



Journal of Balkan Libraries Union

ISSN 2148-077X

<http://www.balkanlibraries.org/journal>
<http://dergipark.ulakbim.gov.tr/jblu>

Book Review

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*Journal of Balkan Libraries Union, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 5-6, 2015.
Digital Object Identifier: 10.16918/bluj.*

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***Ghazi Husrev-Beg
by Behija Zlatar
Sarajevo, 2010
ISBN 9789958626135***

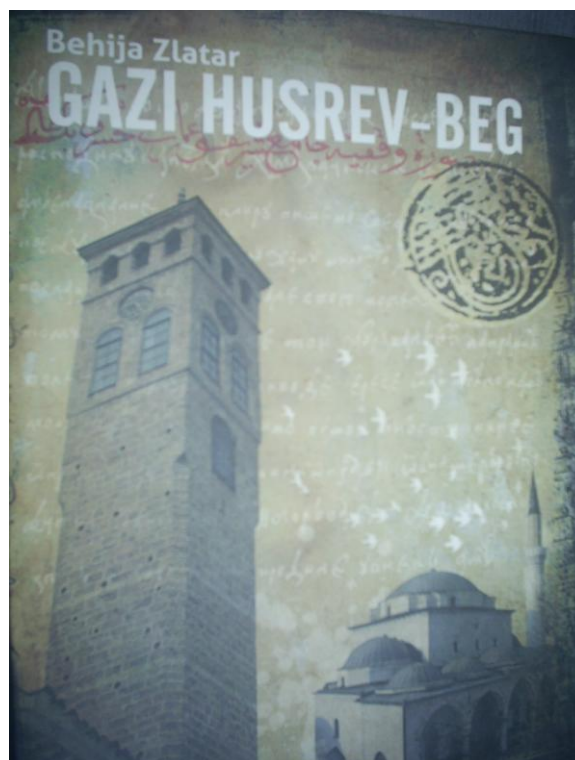
Ghazi Husrev-Bey is rated among the governors whose role has been remembered as the most distinctive, not only in the urban development of Sarajevo in the first half of the 16th century, but also as a governor who led an army that conquered many regions and expanded the Ottoman Empire westwards. Although he was born in Serez (Greece) in 1480. and brought up and educated at Sultan Bayazid II's Court as his grandson, he spent a third of his life in Bosnia.

Although, as an army leader, he conquered vast areas and led many military campaigns, he has remained better remembered as a Sarajevo benefactor and Bosnia's most important governor. By erecting his endowments, he managed to turn Sarajevo, which until then had been considered a provincial town, into a city known all over Europe and the vast Ottoman Empire. While in earlier *vaqfnamas*-deeds of endowment-Sarajevo was named a provincial town, in Ghazi Husrev-Bey's *vaqf*nama it was called *medine* (a city).

The urban development of Sarajevo started with the construction of facilities by Ghazi Isa-Bey Isaković, which continued with the erection of endowments of other governors, representatives of the leading societal elite, better-off citizens, merchants and artisans. Another significant phase in the development of Sarajevo, after Isa-Bey, was marked by the structures of Ghazi Husrev-Bey's *wagf*-endowment. It was the richest *waqf* in Bosnia with buildings that have been represented centres of spiritual, social, economic and urban centres of life. The period of erection of Ghazi Husrev-Bey's endowments from the 1530s to the 1570s, was the most important period in the development of the city in the Ottoman era. This is seen in the development of *mahalas*-urban residential quarters-whose number was the best indicator of the urban development of a city in the Ottoman period.

Ghazi Husrev-Bey founded his endowment by three *vaqfnamas* between 1531 and 1537. The first one from 1531 refers to a mosque, *mekteb*-religious elementary school, a soup kitchen and a tavern, endowing many properties located at Serez, Sarajevo, Tešanj, Jajce...

By the second *vaqf*nama dated 8 January, 1537, Ghazi Husrev-Bey endowed cash for a *madrassa* and by the third one, also from 1537, additional funds for a mosque. This is his best-known and most monumental endowment, which is still today one of Sarajevo's symbols.



The only public bath out of seven that used to exist in Sarajevo, and which has been preserved to date, was erected with this great endower's funds. The Ghazi, also Bezistan-cloth market, a grandiose facility, built, and the Tašlihan inn next to it. Gazi Husrev-Bey also had a number of humanitarian facilities built: a soup kitchen and hostelry first of all, then over 200 shops in the Sarajevo business district; 60 of these shops were built in a row in Sarači Street. With the money from foundation, a clock tower was also built near the Bey's Mosque, the famous Morića han-hostelry, the first hospital in Sarajevo, and a number of other facilities including the longest water supply system in Sarajevo at the time.

The time when Gazi Husrev-Bey's endowments were erected is a good reason considered to be a golden age in the history of Sarajevo. Still today his endowments bear witness to the greatness and importance of Ghazi Husrev-Bey, not only as an endower, but as a man who had a clear vision for the development of the city as an urban, cultural, educational, economic and Sufi centre. Architectural and artistic merits of Ghazi Husrev-Bey's endowments are great, but their role in the complex tissue of the city centre is also important.