

## V. DEMETRIADES

### SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE OTTOMAN-TURKISH JUDICIAL DOCUMENTS (HÜCCETS)

In this short study I wish to present some observations I have made while studying a collection of hüccets from the monastery of Vlatadon in Thessaloniki<sup>1</sup>.

In this collection, which covers the period from the end of the 15th century to the beginning of the 20th, we can observe the following features, common, I believe, in every similar document from any other part of the Ottoman empire.

First we see that in the middle of the 15th century the first word of the opening formula in the hüccets "Sebeb-i tahrir-i kitab-i ... budur ki" (The reason of the writing of the document ... is as follows:) is written almost normally (doc. no 1, middle of Zilhicce 889/30-12-1484/8-1-1485). From the beginning of the 16th century the line of the first letter S begins to be elongated (doc. no. 2, middle of Ramazan 908/10/19-3-1503). In the next two decades this line becomes two or three times longer and in 911-920 (1505-1515) it is already at least five times longer, so that it covers almost half of the first line of the text (doc. no.3, 23 Rebiyülevvel 911/24-8-1505). As of 929 (1523) and later the line of the S covers almost the whole of the first line of the text, and the introductory formula is written at the remaining space of it, so that the main text of the hüccet starts from the beginning of the second line (doc. no. 4, beginning of Cemaziyelevvel 929/18/27-3-1523). At the same time this formula starts being written higher than the line of the S (doc. no. 4, 5, 6).

At the end of the same century the line of the S starts getting smaller and is written from the middle of the first line of the text, with a few exceptions only (doc. no. 7, middle of Muharrem 996/12/21-12-1587).

From 1030 (1620-1621) onwards the line of the S is very small and the introductory formula is more and more difficult to be read. At the same time a line almost perpendicular to the phrase appears at the end of it (doc. no. 8,

1. This short paper was firstly presented during the Seminar on Ottoman Paleography and Diplomatic, held at Visegrad, Hungary from March 23 to April 1, 1982.

29 Şaban 1030/18-7-1621). Later on and during the 18th century the line of the S is written obliquely to the text and the last line following the formula is perpendicular to the text (doc. no 9, 25 Şaban 1171/4-5-1758).

From 1227 (1812-1813) the line of the S is followed by two or even more lines arising from the next to the first words of the formula, and the last line is going upwards (doc. no. 10 (27 Zilhicce 1227/1-1-1813).

From about 1240 onwards the introductory formula is just a rather unreadable scribble at the end of the first line of the text (doc. no 11, 3 Safer 1252/20-5-1836).

About 1280 (1863) a new type of hüccets appears, with a printed seal at the top of the document. The introductory formula has completely disappeared (doc. no. 12, 25 Safer 1289/4-5-1872).

In the 20th century another type of hüccets appears, with a seal in relief, having a ring of oak leaves around, and another circular inscription (doc. no. 13, 21 Sevval 1323/18-1-1905).

We also observe in the hüccets another development, parallel to that of the introductory formula: The writing of the name and the title of the kadi over the text, is followed by his seal from 965 (1557) onwards. This seal had at that time an almond-like shape, with more or less sharp endings (doc. no. 14, 18 Cemaziyelevvel 965 (8-3-1558).

From 984 (1576) there are also seals with circular shapes (doc. no. 15, end of Safer 984/28-5-1576). In the next decade seals with various shapes appear and for two centuries every shape can be used. Most of the seals are circular, octagonal and mainly oval, which remains almost the only shape used after 1211 (1796) (doc. no. 16-21).

A third feature at the development of the hüccet is that which we observe at the end of the text, in the phrase “Şuhud ul-hal” (The witnesses for the case). From the end of the 16th century onwards the word “hal” takes usually a shape quite complicated, which reminds a pair of scissors (doc. no. 6). Sometimes it is written like a “pençe” or a “tugra” (doc. no. 22-24).

From 1095 (1684) the word “hal” or even the whole phrase is usually just a zigzag movement of the pen without any particular shape (doc. no. 25). Sometimes it is written clearly or in a scissors-like shape, but the last one becomes rare. During the 19th century it is usually a free movement of the hand, but there are also correct and clear writings (doc. no. 26-27).

Having those observations in mind, we can check the date of any hüccet, whether it is correct or not; we can also see whether a document is written at the time it is dated or it is a later copy of the original. For instance Prof. Neset Çagatay published in “Vakıflar Dergisi, vol. 12 (1978) a vakıfnâme of

Sultan Murad I dated 772 Hicrî (1371), which he believes to be the original. However, according to what we have observed, this is impossible. The long line at the beginning of the text, the five oval seals of the kadis (the sixth kadi, the only one without a seal, must be the one who wrote the original), and the scissors-shaped L of the word “hal” indicate that it is a copy, made about the 17th century (doc. no. 28).

I hope that these observations will be of some help to those who study this kind of Turkish documents. A further investigation will certainly reveal similar developments in other kinds of Turkish documents.



الامام  
 عبد الله بن  
 محمد  
 سلمة

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...  
 ...  
 ...

Doc. no 4.

...  
 ...  
 ...

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...  
 ...  
 ...

Doc. no 5.

ما كفاية عبدك  
 وان الداعي على عبدك  
 سلمة خلافة

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...  
 ...  
 ...

Doc. no 6.

عزديجا  
 ازواعنتر في مجلسه كدنه لمصوعن التعير والخراف  
 اسماعه وهو اشريا

Doc. no 7.

المرحوم احمد  
 محمد اسكندر  
 علي عينا  
 سنة ١٢٠٠  
 سنة ١٢٠٠  
 سنة ١٢٠٠  
 سنة ١٢٠٠

Doc. no 8.

الامير احمد  
 احمد اسكندر  
 عموله  
 سنة ١٢٠٠  
 سنة ١٢٠٠  
 سنة ١٢٠٠  
 سنة ١٢٠٠

Doc. no 9.



Doc. no 10.



Doc. no 11.



پایه بر فراز شان ایگر یک کوزه شد را او از او  
و شرافتی باقی ایمن و ز دانه پدید  
یقوت خود ستر

صیقل طلوع  
برای انوار کمال  
در عالم کمال  
از انوار کمال  
برای انوار کمال

فغوش آغایب نماند و اسب و کعبه و قریب تو آمدن تو من چه سیرت مردم که زون باقی چهر  
و روحی  
گفتند  
و از  
خود



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
 في حق  
 قيمي  
 اردو طرف سے

الاعمال  
 الاكادمية  
 في حق  
 الاكادمية  
 في حق  
 الاكادمية

تحقق عدل من غير ان يخصص من ان ابن مك محمد استماع وانست غير يكون بالملك  
 ققان  
 شيخ النور و با دو با تعيين و ارسال اولون بجملة شريفه كرسندن احمد خوش سلك  
 و با تعيين و ارسال اولون بجملة شريفه كرسندن احمد خوش سلك  
 و با تعيين و ارسال اولون بجملة شريفه كرسندن احمد خوش سلك

Doc. no 13.

ما في من المعونين في العمل  
 و هو في حوزة السيد  
 الحبيب بن  
 صلاح

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Doc. no 14.

الامر على ما ذكر في الكتاب العظيم  
 عبد الرؤوف بن محمد الرعي القوي  
 سلايك و سدن في

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Doc. no 15.

ما في من المعونين نقل العمل المحفوظ  
 في العمل الى العمل السامع ان في  
 من سلايك و سدن و غيره  
 على منها

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Doc. no 16.

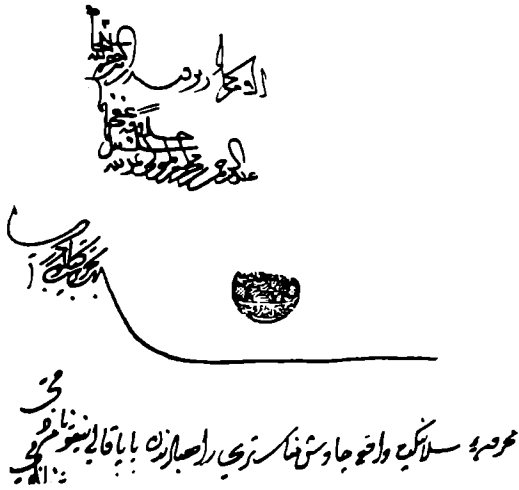


Handwritten text in Ottoman Turkish script. The text is written in a cursive style. At the top left, there is a circular seal or stamp. The main body of text is arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with a horizontal line at the bottom. The text is oriented vertically, reading from right to left.

Doc. no 17.



Handwritten text in Ottoman Turkish script. The text is written in a cursive style. On the left side, there is a circular seal or stamp. The main body of text is arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with a horizontal line at the bottom. The text is oriented vertically, reading from right to left.





Handwritten text in Ottoman Turkish script. The text is written in a cursive style. On the right side, there is a circular seal or stamp. The main body of text is arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with a horizontal line at the bottom. The text is oriented vertically, reading from right to left.

Doc. no 18.

مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی  
 لکھنے والے کا نام  
 تاریخ

مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی

مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی

Doc. no 19.

مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی  
 تاریخ




مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی

Doc. no 20.

مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی

مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی



مکتبہ المکتبہ  
 کراچی

Doc. no 21.

١٠٠٠٠  
 مع طلبا ابراهيم عيسى  
 صوره اوله شرفي القيق الشرفي من شهره ثمانه وثمانين وستمائة  
 احمد  
 كاهرطلي ابراهيم  
 حاضرتي ابن درويش  
 حاجر مصلي بن القاسم  
 امان محمد بن قاسم  
 ابي ع قونجه  
 حاجت مصطفى  
 عمدين  
 يوسف  
 امان محمد بن قاسم  
 الحيايا  
 امان محمد بن قاسم  
 حاجر مصطن  
 يوسف بن عبد  
 المولى  
 يوسف بن عبد  
 المولى  
 حاجر مصطن

Doc. no 22.

والمشاة تحقيق لئلا تذكر صكوكه ماهور الواسع بالطلب كتب اوله ثمانه وثمانين وستمائة  
 محمد بن ابراهيم الكور الواسع بالطلب كتب اوله ثمانه وثمانين وستمائة  
 كور الواسع بالطلب كتب اوله ثمانه وثمانين وستمائة  
 كور الواسع بالطلب كتب اوله ثمانه وثمانين وستمائة  
 كور الواسع بالطلب كتب اوله ثمانه وثمانين وستمائة

Doc. no 23.

ويرويه غيره بقدين المعترف مع بطلب  
 به ان دفع راجع الى اقرار الم التهم وادراكه التهم  
 اقرار الم التهم وادراكه التهم  
 اقرار الم التهم وادراكه التهم  
 اقرار الم التهم وادراكه التهم

Doc. no 24.

بنا و بجز از حقوق دولت و سایر امور است ملاحظه شود که  
 در تاریخ ... در ...  
 ...  
 ...  
 ...  
 ...

Doc. no 25.

ایلام فرزند فضل زبور فرمود دست خدایک مستر امیر کفایت مسر  
 غف الصمدی الشرفی هو الواقع بالطلب كتب الهندی فی الهادی شهر ذی الحجة  
 سنة ثمان و مائة الف  
 بوزن ...  
 ...  
 ...

Doc. no 26.

زبور و تنبیه شرح اول نوب ما وقع بالطلب كتب اولیدنا  
 فی السوم الرابع والعشرين من محرم الحرام سنة ثمان و مائة الف  
 والف

طبعة مطبعه ...  
 ...  
 ...  
 ...

Doc. no 27.

