



# Europa 2022 Postmediaevalis

## Connections and Networking

edited by

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ARCHAEOPRESS

2023



Czech Academy  
of Sciences



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ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Summertown Pavilion  
18-24 Middle Way  
Summertown  
Oxford OX2 7LG  
[www.archaeopress.com](http://www.archaeopress.com)

ISBN 978-1-80327-489-8

ISBN 978-1-80327-490-4 (e-book)

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Scientific board: Gabriela Blažková, Tânia Manuel Casimiro, Andreas Heege, Kristýna Matějková and Hans-Georg Stephan  
English editing: David J. Gaul, Claudia D. Just  
Layout: Stanislava Babušková

This publication was financially supported by Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic and Centre for Processing, Documentation and Recording of Archaeological Finds, Czech Republic.

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Includes papers presented at conference entitled 'EUROPA POSTMEDIAEVALIS 2022: Connection and Networking', April 26–28, 2022, Coimbra, Portugal.

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## Preface

The third EUROPA POSTMEDIAEVALIS conference titled 'Connections and Networking' took place in Coimbra (Portugal) from 26 to 28 April 2022. With regard to the uncertain conditions related to the Covid-19 Pandemic the conference was held in a hybrid format. Those who took part personally certainly did not regret it. After two years of predominantly online conferences and workshops, the opportunity to meet in person presented a welcome change; the need for communication on a personal level was ubiquitous. The university town Coimbra turned out to be an amazing host town. Winding medieval lanes, the position of the university above the town, the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Velha – all combined to create the perfect backdrop for our meeting. Undoubtedly, it was the combination of the selected topic and the selected conference venue that, as a result, attracted 73 researchers from 16 countries. For the first time, EUROPA POSTMEDIAEVALIS joined archaeologists from France, Croatia, Spain, and Finland, in collaboration with Portuguese colleagues, and researchers from China.

The outcome of the conference talks is the EUROPA POSTMEDIAEVALIS 2022 'Connections and Networking' anthology. The book contains 26 contributions from a total of ten European countries. What is more important than the number of represented countries, however, are the topics that were divided into five chapters. The largest number of contributions devotes itself to the principal conference topic, i.e. *Connections and Networking*, in the Early modern period. It is examined from the perspective of local, regional as well as long-distance trade. Some of the contributions indicate the uniformity and globalization which started with early modern ceramic production, reflecting the impact of globalization on the development and growth of globalized ceramic production techniques and practices. Find assemblages from coastal areas testify to the existence of intensive trade relations with Asian ceramic producers. When comparing the individual contributions it becomes obvious what enormous influence the location of a specific place has on its trade opportunities, i.e. whether it is a location with

access to the sea, a position by a river or canal, an inland location, or off major trade routes. A similar perspective is applied in contributions from the *Local Consumption Strategies* section with emphasis on a rather regional distribution of ceramic productions. The placement in one of the three remaining sections was determined by the specific ceramic material the texts are dedicated to (stoneware, creamware) or by the ceramic products themselves – be it stove tiles, tiles or pipes.

The authors' approaches to working with not merely archaeological sources but also methodological techniques differ from one another. To a great extent, this is influenced by the quality as well as the quantity of assemblages analyzed as part of a concrete text. In some areas imports are viewed as a common part of utility ceramics; elsewhere they are evidence of nowadays barely noticeable supraregional contacts. It is therefore difficult to determine whether, in such cases, imports represent an existing distribution network or whether they are evidence of individual contacts. In other cases technological methods of processing a certain product or material present the key topic of the text.

The submitted contributions demonstrate an interest in the selected conference topic, its usefulness and an opportunity to compare concrete find situations across Europe – in both coastal as well as landlocked states and their local development in the light of new impulses from outside. Papers gathered in a single anthology thus facilitate a confrontation of diverse European regions. By comparing dissimilar assemblages and approaches but also countries we gain a more profound grasp of the contacts and distribution networks of early modern ceramics.

We sincerely hope that our anthology will yield new and meaningful insights and impulses as well as conveying thus far undiscovered analogies and sources of inspiration. We will be more than glad should our anthology engage your interest and inspire you to find out more within the scope of the EUROPA POSTMEDIAEVALIS project. We look forward to meeting you at one of our future conferences.



### Acknowledgements

The anthology you are holding in your hands is not the result of only the editors' work. Graphic designer Stanislava Babušková is behind the revised visual appearance of the book. She contributed to its final appearance with new ideas and, above all, meticulous editing of each and every contribution. In cooperation with Miloslava Housková, she attempted to unify differing graphic materials in such a way that the transitions between the articles were as smooth as possible. David Gaul had the difficult task of English-language proofreading; his role was to edit all articles in a unified manner without prior knowledge of the original versions. We would also like to thank all reviewers who voluntarily and gratuitously assumed this thankless and frequently little appreciated role in order to help the authors improve the final texts with their comments and valuable advice.

A big thanks goes to the co-organizers of the conference and, at the same time, co-editors of the anthology, Tânia Manuel Casimiro and Ricardo Costeira da Silva, and the institutions they work for as these significantly contributed to the organization of the conference. These are University of Coimbra (Universidade de Coimbra; Instituto de Arqueologia – FLUC; CEIS20) and CFE-HTC, NOVA University of Lisbon. The Czech Academy of Sciences has been supporting the publication of the book financially for three years as part of the *Strategie AV 21* project, *Anatomy of a European Society*. Furthermore, we must not forget our home institutions (Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague and Centre for Processing, Documentation and Recording of Archaeological Finds), which kept supporting us during the preparation of the conference as well as the book publication.

