

TRADE NETWORKS IN AN EARLY ISLAMIC PORT: OBSERVATIONS ON THE POTTERY FROM BEIRUT

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper will be to provide a typological and chronological description of the early Islamic ceramic corpus (7th-11th centuries) from the Beirut excavations (1993-1997). The stratified archaeological material studied comes from excavations in the northwestern quadrant of the town, an area devastated and abandoned after the mid-sixth century earthquake. Stratigraphic analysis indicates that this area of the town gradually came back to life in the seventh century and was re-occupied by residential units. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on the amphora assemblages in an effort to describe the emergence of new Mediterranean trade networks in the early Islamic period. Special attention is given to archaeologically attested connections with other Mediterranean areas.