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del mondo antico  
e di storia della geografia*

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Vicedirettore  
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Direzione e Redazione  
DIPARTIMENTO DI LETTERE  
Università degli Studi di Perugia - Via dell'Aquilone 7, 06123 Perugia  
Tel. 075.585.31.11 - Fax 075.585.31.38 - E-mail: francesco.prontera@unipg.it

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PIERANGELO BUONGIORNO

*AMOR INLICITUS. CLAUDIUS, DER SENAT UND DIE  
„EINFÜHR“ INZESTUÖSER EHEN IN ROM*

The Roman Senate abrogated the long-standing ban of marriages between paternal uncle and niece to legalize the impending wedding between Emperor Claudius and his niece Iulia Agrippina. The senatorial debate was dominated by references to the Oriental and Hellenistic world with an ancient tradition of marriages in *fratrum filias coniugia*. This study examines the numerous references to customs in the Mediterranean and the Middle East found in the works of the ancient historians and in epigraphic sources.

Keywords: Claudius (Roman Emperor), Conubium, Incest, Senatus consultum Claudianum (AD 49), Tacitus.

email: p1.buongiorno@unimc.it

PHILIPP SEUBERT

*L'IMAGE DE L'ARABIE HEUREUSE DANS LA TRADITION  
GÉOGRAPHIQUE GRECQUE À L'ÉPREUVE DE L'EXPÉDITION  
D'AELIUS GALLUS*

Recent research shows that Aelius Gallus' campaign against Arabia (25-24 BC) was – and must be – considered as a success, but it fails to explain why Strabo, our main witness, presents this campaign as a failure due to betrayal of the Nabataean minister Syllaios. Strabo's account has most probably to be linked to the events surrounding Syllaios' death sentence, but the historical context does not offer a satisfactory explanation. In fact, Strabo's interpretation of the events depends on the image of the Arabian Peninsula drawn by the rest of his sources, which is incompatible with the information about Arabia provided by the account of Gallus' campaign available to him. Rather than to question the whole Hellenistic tradition about Arabia, Strabo believes that Gallus, badly advised by Syllaios, took the worst possible route, and never really reached Southern Arabia.

Keywords: Aelius Gallus, Ancient Arabia, Ancient Geography, Strabo, Nabataean Kingdom.

email: philipp.seubert@ac-lyon.fr

ARNALDO MARCONE  
IDEE DI BARBARI E DI CONFINI  
IN ETÀ IMPERIALE ROMANA

The ethnic identity of Gallic and Germanic tribal groups was a significant factor that shaped the nature and development of the idea of frontier in Central Europe. A direct influence from ideas regarding ethnicity can be identified in the Roman concepts of empire and frontier, in how frontiers were chosen and established, and in the nature and consequences of the interaction between the Roman state and native communities. Barbarians also play an important role in the ethnological and cultural taxonomies of Strabo.

Keywords: Frontier, ethnicity, barbarians, Roman Empire.

email: [arnaldo.marcone@uniroma3.it](mailto:arnaldo.marcone@uniroma3.it)

DIDIER MARCOTTE  
PTOLÉMÉE ETHNOGRAPHE II. NATURE  
ET FONCTION DES NOTICES ETHNOGRAPHIQUES DANS LA  
GÉOGRAPHIE

This article is the second part of a series devoted to ethnographic records in the *Geography* (after «*GeogrAnt*», XXVI, 2017, pp. 47-60), and aims to determine their content and status. Based on an examination of the theoretical prolegomena (I, 1 – II, 1), it analyses Ptolemy's ethnographic information in Books IV and VI-VII dealing with the Indian Ocean, an area for which the author depended on the reports of navigators and merchants. It clarifies the signalling function of such records (which Ptolemy refers to as *παρασημασία*) and proposes to recognise them as indications of origin, intended to highlight information that was to be checked and, if necessary, corrected before being incorporated into the map.

Keywords: Ptolemy, cartography, nautical charts, Indian Ocean, ethnography, paradoxography.

email: [didier.marcotte@sorbonne-universite.fr](mailto:didier.marcotte@sorbonne-universite.fr)

PIETRO JANNI

NONNO DI PANOPOLI: UN DIO  
SULLE VIE DELL'ORIENTE

The gigantic poem of Nonnus's *Dionysiaca* has intimidated and alienated many readers because of its sheer size (more than *Ilias* and *Odyssey* put together) and the peculiarity of its language, an extreme derivation of that of the Homeric epics. Nevertheless, a revival of interest in the poet and his work has recently emerged. In Italy, two editions of the *Dionysiaca* for the general public have appeared and a *Companion to Nonnus* has also been published in Holland. This paper examines the books of the poem (approximately xiii-xl) concerning the god's expedition to India, its conquest and the introduction in it of the cult of Dionysus, in short the portion of the poem which have been called *Indiade*. It deals with the poet's image of the world and in particular with his geography of India; with the land itself and its nature as seen by Nonnus; and finally with its human world, depicted by him in a less than favourable light.

Keywords: Nonnus of Panopolis, *Dionysiaca*, Greece and India, Late Greek epics.

email: [pietrojanni@alice.it](mailto:pietrojanni@alice.it)

KERSTIN DROß-KRÜPE

SEMIRAMIDE: UNA REGINA 'ORIENTALE' E LA SUA  
RAPPRESENTAZIONE NELLA LETTERATURA ANTICA

Until the early 20th century, Semiramis, the legendary ruler of Assyria, glorious queen in Babylon, may well have been the ancient female figure most present in the Western cultural memory. For more than 2,500 years, the reputation of Semiramis has oscillated between *femme forte* and *femme fatale*. She appears in a huge variety of ancient sources and quickly becomes an enduring and much-cited cliché par excellence of an 'Oriental' female ruler. Depending on the author's context and intention, she could be cast as an exemplary figure of light or as a despicable criminal. For centuries, she was (and continues to be) instrumentalised as a versatile 'memory figure' ('*Erinnerungsfigur*') to promote or criticise certain gender stereotypes.

Keywords: Semiramis/Semiramide, Babilonia, storiografia antica, memoria culturale.

email: [kerstin.dross-kruepe@rub.de](mailto:kerstin.dross-kruepe@rub.de)

VALERIO CAPPONI BRUNETTI

UN NAVIGATORE AI CONFINI DEL MONDO:  
LA RAPPRESENTAZIONE DELL'INDIA  
E DELLA COSTA IRANICA NELL'OPERA  
DI ONESICRITO DI ASTIPALEA

In spite of having been a witness of the Macedonian conquest of Asia and one of Alexander's trusted collaborators, Onesicritus of Astypalaea (FGrHist 134) – one of the first alexandrographers to recount the king's life – was condemned by later authors as tendentious and not reliable; his trademarks: self-glorification, flattery towards Alexander and an excessive fondness in referring wondrous things rather than the truth. This paper examines the geo-ethnographic data, Onesicritus' quotations main topic, about India and the Iranian coast, aiming at reconstructing and understanding their value within a work primarily focused on conveying a peculiar representation of Alexander.

Keywords: Onesicritus, Alexander the Great, India, Iranian coast, Nearchus.

email: [neferirkara@tiscali.it](mailto:neferirkara@tiscali.it)

MANUEL ALBALADEJO VIVERO

COSTAS Y EMPORIA DE ARABIA  
EN EL *PERIPLO DEL MAR ERITREO*

This paper focuses on the information provided by the *Periplus maris Erythraei* about the ports of western and southern Arabia, with the hypothesis that each capital of the various kingdoms in those areas (that of Saba-Himyar and that of Hadramawt) maintained strict control over a main port, named emporion by the author/-s of the *Periplus*. This happened due to the political determination of the different rulers to establish strict control over long-distance trade in order to more effectively administer taxes, tariffs, and port fees in each of the ports designated or authorized for that purpose. Another factor of enormous relevance consisted in the readjustments that took place in commercial practices and in the distribution network of the Indian Ocean-Red Sea region due to the novel Roman presence, evident from the annexation of Egypt, and the search for *amicitia* with the Empire by various rulers of the area, ready to send diplomatic legations and gifts.

Keywords: *Periplus* of the Erythraean Sea, Arabia, emporia, Red Sea trade.

email: [manuel.albaladejo@uv.es](mailto:manuel.albaladejo@uv.es)



SEBASTIAN FINK

## VOM MITTELMEER BIS ZUM INDUS: RAUM, GESCHWINDIGKEIT UND DIE IMPERIEN MESOPOTAMIENS

This article stresses the importance of speed as an analytical category for the historian of the early Mesopotamian empires. Therefore, it outlines the development of Mesopotamian political organization from the rise of the first city to the first occurrence of empires in the 3rd millennium BC. It is argued that empires can be understood as accelerators. This is because of the immense territories they rule, in the case of Mesopotamia from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, and in order to actually dominate these huge areas all empires have to accelerate their army, their communication and the transportation within their realm.

Keywords: Mesopotamia, Akkad, Empire, Speed, Acceleration.

email: [sebastian.fink@uibk.ac.at](mailto:sebastian.fink@uibk.ac.at)

NATHALIE BOULOUX

## L'ASIE SUR LES DIAGRAMMES ET LES MAPPEMONDES DÉTAILLÉES (AVANT 1200)

How did maps depict Asia before 1200? From the study of some diagrams and maps, three aspects are developed: the situation of Asia in the orbis terrarum and its limits; its structure and internal divisions; Asia as a space of salvation. The cartography of Asia is the heir of antique cartography, whose structures it has preserved. It serves primarily as a means of gaining objective knowledge of history. The representations of Asia, however, were adapted to the intellectual and spiritual expectations of medieval scholars. The phenomenon of Christianisation was most developed in Asia, where holy history took place.

Keywords: Asia, Cartography, Geography, High Middle age.

email: [n.bouloux@wanadoo.fr](mailto:n.bouloux@wanadoo.fr)

Université de Tours-CESR

MARICA MILANESI

GRAN TURCHIA, GRAN TARTARIA, TURCHESTAN: L'ASIA  
PROFONDA DALLA *HISTORIA MONGALORUM* ALL'ITINERARIO  
DEL MERCANTE DI RABARBARO

In the maps and geographic texts of the sixteenth century, the regions of Asia are represented by integrating the information of contemporaries, medieval and ancient authors into the more or less modified grid of Claudius Ptolemy. Of the medieval travellers, only Marco Polo and Nicolò de Conti are sometimes mentioned with their own names. Others, such as the Umbrian Franciscan Giovanni da Pian del Carpine and the Armenian prince He'tum of Korigos, better known at the time in Italy as Hayton Armeno, despite the widespread circulation of their works, were named by cartographers only at the beginning of the sixteenth century, after having already been present, but never named, in the maps of many authors.

Keywords: Giovanni da Pian del Carpine, Hayton Armeno, Cartography of the sixteenth century, Turkestan.

email: maricamilanesi1@gmail.com

PATRICK GAUTIER DALCHÉ

LES CARTES DES MANUSCRITS DE SALLUSTE

The diagrammatic illustration of the division of the ecumene appears in the margins of the Jugurtha manuscripts (c. 17) at a date that is difficult to determine, and is probably ancient. Their authors tried to explain the text of Jugurtha, firstly by showing the topographical and ethnographical data of North Africa, and later by giving a complete picture of the orbis terrarum which goes beyond the simple explanation of the text by placing Sallustian Africa in an ecumenical representation. The extension of the horizon of Latin Europe, through the crusades and trade, led to the creation of images that were richer in content. However, by the end of the Middle Ages, the appeal of Jugurtha's geography and ethnography had diminished, probably because the conditions for reading Sallustian works were changing, and other modes of cartographic representation were becoming available that were considered more satisfactory.

Keywords: Sallustius, Jugurtha, medieval cartography, mappae mundi.

email: p.gautierdalche@free.fr

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CASA EDITRICE LEO S. OLSCHKI  
C.P. 66 - 50123 Firenze • Viuzzo del Pozzetto 8, 50126 Firenze  
E-mail: [periodici@olschki.it](mailto:periodici@olschki.it) • c.c.p. 12.707.501  
Tel. (+39) 055.65.30.684 • Fax (+39) 055.65.30.214

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