

## Waterways in Hanno's *Periplus*

This presentation provides an ecocritical analysis of the *Periplus* of Hanno, a short Greek prose text dated to around 500 BCE. The *Periplus* genre contains navigators' descriptions of coastlines. Hanno's *Periplus* presents itself as the Greek translation of Hanno's Punic account of his voyage down the western coast of Africa to found Carthaginian colonies. Previous work on the *Periplus* has focused on Hanno's identity and whether the journey actually took place. Previous scholars have also attempted to physically locate the places Hanno describes. To complement this work, I offer a spatial analysis of the text, focusing on how its waterways organize the narrative. By waterways, I mean the ocean, rivers, bays, and lakes described by Hanno. Hanno uses waterways to increase the dramatic effect of his narrative and depict his own vision of Africa.

As is common in Greek historiography, Hanno uses rivers as boundary markers (sections 6, 9, 10). As he crosses each river-boundary, he marks another step farther away from Carthage. Hanno emphasizes the distance from his starting point by creating the illusion that he is passing geographical borders. Lakes and bays, on the other hand, work as physical interruptions along the journey (sections 8, 9, 14, 17, 18). Hanno spends a greater portion of the text discussing them than he does describing his few colonies or outlining a navigable map of the coastline. By spending so much time on lakes and bays, Hanno focuses the narrative on his personal experiences in the journey, rather than on his original purposes.

## Bibliography

- Harris, Rendel. *The Voyage of Hanno*. W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd, Cambridge, 1928.
- Jacob, Christian. "Aux confins de l'humanité: peuples et paysages africains dans le "Périple d'Hannon" (At the Edge of Humanity: African Landscapes and Peoples in "Hannon's Travels")." *Cahiers d'Études Africaines*, Vol. 31, Cahier 121/122, La Malédiction (1991), pp. 9-27.
- Kaepfel, Carl. *Off the Beaten Track in the Classics*. Melbourne University Press, 1936.
- Lowenthal, David. "Islands, Lovers, and Others." *Geographical Review*, Vol. 97, No. 2, Islands (Apr., 2007), pp. 202-229.
- Müller, Karl. *Geographi Graeci Minores, Voumen Primum*. Instituti Franciae Typographi, 1855.
- Mund-Dopchie, Monique. "La Survie Du "Périple d'Hannon" au XVI et au XVII Siècle." *Humanistica Lovaniensia*, Vol. 38 (1989), pp. 163-175.
- Palmer, H. R. "The Lixitae of Hanno." *Journal of the Royal African Society*, Vo. 27, No. 105 (Oct., 1927), pp. 7-15.
- Romm, James S. *The Edges of the Earth in Ancient Thought*. Princeton University Press, 1992.
- Schoff, Wilfred H. *The Periplus of Hanno: A Voyage of Discovery Down the West African Coast, by a Carthaginian Admiral of the Fifth Century B.C.* The Commercial Museum of Philadelphia, 1913.
- Stilgoe, John R. "Landschaft and Linearity." *Out of the Woods: Essays in Environmental History*, edited by Char Miller and Hal Rothman. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997.