ABSTRACT

The present work consists of methodical re-organization of the biographical data on the Ottoman ỌUlema to be found in Books 17 - 19 of Mehmed Şeyh Efendi's Vaka'i Cü'l-Fuzala, based on the manuscripts in the Suleymaniye Library, Başir Ağa, 479. The author attempted to cast into a literary form the information on the careers of the teachers and jurists which, for the most part, he collected from the official registers, thereby seriously impairing the value of work as a source of reference. In this dissertation this data is systematically extracted and arranged in a tabular presentation which, it is hoped, will be the pattern for the future publication of the entire work. Moreover, the facts given by Şeyh Efendi have been collated with the other biographical works dealing with the ỌUlema, and discrepancies amongst them noted. The information thus derived has been used as the basis for an introductory essay on the Cilmîye, in which an attempt is made to characterize this important social class in the mid-17th century.