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978-0-521-79543-2 - *The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade*,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

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THE PHOENICIANS AND THE WEST

Politics, Colonies and Trade

SECOND EDITION

This is an updated and expanded version of Maria Eugenia Aubet's highly praised book, *The Phoenicians and the West*, first published in English in 1996.

Between the eighth and sixth centuries BC, the Phoenicians established the first trading system to encompass the entire length of the Mediterranean basin, from their homeland, in what is now Lebanon, to colonies in Cyprus, Tunisia, Sicily, Sardinia and southern Spain. The Phoenician state was able to maintain its independence, despite the territorial expansion of the Assyrians, in return for tribute provided by its western colonies. Archaeological research over the past decades has changed our understanding of these colonies and their relationship to local Iron Age communities.

The revised version incorporates the most recent research findings, includes an expanded bibliography, a new Prologue, and an Appendix on radiometric dating. As the only original synthesis of archaeological and historical data on the Phoenicians in English, it will interest not only Mediterranean historians and archaeologists, but also scholars studying the trade systems of state and non-state societies.

MARIA EUGENIA AUBET is Professor in the Department of Archaeology, Universidad Pompeu Fabra. Her other publications include *Tartessos* (1990) and *Les Orants de Carthage* (1974).

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MARIA EUGENIA AUBET

Universidad Pompeu Fabra

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH BY
MARY TURTON



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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	page vi
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
Introduction	I
I Who were the Phoenicians?	6
2 Phoenicia during the Iron Age	26
3 The bases for the expansion in the Mediterranean	70
4 Phoenician trade: exchange mechanisms and organization	97
5 The great political institutions: the palace and the temple	144
6 The routes of Phoenician expansion in the Mediterranean	159
7 The Phoenicians in the west: chronology and historiography	194
8 The Phoenician colonies in the central Mediterranean	212
9 The colonies of the far west	257
10 The colonies in the west	305
11 Concluding thoughts	347
Appendices	
I The journey of Wen-Amon to Phoenicia	356
II Oracles against Tyre	363
III Radiometric datings	372
<i>Bibliography</i>	382
<i>Index</i>	426

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Figures*

1	The Near East	<i>page</i> 8
2	The eastern Mediterranean	14
3	Phoenicia	15
4	Entrance gate to the temple of Baalat-Gebal in Byblos (c. 2800 BC)	20
5	The Temple of the Obelisks in Byblos (c. 1900–1550 BC)	21
6	Gate to the city of Ugarit	22
7	View of the excavations at Ebla (photo M. Paz Ortuño)	24
8	Plan of Tyre. The Tanit symbol marks the site of the ancient necropolis (after Seeden, 1991)	32
9	Aerial view of Tyre in 1935 (after Poidebard, 1939)	33
10	Aerial view of Tyre in 1938 (after Jidejian, 1960)	34
11	Southern Phoenicia and the territory of Tyre	36
12	The island of Tyre: bronze bas-relief from the gates of Balawat (ninth century BC) (after E. Gubel (ed.), <i>Les Phéniciens et le monde méditerranéen</i> , Brussels, 1986, fig. 13)	37
13	Phoenician ships; in the background the islands of Tyre and Arvad. Bas-relief at the palace of Sargon II in Khorsabad (eighth century BC)	38
14	Flight of king Luli of Tyre. Assyrian bas-relief from Khorsabad, early seventh century BC (after R. D. Barnett, 'Phoenicia and the ivory trade', <i>Archaeology</i> 9:2, 1956, 87–97)	39
15	Pottery from Tyre, eighth century BC (after Bikai, 1978)	40
16	Roadway from the Roman period in Tyre, near the Romano-Byzantine necropolis	42
17	Eighth-century cinerary urn from the necropolis in Tyre (after Seeden, 1991)	42
18	Phoenician ivory from the royal palace of Samaria (eighth century BC)	48

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of figures*

vii

19	Israelite amphorae from Tyre (after Geva, 1982)	49
20	Aerial view of the temple of Astarte at Kition	53
21	The Assyrian campaigns in the Near East	58
22	Phoenician amphorae from Tell Arqa and an inscription painted on one of them (after Thalman, 1978)	62
23	Pottery from the necropolis at Khaldé (after Saidah, 1996)	64
24	Hypogeum in the necropolis at Sidon (after Renan, 1864)	67
25	Variables of the Phoenician expansion to the west	73
26	The colonies of Tyre in the Bay of Haifa	78
27	Phoenicians bringing tribute to the king of Assyria. Bas-relief from the palace of Asurnasirpal II in Nimrud (859–839 BC) (after R. D. Barnett, ‘Illustrations of Old Testament history’, The British Museum, London, 1966)	91
28	Phoenician ship. Bas-relief from the palace of Sennacherib in Nineveh (c. 700 BC)	115
29	Main products of exchange in Tyrian trade in Ezekiel (after Liverani, 1988)	124
30	Extent of Tyrian trade in the Near East after the text of Ezekiel	125
31	Phoenician silver bowl from Idalion, Cyprus (eighth century BC) (after Rathje, 1980)	131
32	Phoenician silver bowl from Praeneste, Italy (seventh century BC) (after Poulsen, 1912)	136
33	Winged sphinx or cherubim in a Phoenician ivory from the Nimrud palace (after Barnett, 1982)	150
34	Phoenician expansion into the Mediterranean	160
35	Limits from which land can be seen in the Mediterranean (after Schüle, 1968)	169
36	Aerial view of Sidon in 1934 (after Poidebard, 1939)	179
37	Aerial view of Carthage (after Poidebard, 1939)	180
38	Marine currents in the western Mediterranean (after Ruiz de Arbulo, 1983)	183
39	Prevailing winds in the western Mediterranean (after Ruiz de Arbulo, 1983)	184
40	Shipping routes in the Mediterranean	188
41	East–west routes in the western Mediterranean (after Ruiz de Arbulo, 1983)	189
42	West–east routes in the western Mediterranean (after Ruiz de Arbulo, 1980)	190
43	Bronze statuette of the so-called ‘Reshef’ from Selinunte (after Tusa, 1973)	202

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

List of figures

44	Bronze statuettes found in the sea at Huelva (after Gamer-Wallert, 1982)	203
45	The Nora stele	207
46	The Phoenician colonies of the central Mediterranean	213
47	Ancient levels of the eighth to seventh centuries BC at Carthage (after Rakob, 1989)	220
48	Plan of Carthage (after Rakob, 1984)	221
49	Euboean pottery from Carthage (after Vegas, 1992)	222
50	Alabaster urn from the necropolis of Junon, Carthage (seventh century BC)	223
51	Early Phoenician pottery from Carthage	224
52	Pottery from the deposit in the <i>tophet</i> at Carthage (after Cintas, 1950)	225
53	Plan of the island of Motya	232
54	The Phoenician colonies in Sardinia	236
55	View of the Phoenician colony of Bithia and its bay	237
56	Plans of Tharros, Nora, Sulcis and Bithia	238
57	Early pottery from the <i>tophet</i> at Sulcis (after Bartoloni, 1983)	239
58	Pottery from the Cronicario at Sulcis (after Bernardini, 1993)	240
59	The acropolis of Monte Sirai	241
60	The <i>tophet</i> at Sulcis	251
61	The <i>tophet</i> of Salammbô, Carthage	251
62	Phoenician colonies and indigenous settlements in the south of Spain	258
63	The bay of Cadiz today and three alternative models for the reconstruction of the ancient archipelago	263–266
64	Aerial view of Cadiz	267
65	Reconstruction of the island of Cadiz and position of the principal archaeological remains (after Escacena, 1985)	268
66	Proto-Aeolian capital from Cadiz (photo Instituto Arqueológico Alemán, Madrid)	269
67	Bronze statuettes from the bay of Cadiz (after Perdigones, 1991)	270–271
68	Minero-metallurgical sites on the lower Guadalquivir (after Ruiz Mata, 1979)	272
69	View of the excavations at Castillo de Doña Blanca (photo Ruiz Mata)	273
70	Phoenician pottery from La Cruz del Negro, Carmona (seventh century BC)	274

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of figures*

ix

71	Pot and mining tools from Rio Tinto (after Blanco, Luzón and Ruiz Mata, 1970)	282
72	Tartessian silver-smelting furnace in the calle del Puerto, Huelva (photo J. Fernández Jurado)	283
73	Bronze jug from the necropolis of La Joya, Huelva (photo J. P. Garrido)	286
74	Phoenician amphora from El Carambolo (seventh century BC) (after Carriazo, 1973)	288
75	Greek 'SOS'-type amphora from Cerro del Villar, Malaga (seventh century BC)	289
76	Astarte. Bronze statuette, El Carambolo (eighth century BC) (photo Museo Arqueológico, Seville)	290
77	South-central Portugal and Estremadura	293
78	Mouth of the bronze jug from Zarza de Alange (photo Badajoz Museum)	294
79	Bronze jug from Siruela (photo Badajoz Museum)	295
80	The Gaio Treasure at Sines (after García Bellido, 1970)	296
81	Phoenician pottery from Abul (after Mayet and Tavares da Silva, 1993)	298–299
82	View of the acropolis at Lixus	300
83	Phoenician pottery from Mogador (seventh century BC) (after Jodin, 1966)	303
84	The Phoenician colonies in eastern Andalusia and the Final Bronze Age indigenous settlements	306
85	Dwellings in the B1 Phoenician level at Morro de Mezquitilla (photo Instituto Arqueológico Alemán, Madrid)	308
86	Imported Phoenician pottery of the 'Samaria' type from Morro de Mezquitilla (after Maass-Lindemann, 1990)	309
87	Aerial view of Almuñécar (photo <i>Paisajes Españoles</i>)	311
88	The Phoenician colonies on the mouths of the Vélez and the Algarrobo and the corresponding necropolises	313
89	Plan of Toscanos (after Niemeyer, 1985)	318
90	View of the triangular pit and ashlar wall, Toscanos (photo Instituto Arqueológico Alemán, Madrid)	319
91	Plan of the warehouse at Toscanos (after Schubart and Niemeyer, 1972)	320
92	Red-slip pottery from Toscanos (eighth to seventh centuries BC) (after Schubart and Niemeyer, 1972)	322
93	Bronze thymiaterion from Cerro del Peñón (photo Malaga Museum)	323

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

List of figures

94	Aerial view of the lower Guadalhorce (photo <i>Paisajes Españoles</i>)	324
95	Aerial view of the ancient island of Villar in the mouth of the Guadalhorce	325
96	Dwellings at Cerro del Villar (seventh century BC)	326
97	Grave goods from Tomb 20 at Almuñécar (seventh century BC) (after Pellicer, 1962, and Negueruela, 1985)	331
98	Alabaster urn from Tomb 3 in the 'Laurita' necropolis at Almuñécar (photo Museo Arqueológico, Granada)	332
99	Alabaster urn from Tomb 20 in the 'Laurita' necropolis at Almuñécar (photo Museo Arqueológico, Granada)	333
100	Tomb 1 at Trayamar (photo Instituto Arqueológico Alemán, Madrid)	334
101	Grave goods from Tomb 1 at Trayamar (seventh century BC) (after Schubart and Niemeyer, 1976)	335
102	Ibiza and the early settlements (after Costa and Fernández, 1993)	338
103	Southeastern Spain: indigenous settlements, Phoenician colonies and underwater finds	340
104	The Spanish Levant and northeast: indigenous settlements and Phoenician colonies	342
105	Phoenicio-Punic radiometric series from the Iberian Peninsula	380
106	Comparison between specific series of datings	381

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Tables

1	Phoenician chronologies	<i>page</i> 19
2	Kings of Tyre, Assyria and Israel	56–57
3	Radiometric datings from the Iberian Peninsula from Phoenician colonization to the Punic period	374–377

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - *The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade*,
Second Edition

Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface to the second edition

Generally speaking, historico-archaeological syntheses are of limited validity, especially in the case of disciplines like Phoenician archaeology, which have only been in existence for a few years and where much remains to be done. As far as the history of the Phoenician expansion in the Mediterranean is concerned, archaeological finds occur regularly every year, intensive work is being done in various spheres of historical investigation and we are beginning now to know the results of many years of scientific work in particular regions like Carthage, Andalusia and Ibiza. Moreover, with the end of the war in the Lebanon we can look forward to just as spectacular investigations and results in the territories from which the Phoenician diaspora originated, as have been achieved in recent years in the western Mediterranean. The expected incorporation of Lebanese archaeology into studies of the Phoenician question will undoubtedly allow the scientific balance to be redressed towards a more accurate understanding of the history of the Phoenicians in the Mediterranean; up to now, this has been only partial and largely restricted to the sphere of their overseas colonies.

In the years since the first edition of *The Phoenicians and the West* (1987), huge advances and new discoveries have been made in the sphere of research into the Phoenician world. Take, for example, the extraordinary debate that has gone on about the significance of the *tophet*, the discovery of ancient Carthage, the new finds in Sulcis, that have forced a re-examination of the chronological framework of Phoenician colonization in Sardinia, the notable new information about Phoenician trade in Atlantic waters supplied by Portuguese archaeology, and Tyre itself, where the Iron Age necropolis has at last been found.

Looking back over the years, we become more aware of certain errors in our approach to and interpretation of some of the data in the

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Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

archaeological record, and this has obliged me to modify positions and correct some criteria, accepting that our discipline can only move forward if we are constantly readjusting our theory and methodology in line with the archaeological evidence.

This necessary correction of some of our approaches and the incorporation of the most significant discoveries provided by historico-archaeological research in recent years are sufficient justification for this new edition of the book. Some chapters have been restructured, others have been left virtually as they were and some sections have been either expanded or eliminated, depending on the changes undergone by the text.

The chapters that have been subject to the most modifications are the following: chapter 2, to which recent discoveries in Lebanese archaeology have been added and in which the whole of the appendix concerning the archaeology of the Phoenician cities in the east, slightly expanded, has been incorporated; chapter 8, which includes new data about Carthage and Sulcis and in which the whole section on the *tophet* has been restructured; lastly, chapter 9 has been split in two, both parts practically rewritten from scratch, one devoted to Gadir and the Atlantic region and the other (chapter 10) given over to the Mediterranean colonies of the Iberian Peninsula. As to the bibliography, as in the first edition I have avoided as far as possible bibliographic references within the text and have opted, in this edition, to arrange the general bibliography at the end of the volume, divided according to themes within each chapter and containing the works we feel to be most relevant to an individual approach to each of the questions and topics contained in the volume.

Over the years, I have contracted an enormous debt of gratitude to individuals and institutions and I want to express my most sincere thanks in these lines. To those people who, thanks to their valuable hints and suggestions, made the first edition of the book possible – Maria José Aubet, Anna Maria Bisi (†), Manuela Barthelemy, Josep Fontana, Ingrid Gamer-Wallert, Gustav Gamer, Milagros Gil-Mascarell (†), Vicente Lull, Juan Maluquer de Motes (†), Sabatino Moscati (†), Hans Georg Niemeyer, Manuel Pellicer, Rafael Puertas, Wolfgang Röllig, Diego Ruiz Mata, Javier Teixidor, Hermanfrid Schubart and Giovanni Tore (†) – I must now add the no less valuable and patient collaboration of a lot of people who during this time have provided criticism and information I was not aware of, and whose collaboration has greatly speeded the revision of this work. My thanks on that score go to my friends Margarita

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-79543-2 - The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies and Trade,
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Maria Eugenia Aubet

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

xv

Aruda, Concha Blasco, Sandro Filippo Bondi, Paloma Cabrera, Robert Chapman, Mari Paz García Bellido, Gerta Maass-Lindemann, Mari Paz Ortuño, Rosa Portell, Pierre Rouillard, Luis Ramos, Hélène Sader, Jaume Torras, Mary Turton and Marguérite Yon.

I feel indebted, too, to those institutions that have facilitated my research work with their official and economic support: the Consejería de Cultura de la Junta de Andalucía, which has financed our excavations at Cerro del Villar in Malaga since 1987; the Dirección General de Ciencia y Tecnología del Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, which in 1990–93 financed a research project for us, thanks to which I have been able to approach the analysis of Phoenician colonization in the west from new methodological perspectives; and the German Institute of Archaeology, the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and the American University of Beirut which, between 1986 and 1992, thanks to a series of grants and institutional aid, have afforded me the opportunity to work in specialist libraries in Tübingen, Lyon, Paris and Beirut.

Lastly, I should like to express my thanks to my students of the ‘Guadalhorce’ and Tyre teams, whose criticisms, interest, dissent and eternal ‘whys’ have forced me to revise many ideas and not a few theoretical inflexibilities.