From the Editors

The nineteenth issue of our journal dedicated to interdisciplinary research on Ankara features articles on travel literature, migration history, memory and space, traditional housing and civil architecture, culture and art environments, rock paintings, and social history.

In scientific literature, rock paintings are often called petroglyphs. Rock paintings have been the subject of many research studies and have gained great prominence in Turkey in recent years. The first article focuses on the petroglyphs of Yandaklıdere found in Çağa village in Ankara’s Güdül district. Just like petroglyphs from periods of the Proto-Turkic, Scythian, Tashylk, Göktürk, and Akhun peoples who lived in the lands of Turkestan, the Yandaklıdere petroglyphs indicate that the Turks arrived in Anatolia quite early. This study offers a dating suggestion for the petroglyphs found within the borders of Ankara, which is quite significant in terms of the contribution of the city to the history of Anatolia.

A great deal of immigration to Turkey has taken place over recent years, predominantly from Syria, and in various circles we have witnessed discussions about policies towards this. Following the defeats and land losses of the Ottoman period, Anatolia received large waves of immigration, and Ankara became an important settlement area for immigrants. One of the studies in the current issue examines from various aspects the immigration that took place in Ankara during the Atatürk’s presidency—although this is not as intense as the one that occurred during the Ottoman era—with the impact of the population exchange and the settlement policies for the immigrants. We present a valuable study that illustrates how the Turkish capital is a model for the whole country with the exemplary villages established for immigrants.

Another study analyzes the traditional texture of civil architecture examples in Ankara’s Çubuk district and the changes it underwent, and it presents suggestions on contemporary conservation principles, which makes it is an important guide for decision makers. The article that aims to determine the locations of exhibitions in Ankara from 1950 and 2000 serves as a comprehensive reminder of the exhibition venues and galleries whose traces were erased in Ankara’s cultural and artistic memory.

Our publication occasionally features travel literature articles covering the dizzying transformation Ankara experienced after it became the capital. In this issue, we cover Italian writer, traveler, and journalist Antonio Baldini’s observations on the transformation of the city as discussed in his work Diagonale 1930, Parigi-Ankara, after his trip in 1930. We believe that the travel notes and observations of travelers from different countries are important for understanding from the outside the perspective of the young Republic and the new capital.

Through oral history, the study examines how daily life practices, social relations and spaces have changed in Ankara from the late 1940s to the present, how and why this change is reflected in daily life, and it also constitutes a remarkable interpretation through memory. The last article examines the changes in clothing habits that took place after the proclamation of the Republic, through the hat reform. The significance and impact of hats in society is depicted through two prominent hat shops in the city.

We hope you enjoy your reading.

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