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## **A collection of boat models from the Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico “Luigi Pigorini”: a case study**

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A collection of boat model kept in the former Colonial Museum in Rome, now housed in the Museo Preistorico Etnografico “Luigi Pigorini” is a rare testimony, in Italy, of traditional boats in use in the early 20th century in the Mediterranean and in the western Indian Ocean. The project – a collaboration among the Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico “Luigi Pigorini”, the Università di Napoli “L’Orientale” and the Università di Napoli “Federico II” – aimed at: providing a digital record of the models, which are currently not on exhibit, an accurate description to improve and update the current museum inventory, to understand more about the history of the collection, and to study the models and the boats they represent. Some model boats were photographed to produce a digital 3D model, in order to obtain line drawings and to conduct hydrostatic analysis. This study has allowed to identify the different types of boats represented by the models and to make an assessment of their historical and ethnographic value.

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