

“Between Religion and Language”
Karamanlidika, Armeno-Turkish, Hebrew-Turkish and Aljamiado Texts
in the Ottoman Empire

The Workshop will be held at the Yıldız Technical University on Friday June 4, 2010.

Venue: Hünkar Salonu, Yıldız Technical University

Organized by
Mehmet Ölmez (Yıldız Technical University)
Evangelia Balta (National Hellenic Research Foundation)

At the workshop will be presented papers on Turkish language texts written in various alphabets (Greek, Armenian, Hebrew) as well as one paper on Greek Aljamiado literature (vernacular Greek in Arabic script). The First International Conference of Karamanlidika Studies in 2008 having dealt exclusively with Karamanlidika publications (Turkish texts in Greek script) and the Turcophone Orthodox population of Asia Minor, the subject will be extended this year to embrace themes related to the intellectual production of other non-Muslim millets of the Ottoman Empire, that is the Turcophone Armenians and the Turcophone Jews. The goal is to study, both synchronically and diachronically, the mosaic composed of these *gayr-i muslim* populations, and bring to light the communication channels within these populations, at least those discernible in their culture. To make a contrast, a paper on Greek Aljamiado literature presents the opposite phenomenon in the 19th century Balkans, with the Greek language being the *lingua franca* and the Muslims of Rumeli writing Greek in the Arabic alphabet.

Focusing always on the Turkish-speaking Orthodox Christian population, the *Karamanlis*, and its cultural product, the Karamanlidika printed material, the organizers of this one-day workshop bring together scholars from Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, England and Holland in their aspiration to emphasize some aspects of this particular manifestation of cultural life in the multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire, and thus stimulate research and debate on these literatures vanished for ever.