This volume contains 23 of over 50 papers presented at the Red Sea V conference. Research on various aspects of the Red Sea has expanded dramatically over the last several decades or so, and this conference, the fifth held in Great Britain, testifies to this growing interest. This 2010 biennial gathering was held in conjunction with a small but very informative exhibit “The Dhow: Mastery of the Monsoon.” This reviewer attended the conference and delivered a paper, which is not published here.

Divided into six sections, the volume presents paper topics ranging chronologically from ancient (Old and New Kingdom Egypt) to modern and covers archaeology (both terrestrial and underwater), comparative travel, history, ancient ship architecture, ethnography, analysis of botanical studies made during Niebuhr’s expedition to Yemen in the eighteenth century, and the level of modern awareness of the Red Sea among some of those living along its shores.


of Space on the Red Sea," 8, by R. Blench, "The Semitisation of the Arabian Peninsula and the Problem of its Reflection in the Archaeological Record."


The editors should be commended for producing this volume as rapidly as they did; the photographs and drawings, some in color, are clear and of good quality. Some chapters (9, by Nalesini and 21, by Weschenfelder), however, would have benefited from additional editing for their grammar and writing style; other contributions have some inconsistencies in spelling and the inevitable, but relatively few, typographical errors.

This reviewer noted some factual errors and omissions in several of the chapters, and he would also beg to differ with some of the observations presented.

Kitchen's paper assumes that Pharaonic era ships sailing from Egypt to Punt carried all the food and water necessary for crews for the entire voyage. This is highly doubtful. Certainly such vessels had to land occasionally to rest the crews, who undoubtedly supplemented their diets with items acquired ashore.

Contrary to what Durand notes in her chapter, there are probably only a hundred or so Nabataean graffiti and dipinti (the latter on ostraca for the most part) thus far documented from the Eastern Desert of Egypt (outside Sinai), not the "hundreds" that she mentions.

Blue's, Hill's, and Thomas' informative chapter on the underwater survey of ancient shipwrecks does not record additional amphora sherds and remains of at least one almost entire (but broken) amphora (noted by this reviewer on a dive there in August 2007) from the Fury Shoals wreck located some distance from the main concentration of amphoras they discuss.

P. Shechan's paper on the Port of Babylon suggests that shipment of stone from the Eastern Desert quarries in Roman times was via the Red Sea and the Nile-Red Sea canal, but this reviewer knows of no ancient texts or archaeological data that support this assumption, at least on a regular basis; all the evidence points to shipment of lithic products from the Eastern Desert to the Nile for onward transport.

Mallinson's chapter on Suakin contains a number of inaccuracies and omissions. He has incorrect dates for both the Periplos Maris Erythraei (almost unanimously held to be approximately mid to third quarter or second half of the first century CE not mid-first century BCE) and also for Claudius Ptolemys Geography (mid second century CE, not ca. 160 BCE). It is not clear whether Mallinson places Harshepsut's reign in the Middle or New Kingdom, the latter, of course, being the correct period. This reader is not certain that any cisterns have been documented from excavations at Myos Hormos (Quiseri Al Qadim); the single example found thus far in excavations at Berenike (of which this reviewer is co-director) is only a small portion of one in the Ptolemaic industrial area at the extreme western end of the site. Mallinson notes a Nubian attack on Egypt in the time of Caesar; this occurred, however, during the reign of Octavian/Augustus. Although the Periplos Maris Erythraei indicates that ships from the Red Sea sailed along the Indian Ocean coast of Africa, Mallinson's reference to archaeological evidence of Roman presence in these areas, specifically Tanzania and Raphia, is not well documented; a few beads from these regions may or may not be of Roman provenance, and, if they are Roman, they may have reached here indirectly through some third party. Mallinson refers to multi-storied structures at Suakin built of coral as if this were the only archaeological site on the Red Sea coast with such buildings; we have excavated numerous multi-storied edifices—constructed of fossilized coral heads—of the mid to late fourth and early fifth century CE at Berenike. Mallinson suggests (by omission) that his project first recorded the classical Greco-Roman architectural
remains at Adobana, south of Suakin and Aqiq (photos on p. 163); this reviewer was a member of a survey team that 
documented these in December 2004 and published those results 

Phasing of some of the excavations at Suakin (on pp. 178– 
179) in the chapter by Smith, *et al.* is inconsistent. In some places 
phase 1 is the latest level on the site, and in others phase 5 is the 
latest. Although this chapter was not intended as a field report,
better editing here would have noted and corrected this 
discrepancy.

Aside from these criticisms, this reviewer found the papers 
collectively informative and useful for those interested not only in 
some aspect of the history and archaeology of the Red Sea but also 
for comparative purposes for those undertaking research in the 
wider Mediterranean, Middle East and Indian Ocean basin.