

GÖTTINGER ORIENTFORSCHUNGEN
I. REIHE: SYRIACA

Herausgegeben von
Martin Tamcke

Band 45

2014

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

Felicita Tramontana

Passages of Faith

Conversion in Palestinian villages
(17th century)

2014

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

The publication of this book was supported by a grant of the University of Palermo,
Dipartimento di scienze giuridiche, della società e dello sport.
Research funds FIRB 2008, scientific coordinator Felicita Tramontana.

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen
Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet
über <http://dnb.dnb.de> abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche
Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet
at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

For further information about our publishing program consult our
website <http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de>

© Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG, Wiesbaden 2014
This work, including all of its parts, is protected by copyright.
Any use beyond the limits of copyright law without the permission
of the publisher is forbidden and subject to penalty. This applies
particularly to reproductions, translations, microfilms and storage
and processing in electronic systems.
Printed on permanent/durable paper.
Printing and binding: ® Hubert & Co., Göttingen
Printed in Germany
ISSN 0340-6326
ISBN 978-3-447-10135-6

Table of Contents

List of abbreviations	IX
Acknowledgements	XI
Introduction	1
Chapter I Christians in Seventeenth-century Palestine	18
1.1. The district of Jerusalem in the seventeenth century	19
1.2. The distribution of the Christians in the seventeenth-century district of Jerusalem	22
1.3. Christians in villages.....	24
1.4. Non-Muslim minorities under Ottoman rule.....	27
1.5. Conversion to Islam in the Ottoman Middle East.....	30
1.6. Catholic Missionaries in Bilād al-Shām.....	32
1.7. Conversion to Catholicism under the Ottomans	36
1.8. The spread of Catholicism and Islam in the district. A map of conversions	37
Chapter II Recording conversion in the Ottoman district of Jerusalem.....	40
2.1. Recording conversion before the court	41
2.2. The Islamic court's conversion certificates: the texts	44
2.3. Recording conversion before the court, and its aims: some hypotheses ..	48
2.4. Women's conversions	52
2.5. Palestinian villagers go to court.....	54
2.6. The “Registri” of the Custody of the Holy Land	56
2.7. The friars' records of conversion to Catholicism, goals and recording procedures.....	60
Chapter III “And there is no one left in Dayr Abān who is not Muslim”: conversion to Islam in the villages of Dayr Abān and Šūbā	66
3.1. Dayr Abān: a case of conversion <i>en masse</i>	67
3.2. New converts summoned by the tax collector	70
3.3. “There is no one left in Dayr Abān who is not a Muslim”	74
3.4. Conversion and the payment of the poll tax.....	76
3.5. Šūbā: the conversion to Islam of the sons of Sālim	78
3.6. Individual conversions and communal dynamics	80
3.7. The characteristics of the Christian communities involved	83
Chapter IV The spread of Catholicism in the villages of the district of Jerusalem.....	86
4.1. Bethlehem: <i>un pauvre chétif village</i>	89

4.2. The spread of Catholicism in Bethlehem: contacts with the friars	92
4.3. Familial ties and the diffusion of Catholicism.....	93
4.4. Converts and their former coreligionists in Bethlehem.....	96
4.5. Franciscans' charity toward new Catholics.....	101
4.6. The spread of Catholicism from Bethlehem to Bayt Jälā and Bayt Sahūr	104
4.7. The birth of the Catholic community of Ayn Karim: conversion or migration?.....	107
 Chapter V Conversion and change in the distribution of the Christian Population	
5.1. The Islamization of Palestine	113
5.2. Changes in the distribution of Christians during the Ottoman rule	115
5.3. The consequences of the spread of Catholicism for the distribution of the Christians in the district.....	119
5.4. Change of faith and mobility.....	121
5.5. Conversion and migration towards Jerusalem.....	125
Conclusions.....	131
 Bibliography	
Unpublished primary sources.....	137
Secondary literature.....	137
Index	151