



THE ANKARA FRIENDS OF ARIT

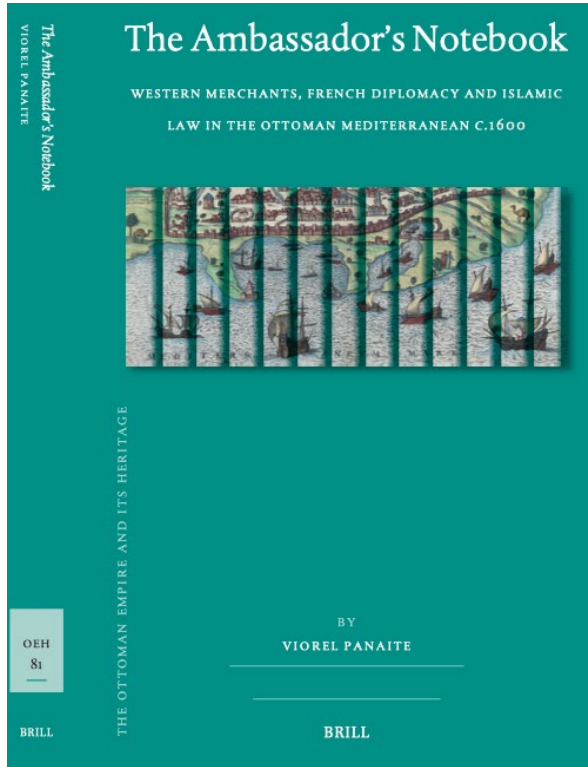
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ARIT LECTURE



Western Merchants, French Diplomacy and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (circa 1600)

by

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7:00 pm (Turkish time)
Online**

This lecture is based on my book *The Ambassador's Notebook. Western merchants, French diplomacy and Islamic law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (c. 1600)* (collection "The Ottoman Empire and its Heritage", vol. 81), Leiden-Boston: BRILL, 2025, XLII+691 p. (<https://brill.com/display/title/70204>)

The Manuscript Turc 130 (MS Turc 130) from the Bibliothèque nationale de France is unique among manuscripts relating to Franco-Ottoman relations. It could be described as an anthology of Ottoman documents, but it is not an ordinary anthology. It is diverse in terms of the typology of Ottoman documents and their subject matter, but it is extremely coherent chronologically, with documents dating from 1596 to 1602. The uniqueness of this manuscript is mainly due to the deliberate structuring of the documentary material into three distinct parts, namely the diplomatic, legal and administrative sections. François Savary de Brèves, the ambassador of Henri IV to the Ottoman court between 1593 and 1604, was the originator of MS Turc 130. Looking at the pace at which ambassadorial petitions, sultanic edicts and legal opinions follow one another in MS Turc 130 (and here are only some of those relating to French merchants, to which we should add the documents issued to the Venetians and the English), we have a picture of the Ottoman chancery working at full speed for the security of trade and merchants in Ottoman waters, ports and cities. MS Turc 130 is therefore a vivid documentary testimony to the presence of Western merchants, especially the French, in the Ottoman Mediterranean and provides rare new information on various aspects of Western trade in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

For Zoom Registration

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