TURKISH FOLK POETRY AND FOLK MUSIC IN MECMUÂ-İ SÂZ U SÖZ BY ALİ UFKÎ BEY (ALBERT BOBOWSKI)

Fikret TÜRKMEN Hande Devrim KÜÇÜKEBE***

Abstract:

Albert Bobovius, who was born into a royal Polish family in 1610 in the city of Lvov which is in Ukrain today, was named Wojciech. Wojciech was well educated during his teenage years. He learned Latin. Greek and music as well. At the age of 18, he was captured as a slave by the Crimean Tatars and brought to Istanbul where the second half of his life began. In several rescources he was called with different names such as Albert Bobowski, Albert Bobovio, Albertus Bobovius in Polish and Ali Bey, Hali Bey, Alli, Hulis Bey after he became a Muslim. Eventually he adopted the pseudonym "Ufkî" and was renowned as "Santurî Ali Bey". It is estimated that he was between 22 and 29 when he came to Topkapi Palace where he spent 19 years. He completed his education in Enderûn. Here he mastered his Turkish and dealed with Turkish music and repertoire. The fact that he knew how to notate the musical scores and the beauty of his voice made him stand out and in a short while he became a singer and music teacher. He prepared a work called "Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz" (Ali Ufkî Edvârı) notating Turkish classical music pieces next to folk tunes in European notation system. This work is kept in British Library in London today. Another manuscript titled as "Şiir ve Şarkı Mecmuası" can be considered as a draft of "Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz" and it is found in Paris Biblioteque National. He went to Egypt along with a Pasha in 1657 where he was freed from slavery and came back to Istanbul. He wrote many works till the end of his life. Sükrü Elcin's book on the London manuscript called "Ali Ufkî Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz" printed in 1976 and Hakan Cevher's PhD dissertation "Hâzâ Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz (Translation-Publishing-Analyzing)" which was prepared under my supervision in 2003 were referred in this article.

Keywords: Ali Ufkî, "Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz", Turkish music, first modern notation.

^{*} Prof. Dr., Ege Üniversitesi Türk Dünyası Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, fikret.turkmen@ege.edu.tr.

^{**} Araş. Gör., Ege Üniversitesi Türk Musikisi Konservatuvarı, hdkucukebe@gmail.com.

Ali Ufki Bey'in *Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz* Adlı Eserinde Halk Müziği ve Türk Halk Şiiri

Özet:

Soylu bir Polonya ailesinde 1610 yılında, bugün Ukrayna'da bulunan, Lvov şehrinde doğan Albert Bobovius'un adı Wojciech'tir. Wojciech delikanlılık döneminde cok ivi bir eğitim görmüstür. Latince ve Yunanca'nın vanı sıra musiki eğitimi de almıştır. 18 yaşında Kırım Tatarları tarafından esir alınarak hayatının ikinci döneminin başladığı İstanbul'a getirilmiştir. Böylece genc Wojciech'in. Ceşitli kaynaklarda ismi Albert Bobowski, Albert Bobovio, Albertus Bobovius gibiLehçe isimlerinin yanı sıra Müslüman olduktan sonra Ali Bev, Hali Bev, Alli, Hulis Bev isimlerinin de kullanıldığı görülür. Sonunda Ufki mahlasını alır ve "Santurî Ali Bey" olarak şöhret kazanır. Tahminlere göre 19 yılını geçirdiği Topkapı sarayına geldiğinde yaşı 22 ile 29 arasında olmalıdır. Enderun'da eğitimini tamamlar. Burada mükemmel Türkce öğrenir, Türk musikisi ve şarkılarıyla ilgilenir. Nota yazmayı bilmesi ve sesinin güzelliğiyle kısa sürede takdir kazanarak hanendeliğe yükselir ve musiki hocası olur. Avrupa nota sistemiyle Türk klasik musiki eserlerinin yanında halk ezgilerini notaya alarak "Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz" (Ali Ufkî Edvârı) adıvla bir eser hazırlar. Bugün bu eser Londra'da British Library'de saklanmaktadır. Bu eserin müsveddesi niteliğindeki "Şiir ve Şarkı Mecmuası" isimli diğer bir yazma da Paris'te Biblioteque National'de Türkçe Yazmalar arasında bulunmaktadır. 1657 yılında da bir Paşa'nın yanında Mısır'a gitmiştir. Paşa'nın lütfuyla burada azat edilmiş ve İstanbul'a dönmüştür. Ömrünün sonuna kadar pek çok eser yazmıştır. Bu çalışmada kaynak olarak Londra'daki nüsha üzerinde yazılmış 1976'da Şükrü Elçin tarafından "Ali Ufkî Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz" adıyla yavımlanan kitap ile öğrencim Hakan Cevher'in doktora tezi olarak 2003'te hazırladığı "Hâzâ Mecmuâ-i Sâz u Söz (Çeviri-Yayım-İnceleme)" adlı eserleri kullanılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Ali Ufki, "Mecmua-i Saz u Söz", Türk musikisi, ilk modern notalama.

Ali Ufkî Bey is of Polish origin. He was born in the city of Lvov that is a part of Ukraine today and he was named as Wojerech. As the curious son of a noble family he was well-educated and led an adventurous life. He is called with different names in different resources like Albert Bobowski, Albert Bobovious, Alberto Bobevin, Leopolitano Bobowsky, Bobonius, Bozonius and Albertus Bobovius. He was known as Ali Bey, Ali Ağa, Ali Ufukî, Hali Bey, Alli and finally as Ali Ufkî which he chose as his pseudonym.

Apart from music, he was trained in Latin and Greek as a young man and he was captured as a slave by the Crimean Tatars and brought to Istanbul where his colorful and adventurous second life begun when he was 18 or 19.

Although there isn't sufficient information on his early adulthood, it is possible to draw some conclusions on his life from his works called "Mecmua-i Saz u Söz"¹ and "Topkapı Sarayında Yaşam"² (Life in Topkapı Palace)

Ali Ufkî Bey: Mecmua-i Saz u Söz, (Haz. Şükrü Elçin), Ankara, 1976; Ali Ufkî Bey ve Hâzâ Mecmua-i Saz u Söz (Transkripsiyon-Înceleme), (Haz. Hakan Cevher), İzmir, 2003.

² Ali Ufkî Bey: Topkapı Sarayı'nda Yaşam, (Haz. Stefanos Yerasimos ve Annie Berthies), İstanbul, 2002.

and from the things that several travellers, merchants, missionaries and other visitors had written about him.

It is understood that he drew attention with his beautiful voice and was taken into the court. Due to the fact that he spoke several languages at such an early age and had a musical talent he was taken to the *acemi iç oğlanları* (recruit pages) quarters in Edirne and after a while he was sent to Istanbul. It is thought that he was between 22 and 29 when he was brought to Topkapı Palace. (Topkapı Sarayında Yaşam, p, 12).

Bobovius, who spent 19 years in Topkapı Palace, completed his education, learned Turkish and got acquainted with Turkish music and its instruments real closely. He became such a master in *santur* that he was called as Santurî (santur player).

As it is understood by his works that have reached today, he learned music, chanting, calligraphy and he even wrote Turkish poems and composed them. As he knew Western music notation, he could easily repeat the compositions which the other students had learned by heart thanks to the notes that he had written. And he was promoted as *meşk odası* (19th room) *erbaşı* (sergeant of the music room).

As a sophisticated man he had been successful in fields like linguistics, poetry, translation and *nakkaşlık* (miniature painting). Some resources mention that he knew 15 to 20 languages, though exaggerated, and he became the chief translator of Sultan Mehmet IV (1648-1687). But there aren't any documents to prove this. Only, Hezarfen Hüseyin gave his name as the second translator after Panayiotis Nikusios between the years 1670-71.

In 1657, Ali Ufkî went to Egypt with a pasha and as he gained his friendship he was freed from slavery and returned to Istanbul. Between the years 1662 and 1664, he translated the Holy Bible into Turkish which he also defined as his most important work.³

There are documents showing that he was also known in Western world. For instance, Careavy, the library guard of the French King, had assigned Reverend Vansleb to travel to east and look for precious manuscripts, coins and medallions. In this course he ordered him to bring back the honest men of Turkish, Arabic and Armenian literacy to France, Ali Bey was also mentioned in the list that he gave to Vansleb.⁴

It is also understood that Ali Ufkî Bey, had taken on both cultural and diplomatic roles between Europe, Germany and Near East. The ambassadors,

³ The information in this last part is mostly taken from Hakan Cevher's work "Ali Ufkî Bey ve Hâzâ Mecmua-i Saz u Söz" İzmir, 2003 and the introduction part of Topkapı Sarayı'nda Yaşam.

⁴ H. Omont, Mission Archeologiques Françaises en Orient aux XVII et XVIII siècle, 2 V. Paris, 1902.

travellers, scientists, merchants and missionaries who either visited Istanbul or stayed there had constantly contacted with Ali Ufkî Bey. Antonie Galland and Geornellio Magni were among the renown orientalists who had contacted him between the years 1670-73 and 1679.

I completely agree with Yerasimos and Bethier on the things they wrote in the conclusion part of the introduction. Bobovius or Ali Ufkî Bey, who was curious and ambitious indicates the end of an era and the beginning of another one. While doing this he didn't act biased like many European people, he was sincere and loyal. He passed away as Ali Ufki Bey under his Ottoman identity in 1675. He was able to keep the balance between the two cultures and had described Istanbul and the court.

Ali Ufkî's relationship with Turkish folk poetry, court and folk poets and his musical perspective, especially folk music was very significant. He noted the *türküs* (Turkish folk songs) in Western notation for the first time and this was his most important deed.

There are 104 türküs in the "Mecmua-i Saz u Söz". All of these türküs are collected from oral tradition. They are traditional and simple. They are generally on love, homesickness and chivalry. All of them were sang in syllabic meter and were dictated in the way they were sang.

59 of these *türküs* are 11 syllabled, in 6+5 or 4+4+3 pattern; 38 of them are 8 syllabled, in 5+3 or 4+4 pattern. Only the 4 of them are 15 syllabled and 1 is 13 syllabled. Stanzas without refrain are used in 65 folk songs. 30 of the *türküs* are written in 1 or 2 lined refrains.

There are 47 *varsağı*s among the folk tunes that Ali Ufkî had collected and scored. The form and genre characteristics of the *varsağı*s are similar to the folk songs. They only contain some verbal expressions of gallantry like "broy broy, bre".

There are 2 rhymes among anonymous genres. One of them is scored and the other is only given as a text.

Ali Ufkî Bey, also gave 10 more pieces under the title of *Raksiyeler*. It isn't clear if this title implied *Raks* meaning dance or there is a kind of mistake with the name. For example, it is hard to tell the difference between the Raksiyye text on page 33-3 and the Türkü-Oyun (dance) on page 49-2.

Ali Ufkî's work, Mecmua-i Saz u Söz, contains information that will shed light both on our music history and current folk poetry. Some of the poems that he collected and the *türkü*s that he scored were anonymous. Among the renown poets of the day, it is remarkable that he had chosen the Janissary origined ones. Öksüz Âşık, Hayalî, Kul Mustafa and Kuloğlu were some of them. I will give a list of these folk poets with the folio number. However, I'd like to draw attention to another subject. The existence of the folk poets in the literary circles that were followed in Enderun shows that court wasn't distant from these poets. The folk songs which were written under the name of Köroğlu and Karacaoğlan add and extra significance to the matter. Karacaoğlan's poem, given with the title of *Türki (oyun)*(dance) on page 220 in "Mecmua-i Saz u Söz" shows that the poem was sung as a dance tune in Enderun or the place where Ali Ufkî made his collections and Karacaoğlan was famous at the time.

Some of the pseudonyms that were used by the folk poets in Mecmua-i Saz u Söz cause some misunderstandings. There are 14 poems recorded on a poet with Ali pseudonym. But it isn't clear if the other poems written with the names Taşbaz Ali(1) and Kâtip Ali (4) belong to the same poet. It is also another possibility that Ali in the name of Ali Ufkî was mistaken with these poet/s. There is the same problem with the pseudonym Mustafa. While there are 10 *türkü*s recorded under the name Mustafa, there are 3 other folk songs with the name Kul Mustafa. Thus, we have to consider the possibility of these two poets' being the same person.

We are presenting the list of the poems and their poets and their page numbers in a list. We will also present the full texts of the 12 poems recorded with the name of Ali Ufkî along with their scores hoping that it will provide material for the future studies.

We intended to briefly introduce Ali Ufkî who described İstanbul life between the 16th and 17th centuries both in the court and in the city. We have emphasized Ali Ufkî's significance in Turkish music with the PhD dissertation completed by Hakan Cevher under my supervision. We also compared the current Köroğlu *havas* (tunes) in Anatolia and Azerbaijan to see if the performance style still continued today or not. Similar future studies will enlighten some issues in our music history.

Ali Ufkî Bey's "Mecmua-i Saz u Söz" has the qualities of a *cönk* (personal notebook of the folk poet) in many other aspects apart from music. Next to the folk song lyrics and scores there are musical terms, *makam* names, several pieces of verse, advices and humorous question and answers such as:

Q: Tell me oh hodja do heaven and hell exist?

A: Now it is time to tell both "yes" and "no".(MSS, p.195)

Or:

If you want my heart oh beautiful girl, not only my heart but my soul is yours.

For the sake of the god that I worship, you are mine and I am yours. (MSS, p.41)

Turkish Folk Poetry and Folk Music in Mecmuâ-i Sâz U Söz By Ali Ufkî Bey (Albert Bobowski)

The work which contains these issues and many more is really like a mirror reflecting the cultural understanding and taste of the time. So it deserves many other studies each of which will enlighten a new matter.

Bibliography

Ali Ufkî Bey (1976), Mecmua-i Saz u Söz, (Haz.: Şükrü Elçin), Ankara, MEB Basımevi.

- ----- (2002), *Topkapı Sarayı'nda Yaşam*, (Haz.: Stefanos Yerasimos ve Annie Berthies), İstanbul.
- BEHAR, Cem (1990), Ali Ufkî ve Mezmurlar, İstanbul, Pan Yayıncılık.
- ----- (1992), Zaman, Mekan, Müzik, İstanbul, İstanbul, Afa Yayınları.
- CEVHER, Hakan (2003), Ali Ufkî Bey ve Mecmua-i Saz u Söz (Transkripsiyon-İnceleme), İzmir.
- OMONT, H (1902), *Mission Archeologiques Françaises en Orient aux XVII et XVIII siècle*, 2 V. Paris.
- ORANSAY, Gültekin (1980), "Santurcu Ali Beğ'e Göre XVII. Yüzyıl Ortalarında Osmanlı Sarayında Musiki", I. *Millî Türkoloji Kongresi Tebliğleri*, İstanbul, Kervan Yayınları.
- TÜRKMEN, Fikret (2007), "XVII. Yüzyılda Notaya Alınmış Köroğlu Türküleri Üzerine", *Prof. Dr. Taciser Onuk'a Armağan*, (Ed.: H. Feriha Akpınarlı vd.), Ankara, Kültür Ajans Yay., s. 320-332.

Fikret TÜRKMEN - Hande Devrim KÜÇÜKEBE

Apendix: Samples from Mecmua-i Saz u Söz

Turkish Folk Poetry and Folk Music in Mecmuâ-i Sâz U Söz By Ali Ufkî Bey (Albert Bobowski)

MSS (Mecmua-i Saz u Söz) s. 62-1



TÜRKİ BERAY-I GAZA (The Song of War)

- 1. Oh warriors, don't judge people according to appearance. Don't be sure of your suspicions. Many people who fight bravely in the field, breath their last out of fear when you try to see inside their souls.
- 2. The comrades get ready for the battle, to behead the enemy. We will win the battle with God's will, the brave one is willing to slaughter in the name of religion.
- 3. However unless the rifles are fired, the brave fellow attacks to his enemy, the lightning strikes, clinging to his horse's neck.
- 4. In a heartbeat he has left the fame and has vanished. Find that gallant's whereabouts. He has hidden into the walnut shell. He boosts with his bravery when he comes into the tent.
- 5. Many gallant men have both Arab horses and their swords, Ufkî bows to fate and he is ruined at the same time. He looks after the gallant guardian.

MSS s. 67-2



TÜRKİ BERAY-I FİRAK (The Song of Separation)

- 1. Going to the foreign lands to achieve your goal is so hard. It is so hard to be famous and reach safety. It is so hard, so hard to reach safety.
- 2. Don't let the pain of separation burn you up, seek for the remedy of your disease. It is so hard to fall for a dishonest lover. It is so hard, so hard to reach safety.
- 3. The ghazis fight with their swords on the battle field. It is so hard to fall captive to the enemy. It is so hard, so hard to reach safety.
- 4. When time of death comes and you are buried and out in the grave, it is so hard to answer the interrogation angels. It is so hard, so hard to reach safety.
- 5. Ufkî is burning crying like a thorn fallen of the rose. It is so hard to be far away from the beloved one/home. It is so hard, so hard to reach safety.

MSS s. 72-2



TÜRKİ BERAY-I MAHABBET (The Song of Affection)

- 1. The one with black eyebrows stole my heart and hasn't given it back yet. The pain in my soul, hasn't given my heart back, yet.
- 2. Everyone should seek shelter from God, the lover always cries with pain. The queen of the beauty hasn't given my heart back, yet.
- 3. Aren't you afraid of death? My tears have become a sea. Be my coy lover. She has taken my heart and hasn't given it back, yet.
- 4. I shall take the roads like the Abdal, I shall be talked about like Mecnun. The coy mistress has taken my heart smiling and hasn't given it back, yet.

The mistress isn't loyal to me. She enjoys her time with the strangers. He makes Ufkî suffer. She has taken my heart and hasn't given it back, yet.

MSS s. 75-2



TÜRKİ BERAY-I FENA-İ CİHAN (The Song of Unreal World)

- 1. Oh the mountains that I gaze, I need mercy in this unreal life. People enjoy the riches of the world, who will cry for this poor man?
- 2. Don't fool yourself with the riches of the world, don't depend on this unreal life. There have been countless emperors on this world.
- 3. It can not be expressed in words, the ignorant can't comprehend it. No one can decide it. This poor man doesn't have to do anything with goods.
- 4. One day we will all be interrogated and get what we deserve. We will eventually die. Oh the people who are alive, don't forget us!
- 5. Ufkî's heart is burning up with fire. He has left the worldly gain and become a wanderer. The lover cries day and night if he falls apart from the beloved one.

MSS s. 80-2

MSS s.80-2

TÜRKİ BERĀY-I GÖÑÜL



TÜRKİ BERAY-I GÖNÜL (The Song of Heart)

- 1. Oh my heart, you have caused me trouble. You have turned me into the slave of the hazel eyes. Oh my heart, you are such a trouble.
- 2. The mistress is willing to make me suffer. I have lost my mind. Nothing can stand in the way of love. Oh my heart, you are such a trouble.
- 3. Sometimes you burst with joy. Sometimes you loose your mind. You fall for everything. Oh my heart, you are such a trouble.
- 4. Ufkî says that you won't find laughter, you will suffer but won't find death. I advise you to surrender, but you don't take my advice. Oh my heart, you are such a trouble.

MSS s. 165-3



?

- 1. Oh Ilahi, please give us time and chance for amendment. Death, you didn't come fiercely, don't hesitate to come.
- 2. I am too lazy for charity and worship. Oh Gani, I think that you aren't in need of prayer.
- 3. Oh Gıyas, my sin is vast like the milky-way, I haven't endeavored for charity and now I am miserable.
- 4. What do we have that is worthy of your blessing? Oh Rahman, there is still hope to get your forgiveness.
- 5. Oh Fettah, Kadi'l-hacat, Ufkî seeks salvation from the wishes of the world and the soul, and the devil's delusions.

MSS s. 231-2



İLAHİ

- 1. Oh God, your appearance's mystery is the one that makes these roses smile. The mystery in light of your face is the one that makes these nightingales sing.
- 2. It is the mystery of your supremacy, your beauty and the hope to unite with you thorough death which enchants the lovers.
- 3. The lover who desires to unite with you has to be willing to leave what is worldly because he doesn't have any other wish.
- 4. If the lover fills his heart with the love of God, he drinks the wine of unity, hears the words of union and leaves what is worldly.
- 5. My heart is nested in my heart, and my heart doesn't have any worldly wishes. It is your light that burns up Ufkî.

⁵ The page numbers on the list refer to the numbers in Hakan Cevher's Ali Ufkî Bey ve Mecmua-i Saz u Söz.

Name of the Poet	Poems Belonging to the Turkish Genre	Page No. ⁵
Mustafa	Türki (Muhabbet)	166
	Şarki	167
	-	168
	Türki (Muhabbet)	169
	Türki (Gurbet)	261
	Türki (Dilber)	369
	Türki (Sefer-i Bağdad)	384
	Türki (Kıraat)	652
	Türki (Aşk)	773
	Türki (-)	910
17 ~1	Türki (Oyun)	220
Karacaoğlan	Türki (Muhabbet)	323
	Türki (Aşıkan-ı Hüda)	244
	Şarki	248
	Türki	274
Şahinoğlu	Türki (Firılk)	364
	Türki (Firak)	365
	-	380
	Türki (Muhabbet)	391
	Türki (Firak)	251
	Türki (Gurbet)	267
	Türki (Muhabbet)	268
	Türki	350
	Türki (Evvel Bahar)	376
	Türki (Gaza)	378
A 1:	Türki (Gurbet)	381
Ali	Türki (Ehl-i Dil)	436
	Türki (Kühistan)	442
	Varsağı	511
	Türki	519
	Varsağı	541
	Türki (Gurbet)	558
	Türki (Muhabbet)	667
	Türki (Muhabbet)	262
	Türki	311

Katip	Türki (Aşk)	326
	Türki (Aşk)	320
	Türki (Sefer-i Bağdad)	366
	Türki (Seyrangah-ı Hazreti Eyüb)	368
	Türki (Felek)	370
	Tekerlerne	374
	Текенене	
		383
	Türki (Muhabbet)	424
	Türki (Aşk)	902
	Türki (Gaza-yi Bahri)	263
Öl A . 1	Türki (Oyun)	549
Öksüz Aşık	Türki	789
	Türki	805
Hayali	Varsağı Gazel Mani	360
	Türki (Asi Haydar)	270
Katip Ali	Türki (Dua)	279
	Türki (Celali)	563
	Varsağı	274
Kul Mustafa	-	269
	Türki (Medh-i Esb)	913
Geda Demuroğlu	Türki (Gurbet)	264
	İlahi	239
	Türki (Gaza)	265
	Türki (Gaza)	266
	Türki (Firak)	288
	Türki (Muhabbet)	310
	Türki (Fena cihan)	315
Ufki	Türki (Medh-i Şehinşah)	324
	Türki (Gönül)	332
	Varsağı	472
	-	559
	İlahi	729
	İlahi	770
	Türki (Muhabbet)	299
Köroğlu	Türki (Muhabbet)	321
	Türki (Turna)	322
	Türki (Sefer-i Bahri)	337
	Türki (Muhabbet)	417

	Türki (Nasihat)	752
	Türki (Turna)	842
Alioğlu	Türki (Feth-i Bağdad)	372
Kuloğlu	Türki (Notasız)	373
	Türki	382
	Türki	777
	Türki (Muhabbet)	833
	Türki (Kıyamet)	841
İshak	Varsağı (Cülus)	435
Tasbaz Ali	Türki (Gammaz)	538
Ahmed	Türki	478
	Türki	631
Halil	-	481
Armutlu	Türki (Kıraat)	651
Eşrefoğlu Rumi	İlahi	923

Turkish Folk Poetry and Folk Music in Mecmuâ-i Sâz U Söz By Ali Ufkî Bey (Albert Bobowski)