

Aleksandar Fotić

*Old Source, New Discoveries and Insights: Challenges of The Autograph of Evliya Çelebi's Seyahatname*

*Summary*

It has been two centuries now since the importance of Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname* was recognized, but his monumental work is far from being fully explored and explained. Serbian and ex-Yugoslav historiography and Oriental studies became familiar with Evliya's work at the very beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the data contained in his travel account has ever since been an unavoidable source. New examinations of the autograph have shown that Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname* is for the most part a reliable and trustworthy source, revealing, on the other hand, major shortcomings resulting from the use of its 19<sup>th</sup>-century uncritical and faulty edition. The new Turkish edition brings very important, even quite surprising additions, but they have not been made available to the Serbian-speaking public yet. This paper points to the types of mistakes and oversights in the old Turkish edition and Hazim Šabanović's Serbo-Croatian translation, as well as to the possible amount of omitted text relating to the area of the present-day Serbia, urging for a new, critical edition furnished with commentaries, facsimiles and accompanying studies.

*Keywords:* Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname*, Hazim Šabanović, Serbs, Balkan, Ottoman Empire, 17<sup>th</sup> century