

**AḤMED b. MAḤMŪD**

Göynüklü

(b.~ 1650's, d. > March 1759)

LIFE

A.M. was born in Göynük.<sup>1</sup> In his *Ta'riḥ*, as a part of his appointment records (*tevcihāt qaydı*) of 6 Şevval 1163/8 September 1750, he mentions his own name as Göynüklü Aḥmed Efendi.<sup>2</sup> His date of birth is not known with any certainty. The year of his death is given as 1172/1759 in the *Sicill* and it is stated that he was over 100 years old when he died.<sup>3</sup> The fact that A.M. lived a long life can be understood through his eyewitness account of the 1687 rebellion during the reign of Meḥmed IV (r. 1058-1099/1648-1687)<sup>4</sup> and his being mature enough at that time to provide a critique of the rebellion. We can surmise from this that he must have been born in the 1060s/1650s.

Although A.M. had a long life, current information on both his life and his work is very limited. Babinger gives a brief note about his work but provides no further information about his life.<sup>5</sup> A. N. Kurat was the first modern historian to refer to A.M. and to use his work. In his article Kurat adjures that A.M. should occupy the respected place he deserves among Ottoman historians. Based on linguistic evidence, he also assumes that A.M., about whom little is known, could have been from Anatolia.<sup>6</sup> The Romanian historian A. Tertecel later brought A.M.'s work to the attention of scholars and noted that A.M.'s account of the Prut Campaign (1711) is original and provides important information for Moldavian (Boğdan) history.<sup>7</sup> More recently S. Çolak's dissertation on A.M., *Ta'riḥ-i Göynüklü* (1999), presented his *Ta'riḥ* as an important source for 18th century Ottoman history. A 2004 article by E. Afyoncu aimed at shedding some light on the identity of A.M. on the basis of research in the appointment records of the Prime Ministry Archives. Kurat published 30 pages of A.M.'s history on the Prut Campaign in Arabic script along with a transliteration.<sup>8</sup> The entire text of his *Ta'riḥ* is being edited by S. Çolak and A. Sağırlı.

The text of A.M.'s *Ta'riḥ* together with much additional information are compiled in a manuscript. Information about his life can be derived from the author's notes in this compilation. According to these notes, A.M. was a scribe in the royal treasury (*ḥazīne-i bīrūn kātibi*) when he began to write his compilation and his diary. While still in this office, he took part in the Prut Campaign against Russia (1123/1711) and he recorded the events that he witnessed on a daily basis. In 1127/1715, during the campaign against Austria, he was granted the office of clerk of the infantry (*piyāde muqābeleciligi*) in addition to his position as scribe to the royal treasury.<sup>9</sup> About a year later, on 10 Şevval 1128/18 September 1716, he was appointed head of suspended payments (*mevqūfātçı*).<sup>10</sup> He was dismissed shortly thereafter, on 11 Cemaziyülahir 1129/23 May 1717.<sup>11</sup> According to a note in the compilation, on 13 Şevval 1132/18 August 1720 he was a scribe for the armourers (*cebeciler kātibi*) and had earlier been a scribe for the sword-bearer

regiments (*silāhdār kâtibi*).<sup>12</sup> Later on, on 8 Şevval 1134/22 July 1722, he was appointed secretary of the large fortresses (*büyük qal'e tezkireciligi*)<sup>13</sup> and was dismissed about a year later, on 22 Şevval 1135/24 July 1723.<sup>14</sup> Two years after this dismissal, on 12 Şevval 1137/24 June 1725, he again became clerk of the infantry.<sup>15</sup> On 9 Şevval 1142/27 April 1730, he was appointed as scribe to the armourers for the third time.<sup>16</sup> Shortly before the Patrona Halil rebellion, on 16 Muharrem 1143/1 August 1730, he was granted for the second time the offices of secretary of the large fortresses and agent for the clerk of finances (*küçük rûznâmçelik vekâleti*).<sup>17</sup> From a note in his *Ta'rîh* dated 4 Rebiülahir 1143/17 October 1730 it is understood that A.M. became *mevqûfâtçı* for a second time.<sup>18</sup> After this tenure, he became Clerk of Finances (*küçük rûznâmçeci*) between 1 Zilhicce 1144/26 May 1732 and 1 Cemaziyülevvel 1145/20 October 1732.<sup>19</sup> On 27 Muharrem 1149/7 June 1736, when the Ottoman army had gone to the Plain of Dāvūd Paşa on campaign against Russia, A.M. was bookkeeper for the shipping office (*qalyonlar defterdâri*) and was exempted from attending the campaign. As holder of this office, he was responsible for registering 5000 irregulars armed with fire-arms (*tüfenk-endâz levendât*) to be sent to the Crimea.<sup>20</sup> On 2 Rebiülahir 1153/27 June 1740, he was again appointed accountant for Anatolia (*Anadolu muhâsebecisi*),<sup>21</sup> but on 12 Şevval 1153/31 December 1740 he was dismissed from this office.<sup>22</sup>

According to the *Şubhî Ta'rîhi*, on 17 Şevval 1155/17 December 1742, he was re-appointed as scribe of the armourers<sup>23</sup> and stayed in this office until 7 Ramazan 1156/25 October 1743.<sup>24</sup> A note in his *Ta'rîh* states that he was the official in charge of granaries (*anbar emîni*) during the storm which struck Istanbul on 14 Rebiülevvel 1162/3-4 March 1749, when several ships carrying provisions were damaged.<sup>25</sup> On 12 Şevval 1158/7 November 1714, he was appointed assistant official to the provincial treasury (*şıqq-ı şânî defterdâri*) and he occupied this position for 14 years, until his death.<sup>26</sup> A.M, who lived for over 100 years, died in Şa'ban 1172/March-April 1759, and is buried in Üsküdar.<sup>27</sup> The last note in his *Ta'rîh*, dated 25 Receb 1172/24 March 1759, shows that he continued writing until his death.

#### WORKS

① *Ta'rîh*: An autograph copy is found in the Staatsbibliothek of Berlin under the reference Ms. or quart. 1209. The text is covered by a brown leather 20 x 30 cm. binding, the interior of which is decorated with flower motifs. The compilation consists of 372 folios. The text is written in a nesih, occasionally divani script. This compilation comprises, in addition to the *Ta'rîh*, approximately 20 different entries including the *Qānunnāmes* of 'Azîz Efendi and 'Ayn 'Alî, ordinary puzzles, the sobriquets of Imperial Council (*dīvân-ı hümayûn*) members, models for letter-writing and notes on botanical medicines. However, several folios were misplaced when the compilation was bound and four pages about the Prut Campaign are missing. At the beginning of the text there is a table of contents, but there is no real correspondence between the chapters and the table. A

considerable part of the compilation after page 215b is dedicated to the *Ta'riḥ*, which includes his personal observations of events between 1123 and 1172 (1711-1759). Although A.M. does not give a title for this text, he occasionally uses the term "*defter*". S. Çolak, in her dissertation, suggests the title *Ta'riḥ-i Göynüklü*.

The *Ta'riḥ* begins on 1 Muharrem 1123/19 February 1711, when the Ottoman army began its campaign against the Russian army, and ends in 25 Receb 1172/24 March 1759 with the festivities to celebrate the birth of Muṣṭafā III's (r. 1757-1774) daughter. A.M. tried to record events which he personally witnessed chronologically, on a daily basis. Although in the beginning of the text the author was careful in doing this, after his description of the Austria Campaign (1128/1726) from about fol. 295 onwards he does not take care to continue his day-by-day narrative. Towards the end of the text one year is narrated in a few brief notes, and this section consists mostly of notes on appointments. The author's name is not given in the beginning, but one can establish from reading the notes that the copy was written by the author himself.

A.M. describes the events that he witnessed or that were related to him in a simple, clear language. He does not elaborate on the causes of events, but he occasionally expresses his opinions and criticisms, as in the case of the Patrona Halil uprising (1143/1730)<sup>28</sup> and the assassination of Damad İbrāhīm Paşa (18 Rebiül-evvel 1143/1 October 1730).<sup>29</sup>

The topics covered in the *Ta'riḥ* are in general as follows: between folios 215b-242a, the Ottoman-Russia war is narrated. This section begins with the movement of Ottoman troops to the Plain of Dāvūd Paşa. The military camp sites and the length of time spent at each one, the time distance between camps and their physical descriptions, and the battlefield in Novi Stanilişçe (?) (Kekeç Ağzı) are all described in detail. The battle is also depicted on a colored map. Folios 243b-269a are on the Campaign of the Morea (1127/1715). 243b begins with a letter explaining the reasons for the campaign which was sent to judges (*qāḍī*), stewards (*ketḥudā*) and local notables (*a'c'yān*) and to the imperial cavalry (*qapıqulu süvārī bölükleri*). A.M. joined the army on the campaign which began in Rebiülevvel 1127/March 1715, and he describes about 58 military camp sites up to the fortress of Methone (Modon). This chapter includes descriptions of the conquests of strongholds in Korinthos (Gördös), Navplion (Anapoli), Methone, Levkas (Ayamavra) and ends, with the return of the army to Burgas (Lüleburgaz) on 29 Zilka'de 1127/26 November 1715, on page 269a. On page 270a, the Austria Campaign of 1128/1716 begins. A.M. took part in the campaign. From Rebiülevvel 1128/February 1716 onwards he records the camp sites, the correspondence between the two states, and appointments and dismissals. In this chapter, A.M. occasionally expresses his personal opinions and criticisms. The last note in this chapter on 295a is on the arrival of the Ottoman army in Istanbul on 25 Zilka'de 1130/21 October 1718. After the campaign A.M. remained in Istanbul and continued to record his observations. On page 296a, he tells about the preparations carried out for the festivities (*sūr-ı hümayün şenlikleri*) surrounding the imperial circumcision on 1 Şevval 1132/6 August 1720, and he gives a

detailed account of their expenses. The weddings of both Zeyneb Sultān and Muṣṭafā Paşa and of Ḥasibe Sultān and Silāhdār Meḥmed Paşa (15 Rebiülahir 1141/18 October 1728), and also the wedding of Esmā Sultān (4 Muharrem 1156/28 February 1743), are also described. A.M., who stayed in Istanbul, followed and recorded the negotiations with Iran until 21 Cemaziyülevvel 1149/27 September 1736. This chapter begins on page 301a with 3 Cemaziyülevvel 1135/9 February 1723 deliberations concerning the letters of Silāhdār İbrāhīm Paşa, the Governor (*vālī*) of Erzurum, stating that Tebrīz, Tbilisi (Tiflis) and Yerevan (Revān) had expressed their wish to accept Ottoman rule, and it continues with an account of the Ottoman-Iranian treaty dated 21 Cemaziyülevvel 1149/27 September 1736 (333b).

A.M. also notes fires, earthquakes and extraordinary incidents occurring at that time in Istanbul. From 322a, he gives accounts of the Patrona Halil uprising (15 Rebiülevvel 1143/28 September 1730), of the activities of the rebels in Istanbul, and of the dethronement of Aḥmed III (r. 1114-1143/1703-1730). On pages 354b-358b, he gives a list of botanical medicines as cures for various diseases.

The only complete copy known of A.M.'s work is the Berlin copy mentioned above. In a 1986 article, Şevket Rado mentions the presence in his library of an approximately 30 pages-long copy, covering only the Prut Campaign. This copy begins in Muharrem 1123/February 1711 and ends in Receb 1126/July-August 1714, with the return of the King of Sweden Karl XII to his homeland. According to Rado, the copy was written in 1205/1790, as it is stated on the last page of the text.<sup>30</sup> The Rado library is not open to researchers at the present time.

*Contents:* This classification is taken from the Berlin Ms. or. quart 1209.

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*Editions*: None

*Secondary Sources*: Mehmed  ureyy , *Sicill-i  osm n *, vol. 1 (Istanbul, 1308/1890-1891), 256. S mi ve  akir ve  ubh , *S mi ve  akir ve  ubh  Ta'rihi*, (Istanbul, 1198/1783-84), 214b. Franz Babinger, *Die Geschichtsschreiber der Osmanen und ihre Werke* (Leipzig, 1927), 313. Akdes Nimet Kurat, "İsve  Kralı XII. Karl'ın T rkiye'de kaldıđı zamana ait metinler ve vesikalar", *A DTCF Tarih Arařtırmaları Dergisi*, no. 5/1, Ekler I, (1943), V-VII. İdem., *Prut Seferi ve Barıřı 1123 (1711)*, (Ankara, 1951). İdem., "Hazine-i Bir n K tibi Ahmed bin Mahmud'un (1123-1711) Prut Seferine ait Defteri", *A DTCF Tarih Arařtırmaları Dergisi*, vol IV/6-7 (1966), 261-427. Adrian Tertecel, "Un Izvor Otoman Necunoscut Istoriografie Noastre: Jurnalul" (Defter) lui Ahmed bin Mahmud (secretar al vistieriei otomane) privind campania militara a Inaltei Porti din anul 1711  n Moldova", *Universitatea Bucureřti Facultatea de istorie Caietele Laboratorului de studii Otomane*, no. 2 (Bucureřti, 1995), 55-133.  evket Rado, "Hazine-yi bir n k tibi Ahmed bin Mahmud Efendi'nin tuttuđu Prut seferine ait defterden koparılan sahifelerde neler vardı?", *Belleten*, vol. L/198 (Ankara, 1986), 807-824. Song l  olak, *Die Bedeutung des Geschichtsschreibers Ahmed b. Mahmud und seines Werkes T rih-i G yn kl  als Quelle f r die Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches im 18. Jahrhundert* (Berlin, 1999). Song l  olak, "XVIII. Y zyıl Osmanlı Tarih Yazıcılarından Hazine-yi Bir n K tibi Ahmed bin Mahm d'un Hayatı", *Belleten*, vol. LXVII/250 (December, 2003): 853-865. Erhan Afyoncu, "Hazine-i Bir n K tibi Ahmed bin Mahmud Kimdir?," *Journal of Turkish Studies*, vol. 28/1 (2004): 1-8.

<sup>1</sup> I have not been able to determine which G yn k this is.

<sup>2</sup> Ahmed b. Mahm d, *Ta'rih-i G yn kl *, Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Ms. or. quart. 1209, 361b. (henceforth *TG*).

<sup>3</sup> Mehmed  ureyy , *Sicill-i  osm n *, vol. 1 (Istanbul, 1308/1890-91), 256.

<sup>4</sup> *TG*, 324.

<sup>5</sup> Franz Babinger, *Die Geschichtsschreiber der Osmanen und ihre Werke* (Leipzig 1927), 313, fn. 1.

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<sup>6</sup> Akdes Nimet Kurat, “Hazine-i Birûn Kâtibi Ahmed bin Mahmud’un (1123-1711) Prut Seferine Ait Defter’i,” *Ankara Üniversitesi DTCTF Tarih Araştırmaları Enstitüsü Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, IV/6-7 (1966), 266.

<sup>7</sup> Adrian Tertecel, “Un Izvor Otoman Necunoscut İstoriografienoaste: “Jurnalul” (Defter) Lui Ahmed bin Mahmud (secretar al vistieriei otomane) pîrivimîd campania militara a înaltei Porti din anul 1711 în Moldova,” *Universitatea Bucuresti Facultatea de istorie Caietele Laboratorului de studii Otomane*, 2 (1995), 55-133.

<sup>8</sup> Kurat, *ibid.*, 267-427.

<sup>9</sup> *TG*, 266b.

<sup>10</sup> *TG*, 283a.

<sup>11</sup> *TG*, 287b.

<sup>12</sup> *TG*, 296a.

<sup>13</sup> *TG*, 300b.

<sup>14</sup> *TG*, 302a.

<sup>15</sup> *TG*, 302b.

<sup>16</sup> *TG*, 319a-b.

<sup>17</sup> *TG*, 320b.

<sup>18</sup> *TG*, 324b.

<sup>19</sup> S. Çolak, “XVIII. Yüzyıl Osmanlı Tarih Yazıcılarından Hazine-i Birûn Kâtibi Ahmed bin Mahmud’un Hayatı,” *Belleten*, LXVII/250 (Aralık 2003), 861.

<sup>20</sup> *TG*, 332a.

<sup>21</sup> *TG*, 341b.

<sup>22</sup> *TG*, 342a.

<sup>23</sup> *Sâmi ve Şâkir ve Şubhî Ta’rîhi* (İstanbul, 1198/1783-84), 214b. Cf. *Sicill-i ‘Osmânî*, vol. 1, 256.

<sup>24</sup> Çolak, *ibid.*, 863.

<sup>25</sup> *TG*, 359a.

<sup>26</sup> *Sicill-i ‘Osmânî*, vol. 1, 257.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *TG*, 324a.

<sup>29</sup> *TG*, 323b.

<sup>30</sup> Şevket Rado, “Hazine-i Bîrun Kâtibi Ahmed bin Mahmud Efendi’nin Tuttuğu Prut Seferine Ait Defterden Koparılan Sahifelerde Neler Vardı?,” *Belleten*, L/198 (December 1986), 809.

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