

Seafaring and port-networks in Classical Cyprus

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The current thesis focuses on ancient literature texts, which refer to the marine activity of Cypriots or Cypriot ports of the 5th and 4th centuries B.C. It studies the remains of port installations of the sea-side kingdom-capitals of this period, as well as additional port facilities, which either appear in the ancient literary texts or result from contemporary archaeological surveys and studies that indicate their potential use during the two centuries. The term marine activities includes the Cypriots' shipbuilding and general nautical knowledge, ability and skill, their occupation with marine trade or its practice by foreigners, as well as their engagement in naval operations in the Cypriot waters and the participation of locals in nautical expeditions abroad. The study of harbour remains treats the knowledge that is obtained from ancient literary texts, contemporary research and travellers' texts, combined with underwater observation in situ, with the purpose of extracting conclusions and outlining questions that result from the comparative study of the above mentioned data. Concluding, the comparative study of the above mentioned data has demonstrated that the creation of harbour installations as naval bases at Paphos, Amathus, Marion and Karpasia can attributed to Ptolemy A' Soter, who instigated this program with a view to consolidating his status in Cyprus. At the same time issues and questions are raised pertaining to the Cypriot harbours of the period and probable solutions to the problem of their location, type and use are presented.