



From the Editors

Dear readers,

Since the first months of 2020, in Turkey as everywhere else the Covid-19 pandemic has been increasingly disrupting educational activities, scientific research, as well as academic publishing. As the economic pressures increase, many periodicals today are trying to survive. Now, the power of scientific knowledge is needed more than ever, and we hope to quickly overcome these great difficulties.

Journal of Ankara Studies has continued its existence against all odds, and the issues published over the past 7 years have been a veritable storehouse of urban documentation for researchers. Although collectors can no longer acquire all printed issues, these are electronically accessible, which means the journal also operates as an archive.

The 16th issue of the journal presents to readers articles from various social science disciplines such as art history, architecture, landscape architecture, history, museum science, and literature.

In the current issue, one author interviews individuals doing various jobs in Çinçin Bağları and hypothesizes that the history of a locale is also the history of labor, and that there is a dialectical relationship between business and the city. Based on these, the author establishes a critical ground for urban transformation. The article, which will provide valuable insights to city administrators, aims to ensure that future urban transformation policies will proceed more slowly and more democratically based on this critical ground.

Another article uses a brand-new framework and method to discuss the history of Ankara, which was surrounded by vineyards until the 1950s, but has lost these and the culture associated with them to a great extent. Another interesting study examines Ankara goat breeding in the Ottoman Empire, which is another lost value, and relates the series of events that took place in 1908, as the Austrian government expressed interest in purchasing Ankara goats from the Ottoman Government for breeding in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The concept of Geographical Indication is the designation of the area, the region, or the country of origin of a product based on a distinct quality, reputation, or another characteristic. One of the articles in this issue examines products in Turkey and Ankara that received this designation, and in addition relates the traditional and contemporary approaches to the issue, which are important for the protection of cultural heritage.

Throughout history, many streams and rivers in Ankara dried up or were covered with concrete. The article lays out the environmental planning and management strategies for the regeneration of the Ankara Stream for the benefit of nature and the city. Another study in this issue identifies and documents the surviving examples of detached houses in Yenimahalle, which constitutes an important record for geography and architecture.

Yet another article discusses Ankara and Plato the Great Martyr, one of the most important saints of Galatia, whose cult was kept alive for centuries in the early Christian period. The article provides insights to researchers about the city of the period and Saint Plato, who is only rarely mentioned in sources. Additionally, researchers will be able to look at the importance of this saint in Byzantine Art. Another article touches on the history of the cemetery complex and the little chapel belonging to the Armenian Catholic community in Ankara, and it relates the fascinating story of the congregation who joined the Saint Teresa Latin Catholic Church after 1935.

Another study from this issue traces the changes of modern retail business in Ankara from the early Republican era to the 1980s and the spatial reflections of this process, through the cases of Sümerbank and Gima, which were frequented by all Ankara residents at some point. The article will also be a useful resource for researchers studying modern retailing and modernity.

The first of the two opinion articles in the current issue discusses the seals of the Commander in Chief and the Presidency of the Assembly, which on exhibition in the War of Independence Museum, while the second article by Ercüment Ekrem Talu studies the transformation that Ankara experienced from 1920 to 1940.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

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