

An Overview of Agricultural Properties and Their Registration in Hebron

Agricultural-property registration in the 1876 *Esas-ı Emlak* register for the villages of the Hebron district indicates two principal types of ownership. First, individuals and individuals with one partner (and exceptionally, more than one) registered parcels of land and olive trees. These properties were recorded in the *emlak* register under the name of one individual and, in the case s/he had a partner, there was a notation such as “and partner” or “and brother”. The name of the partner was never recorded. As will be discussed below, some of these registrations were what I call representative ownership. The owner registered in the *emlak* register was the head of a corporate group of farmers. Second, there were explicitly communal properties. These included properties denoted as *musha* and also large quantities of dunams, usually of field-crop land and/or olives, which were registered *en bloc*, wholesale, to the people of a given village communally. These will be discussed in detail below.

Elucidation of the magnitude of the registration project is found in summary enumeration of the properties that were registered. There were 3,682 residences registered in the district’s villages. (See Appendix 2.) Across the district there were registered to individuals 1,450 garden plots; 1,592 plots of fruit trees (fig and occasionally lemon) and