

PREFACE

This volume of the TBRL series is the second part of the study of contract documents written on vellum in Morocco which are preserved at the Toyo Bunko. The Toyo Bunko bought a collection of eight vellum documents in 1989 and the West Asian Research Group within its research department started the present study in 2009 by organising a research team (consisting of MIURA Toru, SATO Kentaro, HARAYAMA Takahiro, YOSHIMURA Takenori, and KAMEYA Manabu) under the research program “Contracts in the Islamic World.” The team had monthly meetings over five years to read and edit the Arabic texts of the vellum documents and published in 2015 a book titled *The Vellum Contract Documents in Morocco in the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries* as TBRL 15. It can also be accessed at an on-line repository at the Toyo Bunko (ERNEST, <https://toyo-bunko.repo.nii.ac.jp>). It has attracted attention as the first publication in the world to study vellum contract documents from Morocco. In December 2017, we presented our study in Arabic at the joint symposium titled “Morocco and Japan: Crossing Historical Relations” at the Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc (organised by *Ribāṭ al-Kutub*, an on-line journal society of Moroccan scholars supervised by Professor Abdelahad Sebti, and the Toyo Bunko) and gained invaluable comments and discussion from Moroccan scholars.

In 2014, the Toyo Bunko obtained a further collection of eleven contract documents written on parchment through a generous offer from a scholar in Europe. They were produced in Fès and Meknès in Morocco at the same period as the first collection. We have continued our study of them under the research program “Comparative Study of Institutions” and now publish Part II, editing and describing seven contract documents from Fès listed in Table 1, with related articles. This volume has not been able to include one marriage contract document from Fès and three contract documents from Meknès. Their study shall be published in the future, together with that of twenty-nine wooden stick documents produced in southern Morocco which were also obtained in 2014.

The book is composed of five chapters. Chapter I contains descriptions of the seven documents in English, along with relevant charts, family trees of transactors, and the signatures of witnesses. Chapters II to IV are individual articles concerning the role of witnesses in Morocco, the apostille of the qadi, and the nature of monetary transactions written in these contract documents. Chapter V is the full Arabic text of the seven vellum documents, edited by the above-mentioned team. We have found some mistakes in the edition of the Arabic text and descriptions in Part I during our continuous study after its publication, and will correct them through the above-mentioned repository.

We are grateful to Professor Lotfi Bouchentouf at the University of Muhammad

V in Rabat for checking all the edited Arabic texts. Professor Léon Buskens at Leiden University has very kindly given advice towards our study and contributed a paper to this volume. I would like also to express our thanks to the staff of the Toyo Bunko who have helped with this publication, especially to Dr. OZAWA Ichiro at the Research Department and SHINOZAKI Yoko at the Library Department. Dr. Gaynor Sekimori checked and edited our English drafts carefully.

This volume is published as a product of the activities of the West Asian Research Group. A scientific research program “International Joint-Research on the Vellum Contract Documents in Morocco” (subsidised by the JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number JP16K03102, headed by HARAYAMA, 2016–19) helped our activities abroad, such as the joint symposium in Rabat in 2017 and the investigation of vellum documents in Morocco and Tunisia.

This book is dedicated to the late Professor SATO Tsugitaka, former Director of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko, at whose instigation the first collection was bought. The vellum collection is well known in Japan, as the Toyo Bunko has exhibited some of the documents at the Toyo Bunko Museum and held seminars on them for a general audience. It is hoped that the study of the vellum contract documents will lead to a comparative study of contract documentation in the Middle East and Asia as well as over human history.

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Table 1. Outline of the Seven Vellum Documents

Number	Subject of Document	Date	Size (cm)	Number of Deeds	Final Owner of the Property
IX	An Orchard outside of the Futūḥ gate	1600–36	86×31	19	Sūsī family
X	A House in al-Lamḥī alley	1734–1825	63×43	13	Zagīmaṭ family
XI	Farmland in the Inaouène valley	1674–1727	93×74	12	‘Alamī family
XII	Farmland in the Inaouène valley	1698–1725	61×34	4	‘Alamī family
XIII	Farmland in the Inaouène valley	1698–1725	36×29	3	‘Alamī family
XIV	A Non-irrigated Field in al-Shubbarīya	1573–98	45×29	8	Ibn Shaqrūn family
XV	Farmland in al-Ṣaḥīfa	1700	38×22	1	Banū Wakīl

They are catalogued under the call number A-LA-493 at the Toyo Bunko. In this volume, the documents are numbered in continuation of the eight documents studied in our previous book (Part I).