The Waqfs of Megri (Fethiye) District in the 16th Century

ABSTRACT

We have tried to analyse the waqfs of Megri (Meğri) in the 16th century, one of the important districts in the Mediterranean coast of Western Anatolia, based on the registers of Ottoman Cadastral and Waqfs in the General Directorate of Land and Cadastre and Prime Ministry Ottoman Archive. As a city and district, Megri has been named as Telebe, Telmessos, Anastasiopolis, Makri or Mekri, Beshkaza (Beşkaza) and Fethiye throughout history. Menteshe District was established in 1261 and conquered first by the Ottomans in 1391. It was out of Ottoman power in the Battle of Ankara and Murad the Second got again the district. After the first conquest, Menteshe Flag was created here and Megri became one of significant districts in the flag. Waqfs have an important place in consisting the social and cultural structure of this district. They will contribute to explain the historical and cultural situation of the region because of the fact that Fethiye has split into two at the present day and the Township of Seydikemer has been departed from here. There are waqfs in the midst of 44–81 in Megri, that is to say, this district is rich in waqfs. They are located in rural area except for a few. Especially villages such as Sandlu or Döger, Vakıf Yakası, Amas (Üzümlü), Seki, Ugurdash (Uğurdaş), Ebuhora, Ovacık, Bey and Eshen (Eşen) are where there are a lot of foundations. Waqfs Registers dated 1530, 1562 and 1583 have been benefited about waqfs. Those bearing the dates of 1562 and 1583 are detailed, so they provide important information in terms of the history of district.