



## Case study

## A hotel in Anatolia in the last period of the Ottoman Empire: Hotel Tadia (1892–1922)

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## ABSTRACT

A quiet and underdeveloped town, in the last quarter of 19th century, Eskişehir in Turkey began to live up with the arrival of the Berlin-Baghdad Railway. Since train rides took two days and the passengers had to stop and stay overnight in Eskişehir, the city became in need of a hotel, and the visitors began to stay at hotels, along with inns and public houses. Upon this need, Madame Tadia, a Bohemian lady, turned a large house near the station into a hotel. Within this context, Hotel Tadia has an important place in the tourism history of Eskişehir. The purpose of this study is to create a microhistory of Hotel Tadia, which paved the way for the concept of modern hotel business in Eskişehir, and to reveal the sense of modern hotel business that it brought to Anatolia between 1892 and 1922.

## 1. Introduction

Caravanserais and inns, which are the grassroots of the entire hotel business in Turkey, continued to exist until the late 19th century (Maviş, 1992, pp. 47–48). After the second half of the 19th century, the modern accommodation activities gained momentum, and the minorities in Istanbul began to open hotels for their own use (Arslan & Polat, 2015, p. 104; Özdemir, 1992). Due to the political and commercial policies pursued by the Ottoman Empire, the number of visitors from the West began to increase, and this brought along a need for hotel facilities (Arslan & Polat, 2016). The developments in transportation network brought a momentum to the regions around the railroads. With the first journey of the Orient Express to Istanbul in 1892, Pera Palas Hotel became the first modern hotel opened in Istanbul (Kozak, Kozak & Kozak, 2000, p. 23). In the same year, another modern hotel was opened in Eskişehir, in the middle of the moorlands of Anatolia: Hotel Tadia. Hotel Tadia became a hotel, which was frequently mentioned in foreign travel books, and which brought along the concept of modern hotel business to Eskişehir.

A developed and modern metropolis today due to the revival of tourism in recent years, Eskişehir was known as a neglected, quiet and underdeveloped town in the last quarter of the 19th century. While the arrival of the Berlin-Baghdad Railway and migrations made economic, administrative, commercial and cultural contributions to the city, these factors also led to the town's first encounter with tourism. The fact that

it used to take two days to go from Istanbul to Ankara via railroads, and that the train used to stop overnight in Eskişehir, triggered the modern-day tourism activities of the city. Within this context, a need for a hotel around the train station had arisen.

Upon this need, Madame Tadia, who came from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and moved in Eskişehir in 1891, had opened 'Hotel Tadia' near the train station. The travelers visiting Eskişehir had stayed in this hotel and spoken highly of the hotel and its owner Madame Tadia in their travel guides. The photographs of this hotel were placed on postcards and the hotel was mentioned in many famous novels. In the forthcoming years, the hotel witnessed the Turkish War of Independence and supported the Turkish army. The hotel also has a significant place in Turkish tourism history, as much as in Eskişehir's.

From this viewpoint, the purpose of this study is to create a microhistory of Hotel Tadia, which paved the way for the concept of modern hotel business in Eskişehir, and to reveal the sense of modern hotel business that it brought to Anatolia between 1892 and 1922. Unlike microhistory studies, where the focus is mainly on the great and powerful figures, microhistory studies concern with ordinary people, small towns, and small groups, and set light to historical causality (Iggers, 2016, pp. 119, 128; Çakmak, 2010, p. 41; Iggers, Wang & Mukherjee, 2013, p. 276). The literary review of this study was carried out through documents and visual materials. Some of the sources, which were written in German, English, and French, were provided physically, and some of them were found in online archives.

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The names of the hotel and its owner were searched in various forms, and many different uses were found as it can be seen throughout this article. In line with the nature of microhistory research, only the period, the person, and the hotel were focused. For these reasons, the aim is to research Hotel Tadia and to shed light on the tourism history of Eskişehir with the help of the documents obtained. Although the primary aim of this study was to write an oral tourism history of Eskişehir, the researcher could not find anybody who witnessed the hotel, and any information for the period after the Turkish War of Independence. All data are obtained from travel guides based on real experiences and from novels.

According to the information gathered, neither the hotel, which began to offer services together with the arrival of the railways, nor Madame Tadia were heard of after the Turkish War of Independence in 1922. The probabilities regarding the fate of Madame Tadia and the hotel are discussed at the end of this study. Many important decisions were taken in this hotel, which had witnessed the war, and the people tried to dust themselves off in this hotel during the war. Madame Tadia preferred to stand by the Turkish people and provided moral and material support. In this sense, Madame Tadia was a notable figure for foreign guests, as well as for domestic guests staying in her hotel and the Turkish people.

## 2. Eskişehir at the end of 19th century

Turkey's geographical location forms a bridge between Europe and Asia, giving it the role of a transition culture between East and West (Alipour, 1996, p. 369). Located in the North East of Turkey in the Central Anatolia Region, Eskişehir is one of the most popular cities in Turkey with its developed industry and increasing domestic tourism activities. The fact that the city is located on the junction point of the railroads built in 1892 makes it easily accessible. However, train rides now take less time, as technology advances, and overnight stays are not required as in the past. In the Ottoman Empire, Eskişehir was a small town named Sultanönü within the borders of Hüdavendigâr province. Many visitors described Eskişehir in the first half of the 19th century as a, 'dead, spiritless and unobtrusive place' (Lindner, 2007, p. 72). Since the city had a fertile meadow and was located on the trade and military routes that had been used since the early ages (Albek, 1991, p. 162), it was planned to go through Eskişehir with the Berlin-Baghdad Railway in 1871, and the city began to gain dynamism with the completion of the railroad in 1892.

Without a doubt, the most important factor that changed the appearance of the city was the arrival of railroads. *Anatolian Railroads Ottoman Company* was established in order to develop Anatolian railroads on October 4, 1889 with a 99-year lease to extend the Haydarpaşa-Izmit line up to Ankara (Albek, 1991, p. 163) and this agreement was signed by Dr. Alfred Kaula on behalf of *Deutsche Bank*, by Zihni Pasha, the Minister of Public Works and Trade, and by the manager of *Württembergische Vereinsbank* on behalf of the German company (Albayrak, 1995, p. 1). Within the frame of this agreement, the railroad from Haydarpaşa to Ankara passed through Eskişehir, and the construction in Eskişehir was completed on June 1892; the remaining part to Ankara was completed in November 27, 1892 (Efe, 2009, p. 50).

When the history of Eskişehir is reviewed, it is observed that healing thermal water springs, meerschaum, emigrations, industrial investments and particularly the railroads brought dynamism to the city. It is understood that all of these factors developed the city by making social and cultural contributions, and that Muslims and non-Muslims used to live in peace in the city.

## 3. Arrival of Madame Tadia in Eskişehir

The train services between Istanbul and Ankara began in November 1892, and this date also led to the beginning of tourism history in

Eskişehir. In the early years of railroads, the trains used to set off only in the daytime due to some inadequacies and safety reasons. It used to take two days to reach Ankara from Istanbul by train. As the train, which set off from Haydarpaşa early in the morning, used to arrive in Eskişehir in about 12 h, the passengers had to stay overnight in Eskişehir (Efe, 1998, pp. 541–542). Hotel Tadia and some other hotels, inns and bath-houses in town fulfilled the accommodation needs of the passengers. It is observed in travel books that the hotels prior to railroads were as follows: *Osmaniye Hotel* and *Hüsmen Ağa's Hotel* in Köprübaşı, where Ziya (2009) stayed in 1891, and *Hotel International*, where Dernburg (1892) stayed in the same year, and *Hotel Suisse*, which was owned by Swiss Hafner (Meyer's *Reisebücher*, 1902). Von der Goltz (1897, p. 174) wrote that the place called Küçük Han (the Little/Tiny Inn) was *Hotel Stamboul*, frequently mentioned in travel books in later years. Together with Hotel Tadia, Greek hotels '*Xenodochion*', French wine houses '*Dépot de Vins*', Italian boutiques '*Vestiti Pronti*', and German hotels '*Deutsches Gasthaus*' were located on the avenue in the European neighborhood (Baedeker, 1905).

In an article named *The Land of the Anatolian Railway I*, which was published in *The Times* newspaper in December 28, 1904, it was mentioned that a total of 280 Germans and Austrians were working in railway roundhouses in Eskişehir (Kösebay, 2007, pp. 101–102). It is highly likely that Madame Tadia, who arrived in Eskişehir in 1891, was among the group of aforementioned Austrians.

Madame Tadia was an Austrian woman who came from Jungbunzlau city of Bohemia, located in today's Czech Republic, to Eskişehir in 1891 (Von Eisenstein, 1912, p. 94). According to some sources, she was referred to as Aunt Tadeus, Mama Tadia, Madame Tatia, Frau Tadia, Mom/Mother Tadia, Frau Dadia, or Frau Dadian. Jungbunzlau, which is now called Mladá Boleslav, was a city in the Bohemia province of Czech Republic. When the history of the Austrian Empire is examined, it is observed that the empire was confederated with Hungary in 1867 and became the Austro-Hungarian Empire. While it was under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918, Bohemia Province came under the control of Czechoslovakia. It has been within the borders of the Czech Republic since 1993. Thus, Madame Tadia was mentioned as Hungarian or Czech in some sources, and as Austrian or Viennese in others. Halide Edip Adıvar, one of Turkey's well-known authors, who frequently mentioned Madame Tadia and her hotel in her novels, emphasizes the Czech origins of Madame Tadia with the following statements in her novel named *Ateşten Gömlek* (Translated into English as *The Daughter of Smyrna*):

'We dine here at Tadia's in the evenings. (A Czechoslovakian women, who operates a hotel in Eskişehir. Due to her warm heart and loving nature, this woman named Madame Tadia is also called Mother Tadia or Mama Tadia.)'

Von Dewitz (1915) described Madame Tadia as '*an open-hearted Viennese lady*'. No information was found in the documents related to Madame Tadia regarding her date of birth, why and how she came to Anatolia, and how she decided to establish this hotel. However, a few probabilities come to mind about Madame Tadia. The first option is that her husband was among the Austrians who came to work in railroad construction, that Madame Tadia came to Eskişehir with him, and that later, her husband passed away. Another option is that she might be one of the Austrians who came for meerschaum trade, and yet another is that she came to Eskişehir for one of the above reasons and envisaged the need for a hotel, turning a big house near the station into a hotel. Within the frame of Oral History of Tourism in Turkey Project, the authors went to Madame Tadia's hometown Mladá Boleslav, interviewed with Honza Juřena in Statni Okresni Archive, and sourced church records, which might have contained information about Madame Tadia. However, since the last name of Madame Tadia was unknown, and the handwritings were not legible, the authors could not reach any information in the archives. But according to many secondary resources, it is understood that Madame Tadia was highly capable in the

kitchen (Civelli, 2010, p. 153; Boehringer, 1972; Cunliffe-Owen, 1925; Haffinger, 1914, p. 391; Von Eisenstein, 1912, p. 94; Fraser, 1909, p. 21; Von Kotze, 1908, pp. 136–139; Elliot, 1905, p. 2; Meyer's Reisebücher, 1902; Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 31), energetic (Von Böhmersheim, 1907, p. 4), friendly and hospitable (Civelli, 2010, p. 153; Adivar, 2007; Cunliffe-Owen, 1925; Preyer, 1916; Schaffer, 1903; Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 31; Oberhammer & Zimmerer, 1899), sociable/talkative (Civelli, 2010, p. 153; Adivar, 2007, pp. 181–183; Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 31), gracious (Von Eisenstein, 1912, p. 94), appealing (Horváth, 2010; McAfee, 1914, pp. 541–542), old (Horváth, 2010; Adivar, 2007, p. 147), well-groomed (Cunliffe-Owen, 1925, pp. 26–27), widowed (Fraser, 1909, p. 21), entrepreneur (Elliot, 1905, p. 2), chubby (Boehringer, 1972; McAfee, 1914, pp. 541–542), emotional (Adivar, 2007, p. 147), elegant and a little Ottoman-style (Boehringer, 1972), and reliable (Von Kotze, 1908, pp. 147–148), and could speak German (Civelli, 2010, p. 153) and French (Cunliffe-Owen, 1925, pp. 26–27).

#### 4. Hotel Tadia

Madame Tadia's personal traits comprised many characteristics that may be required for today's tourism professionals. Overnight stops of Istanbul Ankara train in Eskişehir and mandatory overnight stays of the passengers prove that she made the right entrepreneurship decision at the right place and time. Although the authors could not find any information regarding profitability of the hotel, it is easily understood from the travel notes of the guests that the hotel was quite popular. Her hotel, which was located right in front of the station, was quite European back in the day and preferred by many local and foreign travelers, scientists, litterateurs, and statesmen.

In *Yolculuk (Voyage)* part of his novel named *Üç Nesil Üç Hayat (Three Generations Three Lives)*, famous Turkish author Karay mentions with the following statements how the rich passengers having European-style eating habits preferred Hotel Tadia, and the poor passengers preferred the bath-house:

'In these days, only one train sets off every morning from Haydarpaşa to Anatolia; it stops at every suburb station, goes slowly and reaches Eskişehir late at night. When the train arrives in Eskişehir, all passengers have to get off the train and spend the night somewhere out of their coaches. The rich passengers go to the hotel operated by a German woman, and the poor passengers go to a bath-house!

The rich passengers who have never gotten used to the life in a hotel, European-style food and table manners, also prefer the bath-house... They have to get up early in the morning, catch the train, find a seat and place their luggage.' (Karay, 2009, pp. 157–158).

In one of his articles describing Christmas in Anatolia, Haffinger states that the word hotel was used generously in Anatolia, and complains that each restaurants with a vacant room, and each place that offers beverages other than coffee was called a hotel (Haffinger, 1914, p. 391). The word used as *Gasthaus* in Old High German (*Gasthof*, *Gaststätte* after 15th century), was used for buildings, where accommodation, food and beverage services were offered. As an architectural structure, *Gasthaus* differs from the hotels that emerged in the late 18th century. Functionally, these structures were designed in two sections as a public food and beverage section and a more private accommodation section (Seidl, 2006). Hotel Tadia was frequently mentioned as *Gasthaus/Gasthof* in the travel notes of German travelers. This concept, which was used for a traditional structure, supports the idea that the hotel reminded of traditional German structure for German and German-speaking guests, although it said 'Hotel Tadia' on its signboard.

In his book where he talked about his journeys to Anatolia, Von der Goltz (1897, p. 174) states that everything was fresh and clean in the inland, and it was a great experience to stay in that hotel, although it was a small-town hotel. Von der Goltz also mentioned Madame Tadia's

hotel in his travel book, and stated that the hotel was magnificent, that it left behind many hotels around the station, and that he was satisfied with its bright and well-decorated European-style rooms. German travelers Roman Oberhammer and Heinrich Zimmerer, who wrote their journey to Anatolia in 1899, stated that they came across a quiet and inanimate town in their first visit, but that the town was socially changed, the streets became more vivid (Güneş and Yakut, 2007, p. 52), and they pointed out that the hotel of Madame Tadia, a hospitable Bohemian lady, was praiseworthy (Lindner, 2007, p. 61).

Famous German novelist Rudolf Stratz mentioned Hotel Tadia in his memoirs, which he first wrote for a pictorial magazine in 1902, and then turned into a novel in 1903. Stratz, who wrote that Madame Tadia looked like a 'white crow', praised her and her hotel and said: 'Which European traveler could stay away from the mistress of the only hotel (outside of Izmir) that you could spend the night under humane conditions?' He also compared this hotel with the bad conditions of the caravanserais and inns in Anatolia, and depicted this hotel as the 'last stand of the Western culture' (Stratz, 1902; 451–452). Schaffer (1903), who traveled through Anatolia for his geological studies, praised Madame Tadia and said: '*The final European place to the journey towards the East; a real hospitable German home, which opens its doors to all passengers*'. Observers like Schönewolf and Oberhammer mentioned that due to the monotony of the city, and since they did not come across any historical ruins, they extended their way on purpose and went to Madame Tadia's hotel and utilized different services offered there (Oberhammer & Zimmerer, 1899; Schönewolf, 1910; Lindner, 2007, p. 61).

Lieutenant Von Bodemeyer who came to Eskişehir for a natural sciences research trip and stated that the city was in the middle of Anatolian highland, interpreted the fact that it was chosen as a station as follows: (1) researching the habitat/life in Kocakır, (2) researching as yet little-known Bozdağ and (3) an important reason: spectacular hospitality of Madame Tadia (Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 25). It is clearly seen that a naturalist, who came to take samples of birds and other species, referred to Madame Tadia, where he spent his leisure time every three to four days, as 'a place to have a good time in a town like Eskişehir' (Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 30).

There were written about the importance of meerschaum trade and Madame Tadia's hotel in Meyer's (*Reisebücher*, 1902, p. 373) and Baedeker's (1905, p. 160) travel books. In Meyer's travel book, the hotel, which was operated by Madame Tadia, located next to the station, and which was offering decent food and clean beds, was recommended for the visitors of Eskişehir. Karl Baedeker (1905, p. 160) also gave the same advice, and described the place as a good hotel located in front of the train station, where rooms could be booked through telegram. Von Böhmersheim (Baedeker, 1905, p. 4) mentioned that he stayed at the hotel of Bohemian Madame Tadia in Eskişehir, which he described as a major city, and the junction point of the railroads. Von Böhmersheim (Baedeker, 1905, p. 4) described it as the best hotel in town. Von Eisenstein (1912, p. 94), mentioned that there were not many things worth seeing, and talked about, 'a bridge supposedly from the Roman period, a bazaar that had a fountain in the middle, and the hotel of gracious Madame Tadia right next to the train station'. Civelli (2010, p. 153) referred to Hotel Tadia in his work as follows:

'... (1913) When the Anatolia train stopped over in Eskişehir, the passenger had to find a place to stay. Hotel Tadia was a place that offered clean beds and good food, and was located around the station. The facility's friendly owner Madame Tadia was a German-speaking Bohemian lady, and she loved to have pleasant conversations with her guests...'

Hungarian Turcologist and traveler Béla Horváth wrote the following statements regarding his stay in Madame Tadia's Hotel in his journey to Anatolia in July 19–20, 1913 (Horváth, 2010, p. 6):

'...Our train arrives to Eskişehir tonight. The passengers have to

leave the train, since the trains in Anatolia can only move on during the day. All passengers pack up their stuff and check in one of those hotels around the station. The train will set off tomorrow morning. We checked in to the hotel of good old Aunt Tadeus, who had moved from Austria into this city 22 years ago. This warmhearted old lady runs a hotel, which is well-liked by local and foreign passengers... We are woken up before sunrise. Our train will set off at 5 a.m....'

The authors reached one of the most interesting facts about Madame Tadia through a writer who lived in the United Kingdom and could speak French, German and Dutch, and who was believed to be a spy but was actually a 26-year-old journalist using the nickname, 'the man who dined with the Kaiser'. Having begun his journey through Anatolia on November 1915, the writer referred to a travel plan in Haydarpaşa stating that he had to stay in Hotel Tadia (*The Man who dined with the Kaiser*, 1916, pp. 107–109):

'I could get in contact through German friends of Enver Pasha. He was amicable and peaceful, and he gave me an instruction note explaining the routes from Istanbul to Baghdad. That plan was written in French, despite of Germans' frequent voyages through Anatolia. The travel plan starts with the following note: 'first, the train will leave Haydarpaşa, will arrive to Eskişehir at night, and you must spend the night in Hotel Tadia (Mme Tadia)'. This plan was written in French, but the writer translated this plan into English. The book contains this instruction note in both languages. I've met many unauthorized officers between Haydarpaşa and Eskişehir. They sent 200 German officers to teach agriculture to Anatolians and to harvest their crops ideally.'

Hotel Tadia was always preferred by many foreign travelers, military men, scientists and artists. However, the fact that Hotel Tadia was recommended to the people who were assigned in Anatolia by senior level bureaucrats, indicates that the hotel was not only famous in and important for Eskişehir, but also in Europe. In the preface of the natural sciences research travel notes written by Von Bodemeyer in Anatolia in 1900, only Madame Tadia of Eskişehir and Madame Blanc of Akşehir were found to be thankworthy throughout Anatolia with their hospitality.

#### 4.1. Physical features of Hotel Tadia

Since Hotel Tadia was not heard of after 1922, and is not present today, the physical features of the hotel could only be depicted through notes and old photographs. According to the photographs, the hotel was a two-story mansion with oleander and locust trees (Boehringer, 1972, p. 8) in its garden and the building also had a bay window. The lace curtains on the windows were in different lengths, so there may have been adjustable curtains. The colored glass used on left anterior window and the entrance door was stained-glass with shapes resembling a cross, and all windows were dome-shaped. The garden was fenced with wooden fence. A 'Hotel Tadia' signboard written in Latin alphabet was placed on the bay window of the hotel entrance. Oil lamps were placed on both sides of wooden swing garden door, which was the same height as the fences. The European-style clothing of the women, who were chatting in the garden in those photographs, was another remarkable feature. There was a fountain right outside the garden wall. All structures around the train station were similar two-story houses with gardens.

Mary Augusta Mason Dickinson Poynter (1921, p. 124) gave an idea about the furnishings of the hotel with the following statements: 'The house of Madame Tadia is neither a hotel, nor an inn. It may be considered as both. It is a comfortable place to stay overnight. It is decorated to appeal to everyone and it is one of the most significant epitomes of the city.' Schazmann, who also wrote his memories in his book containing the articles regarding his trips to Pesisnuss referred to Hotel Tadia as a small hotel surrounded by oleanders and locust trees within a

small and beautiful garden (Boehringer, 1972).

Hotel Tadia also hosted local litterateurs. The most important author was Halide Edip Adıvar, who frequently referred to Madame Tadia in her novels. Information about the hotel and Madame Tadia were given in her novel named *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı* (translated into English as *The Turkish Ordeal*), which was about the Turkish War of Independence in 1922. One of them was the existence of feather beds, which were considered comfortable and were not very common in those days, and it was depicted in the novel as follows (Adıvar, 1962, pp. 181–183):

'There was this small hotel, run by a Czech woman. This woman, Madame Tadia, was known as Mama Tadia due to her sweet talk. Since I was struggling with malaria, I was dreaming of sleeping on a spring bed. When I told Fatış that I was going to sleep on a spring bed at night, she asked me what it was. ...The bedstead in Madame Tadia's hotel room was not a spring bed, but it was pretty comfortable since it was a feather bed.'

In the same novel, Adıvar (1962, p. 181) describes that a picture of Jesus Christ and a mirror were hung on the wall of the hotel room:

'Tevfik Bey, who is currently a commander, accepted us and took us to Madame Tadia's hotel. When we let ourselves into our room, I remember Fatış was gazing into the picture of Jesus. We could hardly prevent Yoldaş from attacking the mirror on the wall, since it was his first time seeing a mirror.'

Besides the bedrooms, there was also a dining room with three tables. Madame Tadia used to decorate the tables with flowers, even in the time of war (Adıvar, 1962, p. 182). He indicates that she always put emphasis on aesthetics and elegance under all circumstances.

#### 4.2. Insight of services offered by Hotel Tadia

Many topics, such as service insight, service quality, customers' expectations and satisfaction, have taken part in literature for tourism management in a developmental period of tourism. However, when the services offered in Hotel Tadia are examined, which was in business in the late years of the Ottoman Empire, and even witnessed the Turkish War of Independence, it could be stated that it shares similarities with today's boutique hotels. In this section of the study, the authors provide some examples regarding the services offered by Hotel Tadia.

##### 4.2.1. Cooking skills/hospitality/socialness

Lieutenant Von Bodemeyer (1900, p. 31) speaks highly of Madame Tadia's dishes in his natural sciences research trip notes throughout his stay in Eskişehir:

'We never had to devote some time for cooking. Madame Tadia would always put an effort to meet our needs perfectly, and she would spoil us especially with her tasty soups. No matter how exhausted we were, the nights at the hotel were always quite cozy and enjoyable.'

Von Bodemeyer states that since the train coming from Istanbul or Ankara had to stop in Eskişehir, many talkative and sociable passengers preferred to stay at Madame Tadia's hotel, and continues:

'I particularly remember our gathering with Mr. and Mrs. Korb from Munich, who were among the etymological research group that came from Haydarpaşa, had to stay here for a night and then went to Konya. We checked out from the hotel after we proceeded with all correspondences and orders. It was critical for us to find a carriage for our trip to Bozdağ. Madame Tadia arranged a reliable coachman and a carriage for us.' (Bodemeyer, p. 31).

In her notes, where she narrates the adventures in their journey from Bosphorus to Baghdad, Betty Cunliffe-Owen (1925) also complimented Madame Tadia and her cooking skills:

'You wouldn't have to stay for too long back then, but I'm glad we had to stop and spend some time in Eskişehir. We took a good night's rest and enjoyed Madame Tadia's perfect cooking skills and hospitality.'

From the following statement of Von Kotze (1908, pp. 136–139), it is understood that Madame Tadia used to cool beer in snow:

'When the stray dogs, all modernists were scavenging in empty passenger coaches after his highness took 13 empty beer bottles back in the presence of witnesses/everyone, we drank Schoppen Munich beer at Mama Tadia's, which was cooled in snow.'

Haffinger, who visited Hotel Tadia at the recommendation in reports of the travelers, who previously came to visit Eskişehir, describes his experience as follows:

'At the recommendation of the travelers, who traveled to Kütahya before, and who were familiar with tasty food offered by Mama Tadia, we arrived to a neat house (hotel) with windows opening to an space as clean as a new pin. There were many dishes that we hadn't heard of. We ordered some canned sour cherries and wine for our stocks.' (Haffinger, 1914, p. 391).

From these statements, it is understood that the alcoholic beverages, which were hard to find back then, were served accordingly at Hotel Tadia. Fraser mentioned Eskişehir in his travel notes published in 1909, and spoke highly of Madame Tadia as follows:

'Eskişehir should also be appreciated for another thing, and that is Madame Tadia's hotel. I don't know where Madame Tadia is from, but all that I know is that her husband passed away a long time ago, and she provided me and a Franc clean and comfortable beds. Besides, her hand-made Scottish soup and her café au lait are very delicious' (Fraser, 1909, p. 21).

Von Kotze, who states that Madame Tadia was known as an honorable person in Anatolia, draws attention to another point and talks about her elegant menu card (Von Kotze, 1908, pp. 136–139). Other praiseworthy meals in Madame Tadia's kitchen were her chicken dishes and fresh eggs. Von Kotze's following statements support Madame Tadia's superior cooking skills:

'German-Bohemian hotel operator Madame Tadia's menu card added that elegant touch that I have mentioned before, and I will never forget her day-fresh eggs. When I went to bed however, I left a window open for sleeping beauty. But instead of fairytale princess, I found some of the best chickens of Madame Tadia walking around in my room and those chickens left two fresh eggs on my bed'.

Adivar also mentioned Tadia's pastries in her novel. In her novel about the Turkish War of Independence, it is understood that Adivar and her fellow fighters could move away from the war atmosphere and were cheered up with Madame Tadia's delicious coffee and pastries (Adivar, 2007, p. 141). McAfee (1914, pp. 541–542) states that it was irritating that a meal/tea was not served throughout the 12-h train ride, and that they were pleased by the dinner they had in Hotel Tadia, which was operated by a pretty Czech lady, and the only European hotel in Eskişehir.

Von Schweinitz (1906, p. XXII), who was traveling through Anatolia on horseback in 1905, mentioned that Madam Tadia was an Austrian lady, and that they felt so good throughout their stay in her hotel. Schazmann (Boehring, 1972) also talks about how well they were hosted in the hotel that he described as, 'a hotel, which is run by two ladies together with Madame Tadia, who is chubby, elegant, and a little Ottoman-style and who cooks well'.

#### 4.2.2. Wake up call service and delivery service

It is understood from Betty Cunliffe-Owen's (1925) statements that Madame Tadia made her guests felt at home. As she pointed out in her

following statement, the fact that she prepares sandwiches to-go for her guests hurrying to the train proves Madame Tadia's high-quality service insight, and her ability to speak French and the fact that she wakes up her guests early in the morning with curlpaper on her hair shows her sincerity and care for her customers:

'I heard a knock on my door early in the morning. Madame Tadia was standing at the door with her gown and with curlpaper on her hair, looking like Medusa, and telling me in French that the train was about to leave. She was hurrying me along. She gave me a pack of sandwiches and I hardly threw myself out with my stuff' (Cunliffe-Owen, 1925, pp. 26–27).

#### 4.2.3. Reliability

It is understood from Von Kotze's (1908, pp. 147–148) travel notes that Madame Tadia was a reliable woman and, from time to time, some valuables were consigned to her by her guests.

'I felt very happy under the wings of Mama Tadia in Eskişehir. But I had to continue my journey, and I would be traveling to Konya through the main Baghdad route, which was about 430 km or 15 hours... Although it was very hard for me, I left my thermometer, barograph, compass and other equipment to Mama Tadia and hit the road with my scouting instincts and my ticket to Konya.'

#### 4.2.4. Entrepreneurship

While the secondary Clerk of Istanbul British Embassy Elliot was praising the cooking skills of Madame Tadia, he also emphasized with the following statements that she was a female entrepreneur:

'In Eskişehir, the passengers have to leave the train and spend the night in a nearby hotel. However, I have never seen an initiative like the one in Eskişehir. A small hotel operated by Madame Tadia, which is only a few steps away from the train station, is famous for its soups, pastries and café au lait' (Elliot, 1905, p. 2).

#### 4.2.5. Her sensitive pricing policy

Von Eisenstein (1912, p. 94) refers to different characteristics of Bohemian Madame Tadia of Jungbunzlau with her habit of adding extras to the check, along with her efforts to provide the best accommodation and food services to her customers. It is understood from these statements that Madame Tadia only provided room services, and other services such as food and beverage were charged as extra services.

#### 4.2.6. Currency exchange

Talking about their arrival to Hotel Tadia in Eskişehir, Haffinger (1914, p. 391) advised his friend to change money before leaving the hotel, since it might be impossible for a long time throughout their journey: 'He would not have gotten a chance to change money, so he shouldn't have missed that chance'.

#### 4.2.7. She allowed hucksters to sell their goods

McAfee (1914, pp. 541–542) states that the hucksters would come to the hotel and display their goods during dinner. The city had rich meerschaum reserves and the international meerschaum trade was growing rapidly. McAfee was surprised to see only the foreigners were finding buyers for meerschaum rosaries, pipes and mouthpieces and no one in Eskişehir was selling pipes or other accessories.

Grabowsky (1914, pp. 40–41) also mentioned that the hucksters selling meerschaum products were visiting Hotel Tadia: 'It is finally dark. The train stopped and we all went to Madame Tadia's famous hotel, which made us feel like we were in Bohemia. There used to be a knock on the door every once in a while, and sellers of meerschaum products used to appear at the doorstep. There were meerschaum reserves around Eskişehir'

As it can be seen in all references, some characteristics stood out

regarding the service insight of Madame Tadia. She could offer many specialties in a small hotel, such as her excellent cooking skills, hospitality, socialness, wake-up call and delivery services, reliability, entrepreneurship and her sensitivity regarding her pricing policy, money exchange services and her tolerant manner against hucksters, and these were her unique offerings. In this case, Madame Tadia and her hotel left its mark on Eskişehir, took part in many travel notes and inspired many stories and novels, and these were all due to her high-quality service insight.

#### 4.3. Customers of Hotel Tadia

It is observed that many travelers from various nations traveled to Anatolia for different reasons in the later years of the Ottoman Empire. In this context, many German travelers were noblemen with military titles. In the German Empire, the titles were granted in accordance with the degree of the nobility within social hierarchy and the surnames starting with 'von' used to be indicators of nobility (Adelstiel, 2015). It is frequently observed in the surnames of the travelers visiting Anatolia. For example, August Rudolf Eduard von Bodemeyer, Colmar Freiherr von der Goltz and Richard Freiherr von Eisenstein.

Hotel Tadia provided services to many male and female customers from various nations. It is observed from the documents that the hotel was a home away from home and Madame Tadia was hosting her customers as guests. Many travelers, authors and personage preferred to stay in this hotel in Eskişehir. Apart from the guests, who had to stay overnight for the train stopped in Eskişehir for a night, there were some other customers who specifically came to stay in Hotel Tadia. The names of the people, who stayed in Hotel Tadia, and the names of their works, where the hotel was mentioned, are given historically in Table 1.

Although many people visited Hotel Tadia as seen in Table 1, the first person to mention that he actually stayed in accommodation at Hotel Tadia was the German Geographer Edmund Naumann (1893, p. 121). When speaking of meerschaum reserves in the city, Naumann states that they used

to come back from Alpu (45 km away from Eskişehir), together with his group to Hotel Tadia to spend the night. Hotel Tadia not only hosted the train passengers. In 1900, Von Bodemeyer, in 1903, Prof. Richard Leonhard and in 1905, Hans-Hermann von Schweinitz traveled through Anatolia on horseback, and they preferred to stay in Hotel Tadia. This shows that the hotel was not only preferred by the train passengers as it was close to the train station, but it was also preferred by the travelers on horseback. Some of the guests, such as Sir William Ramsay (1909, pp. 196–197), Von Kotze (1908, pp. 147–148) and Adivar (1962), stated in their novels and other literary works that they were regular customers of the hotel. Local guests also preferred Hotel Tadia. According to Adivar's novel *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı* (1962), significant figures such as Salih Zeki, Commander Tevfik, Şemsettin Bey, Ruşen Eşref, Yusuf Akçura, Yakup Kadri, Foreign Minister Bekir Sami Bey (Acar, 2009, p. 10) and the prince of Georgia, stayed in Hotel Tadia.

#### 4.4. Hotel Tadia in novels and fictional novels

Madame Tadia, who was frequently mentioned in travel notes, also inspired some novelists. Apart from travel notes, which were written as daily or monthly reports, there were also other novelists, who novelized or fictionalized the events, as Adivar did.

Hotel Tadia, which became a landmark for the city, and its owner, were frequently mentioned in Adivar's novels, where she depicted the period of Independence War. Adivar, who gives wide coverage to real heroes in her novels, refers to her fellow fighters, to Madame Tadia and her support to Turkish people in *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı* and *Ateşten Gömlek* (Adivar, 1962, pp. 205–206). In her novel *Ateşten Gömlek*, it is understood from her following sentences that Madame Tadia not only witnessed tragic events, she also supported the Turks and felt sorry about the war (Adivar, 2007, pp. 147–149):

'Madame Tadia has put me under her own treatment. There are signs on the horizon indicating that another bloody war is imminent. I am far from well but if a war does come I would be the first to get

**Table 1**  
Customers of Hotel Tadia.

Name of the customers	Year	The name of the work, where Hotel Tadia was mentioned
Naumann	1893	Vom Goldenen Horn zu den Quellen des Euphrat: Reisebriefe, Tagebuchblätter und Studien über die Asiatische Türkei und die Anatolische Bahn
Von der Goltz	1897	Anatolische Ausflüge
Oberhummer and Zimmerer	1899	Durch Syrien und Kleinasien
Von Bodemeyer	1900	Quer durch Klein-Asien in den Bulghar-Dagh Eine naturwissenschaftliche Studien-Reise
Meyer's travel book	1902	Türkei, Rumänien, Serbien, Bulgarien
Stratz	1902	'Der Stern von Angora' in Gartenlaube Illustrierte Familienblatt.
Leonhard	1903	Paphlagonia: Reisen und Forschungen im Nördlichen Kleinasien
Schaffer	1903	Mitteilungen der Kaiserlich-Königlichen Geographischen Gesellschaft
Baedeker	1905	Konstantinopel und das westliche Kleinasien: Handbuch für Reisende von Karl Baedeker
Von Schweinitz	1905	In Kleinasien, ein Reitausflug durch das Innere Klein-Asiens im Jahre 1905
Elliot	1905	The Land of the Anatolian Railway I, the Times
Von Böhmersheim	1905	Abhandlungen der K.K. Geographischen Gesellschaft in Wien.
Von Kotze	1908	Im europäischen Hinterhaus Reiseskizzen aus dem Orient
Fraser	1909	The Short Cut To India: The Record Of A Journey Along The Route Of The Baghdad Railway
Schazmann	1910	'A letter from Schazmann to her wife' in Pergamon: Gesammelte Aufsätze
Von Eisenstein	1912	Reise nach Konstantinopel, Kleinasien, Rumänien, Bulgarien und Serbien
Civelli	1913	Deutsche Schienen in Osmanischem Boden: Eine Virtuelle Reise mit der Anatolischen und Bagdadbahn durch die Geschichte, Wahrnehmungen, Raum und Zeit
Horváth	1913	Anadolu 1913
Haffinger	1913	Deutsche Rundschau für Geographie
Grabowsky	1914	Kleinasien und Deutschland, anatolische Fahrten und deutsche Gedanken
McAfee	1914	An Anatolian Journey
Von Dewitz	1915	Der Kampf um Konstantinopel
Anonymous: 'The Man who dined with the Kaiser'	1916	My secret service Vienna, Sophia, Constantinople, Nish, Belgrade, Asia Minor, etc.
Preyer	1916	Von New York nach Jerusalem und die Wüste
Zobeltitz	1918	Die Junker
Poynter	1921	When Turkey Was Turkey: In and Around Constantinople
Adivar	1922	Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı
Cunliffe-Owen	1925	Thro' The Gates Of Memory: (From The Bosphorus To Baghdad)

to work, even as impatiently as the General's horse begins neighing when the bugle is sounded. When the army marches past the hospital, Madame Tadia comes up to the window and with tearful eyes watches the whole thing. 'Ah! How many mothers are doomed to shed tears,' she goes on saying to herself. 'How handsome all these young men! Ah! What for should they be so charming?' (Adivar, 2007, p. 147).

'... I heard cannon shots and it seemed to me as if the very walls of the hotel were shaken. This woke me up and on rushing towards the stairs, I found the poor old Tadia staggering up the stairs towards me. She told me that the enemy airplanes had attacked us.' (Adivar, 2007, p. 149)

In addition, it is also understood that Adivar (2007, p. 199) had fictionalized the characters of *Ateşten Gömlek* in Hotel Tadia, and these characters appeared as Nurse Aisha and Sergeant Mehmet, as stated in the following dialogue:

'After I left the room, I told Dr. Şemsettin that he will be the main character of my new novel, and will name him Aisha. The doctor smiled, and asked me who will be the male character. I hadn't known yet. One of the commanders might be a young man from Istanbul, maybe Sergeant Mehmet... When I let myself into my feather bed in Mama Tadia's, I was thinking about it before I went to sleep... I immediately began to write my new novel in Ankara.'

Besides all of these, Hotel Tadia was also mentioned in Özakman's (2005) novel *Şu Çılgın Türkler*, Müderrisoğlu's novel (2007) *Sakarya: Yunan'ın Ankara'ya Yaklaştığı Günler*, Kantarcıoğlu's (2008) *Yakınçağ Tarihimizde Roman (1908–1960)*, Paradigma and Çalışlar's (2010) *Halide Edip*.

Zobeltitz (1918, p. 18) followed a different method and fictionalized his novel by referring to Madame Tadia with another name. When Zobeltitz's novel was analyzed, many similar characteristics with Madame Tadia were encountered, and this led the authors of this study to think that Madame Tadia was referred to in this novel. Professor Rudi Paul Lindner, who is a lecturer in the University of Michigan, Department of History and Astronomy, was consulted, and was kindly requested to review the novel. Having reviewed the novel, Lindner stated that although there are no material evidences, the characteristics, such as her personal traits (mannerism), the fact that the woman was a Bohemian lady and the owner of the hotel (proprietor), the time and setting of the novel, her customers, behaviors/attitudes (manner), cuisine, and her husband's passing, were all real-like, but fiction. Lindner, who states that Zobeltitz definitely used Madame Tadia as a character in his novel, believes that the information regarding the past of the woman in the book were all fictional (invention). As it is observed, Hotel Tadia took part in literature in different forms by inspiring various authors, and it also played a major role in many memoirs.

#### 4.5. The latest status of Hotel Tadia

Although no precise information could be found on the exact closing date of Hotel Tadia and the fate of Madame Tadia, various probabilities were revealed, and studies were made accordingly while the authors were trying to reach this information. During the Turkish War of Independence, the Greek soldiers vandalized everywhere up to the station while they were retreating in September 2, 1922. It is observed in the reports that 94 inns and hotels were burned down in Eskişehir after the Greek invasion (Güneş & Yakut, 2007, p. 237). In observations of his voyage through Turkey in the post-war era in summer and autumn, Taeschner (1847, p. 96) states that Eskişehir was badly damaged in the Greco-Turkish War and the neighborhood and the bazaar near the station were completely destroyed, and only a part of the neighborhood was modestly rebuilt. While Hartmann (1928, p. 57) states that Hotel Tadia was a well-known hotel and eternalized in Adivar's novels about the Turkish War of Independence, he also wrote in his observations in August 1922 that nothing remained of the hotel. The notes of the travelers and historians connote that Hotel Tadia was among

the vandalized buildings. According to the resources, Hotel Tadia was not heard of after the early years of the Republic period. This hotel and its owner Madame Tadia witnessed a period in Eskişehir, and are considered as one of the cultural heritages of Eskişehir; the authors try to maintain this cultural heritage through this study.

## 5. Conclusion

This study aims to create a microhistory of Hotel Tadia, which paved the way for modern hotel business in Eskişehir, and to reveal the sense of modern hotel business that it brought to Anatolia between 1892 and 1922. Since this is a microhistory research, the researchers solely focused on the period, the person, and the hotel in question, and travel books and novels that are based on real life experiences were also used. In this study, the period between 1892, the opening date of Hotel Tadia, and 1922, when the hotel disappeared during the War of Independence, was discussed, and thus, the general condition of Eskişehir, the arrival of Madame Tadia, physical characteristics of the hotel, the services offered (cooking skills/hospitality/socialness, wakeup call service and delivery service, reliability, entrepreneurship, her sensitive pricing policy, currency exchange, she allowed hucksters to sell their goods), the costumers and depiction of the hotel in novels and fictional novels were analyzed.

When Istanbul-Eskişehir route of Berlin-Baghdad railroad was completed in 1892, Eskişehir, a once-soulless and dull Anatolian town, began to come to life. With the arrival of the railroad, many foreigners came to this town for various purposes and some of them settled here to work. Since it used to take two days to arrive Ankara from Istanbul by train, and the passengers had to stay overnight in Eskişehir, a need for hotels arose in the town. Therefore, a European Neighborhood was established around the train station, and new hotels were opened to meet the need for accommodation, which was once met by inns and bathhouses. The most famous one of these hotels was the subject of this study, Hotel Tadia. According to many travelogues, travel books, travel notes and travel reports Hotel Tadia is a European hotel in terms of its conditions, both with its service and physical characteristics. And also it is understood that owner Madame Tadia was highly capable in the kitchen (Civelli, 2010, p. 153; Boehringer, 1972; Cunliffe-Owen, 1925; Haffinger, 1914, p. 391; Von Eisenstein, 1912, p. 94; Fraser, 1909, p. 21; Von Kotze, 1908, pp. 136–139; Elliot, 1905, p. 2; Meyer's *Reisebücher*, 1902; Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 31), energetic (Von Böhmersheim, 1907, p. 4), friendly and hospitable (Civelli, 2010, p. 153; Adivar, 2007; Cunliffe-Owen, 1925; Leonhard, 1915; Schaffer, 1903; Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 31; Oberhummer & Zimmerer, 1899), sociable/talkative (Civelli, 2010, p. 153; Adivar, 2007, pp. 181–183; Von Bodemeyer, 1900, p. 31), gracious (Von Eisenstein, 1912, p. 94), appealing (Horváth, 2010; McAfee, 1914, pp. 541–542), old (Horváth, 2010; Adivar, 2007, p. 147), well-groomed (Cunliffe-Owen, 1925, pp. 26–27), widowed (Fraser, 1909, p. 21), entrepreneur (Elliot, 1905, p. 2), chubby (Boehringer, 1972; McAfee, 1914, pp. 541–542), emotional (Adivar, 2007, p. 147), elegant and a little Ottoman-style (Boehringer, 1972), and reliable (Von Kotze, 1908, pp. 147–148), and could speak German (Civelli, 2010, p. 153) and French (Cunliffe-Owen, 1925, pp. 26–27).

When the travel notes and reports, memoirs, and novels of the period between 1892 and 1922 were analyzed, it was observed that Hotel Tadia and Madame Tadia, the owner of the hotel, were frequently mentioned, and the hotel became famous in Europe through the travelers, who stayed in her hotel, and recommended to other foreigners, who will have visited Anatolia. Another interesting point was that there were not any complaints or bad comments about Hotel Tadia. The reputation of Hotel Tadia, which was once a small-town hotel in Anatolia, spread throughout Europe via these notes and reports, memoirs, and novels. Following the proclamation of the republic in 1923 in Turkey, new investments began in tourism, just as in other industries. In the post-republican period, Porsuk Hotel, which adopted and maintained the entrepreneurial approach of Hotel Tadia, was opened in 1930 in Eskişehir, and others followed in the following years. The fact that Hotel Tadia is still remembered today, and that a hotel with the same name has been opened recently prove that the entrepreneurial approach of

Madame Tadia is still maintained. We believe that if this hotel had not been demolished and disappeared in the War of Independence, it would have still continued to exist just like Pera Palas Hotel in Istanbul.

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