



Call for manuscripts

Special volume of *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean*:

Marble use, trade and distribution in the Eastern Mediterranean during the Late Antiquity

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The main goal of the volume is to determine the importance of marble use in the eastern parts of the Late Antique Mediterranean world (4th–7th century AD). In the ancient world the definition of ‘marble’ was much broader, denoting a wide range of hard stones that could be polished. This precious sculptural and building material was not naturally available everywhere, so it had to be imported, sometimes even from very distant areas of the Mediterranean world.

Several crucial questions are therefore connected to the use of marble in the Late Antique Eastern Mediterranean. The most evident is why was it being imported. Then, what were the mechanisms of distribution? What was the nature of the orders (e.g. private or imperial)? And what was the nature of the places of display (public, e.g., baths, or private, e.g., residential buildings)? Eventually, one should ask about the impact of large-scale building activity, such as churches, on the import of specific finished marble items, for instance liturgical equipment and architectural elements, or their local production from imported raw material.

Although marble was one of the most important building materials in Antiquity with relevant aesthetic and economic implications, the issue of its use between the 4th and 7th century is still largely unrecognized. Filling this research gap is important for understanding the significance of this material and its trading in Late Antiquity.

Geographical scope of the volume:

- Levant, Asia Minor, Greece, Balkans, Egypt, Cyrenaica, and Cyprus.

Themes of the volume:

- new discoveries;
- archaeometric provenance studies;
- social and aesthetic dimensions;
- distribution and movement of marble and marble artefacts;
- biography of objects: marble use and reuse.

The deadline for submissions is 31 December 2022. The volume will appear in July 2023. We will appreciate letting us know as soon as possible of your interest in contributing to this volume.

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