

Literature without the implementation of purely Western tools of analysis and theoretical description. The book of the eminent Polish scholar is, without doubt, an example of new way of thinking about the literature of the Arab world.

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Fadil Bayat, Halit Eren, [Fadil Bayat, Halit Eren, “Baghdad in the Light of Ottoman Archive Documents”, Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul 2008, 142 pp.

The history and culture of the Arabic countries during the Ottoman period in common view of Orientalists dealing with this part of the world is treated as a period of decline (*inhiṭāf*), and – consequently, because of this view, it is till now neglected by most of the Arabists dealing with the political history as well as the history of culture or literature. A growing interest in this half of millennium is – one should say that the old paradigm of “decline” is to change.

One of the manifestations of this issue is the reviewed book, edited by IRCICA expert Dr. Fadil Bayat and Dr. Halit Eren, the Director General of this institution. The book is edited in Arabic, and for this reason it is addressed above all to Arabic-speaking reader, but it is also very important for Arabists, because it is dealing with documents written in Ottoman-Turkish. This is a fact which has a great importance for the study of Ottoman period – these studies demand the cooperation of Arabists and Turcologists (or Turks). The reviewed book is an extraordinary example of such a work.

Apart from the “Introduction” (*Taqdīm*, pp. 7–8) by H. Eren and a general presentation of the book and its purpose “This Book” (*Haḍā al-kitāb*, pp. 9–10) it consists of three main chapters. [1] “Some Observations on the History of Baghdad in Ottoman Times” (*Malāmiḥ Tārīḥ Baġdād fī al-‘Ahd al-‘Uṭmānī*, pp. 11–16). This chapter is not extensive, but very substantial. The Author presents main points of the Ottoman history of Baghdad and characterizes this period from the political and social point of view, basing on the documents from Ottoman archives and a book in Arabic written by F. Bayat, edited in 2007 by *Markaz Dirāsāt al-Waḥda al-‘Arabiyya* (Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut).

[2] “Facsimiles of Documents and Their Translations” (*Uṣūl al-Waṭā’iq wa-Tarġamātuḥā*, pp. 17–123). This part contains 51 documents – their colored photographs and translations. The facsimiles are of very good quality. We are faced with hand written documents, sometimes in very beautiful calligraphy, and some printed documents, especially statistical tables. Every document is provided with precise bibliographical and archival information concerning the place of storage, its number and daily date in Islamic and Christian Calendar. All the documents are arranged chronologically. The oldest one (pp. 18–19) is *Al-Iblāġ ‘an Istiḥbāb al-Aman wa-an-Niẓām fī Wilāyat Baġdād wa-al-Amr bi-Irsāl Ğawāsīs ilā Arġā’ ad-Dawla aṣ-Ṣafawīyya li-al-Istiḥlā’* [“Notification on Stabilization of the Security

and System in the Province of Baghdad and an Order concerning the Dispatchment of Spies throughout the Safavid Empire for Reconnaissance”] from 16 Dū al-Qa‘da 951 / 29 Kānūn at-Tānī (January) 1545. The last one is a table which lists printing houses and newspapers in Baghdad in 1320/1902 [*Al-Maṭābi‘ wa-al-Ġarā’id fī Madīnat Baġdād sana 1320 H/1902 M*]. At that time there were 4 printing houses in the city with the oldest one, *Maṭba‘at al-Wilāya* (The Province Printing House, pp. 122–123), lying in Maḥallat al-Bustān. It was established in 1286 H/1869 and printed both in Turkish and Arabic. The register also shows that we have had in Baghdad 1 official newspaper, “Az-Zawrā”, also in Turkish and Arabic. The documents show several aspects of economical and social life of the city, but also the importance of Al-‘Irāq for the foreign policy of Ottoman State, especially for relations with Persia. At the end of this part we can see two maps of the Province of Baghdad (pp. 124–125 and 126; the first one seems to be an enlargement of the central part of the tatter. The maps are, unfortunately, not described.

[3] Third part of the book is titled “Photos of Baghdad taken in the Ottoman Period” (*Šuwar min Baġdād Uluṭūqāt fī al-‘Ahd al-‘Uṭmānī*, pp. 127–141). It contains 16 photos, the oldest taken before 1908, the newest from 1. Ḥuzayrān 1330 / 14 June 1913. The photos are also arranged chronologically and described as much as possible. They present some buildings and scenes from Ottoman Baghdad. The book ends with another, not described map of Baghdad Province.

The book is edited very carefully, being not only an important scientific achievement, but also a typographic one. It is indeed an interesting contribution to the political, social and cultural history of Baghdad in the Ottoman period.

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Errata

In the review of the book *Islamstudien ohne Ende. Festschrift für Werner Ende zum 65. Geburtstag*, edited by Rainer Brunner, Monika Gronke, Jens Peter Laut und Ulrich Rebstock (Würzburg 2002) printed in „RO“ 2004, vol. 56,2 it was erroneously suggested, that Prof. Werner Ende is dead. We would like to apologize to Prof. Werner Ende and Editors of this Volume for this painful error.

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