THE LATE ANTIQUE ECONOMY: CERAMICS AND TRADE

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INTRODUCTION—MAJOR SYNTHESES

In no other period of Mediterranean history were ceramics and trade so closely connected as during the first six centuries A.D. This is reflected in the overwhelming amount of literature on the subject, mostly buried inside excavation reports and conference proceedings. This bibliographic essay does not aim at providing a comprehensive review of the subject, but rather an up-to-date summary of the current themes in late antique trade studies, with acquired knowledge being presented together with current research problems.

An effort has been made to include all regions in the Mediterranean and beyond (e.g. Britain, the Black Sea), so as, primarily, to reflect the large exchange network that was one of the main characteristics of Late Antiquity. In most cases, it has been difficult to keep a clear separation between the earlier and later periods. However the transition to the Early Medieval/Byzantine/Islamic period is treated in more detail in the last part of this essay. Where volumes covering more than one region are cited under the 'general' heading, specific papers within those volumes will not be found under their respective regions.


Bibliographic Aids


Journals: Facta: a Journal of Roman Material Culture Studies (now ceased); HEROM—Journal on Hellenistic and Roman Material Culture;