Contents

List of Illustrations page vii List of Tables x List of Contributors xi Notes on Transliteration, Place Names, Dates, Editions, and Translations xv Acknowledgements xvi

Introduction: The Ties that Bound the Societies of the Islamic Empire 1 Edmund haves and petra M. Sijpesteijn

PART I PERSONAL TIES

- Ties of Unfreedom in Late Antiquity and Early Islam: Debt, Dependency and the Origins of Islamic Law 29
 ROBERT HOYLAND
- The Local Clergy and "Ties of Indebtedness" in Abbasid
 Egypt: Some Reflections on Studying Credit and Debt in Early
 Islamicate Societies 60
 CECILIA PALOMBO
- 3 'Return to God and the Brotherhood of Good and Excellent People': Bringing the Prodigal Son Back Home in Ayyubid Egypt 105
 ODED ZINGER
- 4 Aloneness as Connector in Arabic Papyrus Letters of Request 127 PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN
- Swearing Abū al-Jaysh into Office: The Loyalties of Ţūlūnid Egypt 150 маттнеw s. gordon

PART II INSTITUTIONS

 Messengers in Byzantine and Early Muslim Egypt: Small Cogs, but Systemically Relevant. With Some Remarks on the Dossier of Menas, *Stratiōtēs* 175
 STEFANIE SCHMIDT

v

- 7 The Epistolary Imamate: Circular Letters in the Administration of the Shi^ci Community 206
 EDMUND HAYES
- 8 Early Arabic Decrees on Papyrus from the Abbasid Period 232 NAÏM VANTHIEGHEM
- A State Letter from a Marwanid Caliph to his Governor of Iraq: A Historiographical Investigation into Khālid b. 'Abd Allāh al-Qasrī's Downfall 258
 NOËMIE LUCAS
- Between the Arabs and the Turks: Household, Conversion and Power Dynamics in Early Islamic Bactria 297
 SAID REZA HUSEINI
- Emotion in Early Islamic Social Hierarchies: Affection, Threats, and Appeals to Piety in Official Documents from the Umayyad and Abbasid Periods 327
 KAREN BAUER

PART III COMMUNITIES

- 12 Local Elites during Two Periods of Civil Strife: Al-Ash^cath b. Qays, Muḥammad b. al-Ash^cath, and the Quarter of Kinda in Seventh-Century Kufa 353
 GEORG LEUBE
- 13 Rulers, Hanābila, and Shiʿis: The Unravelling Social Cohesion of Fourth/Tenth-Century Baghdad 381
 NIMROD HURVITZ
- 14 Resistance to and Acceptance of the Fatimids in North Africa: A Shi^ci Dynasty in Negotiation with Both Adherents and Enemies 401
 PAUL E. WALKER
- Boundaries That Bind? Pagan and Christian Arabs between Syriac and Islamic Strategies of Distinction (Late First Century AH) 423
 SIMON PIERRE
- 16 "Peace Be upon You": Arabic Greetings in Greek and Coptic Letters Written by Christians in Early Islamic Egypt 466
 LAJOS BERKES
- 17 Tied to Two Empires: The Material Evidence of the Islamic Conquest of Sicily 481JOANITA VROOM

vi

Index 513