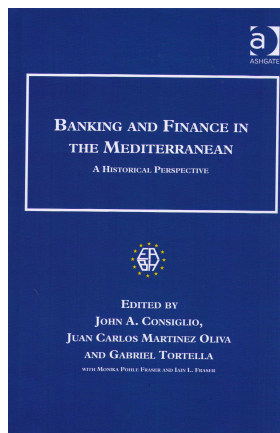


Banking and Finance in the Mediterranean – A Historical Perspective



This volume presents a panoramic picture of the many national and international trends and developments, factors, customs, and events that have characterised banking in the Mediterranean area over the past two centuries. During this period, banking in the Mediterranean evolved distinct characteristics, several going well-beyond the restricted realities of colonial relations. The range of issues covered by book is extensive and includes both national banking evolution and pan-regional topics. The chapters touch upon various aspects of Iberian, Italian, French, Greek, Maltese, Moroccan, and Ottoman banking history, focusing particularly on issues relating to central banking, numismatics, archival recording, and pan-Mediterranean economic dynamics. The history of certain specific institutions is also considered, including the *Imperial Ottoman Bank*, the *Ionian Bank*, the *Banque d'Etat du Maroc*, and others.

Bringing together papers by leading banking and finance historians which were first presented at the *European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH e.V.)* conference held in Malta in June 2007, this volume offers an invaluable insight towards a wider and more detailed understanding of the roles of banking and finance in Mediterranean economic history. Seen in the context of what has hitherto been something of a historical vacuum in terms of the coverage of much writing on European banking and financial history, and the importance given to the Mediterranean region's banking history in its own right, this is an innovative book that both contributes towards our knowledge of the subject, and establishes a pattern for further work in this important area of European economic history.