Ancient Oman: Archaeological Digs and Historical Discoveries in the Sultanate of Oman

Co-hosted by the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center and the Library of Congress
Library of Congress, Jefferson Building
24 April 2018

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  
Opening Remarks  
Welcoming remarks by LOC Middle East and North Africa Division Chief Mary-Jane Deeb and Her Excellency Ambassador Hunaina Sultan Al Mughairy

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.  
Keynote Address  
Dr. Said bin Nasser Alsalmi, Director General of the Office of the Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan for Cultural Affairs

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.  
Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 p.m.  
Ancient Magan - Connecting the Ancient World through Copper  
In Sumerian cuneiform texts ca 2300 BCE, Magan is identified as a rich source of copper and diorite for the growing civilizations of Mesopotamia. Recent research has unearthed a lost nation that once thrived in Oman. Magan's trade routes contributed to the development of the ancient world.

Participants  
"Mortuary Rituals at the Umm an-Nar site at Dahwa on the Batinah Coast of Oman;" Dr. Kimberly D. Williams, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Temple University, and Director of Social, Spatial and Bioarchaeological Historical Studies of Oman (SOBO) in Dhank, Oman.

"Surveying de Cardi's Oman: A re-examination of the Bronze Age record at 'Amlah (Al-Dhahirah governorate;" Dr. Zenobia S. Garrett and Mr. Eli Dollarhide, New York University's "Mapping Magan" Archaeological Project

"Technology and Trade in Ancient Oman during the 3rd millennium;" Dr. J. Mark Kenoyer, Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

12:00 – 12:45 p.m.  
Lunch break
Human habitation and trade in the Dhofar was shaped by its varied geography and climate. The seasonal monsoons (khareef) and Dhofar's access to multiple trading routes made it a vibrant hub of activity and trade for centuries. The transition from pastoral habitation to the dynamic port of Al Baleed vividly illustrates the evolution of Dhofar as it emerged as a leading trading hub of the ancient world.

**Participants**

Dr. Krista Lewis, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Arkansas Little Rock, Director of "Land of Frankincense Archaeological Project"

"Monuments, Mobility, and Pastoral Territoriality in Ancient Dhofar;" Dr. Joy McCorriston, Professor of Anthropology, Ohio State University, Director of "Ancient Socioecological Systems in Oman (ASOM) Project"

"Ancient Dhofar and its Neighbors: Landscapes, Water, and Inter-Regional Trade;" Dr. Michael Harrower, Associate Professor of Archaeology, Johns Hopkins University, Director of "Archaeological Water Histories of Oman (ArWHO) Project"

---

**Coffee break**

---

Cultural heritage, preservation, and promotion is a tenuous balancing act. The Omani government is dedicated to both preserving its rich cultural history while at the same time promoting it to the world. Archaeological tourism is a clear growth sector that can benefit both Oman and worldwide archaeological knowledge and appreciation.

**Participants**

"Frameworks for Preservation, Tourism, and Relevance;" Dr. Nathan Reigner, Recreation and Tourism Science, LLC.

"Traveling the Sands of Time': A Foray into Cultural Heritage Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman;" Dr. Christopher Thornton, Senior Director of Cultural Heritage, National Geographic Society, and Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bat in the Sultanate of Oman

"Constructing Cultural Heritage: The Jewel of Muscat Project;" Dr. Eric Staples, Assistant Professor of History, Zayed University

---

**Closing Remarks**