Private Book Collections in Ottoman Sofia, 1671-1833 (Preliminary notes)

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Neither specialists in Ottoman book history, nor specialists in Ottoman criminal law and its application do have paid so far attention to it. As a matter of fact, the main reason for that was simply the lack of appropriate sources to rely on. This is only by good fortune that I came across documents dealing with four nineteenth-century cases of book theft and preserved at Başbakanlık Arşivi, Istanbul. View of those who stole books they were either source of money, or source of needed knowledge, or probably, both of them. Let me now describe in brief the nineteenth-century Ottoman cases of book theft I have come across and then make an attempt to analyze them. The First Case. Ottoman Collection, Christchurch, New Zealand.