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*History of Science Newsletter* is going to reflect academic activities in history of science, such as conferences, commemorations, published books and journals, etc. Hence contributions by sending reports or news are appreciated.

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• Irem Aslan<sup>1</sup>

The department of the History of Science was founded in 1952 by Ord. Prof. Aydın Sayılı who was the first student of the great celebrity George Sarton. Sayılı was the first in the world to get the doctoral degree of the History of Science in Harvard University. Although the History of Science department was founded in 1952, the lectures on the History of Science had already begun in 1943 in the department of Philosophy.

Today the department of the History of Science, is under the roof of the main department of Philosophy and does not give an education in the level of undergraduation. Instead of that, it chooses the students from different aspects with a degree in mathematics or physics for instance, and gives them a master and doctoral degree education. In this way students may study the specific area which they have already know in detail, and they have been interested in. Since the education is for the graduate students, each individual is free to choose any lectures which is available in the mentioned semestres. When the students first apply to the department they have to express in which aspect they want to study in oral interview, so that in later semestres their consultant professors may suggest lectures for them. Science in Antiquity, Science in Medieval Ages, From Alchemy to Chemistry, History of Mathematics, History of Astronomy, History of Physics, Ottoman Science, Ottoman Language, Philosophy of Science, Scientific Revolutions, Philosophical and Scientific thoughts in Ottomans are some of our lectures in the department. Also (since the department is under the Language and History and Geography Faculty) students may choose a language of the culture, which they would like to study, and may take courses from that language departments such as Latin language, Greek language, Arabic language, Sumerian language etc. In this way students satisfy the two main qualities to be a qualified historian of science, which are; an expertise area (like mathematics biology or physics etc) and a language to examine original manuscripts.

Each professor has a specific area of expertise. In the following lines I would like to introduce the current professors in charge in Ankara University.

Professor Hüseyin Gazi Topdemir, who is the chairman of the Ankara University Philosophy Department now, was born in Erzurum in 1962. He graduated from department of Philosophy in the Ankara University in 1985. He completed his master's degree in History of Science with a thesis *Kemâlüddin el-Fârâsî's commentary about ibn el-Heysen'in Kitâb el-Menâzir in 1988. His doctoral thesis was on Taqî al-Dîn ibn Marûf's Optical Work*, which was completed 1994, under the guidance of Professor Sevim Tekeli. His major interest is focused on the History of Physics and Philosophy of Science. He has been the member of Turkish Philosophical Association since 1987 and has also been a member of Turkish Society of History of Science since 1990. Among many of his published books, *Story of Light* and *ibn al-Haytham and New Optic* are the most famous ones.

Professor Melek Dosay Gökdoğan was born in Bursa 1960. After she graduated from the department of Philosophy in 1977 she started her post graduate studies in the History of Mathematics. She has prepared a master thesis on *Abû Kâmil Shuja's Algebra* under the guidance of Professor Aydın Sayılı. She obtained her Ph.D. degree in the History of Science in the 1988. Her doctorate dissertation, under the guidance of Professor Sevim Tekeli, was on *Algebra by al-Karajî*. She spent four months in England and six months in Italy studying Latin mathematical texts. Today she is still studying about History of Mathematics and giving lectures about History of Mathematics and Astronomy. Among many of her published books *Al-Khwârizmî's Algebra*, *Ilal Hisâb al-Jabr wa al-Muqâbala by Karajî*, and *Five Great Algebraists* are first that comes to mind.

Professor Remzi Demir was born in Ankara in 1963. He got admitted to the Ankara University History of Science department in 1980. He graduated from this department in 1984 and became a research assistant in the same department. He obtained his master's degree with a thesis entitled *Jâbir Ibn Aflâh abd his Islâh al-Majistî* in 1987 and his Ph.D. dissertation was on *The Application of the Decimal System to the Trigonometry and Astronomy by the Ottoman Astronomer, Taqî al-Dîn ibn Marûf's Works*, under the

guidance of Professor Sevim Tekeli in 1991. Since 1993 he has been working at the same department. He actually continues his studies in the fields of History of Psychology in Ottoman period, History of Mathematics and Astronomy and is interested in Islamic especially Ottoman Science, in Medieval period. He continues, giving the Ottoman language and Ottoman science lectures. He is famous about being the writer of *Philosophia Ottomanica* and *Structure of the Scientific Thought in Ottomans*.

Assistant Professor İnan Kalaycıoğulları was born in Ankara in 1977. After he graduated from Ankara College in 1995 he got admitted to Ankara University department of Philosophy. In 2000 he started the master programme in the department of History of Science. He obtained his master's degree from the *The relation between İbrahim Müteferrika's additions to Katip Çelebi's Cihannuma and The Entry of Modern Sciences in to Turkey* under the guidance of Professor Hüseyin Gazi Topdemir, in 2003. His Ph.D. dissertation was on *Sciences in the Republic Period of Turkey* under the guidance of Professor Remzi Demir. He completed that study in 2009, and since 2010 he has been Assistant Professor in the History of Science department and he continues his studies which are mainly concerns the Republic Period Sciences. Among many of his published books, *Manual of the Science History: Discoveries and Studies* (together with the authors: M. D. Gökdoğan, R. Demir, H. G. Topdemir, Y. Unat, Y. Emlü) and *Ordinarius Proffessor Aydın Sayılı's Corpus-I, Atatürk and Science*, (editor: Remzi Demir, compiler: İnan Kalaycıoğulları) are the most famous ones.

Last but not the least I would like to introduce you some of the recent studies which has made by post graduate students. For instance, I am studying History of Mathematics and my master thesis was the *Euclid's fifth postulate in Mediveal Islâm*. One of our friend Tarık Tuna Gözütok who is studying History of Psychology investigated *The Role of the Book, İlmi Ahvâl-i Ruh ve Usul-i Tefekkür (Psychology and Logic) by Mehmet bin Rifat in the History of Turkish Psychology* in his master thesis. Vural Başaran who is studying the History of Physics gives a master thesis about *Development of modern theories of motion in Europe and their introduction into Ottomans*

through the studies on ballistics and continues his studies about *Examination of Ottoman ballistic manuscripts in the eighteenth century* for his doctoral degree. One of our other friend Ayşe İlen Kökçü is studying *Calculus in Ottomans*.

The department of the History of Science in Ankara University's main purpose is to educate fully sapiential and sophisticated students in their own fields, and accomplishes its mission since 1952.

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. student in Ankara University, History of Science Department. Studying History of Mathematics



Prof. Aydın Sayılı and his sister Gündüz Sayılı and Prof. Melek Dosay Gökdoğan