

Call for Papers

**Equipe de Recherche : Archéologie Patrimoine Développement, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir-Morocco
and
Centro de Estudos em Arqueologia Artes e Ciências do Património (CEAACP)-PORTUGAL**

organize

International Conference

Agadir and Southern Morocco In International Maritime Trade from the 15th Century

Agadir.27-29 June, 2019

Agadir had been known to Europeans for a long time. In the 14th and 15th centuries, European charts show the place as Porto Mesegina (port of the local Mesguina tribe). It is from this time that the history of Agadir begins at the international scale.

In 1505, the Portuguese built at the same place on the coast, located at the foot of the spur overlooking the bay of Agadir, a fortress with a trading post, to which they gave the name of Santa Cruz do Cabo do Aguer (Holy Cross of Cap Guir). This site was occupied by the Portuguese until 1541, when the Saadian dynasty, after having built the Kasbah (fortress) of Agadir Oufella at the top of the same spur, was able to end their presence in Agadir.

It must be said that the Portuguese strongholds, including Santa Cruz, which also formed ports along the Moroccan coast of the Atlantic, also played the role of starting point for the extension of commercial shipping routes to the Indies and the conquest of new territories.

The strategic maritime position of Agadir, as well as the fish, agricultural and mining wealth of its region (Souss), generated considerable economic and commercial prosperity. This port city, which enjoyed a good reputation internationally, was the object of greed among Europeans. Dutch, English, Portuguese, Italian, Danish, French and Spanish traders continued to dispute the influence. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the port of Agadir became a key destination for international trade, where products and merchandise from Europe and sub-Saharan countries (ancient Sudan) were exchanged and transited. From this port we also exported products from southern Morocco (especially Souss sugar). Historical sources note that "the port of Agadir had recorded under the Saadians, its largest customs revenue, given the tax benefits granted to the export". These same sources add that at this port, "the activity of the export concerned mainly the sugar of the region of Souss which was very demanded in Europe. "

Numerous historical and archaeological evidences reveal the fame of Agadir and the importance of its international trade. The historian El Oufrani (1669-1743) writes in his work "Nozhet el Had", that the Saadian sultans brought Carrara marble from Italy, which they paid in sugar

"weight for weight". Also, a marble slab currently placed above the entrance door of the Kasbah of Agadir Oufella, bears a Dutch inscription "Vreest God endeeert den Koning", which means "Fear God and honor your king", accompanied by the date of 1746. This plate could belong to a Dutch trading post installed in Agadir.

The strengthening of commercial relations with England will lead to the creation in 1583 of the "Barbary Company". Moroccan sugar was in great demand in England, and "Queen Elizabeth only wants Souss sugar on its table" (SIHM). The remains of the Casamar counter in Tarfaya, also reflects the commercial interest of England in southern Morocco.

Historical sources point out those trade relations with Denmark were also closely linked. The celebrity of Agadir in this country is evidenced by the engraving of the Danish Peter Haas, published in Copenhagen in 1779. Adding that the major Italian cities, especially Genoa, dominated, under the protection of the Portuguese, the markets of the Atlantic coast of Morocco, in particular those of the ports of Souss. During the archaeological work undertaken in Agadir Oufella, as part of the university project about the valorization of this archaeological site (project in progress), a large number of ceramic shards from Europe and Asia were collected, testifying the density of commercial activities at this port site.

After a period of prosperity under the reigns of the Saadian sultans and the first Alawites, Agadir began to decline from 1765, when the port of Mogador (present-day city of Essaouira) was built, replacing that of Agadir.

At the end of the 19th century, Agadir resumed its economic and strategic place of yesteryear. German traders, including the Mannesmann brothers, settled in Souss, where they occupied farmland and mines for export. The importance of Agadir manifests itself again in 1911, during the Franco-German conflict concerning the occupation of this strategic locality (Crisis of Agadir of 1911), notably with the arrival of the German warship "Panther". In 1913, French troops landed in Agadir Oufella, after the settlement of this conflict, following the abandonment of France from part of the Congo to Germany.

In 1960, Agadir was ravaged by a violent earthquake. The two historic districts of Agadir Oufella, the Kasbah and Founti (location of the old port), were totally destroyed.

It can be said that Agadir, a port city open to the outside world, has for centuries been a city of encounters, exchanges and social and human mixing.

This rich and long history of Agadir spread over several centuries, remains little known. One of the objectives of this conference is to reveal, in its international dimension, the deep history of this city / capital of southern Morocco, recognizing its place and the importance of its role in the expansion and prosperity of international trade during the period in question.

The communications could fall under one of the following axes, the list of which is not exhaustive:

- ✚ The European maritime powers and the Atlantic coasts of West Africa since the 15th century.
- ✚ Maritime Expansion and Evolution of Shipbuilding during the Modern Historical Era
- ✚ Port and Coastal Improvements in Modern Times: Case Studies
- ✚ Agadir and southern Morocco in international maritime circuits during the modern era
- ✚ Products and goods of transit and trade between Africa and Europe at the port of Agadir during the modern historical epoch
- ✚ Material traces of international maritime trade in Agadir and southern Morocco.
- ✚ Agadir and southern Morocco in Morocco-European trade treaties in modern era
- ✚ Contribution of maritime archeology to the knowledge of maritime trade

- ✚ Agadir and its region in contemporary historical period (19-20th centuries): German presence, Franco-German conflict, French colonization,...
- ✚ New technologies (ICT) in the study of maritime heritage and maritime history.
- ✚ Maritime Museums and knowledge of maritime trade
- ✚ Historic port cities: human mixing and identity: case studies
- ✚ Maritime heritage and local touristic development

Proposals for communication should be sent to: colloque.agmaritime19@gmail.com

Calendar:

- Date and place of the conference: 27-29 June, 2019, Agadir in Morocco.
- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 25 March 2019.
- Notification to authors: April 10, 2019.
- Deadline for sending the final texts of the papers: 10 June 2019

Useful information:

- Conference languages: French, English and Arabic
- The speaking time of each communication is 15 minutes.
- Each abstract, of a maximum page, will be accompanied by a short CV of the author(s).
- The authors will include in their abstracts: their name, quality, institutional affiliation or home organization, contact details and the title of the communication
- The proceedings of the conference will be published

The organizers do not cover travel and accommodation costs.

- Coordinators:

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