

An Ottoman Letter of Recommendation for an Austrian Scientist

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Context

This document is kept in the Diözesanarchiv (Diocesan Archives) in St. Pölten, Lower Austria, with the shelf number AT-DASP_I/o4-14_Ao4/269. There is no information available on how it ended up there.

It is a letter of recommendation, issued in 1837 by Ahmed Fethī Paṣa for the wellknown 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.

Ferīķ Aḥmed Fetḥi Paṣa was, in 1835 and 1836-1837, for several months each Ottoman ambassador in Vienna.

Transcription

hüve

Devletlü 'ināyetlü 'ātıfetlü re 'fetlü velī 'ü n-ni 'am efendüm hażretleri

Avusturya devlet-i faḥīmesi teb 'asından ve asılzādegāndan'

Ami Döbovay nām ṭabīb Rumilide kā ʾin memālik-i maḥrūse-i ḥażret-i ṣāhāneyi ziyāret ü temāşā iderek der-se 'ādete 'azīmet eylemek üzre bu tarafdan hareket eylemiş olmağla mersūmuñ dāḥil-i

¹ Scribal error for *aṣīlzādegān*

ķalem ü hükūmet-i destūrāneleri olan Manastıra bi-l-vuşūl zāt-i 'alīleriyle mülāķātında

hakkında mu 'āmele-i cemīle-i dil-nüvāzī

ve iltifāt-i mekārim-sāzīleri bī-dirīg u sāyān buyurılarak mümkün el-husūl olan niyāz u

iltimāsātınıñ karīn-i is ʿāf

buyurılması husūsı mütemennā-yi 'ācizānem idügi ve devlet-i 'alīye ile dost u mu 'āhid olan

bi-l-cümle düvel-i mütehābbe teb ʿasınıñ

her hālde himāyet ü sıyānetleri 'ahdnāmeler şerāyiti iktizāsından oldığı rehīn-i 'ilm-i

ʻalīleri buyruldukda her hālde emr ü irāde

ḥażret-i men lehü l-emrüñdür fi 5 Ş sene 53

Seal: Ahmed Fethī

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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

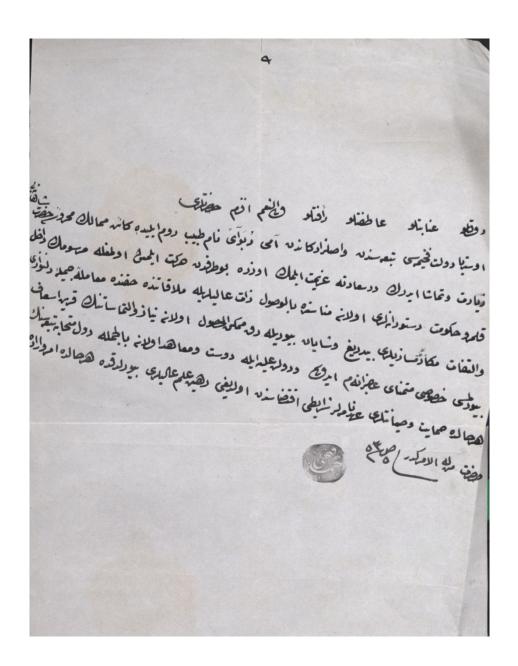
the highness who has the [power to] order.

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

Seal: Ahmed Fethī

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Facsimile



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