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A *FIRMAN* (IMPERIAL DECREE), PAPER, WRITTEN IN *DIVANI*

ISTANBUL, TURKEY; 981 H = 1573

L: 295; W: 56 CM

The Ottoman imperial decree – *firman* – consists of the decree itself, frequently written in the chancellery script, *Divani*, with the signatures of the officials below and the signature of the ruling sultan in the form of an intricate *tughra* above.

The compact lowermost section of the *tughra* here holds the names of Sultan Selim II. The three distinctive upstrokes and beautifully illuminated, curving sections, in contrast, are found on all imperial *tughras*. The *firman*s from the reigns of Suleyman the Magnificent and his son Selim II are considered the most beautiful.

In this *firman*, Selim's vizier, Mustafa Pasha, is given various holdings for his services.

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