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HISTORY  
OF THE  
SADULLAH PASHA  
YALI

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## HISTORY OF THE SADULLAH PASHA YALI

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The Sadullah Pasha Yalı at Çengelköy dates back long before the Pasha whose name it now bears. Documents show that it was already in existence in the second half of the 18th century, and that it was presented to Mehmet Agha, the Chief Eunuch, by Abdulhamit I (1774-1791). Mehmet Agha bequeathed the property to the endowment of a tomb in the vicinity of Sultanahmet, but the Sultan opened a lawsuit reclaiming the property, which had been granted to Mehmet Agha only for life, and regained possession of the yalı in 1783.

After this it passed into the hands of Kodja Yusuf Pasha, a former Georgian slave who rose from sailor to Grand Vizier. A portrait in Topkapı Palace, probably by a European artist, depicts him as a bold and resolute old man with a grey beard. After suffering defeat in the Balkans he was dismissed from office and died in 1813 in Medina, where he had been sent as governor.

Kodja Yusuf Pasha had only one son, who lived in a yalı not far from his mother, while our yalı was occupied by the daughter and her husband Seyyid Ali Pasha. He too was a sailor, and rose to the rank of Grand Admiral, showing great energy in the fight against the Mediterranean pirates and during the English attack on Istanbul. In 1809 he was appointed Governor of Egypt, but died on his arrival in Alexandria. On the death of Kodja Yusuf Pasha's wife, Hanife Hatun, the yalı was inherited by the son, Hamdi Bey, but on the latter's death in 1812 his sons sold the yalı to Berberbashi Hüseyin Agha. It would appear that this person was connected with Yusuf Pasha's family, for in 1836 the yalı became the property of Yusuf Pasha's grandson Hamdi Pasha and his wife Fatma Refta. Hamdi



Cihan-yandı Lütfiye Hanımın portresi, Sadullah Paşa Yalısındadır - Lütfiye Hanım, is known ravishing beauty in XIX. century.

Pashā was in disgrace at the time, but on the entreaties of his mother the Sultan pardoned him and allowed him to return from exile. His extravagant tastes, however, soon plunged him into debt, and in 1855 the house had to be sold to the family of Esat Muhlis Pasha, who had died in 1851 while governor of Diyarbakır. In 1872, however, all the shares in the house were bought up by one of his sons, Sadullah Pasha, after whom the yalı is now named.

A cultured man of progressive views, he was distrusted by the reactionary Sultan Abdulhamit II, who kept him abroad as ambassador in Berlin and Vienna until his death in 1891. His wife Necibe Hanım went mad on hearing the news of his death and, as he had once praised the news of his death and, as he had once praised a pink tulle dress she had been wearing, she continued to wear pink tulle until her death in 1917 at the age of eighty. They say her ghost can still be seen in the pink room in the south-east corner of the house.

The yalı suffered a good deal of damage in the 19th century, and in the 20th century the whole of the «selamlık» was demolished. Repairs were carried out in 1946-47, but it is now once again in very serious need of attention.