ABSTRACT

"RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE OF THE OTTOMAN PERIOD IN CAPPADOCIA (ESPECIALLY KAYSERI AND AROUND)"

Today's Kayseri, Nigde, Aksaray, Nevsehir, Sivas, a part of Malatya, which includes a small part of Yozgat, referred to the medieval Byzantine as the Cappadocia theme. This region, which came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire after 1453, held intensive settlement of the Muslims as well as non-Muslim Ottoman citizens (especially in some placements). After the 1839 Tanzimat and 1856 Islahat Reforms and the intense pressure of western governments, construction activities which were under strict control, became several privileges for many reasons up the second half of the 19th century, and so, these activities got intensified by the enriched non-Muslim Ottoman citizens. But in 1923, non-Muslims Ottoman citizens, which produced a large number of churches, monasteries and civil architecture in the above mentioned provinces and their settlements, were forced to leave to Greece, because of the "Migration of Indigenous", the signed treatment in Lausanne, Switzerland, which is 90 years old today. In return, one million Muslim Ottoman citizens were forced to live Greece and got settled to various regions in Asia Minor.

Between the above mentioned provinces Kayseri, maintained its importance over the centuries and has been the capital of the Medieval Cappadocia Prima. A large number of Greek Orthodox and Armenian Orthodox churches / monasteries were built especially in the placements north-east of Kayseri in the Ottoman Period. There are more than thirty religious buildings of this region which has reached today, but just a small number of scientific researches explaining these buildings. The wall Paintings of the adequately researched Greek Orthodox churches in placements like Germir, Garsia, Tomarza and Tavlasun, show also original character in terms of architecture.

This statement will present and discuss the churches / monasteries built by the non-Muslim Ottoman citizens in Kayseri and around by examples, and suggest solutions for their protections.

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