

<p><b>Objectives of Symposium:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To encourage archaeological work on a crucial and largely unknown period in Algerian history.</li> <li>- To revise the colonial school's approach to examining and interrogating the archaeological heritage of the Maghrib al-Awsat in general.</li> <li>- Employing archaeological approaches to investigate a historical period with scarce local written documents.</li> <li>- Charting new paths for archaeological research for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers in this field.</li> </ul> <p><b>Symposium Themes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urban settlements in the Maghrib-al-Awsat during the first four centuries of the Islamic period.</li> <li>- Aspects of agriculture and irrigation in the early Maghrib al-Awsat.</li> <li>- The development of mints and the evolution of coinage in the early Maghrib al-Awsat.</li> <li>- Cultural connections between the Maghrib al-Awsat and its neighbours during this period.</li> <li>- Archaeological maps of mines and mining activities in the Maghrib al-Awsat during the early Middle Ages.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Symposium Preparatory Committees:</b></p> <p><b>* Organising Committee:</b></p> <p>Pr.Doc. Amel Youssefi ..... Deputy HOD.      Doc. Qada Labtar ..... Laboratory Manager.      Doc. Aicha Fatemi ..... Division Head.      Doc. Samia Bouragueba ..... Laboratory Researcher.      Aissa Koujati ..... PhD Student.      Athemane Yabedri ..... PhD Student.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * *</p> <p><b>* Scientific Committee:</b></p> <p>Pr.Doc. Stefan Heidemann ..... U. Hamburg, Germany.      Pr.Doc. Alastair Northedge ..... U. Sorbonne. 1, France.      Pr.Doc. Rafael Blanco-Guzman .... U. Cordoba, Spain.      Pr.Doc. Faouzi Mahfoudh ..... U. Manouba, Tunisia.      Pr.Doc. Mohammed Hossein ..... U. Masquet, Oman.      Pr.Doc. Maarouf Belhadj ..... U. Tlemcen, Algeria.      Pr.Doc. Rezki Chergui ..... U. Tlemcen, Algeria.      Pr.Doc. Bouabdallah Beljouzi .... U. Tlemcen, Algeria.      Doc. Tarek Sabraa ..... U. Münster, Germany.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—————</p>	<p>Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry      Abou Bekr Belkaid-Tlemcen University      Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Department of Archaeology      In collaboration with      The Laboratory of Archaeological Heritage      And its Valorisation</p> <p>Organizing an International Symposium with      The Title:</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><b>THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE      EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD IN      MAGHRIB AL-AWSAT (ALGERIA)      (1ST -4TH CENTURIES A. H / 7TH-      10TH CENTURIES C.E)      -CROSS-READINGS-</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * *</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2026      Department of Archaeology, Section VI, New Pole.</p>
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### \* Preamble:

Since the establishment of the “Islamic Antiquities” specialization at the University of Algiers in 1923 under the supervision of Georges Marçais (1876-1962), the archaeology of the first four centuries of the Islamic period in the Maghrib-al-Awsat (current Algeria) has not received significant attention.

The relevant archaeological excavations thus far have been limited to merely seven sites, three of which were excavated in hurried fashion during the period of the French occupation: *Tihart* by Marçais and de Lamare in the 1940s; *Ashir* by Marçais’ student Lucien Golvin (1949-1952); and *Sedrata* by the independent researcher Marguerite Van Berchem (1952-1953).



Early Islamic copper coin of Tilimsān stroked by The Umayyad governor “Mūsā b. Nuṣayr” (704-714).

In his historical and geographical studies on medieval North Africa, Emile Felix Gautier (1864-1940) denied the existence of local states and significant political entities in the *Al-Maghrib-al-*

*Awsat*, reducing the history of the region to a series of sterile tribal conflicts between Bedouins and urbanites, which he called the “Dark Ages”. For him, the lack of political development of the local population and its narrow-minded tribalism, resulted in an inability to establish durable state-structures.



A glass pound discovered in Mila, dated (127AH/745AD)

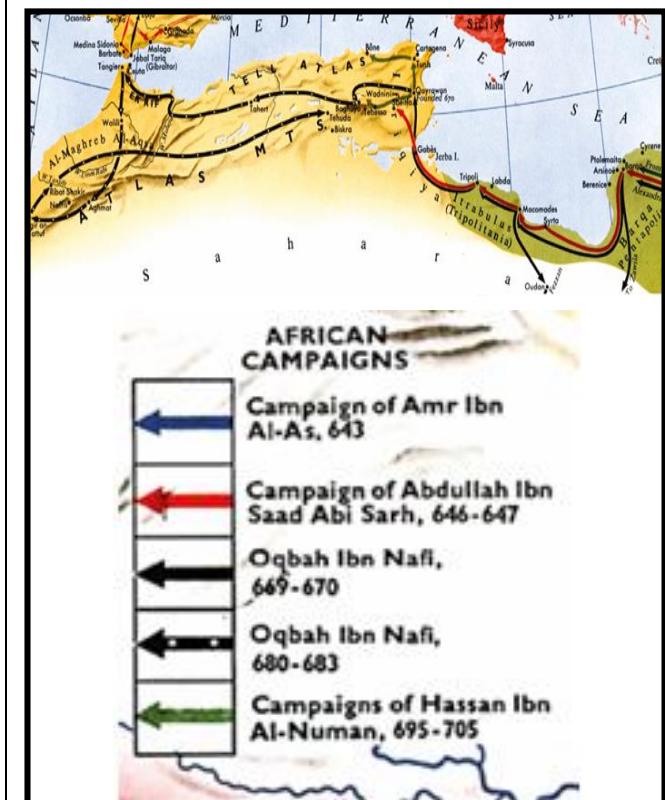
-The *Fihri* Emirate- preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Art, Algiers.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding, the Archeology Department at the University of Tlemcen (2021-2025) is organizing an international symposium which recognises the need for a more intensive and comprehensive investigation of the *Maghrib al-Awsat* in the early Islamic period. The symposium seeks to evaluate archaeological and historical approaches and methodologies, past and present, and to foreground archaeological evidence that has been largely neglected since the pioneers of the colonial archaeological school. This critical work, it is hoped, will bring greater awareness of

The early Islamic period and foster interest among young researchers and students.

### \* Questions:

What types of material evidence survive from this largely obscure period in medieval Algerian history? What are some effective ways to foster collaboration between researchers working in the archaeological and historical (textual) fields?



Map of The Early Islamic campaigns in North Africa, From the beginning to the death of al-Kahina (74H/693CE).





Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry



Abou Bekr Belkaid-Tlemcen University

Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty

Department of Archaeology in collaboration with  
The Laboratory of Archaeological Heritage and its Valorisation

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### International Symposium Programme

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#### **First Day (Saturday 7th February 2026)**

Reception of Conference participants from abroad and outside of Tlemcen

#### **Second Day (Sunday 8th February 2026)** **(Inaugural Session)**

Recitation of verses from the holy Qur'an .....	09:30 - 09:35
National anthem .....	09:35 - 09:40
President of the Conference Speech .....	09:40 - 09:50
Welcoming address by the Dean of the faculty .....	09:50 - 10:00
Opening remarks by the Rector of the University .....	10:00 - 10:05
Inaugural Communication: <b><i>Tubna, the Silverhub of the Abbasid Empire</i></b> .....	10:05 - 10:25
Coffee break .....	10:25 - 10:45

**First Session:** Chairman: Prof. Dr. B. Marouf, Rapporteur: Dr. A. S. Baadj

L'Afrique du nord à la veille de la conquête musulmane ( <b><i>North Africa on the eve of the Muslim conquest</i></b> ) .....	Prof. Dr. S. Drici, Algeria.	10:45 - 11:05
The 'Dark' Period of the Early Islamic Maghreb: Post-conquest Spaces and Polities across Literary Genres .....	Prof. Dr. K. Franz, Germany.	11:10 - 11:30
<b><i>Mulahazat 'an etta'myr wa al'umran fi al-majalayn al-kutami wa al-ssnhajy fi al-fatarat al'Islamiya al-mubakira (Observations on urban development and stellement in the Kutama and Sanhaja regions during the early Islamic period)</i></b> .....	Prof. Dr. A. Amara, Algeria.	11:35 - 11:55
Debate .....		12:00 - 12:15

<b>Second Session:</b> Chairman: Prof. Dr. B. Beljouzi, Rapporteur: Prof. Dr. A. Youssefi	
<i>Mulahazat hawl al-falaahin fi 'afriqiya min al-'eusur al-qadima al-mta 'khira hatta al-'easr al-zzyry (Obsevations on peasants in North Africa from late antiquity to the Zirid period) .....</i>	Dr. A. S. Baadj, Algeria. 12:15 - 12:35
<i>Min al-fatrat al-qadima al-muta'akhira ila bidayat al-fatrat al-islamia: Qira'at 'atharia limawqi'c Tahudat fi daw' 'asalib al-tinqyb al-hadith (From the late antiquity to the early Islamic period: An Archaeological Reading of the Tahouda Site in Light of Modern Excavation Methods) .....</i>	Hadji. Y. R, Algeria. 12:40 - 13:00
<i>Settlements in the Early Islamic Maghrib al-Awsat .....</i>	R. K. MEWES, Germany. 13:05 - 13:25
Debate .....	13:30 - 13:45
Lunch break .....	
<b>Third Session:</b> Chairman: Prof. Dr. M. Ben Hammou, Rapporteur: Prof. Dr. A. Bassou	
<i>Fanu al-zzakhrafa al-jissiya bi Aljazayir khilal al-qarnayn al-thany wa al-rabi'c al-hijri dirasa lil 'ibda'at al-fanniya bi madinat sadrata al-'atharia (The art of stucco decoration in Algeria during the second and fourth centuries AH; A study of artistic creations in the ancient city of Sedrata) .....</i>	Prof. Dr. B. Marouf, Algeria. 15:00 - 15:20
<i>Hawl 'aqdam naqd burunzi 'islami madruba fi almaghrib al'awsat (al-jazayir) wa 'aqdam ratl zujaji mu'adal bihi (About the oldest Islamic copper coin stroked in al-Maghrib al-Awsat (Algeria) and the oldest glass pound calibrated there) .....</i>	Prof. Dr. R. Chergui, Algeria. 15:25 - 15:45
Debate .....	15:50 - 16:05
Closing ceremony .....	15:25 - 15:45
<b>Third Day (Monday 9th February 2026)</b>	
Symposium Post-Event & Recommandations .....	09:00 - 10:00
A curated cultural tour of Tlemcen and its surroundings, hosted in honour of our guests .....	

