

The Erythraean Sea: Studying Early Maritime Exchanges across the Indian Ocean

Speaker: Dr. Henry Wright, Distinguished University of Michigan Professor of Anthropology and Curator of Near Eastern Archaeology

Host Department: Museum of Anthropology

Date: 12/04/2014

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Room 2009 Ruthven Museums Building

Description:

We have much new evidence from the excavation of ports and shipwrecks around the Indian Ocean. This new evidence can be studied against the background of anthropological and historical knowledge of ships and maritime communities. By 2500 BC, regular maritime contacts involving at least three different traditions of shipbuilding and sailing, were well-established in several areas of the systems of seas that extend from East and Southeast Asia to the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, and the Persian Gulf. After 300 BC these local systems were stitched together, linking the emerging empires of East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and the Middle East and the Mediterranean into a vast network. The speaker presents a personal overview of recent research from Egypt to Oman to Thailand and back to Madagascar.