

Urbs Famosa et Augusta:

The mediaeval walled city of Famagusta's claim to World Heritage status

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The mediaeval walled city of Famagusta is the jewel in the crown of monumental buildings and sites of the Crusader period in northern Cyprus. Although identified as a monument 'at risk' by the World Monuments Fund, the city has been deprived of access to international funding agencies by virtue of the non-recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) by the international community, and its exclusion from international bodies such as the UNO and UNESCO.

Following an examination of the procedure and criteria for inscription of monuments and sites as World Heritage properties by UNESCO, and a comparative study of four mediaeval walled cities in the region, all World Heritage sites--the old city of Acre in Israel, the mediaeval city of Rhodes in Greece, the old city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, and the city of Valetta in Malta--a case is argued for the mediaeval city of Famagusta's inscription on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.