

Some Archive Documents related to carpets subjects to Ottoman Archives Finance Records

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Abstract

It is a fact that after the invention of writing in human history, all kinds of documents with archival properties have become important. It developed by writing on rocks and tablets and then on paper. Archive records are like the memories of nations.

During the Ottoman Empire, which lasted approximately 600 years, more than a hundred million documents were classified and kept as archive documents.

Finance and accounting transactions of individuals, commercial and non-governmental organizations and states have been important throughout history. There are many archive documents in the state's financial records regarding carpet weaving, which was an important art and business branch during the Ottoman Empire. Among these documents, archive records reveal important issues such as the state paying for the carpets needed for palaces and places of worship from the state coffers, and providing incentive tax deductions and loans to the carpet industry.

In the article, some documents containing finance and tax issues related to carpet weaving in the Ottoman archive documents will be examined.

Keywords: Ottoman, finance, accounting, archive, carpet.

Introduction

Writing has great importance in human history. It is known that after the invention of writing, writing was written on stones, tablets made of earth, metals and paper.

Throughout history, Turks have established states with different names in different geographies. Turks governed these states with the culture of "customs" defined as an unwritten constitution. In times when there were no digital means of communication, they carefully tried to protect all kinds of documents related to the state administration in distant or near distances under the name of archive building.

In the historical course, we can see that governments have been collecting data (information) since the Assyrians and shaping it to maintain their power. It has been revealed that the ancient Romans, Chinese and Ottoman Empires kept detailed recording systems, organized land surveys and conducted population censuses¹.

The Ottoman Archives are among the most important archives in the world in terms of the number of documents they still contain, despite the millions of documents lost in periods whose importance was not understood. Today, there are many separate states in the lands where the Ottoman Empire ruled. Therefore, the Ottoman Archives also have an international feature.

Today, approximately 150 million documents in the Ottoman Archives constitute only 25-30% of the remaining archive material from the Ottoman Empire. The other 70% could not be preserved or could not be reached until today due to various reasons. Unfortunately, not many archive documents and materials about the early periods of the Ottoman Empire, especially the first 150 years, have survived to the present day. Wars, internal turmoil, sultanate struggles, Timur invasion, and the Interregnum can be counted among these reasons².

In the Ottoman Archives, there are land records of the newly conquered lands, property rights, state tax records, official correspondence of administrative units, edicts, court documents and many other archival documents.

On the other hand, "accounting" has a regulating feature in social life, as it has an understanding that follows, records and finalizes all transactions of public, non-governmental organizations or commercial establishments.

It is obvious how important finance and accounting are, especially for states, in matters such as taxes, income and expenses. Transactions are carried out in accordance with the country's specific financial and accounting laws, within the generally accepted rules all over the world, and the relevant records are kept.

One of the elements required for a state to survive as a strong organization is a good financial system built on solid foundations. The Ottomans have given importance to financial organization and structuring since the founding period and tried to develop a financial system based on solid principles. This situation can be understood from the provision in the Organizational Code of Mehmed the

¹ GÖKIRMAK, Mert, "Bilgi, İktidar ve Üniversite" *Stratejik Araştırmalar Dergisi*, 2003, 1, s. 80.

² ÇETİN, Atilla, "Türkiye'de Arşivciliğin Tarihi Gelişimi" *Uluslararası Türk Arşivleri Sempozyumu*, 17-19 Kasım 2005, İstanbul, s. 7.

Conqueror, "And once a year, my revenues and expenses shall be read to the Rikab-ı Hümayunu.³" It is also known that the first financial organization in the Ottoman Empire was established by Çandarlı Kara Halil and Karamanlı Rüstem Pashas during the reign of Murad I. However, it is a fact that this organization is not an organization like the one in the 16th century, which corresponded to the most powerful period of the state⁴. As the borders expanded, there were developments in the financial organization, and accordingly, the state's income and expenses and their types increased⁵.

It is known that the Ottoman Empire had a serious potential in the field of textile, one of the oldest productions in history. It is understood, thanks to archive documents, that the state supports, supervises and encourages the manufacturing and production of textile products such as fabrics, carpets and rugs, both on the basis of enterprises and among the public and tradesmen.

Weaving was a very important sector during the Ottoman period and even Europe had great interest in this sector. It is known that the Western European great powers, which had economic relations with the Ottoman Empire in the 18th century, tried to make the capitulations more advantageous for their own countries, and on the other hand, they monitored the price and quality conditions in the Ottoman markets with the help of commercial agents and consuls they sent to the empire from time to time, and directed their commercial activities accordingly⁶.

It is known in the financial records of the Ottoman Empire that the production of hand-woven carpets was encouraged, the carpet needs of various institutions of the state were met, carpets were given as diplomatic gifts from time to time, and records of all these were kept.

Presidential OTTOMAN ARCHIVE

It is understood from the series of notebooks that have survived from the Ottoman Empire period to the present day, with 95 million documents and around 400 thousand in the archive alone, both from the way the documents were arranged, that they were preserved with great precision, and from the orders or regulations regarding the correspondence at all levels of the bureaucracy to be

³ AKGÜNDÜZ Ahmet, *Fatih'in Teşkilat Kanunnamesi, m. 28, Osmanlı Kanunnameleri ve Hukuki Tahlilleri, I. Kitap*, İstanbul 1990, s. 325.

⁴ UZUNÇARŞILI, İsmail Hakkı, *Osmanlı Devleti'nin Merkez ve Bahriye Teşkilatı*, Ankara 1984, s. 319.

⁵ HALAÇOĞLU Yusuf, *XIV-XVII. Yüzyıllarda Osmanlılarda Devlet Teşkilatı ve Sosyal Yapı*, Ankara 1996, s. 64-65.

⁶ İNALCIK, Halil, "Osmanlı Pamuklu Pazarı, Hindistan ve İngiltere: Pamuk Rekabetinde Emek Maliyetinin Rolü", *OTDÜ Gelişme Dergisi*, Türkiye İktisat Tarihi Üzerine Araştırmalar II, 1979-1980 özel sayı, s. 12-14.

recorded in the notebook, that the Ottoman Empire has existed since its foundation. Since then, it has attached great importance to preserving official documents⁷.



Photograph: 1, Presidential Ottoman Archive, Kağıthane-İstanbul⁸.

The archive documents that are the subject of the research are İbnü'l Emin Hariciye, Ali Emirî Sultan IV. Mehmed, Topkapı Palace Museum Archive Hatt-ı Hümayun, Bâb-ı Âsafi Mühimme Ledgers, Grand Vizierata Majlis-i Vâlâ, Grand Vizierata Majlis-i Vâlâ, İrade Mesail-i Mühimme, Ministry of Finance Emlak-ı Emirriye, Grand Vizier Mektubî Kalemî Mühimme, Şûra- It was selected from among the State documents.

İbnü'l Emin Foreign Affairs:

The classification committee, established under the chairmanship of İbnülemin Mahmud Kemal, has classified the documents according to their subjects since 1921. İbnülemin's Classification is grouped under 23 main sections, and each topic follows a rough chronological order within its own section⁹.

Ali Emiri Sultan IV. Mehmed:

II. It begins after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy and especially after the appointment of Abdurrahman Şeref Bey to the position of chronicler and the establishment of the Ottoman History Committee. A committee established under the leadership of the council and under the chairmanship of Ali Emiri Efendi continued the classification work between 1918 and 1921. In this classification, called "Ali Emiri Classification", the documents are separated according to the order of the sultans, and the documents belonging to the sultans from Osman I to the reign of Abdulmecid are

⁷ ANONYMOUS, *Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşiv Rehberi*, İstanbul, 2017, s. 3.

⁸ AYTAÇ, Ahmet, "Cumhurbaşkanlığı Osmanlı Arşivleri'nde Hatay (Antakya) İpekçiliği İle Alakalı Bazı Belgeler", *Uluslararası Zanaattan Sanata Kongre ve Jürili Karma Sergisi*, 14-16 Aralık 2021, Uşak-Türkiye, s. 284.

⁹ ANONYMOUS, *age*, 2017, s. 419.

listed in a chronological order. The classification, in which 180,700 documents are recorded, has fifty-three catalogs written in Arabic letters¹⁰.

Topkapı Palace Museum Archive Hatt-ı Hümayun:

Topkapı Palace, whose construction was completed in 1478, was the main palace of the Ottoman Empire until the use of Dolmabahçe during the reign of Sultan Abdülmecid. The Palace, which was an extremely important administrative center for the Ottoman Empire for 400 years, is also one of the most important centers where many documents were produced in the Ottoman Empire and passed down to the present day. There are more than 200 thousand documents in this archive, the oldest of which dates back to the time of Orhan Gazi. These documents were digitized in the early 2000s, and a summary of the documents began to be produced since 2010¹¹.

Bâb-ı Asafi Mühimme Notebooks:

These are the books in which the state's council records are written.

Grand Vizier Majlis-i Vâlâ:

It is a board similar to today's Supreme Court or Council of State during the Tanzimat period of the Ottoman Empire.

Important Works of Will:

According to the principles of the first classification instructions made during the establishment of Treasury-i Evrak, archive materials are divided into three main groups: those from the establishment of the state until 1255/1839, those between 1255-1265/1839-1849 and those that will be formed after this date. As a basis and example for the classification studies to be carried out, the second group of documents between the years 1255-1265 was classified and it was called "Mesâil-i Mühimme İrâdesi" and classified according to their subjects¹².

Ministry of Finance Emlak-ı Emirriye:

¹⁰ <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/basbakanlik-osmanli-arsivi.08.03.2024.13.56>.

¹¹ <https://kod-a.com/blog/turkiyedeki-onemli-arsivler/30.01.2024.14.26>.

¹² ANONYMOUS, *age*, 2017, s. 306.

It is the National Real Estate Organization affiliated with the Ministry of Finance during the Ottoman period.

Grand Vizier Letter Office:

The Letter Office is an office that occupies an important place within the Grand Vizierate organization and has been around since the early days of the Ottoman Empire. The orders and commands written by the Grand Vizier to various authorities were written by this pen. After the Tanzimat period, he carried out the Grand Vizier's correspondence with the ministry and devâir in Istanbul, as well as his relations with the provinces¹³.

Mühimme:

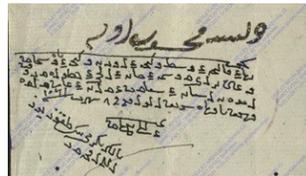
It is the pen that has been in existence since the early years together with the Letter Pen and is a branch of it¹⁴.

Council of State:

The certificates submitted to the Grand Vizier for execution by the Council of State, which was formed with the abolition of the Grand National Assembly in 1284/1867-1868, and the memorandums, acknowledgments and orders written by the Grand Vizier on these certificates are under this heading. has been classified. These documents are a continuation of a part of the Mektubî Office, Parliament-i Vâlâ documents¹⁵.

SOME ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE CARPET SUBJECT TO FINANCIAL RECORDS

First document:

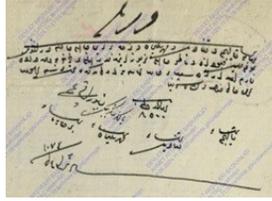


Photograph: 2.

¹³ ANONYMOUS, *age*, 2017, s. 313.
¹⁴ ANONYMOUS, *age*, 2017, s. 314.
¹⁵ ANONYMOUS, *age*, 2017, s. 317.

İbnü'l Emin Foreign Affairs document, 1 file, document numbered 47 shirts, dated 08.07.1061
“When the Ambassador of Hatvan (Hungarian city) came to Istanbul, the Treasury-Treasury was paid for the price of the kaliçe (small sized hand-woven carpet), felt etc. purchased for the furnishing of his house. i It is related to the amount leveled (closing the account) in the Amire (state treasury).

Second document:



Photograph: 3.

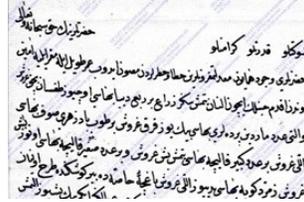
Ali Emiri Sultan IV. Mehmed document, file 70, shirt number 8222, dated 04.10.1074 is about
"Payment of the purchased kaliche, oil lamp and seal of Süleyman from the Chief Treasury".

Third document:



Photograph: 4.

Ali Emiri Sultan IV. Mehmed document, 49 files, document numbered 5716, dated 14.11.1082
“Sultan III in Eğri.” It is related to the "payment of two grand caliche prices for the Mehmed Mosque from the Chief Treasury".

Fourth document:

Photograph:5.

Topkapı Palace Museum Archive, Hatt-ı Hümayun documents, 809 files, number 29 shirts, dated 09.03.1115, states that "The cost of various fabrics and caliches purchased for the mosquito net, The order "to be paid from the Treasury, as a favor of the Sultan" is mentioned.

Fifth document:

Photograph:6.

In the Bâb-ı Âsafi Mühimme Defterleri document, file 112, shirt number 1258, dated 10.05.1114, it is stated that "To the Governor of Egypt, Vizier Mehmed Pasha: Hz. It is mentioned that "the kaliches needed for the office of Muhammad Mustafa were to be arranged (procured) from the Egyptian mukataa (rental income of a state-owned land) and the book records were corrected (edited) and sent to the Egyptian mirihaj (treasury officer)."

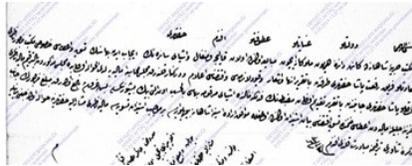
Sixth document:



Photograph: 7.

HAT document, file 1569, shirt number 41, dated 25.05.1242, is an order regarding "the expenses of the mosque built in Tophane-i Amire to be covered by Evkaf-ı Hümayun (Ministry responsible for foundations)".

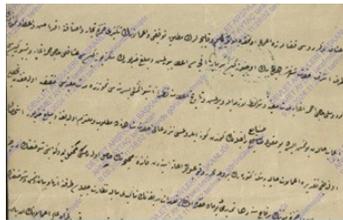
Seventh document:



Photograph: 8.

Wills Internal Affairs document, file 142, shirt number 7305, dated 02.04.1263, is about "payment of the royalties received for the imperial office at the Military Academy".

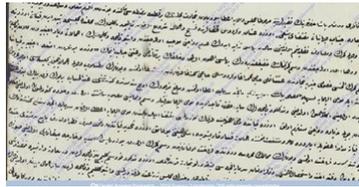
Eighth document:



Photograph: 9.

The document of the Grand Vizier Majlis-i Vâlâ Documents, 16 files, numbered 51 shirts, dated 05.08.1265, is a letter to the Minister of Finance regarding the extension of the payment period of the loans given to manufacturers and tradesmen for the increase of rug and kaliçe production in Uşak and Görδος districts.

Ninth document:



Photograph: 10.

İrade Mesail-i Mühimme document, 79 files, document numbered 2282, dated 15.02.1263. "The Parliament of Vala appealed for the relief of customs duty on the carpets and rugs produced in Uşak and Görδος districts for a period of one year, and for the amnesty of the capital funds given to them in the autumn." It is the "tazkire-i samiye" regarding the presentation of the certificate written from.

Tenth document:



Photograph: 11.

The document of the Ministry of Finance, Real Estate-ı Emirriye Directorate, 182 files, numbered 38 shirts, dated 29.10.1309, is about "payment of the expenses of Sivaslı Mıgırđıç Ağa, who was assigned for six months to train apprentices to produce Sivaskari caliche at Hereke Factory-i Hümayun".

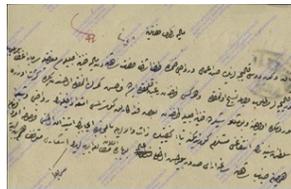
Eleventh document:



Photograph: 12.

The Ministry of Finance Real Estate Directorate document, file 141, number 62, dated 03.05.1307, is related to the fact that "the amount granted by the sultan to the prayer rug maker Mehmed Çavuş in Akaretler for the purpose of manufacturing caliche was transferred from the Treasury-i Hassa cashier."

Twelfth document:



Photograph: 13.

The document of Grand Vizier Mektubî Kalemi Mühimme, 32 files, number 87 shirts, dated 26.07.1267, is the instruction "to reduce the customs collected from Uşak and Görδος queens".

Thirteenth document:



Photograph: 14.

In the document of the State Council, file 1217, shirt number 2, dated 26.02.1319, it is mentioned that "the exemption from customs duty (tax) of the tools to be imported from Europe to the factory that Hamamzade Hüseyin Hüsnü Efendi will establish in Uşak for the production of caliche".

Conclusion

As a result, it can be said that the archive records showed that the art of carpet weaving was an important business line during the Ottoman Empire, financial arrangements were made in this regard and correspondence regarding these was recorded.

It is understood that the money for the houses where the ambassadors of foreign states appointed to the Ottoman lands would stay and even the carpets needed for the palace were paid from the state treasury, and the money for the carpets needed for military schools, mosques and other sacred places were paid directly from the state coffers or from the budgets of various ministries.

Archive documents reveal that state decisions were taken to provide facilities such as extension of time for the repayment of loans given to tradesmen engaged in carpet manufacturing, and that carpet merchants were subject to customs duty reductions from time to time and even their loan debts were forgiven.

It is seen that the salaries of teachers giving lessons on carpet weaving and the expenses of other officials are paid by the state.

Archival documents also confirm that orders were issued to prevent customs duties from being collected from businesses and merchants importing machinery and equipment related to textile and carpet weaving from Europe.

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<https://kod-a.com/blog/turkiyedeki-onemli-arsivler/30.01.2024.14.26>.

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