Editorial Note

This is the twenty first volume of collected papers of the Mediterranean Studies Group at Hitotsubashi University. Up to the twelfth volume, the series was called *Studies in the Mediterranean World. Past and Present* and many of the articles were written in Japanese. From the thirteenth volume, the title of the series, now composed of papers in European languages, was changed to *Mediterranean World*. Volumes are published every two or three years.

The Mediterranean Studies Group was first organized at Hitotsubashi University in 1973, in order to carry out interdisciplinary research on the Mediterranean world. At that time, few studies on the Mediterranean area were undertaken in Japan, in comparison with studies on other areas of the world. Since it was founded, the Mediterranean Studies Group has held monthly seminars, offered special lectures by both Japanese and non-Japanese scholars, and organized field surveys in the Mediterranean countries concerned. We are greatly indebted to the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Culture for a number of grants-in-aid which have enabled us to conduct these research activities and publish the series.

This volume is dedicated to the colleagues of our study group, the late Prof. Kin-ichi Watanabe and the late Prof. Katsuzo Nakazawa, who passed away on 2 February 2011 and 14 March 2011 respectively. Both of them were the eminent and leading historians in Japan. Prof. Watanabe was a founding father of our study group and since 1973 had initiated us, besides playing a leading part in the study of Byzantine history. Prof. Nakazawa was among the early members of our study group, and had been the active member of the group, besides being an excellent historian of Nederland in Japan. It is a great pleasure and honor for us to compile this volume as an expression of our gratitude for their long years of contribution to our study activities.

Eleven foreign colleagues have contributed papers to this volume; they are collaborators with our study group, and four of them participated in our international workshop, "Connectivity and Micro-Region in the Mediterranean II", held in 2-4 September, 2010 in Trieste, Italy. This workshop could not have been realized without the generous help of University of Trieste (Università degli Studi di Trieste), the State Archive of Venice (Archivio di Stato di Venezia) and the Association of Historical Studies «Muda di Levante» (Associazione di studi storici Muda di Levante), especially Dr. Michela Dal Borgo (National Archives of Venice), Prof. Maria Pia Pedani (University of Venice), as well as Dr. Antonio Fabris who accommodated us with a comfortable atmosphere of friendship. To them we express our heartfelt thanks.

Tokyo, May 2012

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