

21st Rencontres Sabéennes

organized by laboratory TRACES, University Toulouse Jean-Jaurès

8-10 juin 2017

dedicated to

Rémy Audouin (1935-2016)

**“ Contacts between South Arabia and the horn of Africa,
from Bronze Age to Islam ”**

Abstracts

Antonini de Maigret, Sabina

Représentation du pouvoir en Arabie du Sud aux premiers siècles de l'ère chrétienne.

Representation of the power in South Arabia in the early centuries CE.

As part of the South Arabian figurative production in the early centuries CE, several statues that belong to the Greco-Roman iconographic tradition can be considered as examples of "official art", with a clear propagandistic aim. In the broader framework of cultural exchanges between the Hellenized East, including *Arabia Felix*, and the Hellenistic-Roman world, we will discuss several artworks that demonstrate the spread of new regal themes within the South Arabian society. These provide precious insights on how the new image of the sovereign was conceived.

Arbach, Mounir & Schiettecatte, Jérémie

New data on the chronology of the second century AD in South Arabia

Nouvelles données sur la chronologie de l'Arabie du Sud au II^e siècle de l'ère chrétienne.

In the first centuries of the Christian era, the South Arabia experienced historical upheavals. Rise in power of tribes of the highlands incarnated by the dhu-Raydan dynasty (Ḥimyar), which dominated the kingdom of Saba. In the second century AD the kingdom of Saba' regains its independence, but will be confronted with a generalized conflict with Ḥimyar, Qatabān and the Ḥaḍramawt. Moreover, the royal power at Saba' was marked by the dispute of the throne at Marib by several lords of the highlands, notably of the regions of Sanaa, and by the sovereigns of Ḥimyar. The chronological classification of the sovereign of this troubled period, where multiple events and actors overlap, is an impossible mission. The discovery of new texts from the northern region of Sanaa allows, thanks to synchronism, to situate at the same time known rulers of Saba' and Ḥimyar, hitherto difficult to classify.

L'Arabie du Sud a connu aux premiers siècles de l'ère chrétienne des bouleversements historiques. Montée en puissance des tribus des hautes terres incarnées par la dynastie de dhû-Raydân (Ḥimyar), qui domina le royaume de Saba'. Au II^e s. è. chr. Le royaume de Saba' récupère son indépendance, mais il sera confronté à un conflit généralisé

avec Ḥimyar, Qatabān et le Ḥaḍramawt. De plus, le pouvoir royal à Saba' a été marquée par le dispute du trône à Marib par plusieurs seigneurs des hautes terres, notamment des régions de Sanaa, et par les souverains de Ḥimyar. Le classement chronologique des souverain de cette période trouble, où multiples évènements et acteurs se chevauchent, est une mission impossible. La découverte des nouveaux textes provenant de la région du Nord de Sanaa permet, grâce au synchronisme, de situer à la fois des souverains connus de Saba' et de Ḥimyar, jusqu'alors difficile à classer.

Breton, Jean-François

Considérations sur les irrigations d'Adoulis

Les périmètres d'irrigation autour du site d'Adoulis ont été soit négligés soit attribués à des dates très récentes par les archéologues successifs. Or la disposition de ceux-là comme la nature même des ouvrages hydrauliques démontre qu'ils remontent à l'Antiquité. La contribution s'attachera à évaluer – si possible- la période de la mise en œuvre de ces réseaux d'irrigation.

Bufa, Vittoria

Sumhuram: stratigraphic and pottery sequence in the residential quarter

The present paper deals with the final results achieved, after several years of excavation in Area A, in establishing the stratigraphic sequence, with special attention to the three buildings that we named "Administrative Complex". Combining in a "tabella statistico - combinatoria" pottery types and stratigraphic units it has been possible to establish a sequence of relative chronology with three main periods characterized by different pottery types. The presence of imported pottery helps to make hypothesis about the absolute dates of the periods.

Carbonara, Cleto

Production activities in Southern Arabia. New data from the last archaeological campaigns at Sumhuram

It is well known that Sumhuram is not only a harbor for the frankincense international trade. The archaeological excavations confirmed that a large amount of activities, linked to the production of objects, pottery and materials for different purposes, were carried on within the city. Several kilns or structures for industrial activities have also been found in the different areas of the city. The kilns found in Sumhuram are different in shape and dimensions. There are very simple examples, like the "tannour" for the preparation of bread. It is built reusing pottery. Other kilns have a more elaborate structure, like the pottery kiln. It consists of two parts: a lower chamber for combustion and an upper chamber for the pottery to be fired. The upper chamber had to be supported by some pillars, four of which are still preserved. The location of the kilns can help us to understand which kind of industrial activities were carried on in a determinate area of the city. The two kilns for the production of mortar were found in two of the main streets of the residential quarter. While the recent discovery of two furnaces for the iron working, in the eastern part of the city, confirmed that the metal production took place in this area. Other two kilns for the metal production, bronze and iron, were previously found not far from this area. An interesting data on the importance of Sumhuram as centre for metal production comes from a dedicatory inscription found in the city. Here the bidder asked for protection for a travel to bring the bronze from Sumhuram to Shabwa.

Daum, Werner

Abraha's Cathedral in Sanaa

Abraha's cathedral in Sanaa – Arabia's most magnificent building – was built shortly before 540, and dedicated to the Savior. Its construction was supported by Justinian, with architects and craftsmen, including mosaic workers and their raw material. It stood in the centre of a vast esplanade, west of Ghumdan palace. There is an extremely detailed description of it by al-Azraqi. Unfortunately, a congruent interpretation of its data is impossible. Careful reading of the text however reveals that the "church" consisted of two parts: a stone church similar to St. Catherine's, and an unroofed wooden construction. The latter was home to the pre-Christian cult objects that continued to be worshipped in Abraha's church: two tall (standing) poles (one "male", and one "female"), and the tomb of a pre-Christian divinity ("prophet Hanzala") which still exists in the Great Mosque that has taken the place of the church. The tomb has recently been carbon dated to the 2nd c. AD. The two poles also made it (in a modified form) into the Great Mosque.

De Santis, Annamaria

Places of pre-Islamic South Arabia: Proposals for a Gazetteer Data Model

Since the purpose of the lists of ancient place names (gazetteer) is the "identification of points in time", they are very useful tools to represent geographic, cultural and historical changes that a piece of territory undergoes in time. Therefore they have to express the complexity of historical research in particular domains.

Egels, Yves & Barret-Audouin, Marylène

Ten years of Franco-Yemeni cooperation in architectural photogrammetry

A la demande du fonds social de développement du Yémen, l'ENSG a mis en place un transfert de technologie dans le domaine de la documentation du patrimoine bâti. Grâce à des formations théoriques et pratiques, en France et au Yémen, une équipe yéménite a été formée à la photogrammétrie architecturale. Malgré les nombreuses difficultés dues à la situation actuelle du pays, la production continue, et montre la pertinence de cette solution de transfert de technologie.

At the request of the Social Fund for Development of Yemen, ENSG has implemented a technology transfer in the field of documentation of the built heritage. Thanks to theoretical and practical training, in Yemen and France, a Yemeni team was trained in architectural photogrammetry. Despite the numerous difficulties due to the current situation of the country, production continues, and shows the relevance of this technology transfer solution.

Farès, Saba

Linguistique et archéologie : recherches combinées pour dater les langues de l'Arabie préislamique

La communication proposée a pour objet de présenter la découverte d'une inscription en graphie nord-arabique, du type thamoudéen, près de l'agglomération antique de Kilwa, en Arabie Saoudite. C'est dans le cadre des recherches menées à Kilwa que cette découverte a eu lieu. Ce type de graphie note des parlers arabes régionaux avant l'adoption d'une graphie similaire à l'écriture syriaque. Les difficultés auxquelles sont confrontés les linguistes et les historiens qui travaillent sur la période est l'absence de datation. Les

quelques rares textes qui font allusion à des événements historiques ont longtemps orientés la datation la plus récente, aux alentours de l'ère chrétienne. Or, des analyses de l'onomastique combinées à des témoignages archéologiques et des analyses sédimentaires a émergé la probabilité que ce type de graphie ait été employé jusqu'au début de l'Islam, et parfois même plus tard. En effet, une première découverte par notre équipe, en 1999, en Jordanie, d'un texte bi-graphique islamique (daté) et préislamique (la graphie dite thamoudéenne-non datée), nous a alerté sur cette probabilité. En 2009, une découverte de treize textes en graphie préislamique, dont un en contexte archéologique, nous a fourni une date pour la première fois. Ces découvertes nous incitent à revoir nos présupposés sur les sociétés arabes préislamiques selon lesquelles nous aurions à faire à une société à tradition orale. Si c'est le cas, nous sommes amenés à nous interroger sur la signification de ces textes, très brefs, au sein d'une société surtout à tradition orale.

Fedele, Francesco

Rethinking the Highland Bronze Age of Yemen

In spite of V. Buffa's (2007, *Ma'layba et l'Âge du Bronze du Yémen*) and P. Magee's (2014, *The Archaeology of Prehistoric Arabia*) overviews, what we may call the Highland Bronze Age culture has not been re-examined in detail since the ground-breaking accounts by A. de Maigret (1990) and the 'Dhamār Survey Project (T. J. Wilkinson, C. Edens *et al.*, core-work 1995–2000). However, new archaeological data from regions around Yemen including the southern Levant and Northeast Africa, advances and debates in such fields as runoff agroecosystems, animal and plant domestication, aridification of Arabia, and the '4.2 ka event' (to name only a few), as well as my own detailed reappraisal of the Yemen database in 2015–2016, suggest that an update and reconsideration are warranted. In this paper I propose to review the subject's development, outline an update, and discuss several topics where a rethinking of older ideas is in order, leading to a clearer view of the 'unknowns'. The war destruction of the Dhamār Museum in 2015 adds a sad topicality to any such reappraisal.

Fradley, Michael & Zerbini, Andrea

The EAMENA project in Yemen: an interim report for 2017

The Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project has been engaged in research and monitoring in Yemen since March 2015. The project's use of satellite imagery to investigate the landscape of Yemen has produced a major dataset of newly-identified sites and condition assessments. This paper will provide an update of some of the most significant project finds, as well as other outputs including the digitalization of the Department of Overseas Survey aerial photograph collections at the Bodleian Library.

Frantsouzoff, Serguei

Les inscriptions royales axoumites composées en graphie sudarabique : un réexamen

Les inscriptions royales axoumites composées en graphie sudarabique se divisent en deux catégories différentes : celles dont l'auteur est identifié au roi Ezana et qui datent donc du milieu du 4^{ème} siècle et celles qui remontent au 2^{ème} quart du 6^{ème} siècle. Les textes de la première catégorie se distinguent par l'emploi presque total de la mîmation à fin des mots, tandis que dans les inscriptions plus récentes, où ce phénomène n'est plus attesté, quelques traits distinctifs propres à la langue sabéenne tardive ou même à la langue himyarite se manifestent clairement. Une analyse comparative de la paléographie des inscriptions guèzes

en caractères sudarabiques entreprise pour la première fois témoigne qu'elles suivent les types périphériques de l'écriture du Yémen antique.

Gajda, Iwona

The Battle of Aden between the Himyarites and the Ethiopian, 3rd century AD

In the 3rd century AD the Ethiopians were militarily involved in South Arabia. At times, they occupied the Red Sea coastal plain and some important cities including the Himyarite capital, Ḥafār and the port of Aden. In the second half of the 3rd century, the Himyarites, commanded by king Yāsir Yuhan'im, launch fierce battles against the Ethiopians and their allies in the south-western regions and fight to take back the port of Aden. These events are reported in the inscription al-Mi'sâl 6, published by M. A. Bafaqih in 1994. This paper aims to examine this important document in its historical context.

Gaudiello, Michela & Yule, Paul

The Southernmost Outpost of the Aksumite Kingdom in the Wide Red Sea Trade Network,

Mifsaṣ Baḥri is the southernmost Late Aksumite site known. It is located in southern Tigray, northern Ethiopia. For the moment, Mifsaṣ Baḥri has the distinction to be the only Aksumite site, 60 km south of the next closest isolated one. Originally it was built directly on the south-western shore of Lake Ḥashenge. Rare historical and oral tradition describes the site with its carved piers as remains of an ancient church. After the first test trenching by Tekle Hagos in 2001, since 2013 Heidelberg University and Mekelle University jointly conducted excavation and survey in and around the main site, Mifsaṣ Baḥri 001. Our project consists of a network of studies: Excavation, survey, pottery analysis, anthropology, art history, linguistics and radiocarbon aim to date the site and illuminate its original purpose. Excavation revealed three main facies of building appearance: typical Aksumite ashlar stepped walls, fashioned with alternating projections and recesses, heavy limestone flagstone interior walls and a re-use of piers which originated with facies 1. During two seasons of systematic survey, some 60 new sites came to light in a wide area around the site and the lake. The 2014 walking surveys focused outside our excavation site, 001. Those in 2015 helped us to conceptualise the land use around this site. The anthropological study of human skeletal remains focuses on the description of the type of burials, on the identification of number of individuals, their sex and pathology of the ancient population buried in and around the church. By virtue of the pottery analysis and radiocarbon dating we propose a dating for the earliest phase in the Late Aksumite Period (c. 550–c. 700 CE) and the last to the Post Aksumite Period (post c. 700 CE). The lack of previous detailed research on Late Aksumite pottery hindered outside comparisons. The pottery classification dates the site relatively; the neighbouring survey sites and illuminates the function of site 001. The ceramic assemblage is characterised by black burnished pots and carinated shapes, while the surveyed sites offered some potsherds of typical Purple Painted Ware, and ribbed Aqaba amphorae. Few parallels exist for the stone architecture of the sites main attraction, its pier relief capitals. The rectilinear building plan finds comparisons to the north. Such elements help to contextualise the Mifsaṣ Baḥri site, with its unique position and landscape, in a complex exchange network with the northernmost Late Aksumite sites of Aksum, Matara (Erythraea) and at the same time with the south-west tradition of Lalibela.

Gerlach, Iris

Ethio-Sabaeen Art in the early 1st millennium BC

In the early 1st millennium BC Sabaeans left their homeland around Marib, crossed the Red Sea and reached the Abyssinian highlands via the ancient port of Adulis. Together with the local population they established a dense network of settlements along the old trading roads. The South Arabian immigrants established a variety of cultural techniques at the Northern Horn of Africa such as the Sabaeen language and writing system, various handicraft and agricultural technologies, architectural and artistic forms, as well as South Arabian religious, political and social institutions. The paper presents an overview of the impact of this cultural transfer on the art production and contrasts the South Arabian influences with the indigenous ones.

Hatke, George

Religious Ideology in the Ge'ez Epigraphic Corpus from South Arabia

In the first half of the sixth century CE, Aksum invaded South Arabia and established hegemony over the region with the help of Himyarite client kings. Although Sabaic, Syriac, and Greek sources provide the most detailed documentation of Aksumite occupation, several inscriptions in Ge'ez that have come to light in Yemen yield information—if at times in fragmentary form—regarding Aksumite perspectives on South Arabian affairs. Unlike the Sabaic inscriptions, this Ge'ez corpus is characterized by overtly religious references, including quotes from the Old Testament. What this suggests is that the Aksumites sought to present their intervention in South Arabia in religious terms, which is in itself an innovation in Aksumite royal ideology.

Hitgen, Holger

Early First Millennium BC Burials in South Arabia and the Northern Horn of Africa

In the first half of the first millennium BC new burial types appeared, both in South Arabia as well as on the Northern Horn of Africa. They are associated with the establishment of new societies: the South Arabian culture and the Ethio-Sabaeen culture in East Africa. Although the state of research on grave types and burial customs of the early first millennium is still very patchy, the burials seem to be new forms that were obviously not influenced by the preceding cultures. At the same time the grave types in Arabia and the Northern Horn of Africa differ significantly, even though the Ethio-Sabaeen culture had evident connections to South Arabia. In this paper the individual grave forms will be defined and explanations for the differences will be proposed.

Japp, Sarah

Late South Arabian and Aksumite reliefs— Ideas on local traditions, foreign models and autonomous transformations

In the Old South Arabian kingdoms foreign models are rarely visible in relief art; only from the beginning of the 1st millennium CE onwards such elements can be revealed. In the beginning they derived from the Hellenistic-Roman Mediterranean, while in the late antique period the places of origin changed to the Byzantine Eastern Mediterranean and the Sassanian realm due to political, economic and religious circumstances. The adoption of new artistic features into the local canon and their transformation led to an independent and unique art in Himyarite South Arabia. In Aksumite Ethiopia the situation seems to be similar regarding the origin of the models and the system of transfer. The contribution intends to

introduce late antique reliefs from South Arabia and Ethiopia in combination with possible models focusing on the variants of cultural “interferences” and the possible reasons for them. As Aksumite influence on South Arabian art is known corresponding examples will be presented and furthermore, the question will be posed, if South Arabian influence on Aksumite art was extant as well.

Khalidi, Lamya

Tracking the origins and rise of formalized Afro-Arabian contacts in the 1st millennium BC through obsidian research.

Obsidian provenance studies have shown that contacts between the shores of Arabia and the Horn of Africa were well defined by the Arabian Bronze Age period and that these early prehistoric interactions are likely at the origin of the formalized exchange networks and political relations that developed during the South Arabian period and that implicated major sites in both Yemen and Ethiopia. By summarizing the results of obsidian analysis on material from sites on both sides of the Red Sea and discussing recent archaeological work conducted in the African Horn, this paper will discuss the current state of research on the growth of Afro-Arabian contacts and their potential socio-economic and political implications.

Köster, Marlène

Miniature vessels from pre-Aksumite find spots in the northern Horn of Africa: A takeover of South Arabian practice?

Small handmade cups and goblets are a typical feature of pre-Aksumite findings in Yeha/Ethiopia, the religious and cultural center of the Ethio-Sabaeen polity *D'mt*. These objects are thought to be miniaturized as they are also represented in the corpus of miniature votive offerings from South Arabia. By discussing the term “miniaturization” and analyzing further find spots and contexts in the Northern Horn of Africa, as well as by making comparisons to South Arabia and other neighboring regions, the presentation will attempt to explore whether or not these objects are votive gifts that emerged from a takeover of Sabaeen activities and will discuss what it tells us about religious life in the Northern Horn of Africa in the early 1st Millennium BC.

Lombardi, Alessandra

South Arabian funerary stelae: common and regional characteristics

The funerary field is particularly interesting and rich in stimuli allowing us knowledge of religious thought and art of ancient civilisations, and pre-Islamic South Arabia produced a large amount of objects related to this field, especially stelae.

During the last years I have studied specific *corpora* of South Arabian funerary stelae (with projecting bull's head, and those designed *ṣwr*). Lastly, I had the opportunity to examine all the typologies diffused in pre-Islamic South Arabia, starting from the rich British Museum collection. This work produced the 11th volume of the series *Arabia Antica*.

In spite of lack of information regarding provenance and archaeological context of these objects, it has been possible organize and classify the material reconstructing a picture rich in regional styles, with reciprocal influences: from the archaic and more traditional stylized expressions to the complex and figurative representations. And, in spite of contacts with foreign cultures (especially with the Hellenistic and Roman world), the originality and specificity of South Arabian funerary art appears irrefutable.

Maraqten, Mohamed

A report on an Early Sabaean Stone Quarry from Jabal Balaq al-Awsaṭ, Ma'rib, Yemen
Mohammed Maraqten, Qatar University

The central and state temple of the Kingdom of Saba' was the Awām temple/Maḥram Bilqīs, near Ma'rib, Yemen. This was one of the most well-known monuments of the Sabaean culture. The American Foundation for the Study of Man (AFSM), carried out excavations at the Awām temple in cooperation with the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums of Yemen. The nine seasons of excavations (1998-2006) uncovered part of the temple and revealed architectural components such as the Peristyle Hall. Little is still known about the ornamental and building stones that were used for the construction of this temple. Meanwhile the AFSM carried out some work looking for the stone quarries to study the geologic sources and ancient quarries where the stones have been taken to be used in the construction of this temple. This paper presents an early Sabaic six-line inscription discovered on the top of the Jabal Balaq al-Awsaṭ related to a stone quarry and records the construction of a road for transporting the stones.

Marion de Procé, Solène

Religion in South Arabia: a New Approach

This paper aims to propose a new study of the cultural phenomenon of South Arabia from the beginning of the South Arabian period (ca. 9th BC) until the adoption of monotheism (4th cent. AD). It is explored through the study of archaeological remains, epigraphical sources as well as objects related to the religious sphere. Archaeology and epigraphy have been confronted in order to present a more thorough analysis of the religious manifestations within a geographical frame never considered so far. It covers Southwest Arabia (therefore including the major South Arabian kingdoms), as well as more remote regions like the Tigray and Akkele Guzay plateaux (respectively in Ethiopia and Eritrea) that have proven to be relevant for the subject.

Manzo, Andrea

Commodities, Crops, Languages and People. Northeastern Africa, the Red Sea and Arabia in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC: a view from Mersa/Wadi Gawasis and Eastern Sudan

The aim of this paper is to review the available evidence of contacts between Northeastern Africa and Arabia *via* the Red Sea in the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC. In particular, the archaeological evidence of such contacts made available by the ongoing research projects that the University "L'Orientale" is conducting on the Egyptian Red Sea coast and in Eastern Sudan will be discussed. The way archaeology can help to reconstruct the kind of contacts taking place between these regions will be dealt with. Finally, the resulting model emerging from the archaeological data will be compared with the insights on the same processes made available by palaeobotany and linguistics.

Mohamed al-Hajj

History of Ancient Maryamah in Light of its Discovered Inscriptions

Maryamah, a Qatabanian city, is located in the east of Yemen, to the south east of Marib, about 90 km, within the area of the southern valley Hareeb, specifically to the north-west of the city of Ḥinū az-Zurayr (Harbt), about seven kilometers from it. It is one of the important Qatabanian cities located on the road between the cities of the valley of Hareeb and Joubah down until the oasis of Marib. Recently, dozens of bronze and stone inscriptions

have been found in this city, as well as various beautiful sculptures and art objects. About 200 Qatabanian inscriptions were discovered in Maryamah, which are considered the most important written sources. They can be used to propose an initial date for the time phases the city has gone through, starting from the seventh century BC until the end of the second century AD. The first phase begins around the eighth or seventh century and ends at the end of the sixth century BC. Early inscriptions are among its signs which were found recently in Maryamah. Some of these inscriptions were written in boustrophedon, from which we can draw that the emergence time of Maryamah was in line with the emergence of other cities in the eastern valleys, such as the city Tamna' and Hajar bin Humaid and some other cities of the Qatabanian and Sabaeen kingdoms. We can also infer that during this early phase (eighth to seventh century BC) Maryamah had a kind of political and religious independence, in which it had its own God (Hawkam Nbt) and its own rulers. The second phase can be determined from about the fifth to the first century BC. Most of the inscriptions found in Maryamah belong to this phase. Three historical sub-phases, according to the inscription letters, can be identified. During this phase, One more thing can be drawn from these inscriptions is that Maryamah joined a union with the other cities of Qataban that included cities, the Gods and the people, and this explains mentioning the name of the God (Hawkam) among the titles of Qataban kings. It seems that Maryamah had experienced a significant political and commercial activity, which is indicated by the bronze and stone inscriptions of the God Hawkam, drawn by various classes of the society on the architectural, civil and religious structures. In addition, what indicates political and commercial activity are reforming a lot of agricultural lands and the commercial trips of a number of inhabitants towards the Levant and the Mediterranean? The third phase begins around the first century and ends at the end of the second century AD. Many of the inscriptions of the Qatabanian found in Maryamah, belong to this phase, especially those indicating the movement of many people of Maryamah toward the cities of the southern and western highlands near the Red and Arabian Sea Ports for the sake of trade, work and stability. During this phase, Maryamah became under the rule of some of the kings of Saba' and ḡu-Raydān. This research attempts to identify those historical phases that Maryamah has gone through, relying on its Dedicatory, Construction, Legal, and Commemorative discovered inscriptions as well as some new historical, social and political information designated by those inscriptions.

Multhoff, Anne

The Sabaic Online Dictionary

In September 2016, the Sabaic Online Dictionary (« Sabäisches Wörterbuch ») of Jena University, funded by the DFG, was finally launched. The project aims at a thorough revision of the entire lexical material attested so far. Apart from up-to-date translations of Sabaic words, the Dictionary also contains an extensive collection of related material, such as older translations, etymological parallels in- and outside South Arabia, a catalogue of attested forms and quotes and translations of the relevant passages in context. The paper will present the approach of the project, both in general terms and concerning specific lexical problems.

Nagel, Alexander

Past Panoramas and Qataban Legacies: New Work on South Arabian Archives and Materials in Washington, DC

Archives and materials, including inscriptions, ceramics and photographic documentation related to the 20th century exploration of sites in the Wadi Beihan and other regions in Yemen are housed today in the Smithsonian Institution and other research institutions along the US East coast. This presentation will revisit this corpus by introducing ongoing collaborative projects and new initiatives aimed at improving our understanding of the mechanics of fieldwork in South Arabia in the 20th century. It will also outline the first results of a series of multidisciplinary projects aiming to understand the role of polychromies on ancient South Arabian monuments, comment on the preservation of knowledge of traditional craftmanships in the Hadramawt and other regions, and address current challenges when working on the preservation of ancient South Arabian heritage from Washington, D.C.

Nebes, Norbert

Evidence for ethio-sabaeen history from aksumite sources

Following the Sabaeen form the inscriptions of the Ethio-Sabaeen kings show a number of linguistic features which have been interpreted as substrate tracing back to an indigenous population which can be identified as the later speakers of Gə'əz. Referring to some crucial passages from the Ethio-Sabaeen royal inscriptions the paper discusses some striking parallels in sources from the Aksumite period and raises the question of the conclusions which result from the linguistic evidence.

Paolini, Anna

Cultural heritage at risk: the UNESCO coordinated, response and plans

Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Yemen, also the cultural heritage of Yemen has not been spared by attacks. Entire historic cities have been almost cancelled from the map like in the case of Sada'a while others have been heavily damaged as it is the case of Sana'a or Shibam Kawakaban. Single monuments, archaeological sites, historic buildings and cultural institutions have suffered the same fate in an attempt to wipe out the well-being and cultural identity of people. These are irreparable losses and wounds in the memory and history of a country. UNESCO has mobilized its partners and experts to respond together to the situation. Numerous actions have been planned, carried out or in the process of execution but also many still need attention. The paper is a report on these actions with a focus on the plan rehabilitation of al Qasimi complex in Sana'a.

Phillips, Carl

Looking for Mundu

Mundu is mentioned in the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* as one of the "far side" ports and has been identified with present-day Heis on the northern coast of Somaliland. This identification is based on the description of the port in the *Periplus* and on the glass and pottery fragments found there in the 1880s by Georges Revoil (1882). Although Revoil appears to have favoured identification with the port of Mosyllon, described in the *Periplus* as being east of Mundu, Neville Chittick, who visited Heis in the mid-1970s preferred to identify it with Mundu. The reports of Revoil, Chittick and other commentators (e.g. Casson 1989; Desanges, Stern & Ballet 1993) will be reviewed and considered alongside more recent observations.

Pickworth, Diana

An Egyptian Canon of Proportion in Temple Reliefs of the Yemeni al-Jauf Valley".

The Egyptian canon of proportion is thoroughly known, discussed and documented and it has been found that it contrasts to both the Mesopotamian (Azarpay 1993: 93-105; Robins 1990: 107-119) and the classical Greek and Roman canon, each of which had its own specific measurement (Doe 1983). A canon of proportion for South Arabian relief art has eluded scholarly discussion and the recent rescue excavation of a discrete group of temples decorated with stone relief carving creates a basis upon which further study may proceed.

KEY WORDS: Arabia, temple reliefs, Egyptian canon of proportion, Yemeni al-Jauf,

Rossi, Irene

A new expiation text from the Jawf region

The paper presents a new inscription from the al-Jawf area (Yemen) belonging to the so-called « expiation » textual category. The interest of the text lies: - in the author of the text who belongs to the priestly class- in the names of the gods addressed to: *'ttr d-qbd* is attested with the previously unknown epithet *'lh bs²mm*; *bs²mm* itself is attested here for the second time in the Minaic corpus; for *'l't qqrn*, the exact meaning of the second part of the construct has to be ascertained- in the transgressions recorded, expressed by rare or previously unknown ASA lexical items and concerning the sphere of the ritual error. The significance of the text will be evaluated by taking into account and reconsidering the textual category of the expiatory inscriptions.

Schnelle, Mike

Comparison of architectural features from the 1st millennium BC in South Arabia and East Africa

Numerous architectural features of monumental building structures on the Horn of Africa, dating from the 1st millennium BC, are evidence for a transfer of culture predominantly from South Arabia. These features encompass layout, construction techniques and facilities and are traceable at several sites in Northern Ethiopia and Southern Eritrea. They argue not only for South Arabian influences on architecture but as well for the presence, participation and dominant role of South Arabian master builders on construction sites in centers of D'MT. The paper will focus exemplarily on some significant architectural features on both sides of the Red Sea and will try to present the scope and the limits of interaction. As basis of these considerations serve largely the investigations of the Orient Department of the DAI in Yeha and Wuqro in comparison with investigations in South Arabia.

Stein, Peter

Languages and scripts at the Arabian Gulf in the Hellenistic period: The epigraphic evidence from Mleiha (Sharjah, UAE)

Eastern Arabia had long been underexposed, compared with the south- and northwestern parts of the Peninsula, in terms of its linguistic situation in pre-Islamic times. This is mainly due to the fact that epigraphic evidence from the region is still rather sparse – comprising some forty stereotype “Hasaitic” tomb inscriptions and a few small fragments in Aramaic. Only the site of Mleiha stands out from this picture inasmuch as not only the number of inscriptions from there is comparatively high, but also quite different text genres are found there. Particularly two votive inscriptions – one in Aramaic and one in Hasaitic, in

the South Arabian zabur script which was used in ancient Yemen for everyday correspondence on wooden sticks – testify for a differentiated use of writing in the region in the 3rd–2nd centuries BC.

Villeneuve, François

Les Romains à Farasan : quinze ans après les découvertes épigraphiques

Ibrahim Miftah, érudit des îles Farasan au large de la frontière saoudo-yéménite, a découvert au début des années 2000 une inscription complète, puis une fragmentaire, que F. Villeneuve a identifiées comme latines et militaires, datées du II^e s. pC, et proposées comme indices d'une garnison romaine aux îles Farasan. Ces découvertes ont été le point de départ d'une mission archéologique franco-saudienne, *survey* puis fouilles, qui se poursuit aujourd'hui. On fait ici le point sur les réactions des épigraphistes et historiens (romanistes et arabistes) depuis quinze ans et sur les apports des découvertes archéologiques quant à la présence romaine aux îles Farasan et plus largement quant au rôle de Rome au sud de la mer Rouge.

Vogt, Burkhard - Buffa, Vittoria & Sedov Alexander

Ancient pottery production from the coast of Southwest Arabia and its links to Afrika

The German Russian expedition to the Aden hinterland has studied by excavations and soundings two oasis sites in the Wadi Tuban (Maleiba and Sabir) and two ceramic sites on the nearby coast (Khor Umayrah and an-Nabwa). The pottery found represents an inventory that may have developed from the early 3rd to the early 1st millennium BC. By technical criteria the pottery is very distinct from the productions of the Bronze Age and the South Arabian period in the interior. The paper will present possible links to Africa and the few pottery types exported to the Punt-related site of Mersa Gawasis in Egypt.

Yule, Paul

A Rare Horse Frontlet from the Yemen – Surprise

Exhibited in the National Museum in Şan'ā' is an elaborately fashioned Roman bronze-coloured horse frontlet of an estimated 25 cm maximal height. Greco-Roman horse tack has polycentric identities. Recently published, partly published and unpublished such Iron Age artefacts in Spain evidently have their roots in Magna Graecia, especially in southern Italy. In the same way, many items of 'Roman' arms and armour can be traced back to Gallic, Celt-Iberian or other origins; thus 'Roman' must be understood as a political rather than a cultural or strictly descriptive term. This talk dates and concerns itself with the significance of this kind of horse tack.

Zaid, Zaydoon

The Peristyle Hall Floor / Awam Temple

The discovery of more than 300 inscriptions in the Peristyle Hall, which are primarily in situ or reused in pavements or other small structures, provide the general time frame for the Peristyle Hall construction phases. This contribution is a Presentation of the deferent phase of the Peristyle Hall Floor and its Inscriptions.