The Migrated Archives during the Population Exchange (Documents, as Movable Cultural Worth, Pertaining to Migrants) (Ayşe Nükhet Adıyeye)

The Population Exchange Convention was signed in 30 January 1923 as the appendix of Luasanne Treaty. According to the agreement and the appendix in question, The Orthodox Greek Turkish Citizens settled in Turkey and the Muslim Greek Citizens settled in Greece were subjected to compulsory exchange. The exchange had been a popular topic through many scientific researches, however the archive documents, the official enrolments and the records about the migration were underestimated. The documents are registered in DG of Vakıfs, İstanbul District Office and are composed of the official records belongs to Muslim Community. The gathering of these records were managed by the mixed commision during the purification in Greece. The official records were the documents concerning the judiciary, social, religious and educational issues of the Muslim Community subject to the Exchange in Greece. The inspiring one is the “The catolugue of the records concerning the comers due to the Turkish-Greek Exchange”. It is an index register composed of five volumes. The records mentioned above are listed in this index. On the other hand, the court records (şeriyə sicilleri) of the Muslim Turkish society till1924 are the important parts of this archive. Regional documents (Crete, Thessalonika, Mytiline) such as case records, records of marriage, records of estate, kassam records, ferağ and intikal records are also found in the archive. Even registers belonging to 17. century could be found in these records.

One of the most important records of the archive is the birth registers of the immigrants which were enrolled one by one. The vakıf records of Muslim Community in Greece would also be found among the registers in the archive. Many registers regarding the Muslim Vakıfs in Thessalonika, Kavala, Crete, Dráma, Chios, Siroz, Vodina, Vardar, etc are also the entries of the archive. The vakıf registers are composed of evkaf council decree, accounts of reciepts and expenses and the tables of daily fee. The challenging documents of the records are the “Refinement of Vakıf Registers” managed during the Exchange of Populations. The demands for refinement from the community administration, the place of the vakıfs, the catagory and the value took place in detail. The other group comprises records belonging to the Community Administrative Committee. The records, include decree registers, summary of the decisions, incoming document registers, registers of reciepts and expenses and registers of salaries. Apart from them, records regarding the Muslim schools, the number of students and the course materials are found in the archive.

In conclusion, the archive materials would have an important role in the re-assesment of the exchange process and analyzing the pre convention social, cultural and economic activities of the Muslim Community in Greece and the islands. The uniqueness of the archive is because of the inefficiency of Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives and the others. The records or the “registers” of the immigrants are very crucial documents for the researchers and comprise useful information about the socio-economic activities of Muslim Greek Citizens. It is planned to detect and to classify the mentioned records that take place in the DG of Vakıfs, İstanbul District Office. To expose the content of the documents and to sample the information in the direction of the record topics is also in the agenda.