



A reply to the letter to the editor by Ortug with regard to the paper “Şânîzâde Mehmed Atâullah Efendi (1771?–1826), who is the author of the first modern anatomy book *Mir'âtü'l-Ebdân fî Teşrihi Âzâü'l-İnsân* in the Ottoman Empire”

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Dear Editor:

We read with interest the comments made by Ortug [1] to our paper “Şânîzâde Mehmed Atâullah Efendi (1771?–1826), who is the author of the first modern anatomy book *Mir'âtü'l-Ebdân fî Teşrihi Âzâü'l-İnsân* in the Ottoman Empire” [2], and we thank the author for the careful reading of our article. We think that this reply letter gives us the opportunity to explain some aspects of our study in detail.

In our article [2], we give general information about Şânîzâde's life and books. We mentioned 56 anatomical drawings in the book named *Mir'âtü'l-Ebdân fî Teşrihi Âzâü'l-İnsân*. We state that Şânîzâde referred to different authors for some of these drawings, and did not make any references to others. However, we did not make a comprehensive evaluation on the origin of these drawings and say whether he used these pictures exactly the same or changed them.

First of all, we state that we made comprehensive literature search before writing our paper. As a result of this searching, we analyzed the article of Ortug et al. [3] in detail. However, due to the fact that there are some important inconsistencies in this article, we did not find it appropriate to refer. Although both Ortug [1] and Ortug et al. [3] state that Şânîzâde received the 46 out of 56 images from Jean Palfin's (1650–1730) book published in 1753 named *Anatomie Chirurgicale, Ou*

Description Exacte Des Parties Du Corps Humain, Avec Des Remarques Utiles Aux Chirurgiens dans la Pratique de leur [4], after a brief evaluation, we believed that this is not true. We found that some of these drawings already exist in previous edition of Jean Palfin's book (Fig. 1) published in 1734 [5] and Philip Verheyen's (1648–1710) book named *Corporis Humani Anatomiae* (Fig. 1) published in 1693 [6]. For illustrative purposes, some of the pictures in all four books are shown in Fig. 2. Additionally, we also are not sure if these pictures existed in an earlier source.

Although there are some important errors in the article of Ortug et al. [3], it is clear that there is a comprehensive study. Their study [3] will probably give chance for more detailed and comprehensive studies in the future. But, our paper [2] is only a cover editorial, not a full paper, so we do not give detailed analysis of these pictures. In accordance with the scope of the journal also (cover editorial should deal with subjects of general informative interest and should not surpass 500 words and references should be restricted to 5), the major intention of our paper is Şânîzâde's life, book, and what Şânîzâde wrote about the pictures in his book.

To address Ortug's [1] opinions, we offer the following:

1. Ortug [1] states that “My co-authors and I are very surprised and disappointed to see this published editorial cover without any citation to our recent article which evaluated this subject in great depth and detail and provided with new additional knowledge.” We did not consider it appropriate to receive information from this article and to refer to this article [3] due to reasons mentioned above. However, it is more interesting that Ortug [1] criticizes our manuscript [2] and although uses expressions like “...Bahsi and Bahsi conclude...” in the text, the author does not cite our paper [2] in the references [1].

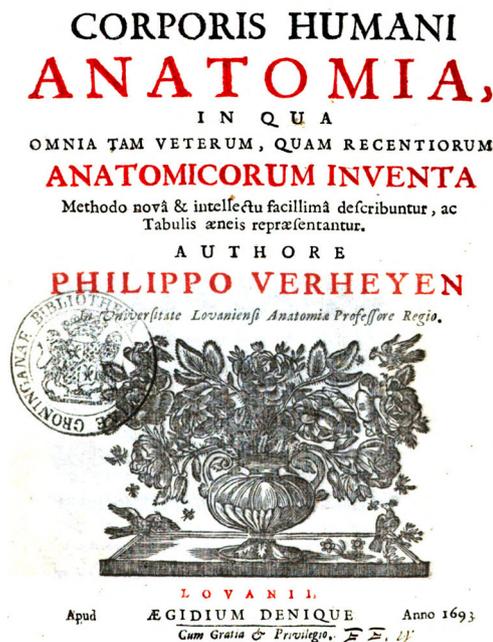
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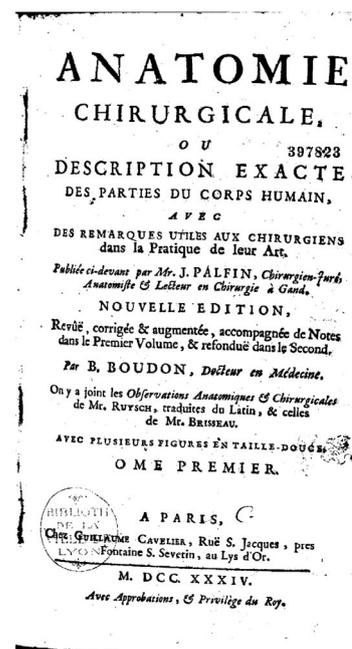
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Fig. 1 **a** Title page of *Corporis Humani Anatomia* written by Philip Verheyen (1648–1710) published in 1693. **b** Title page of *Anatomie Chirurgicale, Ou Description Exacte Des Parties Du Corps Humain, Avec Des Remarques Utiles Aux Chirurgiens dans la Pratique de leur* written by Jean Palfin (1650–1730) published in 1734



A



B

- Ortug [1] states that “It seems the article published in the journal has some missing and misleading points, such as the origin of the images.” As mentioned above, the focus of our article is sharing of the information written in Şânîzâde’s book, and not the sources of the pictures taken by Şânîzâde.
- Although the word “*unknown*” has not been used in our article [2], Ortug [1] says, “We have conducted a very detailed work about the origins of the images and were the first to identify the origin of the remaining images that were used except the ones Şânîzâde cited himself. But the editorial cover article states the origins of these images as “unknown,” which is not correct for now”. Also, Kazancıgil and Zülfikar [7] state that Şânîzâde stated the origin of some of the pictures in his book and wrote the surnames of these scientists with Ottoman Turkish alphabet. Additionally, they state that there was no record of the other pictures in the book. Similarly, Ortug et al. [3] say, “The writer mentioned the source of some of the images he used. These are listed in Table 1. However, interestingly the name Palfin is not cited although many of his images are used identically.” In our study [2], just like these two studies, the expression that “This book contains 56 anatomical plates. Although Şânîzâde stated that he benefited from the pictures of previous physicians such as Bernhard Siegfried Albinus (1697–1770), Raymond

Vioussens (1635–1715), Clopton Havers (1657–1702), Albrecht von Haller (1708–1777), Guichard Joseph Duverney (1648–1730), and Bartolomeo Eustachi (1513?–1574), there is no information about other drawings.” is used.

- It is known that many anatomists made dissection during the period when dissection was prohibited. In addition, these physicians probably had the opportunity to examine people injured in wars. Although it is known that Sultan Abdülmecid granted permission to dissect with an edict in 1841 [8], many important sources [8, 9] state that dissections may have been performed in the Ottoman Empire before that date. Surely, this issue remains a matter of debate. Ortug [1] claims that we made a translation error when referring to article of Aciduman et al. [8] in our study [2]. However, the statement we mentioned is not

Fig. 2 **a** Some drawings in the book named *Corporis Humani Anatomia* written by Philip Verheyen (1648–1710) published in 1693. **b** Some drawings in the book named *Anatomie Chirurgicale, Ou Description Exacte Des Parties Du Corps Humain, Avec Des Remarques Utiles Aux Chirurgiens dans la Pratique de leur* written by Jean Palfin (1650–1730) published in 1734. **c** Some drawings in the book named *Anatomie Chirurgicale, Ou Description Exacte Des Parties Du Corps Humain, Avec Des Remarques Utiles Aux Chirurgiens dans la Pratique de leur* written by Jean Palfin (1650–1730) published in 1753. **d** Some drawings in the book named *Mir’âtü’l-Ebdân fî Teşrihi Âzâü’l-İnsân* written by Şânîzâde Mehmed Atâullah Efendi (1771?–1826)



A

B

C

D

one to one translation of a sentence cited in abstract of this article as described by Ortug [1]. The sentence is the synthesis of the expressions mentioned in many different sentences in the section of discussion. However, it is more accurate to write “*Aciduman et al. stated that the information in the book does not only include only translation from foreign medical books, but also Şânîzâde probably performed dissection and made comparisons to the knowledge of other scientists.*” instead of definite expression as suggesting by Ortug [1] in our article.

As a result, we disagree with the opinions that there is misinformation in our article [2] as Ortug [1] stated. We would like to thank both the letter author and the Journal Editor for the opportunity to be included in this discussion.

Sincerely yours.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest None.

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