

CONTENTS

List of Figures and Tables	xiii
Acknowledgements	xv
Transcription of Arabic Words and Unification of Date	xvii
I Introduction	1
A. Review of Research Literature	3
B. Sources: The <i>Commissaria Biagio Dolfin</i> and Other Archival Sources	6
C. Analysing Conflicts	13
PART ONE	
FRAMEWORK: VENETIAN MERCHANTS IN ALEXANDRIA – BIOGRAPHY OF BIAGIO DOLFIN	
II Levant Trade	19
A. Background: Levant Trade and its Routes	19
B. Transit Trade Under the Mamluks	30
C. Venice – Not Just a Maritime Republic	35
D. Mercantile Correspondence	38
E. Sedentary Merchants and their Agents	43
III Venetian Commercial Privileges in the Mamluk Empire	45
A. Background: Islamic Law under the Mamluks	45
B. Christian Merchants: Caught Between <i>jihâd</i> and <i>amân</i>	47
C. The Commercial Privileges of 1415	49
IV The Venetian Consulate in Alexandria	55
A. Background: Alexandria	55
B. Locating the Consulate: Alexandria Versus Cairo	64
C. Consulate, Council of Twelve and <i>fondaco</i>	67
D. <i>Cottimo, consolazio</i> – Venetian Public Finance in Alexandria	77
E. The Business Year in Alexandria – the <i>mude</i>	88
F. Alexandrians: Officials, Intermediaries and Merchants	91

V	Biagio Dolfin – Public Servant and Merchant	97
	A. Biagio Dolfin: A Short Biography	97
	B. Biagio Dolfin in Alexandria: The Power of a Merchant's Past	101
	C. Biagio Dolfin's Character	105
	D. Conclusion: Merchant and Consul – Importance of Family	110
 PART TWO		
PRESUMED RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS		
VI	Crusade and Levant Trade	113
	A. Crusade as a Weapon: Trade Restrictions and Rhetoric	113
	B. Crusade and Salvation of the Soul: Emanuele Piloti and Mercantile Ethics	116
	C. Conclusion: Harmonising Crusade and Trade	118
VII	Slave Trade and Solidarities	121
	A. Slaves in the Mamluk Empire	121
	B. Slaves of the Venetians	124
	C. Order and Transport of Slaves	129
	D. <i>Anime</i> and <i>famuli</i> in Alexandria	135
	E. Conclusion: Slaves Between Race and Religion	139
VIII	Venice as Protector of Pilgrims and the Power of the <i>cortexia</i>	143
	A. Background: Pilgrims in Alexandria and Cairo	143
	B. Litigation Over the Purchase of Spices and Settlement of the Conflict in Cairo and Alexandria	145
	C. The Cost of an Audience with the Sultan	149
	D. Conclusion: Power of the <i>cortexia</i>	150
IX	<i>Per onor di san Marcho</i> – Wanderings of St Mark's Head	155
	A. Background: St Mark Evangelist in Alexandria and Venice	155
	B. Venetians Acquire St Mark's Head	157
	C. Copts Prevent the Shipping of the Relic	159
	D. Conclusion: <i>Translatio</i> – Wanderings of Saints' Relics Towards Emerging Centres	162

X	Shed Wine – Anti-Christian Riots in Alexandria?	167
	A. Background: Wine Consumption and Wine Trade in Egypt	167
	B. Riots and Venetian Reaction	175
	C. ‘Āmma – ‘Common’ People in Crisis	177
	D. Conclusion: Shedding Wine Instead of Blood	181
 PART THREE		
CONFLICTS OVER THE SPICE TRADE FAIR		
XI	<i>Prolungar la muda</i> – Conflict over the Spice Fair’s Deadline	187
	A. Background: Regulation of the <i>muda</i>	187
	B. The Captain: Counteracting the Merchants	191
	C. Reasons for Delay: Full Warehouses in Venice	197
	D. Candia, Rhodes, and Smuggling	201
	E. Conclusion: State Law versus Market Law	204
XII	<i>Non per pato, ma per complaxer</i> – Modalities of the Customs Clearance	209
	A. Background: Alexandrian Customs and Reproaches from Venice	209
	B. Import Taxes: Special Agreements in Alexandria	211
	C. ‘Confiscation’ – Business in a Gift-Economy	219
	D. Conclusion: Bargaining in the Shadow of Official Norms ..	225
XIII	<i>Per cholpa, defeto et triste maniere</i> – The Conflict Surrounding the Sultan’s Pepper	229
	A. Forward Purchase of Pepper	229
	B. Sultan’s Pepper and <i>voze del piper</i>	235
	C. Conflict Resolution Behind the Consul’s Back	241
	D. Conclusion: Intervention or Free Trade?	247
XIV	The Case of Giacomo Zorzi: Release of a Debt Prisoner	251
	A. Background: Losses and Debt Confinement	251
	B. Fantin Viaro’s Letter to the Sultan – The Formal Approach	254
	C. Biagio Dolfin’s Negotiations – The Informal Approach	257
	D. Confinement in the Fortress of Alexandria	264
	E. Conclusion: Negotiating Justice	267

PART FOUR

EPILOGUE AND CONCLUSION

XV	Epilogue: <i>Montar al Caiero</i> – Quasi-Martyrdom of the Consul?	273
XVI	Conclusion – Types of Truth	281
	A. Contrast of Interests – Use of Norms – Role of Symbols ..	281
	B. Conflicts in an Equilibrium of Cooperation	284
	C. Conflict Settlement: Between Periphery and Centre	286
	D. Close: Reading Conflict Patterns in Black and White	287

APPENDICES

I	Partial Reconstruction of Biagio Dolfin's Correspondence	293
	A. Bragadin, Andrea (Venice)	294
	B. Dolfin, Lorenzo (Venice)	294
	C. Dolfin, Nicolò (Venice)	295
	D. Dolfin, Pasqualiga (Venice)	297
	E. Donado, Lorenzo (Alexandria galleys)	298
	F. Merchant from Damascus	299
	G. Malerbi, Filippo di (Cairo)	299
	H. Michiel, Angelo (Cairo)	300
	I. Moro, Antonio (Venice)	303
	J. Morosini, Marco (Venice)	304
II	Transcription of Venetian Texts	305
III	Documents	307
	A. Letter from Biagio Dolfin to Antonio Moro Concerning the Liberation of Giacomo Zorzi	308
	B. Decision of the Council of Twelve to Return the Head of Saint Mark	315
	C. Letter from Biagio Dolfin to the Doge and Senate in Venice	317
	D. Recordatio from Pietro Bernardo and Francesco Zorzi to Filippo di Malerbi	328

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1 Sources	331
A. Archival Sources and Manuscripts	331
B. Edited Sources	332
2 Selected Studies	335
3 Reference Works	354
Index	357