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Obituary: Donald Scott Whitcomb (April 27, 1944 - February 8, 2024)

Shahin Aryamanesh¹ 

Donald Scott Whitcomb was born on 27 April 1930. He was a revered scholar whose contributions to the field of Islamic Archaeology especially in the Persian Gulf region were immeasurable. He was research associated in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago since the beginning of 1981. Whitcomb then served as an Associate at this Institute, since 1990. His Master's thesis dealt with the *Proto-Elamite Period at Tall-i Ghazir, Iran* despite the fact that his expertise was in Islamic Archaeology.




Donald Whitcomb was a pioneer scholar whose work encompassing fieldwork, excavations across numerous regions, including Iran, Georgia, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Territories, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey.

Before the Roses and Nightingales: Excavations at Qasr-i Abu Nasr, Old Shiraz is one of his most important books, which depicts old Shiraz from his own perspective. This place, which is also known as Takht Abu Nasr and Takht Mader Suleiman, is a historical place in the northeast of present Shiraz.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted excavation and survey ranging seven seasons at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf. David Whitehouse, along with co-authors Donald Whitcomb and Tony Wilkinson, published the results of their investigation into the city of Siraf, one of the largest archaeological sites of any period on the Iranian coast of the Persian Gulf. *The Siraf: History, Topography and Environment* is a very important source for researchers dealing with the Persian Gulf.

Donald Whitcomb passed away on February 8, 2024 at the age of 79.

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