

## The city of Famagusta in the early Ottoman sources

Vera Constantini

The name of Magosa first appears in an *askeri ruzmançe* presumably drafted during the 1570-71 military expedition and compiled in Istanbul a few months after the end of the campaign. In this document, rather functional than literary, the city is defined as a fortified citadel (*qal'e*). This definition remains the most recurring one by Ottoman functionaries even in later years, although Magosa has also been taken into consideration in reason of its harbour (*iskele-i Magosa*), especially before the actual commercial activities were transferred to Larnaka. Nevertheless, in the earliest Ottoman *tahrir defteri* of Cyprus, Magosa appears as a de-populated and – when compared with pre-war data – an almost deserted city, its traditional heterogeneity and syncretism being reduced to the newly-shaped concept of 'Rumluk' suggested by Ottoman administrative and political needs. The history of Magosa *intra muros* was about to end: very soon the almost entire population of the city was ordered to leave their houses and move to an extended *extra muros* area called Varos. This paper will describe the position of Magosa in the context of the Ottoman colonization of the island of Cyprus before and after the expulsion of most of its original population.