

Ottoman Cyprus

A Collection of Studies on History and Culture

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2009

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

ISSN 0932-2728
ISBN 978-3-447-05899-5

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Preface

The existence of many studies on the three centuries of Ottoman rule in Cyprus (1571–1878) indicates the importance of this historical period. Studies by Greek-Cypriot, Turkish-Cypriot and other scholars, written in various languages, cover the developments of this period as a whole or focus on particular topics.

This collective volume has a double aim: firstly it intends to present new studies on various topics, which concern Cyprus in the Ottoman period, these studies being primarily historical, but also covering other disciplines like history of art, folklore and literature. Secondly it aims to offer new approaches on the history of institutions and developments in Cyprus during the Ottoman period, in an attempt to propose a new interpretative framework and a more analytical reading of the historical past.

The volume is divided into four parts: the first part concerns the history of the island from the eve of the Ottoman conquest until the cession of the island to British administration. The studies of this part follow a chronological order, and analyze developments in Cyprus as an Ottoman province and part of the Empire's periphery. In the second part there are studies that analyze various particular historical topics, without necessarily following a chronological order. In the third part there are studies on literature, folklore and art. The fourth part includes an extensive bibliographical guide, which will hopefully be useful to researches of this period of the history of the island. A catalogue of archives and archival material related to Cyprus in the Ottoman period, as well as chronological lists of important officials are also included in the same section.

This publication is the product of a collective effort, since it contains studies by many scholars. Therefore, acknowledgements go first to those who contributed to this effort, by offering their papers and ideas. Without their significant contribution, this publication would never have materialized. We also owe thanks to various others who contributed, in several ways, to the realization of this project: first of all to Peter B. Golden, who accepted the incorporation of the book into the series "Near and Middle Eastern Monographs" of the Harrassowitz Verlag, to the Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Cyprus for its financial contribution, as well as to Ms Stavroula Tsiplakou and Mr Pavlos Pavlou for their kindness to correct parts of the proofs. Last but not least we are most grateful to Nilgün Güney, who gave her permission to use the painting "Hala Sultan Tekkesi" by İsmet Vehit Güney as the cover image of the present volume.

Michalis N. Michael, Matthias Kappler, Eftihios Gavriel

Nicosia 2008