

Theme 5

Import/Export

WITH THE SANDS OF THE NILE AND THE WINDS FROM THE NORTH – IMPORTS IN THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES OF APOLLONIA- ARSUR/ISRAEL

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Apollonia (Crusader Arsur) is an ancient mound located some 11 km north of Tel Aviv on the shore of the Mediterranean. In 2012 a joint Israeli-German project was initiated (co-headed by O. Tal, Tel Aviv University and B. Scholkmann, University of Tuebingen), focusing on the medieval town of Arsur, aiming at a better understanding of its establishment, unique characteristics and final demise in 1265 CE. The medieval pottery assemblages examined within the scope of the project, testify to a gradual shift in trade during the 11th and 12th centuries CE from mainly south-western proveniences to northern origins. Specifically, the amount and variety of Egyptian imports in Early Islamic assemblages is considerably larger than previously presumed, whereas the presence of Aegean imports in early Crusader assemblages is significantly more varied than expected. The analysis of these shifts, allows to draw conclusions on changes in trade routes as well as on the permeability of borders between cultures and kingdoms.