

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The dissertation on which this book is based would not have been possible without the assistance of a number of individuals and institutions, whose support and contributions I would like to acknowledge. First and foremost, I wish to acknowledge the assistance of my supervisor and thesis advisory committee: Dr. S. E. Günther of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto, who, upon arriving at the University of Toronto, willingly accepted to be on my thesis advisory committee and then agreed to supervise the thesis itself when a new supervisor was needed in early 2001; Dr. M. E. Marmura and Dr. L. S. Northrup of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations; and Dr. J. W. Goering of the Department of History at the University of Toronto. I am very grateful for their contributions to my work. I would also like to express my gratitude to my other professors at the University of Toronto (Dr. J. R. Blackburn, Dr. E. J. Keall, Dr. J. D. McAuliffe), whose courses broadened and deepened my knowledge; and to administrators and fellow graduate students at the University for assistance and encouragement along the way.

Further from home, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Colin Baker (Head of Near and Middle Eastern Collections, British Library), Professor Michael Carter (Institute of East European and Oriental Studies, University of Oslo), Professor Justo Lacunza Balda (Dean of the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome), Mr. Hans Nordesjö (Uppsala Universitetsbibliotek), Mr. Frank Story (Theses Librarian, University of St. Andrews) and Dr. Elaine Wright (Curator of the Islamic Collections, The Chester Beatty Library, Dublin) for prompt and informative responses to my e-queries concerning materials that I could not access directly.

The success of my research trip to Istanbul was due in no small part to the assistance of Dr. Nevzat Kaya, Director of the Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi; Dr. Gülendam Nakipoğlu, Curator of the Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Kütüphanesi; Mr. Yazma Eserler Sorumlusu, Director of the Bayezit Devlet Kütüphanesi; Ms. Meral Alpay, Director of the Istanbul University Library, as well as to that of their assistants and staff. A particular word of thanks goes to Mr. Metin İlhan,

International Relations Officer at the Governorship of Istanbul, as well as to the community and residents at Bomonti who welcomed me and assisted me throughout my stay in Istanbul.

I would like to acknowledge the distant, indirect but in no way less valuable contribution of Professor Sameh Faragallah, my Arabic tutor at the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies (Rome).

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the financial assistance I received for my programme at the University of Toronto from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Government of Ontario Graduate Scholarships Fund, and the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto. Without this funding and income from teaching and research assistantships at the University, completing my programme would have been a much more arduous task.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Professor Gerhard Böwering of the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University, co-editor of the series *Texts and Studies on the Qur'ān*, not only for inviting me to contribute a volume to this series but also for the assistance and encouragement he provided, especially during my research trip to Istanbul, the results of which provide an important contribution to this book.

A final word of appreciation goes to Trudy Kamperveen and Tanja Cowall, Editors at Brill Academic Publishers, for their assistance throughout the various stages leading to this book's publication.