GLOSSARY
Glossary

**akhəs**: calligraphic paper whose writing area and margins are dyed different colours

**ahlâmi sificate**: the ʿāli, kasāh, muhak, rehāhi, tesāhi, and ḫib script, together known as the six scripts

**aşere gülü**: rosette that appears after every ten verses of the Qurʾan

**bābāli rıkası**: method used in Ottoman government offices for writing the rıkı script

**berat**: document granting an imperial title, privilege, or property

**besmele**: 'In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful': the first sentence of the Qurʾan, and the invocation that occurs at the beginning of all but one of its chapters

**şakmak mühre**: paper burnisher

**cedvel**: ruled gold frame surrounding the text of a calligraphic work; also a gilded line separating poetic verses or elements in a āti

**celi**: scripts (with the exception of āti ḫan) written larger than their normal size, with a broad-nibbed pen, or enlarged by means of squaring

**celi divânı**: version of the divân script written with vowels, reading signs, and decorative features, and used only for the most significant documents and proclamations of the Ottoman state

**şihârâr**: the first four caliphs (successors of the Prophet) Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, also called the Four Friends, whose names often appear on hilās

**čı**: one of thirty sections of the Qurʾan, generally twenty pages each

**Delâlî-ʾl-Hayrat**: handbook of prayers for the Prophet

**divânı**: script that evolved from old Persian ṭāʾī, in Ottoman 'Turkey, its use was restricted to the Imperial Council of State

**divis**: portable inkwell and penholder

**durâşı**: rosette-style decoration occurring between each verse of the Qurʾan, as well as between the sentences of the hilye text; also used to punctuate ḥadīt

**ebru**: Turkish marbled paper

**elif**: first letter of the Arabic alphabet, tall and vertical in shape (Arabic spelling: ʾalif)

**Enʾām**: The Cattle; chapter 6 of the Qurʾan, frequently written as a separate volume

**Enʾām-ı Şerif**: collection of chapters from the Qurʾan

**etek**: bottom portion of a hilye containing the second part of the hilye text, a prayer for the Prophet, and the calligrapher’s signature

**Fatiha**: opening chapter of the Qurʾan

**ferman**: imperial edict

**Four Friends**: see şihârâr

**gōbê**: central cartouche in which the first part of the hilye text is written

**haes**: title conferred on one who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca

**ḥadîs**: sayings and deeds of the Prophet recorded by his companions

**hafiz**: one who has memorized the Qurʾan

**halkârî**: type of illumination in which the motifs are painted in a wash of gold ink and outlined in full-strength gold ink

**harekâ**: vowel signs used in writing the Arabic script

**hâtime**: colophon

**hilâl**: crescent that often surrounds the gōbê on a hilye

**hilye**: loha composed of a text describing the Prophet Muhammad

**hilye-i saâdet**: 'the felicitous hilye', term describing the complete hilye text

**husb gülü**: rosette that occurs after every five pages of the Qurʾan

**hok**: inkwell

**hurde (or hafi) taʾlík**: small version of the Ottoman taʾlík script, used for literary works and collections of poetry, and for fiṭās (opinions on Islamic canon law)
GLOSSARY

and əzəfəs (endowment deeds)

içaet: calligraphy teacher’s
authorization for the student to
sign his own name to his work;
also the script (see nəfə) in which
the teacher notes his approval on
the permission document

içaet ceremony (içaet cemiyeti):
assembly, usually in a mosque, at
which a student who has earned
the içaet is presented to a jury of
master calligraphers

içaet kəsəs: kəsə written by a
calligraphy student to obtain his
içaet

içaetnəme: document, most
often in the form of an içaet kəsən,
certifying the holder to practice as
a professional

iç pervaz: inner border of a kəsə or
nəfə

İstit: calligraphic composition

kədər: judge of Islamic law

kədəskər: supreme judge

kalp: stencil used in the
production of large-scale
calligraphic works and inscriptions

kərsələmə: calligrapher’s practice
piece

kərəma diyənə: shorthand version
of divən script

kənə: small calligraphic work,
usually rectangular, and generally
using two scripts (one large and
one small) or əzəfə script alone

kəf: tail-like projection growing
out of, and to the right of, the
ovals of the təşərə; also called the
höner

kələxə: rectangular or triangular
space in əzəfə, nəfəs, and lehəs that
allows for the arrangement of
longer lines of a larger script with
shorter lines of a smaller script;
often decorated

kərəkələ murəkkəba: accordion
album

kəbur: cylindrical penholder

kərsə: monogram proper in the
təşərə; also called the sərə

kərəs: piaster; unit of Ottoman
currency

levə: large-scale calligraphic
composition, most commonly in the
cənənən and cənənən scripts, that
can be framed and hung in
mosques, offices, and homes

ləkə: wad of raw silk used in an
inkwell to absorb ink

məsəl kənəs: kənə in which the
writing slants upward, from the
lower right to the upper left

məkətə: pen-cutting slab

mənəsun: imperial appointment

məşə: lesson, practice work, or
sample for study

məşə kəsəs: calligraphic-exercise
kənə

məsələ: envelope flap attached to
the back of an Islamic binding that
protects the edge of the book and
can be tucked between the pages to
serve as a bookmark

məşəfədət exercises: elementary
calligraphy exercises consisting of
single and paired letters

məşəfədət kəsəs: kəsə consisting of
məşəfədət exercises

məşəfədət meşə: lesson in writing
single and paired letters

məxəkkə: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 2 millimeters
(3/32 inch) wide; used for copying
large-format Qur’ans (until the
sixteenth century) and for writing
the bəltə

murəkkəba: calligraphic album

məşəkkətəbət exercises: advanced
calligraphic exercises consisting of
combinations of letters

məşəkkətəbət kəsəs: kəsə consisting of
məşəkkətəbət exercises
məşəkkətəbət meşə: lesson in
combining letters in words and
sentences

məşəfə: the Qur’an in a single
volume

nəsə: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 1 millimeter
(9/64 inch) wide; favored in
Ottoman calligraphy for copying
the Qur’an; also used in writing
əzəfəs (endowment deeds)

nesətəlik: Persian name for the
Ottoman nəfə script

reisə-t-bəltə: chief of the
calligraphers
ment deeds)
teacher's
student to
to his work;
next' in which
is approval on
ment
carpet emajeti):
as a mosque,
has earned
2d to a jury of
's
written by a
to obtain his
ment, most
of an iraqi le’oan
or to practice as
order of a le’o or
composition
nic law
e judge
in the
er inscriptions
pher's practice
rhand version
philic work,
and generally
me large and
script alone
ct growing
out of, and to the right of, the
ovals of the tiga; also called the
haner
koltuk: rectangular or triangular
space in le’as, le’as, and lehbas that
allows for the arrangement of
longer lines of a larger script with
shorter lines of a smaller script;
only decorated
kareklıllı muarakka: accordion
album
kubur: cylindrical penholder
kursu: monogram proper in the
tiga; also called the sere
kurus: piaster; unit of Ottoman
currency
levha: large-scale calligraphic
composition, most commonly in
the cct safa and cct ta’ik scripts. That
can be framed and hung in
mosques, offices, and homes
lika: wad of raw silk used in an
inkwell to absorb ink
ma’al kut’a: le’a in which the
writing slants upward, from the
lower right to the upper left
makta: pen-cutting slab
mena: imperial appointment
meṣk: lesson, practice work, or
sample for study
meṣk kut’a: calligraphic—exercise
kut’a
mikleb: envelope flap attached to
the back of an Islamic binding that
protects the edge of the book and
can be tucked between the pages to
serve as a bookmark
müfredat exercises: elementary
calligraphy exercises consisting of
single and paired letters
müfredat kut’a: kut’a consisting of
müfredat exercises
müfredat meṣk: lesson in writing
single and paired letters
mubakkak: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 1 millimeter
(3/64 inch) wide; used for copying
large-format Qur’ans until the
sixteenth century; and for writing the
tema
muarakka: calligraphic album
mürekkebi exercises: advanced
calligraphic exercises consisting of
combinations of letters
mürekkebi kut’a: kut’a consisting of
mürekkebi exercises
mürekkebi meṣk: lesson in
combining letters in words and
sentences
musbal: the Qur’an in a single
volume
nesh: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 1 millimeter
(3/64 inch) wide; favored in
Ottoman calligraphy for copying the
Qur’an; also used in writing
sokufs (endowment deeds)
nesalıkk: Persian name for the
Ottoman tur’ik script
reisülhätısin: chief of the calligraphers
reisülhätısin mahkemesi: chief of the Islamic
religious establishment
reisvements: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 1 millimeter
(3/64 inch) wide; a smaller-scale
version of the muhakkik script; used
until the sixteenth century for
copying small-format Qur’ans
risb (or rik): fine, colored sand
sprinkled over writing to dry it
risdına: container for risb powder
risık: script for daily use not
considered worthy of artistic treatment
risık: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 1 millimeter
(3/64 inch) wide; a smaller-scale
version of the tıik script; mainly
used for official purposes and
rarely for copying manuscripts;
also called isiç script
Rumelia: European territory of the
Ottoman Empire
sancak: banner or standard; also a
division of a province in the
Ottoman Empire
sa’î: ‘persevere’; a device
representing this exhortation
appears between the lines of
writing in calligraphic exercises
sökavs: symbols in red ink,
added by the calligrapher to
indicate stops, pauses, and other
elements in the recitation of the
Qur’an
secde gül: rosette in the border of
a page of the Qur’an marking
where the reader is required to
prostrate himself
şemse: sunburst design stamped
into a leather binding
şemset kap: classic Ottoman
bookbinding using the şemset
design, alone or in combination
with other motifs, on embossed
leather decorated with gold
serlevha: symmetrical double-page
illumination opening a Qur’an
şeyh: sheikh
şeyhülislâm: highest Islamic
authority in the Ottoman state
suyid: descendant of the Prophet
six scripts: see alâm-ı nite
sültün: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 2 millimeters
(3/32 inch) wide; used, particularly
favored by Ottoman calligraphers
süre bas: chapter heading
taklid: imitation of the work of
other calligraphers as a method of
education, to receive the isçipt, or
as a token of homage
takos: ‘check’; extra strip of paper,
illumination, or ebru added to a
calligraphic work, ‘propping up’
the work in the manner of a check
tulik: delicate script (unrelated to
the old Persian script of the same
name) written with a pen whose
nib is 2 millimeters (3/32 inch)
wide; largely used for writing kirs
tashik kalamiyatsı: correction
knife
tevkit: one of the group of six
scripts, written with a pen whose
nib is approximately 2 millimeters
(3/32 inch) wide; mainly used for
official purposes and rarely for
copying manuscripts
tumara: scroll; also the very large
script and pen for writing on a
scroll
tugra: sultan’s calligraphic emblem
tugra key: writer of tugs
unvan sahi aler: single illuminated
opening page
veis: one of the sultan’s
ministers; the grand vezir was the
sultan’s chief minister
zahriye: frontispiece
zer-enderdid: method using a stencil
to produce levha in gold ink or
gold leaf
BLACKSMITHING AND CALLIGRAPHY IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

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