Hamburg is playing host to a unique exhibition of Ottoman manuscripts belonging to some of the city's museums and other collections. The exhibits represent the plurality of manuscript cultures mirroring the different ethnic groups, languages and religions which coexisted in the Ottoman Empire until its dissolution in the early 20th century. The exhibition focuses on manuscripts containing Ottoman Turkish texts written in Arabic script. They are a striking testament to how the handwritten form permeated everyday life far beyond traditional book culture. Decrees and accounts books demonstrate the indispensable role of handwriting in the highly bureaucratic state administration, while intricately crafted objects such as calendar scrolls, medals and tableaus provide a frame for the handwritten word or accentuate the beauty of the writing. The visual appearance of books printed since the early 18th century also clearly illustrates the importance of handwriting until well into the second half of the 19th century.

The exhibition is part of the Turkologentag 2016 (14–17 September 2016), which is being hosted by the Society for Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies (GTOT e. V.) and the Department of Turkish Studies at the University of Hamburg. The exhibition will be accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue published by the collaborative research centre "Manuscript Cultures in Asia, Africa and Europe" (SFB 950), University of Hamburg, in their academic journal, manuscript cultures, and will be available both in print and on the internet via open access.

We would particularly like to thank the Hamburg State and University Library, the Museum of Arts and Crafts Hamburg, the International Maritime Museum Hamburg, the Museum of Ethnology Hamburg, the Hamburg Museum, the Hamburg State Archive, Asia and Africa Institute Library, University of Hamburg, the Manuscript and Oriental Departments of the Berlin State Library – Prussian Heritage, the Bremen State and University Library, the Bavarian State Library Munich as well as Claus-Peter Haase, Tobias Heinzelmann and Roland Marti; the exhibition would not have been possible without their generous loans.
Wonders of Creation

OTTOMAN MANUSCRIPTS
IN HAMBURG COLLECTIONS

Exhibition from 16 September – 30 October 2016

Hamburg State and University Library Carl von Ossietzky
Von-Melle-Park 3, 20146 Hamburg, phone (040) 428 38-58 57
Monday to Friday 9 am – 12 pm, Saturday & Sunday 10 am – 12 pm

Curators:
Janina Karolewski, SFB 950
Yavuz Köse, Turkish Studies, University of Hamburg

Admission free. Donations to the Gesellschaft der Freunde der Bibliothek will be greatly appreciated. stabi.hamburg/gdf

The picture on the front shows Cod. orient. 342, 83v

Official opening of the exhibition

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend the opening of the exhibition on Thursday, 15 September 2016 at 7 pm in the atrium of the library (entrance at corner of Edmund-Siemers-Allee and Grindelallee).

Programme
Welcome: Antje Theise,
Special Collections Advisor, Hamburg State and University Library
Opening address: Prof Dr Jörg Quenzer,
SFB 950 “Manuscript Cultures in Asia, Africa and Europe”
Prof Dr Yavuz Köse, Turkish Studies, University of Hamburg
Lecture: Prof Dr Claus-Peter Haase,
Free University of Berlin/Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin
‘Property obliges – early Islamic manuscript collections in Hamburg and other North German libraries’
Please join the Friends of the Library for a glass of wine after the official opening ceremony.