

## Some Castle Drawings In The Ottoman Archives And An Evaluation\*

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### Abstract

Castles had a significant place among the other military buildings in the Middle Ages and the Near Age. This is also true for the Ottoman Empire where castles, among other military buildings, played an important role in both the growing and expansion, and the collapse of the State. Therefore, castles always came first among the buildings in the Ottoman State on which a watchful and caring eye was kept. Numerous books and documents contained in the Ottoman Archives which refer to the maintenance, repair, and utilization of castles are important documents with the quality of confirming this view. Among these documents in the Ottoman Archives are castle drawings in the Ottoman Archives, which belong to castles situated in the regions which have come under the rule of the Ottoman State, yet a majority of which are presently out of the borders of Anatolia. The scope of this article hereby is restricted to six of these drawings. The subject drawings belong to the castles of Aba, Anapa, Avlonya, Elbasan (Ilbasan), Kalkandelen (Tetova), Ulgun. These drawings are original documents for assessing the place of castles in Ottoman architecture, as well as they reveal the importance the Ottoman State attached to castles. Because, it is probable that many parts of these castles are destroyed or ruined today. Thus, by the help of these drawings, the architectural statuses, key plans, and surrounding buildings of the above-cited six castles shall be demonstrated. Furthermore, the drawings to be introduced in this article shall contribute to a great extent to the archeological excavations to be made at these castles and the researches to be conducted hereafter.

**Keywords:** *Castle, Castle Drawings, Ottoman Archives, Ottoman State.*

### Özet

Ortaçağ ve yakın çağda askeri yapılar içerisinde kalelerin önemli bir yeri olmuştur. Osmanlı devletinde de askeri yapılar içindeki kaleler ,

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devletin hem büyüyüp genişlemesinde hem de yıkılışında önemli bir yere sahiptir. Bu nedenle , osmanlı devletinde kaleler her zaman gözetilen yapıların başında yer almıştır. Kalelerin bakım , onarım ve kullanımlarıyla ilgili Osmanlı Arşivi'ndeki pek çok defter ve belge bu durumu teyit eden önemli dokümanlardır. Bu dokümanlar arasında Osmanlı Arşivi'nde kale çizimleri de bulunmaktadır. Bu çizimler, Osmanlı devletinin egemen olduğu ve bugün çoğunluğu, Anadolu sınırları dışında kalan bölgelerdeki kalelere aittir. Bu makalede bu çizimlerden altı tanesi üzerinde durulacaktır. Çizimler Aba, Anapa, Avlonya, Elbasan, (İlbasan) ve Kalkandelen (Tetova) kaleleriyle ilgilidir. Bu çizimler Osmanlı devletinin kalelere verdiği önemi ortaya koymasının yanında , Osmanlı mimarisinde kalelerin yerinin tespitinde orijinal belgelerdir. Çünkü bugün bu kalelerin pek çok bölümleri ortadan kalkmış veya harap durumdadır. Böylece bu çizimlerle, yukarıda belirttiğimiz altı kalenin mimari durumları, vaziyet planları ve çevrelerindeki yapılar ortaya konulmaya çalışılmıştır. Ayrıca, bu makalede tanıtılan özgün çizimlerin, bu altı kalede yapılacak olan arkeolojik kazılar ve bundan sonra yapılacak olan araştırmalara büyük bir katkı sağlayacağı inancındayız.

### **Anahtar Kelimeler**

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kale, Kale Çizimleri, Osmanlı Arşivi, Osmanlı Devleti.

Since ancient times, human beings have built castles with high walls around the cities where they lived in order to guarantee their own security and to better defend their settlements against their enemies.<sup>1</sup> The Seljukids and the principalities that once ruled in Anatolia also provided security of their cities and towns by surrounding them with high city walls or castles.<sup>2</sup> In the Turkified Anatolia and other regions that fell under Turkish sovereignty with the Ottoman expansion in later periods, many brand-new castles were built. Sometimes old castles that were located in strategically important regions were repaired with additional new components, sometimes these castle were re-built to be Turkish fortresses.<sup>3</sup>

With the development in cannonball making in early modern period, the most innovative change in castle construction was made by Sebastian

<sup>1</sup> For more information about castles, see S. Eyice, "Kale," *Türk Ansiklopedisi* (Ankara, 1974), v.21, pp.137-148; idem, "Kale," *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul, 2001), v.24, pp. 234-242; M. Streeck, "Kale," *İslam Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul, 1955), v. 6, pp. 124-125; O. Piper, *Burgenkunde* (München, 1912), pp. 10-12; N. Sevgen, *Anadolu Kaleleri-I* (Ankara 1959); A. Gabriel, *İstanbul Türk Kaleleri* (translated by A. Ilgaz), (İstanbul, 1941); S. Tay, *The History of Fortification* (London, 1954), pp. 20-30; İ. Utkular, *Çanakkale Boğazı'nda Fatih Kaleleri* (İstanbul, 1953); "Kale," *Anna Britannica*, (İstanbul, 1988), v. 12, pp. 421-422; "Kale," *Meydan Larousse*, (İstanbul, 1988), v.6, pp.795-796; C.E. Arseven, "Kale," *Sanat Ansiklopedisi*, (İstanbul, 1957), v.2, pp. 908-909.

<sup>2</sup> Eyice, "Kale," *Türk Ansiklopedisi*, v. 21, p. 145.

<sup>3</sup> Eyice, *ibid*, v. 21, p. 145.



Lesprestre Marquis de Vauben, a French expert on military architecture. With Vauben, because they were easy target for the enemy cannonball fires, the idea of building fortresses with high walls and towers was brought to an end, and construction of castles with shorter walls was introduced. This development in castle architecture improved the state of the arts in building castles with bastions<sup>4</sup> on the one hand, and gave rise to the principle of firing cannon balls at a low altitude, on the other.<sup>5</sup> In the Ottoman times, Sultan Mustafa III (1757-1774) brought Francois Baron de Tott, a military engineer of Hungarian origin, from France to put to use the new castle construction methods<sup>6</sup> in fortification of İstanbul and Çanakkale straits.<sup>7</sup>

Possessing extensive territories, the Ottoman Empire was in constant warfare both in the east and in the west. Thus, building, restoration and utilization of castles were extremely important for such a country. For this very reason, a special military unit was established under the names of Hisar Erenleri and Kale Muhafızları (Guardians of the Castle) for the security of castles, and two additional independent offices, called the Büyük Kale Kalemi and the Küçük Kale Kalemi, responsible to Central Treasury (Defterdarlık), were created to deal with the financial affairs of the military units.<sup>8</sup> Other than these two offices, another high office called Kila' Nezareti (Ministry of Castles) was established only to take care of the construction and restoration of the castles.<sup>9</sup> The castles thus always had the first priority in the Ottoman Empire among the important buildings, and by the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century, strategic castles started to keep a castle architect inside them.<sup>10</sup>

The considerably large part of the ledgers (Defters) and documents in the Ottoman Archives are related to the construction, reconstruction, restoration and utilization of the castles.<sup>11</sup> In addition to these, castle

<sup>4</sup> For more information about bastions, see N. Çam, "Osmanlı Tabyaları," *Osmanlı* (Ed. G. Eren) (Ankara, 1999), v.10, pp. 333-346; idem, *Erzurum Tabyaları* (Ankara, 1993), pp .1-203.

<sup>5</sup> Eyice, *ibid*, v. 21, p. 140.

<sup>6</sup> For more information about Ottoman castles, see A. Boran, "Osmanlı Dönemi Kale Mimarisi", *Osmanlı*, opt. cit. v. 10, pp. 347-363.

<sup>7</sup> Eyice, *ibid*, v:21, p:140

<sup>8</sup> Ş. Turan, "Osmanlı Teşkilatında Hassa Mimarları," *Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, v. 1, n.1, pp. 165.

<sup>9</sup> Turan, *ibid*, pp.199-200.

<sup>10</sup> For information about castle architects, see A. Dündar, *Arşivlerdeki Plan ve Çizimler Işığında Osmanlı İmar Sistemi (XVIII. and XIX. Centuries)* (Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı Yayınları, 2000), pp.52-55.

<sup>11</sup> See Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi (BOA), İbnü'l-Emin Umur-ı Nafi`a (İEUN), 37; Kamil Kepeci (KK), no.15907; Bab-ı Defteri Başmuhasebe Bina Emni (D. BSM/BNE), nos. 16059, 15914, 15923, 15907; Hatt-ı Hümayun (HH) 10779, 13098, 14598; Maliyeden Müdevver Defterler (MAD), no. 3160, 3162.



drawings can also be found and all of the drawings in the Ottoman Archives have been put together in the Catalog of Plans, Projects and Sketches.<sup>12</sup>

We have found that in this catalog concerning the castle are fifty-seven registered drawings. These drawings are of the following castles: the castles of Rhodes, Belgrade, Jiddah, Aba, Akhisar, Alexandria, Anapa, Avlonya, Bar, Berat, Besikar, Debre, Dikelyasa, Drac, Elbasan, Gulam, Ismail, Iskodra, Ispoz, Kacanik, Kalkandelen, Katine, Kafesol, Kefa, Lebkor, Leftkor, Les, Macin, Magosa, Morglic, Marde, Okrikse, Özü, Herson, Palermo, Perme, Delvine, Gardik, Iskolbere, Kelisode, Iliki, Prizren, Podgorice, Sinop, Suhzir, Tepedelen, Ulgun, Skopje, Vulcetrin, Vrice, Vuyvar, Yanya, Yarga, Yeni, Yunda ve Zabyak. Added to these are a sketch of an unnamed castle on the bank of Danube River, a drawing that shows the parts to be restored of a castle again on the bank of Danube River,

plans indicating the place and surrounding areas of two castles that are reported to have been built in the Serbian land bordering Piristine, Kosovo, and finally, the drawings of castles that are said to be built on Kiripça and Poyraz Points on the Black Sea section of the Bosphorus.

In this article, we shall deal with drawings of the following castles in the alphabetical order: Aba, Anapa, Avlonya, Elbasan, Kalkandelen and Ulgun.

### 1. THE DRAWING OF THE CASTLE OF ABA

The city of Aba appears to be shown in different places,<sup>13</sup> we could not find information regarding the whereabouts of the city or the castle known by this name during the Ottoman times. The drawing of the Castle of Avlonya with the size of 25x34 cm is registered with the number of 830 in the Catalog of Plans, Projects and Sketches of the Ottoman Archives. The scale of the castle is placed at the bottom left corner of the drawing and the "Zira'-i Osmani"<sup>14</sup> is used as the measurement unit in the scale. (Drawing 1)

<sup>12</sup> See Dündar, *ibid*, pp. 96-138, 143-224.

<sup>13</sup> According to one of the sources, Aba is reported to be the name of a place mentioned in a Greek epigraphy found in the village of Baharlar in Ayvacık, Çanakkale; or a place that the Lydians had once inhabited; or, according to some archeologists, a place full of ancient ruins near Davazlı in the Sardis area (see "Aba," *Türk Ansiklopedisi*, v.1 (İstanbul, 1968), p. 7). In another source, Aba is said to be located on the west bank of the Aba River in the state of Lmo, south of Nigeria, and it is a city where the roads leading to Port Harcourt, Owerri, Umuahia, Ikot Akpene and Ikot Abasi (Opobo) intersect (see "Aba," *Anna Britannica*, v.1 (İstanbul, 1986), p. 4. Şemseddin Sami speaks of Aba as a city known for its temple of Apollo in the state of Fokide in ancient Greece, and a city which its denizens abandoned due to the invasion of Ardişir, King of Iran, for Eğriboz Island (see, S. Sami, *Kamus'ı-A'lam*, v.1 (Ankara: Kaşgar Neşriyat, 1996), p.1).

<sup>14</sup> Zira' is an old measure used by the Ottomans and is of the length extending from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. It has various types with different lengths between 75 and 90 cm. One type of it, *zira'-i mimari*, was 0.758 meter and was used especially in construction (see M. Sözen-U. Tanyeli, *Sanat Kavram ve Terimleri Sözlüğü* (İstanbul, 1992), p. 260; M.Z. Pakalın, *Osmanlı Tarih Deyimleri ve Terimleri Sözlüğü*, (İstanbul, 1993), v.3, pp.263-264; F. Günergun, "Osmanlı Ölçü ve Tartılarının Eski Fransız ve Metre



The entrance of the castle is through a gate on the upper level. "Atik Köşk Mahalli" (the location of the Old Mansion) appears to be on the left hand side of the gate, and the "protective wall to be rebuilt" is shown on the right. Through this gate, a spacious interior courtyard is reached, and across this courtyard is found another gate. And this second gate opens to another large courtyard. There is a cistern at the bottom left corner of the courtyard and next to the cistern there is dorm cell extending downward. To the left of the dorm cell, the place of an old palace is indicated with the words "atik saray mahalli" (the location of the old palace) which is drawn with interrupted lines. There exist an arsenal at the bottom right corner of the palace. Also noticeable in the drawing is an unnamed bastion. To the left of the bastion is a wide 19-step stairs. The bastion is reached through a 4-step stairs near the top of the wide stairs.

The interior courtyard of the bastion is indicated with the words "Tabya tahti zir-i zemin," the covered section in bold color and the parapet walk/recoil with the word "seğirdim."<sup>15</sup> The *seğirdim* is climbed through a 4-step stairs on the left. The bastion has two loopholes on each of the two sides.

As is understood from the drawing, the castle of Aba is formed of one large bastion, an arsenal, a dorm cell and a cistern.

The drawing has no date on it. It is most likely that the drawing was created to show both the current state of the castle and the place of the protective wall that was planned to be built. It can be seen that with the construction of this all-encompassing wall, the bastion too would be shielded from all sides.

## 2. THE DRAWING OF THE CASTLE OF ANAPA

The drawing of the castle of Anapa,<sup>16</sup> which is a port city in the Kuban region of north Caucasia on the northeast coast of the Black Sea, is of the size of 50x51 cm and is registered in the Catalog of Plans, Projects and Sketches of the Ottoman Archives. The scale appears on the lower right corner, and the sign of directions on the upper right. The drawing has no date on it, but the Catalog has it that the drawing was made on 6 Zilkade 1207/15 June 1791. This date may have been taken during the cataloging process from a ledger or a document that had this specific date. In fact, the statement on the drawing that reads "Defterde mezkur hedmi lazım gelen

Sistemlerindeki Eşdeğerleri: İlk Karşılaştırmalar ve Çevirme Cetvelleri," *Osmanlı Bilimi Araştırmaları II* (İstanbul 1998), pp. 23-63; idem, "Osmanlılar ve Metre Sistemi," *Osmanlı* (eds. G. Eren, K. Çiçek, C. Oğuz, Ankara, 1999), v. 8, pp. 655-663).

<sup>15</sup> Seğirdim, also know as Seyirtim Place or Seyirtim Path, is the protected and elevated walkway attached to castle walls from the inside on which soldiers stood during defense (Sözen-Tanyeli, *ibid*, p. 214). Seğirdim also meant the part of the wall where the backward action of a cannonball upon firing occurs.

<sup>16</sup> See "Anapa," *Meydan Larousse*, (Istanbul, 1969), v.1, p. 496; Şemseddin Sami, *ibid*, v.1, p. 387; "Anapa," *İslam Ansiklopedisi*, (Istanbul, 1950), v.1, p.431.



binalar işbu mevzi' derunundadır" (the structures that need to be demolished are in this very location) corroborates our view. (Drawing 2)

According to the drawing, the Black Sea falls to the north and west of the castle of Anapa. The pier is marked in the north in writing. In drawing, the castle walls facing the sea are not shown, but the bastions in the south and the east are identified by name. The drawing shown the Necder bastion at the northeast corner, next to the bastion, the place of the new trench is indicated with the explanation " the trench line to be dug anew." The castle has two gates, one on the south side and the other on the east side. In the drawing, the name of the east gate reads the Grand Gate, but the name of the south gate is not legible. There are two notes on the upper part of the Grand Gate. One of the notes indicates the structures near the northeast corner that would be torn down, which was mentioned in the ledger, as we have mentioned, and the other note says that the Grand Gate would be rebuilt and a road leading to the city would be paved.

According to the drawing, the castle has four bastions, the Pasha Bastion in the southeast, the Ağa Bastion, the Ali Ağa bastion, and the Derviş bastion in the south. Thus the drawing shows that the city of Anapa is surrounded by bastions from the directions of east and south.

### Evaluation

Evliya Çelebi describes the castle of Anapa as a beautiful castle that was made of brick on a rock and round in shape, and reports that it had been built in the time of Alexander but was captured by the Genoese.<sup>17</sup> Anapa was taken from the Genoese in 1479, during the last years of the reign of Sultan Mehmed II, was incorporated to the Sanjak of Kefe.<sup>18</sup> Ferruh Ali Paşa started the construction of the new castle of Anapa in 1782 on the ruins of the Genoese Castle, which was known as Napa and was very important in terms of its geographic and strategic location, and completed it in 1784.<sup>19</sup> The naming of the bastions as the Paşa, Ağa, and Ali Ağa bastions in the drawing at hand in such a way to evoke the name of Ferruh Ali Paşa supports this information.

As we have mentioned above, the drawing dates from June 15, 1791. However, the note that read "the old image of the castle of Anapa" found at the bottom right corner suggests that the drawing at hand is of the one that was built by Ferruh Ali Paşa, and that the date of June 15, 1791 should be related to the reconstruction of the places shown in the drawing. Moreover, we understand that the castle was badly damaged during the Russian attacks in 1787-1788 and in the battle known as the Battle of Anapa in

<sup>17</sup> E. Çelebi, *Seyahatname* (İstanbul: Orhaniye Matbaası), v.7, pp. 728-729.

<sup>18</sup> See M.F. Kırzioğlu, *Osmanlıların Kafkas-Ellerini Fethi (1451-1590)* (Ankara, 1998), pp. 65-68, 70-71, 383.

<sup>19</sup> "Anapa," *Türk Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul, 1966), v.2, p.430.



1790.<sup>20</sup> Thus, perhaps, the parts of the castle that need to be rebuilt in 1791 are shown on this old drawing.

The castle, which had changed hands several times between the Russians and the Turks was left to Russia with the Edirne Peace Accord in 1829.<sup>21</sup>

### 3- THE DRAWING OF THE CASTLE OF AVLONYA

The city that was known as Aulon in antiquity, as Avlona by the French, Valona by the Italians, Vlore by the Albanians, and Avlonya by the Ottomans, is located in Albania. It is on the coast of a bay surrounded by Sasan Island and Karaburun Peninsula and it lies 60 kilometers southwest of the city of Berat and 130 kilometers northwest of the city of Yanya.<sup>22</sup>

The drawing of the Castle of Avlonya with the size of 25x33 cm is registered with the number of 830 in the Catalog of Plans Projects and Sketches in the Ottoman Archives. The drawing has the scale on it as well. Underneath the scale is the port of Avlonya specified in writing. Moreover, on the left hand side of the drawing, there are two A-B cross-sections with a line that reads: "Elif-Be hattıyle ufuka amuden kat olunan resmi" (the cross-section image of it that is cut vertically). But there is no direction specified on the drawing. (Drawing 3)

According to the drawing, the Castle of Avlonya is of the shape of a decagon. The castle is surrounded by a wide trench. It has two gates: one on the upper side of the castle and the other symmetrically located on the lower side of the walls. The place of the mosque is marked in the middle of the courtyard. As is seen at the lower left side of the drawing, there appears an arsenal (ammunition store) near the castle wall. Furthermore, the castle has ten cannon recoils, one recoil for each side of the castle. Moreover, in the drawing, there appear two bastions; one is called "the Tüfenk Tabyası" (the Rifle bastion) which lies to the left of the door, and the other unnamed bastion on the right. The unnamed bastion on the right makes an outward protruding in the shape of a pentagon, while the Rifle Rampart does not appear to have any shape.

The words "Oda Tahtı" (under room) on the bottom right side of the drawing suggests that there may have been a room in that place. The section that is shown with an illegible remark and a small protruding in the same location is most likely to be a second door. Perhaps with the modifications made with this drawing, this door was shut down and a room was created in the area behind this door. With the exceptions of this side of the castle, the other side of the door and the side with the unnamed bastion, the remaining seven sides of the castle have towers.

### Evaluation

<sup>20</sup> "Anapa," *Meydan Larousse* (İstanbul, 1969), v.1, p.496.

<sup>21</sup> Kirzioğlu, *ibid*, p. 7.

<sup>22</sup> Sami, *ibid*, v.1, p. 493; M. Kiel, "Avlonya," *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı Ansiklopedisi*, v. 4, p. 119; *Türk Ansiklopedisi*, v. 4, (Ankara, 1966), p. 269.

Avlonya, which was annexed to Ottoman lands together with the city of Berat and the castle of Canina in 1417, became the center of a Sanjak with the same name after the Ottoman rule was secured in the region.<sup>23</sup> The construction of the castle of Avlonya started in 1537 at the behest of the Sultan Süleyman the Lawgiver, and was probably completed in 1542-1543. We do not know for certain whom the architect of the castle was, even though Evliya Çelebi remarks that it was Mimar Sinan.<sup>24</sup>

The Castle of Avlonya is said to be an octagon in the work of Evliya Çelebi as well as in later works. The castle is also shown to be an octagon in a drawing supposedly showing the attack by the army of the Holy Alliance to Canina ad Avlonya on September 17-18, 1690 (Drawing 4),<sup>25</sup> and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction drawing of Apollon Baçe (Drawing 5).<sup>26</sup>

However, as our drawing shows, the castle is a decagon. This discrepancy stems from the conflict between the information presented by Çelebi and the drawing dating from 1690. Furthermore, the pentagon tower that appears on only one of the sides of the castle on the drawing taken from the Ottoman Archives appears to be eight in number, that is, the octagon castle has one tower for each corner in both the drawing of 1690 and the drawing of Baçe. While all other towers resemble each other, in the location of the arsenal on the drawing at issue, there is a bigger tower, as was mentioned by Evliya Çelebi.

We also learn from Çelebi that the mosque in the middle of the fortress was built at the behest of the Sultan Süleyman in the same spot where the Shaykh Ya`qub Efendi Masjid had once stood.<sup>27</sup> Çelebi also notes that the mosque was crowned with a stonework dome and had a demolished minaret. He further provides us with the epigraph (*kitabe*) of the mosque, according to which the mosque was built in 949/1542.<sup>28</sup> This epigraph turned out to be the only part of the mosque that has survived.<sup>29</sup> The castle of Avlonya became ruins at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and its stones were used in constructing roads.<sup>30</sup>

We have not been able to determine for certain in what year and for what purpose the drawing of the castle of Avlonya found in the Ottoman Archives was created. Yet we can speculate that this drawing was probably created after 1690s. In this case, if there is no error in the drawing dating

<sup>23</sup> M. Kiel, *Ottoman Architecture in Albania 1385-1912* (Istanbul, 1990), p. 266. Kiel, *ibid*, p. 118. For the Principality of Avlonya, also see I. H. Uzuncarsili, *Osmanlı Tarihi* (Ankara, 1988), v.2, pp.135-136.

<sup>24</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, v. 8, p. 704. Also see, Kiel, *ibid*, p. 118.

<sup>25</sup> K. Adrews, *Castles of the Morea* (Amsterdam, 1978), pp. 255-256, Plate xxxix.

<sup>26</sup> See Kiel, *ibid*, p. 118; Çelebi, c.8, p. 704-707; E. H. Ayverdi, *Avrupa'da Osmanlı Eserleri: Bulgaristan, Yunanistan, Arnavutluk* (İstanbul, 1962), v.4, Books 4, 5, 6, p. 389.

<sup>27</sup> For more information about the castle, see Kiel, *ibid*, pp. 269-275.

<sup>28</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, c.8, p. 706.

<sup>29</sup> Kiel, *ibid*, p. 267.

<sup>30</sup> Kiel, *ibid*, p.119.



from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, we have to accept that the original shape of the castle was octagonal. However, when we accept this for a fact, then it will be rather difficult to explain why the octagon castle was turned into a decagon and the towers at the corners were removed. Moreover, we do not have information as to whether the drawing at issue was drawn in order to reconstruct the castle that was completely destroyed or to reinforce the present castle with two bastions in accordance with the advancement of cannon technology. It is hoped that archeological excavations would unveil the original shape of the castle and answer such questions.

#### 4. THE DRAWING OF THE CASTLE OF ELBASAN (ILBASAN)

Elbasan is on the Skubi River in the middle part of Albania and to the northeast of Tirane.<sup>31</sup> The drawing of the Castle of Elbasan with the size of 25x34 cm is registered with the number of 837 in the Catalog of Plans Projects and Sketches in the Ottoman Archives. The scale of the drawing is found at the bottom left corner of it. (Drawing 6)

That the city of Elbasan extended over the walls in three directions can be seen on the drawing. We find the market place in the south, and the residential area lies in the east and west of the castle. Underneath the east side of the place where the Ahmed Ağa Gate stands, there appears the location of the Süleymaniye Mosque. Inside the castle, only the streets and the Mansion of Derviş Bey rather than houses are shown.

Understood from the drawing is that the south and west sides of the castle of Elbasan were intact at the time, but the walls of the north and east sides and the towers were torn down. The castle has three gates, one on the east side, one on the west and one on the south. While the name of the western gate is not mentioned, it is noted that the demolished eastern gate is called the Ahmed Ağa Gate and the southern gate is called the Saat Tahtı Gate. The drawing also shows seven towers in total, one at each of the southwest and southeast corners that are shown to be undamaged, two on the south side, and three on the west side. The name of only one of these towers, which is at the southeast corner, is mentioned as "Zindan Kulesi" (Dungeon Tower).

#### Evaluation

The castle of Elbasan was built at the behest of Sultan Mehmed the Conquerer in the years 1465-1466 on the ruins of the ancient city of Scamba that had been uninhabited since the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>32</sup> The purpose of its construction was to control the activities of İskender Bey, who revolted against the Ottomans, and to ensure the security of the roads leading to the north of the country. The ruins of the ancient walls and the great part

<sup>31</sup> For more information, see Kiel, *ibid*, pp. 108-137; *idem*, "İlbasan," *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi*, v. 22, pp. 79-81; Sami, *ibid*, c. 2, p.1157; Çelebi, *ibid*, pp. 716-731; "Elbasan," *Türk Ansiklopedisi* (Ankara, 1966), v.14, pp. 505-506.

<sup>32</sup> Kiel, *ibid*, p. 79; Uzunçarşılı, *ibid*, p. 69, note 1.

of the castle constructed by the order of Mehmed the Conquerer are still standing today.<sup>33</sup> The sides of the castle that are shown to be unimpaired in the drawing and the towers thereof have survived until present.

Evliya Çelebi, who provides detailed information about the city and castle of Elbasan in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, tells us that the castle was a building on a level surface with three gates, that the castle was surrounded with trenches with a depth of two men's height, that there were some 460 houses inside the castle, and that around it lay a very large suburban area.<sup>34</sup> The drawing shows that one of the three gates opens to the marketplace, but the other two sides with gates are not specified. Nevertheless, from the information Evliya Çelebi provides, we understand that the other two gates fall on the east and west sides.<sup>35</sup> Of these gates, only the south gate has been preserved and the other two gates were demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>36</sup> Çelebi tells us, moreover, that the door opening to the marketplace is the main gate, which faces the *qiblah*, and that there is a date on its arch inscribed in *jali* type of calligraphy which indicates the year 859/1454-1455.<sup>37</sup> According to Evliya Çelebi, there was a royal mosque just above the *qiblah* gate with a roof-tile top, and there was also a clock tower near the mosque. That this gate was specified in the drawing as the Saat Altı Gate (Under-clock Gate) partly conforms to the information supplied by Evliya Çelebi; however, there is no information regarding the royal mosque on the drawing. The information given by F. Babinger and G. Karaiskay regarding the measurements of the castle of Elbasan suggests that the castle is more rectangular in shape than square as was claimed by Çelebi.<sup>38</sup>

Citing various sources, Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi enlists 47 mosques in Elbasan.<sup>39</sup> Although the Süleymaniye Mosque is not mentioned in Ayverdi's list, it is found in both Lef Nosi's and Mehmet Tevfik's lists mentioned by M. Kiel.<sup>40</sup>

We have not come across any information regarding when and for what purpose the drawing of the castle of Elbasan was made. Nevertheless, the fact that two sides of the castle were wrecked at the time when the drawing was made indicates that the drawing may have been created at the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century or at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the purpose of restoring the ruined parts and showing the surroundings of the castle.

<sup>33</sup> Kiel, *ibid*, p. 79.

<sup>34</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, p. 716; Kiel, *ibid*, p. 80.

<sup>35</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, s. 718.

<sup>36</sup> Kiel, *ibid*, p. 111.

<sup>37</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, p. 719.

<sup>38</sup> E.H. Ayverdi, *Avrupa'da Osmanlı Eserleri: Bulgaristan, Yunanistan, Arnavutluk* (Istanbul, 1982), v. 4, Books 4,5,6, p. 397.

<sup>39</sup> Ayverdi, *ibid*, pp. 397-398.

<sup>40</sup> See Kiel, *ibid*, pp. 113-114.



For, as we have stated above, while Evliya Celebi provides detailed information about the state of the castle in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, he does not say anything about the destroyed sides of the castle as shown on the drawing.<sup>41</sup>

## 5. THE DRAWING OF THE CASTLE OF KALKANDELEN (TETOVO)

The drawing of the castle, which is located in the city of Kalkandelen<sup>42</sup> that lies along the valley of Polog between the mountains of Šar and Suha Gora 42 kilometers west of Skopje, Macedonia, is of the size of 23x30.5 cm and is registered with the number of 843 in the Catalog of Plans Projects and Sketches in the Ottoman Archives. The scale is found at the bottom right corner of the drawing. (Drawing 7)

The city of Kalkandelen appears to fall beneath the castle in the drawing and there seems to be a long distance the two. There are two roads to the left of the city that lead out, and between these roads stands a large church structure. The road that starts from the church and continues upward in a curved manner, which is called the "Tarik-i Kal'a" (the Castle Road), is said to lead to the castle, while the other one connects the city to remote areas. It is also stated that the mountain shown to be in the upper right part of the drawing is the mountain of Šar, and the hill that falls to the lower right part side of the drawing is called Bal Hill.

According to the drawing the castle has an oblique/slanted plan. Moreover, the castle appears to have two gates, one connecting to the road from the city of Kalkandelen and the other open towards Bal Hill. While no structures appear in the vicinity of Bal Hill, around the two sides of the gate leading to the city there appear some structures about which no information is given and one mansion specified with an explanation that reads "Konak tahtı ziri zemin." There is another mansion inside the castle and a square tower near the upper right hand of the drawing.

## Evaluation

It is known that the region in which the city of Kalkandelen is located was conquered by the Ottomans between 1382 and 1392. After the Ottoman rule was secured in the region, Kalkandelen was made a city center. The city was under the rule of İshakbeyoglu İsa Bey in 1450s, but later it became a town in the County of Paşa until 1560, and after 1562, it was incorporated to the principality of Skopje.<sup>43</sup>

Although the sources mentions such structures as Ahmed Bey Mosque, Alaca Mosque, Ayşe Hatun Mosque, Çarşı Mosque, Old Mosque, Gamgam Mosque, and the Tekke of Harabati Baba in Kalkandelen, the castle of Kalkandelen and the church which are shown in the drawing are

<sup>41</sup> See Çelebi, *ibid*, p. 719.

<sup>42</sup> See Sami, *ibid*, v.5, p. 3556; M. Aruçi, "Kalkandelen," *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul, 2001), p. 262.

<sup>43</sup> Aruçi, *ibid*, p. 262.

not mentioned.<sup>44</sup> On the drawing found in the Ottoman Archives, which shows the castle of Kalkandele and parts of the city of Kalkandele, no structures other than the church are shown.

## 6. THE DRAWING OF THE CASTLE OF ULGUN

Having a variety of names such as Ulgiminyon, Olcinium, Dulcigno, Ulcinj and Montenegro, Ulgun is a very old town located in the northwest of Albania on the coast of Adriatic Sea. It is 30 kilometers southwest of İşkodra, and 20 kilometers southeast of Bar.<sup>45</sup> The drawing of the castle of Ulgun, which is of the size of 40.5x56.5 cm, is registered with the number of 867 in the Catalog of Plans Projects and Sketches in the Ottoman Archives. According to the drawing, the castle is placed on the part of the region that is projecting from the west of the port of Ulgun northward to Adriatic Sea. The scale of the drawing is found at the bottom left corner of it. (Drawing 8)

The drawing shows that the city of Ulgun is comprised of two sections, one inside the castle and one outside it. In the upper left corner of the drawing, the words of town, graveyard and the noble tomb can be seen. No information about whom this tomb belongs to is given. Furthermore, while houses outside the castle are marked on the drawing, inside the castle only streets rather than houses are mapped out.

The structures that are illustrated on the drawing are as follows, starting from the port following along the coast: the water well, Kethuda Bey bastion, the arsenal area, the old arsenal, an unnamed bastion, Kanlı Kule (Bloody tower), Kanlı Kule bastion, another unnamed bastion, Kapi Ustu (Gate-Top) bastion.

There are two entrances to the castle, one entrance from the gate opening to the Kapi Ustu bastion and the other from the gate that is located at the upper left corner of the castle on the drawing. This inner chamber to which the gates open is called the İçkale (Inner-Castle). This section has four bastions, one at each corner. Also, here there are a mosque, one coffee house, one food store, one tower as well as a big dorm that is said to be rebuilt.

## Evaluation

Evliya Celebi records that the first builder of the castle of Ulgun was a Spaniard without mentioning his name. He also reports that the castle was later taken by the Venetians, and that in 883/1473 the Venetians surrendered the castle to Hersekoğlu Ahmed Paşa, one of the viziers of Sultan Mehmed the Conquerer. We also learn that the Sultan, having had it properly repaired/restored, had it registered as the share of the governor of the Sanjak of Alexandria.<sup>46</sup> However, some other historical sources has a

<sup>44</sup> See E.H. Ayverdi, *Avrupa'da Osmanlı Eserleri: Yugoslavya* (Istanbul, 1981), v.3, Book 3 pp. 75-83; Aruçi, *ibid*, p. 263.

<sup>45</sup> Sami, *ibid*, v. 2, p. 1098.

<sup>46</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, v. 5 (Dersaadet İkdâm Matbaası, 1318), p.115.



different account: that Ulgun was conquered by Ahmet Paşa the Albanian in 79/1571<sup>47</sup> during the reign of Sultan Selim II, that it was a town center in the city of İşkodra, and that it was left to Montenegro in 1296/1878.<sup>48</sup>

Evliya Celebi describes the castle of Ulgun as hexagonal in shape and as a city of prosperity and beauty with its ammunitions and provisions. The castle is said to have had towers, loopholes, trenches, the mosque of Mehmed Khan, houses, stores of provisions, arsenals, water cisterns, and the guild of Dizdar Ağa in front of the gate.<sup>49</sup> According to Şemseddin Sami, the castle is commanded by the Mounts Masori and Kolonza from the direction of the land, and sea shores of the castle are very beautiful. He also says that there were 100 residences inside the castle and 600 residences outside it.<sup>50</sup> There are significant similarities between this information that Evliya Çelebi provides and the plan of the castle of Ulgun, which is said to be drawn after the war between the Ottomans and the Venetians in 1751 and which is comprised of three pieces, as well as the engraving pictures reflecting the view of the castle as seen from south and north.<sup>51</sup> (Drawing 9)

We were unable to find out about the date and the purpose of this drawing. Nonetheless, relying on the information in the drawing that some parts of the castle would be restored, we can say that this drawing may have been created in order to show places to be restored and the general situation of the town. Furthermore, when we compare this drawing to the engraved pictures and the plan dating from 1751, some differences can be seen. We thus understand that the drawing of the castle of Ulgun registered in the Ottoman Archives dates from the period after 1751, and that this too was drawn after a war.

## CONCLUSION

The drawings we have introduced above are important for a number of reasons: they show us the changes that the castle went through within the last 200 years of the Ottoman Empire; they also give specific places of arsenals, mansions, towers, cisterns, bastions and masjids inside the castle/fortresses;<sup>52</sup> the drawings further show the latest states of the castles that are ruined today, or the ones that do not exist anymore such as that of Avlonya; and finally the drawing are significant in that they constitute evidence for research about them and archeological excavations. Moreover, the fact that some drawings depict residential areas inside and outside the castles and show the development of the cities around the

<sup>47</sup> Uzunçarşılı, *ibid*, p. 224, note.1

<sup>48</sup> Sami, *ibid*, p. 1098.

<sup>49</sup> Çelebi, *ibid*, p. 115.

<sup>50</sup> Sami, *ibid*, p. 1098.

<sup>51</sup> Andrews, *ibid*, p. 256.

<sup>52</sup> For more information regarding masjids inside castles, see A. Boran, *Anadolu'daki İç Kale Cami ve Mescidleri* (Ankara, 2001), pp. 14-258.

castles proves that they are important documents in terms of ascertaining the physical situations of those cities in recent centuries.

We were unable to find out about the date and the purpose of this drawing. However, relying on the information in the drawing that some parts of the castle would be restored, we can say that this drawing may have been created in order to show places to be restored and the general situation of the town. Furthermore, when we compare this drawing to the engraved pictures and the plan dating from 1751, some differences can be seen. We thus understand that the drawing of the castle of Uşak registered in the Ottoman Archives dates from the period after 1751, and that this too was drawn after a war.

#### CONCLUSION

The drawings we have introduced above are important for a number of reasons: they show us the changes that the castle went through within the last 300 years of the Ottoman Empire. They also give specific places of arsenals, mansions, towers, cisterns, bastions and mosques inside the castle/fortress. The drawings further show the latest states of the castles that are ruined today, or the ones that do not exist anymore such as that of Afyonlu, and finally the drawing are significant in that they constitute evidence for research about them and archaeological excavations. Moreover, the fact that some drawings depict residential areas inside and outside the castles and show the development of the cities around the

<sup>47</sup> Uzunçayır, *ibid.* p. 124, notes 4.

<sup>48</sup> *Saml.* *ibid.* p. 129B.

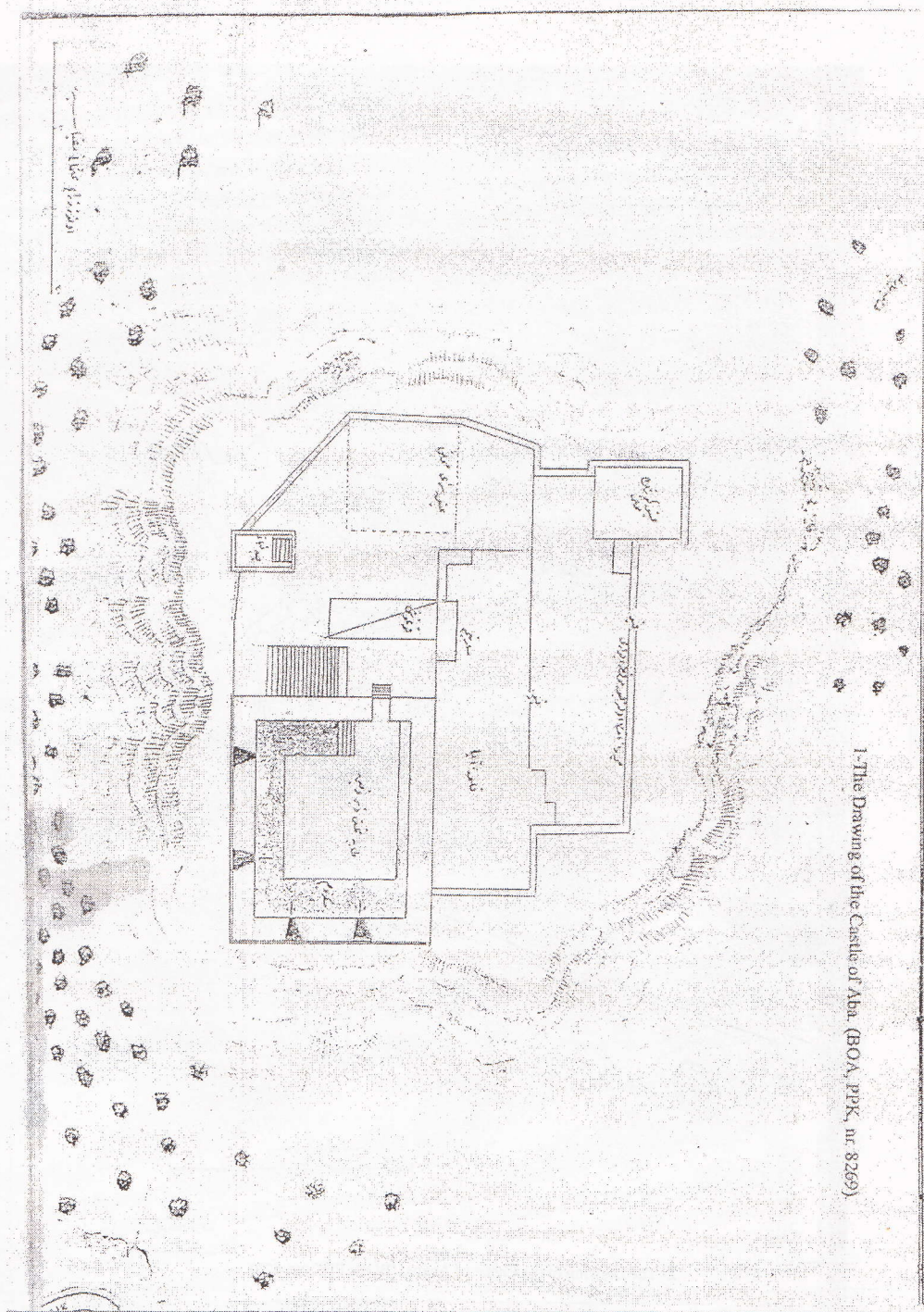
<sup>49</sup> Çelebi, *ibid.* p. 115.

<sup>50</sup> *Saml.* *ibid.* p. 169B.

<sup>51</sup> Andrews, *ibid.* p. 130.

<sup>52</sup> For more information regarding military castles, see A. Bozcu, "Anadolu'daki K. Kale Camii ve Mescidi (Ankara, 2007), pp. 14-25.



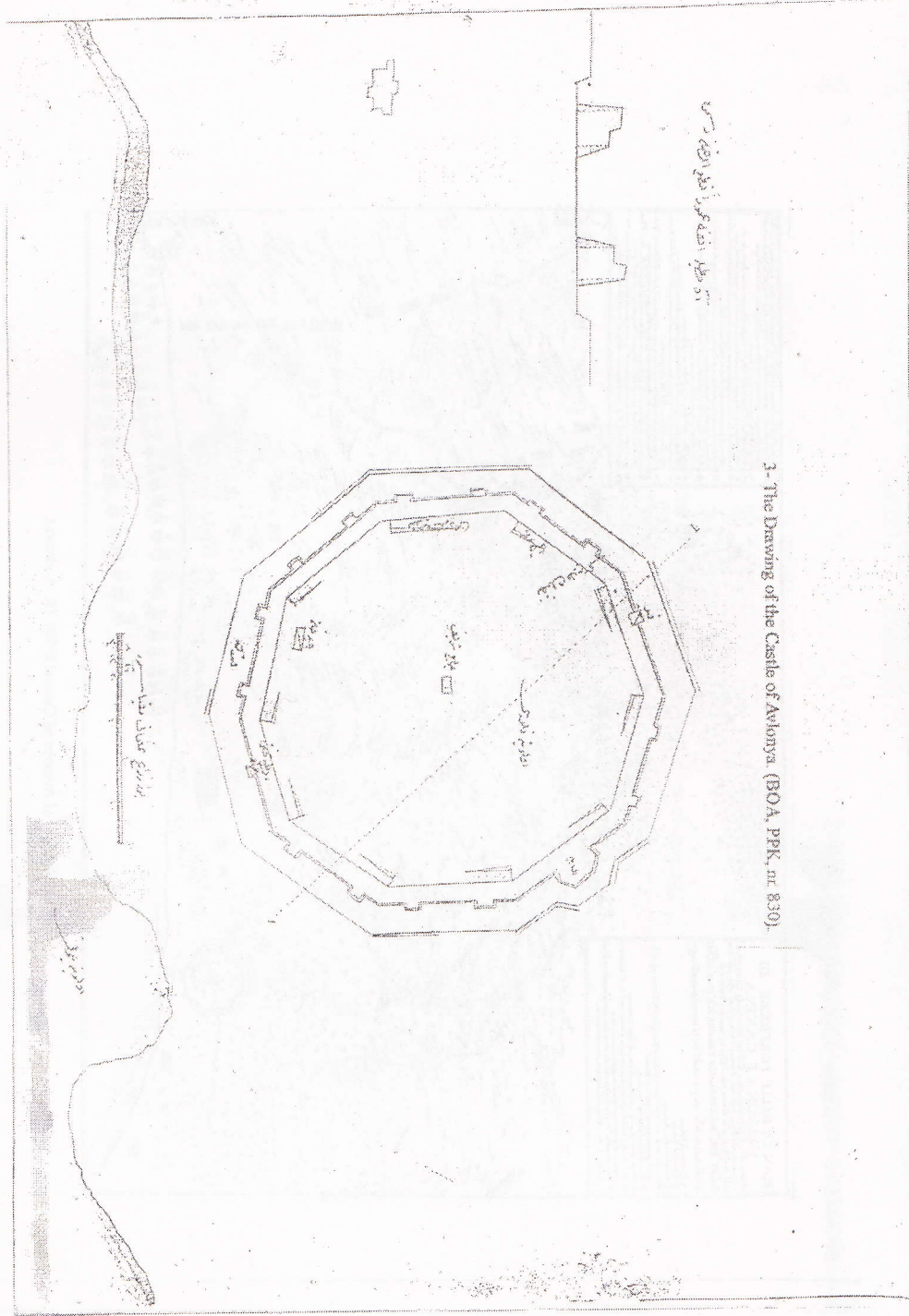


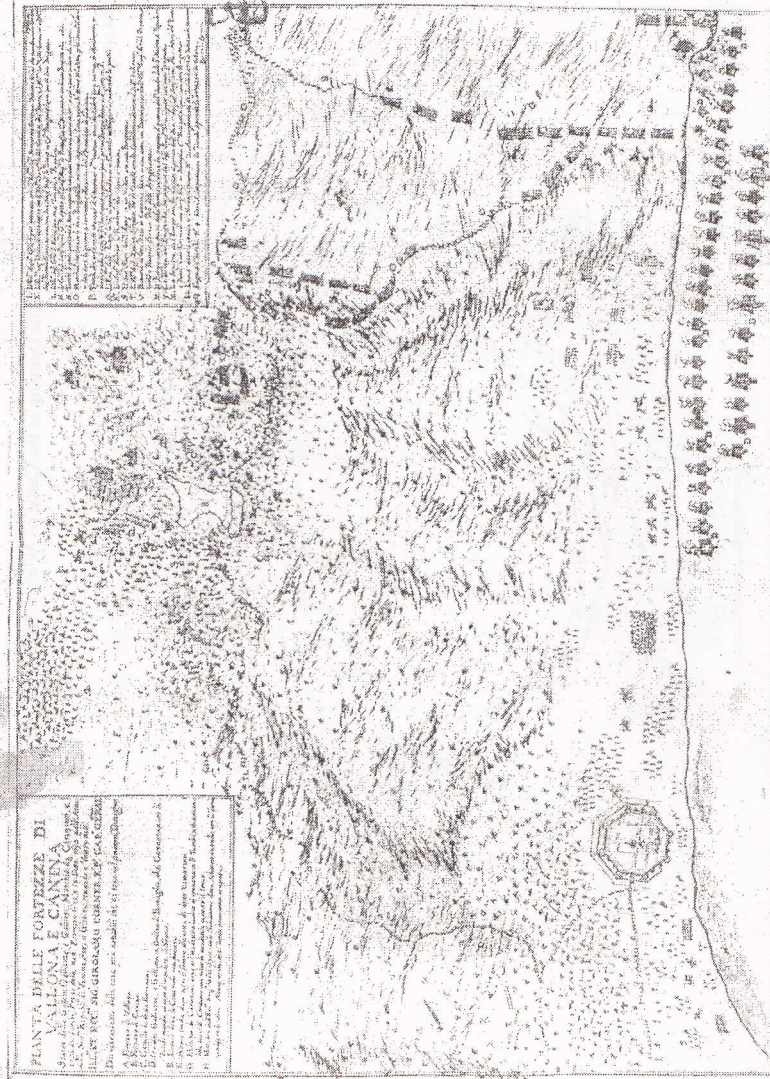




2- The Drawing of the Castle of Anapa. (BOA, PPK, nr. 829)

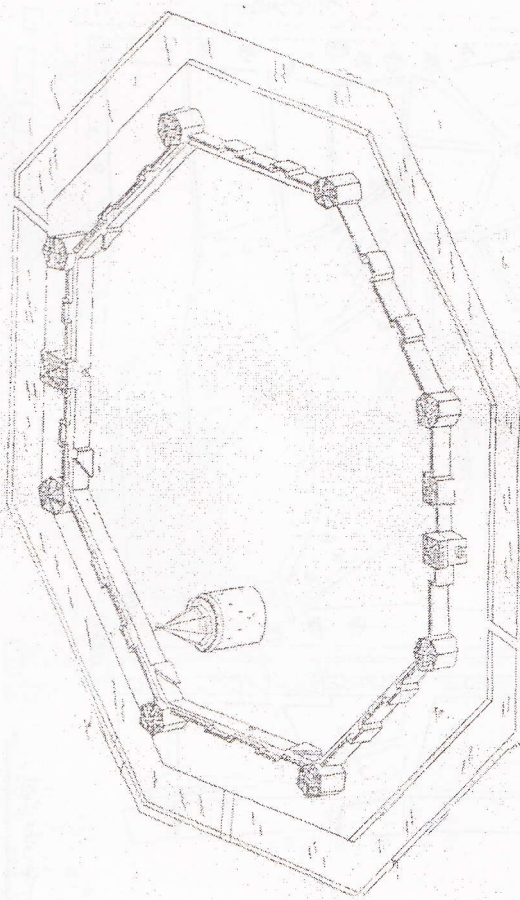




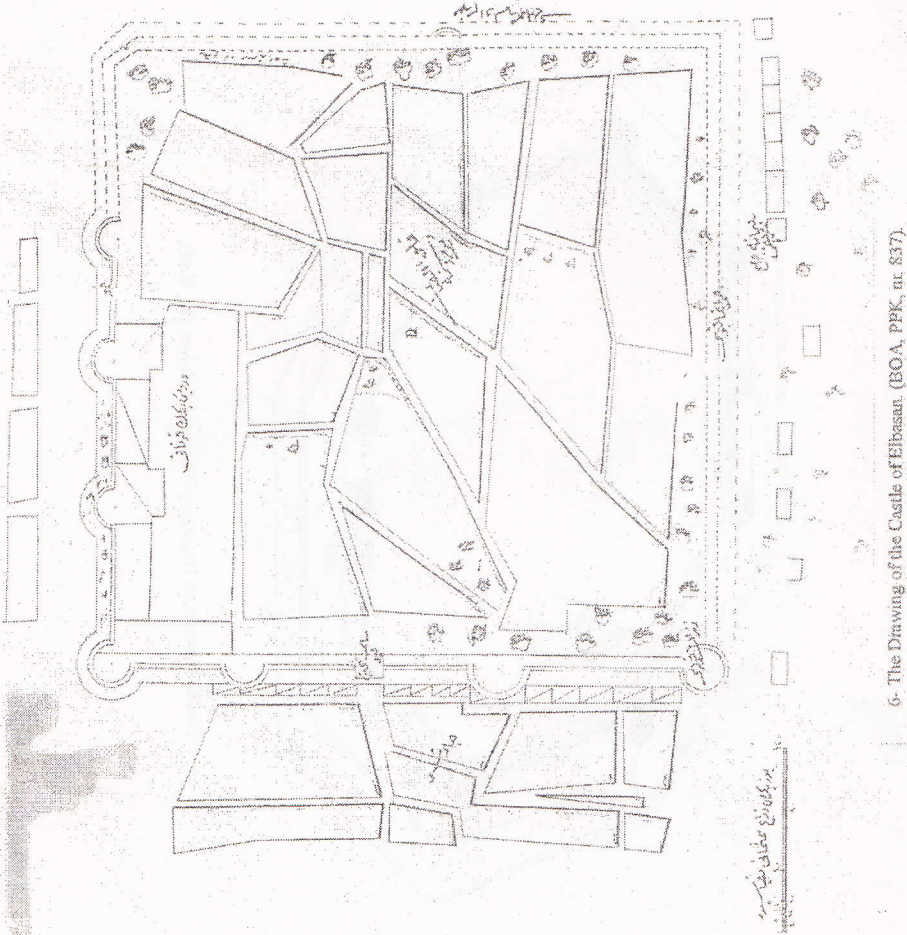


4-The Siege of Avlonya of Canina(1690) (K. Andrews).



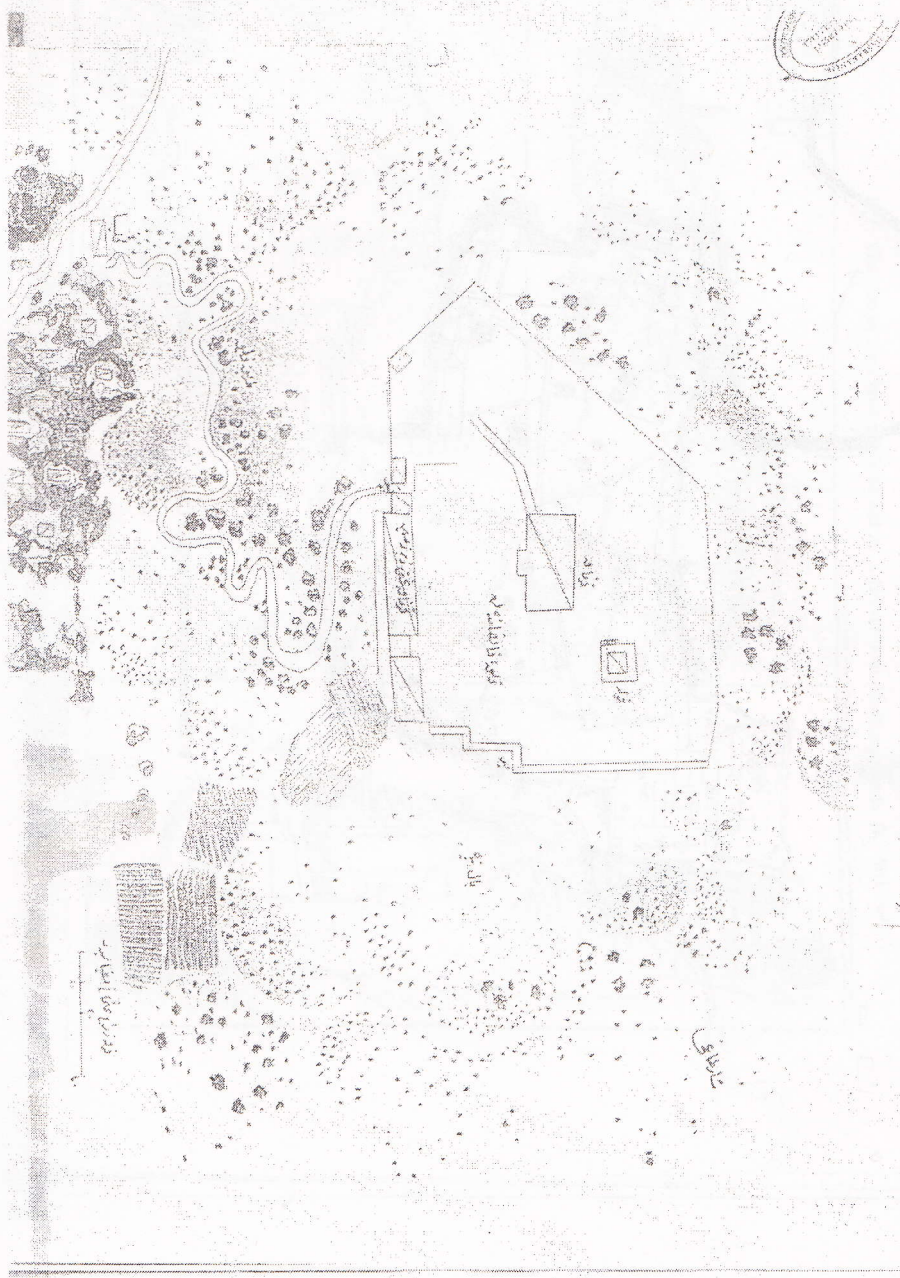


5-The Reconstruction Drawing of Castle of Avlonya. (M. Kiel).

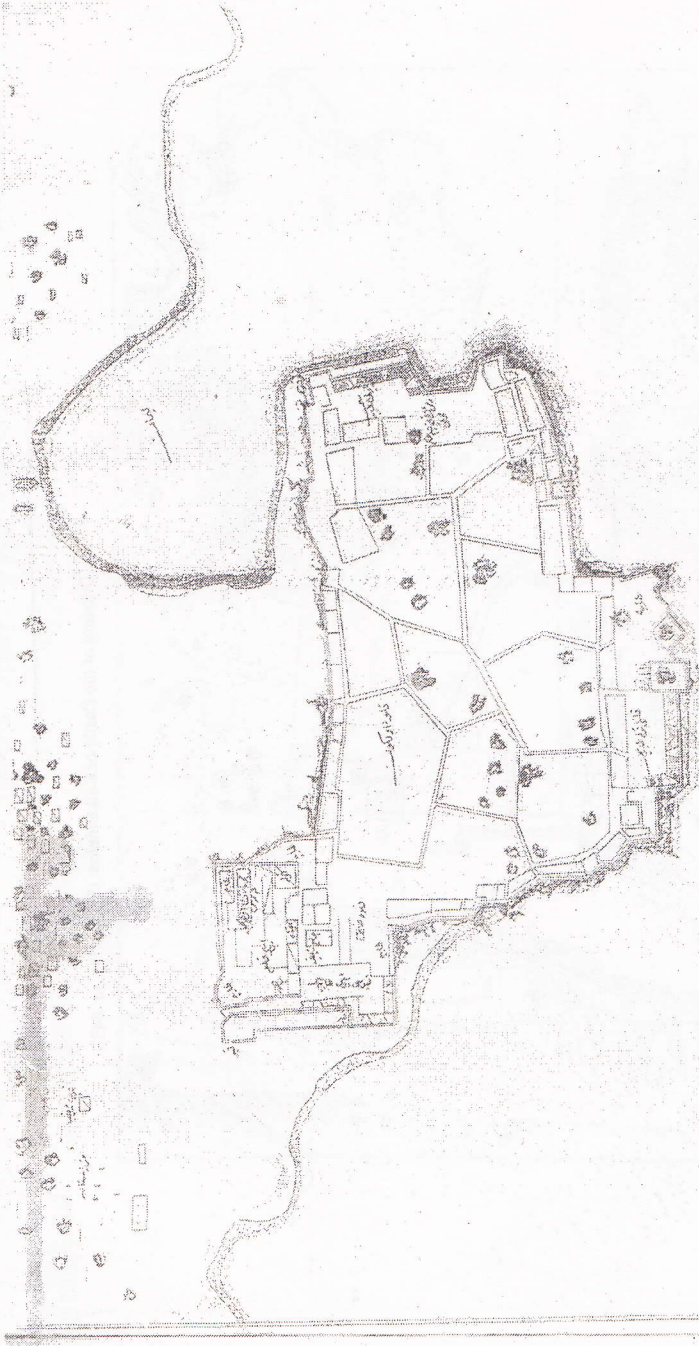


6- The Drawing of the Castle of Elbasan (BOA, PPK, nr. 837).



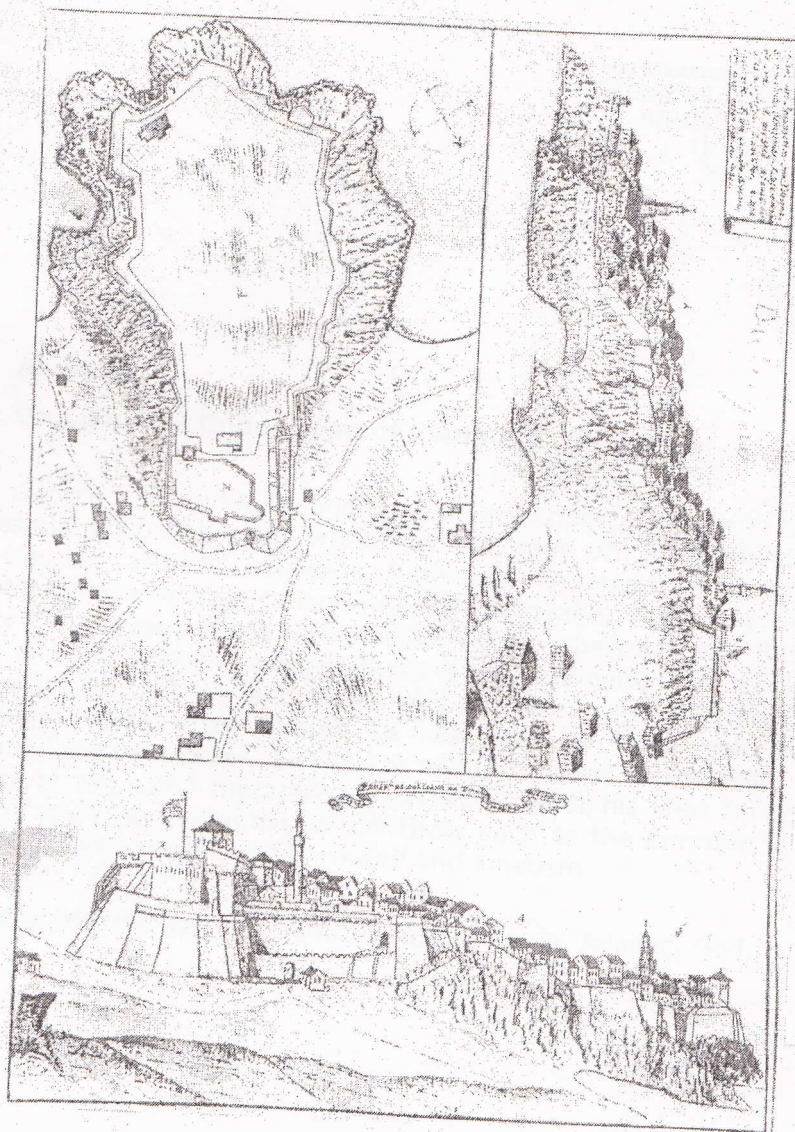


7- The Drawing of the Castle of Kalkindelen (BOA, PPK, nr 843)



8- The Drawing of the Castle of Ülgün. (BOA, İPK, nr. 867).





9. The plan of the Castle of Ulgin and its a Gravity from South and North. (K. Andrew).