

The Ottoman Post Station: A Quantitative Study

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Koh Choon Hwee and Coşkun Tunçer analyzes 2200 post station records to ascertain which post stations were the most profitable. Results suggest that not all stations were profitable. The postmaster's management skills as well as the location of the post station (that is, whether it was located along a high-traffic or low-traffic route) were equally important in determining revenue. This case study strengthens historiographical claims that the status boundaries between 'officials' and 'entrepreneurs' became increasingly blurred over the course of the eighteenth century.