

gold coin, called *findik altini*, literally “hazel nut gold.” The first to take steps to modernize the operation of the mint was Hagop *Çelebi* Diuzian who, in 1843, imported from England steam-powered engines to cut gold and silver coins. The following year the new coins known as *mecidiye* were introduced to the public.⁴⁵ His successor and relative Mihran *Çelebi* Diuzian continued the modernization process. According to Süleyman Sudi Efendi, who was familiar with its operations, the founders of the modernized mint were Hagop and Mihran Diuzian or *Düzoğlu*, as the family was known in governmental circles.⁴⁶

The mint had always had Armenian employees. The renowned traveler Evliya *Çelebi* had recorded that the die-casters were “Christians and very honest,” the smelters (or refiners) were Jews.⁴⁷ After the mint came under Diuzians’ control the number of its Armenian employees increased.⁴⁸ High level personnel, especially those with technical skills, were Armenian, and there are many references to Armenians holding technical positions at the mint.⁴⁹ Indeed, the complete control of the operation of the mint by the Armenian director and his immediate subordinates is reflected by the fact that the records of the mint were kept in Turkish written in Armenian characters that only Armenians could read.⁵⁰ These records of the mint were only recently discovered, after some bales had been burned as waste paper.⁵¹

While the employees received lifetime appointments from the government, the collector of revenues held his position on a yearly basis, with the

⁴⁵ Menevishian, *Diuzeants*, p. 37.

⁴⁶ Pakalin, *Deyimleri*, 1:396.

⁴⁷ Pakalin, *Deyimleri*, 1:394.

⁴⁸ Indjidjian, *Ashkharhagrutiun*, 5:121.

⁴⁹ Mrmerian, *Masnakan Patmutiun*, p. 51, mentions *sahib-i 'ayar* Eremia as a well-known personality; Hovhannes Der Bedrosian, *Hayeru Sadare*, 29 November 1976, cites Kakmadji Kevork Aga and Eghiazar Aga who had worked in the mint for many years.

⁵⁰ Jan Reyehman and Ananiasz Zajackowski, *Handbook of Ottoman Turkish Diplomats* (The Hague, 1968), p. 29.

⁵¹ Cüneyt Ölcer, *Sultan Abdülmecid Devri Osmanlı Madeni Paraları* [Ottoman Coinage during the Reign of Sultan Abdülmecid Han] (Istanbul, 1978), pp. 6-8; “Pogheranotsi Hin Tetrakneru Arsanagrutiunnere Norutiunner Haytnetsin” [“The Old Records of the Mint Disclosed Novelties”], *Marmara* (Istanbul), 14 July 1978, pp. 1 and 4. I thank Mr. Garo Kürkman of Istanbul, who discovered the records of the mint, for the above information.