

### *Medical and historical books from the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II*

**Books from the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II.** A collection of nine books formerly in the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, mostly presentation volumes inscribed by the authors.

Constantinople, Florence, Berlin, and Paris, 1841–1891. A set of nine volumes, 8vo and 4to.

€ 65,000

A rare survival: an ensemble of books, mainly medical, formerly in the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II of the Ottoman Empire, whose famous collection was dispersed following his deposition in 1909.

Of the nine volumes in the present collection, more than half a devoted to medicine. They include a rare account of Turkish military and civil hospitals by the French physician Paul Aubry (1887), constituting an exceptional documentation of health care infrastructure in the Ottoman world. Further, there is a detailed account of the outbreak of the plague in the Levant by the Swedish polymath Jacques Graberg (1841), also describing the situation in Tangier in 1818 and 1819, which the author had witnessed himself. Finally, the collection comprises three rare volumes from the Ottoman Turkish translation of Adolf von Strümpell's medical textbook on internal diseases (1888–91), here focusing on diseases of the heart and the arteries, diseases of the brain, and diseases of the kidneys and bladder.

Additional volumes discuss the political and religious history of Japan, or the Greek Ten Thousand and their march to the Battle of Cunaxa and back in 401 BC. Other titles are more immediately connected with Turkey, giving a capsule history of the Ottoman Empire in French and Turkish verse, or an extremely rare political analysis of the Turkey's position in the critical months preceding the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877/78.

The volumes bear the requisite traces of the Sultan's library marks. All are presentation volumes inscribed to the Sultan by the author (some even inscribed in Turkish and Arabic), or are bound in special presentation bindings, or the in Sultan's personal library bindings with his tughra on the covers.



Sultan Abdul Hamid (Abdülhamid) II (1842–1918) was the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire to exert effective control over the fracturing state and also remembered as a poet, translator and one of the dynasty's greatest bibliophiles. While his passion for books is memorialized by the many precious donations he gave to libraries all over the world and which mostly have remained intact to this day (including the 400-volume "Abdul-Hamid II Collection of Books and Serials" gifted to the Library of Congress), his own library was dispersed in the years following his deposition: books were removed to other palaces and even sold to Western collectors; the greatest part of his collection is today preserved in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin.

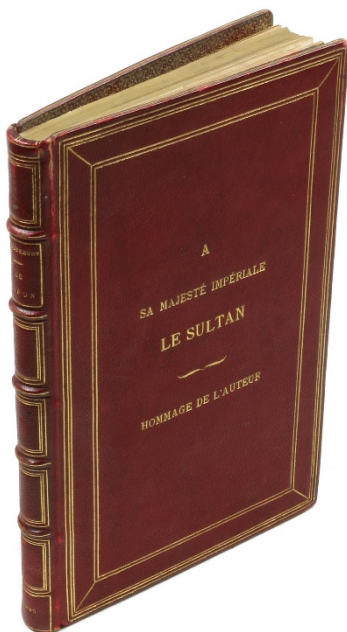
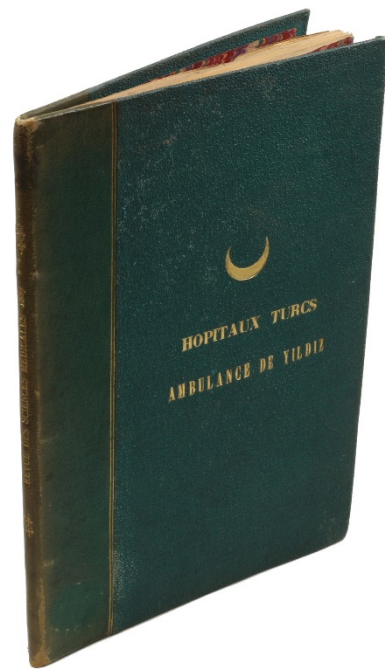
## Comprises individually:

**Aubry, Paul.** Mémoires originaux. Les Hôpitaux, les Asiles d'aliéné et les Léproseries en Orient. Grèce, Turquie, Egypte. (Revue Int. des Sciences Médicales, tome IVn No 2, 28 février 1887). [Paris], Revue Int. des Sciences Médicales, 1887. 8vo. (37)–84 pp. Contemp. half calf with giltstamped title to upper cover and spine. Endpapers marbled. All edges gilt.

Only edition. – Rare account, by the French physician Paul Aubry, of Turkish military and civil hospitals, describing in detail their design and medical capacities, including accurate numbers of beds. An exceptional documentation of health care infrastructure in the Ottoman Empire, mentioning the Yildiz Ambulance, the Haider Pacha military hospital and the Haseki Hospital in Istanbul. The present offprint also contains a medical bibliography of works in German, Danish and Swedish published in 1886–87 as well as several abstracts, including an article on gonorrhoea by the Ottawa physician Coyteux Prévost, published in the “Union Médicale du Canada” in the same year.

Inscribed and signed by Aubry to Sultan Abdul Hamid II on the front flyleaf. Binding slightly rubbed. Small marginal tears to pp. 39–42; last few pages somewhat creased. Library stamps erased from flyleaf and first page.

¶ *U.S. Army, Index-catalogue of the library of the surgeon-general's office VII, 393. Wohnlich-Despaigne, Les Historiens Français de la Médecine au XIXe Siècle 59.*



**[Eggermont, Isidore Jacques].** Le Japon. Histoire et religion. Paris, Delagrave, 1885. 8vo. 156 pp. With a folding map of Japan. Contemp. gilt full red morocco with the giltstamped inscription “A Sa Majesté Impériale Le Sultan. Hommage de l’Auteur” to upper cover, Ottoman crest to lower cover, and giltstamped spine. Leading edges gilt. Marbled endpapers. All edges gilt.

First edition of this synopsis of the political and religious history of Japan, by the Belgian diplomat, photographer and writer Eggermont (1844–1923), who was appointed councillor to the legation of Belgium in Japan from 1876 to 1877. Author’s presentation copy for the Sultan with the dedication giltstamped to the upper cover. The book’s first part discusses Shintoism and Buddhism; the second part presents an overview of Japanese history from the origins of the Japanese people until the 1868 Meiji Restoration.

Lacks upper half of the title-page; lower half is transposed before the half-title and glued on top of it, thus omitting the author’s name.

¶ *OCLC 249076616.*



**Furet, Caroline.** Histoire abrégée de l'Empire Ottoman. Résumé mnémotechnique complémentaire. Constantinople, Levant Herald, 1880. 4to (192 × 251 mm). 7, (1); 6 pp., blank leaf. Contemporary red morocco with gilt spine and cover borders; upper cover giltstamped "Bibliothèque Impériale" and lower cover with gilt ornament. Marbled endpapers.

Only edition. – A capsule condensation, for the use of students, of the author's 208-page history of the Ottoman Empire (1869), here written in rhyming verse, published in French and Ottoman Turkish (the latter part lithographed).

Binding a little rubbed, mainly at extremities. Removed from the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, with traces of requisite marks and the author's handwritten inscription to front flyleaf: "À Sa Majesté Abdul Hamid II / Hommage très respectueux de l'auteur C. Furet".

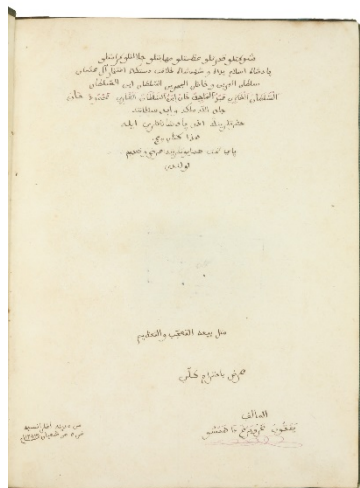
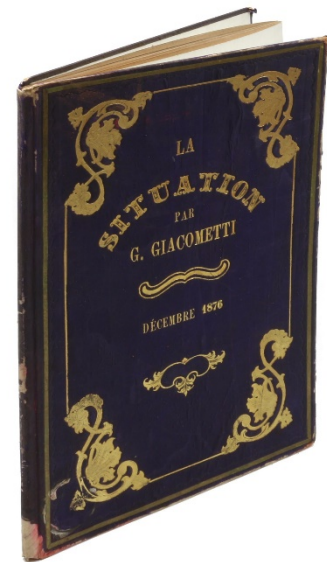
¶ OCLC 613456710.

**[Giacometti, Georges].** La situation. Décembre 1876. (Constantinople, Imprimerie Kevkeb-Charki, 1876). 8vo. 37, (1) pp. Giltstamped purple cloth with white moirée endpapers.

Extremely rare anonymous pamphlet by the political writer Georges Giacometti about the political position of Turkey during the crisis of December 1876, after the outbreak of the Serbian-Ottoman War that would soon develop into the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. OCLC lists a single copy in public collections (British Library, not identifying the author).

Extremities a little rubbed. Removed from the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, with traces of requisite marks and the author's handwritten inscription to front flyleaf: "A Sa Majesté Impériale / Hommage Respectueux de l'auteur. G. Giacometti".

¶ OCLC 504499620.



**Gråberg de Hemsö, Jacques.** Observations authentiques sur la peste du Levant et sur la vertu spécifique de l'huile d'olive contre cette effrayante maladie [...]. Florence, Guillaume Piatti, 1841. 4to. 47, (1) pp. Contemporary green half calf with giltstamped spine and borders.

Only edition of this detailed account of the outbreak of the plague in the Levant, describing the situation in Tangier in 1818 and 1819, which the Swedish polymath Gråberg (1776-1847) experienced at first hand as Swedish consul. While the first part graphically describes the sanitary crisis in Tangier, distinguishing between cases with or without skin eruption, the shorter second part deals with the occurrence, spread, and extinction of the disease.

Extremities bumped. A fine, wide-margined copy removed from the library of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, with traces of requisite marks and a full-page inscription by the author on the front flyleaf, handwritten in Ottoman Turkish and Arabic, dated and signed “Min madinat Ifluransiya, fi 5 min Sha’ban, am 1263 / al-mu’allif / Yaqub Grubarg da Hamsu” (i.e., Florence, 19 July 1847, shortly before Graberg’s death on 29 November).

¶ *Wellcome III, 143. Not in Waller.*

**Strecker, [Wilhelm].** Ueber den Rückzug der Zehntausend. Eine Studie. Berlin, Mittler & Sohn, 1886. 8vo. 29, (1) pp. With one lithographed folding map. Contemp. giltstamped full calf bearing the tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II. Leading edges gilt. Endpapers with golden floral pattern. All edges gilt.

First and sole edition of this historical study of the “March of the Ten Thousand”, the retreat of Greek mercenaries immortalized in Xenophon’s “Anabasis”. The author retraces the soldiers’ marching route, drawing on his own experience after having spent several years in Armenia. The map shows a portion of Higher Armenia with the author’s own route, as well as that given by Xenophon. Strecker, a former Prussian artillery lieutenant, entered Ottoman service in 1854 and was appointed governor of Bulgaria’s Vidin region from 1864 to 1865, when he was known as “Reshid Pascha”. In later sources he also appears as a leader of the Ottoman militia, going by the name of “Strecker Pascha”.



Spine slightly rubbed, title-page slightly foxed, with traces of a paper label to verso. Inscribed to Sultan Abdul Hamid II and signed in Ottoman Turkish by Strecker (as “Reshid Pasha”) on verso of flyleaf, opposite the title.

¶ *H. Robrbacher, Georgien. Bibliographie des deutschsprachigen Schrifttums (Wiesbaden 2008), 902.*



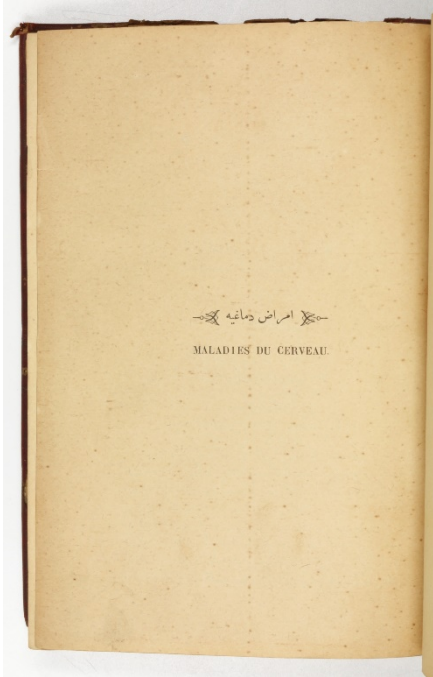
**Strümpell, Adolf von / Feyzi Pasha (Feyzullah Izmidî, transl.).** [İlm-i emraz-i dahiliye]. Maladies des organes circulatoires (Knowledge of Internal Medicine. Diseases of the Circulatory System, Part 1, Volume 3). Istanbul, Mahmud Bey Matbaasi, 1305–1308 H [= 1888–1891 CE]. 8vo. (2), 573–702 [but: 704; pagination leaps from 652 back to 651], (4) pp. With lithogr. illustrations within the text. Contemporary giltstamped red morocco binding with the tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, marked as vol. 4, moirée paper pastedowns and endpapers with red cloth gutter. All edges gilt.

A rare first edition of the Ottoman Turkish translation of this medical textbook on internal diseases, published in instalments between 1888 and 1891. “Lehrbuch der speciellen Pathologie und Therapie der inneren Krankheiten”, written by the German physician Adolf von Strümpell (1853–1925), appeared in two volumes in Leipzig in 1883/84. This volume, with diagrams and one illustration in the index, discusses diseases of the heart and the arteries. The translator was the physician

Feyzullah Izmidî (1845–1923), known as a researcher of cholera in Damascus during the epidemic of 1903; the Damascus Medical Faculty developed from Feyzi Pasha's medical office for researches.

Endpapers slightly stained, binding slightly scuffed with insignificant chipping to edges and spine. Very rare: we could only trace one complete series of the Turkish translation via Worldcat (Princeton University Library) and no separate volumes.

¶ OCLC 25347275. Özege, *Eski harflerle 8853. H. Kadircan Keskinbora, Osmanlinin Suriye'ye son hizmetlerinden sam tip fakültesi zorunluluktan mi kuruldu?*



**Strümpell, Adolf von / Feyzi Pasha (Feyzullah Izmidî, transl.).** [İlm-i emraz-i dahiliye]. *Maladies du Cerveau* (Knowledge of Internal Medicine. Brain Diseases, Part 2, Volume 2). Istanbul, Mahmud Bey Matbaasi, 1305–1308 H [= 1888–1891 CE]. 8vo. (2), 417–779, (3) pp. With lithogr. illustrations within the text, one printed in red and black. Contemporary giltstamped red morocco binding with the tughra of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, marked as vol. 6., moirée paper pastedowns and endpapers with red cloth gutter. All edges gilt.

This volume, illustrated throughout showing the mentally ill as well as brain diagrams (one printed in red and black), discusses diseases of the brain.

Endpapers slightly stained, flyleaves with unsophisticated repairs to inner hinges; a tear to the index leaf. Binding slightly scuffed with insignificant chipping to edges and spine.

¶ OCLC 25347275. Özege TBTK 9768. H. Kadircan Keskinbora, *Osmanlinin Suriye'ye son hizmetlerinden sam tip fakültesi zorunluluktan mi kuruldu?*

**Strümpell, Adolf von / Feyzi Pasha (Feyzullah Izmidî, transl.).** [İlm-i emraz-i dahiliye]. *Maladies des Reins, des Bassinets et de la Vessie* (Knowledge of Internal Medicine. Diseases of the Kidneys and Bladder, Part 2, Volume 3). Istanbul, Mahmud Bey Matbaasi, 1305–1308 H [= 1888–1891 CE]. 8vo. (6), 783–1084 pp. With lithogr. illustrations within the text and three lithogr. plates. Contemporary giltstamped red morocco binding with the tughra of sultan Abdul Hamid II, marked as vol. 7, moirée paper pastedowns and endpapers with red cloth gutter. All edges gilt.

This volume discusses the diseases of the kidneys and bladder.

Endpapers slightly stained, inner hinges broken. Binding slightly scuffed with insignificant chipping to edges and spine.

¶ OCLC 25347275. H. Kadircan Keskinbora, *Osmanlinin Suriye'ye son hizmetlerinden sam tip fakültesi zorunluluktan mi kuruldu?*

