

## **Freightage of Amphorae, Tableware and Foodstuffs in the Byzantine Period: the Evidence of Shipwrecks**

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"Byzantium, mistress of the sea" was a chapter written by Fr. Van Doorninck in G. Bass' *History of Seafaring*. The title is well justified by numbers, more than four decades later: while statistics show a dramatic decline in the rest of the Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea presents a boom in the number of shipwrecks during the Late Roman/Early Byzantine Period. A second, even more impressive increase, is reported towards the 12-13<sup>th</sup> cent. AD. In absolute numbers, Byzantine shipwrecks can even challenge those of Hellenistic and Roman periods.

The aim of this paper is to delve into byzantine cargoes of amphorae, focusing on their chronological and spatial distribution and their contents. Additionally, to spotlight the consignments of glazed tableware favored by markets from the middle 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards.