

L'exploitation des ressources maritimes de l'Antiquité Activités productives et organisation des territoires

Organisateurs

F. Gayet et R. González Villaescusa



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Partenaires scientifiques :

UMR 7264 CEPAM
AGER Association du Monde Rural Gallo-Romain

Contact :
Anne-Marie Gomez
CEPAM, CNRS-UNS
04 89 88 15 19
anne-marie.gomez@cepam.cnrs.fr

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The exploitation of maritime resources in antiquity : productive activities and organisation of associated territories

(Antibes 11, 12, 13 and Mougins 14 octobre 2016)

Frédéric GAYET
Ricardo GONZÁLEZ VILLAESCUSA

Introduction

In 2012, the General Assembly of AGER (*Association for the Study of the Gallo-Roman Rural World*) proposed "The exploitation of maritime resources in Antiquity" as a general theme for its 2016 conference, a decision which was ratified in 2014 by the General Assembly in Clermont-Ferrand. The previous three AGER conferences are representative of the association's thematic interests:

1. • Landscapes and rural areas in the cities of the Roman West. Gallia and Hispania (2010)
2. • Consuming in the countryside of Roman Gaul (2012)
3. • Production, transformation and storage in rural Roman Gaul (2014)

The *Antibes International Colloquium on Archaeology and History* has a tradition of using a diachronic approach to Mediterranean-wide debates on issues ranging from Prehistory and Antiquity to the Middle Ages, as these perspectives reflect the research interests of its host, the CEPAM research group.

Topics previously covered:

- Exploitation of wild animals through time (1992)
- The dynamics of protohistoric, ancient, medieval and modern landscapes (1996)
- Coastal Mediterranean settlements and dynamics (2013)

In 1984 and 1985, two colloquia particularly relevant to the theme proposed for 2016 were also held:

- The Exploitation of the Sea from Antiquity to the Present. The Sea as a Place of Production (Vol. I) (1984)
- Exploitation of the Sea from Antiquity to the Present. The Sea as a Medium of Exchange and Communication (Vol. II) (1985)

The realisation of a joint convention between the two associations on a common theme makes sense three decades after the 1984 and 1985 meetings, and will address current research on the sea and its adjoining coastal territories in its economic, social and rural dimensions.

This symposium constitutes the 37th annual edition of the *Antibes International Colloquium of Archaeological and History*, a scientific event held at the initiative of the French National Council for Research CNRS-UMR 7264 Cultures and Environments : Prehistory, Antiquity, and the Middle Ages (CEPAM). The three-day event is organised by the CEPAM (University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis) with the *Association for the Dissemination and Knowledge of Archeology* (APDCA), and is partially funded

by the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, the General Council of the Alpes-Maritimes, and the City of Antibes. For the 12th annual AGER conference, one day will be dedicated to the latest research on the countryside of Roman Gaul.

Thematic framework

The aim of the colloquium is to seek a better understanding of the exploitation (*i.e.* the production and its processing methods) of coastal environments from the Mediterranean to more northern coasts (Ocean, English Channel, North Sea) understood as an interface between the land and the sea,¹ and the role of production, circulation and maritime trade for settlements and territorial organisation. The land and the sea form two natural spaces with different qualities and discontinuous bioecological systems, yet they create the hybrid environment of coastal territories: human settlements and activities in coastal lands both reflect and profit from this situation. We will therefore pay special attention to the spatial organisation and developments of habitat, dams, salt meadows, crops, salt marshes, and the interactions between the exploitation of maritime resources and agrarian ones, highlighting the close links between agriculture and fishing or farming for example. Particular attention will also be paid to the distinction between amphibious land (benefiting from two elements: marshes, lakes and lagoons coastal and rivers, meadows flooded by the sea...) and mixed soils (of which communities take ownership of aquatic and terrestrial) that integrate fisheries operating systems, agricultural and pastoral. It is therefore the forms of ownership and territorial control developed by the coastal communities that is of interest to us. All Gallic coasts will be examined and discussed in the AGER sessions; communications with a more Mediterranean dimension and bringing in useful comparisons will be considered for the Antibes sessions.

The preferred timeframe will be that of the second century BC until the fourth century AD, though communications bringing into perspective trends beginning in the previous period or persisting into the following will also be considered. Taking into account the diachronic tradition of the Antibes symposium, papers beyond these periods may be accepted if they bring a unique perspective to the theme proposed by the conference.

Therefore it seems more interesting to us to understand the issue in terms of "maritime dimension", understood as the variety of ways to control, harvest and exploit the sea from the point of view of productive activities, and excluding commerce and trade used simply as indicators of production.

To do this, we will discuss maritime territories as a spatial system, how the primary relationship with the sea is a key factor for the formation or understanding of territories, how the network of places is built and experienced, and finally how referentials are represented by multiple levels of interaction and comply with a complex system of spatial relationships related to the exploitation of maritime resources. The aim is equally to examine the criteria which ancient societies thought met their economic and territorial needs in the configuration of their maritime territories.

As a broad indication, the following topics will be considered:

Session 1: Facilities and productions

4. • Structures related to the processing of sea resources

¹ Cf. <http://www.hypergeo.eu/spip.php?article145#> for the complexity of the definition of coastline.

5. • Maritime resources (distribution, production and processing) : species, habitats, migration
6. • Tools and techniques: fishing, coral harvesting...
7. • Aquaculture and fishponds
8. • The processing, storage and conservation of sea-related products: fish-salting, purple dyeing, etc
9. • The production and processing of salt.

Session 2: The Dynamics of coastal settlements

10. • Environmental conditions and variables as factors of installation and exploitation.
11. • Site distributions and hierarchies along the coastline (sites, fishponds area, temporary fishing installations or ports and market distribution ...).
12. • Relations between the coastal sites and the rural hinterland economy.
13. • Methods and theories: experimental archaeology, sedimentological studies for the identification of salt marshes.

Session 3: The Coastal Landscapes

14. • Representations of the sea and coastlines; the iconography of marine species.
15. • Maritime landscapes or "seascapes" : harbours communities involved in maritime exploitative activities.
16. • Interactions between those exploiting marine resources and those exploiting the land; highlighting links between agriculture and fishing or farming.

Scientific committee

Bernal-Casasola, Darío (Universidad de Cádiz)
 Botte, Emmanuel (CNRS-Centre Camille Jullian)
 Delaval, Eric (Musée Archéologique d'Antibes)
 Deru, Xavier (Université de Lille III - UMR 8164 HALMA)
 Gayet, Frédéric (UNS-UMR 7264 CEPAM)
 García Vargas, Enrique (Universidad de Sevilla)
 González Villaescusa, Ricardo (UNS-UMR 7264 CEPAM)
 Lafon, Xavier (Université d'Aix-Marseille)
 Leveau, Philippe (Université d'Aix-Marseille)
 Rechin, François (Université de Pau et du pays de l'Adour)
 Schörle, Katia (UNS-UMR 7264 CEPAM)
 Trément, Frédéric (Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand)

Organising committee

Gayet, Frédéric
 González Villaescusa, Ricardo
 Schörle, Katia
 Rechin, François