



in collaboration with



ARCHAEOLOGY AS A PRACTICE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY: The Work of Archaeologists in Yemen



APRIL 11, 2016 at 7PM

EMBASSY OF ITALY - 3000 WHITEHAVEN STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC

This event is part of the *Protecting Our Heritage* series

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with the support of



Since 1984, **Sabina Antonini de Maigret** has participated in numerous archaeological excavations and surveys in Yemen with the Italian Archaeological Mission, first directed, from 1980 to 2010, by Alessandro de Maigret. Having actively pursued her research interests at important archaeological sites in Yemen, including the Bronze Age settlements, Yalā, Barāqish and Tamna', she is the current director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Yemen (Monumenta Orientalia) and a member of the French Archaeological Missions in Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. Antonini is the author of numerous monographs and articles on South Arabian Archaeology and Art History including "South Arabian Art. Art History in Pre-Islamic Yemen" (Paris: De Boccard: 2012).



Iris Gerlach has been head of the Sanaa (Yemen) branch of the Orient Department at the German Archaeological Institute since 2000. Director of various archaeological projects in Yemen, Ethiopia and Qatar, her research interests are South Arabian and pre-Aksumite archaeology; cultural contacts, especially trade and migration; temples and religion; ancient water management; burial rites; and art history. She heads restoration and capacity building projects in Yemen and Ethiopia. In 2011, she became director of monitoring and awareness-raising projects dealing with the looting of museums, illegal excavations of archaeological sites and other destruction of cultural heritage in Yemen.

Michael Harrower is an Assistant Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University. His research, including fieldwork from 2000 to 2008 in Yemen, concentrates on long-term histories from the beginnings of agriculture through the rise of ancient states across Southern Arabia and the Horn of Africa. His current fieldwork in Oman and Ethiopia integrates research into long-term water histories of early civilizations using a combination of archaeological survey (exploration) and satellite imagery analysis.



Alexander Nagel is a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Originally from Berlin, Germany, Nagel received an MA from Humboldt University Berlin in 2003, and a PhD from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 2010. He has worked on the site of Persepolis in Iran, curated a number of exhibitions on ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology in Washington, DC, and is supporting the work of communities who document heritage and preservation of sites in Yemen, Greece, Iran and the Middle East.

ARCHAEOLOGY AS A PRACTICE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY: THE WORK OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN YEMEN

Archaeologists have always been fascinated by the impressive remains of monumental architecture, sculptures and artefacts of South Arabia's past. Cities like Marib, Aden and Sanaa have inspired teams to explore the past of Arabia Felix, as it was called in ancient times.

A panel discussion with:

Sabina Antonini de Maigret

Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Yemen

The Italian Archaeological Mission in the Republic of Yemen: 1980-2016

Iris Gerlach

Director, German Archaeological Institute, Oriental Department, Sanaa Branch, Yemen

German Archaeological Fieldwork and Restoration Projects in Yemen

Michael J. Harrower

Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

Water Histories: Insights from Fieldwork on Irrigation in Ancient Yemen

Alexander Nagel

Research Associate, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History

Moderator

followed by the opening of the exhibition

South Arabia Revisited: The Work of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Yemen

The Italian Archaeological Mission in Yemen was launched in 1980. Its Director **Alessandro de Maigret** set out to investigate the ancient peoples and cultures of Southern Arabia prior to the first millennium BC and to establish a reliable archaeological chronology for this historical period. He developed a new basis for documentary evidence that was multidisciplinary in nature against which previous data, mostly inferred from inscriptions, could be compared. Initiated under the aegis of the Istituto per l'Oriente in Rome with the support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Archaeological Mission envisioned and organized a remarkable series of systematic fieldwork and restoration projects. In partnership with scholars and members from the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums in Yemen, Italian archaeologists and restorers have since been able to make groundbreaking contributions and refining our understanding Yemen's history, and to recreate some of its marvelous architectural wonders from both pre-Islamic and Islamic cultures.

In Memoria di un Grande Maestro

*"Ogni uomo viene da lontano
e cammina verso l'Eterno.
Cammina e riposa da sempre,
senza nascere e senza morire.
Cammina lungo l'acqua gelida
del Fiume
che porta il tepore dell'estate;
nel vento di primavera
che passa tra i fiori dei ciliegi
e porta la voce dell'autunno;
cammina in fretta
e fra il muggito dei grandi Fiumi Sacri
e lo stormire delle foglie al vento
ascolta
la Voce del Silenzio
e nel buio vede
la Luce sul Sentiero"*

(Anonymous, Eastern Zhou Dynasty)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CINEMA – TEMPO INSTABILE CON PROBABILI SCHIARITE by Marco Pontecorvo

date/location: APRIL 17 @ FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE CENTER

MUSIC – PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE – A CONCERT BY CARABINIERI BAND

date/location: APRIL 18 @ KENNEDY CENTER

CINEMA – BANAT by Adriano Valerio – Film Fest DC

dates/location: APRIL 21, 23 @ LANDMARK'S E STREET CINEMA

LANGUAGE – NUOVE TECNOLOGIE PER L'INSEGNAMENTO DELLA LINGUA ITALIANA

date/location: APRIL 23 @ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

ART/CINEMA – DEPERO – ROVERETO, NEW YORK E ALTRE STORIE by Nello Correale

date/location: APRIL 29 @ EMBASSY OF ITALY

CINEMA – L'OROLOGIO DI MONACO by Mario Caputo

date/location: MAY 4 @ EMBASSY OF ITALY

ART– GIORGIO MORANDI 1890-1964 – Conference by Laura Mattioli

date/location: MAY 11 @ EMBASSY OF ITALY

(schedule subject to change)

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