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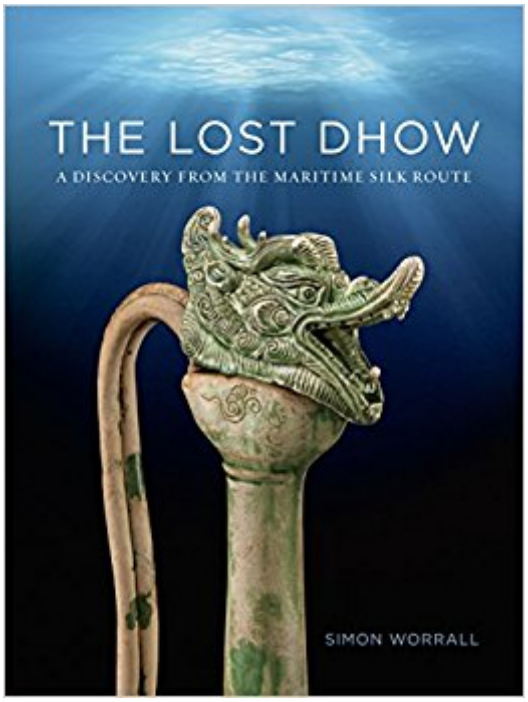
The Lost Dhow: A Discovery From The Maritime Silk Route



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Synopsis

Magnificent 9th-century Tang dynasty gold, silver, and bronze objects and thousands of ceramics were recently discovered off the coast of Belitung Island, Indonesia, as part of an Arab shipwreck. In 1998 fishermen discovered a remarkable wreck of a 9th-century Arab merchant ship just off the coast of Belitung Island, Indonesia. The sunken shipÃ¢â ¬â„¢s amazing cargo included silver ingots, bronze mirrors, gold and silver vessels, and 60,000 glazed ceramics. As the oldest Arab ship ever found in Asian waters, the wreck is one of the most important archaeological finds of the late 20th century, is the earliest datable shipwreck in Southeast Asia, and confirms the existence of a direct maritime trade route between East and West, stretching from the Arabian Gulf to the ports of China. The Lost Dhow, a companion book to an exhibition hosted by TorontoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Aga Khan Museum in the winter of 2014Ã¢â ¬â œ15, combines art, history, and marine archaeology in a dramatic narrative of the fabled Tang dynasty and its relationship with the Arab world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Simon Worrall wrote previously about the Belitung shipwreck for National Geographic and is also the author of the acclaimed non-fiction book The Poet and the Murderer. He has published articles in a wide range of magazines and newspapers, including Smithsonian, The New Yorker, The Guardian, The Paris Review, and London'sÃ Â Sunday Times. Simon divides his time between Herefordshire, England, and Long Island, New York.

I read in the recent DIVER (Canadian) magazine an article on a wreck found in 1998 off the coast of

Belitung Island (east of Sumatra) and its contents of numerous examples of Tang pottery and gold/silver metalwork. This book accompanies a traveling exhibition of the pieces recovered from the wreck which date to ca. 825-850 during the Tang and Abbasid Empires and the artifacts recovered subseqently rewrote history, evidencing an Indian Ocean maritime route for which no artifacts have so far been able to confirm.I ordered the book right after reading the article. It's a small book, some 25 pages of real text, the other half pictures. Very worth it if you're into underwater archaeology/diving and/or interested in less-studied regions of world history.

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