

# CONTENTS

Foreword . . . . .	11
Introduction . . . . .	13
<b>Chapter one: Sources and resources for the study of oleoculture in Roman and Byzantine Syria–Palestine. . . . .</b>	<b>21</b>
1.1 Recent scholarship on olive oil production in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean . . . . .	21
1.1.1 Agronomists, inventors and travelers . . . . .	21
1.1.2 New discoveries, new perspectives . . . . .	23
1.1.3 Review of olive oil production in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean . . . . .	25
1.1.3.1 Africa . . . . .	25
1.1.3.2 Tripolitania . . . . .	26
1.1.3.3 Africa Proconsularis . . . . .	27
1.1.3.4 Numidia and Mauretania . . . . .	29
General characteristics . . . . .	31
1.1.3.5 Baetica and Tarraconensis. . . . .	32
1.1.3.6 Gallia Narbonensis. . . . .	32
1.1.3.7 Italy . . . . .	33
1.1.3.8 Balkans . . . . .	34
1.1.3.9 Greece . . . . .	34
1.1.3.10 Crete . . . . .	35
1.1.3.11 Asia Minor. . . . .	36
1.1.3.12 Cyprus . . . . .	38
1.1.3.13 Egypt . . . . .	39
1.1.3.14 Towards a comprehensive view of olive oil production in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean . . . . .	41
1.2 Situating evidence for olive oil production in the Syro-Palestinian context . . . . .	42
1.2.1 Written evidence . . . . .	42
1.2.1.1 Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic sources . . . . .	42
General works concerning olive tree cultivation and olive oil production. . . . .	42
1.2.2 Sources directly referring to Syria–Palestine . . . . .	46
1.2.2.1 Before the Greeks and Romans . . . . .	46
Ebla and Ugarit . . . . .	46
Bible . . . . .	47
1.2.2.2 Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac and Arabic sources from the 1st millennium AD . . . . .	47
Histories and geographies . . . . .	48
Lives of illustrious men . . . . .	49
Libanius's Orations . . . . .	49
Farming manuals . . . . .	50
Legal texts . . . . .	50
Jewish sources from the Mishnah and Talmud period . . . . .	51
1.2.3 Papyrological and epigraphic sources . . . . .	51
1.2.3.1 Papyri . . . . .	52
1.2.3.2 Epigraphy . . . . .	53
1.3 Archaeological evidence. . . . .	56
1.3.1 Excavations and surveys. . . . .	59
1.3.2 Ceramic containers . . . . .	61
1.3.3 Iconography . . . . .	61
1.3.4 Ecofacts and contribution of environmental analysis . . . . .	62

1.4	Ethnography . . . . .	63
1.4.1	European travelers' accounts . . . . .	63
1.4.2	Ottoman period sources . . . . .	64
1.4.3	Modern ethnographical research . . . . .	65
1.5	Strengths and limitations of the sources. . . . .	66
<b>Chapter two: Biogeography of the olive tree in its Syro–Palestinian environment . . . . .</b>		<b>73</b>
2.1	Olive tree and its domestication . . . . .	73
2.2	Factors modeling Syro–Palestinian environment . . . . .	77
2.2.1	Physiography. . . . .	77
2.2.2	Pedogeography . . . . .	78
2.2.3	Water resources . . . . .	81
2.2.4	Climate and its fluctuations. . . . .	83
2.2.5	Climate in Syria–Palestine different in antiquity?. . . . .	86
2.2.6	Conclusions. . . . .	92
2.3	Historical phytogeography of the olive tree in Syria–Palestine . . . . .	92
2.3.1	Original vegetation cover. . . . .	92
2.3.2	Paleobotanical evidence of the <i>Olea europaea</i> . . . . .	93
2.3.3	Conclusions. . . . .	97
2.4	Olive tree cultivation. . . . .	98
2.4.1	Modern and ancient cultivars . . . . .	98
2.4.2	Methods of cultivation . . . . .	99
2.4.3	Harvesting and productivity . . . . .	109
2.4.4	Conclusions . . . . .	113
<b>Chapter three: The oil presses and their product . . . . .</b>		<b>117</b>
3.1	Production technology . . . . .	117
3.2	Olive oil installations in Bronze and Iron Age Syria–Palestine . . . . .	121
3.3	Typology and chronology of oil installations . . . . .	129
3.3.1	Simple installations (Type A). . . . .	132
3.3.2	Lever presses (Types B to G) . . . . .	134
3.3.2.1	Lever-and-weights presses (Type B) . . . . .	134
3.3.2.2	Beam weights (Type C) . . . . .	137
3.3.2.3	Lever-and-drum press (Type D). . . . .	138
3.3.2.4	Lever-and-screw press (Type E) . . . . .	139
3.3.2.5	Slotted and perforated piers (Type F). . . . .	146
3.3.2.6	Screw weights (Type G). . . . .	147
3.3.3	Direct pressure rigid frame press (Types H, J and K) . . . . .	152
3.3.4	Crushing devices (Types L and M) . . . . .	155
3.3.5	Typology and chronology . . . . .	159
3.3.6	Local and foreign traditions in Syro-Palestinian oil installations. . . . .	176
3.3.7	Manufacturing of press elements, maintenance and repairs . . . . .	184
3.4	Oil facilities in their context . . . . .	187
3.4.1	Olive oil producing regions . . . . .	187
3.4.1.1	Syria . . . . .	188
3.4.1.2	Phoenicia. . . . .	194
3.4.1.3	Transjordan . . . . .	196
3.4.1.4	Palestine . . . . .	201
3.4.1.5	Olive oil production in an environmental context . . . . .	208
3.4.2	Oil press facilities in architectural and settlement context . . . . .	220
3.4.2.1	Buildings. . . . .	220

3.4.2.2 Oil installations in rural agglomerations . . . . .	230
The Tel Bet Shemesh regional study . . . . .	239
3.4.2.3 Oil installations in urban settlements . . . . .	242
3.4.2.4 Olive oil presses and sanctuaries . . . . .	245
3.4.2.5 Oil installations in monasteries . . . . .	245
3.4.2.6 Oil installations and wine production . . . . .	251
3.4.3 Productivity and yield of oil installations . . . . .	252
3.4.4 Olive oil and its properties . . . . .	259
3.4.5 Production of oil from other resources . . . . .	261
3.4.6 Oil industry terminology . . . . .	261
3.5 Conclusion . . . . .	264
<b>Chapter four: Olive oil production in a social and economic context . . . . .</b>	<b>269</b>
4.1 Manufacturers . . . . .	269
4.1.1 Man, land and workshop . . . . .	269
4.1.2 Oil production economics . . . . .	275
4.1.3 Conclusion . . . . .	280
4.2 Distribution logistics . . . . .	280
4.2.1 Storage and warehouses . . . . .	281
4.2.2 Transport containers . . . . .	282
4.2.3 Transportation geography . . . . .	291
4.3 Patterns of trade: wholesale and retail . . . . .	294
4.3.1 Intra- and interregional trade . . . . .	298
4.3.2 Costs and pricing . . . . .	300
4.3.3 Towards a model of transport and trade for olive oil in Syria–Palestine . . . . .	301
4.4 Consumption . . . . .	302
4.4.1 Population, consumers and demand . . . . .	302
4.4.2 Local diet and consumption . . . . .	306
4.4.3 Conclusions . . . . .	307
4.5 Syro-Palestinian olive oil production in its Eastern Mediterranean economic context . . . . .	311
4.5.1 Demand and supply. Trends in Eastern Mediterranean economics during the 1st millennium AD . . . . .	311
4.5.2 Roman and Byzantine Mediterranean olive oil production . . . . .	312
4.5.3 Toward conclusions: Olive oil production in the context of the Roman and Byzantine economy of Syria–Palestine . . . . .	314
<b>Chapter five: Conclusions . . . . .</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Chapter six: Toward a new horizon – olive oil production in the Medieval Levant . . . . .</b>	<b>329</b>
6.1 Early Islamic period . . . . .	329
6.2 Levant of the Crusaders . . . . .	331
6.3 Ottoman period . . . . .	334
6.4 Conclusions . . . . .	334
<b>Maps . . . . .</b>	<b>337</b>
List of plates . . . . .	339
Syria . . . . .	340
Lebanon . . . . .	350
Jordan . . . . .	356
Palestine . . . . .	360

<b>Descriptive catalog</b> .....	399
General note .....	401
Descriptive catalog of selected Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic oil presses .....	405
A Palmyra (Syria) .....	405
B Lebanon .....	417
C Jordan .....	467
Appendix I: The Tel Bet Shemesh regional case study .....	513
Appendix II: Analysis of samples of stone from Chhîm (Lebanon) .....	537
<i>Irena Koss, Kamila Załęska</i>	
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	543
Abbreviations .....	543
Primary sources .....	544
Secondary sources .....	548
<b>List of figures</b> .....	605
<b>Indices</b> .....	615