

## Research on the Report of Professor Rostafinski as a Sample of Scientific Cooperation in Animal Breeding in the First Years of the Republic of Turkey <sup>[1]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> This study was presented as oral presentations at the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Balkan Medical History and Ethics, 11-15 October 2011, Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine, İstanbul, Turkey

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Article Code: KVFD-2016-16706 Received: 01.09.2016 Accepted: 10.12.2016 Published Online: 10.12.2016

### Citation of This Article

**Menteş Gürler A, Yiğit A, Sanal Ş:** Research on the report of Professor Rostafinski as a sample of scientific cooperation in animal breeding in the first years of the Republic of Turkey. *Kafkas Univ Vet Fak Derg*, 23 (3): 491-495, 2017. DOI: 10.9775/kvfd.2016.16706

### Abstract

Reconstructing the veterinary services was added to the agenda at the (National) Economy Congress in İzmir in 1923. Scientists from abroad were invited for their advice on animal diseases and animal breeding. Polish Professor Rostafinski was invited by Şükrü Kaya, the Minister of Agriculture during that period. Rostafinski came to Turkey in November 1924. After his researches on husbandry in Western Anatolia, he presented his opinions in a 31-page report to the Ministry of Agriculture. He advised that pedigree records of horses should be tracked, horse raising should be adopted as a government policy. For cattle, it is important to determine the needs of the peasants. This study aims to identify the husbandry conditions in that period concerning the report on the husbandry in Western Anatolia.

**Keywords:** Rostafinski, Specialist report, Animal breeding, Husbandry in the Turkish Republic period, Veterinary history

## Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin İlk Yıllarında Hayvan Islahı Alanında Bilimsel İşbirliği Örneği Olarak Profesör Rostafinski'nin Raporu Üzerine Bir İnceleme

### Özet

Cumhuriyetin ilânından sonra, İzmir'de 1923 yılında toplanan İktisat Kongresinde veteriner hekimlik hizmetlerinin de yeniden düzenlenmesi gündeme gelmiştir. Hayvan hastalıkları ve hayvan ıslahı konularına ilişkin görüşleri için yurtdışından bilim adamları davet edilmiştir. Dönemin Ziraat Vekili Şükrü Kaya tarafından davet edilen Polonyalı Profesör Rostafinski, 1924 yılı Kasım ayında Türkiye'ye gelerek Batı Anadolu'daki hayvancılık üzerinde incelemelerde bulunmuş ve görüşlerini Ziraat Vekâletine 31 sayfalık bir raporla sunmuştur. Raporunda, atlar için pedigrilerinin tutulmasının, at yetiştirmenin devlet politikası olması, sığır içinse önce köylünün ihtiyacının belirlenmesi gerekliliğini gibi önerilerde bulunmuştur. Bu çalışma ile Batı Anadolu hayvancılığına ilişkin rapor temel alınarak dönemim hayvancılık alanındaki durumu belirlemek amaçlanmıştır.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** Rostafinski, Müttehassıs raporu, Hayvan ıslahı, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti döneminde hayvancılık, Veteriner hekimliği tarihi

### INTRODUCTION

Between the late Ottoman and the early Turkish Republic period, husbandry, zootechnics and veterinary institutions activities became impossible under adverse circumstances because of the war <sup>[1,2]</sup>. Under these circumstances, in order

to designate the economical restrictions and development procedures and principles of the newly established Turkish Republic, husbandry development and breeding subjects were evaluated at the 1<sup>st</sup> Economy Congress held in 1924. At the congress, it was emphasized on '... takes pains over its animals as well as correcting their strains and augments



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their quantity' under the act 8, National Economy Principles [3,4]. In addition, a five-year plan was formulated for the purpose of reconstructing the veterinary services, and it was put in practice in 1925 [1,5].

Animal breeding was detected in the curriculum of veterinary education during the Ottoman period [6,7]. During this period, it was seen that campaign activities on animal breeding and epidemic subjects were practiced. It is known that some studies were performed to build up a stud farm in Thessaloniki, a stallion warehouse in Monastery and in Kosovo in 1907, by Department of Veterinary Affairs and Animal Breeding (Islah-ı Hayvânât ve Umûru Baytâriye Şubesi), which was founded on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1892. Along with the Proclamation of Constitutional Monarchy, animal breeding gained importance. The number of warehouses in Rumelia augmented to five, and 12 warehouses were established in Anatolia [5,8]. After the Proclamation of Republic, scientists from abroad were invited to study animal species in Turkey along with their breeding methods, and to advise on animal diseases. Within the scope of the advice of the scientists, laws and orders were imposed, whilst various studies were performed to develop animal husbandry in Turkey [5,9,10].

Prof. Jan Rostafinski (1882-1966) was one of the specialists who was invited to Turkey. He was a Polish scientist who studied animal husbandry and animal breeding and development. He was kept in captivity in Jewish prison camp [11].

In this study, it is aimed to present animal husbandry and veterinary conditions in Western Anatolia Dourineg that specific period related with the report of Professor Rostafinski.

## MATERIAL and METHODS

Thirty-one pages of the report of Ministry of Agriculture Expertise Reports, Veterinary Part (Ziraat Vekâleti Mütéhassis Raporları, Baytar Kısmı) published, in 1927 forms the first chapter of the research material (Fig. 1). The text was summarized whilst being translated from Ottoman Turkish to Modern Turkish, and it was evaluated through related surveyed documents and literature.

## RESULTS

The report (31 pages) that Professor Rostafinski (Fig. 2) presented to the Ministry of Agriculture, which was written in Ottoman Turkish (240 pages) forms the first chapter of 'Ministry of Agriculture Expertise Reports, Veterinary Part'. The report begins with the clause 'A copy of the report presented by Professor Rostafinski' and states that upon the invitation received from Şükrü Kaya, term Minister of Agriculture, Rostafinski traveled to Western Anatolia for the purpose of studying and evaluating the animals in Western

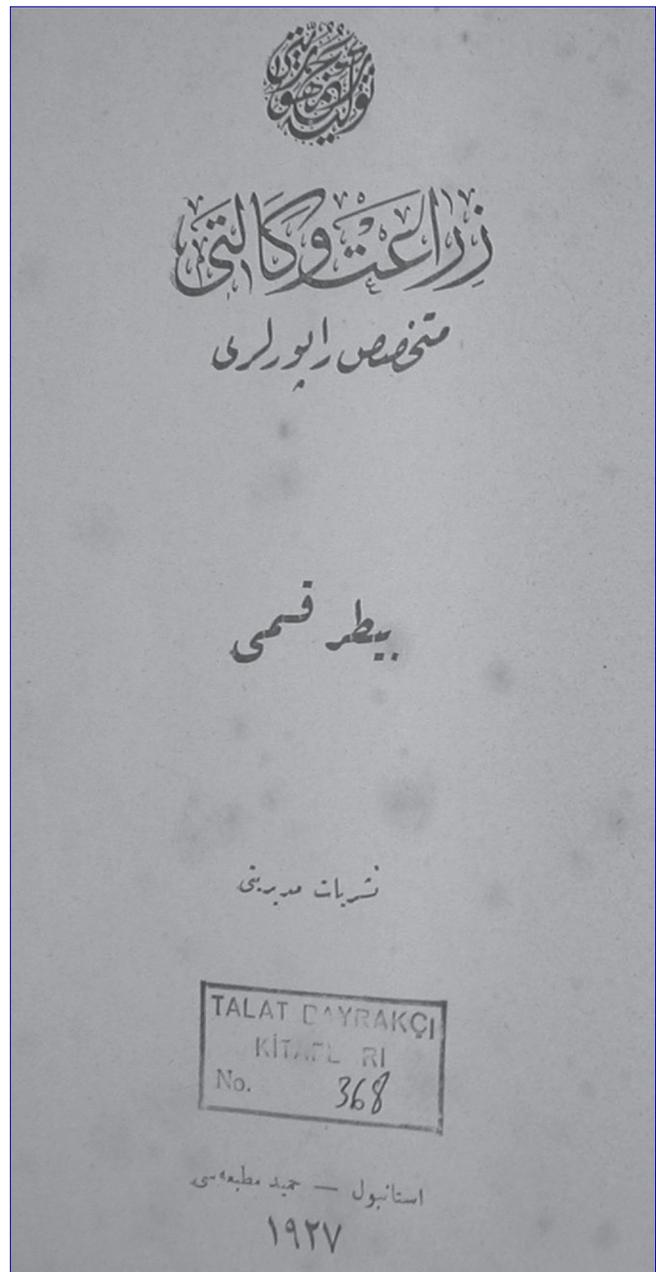


Fig 1. The first chapter of the research material

Anatolia with the help of Şefik (Kolaylı), bacteriologist at Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Yaşar, the Administrator of Agriculture in Izmir. Apart from Ankara, the journey includes stud horse warehouse in Eskisehir-Cifteler Farm, stud farm in Bursa-Karacabey, Buca-Izmir (draught animals, Izmir Agriculture School), Selcuk, Soke, Aydin, Omurlu, Denizli (stud horse warehouse), Dinar, Sandikli, Afyonkarahisar. Professor Rostafinski expressed his opinion in detail about the strains of horses, cattle and sheep. Even though he remarked that he added an animal breeding project to his report, that part does not appear in the book. In his report, Rostafinski gave wide publicity to Karacabey Farm, which was handed over to Ministry of Agriculture upon his arrival. The professor stated in his report that



Fig 2. Professor Rostafinski

unless it is hybridized with 'Nonius'. He noted that the biggest problem of animal breeding was the reason that racing associations in Izmir, Istanbul and Karacabey were not subsidized. He specified that the field structure of Karacabey studfarm was suitable to be transform into a race track; and he suggested that the race horses should be bred in that place. He emphasized that if they work fast enough, Turkey could be a significant worldwide "east animal (probably Arabian horse) resource. He indicated that horse breeding should be adopted as a government policy and animal owners should be encouraged.

Suggestions of Professor for Western Anatolia region horse breeding follows as: *between 1.45 and 1.50 meters of pedigreed 'English-Arabian', 'Arabian-Karabag' or hybridized from amble stallions should be used in the coastal region. In the highlands without a pasture, Arabian or 'Arabian-Karabag' hybrids, mares or overweight stallions, with height of 1.48 should be used. Even if it is a 'Nonius' strain, it should not be imported from countries with severe climate conditions. Horse racing should be organized in the studfarms for Arabian, English and Karabag horse*

*strains, even for short-mountain horses in Anatolia. Russian and Mongolian horses which were bred with tropical animals and have lost their pure race should not be used for breeding. Hybrids whose pedigree are not defined shall not be used for breeding. For an appropriate breeding programme, the pedigree must be determined and tracked decently.'* The qualities of broods in Çifteler Warehouse, Karacabey Studfarm and Denizli Warehouse were described one by one, with appendixes in the following part of the report about the horses. He suggested that the markers on animals should be changed so that the animals in Karacabey shall not be mixed with the animals in Çifteler farm.

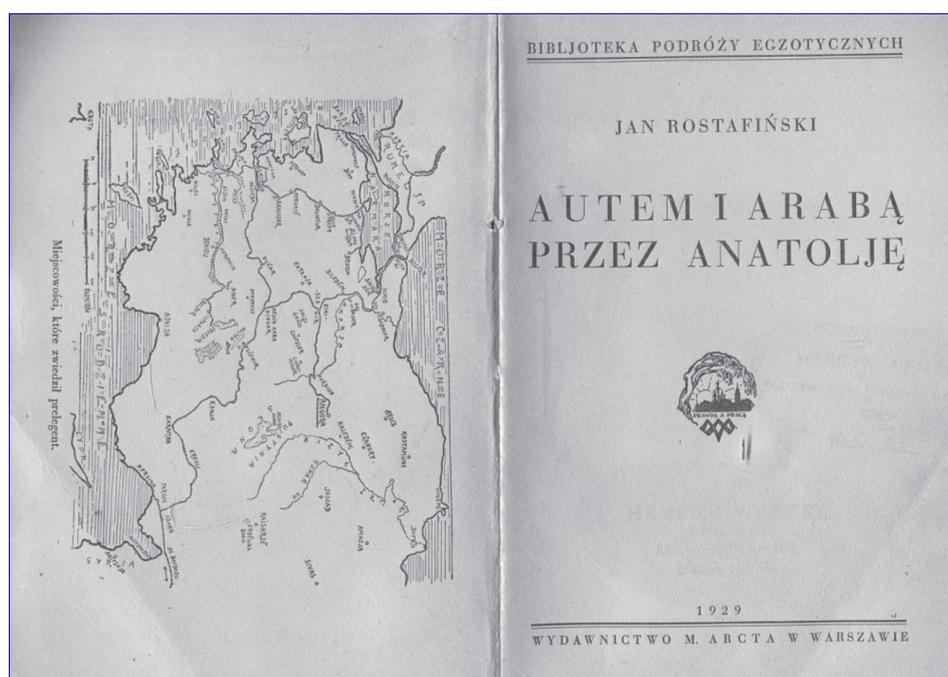


Fig 3. The book on Rostafinski's Anatolian observations

none of the animals in the Cifteler Stud Horse Warehouse had any pedigree and despite the misimplementation in the stud farm, it had a positive effect on the environment. Karacabey: Apart from the draught animals, it was stated that there were 12 studhorses, 28 mares in the warehouse, together with 7 mares, 23 studhorses and 70 foals, which were transferred from Cifteler warehouse. Since the most appropriate strain for Turkey is 'Karabag', he suggested that this strain should be bred and protected in Turkey

He stated that the purpose was to distinguish the animals one from another. He said '*a horseshoe, with the endpointing down with a nail in the middle, which I present its drawing below can be considered as a marking. Acceptance of such marking method is important for state studhorses*'. He highlighted that the most important issue was that the stud farm had a budget and the amount determined directly from Ministry of Agriculture. He indicated that it was important that the stud farm should remain

interconnected to Ministry of Agriculture, which would help to gather the mandatory tools and materials quickly, this would prevent loss of money and time.

He argued that when it comes to cattle breeding, it is important to determine the needs of the peasants first. He stated that animal breeding in Turkey should be studied urgently on the animals at the coastal regions of Turkey first, and later on, it should be practiced on the grey and black cattle in the Central Anatolia.

In conclusion of this part of the report, he asserted that for cattle breeding and raising, Polona strain shall neither be raised nor used anymore, and this practice should stop immediately. In addition, in order to increase the population of red animals (cattle imported from Germany), it was advised to import 2-3 breeding cattle and that it is important to study and examine in Karacabey, which strain is viable for the coastal regions and Turkey's condition. He also mentioned that it is essential to study breeding the grey and black animals with 'Algav' and 'Svitch' hybrids. Moreover, it is essential to teach the peasants how to build and use a granary. He also added that the stud farms should be reformed.

He began his statement in sheep breeding chapter by expressing how sheep breeding is as important as horse breeding for Turkish economy to protect the borders. He asserted that the sheep stock in the country consists of curly-fleeced sheep, fat-tailed sheep and Karaman sheep which were imported from Rumelia. He indicated that all those strains are important for their milk, meat and fur. He remarked that there had been no considerable research for animal husbandry in Turkey; and animal husbandry studies should be carried on by the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to research, all his documents and photographs were destroyed during a bombardment in the war period<sup>1</sup>. However, one of his books about Turkey was published in Warsaw in 1929, which was named '*Autem i araba przez Anatolie*' (Fig. 3).

## DISCUSSION

In the evaluation section of the institution, previously called Çifteler Studhorse but later evacuated because of the incidence of Glanders and Dourine disease<sup>[12]</sup>, and named Çifteler Stallion Ware House, he stated that despite the misimplementation of the stud management, the horses of villagers were in good condition. After 10 years, when invited for a related subject, the expert Professor Welleman emphasized in his report to the Ministry of Agriculture that Çifteler Studhorse made a positive impact on Turkish horse-breeding in 1934<sup>[2,13]</sup>.

In the assessment report of a 10-year study on animal husbandry in the Republican period<sup>[14]</sup>, the other experts

who were invited previously and Professor Rostafinski were not mentioned; however, the subject about identification of races, which was also mentioned in his report, had been referred to. Professor made vital recommendations on how to improve presence of animals in future of Turkey. It can be said that in the experts' reports which were considered Dourineg the implementation of the Republic development policy<sup>[10]</sup>, and in the above-mentioned report<sup>[13]</sup> conflicts with these recommendations.

His indication that the breeders should be encouraged through exhibitions and competitions in animal breeding, which highlights the impact of rewarding in good and quality animal husbandry by referring to the current situation can be accepted as an important guidance to be effective in animal breeding studies. In addition, considering an active participation of breeders on animal breeding, his suggestion on supporting the relevant non-governmental organizations - only if they are inspected - can be considered as an another dimension.

Professor Rostafinski offered to use a special marker for Karacabey Stud animals which was not used in European studs and stated that accepting such kind of marker is very important for a state stud. Professor indicated that he suggests a figure for this marker in his report. However, it is not determined either in his report or in his studies.

In conclusion, before Professor Rostafinski's report, any scientific or actual study on the subject is not detected. It can be said that the report is important from the perspective of providing information about the origins and phenotypes of the animals in the related period. Also, when it is reviewed as the quality and quantity of Western Anatolia animals, it can be expressed as an important historical source.

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