A new print by Müteferrika (?)
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A comparative view of Baron’s Qibla Finder
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1. Introduction

The albums and folders of heterogeneous contents from the possession of the Prussian envoy and orientalist Heinrich Friedrich von Diez (1751–1817)2 have long attracted the interest of researchers from a wide range of disciplines.3 In the following, the history behind two objects from the collector’s album with the signature Diez A fol. 58 and their connection to some art-historically unique objects will be examined more closely.

First of all, it is not at all obvious that sheets f. 10r and f. 11r from the album belong together: the map on f. 10r is coloured and partly badly damaged by intensive use and double bending in the folds; f. 11r is not coloured and looks kind of unused. Only at second glance one can see that the maps are identical in the upper halves of the circular prints.

In a cartouche on the maps directly above the equator, approximately near today’s Sierra Leone, there is an inscription in Ottoman Turkish which can be interpreted as following: “Engraving from Miğrdíc from Galata4” (عمل حك مغرديج غلطوى = ṣamel-i ḥakk-i Miğrdic-i Galatavi5). However, a certain Miğrdíc Galatavi is also known as one of the engravers from İbrahim Müteferrika. Can these two maps therefore be assigned to the so-called Turkish incunabula? So far nobody seems to have noticed a relationship, but some arguments appear to prove the connection.

2. The protagonists

2.1. İbrahim Müteferrika

Not much more needs to be said about Müteferrika6 (ca. 1670–1747): he originally came from Hungary, converted to Islam, worked for the Ottoman army, continued his education and thus earned the title of an Efendi, and finally was awarded the position of a Müteferrika (a person assigned to the Sultan for personal service). Protected by Yılmisekiz Mehmed Çelebi (about 1670–1732)7 and especially by his son Yılmisekizzade Mehmed Said Paşa (died 1761)8, who later became his business partner for a certain time, he got access to the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire, Nevşehirli Damat İbrahim Paşa


7 http://viaf.org/viaf/22382427.


10 Cf.: https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yirmisekizzade_Mehmed_Said Pa%C5%9Fa. Like his father, he later wrote a sefername about his diplomatic mission to Sweden in 1733.
(1662–1730)\textsuperscript{11}. On his advice, Müteferrika wrote a pamphlet on the advantages of printing in 1726 (\textit{Vesiletü-ṭ Tibāʿa}) and one year later obtained a ferman\textsuperscript{12} by Sultan Ahmed III (1673–1736; ruled from 1703–1730)\textsuperscript{13} to set up a printing shop with Arabic letters for secular works not related to religion and law.\textsuperscript{14} The printing house operated under the name \textit{Dārü-ṭ-ṭibaʿati-l-ʿāmira}, also known as \textit{Basmaḥāne}.\textsuperscript{15}

In his eventful life, Müteferrika thus acted as a soldier, diplomat, geographer/cartographer, author, editor, dragoman and translator, among other things – and all this in a historically turbulent epoch, marked by the so-called Tulip Age and its de facto end with the Patrona-Halil Uprising in 1730, but he is remembered as the Muslim who built and operated the first movable-letter printing workshop for Arabic script works in an Islamic country. A total of 17 works in 22 volumes left his office, with an average of approximately 500 copies and a total circulation of 10–11,000 volumes. It has been printed in the Ottoman-Turkish, Persian, Arabic and also French languages. Furthermore he also produced 5 separate maps:

1. the Marmara map (1132/1719–1720)
2. the map of the Black Sea (1137/1724–1725)
3. the map of the Ottoman countries and Asia (1139/1726–1727) (no print, hand drawn)
4. the map of Persia (1142/1729)
5. the map of Egypt (1142/1730)\textsuperscript{17}

Of its six printing presses, no less than two are said to have been designed exclusively for the printing of maps.\textsuperscript{18}

\textbf{2.2. Miğridic Galatavi}

Unfortunately, very little is known about Miğridic from Galata, a study not only in art history seems long overdue. Miğridic (Միղրիդ) is Armenian for “Baptist”, so that one can assume that he was a Christian of Armenian descent. Galata is a district of Istanbul, which is also known for its non-Muslim population groups, among other things.

\footnotesize
\textsuperscript{11} http://viaf.org/viaf/224450780, also son-in-law of the Sultan. According to BABINGER 1919, p. 10, however, he met the Grand Vizier during his travels with Franz II Rákóczi (1676–1735).
\textsuperscript{13} http://viaf.org/viaf/290225144.
\textsuperscript{14} In order to confirm the legitimacy of the printing activity, Müteferrika had to put in front of his first book, printed in February 1729 (Kitāb-i Luğat-i Vanquli, known as Sihahül-Cevheri), the ferman of the Sultan (ff. 2v–3r), the fatwa of the Mufti Abdullah Efendi (d. 1743: http://viaf.org/viaf/309612881) (f. 3r below) and the positive review by the Kazaskers (ff. 6v–8r) and also his own pamphlet (ff. 6r–8r). For a digital copy see: https://id.lib.harvard.edu/curiosity/islamic-heritage-project/40-990051172640203941_FHCL. HOUGH:3026368.
\textsuperscript{16} Andreas Lazerus von IMHOF (author and ed.): Deß Neuereffneten Historischen Bilder-Saals Neunter Theil. Das ist:

1. the Marmara map (1132/1719–1720)
2. the map of the Black Sea (1137/1724–1725)
3. the map of the Ottoman countries and Asia (1139/1726–1727) (no print, hand drawn)
4. the map of Persia (1142/1729)
5. the map of Egypt (1142/1730)\textsuperscript{17}

For this illustration cf.: SABEV 2018, p. VIIIf.
\textsuperscript{17} See SARICAOĞLU and YILMAZ 2008, p. 126 f.

Fig. 1: contemporary (= 1735), orientalizing representation of Müteferrika’s workshop\textsuperscript{16}