

## Sailing to the Holy Land

### Crusader Ships, Seamanship, Logistics and Landing Operations

DAN MIRKIN

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Illustrated throughout in colour and black and white. 3 tables, 81 figures (73 in colour).

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**DANIEL ('DAN') MIRKIN** is a retired lawyer, a long-time sailor and, more recently, a scholar of marine history. Born in Paris in 1937, he has lived in Israel since 1938. He holds a BA in Political Science and French Literature and an LLB. Later on he acquired an MA in Maritime Civilisations and a PhD in Marine Archaeology.

*'An excellent contribution to our knowledge of Crusader period seamanship and ship handling. ... Scholars and students interested in the Crusader period will find this volume to be of great value.'* Dr Deborah Cvikel, Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, University of Haifa

*'This work benefits greatly from the author's practical experiences as a sailor: based on the coastal hydrography of the exposed Levantine shore, ... he identifies a number of potential navigational problems the crusaders would have encountered, which shape his research questions in a dynamic way.'* Dr Daniel Zwick, Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

*All researchers who are interested in Mediterranean studies in general, and not only scholars of the Crusader period, will be interested in this book. It provides a very interesting and fresh approach, which is applicable to other chronological settings and other geographical regions.'*

*Dr Alexander Fantalkin, Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University*

This book, unlike most studies dealing with the Crusaders' voyages by sea across the Mediterranean and their arrival at the shores of the Levant, looks at this feat from a seaman's point of view. To this end, it examines the types of ships, the sails and rigging that were used at the time, drawing on the author's personal experience and knowledge of the wind regime of the region. It also tackles the problems of transporting cargo, humans and horses, and the management of large fleets and their navigational difficulties. The book deals with the question of landing on the flat coast of Palestine. It looks into the connection between seaside Crusader castles and the sea at their foot, taking as a case study the mooring basin below the Apollonia-Arsuf castle. This examination includes under-water digging and sub-bottom profiling using special equipment, and reveals interesting finds which call for further research.

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# Readership

This book will appeal to scholars, students and researchers of medieval history and marine archaeology. It will be of interest to historians in general and to those focusing on the Holy Land in particular, as well as marine historians, and students of migrations and pilgrimage. Amateur Lateen sailing clubs (such as 'Vela Latina') and their members may find interest in the section dealing with the history and implementation of the Lateener in the medieval period.

## Summary of Contents

Introduction

### **PART 1: OF SHIPS, SEAMANSHIP AND FLEETS**

Introduction to Part I

1 Types of Ships

2 Between Text and Images

3 A Modern Simulation of Richard the Lionheart's Passage from Acre to Jaffa

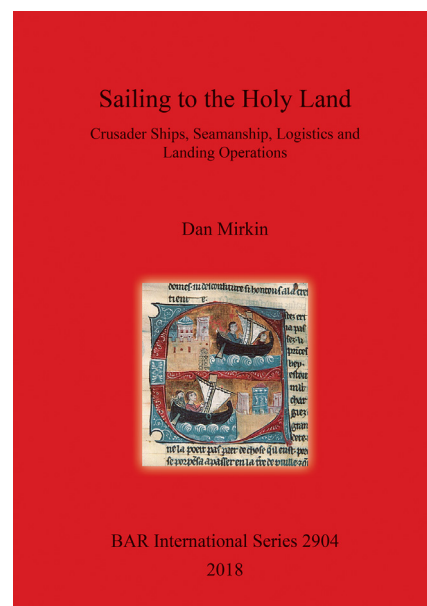
4 Crusader Fleet Seamanship

5 Ports of the Holy Land and Resulting Influence on Choice of Ships

### **PART 2: APOLLONIA-ARSUF: A MARITIME INSTALLATION BELOW THE CASTLE**

6 General Description and Research Project

7 Findings



#### **Main Subject**

Maritime and Underwater  
Archaeology

#### **All Subjects**

Ceramics and Pottery Studies  
Christianity / Churches / Monastic  
Excavation / Fieldwork / Survey  
Experimental Archaeology  
Maritime and Underwater  
Archaeology

#### **Geographical Region**

Levant / Near East  
Mediterranean

#### **Time Period**

Migration Period, Early Medieval and  
Medieval

#### **Keywords**

Beaching, Crusaders, Holy Land,  
Horse transport, Landing, Lateen,  
Logistics, Sail, Sailing, Ships, Transport

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