

**A HISTORY OF
OTTOMAN POETRY.
VOLUME V**

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A History of Ottoman Poetry. Volume V by E. J. W. Gibb & Edward G. Browne

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E. J. W. GIBB & EDWARD G. BROWNE

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BY
THE LATE
E. J. W. GIBB, M. R. A. S.

VOLUME V

EDITED BY
EDWARD G. BROWNE, M. A., M. B.,
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لِلَّهِ كُنُوزٌ تَحْتِ الْعَرْشِ مَعَانِيكُهَا أَلْسِنَةُ الشُّعْرَاءِ

'God hath Treasuries aneath the Throne, the Keys  
whereof are the Tongues of the Poets.'

Hadis-i Sherff.

Ref. in. st.  
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## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

The publication of this fifth volume of the *History of Ottoman Poetry* brings to a close the more essential part of the obligation which I undertook, at the wish of the mother and the widow of my late friend, Mr. E. J. W. Gibb, now nearly six years ago, to edit and secure the publication of the great and masterly work to which his too brief life was devoted. All that he wrote is now accessible to the Orientalist, the scholar, the student of literary history and the general reader. Whatever else may be alleged against the Ottoman Turks, it can never again be asserted by the candid and impartial reader that they are, or ever have been, since their first appearance on the stage of history in the thirteenth century, indifferent to literature. On the contrary, their fault in our own days, as it seems to me, is that they pay too much attention to literature, and expect from it (I speak now especially of the Modern School, with the protagonists of which the present volume deals) a salvation and regeneration which it cannot give. I have lately been looking with some attention into the mass of Turkish tracts and pamphlets which belonged to my late friend, and which were, with other literary materials, placed at my disposal by Mrs. E. J. W. Gibb, and nothing connected with them has impressed me more than the glorification of Turkish men of letters, especially of Ziyá Pasha, Shinásí, Kemál



Bey, Ekrem Bey, Mu'allim Nájí, 'Abdu'l-Haqq Hámíd Bey and others of the modern leaders of Ottoman literature, and the minute and almost meticulous criticisms of their works which form so considerable a proportions of their contents. Again and again I have exclaimed to myself, "Would that the Turks had a literature comparable in value to those of the Arabs and Persians, and would that the Arabs and Persians had cultivated the art of literary criticism to a degree approaching that of the Ottoman Turks!"

It is, as I observed in the preface to the last volume (p. IX), a matter for profound regret that Gibb did not live to complete his account of the Modern School, with which he had a real sympathy, and for which he entertained a genuine admiration such as can hardly be found since his death outside Turkey. For this modern Ottoman literature, so far as Europe is concerned, is a kind of No Man's Land. The Orientalist by profession is disinclined to devote much time or labour to a literature which is not only quite modern but quasi-European, while the student of modern literary movements rarely possesses a sufficient knowledge of a language which, even in the simpler forms affected by the New School of Ottoman writers, remains more difficult than Arabic or Persian. Yet I begin to see (what I at first was disposed to doubt) that this modern Turkish literature has real value and merit; and, though I cannot myself hope to find leisure to exploit and appreciate it, I feel compelled to express an earnest hope that some other Turkish scholar may arise in Western Europe who will once and for all write its history and appraise its value.

Meanwhile I am still hopeful that Gibb's unfinished work may be completed by a very able Turkish man of letters, whose name I am not now at liberty to mention, and who has for some time been engaged on this work. Personally

acquainted with most of the leading spirits of the New School, knowing English well and French still better, and animated by a genuine enthusiasm for his work, he has already surveyed a large portion of the field which Gibb did not live to cultivate. Yet, owing to the atmosphere of suspicion which now broods over Constantinople, and, in particular, the disfavour with which the political ideas of the "Young Turks" (to whose ranks most of the adherents of the New School of Literature belong) are regarded, his task is one of extreme difficulty, since even the works of Kemál Bey, the brightest light of that school while he lived, are banned by the Government and can hardly be seen in Constantinople. That this supplement will be finished in time I have little doubt, but the date of its completion remains so uncertain that it seemed to me best to complete Gibb's work without further delay by publishing the three chapters which he had written on the Modern School, together with the very full and careful Indices prepared by my friend and colleague Mr. R. A. Nicholson; to follow up this fifth volume with a sixth containing the Turkish texts of all the poems translated by Gibb; and to add later the seventh volume containing my Turkish collaborator's supplement, should this be finished and safely reach my hands. The sixth volume, containing the Turkish texts, is, I may add, complete in manuscript, and is now in the press, whence 112 pages of it have already been received in type, so that, if all goes well, it should be published next year. I am glad to say that ultimately, after many a laborious search through the manuscripts, printed books and note-books of my late friend, I have succeeded in recovering the original texts of all the translations contained in these volumes without exception.

My labours are therefore almost finished, and I am thank-

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ful that this is so, and that I have so nearly fulfilled the arduous duty which I undertook in December, 1901. My chief regret is that my late friend's mother did not live to see the accomplishment of the work in which she took so profound and affectionate an interest; my chief satisfaction, that I have been enabled to render to a great and single-minded scholar, whose friendship and sympathy I shall ever remember with gratitude and pleasure, that service which of all others he would have valued most.

August 1, 1907.

EDWARD G. BROWNE.