

Regarding Jerusalem, Haim Gerber has examined the progress of land registration in the Jerusalem *qāḍa* (district) in the early twentieth century based on cases that came before the district's Administrative Council. He found that for each request to the Administrative Council for permission to register land-ownership, a comparison was made between the details regarding the parcel of land and the *vergi*-register. He found that while in many cases the details did not match, in very few cases could the land not be located in the *vergi*-survey at all.¹³⁹

Aside from what was proscribed by law, nothing is yet known about the *emlak* commission(s) in Palestine in general, and in Hebron in particular, or of their composition and how they proceeded through the district and accomplished their work. As will be seen in Chapters Two and Three, it can be inferred from the information they recorded in the register that local cooperation was an essential component of the commission's work. While the path the commission(s) took in Hebron is unknown, the ordering of the *Esas-ı Emlak* register reflects the attention that was given to administrative borders. Image 1.1 on the following pages illustrates the order in which the villages of Hebron were recorded in the *Emlak* register (#1-50). It is enlightening to compare the ordering of the villages in the register with the list of villages in the 1871 *salname* for the province of Syria, which are categorized by *nahiye* (subdistrict). Doing so, it becomes clear that the *emlak* register was

¹³⁹ Gerber, 206.