

Prof. Dr. Paul A. Yule completed his doctorate at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University and his habilitation at Heidelberg University, where he taught until 2015. Today, the archaeologist conducts fieldwork in the Sultanate of Oman, and until 2010 in the Yemen at Zafar, as well as in Tigray. For the RAN Newsletter, he reports on his current research project, which deals with pottery and other findings from the Samad Late Iron Age period (around 300 BC to AD 300) in Oman.



Hardly its least interesting one, the late pre-Islamic Samad Late Iron Age (SLIA) of the Sultanate of Oman is the least studied period in SE Arabia. Crystallizing out of recent studies, fieldwork and intensive networking, our project redresses four deficits: 1) The pottery chronology needs an update. 2) For the SLIA assemblage radiometric datings in SE Arabia need to be strengthened. 3) Site verification is ongoing to even locate a given site and enable basic judgement including area, density and preservation influences. 4) Students have poor chances to be aware of and establish themselves in this subfield at university.

Made possible by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation, main goals include raising the catalogue standard for the publication of pottery and other finds of the SLIA. This project finishes publication projects which years ago were begun, but for various reasons could not be finished. A relatively modest investment enables accumulated SLIA materials to be developed into publishable form, which otherwise would never see the light of day. While the wonderful Bronze Age of the of south-eastern Arabia is in danger of being overgrazed, the SLIA is still in its discovery phase. Activities include documenting an unpublished excavation and making two test trenches to find comparable artefacts.
