

An Ottoman Letter of Recommendation for an Austrian Scientist

Gisela Procházka-Eisl

Author:

Faculty Member, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Vienna.
gisela.prochazka-eisl@univie.ac.at
ORCID: [0000-0003-0216-8926](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0216-8926)

Keywords:

Letter of recommendation, 19th century, Ami Boué, Ahmed Fethi

Cite this article:

Procházka-Eisl, Gisela. "An Ottoman Letter of Recommendation for an Austrian Scientist" *Keshif: E-Journal for Ottoman-Turkish Micro Editions* 1/1 (Winter 2023): 44-48.
Available under <https://doi.org/10.25365/kshf-23-01-09>.

Article DOI [10.25365/kshf-23-01-09](https://doi.org/10.25365/kshf-23-01-09)

Published online March 23, 2023

© 2023 Gisela Procházka-Eisl, published by *Keshif: E-Journal for Ottoman-Turkish Micro Editions*.

This is an Open Access article licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0. International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Context

This document is kept in the Diözesanarchiv (Diocesan Archives) in St. Pölten, Lower Austria, with the shelf number AT-DASP_I/04-14_A04/269. There is no information available on how it ended up there.

It is a letter of recommendation, issued in 1837 by Aḥmed Fethī Paşa for the well-known physician and geologist Ami Boué (1794-1881). We do not know to whom it is addressed, but we can assume that the addressee was the provincial governor of the Sandjak Manastir, which then belonged to the *eyālet* of Edirne. However, it is possible that the letter was intentionally left without an address so that Boué could use it at any time when need arose.

Ami Boué undertook lengthy research journeys in the years 1836, 1837 and 1838 through the Balkan Peninsula and the European part of Turkey. In 1840, he published the result of these journeys in four volumes, entitled *La Turquie d'Europe, ou Observations sur la géographie, la géologie, l'histoire naturelle, la statistique et les moeurs de cet empire*. Among his countless publications on the field of geology, this is considered his most important work. Contrary to what is claimed in the letter, Boué – in the letter de Boué – neither was an Austrian subject nor an aristocrat.

Ferīḫ Aḥmed Fethī Paşa was, in 1835 and 1836-1837, for several months each Ottoman ambassador in Vienna.

Transcription

hüve

Devletlü 'ināyetlü 'aṭıfetlü re'fetlü veli'ü n-ni 'am efendüm ḥazretleri

Avusturya devlet-i faḥimesi teb'asından ve aşılzādegāndan¹

Ami Döbovay nām ṭabīb Rumilide kā'in memālik-i maḥrūse-i ḥazret-i şāhāneyi

ziyāret ü temāşā iderek der-se'ādete 'azīmet eylemek üzre bu ṭarafdan ḥareket eylemiş olmağla mersūmuñ dāḥil-i

¹ Scribal error for *aşılzādegān*

*ķalem ü ĥükümet-i destürāneleri olan Manastıra bi-l-vuşul zāt-i ‘alileriyle mülākātında
ħaķķında mu ‘āmele-i cemīle-i dil-nüvāzī
ve iltifāt-i meķārim-sāzīleri bī-dirīg u şāyān buyurılarak mümkün el-ħuşul olan niyāz u
iltimāsātınıñ ķarīn-i is ‘āf
buyurılması ĥuşuşı mütemennā-yi ‘ācizānem idügi ve devlet-i ‘alīye ile dost u mu ‘āhid olan
bi-l-cümle düvel-i müteħābbe teb ‘asınıñ
her ĥâlde ĥimāyet ü şiyānetleri ‘ahdnāmeler şerāyiți iķtizāsından oldıgi rehīn-i ‘ilm-i
‘alileri buyrulduķda her ĥâlde emr ü irāde
ħazret-i men lehü l-emrüñdür fi 5 Ş sene 53*

Seal: *Aħmed Fethī*

[1]247

Translation

He

His Highness, my lord – happy, gracious, benevolent, powerful and merciful benefactor!
As the physician named Ami de Boué, a subject and aristocrat of the highly esteemed
country of Austria, set out from here with the destination of the sublime porte, to visit
in Rumeli the well-protected domains of his Majesty, the padishah, it is my humble wish
that the aforementioned (Boué), when he arrives in Manastir, which belongs to the office
and administration of the grand vizier, and when he meets [your] exalted Lordship, be
received with utmost politeness and generosity and [that he] be treated with the unre-
stricted beneficence worthy of him, and that those of his wishes and pledges that can e
met will be generously facilitated.

The conditions of the treaties require each and any protection and safeguarding of the
subjects of all befriended countries, which are on good terms with the Ottoman Empire.
When [all this] is left to his exalted knowledge, wish and order are left by all means to
the highness who has the [power to] order.


On Şafer 5, year [12]53 (= May 11, 1837)

Seal: *Aħmed Fethī* [1]247

Facsimile

۹

دو قطره عیانو عاظموا رافتو والنعیم اتم حضرتی
اوستا دولت خیرسی تبعه سنده واصلدو کاندن آمی زبوی نام طیب روم البیده کانه ممالک محروسه حضرتی
قیادت و تمانا ابرک در سعاده عنیت ایلک اوزره بو طرفه حرکت ایلدی اولطه مسومک ایلدی
قادر حکومت دستور ایلدی اولان سنه بالوصول زات عالیله ملاقاتده حقه معامله صید زبوی
والنقات مکاتبات ایلدی بیدنیغ و سایان بوردیله رو مکمل حصول اولان نیاز اولتقاسانک قیاساف
بیوردی خصوصی متمای عهزانه ام ایلدی و دوله علیه دوت و معاهد اولان بالجمله دول تحایه سیک
هسالک صمان و صیانتی عیون لر ایلدی اقتضای اولینی رهیم علم عالیله بوردیله هسالک امر اولدی
رضیف مکه الامیر صید



Bibliography

Hut, Davut. "Fethi Paşa." In: *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi*, vol. EK-1, edited by İslâm Araştırmaları Merkezi (İSAM), 450-451. Ankara: TDV 2020.

Procházka-Eisl, Gisela. "An Ottoman Diplomat in Vienna: Ahmed Fethi Paşa." In *Andreas Tietze ve Avusturya Türkolojisi. Türkçenin Zenginliğine Efsanevî bir Katkı*, edited by Emine Yılmaz et al., 187-207. Vienna: Neue Welt Verlag 2022.

Sakaoğlu, Necdet. "Fethi Ahmed Paşa." In *Dünden Bugüne İstanbul Ansiklopedisi*, vol. III., edited by Kültür Bakanlığı ve Tarih Vakfı Ortak Yayını, 298-299. İstanbul: Kültür Bakanlığı Yayınları 1994.

Wurzbach, Constant von. *Biographisches Lexikon des Kaiserthums Oesterreich*, vol. 2, 96-100. Wien: Universitäts-Buchdruckerei von L.C. Zamarski 1857.

Internet sources:

https://www.biographien.ac.at/oeb1/oeb1_B/Boue_Ami_1794_1881.xml;internal&action=hilite.action&Parameter=Bou%E9* (visited 11-11-2022)

<https://www.deutsche-biographie.de/sfz5439.html> (visited 11-11-2022)