

An Ottoman Letter of Recommendation for an Austrian Scientist

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Context

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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.

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

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Transcription

hüve

Devletlü 'ināyetlü 'atıfetlü re'fetlü veli'ü n-ni 'am efendüm hazretleri

Avusturya devlet-i faḥīmesi 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*

*ḳalem ü ḥükümet-i destūrāneleri olan Manastıra bi-l-vuşul zāt-i 'alileriyle mülākātında
ḥaḳḳında mu 'āmele-i cemīle-i dil-nüvāzī*

*ve iltifāt-i mekārīm-sāzileri bī-dirig u şāyān buyurılaraq mümkün el-ḥuşul olan niyāz u
iltimāsātınıñ ḳarīn-i is 'āf*

*buyurılması ḥuşuşı mütemennā-yi 'ācizānem idügi ve devlet-i 'alīye ile dost u mu 'āhid olan
bi-l-cümle düvel-i müteḥābbe teb 'asınıñ*

*her ḥālde ḥimāyet ü şıyānetleri 'ahdnāmeler şerāyiṭi iḳtizāsından oldığı rehīn-i 'ilm-i
'alileri buyrulduğda her ḥālde emr ü irāde*

ḥazret-i men lehü l-emrūndür fī 5 Ş sene 53

Seal: *Aḥmed 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

¹ Scribal error for *aşılzādegān*

received with utmost politeness and generosity and [that he] be treated with the unrestricted beneficence worthy of him, and that those of his wishes and pledges that can be 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 Fethî

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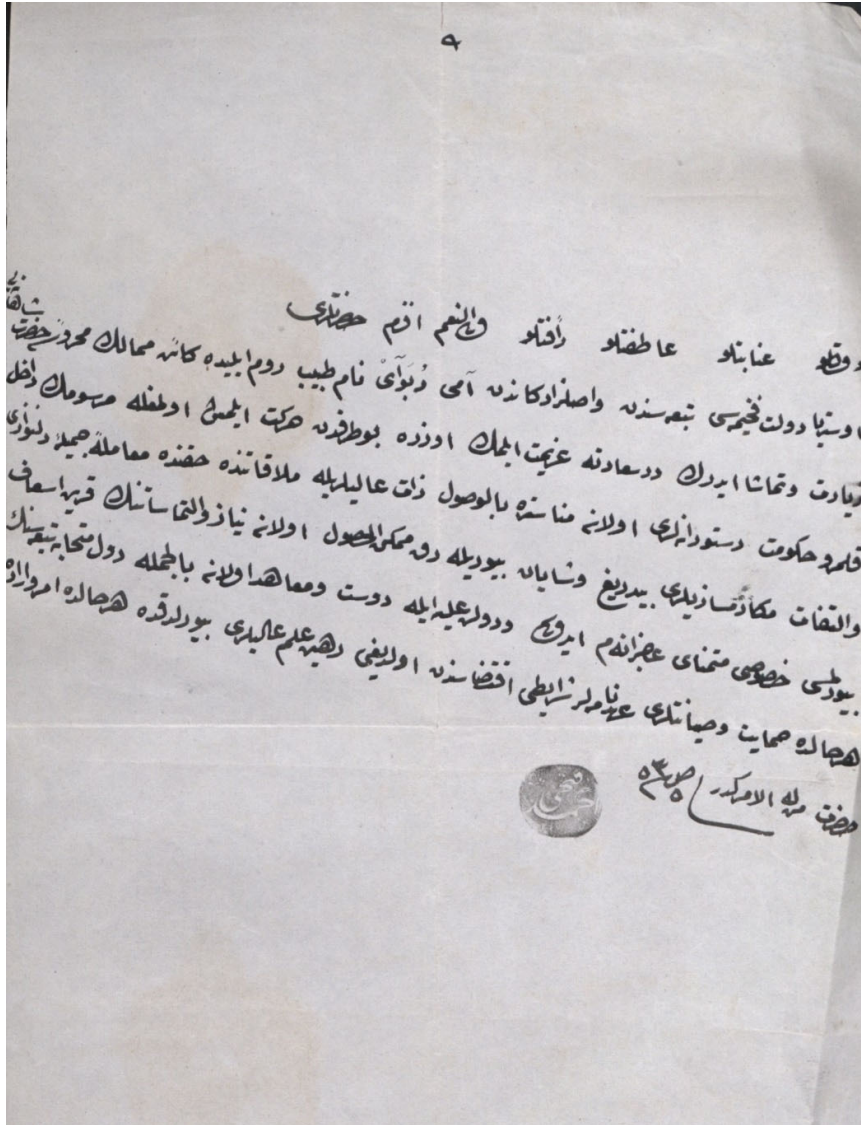
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