



Foreword

This volume is comprised of the articles focusing on different aspects and works of Oscar Wilde that arose out of the presentations of the “One Day, Oscar Wilde Conference” held at Hacettepe University in 2014 with the collaboration of the Embassy of Ireland and Trinity Foundation.

The aim of the volume is to bring together the work of the scholars in Turkey who specialise in and have publications on the works of Oscar Wilde and the guest speaker Julia Rosenthal to provide a compendium of research on the diverse aspects of his works. Oscar Wilde, who is famous for his wit, epigrammatic sayings and colourful and extraordinary personality can be said to be basically known with his plays but he is a prolific writer who has written in the genres of novel, short story, poetry, fairy tales, essays, drama and what he himself defines as prose poems. The articles in this volume discuss various aspects of his works in different genres, and approach his works from different and novel perspectives.

Also, we will have the chance to see how Oscar Wilde has fared in Turkey and Turkish. In fact quite a number of his plays have been translated into Turkish, some more than once by different translators. Some of his plays have been staged in Turkish by the State Theatre, especially in the last two decades. Some of his prose works have been staged as plays. His long ballad and last poetic work *The Ballad of Reading Goal* has been translated more than once. And, interestingly enough his shorter prose work *The Happy Prince* has been included in the hotly debated 100 Essential Literary Works list approved by the Ministry of Education in 2005. His witty sayings have been anthologised in various “wise sayings” collections.

Why Wilde?

The first article by Julia Rosenthal, an antiquarian and bookdealer, takes a look at Wilde's life, works and his possessions especially written works to provide a different perspective to the studies in the volume. Berrin Aksoy in her article provides an indepth examination of how Oscar Wilde's works were regarded and translated in Turkey, especially concentrating on the earlier years. Huriye Reis provides a study of Oscar Wilde's poetic works calling attention to the fact that as much as he shaped poems he was also shaped by his poems. Lerzan Gültekin gives a detailed analysis of the writers only novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in the light of Aesthetic movement. Özlem Uzundemir reads the same novel so as to shed light on the ideas of the writer about art and literature. Laurence Raw in his article approaches the novel through the dynamics and power exercise strategies of colonialism. Zeynep Atayurt Fenge discusses two of the dramatic works of Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *A Woman of No importance* in the light of food culture. The last article which is by Neslihan Ekmekcioğlu focuses on the fairytales of the writer arguing that in these works the writer is in fact subverting the values of his time.

I hope that this volume will contribute to the studies of Oscar Wilde by providing new approaches and ways of reading his works as well as presenting new material in the field.

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2016