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## FOREWORD

We are pleased to present a new volume of the RCRF Acta, resulting from the conference held in Athens in September 2022. This event was organized by Platon Petridis and Charikleia Diamanti, with the collaboration of Chrysanti Sakellakou. The organization received institutional support from the Department of History and Archaeology of the School of Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades of the Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic, and the Byzantine and Christian Museum of Athens.

The main theme was “Linking Pots: Manufacturing and selling Roman pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean,” but the presentations went far beyond this area and involved the vast regions that were an integral part of the Roman Empire. As usual, the focus of *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautores*, founded in 1957 by Howard Comfort and Elisabeth Ettlinger, is the advancement of understanding about trade and economy, society, and culture during Antiquity through the study of the diverse categories of Roman pottery. In this international learned society, members preserve the founding spirit of the association, recognizing the crucial role that ceramics studies play in understanding the societies and economies of the ancient Roman world across its various regions and provinces.

The 60 articles gathered in this volume shed new light on traditional fields of Roman pottery studies such as typological series, chronology, local and regional production, and import trends (including fine ware, common ware, and amphorae), as well as manufacture processes. Additionally, methodological approaches and archaeometry were not neglected.

Collectively, the volume presents a variety of perspectives where researchers are invited, through pottery, to discuss and analyse economic, social, and cultural transformations, thus contributing to the advancement of historical knowledge of the contexts in question, from the Hellenistic period to Late Antiquity.

In some papers, pottery from the mentioned sites shows the confluence of diverse cultural influences through imported wares. In others, a meticulous typological assessment of coarse wares contributes to our understanding of regional production and distribution patterns. In other cases, authors delve into the far-reaching trade connections and ceramic production technologies that linked disparate regions, highlighting the interconnectedness of ancient economies. Once again, pottery reveals the intricate web of trade and cultural exchange.

Thus, a significant portion of the volume comprises works that involve different approaches to ceramic assemblages with various case studies on sites from Greece and the Aegean (11 articles) and other areas of the Eastern Mediterranean (nine articles), but not exclusively. Additionally, there are articles focusing on Egypt (five) and North Africa (Tunisia) (two). As often happens, a considerable part of the volume is also dedicated to works that focus on Italia (17 articles); eleven papers focus on the northern Balkans and the Danube region, with a set of contributions spanning from the Black Sea to the Adriatic. Further west, six works are gathered from Hispania.

All the papers in this volume were subjected to peer review with editorial oversight, and at the end of this work, you will find the main topics related to our Editorial policy as well as those concerning Publication ethics and Open Access policy. As mentioned, every three volumes we present the list of reviewers who participated in the editing process along with the editorial board.

Since 2020, the publication has been conducted in partnership with Archaeopress and includes, in addition to the print version, a digital one with a DOI, available at <https://archaeopresspublishing.com/ojs/index.php/RCRF/index>. Here, you will also find the latest volumes available to the scientific community in Open Access. This is one of our main concerns – to disseminate the results of our research and participate in the sharing of knowledge with everyone.

The submission of papers was done in the mentioned website that Archaeopress has created in the OJS platform (developed by the Public Knowledge Project: PKP), allowing a better management of the whole editorial process. Besides ensuring transparency in the review process, and maintaining high-quality editorial practices, this OJS increases visibility and accessibility of the papers to a world-wide audience.

The scholarly contributions within this volume not only enrich our understanding of ancient ceramic production and trade but also emphasize the dynamic interactions between different provinces and regions of the Roman Empire. By presenting detailed analyses of archaeological findings from Noricum to the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond, this collection offers new perspectives on the complexities of cultural exchange in the ancient world.

I extend my gratitude to the authors for their rigorous research, and to the editorial board formed by Dario Bernal-Casasola, Tatjana Cvjetičanin, Maria Duggan, Philip M. Kenrick, Archer Martin, Simonetta Menchelli, Platon Petridis, Kathleen Warner Slane, Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț and Inês Vaz Pinto, for all the work in the review process. Expressions of appreciation are also due to Rui Roberto de Almeida for the typesetting and layout, and to the Archaeopress team, especially to David Davison and Patrick Harris.

Catarina Viegas  
General Editor  
July 2024