



JEVDET PASHA

JEVDET PASHA (b. Lofça [Lovech, central Bulgaria], 1237/1823; d. Istanbul, 2 D̡u'l-Hejja 1312/26 May 1895), Ottoman writer, historian, jurist, and statesman. His original name was Ahmed (Aḥmad), but he became known under the name Jevdet, which was given to him by his tutor Süleyman Fehim Efendi (d. 1846) in 1843. After finishing primary school in Lofça (modern Lovech), he came to Istanbul in 1839 to continue his studies. He studied theology, mathematics, geology, astronomy, and Arabic literature in several *madrāsas*. He studied the Persian language with Mehmed Murad Efendi (d. 1848) and Süleyman Fehim Efendi (d. 1845) and also studied the *divāns* of 'Orfi (d. 1591) and Šowkat (d. 1695-96). In 1260/1844 he was granted the permission (*ejāzat-nāma*) to teach the *Maṭnawī* of Mowlānā Jalāl-al-Din Rumi. In January 1844 Jevdet was offered a position as a judge (*qāḏī*). In 1846 he became the teacher of children of the Prime Minister (Şadr-A'ẓām) Mustafa Reşid Pasha (1800-58), which was a turning point in Jevdet's life and career. Gradually his scientific and scholarly work was taken over by political activities and governmental service. After having held various posts, he became the official state historian (*wāqe'a-nevis*) in 1855. In 1857 he started his legal career, which he would continue until his death. He successfully accomplished many highly important official tasks. He made a major contribution to the establishment of a new Ottoman legal system and to the publication of the *Majalla*, the Ottoman law-book. Jevdet died in Istanbul on 2 D̡u'l-Hejja 1312/26 May 1895.

Jevdet Pasha mastered Arabic, Persian, French, and Bulgarian. He wrote more than twenty important books on history, law, grammar, linguistics, logic, and



astronomy (for a list of Jevdet Pasha's works see Halaçoğlu and Aydın, 1993, pp. 448-49). Besides, he also completed a Turkish commentary for the Persian *divān* of Şā'eb Tabrizi (d. 1675-76). This commentary, entitled *Tatemala-ye şarḥ-e divān-e Şā'eb*, had been started by Jevdet's tutor, Süleyman Fehim Efendi, who left it unfinished when he died in 1845 (he reached as far as the letter *qāf*). The work was composed according to the classical tradition of writing commentaries for poetic works: the major part of Şā'eb's *divān* and *gazals* (q.v.) are arranged in alphabetical order. The commentary deals not only with the meaning of the couplets, but also with questions of literary art, vocabulary, basic characteristics of inflexion, and grammar, and it is illustrated with samples of poetry. A manuscript of this work can be found at the Bayezid Devlet Library in Istanbul (Veliyüddin Efendi, MS 3302). The commentary by Süleyman Fehim Efendi is on fols. 1b-596b, and the continuation by Jevdet Pasha on fols. 596b-627b. This work has not yet been published.

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