## C. Morhange *Géoarchéologie des ports antiques Quo vadis ?*

OINIADAI, Patras gulf, III BC

#### Delta de l'Acheloos

8

Landsat 7 ETM<sup>+</sup> Intensity Layer, 1999





Benoit Gouvernet Mars

Vue des destructions et des zones en cours de fouilles archéologiques. Céché: Calection F. Benait, SRA, Aix



## Outline

- Relative sea-level changes since 6.000 years / water columns (fishpond, Magdala)
- Coastal deformations and sedimentary budget / Harbour location / palaeo-geography (Akko, Gizzeh)
- Sedimentary processes/energy/hazards (Aquileia, Tipaza, Yenikape). Neocatastrophism /factoids
- Anthropogenic impacts (Napoli, Alexandria...)

# 1. Relative sea-level changes since 6.000 years / water columns

Rapid sea-level movements and noneruptive crustal deformations in Pozzuoli (Italy)



Mox praeiaciuntur in gyrum moles, ita ut conplectantur sinu suo et tamen excedant stagni modum (Columella) The basins themselves were protected from waves by exterior tall walls, so the inner basin was like a pond

External wall

Crepido

Buried Crepido

Protected basin

Anzidei





VIVIERS	Dim. Max (m)	Dim. Min.	Sup. Totale (m2)	Sup. interne	Nb bassins
Kupanja	100	95	7500	2500	4
Katoro	65/70	60/65	4000/4500	1200	4 dt 2petits
S. Bartolomeo	135	80/50	6750/ 8550	2200	2
Fizine	65	28/36	3036	1432	2
Svršata	35	30	1050	600	1
Busuja	L :48	L : 18,8	900	400	5 + 5 (?)

Dimensions très différentes, deux types différents

KATORO - Planim étrie (3 juillet 2009)





#### niveau moyen actuel de la mer Adriatique : Marégraphe de Trieste



-1 m du niveau moyen actuel de la mer Adriatique



-0.70 m du niveau moyen actuel de la mer Adriatique



-1.5 m du niveau moyen actuel de la mer Adriatique







KUPANJA Une fondation de blocs jetés en vrac

## Busuja, vivier à anguilles ?







Pirazzoli Science, 1974

Vue aérienne oblique des fouilles de la Bourse. On remarque le quai romain délimitant la darse de la come du Vieux Port de Marseille.





#### Relative sea level changes in Marseilles



2 m

#### **Phalasarna**, uplift 10 m, 365 AD *Dendropoma*





**Lechaion**, uplift 1,2 m, ca. 340 BC *Balanus* 



West Med. Vacchi et al., 2016



## Preliminary conclusions RSL

## RSL variations are rarely a natural hazard (except Pozzuoli, Phalasarna, Alexandria...)

## **Estimation of water columns** (60 cm ca 525 BC in Marseille ; Roma, Claudius basin ca. 7 m)

centimetric precision cm with BSL indicators

# 2. Coastal deformations and sedimentary budget

Magdala Project S. DE LUCA dir., A. LENA

> Arbel : +180 m Magdala : - 212 m





he coastal structures, the anchorage and the quays at Magdala (Migdal Nunia), based on IUES survey 15

Raban A., 1988 The boat from Migdal Nunia and the anchorages of the Sea of Galilee from the time of Jesus. IJNA, 17.

## Site of Magdala



## HEllenistic dock

## Roman dock

MS6

MS

A

MS5

MS7

## Platform/slipway

MS1

Roman quay and slipway of Magdala (Israel)

Kinneret-sea of Galilee

Annual oscillations ca 1.5m

Med. Sea breeze from Arbel



HIGH ENERGY PRE-HARBOUR LACUSTRINE FACIES

HARBOUR: Silts Pseudocando na albicans Calm waters

POST-HARBOUR Collapse layer. Beach gravels



## 8 Corings (Rossi et al., 2015)



## Section 1



### **Conclusions concerning Magdala**

- Importance of the Mediterranean sea-breeze and Arbel topography (sedimentary budget)
  - Role of the pionners (M. Nun and A. Raban) in the (possible) over-interpretation of the ottoman (?) harbour structures.

## **PORTUS LIVORNUS**





#### Posidonia silt

Programm Portus Pisanus Università di Pisa. Dir: M. Pasquinucci L. Stefaniuk

## Facies aberration

A. Coastal Progradational Parasequence





#### MARSEILLE HARBOUR



Ancient harbours of Akko since the Bronze Age M. Artzy total archaeology project (Haifa)

#### Regional context



Location of Haifa Bay, on the northern limit of the Nile littoral cell (after Stanley, 2002; image Esri/CNES).

#### Geomorphology of Haifa Bay



Geomorphological map of Haifa Bay. Localisation of the tells, 4000 years BP shore line position, bathymetry and wave rose after Zviely et al., 2007. 3650 years BP shoreline after Porat et al., 2008.

#### Tel AKKO : thousands of years occupation



- Akko mentioned in ancient text from 2400-2250 BC
- + Amarna Letters (Pharaos of the 19th dynasty)
- Occupation attested since the MB II A (2000-1750 BC)
- Ceramics imported from Lebanon and Cyprus
  → important harbour activity



#### Methods





- (1) Ubiquity of ostracods in both fresh and marine waters
- (2) Small size
- (3) Easily- preservable carapaces.





#### Location of the cores



Location of the cores, image Esri/CNES.

#### Southern façade, ostracods AK-XV-1



#### Western façade (AK XV 3)





from Morhange et al., 2016).

Results of the salvage project (Artzy and Abou-Ahmed, 2012).

#### Ostracods AK-XV-3





500

Topography adapted from Treidel map (1925-26).

#### Mobility of Akko ancient harbours





Late Persian/ Early Hellenistic harbour



Giaime et al. (2017) GEOARCAEGEOLOGY

## 3. Palaeo-processes and neocatastrophism

high-energy events impacts Vulnerabilities



#### **Aquileia** MB CARRE and G ARNAUD F D. COTTICA et al.



Fig. 1 – Map of the Aquileia deltaic plain and its region. 1: mountainous massifs (limestone, dolomite); 2: Karst plateau and massifs (limestone); 3: piedmont (calcareous marl, marly limestone, marly calcareous flysch); 4: plain unit (Quaternary fluvio-marine infill); 5: major fault; 6: possible fault (hypothetical trend); 7: alluvial fan; 8: enclosed valley (not represented in the mountainous units); 9: springs boundary.

Fig. 1 – Carte de la plaine deltaïque d'Aquilée et de sa région. 1 : massifs montagneux calcaires et dolomitiques ; 2 : plateaux et massifs calcaires du Karst ; 3 : piémont (marnes calcaires, calcaires marneux, flyschs marno-calcaires) ; 4 : plaine (remblaiement fluvio-marin quaternaire) ; 5 : faille principale ; 6 : faille supposée (tracé hypothétique) ; 7 : cône alluvial ; 8 : vallée encaissée (non représentée dans les unités montagneuses) ; 9 : ligne de résurgence karstique.



Aquileia Western harbor



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Increasing fluvial competence at the beginning of the antiquity

Land use had some influence on fluvial dynamics : Several active palaeo-channels were artificially infilled to increase the urbanised area ?



Hydraulic works led to river channelisation, as demonstrated in the sector of the Roman fluvial harbour







Research by S. Groh et al. (Austria), 2012

New harbour waterfront Canale Anfora

Research in progress (D. Cottica)





Painting of the frozen Lagoon in January 1789. (**Camuffo, 2014**) The hinterland and the mountains in the background are covered with snow. (Correr Museum)

YENIKAPE, from Perincek, tsunami layer ca. V-VII° AD





Year

Number of EM-DAT disaster

#### **TSUNAMIS: A DISCOURSE OF FEAR?**



## Some explanations

« Impact factor race » « media race »

Bases of geology « risk society »

Social demand Application opportunism Funding

## QUO VADIS ?

Progresses to be done in harbour geo-archaeology

- Dredging problem. From coring to sections...
- Integration of continental and submarine approaches. From watershed to base-level.
- Geoarcheology without archaological excavations is very fragile and naive.
- Neo-catastrophist fashion. Question of factoïds...
- Sea-level obsession.

## **Toward a stronger geographical (spatial) approach**

Present-day destruction of coastal archaeological sites (coastal erosion and urbanization)