

## Ottoman Turkish Press in Bulgaria

Reference: 2021-EAP-Ottoman

<b>Supervisor (name &amp; role)</b>	Dr Michael Erdman (Curator, Turkish and Turkic collections) Jody Butterworth (Endangered Archives Programme Curator)
<b>Department &amp; Site</b>	Endangered Archives Programme, London (St Pancras)
<b>Start date/Timeframe</b>	Anytime from May 2021 onwards, but to be completed by March 2022 (exact start date to be agreed with the supervisors)
<b>Duration</b>	<b>3 months</b> (or part-time equivalent) For a part-time placement, the student would be required to spend <b>1-2 days a week</b> on site.
<b>Suitability for remote working</b>	Elements of the project could be carried out remotely, but the student would benefit from working on site for at least part of the placement. To be discussed with the supervisors.

### Context for placement

The Endangered Archives Programme ([EAP](#)) is a grants giving programme, funded by [Arcadia](#) and administered by the British Library, with the aim to preserve archival material from around the world that is in danger of destruction, neglect or physical deterioration. Since 2004, the programme has provided over 400 grants to successful applicants to locate endangered archival collections in 90 countries, create digital copies of the material, and to deposit the copies with local institutions and the British Library. We currently have 9 million images online that are freely available for research purposes.

One of our recent EAP grants was for a pilot 7-month project focussing on Ottoman Turkish minority press printed in Bulgaria ([EAP696](#)).

The Ottoman Turkish press in Bulgaria during the 1878-1943 period was a unique phenomenon within the post Ottoman Balkans, not only for the significant number of newspapers and magazines published, but also because some of them continued to be printed in Arabic script after 1928, when Turkey adopted a variant of the Latin alphabet. There was a publishing explosion in the ten years following 1878 in which there were more Ottoman Turkish newspapers in circulation than during all the previous years of the 19th century combined. The newly founded Bulgarian state was in fact a multi-ethnic country with a significant minority population – a predominantly Turkish-speaking one.

Twenty-two periodical issues were digitised as part of EAP's Ottoman Turkish press project, and this placement will focus on these items.

### Expected tasks and outcomes

In close consultation with the placement supervisors, the student will catalogue, in depth, 22 Ottoman Turkish minority press items digitised through the project [EAP696](#).

#### Tasks will include:

- Using the EAP cataloguing template in Excel, to check the current metadata against images of the manuscripts and complete any missing data fields, adding titles in original script and enhancing the descriptive metadata for each item. Training will be provided.
- For Bulgarian language content, to seek advice from the relevant Library curators as necessary.
- Optional: To investigate the content within the periodicals to find links with own research and to share insights in an article, a staff talk or a public event at the Library.
- Optional: To help publicise and promote the collection to relevant researchers and audiences. This could be through workshops, social media, the British Library's Asia and Africa blog, relevant external blogs, conference presentations etc.

#### Outcomes:

- 22 items fully catalogued and ready for display on the EAP website.
- Article, staff talk or public event, depending on own research, interests and development needs.
- Increased visibility and accessibility for the collection.

### Training and development opportunities

All placement students are welcome to access the Library's offer of workshops, talks and training. For further details please refer to the [Application Guidelines on the British Library website](#).

In addition, this placement project will offer the following:

- An opportunity to gain first-hand 'behind-the-scenes' insight into the activities of a major research library and cultural organisation, with a particular focus on digitisation programmes, cataloguing and international engagement.
- An excellent introduction into cataloguing standards at the British Library and specific tools used by EAP (such as OpenRefine and Dandelion). The student will gain an understanding of the processes involved in cataloguing manuscripts to international standards and will learn about both ISAD(G) (used by EAP) and TEI (the cataloguing standard for Asia and Africa collections).
- EAP content is IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) compliant, and the student will gain an awareness of the benefits of this image-based resource and the growing community that uses it.
- While the student is not expected to work directly in a database or content management system, training on these processes can be provided if desired. There may also be an opportunity to learn how to raise the profile of collections using Wikidata and Wikisource.

### Required knowledge and skills

Please ensure that you are aware of the general expectations for all applicants, as detailed in the [Application Guidelines on the British Library website](#).

For this specific project, the following additional criteria apply:

- Good knowledge of Turkish and Ottoman Turkish.
- Some knowledge of Bulgarian would be useful but is not essential.
- An interest in cataloguing and digital access and engagement with collections is desirable.

Application deadline: 5pm on Friday **18 December 2020**

Further information on eligibility, conditions and how to apply is available on the British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/news/2020/october/phd-placement-adverts-2020>