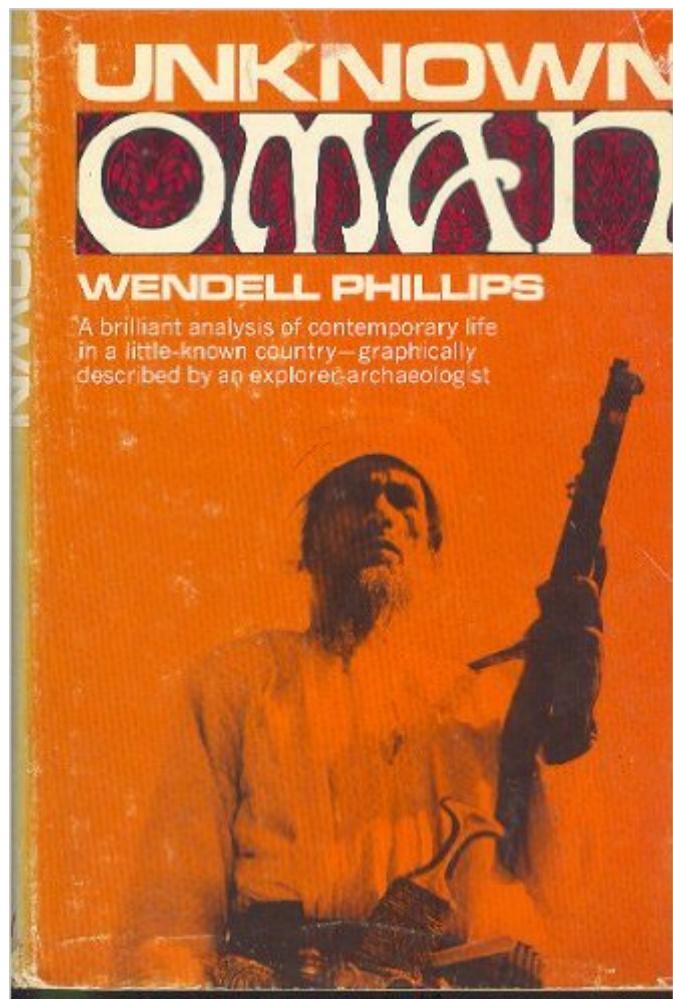


The book was found

Unknown Oman



Synopsis

Book by Phillips, Wendell

Book Information

Hardcover: 319 pages

Publisher: Intl Book Centre (June 1972)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0866850252

ISBN-13: 978-0866850254

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,733,987 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in [Books > History > Middle East > Oman](#) #4621 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Middle East](#)

Customer Reviews

The book's content is pretty amazing, and you'd have to be a really rotten writer not to be able to write something interesting about Oman at that time. But Wendell is not a rotten writer; and perhaps a prototype for Indiana Jones. Wendell turns up in the area as an archaeology grad student in his 20s and talks his way into a major 'dig', in the Yemen. Finds some stuff that indicates that it's Sheba's city (or one of them), the war starts in the Yemen, he and his crew have to literally drop everything and run for the border of Oman. He gets befriended by the old Sultan and goes off to look for a lost city in the Rub al Kali. As well as this does some research and digging in Sohar and other places. The information on the digs is interesting, but what is really interesting in this book are his comments documenting contemporary Oman - before the oil was found. This was a place that had no roads no schools no hospitals, and yet had fallen from the position of having had a trading empire (slaves) that included the E coast of Africa as its sphere of interest and Zanzibar as the sister city of Muscat. They sent an equipped warship to America as a present - and yet it had become utterly forgotten by the rest of the world. Unknown indeed. It's a fascinating read. It could have been an account by Burton or Speke (if he could have written anything) but it's not a report of 19thC Africa, this is the middle of the 20thC. It's quite extraordinary. The chapter on 'medical' practices alone is worth having the book for. It's a bit gruesome, but made sense of things that I saw in Oman while I was there. Lots of men with burn scars. Searing was a sort of Arabic form of acupuncture - runny nose? hmm red hot iron to the back of the neck should fix it.

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