Establishment of the Türk Derneği
and its Activities
by Masami Arai

The Türk Derneği (Turkish Association), established in the end of 1908 owing to the initiative of Yusuf Akçura, was the first nationalist organisation in the Ottoman Empire. Until now, however, the study of this organisation and its journal was hardly carried out. Certainly, the number of its members was not so high. Nor did they agree with each other on the plan of activities; for example, some members carried out the simplification and purification of the Turkish language, but others did not. Furthermore, they did not publish any more than seven issues of their journal. However, this association must be examine carefully, because it consisted of both the Ottoman Turks and the Turks from Russia, i.e. this was first joint organisation of the Ottoman Turks and the Turks outside the Ottoman Empire. This paper attempts to analyze all the articles and poems put in the journal of the association in order to clarify the characteristics of Turkish nationalism.

All the articles and poems appearing in the journal can be classified into four groups: those concerning the present state of the Ottoman Turks, their history, the present state of Turks living outside the Ottoman Empire, and their history. The greater part of the articles and poems was concerned with the present state and the historical works of the Ottoman Turks. The problem of the Turkish language was also a common theme of many articles of this group. Moreover, the principle of Ottomanism was advocated in such articles.

On the other hand, the number of articles and poems concerning the Turks outside the Ottoman Empire was inconsiderable. But they emphatically asserted the close connection and even unity of the Turkic peoples involving both the Ottoman Turks and the Turks under Russian rule. Almost all the authors of these articles and poems either came from Russia or were connected with the Turks in Russia.

Such complexity in the journal was a reflection of the very nature of the association itself. Almost all the founding members of the association were Ottoman intellectuals, although it was established on the initiative of Yusuf
Akçura, an émigré from Russia. Therefore the journal was occupied by contributions of the Ottoman Turkish nationalists, whose main interest was in the political integration of the Ottoman state. Furthermore, the declaration (beyanneme) of the association advocated the idea of “the Ottoman nation” which Yusuf Akçura had already denied in his article “Üç Tarty-Siyaset” (Three Ways of Policy). Emigrés from Russia who had engaged in the political movement for the national integration of the Turkish peoples in order to free themselves from czarist rule could not undertake full activities in the Ottoman Empire immediately after the 1908 revolution. They searched for other organisations and periodicals to accomplish their purposes; the former was the Türk Otajı (Turkish Hearth), and the latter was the Türk Yardı (Turkish Homeland).

On the Collected Works of Mr. Yang Wên-jo

by Hiroshi Yosuno

This paper introduces the contents of the Yang Wên-jo hsien-sheng-chi 楊文銘先生集 (57 chüan, 34 ts’e, and a catalogue, in the collection of the Toyo Bunko).

In Japan research on the history of the Ming dynasty has been very weak in elucidating the history of the central government during Ch’ung-ch’èn 憲政 period (1628–44). Regards this topic, it is necessary, in the first place, to find out how the Ming government imposed many kinds of taxes upon the populace in order to raise the funds (called lian-hsiang 織納 and chiao-hsiang 剃納) needed for the Ming army to fight the Ch’ing army and the liu-tsei 為賊. The central bureaucrat who carried out these policies was Yang Ssu-ch’ang 楊嗣昌 the collected works of whom are the topic of this paper.

The collected works contain excellent source materials for understanding peasant rebellions in the late Ming dynasty. It describes the details of the large encircling operation called ssu-chéng liu-ou 四正六偶, the establishment of chiao-hsiang, and the submission of the liu-tsei to the Ming government. Moreover it contains two hundred and forty letters that Yang Ssu-ch’ang sent from the battle front in 1640. These letters are particu-