

20. EXPORTS FROM SICILY.

An Account

Second only to Tunisia, Sicily takes the place of pride in the Geniza overseas correspondence of the eleventh century. The short account reproduced here represents its main exports: finished textiles, silk, rubā'īd (quarter dinars), hides, agricultural products, especially fruits such as almonds, and transit goods of all descriptions, for instance, lead. See S. D. Goitein, "Sicily and Southern Italy in the Cairo Geniza Documents," "Archivio Storico per Sicilia Orientale," 77 (1971), 9-33.

The sheet is folded so as to form four columns. Parts of columns III and IV are torn away. Col. I is left blank. Col. II contains the account translated here. On cols. III and IV arithmetical computations are written, which, because of their incompleteness, are not fully intelligible. Col. IV has this remark:

Total for the partnership and me personally	4410	rubā'īs
Plus profit made in Demona	25	"
Total	4435	"

For the latter remark see note 18, below.

All the amounts in the following account are in Sicilian quarter dinars.

Bought for this:

63 Syracusan hides, price	...
20 Pieces of lead, weighing 24 qin. ¹	
Price with customs and <u>birtīl</u> ²	260 1/2
2 Bales of shelled almonds and 76 buckskins ³	
Weight 10 qin.; Price with customs	253
Prepayment ⁴ on freight for all this	26
3 Narrow <u>farkhas</u> ⁵	23

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