

Mirella Mafri, University of Salerno, “The Messina Strait: Calabrian Trade Between the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries”

Abstract: Documentary sources provide interesting data on Calabrian trade in Messina Strait. Merchants with their feluccas sailed from the port of Reggio to Malta, Marseille, Istria, but also to Trieste, Venice, France. Reggio produced and exported silk and the coast between Reggio and Villa produced and exported citrus fruits, hemp, bergamot essence, lemons and barrels, destined for the markets of Genoa, Venice, Livorno, but also to the Adriatic markets for the strategic role of the ports of Trieste and Fiume. Reggio provided Genoa with drugs (nutmeg, gum arabic, antimony, etc.), and Trieste and Venice with fabrics. Oil production was abundant in Gioia plain, mostly directed to Marseille. The trade revealed the merchant enterprise that fed remarkable fortunes in the Mediterranean scene dominated by Messina, international financial and commercial center.

Paola Nardone, University of Pescara, “The Role of the Suez Canal in the Italian Commercial Policy (1869-1956)”

Abstract: The Suez Canal played a very important role in Italian commercial policy between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The strengthening of connections with the main Italian ports, the improvement of port infrastructures and the implementation of the Italian merchant marine were the guidelines that inspired a new season of national commercial policy. The outcome of the Second World War put an end to Italian imperialism, the crisis of the Canal put it again in the center of international attention, after its nationalization by Egypt and the consequent military reaction of France and the United Kingdom.

3F. The Ancient Mediterranean: A Space of Creation, Conflicts and Exchanges

Chair: Helena Trindade Lopes, CHAM-Centro de Humanidades/ NOVA FCSH – UNL

André Patrício, CHAM-Centro de Humanidades/ NOVA FCSH – UNL, “The Beginning of Trade: Understanding Ancient Egypt’s Mediterranean Trade Routes and Materials During Pharaonic Times”

Abstract: Trade is perhaps one of the most noticeable steps of an evolving civilization. For ancient Egypt, there was a wide range of potential traders, both on the African continent, especially Nubia, and over the Syrian-Palestinian corridor. However, as soon as circa 3000 BCE, Old Kingdom Egyptians were a sea-fearing civilization and an important part of the search for goods was made via the Red Sea and even via the Mediterranean.

The ability to travel on the Great Green allowed the creation of trade routes with several other cultures as far as Byblos, Canaan, or Arad.

With time, Egypt used the Mediterranean to import and export a myriad of products that would directly influence its own development as a civilization and eventually would also leave its mark on other cultures.

With this paper one proposes to present an overview of the trade routes and products exchanged since the Old Kingdom to the New Kingdom between ancient Egypt and its counterparts on the Mediterranean World, in search of an understanding of the relations established between so different cultures, focusing on the products that were actively procured and what they were exchanged for.

Maria de Fátima Rosa, CHAM-Centro de Humanidades/ NOVA FCSH – UNL, “The Mediterranean: Mesopotamia’s Ultimate Frontier”

Abstract: Since the dawn of Mesopotamian History, the Mediterranean was always perceived as a natural frontier. Kings such as Sargon, Ashurnasirpal II or Assurbanipal admired and feared the