

**“DIDO: Her Significance, Virgil’s Inspiration by Cleopatra” by Roxanne Zaroff**  
**Trinity College Dublin**



**Who was Dido?**

Highly competent Phoenician Queen of Carthage

- Vowed to never marry again after tragic death of her husband
- Cursed by Venus to fall in love with Aeneas → Venus and Juno conspire to marry the two
- Abandoned by Aeneas → loses honour and political prospects → commits suicide
- Curses Aeneas’s descendants and Rome: swears there will be ceaseless war between the two kingdoms.

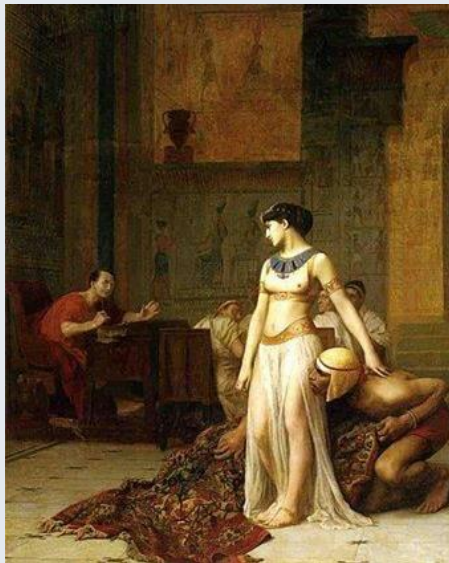
**The Punic Wars: a story of Eternal Vengeance?/Virgil’s Method**

- “Phoenician” → Latin: “Poenicus/Punicus” meaning “Carthaginian” → “Punic”
- “As for you, my Tyrians, you must pursue with hatred the whole line of his descendants in time to come... Let there be no love between our peoples and no treaties... I pray that we may stand opposed, shore against shore, sea against sea and sword against sword. Let there be war between the nations and between their sons for ever.” (*Aen.* IV 620-9)
- *Aeneid* written approx. 150 years after Carthage’s final defeat against Rome in 146 B.C.E. → Virgil used Rome’s early mythology to justify its military conquests

**Textual Analysis**

“How they were even now indulging themselves and keeping each other warm the whole winter through, forgetting about their kingdoms and becoming the slaves of lust” (*Aen.* IV 193-4)

“Girt with her foul emasculate throng, / By Fortune’s sweet new wine befooled.” (*Hor. Carm.* I 37, 9-10 about Cleopatra)  
 “regina” → negative political connotations



*Cleopatra and Caesar* (1866) by Jean-Léon Gérôme

**ERASMUS+ B.I.P**  
**EXPLORING AENEAS’ ROUTE: CARTHAGE**

Duru Durmaz, Roxanne Zaroff, Eya Yatouji

**“Understanding the Phoenicians”**  
**by Duru Durmaz - Koç University Istanbul**



Basic Etymology: φοῖνιξ

**Sea People Since Homeric Times**

**Iliad:**  
 - “*phoinikes andres*” Phoenician men  
 - “to a supreme degree the Phoenicians were the first to plow the seas.”

**Odyssey:**  
 Odysseus carried by “lordly Phoenicians”

**Punic Carthage**

- Founded around 814 BCE (Sicilian historian Timaeus of Tauromenium )
- Ancient Water Channel
- Circular and Rectangular Harbors

**Goddess Tannit and the Tophet**

- Associated with Aserah and Astarte
- Crescent Moon and Dolphins
- Had maritime qualities
- Stelae at the Tophet

**Trade and Seafaring**

- Metal from Iberia
- Punic Amphorae in Corinth
- Amphorae at Carthage: olive oil and wine



Archaeological site of Carthage



**“The Archaeological Manifestation of the Aeneas’ Route to Carthage”**  
**by Eya Yatouji**  
**University of Carthage**



**The Mosaic of Virgil:**

This mosaic is the only visual depiction of the great Latin poet Virgil that we have. It dates back the 3rd Century A.D. and is the largest Roman mosaic in the world. It is now placed in the National Bardo Museum and depicts Virgil holding a volume on which is written the *Aeneid*. On either side stand the two Muses: Clio (history) and Melpomene (tragedy).



**The Deprecation of Aeneas & the Queen Dido**

This Roman mosaic portrays Virgil with the Queen Dido. The artifact is currently placed at the Museum of Somerset. The tragic end of Virgil and Dido’s relationship signaled the beginning of the age-old hatred between Rome and Carthage.



**Aeneas’s Mother Depiction**

This painting was exhibited at the Royal Society of Arts in 1768 and at the first Royal Academy exhibition in 1769. It depicts a scene from an episode in the first book of Virgil’s poem and shows Aeneas’s mother, the goddess Venus, directing Aeneas and his faithful friend, Achates, to the city of Carthage.

