

The Archaeological Witnesses of the Post-Medieval Sea Trade in Eastern Mediterranean: The Alanya Case (Turkey)

Ziya Kenan Bilici

Alâ'iyye (modern Alanya) is an important medieval archaeological site in the southern shore of Turkey. The most remarkable monuments on the historical peninsula belong to particularly Seljuk period from 13th century.

In recent years, new wall-paintings were discovered during the archaeological excavations and surveys in the Medieval Castle. From smaller medieval to large *cocha*, *galley*s, *caravelles* (or *caravela latina*), *brig*, *fluyt* and *frigates* that became common in and after the 15th century in *Levant*. The ship-graffiti on the walls of the fortress are, therefore, a valuable confirmation of the Venetian, Dutch, Spanish, English and probably other European countries economic or military activities in this harbour.

On the other hand, the extent of the relations of Alâ'iyye with Europe during this period will increasingly be better understood as the amount of tangible archaeological data such as *ibero-islamique* Valencian and some Italian pottery sherds, also Chinese celadon fragments, several coins such as “*Imperial Rix Dollar*”, “*The Lion Dollar*” or “*Philippus II*” and some important European porcelains with company mark such as “*Copeland & Garrett*”, “*Sarreguemines*” and “*Lindner*” from 18th -19th centuries there are.

To the study of Ottoman and Eastern Mediterranean maritime history and the relations with post-medieval Europe, these archaeological materials are interesting evidences of the economic and cultural vitality of the Ottoman Alâ'iyye.

In this paper, some archaeological findings where discovered in the settlement will be deal with relations between Ottoman-Alâ'iyye and Europe in the post-medieval age.

Keywords: Alâ'iyye, Mediterranean maritime, archaeological findings (porcelains, ceramics, coins, ship-graffiti)