OSMANLI İMPARATORLUĞU VE İNGİLTEРЕ ARASINDAKİ HALI TİCARETİ: ANADOLU VE İNGİLİZ HALILARI / CARPET TRADE BETWEEN OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND GREAT BRITAIN: ANATOLIAN AND ENGLISH CARPETS

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Özet


Anahtar Kelimeler: Hali, Hali ticareti, İngiliz haciliği, Anadolu halıları, Osmanlı Saray Halıları

Abstract

The Turkish carpets that were exported to Europe throughout the history seem to have affected the Europeans to a great extent. The British got familiar with the Turkish carpets only after they were imported from Anatolia. At first the Anatolian carpets were imported by the Venetian merchants to Great Britain, during the 16th century. The ships loaded with various goods as silk, wine, olive oil, and cotton calling the ports in Sicily, Cyprus, Syria, and Chios destined to Great Britain included some carpets in their cargoes. Upon having met with the Turkish carpets, the British liked them a lot and got willing to produce the similar types. Although piled carpet weaving was not a part of their tradition, they started to weave carpets using Turkish knots beginning from the 16th century. Initially, they imitated the designs of Anatolian carpets, in the course of the time; however, they started producing designs in compliance with their own taste. Some of the carpets, which were produced in Great Britain, were used at the Ottoman courts starting from the mid 19th century. On the other hand the British still imported Anatolian carpets and this situation continued on at an increasing rate throughout the 20th century.

Keywords: Carpet, Carpet trade, English Carpets, Anatolian Carpets, Ottoman Palace carpets

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1- INTRODUCTION

The Turkish carpets that were exported to Europe throughout the history seem to have affected the Europeans to a great extent. The British got familiar with the Turkish carpets only after they were imported from Anatolia. At first the Anatolian carpets were imported by the Venetian merchants to Great Britain, by the 16th century, the ships loaded as various goods as silk, wine, olive oil, and cotton calling the ports in Sicily, Cyprus, Syria, and Chios destined to Great Britain included some carpets in their cargoes. Upon having met with the Turkish carpets, the British liked them a lot and got willing to produce the similar types. Although piled carpet weaving was not a part of their tradition, they started to weave carpets using Turkish knots beginning from the 16th century. Initially, they imitated the designs of Anatolian carpets, in the course of the time; however, they started producing designs in compliance with their own taste. Some of the carpets, which were produced in Great Britain, were used at the Ottoman courts starting from the mid 19th century. On the other hand the British still imported Anatolian carpets and this situation continued on at an increasing rate through out the 20th century¹.

In this paper it is intended to review the carpet trade between the Ottoman Empire and Great Britain and its effects to both countries carpet production. The progress of carpet trade and its interaction is going to be explained by the carpets that were produced during that era. Moreover the discussions are supported by the reports that were written by the British citizens Richard Hakluyt and George Rolleston during the 16th and 19th centuries respectively.

Exports of Anatolian and other Oriental carpets to North and West Europe are documented from the 11th century, but the certain evidence about their influence to Europe is about 1453’s².

In the medieval Britain, piled carpets were laid in front of the altars in churches during the ceremonies; they were not used as floor coverings. Until the middle of the 17th century the floors of British palaces, aristocratic or burgher houses were covered with layers of rush, grass or straw. German traveler Paul Hentzner wrote in “Travels in England” that the audience hall’s floor in the palace at Greenwich was covered with straw in 1598³.

The British got familiar with the Anatolian carpets only after they were imported from Anatolia. The British geographer and historian Richard Hakluyt gave important information about the British travelers who traveled to East in his book called “Voyages and Discoveries”. According to him in the years of 1511 and 1512 until the year of 1534 the ships of London, namely, The Christopher Campion, with certain other ships of Southampton and Bristow, had an ordinary and usual trade to Sicilia, Candia, Chios, Cyprus, Tripoli and Beirut. The commodities which they carried with them were fine kerseys of different colors, course kerseys, various cotton cloths, the commodities which they returned back were silks, camlets, wines,

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1. This article was presented as a paper, entitled “Carpet Trade Between Ottoman Empire And Great Britain: Anatolian And English Carpets” at 13th International Congress of Turkish Arts, Budapest Hungary, 3-8 September 2007, Hungarian National Museum.
olive oil, cotton, pepper, cinnamon, some other spices and Turkish carpets. After long discussions with Venetian merchants in 1518 Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and Lord Chancellor under British King Henry VIII (1509-1547), received a shipment of eight “Damascus Carpets” and another shipment of 60 pieces in 1520. These pieces could perhaps be similar to the Anatolian carpets which were depicted by Holbein in the portraits of Henry VIII and his family (Photo. 1). Moreover the inventory of the year 1547 that belonged to Henry VIII, it was mentioned that approximately 500 Anatolian carpets were taken from Venetian merchants.

During mid 16th century Muscovy Company and English Turkey Company imported carpets from Anatolia and Persia. East India Company which was chartered by Queen Elizabeth I in 1601 imported many carpets from Turkey, Persia and Moghul India during the second half of 17th century.

Turkish and other oriental carpets were used as rare and luxury items by the kings, queens the aristocrats until the middle of 17th century in Britain. British had great desire to weave piled carpets similar to Turkish and other oriental ones. Although they did not have the tradition of weaving piled carpets, they started to weave them by using Turkish knot from 16th century. Richard Hakluyt dispatched Morgan Hubblethorne, who was a dyer, to Persia in 1579 to learn everything about dying; he also gave him orders to bring a good workman in the art of Turkish carpet weaving. He quotes “You should bring the art into this realm, and also there by increase work to your company”. We are not certain about how this travel ended, but piled carpet making was started approximately in those days in Britain.

Although the British have started weaving carpets using Turkish knot, there are only a dozen of them survived from the 17th century. At first the British took Turkish carpets as a model in making English carpets. In other words they used Turkish knot and geometric motifs (Photo. 2). Moreover the geometric motifs of Turkish carpets influenced the designs of the embroidery table covers. At that period, whether Turkish or oriental, all the carpets which were imported to Great Britain were called “Turkey carpet”. One of the reasons of this being called as “Turkey Carpet” was that the majority of the carpets being brought to Britain were of Turkish origin, and the other reason was that most of the oriental carpets imported to Britain were shipped from Turkey. In addition, “Turkey work” was also used to define all the clothes and piled carpets woven in Britain imitating the ones which were of Eastern origin (Photo. 3).

11. Mary Schoeser, Op. cit., p. 120.
During the 17th century there had been a serious decline in the carpet manufacturing in Britain because of the increasing imports in piled carpets and the country's political situation. Although there had been a little production, the influence of Turkish carpets diminished and the geometric motifs became less popular\(^\text{13}\).

We can say that there had not been an organized carpet manufacturing industry in Britain until mid 18th century. However in the middle of 18th century two workers, who had worked at Savonnerie factory in France, came to England and founded an atelier which they started to train designers and piled carpet weavers. By 1753 the atelier had almost more than hundred workers.\(^\text{14}\) In the following years the number of the ateliers increased, the most important of them were Claude Passavant (1756-1761) atelier which was founded in 1756, Thomas Whitty (1755-1835) atelier which was founded in 1755, and Thomas Moore atelier which was founded before 1757. Thomas Whitty's atelier was in Axminster and Savonnerie, Abusson, Neoclassical, Chinese, Egyptian and oriental carpets were produced there. During the 18th century French taste dominated all through the Europe as well as in Britain and this situation continued in the 19th century. However reproductions and replicas of Turkish and other oriental carpets and some carpets with local stylistic trends continued to be woven\(^\text{15}\).

Weavers used Turkish knot throughout the development of piled carpet weaving in Britain, but the motifs they used changed rapidly from geometric ones to the stylistic and they created their own styles. At first the weavers used hemp or linen for the warp and weft yarns, but preferred to use wool for the piles. However in the 18th century they started to use wool for the warp and the weft more frequently. The carpet weaving workshops were mostly located around London at Ramsey, Barcheston, and specially Norwich where the Flemish weavers were settled. Unfortunately there are not any evidence in the documents about these ateliers, how big were they or how many workers they had got?\(^\text{16}\).

One of the most significant events of British carpet manufacturing was that Thomas Whitty, who won an award from the Royal Society of Arts for his efforts in carpet production in Britain, and his atelier wove a very large carpet for the Ottoman sultan Mahmud II. This carpet had the largest dimension that was ever woven in Britain. It was completed in 1835 and created great excitement in town. Yet, a ceremony was organized at the local church on the Thanksgiving Day in order to celebrate this event\(^\text{17}\).

Although the British started carpet production on their own and even exported their own productions, importing carpets from Anatolia had never been ceased; on the contrary it was increasingly augmented. The location, that the carpets were shipped from, was the Izmir (Smyrna) Harbour. Till the second half of the 19th century, the carpet trade in Izmir Harbour was made by Turkish merchants; but, after that time, British firms also took an important position in West Anatolian carpet trade. There is some more information about the carpet produc-

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\(^{17}\) Nefize Yıldız, “Türk İngiliz İlişkileri Süresince İngiliz Sanat ve Sosyal yaşamında Türk Etkileri”, \textit{Sanat Tarihi Araştırmaları Dergisi}, Sayı: 11, 1992, s. 47.
tion in Anatolia in Dr. Richard Pococke’s book which was written in 1753 after he returned from his journey to East. He traveled through the Anatolia from Izmir (Smyrna) to Ankara (Angora), and he gave a detailed description of the weaving centers which sent carpets to Smyrna. He quotes that “In the country between this, Kara Hisar and Smyrna, they make most of the Turkey carpets, particularly the largest at Uşak, three days journey from Karahisar, and at Kula two days further, and about a place called Gördes twenty miles to the south west of Kula, and towards Akhisar” 18.

British ambassador, Grenville, reported in 1762-1766 that one of the principal exports of Izmir was rugs, which were produced in a very large quantity, and most of them were sold to Europe 19.

In 1854 George Rolleston was sent to Izmir from Britain to prepare a report. In his report he quotes “England takes more than two-thirds of the carpets manufactured in Anatolia. These carpets are made in the interior, and by the aid of very simple machinery, manual labour entering largely into the means employed. Women and children work the carpets; the dyeing is done by men” 20.

He also mentioned about how the carpet weaving process handled in West Anatolia. He quotes “Orders are given by an agent, and it is generally necessary for him, on account of the poverty of the workers, to advance a considerable sum of money to enable them to purchase materials. As much as two-thirds of the entire value of the carpet is thus advanced, sometimes, previous to its completion. In some of the villages where this branch of industry is carried on the work-people can make carpets of one pattern only, but there are other villages in which numerous patterns are worked. At the present time the carpet manufacture in Anatolia is competing successfully with that of Persia” 21.

He gave a table of the exported materials from Izmir Harbour in 1854 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1854 Export Materials</th>
<th>Total (Piastres)</th>
<th>Value to G. Britain alone (Piastres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madder</td>
<td>18,497,970</td>
<td>18,133,270=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpets</td>
<td>3,844,600</td>
<td>2,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valonea</td>
<td>17,512,270</td>
<td>15,300,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figs</td>
<td>13,225,100</td>
<td>5,421,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raisins</td>
<td>17,943,350</td>
<td>5,330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opium</td>
<td>13,271,510</td>
<td>2,882,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponges</td>
<td>4,313,500</td>
<td>3,436,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorted gums</td>
<td>3,139,700</td>
<td>1,093,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In his report he drew attention that in 1854 the carpet trade was entirely in Turkish hands. We can say that the West Anatolian carpet weaving which had its progress under the Ottoman merchants till 1860s, had gone under the control of English firms from the beginning of 1864. P. De Andrea Co., Habif and Polako, T. A. Spartali Co., these English firms produced carpets by providing yarns and patterns especially in Usak and around from the beginning of 1864. The middle of 1880s was the time when West Anatolian carpet weaving had gone under the control of firms called P. De Andrea Co., Habif and Polako, T. A. Spartali Co., G. P. and J. Baker, Sdyney La Fontaine and Sykes Co.; and these were the firms to establish the company of The Amalgamated Oriental Carpet Manufacturers. Then, they started to check all the stages of process from the spinning of yarns to the exportation of carpets. At the end of 19th century, some handmade carpets were woven in West Anatolia in respect of the European’s own pattern and color taste. The patterns of the carpets which were produced commercially and exported abroad had been only woven according to the demand of the client. There are some information that shows carpet export from Izmir Harbour to Great Britain and some other European countries starting from 1870's.

25. In that period, English tradesman had kept an eye on West Anatolian carpet weaving very closely. The value that they had given to the West Anatolian carpets could be better understood by this example: “There happened a big fire in Usak in 1895. When the news arrived at London Stock Exchange of Carpets, the prices of Usak carpets had gone up to four times higher. In order to get rid of that situation immediately and to reconstruct the city, civil engineers and a high amount of money had been sent from London. According to the statements of the engineers, it was promised that the city of Usak would become a small specimen of Paris. However, the adverse thoughts of that day’s merchants could not be well understood, and as a result of this disagreement, today’s Usak had been built up by Turkish engineers.” (pls. see Gungör İksikan, pp 12.)
TABLE 2: 1872 Carpet Export in square metres from Izmir Harbour

Charles De Scherzer, *Smyrne*, Considérée au Point de vue Geographique Economique et Intellectuel, Seconde édition, Leipzig 1880, s.174

TABLE 3: 1889 Carpet Export in kilograms from Izmir Harbour

F. Rougon, *Smyrne, Situation Commerciale et Economique*, Paris 1892, s.279
TABLE 4: Carpet Export in m² from Izmir Harbour in 1890


TABLE 5: 1915 Carpet Exports in Ottoman Liras from Izmir Harbour

Another significant point between Ottoman and British carpet weaving is that the carpets similar to those of British and French were being produced in the Hereke and Feshane factories which were in the service of the Ottoman Palace during the last decade of the 19th century.

In Mahmud II’s reign, in 1835, importing carpets from Thomas Whitty Atelier for the Ottoman Palace (most probably Ciragan Palace) is a sign of certain change in Ottomans. In the following years, carpets were bought from Europe for the Dolmabahçe Palace. If the composition and pattern styles of these carpets, which are survived in few numbers, were to be examined, their harmony with the ornamentation and decoration of the palace is interesting (Photo.4). These carpets are called “European carpets” in the inventory records of the palace; however, there is no information about which country they came from. Furthermore, in the archives, in a document written in Abdulhamid II’s reign, there is information about the production of new carpets in the Hereke Factory to be used instead of British carpets.

The carpets with the inventory numbers of 11.1618, 13.289, 51.294 (Photo. 5-7) can be shown as examples for the carpets that are in the Dolmabahçe Palace, produced in the Hereke Factory as replicas of British and French carpets. Besides, there are other carpets that were produced under the influence of these carpets in the Dolmabahçe Palace ‘s collection. Carpets which have the inventory numbers of 11.1069, 52.2785, 52.2787 (Photo: 8-10) can be shown as examples for these kind of production.

2- CONCLUSION

Eventually, in 15th and 16th centuries, great interest on Turkish carpets in Britain resulted with the beginning of carpet production even though Britain did not have this tradition. In the early years, the production was made only by copying Turkish carpets. Later, the British carpet making continued to develop under the influence of French carpets in addition with the opening of ateliers by French weavers in Britain. In this period, patterns were designed by the use of neo-classical, baroque and rococo motifs of French taste and carpets were woven by the Turkish knot. In a short time, British created their unique styles. Carpets produced in the British ateliers were exported to various countries.

Because the production was limited in those ateliers in Britain, carpet exportation from Anatolia to Britain continued; after 1860, British firms took control of most of the carpet production in Western Anatolia. In those years, the numbers of carpets sent to Britain from Anatolia were increased in respect to former periods, and this situation was continued till the beginning of 20th century.

Besides, in 19th century, for the Ottoman palaces to be in harmony with the European decoration, carpets and furniture were bought from Europe. Some of those carpets were woven in ateliers in Britain. In addition, as those carpets became old in time, new carpets were required. Accordingly, a group of similar European carpets were produced in the Hereke and Feshane Factories, which met the Palace’s textile needs.

27. “You should allocate 7 looms for weaving new carpets that have the designs of old English ones…” (Milli Saraylar Arşivi, Defter No: 2731; Hazine-i Hassa Ahkam Defteri, Sra No: 5303, sene : 1308) (Vahide Gezgör, “Hereke Fabrika-i Hümâyunu'nda Halet Üretimi”, Milli Saraylar Koleksiyonu'nda Hereke Dokumaları ve Hahılar, İstanbul, 1999, s. 188)
REFERENCES


Richard Poococke, *A Description of the East*, London, 1743, Part I, p. 151; Part II,


Photo 1- Portrait of Henry VIII. (Hans Holbein 1497-1543)


Photo 4: European carpet at Dolmabahce Palace, Inventory No:14.233, 590 x 750 cm. Valide Sultan’s Reception Room.
Photo. 5: Hereke carpet at Dolmabahçe Palace, Inventory No: 11.1618, Muayede Saloon, 856 cm x 1468 cm, 125.5 m², Turkish Knot, 32x38 knots/dm², Warp and weft: Cotton, Pile: Wool. There is also a cartridge at one side which has an inscription that shows it was woven at "Hereke".

Photo.6- Hereke carpet at Dolmabahçe Palace, Inventory No 13.289, Room: 69, 570 cm x 610 cm, Turkish Knot, 42x44 knots/dm², Warp and weft: Cotton, Pile: Wool.
Photo 7- Hereke carpet at Dolmabahce Palace, Inventory No: 51.294, Room: 132, 707 cm x 1450 cm, Turkish knot, 30x30 knots/dm², Warp and weft: Cotton, Pile: Wool.

Photo 8- Hereke carpet at Dolmabahce Palace, Inventory No: 11.1069, Room: 41, 345 cm x 423 cm, Turkish knot, 38x41 knots/dm², Warp and weft: Cotton, Pile: Wool.
Photo 9- Hereke carpet at Dolmabahce Palace, Inventory No:52.2785, Room: 26, 119 cm x 193 cm, Turkish knot, 60x60 knots/dm², Warp and weft: Cotton, Pile:Wool, There is also a cartridge at one side which has a inscription that shows it was woven at “Hereke”.

Photo 10- Hereke carpet at Dolmabahce Palace, Inventory No:52.2786, Room:163, 118 cm x 175 cm, Turkish Knot, 60x64 knots/dm², Warp and weft: Cotton, Pile:Wool, There is also a cartridge at one side which has a inscription that shows it was woven at “Hereke”.