

History of the Manastır kütüphanesi (Library of Bitola) in light of stamps and records found in the Oriental manuscripts of the NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje

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45th Melcom International Annual Conference, London, May 14-16th 2024

Starting point

*Existence of numerous manuscripts in the Oriental collection of the NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje bearing the stamp:

مناستر كتبخانه سنه موقوفدر ١٣١٤

* Article on the *Intifa* library, the largest public library in Bitola from the beginning of the 20th century, according to which the library had been robbed and its manuscripts and printed books sold in the markets of Istanbul (*Sakam da kazham*, 19 August 2017)



Aim:

- To establish relation between the manuscripts and printed books of Oriental collection of the NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje and the *Intifa* library
- To shed some light on the history of Monastir library and its connection to one of the oldest libraries in Bitola, that of Ishak Chelebi

Obstacles:

Lack of information of books' provenance

Method:

- acts of endowments, travelogues, modern researches etc.
- stamps and inscriptions found in the manuscripts and printed books

Bitola / Manastir in Ottoman era (1385-1912)

- Conquered in 1385
- important military and strategic center
- Develops into an important trade administrative and religious center
- 19th century centre of Rumeli vilaet and headquarters of the Third Army
- 1912-1913 the end of Ottoman rule

- First mosque built in ca. 1435 by Sungur Bey Arrival of Sefardic Jews from Portugal and Spain
- Well know center of islamic hanafi jurisprudence:

1591: Ivan Cavazza, secretary of Venetian senator Lorenzo Bernardo: Bitola's school provides sufficient persons capable of doing the judiciary service who are sent as judges to different parts of the Ottoman Empire (Matkovic I, 298).

1661: **Evli Chelebi:** 70 Muslim places of worship, 9 madrasas

First Islamic libraries in Bitola, according to the

documents

* 1435: Act of Endowment by Sungur Bey, who built the first mosque in Bitola (erased in the 1960th), with accompanying madrasa

Mosque of Sungur Bey on a postcard from 1904

Source: Dimche Najdov, *Bitola niz* stari razglednici (*Bitola in old* postcards), p. 146, no. 30



First Islamic libraries in Bitola, according to the documents

* 1508 and 1511: Acts of Endowment by Ishaq Chelebi

53 titles in 68 volumes of his private library endowed for the needs of his madrasa

Mosque of Ishaq Chelebi (photo & ed. Ernest Louis Desire le Deley, 1916-18)

Source: Dimche Najdov, Bitola niz stari razglednici (Bitola in old postcards), p. 99, no. 264



Libraries related to the complex of Ishaq Chelebi

Endowment

Mehmed Teufik, Short history of Bitola vilaet (Bitola, 1911):

Abdul Kerim Pasha, governor of Bitola (1895-1901), established the first public hospital, orphanage as well as "library just opposite the Ishaq's mosque"



Visit of the Sultan Mehmet Reshad V to Bitola on 23 June 1911 Source: Dimche Najdov, *Bitola niz stari razglednici*(*Bitola in old postcards*), p. 55, no. 131

Libraries related to the complex of Ishaq Chelebi Endowment

1. Library of Ishak Chelebi's madrasa and mosque (1508-????)

Source: Acts of Endowment

1. Library established by Abdul Kerim Pasha, governor of Bitola (1895-1901) as first public library in Bitola (1897?-????)

Source: Mehmed Teufik, Short history of Bitola vilaet. Bitola, 1911.

1. Intifa library (????- sealed in 1936/erased in 1948): "Located in the building build on the same place where once was the library of Ishaq Chelebi"

Source: Aleksandar Sterjovski, Printing and publishing in Bitola. Bitola, 1999.

Intifa library (according to Sterjovski)

- The biggest library in Bitola
- Intifa meaning "the correct time" After the WW1 repository library for manuscripts and books brought from other devastated libraries and mosques
- Stopped to work in 1936
- Robbed in 1938
- The library's building erased in 1948

What happened to the books?

According to the article in the Serbian newspaper Politika, "from the old library of Bitola, which had been sealed for two years, "the wind" carried away the expensive carpets worth over 100.000 dinars; the manuscript books of old philosophers were not touched"

In 1940s, according to Sterjovski, the books were taken to the State Archives in Skopje and in 1969 the remaining books were transferred to the National and University Library "St. Clement of Ohrid" - Skopje

> Politika, 17 July 1938, p. 13 (https://digitalna.nb.rs/view/URN:NB:RS:SD_2F6F6602455A67B1B521D7862 32CBF4A-1938-07-17

ИЗ СТАРЕ БИТОЉСКЕ БИБЛИОТЕКЕ, ЗАПЕЧАЋЕНЕ ВЕЋ ДВЕ ГОДИНЕ, "ВЕТАР" ЈЕ ОДНЕО СКУПОЦЕНЕ СЕРЏАДЕ И ЋИЛИМОВЕ У ВРЕДНОСТИ ОД ПРЕКО 100.000 ДИНАРА



Оси потражение судије Окружние библиотели. Суда у Битољу, веговог писара, у-

обоже игра бобличена је егорена на вого епих драгоштах кљата воје, варижелее мељацка, доже у педрача марижелее мељацка, доже у педрач дановаћ у робов је узува претећа ви-ментих робовима, већ пјот краће скр-диноваћ у робов је узува претећа ви-росника градина. поделях серряда и ващихова, који да не попреве стеар и за вуго е су на загоночки начин из покарчале прови вилина, инкуе ве боти убл Cresso je rozuma sampusma za be m je sucamo na nucabnj nestrice. матр подаж пурова полощей у Сец светине до оби стара твода. Стамбулу, одикат је добирено једно на су балижи бели 1800 годино у паска сумћане садрижите.

из Партади и Бас'я Чедеби цаније Портија спинав је у просторијала и сместно ах у байлиотеку воја је Поверсисска испо прече без допола једна су со спорадумени да хупе из- на интереонцију г. Салиба Филипоаограм пафталива и послу оне сер- вића, тазарниег функционера Валуфраде и визимове, моји имају своју спо-хемрифелос вера, па је посас одантичку вредност и цене се предо пуштом и ипрефено му је да не еко

те дь је "нетър" еднео све скулопе- димона, не серодне и вилиме из библютеле. Молутим, многи су знали да тиј "поже бати саме јелан на њихове сре

Споро годану дана ока ствар је во не уме да важе пинта евгурно, кала да се по вој почне радита. Јез- Испана су различита и доптрадизне нисме добинене из Станбуда ил терии. жене Љупије Метмел Ахета, која Опоса пута, кљаге писане пукол се паланя у Анкари, а која је прв од арадских, перспских или турских

Buron, jyza I Honomer worn spinen je

тром Видорское мерафског вано-режена у Енталу и јон двореж Тројице занитереоклата и услована, исказа изита се политично ве укове much unit sund An he or not like to Account, sub or cause crasps join beджие започанена библиотела стария ни наплет. Опле зо поснеди и лич-вранских и турских филозофских на размирины измену блиних члапова управо Поверсоства и данам-

а папучавене бабалотеля несталь јен жамом или из реполнера. Племе

Почетак је вросе: Вакуф је воку- заме на чоји су пачен постаки Зна нев схумоцене вихвичен и серциля се бало: тупар библистеле неса semeperso mense reca dura names. Jupare. De us je nodijas mre gamapa вена. Из их не би можна нагушала, дверно, би је постављен за чувара спавати ишпе у просторијана Пове-Наједантут прошле свлине "петар" решетол, мей да чупа пераду догалу в основна врата на баблиотеци в на испред не. У то време втвроичи своимо меня, а восле тоса допила је и крађе драгоцених огрпала и би-

Tpona, nolog ey funa enciena ne-Тако су бар причали по граду чаги од приота госка била је одленлина с једне стране и посталња се тар" вид акурски облик и да то мо- изуала по је траку поциво палегно попом вретом легила. Ленило поје је дине воје је био у могућиости да у- маћено ца сталу у пактиларија, по авля у пераду Поверенства пада је то је појем је заденаси други крај

O TOW ASSESSMENT SACTIONS IN

State of affairs

Assumption

- No inventory books find in the State Archives
- An important number of manuscripts and printed books bears the stamp or inscriptions relating them to the Manastir / Bitola library

Manastir / Bitola library

- = Intifa library
- = Public library of Abdel Karim Pasha,established around 1897
- = successor of the library of Ishak Chelebi.

Intifa library = Public library of Abdul Kerim Pasha

The origin of its name related to the public nature of the library, not to the "correct time"

- intifa ar. intifā 'meaning "usage", "utilization"
- manfa 'a usufruct, profit; (public) institution

Public library of Abdul Kerim Pasha = Manastir / Bitola library

A record found in O. IV 3/I,II, reading: اشبو كتاب مناستر والي عاليسى سعادتلر عبد الكريم باشا حضرتلرين تأسيس يوردقلرى كتابخانه عمومى حاصلاتيله مبايعه اولنمشدر ١٠ ربيع الأول

٥ ١٣١١ / ٢٧ تموز ١٣١٣

"This book has been purchased with the general revenue of the library that was built by the Blessed Abdul Kerim Pasha, the governor of Manastir / Bitola, on 10th Rabi-ul-evel 1315, i.e. on 27 Temmuz 1313"*, corresponding to 9 August 1897.

The record is accompanied by the stamp of the Manastir / Bitola library, reading ۱۳۱۶ مناستر کتبخانه سنه موقوفدر ۱۳۱۶

* I express my gratitude to Mr. Ismet Erek from the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul for his assistance in reading the records in Ottoman Turkish



Stamps / records referring to the Bitola library

1. Library's stamp:

Endowed to the Library of Bitola in 1314 [1896-7]

 Record of endowment accompanied by the Library's stamp

Endowment of the late muderis Mehmed efendi (70 mss found so far)

1.



NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" - Skopje, MSA I 16

2.



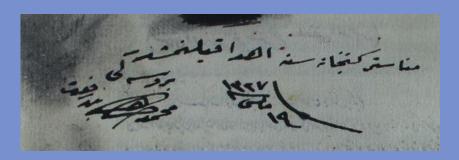
NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" - Skopje, MSA I 180

Stamps / records referring to the Bitola library

3. Record of endowment / donation

مناستر كتبخانه سنه اهدا قيلنمشدر /بروسه لي محمد طاهر بن رفعت /في ١٩٨٩مايس سنه ١٣٢٧

Donated to the Manastir / Bitola Library by Bursali Mehmed Tahir bin Rifat on 19 May 1327 [1 June 1911] 3.



Shāh Muḥammad, *Muntahā l-anhur* fī sharḥ Multaqā l-abḥur, an autograph dated 1051/1641

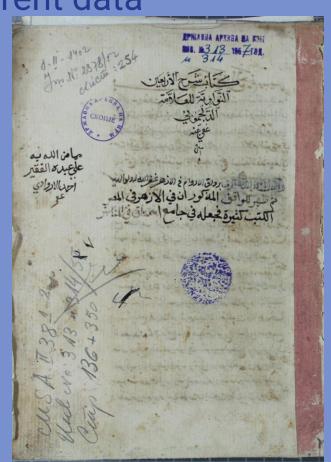
NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" -Skopje, MSA II 480 Stamps and records containing different data

Record referring to the Ishaqiyya mosque, accompanied by the stamp of Manastir / Bitola library

وقف الام..]؟ [المناستري برونق الادوام في الازهر غفر الله له ولوالديه ثم ظهر للواقف المذكور ان في الازهر في المصر الكتب كثيرة فجعله في جامع اسحاق في المناستر

The endower from Bitola wanted to donate this book to al-Azhar in Cairo, but donated it to the "Ishaq's mosque" instead.

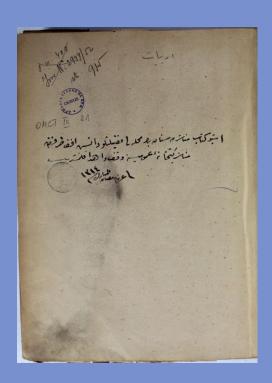
NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" - Skopje, MSA II 38



Stamps and records containing different data

٥١٥ (اذا) بن ١١ سغفرانقه اللَّيدن مغفرت طلب ايدم (اودعت) امانت قودم (اماطل) واده دهرزه وسيدده سوزار ولغنى بيربوده وسيمنى وسقط ولاطائل واضاليل أزغلق ويولسنان وكمراهلقار دارور اديون ادبياس فالاحل ليواسان مهر ومايعنيون صرف إدن نسسنا بإمشغول اولمق معناسندوركد لعب آندن احض ور (استرسند) طوعزى بول بولوب سلوك ايفكى طلب ايدم (يعهم) منع وحفظ ايدر (سربور خطا (عظم) بروه دارابدر (عفق محووطس ومستقل عقد يشت رزد ابتك داهل صاحب و تقوى لاهد فارسيد بارسادرا (ولى معين عصول عبانه صفامامةه ابداع ابتديكم اوبون اوميامن آزغنلقارندن وبيهوده وياوه وهراء سذرادن الأبدن مغفون طلب ايارم وخطاون حفظ ابدر وكساهارى محوامل بميره وار إيارخذادن طوعزى بول بولوب سلوك ايتمكى ا يسترم زيراالله نعال نفوى ومعفرت صاحبي ددنياده وآخريته حذيانة معين ونضيرور هذا آخرما الردناه ان نكتب منسرح المقامان الديسة طاطك باحى باحتوم بالرحيم باودود بحقك نستعين ونستقتم ومنك التوضق الىسواء الطريق سنجاديات ومجدبلاغات اولان شرملاحاتك رموزونكان مطلم اولمعن أرزوا يذلاك فرادن اليلاى الجون منا سزده اسحاقة جا مطريق كمتبحايست تخصيصا وقف ابلدم انجق كشخائذ ورونذه مطالعا والؤب خارج جيفهاق شرطيا مسروطد مارده سادي محدي الكون احدال مصلارعسالس



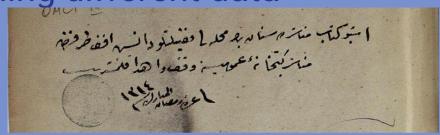


Ahmad Danish, Makâmât-i Edebiye-i Harîiriyye Şerhi

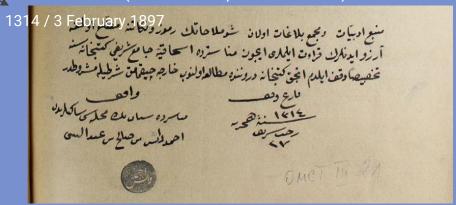
Stamps and records containing different data



Title page: Ahmad Danish ibn Salih ibn Abdullah from the quarter of Sinan Bey in Bitola endowed this book to the library of the Ishaqiyya mosque, on 27 Rajab 1314 / 1st of January 1897; stamp with his name, and stamp of Manastir / Bitola library



Flyleaf: Ahmad Danish from Bitola, living in the quarter of Sinan Bey, endowed and presented this book to the Public library of Manastir / Bitola (Manastir Kütüphane-i Umumisi). 1st Ramadan



Final page: same data as on the title page

Conclusion

• Different names used to denote the same institution which at the time was the largest library in Bitola, situated within the complex of Ishaq Chelebi's endowment

- The name *Intifa*, which is not mentioned in any documents and inscriptions, was probably no more than the library's popular name.
- Library of Ishak Chelebi's madrasa and mosque, established in 1508 continued to exist (as collection of books if not as a building) till 1948
- An important number of its manuscripts and printed books today are part of the Oriental Collection of the National and University library "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje.

The research is continuing!

Thank you for your attention!

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