

TURKISH SOURCES*

III book

Evliya Chelebi

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The third volume of the „Travels“ of Evliya Chelebi, the famous 17th century Turkish traveller, „Turkish sources on Armenia, the Armenians and other Transcaucasian peoples“ deals wholly with his travels in those areas. The materials are versatile and rich; they provide historical, geographic, linguistic, archeological, ethnographic, trade and agricultural, cultural and public life data.

During his travels Evliya Chelebi has covered an extensive area and observed and studied vast regions such as Anatolia, Armenia, the Transcaucasus, Northern Caucasus, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, the European part of Turkey, Southern Russia, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Poland, Hungary and other countries.

The fruits of his keen interest and relentless labour are compiled in ten volumes, entitled „Travels“. As academician Krachkovsky points out, the ten volume „Travels“ of Evliya Chelebi is one of the principal documents characteristic of the epoch; it is a most valuable original source for the history of his period. It ranks among the best works in oriental studies and is in all respects an **inexhaustible source** of cultural and historical research.

* The third volume of the „Turkish Sources on Armenia, the Armenians and other Transcaucasian Peoples“, is included in the general academic series of „Foreign Sources on Armenians“, as the fourth volume of the abovementioned series.

The orientalists of Moscow and Leningrad have undertaken the translation and publication of materials from Evliya Chelebi's work that refer to the history and culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union. The first issue of „Evliya Chelebi's Travel Book“ has come out of print. It treats of notes on the Ukraine and Moldavia.

The present volume of „Turkish sources...“ quotes translations from Evliya Chelebi's statements on Armenia and the neighbouring countries. The data can serve as an important original source for a many-sided study of the mediaeval history of the Armenian people.

The world-wandering traveller has undertaken a number of long journeys in Armenia (Eastern, Western, Cilicia) and he has been almost to every area populated with Armenians. In his 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th volumes of „Travels“ numerous data are produced on almost all the towns of Armenia, often including settlements and villages, the occupation of the people of those areas, their crafts and trade, language, culture, way of life, customs and faiths. He describes fortresses and structures he has seen in various regions of the country, roads and bridges, monasteries and churches, various quarters in urban areas and their houses, vineyards, gardens etc.

According to statements by Turkish, European and Soviet scholars studying Evliya Chelebi's rich historical heritage, he is regarded as a realistic observer and a zealous traveller expressing his views in a sincere way. Therefore we can derive a great deal of valuable information and data from his „Travels“ on the history, social and economic life of Armenia and her neighbouring peoples.

With this aim in mind we translated many quotations by Evliya Chelebi that shed light on the life of Armenia and her neighbours during that period. Those materials make up the third volume of „Turkish sources...“.

The materials included in the volume are supplemented with extensive notes.