

Eight years of IFAO excavations at Ayn Sukhna, on the Red Sea shore, have revealed the extensive occupation of this place through the pharaonic period. Several storage galleries were dug out, one of them still containing the remains of a Middle Kingdom ship, the oldest sea-going ship currently known. On the lower part of the site, what could be analysed as a pharaonic harbour's settlement is currently under excavation. Ayn Sukhna shows many common points with Mersa Gawasis, 400 kms further South along the coast, which was first excavated at the end of the 1970's, with the result of putting forward Mersa Gawasis as a possible departure point to the exotic land of Punt. In 2001 work resumed on the site, and, like at Ayn Sukhna, several storage galleries were found containing various fragments of ships.

Both archeological works show how important the Red Sea may have been throughout the pharaonic times. Recently, the discovery of a third pharaonic settlement on the western coast of Sinai, at al-Markha, confirmed the utmost interest of studying that territory using all possible sources. The aim of these study days is to exchange various points of view and analysis of scholars involved in the study of this specific area, in order to define more precisely the meaning of the Red Sea during pharaonic times.

THE RED SEA IN PHARAONIC TIMES

Recent Discoveries along the Red Sea Coast

CAIRO - AYN SUKHNA

11-12 JANUARY 2009

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Sunday, January 11

Venue: Ahmed Pasha Kamal auditorium, SCA, Zamalek

- 9h30** Introduction to the Covenant: Dr ZAHY HAWASS (SCA), Pr LAURE PANTALACCI (IFAO), Dr ROSANNA PIRELLI (Centro Archeologico, Italian Cultural Center)
- 9h45** Presentation of Main Themes: Pr DOMINIQUE VALBELLE (Univ. Paris-IV Sorbonne)
- 10h** Pr ABDEL MONEM SAYED (Univ. of Alexandria): "In Search of the Site of the Pharaonic Port 'Saww' "
- 10h30** Pr MAHMOUD ABD EL-RAZIQ (Univ. Suez), Dr GEORGES CASTEL (IFAO), Dr PIERRE TALLET (Univ. Paris-IV Sorbonne), GRÉGORIY MAROUARD (IFAO/Univ. de Poitiers): "The Site of Ayn Sukhna: Discovery and Excavations"
- 11h00** Pr RODOLFO FATTOVICH (Univ. L'Orientale, Naples), KATHRYN BARD (Boston Univ.): "Recent Investigations in Mersa /Wadi Gawasis, 2005-2008"
- 11h30** *Coffee break*
- 12h00** Dr PATRICE POMEY (CNRS-USR 3134/CEAlex): "The Ship Remains of Ayn Sukhna"
- 12h20** Dr CHERYL WARD (Florida State University): "Evidence for Pharaonic Seagoing Ships from Gawasis"
- 12h40** Dr CHIARA ZAZZARO (Univ. of Exeter), DR CLAIRE CALCAGNO (MIT Deep Water Archaeology Research Group): "Ships Components from Mersa Gawasis: Recent Finds and their Archeological Context"
- 13h00** Dr EL-SAYED MAHFOUZ (Univ. Assiut): "The Epigraphic Documents"
- 13h30** Dr PIERRE TALLET (Univ. Paris-IV Sorbonne): "New Epigraphic Material from Ayn Sukhna, mainly from Wadi 1"
- 14h** General Discussion and Concluding Remarks
- 14h15** *Buffet lunch*
- 15h30** *Transfer by bus to Ayn Sokhna*
- 18h** *Poster session at the hotel*
- Dinner and overnight at the hotel*

Monday, January 12

Venue: Ayn Sokhna, Excavation Field/Auditorium at the hotel

- 9h-12h** Complete visit of the archaeological site of Ayn Sukhna

Lunch break

Workshop: Roads, Tracks and Traffic on both Sides of the Red Sea

- 15h** Pr RODOLFO FATTOVICH (Univ. L'Orientale, Naples): "Ships Bound for Punt"
- 15h30** Pr GREGORY MUMFORD (Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham): "A Late Old Kingdom Fort in South Sinai"
- 16h** Dr ANNIE GASSE (CNRS/Univ. Montpellier III): "The Tracks to Wadi Gawasis through the Eastern Desert"
- Coffee break*
- 16h30** MOHAMMED ABDEL MAGUID (Univ. Aix-en-Provence), Dr CHIARA ZAZZARO (Univ. of Exeter): "Ship Equipment from Wadi Gawasis"
- 17h** Dr YANN TRISTANT (IFAO): "How to Fill a Gap? New Perspectives on Both Sides of the Red Sea about Exchanges between Egypt and the Levant During the Early Neolithic Period"
- 17h30** Dr JULIE MASQUELIER (Univ. Paris-IV Sorbonne): "At the End of the Trail: Implications of Turquoise Mentions in Egyptians Temples and Tombs"

Overnight in Sokhna or return to Cairo by bus

Tuesday, January 13

Optional trip by bus to Mersa Gawasis
(Registration required: redsea@ifao.egnet.net)

- 7h** Transfer from Sokhna to Gawasis by bus
- 11h** Arrival at Gawasis, visit of the site. Picnic on the site

Afternoon *Return to Cairo by bus*