The present survey is devoted to the professionally active specialists in Ottoman history who are working now in the academic, scientific and cultural institutions which are located in the two largest Russian cities, Saint Petersburg and Moscow. Since the history of Ottoman studies in Russia has been already covered by a number of previous observers, and there are quite a few general reference works of great importance, the present authors will focus their attention here on the latest developments in the field. As such, this modest survey can be regarded as a supplement to the work carried out by the late Professor Yuri A. Petrosyan (died in 2011) who included in his book, which appeared posthumously, many bio-bibliographical entries dedicated to the

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Russian and Soviet historians of the Ottoman empire. Needless to say, the authors of the present survey express their personal views of the current situation which are based entirely on their own professional experience as well as on the selected bibliography they have at their disposal.

The beginning of Ottoman studies in Saint Petersburg dates back to 22 December 1722 (Old Style), when the Russian translation from Latin of Demetrius Cantemir’s “The System of the Mohammedan Faith” was published here. In the following century professors of the University of Saint Petersburg, foremost among whom were Jósef-Julian Sękowski and Vasily D. Smirnov, laid foundations for the systematic research into Ottoman history and culture in Russia. There are several separate collections of Oriental art, books, manuscripts, coins, and weaponry which, from time to time, have served as bases for pursuing studies of Ottoman history and art in Saint Petersburg.

In this regard the treasures of the State Hermitage Museum are outstanding. The Muslim coin collection of the Hermitage Museum, which can be regarded as one of the richest in the world, comprises a considerable holding of the Ottoman and Pre-Ottoman specimens, only a part of them having been catalogued and edited. Regrettably numismatic studies of the Muslim coin collection suffered a great loss over the last decade when a few experienced keepers passed away – a blow from which the museum has not recovered yet. The Hermitage Museum also has a good collection of Turkish art and weaponry. The collection of the latter forms part of the Arsenal Department, the long-term head of which, Yuri A. Miller, a noted specialist in Medieval Turkish art, passed away in 2009. At present there is a curator, Galina A. Serkina (born in 1959), who deals with the Ottoman art collection. Her field of interest includes Turkish applied art, specifically the origins of the Turkish decorative ornamental patterns. She has recently published a number of articles concerning

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3 The Saint Petersburg section of the survey has been written by K.A. Zhukov. As Associate Professor, he has been teaching at the Faculty of Asian and African Studies at the Saint Petersburg State University since 2006. Previously he worked as Senior Research Fellow in the Saint Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. The Moscow section has been written by Professor M.S. Meyer, the President of the Institute of Asian and African Studies at Moscow State University, who worked as Director of the Institute from 1994 to 2012.