

TURKEY

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18MM .830 FINE 2.4055 GRAMS

(1845)	AH 1255 Year	7	u/m
(1846)		8	u/m
(1847)		9	u/m
(1848)		10	u/m
(1849)		11	u/m
(1850)		12	u/m
(1851)		13	u/m
(1852)		14	u/m
(1853)		15	u/m
(1854)		16	u/m
(1857)		19	u/m
(1858)		20	u/m
(1859)		21	u/m rare

^OV: Toughra (Lord, Abdul Majid, Son of Mahmud, The Ever Victorious), with flower to right, 12 stars around / Regnal YEAR in arabic below.

^RV: Arabic inscription(ABDUL MEJID / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPLE / ١٢٥٥ (AH 1255 = Abdul Mejid, May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / 1255 AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: C-289, NP-894

FOOTNOTE: The 2 piastres with accession year 1255 AH, regnal year 21 was only identified recently, thus rare and possible unique. (*WCN Vol.16, No.6 2/7/89*).

FOOTNOTE: The 2 piastres series listed starts with 1845 AD, the Year 7 of Abdul Mejid of the Ottoman Empire. All the coinage was struck at the Constantinople mint. Listings are in chronological order.



Sultan Abdul Mejid



AH 1255 - YEAR 8 -1846
2 PIASTRES - OBVERSE



AH 1255 - Year 8 -1846
2 PIASTRES - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: The Turkish or Ottoman Empire was formerly of vast extent, and one of the most powerful on the globe. Though much reduced, it is still a large, populous and influential State. The government is despotic. The Sovereign, styled "The Grand Seignor" or "Sultan" unites in himself all the powers of the states, and disposes of the lives and property of his subjects at pleasure. His Prime minister is called the Grand Vizier, and the government or Court, "the Ottoman Porte" or "The Sublime Porte". In religion, the Turks are Mohammedans. They came originally from Tartary in Asia, and in 1227 AD overthrow the Empire of the Saracens, and in 1453 AD, took Constantinople, and put an end to the Eastern Roman Empire. The Turks are well formed, dignified, graceful and imposing in their appearance. They are honest, grave, courageous, and noted for their hospitality to strangers. They are ignorant, indolent, and in religion, intolerant. They shave their heads, instead of their beards, wear turbans instead of hats, loose robes instead of coats, and sit on cushions instead of chairs, and in eating, use their fingers instead of knives and forks. *Olney's Geography, 1849.*



Turkish cart

FOOTNOTE: "Three piastres for a day's work" - "It was all this that we lost over three houses; one in the city of Constantinople, one at Beshiktash, and one at Therapia. Our city house was princely. It was destroyed in a fire that broke out so near that nothing was saved, I being away at the time, and only a watchman in the house. I expended eighteen thousand piastres upon the reception room, when three piastres for a day's work of carpenter, mason, or painter. The ceiling represented the heavens, blue with silver stars; and there was richly carved wood-work which our artisans now can not make. Others have them to bear as well as we. *Among the Turks by Cyrus Hamlin, N.Y., 1878.*

FOOTNOTE: The "Sick Man of Europe" - The reformers made one last effort to retrieve the situation in 1876 AD by staging a coup d'etat and proclaiming a constitution of the Western type calling for the assembly of the first Turkish Parliament. Abdul Hamid II, the new Sultan, allowed the regime to function just long enough to prevent further intervention by the Western Powers, then he pro-rogued the parliament, abolished the constitution, and restored the traditional despotism. In spite of the defeat by Russia in the war of 1877-78 AD, which led to complete independence for Rumania, Serbia, and Montenegro and the autonomous status for Bulgaria under Russian protection the "sick man of Europe", as Turkey became known in the Western press, exhibited remarkable powers of survival and recuperation.

FOOTNOTE: The streets of Constantinople are very curious. There are no wharfs or levees on the water fronts of the city; buildings come down to the sides of the streets, and extend into the water. These streets, commence at the waters of the Golden Horn, Bosphorus and Marmora, and run up over hills of Stamboul and Pera, with no more regularity than would be expected in the trails of a herd of swine, starting from the same points on these waters, where the streets do; and, wandering at will, over these hills - the trail of each hog marking the line of a street. Few of the streets are more than ten feet wide; all are paved with cobble stones, and most of them ascend the hills, with broad steps, rising above each other like stairways; no vehicles being used on them. These narrow streets are enclosed with an unbroken wall of buildings on either side, that look exceeding dirty, dingy and dilapidated; they are constructed after a primitive order of architecture; the second and third stories, projecting over the first, so as almost to meet overhead; nearly excluding the sun and daylight. There are no vehicles; everything is carried on the backs of donkeys, mules and camels, and upon the backs and heads of men and women. Occasionally one will observe the van of a long string of camels, mules or asses heavily laden with brick, stones and mortar. These animals are driven along the streets by yelling Arabs, without bridles or halters. Peddlers carrying their wares and merchandise in great platters on their heads; shouting in strange and unknown tongues, making the streets ring with their cries for customers. *Gyre Thro' The Orient, J.I.Taylor, Princeton, 1869.*

FOOTNOTE: Abdul Mejid Khan, Sultan of Turkey, born in 1823 AD, succeeded his father, Mahmud II, July 1, 1839 AD. At the time of his accession Mehemet, Pasha of Egypt, had a second time risen against the Turkish yoke; his son Ibrahim had inflicted a severe defeat on the turks at Nizib (June 24, 1839 AD), and was advancing on Constantinople. But the intervention of the leading European powers checked the designs of Mehemet Ali, and saved the Turkish Empire. Abdul Mejid was desirous of carrying out reforms, but most of them remained inoperative, or caused bloody insurrections where attempts were made to carry them out. Owing to disputes between the Latin and Greek Churches regarding the rights of precedence and possession at the 'Holy Places' in Palestine, and to demands made by the Czar virtually implying the right of protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Sultan, war broke out between Turkey and Russia in 1853 AD. In the following year the Porte effected an alliance with France and England and later on with Sardinia. The allies of the Sultan made the Crimea the scene of their land operations, and in 1855 AD, Sebastopol fell. The Treaty of Paris (1856 AD) restored to Turkey the command of both sides of the lower Danube, excluding the Czar from his assumed protectorate over the Danubian Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia (later known as Rumania), and closed the Black Sea against all ships of War. Troubles broke out in the Lebanon in 1860, a French army was dispatched to restore order. Abdul Mejid died June 25, 1861 AD, and was succeeded by his brother Abdul Aziz. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*



Constantinople



**AH 1277 - YEAR 3 -1863
2 PIASTRES - OBVERSE**

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18MM .830 FINE 2.4055 GRAMS

(1861)	AH 1277 Year	1	u/m	rare
(1862)		2	u/m	rare
(1863)		3	u/m	rare
(1865)		5	u/m	rare

^OV: Toughra (Lord, Abdul Aziz, Son of Mahmud, The Ever Victorious, 12 stars around / Regnal YEAR in arabic below.

^RV: Arabic inscription (ABDUL AZIZ / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPLE / IY VV (AH 1277 = Abdul Aziz / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / 1277 AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-10, NP-932

FOOTNOTE: 2 piastres in Turkish is *one kilit*.

FOOTNOTE: Constantinople, "the City of Constantine" the name given by Constantine to Byzantium when he made it the Eastern Capital of the Empire, Stamboul or Istanbul, "at the city", is the modern Turkish name.

FOOTNOTE: The Sultan Abdul Hamid II, a despot of the worst sort, shut himself up more and more in his palace and left the government to greedy and unscrupulous officials. Modern improvements such as the telephone were forbidden on the grounds that they might be used to aid conspiracies; all printed matter was submitted to a rigid censorship; and government spies were everywhere. *Comptons Pictured Encyclopedia, Chicago, 1922.*



Sultan Abdul Aziz

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18MM .830 FINE 2.31 GRAMS

(1861) AH 1277 Year 1 u/m rare

^OV: Toughra, 12 stars around / Regnal YEAR in arabic below.

^RV: Arabic inscription(ABDUL AZIZ / FE ZARBE / BURSA / IY VV AH 1277 = Abdul Aziz / in struck / Bursa / 1277 AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-10A, NP-926

TYPE: The inscription denotes struck in Bursa to commemorate the Sultans visit to the city of Bursa.

FOOTNOTE: Sultan Abdul Aziz, thirty-second Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, succeeded his brother on June 25, 1861 AD. He was the second son of Mahmud II. A fanatic Moslem, he secretly encouraged the massacres of Balkan Christians. As reports of the slaughters reached the west, protests increased against these horrors. Rebellions in Bosnia, Montenegro and Crete were instigated, but put down. By 1874 AD, the Christians were driven to desperate revolt in all the Balkan states, encouraged by Russia, they would no longer submit to Turkish oppression. Sultan Abdul Aziz was the first Sultan to travel outside of the Ottoman Empire except in war, traveling through Europe in 1867 AD, visiting the Paris Exposition and squandering enormous funds on building new palaces. The revolt in Crete took his attention, war with Greece was probable and the state of the treasury precluded efficient reform. The Greek difficulty was arranged by a conference at Paris. Ismail Pasha, Khedive of Egypt, took advantage of the Sultan's financial embarrassment to obtain important concessions, among them a new law of succession for his house and nearly all the prerogatives of an independent sovereign. Still in financial trouble he declared his government bankrupt in 1874 AD, repudiating all its debts due the European Powers. He was deposed on May 30, 1876 AD, and on June 4 was found dead in his apartments. Details of what happened to Sultan Abdul Aziz may never be known, whether he died by assassination or suicide



**AH 1293 - YEAR 30
1906 - 10 PARA - OBVERSE**

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

10 PARA 18MM .100 FINE 1.98 GRAMS

(1901)	AH 1293 Year 25	u/m
(1902)	26	u/m
(1903)	27	u/m
(1904)	28	u/m
(1906)	30	u/m

▲OV: Toughra with El Ghazi (The Conqueror) to right, (Lord, Abdul Hamid, Son of Abdul Majid, The Ever Victorious) / Regnal YEAR below, within design around.

▲RV: Above crescent outline, ★ / ۱۰ (arabic value 10) ۱۲۹۳ (AH 1293 = AH accession year). Within crescent outline, arabic inscription (AZE NASRAH ZARBE FE CONSTANTINOPLE = May His Victory be Glorious, struck in **Constantinople** [mintmark]).

EDGE: Plain

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-25, NP-997

Osmanlilarda Madeni Paralar by Nuri Pere, Istanbul, 1968

The Ever Victorious by Jem Sultan, Santa Monica, 1971

Coins of the Ottoman Empire and The Turkish Republic, Jam Sultan (Bill Holberton) Twelves Oakes, California, 1977

POPULATION: Ottoman Empire - 1900 - 40,440,000 with capital Constantinople with 1,136,00 inhabitants.



**AH 1293 - YEAR 30
1906 - 10 PARA - REVERSE**

FOOTNOTE: This issue was struck in very low silver fineness known as billion. 10 para (piece, portion) is a coin of copper, silver or mixed, though most generally of copper, in use in Turkey and Egypt; it is the fortieth part of a piastre, is divided in to three aspers, and varies much in value, owing to the debased and complicated condition of the Turkish coinage. *New International Encyclopedia*, 1910.



Constantinople by the waterfront

FOOTNOTE: At the close of May 1876 AD, Amurath or Murad V, Abdul Aziz nephew, was proclaimed Sultan. His uncles death may have had an effect on him for he was soon seen incapable of reigning, found to be an imbecile. Murad V, son of Abdul Mejid, reigned only three months, when he was deposed as an imbecile. His younger brother was made Sultan Abdul Hamid II in 1876 AD. and succeeded to the throne.

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18MM .830 FINE 2.34 GRAMS

(1876) AH 1293 Year 1 10,000 rare

^OV: Toughra with flower to right, arabic inscription
(Lord, Abdul Hamid Son of Abdul Mejid, the Ever Victorious) /
Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

^RV: Arabic inscription AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE /
CONSTANTINOPLE / ١٢٩٣ (AH 1293 = May his Victory be
Glorious / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / AH accession
year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic Constantinople = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-28

FOOTNOTE: This is one of the most rare Turkey 2 piastres issues,
as only 4 pieces are known.



FOOTNOTE: Constantinople (the City of Constantine) called by the
Turks 'Stamboul', from the Greek 'eis ten polin', (into the city), capi-
tal of the Ottoman Empire, situated on a promontory jutting into the
Sea of Marmora, having the Golden Horn, an inlet of the latter, on
the north and the Bosphorus on the east. The city proper is thus
surrounded by water on all sides excepting the west, where is an
ancient and lofty double wall of 4 miles in length, stretching across
the promontory. On the opposite side of the Golden Horn are Galata,
Pera, and other suburbs, while on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus
entrance is Skutari. Occupying the extreme point of the promon-
tory on which the city stands is the Seraglio or Palace of the
Sultan, which with its buildings, pavilions, gardens, and groves,
includes a large space. At the principal entrance is a large and lofty
gate, called Bob Humayum, 'the high door' or 'Sublime Porte' from
which has been derived the well-known diplomatic phrase...The
streets are mostly extremely narrow, dark, dirty, and ill paved, and
exceedingly crooked and tortuous. Population - Constantinople
(c.1885) - 873,565. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia*, 1895.

FOOTNOTE: Abd-ul-Hamid II, Thirty-fourth Sultan of Turkey was
born September 22, 1842, the second son of Sultan Abd-ul-Medjid.
In 1876 excited by events in Bosnia and Herzegovina and by the
Bulgarian revolt, fearing a general uprising of the Balkan Christians
with Russian intervention, Turks turned against Sultan Abdul Aziz.
On May 29, he was seized and imprisoned. On the following day
Murad V was installed as Sultan only to be deposed two months
later after being judged insane. On June 4, 1876 Abdul Aziz died
under mysterious circumstances and was officially declared to
have committed suicide. On August 31 Abdul Hamid II was pro-
claimed Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. He was the son of a slave
dancing girl of the household of Sultan Abdul Medjid's sister. Pal-
ace rumors which spread far beyond the walls, tell the unsub-
stantiated story that Abdul Hamid's father was a Armenian cook
named Tablakiar Nichan. The story goes that when Abdul Medjid
was informed of the birth of a second son, his first question was
"By which woman?" with many women in his harem, this can be
understood. A week passed before the Sultan acknowledged the
baby boy as his son. The palace gossip was that Abdul Medjid
closely questioned the baby's mother, Faiche', learning that con-
ception had taken place in the bath of the Seraglio, as she re-
minded him. Abdul Hamid spent his early life within the walls of the
harem, where he grew up among the slaves, females and eu-
nuchs, most of whom were uneducated, very superstitious, and
fanatically religious. His mother died at age twenty-six when he
was seven. His father, Sultan Abdul Medjid died of consumption at
age thirty nine. He grew up with a feeling of insecurity; the mys-
terious death of his uncle Sultan Abdul Aziz and the alleged insani-
ty of his half-brother Murad V, the gossip concerning his parent-
age added to his feeling of inferiority. The succession to the throne,
according to Turkish custom, vests in the senior male descendant
of the House of Othman, sprung from the Imperial Harem. The
Sultan does not marry, but from the inmates of the harem selects a
certain number who are known as Ladies of the Palace, the others
occupying positions subordinate to them. All children born in the
harem are held to be legitimate and equal birth. The eldest son of
the Sultan only succeeds where there are no uncles or cousins of
greater age than himself. Abdul Hamid II had several children. At
the time Turkey, which was a war with Serbia, was compelled to
agree to an armistice at the demand of Russia. The persecution
and oppression of the Christian population of Bulgaria had roused
remonstrances from other European countries, and a congress
met at Constantinople to consider a constitution which the Porte
had proclaimed. The conference was a failure, and in April 1877
AD, war was declared by Russia. During the sanguinary struggle
which ensued the Turks fought with great bravery, but they had
ultimately to sue for peace. A treaty was signed at San Stefano in
February 1878 AD, but its provisions were modified by a congress
of the Great Powers which met at Berlin. Turkey was compelled to
part with some of its choicest provinces, while the Sultan also
ceded the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administrated by
Britain, which in turn agreed to guarantee his Asiatic dominions to
the Sultan. Abdul Hamid's reign was further disturbed in 1885 AD,
by a revolution in Eastern Roumelia, the people of which have
elected to be joined to Bulgaria. In 1897 AD, a rising in Crete,
brought on by Turkish misgovernment, was assisted by Greece
and led to war between that country and Turkey. Armenians in-
spired an attempt, on July 21, 1905 AD, to assassinate the Sultan
with a bomb, which killed about twenty of his followers.



Moslems at prayers facing Mecca



AH1293 - Year 8 - 1883
2 PIASTRES - OBVERSE

FOOTNOTE: 'Sick Man of the East', a name popularly given to the Turkish Empire, which under Soliman the Magnificent (1495-1566 AD), reached the summit of its prosperity, and has ever since steadily declined. A record of misrule - As we look back over the history of Turkey we can trace long centuries of criminal injustice and misrule. We find the Turkish population left stagnant and corrupt, subject nations crushed and oppressed, industry choked, agriculture undeveloped, the farmer robbed, the poor oppressed, womanhood despoiled, manhood sensualized, and childhood corrupted. Turkish misrule was concentrated and personalized in Abdul Hamid II, who was the thirty-fourth ruler in succession to Othman. His reign lasted from 1876 to 1909 AD. This man, whom Gladstone called "Abdul the Dammed", during his rule was responsible for misery of over a million souls if we include the number subjected to torture, mutilation, rape, robbery, and slavery. Sir William M. Ramsay says "Abdul Hamid II, has a fair claim to rank among the greatest destroyers of human kind that have ever stained the pages of history. Responsible for half a million deaths, a still larger number have suffered permanently from destitution, torture, mutilation, loss of property, of honor, etc. Not one spark of any grand or great quality illumined his life or ennobled his fall" .*The New Era in Asia by Sherwood Eddy, Nashville, Tenn., 1913.*

FOOTNOTE: Constantinople, called Stamboul by the Turks, is the capital of the Turkish Empire. The palace or Seraglio of the Sultan occupies the extreme portion of the promontory on which the city is located. Many portions of the city have narrow streets, covered with filth, and there are large areas with miserable houses of wood and clay. Among the newer improvements are electric and gas lights, pavements, rapid transit, and a telephone system. Several great fires did much damage to the older portions of the city, which resulted in improvements and buildings on a more modern European style. Among the manufactures are tobacco pipes, perfumes, morocco leather, saddlery, fez caps, embroideries, textiles, earthenware, and machinery. Vast forests extend for miles around the city. Population of Constantinople; 1,031,845 (c.1906). *Practical American Encyclopedia., 1910.*

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
 CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18MM .830 FINE 2.38 GRAMS

(1883)	AH 1293 Year	8	102,500	scarce
(1884)		9	605,000	
(1886)		11	5,115,000	
(1887)		12	325,000	
(1888)		13	30,000	rare
(1891)		16	980,000	
(1892)		17	3,736,000	
(1893)		18	22,750	rare
(1894)		19	3,506,500	
(1895)		20	2,420,000	
(1896)		21	21,000	rare
(1897)		22	2,980,000	
(1898)		23	3,138,500	
(1899)		24	1,490,000	
(1900)		25	14,250	rare

^OV: Toughra with El Ghazi to right, arabic inscription (Lord, Abdul Hamid Son of Abdul Mejid, the Ever Victorious) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

^RV: Arabic inscription (AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPL / ١٢٩٣ AH 1293 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPL

TYPE: I - Large Toughra

POPULATION: Ottoman Empire - 1890 - 43,391,000

REFERENCE: Y-33, NP-986



Sultan Abd-ul-Hamid II



**AH 1293 YEAR 33 -1908
2 PIASTRES - OBVERSE**

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1901)	AH 1293 Year 26	16,800	rare
(1902)	27	4,688,500	
(1903)	28	7,566,500	
(1904)	29	7,775,000	
(1905)	30	1,365,700	
(1906)	31	3,014,500	
(1907)	32	1,625,000	
(1908)	33	2,172,000	
(1909)	34	included above	rare

▲OV: Toughra with El Ghazi to right, arabic inscription (Lord, Abdul Hamid Son of Abdul Mejid, the Ever Victorious) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

▲RV: Arabic inscription AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPLE / ١٢٩٣ (AH 1293 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPLE

TYPE: II - Small Toughra

POPULATION: Ottoman Empire - 1908 - 35,400,000 as Turkey gives up territory in the Balkans.

REFERENCE: Y-33, NP-986

FOOTNOTE: At the present day Turkey is mainly indebted for its existence to the support of foreign powers. *Complete Compendium of Universal Knowledge, Phila., 1891.*

FOOTNOTE: The Revolution of 1908 AD - In 1891 AD, a group of young Turks formed themselves into "The Committee of Union and Progress". Their headquarters were successively in Geneva, Paris, and Salonica. Their first public success was winning the troops stationed in Salonica and Manastir. Here the army took the oath of allegiance to the Committee. Officers who opposed were shot. The leaders opened up telegraphic communications with the Sultan in Constantinople. When he learned that the troops were against him and that even the long-loyal Albanians had joined the movement, he yielded to the insistent and immediate demand for the revival of the constitution of 1876 AD, which had remained in force only a few months. On the 24th of July, 1908 AD, the Sultan granted this Constitution to the people, providing for a responsible Ministry, a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies, the right of public meetings, freedom of the press, the appointment of Judges for life, compulsory primary education, and religious liberty. To this Constitution the Sultan solemnly swore fidelity upon the Koran itself. When the first ballott-boxes were opened for the election of the representatives of the people, little girls dressed in white stood in lines upon either side, while the voters marched by with flags and songs of joy. Parliament was opened on December 18, 1908 AD, by Abdul Hamid II himself. This crafty Abdul Hamid, however, was only biding his time. Enlisting the services of members of the Liberal Unionist Party, using bribery and corruption, he spread disaffection among the troops about Constantinople against the Liberal Leaders. On April 13, 1909 AD, the troops rose, shot the Liberal Officers, seized the Parliament Buildings, and drove out the Young Turk Party. Once again in possession of power, Abdul Hamid sent his order to Cilicia to kill the Armenians, who were showing some signs of independence. The Young Turk leaders quickly rallied at Salonica, hurried the troops by rail toward the capital, and within eleven days arrived within striking distance of Abdul Hamid's Palace itself. The Senate reassembled, and the Sheik-ul-Islam, The High Priest of the Mohammedan Faith, read a Proclamation deposing the Sultan on grounds of treason and misgovernment. On the 28th of April the Young Turks regained possession of Constantinople and seized Abdul Hamid, who was sent on a special train as a prisoner to Salonica. He was forced to abdicate the throne in May of 1909. *The New Era in Asia by Sherwood Eddy, Nashville, Tenn., 1913.*

FOOTNOTE: An interesting story is told of episodes of Abdul Hamid's government - "An American mission college imported some elementary chemistry textbooks from England. The consignment was held up in the customs office and the professor in charge was informed that the volumes were "highly seditious". When he expressed surprise, he was told a dangerous cipher against the Sultan had been discovered, and he was shown the familiar formula for water, H 2 O. It was gravely explained to him that "H" undoubtedly indicated "Abdul Hamid, and "2" even more clearly connoted "Second"; while "O" was a palpable covering for "nothing". The cipher therefore obviously read, "Abdul Hamid II equals nothing" - a deliberate incitement to treason!". *The Course of Europe since Waterloo, New York, 1941.*



Constantinople - 1895



AH 1327 - YEAR 5 -1913 2 PIASTRES - OBTVERSE

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1909)	AH 1327 Year 1	5,157,300	
(1910)	2	11,120,000	
(1911)	3	6,109,600	
(1912)	4	4,031,450	
(1913)	5	300,750	rare
(1914)	6	1,884,200	

^OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription Lord, Mohamed, Son of Abdul Mejid, The Ever Victorious) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

^RV: Arabic inscription (AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPLE / ١٣٢٧ (AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-48, NP-1051

FOOTNOTE: The Ottoman Empire is rich in minerals, which include gold, silver, lead, iron, and coal, but there is little mining. Nearly all land is owned by the government, and tithes are collected on all agricultural produced. Much of the land is devoted to pasturing sheep, goats, and cattle. Manufacturing is done by hand, and comprises silks, cotton stuffs, mohair cloth, carpets, rugs, sweetmeats, wine, soap and hammered brass. There are few railroads or roads, and trade is of little importance. The Turks are haughty bigoted and domineering, and therefore not very successful in ruling their subjects. *Geography, H. Justin Roddy, New York, 1902.*

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1909) AH 1327 Year 1 u/m rare

^OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription (MEHMED V RESHAD) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

^RV: Arabic inscription AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / BURSA / ١٣٢٧ (AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / Bursa / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CONSTANTINOPLE

TYPE: This issue was struck to commemorate the Sultans visit to City of Bursa dated AH 1327 year 1.

REFERENCE: Y-A50B, NP-1033

FOOTNOTE: Mohammed V succeeded April 27, 1909 AD, on the deposition of his brother Abdul Hamid II, He was born November 3, 1844, and had spent many years in seclusion before he was taken from his virtual prison to ascend the throne of Turkey. Under the Constitution of 1908 AD, the Sultan, who is the Protector of the Moslem Faith, appoints and dismisses Ministers, concludes treaties with foreign powers, declares war, is head of the military and navel forces, and can dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, but a new election must follow within six months. *Winston's Encyclopedia, 1918*

FOOTNOTE: The unit of value in 1910 was the piastre worth 4.4 cents in United States money. 100 piastre equal one pound Turkish.

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1910) AH 1327 Year 2 u/m rare

^OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription (MEHMED V RESHAD) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

^RV: Arabic inscription (AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / EDIRNE / ١٣٢٧ (AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / Edirne / AH 1327 accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CONSTANTINOPLE

TYPE: This issue was struck to commemorate the Sultans visit to City of Edirne dated AH 1327 year 2.

REFERENCE: Y-A50E, NP-1036

FOOTNOTE: On April 17, 1916, an order was issued reforming the currency to a gold standard, with the piastre equal to 40 para. *The Statesman's Year-Book, London, 1916.*

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1911) AH 1327 Year 3 12,500 rare

▲OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription (MEHMED V RESHAD) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

▲RV: Arabic inscription AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / KOSOVA / ۱۳۲۷ (AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / Kosova / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CONSTANTINOPLE

TYPE: This issue was struck to commemorate the Sultans visit to City of Kosova dated AH 1327 year 3.

REFERENCE: Y-A50K, NP-1039

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1911) AH 1327 Year 3 12,500 rare

▲OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription (MEHMED V RESHAD) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

▲RV: Arabic inscription AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / SALANIK / ۱۳۲۷ (AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / Salanik / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CONSTANTINOPLE

TYPE: This issue was struck to commemorate the Sultans visit to City of Salanik dated AH 1327 year 3.

REFERENCE: Y-A50S, NP-1045

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.405 GRAMS

(1911) AH 1327 Year 3 12,500 rare

▲OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription (MEHMED V RESHAD) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

▲RV: Arabic inscription AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / MANASTIR / ۱۳۲۷ (AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / Manastir / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = CONSTANTINOPLE

TYPE: This issue was struck to commemorate the Sultans visit to City of Manastir dated AH 1327 year 3.

REFERENCE: Y-A50M, NP-1042

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE
CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.4 GRAMS

(1915) AH 1327 Year 7 17,460 rare
(1916) 8 398,475 rare
(1917) 9 8,015 rare

▲OV: Toughra with Reshad to right, arabic inscription (MEHMED V RESHAD) / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

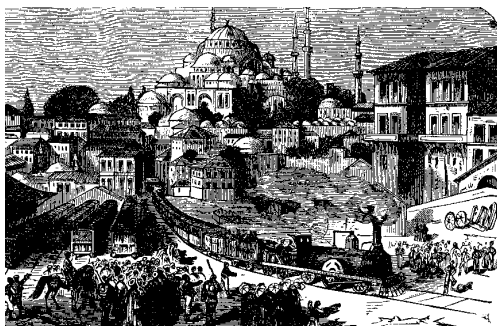
▲RV: Arabic inscription (AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPLE / AH 1327 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / Constantinople [mintmark] / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (arabic inscription) = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-A50, NP-1052

POPULATION: 1913 - 21,000,000 with capital Constantinople with 1,200,000 inhabitants.



Railway station in Constantinople

FOOTNOTE: Sultan Mohammed V was born November 3, 1844, son of Sultan Abdul Medjid; succeeded to the throne on the deposition of his elder brother, Sultan Abdul Hamid II, April 27, 1909. The present sovereign of Turkey is the thirty-sixth, in the male descent, of the house of Othman, founder of the empire, and the twenty-ninth Sultan since the conquest of Constantinople. *The Statesman's Year-Book, London, 1916.*

FOOTNOTE: The Turkish pound is reckoned as 100 piastres. About 11 Turkish pounds are equal to 10 British pounds.

FOOTNOTE: Accounts are usually kept in *grush* or piastres, a hundred piastres make a Turkish *lira* or gold *medjidie* (value about 36 cents U.S.), and 500 make a *purse*. *Winston's Encyclopedia, 1918.*



Sultan Mehmed V

FOOTNOTE: Mohammed VI was born January 12, 1861 AD, and succeeded his brother Mohammed V to the throne of Turkey as Sultan in July 1918. After the rise of the Nationalists under Mustapha Kemal Pasha and particularly after he signed the Treaty of Sevres, he was merely a figurehead politically, although as Caliph he was the Supreme authority of the Moslem world. In November, 1922 AD, he was dethroned by the Turkish National Assembly and went to Switzerland and France until his death in 1926 AD.

TURKEY, OTTOMAN EMPIRE CONSTANTINOPLE MINT

2 PIASTRES 18.75MM .830 FINE 2.32 GRAMS

(1918)	AH 1336	Year 1	25,000	rare
(1919)		2	3,000	rare

▲OV: Toughra, arabic inscription (MOHAMMED VI / Regnal YEAR in arabic below, 12 stars around.

▲RV: Arabic inscription (AZE NASRAH / FE ZARBE / CONSTANTINOPLE / AH 1336 = May his Victory be Glorious / in struck / **Constantinople** [mintmark] / AH accession year), 12 stars around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: Arabic **Constantinople** = CONSTANTINOPLE

REFERENCE: Y-59, NP-1078



Sultan's Palace on the Bosphorus

FOOTNOTE: Before the War of 1914-18 the Ottoman Empire covered an immense territory including Armenia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia (Iraq), Syria, Palestine, Arabia and the tributary states of Crete, Sanos, and Egypt. With the defeat of the Turkish Armies in 1918 a new republic greatly reduced came into being with the capital moved from Constantinople (Istanbul) to Angora (Ankara). The Sultan was dethroned and Mustafa Kemal Pasha (later called Ataturk) became the first President of Turkey in 1923. Ataturk died on November 10, 1938. He opened a new chapter of history with the building of modern Turkey and a program of modernization with separation of church and state, the banning of polygamy, freeing women from the harem, the banishment of the fez for men and the veil for women.

FOOTNOTE: Angora, the new capital of the new Turkey consists of a red-roofed series of new suburbs scattered far and wide about an ancient weather-blackened town, a compact town clustered on the top and sides of a high rattlesnack-inviting hill of jagged black rock once well fortified and still surrounded near the top by a striking, massive, half-ruined, ancient stone wall. Looking down upon the growing city from the splendid vantage-point of its wind-swept, ancient fortified hilltop, one sees important government buildings in the middle distance; and for ten miles roundabout a beautiful landscape, richly agricultural in soil, though not only treeless but waterless. Hundreds of new houses; houses largely of stone or brick, mostly covered with stucco. Angora, once was an unimportant town of some five thousand inhabitants on an important caravan route. Kemal made it the capital of new Turkey for very good reasons. It is near the center of what remains of Turkey, it has strategic advantages, being far from foreign influence and capable of defense. No foreign fleet, so often used to coerce the sultans, can dictate to rulers in Angora. It is attractive to the old-fashioned peasants who make up the bulk of the population of what is left of Turkey, and who feel scant sympathy for the exotic ways of Constantinople. *The Fringe of the Moslem World, Harry Franck 1928.p 245-6*

FOOTNOTE: On November 1, 1922 the Grand National Assembly voted a Resolution declaring the Office of Sultan has ceased to exist. On October 29, 1923 Mustafa Kemal Pasha was elected the first President of the Turkish Republic. In 1934 the Turkish Government abolished all titles of official rank. The Assembly by a special law conferred the surname of Ataturk (meaning Chief Turk) upon Ghazi Mustapha Kemal.



1936 - 25 KURUS - OBVERSE

TURKEY, REPUBLIC of
ANKARA MINT

25 KURUS 19MM .830 FINE 3.0 GRAMS

1935	888,000	scarce
1936	10,576,000	
1937	8,536,000	

▲OV: Head of Kemal Ataturk, facing left TÜRKİYE left, CUMHURİYETİ right.

▲RV: Stalk of wheat, 25 for denomination left KURUS right, DATE divided.

EDGE: Reeded with triple III ★ T.C. ★ III

MINT: (no mintmark) = ANKARA

EDGE MARK: T.C. = Türkiye Cumhuriyeti

ENGRAVER: Medkaley, London

REFERENCE: Y-83

POPULATION: Turkey - 1935 - 16,158,000 with capital Ankara with 123,000 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: Ataturk was born Mustafa, of mixed Turkish, Albanian and Macedonian ancestry in Salonica, then Turkish, but now Greek. Kemal went to the military academy as a boy and later entered the army, which was the beginning of his career as soldier and nation builder. The name Kemal (the perfect one) was given him by a schoolmaster. Pasha (general) was added by the Sultan and later dropped for Ghazi (conqueror) after the Greek War. Ataturk, his latest title, means father of the Turks.

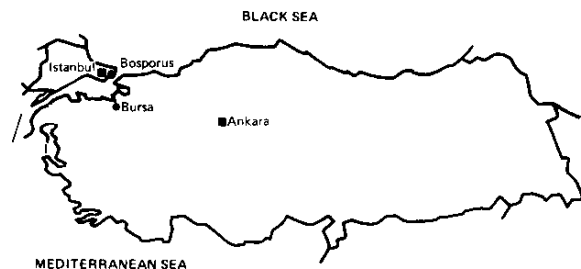
FOOTNOTE: Three times a day from the high minarets of Constantinople Mosques there sounds the old Mohammedan call to prayer.



1936 - 25 KURUS - REVERSE



President Mustapha Kemal



Turkey today