

purchaser, Hajj Ibrahim Shāwar, would have the right to sell (*bay' bāt*, a permanent sale) the lands to whom he wished in order to recover the price of the mortgage.

The smallest holding mortgaged by any of the nineteen was a half share, and the largest was 2.5 shares. Thirteen of the sellers received a price equivalent to 370 kuruş per share. The other six received lower per-share prices, ranging from 360 kuruş down to 250.⁴¹⁰ These variations in price might indicate that these sellers had requested a smaller loan (if the loan was not collective, too), or perhaps that their plots were of a lower quality than the others.

In 1876, the value of Jamrūra's registered lands, both those belonging to Taffūḥ and those registered to Bayt Kāḥil, had been assessed at a value of 175 kuruş per dunam (See Table 4.3, above), higher than the previously mentioned district average of 150 kuruş per dunam for communally owned field-crop land. When compared to this value, it becomes

⁴¹⁰ Prices were given in Ottoman liras and riyals mecdi. Based on other cases in which conversions from these currencies to the kuruş are given, according to its value in the Hebron district, I have converted as follows: one riyal mecdi equals twenty kuruş, and one Ottoman lira equals 100 kuruş. See, for example, HR 4/ 31/ 528 (27 Rabi' II 1287 / 27 July 1870) and HR 14 / 58 / 198 (9 Rabi'I I 1309 / 13 October 1891). There is no indication in the court registers that these exchange rates fluctuated over the years of this study. Johann Büssow uses the same conversion rates. However, citing Schölch, he also states that the mecdi and the Ottoman lira were "often traded at higher prices". (*Hamidian Palestine: Politics and Society in the District of Jerusalem 1872-1908* (Leiden: Brill, 2011): Appendix Four (563).). Alexander Schölch, used yearly figures recorded by the German Consulate in Jerusalem and the Austrian consulate to chart exchange rates by locale in Haifa/Acre, Jerusalem, and Jaffa in selected years from 1857 to 1882. He found that the exchange rate varied by locale and slightly by year, overall continuously gaining in strength against the kuruş over time. According to his findings (originally published in German in 1986), the lira fetched between 110-133.5 kuruş and the mecdi ranged between 21.75 and 26 kuruş. (*Palestine in Transformation 1856-1882: Studies in Social, Economic and Political Development*, trans. William C. Young and Michael C. Gerrity (Washington, DC: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1993): 103-105.