

Özlem Yıldız

**A Wise Enemy: The Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Portrayal of the  
Polish Commander Stanisław Żółkiewski**

This paper focuses on the visual and textual portrayal of the Polish commander and hetman (highest military officer), Stanisław Żółkiewski (d. 1620), in an early 17<sup>th</sup>-century Ottoman illustrated history book, the *Şehname-i Nadiri*. Żółkiewski's legendary memory was cemented in Polish history with his depictions in painting and literature. Yet, his depiction in a well-known Ottoman book has largely escaped scholarly attention. The text of the *Şehname-i Nadiri* describes Żółkiewski as a wise and influential nobleman before it narrates his death on the battlefield by both lamenting the demise of a nobleman and celebrating the Ottoman victory. A painting of the Battle of Cecora in the same volume emphasizes his high rank and hints at the aftermath of his death. These textual and visual portrayals in the *Şehname-i Nadiri* offer an insight into representations of the Other in Ottoman historical narratives.