

KUTSE ALTIN

## Letters from Tayyib Gökbilgin's Personal Archives: László Rásonyi\*

### INTRODUCTION

From today's perspective, it seems possible to suggest that the late Ottoman Empire witnessed a remarkable process of transition, and even though it was an era of numerous obstacles and rather troubling times, it also allowed new opportunities and trends to emerge. Tayyib Gökbilgin (1907–1981), who was among the distinguished scholars of Ottoman studies, was born in an empire where such momentous transformations appeared constantly. He was a student of *Medrese*; he experienced his early stages of schooling in the educational institutions of the Ottoman Empire. He read and wrote in Ottoman Turkish (the language of the empire), and also learned Arabic and Persian grammar. Because of the constant conditions of war, he had to take a brief break in his education, but the same conditions made him aware of the changes and the challenges in the late Ottoman society. It is quite clear that a critical feature that distinguishes Gökbilgin from later Ottoman studies experts is that he could capture the nature of Ottoman society, literature, and culture in its last period. He had his secondary education at Trabzon Dâru'l-muallimin (Trabzon Teaching School), and earned a teaching diploma when the teaching schools were recognised as institutions that provided training for the first teachers of the young Republic of Turkey, the unarmed soldiers of the nation who would eliminate the ignorance and educate the society that had just faced the catastrophe of the continuous wars.

He was appointed as a teacher in 1929, and he taught in various village schools in Anatolia for almost seven years. The year 1936 was a turning point for him; the Faculty of Language, History, and Geography (*Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi*) was established at the University of Ankara. After the foundation of the Faculty, upon the request of Afet İnan – who was a historian, scholar and one of the adopted children of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – the graduates of teacher schools who currently teach at that time also got accepted.<sup>1</sup> Thus, Tayyib Gökbilgin could also enrol in the Faculty and had begun his university life in the Department of Hungarian. While the Faculty of Language and History was founded, Hungarian

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<sup>1</sup> İnan, “Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesinin Kuruluş Hazırlıkları Üzerine”, p. 11.

was included in the faculty's scope upon the wish of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The Faculty was established to create a scholarly institution to study Turkish language, history, and geography not only to understand the inner dynamics of the Turkish nation but also to determine the contributions of Turkish civilisations to human history. Accordingly, the Hungarian studies department was established to investigate the common historical characteristics of the Turkish and Hungarian nations. In general, the primary subjects of Hungarian studies consisted of themes such as the ancient history of the Hungarians, the common ancestors, ethnogenesis, and kinship of the early Hungarians and Turks.<sup>2</sup>

Gökbilgin was among the first students of Professor László Rásonyi. Professor Rásonyi graduated from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University with a degree in history in 1921, after received his doctorate in Turkish philology. He was a student of Turkologist Gyula Németh, Hungaryologist Zoltán Gombocz, and Orientalist–Turcologist Johann Wilhelm Max Julius Bang-Kaup. Between 1921–1935, he worked as a deputy director, and later director at the library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1934, he was invited by the newly established the Turkish Language Association to Ankara. He presented a paper about the linguistic and historical issues of medieval Turkish–Hungarian contacts. In 1935, László Rásonyi was invited to the Faculty of Language, History, and Geography to establish the Department of Hungaryology, and as a lecturer at the request of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.<sup>3</sup>

The primary focus of this article is to give some examples from the letters that were sent by the first head of the department of Hungarian studies, László Rásonyi, to his first student and then later colleague Gökbilgin. These letters I cited below are a part of the big collection of the semi-organised personal archive of Tayyib Gökbilgin, which has been curated by his son Altay Gökbilgin and shared with us.<sup>4</sup> However, before presenting the details of this correspondence, it would be more accurate to start with the questions of what is a personal archive, what makes personal papers different from other forms of archival material, and what can the function of ego-documents be?

Personal archives are documents that are not secured under the control of any public institution and highly individual. They have not been classified through any kind of official selection; they are disorganised compared to state archives, and the process and standardisation of the organisation of the documents vary according to personal choices, or institutional practices and capabilities, if the collection has been donated to or bought by an institution. Personal archives are not only related to people's jobs and official activities but are also the most explanatory sources in terms of the subjects' daily lives and relationships. The questions of how to gain access to them, approach them and evaluate them varies according to

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<sup>2</sup> Güngörmüş, "Hungarológia", pp. 26–27; Kakuk, "Az Ankarai Egyetem", p. 116.

<sup>3</sup> Çoban, "Rásonyi László", pp. 459–460; Kakuk, "Az Ankarai Egyetem", pp. 116–118.

<sup>4</sup> I would here like to thank Altay Gökbilgin for sharing with me and with my supervisor (Prof. Dr. Sándor Papp) this outstandingly important collection of sources.

almost every personal archive to be researched. This is because each personal archive is created in line with unique human experiences and reflects these experiences from the individual's own perspective. Personal papers provide some facts (like a birth certificate or a college diploma) about the individual, but also offer insights about the opinions, rationalisations, working methods, emotional relationships, family dynamics, interests, networks, travels, and other aspects of the individual's life. In a way, personal archives can be evaluated as an “*identity kit*’: *materials reflect and describe the owner*”.<sup>5</sup> As Caroline Williams states, public archives “*contribute primarily to knowledge about infrastructures, contexts and frameworks of business, society and politics*” and personal papers give us the opportunity to make “*biographical, prosopographical, occupational and genealogical study at a personal and collective level*.”<sup>6</sup>

The purpose of a structuring personal archive can be to store the documents and to reassess them when and/or if it is necessary. However, the main point of personal archiving can be evaluated as building a legacy that is typically considered being unique and irreplaceable; sharing this legacy and the mine of information/knowledge/wisdom it contains; preserving materials that are deemed to be crucially important and that have a place in the collective memory; providing evidence of past actions; and transferring identity and/or cultural values that have been laboriously created over the years.

As one can easily guess, Tayyib Gökbilgin was passionate about archives; therefore, his personal collection is quite vast. Some of the documents in his personal archives are related to the real estate of the family, some of them contain lecture notes, and some of them are official documents showing his activities at the university and at the Turkish Historical Association. However, we can clearly state correspondences constitute the important majority of the collection. The personal archive of Tayyib Gökbilgin is an excellent collection for examining his socio-intellectual and institutional network. These letters not only provide observations about Gökbilgin's personal and professional relationships but explain his underlying purpose for preserving the letters. The legacy that he chose to preserve was a part of his identity, his position in his field, and his connections with significant historians, intellectuals, and dignitaries of state, all in all, his place in the world.

Currently over twenty letters and postcards can be found in this collection that László Rásonyi sent to Tayyib Gökbilgin as well as to other people between the years of 1936 and 1981. The mood of the letters when László Rásonyi was the head of the department of Hungarian studies at the Faculty of Languages, History, and Geography is generally very positive. In these letters, he mentions the summer school in Debrecen, talks about organising the lectures, and ends his letters with good wishes for Tayyib Gökbilgin and his other friends at the department. One of the long documents found in the collection dates to 1939 and relates directly to

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<sup>5</sup> Kaye et al., “To Have and to Hold”, p. 279.

<sup>6</sup> Williams, “Personal papers: Perceptions and Practices.”, p. 66.

Tayyib Gökbilgin's education. In this document (addressed to the Ministry of Education), Rásonyi politely asked for something additional regarding his students, besides his request for the summer courses in Hungary. He presented Eötvös József Collegium in Budapest as one of the best institutions of higher education in Europe, corresponding in qualifications and system with the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. The most distinguished Hungarian scholars and Turkologists graduated from Eötvös József Collegium, as did some Turkish scholars. Soon, it became a kind of tradition to have a Turkish student at this institution and he wanted at least one of his students to continue his education there for a year. While this opportunity already existed at Eötvös József Collegium, it had not yet been utilised. Therefore:

*“I kindly ask that Tayyib Gökbilgin, who is already a very good student, has made a very good impression on some Hungarian scholars in recent years, and has established important personal contacts in Budapest, be allowed to continue his education starting from the 1939-1940 academic year in Budapest at B.E.J.Coll. (...) Apart from Hungarian Studies, Tayyib studies early and modern history as a secondary major. The Hungarian and the Latin sources in Hungary on the period of the rise of the Ottoman Empire, between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the chronicles, and all other documents, are completely unknown and unprocessed here. Since I am fully aware of Tayyib's talent and capabilities, I gave him the goal to examine them two years ago. I hope that in the future he will gain a position as a Turkish historian and archivist.”<sup>7</sup>*

After Northern Transylvania (present day is a part of Romania) was ceded back to Hungary as a result of the Second Vienna Award (30 August 1940), László Rásonyi was appointed to the Kolozsvári Magyar Királyi Ferenc József Tudományegyetem Bölcsészeti-, Nyelv- és Történettudományi Kar (Royal Hungarian Franz Joseph University, Faculty of Arts, Language and History in Kolozsvár; (present day *Cluj-Napoca*, in Romania) by the Hungarian government and therefore he left Turkey in the autumn of 1942.<sup>8</sup> However, his teaching position there did not last long, and he had to leave because of the Second World War.<sup>9</sup> A letter within Gökbilgin's collection, written in Turkish and dated to 1946, provides some information about this period:

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<sup>7</sup> Extract. I believe this document was dictated by Rásonyi but written by Gökbilgin. Letter from László Rásonyi to an unknown deputy, 1939. *Document 1*, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Discussion of the decision on László Rásonyi, see: Szegedi egyetemi jegyzőkönyvek, 2<sup>nd</sup> ordinary session, 28 October 1941, p. 9; sending the letter of decision to László Rásonyi's address in Turkey, see: Szegedi egyetemi jegyzőkönyvek, 6<sup>th</sup> ordinary session, 26 February 1942, p. 9; Çoban, “Rásonyi László”, pp. 459–460.

<sup>9</sup> A document showing that László Rásonyi was in Kolozsvár in May 1944, see: Szegedi egyetemi jegyzőkönyvek, 9<sup>th</sup> ordinary session, 25 May 1944, p. 1.



*“My Dear Friend Tayyib,*

*Thank you very much for your letter and the actions you initiated on my behalf. Your lines are especially valuable during the instability of refugee life that has been going on for two years. In his letters to me, Hamit Koşay<sup>10</sup> stated that the ministry of foreign affairs officially wrote on my behalf first to the Roman embassy and then to the Bern embassy in Switzerland. I also wrote to both Cemal Hüsnü Taray Bey<sup>11</sup> and Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu Bey<sup>12</sup>. My departure for Turkey depends on their answers. We are again so grieved because of Kolozsvár. My wife's parents and brother have so much nostalgia for it and they are so on the edge that we almost returned. However, according to my colleague who wrote to me, going back to Hungary would not be good for me while the Russians are there. In my new book, which I left at the printing house, I was a more determined proponent of Turkishness than before. Now I have only one desire: the opportunity to work productively. I also work here a lot. I prepared a chrestomathy of English literature for the Hungarian refugees, I taught English and Turkish, then Turkish and Eastern European history. I would like to publish the history of the Turkic peoples in Turkey /in English and Turkish/ and a dictionary of Turkish Names. The rich library of the Türkiyat Institute there would have been extremely good for the completion of this work. I would go to İstanbul with the greatest joy, and this would also be good for my family. However, I do not know what the deputy minister will decide.”<sup>13</sup>*

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<sup>10</sup> Hamit Zübeyr Koşay was born in a village named Tilençi Tomrek in Ufa province of the Idil-Ural region. He came to İstanbul in 1909 and studied at Dâru'l-muallim. In 1917, he went to Hungary and enrolled in the “paedagogium” in Budapest, where he trained as a secondary school teacher. He graduated in 1921. In the same year, he entered Eötvös Collegium and in 1923 he completed his dissertation entitled “Türk Silâh Adları” (The Names of Turkish weapons) under the supervision of the famous Turkologist Gyula Németh. Later he attended Willy Bang Kaup's lectures at the University of Berlin. In 1925, Koşay returned to Turkey and started his career in the Ministry of Education. He worked at the Bureau of Culture (Hars Dairesi), and later he served as a director of historical artefacts and libraries at the general directorate of Antiquities and Museums and the Ankara Ethnographical Museum. Koşay is known for his studies in archaeology, ethnology and philology. He directed one of the first excavations of the Turkish Republic, called the Ahlatlıbel excavation, in 1933. For more detail, see: Şakiroğlu, “Koşay, Hamit Zübeyr”, pp. 225–226.

<sup>11</sup> Cemal Hüsnü Taray (1893–1975) was working as the ambassador of Roma at that time, see: Başkaya, “Atatürk'ün Genç Diplomatı”, p. 673.

<sup>12</sup> Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu (1889–1974) was a writer, translator, journalist, diplomat, and parliament member. During this period, he was a diplomatic officer at the Bern embassy. See more: Polat, “Karaosmanoğlu, Yakup Kadri”, pp. 465–468.

<sup>13</sup> “Aziz dostum Tayyib, Mektubunuzu ve benim için başladığımız hareketi çok teşekkür ederim. İki seneden beri devam eden mülteci hayatın kararsızlığında saturlarınız bilhassa kıymetlidir. Hamit Koşay bana yazdığı mektublarında dışişleri bakanlığının benim için evvela Roma büyükelçiliğine sonra İsviçrede Bern elçiliğine resmen yazdığını bildirdi. Ben de hem Cemal Hüsnü Taray beye, hem de Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu beye yazdım. Türkiyeye hareketim onların cevabına bağlıdır. Kolozsvár sebebiyle yine çok müteesiriz. Zevcemın ebeveyni ve biraderi için nostaljisi okadar büyük, sınırları okadar yorgundur ki az kaldı ki döndük. Fakat bir meslektaşımın bana yazdığına göre Macaristana dönmek Rusların orada bulunacağı zaman bana iyi olmayacaktı, Matbaahanedede bıraktığım yeni kitabımda evvelkisinden de çok daha katı bir

The address where László Rásonyi sent this letter from was “*Hung. D.P. Camp Feffernitz VIII/7. Carinthia, Austria*”, meaning the Hungarian Displaced Persons Camp in Feffernitz, in Austria. After the Second World War, millions of people, including civilians, were displaced across Europe. *D.P.*, which stands for displaced person was a label given to the people who were displaced from their countries and who wanted to return. Luke Kelly stated that the Feffernitz Displaced Persons camp was “*in the British zone of Austria, hosting Hungarians displaced after the war and run by the Friends Ambulance Unit under the jurisdiction of the Red Cross and British authorities.*”<sup>14</sup> As we can see from the letter I quoted above, László Rásonyi was one of the Hungarians who had to stay in this camp for a while. In another letter he sent to Tayyib Gökbilgin in 1948, he first writes how fortunate he was to re-continue their correspondence after a long break. He said that he had applied for a British visa but did not get any response. He added that since December the weather had been very cold, he received urgent telegraphs from his home, and he had to return to avoid any more suffering for his children. He mentioned that he had not been subjected to any political prosecution to that point, since he was not condemned for being a fascist, and he had found a position at the Balkan Institute in Budapest with the help of his friends. “*Naturally, all these matters are more difficult and even impossible to achieve today, since our country is getting closer to a dictatorship of the proletariat every day.*”<sup>15</sup> He stated his mission was to give the institute a direction, as much as possible, that would improve Hungarian–Turkish friendship. This institute, he said, was the only institution that could help to develop such a relationship. He mentioned that he had prepared and delivered a report stating that although many Hungarian works had been translated into Turkish up to that point, there were very few works translated from Turkish to Hungarian. Besides that, he taught Turkish at two different levels and the attendees of the courses were double as many as any who were learning any of the Balkan languages. He stated that he did not yet have to join the communist party, since they have a special respect for university professors. Nevertheless, Rásonyi did not hesitate to express his concern for the future:

“*For all these reasons, the discussions that you and Hamit Bey<sup>16</sup> had for me with the ministry of education have helped me greatly and allowed me to take a breath of relief. If I will ever be subjected to prosecution one day and deprived of*

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*şekilde Türklüğün taraftarı idim. Şimdi ancak bir isteğim var: produktif çalışmak imkânı. Burada da çok işliyorum. Macar mültecilerine İngiliz edebiyatının bir chrestomathia'sını yaptım, İngilizce ve Türkçeyi, sonra Türk ve Şarki Avrupa tarihini öğrettim. Türkiye Türk Halklarının Tarihini /türkçe ve İngilizce/ ve Türk Adları Lûgatını neşretmek isterdim. Oradaki Türkiyat Enstitüsünün zengin kütüphanesi bu eserin tamamlanması için fevkalâde iyi olacaktı. En büyük sevinçle İstanbul'a gidecektim, ailem için de iyi olacaktı. Fakat vekil beyin ne karar vereceğini bilmeyorum.” See: Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 28 August 1946. Document 2.*

<sup>14</sup> Kelly, “Humanitarian sentiment”, pp. 387–406.

<sup>15</sup> “*Tabiatıyla bugün bütün bu cihetler daha güçlülükle temin edilebilir hatta imkansızdır, çünkü memleketimiz her gün proletaryatörlüğe biraz yaklaşmaktadır.*” Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 30 March 1948. Document 3, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Viz., Hamit Zübeyr Koşay.

*my salary, I continue to work with confidence, sure that my family and children will not starve. That is why I am very grateful to you, to Hamit Bey and to the deputy, to all of you.*"<sup>17</sup>

He continued his letter by discussing the difficulties of getting a passport. For example, a well-known physician and a former university professor, Ernő Balogh, was not able to receive a passport even though he was invited from İstanbul University and even though there was a Turkish ambassador who was acting as a mediator in this process. He concluded his letter by saying that especially these days he wished he were living in Turkey, and asked Gökbilgin to show the letter to Hamit Bey, but only to reveal its contents to old Turkish friends.

The further documents which can be found in the Gökbilgin collection, are dated to the 1960s, so, a gap can be recognised in the exchange of letters between Tayyib Gökbilgin and László Rásonyi concerning 1948 and the 1960s. Nevertheless, it is groundless to think that they did not have any correspondence between those dates, but these letters have probably gone missing over the years. However, in another letter dating back to 1961, we learn that Gökbilgin invited Rásonyi to conduct a long-term research project in Erzurum, but he again mentioned the hardships of obtaining a passport to travel.<sup>18</sup> Rásonyi was invited to present a paper entitled, "Türk Halklarında Kadın Adları"<sup>19</sup> in Göttingen and applied to get a passport but the application was rejected:

*"You can imagine my feeling when I was told on Aug. 3 that 'the request for a passport could not be completed at this time'. [...] I have become so exhausted due to the tension, disappointment, anger and suffering I have experienced."*<sup>20</sup>

Rásonyi believed that the famous philologist, historian, Turkologist, and orientalist, Lajos Ligeti treated him like a second-class citizen, since he was denied a passport therefore, Ligeti did not have the courage to do a favour for him. He complained that only one signature by Ligeti, who at that time was the vice president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, would have been enough, but he did not sign the documents. Nevertheless, he said that living in Ankara or Istanbul seemed so attractive to him, although he had some doubts about living in Erzurum, since he did not know how being there would affect his health. When he closed his letter, he mentioned that his former professor wanted to close down the 90-

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<sup>17</sup> "İşte bütün bu sebeplerle Hamit beyin ve Sizin maarif vekaletiyle benim hakkındaki görüşmeleriniz son derece imdadıma yetmiş ve benim geniş bir nefes almama sebep olmuştur. Şayet burada bir gün takibata maruz kalır ve maaşımdan mahrum edilirse ailem ve çocuklarımın aç kalmayacaklarına emin olarak şimdilik itimadla çalışmalarına devam ediyorum. İşte bu sebeple Size, Hamit beye ve vekil beye, hepinize çok minnettarım." Ibid, p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 21 September 1961. *Document 4*, p. 1.

<sup>19</sup> In English: The Names of Women in Turkic Peoples.

<sup>20</sup> "Képzelteti az érzésemet, mikor aug. 3.-án közölték velem hogy az "utlevél iránti kérés ezidőszert nem teljesíthető". [...] A sok izgalom, csalódás, mérgelődés, gond, amin keresztülmentem, megviseltek." Ibid.

year-old department just to avoid handing it over to Rásonyi, and warned that this matter should not be discussed with their colleagues ‘K.N.Gyuzsi’ (Gyula Káldy-Nagy) and ‘Siyah’ (means black in Turkish, he refers to Lajos Fekete here). Then he mentions that Gyula Káldy-Nagy wanted to be a lecturer at the University of Ankara, but the former professor (Rásonyi did not give his name in his letter) had another person in his mind.<sup>21</sup>

Rásonyi retired in Hungary in 1962, but right after he received his retired status he went back to Ankara and started working at the Hungarian studies department again. A letter from this period begins as follows:

*“The profoundly depressed nature of your letter and its deep tone of disappointment was also very gloomy for me. Yet afterwards I thought the things over. You wrote that you heard from Gy. H. that one of the secretaries of the embassy pronounced You as a spy. Well, I do not believe that Gy. H. heard such a thing at all. However, it is a fact that Gy. H. has many acquaintances in state organs at home [viz. in Hungary], and even here in Turkey in many places as well, and due to his being well-informed is almost admirable, nonetheless, I have to state that I found what he said to be total nonsense.”<sup>22</sup>*

Apparently, Tayyib Gökbilgin had heard from György Hazai<sup>23</sup> that there were rumours in Hungary that he (viz. Gökbilgin) was a spy, and he was very upset about this news and shared his feelings on this issue with Rásonyi. Rásonyi, on the other hand, tried to soothe him with these words:

*“It is an absurdity that when You are the most outstanding and competent person among the few who are actively concerning with intensifying Turkish–Hungarian cultural relations, - that is to be found anyone at the embassy, either in the past or in the present, who would have made such an accusation about You. Whenever I talk to someone from the embassy, they always talk about You with great respect and sympathy. We know that, in the present-day world situation, even more than as usual, the embassy of small Hungary cannot have any other purpose than promote economic and cultural relations. Why would they want to discredit*

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<sup>21</sup> Concerning this, see: *Document 4*, p. 2.

<sup>22</sup> *“Levelének a mélységesen lehangolt volta és csalódott hangja nagyon [in the original: nagyon] lehangoló volt számomra is. De azután gondolkoztam a dolgokon. Irja, hogy H.Gy.től olyan értesülése van, amely szerint innen valamelyik követségi titkár Önt kémnek nyilvánította. Hát én egyáltalában nem hiszem, hogy H.Gy. ilyesmit hallott volna. Bármennyire is tény, hogy H.Gy.-nek minden állami szervnél vannak ismerősei otthon, s még itt Törökországban is sokféle,-, s ennek megfelelően szinte csodálatraméltó a jólérsültsége, mégis ki kell jelentenem, hogy azt, amit ő mondott, merő kitalálásnak tartom.”* Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 11 August 1963. *Document 5*, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> György Hazai (1932–2016) was a Turkologist, orientalist, university professor and the member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. At the time when these correspondences happened, he was a research fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and also a visiting associate to full professor at Humboldt University. See: Németh, “A turkológia szolgálatában”, pp. 348–362.

that person to whom they can owe the most concerning the relationship with Turkey?"<sup>24</sup>

Rásonyi thought that Hazai concocted this story, and if this was the case, Gökbilgin should not be taking the issue so seriously because he said Hazai "*fell into a discredit before scientific circles at home [viz. in Hungary], perhaps even to a greater extent than it is deserved.*"<sup>25</sup> He stated that in Turkey, they have an over-rated opinion about him. "*He is a smart man, but he should engage in more scientific studies that show serious results, than dealing with 'politics', namely with personal politics.*"<sup>26</sup>

After trying to set things right and calm Gökbilgin, he mentioned his recent activities. He wanted to make a presentation at the Turkish Art History Congress in Venice about the Turkish vocabulary of carpet making. "[...] *beyond doubt, the Turkish vocabulary of carpet making is autochthonous /there are many verb-derivatives!/. This is the first step in the settlement which people can be associated with the beginning of carpet-making. – However, the trip will cost a lot and as a non-Turkish citizen, I would also have currency difficulties around buying the ticket.*"<sup>27</sup>

The same vexing problem appears in another letter dated to September 1963. In the first part of it, he requests Gökbilgin's assistance because visa again could not be obtained. This time, the visa issue concerned Gyula Káldy-Nagy. Rásonyi continued the second part of the letter as follows, "*Now something on the other matter that causes You great bitterness. Once again, I express only my conviction that I do not believe what Hazai told because those who work in the embassy cannot be not so narrow-minded that to act against their own interest. That lie either had no purpose, only spontaneously wanted to harm Your protégés, namely*

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<sup>24</sup> "Képtelenség, hogy akkor, amikor Ön a legkimagaslóbb és leghozzáértőbb személyiség azon kevesek között, akik aktívan törődnek a török-magyar kulturális kapcsolatok intenzívebbé tételével, - hogy akkor akadjon bárki is a követségen, akár a multban, akár a jelenben, aki Önre vonatkozólag az inkriminált kijelentést tette volna. Akárhányszor beszélek a követségiekkel, Önről mindig a legnagyobb tisztelettel és rokonszenvvel emlékeznek meg. Tudjuk azt, hogy a mai világhelyzetben még inkább, mint máskor, a kis Magyarország követségének nem is lehet más célkitűzése, mint hogy elősegítse a gazdasági és kulturális kapcsolatokat. Hát csak nem diszkreditálják épen azt a személyiséget, akinek török vonalon a legtöbbet köszönhetnek!" Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 11 August 1963. Document 5, p. 1.

<sup>25</sup> "Azt hiszem, így kell felfogni az ügyet, s ha esetleg Hazai kitalálása az egész [in the original: egészn] nem kell komolyan venni, nem pusztán a fentebb kifejtettek miatt, hanem azért sem, mert ő az otthoni tudományos körök előtt talán még a megérdemelnél is nagyobb mértékben elvesztette a hitelét." Ibid, p. 2.

<sup>26</sup> "Jó feje van neki, de többet kellene neki komoly eredményeket felmutató tudományos munkával foglalkozni, mint "politiká" val, már tudniillik személyi politikával." Ibid, p. 2.

<sup>27</sup> "[...] a szőnyegelőállítás török szókincse kétségbevonhatatlanul autochton /sok az igei derivátum!/. Ez az első lépés annak az eldöntésére, hogy milyen néphez kapcsolhatjuk a szőnyegelőállítás kezdeteit. – Azonban az ut sokba kerül és mint nem török állampolgárnak, valutáris nehézségeim is lennének a jegy megvásárlása körül." Ibid, p. 2.

*me and Káldy in Hungary, or else – I am referring here to Your conversation with Hazai – it was intended to discourage You from helping Hungarians.”*<sup>28</sup>

This gossip had a greater impact on Gökbilgin than Rásonyi had expected. He said that he hoped that Gökbilgin did not mention his name in the conversation that he had with Hazai, because he was concerned that Hazai could use this information against him in Hungary. He added that if Gökbilgin wanted and if his name had not been mentioned before regarding this matter, he could talk with the ambassador for help.<sup>29</sup>

After this date, there are short letters or postcards between Rásonyi and Gökbilgin in the collection that mention illnesses, acquaintances, everyday matters, and greetings (e.g., for holidays, New Years, etc.). In 1970, Rásonyi sent a letter, signed by his wife Piroska as well, from Ankara to Gökbilgin, expressing his condolences. As can be understood from this letter, Gökbilgin was in Budapest when his wife passed away.

*“We were shocked to learn from Hamit Koşay that your beloved spouse finished her life on earth while you were in Pest.*

*We know that her condition was almost hopeless, but still, the news enlisted deep sympathy in us. On the one hand, we are very sorry for the deceased, she suffered a lot, because one of the greatest blessings of God, an easy death, was not granted to her. [...]*

*However, one thing that may be of consolation is that you are a true Muslim, and there is perchance no other religion that educates its believers to accept God-Allah’s will as much as Islam does.”*<sup>30</sup>

As far as we can see from Gökbilgin’s personal archive, after Rásonyi started his duty in Ankara, such extensive correspondence was replaced by short holiday- or New Year celebration cards. This was probably due to the fact that they were in the same country and could also reach each other through other means. To conclude, most of the examples we have here are not continuous letters written in response to one another. In this respect, it makes it difficult to follow the subjects

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<sup>28</sup> “*Most valamit a másik ügyről, ami Önnek nagy keserüséget okozott. Ujra csak azt a meggyőződésemet fejezem ki, hogy én azt, amit Hazai mondott, nem hiszem el, mert annyira még a követségiek sem lehetnek bornirtak, hogy a saját érdekük ellen cselekedjenek. Annak a hazugságnak vagy nem volt célja, csak [inserted above] spontán ártani akart az Önt pártfogoltjainak, vagyis Káldynak és nekem Magyarországon, vagy pedig – itt az Ön Hazaival való beszélgetésére utalok –, el akarta venni az Ön kedvét attól, hogy magyaroknak segítsen.”* Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 17 September 1963. *Document 6*, p. 1.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> “*Megdöbbenve értesültünk Hamit Koşaytól arról, hogy szeretett felesége befejezte földi életét, éppen akkor, amikor Ön Pesten volt. Tudjuk, hogy állapota csaknem reménytelen volt, mégis mély részvétet keltett bennünk a hír. Egyfelől a szegény megboldogult iránt, aki sokat szenvedett, mert nem adatott meg neki Isten egyik legnagyobb ajándéka, a könnyű halál. [...] Vigaszul szolgál azonban az, hogy Ön igazi muszlim és talán egyetlen nagy vallás sincs, amely olyan mértékben nevelné híveit Isten – Allah akaratában való belenyugvásba, mint az Islám.”* Letter from László and Piroska Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 1 November 1970. *Document 7*.

and to construct continuous data. Even though this situation causes some confusion in readers mind we can clearly state that letters of Rásonyi in Gökbilgin's personal collection establish a very interesting and valuable picture to comprehend the difficulties encountered in a rather complicated period, the struggles of life, the work ethic and publication activities, individual perspectives of the social environment of the academicians. Moreover, evaluating these letters chronologically allows us to envision how the relationship between Gökbilgin and Rásonyi had developed. It gives us an opportunity to be able to observe how the teacher-student exchange in the first stage of their communication process transformed into the friendship of colleagues over time.

APPENDIX

1.

Letter from László Rásonyi to an unknown deputy, 1939.  
Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.





بیدریه ...  
جسده دانی به خود توری که لبش بر لونی بی غنچه جان آفرین ...  
آتش مهن و صوره گره به نور لوزی سامه تورک - بار ایله برکنه عهدی مکنه ...  
برگوه ده موهود آفرین ...  
شونه - سیرن ، لیه دره سنه سونک بردار ...  
نظره ، طبرک آتیه گرسه زمانه سنه ، بر غنچه ، اولغور اولام ، مؤسسه حیره محدود  
تار و سا اینه مجنا و سنوید آینه جین و عدین آتیم . قفل بر تکلف ایله ، سندر لهر غلام  
پسه قالدی . فی الطیعه ، اولک دهانه به نظر کول کیر ، لهنه حیفی داص اول براره اولام  
ایتمه حقه ، نقل کولی - صیه دله بنسبه قیاسیه - صفا در دره . آجه باغیچه ده  
وجود امکانه استفاده ایله سونک ، کجه صونه به خیا عدد و بر سندر سیدیه ریشه ده موه ای  
د سده کله طایفه ناز کرم بر لوزیله جلد ، یا بود با بقه بر بول ، سیده زاکیه حکم کجه حقه  
در عمیق جامعه ده . مال اطمینان خارج میگوید .  
شیریه ، دره ای بر طبرک اولوب کجه سترده بر تم مجا علمه ادر زره خود ای انبیا  
به اف - و بود اینه ده قید حقه تا کله تا سیاهه طیب کون بیلکه که سیدی 40-49  
در سنه سنه ایله برداشته ده B. E. J. Col. ده دولام شیرینی مجا ایه حکم .  
کنه افق و دریه سلاتا به بیلکله اولام سینه سنا میه ایه جبه اولام به بر فرودگاه  
را کمانده سهر اولام بر مانده استانی زره یا ایجه ، یانده سیر بوشه ریشه ده سی  
سده ، تا سترده ، این در جوده نایک . طیب صوند ، ولولیده با بقه کجه موده ناز افرین  
یا رجه اولامه تقیایه . XVII - XVIII عمارده کله قشاق ایرا طولق اعلمه دوسینه  
مجا - مجا - کانه لاسه طایفه ، فرودگاه او سترک صیه بر اده تا تا مجبول  
استانه مانده در . طیفه استاد و قاش تا تا بیلیم ایجه به نزله سقیه ،  
دا صا ایله سادکمه ، کندیه غایه اولامه تیه ایتمه . و اوایله سیده یورم که  
استانده بر لوزی تا تخمیس و آ سوهی اولامه حقه سوهنا اولامه .  
Dr. Fekete Lajos که بارزه سیده میه قادرده می . دولت آ سوهی عالیسه  
و صیه استفاده کولمده . بر ریشه ده ، Fekete نه یانه بر قان سنه کیر  
یا کله تا - تخمیس دکل عقی یانه آ سوهی حقه ده اولامه .  
ده 938 ده کلات جیلده خط سینه می - جوده ، آ سوهی سکنه صلا ، کولایمکی و



2.

Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyip Gökbilgin, 28 August 1946  
Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.

Aziz dostum Tayyip !

Mektubunuzu ve benim için başladığınız hareketinizi çok teşekkür ederim. İki seneden beri devam eden mülteci hayatın kararsızlığında satırlarınız bilhassa kıymetlidirler.

Hamit Koşay bey bana yazdığı mektublarında dışişleri bakanlığının benim için evvelâ Roma büyük elçiliğine sonra İsviçrede Bern elçiliğine resmen yazdığını bildirdi. Ben de hem Cemal Hüsnü Taray beye, hem de Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu beye yazdım. Türkiyeye hareketim onların cevabına bağlıdır.

Kolozsvár sebebiyle yine çok müteessirim. Zevcemın ebeveyni ve biraderi için nostaljisi okadar büyük, sınırları okadar yorgundur ki az kaldı ki döndük. Fakat bir meslektaşımın bana yazdığına göre Macaristana dönmek Rusların orada bulunacağı zaman bana iyi olmayacaktı, Matbaahanedeki braktığım yeni kitabımda evvelkisinden de çok daha katı bir şekilde Türklüğün tarafı idim.

Şimdi ancak bir isteğim var: üretken çalışmak imkânı. Burada da çok işliyorum. Macar mültecilerine İngiliz edebiyatının bir chrestomathia'sını yaptım, İngilizce ve Türkçeyi, sonra Türk ve Şarkî Avrupa tarihini öğrettim. Türkiyede Türk Halklarının Tarihini /Türkçe ve İngilizce/ ve Türk Adları Lügatını neşretmek isterdim. Oradaki Türkiyat Enstitüsünün zengin kütüphanesi bu eserin tamamlanması için fevkalâde iyi olabilecekti. En büyük sevinçle İstanbula gidecektim, ailem için de en iyi olacaktı. Fakat vekil beyin ne karar vereceğini bilmeyorum.

Samimî dostlukla, refikanıza hürmetlerle

Feffernitz, 28.VIII.1946.

L. Rásonyi

Hung.D.P.Camp Feffernitz VIII/7.

Carinthia, Austria.

Küçük Hatice Umay'a çok saadet temenni, Size tebrik ederiz.

3.

Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyip Gökbilgin, 30 March 1948  
Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.

Aziz arkadaşım Tayyip,

uzun bir zamandan sonra tekrar muhaberemizin teessüs ettiğine çok memnun oldum. Eğer emniyetle yazmak ve mektub göndermek mümkün olsaydı, şimdiye kadar çoktan yazmış olurdum. 1946-da aldığım mektubunuza hemen cevap vermiştim. Aynı zamanda Hamit beye, Roma ve Bern Türk elçilerine de birer mektup yollamıştım. Yola çıkmağa hazırlandım, fakat o zaman seyahatıma medar olacak ve İngiliz vizesini temin edebilecek hiçbir haber alamadığım için teşebbüsüm akım kaldı. Halbuki orada iken tanıştığım bir kaç İngiliz ile çok iyi münasebette idim, hatta aralarında bir kaç şimdiki de benimle mektublaşmaktadır.

1946 aralık ayında souk çok fazla olmakla diğer taraftan da evden müstacel telegraflar aldığım için ve çocukları souğa ve mahrumiyete duçar bırakmamak için eve dönmeğe mecbur oldum. O zamanki manzaraya göre Rusların Macaristanı kısa bir zaman içinde terk etmeleri kanaati hasıl olmuştu. Türkiyeden ise yeni bir havadis alamıyordum. Avusturyayı terk ettiğimizden bir müddet sonra bulunduğumuz kampa Innsbruck Üniversitesinden namıma bir dâvetiye gelmişti. Yazık ki bu fırsatla bir müddet daha orada kalarak Türkiyeye gitmek çaresini beklemeden eve gelmiş bulundum.

Şimdiye kadar burada siyasi bir takibata uğramadım, zira faşist olmak sıfatıyla bir kabahatım görülemedi; ben ancak Rusların önünden kaçtım. Arkadaşlarım delaletiyle maasımı devam ettirmeğe, hatta diğer bir arkadaşım tavassutiyle de yeniden teessüs eden B.Enstitüsünde vazife almağa muvaffak oldum. Tabiatıyla bugün bütün bu cihetler daha güçlkle temin edilebilir hattâ imkânsızdır, çünkü memleketimiz her gün proletardiktatürlüğüne biraz yaklaşmaktadır. Ben mümkün olduğu kadar B.E.-ne Türk ve Macar dostluğunu azamî nispetle geliştirecek bir istikamet vermeğe çalışmaktayım. Bu Enstitü bugün bu hususu temin edebilmek için biricik müessesemizdir. Kendi ismini neşriyatında asgarî derecede kullanıyor ancak B.E.perdesi altında çalışıyorum. Son aylarda 6 muhtelif makalemde Türk maarifi ve kültür müesseseleri, diğer 3 makalemde de Türk iktisat hayatının başlıca amilleri hakkında yazdım. - Şimdiye kadar bir çok Macar eseri türkçeye tercüme edildiği halde Türk edebî mahsullerinin aslâ yurdumuzda tanınmadığından şikayet ederek alâkadar makamlara bir muhtıra verdim. Bunun üzerine maarif nezareti B.E.-ne bir taslak hazırlaması vazifesini tevdi etti. - Bunun dışında iki dereceli Türk dili kursu devam ettiriyorum. Bu kurslarda muallim, mühendis ve tüccar olmak üzere 20 muhtelif kimse türkçe öğrenmektedir. Bu sayı diğer her hangi bir Balkan dilini öğrenenler sayısının iki mislidir. -

Büylece şimdilik bu şartlar altında ve K.partisine girmeye icbar etmelerine kadar burada kalmayı kendime bir borç saymaktayım. Şimdiye kadar hiç bir partiye girmedim ve üniversite hocalarına karşı bugüne kadar oldukça riayetkâr bulunuyorlar. Bir gün bunlara sıra gelmeyeceği tabii şimdiki temin edilemez. -1944-de hazırlanan ve macarca tab edilmek üzere matbaaya verilen Türk kavimleri tarihi adındaki eserim maalesef muhassardan sonra hariciyenin eline geçerek arşivlerinde muhafaza edilmekte bulunuyor, ki arasına uykusuz gece geçirmeme sebep oluyor. Çünkü bu kitabımda Türk ve şimalî komşusu tarihi münasebetleri oldukça mufassal malumat vermeğe çalışmıştım. Şimdiye kadar bu eserimi yanmış zannettim. Herhalde bir gün yeniden ele alınarak aleyhimde bir silah gibi kullanılması beni imhâ edebilecek kadar bir delil temin edebilir.



İşte bütün bu sebeplerle Hamit beyin ve Sizin maarif vekaletiyle benim hakkındaki görüşmeleriniz son derecede imdadıma yetişmiş ve benim geniş bir nefes almama sebep olmuştur. Şayet burada bir gün takibata maruz kalır ve maasımdan mahrum edilürsem ailem ve çocuklarımin aç kalmayacaklarına emin olarak şimdilik itimadla çalışmalarımdevam ediyorum. İşte bu sebeble Size, Hamit beye ve vekil beye, hepinize çok minnettarım.

Maalesef bugün pasaport temini son derece güç olduğundan seyahat imkânını hemen hemen ortadan kaldırmaktadır. Meselâ maruf bir hekim ve Bp.üniversitesinin eski profesörü bulunan Balogh Ernő İstanbul üniversitesine davet edildiği halde hatta Türk elçisinin tavassutüne mazhar bulunmasına rağmen dahi pasaport almağa muvaffak olamamıştı.

Bilhassa şimdi Türkiyede yaşamayı her halde çok arzu ederdim. Bu mektubumu Hamit beye göstermenizi ve muhtevasının ancak eski Türk dostarım arasında ifşa edilmesini rica ederim.

Şriften duyduğuma göre Moravcsik'in Byzantino-Turcica'sı son derecede pahalıdır. Türk parası ile 55 T.L.-dir. Fakat ben ikinci cildinin bir kitapevinde daha ucuz bir nüshasını buldum ve bunu Size göndereceğim. Birinci cildin de Prof.Moravcsiktan daha ucuz bir fiatla Size verilmesini tecrübe edeceğim. Fekete Layoşla ve Moravcsikla bu günlerde konuşacağım.

Ural ve İbrahime çok selamlarımı bildirmenizi dilerim. Sami veditğerlerin nerede buldukları hakkında malumat almağa çok sevincektim. Hakkınızda ve refikanızla çocuklarınız hakkında daha fazla tafsilat vermenizi çok rica eder selam ve sevgiler yollarım

Bp.,80, III,1948.

## 4.

Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyib Gökbilgin, 21 September 1961  
 Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.

Kedves Barátom!

Nem irhattam eddig, mert nem tudtam volna semmi bizonyosat írni, s reménykedtem mindig, hogy 1-2 nap múlva már határozottan lehet majd írnom. Most már csaknem bizonyos, hogy reményeimnek vége. Szívesen mennék Erzurumba is, ha itt úgy intéznék a dolgokat, mint 1935-ben. Kivándorolnom nem lehet, mert a gyermekeim itt élnek és azokat nem engednék ki. Leila most érettségizés előtt áll és majd a zeneakadémiai felvételi vizsga előtt. Ezért a feleségem sem jöhetne velem 1962 szeptembere előtt. Ha pedig feleségem és Leila itt maradnak, szükséges, hogy itt továbbra is fizessék a nyugdíjamat, - a feleségemnek. Ez pedig csak úgy lehetne, ha kimenésemet itt is hivatalosan intéznék, mint 1935-ben. Ligetihez fordultam, de az ő révén semmi sem sikerült. Nem mer sikraszállni értem, mert attól félt, hogy én csak másodrangú állampolgár vagyok, mivel nem kaptam utlevelet Göttingenbe sem. Pedig az utlevél megtagadása teljesen szeszélyes dolog. A művelődésügyi minisztériumban ismerem az egyetemi ügyek fő osztályvezetőjét, de az meg épem most külföldön tartózkodik. Ezért egyelőre mindent ad acta kell tennem, s így nem marad idő arra, hogy török vízumot kapjak, ha netalán valami csoda révén mégis utlevelet kapnék.

Képzelteti az érzésemet, mikor aug. 3.-án közölték velem, hogy az "utlevél iránti kérés ezidőszerint nem teljesíthető". Már minden elő volt készítve és be volt pakolva a koffermem is. Még szerencse, hogy előadásom szövegét pár nappal korábban kiküldtem. Így azt Frau von Gaba in mint az altajisztikai szakosztály elnöke felolvasta és az anyag tetszését aratott /A nőnevek a török népeknél/. - Az utlevél megtagadása miatt fellebbeztem. A fellebbezés elintézése azonban nincs határidőhöz kötve és az a baj, hogy van egy elv, ami szerint annak, akitől megtagadták az utlevelet, félévig nem lehet utlevelet adni. Hát így reménytelenné vált mind a Tarih Kongressin való részvétel, mint az erzurumi ügy, még ha minden egyéb rendben lenne is. Talán másképpen alakult volna minden, ha már a göttingeni meghívást, illetve annak a bejelentését, hogy ők, a meghívó társaság vállalják a költségeket, - nem az én nevemre címezték volna, hanem az én nevetem megnevezve a M.T.A. elnökéhez címezték volna. Így ugyanis hivatalosan maga az Akadémia gondoskodott volna az utlevélről, viszont az én nevemre címzett levelekkel már csak ajánlást kaphattam az IBUSZhoz, s ott csak magánvállalkozásnak tekintették az ügyet és nem teljesítették a kérést. - A sok izgalom, csalódás, mérgelődés, gond, amin keresztülmentem, megviseltek. Nem is nyaralhattam az idén, s bizony -ha nem is vagyok beteg- fáradtan kezdem az őszt. A Tarih Kurumu meghívó levele is, amiben megírták, hogy "Sizin İstanbul- Ankara geliş-gidiş yol paranzla Ankara'daki ikamet masraflarınız Kurumca kargımanacaktır" - nem az Akadémia elnökéhez, hanem az én nevemre jött. Mikor erről Ligetinek beszéltem, mert ő volt akkor az Akadémia ügyvezető elnöke /az elnök távol volt/, és azt mondtam neki, hogy írjak Ankarába és kérni fogom Uluğ İğdemir beyt, hogy még egyszer írjon, de az elnök címére, Ligeti arra kért, hogy ne tegyem ezt, mert ő elintézi, hogy kimegessenek. Biztam benne és ime...nem tett semmit. Egyetlen aláírása kellett volna és a Kulturális Kapcsolatok Intézete minden korábbi elutasítás ellenére is meg tudta volna szerezni számomra az utlevelet, mert hiszen kevéssel azelőtt a művelődésügyi minisztériumtól kitüntetést, az Akadémia elnökétől /Rusznák Istvántól/ meg rendkívüli jutalmat kaptam a hoszsu és eredményes munkám elism. részül. A minisztérium hajlandó is lett volna a Kult.Int.et utasítani az utlevél megszerzésére, csak Ligetitől kellett volna egy aláírás. -

A sok keserűségben az a vigasztalás, hogy Ön, Kedves Barátom és többi török barátom nem felejtettek el. Nagyon köszönöm az erzurumi meghívást és az a kérésem minden török barátomhoz, hogy tartsák meg

az irányomban való jóindulatukat 1968-ben is. Talán hosszabb előkészítés után sikerülne majd kimennem, ha újra meghívást kapnék valahová. Ha egyetemi meghívást kapnék, azt a Művelődésügyi Minisztériumhoz, vagy a miniszterhez, - ha pedig tudományos társulati meghívást kapnék, a M.T.A. elnökéhez kellene írni. Persze az én nevemet megnevezve, mert különben olyan valakit küldenének ki helyettem, akinek a személye kedvesebb a parti politikai szempontjából. De szívesen lennék most Istanbulban, akár négy-öt évre is, akár csak pár hétre is ebben a ragyogó szeptemberben. Erzurumban is szívesen lennék, de csak rövidebb időre, mert ott nem tudnám folytatni a most megkezdett munkámat. Ott még nagyon kicsi lehet a könyvtár, innen meg nem vihetném ki a saját könyvtáramat úgy, mint 1935-ben. Erzurumba a munka uttörő jellege és az eddig ismeretlen milieu vonzanak egy-két évre. Lehet, hogy hosszú időre is megszeretném ott az életet, de ezt nem tudom előre, mert már nem vagyok fiatal és nem tudom, hogy mennyire egészséges hely? Vérnyomásom normális, van egy kis agyvérzészegénységem, szervi bajom nincs. Ankarában jól éreztem magamat, csak a lodosz volt kellemetlen áprilisban néha. Ankara is vonz. - Erzurumban régi barátom /40 évvel ezelőtt ismerkedtünk össze!/ H.Kogay lenne számomra nagyon kedves kolléga, de szívesen emlékszem B.S.Baykalra is. -Neki is most irok. - Megjelent most egy cikkem Stein Aurélról a "The New Hungarian Quarterly"ben; küldtettem belőle egy példányt az Ön címére. -Két új különlenyomatot is küldök. - Hajdani professzorom meg akarja szüntettetni a saját jmmár kilencvenesztendősi tanszékét, nehogy én örökljem. Ebben hive neki Czeglédy is, akinek a sógora most lett a hariciye vekili. Ligeti viszont e kérdésben igen jól viseli magát, mert ragaszkodik ahhoz, hogy a tanszék megmaradjon. Erről persze Siyah kollégának előtt ne beszéljen K.N.Gyuszival. Gyuszi szívesen menne lektornak az ankarai egyetemre, s ez nagyon hasznos is lenne, de hajdani professzoromnak más jelöltje van. Kár, hogy nem személyre szóló volt a lektor meghívása. -

Hogy sikerült anatóliai útja? Talált-e szép anyagot? Remélem, kedves családja is egészséges. Nálunk a feleségemet nagyon megviselte anyósom hosszú haldoklása. Ő sem nyaralt semmit, igen fáradt, csak most kezd kissé rendbejönni. Elvesztette az itthoni munkáját, mert a munkaadója gyógyíthatatlan beteg lett. Szóval nagyon alaposan lecsökkent a jövedelmünk, annak ellenére is, hogy hetenként kétszer bejárnak az akadémiai könyvtárba, min szaktanácsadó. Feleségem rendbehozta a lakásunkat, s én is ismét intenzíven dolgozom. Ankarába szánt előadásomat is újból elővettem. Remélem, módjában lesz ismét eljönnie hozzánk, esetleg feleségestől is, vagy családostól.

Minden jót kíván és családjával együtt szívből üdvözl!

Budapest 1961 szept. 21.

Rásonyi László



## 5.

Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyip Gökbilgin, 11 August 1963  
 Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.

Kedves Barátom!

Levelének a mélységesen lehangolt volta és csalódott hangja nagyon lehangoló volt számomra is. De azután gondolkodtam a dolgokon. Irja, hogy H.Gy. től olyan értesülése van, amely szerint innen valamelyik követségi titkárt Önt kémnek nyilvánította. Hát én egyáltalában nem hiszem, hogy H.Gy. ilyesmit hallott volna. Bármennyire is tény, hogy H.Gy.-nek minden állami szervnél vannak ismerősei otthon, s még itt Törökországban is sokfelé, s ennek megfelelően szinte csodálatraméltó a jólérsétsége, mégis ki kell jelentenem, hogy azt, amit ő mondott, merő kitalálásnak tartom. Képtelenség, hogy akkor, amikor Ön a legkimagaslóbb és leghozzáértőbb személyiség azon kevesek között, akik aktívan törődnek a török-magyar kulturális kapcsolatok intenzívebbé tételével, - hogy akkor akadjon bárki is a követségen, akár a múltban, akár a jelenben, aki Önre vonatkozólag az inkriminált kijelentést tette volna. Akárhányszor beszélek a követségiakkal, Önről mindig a legnagyobb tisztelettel és rokonszenvvel emlékezem meg. Tudjuk azt, hogy a mai világhelyzetben még inkább, mint máskor, a kis Magyarország követségének nem is lehet más célkitűzése, mint hogy elősegítse a gazdasági és a kulturális kapcsolatokat. Hát csak nem diszkreditálják éppen azt a személyiséget, akinek török vonalon a legtöbbet köszönhetnek! Ha az inkriminált kijelentés valaki részéről valóban elhangzott, ki és mi célból tehette? Cui prodest? -mint a római jog velősen kérdezte. Ön itt hathatósan előmozdítja Káldy-Nagy tudományos törekvéseit és az enyémet is. Ön volt a legauthenticusabb tanuja a Káldy ellen Magyarországból indított intrikának a névyelen feljelentésekkel./Erről én annak idején az Ön levele alapján beszámoltam Ligetinek, s bár névről nem is esett szó, mégis ártalmára volt a hallgatólagosan gyanúsítotttnak. Nos, ha Ön diszkreditálva van, akkor csökken a gyanúsítotttal szemben kialakult ódiom és csökken az Ön támogatásának a magyarországi súlya.- Persze az is lehet, hogy nem is ilyen kiszámított intrikáról van szó, hanem csak egy féltékenységtől fűtött, bosszúságban mondott megdölgölatlan és határozatlan kijelentésről. Ha Ön elveszti a kedvét ahhoz,



hogy a jövőben a kulturális kapcsolatokat támogassa, éppen az intrikusnak a céljait fogja előmozdítani! Ha ez nem világos, majd megmagyarázom, ha találkozunk. Azt hiszem, így kell felfogni az ügyet, s ha esetleg Hazai kitalálása az egészen nem kell komolyan venni, nem pusztán a fentebb kifejtettek miatt, hanem azért sem, mert ő az otthoni tudományos körök előtt talán még a megérdemelnél is nagyobb mértékben elvesztette a hitelét. Itt többre becsülik őt. Jó feje van neki, de többet kellene neki komoly eredményeket felmutató tudományos munkával foglalkozni, mint "politiká"val, már tudniillik személyi politikával.

Holnap megyek a Tarih Kurumuba, hogy megkérdezzem, van-e fejlemény Kálcs Nagynak az Ön által ónáluk pártolt ügyében.

A nagy melegre való tekintettel a napokban 8-10 napra elmegyek Amaasrába. Azt mondják, hogy jóval hűvösebb, mint Istanbul és jóval olcsóbb is. A szemeszterkezdés előtt azonban elmegyek még Istanbulba is. Szándékomban volt felolvasást tartani a velencei török művtörténeti kongresszuson is, és pedig a arról, hogy a szőnyegelőállítás török szókinccse kétségbevonhatatlanul autochton /sokm az igei derivátum!/. Ez az első lépés annak az eldöntésére, hogy milyen néphez kapcsolhatjuk a szőnyegelőállítás ~~kezdet~~ kezdeteit.-Azonban az út sokba kerül és mint nem török állampolgárnak, valutáris nehézségeim is lennének a jegy megvásárlása körül. Majd itt fogom megjelentetni. Eredetileg a leányom munkája volt, de én még irtam hozzá.-

Kézcsókját küldi és egész kedves családjával együtt szívből üdvözlí

Rásonyi László

Uğur bey e' Serhat Aziz bey  
is Istanbulban vannak. Gyf  
Az idare helyzetéből most senki  
sincs. A hónap végén majd me-  
gint elmegyek a Tarih Kurumuba.  
Nem lenne-e jó, hogy Liget-  
nél írja elő a Hazai-ügyről z  
Bak-ismétlem - kérem en ilyen  
fontosságú pontosságát hitelesíteni.

6.

Letter from László Rásonyi to Tayyip Gökbilgin, 19 September 1963  
Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.

Ankara, 1963 szept.17.

Kedves Barátom!

Remélem, utolsó levele óta már megtartotta az edirnei előadásokat, s azok jól sikerültek.

Ujra kéréssel alkalmatlankodom. Teszem ezt a Tarih Kurumu felkérésére. Az istanbuli Emniyet Müd. még mindig nem küldte el a Káldy Nagy vizumügyére vonatkozó aktát Ankarába. Nagyon kérjük az Ön beavatkozását abból a célból, hogy sürgősen küldjék el az irást, hogy itt azután a Hariciye intézkedhessék. Eddig hatszor voltam a Tarih Kurumunál ebben az ügyben és kétszer aminisztériumokban.

Most valamit a másik ügyről, ami Önnek nagy keserűséget okozott. Ujra csak azt a meggyőződésemet fejezem ki, hogy én azt, amit Hazai mondott, nem hiszem el, mert annyira még a követségek sem lehetnek bornirtak, hogy a saját érdekük ellen cselekedjenek. Annak a hazugságnak vagy nem volt célja, csak <sup>spontán</sup>ártani akart az Ön pártfogoltjainak, vagyis Káldynak és nekem Magyarországon, vagy pedig -itt az Ön Hazaival való beszélgetésére utalok-, el akarta venni az Ön kedvét attól, hogy magyaroknak segítsen.

Azt, amit én megérkeztemkor elmondtam Önnek, mint abszurd voltánál fogva mulatságosat mondtam el, s akkor nem is tett Önre különösebb hatást. Csak most, amikor Hazait a kérdéssel sarokba szorította és H. önvédelemből a követségre kente a dolgot, - volt Önre e dedikodunak nagy hatása. Remélem, hogy H.-val való beszélgetése kapcsán a nevemet nem említette, mert H. nagyon felhasználhatná otthon ellenem azt, hogy én jóbarátságából elmondtam Önnek, hogy milyen szármásra képesek egyesek. A követ még nem jött vissza. Ha már itt lesz és Ön óhajtja, és ha Ön az én nevemet nem említette H.-nak, én az úgyről beszélhetek a követtel is, azt hiszem hálás lenne. Vagy hagyjuk ezt akkorra, amikor Ön Ankarába jön?

Szives intézkedését kérve a Káldy-ügyben és válaszáat várva a Hazai-ügyben

igaz barátsággal üdvözli

Rásonyi László

7.

Letter from László and Piroska Rásonyi to Tayyip Gökbilgin, 1 November 1970  
Personal Archive of Tayyip Gökbilgin, İstanbul.

Süstitelt Barátunk!

Ankara, 1970. nov. 1.

Megdöbbenve értesültünk Hamit Kozaytól arról, hogy szeretet jeleséig befejezte földi életét, éppen akkor, amikor Ön Pester volt.

Südjük, hogy állapota csaknem reménytelen volt, mégis mély részvétet keltett bennünk a his. Ezzelöl a szegény megboldogult iránt, aki sokat szenvedett, mert nem adatott meg neki Isten egyik legnagyobb ajándéka, a hosszú halál. Másfelöl igen sajnáljuk Önt, kedves Tayyip és gyermekeit akik hitvesét és anyja nélkül maradtak.

Végülül boldog aramban az, hogy Ön igazi muszlim és talán ezetlen nagy vallás síncs, amely olyan mértékben nevelni híveit Isten - Allah akaratában való belemegyasba, mint az iszlám.

Kérem, fogadjja a mély részvét kifejezését ó-szinte barátaitól

Rásonyi Lászlótól és  
Rásonyini Piroskától

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