form of CD-R. According to Pala [2007], by late in 2007 users will have been able to read the digitized materials on the personal computers furnished in the library, as well as the other books and manuscripts in the reading room. The catalogue
placed on the counter is about to be worn out in spite of its strong binding and the quality of its fine paper, and some corrections have been written on its pages by the staff. This demonstrates the great demand for the catalogue, and shows that the plans for revision are ongoing. The catalogue is an excellent example for other such projects of ordering and preserving historical materials, and it has contents and significance corresponding to its fine appearance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Number of Titles</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ottoman Turkish</td>
<td>1,276</td>
<td>52.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottoman Turkish/Turkish</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,165</strong></td>
<td><strong>89.7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish/French*</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish/Arabic**</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other***</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>247</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,412</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Of 41 in all, 37 should be classified into the “Ottoman Turkish/French” category.
** The entire 15 should be classified into the “Ottoman Turkish/Arabic” category.
*** This category includes 7 periodicals with no language information.

**Notes**

(1) Two examples of acknowledged catalogues published in the 1980s are Duman [1986] and MKB [1987], both of which cover periodicals issued in Arabic script between the 19th and early 20th century. Duman covers those of major libraries in Istanbul; this coverage has been greatly enlarged and reprinted as Duman [2000a], which covers major libraries all over Turkey. Also see Groc and Çağlar [1985] for French periodicals issued in Turkey.

(2) For details, see Uno [2005].

(3) From https://www.yazmalar.gov.tr/sureli_yayinlar/
(4) For the details of the life of Hakkı Tarık Us, see below. Us and Gezgin [1957] (his younger brother, Hasan Rasim Us, is one of the editors); Uysal [1991]; Akbayar and Koloğlu [1996]; Pala and Öztürk [2005].

(5) For further details of the project, see below. Arai [2005]; Pala and Öztürk [2005]; Pala [2007]. See also the following website of C-DATS. http://www.tufs.ac.jp/21coe/area/insatsu/han_02_insatsu_03.html (Accessed on 26 August 2007.)

(6) According to S. Öztürk, one of the editors, this catalogue is intended for periodicals only, as the first volume of the library catalogues. The second volume, for books and manuscripts, is now in preparation [Öztürk 2006: 140].

(7) The sum of the substantial items and sub-items (2,656) does not coincide with the total number given by the editors. The confusion as to total number will be further examined.

(8) Öztürk [2006] seems to exclude the overlaps from the total number, but nevertheless the number given differs from this catalogue’s number of substantial items.

(9) The total numbers of the catalogues mentioned in note (1) are easily verified because they have their own catalogue numbers. Pala [2007: 87], in the latest report on the project, gives 2,662 (244 are overlaps, 1,282 in Ottoman Turkish, and 82 published in the transition period) as the total number.

(10) The total number of sub-items I counted is, however, 243, which differs from the number given by the editors; thus the total number of periodicals in this catalogue is, according to my trial calculation, 2,655.

(11) The multiple type category includes not only periodicals whose contents were issued in different languages, but also such periodicals as academic journals that contain some articles written in different languages. For example, the information on language of the Dari‘ül-Fünün Fın Fakültesi Mecmuası (Istanbul University Bulletin of the Faculty of Sciences) is given as “Ottoman Turkish/Turkish/German/English” according to the languages of each article included.

(12) There also seems to be no definite standard for classification between Turkic languages. In fact, the Tercüman (Interpreter) published in Bahçesaray is classified into the category “Turkish/Russian,” and the Vakit (Time) published in Orenburg into “Ottoman Turkish.” (Correctly, the former is issued in improved Ottoman Turkish/Russian, and the latter in Tatar.)

(13) Some examples are: Musavver Rusya ve Japonya Vakayı’ı Harbiyesi (Istanbul, 1332), Rusya ve Japonya Muharebesine Ait Musavver Resim Mecmuası (Istanbul, 1322), Rusya ve Japonya Muharebesine Müteallik Panorama (Istanbul, 1320), and the like. (All of these are Ottoman Turkish single types.)

References


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283 Book Review: Hakkı Tarık Us Kütüphanesi Kataloğu (Sasaki)