

beyond this sphere, however, and affected the whole of the industrial field. He founded many state-owned industrial plants and factories, a quick enumeration of which can give a sense of the range of his work and of his multifaceted talent. In 1840 he set up a silk mill for the manufacture of silk products at Hereke; during the same year an iron smelting foundry was established at Ay Stefano, near the powder mill; in 1842, a tannery was built at a place called Boğazici or Silviburnu, near Beykoz, whose leather was to be used for the manufacture of shoes and powderflasks for the troops; in 1844 two factories were erected at Izmir for the manufacture of *çuha*, broadcloth, to be utilized in making clothing for soldiers; in 1845 a cotton mill was constructed again at Hereke, for the manufacture of *fes*, headgear, underwear, socks, carpet and silk cloth; during the same year one large and one small iron melting foundries were built at Zeytinburnu; near Ay Stefano.

Most of these factories needed modern, European-made machinery, for the purchase of which Hovhannes *Amira* undertook his second year-long trip to Europe (from October 1842 to February 1844). Along with the purchased machinery he hired European technicians and skilled workers to operate the modern factories. Contemporary sources continually refer to Sultan Abdülmecid's frequent visits to these plants. Indeed, Hovhannes *Amira* is reported to have paid a visit to King Louis-Philippe of France during this second trip, thus lending support to the view that his visits were of official nature.<sup>77</sup> For the same reason, in February 1847, he embarked on a third trip to Europe from which he returned in January 1848. The contemporary Armenian newspaper in Izmir reported that, before the start of his journey, Hovhannes *Amira*, along with his two sons Arakel-Sisag and Nerses-Khosrov "had the honor to be presented to Sultan Abdülmecid who had a long conversation with Hovhannes *Amira* about matters related to his position."<sup>78</sup>

Clearly, Hovhannes *Amira* acted in a broader capacity than that of a purchasing agent for the Ottoman government. Before his second trip to Europe, he had selected sites for factories to be built in Bursa and Izmit (then called also Nicomedia). He initiated, planned and implemented the industrial

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<sup>77</sup> **Boghosian**, *Dadian Gerdastane*, pp. 63-73; **Alboyadjian**, *Les Dadian*, pp. 79-80 and 100-102.

<sup>78</sup> *Arshaloys Araratean*, 1847, no. 280.