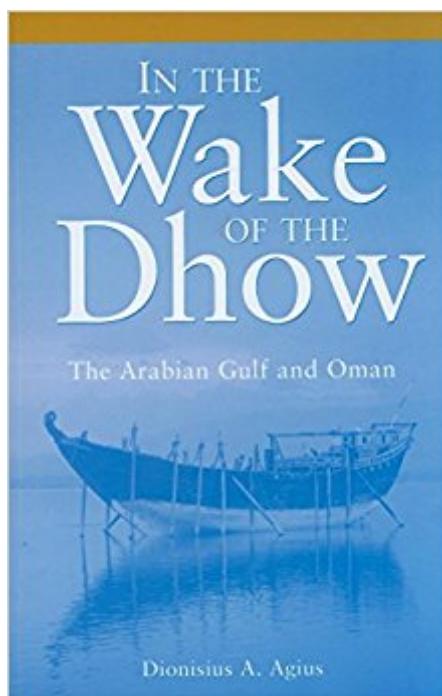


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In The Wake Of The Dhow: The Arabian Gulf And Oman



Synopsis

The Arabian dhow, with its characteristic features, is one of the most evocative images of the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean. The great cargo dhows represented a flourishing trade which stretched from the Mediterranean to China, in the time of the Portuguese and the Dutch from the 16th to the 18th centuries. When the pearl diving industry was at its height in the 19th and early 20th centuries, hundreds of pearl diving dhows were actively employed, carrying thousands of seamen diving for the finest pearls - a commodity much sought by the Western powers. In times of war, the dhows were magnificent fighting vessels and were associated with piracy that was so prevalent in these waters. Now in paperback, this book documents the dhow as an important element in the prosperity of the area before the discovery of oil. The book gives the geographical conditions and the historical/linguistical background of each dhow-type, the life-pattern in its role as cargo, pearl-diving, pirate and slaving vessels, and how the seafaring communities interacted with the dhow world.

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Dionisius A. Agius is Professor of Arabic and Islamic Material Culture at the University of Exeter. His research is mainly on the comparative and historical aspects of Arabic language, society and culture, focusing particularly on the semantics of material-cultural terminology, with a special interest in ship-types and ship-building techniques in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

If you're looking for a book on boats in the Persian/Arabian Gulf, this is a great one because it has all of the variations on boats that occur throughout the region. You're not getting generic words, but specific ones, used in particular ports.

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