

TURKISH PALESTINE
(1069-1917)

*Inscriptions from al-Khalil (Hebron),
Nabi Musa and Other Palestinian Cities
Under Turkish Rule*

SOTA PUBLICATIONS / SOTA YAYINLARI

Series editor: Mehmet Tütüncü

CORPUS OF TURKISH ISLAMIC INSCRIPTIONS /
TÜRK İSLAM KİTABELERİ DİZİSİ

Published:

1. Mehmet Tütüncü, *Turkish Jerusalem (1516-1917), Ottoman Inscriptions from Jerusalem and Other Palestinian Cities*, Haarlem, 2006.
2. Mehmet Tütüncü, *Turkish Palestine (1069-1917) Inscriptions from al-Khalil (Hebron), Nabi Musa and Other Palestinian Cities under Turkish Rule*, Haarlem, 2008.

Forthcoming:

3. Mehmet Tütüncü, *Turkish Algeria (1516-1830), Ottoman Inscriptions from Algiers and Other Algerian Cities*, Haarlem, 2009
4. Kronolojik Türk İslam Kitabeleri (Hicri 297-600 tarihleri arası), Haarlem 2009
5. Mehmet Tütüncü, *Selçuklu Devri Kervansaray (Han) Kitabeleri*, Haarlem, 2009
6. Erich Prokosch, *Osmanische und Karamanische Inschriften*, Haarlem, 2010
7. Machiel Kiel, *Ottoman Inscriptions from Bulgaria and Albania*, Haarlem, 2010
8. Hakan Coşkunarslan, *Selçuklu Devri Kale Kitabeleri*, Haarlem, 2010

TURKISH PALESTINE (1069-1917)

*Inscriptions al-Khalil (Hebron),
Nabi Musa and Other Palestinian Cities
under Turkish Rule*

Mehmet Tütüncü



Türkistan ve Azerbaycan Araştırma Merkezi
Turkestan and Azerbaijan Research Centre

TURKISH PALESTINE (1069-1917)

Inscriptions al-Khalil (Hebron), Nabi Musa and Other Palestinian Cities under Turkish Rule

By Mehmet Tütüncü

ISBN 978-90-6921-004-9

CORPUS OF TURKISH ISLAMIC INSCRIPTIONS nr: 2

TÜRK İSLAM KİTABELERİ DİZİSİ no: 2

1. Palestine – History, 2. Turkish History 3. Turkish-Ottoman Inscriptions

First Published in 2008, Haarlem, Netherlands

Front Cover Image: Nabi Musa, General View (December 2008)

Back Cover Image: Mihrab of Masjid Ibrahim In Hebron (Inscriptions 189)

© Copyright 2008, Mehmet Tütüncü All rights reserved. No part of this book and CD-rom may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying and recording or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher and copyright holder.

The Quran translations are by YUSUF ALI.

All photographs in this book and CD-rom are copyrighted, and were taken (except the ones that are mentioned in Acknowledgement of Illustrations) by the author during his visits into Jerusalem and other historical cities and sites between June 2004 and January 2008.

Maps: Ömer Erdem.

Cover design: Ömer Erdem, Creative Reclame.

Publisher:

SOTA / Turkestan and Azerbaijan Research Centre

Postbus 9642

2003 LP Haarlem

Netherlands

Tel: + 31 23 5292883

Fax: + 31 23 5292883

Email: m.tutuncu@quicknet.nl or sota@wanadoo.nl

Web: www.turkistan.org



لااله الاالله
محمد رسول الله
ابراهيم خليل الله
و موسى كلیم الله

To the memory of *Sultan Baybars as-Salibi,*
Sultan-u-l-arab wal-ajam wal-TÜRK

And to
Havva and Kamile

CONTENTS

Acknowledgement of Illustrations:	9
Introduction.....	10
List of Tables and List of Maps	12
Methodology.....	13

CATALOGUE OF CORPUS OF INSCRIPTIONS

Inscriptions from Jerusalem (Addendum)	16
Inscriptions of Sultan Baybars in Palestine.....	23
Inscriptions from Zawiya -Al As'adiyya.....	34
Nabi Musa Inscriptions	42
Safed Inscriptions	64
El-Khalil (Hebron) Inscriptions.....	86
Nablus Inscriptions	231
Ramleh Inscriptions	239
Lod Inscriptions	253
Yavne Inscriptions	260
Jaffa Inscriptions.....	267
Nabi Rubin Inscription	283
Dor/Tanturah Inscription.....	285
Haifa Inscription	286
Beysan Inscription.....	287
Al-Azzariya Inscription	290
Haram Seyyidna Ali Inscription	293
Tughra's from Akka, Jaffa and Nablus	295
Ashdod.....	298
Dimra	301
Qalat Suaybah.....	302
Tables (3-13)	307
Bibliography.....	314

Appendix: Cd-Rom with digital version of the illustrations and other illustrations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ILLUSTRATIONS:

Next Illustrations in this book are reproduced with courtesy of their copyright-owners.

Figures 105, 109, 112, 113,114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119 and 120 are taken from the excellent but not more available book of Amro 1989, 'Amro, Yunus and Najah Abu Sara, *Ruqum al Masjid al- Ibrahimī al-Sharīf fī Khalīl al-Rahmān; tahqīq wa Dirasa*, Hebron University, Hebron 1989. 1108pp. including indexes and 600 plates in text.

Figure 22 is taken from Mrar 1997, Halid Mahmud Mrar, *Makam Nabi Musa, Dirasah Tarīkhīyah, Ve Athari Mimariyyah*, Nablus 1997, p. 27.

Figure 37 is taken from Mayer 1950, L.A. Mayer, I. Pinkerfeld and J.W. Hirshberg, *Some Principal Muslim Buildings in Israel*, Jerusalem 1950, English, Hebrew and Arabic versions.

Figures 125 and 159 is by Abdulhakim Sabbah, director of the project of Nablus: www.projecthope.ps

Figure 124 is by Nursel Gurdilek, reporter for Turkish Anatolian Agency in Jerusalem

Figure 151 is from Mayer 1933, L.A. Mayer, *Saracenic Heraldry*, Oxford 1933, 302 p. And is from Plate LIX

Figure 161 is from Mayer SAE III 1934, L.A. Mayer, "Satura Epigraphica Arabica III", *Quarterly of Department of Antiquities of Palestine (QDAP)* 3 (1934), pp.

Figures 8, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 104 are published with permission of *Khadr Salameh* Curator of Islamic Museum of Haram al-Sharif.

Map 1 is based on a Map by Asali 1990, Kamil J. Asali, *Mawsim el-Nabi Musa fī Filistin Tarikh el-Mawsim w-al maqam (The Nabi Musa Feast in palestine, A History of Feast and Sanctuary)*, Amman 1990, p. 32.

INTRODUCTION

This book is a follow up to the in 2006 published *Turkish Jerusalem (1516-1917), Ottoman Inscriptions from Jerusalem and Other Palestinian Cities*, Sota 2006. (hereafter referred as TJ). Each Inscription is recorded according the method established in the former book. In TJ volume there were recorded 122 inscriptions from Jerusalem and 18 inscriptions outside Jerusalem. In this second volume 134 inscriptions are recorded from towns outside Jerusalem and 9 from Jerusalem. So therefore it has the title of Turkish Palestine. Also the time range is also wider, was in TJ almost all inscriptions from Ottoman times, this volume covers inscriptions from the entrance of the first Turkish rule (1069) of the Saljukids to the end of the Ottoman empire. Most inscriptions are Ottoman but also other inscriptions (Mamluk or Ayyubid) that are part of the surveyed cities or places are included. The earliest inscription is from the year 476/1083 (Jerusalem nr. 123). There are also recorded 9 inscriptions from Jerusalem that were missed or newly discovered and therefore not included in the TJ book.

As we can see from the table included below: the Overwhelming majority of the inscriptions are from Hebron, the city which has its own Haram (Haram el-Khalil or Masjidi Ibrahim). After this comes Safed (12), Ramle (8), Jaffa (8) and Nabi Musa with (7) inscriptions. With the publication of this book we have completed our Survey of Inscriptions of Turkish Rule in Palestine.

Cities Inscriptions recorded

Jerusalem	9
Nabi Musa	7
Safed	12
Hebron	73
Nablus	5
Ramle	8
Lod	5
Yavne	4
Jaffa	8

From next places there are only one inscription:

Tanturah (nr. 253), Haifa (nr. 254), Beysan (nr. 255), Azariya (nr. 256), Herzlyia (nr. 257), Isdud (Ashdod) (nr. 259), Dimra (nr. 260) and Qalat Subayba (nr. 261) and 3 fragmentary Inscriptions. And 258 is an item where 3 Tughra's from Nablus, Jaffa and Akka are included.

This book is a work of cooperation of many people and it is for me a great pleasure to start with an acknowledgements of the many debts I owe: First of all my Israeli and Palestinian friends and colleagues who

have cooperated and helped me during my inscription hunting season in Jerusalem and surroundings.

With the danger of being incomplete I start with the two Khadr's. The first Khadr is Khadr Salameh the curator of Islamic Museum who shared with me the thrilling experience of the discovery of the first and only Seljukid inscription in Jerusalem. The second Khadr is Khadr Shihabi who helped me in deciphering many obscure passages in the inscriptions.

Further I would like to thank my friends *Sheikh Abdülaziz Buhari, Fahmi Ansary, Hannah Taragan, Yusuf al-Natsheh, Mahmud Yazbak, Gad Nassi, Gershom the Karaim, (who helped me and smuggled me to the Masjid Ibrahim's part where Muslims are not allowed to enter), Reuven Amitai and Nursel Gurdilek* who accompanied me during my visits to Jerusalem and other places. Without their help it would not be possible to inspect and visit the inscriptions and to take the pictures presented in this book.

Teşekkür also to Havva Kök and Gündüz Yavuz from Hacettepe University in Ankara who were kind enough to edit my English.

A special *şükran* is due to Ali Rıza Yağcı, Suleyman Harmankaya, Ali Yavuz, Ramazan Ödek, Hüseyin Şen, Rabia Gürbüz, Civan Erdem, Sultan Tütüncü, and Tuğba Harmankaya who has helped me with their enthusiasm.

Rahmet to *Ahmet Çaycı* and *Ahmet Küçük* from Selçuk University from Konya and *Bilal Balci* and *Lauren Smink* from Haarlem who made very useful comments and helped with the translating of the poems of the late Ottoman Period I have mentioned their names by the entries of the individual inscriptions they have helped translating.

The book is dedicated to Sultan Baybars the king of Arabs, Persians and Turks and to 2 women who have helped in their own way the realization of this book.

Creative Reclame, and my friend *Ömer Erdem* prepared the accompanying maps and lay out of this book and therefore *şükran Ömer*.

And lastly, a most special gratitude to *Kamile* my *hayat arkadaşı* (the Turkish word *hayat arkadaşı* is a better expression than the English *partner*) in the journey of this life, who supported me during my long visits to the ruins and stones of this world. Without her understanding and support this work and others would not be possible.

1 Ramadan 1429 * 1 September 2008

Mehmet Tütüncü

List of Tables

Table 1: List of Sultan Baybars Inscriptions in Palestine.....	23
Table 2: List of Inscriptions with Ottoman Tughra.....	322
Table 3: List of Ottoman Royal inscriptions outsideJerusalem	307
Table 4: List of inscriptions in Turkish Language.....	308
Table 5: List of Inscriptions from JERUSALEM (addendum to TJ) ...	309
Table 6: List of Inscriptions from NABI MUSA.....	309
Table 7: List of Inscriptions from SAFED	310
Table 8: List of Inscriptions from NABLUS	310
Table 9: List of Inscriptions from RAMLEH.....	310
Table 10: List of Inscriptions from HEBRON.....	311-312
Table 11: List of Inscriptions from LOD.....	313
Table 12: List of Inscriptions from YAVNE.....	313
Table 13: List of Inscriptions from JAFFA.....	313

List of Maps

Map 1: Map and Location Nabi Musa Inscriptions	45
Map 2: General Description of Masjid Ibrahim (Hebron)	88
Map 3: Location of Inscriptions in Masjid Ibrahim (Hebron)	91

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of publication of every individual inscription is the same as described in TJ pp. 25-28:

EXAMPLE:

(1) Inscription X

(2) Foundation Inscription

(3) Minaret (Tower of David

Marble plaque on the Northern side of the Minaret. Inscription is in situ and is in good condition.

(4) Identification Table

Catalogue	Material	Size	Date	Location	Name
-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6

(5)Bibl.: OJ II p. 858-863, p. 1079 (Inscription 26)

(6)Fig.:

The order of the publication of every inscription is as follows:

1. Catalogue nr. The first line is our catalogue/identification number of the inscription. This is a continuous number for easy reference to an inscription. We continue the numbering of TJ and start this book with Inscription nr. 123 and finish with Inscription 264.

2. Classification. In the second line the inscription is classified according to type of inscription.

Next types are distinguished.

Foundation inscription/ Renovation inscription

Endowment/Waqf inscriptions

Funerary inscriptions (Tombs and Turbes)

Epitaphe/Cenotaphe

Commemorative inscription

Signature (of architect, artisans and/or craftsmen)

Religious Inscription (Quranic text)

3. Description. After the classification follows a description of the place of the inscription, and a description of the state of inscription in January 2006 and december 2007, when I inspected the Inscriptions in situ. Moreover, most inscriptions are marked by a map of its place in the identification table Column 5.

4. Identification Table.

After the description follows a table of 5/6 columns where the characteristics of inscription are summarized and the inscription is identified.

1st Column is our **Catalogue number**.

2rd column Material identifies the sort of material where the inscription is written.

3rd column Size gives the size of the inscription in centimetres and the numbers of lines, If there is no measurement then this is left blank.

4th Column Date is the date of the inscription with the islamic month (in figures) if that is possible. Date: 930(3)/1524 means first the islamic (AH) date Rebi'ul-evvel (3rd Month) of the year 930 and after / sign is given the (AD) christian equivalent date.

5th Column Location

The location of the inscription is marked here.

We provide 3 maps to locate the inscriptions.

Map 1:	Map of Nabi Musa (p. 45)
Map 2:	Map of Masjid-i Ibrahim in Hebron (General) (p. 88)
Map 3:	Map of Masjid-i Ibrahim (inscriptions location) (p. 91)

If there is no map of a certain place I give a short description of the location of the inscription.

6th. Column (optional) gives information about the important name (patron) that is mentioned in the inscription.

5. Bibliography: After the identification, a short Bibliography is given. It describes where the inscription is previously described or published.

6. Fig. Each inscription, where possible, is accompanied by a photographic reproduction. The photos were all taken in January 2007 and January 2008 by the author. If the inscription could not be reached or was/is lost and disappeared I have reproduced an older Photo. If the inscription was recently published, I refer to this publication's illustration.

7. Text. After the tables follows the reproduction of text of the Inscription:

First a short description giving the character and method of inscription is given. How many lines? Incised or relief? What is the used calligraphy? Kufi, Naskhi, Thuluth and/or Taliq? After this the Arabic or Turkish text of Inscription is given in Arab letters. Turkish texts is also given in the Turkish version in Latin alphabet transcription. Because of the variation of consonant and vowel signs in the inscriptions, not every sign or dot that is used in the inscription is given, but a method is used giving all the letters with some necessary vowel and consonant signs over them. For aspects of calligraphy and vowel or consonant markers one can look at the reproduction of the inscription.

8. English translation. An English translation of the text is given. A few inscriptions (mostly poems and also a waqfiye) are due their specific and difficult character not translated and only a rough necessary translation is given where the content is summarized.

9. Commentary. The Description is closed with some comments and remarks on the content of the inscription.

CATALOGUE OF INSCRIPTIONS

JERUSALEM INSCRIPTIONS ADDENDUM

Jerusalem Inscriptions were earlier published in TJ 1. We have some new discovered inscriptions or additions here. The most important newly discovered inscription is nr. 123 that is just only announced here but not published. We have no permission to publish it yet. It is the only extant inscription of the Saljukid rule in Jerusalem.

Catalogue	Material	Size	Date	Location	Name on Inscription
123	Marble		476/1083	Jerusalem	Tajuddevle Tutush
124	Marble	55x30	662/1263	Islamic Museum	Baybars
125	Copper		594-637	Isl. Museum	Artuk Arslan
126	Marble		1037/1628	Jerusalem/Haram	Muhammad Pasha
127	Marble?		1052/1642	Silwan	
128	Marble	84x84	1023/1614	Asadiyya	
129	Marble	25x40	1143/1730	Asadiyya	
130	Marble	50x62	1323/1905	Asadiyya	
131	Copper	50x62	1306/1888	Isl. Museum	Abdulhamid II
132	Marble	55x30	662/1263	Islamic Museum	Baybars

Inscription 40 of TJ which was buried in the moat has been excavated and remains are seen in the Citadel museum of Jerusalem. A skilfully crafted copper candlestick from the Artuqid ruler is included as inscription nr. 125. An unpublished inscription from the Ottoman times recording the building of the western wall of Haram-i Sharif is inscription nr. 126. Nr. 127 is from the Silwan Mosque that is lost but was recorded by Evliya Çelebi.

Nrs. 128, 129 and 130 are inscriptions from Zawiya Asadiyya in the Mount of Olives. And nr. 131 are two candlestands from the Islamic Museum of Haram al-Sharif, they are gifts of Sultan Abdulhamid II.

JERUSALEM CITADEL BY SULTAN MAHMUD I. (1730-1754) (TJ p. 101)

Inscription 40
Foundation Inscription

Catalogue	Berchem	Size	Date	Location
40	49	84x54 = 6	1144/1731	Map 3 nr. 40 (buried)



Figure 1: Inscription 40 of Sultan Mahmud

Commentary:

Inscription 40 was published earlier (TJ p. 101-102). This inscription on the moat of citadel was buried when the moat was filled in 1898 when Kaiser Wilhelm II visited Jerusalem. The inscription was not visible. During my visit in december 2007 I have found in the garden of the Citadel a fragmentary-part of a broken inscription. This inscription seemed to be a part of the Inscription 40. The Inscription was originally placed in the moat together with an inscription (inscription nr. 7) of Sultan Suleyman. That now this part of the inscription is found means that during the archaeological excavations of the citadel the inscriptions were unearthed and handled very carelessly and were broken in parts. Also the Inscription of Sultan Suleyman should have the same fate.

I am publishing here the photo of this inscription with the text that has survived the vandalism in the hope that the Israeli authorities that are responsible for the "Citadel" should act more carefully with the ottoman (islamic) heritage.

Text: Saved part in black and destroyed part in grey font

1. جدد بناء حائط هذا الخندق بعد انهدامه في خلافة سلطان الاسلام
2. والمسلمين قانع [الكفرة] والمشركين السلطان محمود ابن المرحوم
3. السلطان [مصطفى خان من ال عثمان] أيد الله ملكه بعرض واعلام
من حضرة
4. الدستور [المكرم عبدالله باشا محافظ الشام] وأمير الحاج الشريف
حين زار القدس
5. و[جاء الفرمان العالي خطابا لمتسلمه الحاج مصطفى] أغا بروانه زاده
فباشرها بنفسه
6. وأتم عمارتها جزاه الله خيرا في شهور سنة [أربعة وأربعين ومائة
وألّف

QALA AQABAH BY SULTAN MURAD III. (1574-1595)

Inscription 106 (TJ p. 203) Commemorative Inscription

TJ p/ 203-204 we published 2 medallions resembling Mamluk Blazons from Qala Aqabah in Jordan. We have now pictures of this inscriptions and publish them hereunder. On the right and left side of the entrance gate.

Catalogue	Berchem	Size	Date	Location
106	Marble		996/1588	Aqabah



Figure 2: Inscription 106A Inside the gate Blazons with under them the Mamluk inscription Sultan Kansuh Ghuri

There are 4 blazons 2 are inside the entrance gate of the Aqabah Fort (Inscriptions A) and 2 are outside the gate (Inscriptions B).