A Handbook and Reader of Ottoman Arabic

EDITED BY ESTHER-MIRIAM WAGNER
A letter transmitted by Ambassador Hajj Mahdī Bargash from Sultan Muḥammad Bin ʿAbdallāh to Sultan Ṭāhir ʿAbdullāh informing him that he is sending a present of four ships and 536 liberated Ottoman prisoners.
وثلاثين أسيرا من الله تبارك وتعالى عليهم وانقذهم من الأسر والحمد لله على ذلك الذي من الله علينا بإيقاف إخواننا المسلمين من يد أعداء الله الكفرة، والخديم المذكور من يصلكم فيه كفاحاً الخبر والذي يقول لكم فخرا أمرناه به والسلام في أوائل شعبان المبارك عام 1203.

**Translation**

Your Majesty, with a crown of splendour and sovereignty and adorned with favours and glory; you, perpetrator of deeds of ultimate generosity; you, a planet in the horoscope of good omen and happiness; you, who come from a lineage of the best noble sovereigns forming a chain of mujāhidīn against unbelievers and enemies of Allah, the mujāhidīn whom Allah has given the responsibility to protect Islam and provide peace for all people; you, sultan of the two lands, Khagan of the two oceans, and custodian of the two holy mosques; a sultan and son of a sultan; Sultan Abdul Ḥamīd, son of Sultan Aḥmed Khan, may Allah grant them everlasting happiness and make their good achievements famous and celebrated; peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you!

There will be delivered to our brother—Sultan Abdul Ḥamīd; May Allah make him glorious—by our servant Hajj Al-Makkī Bargash, son of Captain Pasha, four of our navy vessels, as a gift from us to you. We ask Allah for glory, empowerment, and further conquests to us and to you and all Muslims so that Muslim armies always prevail and their enemies be vanquished and humiliated. Also, our servant Caid Mohammed bin Abdellah will deliver to you five hundred and thirty-six (Ottoman) prisoners freed by the help of Allah—we thank Him for that and for helping us to liberate our Muslim brothers from the hands of unbelievers, Allah’s enemies. The aforementioned servant will provide you
with more information on the operation he carried out under our order.

Peace be upon you,

Early Sha‘bān of the year 1203