

## **A Turkish delegate at the Norwegian-Swedish Orientalist congress in 1889**

The travelogue *Avrupa'da bir Cevelan* (Istanbul 1890) by the Turkish writer Ahmed Midhat (1844–1912) contains interesting impressions from Stockholm, Uppsala, and Christiania.

### **About the project**

Uppsala University is probably the Scandinavian institution that is in possession of the richest collection of Ottoman Turkish manuscripts, books, paintings and other objects brought to Sweden especially between the 16th and 18th century, i.e. in the period when The Ottoman Empire and Sweden were allies. Researchers at Uppsala are now planning a project in order to make the old Swedish-Turkish relations more visible. In this connection I am going to participate in the preparation of a book documenting these relations.

My participation will consist of a study of the International Orientalist Congress that took place in Stockholm and Christiania in 1889. One of the participants was the Ottoman writer Ahmed Midhat (1844–1912), who during and after his visit wrote a long travelogue about his journey to Europe (*Avrupa'da bir Cevelan*, Istanbul 1890), of which the greater part is devoted to his experiences in Sweden and Norway, giving an interesting picture of the impression Scandinavia and the Scandinavians made on a Turk at that time.

Other chapters of the book will be devoted to manuscripts and miniatures at the Carolina Rediviva library, Ottoman/Turkish-related activities at Uppsala University through the centuries, etc. The book is planned to appear in 2016/2017.