

A glimpse into the treasure trove of miscellanies: mecmū'a manuscripts in the collections of the Austrian National Library

Abstract

Miscellany manuscripts (*mecmū'as*) are among the most demanding yet not fully studied sources of the Ottoman manuscript tradition. They bring together texts of varying genres, lengths, and languages; they offer insights into the intellectual, social, and material culture of their time. My lecture introduces a selection of *mecmū'as* preserved in the manuscript collections of the Austrian National Library. By highlighting their diversity in content and form, it wants to demonstrate the scholarly value of these manuscripts for various fields of research, ranging from literary studies to cultural history, from medicine to religious studies.

Bio

Gisela Procházka-Eisl is associate professor at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Vienna. Specialized on Ottoman manuscripts, literature and cultural history, and Ottoman press. Teaching modern and Ottoman Turkish, courses on aspects of literature and Ottoman culture. Her most recent publications include *Lehrbuch des Osmanischen* (V&R unipress, Bonn University Press, September 2025), a study grammar that offers a practical introduction to Ottoman original texts. She is the founder of the open-access journal *Keshif – E-journal for Ottoman-Turkish Micro-Editions*, which is dedicated exclusively to the publication of short Ottoman texts, such as “single poems, letters, contracts, and marginal notes of different, often private matters”:

<https://journals.univie.ac.at/index.php/keshif/index>

For further publications and activities, see: [Gisela Prochazka-Eisl - Universität Wien](#)