

The Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck (7th–8th centuries CE):

A lateen-rigged merchantman

Deborah Cvikel and Maayan Cohen

Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies and the Department of Maritime
Civilizations, University of Haifa, Haifa, 3498838, Israel

To date, iconographic material has been the primary source for understanding the significant shift in sailing rig from Late Antiquity onwards. The archaeological finds of mast-step assembly, rigging elements, pieces of fabric, which might be remnants of the sail, and a hook-shaped masthead provided by the Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck are vital evidence towards answering this question. These finds allowed the rig of the ship to be reconstructed and shed new light on eastern Mediterranean sailing during Late Antiquity.