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Cultural Contributions of the Levantines in Izmir¹

Following the capture of Chios by the Ottoman navy under the command of Piyale Pasha in 1566, Izmir became an important regional port and commercial centre in Western Anatolia. The emergence as an international trade centre in the first half of the 17th century brought many Europeans - mainly merchants- to Izmir. In time these Levantines² became one of the most important factors in Izmir and throughout Ottoman times they played vital role in the city. While there was no European consul in 1600, in 1620 there were consuls of England, Holland, France and Venice in the city³. By integrating in a growing world market, Izmir became a cosmopolitan city and the city together with its suburbs were affected demographically, economically, culturally and socially. Different groups with different languages, ethnic origins and religions, gave shape to the Levantine sub-culture that had a cosmopolitan and commercial character⁴. The presence of great numbers of foreigners and the emergence of a Levantine sub-culture gave Izmir the name ‘Gavur Izmir’⁵ ‘Infidel Izmir’.

In the 19th century, Izmir with its growing population⁶ became an important economic centre, which stood in direct contact with the main European cities⁷. The 1838 Trade Treaty that enabled free competition of British merchants in Ottoman territories and the 1839

¹ - I would like to thank Dr.Hans Theunissen and Mehmet Kahyaoğlu for their help on the English text.

² - The term ‘Levantine’ used in our research refers to the Western people who came to dwell in Izmir for trading purposes. For the different usage of ‘Levantine’ term see Ş.Yorulmaz, *İzmir Basımında Levantenler (XIX. Yüzyıl’ın İkinci Yarısı)*, (D.E.Ü. Unpublished Masters Thesis), İzmir 1988, p.1-12.; İ.Pınar, “Levant, Levanten ve Levantenlik”, *İzmir Kent Kültürü Dergisi*, 3 (Mart 2001), p.53-56.

³ - D.Goffman, (Çev. A.Anadol-N.Kalaycıoğlu), *İzmir ve Levanten Dünya (1550-1650)*, İstanbul 1995, p.90,125.; T.Çavdar, “Mütareke ve Milli Mücadele Döneminde Osmanlı Ekonomisi ve İzmir” *1885-1985 Türkiye Ekonomisinin 100 Yılı ve İzmir ve İzmir Ticaret Odası Sempozyumu*, 21-23 Kasım 1985 İzmir, p.6-7.

⁴ -D.Goffman, *ibid*, p. 70.

⁵ -This naming dates to back to 1402. In this period, it is said that the name was used by the historian of Timur in order to distinguish the Lower Castle(Christian) from Kadifekale(Turks), that belongs to Turks. See T.Baykara, *İzmir Şehri ve Tarihi*, İzmir 1974, p.21.

⁶ - For the population of İzmir see M.S.Kütükoğlu, “İzmir Şehri Nüfusu Üzerine Bazı Tesbitler”, *İzmir Tarihinden Kesitler*, İzmir 2000, p.11-33.

⁷ -For trade in Izmir see N.Ülker, *The Rise of İzmir, 1688-1740*, (Michigan University, Unpublished Masters Thesis) 1974.; E.Frangakis-Syrett, *The Commerce of Smyrna in the Eighteenth Century, 1700-1820*, Athens 1992.; S.Yılmaz, “XVII-XIX. Yüzyıllarda İzmir’de Fransızlar”, *Çağdaş Türkiye Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 1/3 (İzmir 1993), p.117-132.; Ş.Yorulmaz, “XIX. Yüzyıl’da Kozmopolit Bir Ticaret Kenti: İzmir”, *Çağdaş Türkiye Tarihi Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 1/3 (İzmir 1993), p.133-148.; R. Kasaba, “İzmir”, *Doğu Akdeniz’de Liman Kentleri (1800-1914)*, İstanbul 1994, p.1-22.; D.Goffman, *ibid*.

Tanzimat reforms had been instrumental in this respect⁸. The period starting with the Tanzimat reforms was the period when westernisation in Anatolia reached its peak and during this period considerable changes in every aspect of life took place. Izmir had its own share of this development. Social and commercial activities played a part in the development of the city and this resulted in changes of the city's silhouette and landscape. The city had become a cosmopolitan settlement and its function as a bridge between Europe and the East helped it to become the largest city in Anatolia. The city was no longer made up of the outskirts of Pagos (Kadifekale) and of Kemeralti and its surroundings; it had expanded to the north and south. New privileges given by Ottoman authorities to the Levantine communities -for instance the right to buy and own land and buildings- led to increased investments. Priority was given to the purchasing of land and/or to the building of institutions and their management, which would serve as the infrastructure of the city⁹. According to D. Goffman, in the 1620's, Christians had isolated themselves from the local population and they were not willing to contribute to the defence and embellishment of the city¹⁰. However, in the 19th century this reluctantness had completely vanished and Levantine investments now resulted in beautiful buildings with the best infrastructure. An important milestone was reached with the reconstruction of the harbour waterfront with Napoli stones by the French Gifre Company in 1867. This waterfront was, and still is, known as the 'Kordon'¹¹. The Kordon area eventually became the centre of Levantine socio-cultural activities. Cafes, clubs, cinemas, theatres, hotels and consulates in this area gave shape to the Levantine landscape, which was completed with horse-drawn tramways¹².

Theatres were among the most prominent buildings of socio-cultural life in the Kordon area. The Cammerano, Eksristera, Nea Skena, and Teatro Smirnes Theatres succeeded the Euterpe Theatre, which was the first theatre opened in Izmir (in 1841). Among

⁸-C.Bilsel, "Ondokuzuncu Yüzyılda Osmanlı Liman Kenti İzmir'de Kültürler, Mekan Üretim Biçimleri ve Kent Mekanının Dönüşümü", *Osmanlı Mimarlığının 7 Yüzyılı "Uluslarüstü Bir Miras"*, 25-27 Kasım 1999 İstanbul, İstanbul (no date), p.213.

⁹ - The investments of the foreigners were mostly on railways, ports, water, coal gas, street lamps, tram, electricity and mines. see G.Ökçün, "1885 Öncesi Osmanlı Ekonomisine Genel Bir Bakış", 1885-1985 Türkiye Ekonomisinin 100 Yılı ve İzmir ve İzmir Ticaret Odası Sempozyumu, 21-23 Kasım 1985 İzmir, p.1-15.; For İzmir port see M.S.Kütükoğlu, "İzmir Rıhtımı İnşaatı ve İşletme İmtiyazı", *Tarih Dergisi*, 32 (1979), p.495-558.; For the railways in İzmir see Ç.Atay, "İzmir'e İlişkin Demiryolu Önerileri ve Gerçekleşen Hatların Kent Yapısına Etkileri", *II.Uluslararası İzmir Sempozyumu*, Tebliğler, İzmir 1998, p.159-177.

¹⁰- D.Goffman, *ibid.*, p.121.

¹¹- M.Kıray, *Örgütlenemeyen Kent*, Ankara 1972, s.51.; M.Çadırcı, *Tanzimat Döneminde Anadolu Kentleri'nin Sosyal ve Ekonomik Yapıları*, Ankara 1991, p.361.

¹²- M. Buch who visited İzmir in 1859 and 1864 tells tha the coast consist of houses and consulate buildings were spoilt by the warehouses, docks and houses with boats. see. İ.Pınar, *Gezginlerin Gözüyle İzmir XIX Yüzyıl II*, İzmir 1996, p.79.

the opera's performed in these theatres were Verdi's Lousia Miller, Il Travatore, The Masked Ball, and Donizetti's Maria Rohan¹³.

In addition to cafes with music ranging from Italian to Greek Sirtaki and Viennese walses, there were clubs such as the 'Club European' and the 'Sporting Club'. The Sporting Club even had a huge two-storey ballroom and a theatre¹⁴.

The number of hotels in Izmir was also very high because the city was one of the most important centres of trade of the time. This resulted in high numbers of travellers and merchants. Among the hotels serving these foreign visitors were Hotel Alexandra, Hotel Elphini, Hotel Konstantinopole, Hotel La Concord, Hotel Dantalle, Kramer Palace and Hotel de la Ville¹⁵.

In addition to cultural activities the Levantines also contributed to sports. They actively engaged in football, hunting and sailing races in the Bay of Izmir, but were also keen on horse racing. The Forbes and Giraud families were among the leading families interested in horse riding. The first horse races were organised at the initiative of these families. From 1867 onwards foreigners had the legal right to own property. As a consequence Levantine families started to buy large pieces of land, which they also used for sport activities. Following the first track and field activities in 1892, and the first boat race in 1893, the Levantine community played its first official football match in Bornova on 21 October 1890. Other football fields soon followed in Alsancak and Buca and the Levantine Smyrna Football Club was established in 1901¹⁶.

The Levantine communities also greatly contributed to the educational landscape of Izmir. Among the foreign schools were French, Austrian, Italian, American and Scottish educational institutions and three protestant schools of commerce and a religious institute called Diabones¹⁷. The countries of origin of the various Levantine communities financially

¹³ For the theatres had performances see E.Sevinçli, "İzmir Tiyatroları", *Üç İzmir*, İstanbul 1992, p.369-386.; E. Kauder who visited İzmir in talks about the low quality entertainment groups such as Italian Opera Company or Bohemian Women Company. see. İ.Pınar, *ibid*, p.134.

¹⁴ For the social clubs in Izmir see. R.Beyru, *19.Yüzyılda İzmir'de Yaşam*, İstanbul 2000, p.121-137.

¹⁵ Ç.Atay, *Tarih İçinde İzmir*, İzmir 1978, p.35.

¹⁶ -The team won the second place in the Olympics in Athens in 1906. See A.Akçamlı, *Bir Zamanlar Bayraklı*, İzmir 1997, p.144.; For the general information on sport activities in İzmir see R.Beyru, *op.cit. (n. 14)*, p.264-283.

¹⁷ -S.Tutsak, *İzmir'de Eğitim ve Eğitimciler (1850-1950)*, E.Ü.Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Yayınlanmamış Doktora Tezi, İzmir 1996, p.44-49.; For the school of the foreigners in İzmir and its surrounding see T:Çavdar, *op.cit. (n. 3)*, p.8-10.

supported these schools. For instance, in the early 20th century, the number of students at French sponsored schools in the Izmir area was 3678¹⁸.

Newspapers were also an important indication of the role the Levantine communities played in Izmir. The fact that some 15 newspapers in other languages than Ottoman Turkish were published in Izmir at the end of the 19th century is good evidence that the Levantines were very influential in the cultural life of the city¹⁹. Apart from these newspapers, there were also newspapers in Turkish²⁰. However, the importance of the Levantines in the media landscape of Izmir becomes clear from the number of printing offices: 14 out of 17 belonged to foreigners²¹.

In the 19th century the city expanded to the north and south and as a consequence settlements like Alsancak, Göztepe, Karşıyaka, Seydiköy, Buca and Bornova gained the appearance of a modern city. After the completion of the Alsancak Railway Station in 1858, Levantine communities played an important role in the development of Alsancak. The area between today's Alsancak Railway Station and the sea is the location of the characteristic Chios-style terraced houses in blocks. The Levantines preferred these buildings for their close proximity to the sea, and to the consulates and shops along the coast, that is the Kordon area. The terraced houses also had back yards. This type of construction was also seen in Karşıyaka, Göztepe and Buca, but on a smaller scale. However, the most important Levantine housing concept of this time - villa's surrounded by large gardens - can be found mainly in Bornova, Buca, Seydiköy and but also in Karşıyaka, and Göztepe. An important factor contributing to these new developments in the field of housing was the issuance of the 1st Ebniye Regulations of 1848, which laid out the basic principles of city planning according to western standards. However, the Levantines could only become active in this modernisation process of Izmir in the second half of the 19th century. Before that foreigners were officially not allowed to have properties in Turkey²². In order to avoid this complication, they either had to be registered as Ottoman citizens without giving up their own original nationality or had their properties registered on the name of an Ottoman subject. Occasionally foreigners

¹⁸ -P.Fesch, *Abdülhamid'in Son Günlerinde "İstanbul"*, Çev.E.Üyepazarıcı, İstanbul 1999, p.459.

¹⁹ -For the names of the newspapers see P.Fesch, *ibid.*, p.68, note 45.

²⁰ - Z.Arıkan, *İzmir Basınından Seçmeler 1872-1922*, Vol. I, İzmir 2001.

²¹ -*İzmir ve Çevresi Resmî, Özel Binalar İstatistiği 1918*, (Edited by E.Serçe), İzmir 1998, p.19.

²² -Ö.L.Barkan, *Türkiye'de Toprak Meselesi*, İstanbul 1980, p.350-351.

had obtained special permission of the Sultan to own property. An example of this practice is the Whittall family, who even hosted Sultan Abdülaziz in their estate in Bornova.²³ However, with a law issued in 1867 all foreigners were given permission to have property in Turkey.²⁴

Thus, in the second half of the 19th century Izmir underwent important changes: a new legal framework formed the basis of a new organisation -the municipality established in 1848- and of a new Western urbanization concept, which was the symbol of modernism for Ottoman intellectuals. These developments had consequences for the position and the activities of the Levantines in Izmir. Some Levantines were elected as members of the municipal board; others gained control of the Izmir-Kasaba railway. In addition they also started new construction activities in Bornova. A number of these Levantine villas in Bornova are still standing and their appearance differs considerably from that of the terraced houses of Alsancak. Even today, the often-huge gardens of these villas still look like parks²⁵. Although these villas can also be found in Buca, Göztepe and Karşıyaka I will mainly deal with the villas in Bornova and use these to illustrate Levantine housing concepts.

Levantine villas differ considerably from conventional houses of the late Ottoman period. They have their own characteristic plans and designs. They are silent witnesses of the wealth and life style of the Levantines who were richer than the local Turkish and minority population. For their owners these villas were the indication *par excellence* of their social status. As a consequence no expenditure was too much and most of the building material was imported.

The tradition to concentrate housing around a central mosque, especially in Muslim residential zones, can also be seen in Bornova around the Büyük or Çarşı Mosque. However, west of this traditional centre Levantine villas can be found. Some of them are ruined, others, however, have been restored. Even though most of these buildings have disappeared as a result of the changes in urban life, the existing villas still give a good impression of the general characteristics of these houses. Almost all buildings have frequently changed owners either by inheritance or sale. This causes difficulties when one wants to reconstruct the history of the villa.

In Bornova Levantine villas are characteristically located inside large gardens

²³ T.Baykara, *op.cit.* (n. 5), p.88.

²⁴ -Ö.L.Barkan, *op.cit.* (n. 22), p.350-351.

²⁵ -E. Kauder who visited İzmir in 1895 E.Kauder was fascinated by the gardens of Bornova see İ.Pınar, *op.cit.* (n. 12), p.142.

surrounded by high walls²⁶. A number of high doors with decorative iron bars are placed in the walls. Flower seeds and plants for the gardens were usually imported from Europe and the garden architecture reflects a distinctly European style. The Levantines themselves were often involved in the sale of the imported materials²⁷. Even today these spots of lush green are still visible among the buildings of the modern metropolis of Izmir. The gardens were often decorated with geometric and floral designs made with black and white pebbles known as "Rhodes-made". This kind of decoration, which is characteristic for the Aegean region, can also be seen at the doorways of some villas.

The British Whittall family, that was one of the most prominent Levantine families of Izmir, built one of the early villas in Bornova, known as the Big House or Carlton Estate (Fig.1). This building, which is now used as the Ege University Rector's Office, was built in this, then unpopular, part of Bornova in the 1830's²⁸. Originally it was a single-storey villa built, however, after 1867 the house was enlarged by adding another storey and it was after that change that it became generally known as the Big House²⁹. It is known that the Whittalls organised their Christmas dinners and all other big parties in this house and that sometimes more than 100 people would sit in the ballroom³⁰. This villa, where Sultan Abdülaziz stayed in 1863³¹, was recently enlarged with wings added to the north and south. A balcony has been constructed on the upper floor at the main front of the building. In the middle of the rather plain façade of the building is a two-sided stairway. The building has a large entrance hall with rooms opening to this hall. This is a feature seen in most Levantine villas of Bornova. Between the rooms doors built in the separation walls provide internal connections. Almost all houses have cast iron fireplaces that were usually imported from England and then assembled at the spot³². These fireplaces are framed with imported tiles. Two of these tiles have deer motifs.

²⁶ -For more information about the levantines villas of Bornova see İ.Kuyulu, "Bornova'da Levanten Konutları-Ön Rapor", *Levantenler ya da Avrupalılar*, Bağlam Yayıncılık A.Ş., (being published).

²⁷ - An announcement in *Journal de Smyrne* dated 5 January 1834 is as follows: "Martin and partners, specialists on gardening proudly announces that they have just come back from France with a good collection of flower, onion, seed and fruit trees of all kinds. People who trust them can be user of full satisfaction. The warehouse of Martin and partners is in Sponti and they stay in the city only for 15 days. see R.Beyru, "XIX. Yüzyılın İlk Yarısında İzmir'de Sosyal Yaşam", *Üç İzmir*, İstanbul 1992, p.165.

²⁸-E.H.Giraud, *Family Records*, London 1934, p.76-77.

²⁹ -*The Whittalls of Turkey 1809-1973*, Great Britain, p.24.

³⁰ -E.H.Giraud, *op.cit.* (n. 27), p.78.

³¹ - *ibid.*, p.71-72.

³² - "The Gold Medal Eagle Fire Crate 1897" and "Gold Medal Eagle Crate by Royal Letters Patent 1897" can be read on the lids of the fireplaces. In the inscription the letters C ve G are casted in the same manner.

Although almost all villas in Bornova have their own characteristic façade structure, they have a kind of symmetrical harmony in common. The Bari Villa³³, which is now used as the Restaurant of Ege University, carries traces of late 19th and early 20th century Italian architecture (Fig.2). The villa has stone-framed windows on its symmetrically designed front façades. Apart from the living spaces for the owners, these villas, which also have sections reserved for servants, sometimes have a shed built separately. The Bari Villa also has a shed like this. Another characteristic of most villas is that sections such as the kitchen, the laundry room etc. are located in supplementary buildings or in the basement under ground level. In some buildings adding various mid-storeys created more space. The interior decoration in these buildings mainly consisted of fake plaster pillars with plain or grooved bodies, which were placed in the corridors or passageways without doors. In the Bari Villa, both on the basement floor and upstairs, on both sides of the stairway there are plaster pillars with leaf-like consoles attached to the walls.

The Paterson Villa, which is the largest of the Bornova villas, with respect to the building itself and the surrounding garden³⁴, is badly damaged in a fire in 1979 (Fig.3). At present this building, which belongs to the Ministry of Culture, is being restored. Apart from the 30-room main building with internal connections, the villa-complex also had service sections in other buildings and stables for pigs and horses. It is known that the building material used in these Levantine villas was usually imported from Europe. Evidence for this practice is a brick found in this villa on which the name of the Marseille Brick Company is printed³⁵. The tiles found scattered around the garden during the restoration are Minton tiles produced in England in the 19th century³⁶. These blue-and-white tiles are decorated with shells and fish. The tiles used in this villa -supposed to be Dutch tiles according to the literature- must be the above-mentioned Minton tiles.³⁷ The interior of the building is also elegantly decorated with plaster.

In some buildings the front and rear side façades were built in different styles. An

³³ It is said that Lawson and Pasquali families lived in the house..See E.L.Kalças, *Gateways to the Past (Houses and Gardens of Old Bornova)*, 1983 (2nd edition), p.57.

³⁴ -*ibid.*, p.33.

³⁵ -The inscription the brick is as follows: Societe Generale Des Tuileres De Marseille.

³⁶ -For the samples of these tiles see *Mintons Tiles, (Selected Patterns of Enamelled Tiles, for Walls, Hearths, Fire Places, Furniture, Flower Boxes, &c.)*, London 1885. It was republished in 1996. See *Mintons Tiles*, Richard Dennis Publications, The Old Chapel, Shepton Beauchamr, Somerset TA 19 OLE, 1996, p.17.

³⁷ - A.L.Kalças, *op.cit.* (n. 32), p.34.

example of such a villa is the Belhomme Villa, which is nowadays used as the Atatürk Library (Fig.4). This building, which was built by the Greek merchant family Ksenepulos in the 1880s, may have been designed by the architect Clark³⁸ or Wolf³⁹. The main façade of the building shows the influence of Renaissance architecture and the rear shows characteristics of late 19th and early 20th century Italian civil architecture. In the plan of this two-storey building, which is built on a rectangular area, the central space in the middle had been converted into a large hall and the rooms on both sides are connected to this hall. The two shorter sides of this hall have entrances facing each other. The interior of the building was enriched with plaster decorations, which were restored during the restoration. The ceiling is divided into sections with plaster strips and the centre part is decorated with scrolls, flowers and leaves. The window and door handles and hinges are beautiful examples of ironwork imported from Europe.

The Aliberti Villa was built by the English Wolf brothers for the Lafontain family in 1856 (Fig.5).⁴⁰ Like the Belhomme Villa, it has different front and rear side façades. This brings up the question whether these kinds of façades are a characteristic of the architectural designs of the Wolf brothers. The tennis court situated in the large garden with a pool and four gates did not survive. The trees in the natural-looking landscape garden in English style were imported from Italy. Another interesting feature of this house is that you can look at the garden through a window over a fireplace with columns on both sides in the main hall.

In the Yellow Villa, named after the main colour of its façade, we can see traces of Italian architecture (Fig.6). The original owners and the date of construction of this building, which now belongs to Ege University, are not known. The pool in the large garden is oval. The Yellow Villa has a two-storey rectangular plan with a corridor in the middle and rooms opening to this corridor. One of the imported tiled fireplaces has flower decorations. Another fireplace has tiles decorated in Art Nouveau style with flying ribbons and elliptic knots. There is also an oil lamp motif with three ram heads hanging down. The initials DP are visible on the window handles of the villa decorated with C scrolls, stylised palmettes and shells.

³⁸ -*ibid.*, p.36.

³⁹ - K.Dinçer-D.Kuban, *İzmir ve Ege'den Mimari İzlenimler*, İtalya 1994, p.85.

⁴⁰ - A.L.Kalças, *op.cit.* (n. 32), p.24.

Another villa, built in the 1880's by the Pandispania family, who now live in France⁴¹, is nowadays called the Green Villa (after the main colour of its façade) (Fig.7). The building, which also belongs to Ege University, was restored in recent years. This building has the most lavishly decorated façade of all the Bornova villas. The villa has an entrance right in the middle of the main façade, which is quite similar to the Şale kiosks in the gardens of the Yıldız Palace. It also has two bay windows on either sides of the entrance, a balcony carried by three consoles just above the door. Just above this balcony is a triangular frontal with an arched window. A wooden arch attached to this frontal completes the building. The villa has elegantly decorated wooden bay windows similar to those in European buildings. This building, which repeats the general plan of the Bornova villas, has a central entrance hall on the ground floor with two sets of rooms on either side of the hall.

Another example of a Bornova villa with its own distinctive design is the Richard Whittall Villa, which is now used as the Suphi Koyuncuoğlu School (Fig.8). On the corner of its horizontal body with a plain geometry rises a tower representing the social status of the owner. This reminds us of the towered buildings of Buca⁴². In the building there are imported fireplaces. They are all different and each has its own decorative qualities. These fireplaces are similar to the ones in England and have a wooden frame on which there are motifs of flowers and a vase with sunflowers in it. The same motifs are repeated on tiles.

The Davy's Villa⁴³, which is nowadays used by the Turkish army for recreational activities, is in neo-classical style (Fig.9). The shapes of the windows, their order of placement and the distribution of the decorative elements create an unusual harmony in this building, the façade of which also has surprisingly good symmetrical proportions. The ceilings are decorated with stucco relief decorations; the decorated stair railings are made of cast iron.

The building built by the British Edwards family in 1880⁴⁴ (later called the Murat Villa) is now the property of the state (Orphan Bureau) (Fig.10). Its bath in the large garden is a very rare feature. The building, an example of late Italian civil design, has a porch stretching along the main façade. As in other villas, the interior has rich plaster decorations,

⁴¹ - *ibid.*, p.59.

⁴² For the samples see F. Erpi, *Buca'da Konut Mimarisi (1838-1934)*, Ankara 1987, p.149-157.

⁴³ A.L.Kalças, *op.cit.* (n. 32), p.46.

which give the villa a monumental appearance. Its mural paintings are decorations seldom found in the Bornova villas. These murals adorn three rooms downstairs. On one of the ceilings there are depictions of flowers, lion heads and four landscape compositions. The artist had definitely tried to imitate the postcard landscapes of the period in these compositions. The fruit designs in the corners are depicted in a pair of shells each with a pair of pearls protruding from the upper and lower parts of the shells. The images decorating the ceilings are either within cartouches or are in the form of fruits on a plate. On the third ceiling there are different fruit designs, a sun like a medal in the centre and on either side of the sun two-dragon compositions. The dragon motifs and the lion heads are supposedly symbols of protection.

Architectural decoration techniques seen in European buildings can also be observed in these Levantine villas in large gardens. Wall paintings, cast iron decorations and plaster decoration, however are also found in Anatolian buildings of the same period. The Levantine villas of Bornova have made distinctive contributions to the architecture of Izmir. They thus enriched the architectural landscape of this cosmopolitan city. Although the plan and architectural decoration of these villas show many similarities, there are also striking external differences. The fact that these differences mainly appear on the façades means that these private houses had gained individuality. The identities of the families who had these houses built, their economic and socio-cultural status are clearly reflected on the façades of these buildings. With this kind of villa, which can also be seen in former European colonies, late 19th and early 20th century Izmir became part of the international arena of architecture.

FIGURE LIST

Fig.1- Izmir, Bornova, Big House.

Fig.2- Izmir, Bornova, Bari Villa.

Fig.3- Izmir, Bornova, Paterson Villa.

Fig.4- Izmir, Bornova, Belhomme Villa.

⁴⁴-*ibid.*, p.54.

Fig.5- Izmir, Bornova, Aliberti Villa.

Fig.6- Izmir, Bornova, Yellow Villa.

Fig.7- Izmir, Bornova, Pandiapania Villa.

Fig.8- Izmir, Bornova, Whittall Villa.

Fig.9- Izmir, Bornova, The Davy's Villa.

Fig.10- Izmir, Bornova, Edwards Villa.