

Water Supply Points in Maritime Trade in the Age of Sail in the Mediterranean Sea and Beyond

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Session Description

Many historical hypotheses have led to the determination of the existence of different water supply points near the Mediterranean coast. After centuries of maritime trade in the Mediterranean Sea, from coastal navigation to navigation on the high seas, sailors and merchants knew certain specific points, springs and caves where they could find drinking water. The underwater caves near the coast have aroused the most curiosity among archaeologists, since in many of them remains of both native and foreign pottery have been found, an unmistakable trace of widespread use by sailors and local settlers. This is for example the case for the cave of the Font de Ses Aiguades (Alcúdia, Mallorca) where hundreds of amphorae from different chronological periods have been found, although most of them belong to the late Roman Republican period.

This session wants to explore the organization of fresh water supply in the age of sail in the Mediterranean but also beyond.

Keywords

Roman Navigation; Water Supply Points; Ses Aiguades Cave