In the past, the mosques were lit with oil lamps hanging from the ceiling. The smoke of hundred and even thousand of these lamps rising up the dome left a black spot on its flanks. In order to remove this dirt and protect the precious writings and other ornaments of the mosques, a ventilation was installed at the base of the dome, producing a horizontal current of air. Thus the microscopical particles were pushed laterally towards small hives which gathered them inside. The lampblock thus obtained was then used in the preparation of ink.

One of the best examples of this protecting system is found in the Mosque of Suleymaniye built in 1550 by the famous architect Sinan upon the order of the Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent.

Lampblock was obtained in the following manner:

In a place protected against the wind and air currents, pots in terra cotta filled with raw flax-oil and a cotton wick in the center of each, were buried in earth. After lighting the wicks, screen of terra cotta were placed above the flames. These screens were leaning on tripods with adjustable heights so that the lampblock gathered on the inferior side of the screen would not flake up. Now and then cold screens replaced the ones filled with lampblock. This black was then detached with bird's or hen feathers and placed in parcels of equal weight wrapped in a parchment non-adherent paper. The parcels were rolled in fresh bread dough and baked in the oven. During the baking procedure, the oven had to be kept at a moderate temperature in order to avoid the cracking of the breads which would burn the lampblock.

The second element used in Turkish ink was gum arabic, a mucilaginous substance extracted from different sorts of Arabian acacias.

Gum arabic was known since the 17th century B.C. as:

— Cuma by the Egyptians which exported it for paint and ink.
— Kommi by the Greeks, who during Theophrast (372-287 B.C.) imported it from the: Xebead.
— Kummii by the Latins.

The manufacturers of Turkish ink appreciated in particular gum arabic coming from Sudan via Egypt and sold in the «Egyptian market» of Istanbul.

The Egyptian Market (Misir Çarşısı) or Bazaar was also known as the spice market. Here all kinds of ingredients and drugs were sold: popular pharmacies (drugstore) was here: salve's skin, tortoise shells, shells, dried molluscs, leaves, tree bark and raisin, medicated plants, spices from Arabia and India etc. These products were sold in terra-cotta pots, marble jars, glass flasks or in boxes with various shapes and artistic decorations.

This Bazaar was one of the liveliest one with its stalls placed in the oriental manner, decorated with sculptured and clasped wood and bearing at the entrance of each stall a sign board which seemed to talk to the passers by as they imported with so much information.