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Domiziana Rossi

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REFERENCES

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“Geochemical analysis of bitumen from West Asian torpedo jars from the c. 8th century Phanom-Surin shipwreck in Thailand”, *Journal of Archaeological Science* 117, 2020, p. 1-18.

- 1 The study of some archaeological items often leads to important discoveries of the broader picture. This is the case of torpedo jars, widely distributed on Sasanian and early Islamic sites. These vessels were used to transport liquids, and their function in long-transports makes them an unvaluable source of information concerning trades within the area of the Persian Gulf. The discovery of the Phantom-Surin shipwreck in

Thailand, and its torpedo jars, adds further evidence to our understanding about trades along the Indian Ocean. These cream-coloured torpedo jars show similarities with the ones found in Siraf, Mantai, Manda, and Sohar (dated exclusively to the Abbasid period, i.e., 8th-9th century). Most of the torpedo jars found insofar were usually sealed by a thin coating of bitumen. The geochemical analysis carried out on the bitumen found in the 'Middle Eastern amphorae' of the Phantom-Surin shipwreck suggests a location in Khuzistan or Fars.

- 2 This paper raises many questions on how little we know about the industry, the function, and the travels of torpedo jars. Thus, it successfully shows as interdisciplinary approaches can help to broaden our knowledge.

AUTHORS

DOMIZIANA ROSSI

Cardiff University