## The Joys of Philology: Studies in Ottoman Literature, History and Orientalism (1500-1923)

Poetry, Histogriography, Biography and Autobiography

## Jan Schmidt





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Jan Schmidt, born in 1951 in Arnhem, the Netherlands, studied History and Middle Eastern Languages and Culture at Leiden University off and on between the years 1969 to 1985. He obtained his doctorate in 1992 upon publication of a dissertation in which he proposed a new interpretation of the magnum opus of Mustafa Ali of Gallipoli, *Kunhu l-ahbar*, written in the 1590s.

The author taught, among other things, at secundary schools in the Netherlands, and was later Lecturer in Turkish and Ottoman Studies at Manchester University, England. He also did research work in the field of Ottoman linguistics, history, and literature for Leiden University, and is at present cataloguer of the Turkish manuscripts kept in the Leiden University Library. His interests cover a wide span of subjects, but is mainly focused on Ottoman history and literature as well as the contacts, political and cultural, between the Ottoman Empire and the West in the 16th to early 20th centuries.

## CONTENTS

trodu	ction
art O	ne. Poetry
1.	Poets and Poetry in mid 17th-century Istanbul: Additions to the
	Dīvān of Fā'zī by the Copyist Yaḥyā Efendi and Others in John
	Rylands Library MS Turkish 81
2.	Fāzil Beg Enderūnī, Social Historian or Poet?
3.	Sünbülzāde Vehbī's Şevķ-engīz; An Ottoman Pornographic
	Poem
4.	The Poet Mehmed Eşref Between Sultan and Shah
1.	The Egri Campaign of 1596; Military History and the Problem of Sources
2.	Mustafā 'Ālī of Gallipoli, A Moralistic Littérateur on History and the Contemporary Ottoman World
art T	hree. Biography and Autobiography
1.	The Historian as Biographer: Mustafā 'Ālī of Gallipoli's
	Biographies
2.	Ottoman Autobiographical Texts in the Leiden University Library
3.	The Adventures of an Ottoman Horseman: the Autobiography
	of Kabudh Vasfi Efendi 1800-1825

