



IOW-ARCH

Indian Ocean World
Archaeology Conference

2nd Biennial Conference
Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December 2022

Held at the
Institute of Arabic & Islamic Studies
Stocker Rd,
University of Exeter,
Exeter, EX4 4ND

Generously funded by the **Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies**.

Academic Committee:

Annabel Gallop, Mark Horton, Timothy Insoll, Derek Kennet, Elizabeth Lambourn, Stephanie Wynne-Jones, and Ran Zhang.

Conference Administrator: Hannah Parsons-Morgan.

Organising Committee: Samantha Dobson, Alessandro Ghidoni, Timothy Insoll, Yiyang Li, and Hannah Parsons-Morgan.



University of Exeter
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies

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Day 1 – Monday 19th December

08.00 – 18.10

	Time	Duration	Lecture Theatre 1 Session & number of papers
Registration	08.00 – 08.45	45 minutes	
Welcome	08.45 – 09.00	15 minutes	
Session 1	09.00 – 11.00	2 hours	1. Networks & Objects of Trade (#6)
Break	11.00 – 11.30	30 minutes	
Session 2	11.30 – 13.10	1 hour 40 minutes	2. Ceramics: Production & Trade (#5) <i>In memory of Roberta Tomber</i>
Lunch	13.10 – 14.10	1 hour	Street Gallery, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies
Session 3	14.10 – 16.10	2 hours	3. Consumption, Identity and Meaning: Ceramics, Glass, and Shell - Indian Ocean Trade Goods 1 (#6)
Break	16.10 – 16.40	30 minutes	
Session 4	16.40 – 18.00	1 hour 20 minutes	4. Diaspora, Identity and Religious Expression Across the Indian Ocean (#4)
Closing Remarks	18.00 – 18.10	10 minutes	
Dinner	19.15		Margoux 20 Bedford Street, Exeter, EX1 3GJ

Day 2 – Tuesday 20th December

8.30 – 19.00

	Time	Duration	Session & number of papers
Registration	08.30 – 08.55	25 minutes	
Welcome Back	08.55 – 09.00	5 minutes	
Parallel Sessions 5 & 6 Session 5 – LT1.	09.00 – 11.20	2 hours 20 minutes	5. Special Session – Indian Ocean maritime trade and Chinese trade ceramics from the 8 th /9 th century to the 19 th /20 th century - English/Mandarin (#10)
Break	11.20 – 11.40	20 minutes	
Parallel Sessions 5 & 6 Session 6 – LT2.	09.00 – 10.50	1 hour 50 minutes	6. Manuscripts, Texts & Textiles (#5)
Break	10.50 – 11.40	50 minutes	
Parallel Sessions 7 & 8 Session 7 – LT1.	11.40 – 13.00	1 hour 20 minutes	7. Shipbuilding, Shipwrecks & Salvage (#4)
Lunch	13.00 – 14.00	1 hour	
Parallel Sessions 7 & 8 Session 8 – LT2.	11.40 – 12.50	1 hour 10 minutes	8. Colonialism, the Contemporary & Cultural Heritage (#3)
Lunch	13.00 – 14.00	1 hour	
Session 9 - LT1.	14.00 – 16.00	2 hours	9. Organic Materials Trade & Transfer: Foodways, Wood, Ivory, Incense & Spices - Indian Ocean Trade Goods 2 (#6)
Break	16.00 – 16.30	30 minutes	
Session 10 – LT1.	16.30 – 18:30	2 hours	10. New Excavations and Analysis from the Horn of Africa to Southeast Asia (#6)
Closing remarks	18.30 – 19.00	30 minutes	
Buffet and Drinks Reception	19.00 – 21.30		Street Gallery, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies

Day 1 – Monday 19th December

Registration: 8:00 – 8:45

Welcome: 8:45 – 9:00

Session 1 – Networks & Objects of Trade

LT1 9.00 –11.00

09.00- 09.20	<p>Seth Priestman, Derek Kennet & Rebecca Darley</p> <p><i>Sasanian Maritime Trade in the Indian Ocean: An Archaeological Review.</i></p>	In-person
09.20- 09.40	<p>R. Michael Feener</p> <p><i>Stonework ruins of an early Muslim settlement in Eastern Indonesia.</i></p>	Online
09.40- 10.00	<p>Maria Gajewska</p> <p><i>Beyond boom and bust: the western Indian Ocean in the 11th-14th centuries.</i></p>	In-person
10.00- 10.20	<p>Stephanie Döpfer & Iriani Biezeveld</p> <p><i>Impacts of the Indian Ocean Trade on rural sites in Central Oman.</i></p>	Online
10.20- 10.40	<p>Ery Soedewo</p> <p><i>Ancient Shipping and Trade in Bongal Site: Oldest Ancient Port on the West Coast of Sumatra.</i></p>	Online
10.40- 11.00	<p>Serena Autiero & Laura R. Weinstein</p> <p><i>Looking for the Indian Ocean in an Archive: Ongoing research on Pompeii's Global Ties.</i></p>	Hybrid

Break: 11.00 – 11.30

Session 2 – Ceramics: Production & Trade

In memory of Roberta Tomber

LT1 11.30 – 13.10

11.30- 11.50	Silvia Lischi & Daniele Zampierin <i>Trading dynamism in the area of Khor Rori. An overview of the trend of imported materials between the 2nd c. BCE and the 4th c. CE.</i>	Online
11.50- 12.10	Timothy Insoll & Nick Tait <i>A'ali Ware. Towards an Understanding of Its Manufacture, Distribution, and Significance.</i>	In-person
12.10- 12.30	Carmen Ting <i>Expanding the contexts of museum-based Islamic glazed ceramics: A study of the Ades Collection at the Fitzwilliam Museum.</i>	In-person
12.30- 12.50	Yiliang Li <i>Production, Consumption, and Exchange of Glazed Ceramics in the Context of the Indian Ocean Trade (9-15th Centuries AD.)</i>	Online
12.50- 13.10	Ran Zhang & Anne Haour <i>Asian ceramics in Indian Ocean networks: an insight from the Maldives</i>	In-person

Lunch: 13.10 – 14.10

Session 3 – Consumption, Identity and Meaning: Ceramics, Glass, and Shell

Indian Ocean Trade Goods 1

LT1 14.10 – 16.10

14.10- 14.30	Hannah Parsons-Morgan <i>Repurposed, Recycled and Modified: Chinese Ceramic Consumption Practices in East Africa.</i>	In-person
14.30- 14.50	Khalfan Bini Ahmed <i>Aesthetics on Display: The Artful Uses of Chinese Style Ceramics in Medieval Swahili Coast Societies.</i>	Online
14.50- 15.10	Elizabeth Hicks <i>Studying Ceramics to Extract Foodways and Consumption Practices from the Archaeological Record of Unguja Ukuu, Zanzibar.</i>	In-person
15.10- 15.30	Tânia Casimiro, Jéssica Iglésias & Yolanda Duarte <i>World Beads from the Island of Mozambique (15th-20th centuries).</i>	Online
15.30- 15.50	Abigail Moffett <i>Entangled commodities: Cowrie shells, glass beads and value transfer across the Indian Ocean World.</i>	In-person
15.50- 16.10	Charlotte Nash <i>Objects of Adornment and Identity? Tracing the dissemination of Islamic glass bangles across the western Indian Ocean trade network.</i>	In-person

Break: 16.10 – 16.40

Session 4 – Diaspora, Identity & Religious Expression Across the Indian Ocean

LT1 16.40 – 18.00

16.40- 17.00	Itamar Toussia Cohen <i>Deathscapes in Arabia: The Parsi Towers of Silence of Aden.</i>	Online
17.00- 17.20	Divya Kumar-Dumas <i>The Sumhuram Yakṣī: Blessed Metal</i>	Online
17.20- 17.40	Sara Mondini <i>The Role of Kerala’s Mosques in the Process of Identity-Building of Local Muslim Communities.</i>	In-person
17.40- 18.00	Hee Sook Lee-Niinioja <i>Contributions of the Indian Ocean’s Monsoon to Syncretic Islamisation in Javanese Religion and Culture.</i>	Online

Closing Remarks: 18.00 – 18.10

Dinner: 19.15 onwards, Margoux, 20 Bedford Street, Exeter EX1 1GJ

Day 2 – Tuesday 20th December

Registration: 8.30 – 8.55

Welcome Back: 8.55 – 9.00

Session 5 – Indian Ocean maritime trade and Chinese trade ceramics from the 8th/9th century to the 19th/20th century

**Bilingual English/Mandarin
LT1 9.00 – 11.20**

9.00- 9.15	Ran Zhang & Derek Kennet <i>Indian Ocean trade and Chinese trade ceramics – Introduction.</i>
9.15- 9.30	Wang Guangyao, Palace Museum <i>Chinese trade ceramics.</i>
9.30- 9.40	Ruopu Zhai, Durham University <i>Chinese trade ceramics in the Philippines.</i>
9.40- 9.50	Xiaohang Song, Durham University <i>Statistical analysis of kilns and workshops in China.</i>
9.50- 10.00	Qinzhe Ai, Durham University <i>Understanding quality in Song and Yuan greenwares.</i>
10.00- 10.10	Shoufei Wang, Durham University <i>Qing period trade ceramics.</i>
10.10- 10.20	Anne Gerritsen, Leiden University and University of Warwick <i>Comments.</i>
10.20- 10.30	Yangwen Zheng, University of Manchester <i>Comments.</i>
10.30- 10.40	Ronald Po, London School of Economics <i>Comments.</i>
10.40- 11.20	Derek Kennet, Chair, Durham University. <i>Discussion.</i>

Break: 11.20 – 11.40

Session 6 – Manuscripts, Texts & Textiles

LT2 9.00 – 10.50

9.00- 9.20	Amir Ashur, Alan Elbaum & Elizabeth Lambourn <i>Goitein's continuing legacy at the Princeton Geniza Lab. New data from 'India Books' 5-7.</i>	In-person
9.20- 9.40	Mulaika Hijjas <i>Kitab Futūh al-Shām from the Palembang palace library.</i>	Online
9.40- 10.00	Ng Siaw Hung <i>A preliminary account of Hikayat Bayan Budiman.</i>	Online
10.00- 10.20	Annabel Gallop <i>Wearing sovereignty: the royal seal on an embroidered jacket from Aceh.</i>	In-person
10.20- 10.40	Zulfikar Hirji <i>Indian Ocean Echoes in a Corpus of Illuminated Qur'ans from Coastal Eastern Africa.</i>	Online
10.40- 10.50	Discussion	

Break: 10.50 – 11.20

Session 7 – Shipbuilding, Shipwrecks & Salvage

LT1 11.40 – 13.00

11.40- 12.00	Alessandro Ghidoni <i>Metal fastenings in western Indian Ocean watercraft in the medieval period: New data from the Islamic site of al-Balid, Oman.</i>	In-person
12.00-12.20	Sira Ploymukda & Pornnatcha Sankhaprasit <i>Phanom-Surin Shipwreck: the world's cultural exchange throughout the Indian Ocean.</i>	Online
12.20- 12.40	Tom Vosmer <i>Was the Phanom-Surin shipwreck being salvaged in antiquity?</i>	Online
12.40- 13.00	Swarup Bhattacharyya, John P Cooper (speaker) & Zeeshan Shaikh <i>Documenting the 'stapled' boatbuilding tradition of historic Bengal: a chhot boat in the making.</i>	In-person

Lunch: 13.00 – 14.00

Session 8 – Colonialism, the Contemporary & Cultural Heritage

LT2 11.40 – 12.50

11.40- 12.00	Sarah Longair <i>Collecting Indian Ocean islands: material culture and the limits of colonial knowledge.</i>	In-person
12.00- 12.20	Beatrice Nicolini <i>Fake News or Strategic Menaces in the Gulf and in the Indian Ocean. Rereading a few nineteenth century British archive documents.</i>	Online
12.20- 12.40	Wasita Wasita & Sunarningsih Sunarningsih <i>Cultural Heritage Information from Archaeologists And Society: The Contesting of Science and Local Knowledge in Kalimantan.</i>	Online
12.40- 12.50	Discussion	

Lunch: 13.00 – 14.00

**Session 9 – Organic Materials Trade & Transfer:
Foodways, Woods, Ivory, Incense & Spices**

Indian Ocean Trade Goods 2

LT1 14.00 – 16.00

14.00- 14.20	Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Michelle Alexander, Mik Lisowski, Virginia L. Harvey, Henriette Rødland & Tom Fitton <i>Characterising Islamic diet in medieval Zanzibar.</i>	In-person
14.20- 14.40	Abigail Francesca Buffington <i>Transported Foodways: Linking the Dependence on Crops as a Signal of Intercontinental Networks.</i>	In-person
14.40- 15.00	Julian Jansen van Rensburg <i>What do we really know about the frankincense trade within the Indian Ocean World?</i>	Online
15.00- 15.20	Vladimir Dabrowski, Margareta Tengberg & Michel Mouton <i>Trade in wood and wooden objects on the Indian Ocean during Antiquity: Archaeobotanical evidence from 3rd c. CE Mleiha (Sharjah, UAE).</i>	Online
15.20- 15.40	Amanda Respass <i>Persian Drug Merchants on the Cinnamon Sea.</i>	Online
15.40- 16.00	Simone Mantellini, Giorgio Affanni, Agnese Fusaro & Daniele Redamante <i>Ivory Industrial-Scale Manufacturing at Banbhore (Sindh - Pakistan).</i>	Online

Break: 16.00 – 16.30

**Session 10 – New Excavations and Analysis from the
Horn of Africa to Southeast Asia**

LT1. 16.30 – 18.30

16.30- 16.50	Marco Moderato, Vasco La Salvia, David Hill, Dinesan Vadakkiniyil, Veerasamy Selvakumar & Jan Petří <i>New data from Madayi Fort (Kerala): aerial survey and pottery.</i>	In-person
16.50- 17.10	Jorge de Torres Rodríguez <i>Brothers, but not twins: the medieval cities of Fardowsa (Somaliland) and Handoga (Djibouti).</i>	Online
17.10- 17.30	Charles Viaut, Mohamed Hamadi & Jean Bernard <i>Echoes from the time of the warmonger sultans: new research and patrimonial perspectives on the built heritage of Ngazidja (Comoros).</i>	Online
17.30- 17.50	Clare Randolph, Chapurukha Kusimba & Kristina Douglass <i>The extent and potential impacts of Swahili coral harvesting at the 13th century site of Gede, Kenya.</i>	In-person
17.50- 18.10	Monika Baumanova <i>Some results of 3D scanning and layout analyses of two precolonial towns on the Kenya coast.</i>	Online
18.10- 18.30	Mark Horton <i>Kilwa, the Shirazi, and the Indian Ocean in 10th-11th centuries.</i>	In-person

Closing Remarks: 18.30 – 19:00.

Drinks and Buffet Reception, IAIS Street Gallery: 19:00 Onwards.



ANTIQUITY

Prize for Best Student Paper

Thanks to kind sponsorship by the journal *Antiquity*, a generous prize of 200 GBP and 12 months subscription to *Antiquity* will be given to the best student paper in the IOW-ARCH 2022 conference.

To be eligible you must be a registered presenter at the conference and a currently registered student at any academic institution. The selection of the prize winner will be made by the IOW-ARCH academic committee and their decision will be final. The winner will be notified after the conference.



University of Exeter

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Special Bilingual Mandarin/English Session

Indian Ocean maritime trade is probably one of the most important and least understood aspects of the medieval world economy. Understanding China's role in that trade is equally problematic. From an historian's perspective, the problem is that the key protagonists in that trade, the merchants themselves (whether small-scale itinerant peddlers or large, ship-owning magnates) have left almost no consistent record – at least not before about 1600.

Archaeological evidence is therefore key. But it is also problematic in many ways. The key problem is that the majority of traded commodities - textiles, spices, foodstuffs, incense, base metals, specie, slaves, timber – do not survive in (or in some cases even enter) the archaeological record. Ceramics are different, but as a generally low-value artefact used for transporting other commodities, ceramics cannot be expected to undergo the same distribution as the main commodities, they can also be difficult to date and provenance accurately. Chinese trade ceramics are different. As a relatively high-value commodity, traded for its own intrinsic value, durable, easily recognisable, relatively precisely dated, and abundant on archaeological sites from Japan to East Africa, they present us with an important chance to gain a clearer insight into some of the questions that surround the mechanisms, practice and development of Indian Ocean maritime trade.

This short session aims to bring together a group of historians, material-culture historians, and archaeologists to discuss aims, questions, concepts and methods in the study of Chinese trade ceramics from around the Indian Ocean.

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Abstracts

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Aesthetics on Display: The Artful Uses of Chinese Style Ceramics in Medieval Swahili Coast Societies

Scholars have focused on the significance of Chinese style ceramics in relationship to mercantile power (i.e., Zhao 2018, Meier 2015). I build upon this work, but in this paper I will be focusing on aesthetic dimensions, and the possible symbolic meaning of the artistry of ceramics. While Chinese export-ware had many social, cultural and even political functions, they appear to have been collected and displayed also because of the beauty and wondrous nature of their forms. Along with other exotic goods and practices they were essential for the projection of a cosmopolitan identity for Swahili coast societies. They served as indications of material wealth or sophistication and functioned as potent status symbols. Understanding the meaning of such objects therefore requires a focus on local conceptions of beauty and the aesthetic. Here I will be presenting preliminary results of my ethnographic, archaeological and historical research, which I have been doing at the Gedi National Monument, Lamu, Pate and Siyu on the Kenyan Swahili Coast.

Key Words: Ceramics, Swahili Coast, China ware, Kenya, Aesthetic

References:

Meier, Sandy Prita. "Chinese Porcelain and Muslim Port Cities: Mercantile Materiality in Coastal East Africa." *Art History* 38 (2015): 702–17.

Bing, Zhao. "Luxury and Power: The Fascination with Chinese Ceramics in Medieval Swahili Material Culture." *Orientalia* 44.3 (2012): 71–78.

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Goitein's continuing legacy at the Princeton Geniza Lab. New data from 'India Books' 5-7

The five hundred or so documents that constitute S.D. Goitein's 'India Book' are still far from fully published. Perhaps two thirds of these documents relating to Jewish trade with, and in, the Indian Ocean world of the twelfth century have been published in English and Hebrew editions since 2008 (see notably S.D. Goitein, and Mordechai A. Friedman, *India Traders of the Middle Ages: Documents from the Cairo Geniza ('India Book')*, Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, 2008). However, many important documents remain to be edited, and new documents identified. Our paper presents some "first findings" from a new collaborative project based at the Princeton Geniza Lab under the direction of Professor Marina Rustow and run in cooperation with the Ben Zvi Institute in Jerusalem to complete the publication of India Books 5, 6, and 7. The present paper offers an overview of the remaining unpublished material and existing online open-access resources. By way of exemplifying the richness of documentation awaiting publication we end with an analysis of T-S Ar.35.14, a near complete letter in Arabic written by a Muslim trader and concerning business with سنخلى Sunkhulā, identified as present-day Songkhla, on the Gulf of Thailand.

Key Words: Cairo Geniza, India trade, Indian Ocean, Thailand, Arabic

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Looking for the Indian Ocean in an Archive: Ongoing research on Pompeii's Global Ties

In 1928, E.H. Warmington was the first scholar to refer to the links between India and the Egyptian Red Sea as Indo-Roman Trade, a term sometimes still used today, despite the bias it encompasses. A decade later, in 1938, an ivory statuette was discovered in Pompeii: the first – and to date only – object found in the Mediterranean securely traceable to India prior to 79 CE. However, some objects of foreign origin might have escaped the eyes of archaeologists familiar only with Roman material culture. The authors intend to report on the fieldwork held in Pompeii last April, highlighting specific artefacts from the storerooms that add to the understanding of Pompeii and its Indian Ocean ties. Among these finds are an Egyptian plastic lamp that piques curiosity about its owner's involvement in maritime trade, and a bone figurine from the House of the Indian Statuette. The next field trip will focus on the extant amphorae fragments from the same house and widen to other ivory artefacts across Pompeii. Autoptic re-examination of objects excavated in the 1930s opens new possibilities to understand the active trade across seas and oceans two millennia ago, bringing the 1st century Mediterranean into an Indian Ocean perspective.

Key Words: Indo-Roman, Pompeii, transcultural, archive, archaeological context

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Some results of 3D scanning and layout analyses of two precolonial towns on the Kenya coast

An ongoing research project that has studied the transformation of urban public space from precolonial to colonial era in several regions of the Islamic world, included an analysis of two precolonial towns on the Swahili coast of Africa, Jumba la Mtwana and Mnarani. The layouts of the standing remains on these sites, that represent an important part of heritage on the Indian Ocean coast, were only known from hand-drawn plans and partially from a total station survey conducted in the 1970s and 1990s. In 2021, a new survey financed by the University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic, and conducted in cooperation with the Zamani team of surveyors, included photography and 3D scanning. This paper presents some results of the survey that recorded the details of ground plans and elevations of the monumental buildings, and, for the first time, incorporated in the picture smaller above-ground remains, such as low features, isolated walls, and wells. Although the 2021 survey lacked the capacity to record the potential presence of wattle-and-daub buildings, which do not preserve above ground, it has facilitated enhanced analyses of the complex spatial configurations, including identifying parts of urban streets and studying sensory, e.g. auditory, aspects of the stone-built environment.

Key Words: Swahili towns, precolonial, East African coast, built environment, stone architecture

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Documenting the 'stapled' boatbuilding tradition of historic Bengal: a *chhot* boat in the making

We present our project to document the construction of a *chhot* boat in West Bengal, India by the Mandal family of boatbuilders. The *chhot* is a disappearing example of a Ganges Delta tradition of shell-led boatbuilding that is characterised by planking running 'parallel' to the keel—rather than being rabbeted into the stem and stern posts—and joined along its edges using metal staples. Part of the Endangered Material Knowledge Programme, our project records for posterity the artisanal knowledge and skills of the Mandal family using multimedia methodologies.

Key Words: boatbuilding; West Bengal; India; stapled construction; shell-first construction

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Transported Foodways: Linking the Dependence on Crops as a Signal of Intercontinental Networks

Travelers during the 13th and 14th centuries (like Ibn Mujawir and Ibn Battuta) noted the presence of crops (coconuts, betelnut, sugarcane, and bananas) which likely originated in South Asia or Oceania as dominant in cultivation regimes in the town of Zafar and in nearby villages along the Dhofari coast. Battuta's account supports an active direct trade in horses exported from Dhofar to India. Today, these crops are still planted in bustan plantations (as in Salalah's al Dariz neighborhood surrounding Al Baleed) on the coastal plain where irrigation is possible. In the al-Qara mountains, there is little evidence of irrigation, or any water management prior to the development projects since the 1970s, and agriculture traditionally is small-scale and dependent on monsoon rains. Yet, paintings within caves, interpreted as depicting caravan scenes, dot the region, potentially supporting antiquity to the introduction of these transported crops in foodways if not in cultivation. In this paper, I will review the historic evidence for the economic prominence of these crops in south Arabia in the broader context of the region's links throughout the Western Indian Ocean in conjunction with the assemblage of archaeobotanical records.

Key Words: Dhofar, Trade, Archaeobotany, Agricultural Economy, Palms

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World Beads from the Island of Mozambique (15th-20th centuries)

Hundreds of beads are found every year on the island of Mozambique with 15th-20th centuries chronologies, most of them originating from the numerous shipwrecks sunk nearby. These are recovered by small boys in the sand and strung into necklaces to sell for the best offer. More than archaeological artefacts and important historical, social, economic, and cultural items, they have a dominant role in the island's local economy today. These archaeological materials are dispersed in time but also in space since they originate from Europe (Venice, Holland, Bohemia), Asia (China, India, and the Arabian Peninsula), and even Africa (Mauritania) made from different raw materials: shell, semi-precious stones, and glass. The privileged geographical position turned this African island into a logistical support platform for transoceanic routes, a mandatory crossing point for ships of the Portuguese crown, as well as for the other European monarchies that traded in the Indian Ocean. What were these beads used for? Most of them could have been used in the slave trade, although other functions should be considered. The beads are a palimpsest of cultures and trades, not only in the past but also in the present still playing an important role in their relationship with local communities.

Key Words: Beads, Trade routes, Early Modern Archaeology, Contemporary Archaeology

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Deathscapes in Arabia: The Parsi Towers of Silence of Aden

Like other migrant communities, for Parsis outside of India, the occasion of death and the performance of funerary rites provided the primary vector to negotiate and contest diasporic identity. By looking at the endowment and construction of two Towers of Silence built in the South Arabian port of Aden between 1840-1870, this paper argues that religious infrastructure provided early communal and congregational responses to temporal questions posed before the nascent community in the British colony, inherent to processes of migration— that is, whether a group perceives itself as a collective of sojourners or a community of denizens. Furthermore, tracing the dynamics of conspicuous giving among both prominent and undistinguished Parsis in Aden affords us an opportunity to examine the process of establishing and consolidating communal authority, whether that be vested in a collective institution, such as an anjuman, or individuals, such as those belonging to an emergent shetia class in Aden.

Key Words: Parsis, Aden, Funerary, Community, Identity

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Trade in wood and wooden objects on the Indian Ocean during Antiquity:
Archaeobotanical evidence from 3rd c. CE Mleiha (Sharjah, UAE)

Our knowledge on the role of wood in the Indian Ocean trade during Antiquity, whether as raw material or as already manufactured items, generally suffers from a lack of data due to the perishable nature of organic materials. The fire that destroyed a fortified building at the site of Mleiha (sector H) in the 3rd century CE has allowed the exceptional preservation by charring of numerous wood remains among which exotic taxa not attested today in the Arabian Peninsula have been identified. Some of them are of subtropical or tropical origin such as teakwood (*Tectona grandis*), rosewood (*Dalbergia* cf. *sissoo*), gardenia (cf. *Gardenia*) and bamboo (Bambusoideae), likely imported from the Indian subcontinent; others are of temperate origin such as pine (*Pinus* sp.), cypress (*Cupressus* sp.), plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) and maple (*Acer* sp.). In some cases, specific objects (beams, vessels, boxes, combs) could be identified, in others we used contextual and quantitative information to infer possible uses of wood items preserved only in the form of charcoal fragments. The evidence for the importation of wood to Mleiha will be discussed in the wider context of long-distance trade networks in the Middle East and the western Indian Ocean.

Key Words: Archaeobotany, Arabian Peninsula, Late Pre-Islamic period, Trade, Wood

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Brothers, but not twins: the medieval cities of Fardowsa (Somaliland) and Handoga (Djibouti)

This talk will present the results of recent fieldwork in the medieval towns of Fardowsa (Somaliland) and Handoga (Djibouti), two settlements with similar chronologies but with significant differences in terms of urban design, domestic spaces and commercial interactions. The excavations conducted between 2020 and 2022 in these sites have shown that although both settlements emerged from a nomadic background and were involved in international trade networks, they evolved into two radically different types of town and to some extent, societies. This talk will describe main architectural features of these sites, their geographical and historical background and their material culture. It will also discuss the role that these two cities could have played in the medieval trade networks of the Horn of Africa and within the polities they were part of.

Key Words: Djibouti, Somaliland, medieval cities, trade, urbanization, Horn of Africa

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Impacts of the Indian Ocean Trade on rural sites in Central Oman

Oman has been an active participant in the Indian Ocean trade for hundreds of years. With the expulsion of the Portuguese and the accession of the Ya'riba Imamate in the 17th century, Oman established itself as a flourishing mercantile power that extended far beyond the Arabian Peninsula. Oman experienced an economic boom based on the investments of the Ya'riba, as well as on the fast-growing Indian Ocean trade. This had a clear influence on the coastal region, with the advent and expansion of various cosmopolitan, commercial centres such as Muscat and Sohar, which were directly involved with the overseas trade networks. However, less is known about the impact of the Indian Ocean trade on rural sites in central Oman. In this paper, we will present the results of three seasons of archaeological research at different rural sites in the Wilayat al-Mudhaybi, including Safrat al-Khashbah, Al-Malah, Al-Washhi, and Qabrayn. Works included surface surveys, small-scale excavations and detailed material studies, especially of pottery. Special attention will be paid to the time of their establishment and their abandonment, the possible motivations for setting up the sites at their specific respective locations, the economic activities conducted there, and how all of this fits in with larger changes related to the development surrounding the Indian Ocean trade.

Key Words: Central Oman, Islamic period, rural sites, ceramics

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Stonework ruins of an early Muslim settlement in Eastern Indonesia

The early history of Islam in Indonesia is generally seen in relation to the expansion of maritime trade, with a now familiar list of port polities forming early centers for the settlement of Muslim sojourners and the establishment of Islamic institutions. Recent archaeological work is expanding our knowledge of a growing number of other centers that were lesser – or not at all – known from documentary historiography, but which have left behind material traces in the archaeological record - including ceramics, glass, metal and stone. Unfortunately, however, little to nothing remains of the built structures of these early entrepôt and thus information on their layout and architecture has remained elusive. This has most often been attributed to the perishable nature of building materials used in the early port polities of Sumatra and the Straits of Melaka. While extensive stone construction is rare for such early port polities, a major exception to this can be found in the ruins at Maiabil, Indonesia. This paper presents the first systematic documentation and mapping of its over 100 coralstone and lime mortar structures as a contribution toward a new understanding of the form taken by early Muslim settlement in Southeast Asia.

Key Words: Indonesia, Maluku, mosque, gravemarkers, fort

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Beyond boom and bust: the western Indian Ocean in the 11th-14th centuries

Across the western Indian Ocean, the 11th-14th centuries have variously been conceptualised as either a period of exceptional growth (Red Sea, East Africa) or stagnation (Persian/Arabian Gulf). Although these narratives have engendered a profusion of studies prioritising economic and political development, they are rarely concerned with how large-scale developments influenced life “on the ground”. Furthermore, trans-regional syntheses remain the exception, rather than the rule, especially when it comes to archaeological studies. This paper draws on evidence from several key sites across the western Indian Ocean to examine how the developments of the 11th-14th centuries impacted the living conditions and livelihoods of people settled on sites involved with oceanic trade. It also considers whether narratives of economic “boom” and “bust” can (or should) be problematised. It adopts a habitus-based approach, prioritising evidence for significant changes in lifeways within the spheres of living environment, diet, and productive activities. It is based on the research that has informed my MA thesis (completed in 2018) and on my more recent doctoral work.

Key Words: archaeology, habitus, Middle Islamic, social archaeology, economy

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Wearing sovereignty: the royal seal on an embroidered jacket from Aceh

For a period of 250 years, the great seal of the sultans of Aceh in north Sumatra adhered to a distinctive design, with a central circle containing the name of the ruling sultan, surrounded by eight smaller circles containing the names of distinguished predecessors. This design was inspired by the great seal of the Mughal emperors of India, but from the very start was honed and reshaped in accordance with Acehnese predilections. Known as the *cap halilintar* or ‘thunderbolt seal’, the royal ninefold seal of Aceh was used on royal letters but is most commonly found on royal decrees in Malay acknowledging the status and titles of local chieftains, to the extent that by the late 19th century such decrees, termed *sarakata* in Acehnese, were often known locally as *cap sembilan* or ‘ninefold seal’, taking their name from the royal seal imprinted on them. The profound significance of the ninefold seal in symbolising the authority of the sultan of Aceh – particularly during the period when Acehnese sovereignty was critically threatened by Dutch colonial forces – is made manifest in an extraordinary jacket from Aceh embroidered with the seal of Sultan Mahmud Syah (reigned 1870-74), which will be examined in this paper.

Key Words: Aceh, seal, jacket, sovereign status, Sumatra

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Metal fastenings in western Indian Ocean watercraft in the medieval period: New data from the Islamic site of al-Balid, Oman.

The prevailing conceptualization of western Indian Ocean boatbuilding has been, for decades, that metal fastenings were either introduced or influenced by Europeans in the 16th century CE. The lack of archaeological evidence for watercraft in the region, along with historical references to boats fastened with fibre cordage, led early scholars to assume that medieval western Indian Ocean vessels were exclusively sewn. However, archaeological discoveries such as the nailed planks of Quseir al-Qadim (12th–15th centuries CE) on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, and a shipwreck from Kerala, southwest India (10–13th century CE), have provided evidence that challenged the assumption that all western Indian Ocean vessels were sewn before the 16th century. Unfortunately, the implications of these finds have been mostly unexplored. Recently discovered ship timbers (10–15th centuries CE) from the Islamic port of al-Balid, Oman, displaying both sewing and oblique nails, provide the only evidence of a nail-construction technique in Arabia in the medieval period, and yield further data on the introduction of iron fastenings in the region.

This paper examines these sets of evidence, focussing primarily on the al-Balid timbers, to describe the forms of nailed-plank technology in the medieval Indian Ocean, identifying three different techniques. These are contextualized within the broader Indian Ocean to provide insights into the origin of these nailed vessels, while discussing which boatbuilding traditions might have influenced the use of nails in the western Indian Ocean. Lastly, this paper argues that the introduction of metal fastenings is a complex topic that cannot be expressed in terms of simplistic absolutes and assumptions found in the early scholarship, and that nailed vessels were probably more common than previously assumed.

Key Words: Indian Ocean, boatbuilding, iron fastening, seafaring, medieval watercraft

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Contributions of the Indian Ocean's Monsoon to Syncretic Islamisation in Javanese Religion and Culture

In Islam's arrival to Indonesia, two processes occurred in various areas at different times: Indigenous Indonesians in contact with Islam converted of their volition, and Muslim traders settled down, bringing their religion. Islam was spread across the trade routes, and it was around 1450 in Java from Gujarat, India.

The earliest gravestone at Gresik (1419) indicates a Persian Muslim trader Malik Ibrahim's journey. Gravestones in Tralaja prove Muslim presence in the Hindu Majapahit kingdom. In Suma Oriental (1513), Tomé Pires tells of the penetration of Islam into Indonesia. What arrived was 'secularised' Islam, adapted to the South Asian trading cities.

Javanese Islam developed local forms and ideas in architecture by fusing mystic animism with Sivaite Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism. In contrast to orthodox Arab mosques, pre-Islamic sacredness continued in Javanese mosques. The symbolism of the Demak Mosque typifies the early process of Islamisation, facilitated by long-distance trade and religious diffusion across the water.

My paper discusses how the Indian Ocean facilitated Javanese syncretic Islamic religion and culture. Through the negotiation of existing systems, the influx of culture led to the invention of distinctive regional cultures. Wali Songo and Sufism accompanied the Monsoon and left crucial footprints in Javanese sacred spaces.

Key Words: The Indian Ocean's Monsoon, Syncretic Javanese heritage, Islamisation, Sufism, Wali Songo

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Studying Ceramics to Extract Foodways and Consumption Practices from the
Archaeological Record of Unguja Ukuu, Zanzibar

This paper will discuss the ongoing study of the ceramics from Unguja Ukuu, excavated as part of the Urban Ecology and Transitions of the Zanzibar Archipelago (UETZA) project. The aim of this research is to generate an understanding of the sequential stages in the life-cycle of pottery from Unguja Ukuu; whilst also studying the past-contents of a selection of vessels using chemical residue analysis. For many years, archaeologists have speculated that wine, date-syrup and plant oils were transported in glazed vessels found along the East African coast. Well-established protocols will be used to distinguish the fatty acids derived from meat, plant, dairy and aquatic sources, plus target fruit-derived organic acids to address these speculations. In the wake of these questions, local ceramics have often been side-lined. Over the past decade, research has highlighted the importance of local pottery in elite feasting strategies, as well as understanding interconnectivity between communities along the Swahili Coast. Hence, local ceramics will be subject to the same broad pattern of analysis as the imported pottery. This investigation will supplement the work of the UETZA project, in helping us to understand how urban life was experienced and practiced in Zanzibar, between the 7th-15th centuries AD.

Key Words: Ceramics, Chaîne Opératoire, Residue Analysis

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An itinerant history: Kitab Futūh al-Shām from the Palembang palace library

Until its sack by British forces in 1812, the palace of the Sultanate of Palembang, in southeastern Sumatra, boasted one of the most extensive libraries in the Malay world. Among its surviving unique works was a Malay version of an Arabic account of the 7th-century Muslim conquest of Syria, the *Futūh al-Shām* (SOAS 11505). Commissioned by Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin from one Kiyai Mas Fakhruddin in 1796, it is the only known manuscript example of a Malay translation of an Arabic historiographical work. This presentation will discuss work-in-progress on this manuscript, focusing on the key areas of its materiality, translation, and circulation, in addition to the contents of the text itself. While the material aspects of the book attest to the adoption of Islamicate book culture in the Palembang Sultanate and the wider Malay world, the fact of the translation, and its particular features, suggest the limits of Arabic-language literary culture. The content, perhaps of particular relevance for a polity struggling against European expansion, may have functioned as a marker of Muslim solidarity in the eastern Indian Ocean world. Alongside the manuscript, other material witnesses, including Arabic and Persian manuscripts and lithograph produced in nearby Riau and in India, will be considered as indications of a textual network across this region.

Key Words: Malay manuscript, translation, materiality

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Indian Ocean Echoes in a Corpus of Illuminated Qur'ans from Coastal Eastern Africa

This paper discusses a modest corpus of illuminated Qur'an manuscripts produced between c1750 and c1850 on Pate Island in the Lamu Archipelago. The manuscripts are significant because they constitute some of the earliest known Qur'ans from the northern part of the so-called 'Swahili Coast' and some of the region's earliest Arabic manuscripts. Additionally, some of the Qur'ans contain colophons and endowment inscriptions which provide evidence of a manuscript's place and date of production, genealogical and biographical information about their copyist, and the names and pietistic intentions of their endower. Given their distinctive style of scripts and shared decorative program, as well as bindings, papers, and inks, it is likely that the corpus was produced by copyists and manuscript producers who were in contact. The manuscripts' decorative features also resonate with those found on other types of material culture found on the Swahili Coast, suggesting a degree of multi-modality in local artistic production. But some of the corpus's features also resonate with those found on illuminated Qur'an manuscripts produced in a similar time period in other regions of Eastern Africa (Somalia and Ethiopia), the Arabian Peninsula (Oman and Yemen), the Deccan, and the Malay Archipelago. Hence, a critical question that this paper aims to consider is how to make sense of these Indian Ocean echoes alongside definitive evidence of their coastal East African production?

Key Words: Manuscripts, Qur'an, East Africa Swahili, Pate Island

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Kilwa, the Shirazi, and the Indian Ocean in 10th-11th centuries

Following an excavation in the centre of Kilwa (Tanzania) in 2016, we have been able to refine a detailed chronology (Horton et al 2020) through 30 radiocarbon dates. This work recovered silver coinage, enabling connections to be made to Pemba, Mafia and Unguja (Zanzibar), as well as unusual stone architecture. This paper will examine the historical implications for the new chronology in terms of the opening up of a southern African gold trade, and the identification of the Shirazi as a significant factor on early East African History and a reassessment of the early sections of the Kilwa Chronicle.

Key Words: Kilwa, gold trade, coins, maritime connections

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A'ali Ware. Towards an Understanding of Its Manufacture, Distribution, and Significance

A'ali pottery is a common ware that continues to be produced at the eponymous village workshops in north central Awal. Similar common ware is frequently found in archaeological contexts in Bahrain, including at Bilad al-Qadim (9th to 13th/14th c.), Qala'at al-Bahrain (13th to late 16th c.), Muharraq Town (16th to mid-20th c.), and may also equate with the so-called 'Buff Wares;' found at, for example Samahij (mid-6th to mid-8th c.). It is also likely that it was widely distributed outside Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf and, potentially further into the Indian Ocean. Archaeological variants are found in a range of forms, can be plain or decorated with incision or glaze. Considering their ubiquity in the Bahraini archaeological record and literature they have been the focus of minimal study in relation to petrography, manufacture, chronology, assemblage variation over time, glaze composition etc. A new research project examining A'ali ware and addressing these issues will be introduced.

Key Words: Bahrain, Ceramics, Arabian Gulf, Common Ware, Indian Ocean trade

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What do we really know about the frankincense trade within the Indian Ocean World?

Research over recent years has often highlighted that while there is a vast body of knowledge in the published and online literature about frankincense, there is much disagreement and a lack of clarity in asking the right questions to help us fully understand the incense trade across the Indian Ocean World. Indeed, much of what we do know is centred on the trading emporia in Arabia. This situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the last synthesis of what we know about frankincense was written by Groom in 1981, which focused on the Arabian and northeast African trade. Certainly, there is a great need for a fully synthesised version of what we know about the frankincense trade, especially those in other continents and markets. While site-based work has detailed aspects of the supply and trade of frankincense there is little understanding of where products originated. Within this paper we tackle this disparity by looking at one of the key factors that have hindered our understanding of the trade in frankincense, the identification of frankincense species. This paper provides an insight into recent studies of frankincense identification undertaken and a synthesis of what is currently known within the Indian Ocean.

Key Words: Trade, Frankincense, Indian Ocean, chemical analysis, species identification

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The Sumharam Yakṣī: Blessed Metal

Although objects from south Arabia can exhibit hybridity, a bronze fragmentary figurine housed within the NMAA, Smithsonian, Washington DC, is of Indian manufacture. It was brought to the Dhofar province via maritime networks in early CE and excavated in the 1950s by the American Foundation for the Study of Man. A meaningful interpretation must ask what the figure was doing in Khor Rori. Scholars have until now compared the Sumharam Yakṣī with larger-scale yakshis (i.e., Didarganj) or displays of figures intertwined with trees (śālabhanjika) on architecture assemblages (i.e., East Gate Sanchi), indices of Indian influence. Its miniature scale could evoke trees or their riches, but as a personal possession not intended for trade. An Indian merchant living in Sumharam probably did not install this object to be worshipped. Yes, an apotropaic object while traveling across dangerous seas—as a figure associated with water and voyage in Sanskrit texts—its excavation context among a pile of discarded metal objects suggests material multi-valency, not a residential shrine. This paper will trace the unlikely trajectory of an Indian divinity, interpreted as a tree spirit, which fulfilled its mission abroad not only by protecting but by producing wealth for its mercantile owners, oceans away.

Key Words: yakshi, Sumharam, bronze, Indian Ocean, mercantile networks

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Production, Consumption, and Exchange of Glazed Ceramics in the Context of the Indian Ocean Trade (9-15th Centuries AD)

In the study of the Indian Ocean trade, archaeological remains of Islamic glazed pottery and Chinese imported ceramics have received much attention for exploring the scale and developmental trajectory of the trade networks. Based on the distribution patterns of glazed ceramic remains, this paper aims to examine the interrelationship between ceramic production, consumption, and exchange in the western Indian Ocean during the 9-15th centuries. It is assumed that the revolution and development of Islamic glazed pottery production were promoted by the demand for fine glazed wares and the introduction of Chinese imports between the ninth to tenth centuries. Subsequently, Islamic glazed pottery has extensively circulated in local and regional markets and exported to South Asia and East Africa since the 11th century. Along with the boom of the Islamic pottery industry, the long-distance between the Middle and the Far East declined. Even though the volume of Chinese imports revived from the 13th century onwards, Chinese ceramics only occupied a small market share compared with Islamic glazed pottery. In summary, the distribution patterns of ceramic remains not only reflect the exchange networks but also indicate the trends of consumption and production indirectly.

Key Words: Chinese ceramics, Consumption, Indian Ocean trade, Islamic glazed pottery, Medieval

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Trading dynamism in the area of Khor Rori. An overview of the trend of imported materials between the 2nd c. BCE and the 4th c. CE

The archaeological area of Khor Rori, located in modern days Dhofar (Oman), hosts two distinct sites: Sumhuran, city of Hadrami origin, and HAS1, a Dhofar Coastal Culture settlement. Traces of HAS1 foundation date back to the beginning of the Iron Age, while the foundation of Sumhuran can be dated around the 2nd century BC. For a few centuries the two sites coexisted, but, around the 2nd century AD, HAS1 was destroyed and abandoned while Sumhuran continued its history until the 4th- 5th century AD. The development of Sumhuran and its coexistence with HAS1 stem from the presence of frankincense resin and its fruitful trade. However, the location favoured the development of the area into an international trading spot, as demonstrated by the Indian pottery retrieved within the first layers of occupation, resulting in the arrival of goods from the Mediterranean, Mesopotamia, the Red Sea, the Gulf, East-Africa, and India. The presented work reviews the data published on the ceramic assemblage focusing on the trends of imported materials. The objective and the expectation are to understand and identify, by looking at the variations in imports over the centuries, periods of diverse trading dynamics in which the sites were involved.

Key Words: Khor Rori Oman South Arabian Archaeology Pottery

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Collecting Indian Ocean islands: material culture and the limits of colonial knowledge

This paper will explore colonial collecting from Indian Ocean islands in the age of empire. By 1900, many of the Indian Ocean's islands were directly or indirectly ruled by Britain. During the late nineteenth century, significant collections of objects were made from these islands, part of the wider process of attempting to understand and control imperial territories. This paper has two aims: firstly, it will show how the varied material cultures of these islands offer insights into insularity and maritime connection in the modern era; secondly, an examination of British collecting practice exposes the impact of insularity on imperial control and the limits of British knowledge of these island cultures. Examples will be drawn from Zanzibar, Seychelles and the Maldives to show how these varied island contexts and histories influenced the kinds of objects created and collected. For example, few objects were collected from Seychelles: the peoples of these islands, formerly enslaved Africans and French settlers, were not deemed 'collectible' and the few highly significant examples are largely in economic botany collections, acquired to show how the empire might be made productive. This paper will use such objects to examine Indian Ocean insularity, connectivity and colonial knowledge production.

Key Words: Indian Ocean, collecting, British Empire, material culture, islands

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Ivory Industrial-Scale Manufacturing at Banbhore (Sindh - Pakistan)

The site of Banbhore is among the largest archaeological sites in the western Indus delta (Sindh, Pakistan). For the Islamic ages, it is generally identified with Daybul/Debol, a major port of the Indian Ocean mentioned in the written sources. The site comprises a fortified town with a long occupation history (1st BCE-early 13th century CE). Excavations, conducted since 2015 by an Italian-Pakistani team in the central area of the site, uncovered the largest ivory manufacturing centre ever known from a certain archaeological context. Ivory findings associated with the excavated workshops are all processed from elephant tusk; they mainly include offcuts, discarded semi-finished objects, and a very few complete pieces for a total amount of about 100 kgs. To date, the ivory production can be dated around the 12th century, when the settlement began a progressive decay until its abandonment. Several significant issues are the focal points of the present research: the ancient technology and the chaîne opératoire of the ivory industry, including the organisation of the work; the origin of raw material; the artisans and merchants involved; the markets for the finished artefacts, as well as sea and land routes related to their trade.

Key Words: Banbhore, ivory, industrial-scale manufacturing, early Islamic period, chaîne opératoire

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Rethinking Ruins: Plunder in Early Modern Sri Lanka

When writing about Early Modern encounters in the Indian Ocean world, art historians have generally focused on “cultural flows,” painting often a rosy-hued picture of exchange between the East and the West. In these glowing accounts about the movement of objects, ideas, materials, and people, we often forget what Monica Juneja has called upon us to do: to study “the succession/co-existence” of various processes such as rejection, refusal, resistance, or for that matter violence in its various forms. Contact can often be messy.

During the Portuguese encounter, numerous temples along Sri Lanka’s coastlines were destroyed for various reasons. Hence, writing the art histories of the island’s built landscape between the 1200s and the 1700s is challenging because much of what is left consists of scattered ruins or monuments that underwent later reconstruction and look as if they were only built yesterday. In this paper, I examine sites plundered by Portuguese forces in my attempts to recover the lost temple landscapes of medieval and early modern Sri Lanka. Using Buddhist poetry written at a local royal court alongside the remaining archaeological materials, I reconstruct an image of a Hindu temple, revealing the complex art histories of the Indian Ocean world.

Key Words: Ruins, Early Modern, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Indian Ocean

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New data from Madayi Fort (Kerala): aerial survey and pottery

After a two-year interruption due to the pandemic situation, fieldwork at the Madayi site (Kerala) was resumed. In the 2022 fieldwork campaigns, the focus was on the fortified structure known as Madayi Fort. The isolated structure in the southern part of the laterite plateau had not been properly surveyed until now, although some restoration work had affected the northern front. It was decided to survey the fort using a drone and total station, and at the same time to carry out a surface reconnaissance in the areas of the fort that had to be cleared, which made it possible to collect a substantial amount of ceramic material. The data collected allows us to capture a deeper and more detailed, albeit preliminary, picture of the life and forms of this fortified settlement, which was fully integrated into the medieval Indian Ocean trade networks.

Key Words: Indian Ocean trade, celadon, archaeometry, aerial drone, pottery fabrics

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Entangled commodities: Cowrie shells, glass beads and value transfer across the Indian Ocean World

Cowrie shells and glass beads were widely used by communities across the Indian Ocean world. Their distribution in long distance exchange networks has often resulted in their treatment as 'commodities' within early global economies. In this paper, I explore some of the diverse itineraries of cowrie shells and glass beads in the southern African archaeological record. These findings enrich reconstructions of value-transfer between southern Africa and the wider Indian Ocean world.

Key Words: Commodities, Cowrie shells, glass beads, value, Southern Africa, Indian Ocean

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The Role of Kerala's Mosques in the Process of Identity-Building of Local Muslim Communities

The paper intends to focus on the traditional mosques patronized by the Muslim communities settled on the Malabar coast and on their peculiar architectural style. As a meeting place of the east and the west, the region was in fact the scenario of a unique relation among the Muslims of the Malabar Coast, the Arabian Islam, and south-east Asia. The coexistence and the interactions with other local communities have constituted an example of social integration, and the architectural vocabulary they chose for the mosques they constructed provides the most striking example of assimilation and exchange of formal elements. The paper aims to reflect on the peculiar artistic vocabulary elected for the mosques in the region - today in danger because of the systematic destruction or reshaping of many monuments - its origins and the dynamics behind the transmission of models and styles. The architectural style will be discussed as a medium through which these communities built their identity, a mirror that reveals how they perceived themselves and how they negotiated their identity with other Muslim and non-Muslim communities involved in trade across the Indian Ocean, confirming the extreme importance assigned to the visual and material culture in the processes of identity-building.

Key Words: Mosques, architectural heritage, Indian Ocean network, Muslim communities, vernacular architecture.

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Objects of Adornment and Identity? Tracing the dissemination of Islamic glass bangles across the western Indian Ocean trade network

This study combines archaeological and archaeometric evidence to investigate the dissemination of Islamic glass bangles across a vast and complex western Indian Ocean trade network. Islamic glass bangles witness both the introduction of manufacturing techniques that produce new styles of bangles alongside the continuation and adaptation of pre-Islamic designs with distinct cultural stylisations. During the 14th century (the height of their popularity) they become ubiquitous to Islamic sites and continuing to evolve and spread throughout the Ottoman period that follows. As objects of personal adornment associated with the female diaspora, Islamic glass bangles acutely represent cultural identity and exchange. In their typological differences in technical designs, styles and colourations, these objects appear to embody both cultural universality and regionalised distinctions. By reconstructing these typological and technological attributes alongside the chemical analysis of the glass geological signatures it is anticipated that connections may be drawn between primary production regions, secondary bangle workshops and end consumers to better reconstruct their dissemination and meaning. This overview of the project discusses the various challenges facing such an ambitious, multifaceted endeavour, the inevitable limitations and the overarching approaches employed to form a methodological template for future studies of a similar nature.

Key Words: Indian Ocean trade, Islamic glass bangles, Archaeometry, Archaeology, Cultural identity

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A preliminary account of Hikayat Bayan Budiman

The 16th-century Malay translation of Hikayat Bayan Budiman or known as Hikayat Khojah Maimum is one of the few manuscripts left in the world. This paper reviews the text form and nature of the Parrot Tales, and generally introduces the content, characteristics and value of the scrolls. While probing into the linguistic phenomena in the remnant scrolls, it is found that they retain the traces of foreign languages. From the translation, it can be seen that Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian have achieved cross-domain and gradually developed into languages with local characteristics. This reveals the Islamic culture in the local dissemination of competition and integration. The oldest surviving Malay translation of Hikayat Bayan Budiman is a 14-page manuscript currently housed at the Bodleian Library Oxford at the University of Oxford. The edition was a collection of the Eastern linguist Edward Pococke (1604-91). At that time, he collected 420 volumes of Oriental writings in different languages. In 1693, the volume received £600 from Oxford University and was numbered Bodley Ms. 443. This manuscript is the fifth manuscript to be written by a Malay. The manuscript is of academic and artistic value in the few early writings. The Bodley Library introduced the book as follows: "Written in the earliest Malay - Arabic style, careful and legible."

Key Words: Hikayat Bayan Budiman, Hikayat Khojah Maimum, Malay Manuscript, cross-domain, parrot tales

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Fake News or Strategic Menaces in the Gulf and in the Indian Ocean

This study concerns the study of two groups of archival documents examined in the India Office Library and Records, London. Following the rereading of some documents in the British archives, new reflections could develop on British policy in the Gulf and in the Indian Ocean. The reanalysis of the Gulf and of the Indian Ocean history with its geo-strategic importance, particularly the multiple interconnections between the Arabian ports of Oman and the East African Islands and coasts contains topics of interest; and the first half of the nineteenth century was a period of extraordinary historical, political, mercantile, diplomatic, and international developments in this vast and multi cultured liquid region. Within the framework of the Anglo-French rivalry, the relationships, and the involvement of the political leaderships of the Gulf, of Western India, and of Sub-Saharan East Africa between the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century could be re-interpreted through today's fake news that not only could be taken as a valid key to the rereading of the whole epoch but could represent a true keyword for today's Gulf and Indian Ocean regional and international complexities.

Key Words: Napoleon; Oman; Spies; Zanzibar; Fake News

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Repurposed, Recycled and Modified: Chinese Ceramic Consumption Practices in East Africa

The trade and consumption of Chinese ceramics in East Africa has long been known. They have been used as chronological tools for dating archaeological sites and as quantitative tools to understand the ceramics trade of the Indian Ocean. More recently, researchers have focused on re-analysing assemblages from specific sites on the Swahili Coast, where their use has also been studied from art historical perspectives. Their trade and consumption in Ethiopia, and the wider Horn of Africa region, however, has been neglected. Additionally, their consumption in East Africa has never been studied from a regional perspective, with scholars instead seeking parallels and comparisons from Western Asia.

Based on doctoral research, this paper seeks to outline the different ways Chinese ceramics were used across the region from their initial introduction in the 7th-8th centuries until the colonial period (and beyond). While two case study regions will be focused on (Ethiopia and the Zanzibar Archipelago), inferences for the wider region will be drawn, with apparent distinctions in consumption between sites connected to the Red Sea and the Swahili Coast respectively.

On the Swahili Coast, Chinese ceramics were frequently utilised as architectural adornments, broken vessels were occasionally repaired, and sherds were also modified intermittently, mostly into discs. Ethiopia, on the other hand, does not have a tradition of architectural use, however, they were modified and used in jewellery-making, a type of consumption practice rarely attested archaeologically.

Key Words: Chinese ceramics, East Africa, recycling, modification, consumption

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Sasanian Maritime Trade in the Indian Ocean: 50 Years On.

Almost fifty years ago, Whitehouse and Williamson published their seminal paper on ‘Sasanian maritime trade’ (Iran, XI 1973: pp 29-49) in which they argue that the Sasanians utilised their territorial supremacy to actively develop the maritime economy of the Persian Gulf and western Indian Ocean. Such a view is central to our understanding of the origins and development of a more clearly demonstrable system of flourishing long-distance trade that emerged during in the Early Islamic period. Their ideas have been near universally accepted by historians and archaeologists who have often continued to replicate their views further cementing their perceived validity. While the historiographic analysis continues to be refined, the historical source material available remains largely unaltered. It is in the area of archaeological research where new discoveries can be expected to alter our evaluation most significantly. This presentation will review the Sasanian maritime trade thesis, focusing particularly on new archaeological evidence that has emerged over the past fifty years. It will examine the evidence – such as it exists - and consider what it tells us about the nature, growth and structure of the Sasanian maritime economy.

Key Words: Sasanian Empire, maritime economy, commercial exchange, coastal settlement, Late Antiquity

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The extent and potential impacts of Swahili coral harvesting at the 13th century site of Gede, Kenya

Ongoing excavations at the 13th century AD site of Gede, Kenya are helping to elucidate the many ways that Swahili urban centers may have influenced and modified their surrounding environments. Gede is one of many Swahili sites containing the ruins of stone buildings made (in part) using live-harvested coral. Mounding coral colonies were carved and built into archways, wall niches, and other decorative design elements to create Swahili stone buildings. Gede, as an important trade center during the medieval period, has been studied extensively by archaeologists, making it a great location to explore the implications of Swahili coral harvesting. Due to the importance of coral in reef ecosystems on the east African coast, the harvesting of this coral may have had direct impacts on the health of local reefs leading to changes in fisheries health among other issues. This presentation reports on preliminary data from fieldwork conducted in summer 2021 and 2022. We will present new radiocarbon AMS dates from Gede as well as results of recent surveys of Gede's construction materials. We also discuss the impacts that live-harvesting coral may have had on local reefs with particular attention paid to how the removal of coral affects local fisheries habitats.

Key Words: Swahili, stone buildings, environmental archaeology, coral, historical ecology

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Persian Drug Merchants on the Cinnamon Sea

Recent studies of shipwrecks in the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asia have provided clear physical evidence of the deep roots of Persian seafaring in premodern Asia. This paper situates these finds within a Zoroastrian conception of the sea. Exploring maritime artifacts and texts that date from the Sasanian to Early Islamic periods, this study introduces the appeal to Persian Gulf merchants of a region known as Guihai, the “Cinnamon Sea,” in mainland Southeast Asia and southern China. Spices sourced from Guihai and maritime Southeast Asia that found their way onto merchant ships bound for the Persian Gulf are discussed in the context of pre-Islamic Persianate religion and medicine. The chapter culminates in a discussion of the settlement of Persian spice merchants in port cities on the southern coast of China during the Tang dynasty, anchored by an examination of the maritime spread of Islam to China through an analysis of the tomb and legend of Purhatiyar, a holy man and Muslim physician buried in a Hangzhou grave.

Key Words: Shipwrecks, Medicine, Long-Distance Trade, Asia, Iran

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Phanom-Surin Shipwreck: the world's cultural exchange throughout the Indian Ocean

In 2021, The wide variety of ceramics recovered from the hull of the Phanom-Surin shipwreck was the main object related to commercial activities or shipboard life. The cooking pots with daily used vestige were imported from India or locally made by the Dvaravati culture that develop under the influence of maritime contact during the 8th – 10th century CE. Two types of ceramics are believed that made in the Persian Gulf. The completed turquoise-glazed jar and the torpedo jars are seen for the first time in Thailand. Furthermore, the ship construction indicated the shipbuilding technology from the Arabian sea or South India. The results from an excavation in 2021 revealed that the Phanom-Surin Shipwreck is carvel-built a double-ended sewn ship. The keel was discovered in the middle of the ship which the garboard secured to the keel permanently by a large number of ropes. This insight indicates a variety of technologies appearing in SEA. This presentation will explore what shipbuilding technologies were used and how these technologies were formulated and distributed in SEA from the transoceanic contact during the 8th to 10th century.

Key Words: Phanom-Surin, Shipwreck, Torpedo Jar, Sewn ship, Indian waters

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Ancient Shipping and Trade in Bongal Site: Oldest Ancient Port On The West Coast of Sumatra

Bongal is a site in Sibolga/Tapanuli Bay, located about 60 km south of Barus, a wellknown site on the west coast of Sumatra. Research in Barus, showed that the antiquity in Barus is not older than the 9th century CE. Whereas in written sources, Barus has been mentioned in foreign records since at least the first century CE. The gap between historical and archaeological data related to the west coast of Sumatra raises problem. If Barus is not a site correlate to historical data from first century CE, then which site on the west coast of Sumatra can be associated with it? Through comparison and carbon dating analysis, it is known that Bongal is a potential site that can correlate to historical data about early shipping and commerce on the west coast of Sumatra. Bongal on its heyday is a cosmopolite place, with evidence of the presence of foreigners, mainly from India and the Middle East. In its heyday, Bongal served as a meeting place for local and foreign sailors and merchants in the 6th – 10th century AD. Bongal's disclosure reveals new alternatives related to other locations in the archipelago that earlier established interactions with foreign sailors and traders.

Key Words: Sumatra, Barus, Bongal, Shipping, Trade

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Expanding the contexts of museum-based Islamic glazed ceramics: A study of the Ades Collection at the Fitzwilliam Museum

Islamic glazed ceramics, especially those that are on display in museums, are mostly subjected to studies from an art-historical approach, detached from the craft system and socio-economic context that these ceramics would have originally belonged to. This paper seeks to bridge this gap in narratives, using the Ades Collection of Islamic Iranian glazed ceramics at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, as a case study. Through use of non-destructive techniques that range from macroscopic observation to portable x-ray fluorescence, I am able to establish that these Islamic glazed ceramics were products of multiple workshops. These workshops had their own technological tradition, each marked by their own recipes for ceramic body, pigment and glaze. By comparing these findings with the known regional workshops in Iran, something that was established based on archaeological and historical records, I can even postulate the origins of these ceramics. A related implication of this study is that the non-destructive protocol developed can be readily adapted to study Islamic glazed ceramics in museums worldwide, bringing together a deeper understanding towards the origins and evolution of this important episode of technological and social changes.

Key Words: Islamic archaeology; Iran; glazed ceramics; technology; museum

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Echoes from the time of the warmonger sultans : new research and patrimonial perspectives on the built heritage of Ngazidja (Comoros)

The island of Ngazidja (Comoros) has often been displayed as the "island of warmonger sultans" through the lens of colonial historiographies. This outdated designation, coloured with exoticism, refers to what was seen as the perpetual turmoil of conflict between the sultanates of this island in the nineteenth century. But there is more to the history of this island in its classical period, between the 15th and the 18th century, than perpetual war. A research project initiated in 2018 to study the architectural heritage of Ngazidja historical stone towns (mji) in an archaeological and patrimonial perspective has allowed to highlight the variety and importance of monuments linked to the complex society of the precolonial kingdoms, such as fortresses, royal palaces, mosques and public squares. Clearly linked to Swahili urbanism and architecture through centuries of transoceanic trade, the built heritage of Ngazidja is nonetheless distinctive in its shapes and functions, as a representative of a mercantile society rooted in Islamic traditions and shaped by regular contacts with Arabic and European architectural conceptions.

Key Words: Comoros-Swahili architecture-Swahili history-Building archaeology-Built heritage

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Was the Phanom-Surin shipwreck being salvaged in antiquity?

The discovery of the 8th-9th-century sewn-plank Phanom-Surin ship in 2013 in Thailand was preceded by the 9th-century Belitung shipwreck, discovered off Belitung Island, Indonesia, in 1998, the first archaeological sewn-plank ship discovered in the Indian Ocean. Except for their size (Phanom-Surin at about 28-29 m length and Belitung estimated at 18.5) these two ships show remarkable similarities. While the Belitung site was subjected to predation by treasure hunters and was not archaeologically documented until the second season of work, Phanom-Surin is fortunately under the control of Thai archaeologists and conservators, providing wonderful opportunities for detailed study and analyses. There are broad indications suggesting that the Phanom-Surin shipwreck was systematically being salvaged in antiquity. This paper discusses the evidence for ancient salvage, speculates on when that may have occurred and considers the circumstances and possible motivations that drove its salvage.

Key Words: Phanom-Surin, Belitung, sewn-plank, salvage, Indian Ocean

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Cultural Heritage Information from Archaeologists and Society: The Contesting of Science and Local Knowledge in Kalimantan

Many tombs of Muslim figures/role models and sacred buildings are in the midst of community life in Kalimantan. Its existence is interpreted and disseminated by site guards to pilgrims. On the other hand, the meaning and dissemination of cultural heritage information are also carried out by archaeologists through reports, and the recipients are more intellectuals. Commonly, it has different meanings between the two, causing a polarization of knowledge in society. Perhaps it is not a worrying problem, but the basis for producing knowledge that is more focused on economic activity and ignoring science (pseudoarchaeology) has raised unrest in the academic field. Therefore, this paper is aimed at archaeologists taking a role in the production of good knowledge and its dissemination to society. The research method is descriptive analytical-critical. Descriptions are used to depict the reality of archaeological remaining conditions in society, and critical analyses are intended to map the logical contestation of knowledge production so that it has a strong argument for the placement and the position choice to be carried out. The results of this study indicate that each party has the right to produce knowledge, but archaeologists have a responsibility to put cultural heritage data in a neutral position and place the results of their analysis to agitate the logic of enlightening knowledge.

Key Words: cultural heritage, archaeologists, society, pseudoarchaeology, contestation

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Characterising Islamic diet in medieval Zanzibar

Biological diversity of the East African Swahili coast has been the basis of human subsistence through the Iron Age. Research shows that reliance on marine, domestic and wild terrestrial animals at Swahili settlements varied, and that strategies may have changed over time. We explore these potential trends on the Zanzibar archipelago using a combined zooarchaeological and biomolecular (ZooMS, isotopes) approach to discuss the exploitation of resources at two chronologically distinct Swahili coastal settlements. These sites span the late first and early second millennium CE, a period of shifting engagement with regions of the Indian Ocean, as well as majority conversion to Islam. This research is part of the Urban Ecology and Transitions in the Zanzibar Archipelago (UETZAP) project which explores the ways that early coastal urban centres on Zanzibar drew on, utilised, and affected their resource landscapes during two major periods of urban growth.

Key words: Swahili, diet, bioarchaeology, landscape

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Asian ceramics in Indian Ocean networks: an insight from the Maldives

This paper will discuss the assemblage of Chinese and southeast Asian ceramics recovered from excavations at the site of Kinolhas, Republic of Maldives, in 2017 and 2019. In this paper, the ceramic finds are classified with a view to measuring the trends in the quantity and diversity of imports from China, and for comparison with other parts of the Indian Ocean world. This classification provides a systematic framework for statistical analysis of Chinese ceramic data as dating and trading indicators. It is also possible to attach statistical significance to differences in Chinese ceramic import diversity, allowing for an in-depth understanding of this aspect of exchange between the Maldives and other parts of the western Indian Ocean.

Key Words: China, Maldives, ceramics, exchanges, networks

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