

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE CONSERVATION OF OC EO CULTURAL ARTIFACTS - A STUDY CASE FROM THE MEKONG DELTA MUSEUM, VIETNAM

Quang Khanh Nguyen



Distribution of Oc Eo culture (I - VII centuries)



Excavation in 2017 - 2020 period

Acknowledgments
Provided by Kien Giang Museum, Vietnam and supported by the STECCI Consortium & Organizing Committee, and the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

Research Question
How can Oc Eo cultural objects be preserved under climate threats (sea level rise, salinization, humidity, flooding)?

Methods

Survey of 4000 artifacts (1983–1986, and 2017–2020).
Climate data analysis (temperature, humidity, salinity).
Preventive conservation practices in storage & exhibitions.

Key Findings

Artifacts: Ceramics, terracotta, gold, gemstones, metal molds, stone/wood sculptures.

Climate impacts

Stone/metal → corrosion, cracks.
Wood → mold, termites.
Terracotta → salt efflorescence, fractures.

Gold/jewelry → tarnish, oxidation.

Challenges

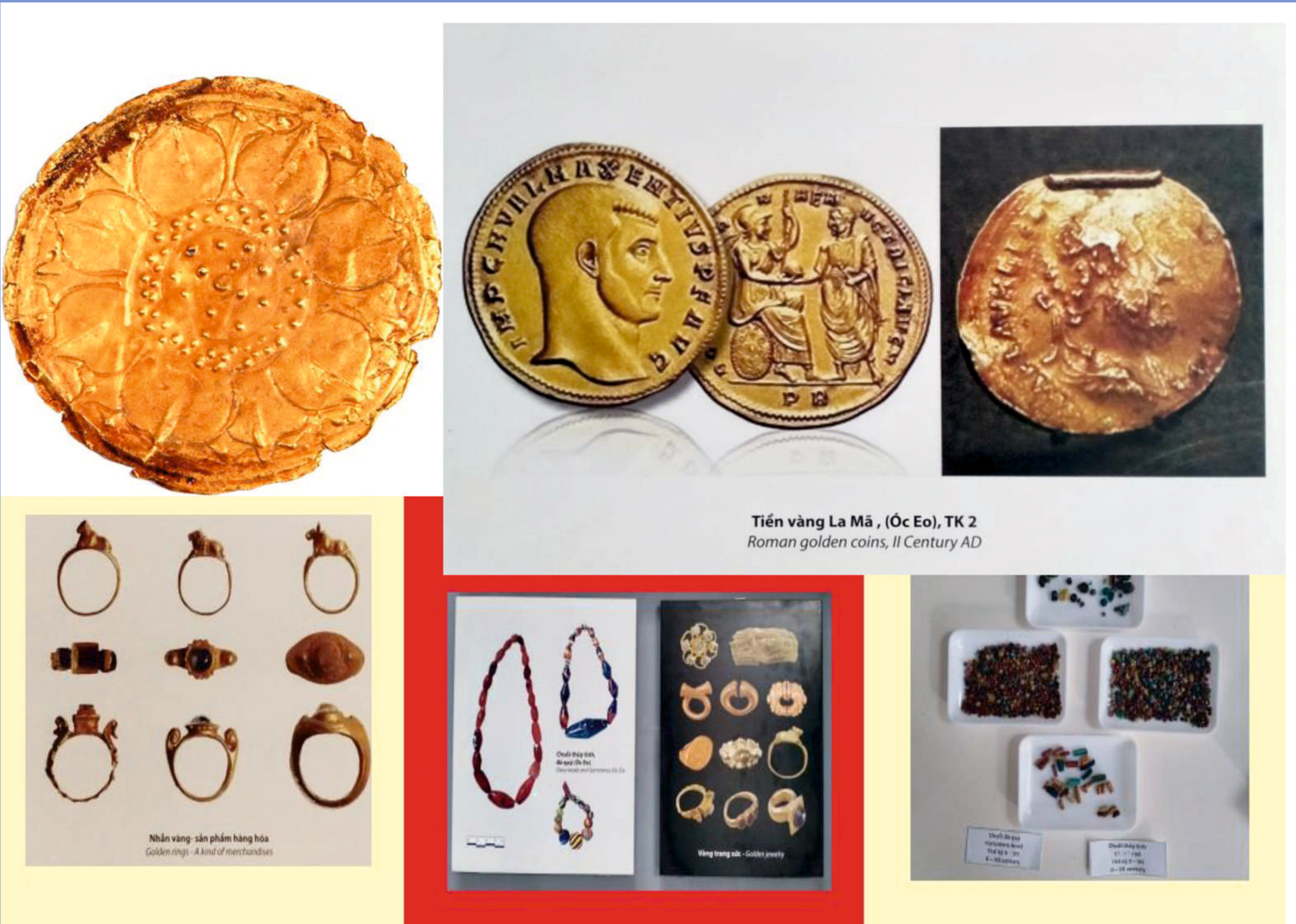
Outdated storage, limited staff, rising sea levels.



Precious stone collection of Oc Eo culture (I - VII centuries)



Ongoing Conservation of Oc Eo Artifacts



Gold Artifacts from the Oc Eo Culture after Conservation

Conclusion

Climate change already damages Oc Eo heritage. Urgent needs:

- Microclimate control, and upgraded storage.
- Staff training in preventive conservation.
- Digitization for long - term preservation.