

PREFACE

The research on the ancient and Byzantine harbour city of Ainos in Thrace, its history, function and structure has been since the beginning one of the methodological and analytic highlights of our Priority Research Programme (SPP 1630) »Harbours from the Roman Imperial Period to the Middle Ages«, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Historical, classical archaeological, Byzantine and field archaeological research approaches were initiated and successfully carried out in Ainos in a multidisciplinary context. This is all the more a reason to appreciate the dedication of all those who were since the beginning of the SPP »Harbours« involved in the research of Ainos and its environment for over ten years and have thus been able to achieve surprising and sustainable results. In 2016, an interdisciplinary workshop was held to present the important results of the Ainos project in a wider regional context. The contributions were collected in the twelfth volume of the series »Interdisziplinäre Forschungen zu den Häfen von der Römischen Kaiserzeit bis zum Mittelalter in Europa«. The contributions in this volume describe the special situation in and around the ancient and Byzantine harbour cities in the vicinity of Ainos, the connections to their hinterland as well as the interregional networking. They are to be understood as a case studies for the entire Eastern Mediterranean.

The initiators of the SPP would like to thank Thomas Schmidts and Ioannis Triantafillidis, who were responsible for the Mainz workshop and this volume of the series »Interdisziplinäre Forschungen zu den Häfen von der Römischen Kaiserzeit bis zum Mittelalter in Europa« and also Thomas Schmidts and Helmut Brückner with their teams for the research in Ainos over many years. We would like to include the editorial staff of the RGZM in Mainz in these thanks.

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