

Formation and Custody of the Ottoman Archives During the Pre-Tanzimat Period

TAKAMATSU Yoichi

1. Characteristics of the Ottoman Archives

There is probably no larger body of source materials in the non-western language world than the extant archives related to the history of the Ottoman Empire. The largest collection within this body is the Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives (Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi: BOA) in Istanbul, which contains over 150 million titles.¹⁾ The second largest collection in Turkey is the Archives of the Topkapı Palace Museum (Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Arşivi: TSMA), also in Istanbul, which contains about 153,000 records. TSMA had divided its materials into two categories: Evrak (individual documents) and Defter (registers), indicated by last call numbers of 12476 and 10775, respectively.²⁾

The reason why the Ottoman archives is so large is not only because of the Ottoman State's long duration from the 14th to the 20th century and the fact that Istanbul was never destroyed by war after the conquest, but also, most importantly, because the Ottoman bureaucracy almost never discarded any of its existing documentation, like drafts of imperial decrees, even after they were no longer needed in the clerical process. This aversion to discarding documents also means that their blank spaces were not reused as stationery, resulting in only rare cases of totally unrelated documents appearing on the backs of older ones. The reason why documents were not reused can be attributed to the way in which they were processed. That is, related documents were frequently composed in the margins and the backs of original documents. So some related documents often coexist on one single sheet of paper, presenting difficulty for historiographers in determining a given document's style and type.³⁾

Another characteristic of the Ottoman archives is that most of them contain documents of a public nature; that is, issued or received by the powers that were. Since the sources in both BOA and TSMA originated from either the bureaucratic organizations or the Sultan's court, it is no

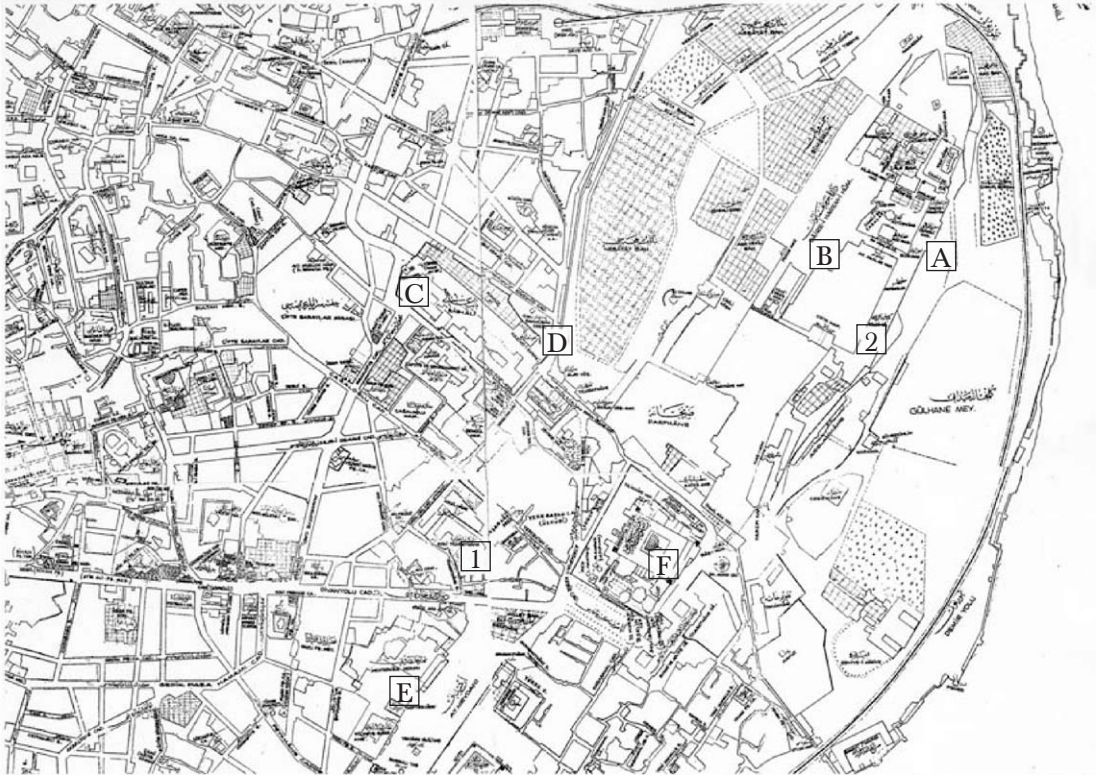
wonder that they suffer from a scarcity of private records. Consequently, it is often quite difficult to study the private affairs of a certain family or person.

Although almost nothing was ever thrown away intentionally, a great part of the Ottoman archives was lost by fire and poor maintenance. The major part of what exists today comes from the mid-nineteenth and thereafter, a time when a series of westernization reforms were being implemented. Due to the establishment of ministries and standardization of documents, the amount of documentation soared in explosive proportions.⁴⁾ On the other hand, due to the relative scarcity of records from the time prior to the 17th century, it is difficult to investigate particulars regarding the formation and preservation of the archives in that period. The source materials dealt with in the present article come mainly from the 18th and early 19th centuries, before the beginning of the Ottoman institutional reforms called Tanzimat (1839–1876).

2. Approaches to the Study of the Ottoman Archives

The modern study of Ottoman diplomatics was begun by Central and Eastern European scholars, as an auxiliary science to the historiographical study of the documents related to their respective countries. Consequently, their concerns did not extend to utilizing the huge archives in Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. An exception was Lajos Fekete, Hungarian scholar, who had a great influence on early studies of Ottoman diplomatics in Turkey. The comprehensive study of the Ottoman archives as a whole in Turkey has not been attempted, until recently.⁵⁾ The research done to date has focused mainly on the form and style of documents rather than their function and custodial history.

Moreover, in the field of archival science, there is little theoretical work, in spite of the richness of available materials. The work to date may be found in guidebooks to BOA and publications by the general directorate of state archives.⁶⁾ It is noteworthy that among the two modern archival principles, only the principle of provenance (*Provinienzprinzip*) has been advocated, with no reference being made to the principle of original order (*Registraturprinzip*);⁷⁾ and almost no attention had been paid to the circumstances under which the materials made their way into the Archives. These problems are closely related to a lack of interest in the custodial history of the documents. Despite the fact that the study of the formation and custody of the Ottoman archives is inseparable from the



Map of Istanbul

1. Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA)
2. Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Arşivi (TSMA)
- A. *Seferli Koğuşu* (in the Inner Court of the Topkapı Palace)
- B. *Hazîne-i Hümayûn* (in the Outer Court of the Topkapı Palace)
- C. *İomruk dâ'iresi* (in the Sublime Porte)
- D. *Hazîne-i Evrâk*
- E. İbrahim Paşa Palace
- F. the Mosque of *Ayaşofya*

historical study of the Ottoman bureaucracy, since the archives are dominated by official records, we find only brief references to how the archives were dealt with by Ottoman bureaucratic agencies in the institutional and administrative research to date.⁸⁾

3. The Formation of the Ottoman Archives

The Ottoman archives consist of individual documents (*evrāk*) and registers (*defter*), which are closely correlated by virtue of document texts being recorded in registers, and the contents of registers being copied onto documents. The centers of Ottoman document administration were the two major bureaucratic organizations in Istanbul, the Sublime Porte (*Bāb-ı Āṣaḫī*) headed by the Grand Vizier (*ṣadr-ı a‘zam*) and the Treasury (*Bāb-ı Defterī*) headed by the chief treasurer (*baṣ-defterdār*). The Sublime Porte was in charge of domestic and foreign affairs in general, while the Treasury was in charge of fiscal affairs, specifically cash revenue and expenditure from the public purse. One exception was the fiscal management of the *tīmār* system, which was completely outside of the Treasury’s jurisdiction, being handled by the Sublime Porte. Both the Sublime Porte and Treasury were divided into offices called *kālem*, their document managing units.⁹⁾ Each *kālem* kept its own registers of its duties and issued/received various types of documents. In principal, all *kālems* existed on equal terms organizationally, though the size of their staffs and importance of their respective duties differed.

Besides these bureaucratic organizations, the court of the Sultan (*pādiṣāh*) also accumulated records and formed its own archives regarding the sovereign of the Empire. The Grand Vizier, the head of the bureaucracy acting as the absolute proxy of the Sultan, always required Sultanic approval, be it only a formality, and thus submitted to the sovereign reports on the course of the decisions that were being made in his name. These reports were usually returned to the Sublime Porte, but some the Sultans preferred to retain.¹⁰⁾

To summarize document-processing within the latter 18th century Ottoman bureaucracy, the decision-making was generally a bottom-up process. Correspondence (*tahrīrāt*) received by the Sublime Porte from a local governor, for example, would be submitted by the Grand Vizier to the Sultan, along with his own report (*tel īṣ* 1) and a summary of the content (*ulāṣa* 1) to be examined. Upon examination, the Sultan returned the documents to the Grand Vizier, with a directive in his own writing

(*aṭṭ-ı hümayūn*) in the margin of the Vizier's report. Upon receipt the Grand Vizier would order the chief treasurer to tend to the matter, if it pertained to fiscal matters, and the treasurer would then order one of his *kaḫem* to research precedents in its own register books and report the results back to the Grand Vizier. Based on the chief treasurer's report (*tel ı̇ş* 2), the Grand Vizier would order one of Sublime Porte's *kaḫems* to draft an imperial decree (*emri şerif*), which would be sent to the local governor in question. During this process, archives were formed in each agency concerned. (Fig. 1)

Figure 2 is a diagram of the most simple example of document-processing within the Sublime Porte. In Rebī'ü'l-evvel 1211/October 1796 Ebū-bekir Paşa, the governor of Egypt sent two letters (*mektüb*) and five *ka'imes* (notes) concerning several different matters to the Sublime Porte (Document 1). A scribe in the Office of the Secretary to Steward of the Grand Vizier (*ket üda-yı şadr-ı 'ālī kâtibi kaḫemi*) drew up a general summary of the correspondence in several paragraphs (*ulāşa* 1), using one sheet of paper (Document 2) and devoting one or two paragraphs to each letter and *ka'ime*. The general summary was submitted to the Sultan.

Then, another scribe in the Office of the Secretary extracted each paragraph of the general summary and copied it onto another sheet of paper (Document 3). One of the extracts (*ulāşa* 2) was sent to the Office of the Imperial Council (*divān-ı hümayūn kaḫemi*), where a scribe searched the register book of previous imperial decrees to see if there were any similar cases. He did not find any precedent in the register and noted that fact on the margin of the extract, meaning that a new decree would have to be drafted, which was done by another scribe (Document 4). The actual imperial decree, which mentions the content of the original letter, was dispatched to the governor of Egypt, and it was also copied into the register of imperial decrees in the Office of the Imperial Council (Document 5). Due to this characteristic feature of Ottoman document handling, the actual document-processing of any transaction within the Ottoman bureaucracy can be completely reconstructed. Beginning from the report of a local administrator, a series of specific document types were composed until an imperial decree was issued as the final feedback (See Fig. 3). They made their way from *kaḫem* to *kaḫem* in the form of general summaries (*ulāşa* 1) and extracted portions of them (*ulāşa* 2),¹¹⁾ and of course were recorded for future reference to be inserted possibly into the text of another document. (See Fig. 4)

In short, Ottoman document-processing mainly involved the forma-

tahrīrāt: correspondence from the province
telhīş1: Grand Vizier's report to the Sultan
ḥaṭṭ-ı hümāyūn: directive in Sultan's own writing
fermān-ı 'ālī: Grand Vizier's order
telhīş2: chief treasurer's report
emr-i şerīf: imperial decree

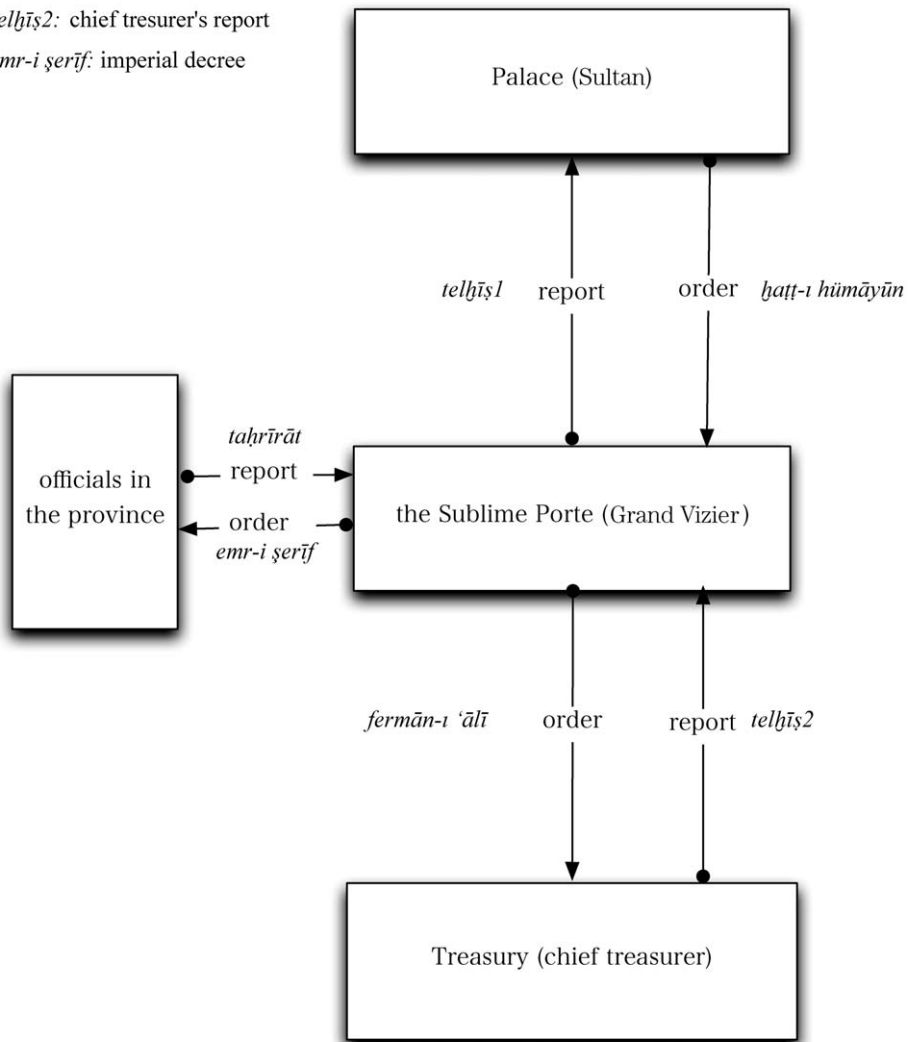


Fig. 1: Ottoman transaction of a matter in the 18th century

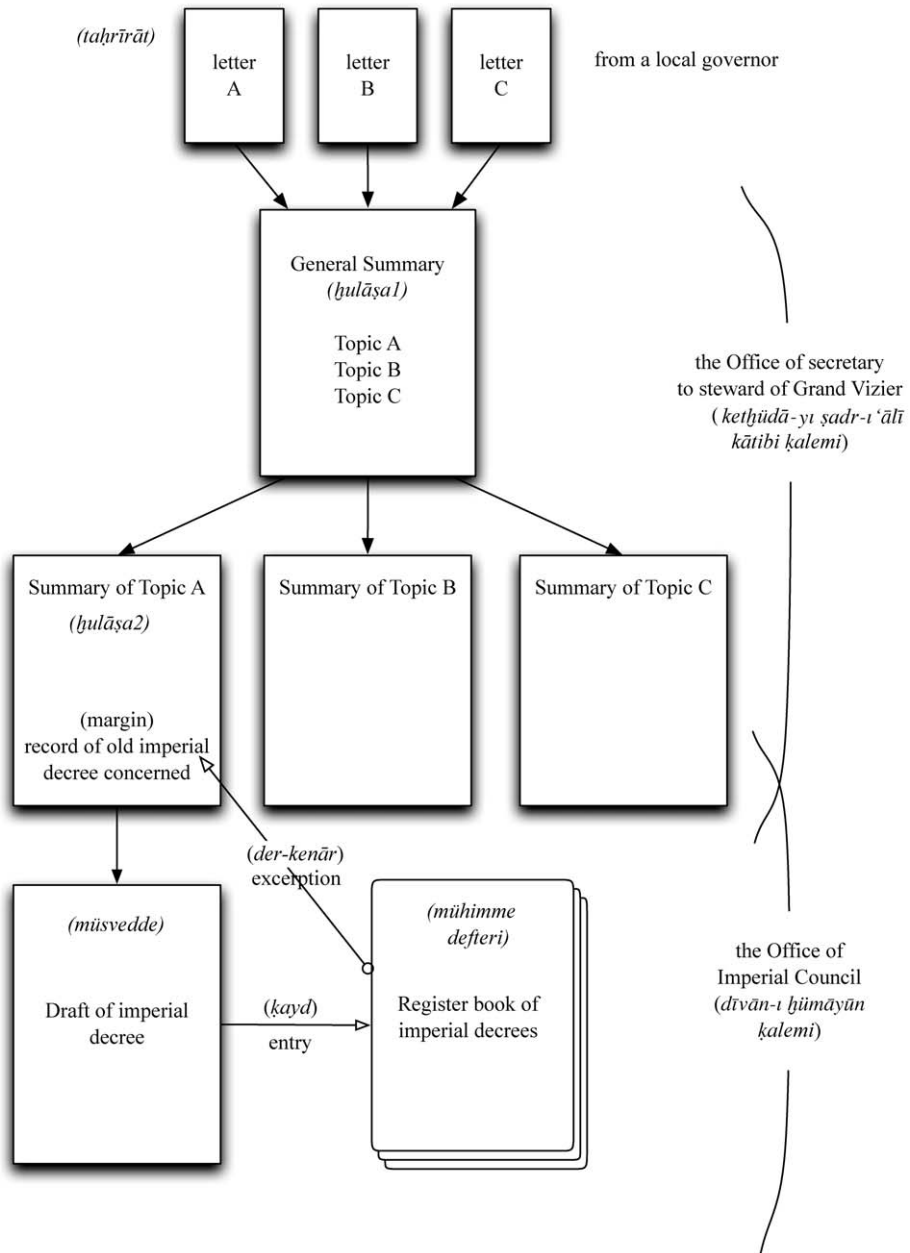
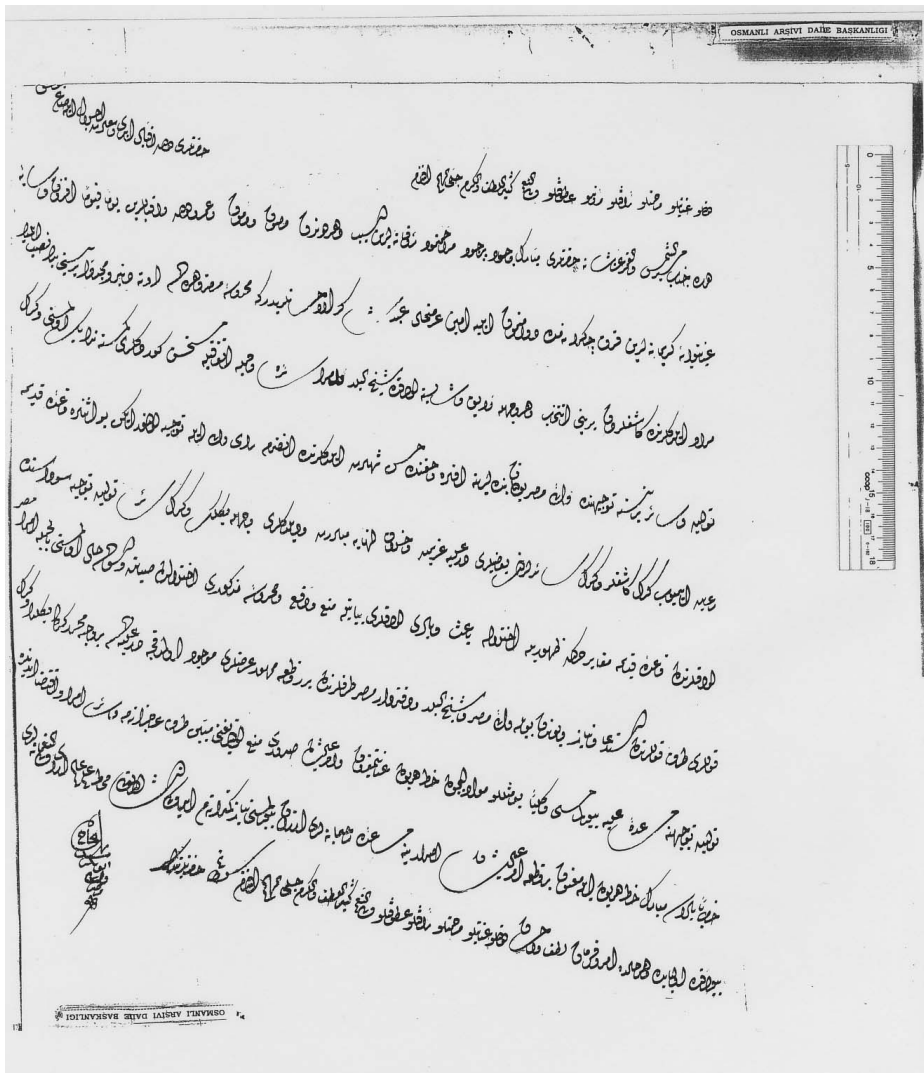
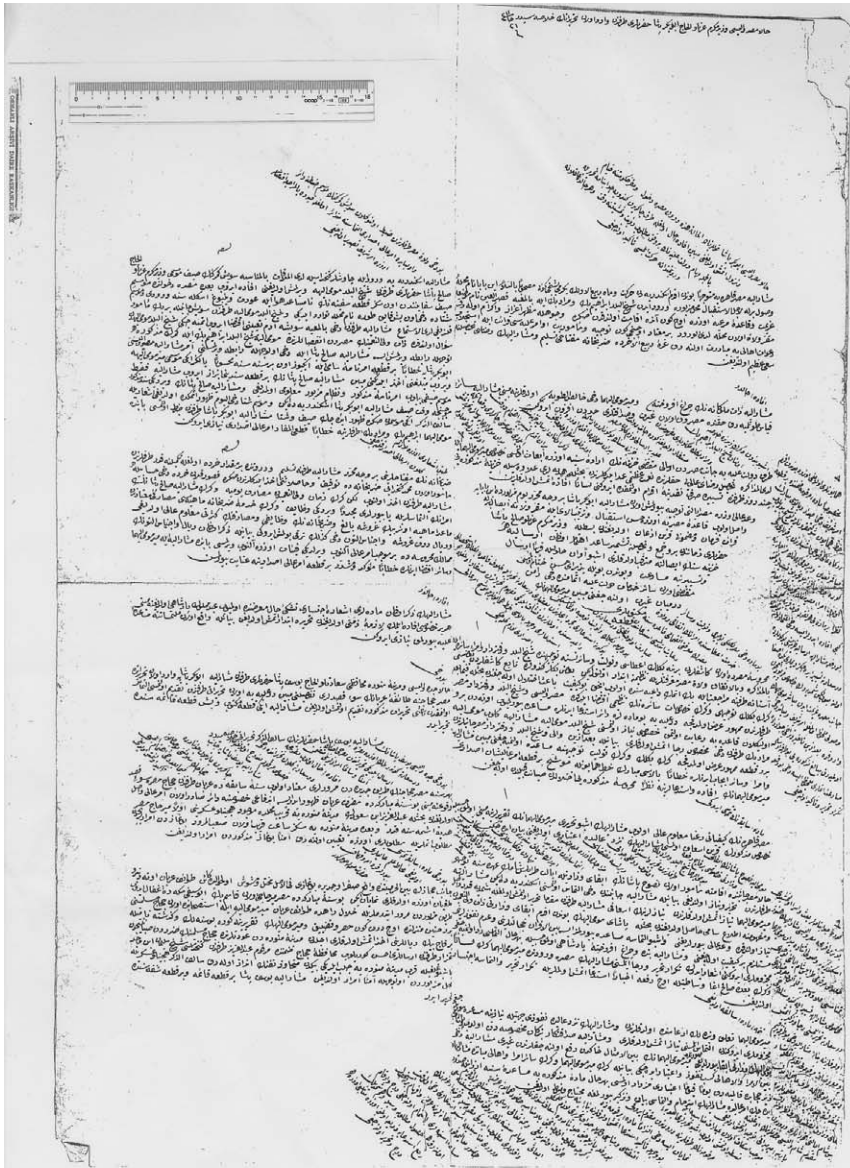


Fig. 2: Simplified document-processing in the Sublime Porte



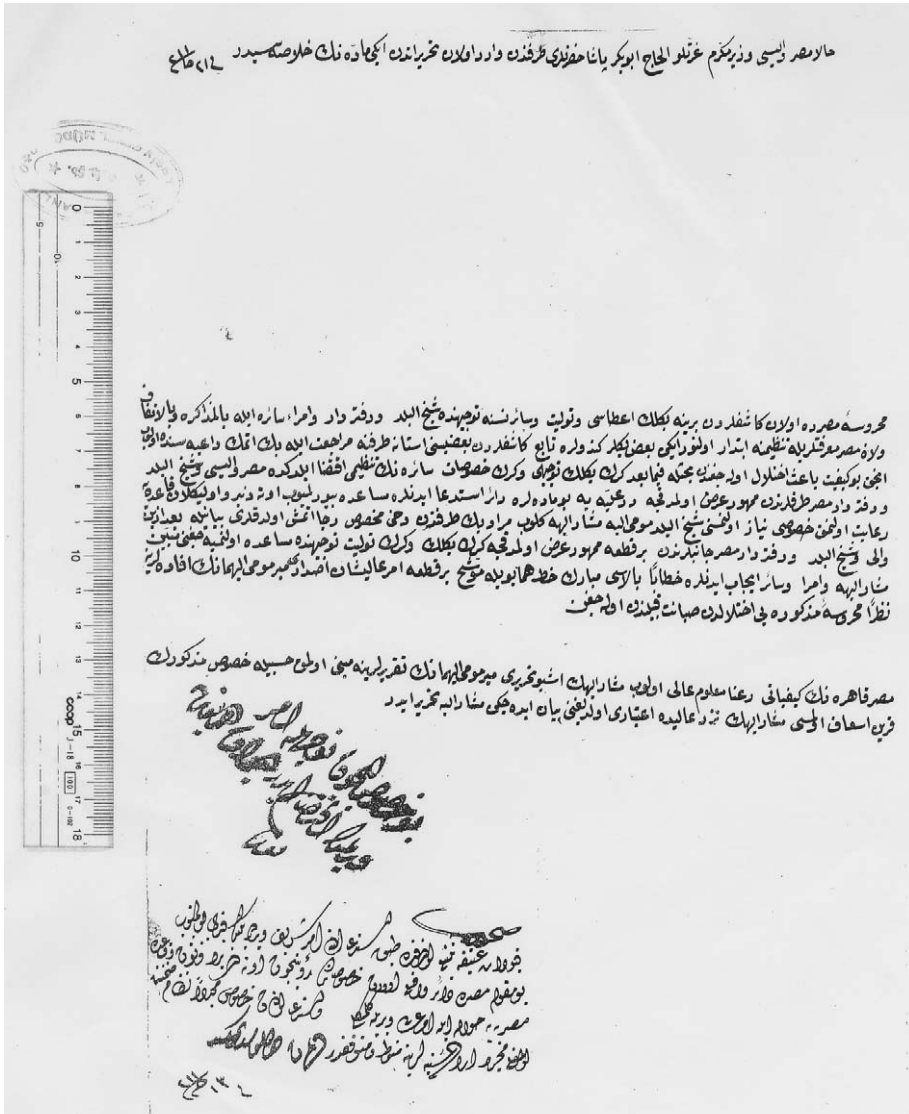
Document 1: BOA, Hatt-ı Hümayun 5318-F

Letter (*mektüb*) from Ebū-bekir Paşa, the governor of Egypt, to the Sublime Porte. In general *mektüb*s were not dated, but we can surmise that it was written in 11 Rebī'ü'l-evvel 1211 (14 October 1796) from the date of the other documents attached to it.



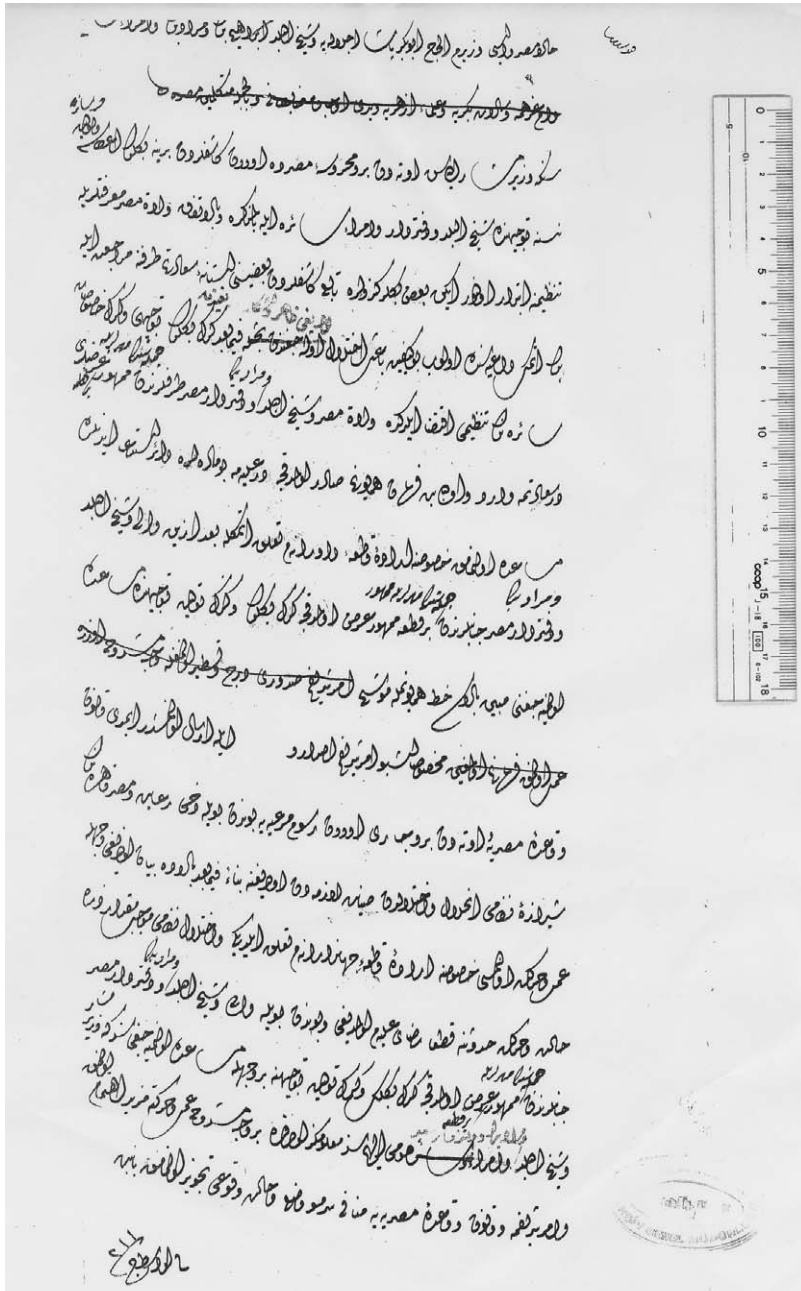
Document 2: BOA, Hatt-ı Hümayun 5318

General Summary (*ulāṣa*) dated 21 Cumād-e'l-ülâ 1211 (22 November 1796). Two letters and five *kā'imes* sent from Ebü-bekir Paşa, the governor of Egypt, and a letter and a *şukka* sent from Yüsus Paşa, the governor of Jidda and Abyssinia, are summarized in 13 paragraphs. The fourth and fifth paragraphs make up a summary of the topics in the Document 1 (Hatt-ı Hümayun 5318-F). Red ink notes appear on the upper-margin of each paragraph.



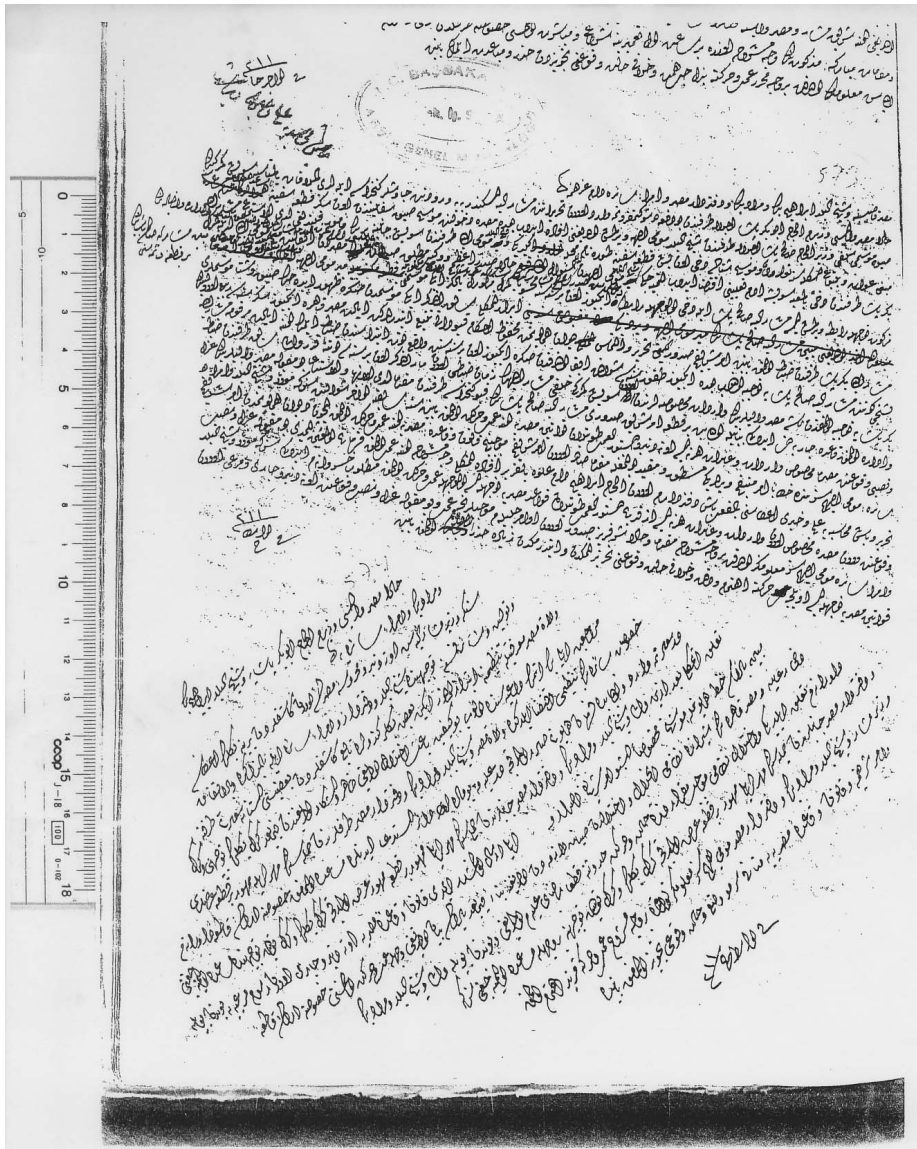
Document 3: BOA, Cevdet Dahiliye 5009

Topic summary (ulāṣa 2) dated 21 Cumāde'l-ūlā 1211 (22 November 1796) containing excerpts from Document 2 (paragraphs 4 and 5). A note on the lower-margin of excerpts commands the Office of the Imperial Council to investigate decrees issued toward the similar cases of the matter, and another dated 13 Cumāde'l-āhire (14 December 1796) from the Office of the Imperial Council replies that no precedent of the decree concerning the matter exists.



Document 4: BOA, Cevdet Dahiliye 5009

The draft of the imperial decree dated the middle ten days of Cumade'l-ahire 1211 (12–21 December 1796) to Ebü-bekir Paşa, the governor of Egypt and şeyhü'l-beled İbrâhîm Beg, Murâd Beg and other emîrs. The addressees and portions of the text have been corrected.



Document 5: BOA, Mühimme-i Mısır vol. 10, p. 256 (No. 574)

Record of the Document 4 dated the middle ten days of Cumāde'l-āhire 1211 (12–21 December 1796) to Ebū-bekir Paşa, the governor of Egypt and others from a register book. The text has been written obliquely.

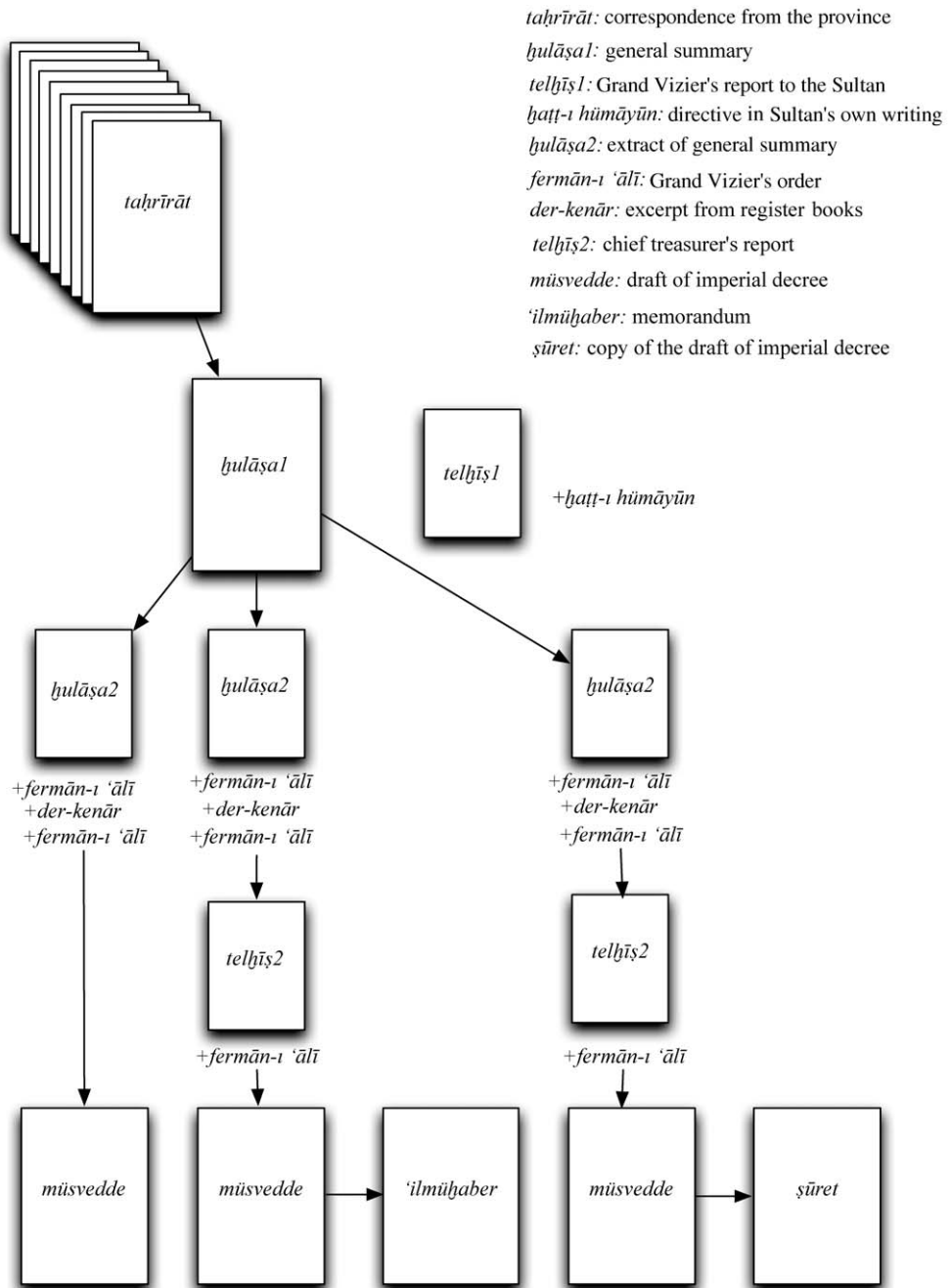


Fig. 3: Detailed document-processing system in the 18th century 1

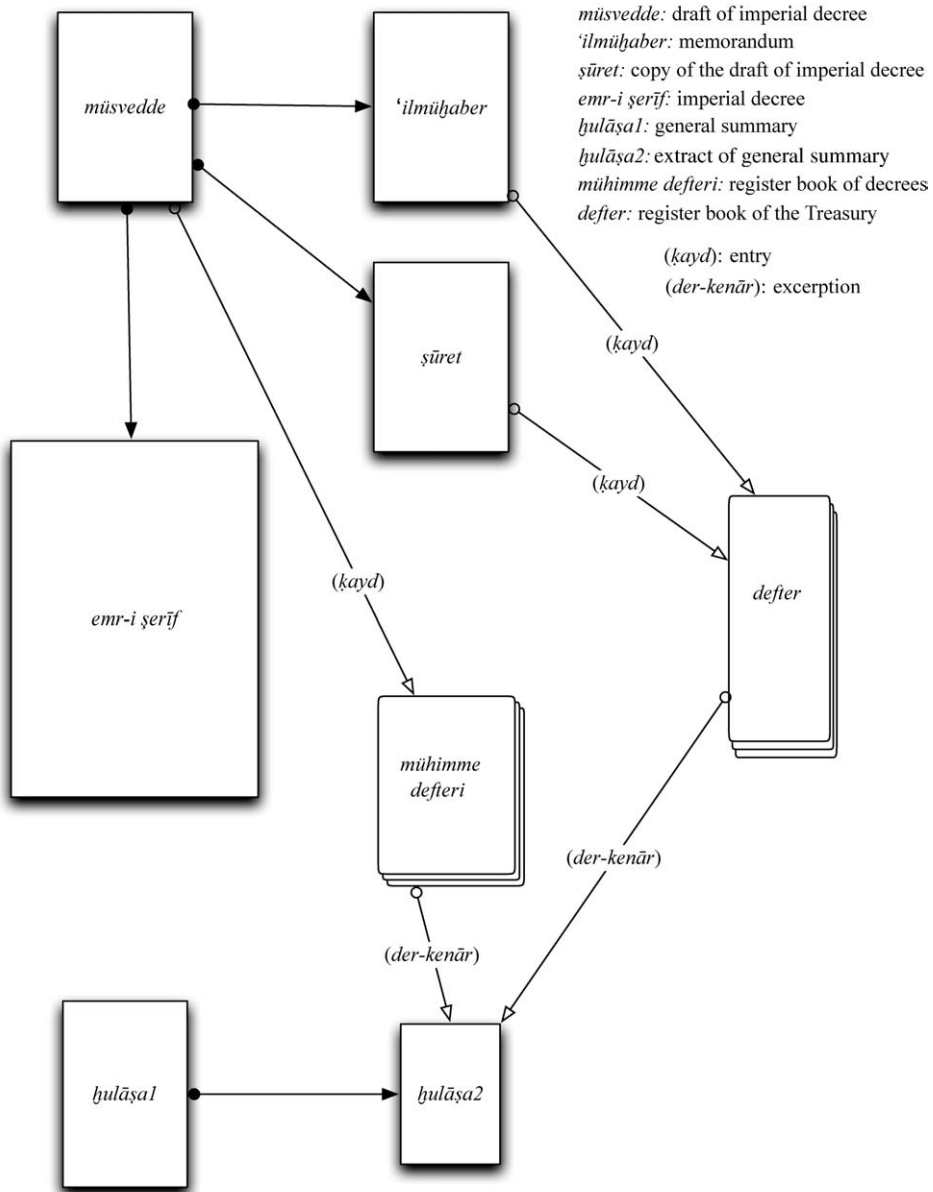


Fig. 4: Detailed document-processing system in the 18th century 2

tion, accumulation and utilization of the texts of imperial decrees.¹²⁾ The same text could be transformed into various types of documents, circulated between the *kalems*, and stored there, resulting in the enormous size of the Ottoman archives. Therefore many documents are found with identical contents, but in very different forms.

4. The Aspect of Custody in pre-Tanzimat Times

According to the information available from the late 18th century, we know that at least during that century the archives were treated in different ways, depending on the type of record (document or register), the date of issue and provenance (the Sublime Porte or the Treasury).¹³⁾ Registers in current use were preserved in each *kalem* and were repeatedly referred and added to by both the Sublime Porte and the Treasury.¹⁴⁾

The documents and registers unnecessary for present operations were packed in monthly bags, which were put in yearly chests.¹⁵⁾ At the Sublime Porte, newer archives that were put to be referred to most frequently were kept in depots (*ma zen*) near the *kalems* located in the *tomruk dā'iresi*, which was a building complex inside the Sublime Porte.¹⁶⁾ On the other hand, older archives were stored in the *azīne-i hümayün* (Imperial Treasury), located in the outer court of Topkapı Palace.¹⁷⁾ Even as early as the late 17th century, the Sublime Porte was separated completely from the Palace both institutionally and locationally. However, in the 16th century, when the functions of state were centered around the imperial council (*divân-ı hümayün*), the archives were stored in the room attached to the Salon under the Dome (*kubbe altı*) located in Topkapı Palace, where the imperial council convened. It is plausible to assume that the older archives of the Sublime Porte were stored in the *azīne-i hümayün*, adjacent to the Salon under the Dome, even after its separation, as a vestige of the classical period.

On the other hand, we know for certain that the archives of the Treasury were stored near the Hippodrome (*Atmeydānı*) of Istanbul in what were referred to as “old depots” (*ma zen-i 'atık*) or “barracks of the tent corps” (*mehterân-ı ayne kışlası*).¹⁸⁾ Both indicate a building on the site of the former İbrahim Paşa Palace located on the west side of the Hippodrome, whose buildings were utilized for various purposes at the time.¹⁹⁾ In fact, a considerable amount of the archives was found in relatively good condition in the former İbrahim Paşa Palace during the 1930s.²⁰⁾

5. Custody of the Ottoman archives after the Tanzimat

There is no doubt that the *Hazîne-i evrâk* (Treasury of Documents), which was established in 1846 and completed in 1848, played an important role in preserving the Ottoman archives for future generations. It was the first modern archives of the Ottoman Empire modeled after the West and was the antecedent of the BOA.²¹⁾ However, *Hazîne-i evrâk* did not contribute much to the destiny of records before the Tanzimat period, since it did not store older records. Consequently, the storage before the Tanzimat period was not stable, since some records were moved from depot to depot within Istanbul, which ultimately led to a worsening of the situation. When Topkapı Palace lost its function as the imperial palace and was completely abandoned for Dolmabahçe Palace, the European-style palace resembling Versailles, in 1853, records in the Topkapı depots were also abandoned and left to deteriorate. Some records that had been kept on the ground floor of the Ayasofya were moved up to the gallery on the second floor on the occasion of the visit of Wilhelm II (1898).²²⁾ It is thought that the records of the Sublime Porte and those of the Treasury were mixed together in the process of moving the old archives repeatedly from one place to another.²³⁾

Poorly preserved old Ottoman archives once more saw the light of day after the Young Turk Revolution (1908) brought the despotic regime of ‘Abdülhamîd II to an end. In 1909 ‘Abdurrahmân Şeref, the chairman of the *Târî-i ‘Osmâni Encümeni* (*la Société d’Histoire Ottomane*) and the last *vakâyi-nüvis* (state chronicler), found the archives hiding in the depots of Topkapı Palace, moved them to the Cevâd Paşa Library (*Cevâd Paşa Kütüb ânesi*)²⁴⁾ in the courtyard of the Sublime Porte and reported²⁵⁾ how the water-damaged records were carried to the Library in 518 wagonloads, indicating the enormity of the old archives. Then ‘Abdurrahmân Şeref himself took on the task of arranging them. However, it was only a decade later, in 1918, that the work began in earnest. The cataloging committee was headed at that time by ‘Alî Emîrî, who was the leading scholar of Islamic manuscripts,²⁶⁾ but not a professional archivist, resulting in the standards he adopted based on the reigns of the Sultans becoming unsuitable to the modern principles of archive management. In the end, he was forced to resign in 1921 due to ill health, leaving most of the archives uncatalogued.

When İbnülemin Maḥmūd Kemāl [İnal], a prominent biographer, took over to the committee’s chair,²⁷⁾ ‘Alî Emîrî’s chronological system

was abandoned in favor of a subject catalogue. This scheme also proved inadequate, in fact more regressive than the 'Alī Emīrī's system, since the determination of a document's attributes was too subjective. The work was suspended with the fall of the Ottoman Empire, after which little attention was paid to the archives in the course of the Turkish Revolution and establishment of the Republic (1923). However, this situation changed suddenly in 1931, when a part of the archives (some decades) preserved in Istanbul prison under the control of the İstanbul defterdarlığı (Department of Revenues) was sold as waste paper to a Swiss-owned paper-mill in Bulgaria.²⁸⁾ Fortunately, an urgent plea from the Turkish government avoided the materials from being dissolved into pulp, but a large part of the documents was not returned to Turkey despite repeated Turkish government demands. The greater part of the archives which were sold to Bulgaria are now preserved in the National Library of Sofia (Народна Библиотека "Св. Св. Кирил и Методий"), composing the second largest collection of the Ottoman archival materials in the world.

In light of this transaction and loss of a part of the Ottoman archives, the issue of their preservation and cataloguing drew the attention of Turkey's media, which led to the reorganization of the cataloguing committee in 1932 under the leadership of Muallim Cevdet [İnançalp], who, incidentally, was suspected of engineering the sale of the archives to Bulgaria and orchestrating the media campaign about it. The work was reopened at the Cevād Paşa Library²⁹⁾ more or less under the İbnülemin system, with the subject categories being expanded, but chosen in the same arbitrary manner as before, resulting in, for example, petitions from the same person with the same content, but different dates, winding up in different subject categories.³⁰⁾ While Muallim Cevdet's committee continued its work at the Cevād Paşa Library, other parts of the archives scattered around Istanbul were gradually recollected, and the documents preserved in the Ayasofya were moved to the Cevād Paşa Library in 1936.³¹⁾

It was during the following year that a turning point was reached in the cataloguing project with the invitation extended to Lajos Fekete, a Hungarian orientalist specializing in Ottoman diplomatics,³²⁾ to investigate and report on the conditions the archives scattering around Istanbul, resulting in his proposal to introduce the principle of provenance at BOA in 1937. BOA accepted the proposal as well as Fekete's advice to give precedence to *defters* over individual documents, since the

former were easier to identify under that principle. Based on this advice, Kamil Kepeci began cataloguing *defters*, which are known today as the *fonds* of Kamil Kepeci, a collection arranged according to *kalems*.³³⁾ Since then, almost all pre-19th century documents were catalogued into *fonds* titled according to *kalem*.

While Lajos Fekete helped to institute the principle of provenance at the BOA, curiously enough, he seems not to have introduced the principle of original order, another major principle of modern archival management. Indeed, many BOA publications today continue to advocate the provenance system, but the principle of original order never receives mention.

6. BOA's *Fonds* and Document Collection by TSMA

The BOA *fonds*³⁴⁾ containing pre-Tanzimat documents are classified into three groups. The first is the group to which the principle of provenance was not adopted and whose original order was completely lost. These are the *fonds* of Ali Emiri, İbnülemin and Cevdet. They were catalogued according to principles adopted before Fekete's investigation in 1936–37 and consist of the archives moved from Topkapı Palace to the Cevād Paşa Library in 1909. It is obvious that the archives of the Treasury had become mingled with them, though the depots of the Topkapı Palace were stored in the old archives of the Sublime Porte, since the documents discovered after the abandonment of the Palace appear in the *fonds* of Cevdet and seem to have been mingled with the old archives of the Sublime Porte at either Topkapı Palace or the Cevād Paşa Library.

The second is the group to which the principle of provenance was adopted, but whose original order was lost. These are classified by *kalem* of provenance and coded as A.DVN (Bab-ı Asafi Divan-ı Hümayun, the office of the Imperial Council) and D.BŞM (Bab-ı Defteri Başmuhasebe Kalemi, the Office of the Chief Accountant of the Treasury), etc. They had to be examined one by one to confirm their provenance because of the archives being mixed together while being moved repeatedly from one place to another. Thus, their original order was lost along with their custodial history. It should be noted that some documents have been arranged into *fonds* incorrectly, since their provenance had to be determined by educated guessing. For example, A.RST (Bab-ı Asafi Reisülküttaplük Kalemi, the Office of *re'isül-küttāb*, chief scribe of the

chancery) contains not only letters and orders addressed to the chief scribe, but also letters with signed by him, which should have been sent to another office. In addition, the chief scribe did not have his own *qalem* in the actual Ottoman bureaucratic organization. This second group seems to consist of the documents brought from Topkapı Palace to the Cevād Paşa Library not catalogued by Ali Emirî, İbnülemin or Cevdet and the archives brought from Ayasofya and the depots of former İbrahim Paşa Palace, etc.

The third group, whose provenance is obvious and whose original order has been maintained, consist only of the *fonds* of Hatt-ı Hümayun, making this an exceptional case for the period. They were packed into bags at the beginning of the 19th century, moved to Topkapı Palace then moved into *Hazîne-i evrâk*. The Hatt-ı Hümayun *fonds* are thought to be the provenance of *âmedî kalemi* at the Sublime Porte, which drafted the Grand Vizier's reports to the Sultan and received the Sultan's replies. However, a portion of the documents were added later, leaving some unclarity as to their provenance and transmission.

The entire TSMA document collection, on the other hand, has been catalogued as a single *fond*, designated E. for Evrak with serial numbers. According to Fekete, they comprise the archives stored in 1937 at the *Seferli Koğuşu* (barracks of pages managing expedition items) located in the Inner Court of Topkapı Palace³⁵⁾ and exist apart from the old archives of the Sublime Porte stored in the depot of the Outer Court. The TSMA collection therefore contains documents concerning the Palace or submitted to the Sultan. Another TSMA characteristic is the presence of a series of documents addressed to a certain person. For example, all the documents classified as E.37 were addressed to Ra'if İsmâ'il Paşa, who was executed in 1785.³⁶⁾ It is thought that they were confiscated and brought to the Privy Treasury of the Inner Court after his execution and their original order was maintained in the process of confiscation. TSMA has thus preserved such documents as fair copies of the imperial decrees and letters sent by the Grand Vizier to certain persons, and petitions submitted to them from the population of the provinces they governed. Since such documents are not found in BOA, TSMA has great value in spite of its much smaller size.

7. Conclusion

As mentioned above, a part of the Ottoman archives was destroyed during the last decades of the Ottoman Empire and the early years of the Turkish Republic. We should not forget the fact that despite the enormity of the archives, the majority of pre-Tanzimat documents have been lost. It is also unwise to focus one's study on specific *fonds*, since the original order of the archives had been lost, and the cataloguing process during the late Ottoman and early Republican periods was so arbitrary that any distinction made among various *fonds* has almost no significance, especially among those of Ali Emirî, İbnülemin and Cevdet.³⁷⁾ Therefore, when utilizing the Ottoman archives, the researchers should reconstruct their original order for themselves, paying enough attention to custodial history of the documents and document-processing within the Ottoman bureaucracy.

* This article is the revised translation of "Formation and Preservation of the 18th and 19th Centuries Ottoman Archives", *Journal of the Centre for Documentation & Area-Transcultural Studies* (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), No. 4, September, 2004, 106–126.

Notes

- 1) T.C. Başbakanlık. 2000b: xxxv.
- 2) Uzunçarşılı, Baybura & Altundağ. 1985: viii, x. There are cases in which multiple documents are classified under one call number.
- 3) The very complex terminology regarding Ottoman documentation makes it difficult to know the real meaning of appellations. There are many-to-many correspondences between the style and appellation of the documents. For example, the appellation, *tel îş*, is used for both reports from Grand Vizier to the Sultan and the chief treasurer's reports of an inquiry made by the Grand Vizier, while the latter are sometimes called *i'lâm*. *İ'lâm* is also used both for *kâdî*'s reports to the central government and his judgments. In order to understand the Ottoman archives, most of which consist of official records, it is necessary to understand the terminology current in the bureaucracy at the time in question.
- 4) Concerning reforms of the Ottoman document system after 1839, see Akyıldız. 1995a.
- 5) Concerning the development of Ottoman diplomatics in Central and Eastern Europe, see Stojanow. 1983. The latest and the most comprehensive study of the subject in Turkey is Kütükoğlu. 1994. For a review, see Takamatsu. 1997.

- 6) Sertoğlu. 1955, Çetin. 1979, T.C. Başbakanlık. 1992, T.C. Başbakanlık. 1995, T.C. Başbakanlık. 2000b.
- 7) Concerning the principles of provenance and original order, see Schellenberg. 1965: 90-105.
- 8) Concerning Ottoman bureaucratic structure, see Uzunçarşılı. 1948 and Ahsıkalı. 2001.
- 9) Concerning the *kalem*, see Uzunçarşılı. 1948, Findley. 1980, Doğan. 1999 and Takamatsu. 2004b.
- 10) Concerning the *pādīşāhs* and their courts, see Uzunçarşılı. 1945.
- 11) Concerning further details of *ulāşa* and document-processing by the Ottoman bureaucracy, see Takamatsu. 1999.
- 12) Takamatsu. 2004a.
- 13) According to Uzunçarşılı [1948: 76-78], less attention was paid to the condition of the Ottoman archives beginning in the 18th century; but this argument seems to have no logic, because the construction of a stone building was ordered in 1785 for storage of the archives at the Sublime Porte. See Türkay. 1968: 46-47, Aktaş. 1985: 67 and T.C. Başbakanlık. 2000a: I, 104, II, 22.
- 14) The principal registers of the department of the chief treasurer form independent *fonds* of Maliyeden Müdevver Defterler (Registers transferred from the Ministry of Finance). Many registers of the *kalems* under the department of the chief treasurer are thought to have been preserved in the Ministry of Finance, after the transformation of the Treasury into the Ministry.
- 15) Uzunçarşılı. 1948: 77.
- 16) Elker. 1952: 183, Türkay. 1968: 44.
- 17) Uzunçarşılı. 1948: 76, Türkay. 1968: 44-45.
- 18) Elker. 1952: 183, Türkay. 1968: 44-45.
- 19) Regarding İbrahim Paşa Palace, presently Türk ve İslam Eserleri Müzesi (the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art), see Çetinkaya. 1939, Konyalı. 1942 and Atasoy. 1972.
- 20) Fekete. 1937: 28-29.
- 21) Regarding *Hazîne-i evrâk*, see Elker. 1952, Akyıldız. 1995b and T.C. Başbakanlık. 2000a. After the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, the name of *Hazîne-i evrâk* was changed several times, ending up as BOA in 1981 (Aktaş. 1993: 82-83).
- 22) Türkay. 1968: 45-46.
- 23) Elker. 1952: 183; Türkay. 1968: 45.
- 24) Cevād Paşa, the statesman and military-historian, held the post of Grand Vizier from 1891 to 1895. He built the Cevād Paşa Library on the site of the Sublime Porte for its staff members, but it was not used as a library upon persuading ‘Abdülhamîd II. (İnal. 1940-1953: 1531-1532).
- 25) ‘Abdurrahmân Şeref. 1911: 16-19.
- 26) Regarding ‘Alî Emîrî and his catalogs, see T.C. Başbakanlık. 1992: 393-394, *idem*. 1995: 3-7, Kahraman. 1998: 422-423, T.C. Başbakanlık. 2000a: I, 384-389, II, 304-311 and *idem*. 2000b: 408-409.

- 27) T.C. Başbakanlık. 1992: 394-396, 1995: 144-148.
- 28) For more details about this question, see T.C. Başbakanlık. 1993b, 1994a. It seems that the sale of the central archives resulted in a unique development of Ottoman diplomatics in Bulgaria, which leads other countries in the field. See for example Недков. 1966-1972, Velkov. 1979 and Велков. 1986.
- 29) For more details about Cevdet's preservation and cataloging activities, see Ergin. 1937: 106-209.
- 30) For example, petitions about monthly pension for 'Osmān Beg, the former Commander of the Egyptian Pilgrimage (*emīrū'l-hācc-ı Mısr*), are found in three subject categories of the *fonds* of Cevdet (Dahiliye 4726, 9442, 14951; Evkaf 11462; Maliye 1714, 7316, 28234) and also in the *fonds* of Ali Emirî (III. Mustafa 15349, 27740).
- 31) Fekete. 1937: 27.
- 32) Fekete. 1937. Regarding Fekete's contribution to BOA, see T.C. Başbakanlık. 1994b.
- 33) T.C. Başbakanlık. 1992: 394-396, 1995: 172-176, 2000b: 410-411.
- 34) Regarding the present condition of the *fonds* in BOA, see T.C. Başbakanlık. 1995, 2000b.
- 35) Fekete. 1937: 32-33.
- 36) Concerning Rā'if İsmā'īl Paşa, see Aḥmed Resmī & Süleymān Fā'īk. 1853: 114-116.
- 37) In general, the *fonds* of İbnülemin and those of Cevdet form a complementary distribution chronologically. Thus, it seems sufficient to investigate either of the two along with the *fonds* of Ali Emirî, for any period under investigation.

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