



Prof. Dr. Jale BAYSAL
(1925 - 2009)

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Prof. Dr. Jale BAYSAL was born in 1925 to teacher parents in Kayseri Turkey, a city situated Central Anatolia. Upon graduating from Kayseri High School, she started her college life at Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Turkish Language and Literature. During her studies there, she wrote stories and novels. After receiving her degree in 1948, she started working at Beyazit State Library. Transferring to the Library of the Department of Art History at the Faculty of Letters in 1951, Baysal worked there for 11 years. She took charge in the foundation of the General Library at the Faculty of Letters first as expert and then as manager. She started working with Prof. Macit Gokberk Faculty Dean of the time, and Prof. Rudolf Juchhof, founder of the Librarianship Chair who was invited from Germany in 1963. Being one of the first PhD students of the department, she participated in the foundation of the department. In 1968, she completed her PhD thesis titled *Books Published by the Ottoman Turks from Müteferrika until the first Constitutional Monarchy*. Then she went to Germany and started working on ‘documentation.’ On her return, she participated in the works carried out by TÜRDOK (Turkish Documentation Centre). Carrying on her academic studies at the Department of Librarianship, Dr. Baysal became an associate professor in 1972 with her work titled *Official Administration Libraries* and then became a professor in 1978 with her work titled *New Tools, Methods, Concepts in the Field of Librarianship*. Her works titled *History of Books and Libraries, Management and Legislation* were published. With seven colleagues, Baysal founded the İstanbul Branch of the Turkish Librarians’ Association, in which she was a member since its foundation, and chaired the branch between 1965 and 1967.

Jale Baysal continued her duty as the head of the department from 1974 until her retirement in 1994. She was one of the founders of the foundation named **Library of Women Works and Information Center** established in 1990. She was also one of the founders of **History Foundation** established in 1991 by 264 intellectuals. She participated in activities of **Association for Supporting Contemporary Life (ÇYDD)** as the member of Editorial Board until 2006. She wrote many stories, radio sketches and plays as a literature lover in addition to her activities in several professional and scientific publications including *TKDB/Turkish Librarianship* journal. Some examples of her works include the book *Values of Modern Society* published by ÇYDD, the play *on İbrahim Müteferrika** and *After the School* which is a children’s book. The book named *Mind and Heart/ Testimony of a Republic Woman: Jale Baysal* including interviews of Prof. Hasan S. Keseroğlu is on the life of Jale Baysal.

In *The Memories of a Dinosaur*, the deceased Prof. Mina URGAN describes Jale Baysal, who is the mother of Prof. Ayşe Buğra- an academician in Bogazici University, as her friend “*who knows everything due to her expertise as a librarian*”. Her family and friends portray her as “*a modest close friend sensitive to life and social events and a nice person who avoids gossip*”. Baysal passed away in August 11th, 2009 in Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine Hospital where she was treated for Alzheimer.

We dedicate our respects in her memory.

*Translator’s note: *İbrahim Müteferrika* (1674 – 1745) was a Transylvanian-born Ottoman polymath: A publisher, printer, courtier, diplomat, man of letters, astronomer, historian, historiographer, Islamic scholar and theologian, sociologist, and the first Muslim to run a printing press with movable Arabic type. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Muteferrika reached in October 28 2009).