

SÁNDOR PAPP

## Preface

This volume contains articles of the members of the MTA–SZTE Research Group of the Ottoman Age (Eötvös Loránd Research Network) and some dear colleagues, who work with us in a close contact. The articles are presenting the results of their own research.

The Research Group of the Ottoman Age was founded almost in 2017, and focuses on medieval and early modern Ottoman–Hungarian and Habsburg diplomatic history based on international examples. It has been greatly inspired by the influential research and publications of Dariusz Kołodziejczyk, who has written about Ottoman, Crimean Tatar, and Polish relations; and Hans Peter Alexander Theunissen, who presented the almost complete Venetian–Ottoman diplomatic contact based on the political and commercial treaties in his dissertation. The composer of these lines has worked on a special area of Hungarian–Ottoman relations, published the sultan’s appointment documents and princely confirmation diplomas used for the confirmation of the Transylvanian voivodes and princes in the period of 1528–1606. He continued this research until 1739, and the result of it a yet unpublished volume about the same topic, which contains the transcriptions and translations of the basic documents (‘ahdnāmes, berāts, nāmes, fermāns) into Hungarian and German languages.

These works can be seen as precursors to the current project. In it, the texts of the peace treaties between the Ottoman Empire and the medieval Hungarian state, or later the Vienna-based Habsburg Monarchy that replaced it in eastern diplomacy, are processed from the first examples in the 15<sup>th</sup> century up to 1739.

A few years ago, when I collected documents for the Ottoman–Transylvanian diplomatic relationship found almost untouched material about the inauguration system of the princes of Transylvania. In addition to this, I discovered a new diplomatic process in the case of Transylvania. According to the new system, the young princes were appointed in the life of their predecessors, actually their fathers by the sultan’s temporary confirmation. This new type of confirmation was not enough to rule the dominion, on the contrary, only bestowed upon the recipient an assurance of his right to inherit the throne prior to the death of their fathers.

The second study, “The Story of Johann von Pernstein’s regiment” is a contribution of the military historian and chief archivist Zoltán Péter Bagi. His main research field is the “Türkische Kriege” in Hungary, especially the Long Turkish War (1591/93–1606). He examines in this volume an infantry regiment hired and led by Johann von Pernstein. The mercenaries served and fought on the theatres of war of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1597 for just a few months, because their Obrist Pernstein was killed on 30 September.

The third contribution is a common article of two young scholars, Gergely Brandl's and János Szabados's. The main goal of the essay is to present a case study about the ambassadorial mission of the Habsburgs led by Baron Johann Ludwig von Kuefstein, which was sent to ratify the documents in Constantinople. It discusses the early period of the mission from the request of the emperor (18 November 1627) until the arrival of the delegation (18 November 1628) in the Ottoman capital. After briefly touching upon general surveys, the study describes the various problems that the baron had to face during the appointment of the personnel for the mission.

The fourth study was written by Krisztina Juhász, who is interested in the diplomatic negotiations taking place along the Ottoman–Hungarian frontier during the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In this article she focused on the so-called Second Peace Treaty of Szőny in 1642. She highlighted one node of the communication network during the aforementioned negotiation. She presented the communication channel through the letters of two members of the Esterházy family (Dániel Esterházy, who was a member of the delegation, and his elder brother, Miklós Esterházy, a remarkable Palatinus of the Hungarian Kingdom). Whilst Krisztina Juhász concentrates on the correspondence of the Esterházys, she provides valuable information to the negotiations itself.

As a fifth study, Szabolcs Hadnagy focused on the campaign of the Grand Vizier Köprülü Mehmed Pasha against Transylvania in 1658. As the consequence of the Ottoman Military action, Transylvania lost one third of its territory and the right to elect a new prince without Ottoman influence. The aim of the campaign was to remove Prince György II Rákóczi. The recently discovered sources in the Ottoman language concerning the army's food supplies put the whole issue into a different perspective. According to these sources, the campaign was planned against the Dalmatian regions of the Republic of Venice, then slowly turned against Transylvania due to Rákóczi desperately trying to hold onto power, and culminated in the capture of the castle of Jenő and the appointment of the new Prince Ákos Barcsai because of the Celālī rebellion that broke out in the Ottoman Empire.

Zsuzsanna Cziráki's study focused on a crime in Istanbul in the autumn of 1646, committed by the resident ambassador, Alexander Greiffenklau. The victim of a murder was a certain Don Juan de Menesses, an adventurer, who had been involved in conspiring against the Habsburg dynasty within the Sultan's entourage. The paper describes what led to Menesses's murder and what kind of consequences can be drawn on the basis of the crime as to the diplomatic cooperation between the Spanish and the Austrian lines of the Habsburg dynasty in the last years of the Thirty Years' War.

The last article changes the focus from the historical events to the characters writing history. Kutse Altın's contribution leads us to the academic activity of Prof. Dr. Tayyib Gökbilgin, who was the first student of Hungarology at Faculty of Language, History, and Geography in Ankara in the 1930's. The article was based on Gökbilgin's personal collection, in which the individual perspectives of

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scholars on the socio-political environment can also be traced. The aim of this article is to present the letters of László Rásonyi, the first head of the Department of Hungarology to his first student and later colleague Tayyib Gökbilgin in the context of the personal archive and first-person documents.

Last but not least, this volume contains a bibliography which shows the data of the (published as well as in press) works of our research group from 2017 until the closing of this volume. This paper aims to help the readers to find our works concerning the Ottoman – Habsburg diplomacy of the early modern period.

To conclude this introduction, I would like to thank our colleagues inside and outside of the Research Group for their contributions in this volume. It is a great accomplishment that every author managed to complete their manuscripts within the deadline. I would like to thank Gellért Ernő Marton, who performed the meticulous and laborious technical work of editing with his usual consistency and precision.

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Sándor Papp