



Fountains of Adrianopolis – Edirne

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Abstract

Edirne, which was founded on the roads connecting the Asian and European continents, has been an important crossing point since the earliest times in history and has hosted various civilizations for centuries and has acquired a rich historical knowledge.

Edirne, which was conquered by the Ottoman Empire in 1361 and later became the capital of the Ottoman Empire for approximately ninety years, has become a prominent center with its natal structure as well as politically and culturally, as it is the capital. After the Ottomans took the city, great importance was given to urban development, and water structures were built, especially the Selimiye and Eski, Üç Şerefeli Mosques, where many people stayed. The city of Edirne meets its water needs from the water resources around the city. The water from these sources is carried to the city through aqueducts and maksems, and their distribution within the city is provided by fountains. These fountains in the city house are small structures and are important structures in terms of the progress of their features. It continues to be built for six hundred years, pieces exceeding thousands; However, these water structures, a small part of which survives today, has preserved the social and aesthetic strength of the city.

This article aims to express the place of the structure in the history of the city and to explain the processes of examination, research and repair work carried out on three fountain structures during the 16-year and 18-year period of the project, located in the Central District of Edirne Province.

Keywords: Edirne, Fountain, Restoration, Water Structures

1.Introduction

An Overview of Urban Water Architecture

When the water architecture of the city is evaluated as a whole, it is noticed that it has a unique development and style. Especially the waterways and fountains built by Mimar Sinan since the 16th century are valuable with their independent architectural characters. After this age, fountain and fountain architecture became a monument. The need for water has almost been pushed aside, and fountain and fountain architecture has found the opportunity to gain an independent architectural

form in the city. Thus, water structures became important and spectacular structures that filled and decorated parts of Edirne such as courtyards, corners, squares, walls and areas. Water structures initially started with Mimar Sinan Style stone fountains covered with a pyramidal roof, and later developed and continued as the awakening of a new taste, with different volumes but without losing much of its character. Thus, the number of these monuments erected in Edirne, due to the meaning of water in Islamic philosophy and the sanctity attributed to water, has reached thousands. In addition to the fountains filling various areas of the city, fountains were also built in mosque courtyards.

Courtyard fountains, mostly made of marble, sitting on a round or polygonal base, sometimes open-topped, sometimes covered with eaves and domes, are also noteworthy water monuments. The Selimiye Mosque fountain is one of the most important monuments in Edirne.

In addition, pools filling the areas and squares were built in the city. These pools are polygonal shapes made of stone or marble and are other water structures that both meet the water needs of the region in which they are located and serve as water tanks for pumpers in case of fire.

These water monuments, which have been found in almost every region of the city for centuries, have gradually decreased in number in our era, almost to the point of non-existence. According to the statements in the Edirne Yearbook (H. 1310 - M. 1894), the city of Edirne had 239 fountains and dispensers. Previously, according to Ahmed Badi, this number increased to 550 fountains, 11 dispensers and 7 large pools. Ahmet Badi also; He mentioned that there were 100 pools, 25 mosque fountains and 25 public baths in mansions and

houses. Osman Nuri Peremeci mentioned that there are more than 1000 private fountains in addition to 300 public fountains. Historian Abdurrahman Hibri Efendi describes the hot water fountains and dispensers in the Üç Şerefeli Mosque graveyard, Gülşeniler Hankah and Ali Pasha Bazaar in Edirne.

The mentioned sources indicate how important the water structures of Edirne have in urban architecture.

The city of Edirne is surrounded by the Arda, Tunca and Meriç rivers on three sides. The water needs of the city, which has hosted dozens of civilizations, were largely met from these sources (KARADEMİR,M.).

There is no definitive information on how the city's water needs were met in Edirne before the Ottoman period. However, after the Ottoman Empire captured Edirne and made it the capital city, the city developed in a short time and many new neighborhoods were established around the castle. At the same time, there are many mosques, masjids, baths, fountains, etc. structures have been built. The water needs of the city and the monumental buildings were largely met from the surrounding rivers or neighboring villages. The growth of the city and the

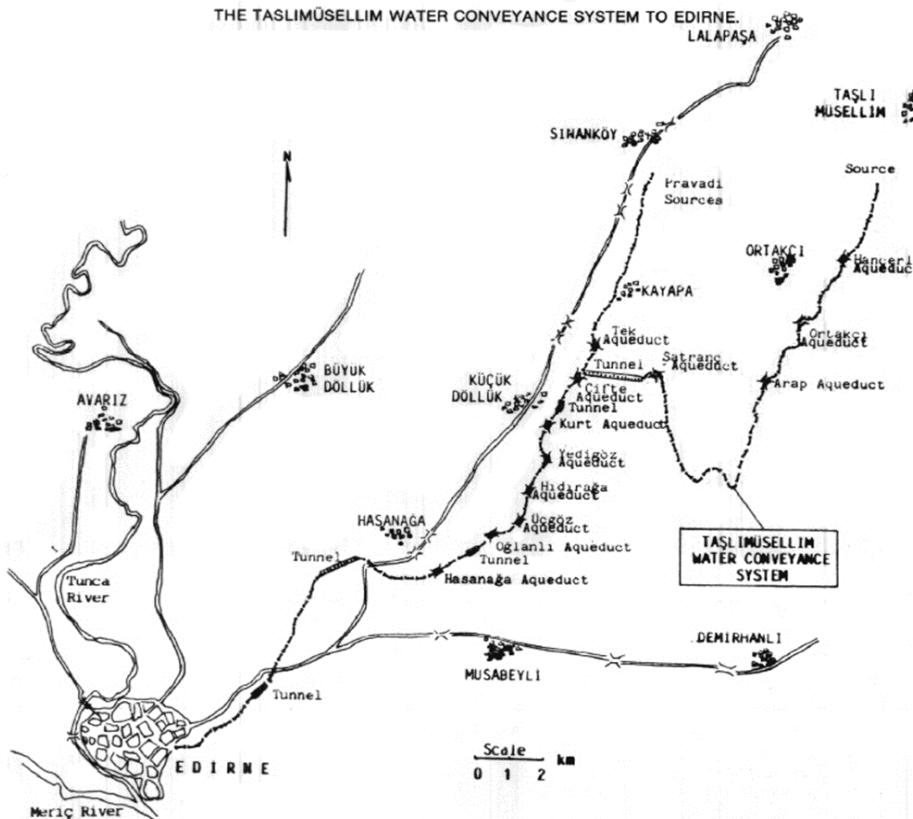


Fig.1: (KARADEMİR,M)

increase in population over time have further increased the need for water, and the water drawn from the rivers through canals has become unable to meet the need. In order to meet the new needs, waterways were built by Suleiman the Magnificent for Haseki Hurrem Sultan during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent (H. 936/ AD 1530). It is confirmed by written sources that the architect of these waterways was Mimar Sinan. With the waterways built by Mimar Sinan, 45 km. Water was transported to the city from Taşlı Müsellim far away (KARADEMİR).

These waterways, most of which have disappeared today, were fed by two main sources. One of these sources is Sinanköy (Pravadi) and the other is Taşlı Müsellim village sources. The water taken from these two sources proceeds southwards and unites in the north-east of Küçük Döllük Village, then reaches the outlet in Taşlık, located in the city center, and from this outlet the baths and fountains in the city were distributed (Fig.1).

EVALUATION OF THE FOUNTAINS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

I. KEVSEÇ (KÖSEÇ) BALABAN FOUNTAIN

Medrese is located in Ali Bey District, Cemetery Street, island number 1613 and parcel number 11. The fountain, located in the north of the place known today as Aşıyan Park, is in a way close to the middle of the street. A road passes in front of the northern façade of the fountain.

Today, there is a two-line construction inscription on the fountain. The last line of the inscription, where the construction date of the fountain is not specified, indicates the year 951 H. / 1544 A.D. according to the abjad calculation. The inscription of the building was published in the works of researchers such as O.Onur, Dijkema and A.Badi Efendi. O. Onur published only the reading of the inscription along with its picture in his work.

After giving brief information about the inscription, Dijkema also published the text and its reading.

The fountain, which appears to have been repaired in recent years, was cleared of stone and all facades were painted with whitewash. The front stone, which does

not have a basin, was also removed. The current trough of the fountain is not the original trough, but was later made of reinforced concrete material. Today, a retaining wall was built around the fountain located below the road level and landscaping was completed. It is a single-sided fountain made of cut stone, with a reservoir and a pyramidal stone roof. According to its inscription, Kevseç Balaban Fountain, one of the oldest surviving fountains in Edirne, sits on a square-shaped mass. The fountain, whose all facades are quite plain, has a water trough on the west facade.

The two-line inscription made of marble under the eaves is surrounded by a frame. A small piece is broken in the lower right corner of the inscription. On the east side of the fountain, there is a 3-dimensional observation opening in the reservoir cover. This opening is closed with an iron fence today. There is a doorway opened in recent years on the northern façade of the building. An attempt was made to enliven the eaves of the building with two rows of flat profile moldings protruding outward from the facade. The reservoir cover has a pyramidal stone roof made of block stone material of various sizes. The most important feature of the fountain, whose construction date is known, is that it has a pyramidal stone roofed reservoir cover (Fig.2).



Fig.2 (SEDES,F)

II. NAZIR FOUNTAIN

Yancıkçı Şahin District, Talatpaşa Asphalt, is located on the wide median strip on the E 5 Highway. The fountain that attracts the attention of those entering Edirne because it is located in the middle of the highway at the entrance to the city center.

The construction date of the fountain is H.993/AD1585. The person who had built it was Nazır Mehmed Bey. There is no construction inscription on the fountain façade. There is an inscription in Turkish in the upper right corner of the façade stating that the building was repaired by Türkiye Vakıflar Bankası in 1983. The work, which is owned by the Edirne Regional Directorate of Foundations, is not used today. Nazır Fountain has largely lost its original structural features as a result of various repairs and renovations. The fountain, which is quite solid today, was last repaired in 1983. The fountain without a niche and with a reservoir had a water trough with three chambers. However, this trough, which was removed due to road construction works, was replaced by a converted trough that completely surrounds the front of the fountain. There were breaks in the stone material on the front façade, and attempts were made to

cover these broken areas with white cement mortar. The chamber cover with a pyramidal stone roof was plastered with cement mortar, and mobility was added to the cover by adding convex semicircular profile moldings, three on each side.

It is a square fountain built of cut stone, single-faced, with a reservoir and a pyramidal stone roof. It has a square-shaped mass. The south-facing fountain facade is kept very simple. A marble panel, most of which is broken today, was placed where the mirror stone was located on the facade, and an inscription was written on it stating that the fountain was repaired by the Edirne Preservation Board in 1963. There is a bowl near the left corner of the façade. A flat marble plate was placed right under the eaves and the construction date of the fountain and the person who built it were indicated. The fountain eaves are animated with one row of straight and one row of concave mouldings. The chamber cover, which has a pyramidal roof on the outside, is covered with a brick vault on the inside. In the building, which is a very simple and niche-free square fountain, the other facades except the front facade are kept simple. There are no decorative elements in the fountain (Fig3,4).



Fig.3 (SEDES,F)



Fig.4 (SEDES,F)

III. YAHYA BEY FOUNTAIN

It is located in Muradiye Meydan District, Kiyık Street, number 355. Çeşme is located in the middle of the street on the road from Tophane Bayırı to Kiyık district. The construction date of the fountain built by Yahya Bey is H.988/AD1580. The inscription on the facade of the fountain is as follows:

The fountain, which is owned by the Edirne Regional Directorate of Foundations, is not used today. The historical fountain remained in the middle of the street as a result of the road planning works carried out by the Municipality after the 1980s. For this reason, a stone barrier system was established in front of and behind the fountain, and these barriers were filled with soil. Since the fountain façade is below ground level, it is not possible to give any clear information about the water trough of the building. It is understood from the traces of simple plaster with cement mortar on the facade that the building, which has survived to the present day while preserving its original structural features, has recently undergone a simple repair.

It is a single-faced fountain built of cut stone, with a reservoir and a pyramidal stone roof. Yahya Bey Fountain, one of the important fountains in Edirne with its original architectural structure, is placed in the north-south direction in the middle of a sloping street extending in the east-west direction. It sits on a square-shaped mass. The facade of the fountain, which has no mirror stone or niche, is surrounded by three inverted

U-shaped borders. These borders, whose surfaces are kept completely plain, are located from the outside to the inside, and the first and third borders are gradual from the ground to the inside. A plain molding surrounds each border. There is a marble inscription inside the first border from outside to inside. The inscription, written in two lines in Thuluth script, was mounted on the facade with the help of iron rods in four different corners. While the eaves of the building are enlivened with a total of three rows of moldings on the front facade, one of which is straight and the other two are concave and convex, the other facades are enlivened with a row of flat moldings, extending outwards from the facade. The chamber cover is formed with a pyramidal roof on the outside and a brickwork vault on the inside. 0.40 m on the east facing side of the reservoir cover. x 0.40m. The chamber opening is covered with a cover made of wrought iron. Except for the front facade, the other facades are kept simple. The fountain has a different position among the Edirne Fountains, where decoration is secondary in terms of facade compositions, with the flat profile borders surrounding the southern facade and the flat moldings surrounding them. Sultan III. The fountain, built by Yahya Bey, one of the important poets and scientists of the Murat period, is one of the few fountains of its period with its unique pyramidal roof (Fig.5).



Fig.5 (YAVUZ,B)

IV. FEYZULLAH PASHA IMARET FOUNTAIN

Fountain is located at the corner of Fazlullah Street and Kalaycı Street. There is no inscription belonging to the fountain.

The fountain, which is owned by Edirne Municipality, is not used today. In recent years, it has been repaired as a result of the project carried out by the Edirne Antiquities Preservation and Sustainability Association under the name "Preserving and Sustaining Historical Fountains". The fountain was enlarged and surrounded by a retaining wall. Stone cleaning was carried out on all facades and thin joint plaster was applied between the stones. Concrete was poured onto the reservoir cover, which was built in a dome-like shape from brick material, giving it a pyramidal appearance. There are convex semicircular profile moldings on the chamber cover, which has been transformed into a pyramidal shape. Since the platform where the fountain is located is below ground level, the

platform can be accessed via three-step stairs on the west and east facades.

It is a single-sided corner fountain with a reservoir, built of cut stone. Imaret Fountain, one of the large-sized fountains in Edirne, has partially lost its original structural features as a result of the recent restoration. The fountain is placed in the north-south direction and sits on a square-shaped mass. It is a very simple building without niches. The mirror stone of the building was removed and a marble panel with today's dimensions was placed in its place. The nozzle hole in the middle of this panel is closed. An attempt was made to enliven the fountain's eaves by extending it outward from the façade with a row of straight and a row of concave semicircular profile moldings. The chamber cover has been completely renewed. There are no decorative elements in the fountain (Fig.5).



Fig.6 (YAVUZ;B)

V. EBE FOUNTAIN

The fountain on the main street is located at the corner of the entrance of the street with the same name. Due to its location, the fountain is below road level.

There is a repair inscription in the building, which does not have a construction inscription.. Dijkema mentions that it is not known when the work was built and that the structure is known as the Midwife Women's Fountain. The fountain, which is owned by Edirne Municipality, is not used today. It is understood that the work, which was quite neglected until a few years ago and that as the road level in front of it increased, its trough remained below ground level and grass grew on its roof, was repaired, a retaining wall was built around it and landscaping was completed. One does not have any information about the actual water trough of the fountain. Today's small trough with a pedestal was added during landscaping. Since the current location of the fountain is below the road level, the fountain podium can be accessed via three steps from the north and south.

It is a single-faced, corner fountain with a reservoir and no niche, built of cut stone. The building, which has a

very simple appearance, sits on a square-shaped mass. The trough, which was added to replace the main water trough on the façade, was placed on a pedestal. There is a repair inscription on the front façade, with the upper part adjacent to the eaves. The inscription is written in thuluth script in four lines. The inscription is attached to the facade with two L-shaped iron tensioners from the right and left sides. An attempt was made to enliven the fountain's eaves by extending it outward from the façade with two rows of straight and concave semicircular profile moldings. There is a chamber window on the south side of the chamber cover with a pyramidal stone roof. It is observed that joint improvement has been made between the stones on the facade and the chamber cover. There are no decorative elements in the fountain. According to the existing repair inscription, H. 1324 / A.D. The construction date of the building, which was understood to have been repaired by Hacı Mustafa Efendi, one of the Edirne Notables, in 1906, is unknown. There is no information about the construction date of the building.



Fig.7 (SEDES,F)

VI. HORSES FOUNTAIN

It is located in Nişancı Paşa District, Zincirlikuyu Street. There is no inscription belonging to the fountain.

The fountain, which is owned by the Edirne Regional Directorate of Foundations, is not used today. The historical building was repaired by the Edirne Association for the Protection and Sustenance of Antiquities in 2005. In line with this repair, a significant part of the stone materials on the fountain facade were renewed. The molding stones of the building have been remounted. The fountain area is open, separated from the neighboring parcels.

.The Atlar Fountain, one of the large-sized fountains in Edirne, was built on a horizontal rectangular mass on a sloping land. The front and left side walls were recovered with cut stone, and the right facade and rear walls were

recovered with rubble stone material. The pointed arch covering the fountain niche rests on piled feet made of cut stone on the sides. The fountain has a very simple façade and the mirror stone in the pointed arch niche attracts attention. The front stone, which is enclosed in a rectangular frame, has a blind arch in the center and a cypress motif with destroyed trunks on both sides. The upper parts of these cypress trunks are curled inwards. There is a rosette designed in the shape of a dahlia in the middle of the cypresses. There is a naturalistic tulip motif with leaves placed opposite each other on the mirror stone arch spandrels. A pointed arched cup holder is placed on the right side of the mirror stone, which has no decorative elements around it. There is also a rosette motif embossed in relief on the keystone of the pointed arch in the fountain.



Fig.8 (SEDES,F)

VII. AMCAZADE HÜSEYİN PASHA FOUNTAIN

It is located in Çeşme, Nişancı Paşa District, on Kıyık Street, Tophane slope. It was built by Amcazade Hüseyin Pasha in 1113 H. / 1702 A.D. There is a construction inscription on the north side of the fountain and a repair inscription on the south side. Amcazade Hüseyin Pasha Fountain, one of the large-sized fountains in Edirne, is located on a street sloping from east to west. The historical fountain sits on an independent horizontal rectangular mass with a single arch. It is enlivened with a pointed arch niche on the north-facing front. There is a front stone made of marble material in the center of the arch space. A cypress motif is engraved on both sides of the segmented blind arch compartment in a rectangular frame shaped front stone. The ends of the cypresses, whose trunks are combed, continue up to the segmented blind arch. A rosette with a flower-shaped core is placed in the middle of the cypresses. Under the rosette, among the cypresses, there is a pipe hole, which is closed

today. A cartridge with segmented edges is engraved in a rectangular panel just above it. The area around the front stone is left empty without any decoration. There is a water bowl on the left side of the pointed arch on the facade. The water bowl, made of octagonal marble, is projected outwards from the facade. It can be seen from old photographs that there is a front stone made of marble on top.

The fountain, which is owned by Edirne Municipality, is flowing today. The place where the fountain was built is 30 m from its current location. It was transferred to its current location in 1995, while it was located in the east. The historical fountain has partially lost its original structural features as a result of various repairs and additions.

Water was supplied to the fountain's water reservoir by Edirne Municipality through a pipeline connected to the underground water network, and the fountain became flowing.



Fig.9 (SEDES,F)



Fig.10 (SEDES,F)

VIII. HACI MEHMET AĞA FOUNTAIN

It is located in Mithatpaşa District, Tabakhane Street, island number 634 and parcel number 1. According to A. Badi, it was built by Hacı Mehmet Ağa in H.1062 / A.D.1652. The inscription, which is not on the facade of the fountain and we do not have any information about its whereabouts, is included in the works of researchers such as A.Badi and O.Onur. A. Badi published the reading of the inscription in his work and also stated the location of the fountain. O. Onur also published only the reading of the inscription.

The fountain, which is owned by Edirne Municipality, is not used today. The fountain, which has survived to the present day while largely preserving its original structural features, is in a very neglected state. As a result of the unplanned construction in the neighborhood where it is located, the fountain is surrounded by the garden walls of the house number two, located next to it. The grass growing on its façade and roof caused the stones to move, and this played an active role in the collapse of the building. The Çeşme basin has almost completely disappeared. The fountain, which has become a place where neighborhood residents dump their garbage on its facades, needs to be repaired and landscaped as soon as possible. It is a single-faced fountain with a reservoir

and a pointed arch, built of cut stone. Hacı Mehmet Ağa Fountain is placed on a flat ground in the east-west direction. The building sits on a square plan. There are two piers connected to each other by a pointed arch on the east façade. The pointed arch covering the fountain niche rests on these legs on the sides. The pointed arch, placed inside the facade and emphasized, adds dynamism to the façade. The inscription between the pointed arch and the eaves has been removed. It is understood that an architectural piece mounted in cut stone materials in the south-east corner of the fountain was dismantled. The presence of a small opening between the stones in this section leading into the chamber suggests that there was a bird waterer here, made of iron material.

On the same facade, there is a niche with a concave semicircular profile that starts at the bottom of the chamber opening and continues all the way to the floor. The front stone in the center of the pointed arch niche is made of marble. The corners of the mirror stone, which is quite damaged today, were plastered with cement mortar. There is a rosette in the center of the front stone enclosed in a rectangular frame. Hacı Mehmet Fountain, which is said to have been built in 1062 A.H., is one of the important fountains that has survived to the present day, preserving its original structural features to a large extent.



Fig.11 (YAVUZ,B)



Fig.12 (SEDES,F)

CONCLUSION

The city of Edirne, which has been the living space of various civilizations for centuries as a crossroads point, has an important historical architectural heritage. The contribution of water structures, which are a part of this heritage, to urban architecture is undeniable. Of these structures, which once numbered over a thousand, only about two hundred continue to exist today. Edirne Fountains, which have a unique architectural character, should be kept alive as a part of cultural heritage.

To this end; The historical origins, construction systems and styles of the fountains within the scope of our study were examined in detail, surveying, restitution and restoration works were carried out on them, and the necessary projects were produced by us to ensure their continued existence in the future. It is of great importance that these structures, which we can liken to the furniture of the city on an urban architectural scale, continue their life.

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