

# Contents

*List of Illustrations* page vii

*List of Tables* x

*List of Contributors* xi

*Notes on Transliteration, Place Names, Dates, Editions,  
and Translations* xv

*Acknowledgements* xvi

Introduction: The Ties that Bound the Societies of the Islamic  
Empire 1

EDMUND HAYES AND PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN

## PART I PERSONAL TIES

- 1 Ties of Unfreedom in Late Antiquity and Early Islam: Debt,  
Dependency and the Origins of Islamic Law 29  
ROBERT HOYLAND
- 2 The Local Clergy and “Ties of Indebtedness” in Abbasid  
Egypt: Some Reflections on Studying Credit and Debt in Early  
Islamicate Societies 60  
CECILIA PALOMBO
- 3 ‘Return to God and the Brotherhood of Good and Excellent People’:  
Bringing the Prodigal Son Back Home in Ayyubid Egypt 105  
ODED ZINGER
- 4 Aloneness as Connector in Arabic Papyrus Letters of Request 127  
PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN
- 5 Swearing Abū al-Jaysh into Office: The Loyalties of  
Ṭūlūnid Egypt 150  
MATTHEW S. GORDON

## PART II INSTITUTIONS

- 6 Messengers in Byzantine and Early Muslim Egypt: Small Cogs,  
but Systemically Relevant. With Some Remarks on the Dossier  
of Menas, *Stratiōtēs* 175  
STEFANIE SCHMIDT

7	The Epistolary Imamate: Circular Letters in the Administration of the Shi‘i Community	206
	EDMUND HAYES	
8	Early Arabic Decrees on Papyrus from the Abbasid Period	232
	NAÏM VANTHIEGHEM	
9	A State Letter from a Marwanid Caliph to his Governor of Iraq: A Historiographical Investigation into Khālīd b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Qasrī’s Downfall	258
	NOËMIE LUCAS	
10	Between the Arabs and the Turks: Household, Conversion and Power Dynamics in Early Islamic Bactria	297
	SAID REZA HUSEINI	
11	Emotion in Early Islamic Social Hierarchies: Affection, Threats, and Appeals to Piety in Official Documents from the Umayyad and Abbasid Periods	327
	KAREN BAUER	
PART III COMMUNITIES		
12	Local Elites during Two Periods of Civil Strife: Al-Ash‘ath b. Qays, Muḥammad b. al-Ash‘ath, and the Quarter of Kinda in Seventh-Century Kufa	353
	GEORG LEUBE	
13	Rulers, Ḥanābila, and Shi‘is: The Unravelling Social Cohesion of Fourth/Tenth-Century Baghdad	381
	NIMROD HURVITZ	
14	Resistance to and Acceptance of the Fatimids in North Africa: A Shi‘i Dynasty in Negotiation with Both Adherents and Enemies	401
	PAUL E. WALKER	
15	Boundaries That Bind? Pagan and Christian Arabs between Syriac and Islamic Strategies of Distinction (Late First Century AH)	423
	SIMON PIERRE	
16	“Peace Be upon You”: Arabic Greetings in Greek and Coptic Letters Written by Christians in Early Islamic Egypt	466
	LAJOS BERKES	
17	Tied to Two Empires: The Material Evidence of the Islamic Conquest of Sicily	481
	JOANITA VROOM	
	<i>Index</i>	513