

filled. These were property-registration (*taḥrīr emlāk*) clerks: a head scribe, a scribe to record transactions, and a scribe to write tapu certificates and official orders and reports. Additionally, there were clerks who would comprise a traveling team but who had not yet arrived at their post (*henuz būrada seyyār bulunacak memūrīn*). They were two registration officials (*taḥrīr memūrī*, *refāket kātībī*), two registrars, two assessors, and two surveyors, all unnamed.¹⁰³ The exact same positions, filled and “to be” filled in the same manner, were likewise listed in the *liwa* of *Tarabulus Shām* (Tripoli), the only difference being that the combination lands clerk and head tapu clerk in Tripoli, ‘Ali Effendi, had two assistants (*refīq*) instead of one, as in Beirut.¹⁰⁴ At this stage, then, it appears that one who wanted to register his or her land and receive a tapu certificate needed to travel to the provincial capital or to wait for the occasional visit from lands officials making rounds (or lands officials who would soon be appointed to make rounds) in the provinces.

Two years later, according to the *salname* of 1871 (1288 H), a *defter-ı khakani qalami* (Office of the Imperial Land Register) for the vilayet of Syria had been established in Damascus. It consisted of a manager and his assistant (*mudīr ve mu‘āvin*), a collator of documents (*mukābele-ci*), and two registrars (*mukayyed*) for each of four geographically divided branches (*şu‘bes*): Damascus-Hawran-Balqa; Jerusalem-Acre; Beirut-Hama; and

¹⁰³ ISAM, *Salname* 1286, 76.

¹⁰⁴ ISAM, *Salname* 1286, 81.