The first researcher who mentioned the oldest known Turkic documents – generally referred to by such names as the Orkhon inscriptions, Old Turkic inscriptions in a Runic alphabet, etc. – was Philipp Johann von Strahlenberg from Sweden. Some photos of the Yenisei inscriptions were included in Strahlenberg’s famous publication from 1730. Thereafter, 160 years later, Turkic inscriptions from Southern Siberia and Mongolia were published with photos by Scandinavian archaeologists on their return from expeditions to these regions. The most well known ones among these inscriptions are Kül Tégin, Bilge Kagan and Tunyukuk.

This was thus the beginning of Old Turkic Studies. Now, there are other important inscriptions that are much less known than the aforementioned ones, due to their location far from residential areas. In his presentation, Professor Ölmez will give an account of his expedition to Külicor (Ikh-Khïshhoï) and Moyun Cor (Sine-Usu) and his research on these and other Turkic inscriptions.

Mehmet Ölmez has been working mostly on Buddhist Uyghur texts and on Old Turkic texts from the 8th-13th centuries. His other research interests are Turkic languages in China and Southern Siberia (Fuyu Kyrgyz, Yugur, Salar, and Tuvaï), lexicology, etymology and Turkic-Mongolian relations. He is a faculty member at Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul. For further information: http://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Olmez_Mehmet

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Refreshments will be served after the lecture.