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Chapter 1 : The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin De Busbecq

Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq (in *Comines* - 28 October ; Latin: *Augerius Gislenius Busbequius*; sometimes *Augier Ghislain de Busbecq*) was a 16th-century Flemish writer, herbalist and diplomat in the employ of three generations of Austrian monarchs.

His intellectual gifts led him to advanced studies at the Latin-language University of Leuven , where he registered in under the name Ogier Ghislain de Comines. From there, he went on to study at a number of well-known universities in northern Italy , including taking classes from Giovanni Battista Egnazio in Venice. Busbecq, like his father and grandfather, chose a career of public service. He entered into the service of the Austrian monarch Ferdinand I in approximately 1532. At the Ottoman court in and again in 1548, [1] Ferdinand named him ambassador to the Ottoman Empire under the rule of Suleiman the Magnificent. His task for much of the time he was in Constantinople was the negotiation of a border treaty between his employer the future Holy Roman Emperor and the Sultan over the disputed territory of Transylvania. Cover page of *Turcicae epistolae*, ed. These letters describe his adventures in Ottoman politics and remain one of the principal primary sources for students of the 16th-century Ottoman court. He also wrote in enormous detail about the plant and animal life he encountered in Turkey. His letters also contain the only surviving word list of Crimean Gothic , a Germanic dialect spoken in some isolated regions of the Crimean at the time. He identified its origin from his reading of Suetonius and published a copy of parts of it in his *Turkish Letters*. Less than a century later tulip mania was sweeping the United Provinces and ruining its financial markets. Busbecq has also been credited with introducing the lilac to Europe though this is debated [2] as well as the Angora goat. Finally, in 1552 and nearing the end of his life, he chose to leave his residence in Mantes outside of Paris for his native West Flanders , but was assaulted and robbed by members of the Catholic League near Rouen. He died a few days later. His body is buried in the castle chapel at Saint-Germain-sous-Cailly nearby, and his heart was embalmed and sent to the family tomb in Bousbecque. *Itinera Constantinopolitanum et Amasianum* , later published as *A. Epistolae ad Rudolphum II. Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq. Turkish Letters*, English, translator not credited.

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Chapter 2 : Augier Ghislain de Busbecq | Flemish diplomat | www.nxgvision.com

The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq Volume 1. by Busbecq, Ogier Ghislain de, ; Forster, Charles Thornton; Daniell, Francis Henry Blackburne.

Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq: His letters provide important foreign accounts of the Ottoman state. Because Busbecq was trying to bring about reform at home, he did not dwell on the very real problems with Ottoman government. At Buda I made my first acquaintance with the Janissaries; this is the name by which the Turks call the infantry of the royal guard. The Turkish state has 12, of these troops when the corps is at its full strength. They are scattered through every part of the empire, either to garrison the forts against the enemy, or to protect the Christians and Jews from the violence of the mob. There is no district with any considerable amount of population, no borough or city, which has not a detachment of Janissaries to protect the Christians, Jews, and other helpless people from outrage and wrong. A garrison of Janissaries is always stationed in the citadel of Buda. The dress of these men consists of a robe reaching down to the ankles, while, to cover their heads, they employ a cowl which, by their account, was originally a cloak sleeve, part of which contains the head, while the remainder hangs down and flaps against the neck. On their forehead is placed a silver gilt cone of considerable height, studded with stones of no great value. These Janissaries generally came to me in pairs. When they were admitted to my dining room they first made a bow, and then came quickly up to me, all but running, and touched my dress or hand, as if they intended to kiss it. After reaching the door, they would stand respectfully with their arms crossed, and their eyes bent on the ground, looking more like monks than warriors. On receiving a few small coins which was what they wanted they bowed again, thanked me in loud tones, and went off blessing me for my kindness. To tell you the truth, if I had not been told beforehand that they were Janissaries, I should, without hesitation, have taken them for members of some order of Turkish monks, or brethren of some Moslem college. Yet these are the famous Janissaries, whose approach inspires terror everywhere. These mules and camels also serve to carry tents and armour, and likewise tools and munitions for the campaign. The invading army carefully abstains from encroaching on its magazines at the outset; as they are well aware that when the season for campaigning draws to a close, they will have to retreat over districts wasted by the enemy, or scraped bare by countless hordes of men and droves of hungry animals, as if they had been devastated by locusts; accordingly they reserve their stores as much as possible for this emergency. The rest of the army is badly off, unless they have provided some supplies at their own expense. On such occasions they take out a few spoonfuls of flour and put them into water, adding some butter, and seasoning the mess with salt and spices; these ingredients are boiled, and a large bowl of gruel is thus obtained. Of this they eat once or twice a day, according to the quantity they have, without any bread, unless they have brought some biscuit with them. Sometimes they have recourse to horseflesh; dead horses are of course plentiful in their great hosts, and such beasts as are in good condition when they die furnish a meal not to be despised by famished soldiers. What a contrast to our men! Christian soldiers on a campaign refuse to put up with their ordinary food, and call for thrushes, becaficos [a small bird esteemed a dainty, as it feeds on figs and grapes], and suchlike dainty dishes! It makes me shudder to think of what the result of a struggle between such different systems must be; one of us must prevail and the other be destroyed, at any rate we cannot both exist in safety. On their side is the vast wealth of their empire, unimpaired resources, experience and practice in arms, a veteran soldiery, an uninterrupted series of victories, readiness to endure hardships, union, order, discipline, thrift and watchfulness. On ours are found an empty exchequer, luxurious habits, exhausted resources, broken spirits, a raw and insubordinate soldiery, and greedy quarrels; there is no regard for discipline, license runs riot, the men indulge in drunkenness and debauchery, and worst of all, the enemy are accustomed to victory, we to defeat. Can we doubt what the result must be? The only obstacle is Persia, whose position on his rear forces the invader to take precautions. The fear of Persia gives us a respite, but it is only for a time. No distinction is attached to birth among the Turks; the deference to be paid to a man is

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measured by the position he holds in the public service. In making his appointments the Sultan pays no regard to any pretensions on the score of wealth or rank, nor does he take into consideration recommendations or popularity, he considers each case on its own merits, and examines carefully into the character, ability, and disposition of the man whose promotion is in question. It is by merit that men rise in the service, a system which ensures that posts should only be assigned to the competent. Each man in Turkey carries in his own hand his ancestry and his position in life, which he may make or mar as he will. Among the Turks, therefore, honours, high posts, and judgeships are the rewards of great ability and good service. If a man be dishonest, or lazy, or careless, he remains at the bottom of the ladder, an object of contempt; for such qualities there are no honours in Turkey! This is the reason that they are successful in their undertakings, that they lord it over others, and are daily extending the bounds of their empire. These are not our ideas, with us there is no opening left for merit; birth is the standard for everything; the prestige of birth is the sole key to advancement in the public service. Kegan Paul, , pp, , , , This text is part of the Internet Modern History Sourcebook. The Sourcebook is a collection of public domain and copy-permitted texts for introductory level classes in modern European and World history. Unless otherwise indicated the specific electronic form of the document is copyright. Permission is granted for electronic copying, distribution in print form for educational purposes and personal use. If you do reduplicate the document, indicate the source. No permission is granted for commercial use of the Sourcebook.

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Chapter 3 : Full text of "The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq Volume 1"

The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq (Volume 1) and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

Save Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, , Augerius Gislenius Busbequius; sometimes Augier Ghislain de Busbecq was a 16th-century Flemish writer, herbalist and diplomat in the employ of three generations of Austrian monarchs. He served as ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in Constantinople and in published a book about his time there, *Itinera Constantinopolitanum et Amasianum*, re-published in under the title of *Turcicae epistolae* or "Turkish Letters". Early years He was born the illegitimate son of the Seigneur de Busbecq, Georges Ghiselin, and his mistress Catherine Hespel, although he was later legitimated. From there, he went on to study at a number of well-known universities in northern Italy , including taking classes from Giovanni Battista Egnazio in Venice. Like his father and grandfather, Busbecq chose a career of public service. He started work in the court of the Austrian monarch Ferdinand I in approximately At the Ottoman court In and again in ,[1] Ferdinand named him ambassador to the Ottoman Empire under the rule of Suleiman the Magnificent. His task for much of the time he was in Constantinople was the negotiation of a border treaty between his employer the future Holy Roman Emperor and the Sultan over the disputed territory of Transylvania. Cover page of *Turcicae epistolae*, ed. These letters describe his adventures in Ottoman politics and remain one of the principal primary sources for students of the 16th-century Ottoman court. He also wrote in enormous detail about the plant and animal life he encountered in Turkey. His letters also contain the only surviving word list of Crimean Gothic , a Germanic dialect spoken at the time in some isolated regions of Crimea. He identified its origin from his reading of Suetonius and published a copy of parts of it in his Turkish Letters. Busbecq has also been credited with introducing the lilac to northern Europe though this is debated [2] as well as the Angora goat. Finally, in and nearing the end of his life, he chose to leave his residence in Mantes outside of Paris for his native West Flanders , but was assaulted and robbed by members of the Catholic League near Rouen. He died a few days later. His body is buried in the castle chapel at Saint-Germain-sous-Cailly near where he died, and his heart was embalmed and sent to the family tomb in Bousbecque. *Itinera Constantinopolitanum et Amasianum* , later published as *A. Epistolae ad Rudolphum II.* Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq.

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Chapter 4 : The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq (Complete)

Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq () was a Flemish herbalist, diplomat and writer. In , Ferdinand I, soon to be Holy Roman Emperor, dispatched him to Suleiman the Magnificent's court as an ambassador to the Ottoman empire, where Busbecq spent years negotiating a border dispute between his employer and the sultan.

In essence Ogier was a was a writer, herbalist and diplomat. He was born in and spent his lifetime in the employ of three generations of Austrian monarchs. These letters were part of personal correspondence to his friend, Nicholas Michault, who was also a Hungarian diplomat. The letters themselves largely describe Ogiers activities and involvement in Ottoman politics He is also known for having been a keen collector who acquired precious manuscripts, rare coins and main other mementos of the Ottomans. In his first letter de Busbecq says: We were surprised to find them flowering in mid-winter, scarcely a favourable season The tulip has little or no scent, but it is admired for its beauty and the variety of its colours. The Turks are very fond of flowers, and, though they are otherwise anything but extravagant, they do not hesitate to pay several aspres for a fine blossom. These flowers, although they were gifts, cost me a good deal; for I had always to pay several aspres in return for them. Other than this, de Busbecq is also credited to have been the first European to describe yoghurt and by so doing introduce it to Europe. He goes into detail about his encounters with the Janisarries, their attire and how they held themseves in strict discipline and obeisance to the Sultan. In one of his letters, he starts off initially by describing the grace and respectfulness in which he was greeted by the Janissaries during his first visit saying "To tell you the truth, if I had not been told beforehand that they were Janissaries, I should, without hesitation, have taken them for members of some order of Turkish monks, or brethren of some Moslem college. Yet these are the famous Janissaries, whose approach inspires terror everywhere. What a contrast to our men! Christian soldiers on a campaign refuse to put up with their ordinary food, and call for thrushes, becaficos [a small bird esteemed a dainty, as it feeds on figs and grapes], and suchlike dainty dishes! It makes me shudder to think of what the result of a struggle between such different systems must be"- The Turkish Letters, In this and other ways de Busbecq uses his letters to criticize the Western system of the superiority of bloodlines and aristocracy over merit and personal ability. This is understandable not only because of the Ottoman example that de Busbecq was observing but also in light of his own illegitimacy which had impacted on his life path. One can also not ignore the fact that de Busbecq is definitely not unbiased since at the times of the letters he was one of the people advocating for reform in his country thus his representations of the Ottomans while highly accurate are tainted with his own motives. There are many other references of de Busbecq in history but his most famous works remains the Turkish Letters that he wrote as a result of his tenure in Constantinople. De Busbecq left the Ottoman lands in at which time he became a counselor in the court of Emperor Ferdinand in Vienna. Epistolae ad Rudolphum II.

Chapter 5 : Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq - Wikipedia

The letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq sent during his 8 years of duty as Emperor Ferdinand's Ambassador to the Ottoman Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent stands out as a flowing narrative and a good insight into the life of 16th century Ottoman Empire and the relationship between Europe and the.

Chapter 6 : The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, Volume 2 by Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq

Of France, and sent letters to Augsburg next day for me to take to her. I was speaking to someone to-day who had come but lately from the Prince of Orange, and he said that negotiations 1 for peace had been opened with him through St. Aldegonde, who was a prisoner in the hands of the Royalists. He.

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Chapter 7 : Internet History Sourcebooks

This is the second volume of letters from Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, in a time period when he is acting as the guardian of Elisabeth of Austria, daughter of Emperor Ferdinand and widow of French King Charles IX.

Chapter 8 : The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, Volume 1 by Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq

The Life and Letters of Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq: Seigneur.

Chapter 9 : History of the Ottoman Empire: Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq

Ogier Ghislain de Busbecq, also spelled Ogier Ghiselin De Busbeck, (born , Comines, Flanders [now on the Belgian-French border]â€”died October 28, , St. Germain, near Rouen, France), Flemish diplomat and man of letters who, as ambassador to Constantinople (now Istanbul), wrote informatively about Turkish life.