

Jan Reycheman and Ananiasz Zajackowski, *Handbook of Ottoman-Turkish Diplomats*. Revised and expanded translation by Andrew S. Ehrenkreutz (Publications in Near and Middle East Studies, Columbia University. Series A, VII). New York, Humanities Press, Inc., 1969, Pp. 232.

This book is a revised and expanded translation from the original Polish edition of the text of *Zarys Dyplomatyki Osmansko-Tureckiej*, published in 1955. I discussed this work in my "Ottoman-Turkish Diplomats. A Guide to the Literature" some years ago in this journal (7, 1966, pp. 135-154), and suggested that "Although the book was designed primarily for Polish university students, it recommends itself as well to students of the discipline in other countries." Now that this English edition is available (thanks to the Dutch publishing house of Mouton & Co.), it is hoped that it will be important in furthering the study of Ottoman diplomacies not only in American universities but also in those of other countries.

In contrast to *Zarys* which is a slim book of some 160 pages, the English edition has become a substantial volume. It has been expanded by addition of new material, by inclusion in its various sections of appropriate items from the excellent bibliography in the Polish text, which regrettably has here been eliminated, and by addition of more recent items that bring the discussion and the literature up to date. The major expansion has taken place in the introductory part (I), which is now more than double in length. This part deals with the definition and scope of oriental paleography and diplomacies; with the history of study of oriental diplomacies in various countries in Europe; and with the archives and collections of oriental documents in Turkey, in other Asiatic (Muslim?) countries and in European countries. It also considers the publications of oriental documents in various countries, including the United States (for which no data are shown in *Zarys*). However, the information on archives and on the publication of Ottoman documents in Greece is scanty (in both editions), although that country appears to have rich holdings of such documents. The late Professor Basil Laourdas in a letter to me, dated May 13, 1966, indicated that "*a lot of very important [Ottoman-Turkish] documents have been recently published in Greece . . . There [are] f. i. the three volumes of Turkish documents published in Greek translation here in Thessaloniki: the first contains documents related to the city of Thessaloniki (from 1695 down to 1912), the second, from the Turkish*

archives in Veroia (1598-1866) and the third, the Turkish documents [from the] archives of the monastery of Vlatadon (1466-1839)" (italics added). These published documents as well as others in Greek archives and collections deserve the attention of scholars not only for the light they may throw on the Ottoman rule of that country but also on the subject of diplomatics.

Part II, "Paleography," provides the basic information on the writing materials and the writing implements that were used in Muslim countries; on the script systems that were used there, especially in Ottoman state documents; on the abbreviations generally found in Ottoman documents; and on the cryptographic symbols which the Ottomans used in confidential intelligence reports and in the secret reports concerning the military and the results of the *devşirme*.

Part III is devoted to "Diplomatics," the science which deals with the external and internal characteristics of documents; with the methods of folding and preserving them; with the form of arrangement of the component parts of documents (adopted from the Byzantine model. But see and compare *Zarys*, page 76, note 1, with page 136, note 1, in this book), and their copies and transcripts; with forgeries of state documents (probably fewer than in European countries because of the death penalty to be incurred), and with translations of the documents that were made in the Ottoman chancery and in the chanceries of the different countries. In the case of Poland, for example, until the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent the original Ottoman treaties, letters and other documents had been composed in either Latin or Italian. Then they were written in Turkish, but were accompanied by Latin, Italian and even Polish translations prepared in the Ottoman chancery (See my review of Z. Abrahamowicz, *Katalog dokumentów tureckich. Dokumenty do dziejów Polski i krajów osiedlonych w latach 1453-1672*, in *Journal of American Oriental Society* 90, 4 (1970), pp. 568-572). The discussions of the various topics are appropriately illustrated, although some illustrations have come out smaller and poorer here than in the Polish edition (e. g., No. 28, compared to the same illustration in *Zarys*, pp. 94-101. But it should be noted that the caption of this document has here been corrected from the "treaty of Murad I to Stefan Batory" (in *Zarys*) to the "treaty of Murad III to Stefan Batory"). This part also deals with the documents of the Crimean Tatars in the Polish collections (dating from 1514 to 1786) and with the evolution of Crimean diplomatics. In addition, there is a brief description of the Ottoman chancery, with lists of

the *reis efendis* from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries, and of the chief dragomans in different periods. There also is a section on Poland's relations with oriental countries.

In part IV, "Ancillary Disciplines," are included such subjects as: the chronology of Muslim countries, which is indispensable for the study of the paleography and diplomatics of the Ottomans and of the Crimean Tatars; chronological tables of Ottoman sultans, of the Crimean khans, of the shahs of Persia, and of the grand viziers of the Ottoman Empire; the interpretation of geographic names in Ottoman state documents; oriental numismatics, and the available bibliographies on Ottoman-Turkish history. An appendix provides tables for converting Hegira-dates into those of the modern era. And there are three indexes, especially prepared for this edition, of authors, of archives, collections and libraries, and of names. In all, an excellent *Handbook* for students of the Ottoman Empire, the Golden Horde, the Crimean Tatars, and to some extent of Persia.

Brooklyn, New York

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Norman Itzkowitz and Max Mote, *Mubadele - An Ottoman-Russian Exchange of Ambassadors*. Chicago, Chicago University Press, 1970. Pp. X + 261.

Before the treaty of Karlowitz (1699) there was only one known exchange of ambassadors between the Ottoman Empire and a Christian nation. It took place in 1665 for the specific purpose of ratifying the treaty of Vasvár between the Sublime Porte and the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Such exchange became known in Ottoman parlance as *mubadele*, from the elaborate ceremony of exchange in which the ambassadors changed places across the frontier. The celebrated Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall has provided us with an account of this exchange based on Ottoman and western sources. He has translated from the Turkish the *sefaretname* (report) of "Mohammed Pascha" (= Kara Mehmed Pascha), who was sent to Vienna with the ratification document. This report describes for the first time the complicated ritual of *mubadele* in which Mehmed Pasha exchanged places with the Imperial ambassador Graf Walter von Leslie.¹ Hammer has also discussed extensively this

1. *Sefaretname* means account of travel. It was thus a report on the journey and