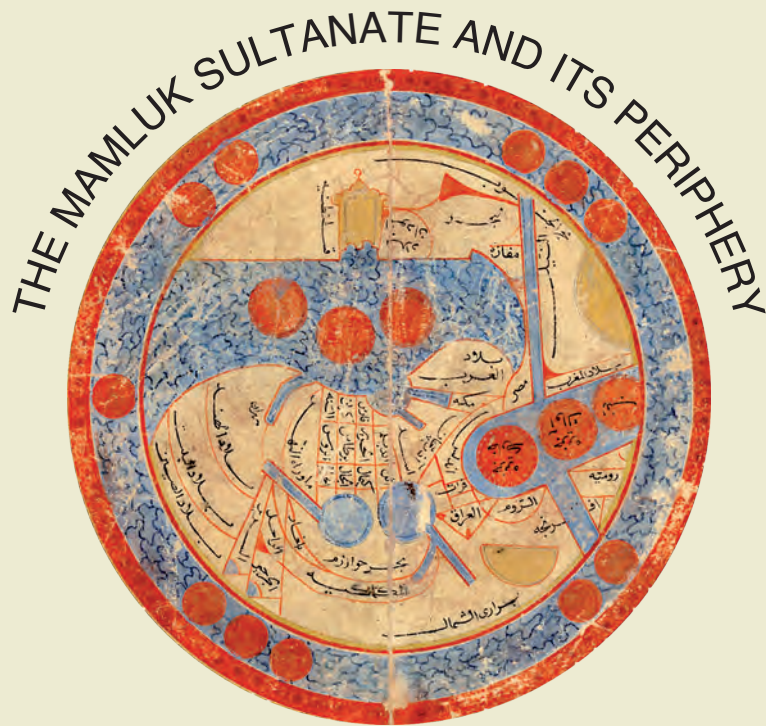




Association pour la **P**romotion de l'**H**istoire et de l'**A**rchéologie **O**rientales
Université de Liège

mémoires n° 14



Edited by

Frédéric BAUDEN

PEETERS

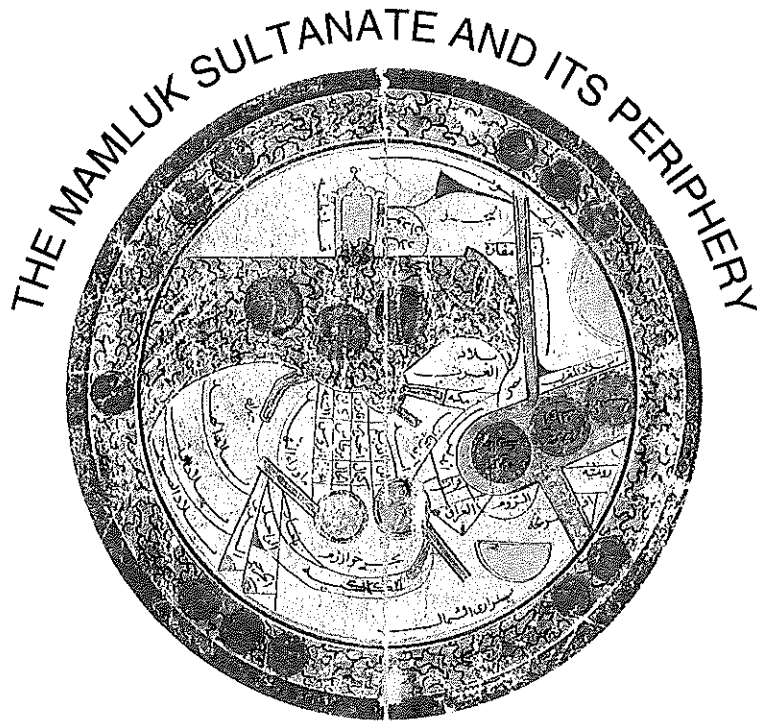
The Mamluk Sultanate and Its Periphery

Cover image: Representation of the world in a copy of Ibn al-Wardi's (d. after 822/1419)
Kharīdat al-'ajā'ib (copy of the tenth/sixteenth c., private collection).

A.
P.H.A.

*Association pour la Promotion de l'Histoire et de l'Archéologie Orientales
Université de Liège*

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Edited by

Frédéric BAUDEN

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In loving memory of
Riccardo (1997–2022)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume gathers a selection of papers presented during the first day of the second conference of the School of Mamlūk Studies that was held at Liège Université (June 25–8, 2015). Over the years, the School has proven to be successful at enabling all those interested in Mamluk studies to share and challenge ideas as well as new methods. From its inception, the annual conference has included an intensive course dedicated to a field or discipline rarely taught at universities, a day of panels based on themes, followed by two days¹ devoted to preorganized panels. The theme chosen for the second conference was “The Mamluk Sultanate and Its Periphery.” It attracted eleven papers; of these, seven were submitted for publication in this volume. In addition, an article by the editor of this volume was included, as it fits well into the theme, though it was written later and read on another occasion.²

The organization of the conference was made possible thanks to the generous financial support of various institutions. It is not only a duty, but above all a pleasure to express my deepest gratitude to them: first and foremost the Fonds de la recherche scientifique (F.R.S.-FNRS, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles), then the Patrimoine and the Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres of Liège Université. Over the years, the collaboration with Marlis Saleh (University of Chicago) and Antonella Ghersetti (Ca’ Foscari University, Venice), co-founders and co-organizers of the School, has proven fruitful, effective, and, more than anything else, friendly. Their help and moral support on this occasion, and others, were essential. For practical matters, I also greatly benefited from the assistance of two of my former students: Élise Franssen, who was at the time a postdoctoral researcher at the F.R.S.-FNRS, and Alessandro Rizzo, who held a research fellowship from the same institution to complete his doctoral dissertation. During the conference, several colleagues kindly agreed to chair and participate as discussants in the sessions. I give them my warmest thanks for their time and efforts: Doris Behrens-Abouseif, Mounira Chapoutot, Antonella Ghersetti, Carole Hillenbrand, Yaacov Lev, Tetsuya Ohtoshi, Dwight Reynolds, and Marlis Saleh. Several colleagues also accepted the task of assessing the articles published here. Their work was generally under-appreciated,

¹ In the case of the second conference, the School was a victim of its own success: given the number of submissions and, in the absence of fair criteria to decline some of them, we had to make an exception and allow for a third day of panels.

² It was part of the panel “The Versatile Approach to the Diplomatic Dialogue” organized by Alessandro Rizzo for the Sixth Conference of the School of Mamlūk Studies (Waseda University, Tokyo, June 15–7, 2019).

as the blind peer review process is anonymous, preventing me from naming them here. I hope that these few words will suffice to express to them how much this volume owes to them. Last but not least, this volume would not exist without the trust the authors put in this endeavor. Their (almost) endless patience allowed me to overcome, with serenity and relief, many of the unexpected issues generated by the challenges the world faced over the last three years. Without their continuous support and understanding, this volume would not lie in the reader's hands.

The editor

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>BASOR</i> | <i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> |
| <i>BSOAS</i> | <i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i> |
| <i>EI²</i> | <i>The Encyclopaedia of Islam. New Edition</i> , ed. C.E. Bosworth et al. (Leiden: Brill, 1960–2007), 11 vols. |
| <i>EQ</i> | <i>Encyclopaedia of the Qurʾān</i> , ed. J. Dammen McAuliffe (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2001–2006), 6 vols. |
| <i>IJMES</i> | <i>International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies</i> |
| <i>ILS</i> | <i>Islamic Law and Society</i> |
| <i>JA</i> | <i>Journal asiatique</i> |
| <i>JAOS</i> | <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> |
| <i>JESHO</i> | <i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i> |
| <i>JRAS</i> | <i>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> |
| <i>JSAI</i> | <i>Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam</i> |
| <i>MSR</i> | <i>Mamluk Studies Review</i> |
| <i>REI</i> | <i>Revue des études islamiques</i> |
| <i>SI</i> | <i>Studia islamica</i> |
| <i>SIr</i> | <i>Studia iranica</i> |
| <i>WI</i> | <i>Die Welt des Islams</i> |

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Or Amir, MA in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2013), is currently a PhD candidate at the department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published articles on the social history of Palestine in the Mamluk period and on mobility and cultural contacts between the Mamluk sultanate and the Ilkhanate.

Frédéric Bauden, PhD in Oriental history and philology (Liège University, 1996), is Professor of Arabic Language and Islamic Studies at Liège University. His research focuses on Mamlūk historiography, diplomatics, and codicology. He is the editor of the *Bibliotheca Maqriziana* (Leiden) and the author of the forthcoming *Al-Maqrīzī's Collection of Opuscles: An Introduction* (Leiden and Boston: Brill).

Hani Hamza, PhD in history of Islamic art and architecture (Cairo University, 2003), is an independent scholar. He is the author of *The Northern Cemetery of Cairo* (Cairo, 2001) and *Miṣr al-mamlūkiyya* (in two parts, Cairo, 2011 and 2014). He also published several articles (four published; three in press) on different subjects related to the Mamluk sultanate.

Takao Ito, PhD (University of Munich, 2007), is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Humanities at Kobe University, Japan. He has published several studies on Arabic historiography as well as social and economic history of Mamluk and Ottoman Egypt and Syria, including “Al-Maqrīzī’s Biography of Timūr”, *Arabica* 62 (2015) and “The Last Mamluk Princess, Her Endowment, and Her Family History”, *Orient* 54 (2019).

Shivan Mahendrarajah, PhD (University of Cambridge, 2014), is a research fellow at the Institute of Iranian Studies, University of St Andrews. He is the author of *The Sufi Saint of Jam: History, Religion, and Politics of a Sunni Shrine in Shi‘i Iran* (Cambridge UP, 2020). He is the co-editor of *Afghanistan: The Journal of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies*.

Ignacio Sánchez, PhD (2011, Cambridge), is Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick and founder editor of *Endowment Studies* (Brill). He has published the *Epistle on geography* of the Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’ (Oxford University Press/Institute of Ismaili

Studies, 2014), contributed to *A Literary History of Medicine. Ibn Abī Uṣaybi‘ah’s ‘Uyūn al-Anbā’ fī Ṭabaqāt al-Aṭibbā’* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2019), and written articles on intellectual history, Islamic pious foundations, and medicine in Medieval Islam.

Warren C. Schultz, PhD in Islamic History (University of Chicago, 1995), is Professor of Islamic History at DePaul University in Chicago. He has published *Numismatic Nights: Gold, Silver and Copper Coins in the Mahdi A Manuscript of the Alf Layla wa-Layla* (Bonn: EB Verlag, 2015) as well several other articles and chapters on the monetary history of Egypt and Syria in the Islamic Middle Period.

Anne Troadec, PhD in Religious Studies (École pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, 2014). She is currently in charge of scientific coordination at the Institut d'études de l'Islam et des sociétés du monde musulman (IISMM, UMS 2000, EHESS/CNRS), Paris. She has published several articles related to Mamluk domination in the *Bilād al-Shām*.

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This volume is the result of a selection of papers presented at the second conference of the School of Mamluk Studies (Liège, 2015) whose theme was The Mamluk Sultanate and Its Periphery. It is well known that Mamluk studies suffer from a deficit of interest for the peripheral areas because of the centripetal effect played by the main cities of the sultanate, i.e. the political centers (Cairo and Damascus), where most of the historians whose works constitute the lion's share of modern studies lived. Nevertheless, it is still possible to study aspects related to regions, cities, villages by resorting to these classical sources but also and above all to other types of sources (documents, archaeological excavations). Obviously, the concept of periphery can be interpreted in various ways. Above all, it is understood in geographic, political, or economic terms: the periphery is defined in relation to the center of power, whether central or local. It can also be interpreted in sociological and religious terms. In this case, the concept can be applied to practices or parts of the society considered borderline. The eight essays collected in this volume seek to explore this question of the periphery from these various angles.