

Workshop: *Archaeological landscape in Southeast Arabia. New perspectives from the recent fieldworks.*

Date: 12/SEP/2024

Venue: Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw (Warsaw, Poland)

Paper 1.

Title: *Archaeological landscape in the canyon at the foot of Al-Hajar Mountains. New perspectives from the investigations in the Tanuf District (Wilayat Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman) until the 2023–2024 season.*

Authors: Taichi Kuronuma, Takehiro Miki, Kantaro Tanabe, Yasuhisa Kondo

Abstract:

Unlike the well-investigated sites in the piedmont of the Al-Hajar mountains in Southeast Arabia, the long-term transformation of the archaeological landscape at the mountains' foot remains unveiled despite its supposed importance in mobility. Since 2017, we have investigated the Tanuf District to understand the long-term landscape transformation and identified 21 sites in Wadi Tanuf, six in Tanuf, and 24 in As-Suwayhriyah. In Wadi Tanuf, we excavated a cave site where we acquired archaeological evidence from the Early Bronze Age to the Islamic period, and we also registered cemeteries from various ages with a few other types of sites. Outside the canyon, we identified some Early Bronze Age towers and cemeteries, together with the Iron Age cemeteries and forts. The yielded evidence indicates the contrastive archaeological landscape in the canyon's interior and exterior. Namely, the sites inside the canyon are characterised by the mobility-oriented nature, while those outside are more similar to the ubiquitous Southeast Arabian archaeological landscape. The Tanuf District has probably functioned as a hub connecting the lowlands and highlands of the Al-Hajar mountains.

Paper 2.

Title: *Beyond the Bronze Age. Landscape transformation in Bat, Al-Khutm, and Al-Ayn (Wilayat Ibri, Sultanate of Oman) from the renewed surveys in 2024.*

Authors: Taichi Kuronuma, Yasuhisa Kondo

Abstract:

Bat, Al-Khutm, and Al-Ayn are renowned as the representative Early Bronze Age sites in Southeast Arabia. However, it is suspected that these sites also played important roles in the long-term transformation of the archaeological landscape. The archaeological investigations by the Bat Digital Heritage Inventory Project from 2013–2017 identified the archaeological evidence from varied periods in these three sites. Further discovery is expected to enhance the reconstruction of long-term archaeological landscapes. In February 2024, we conducted renewed archaeological surveys in these three sites, where we identified a number of new discoveries. In Bat, many Iron Age tombs built on or beside the collapsed cairns, several Islamic walls and wells, and several Early Bronze Age workshops were registered. Several Iron Age reused tombs and Early Bronze Age tombs were also detected by surveys in Al-Khutm. In Al-Ayn, we identified a few completely collapsed Hafit cairns, Wadi Suq and Islamic cemeteries, and the large cluster of Iron Age subterranean tombs. These results strengthen the importance of Bat, Al-Khutm, and Al-Ayn from the Early Bronze Age to the Islamic period.