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Lars Johanson

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This obituary is dedicated to the memory of the Austrian Turcologist Andreas Tietze, who passed away on December 23, 2003.

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On December 23, 2003, the Austrian Turcologist Andreas Tietze died in Vienna of a cerebral haemorrhage. He was born in Vienna on 26 April 1914, shortly before the outbreak of the first World War. His father was the art historian Hans Tietze, who led the reorganization of the museums of Vienna after the war, and his mother was Erica Tietze-Conrat, a well-known art historian in her own right. Andreas Tietze is survived by his widow, Mrs. Süheyla Tietze (née Uyar), whom he married in 1952, and their four children, Filiz, Deniz, Nur and Ibrahim.

Andreas Tietze was granted honorary doctorships by Boğaziçi University and Konya University and was a member or honorary member of several learned societies, e.g. the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Turkish Historical Society (Türk Tarih Kurumu), the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA), and the Societas Uralo-

Altaica. Three *Festschriften* were presented to him, two on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, and one on his eightieth birthday. As late as November 2003, he received an award in Istanbul from the İslam Tarih, Sanat ve Kültür Araştırma Merkezi for his outstanding contributions to the study of the Turkish language.

Andreas Tietze enjoyed a good education. He attended primary school in Grinzing and the Piaristengymnasium, where he passed his matriculation exam in 1932. At the University of Vienna, he studied economic history with Alfons Dopsch as well as East European history, Balkan history, Slavic languages, Turkish, Persian and Arabic. After archival studies in Italy he wrote his Ph.D. thesis on the agricultural problems of Italian mercantilism (“Agrarprobleme im italienischen Merkantilismus”) and received his doctorate in 1937.

This was a dark period in the modern history of Austria. Already in 1934, as a young student, Andreas Tietze had witnessed the “July uprising” in Vienna. Given his Jewish background and his left-wing sympathies he chose to move to Istanbul in 1937 in order to escape Nazi persecution. One year later, Austria’s “Anschluss” forced his parents to emigrate to the United States.

The young scholar had become increasingly interested in Turkish language and history. He had already travelled extensively in Central, West and Southwest Anatolia. In Turkey he started to work in the field of Turcology. In 1938 he was appointed lecturer in German and English at the Edebiyat Fakültesi of Istanbul University, and remained in that function for many years without obtaining a position more adequate for Turcological research. In 1949 he worked as Assistant Professor in Turkish studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and from 1952 to 1953 he spent one year as guest professor at the same university. In 1958 he was invited to UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) to teach Turkish and Ottoman language and literature. He stayed in Los Angeles for fifteen years, acting as the head of the department of Middle Eastern Studies from 1966 to 1970. After a guest professorship in Vienna in 1971, he decided to return to his native country. In 1973 Andreas Tietze was appointed Full Professor of Turcology and Islamic Studies (Turkologie und Islamkunde) at Vienna University.

Andreas Tietze’s years in Istanbul constituted a very important and prolific phase in his life. He became acquainted with many leading scholars, e.g. Adnan Adıvar and Hellmut Ritter. He was not able to work on the old manuscripts of the rich Istanbul libraries since all the valuable materials there had been removed to Anatolia during the war. Instead, he focused on research in the living language and published numerous works on dialects, folk literature, the development of Turkish, its grammar, its relations to other languages, etc. Many of his papers appeared in the journal *Oriens*. He also published a Turkish reader for foreigners, *Türkisches Lesebuch für Ausländer* (1943). Tietze was, from the very beginning, one of the members of the editorial committee of the revised edition of Sir James Walter Redhouse’s *A Turkish and English lexicon* (Constantinople 1890). After two decades of preparation, the *Redhouse yeni Türkçe-İngilizce sözlük* was finally printed in 1968. In 1958, Tietze

published, together with Henry and Renée Kahane, the seminal book *The lingua franca of the Levant. Turkish nautical terms of Italian and Greek origin*.

During his years in the USA, Tietze wrote a number of studies on Turkish folklore as well as on philological and linguistic topics, e.g. a book on the riddles in the Codex Cumanicus, *The Koman riddles and Turkish folklore* (1966) and, with İlhan Başgöz, *Bilmece, a corpus of Turkish riddles* (1973). He also produced teaching materials such as *Turkish literary reader* (1963) and *Advanced Turkish reader. Texts in the social sciences and related fields* (1973).

The years in Vienna were a highly fruitful phase of Tietze's activities. He published a book on the Turkish shadow theatre (1977), and, together with Avedis Sanjian, a study of *Eremya Chelebi Kömürjian's Armeno-Turkish poem 'The Jewish Bride'* (1981). He started researching the works of the famous 16th century Ottoman historiographer Gelibolulu Mustafa Ali and edited two of his major works, *Muştafâ 'Âlî's description of Cairo of 1599* (1975) and *Muştafâ 'Âlî's counsel for sultans of 1581* (two volumes, 1979, 1982). In 1991, Tietze edited *Akabi Hikayesi. İlk Türkçe roman (1851)*, written by the Armenian Vartan Paşa, the first Turkish novel modelled on a European literary pattern. He also initiated and edited (1975-1984) the *Turkologischer Anzeiger/Turkology Annual*, which was to become the major bibliographical source for Turkish studies. From 1973 to 1983 he was the editor of *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde der Morgenlandes*. In a series of publications from 1982 on, Tietze dealt with what he called "Abdalology", investigations into the origin and language of the so-called Abdal groups in Anatolia and in China. In 1994, he published, together with Otto Ladstätter, the book *Die Abdal (Äynu) in Xinjiang*; cf. Peter Bakker's review in *Turkic Languages* 1 (1997), 144-146.

Apart from text editions and dictionary work, Tietze wrote numerous important contributions to the knowledge of Turkish language and culture, documenting remarkably wide interests in various fields. One specific characteristic is his interest in the living language. His preferred topics included lexicography and lexicology, loanwords from Persian, Arabic, Greek, Slavic and other European languages in Turkish, the influence of Turkish on other languages, problems of syntax, morphology, word formation, phraseology, stylistics, the principles and practise of editing texts, folk literature (shadow theatre, riddles), and the cultural and intellectual history of Turkey. In 1983, Tietze published a pioneering study in which he cites 226 phraseological usages of the word *burun* 'nose'. His works on syntax deal with the "free genitive", integration of direct speech, "erlebte Rede", the use of conditionals, passive-medioreflexives, possessive and plural suffixes, focus functions, etc. One of his last articles deals with the neutralization of syntactic rules in poetry as exemplified by Ottoman metrical poetry (1994). Though he mostly dealt with Ottoman-Turkish, he possessed a profound erudition in general Turkology.

Andreas Tietze also translated literary works from and into Turkish. He thus published *Die Ölweide. Neuere türkische Erzählungen* (1964) and contributions to *Die Pforte des Glücks und andere türkische Erzählungen* (1969). In 1948, he

translated, together with Behçet Necatigil, Rainer Maria Rilke's novel *Die Aufzeichnungen des Malte Laurids Brigge* into Turkish.

With his valuable contributions to Turcology, Tietze very early gained a reputation as a leading scholar in the field. In Turkey he was known as the foremost foreign specialist on Turkish: "Türk dilinin en önemli yabancı uzmanı". He loved the Turkish language, which he mastered with stylistic perfection. He possessed all the knowledge necessary to deal with the complex cultural history of Turkey. He was able to use Latin, Greek, Byzantine, Arabic and Persian sources and he was familiar with a dozen modern languages. He was a highly intelligent, systematic and hard-working scholar. His work and personality have had a deep impact far beyond the three countries where he worked, Turkey, the United States and Austria. He was an inspiring and admired colleague and teacher who treated all his interlocutors with the same respect and friendliness. He was a modest, generous person, without a whit of professorial conceit, always prepared to listen attentively and to give inspiration, encouragement and assistance. I myself made his acquaintance in 1971, when he, to my astonishment, wrote me several letters with valuable comments to my book on Turkish aspect and offered me help at the start of my scholarly career. Like so many others in my generation, I later learnt very much from this remarkable scholar and human being.

As already mentioned, Andreas Tietze had very early done intensive research on Turkish lexicology and published a series of articles on Greek, Slavic, Arabic, Persian and other loanwords in Turkish. Most of these articles have now been reprinted in *Wörterbuch der griechischen, slavischen, arabischen und persischen Lehnwörter im anatolischen Türkisch / Anadolu Türkçesindeki Yunanca, İslavca, Arapça ve Farsça ödünçlemeler sözlüğü* (1999). Tietze continued his lexicological studies over the years, collecting a wealth of data from Ottoman and Turkish texts. In the 1980s he planned to publish an etymological dictionary together with Johannes Benzing. As the conceptions of the two scholars turned out to be too different to serve as a basis for cooperation, both continued their individual work according to their own ideas. In 1991, Tietze decided to publish his large collections. This resulted in highly intensive activities during the last phase of his scholarly life. It was clear to me that this broad project, whose development I followed from a distance, could only be carried out by a scholar such as Tietze with his unique philological and linguistic experience. In order to work efficiently, he needed young assistants who could take over some of the editorial work. He succeeded in choosing good collaborators with the relevant qualifications and adequate linguistic knowledge.

The aim of this project was to compile an etymological dictionary that also dealt with the Ottoman-Turkish vocabulary in its historical and contact-induced development. The focus was on the morphological, syntactic, phraseological and stylistic characterization of the vocabulary, with detailed chronological information and rich examples of the contextual use of the words. The lexemes were extracted from written sources ranging from the earliest Old Anatolian Turkish documents to contemporary Turkish literary texts. One specific intention was to shed light on the less

known vocabulary of older periods. The material included texts representing dialects of various regions, social groups and cultural milieus.

Tietze himself gave an account of the earlier stage of the project in “Der türkeitürkische Wortschatz”, *Archivum Ottomanicum* 14 (1996), 5-37. Helga Anetshofer provides detailed information on the first volume in “Some remarks on Andreas Tietze’s forthcoming Turkish lexicon” in *Turkic Languages* 2 (1998), 284-307.

The first volume of the lexicon, which was to carry the title “Türkiye Türkçesi söz hazinesi. Etimoloji, dil tarihi, sözyapılışı” (Turkish vocabulary. Etymology, language history, and word formation), was ready for publication in 1998. It appeared four years later, comprising 763 pages, now under the title *Tarihi ve etimolojik Türkiye Türkçesi lugatı. Sprachgeschichtliches und etymologisches Wörterbuch des Türkei-Türkischen*, volume 1: A-E, published by Simurg Kitabevi and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Istanbul and Wien 2002). Thirteen younger scholars assisted the editor: Ben Tietze, Helga Anetshofer, Kerstin Tomenendal, İnanç Feigl, Sena Doğan, Diana Karabinova, Hakan T. Karateke, Can Etker, Walter Scheithauer, Şule Pfeiffer-Taş, Walter Posch, Antonios Koliadis and Sevim Yılmaz-Önder.

The result is an amazingly informative etymological and historical dictionary that gives detailed definitions of the lexemes in stylistic, morphological and syntactic terms as well as rich references. While the etymologies do not include reconstructions of hypothetical Turkic forms and lists of all corresponding words in other Turkic languages, the volume does contain numerous valuable paragraphs that summarize information on a wide range of topics: cultural history, linguistic variation, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, etc.

Thus, one huge step has been taken towards the accomplishment of the project. On December 30, 1992, at the age of 78, Andreas Tietze wrote me that he had decided to publish a kind of etymological dictionary *sui generis* based on his articles on the lexicon of Ottoman-Turkish. In one year, however, he had barely finished the letter A. He knew that he would never accomplish this work, but he would, as he said, be happy if he could live long enough to see the “end” of the first volume:

“Vor einem Jahr habe ich beschlossen, meine (veröffentlichten und noch unveröffentlichten) Arbeiten zur Lexik des Osmanisch-Türkeitürkischen ergänzend zusammenzufassen zu einer Art etymologischem Wörterbuch (aber allerdings *sui generis*). In einem Jahr bin ich nur ganz wenig über den Buchstaben A hinausgekommen (A allein hat fast 400 Seiten). Ich weiß natürlich, daß ich das Werk niemals fertigstellen werde, aber wenn ich wenigstens das Ende des erstens Bandes (A – C oder Ç) noch erleben kann, werde ich mich glücklich fühlen (ich werde demnächst 79).”

Tietze lived long enough to see a first volume appear that even includes the letter E. The dictionary is planned to comprise six huge volumes plus an index volume. It will be an indispensable tool for anybody dealing with older and more recent Turkish

sources. It will be of highest value for the knowledge of the history of Turkish language and culture, and it will inspire and facilitate further studies in these fields. It is of utmost importance that this extraordinary dictionary be accomplished according to Andreas Tietze's intentions and on the basis of his own comprehensive preparatory work.