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REWARDING OF THE OTTOMAN ULACHS BY ROMANIA

Osmanlı Ulahlarının Romanya Tarafından Taltifi

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Abstract: After gaining its independence in 1878, Romania was closely interested in the Ottoman Ulachs (Vlachs) and the Ulachs became a part of the Ottoman-Romanian diplomatic relations. Romania played an important role in the recognition of the Ulachs as a nation by the Ottoman Empire in 1905. In this period, some Ulachs of the Ottoman subjects, most of whom were active in the field of education, were awarded the orders (decorations) and medals. This study, which is based on the documents of the Ottoman Archives, deals with the Ulachs awarded by Romania.

Key Words: Ottoman Empire, Romania, Ulachs (Vlachs), Awarding, Medals.

Öz: Romanya, 1878 yılında bağımsızlığını kazandıktan sonra Osmanlı Ulahlarıyla yakından ilgilenmiş ve Ulahlar, Osmanlı-Romanya diplomatik ilişkilerinin bir parçası olmuştur. 1905 yılında Osmanlı Devleti tarafından Ulahların millet olarak tanınmasında Romanya önemli rol oynamıştır. Bu süreçte çoğu eğitim alanında faaliyet gösteren Osmanlı tebaasından bir kısım Ulah Romanya tarafından nişan ve madalyalar verilerek taltif edilmiştir. Osmanlı Arşivi vesikalarının esas alındığı bu çalışma taltif edilen Ulahları konu edinmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Osmanlı Devleti, Romanya, Ulahlar, Taltif, Madalya.

Introduction

The Principals of Wallachia and Bogdan, which are indicated as Memleketeyn¹ in the Ottoman state records, merged in 1859 and formed the Romanian Principality, and this merger was registered in 1861 by the Sultan². At the end of the Ottoman-Russian War of 1877-1878, the Principality of Romania was liberated from Turkish domination and it became fully independent with the Treaty of Berlin³. And also in 1879 it was recognized by the Ottoman Empire⁴.

¹ Cafer Çiftçi, "Bâb-ı Âlî'nin Avrupa'ya Çevrilmiş İki Gözü: Eflak ve Boğdan'da Fenerli Voyvodalar (1711-1821)", *Uluslararası İlişkiler*, Volume 7, Number 26 (Summer 2010), p. 28; Kemal Karpat, "Eflak", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi*, Volume 10, İstanbul 1994, p. 466.

² İrsel Abdula, *Türkiye-Romanya Arasında Göç ve Göçmen Meselesi (1878-1940)*, Ankara University, Institute of Social Sciences, Master Thesis, Ankara 2005, p. 15.

³ Giray Saynur Bozkurt, "Geçmişten Günümüze Romanya'da Türk Varlığı", *Karadeniz Araştırmaları*, Volume 5, Number 17, Spring 2008, p. 3.

⁴ Cezmi Karasu, "Bağımsızlıktan I. Dünya Savaşı'na Romanya", *Balkanlar El Kitabı*, Volume I: History, Compilers: Osman Karatay-Bilgehan A. Gökdağ, Karam Araştırma ve Yayıncılık, Ankara 2006, p. 524; Mihai Maxim, "Romanya-Tarih", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi*, Volume 35, İstanbul 2008, p. 170.

Diplomatic contacts had been initiated in order to establish bilateral relations between the Ottoman Empire and Romania since September 1878. Dumitru Bratianu, the first ambassador sent to Istanbul by Romania, established Romania's first consulate in October 1878. Apart from Istanbul, there were Romanian consulates also in Thessaloniki, Adana and Izmir. On December 5, 1878, a treaty on the exchange of war prisoners was signed between the two states. On 15 December 1878, Süleyman Bey, the first ambassador of the Ottoman Empire, presented his credentials to Bucharest, and then the consulates of Iași (Yaş), Călărași and Tulcea (Tulçe), Constanta (Köstence), Giurgiu (Yergöğü), Turnu Severin, Brăila (İbrail), and Galați (Kalas) were established respectively in the dates of 1879, 1880, 1882, 1891, 1892, 1895 and 1897. Sultan Abdulhamid underlined the necessity of maintaining the relations between the two countries in a friendly manner in the dinner given in honour of Bratianu, the Ambassador of Romania⁵.

The Ottoman-Romanian bilateral relations which continued in the political and commercial fields until the end of the 19th century gained a new momentum with the Consulate Agreement signed on August 10, 1900, and the Trade Agreement signed on August 12, 1901. Also, with the contribution of these good relations, the right of the Romanian government to the Macedonian Ulachs was registered in 1905 and the Ulachs in the region were given the right to use Romanian in churches and schools, and to elect representatives for local administrative authorities. In addition, a Romanian High School was decided to open in Skopje⁶ on behalf of the Romanian government⁷.

After gaining its independence, the willingness and approach of the Romanian government to make new connections by improving relations with Turkey could be seen also in the Ottoman side. In the article titled “La Turquie et la Roumanie” published in *Malumat* on May 20, 1897, the statements affirming the Romanian government were included and also it was stated that the Romanian government always adopted a conciliatory, calming and friendly attitude towards the Ottoman government. In another article published under the title “Le Gouvernement Impérial et la Roumanie” in the same magazine in July 1897, it was pointed out that Romania among the Balkan countries had the most advanced level of progress, wealth and the necessary conditions for good governance by including positive statements about kingdom of Carol I. Additionally, it was indicated that Turkey responded to this attitude in a friendly manner as Bucharest government maintained Turkey's friendship⁸.

As an indication of the satisfaction with the harmonious relations between the Ottoman Empire and Romania, the Bucharest authorities gave medals and decorations (orders) to the Ottoman diplomats and politicians visiting or passing through it. Munir Pasha⁹, the Minister of Protocol¹⁰ of Sultan Abdulhamid, was one of them that he made his return from England in July

⁵ Abdula, p. 18-19.

⁶ It is called “Üsküp” in Turkish.

⁷ Abdula, p. 20-21.

⁸ Cecilia Alina Sava-Mihaela Mehedinti, “The Evolution of the Political and Diplomatic Relations Between Romania and the Ottoman Empire (1878-1912)”, in *Le Guerre Balcaniche e la fine del “Secolo Lungo”. Atti del convegno di Târgu Mureș (19-20 luglio 2012)*, ed. Giuseppe Motta, Roma: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, 2013, pp. 79-102.

⁹ Munir Pasha was sent to England to attend the ceremony in order to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of Queen Victoria on this date. Munir Pasha, who was also in the Paris Embassy, was employed under the rule of the Sultan in the palace due to his credibility and Sultan Abdulhamit II carried out his contacts with foreign ambassadors through Munir Pasha, leaving the Grand Vizier and his foreign minister aside. (Salih Münir Paşa [Çorlu], *Geçmiş Zamanlar II. Abdülhamid Devri Osmanlı Diplomasisi, İstanbul ve Paris Hatıraları*, Prepared by Ali Birinci and Selma Günaydın, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 2015, p. 374).

¹⁰ It is called “Teşrifat Nazırı” who is an important official that implements the protocol works in Sublime Porte.

1897 through Romania and returned to Istanbul after three days in Sinaia. Munir Pasha and his companions were rewarded by King Carol I during their stay in Sinaia¹¹. There are also many examples from previous years regarding rewards given by Romania. In October 1887 Galip Pasha, the Governor of Thessaloniki, Halil Rifat Pasha, the Governor of Bitola¹², Recep Pasha, General Commander of Thessaloniki¹³, Ragıp Efendi, who was close to the Sultan, and also Filib Efendi, the concessionaire of Newspaper ‘Tarik’, were given the Order of the Couronne de Roumanie¹⁴ from the first rank; Asım Bey, Principal Clerk of Citizenship¹⁵, his deputy İstavrakı Efendi, Yusuf Efendi, Policy Director of the Province of Thessaloniki, and Mayor Teyfik Bey were awarded the Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the third rank. Deputy Consul General of Romania in Thessaloniki and Chief Dragoman of Embassy of Romania in Istanbul were assigned to deliver the decorations and certificates¹⁶ to their owners¹⁷.

The Romanian government continued to reward the Ottoman subjects also in the 1900s. In 1900 Vasaf Efendi, Director of Education of Bitola Province, and due to the effort to do his job well and his success in ensuring public order, Osman Bey, Chief Police Commissioner of Bitola Province, were given the Order of the Couronne de Roumanie¹⁸ from the fourth rank, and while Abdülkerim Pasha, the Governor of Bitola, was awarded the Order of the Esteiva Roumanie¹⁹ from the first rank in 1901, Hasan Fehmi Pasha, the Governor of Thessaloniki, was given the Order of the Etual de Roumanie²⁰ in 1902²¹. In addition, governors of Thessaloniki and Bitola, Nuri Efendi from Bitola, police officer of Thessaloniki province and Atıf Efendi, Foreign Document Control²² Officer of Selanik, were among those awarded by Romania between the dates of 1904 and 1905²³.

In 1906 in the province of Bitola, Kostaki Aşkoderiano Efendi, member of Administrative Council²⁴, Sadık Vicdani Efendi, officer managing the editorial department²⁵ of the province,

¹¹ Sava- Mehedinti, p. 8-10.

¹² It is called “Manastır” in Turkish.

¹³ It is called “Umum Kumandanı” in Turkish.

¹⁴ *Koron de Romani Nişanı* (Couronne de Roumanie-Romanya Tacı) was created by King Charles (Carol I) on 10/22 May 1881. (*Ülke Adlarına Göre Tasnif Edilmiş Madalya ve Nişanlar Hakkında Bilgi Fişleri*, Atatürk Kitaplığı, Inventory: Bel_Mtf_58452, p. 21).

¹⁵ It is called “Tâbiyet Kalemî Müdürü” in Turkish.

¹⁶ It is called “berat” in Turkish that is the official paper written and issued by the state for orders, rank, civil service, salary and various privileges and powers.

¹⁷ Ottoman Archives (BOA), *İrade Hariciye* (İ.HR.) 308/19602, 13 Safer 1305/31 October 1887; *İrade Dahiliye* (İ.DH.) 1060/83191, 22 Rebiülevvel 1305/8 December 1887.

¹⁸ BOA, *İrade Taltifat* (İ.TAL.) 206/26, 6 Zilkade 1317/8 March 1900; *Babıalî Evrak Odası* (BEO.), 1454/1090431, 9 Zilkade 1317/11 March 1900; *Dahiliye Nezareti Mektubi Kalemî* (DH.MKT.) 2306/101, 26 Kanun-ı Sani 1315/7 February 1900, İ.TAL. 208/24, 3 Zilhicce 1317/4 April 1900; BEO. 1473/110410, 16 Zilhicce 1317/17 April 1900.

¹⁹ BOA, İ. TAL. 203/38, 23 Şevval 1317/24 February 1900; BEO. 1449/108616, 28 Şevval 1317/1 March 1900; DH.MKT. 2327/28, 19 Mart 1317/1 April 1901. (The names of the orders and medals have been read as written in Ottoman documents.).

²⁰ *Etual de Romani Nişanı* (Etoile de Roumanie-Romanya Yıldızı) was created by Prince Charles (Carol I) in 1877. (*Ülke Adlarına Göre Tasnif Edilmiş Madalya ve Nişanlar Hakkında Bilgi Fişleri*, p. 21).

²¹ BOA, İ.TAL. 286/14, 21 Cemaziyelahir 1320/25 Semptember 1902; BEO. 1926/144450, 25 Cemaziyelahir 1320/29 September 1902.

²² It is called “Muayene-i Kütüb ve Resail-i Ecnebiye” in Turkish.

²³ BOA, İ.TAL. 352/49, 17 Şevval 1322/25 December 1904; BEO. 2501/187541, 30 Zilkade 1322/5 February 1905; İ.TAL. 382/53, 16 Şevval 1323/14 February 1905; BEO.2722/204149, 19 Şevval 1323/17 December 1905; *Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre Kalemî Belgeleri* (DH.ŞFR.) 354/68, 11 Eylül 1321/24 September 1905; İ.TAL. 382/55, 5 Şevval 1323/3 December 1905; BEO. 2714/203504, 6 Şevval 1323/4 December 1905; İ.TAL. 333/17, 1 Rebiülevvel 1322/16 May 1904; BEO. 2347/176020, 22 Rebiülevvel 1322/6 June 1904; 2307/172973, 18 Muharrem 1322/4 April 1904.

²⁴ It is called “Meclis-i İdare” in Turkish.

²⁵ It is called “Mektupçu” in Turkish.

Saib Efendi, Director of Education, and Yunus Şinasi Efendi, interpreter of the Province, were awarded by the Romanian State²⁶. During the same year, many officers including officer of Romanian Embassy²⁷, undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, District Governor on duty in Macedonia and Istanbul, and inspector, aide and manager working in various ministries were awarded with the decorations and medals of various ranks under the name of Etual de Roumanie, Couronne de Roumanie, Serviçyol Karadinyos Gold Medal, Serviçyol Karadinyos Silver Medal. Both Muslims and non-Muslims were among those who were awarded²⁸. At the beginning of 1907, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Romanian King Carol I, the consulates of the Ottoman Empire in Romania were given medals²⁹. Also, on September 30, 1907, the Romanian Government awarded 4 government officers³⁰, 1 police commissioner and 16 employees of Sublime Porte, which includes 11 caretakers, servant, curtain maker, and janitor, the Medals of Gold Serviçyol Karadinyos from the first rank and Silver Serviçyol Karadinyos from the second rank³¹. In the same year, Zeynelabidin Efendi, the Director of Kırşova Sub-district in Bitola province, was given the Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the fifth rank³².

The Ulachs Awarded by the Romania

The Ulachs were also among the Ottoman subjects awarded by Romania. This nation having ethnic ties with Romania lived in various parts of the Balkans, especially in Macedonia. At the beginning of the 20th century, their population in Macedonia was around 100 thousand³³. The Ulachs, who are known by such names as the Vlachs, Valachs, Volochs and pastoral race, were mostly engaged in jobs that required a nomadic life. Those having better living conditions went to European countries such as Italy, Spain, Austria, and Russia in order to merchandise³⁴. The Ulachs, who spoke Romance language and were Orthodox and connected to the Greek Patriarchate³⁵ and also had many problems with the Greeks, were recognized by the Ottoman Empire in 1905 as a separate nation³⁶. Especially after this date, many Ulachs from the Ottoman subjects, most of who were employed in the field of education, would be awarded with various degrees of decorations and medals by Romania.

²⁶ BOA, *İ.TAL.* 405/8, 23 Receb 1324/12 September 1906; *İ.TAL.* 428/29, 9 Cemaziyelevvel 1325/20 June 1907; *BEO.* 2909/218159, 27 Receb 1324/16 June 1906; *İ.TAL.* 409/35, 10 Ramazan 1324/28 October 1906; *DH.MKT.* 1012/27-1, 7 Şevval 1323/5 December 1905; *DH.MKT.* 1114/70, 2 Receb 1324/22 August 1906; BOA, *BEO.* 2777/208240, 12 Muharrem 1324/8 March 1906; *İ.TAL.* 389/37, 11 Muharrem 1324/7 March 1906; *BEO.* 3031/227277, 27 Safer 1325/11 April 1907.

²⁷ It is called "Romanya Sefareti Kavası" in Turkish.

²⁸ BOA, *İ.TAL.* 389/37, 11 Muharrem 1324/7 March 1906; *DH.MKT.* 1084/63, 7 Rebiülevvel 1324/1 May 1906.

²⁹ BOA, *İ.TAL.* 419/24, 26 Muharrem 1325/11 March 1907. One of those awarded the medal is Nesim Alacem who worked as a translator and cancelliere (officer in embassy secretariat) at the consulate of Turnu Severin in Romania of the Ottoman Empire. (Sezai Balci-Ahmet Yadi, *Osmanlı Bürokrasisinde Yahudiler*, Libra Yayınları, İstanbul 2013, p. 163).

³⁰ It is called "Sadaret Ağası" in Turkish.

³¹ BOA, *İ.TAL.* 435/43, 17 Eylül 1323/30 September 1907.

³² BOA, *İ.TAL.* 419/24, 14 Safer 1325/29 March 1907; *BEO.* 3117/233753, 26 Cemaziyelahir 1325/6 August 1907; *DH.MKT.* 1180/46, 26 Temmuz 1323/8 August 1907; *İ.TAL.* 428/29, 24 Cemaziyelahir 1325/4 August 1907.

³³ Mustafa Alkan, "Hüseyin Hilmi Paşa'nın Rumeli Umumi Müfettişliği (1902-1908)", *Celal Bayar University Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, Volume 13, Number 1, March 2015, p. 246.

³⁴ İffet Tosun, "Ulahların-Romenlerin Ortaya Çıkışı", *Balkanlar El Kitabı*, Volume I: History, Compilers: Osman Karatay-Bilgehan A. Gökdağ, Ankara 2006, p. 257; Lucy M.J. Garnett, *Türkiye'nin Kadınları ve Folklorik Özellikleri*, Oğlak Yayıncılık, İstanbul 2009, p. 17-18.

³⁵ Mehmet Köseoğlu, *Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşiv Belgelerine Göre Ulahların Siyasi, Dini ve Eğitim Faaliyetleri (1876-1910)*, Batman University-Fırat University (Joint Program) Institute of Social Sciences, Master Thesis, Elazığ 2015, p. 3.

³⁶ BOA, *İ.DH.* 1434/10, 17 Rebiülevvel 1323/22 May 1905; Sava- Mehedinti, p. 10.

In October 1905, the Romanian government gave decorations and medals to the directors, teachers and inspectors of the Ulach schools and some officers in the provinces of Bitola, Kosovo and Edirne and some people from the Ulach community and the clergy. Information about 29 people awarded on this date is given in the following table³⁷.

The Ulaachs Awarded by the Romanian Government

Profession	Place	Name	Decorations which was given
Doctor of Ulach Schools	Bitola	Doctor Perikli Poçara	Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the Fifth Rank
Headmaster of Bitola Ulach School	Bitola	Kara Adam	Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the Fifth Rank
Member of Ulach Community	Hârşova ³⁸	Petraşinko	Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the Fifth Rank
Member of Ulach Community	Prilep ³⁹	Maçari	Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the Fifth Rank
Ulach Art Teacher	Bitola	Kostantin Aşkoderyano	Order of the Couronne de Roumanie from the Fifth Rank
Chamberlain ⁴⁰ of Bitola Ulach School	Bitola	Kostantin Balamaci	Serviçyo Karadiniçyör Medal from the Fifth Rank
Headmaster of Ulach School	Bitola	Filip Apostolisko	Raspilat Muşci Medal from the First Rank
Former Teacher of Ulach School	Bitola	Haci Dimitri Atnaşesko	Raspilat Musci Medal from the First Rank
Headmaster of Ulach School	Udala	Yvan Tomesko Somo	Raspilat Musci Medal from the First Rank
Inspector of Ulach Schools	Bitola	Sonderozon	Raspilat Musci Medal from the First Rank
Headmistress of Ulach School for Girls	Bitola	Eleni Toka	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Former Teacher of Ulach School	Bitola	Perdiki	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Veliko Tarnovo ⁴¹	Dimitri Nikolesko	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank

³⁷ BOA, *İ.TAL.* 378/43, 19 Şaban 1323/19 October 1905; *BEO.* 2692/201853, 22 Şaban 1323/22 October 1905; *DH.MKT.* 1029/39, 1 Ramazan 1323/30 October 1905.

³⁸ It is also spelled Hırşova.

³⁹ Pirlepe.

⁴⁰ He is a trusted person who deals with the administrative work of the institutions.

⁴¹ Tırnova.

Rewarding of The Ottoman Ulachs by Romania

Headmaster	Nedeška	Yonesko Kirane	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Malovište ⁴²	Dimitri Zografo	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Nedeška	Sergey Dimitrisko	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Skopje	Kika Papa	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Hârşova	Taşko Elbasko	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
School Teacher	Hârşova	Vangeli Petresko	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Glisora	Kika Papa	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
School Teacher	Glisora	Adam	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Toricse	Dimitri Çima	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Inspector of School	Bitola	Dimitri Ran	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Priest	Peridosi	Kostanisko	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Priest	Gopeş	Hristolov	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Priest	Hârşova	Sutri Esteriyo	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Priest	Ohrid ⁴³	Vançibo Bornoçibo	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Priest	Orestia ⁴⁴	Anami Esteriyo	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank
Headmaster	Hârşova	Kostas Askoderyano	Raspilat Musci Medal from the Second Rank

As can be seen from the table, 21 of the awarded 29 people were working in educational institutions. 13 of them are headmasters, 5 of them are teachers, 2 of them are inspectors and 1 of them is doctor. 5 of the remaining 8 people are clergymen, 2 of them are members and 1 of them is chamberlain. Most of the awarded Ulachs are from the province of Bitola. One of the

⁴² Molovište.

⁴³ Ohri.

⁴⁴ Horpešte.

headmasters awarded a medal is a woman and she is Eleni Toka, Headmistress of Ulach School for Girls. Awarding for women in the Ottoman Empire took place during the reign of Abdulhamid II. This award, which was granted with the name of “The Order of Charity”, consisted of three ranks according to the regulation dated 16 July 1878. It would be given to women who served during wartime and in events such as earthquakes, fires and floods⁴⁵. Besides, an amendment was made in 1905 in the regulation of the Merit Medal given in 1891 during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamit and women were also included in the list of those who could be awarded a medal⁴⁶.

Ulach educational employees who were rewarded by the Romanian administration are not limited to those given in the table. In the same year, Perikli Çeboyka Efendi, the headmaster of Ulach School of Ioannina, was awarded the Order of Kavalier Couronne de Roumanie by the Romanian State due to his good work⁴⁷. Gorgi Çonga from Ottoman subjects, who had been an inspector of Ulach schools for a while, was also awarded Pravora Karadinca Medal by the Romanian government for his good service⁴⁸.

Upon the proposal of member of the Heyet-i Ayan in 1906, the Romanian government decided to issue medals reminiscent of the date of the decision of Koço Ulachs living in Vilayat-ı Selasede (Thessaloniki, Bitola, Kosovo) as a separate nation. Silver and bronze medals would be distributed to the people. While the pictures of the King of Romania, Prince Ferdinand, Prince Carol and Prince Nikola are on the front of the medal, Lahovary, Romanian Ambassador to Istanbul, who played an important role in the successful conclusion of the negotiations on this issue, is behind the medal. The bronze medal was valued at 8 francs and the silver ones at 100 francs. The income from the sale of the medals would be distributed to the Ulach families in need. On January 20, 1906, an article dealing with this issue was published in the newspaper La Romani⁴⁹. In 1907, 7 people from the Ottoman subjects in the Kırşova sub-district of the province of the Bitola were granted Serviçyo Kradiçyoz Medal from the first rank by the Romanian government. They were Pope Esteri, Petro Balyo, Nikola Gogo, Dimitri Patraşinko, Taşko Elyasko, Vangeli Petraşko and Nikola Dimitri from the members of the Ulach community of Kırşova⁵⁰. Before 1905, there were also those being Ulachs rewarded by the Romanian administration. Apostol Efendi, who would be appointed as the Istanbul Police Commissioner in the following years, was one of them. He was awarded the Medal of Service Fidel on December 16, 1892 and the Order of Couronne de Roumanie from the fifth rank on October 9, 1903⁵¹.

Conclusion

All autocratic administrations of the 19th century benefited from the symbolic value of medals and orders in their relations with both their subjects and diplomatic circles and these

⁴⁵ İbrahim Artuk, “Nişan”, *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi*, Volume 33, İstanbul 2007, p. 155. With the Order of Charity, this symbol of power was no longer left to men and a privileged class and the middle class Ottoman woman was allowed to enter this area. (Melike Karabacak, “İktidarın Dış Sembolleri Şefkat Nişanı Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme”, *Sultan II. Abdülhamid ve Dönemi Uluslararası Sempozyumu*, 22-24 October 2018).

⁴⁶ Edhem Eldem, *İftihar ve İmtiyaz Osmanlı Nişan ve Madalyaları Tarihi*, Osmanlı Bankası Arşiv ve Araştırma Merkezi, İstanbul 2004, p. 290.

⁴⁷ BOA, *Maarif Nezareti Mektubi Kalemî (MF.MKT.)* 825/11, 9 Kanun-ı Sani 1320/22 January 1905; *İ.TAL.* 359/32, 16 Zilhicce 1322/21 February 1905; *BEO.* 2666/19937, 11 Receb 1323/11 September 1905.

⁴⁸ BOA, *DH.MKT.* 1124/7, 25 Şaban 1324/14 October 1906; *İ.TAL.* 410/82, 5 Şevval 1324/21 November 1906; *BEO.*, 2948/221063, 8 Şevval 324/25 November 1906.

⁴⁹ BOA, *Yıldız Sadaret Hususi Maruzat Evrakı (YA-HUS.)* 500/48, 10 Muharrem 1324/6 March 1906.

⁵⁰ BOA, *İ.TAL.* 419/22, 24 Safer 1325/8 Nisan 1907.

⁵¹ Mucize Ünlü-Ahmet Yadi, “II. Abdülhamid Döneminde Ulahların İstihdamına Dair”, *History Studies*, Volume 10, Number 10, December 2018, p. 276.

tools were seen as an element of dialogue⁵². The Western-inspired medal tradition began in the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Mahmut II, and military and civil senior officers who did their duties in a superior manner were rewarded. Previously, successful people were presented with crest⁵³, wreath and chandelier in a similar manner to the order. The first order in the Western style was the Mecidi Order in 1852 and this tradition was continued during the reign of the later sultans and new medals and orders were produced. Especially during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamit, Ottoman medals and orders reached the level of institutionalization and systematization⁵⁴. In Romania, which was an independent state in 1878, Prince Carol wanted to establish his own engagement from the 1860s and made efforts in this direction. In Romania, which was an independent state in 1878, Prince Carol wanted to create his own decorations from the 1860s and made efforts in this direction. He gained this sovereignty with the appearance of the Order of the Romanian Star in 1877 and the Order of the Crown of Romania in 1881⁵⁵. While Sultan Abdulhamid was awarded the Order of the Romanian Star in 1880 and the Order of Carol I in 1907 by Romania, Carol I would be rewarded the Order of Tasvir-i Humayun in 1866 and the Mecidi Order in 1907 by the Ottoman Empire. In addition, Queen Elizabeth was awarded the Concession Medal in the dates of 1893 and 1907, and the Order of the Dynasty in 1907⁵⁶. Except for these mutual awarding at the level of heads of state, the governments of the two countries contributed to the development of bilateral relations by presenting orders and medals to each other's subjects on various occasions. An important part of the Ottoman citizens rewarded by the Romanian State were the Ulachs who had historical, cultural and ethnic ties with them. Thus, Romania both developed good relations with the Ottoman administration and also expressed its support to the Ulachs.

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⁵² Namık Sinan Turan, "II. Abdülhamid Döneminde Diplomaside Sembolik Dil İnşasında Nişanın Yeri: Toplumsal Anlamda Ötekini Taltif Etmek 'Şefkat Nişanı'", *Halil İnalıcık Armağanı III*, editor: Ahmet Özcan, Doğu Batı Yayınları, İstanbul 2017, p. 218.

⁵³ It is an ornament which is feather-shaped made from feathers or animal hair, on the top of a soldier's hat.

⁵⁴ Artuk, p. 154-155; Eldem, p. 290, 357.

⁵⁵ Eldem, p. 356.

⁵⁶ Eldem, p. 502-505.

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment-1: Couronne de Roumanie, 1. Modèle (1881-1932)

(Source: <https://veryimportantlot.com/fr/lot/view/roumanie-ordre-de-la-couronne-de-roumanie-1-mo-110737> Date of Access: 05.09.2019)

Attachment-2: Couronne de Roumanie (1881)

(Source: <http://www.damienlibert.com/html/fiche.jsp?id=697597&np=8&lng=fr&npp=50&ordre=3&aff=1&r=> Date of Access: 05.09.2019)

Attachment-3: King Carol I of Romania

(Source: Gallica, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b69316002.r=Carol%20de%20Roumanie?rk=64378;0> Date of Access: 07.09.2019)

Attachment-4: Alexandru Em. Lahovary

Alex Lahovary

(Source: Adrian Stanescu ve Laurentiu Vlad (Compilers), *Memorialistica Diplomatica Vol.1 Alexandru Em. Lahovary Amintiri Diplomatice Constantinopol (1902-1906). Viena (1906-1908)*, Institutul European 2009, p. 5.)