

Sailing to the Holy Land

Crusader Ships, Seamanship, Logistics and Landing Operations

DAN MIRKIN

August 2018

RSP: £22 / €33 / US\$44

ISBN: 9781407316598

107 pages

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

Language: English

BAR International Series S2904

Publisher: BAR Publishing

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.

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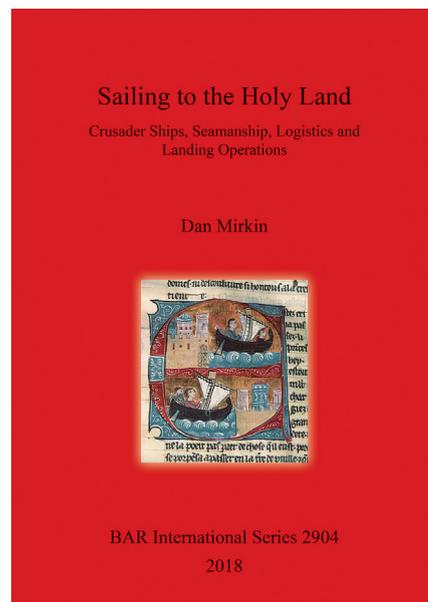
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Main Subject

Maritime and Underwater
Archaeology

All Subjects

Ceramics and Pottery Studies
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Geographical Region

Levant / Near East
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Time Period

Migration Period, Early Medieval and
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Keywords

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

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