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Çeşmizade Mustafa Reşid

Çeşmizade Mustafa Reşid (Çeşmizâde Muştafâ Raşid, d. 1184/1770), the descendant of a well-established Ottoman learned family, was a *müderriş* (college teacher) and poet. His great-grandfather Çeşmi Mehmed (d. 1044/1634) rose to the position of *kadıasker* (*qāḍī-‘asker*, chief judge) of Rumeli during the reign of Murad IV (Murād, r. 1032–49/1623–40); his father, Mehmed Said Efendi, was also a *kadi* (*qāḍī*, judge). Çeşmizade was born, educated and pursued his career in Istanbul. His chief profession was that of *müderriş* (college teacher), gaining his first appointment in 1153/1740–1 and, rising through various Istanbul colleges, culminating in a professorship at the Süleymaniye in 1184/1770 just before his death later that year. Early in his career Çeşmizade also served several terms in a secretarial capacity in the *kadıaskers'* office, and in his later years served briefly as *vakanüvis* (*vaq'anüvis*, also *vekāyi'-nüvis* or *vekā'i'-nüvis*, "events writer," official historian), in succession to Hakim Mehmed Efendi (Hākīm, d. 1184/1770).

As *vakanüvis*, Çeşmizade chronicled events over an eighteen-month period

from Receb (Rajab) 1180/December 1766 to Rebiülevvel (Rabī I) 1182/July 1768, the exact term of his appointment. Basing his history as far as possible on official documents, he reported on affairs concerning the sultan and his court, on government appointments and decrees, on political and religious ceremonies, and on events in Istanbul and elsewhere, including insurrections in distant parts of the empire. Although his text survived (and is available in Kütükoğlu's modern edition), it was largely eclipsed by the history of the later *vakanüvis* Ahmed Vasif (Ahmed Vāşif, d. 1221/1806), who in effect re-wrote the work of several of his predecessors.

Well regarded by contemporaries as both a poet and a prose stylist, Çeşmizade also left a *divan* (*dīvān*, anthology of verse), using the *mahlas* (penname) Reşid.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

EDITIONS

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STUDIES

The above entry draws largely upon Bekir Kütükoğlu, *Çeşmizâde Mustafa Reşid*,