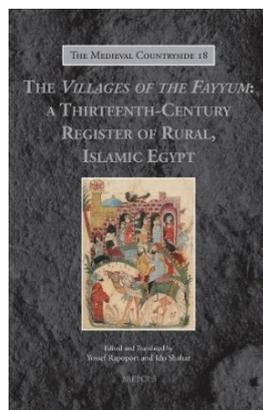


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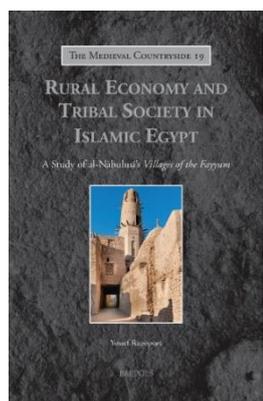


The Villages of the Fayyum: Thirteenth-Century Register of Rural, Islamic Egypt

Edited by Y. Rapoport & I. Shahar

approx. x + 600 p., 1 map, 156 x 234 mm, 2018, HB, ISBN 978-2-503-54277-5, € 125 excl. VAT
Publication scheduled for Summer 2018

Medieval Islamic society was overwhelmingly a society of peasants, and the achievements of Islamic civilization depended, first and foremost, on agricultural production. Yet the history of the medieval Islamic countryside has been neglected or marginalized. Basic questions such as the social and religious identities of village communities, or the relationship of the peasant to the state, are either ignored or discussed from a normative point of view. This volume addresses this lacuna in our understanding of medieval Islam by presenting a first-hand account of the Egyptian countryside. Dating from the middle of the thirteenth century, Abū 'Uthmān al-Nābulusī's Villages of the Fayyum is as close as we get to the tax registers of any rural province. Not unlike the Domesday Book of medieval England, al-Nābulusī's work provides a wealth of detail for each village which far surpasses any other source for the rural economy of medieval Islam. It is a unique, comprehensive snap-shot of one rural society at one, significant, point in its history, and an insight into the way of life of the majority of the population in the medieval Islamic world. Richly annotated and with a detailed introduction, this volume offers the first academic edition of this work and the first translation into a European language. By opening up this key source to scholars, it will be an indispensable resource for historians of Egypt, of administration and rural life in the premodern world generally, and of the Middle East in particular.



Rural Economy and Tribal Society in Islamic Egypt

A Study of al-Nābulusī's Villages of the Fayyum

By Y. Rapoport

approx. 315 p., 3 b/w ills + 12 maps, 1 Chart, 18 b/w tables, 156 x 234 mm, 2018, HB, ISBN: 978-2-503-57518-6, € 80 excl. VAT
Publication scheduled for Summer 2018

This study of a unique and unparalleled thirteenth-century Arabic tax register of the province of the Fayyum in Middle Egypt offers a radically new perspective on the social and economic history of the medieval Islamic countryside. The Villages of the Fayyum is a unique and unparalleled thirteenth-century Arabic tax register of the province of the Fayyum in Middle Egypt. Based on this tax-register, this book utilises quantitative research methods and spatial GIS analysis to provide a rich account of the rural economy of the medieval Fayyum, the tribal organization of the village communities, and their rights and duties in relation to the military landholders. It also draws on the rich documentary evidence of the Fayyum, which stretches back to the Greco-Roman and early Islamic periods, to trace the transformation of the Fayyum into a Muslim-majority and Arab province. This volume thus offers a radically new perspective on the social and economic history of the medieval Islamic countryside. It makes a major contribution to the history of Islamic Egypt, its rural economy, and to our understanding of taxation and administration under the Ayyubids. Most importantly, its argument for the metamorphosis of the Coptic peasantry into Muslim and tribal Arab society has profound implications for Middle Eastern history in general, and challenges our modern concept of Arab identity.

2

ORIGINAL TEXT

(1)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.

رب زدني علماً¹ اللهم صل على سيدنا محمد وآله وصحبه وسلم
تسليماً كثيراً². الحمد لله حمداً لا يقضى مدده ولا ينتهي أمده وأشهد أن
لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له شهادة نقاتلها من عيش الجنة. رغبته
وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله الذي طاب مغيبه ومشيده. صلى الله
عليه وعلى آله صلاة تروم ويقني يوم الدهر وغده.

أما بعد، فإنه لما كان مولانا السلطان الأعظم مالك رقاب الأمم سيد
ملوك العرب والعجم حامي حوزة الحرمين الشريفين ملك البحرين
والبحرين سيد ملوك الدنيا سلطان سلاطين الشرق والغرب الملك
الضالِح نجم الدنيا والدين أيوب، ولد مولانا السلطان السعيد الشهيد
الكاامل ناصر الدنيا والدين محمد، ولد مولانا السلطان السعيد الشهيد
الملك العادل سيف الدنيا والدين أبي بكر، ولد مولانا السيد السعيد
الشهيد العظم الشأن نجم الدين أيوب الملك،⁴ الذي تشرفت بذكره
الدين والدين والدين والدين والدين والدين والدين والدين والدين

TRANSLATION

3

In the name of God, the merciful, the Compassionate.

O God, increase my knowledge!¹ Praise be to God, without measure and with-
out end. I testify that there is no god but God, who has no peer, a testimony
for which eternal pleasure awaits in Paradise. And I testify that Muhammad is
God's servant and messenger, bearing goodness in his absence and in his pres-
ence. May God bless him and his family with an everlasting blessing, and bring
an end to the day of destiny and its morrow.

Turning to our topic: when our master the Sultan, the greatest of all, mas-
ter of nations, lord of the Arab and Persian kings, protector of the Two Noble
Sanctuaries, ruler of the two continents and the two seas, lord of the kings of the
world, Sultan of the Sultans of east and west, al-Malik al-Sālih Najm al-Dunyā wa'l-
Dīn Ayyūb,¹ son of our lord the Sultan, the auspicious martyr al-Malik al-Kāmil
Nāsir al-Dunyā wa'l-Dīn Muḥammad,² son of our lord the Sultan, the auspicious
martyr al-Malik al-'Ādil Sayf al-Dunyā wa'l-Dīn Abū Bakr,³ son of the lord, the
master, the auspicious martyr, the noble Najm al-Dīn Ayyūb,⁴ the king whose very
mention brings honor to the pulpits, and paper and inkwells take pride in describ-
ing the face of Destiny smile, and bring an end to the day of destiny and its morrow, and by

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