



2nd International Symposium "NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES" - Strategic planning, spatial planning, economic programs and decision support tools, through the implementation of Horizon/Europe2020. ISTH2020, Reggio Calabria (Italy), 18-20 May 2016

“Once upon a harbour”: considerations about the harbour of Reggio Calabria until 1060 A. D.

Riccardo Consoli^{a,*}

^a*Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria Via Salita Melissari 89125 Reggio Calabria (Italy)*

Abstract

In this paper, I would like to put in evidence new considerations and new studies about the ancient harbour of Reggio Calabria, with regard to the “state of the art” and in order to express how the strait of Messina was so important in the ancient world in every single feature as a “strategic place”, both in trade and in war.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the organizing committee of ISTH2020

Keywords: Reggio Calabria, ancient harbour, ancient routes, mediterranean sea, strait of Messina

In this paper, I would like to put in evidence new considerations and new studies about the ancient harbour of Reggio Calabria, with regard to the “state of the art” and in order to express how the strait of Messina was so important in the ancient world in every single feature as a “strategic place”, both in trade and in war. Reggio Calabria is a town of South Italy, at the bottom of Italy, placed in front of Sicily, between the Ionian and the Tyrrhenian seas and surrounded by mountains. This particular position ensures the town an important strategic point in the control of the strait of Messina and as a consequence, the “luck” for its development.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 3206150490.
E-mail address: riccardoconsoli1985@yahoo.it

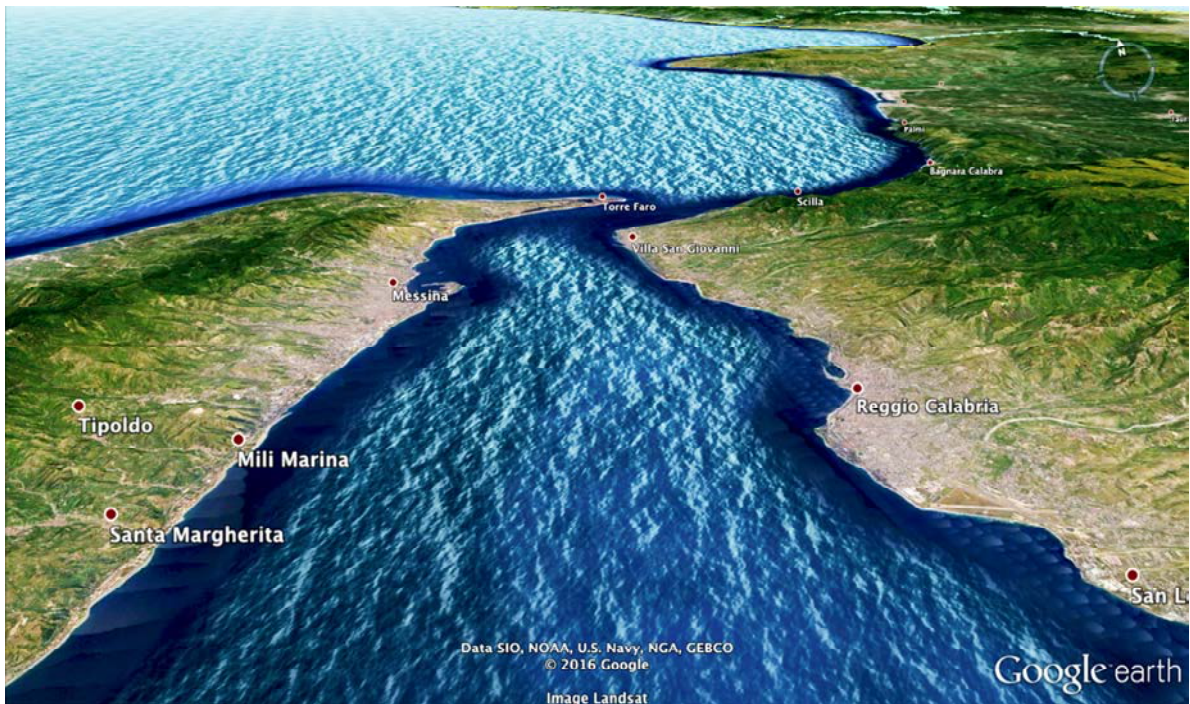


Fig. 1 The strait of Messina. Google earth image.

According to the historical sources, the strait and in particular the town of Reggio Calabria, had always been object of desire by foreign dominations and worth of attention. Starting from the Greeks, it is simple to understand how the *calcidian ghenos*¹ came here to conquer and, instead, they found a town (VALLET, 1993, p. 390), although the local people were always in touch with their neighbours of Sicily² and the strait was the “scenario” for the economic exchanges from and to the Aeolian islands (MELE, s 1979, p. 28.).

They also noticed the particular geographic conditions of the strait of Messina (very similar to the *Calcidian* strait), the importance of the surrounding lands, their sources and last but not the least, a strategic route for trade and war³. It is not a case if the historical sources⁴ refer to this particular aspect⁵; in fact, during the Roman period, the harbour of Reggio Calabria increased its importance and became a small hub for commercial trade (COSTABILE, 1994, pp.443-444) first (i.e. the Roman venture in *Magna Grecia*) and then a military and strategic location (i.e. the first Punic war; CASTRIZIO, 1995, p. 64.).

During the so called period named “the Roman peace”, introduced by the first emperor *Augusto*, the town of Reggio Calabria and in particular its harbour, limited its role to a simple hub in the important routes coming from the East, such as Mashrek and Syria (FRASCHETTI, 2003, p. 203; COSTABILE, 1994, pp. 444-446.). An important search engine developed by the Stanford University shows how this harbour was the smallest and safest location to connect

¹ «Lo stretto non è necessariamente frontiera culturale ma piuttosto il punto centrale di un Chalkidiòn ghenòs che va dalla Campania ai confini settentrionali del territorio di Gela» GRAS, 2000, p. 26.

² «Di per se lo stretto è importante probabilmente dalla preistoria, cioè dai primi spostamenti sul mare. È un luogo chiave per le società indigene dell'età del bronzo e non è un caso se tutala ricerca protostorica ruoti intorno al concetto di “migrazioni” fra la Calabria e la Sicilia nella seconda parte del II millennio a. C.» GRAS, 2000, p. 23.

³ From this moment forward (the foundation of *Rhegion*) the Strait received an important harbour«Lo stretto è insieme Poros e Porthmos: da una parte si tratta di un territorio che collega le due sponde, dall'altra è un settore che comincia a tenere il suo posto lungo gli itinerari marittimi che collegano il mare Ionio al Tirreno». GRAS, 2000, p. 23

⁴ For a synthesis take a look on BERARD, 1963.

⁵ «Per chi veniva dalla Grecia e voleva andare nel Tirreno, lo Stretto era il passaggio “naturale”» GRAS, 2000, p. 24.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1107614>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1107614>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)