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New Source About the Falconers from the Village of Draginovo, Velingrad District

(Summary)

In this study some data about the falconers from the village of Draginovo (Velingrad District) according to a newly found register, kept in the Ottoman archive in Istanbul, are presented and analyzed. This source is extremely valuable in several aspects: It describes the obligation of 15 falconers from the village to hand out a falcon 967/ 1559-60 as well as all resulting from the defection of this obligation fiscal duties for the same and for some preceding years. It gives the names of their children, registered as hereditary and future falconers. In this way the register broadens our notion about the way in which this category of the people with special obligation has been accounted in the Financial Department of the empire: An inventory of the patrimony of 14 falconers has been made. The patrimony includes lands, meadows, places planted with hemp, grass areas, stackyards and summer pastures. The names of the places where they have been situated are pointed. Most of them have Slavonic origin. Although with a certain degree of conventionality due to the peculiarities of a certain Arab language, used only in the financial administration of the Ottoman empire, the proposed toponymy from the middle of the XVI century could be examined both from the point of view of the historical geography as well as from a linguistic aspect.