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THE IASA BULLETIN



The Latest News and Research in the Arabian Peninsula



IASA

International Association
for the Study of Arabia

الرابطة الدولية لدراسة الجزيرة العربية

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formerly the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia

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Notes for contributors to the Bulletin

The Bulletin depends on the good will of IASA members and correspondents to provide contributions. News, items of general interest, details of completed postgraduate research, forthcoming conferences, meetings and special events are welcome.

Please email: current_research@thebfsa.org

Grants in aid of research

The grants scheme has been reformulated and details including deadlines are announced on the IASA website

<https://www.thebfsa.org/content/grants>

Membership

Membership details are available from the IASA website www.thebfsa.org. For membership renewals contact William Deadman, BFSa Membership Secretary, Department of Archaeology, Durham University, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, or email: membership@thebfsa.org

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On the cover: Fishing activity at Sigalat Lamba, Massawa, Eritrea 2011 (photo MARES D.A. Agius). Read about Dionisius A. Agius' documentation of life in the Red Sea region in the Last Word section.

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WELCOME

As you will have already noticed from our brand new front cover the BFSa has now officially changed its name to the International Association for the Study of Arabia (IASA). However our goals remain the same and we continue to promote research relating to the Arabian Peninsula in a wide range of fields including archaeology, history, literature, art, geography, geology and natural history. Our annual Bulletin provides the same wide range of information on current research and events, publications, fieldwork and conferences relating to the Arabian Peninsula. It also contains details of grants and awards available to researchers working in Arabia.

The 2019 Bulletin contains information on the IASA's work over the last year, including reports our lecturers and research projects funded through our grants. The Bulletin also includes an overview of other research that was conducted in Arabia during the previous year.

After thirteen years as book reviews editor of the Bulletin, Will Facey is stepping down. We thank him for all of his work over the years and hope you enjoy his final selection of reviews of recent publications on Arabia.

The Last Word section this year features the work of Dionisius A. Agius as he records the lives and experiences of mariners in the Red Sea.

If you have anything to contribute to next year's Bulletin please email: current_research@thebfsa.org. You can stay up-to-date with BFSa on Facebook and on Twitter @TheBFSa.

Kind thanks also to all of the many contributors to the Bulletin, and to you, the reader, for your continued support of the IASA. The IASA is sincerely grateful to the MBI Al Jaber Foundation for supporting the Bulletin.

Daniel Eddisford (Editor)

IASA NEWS

The BFSA becomes the IASA!

In February of this year BFSA members were asked to vote on an amendment to our constitution that changed the name of our organisation from the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia to the International Association for the Study of Arabia (IASA).

This proposal came about as, in the decade since the BFSA was created by the merger of the organizing committees of the Seminar for Arabian Studies and the Society for Arabian Studies, our membership and activities had become increasingly international. Our members come from 16 countries around the world, and our social media following from 47 countries. The Seminar for Arabian Studies welcomes delegates from over 20 countries. In recent years over 85% of the papers given have been by non-UK and non-UK-based scholars.

As you may know, this year the Seminar for Arabian Studies has accepted the invitation of the University of Leiden for the Seminar to be hosted by them, and we hope that other collaborative projects with international partners will follow. Members were overwhelmingly in favour of the amendment, and thus we are now the International Association for the Study of Arabia. We hope that the change in name from 'British' to 'International' will attract more members, partners and donors. We are very keen to increase our membership and we know that there are many potential new members in Europe, the Middle East and around the world, and want to encourage them to join by emphasising the international focus of what we do.

We remain a UK registered Charity. We value the transparency and good governance that the Charity Commission provides, and hope that this will reassure current and future donors. Our UK lecture programme will also continue in its present form and be UK based - though there could be opportunity for additional international lectures, so if your organisation is keen to host an IASA event, please let us know.

Thank you so much for your support of the BFSA over the past decade. We hope that you will continue to support the IASA. Our core aims and aspirations have not changed, but we hope that becoming the IASA will help us to grow and increase our promotion of research relating to the cultural and natural heritage of the Arabian Peninsula.

Carolyn Perry (Chair of the BFSA)

THE IASA

The International Association for the Study of Arabia (IASA) aims to act as a focal point and advocate for the study of Arabia's cultural heritage and to advance public knowledge of the Arabian Peninsula through the promotion of research into its history, antiquities, archaeology, ethnography, languages, literature, art, culture, customs, geography, geology and natural history. We do this through the raising of money, organization of events and the supporting of research and publications.

The IASA organises lectures, oversees the annual Seminar for Arabian Studies, publishes its own monograph series, and supports research and publications on the region. Full details can be found at our website: <http://www.thebfsa.org>. The following IASA News pages will explore this work in more detail.

IASA LECTURES

The IASA Events Subcommittee is planning a range of events in conjunction with like-minded organisations or institutions with relevant collections for the academic year 2019/20. Details will be circulated to IASA members shortly. If you have any suggestions for topics for Study Days, lectures, or other events, or belong to an institution that might wish to jointly host an event, please get in touch with Carolyn Perry via contact@thebfsa.org.

Travels and Plant Collections of Aucher-Éloy, Oman, 1838

by **Shahina Ghazanfar**

22nd February 2018, MBI Al Jaber Building, SOAS, London.

Dr Shahina Ghazanfar, Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, shared the travel experiences of Aucher-Éloy, the first plant collector to work and classify the flora of Oman. Dr Ghazanfar emphasised that Aucher-Éloy was educated by the best botanists of the early 19th century. She spoke about his travels throughout the Middle East which started in Turkey and then continued to Oman, where he spent nearly one month. At a very young age, Aucher-Éloy decided to travel in order to collect plants and then sell them in Paris but died before he could make his way back to France. He was never much appreciated while alive but after his death botanists started to acknowledge how important his work as a collector had proved to be. The plants that Aucher-Éloy described and took note of while in Oman were reported in his journal, which is now partially lost. The species he discovered were new to science and were divulged for the first in Boissier's book *Flora Orientalis*. To this day,

this volume remains the main reference for any botanist interested in studying the flora of eastern areas of the world. Modern studies have proved that there are some 1240 plant species in Oman, which makes it the third richest country in the Arabian Peninsula as far as biodiversity is concerned, but only 700 of these are in the northern part of the country, which Aucher-Éloy visited. He was able to report on circa 500 species, which is impressive considering the limited time he spent in the country. Curiously enough some of the plantations that used to be typical to Oman and fundamental to its export trade, as well as the feeding of the people themselves in Aucher-Éloy's time (e.g. sugar cane), are no longer in existence and Oman in recent times has been mostly dependent upon imports.

Report by **Marylyn Whaymand**

Beatrice de Cardi Lecture: Remarkable new discoveries from Iron Age Rustaq Oman

by **Derek Kennet**

13th June 2018, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London

After the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia's (BFSa) Annual General Meeting, Dr Derek Kennet gave the 3rd Annual Beatrice de Cardi Lecture on the subject of the Iron Age archaeology of a little-studied region in Oman. Referring to a map of the usual archaeological sites in South East Arabia, Dr Kennet explained that, especially with regard to the sites of the Iron Age, there is a vast area that might be called *Terra incognita* (the unknown land) of Oman's Batinah region. This area has had, until recently, little attention from Archaeologists, despite Rustaq being an ancient town, with a name that presumably takes its name from the Persian for a collection or district of villages (Persia incorporated parts of Oman in its Empires during various periods before approximately 630AD).

The Iron Age in Oman spans a period roughly from 1300 -300BC (separated into Iron Age 1 from 1300-1000BC / Iron Age 2 1000-600BC/ Iron Age 3 600-300BC) though copper/bronze continued as the preferred metal in Oman, until more recent dates within this period. This was a period of substantial increase in the number of villages and presumably population growth, development of Aflaj, the water delivery system by channels both overground and underground, the domestication of the camel, and use of hilltops for fortifications and cultic use.

Sites from the Iron Age period in Oman include Lizq and Salut, which are on the other side of the major northern Oman Al Hajar mountain range from Rustaq. Nonetheless, although the region had an unpromising appearance Dr Kennet lead a small team to study the area, principally that between Wabal Village and opposite Al Woshil in Rustaq, but also secondary areas at Musanaah and As Suwayq. Despite this being a survey, rather than an excavation, almost immediately the area turned from *Terra incognita* into a land

of small villages that might even be proto-towns with subdivisions of purpose. In fact, such was the density and size of these settlements that the region may well turn out to be an exceptionally heavily developed area.

Notable and important finds from this survey include an interesting circular site on a hill's ridge with broad steps inside it and a postulated formal flight of steps ascending from the wadi bed; as at Lizq this Rustaq site might be a cultic centre. A second cultic site is what might be a Ziggurat, which would be the second in Oman, the other is west of Suhar, which is also on the same side of the Al Hajar mountains as Rustaq. As with most archaeological sites, the ones Dr Kennet surveyed may not have intrinsic value however with detailed excavations the knowledge they generate and interest that they attract may enable the Oman government to generate income from them through tourism. Report by **Tony Walsh**

MBI Al Jaber Foundation Lecture at the Seminar for Arabian Studies: Neither the Desert Nor the Sown: The Towns of the Arabian Gulf from the 18th to the 20th Century AD

by **Robert Carter**

4th August 2018, British Museum, London

From the 12th century AD small maritime-orientated settlements began to flourish along the Gulf coastline. Two sites grew into early urbanised settlements, Julfar and Qatif, and these established themselves as major pearl trading centres from the 17th century onwards. Economic power acquired from pearl-fishing drove changes in the ethnic composition of the Gulf towns, as well as changes in their size and number. By the 18th century, the trade in pearls allowed the region to take part in a global market and small urban centres arose as a result the pearl-fishing boom. Professor Carter believes Qatar to be a good example of this urbanisation process. Many cities such as Zubarah were founded or taken over by either the people of Kuwait or tribes coming from inland Arabia. Doha, the current capital of Qatar, for instance, started out as a fairly small town but went through fast-paced periods of growth and abandonment until it became the huge city that we know today. Doha is particularly interesting as it was, from the very beginning, organised into districts, according to the tribal composition of the local peoples. Over time, these districts assumed the names of the same tribes that first populated them.

The archaeological sites studied by Professor Carter were often poorly preserved, since when a site was abandoned the roofs were taken away and re-used, leaving all that was underneath them open to environmental and human factors. Professor Carter pointed out that as traders started making money by exporting pearls beyond the borders of the Gulf region during the late 18th century, imported western and far-eastern pottery became more widespread and were much-

appreciated luxury goods. In fact, Professor Carter and his colleagues found a great variety of imported pottery from Maastricht, in the Netherlands, as well as imitations of Chinese blue and white ceramics made in Japan.

When the pearl-fishing economy collapsed people migrated and many of the settlements were abandoned. Many of the small settlements were only re-established when people could make money from the new hydrocarbon economy. Professor Carter focused again on Doha and added that, after its 're-birth', Doha turned to a new material culture that came from the West, like most cities of the Gulf, but its population continued to live in buildings situated in the old town that had managed to survive the passage of time. A reception sponsored by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation followed the event.

Report by **Daniele Martiri**

Dragon's Blood Island: Socotra and Our Search for Dragons

by **Ella Al-Shamahi**

15th November 2018, MBI Al Jaber Building, SOAS, London

In her talk Ella discussed a recent expedition sponsored by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation. In March 2018 Ella Al-Shamahi, Leon McCarron, Martin Edström and Rhys Thwaites-Jones set off on a cement cargo ship in an attempt to reach Socotra and document this fascinating place. Ella talked about Socotra's uniqueness and the quasi-mystery of why the iconic Dragon's Blood Tree is struggling. She also discussed life on the island. Ella's talk illustrated the amazing biodiversity of Socotra, a zoological and botanical treasure trove and a refuge for species that have elsewhere become extinct. Long protected by the traditions and stewardship of Socotrans, the island is now being buffeted by geopolitics, rapid development and climate change. If you would like to read more about the expedition, please see Leon McCarron's recent article, featuring photos by Martin Edström: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2018/11/socotra-yemen-biodiversity-photography/>

Report by **Daniele Martiri**

The Periplus, South Arabia & the Far-Side Ports

by Carl Philips,

21st February 2019, MBI Al Jaber Building, SOAS, London.

Carl is well known to us all and delivered our inaugural Beatrice de Cardi Lecture after the BFSAGM in 2017. He is well versed in the area and worked closely with Paolo Costa who sadly died late last year. The question on many people's lips was 'What is the Periplus, anyway?' Carl was, understandably, ready for this enquiry and informed us that periplus is a Latinised Greek word meaning 'to go around', effectively a ship's log giving navigational and other details. The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea dates from the 1st century

AD and gives details for the Red Sea, South Arabian coast and on to India.

The oldest copy of the document dates from the 10th century and is kept in Heidelberg. The British Library has a 15th century version. There have been various translations and commentaries written; Galenius made a Latin translation in 1533. William Vincent, Dean of Westminster, made an English translation and commentary in 1809 which is the foundation for much subsequent work.

The 1833 survey by Capt Haines in the East India company brig *Palinurus*, which included James Wellsted, was the first modern survey of the South Arabian coastal area and still forms the basis for modern charts. Carl took us along on the journey to identify some of the places mentioned. There is very little archaeological evidence in the area but some rock art including South Arabian script. Wellsted identifies Cana with modern Bir Ali in Yemen and a University of Pisa excavation at Khor Rori in Oman suggests its identification with Mosca, both of which were important in the frankincense trade.

Carl then took us across the Gulf of Aden to the north coast of Somalia where he had conducted a recent surface survey. Berbera, the largest town in the region, is identified with Malao in the Periplus. A French expedition under Georges Revol excavated around Hais in 1881 and identified the site with ancient Mundus, finding high quality glass and (probably) Roman pottery. There are tomb concentrations on the high ground above the site away from the possibility of inundation. Carl's survey found worked coral and incense fragments among the potsherds and there were frankincense and myrrh trees in the hinterland beyond the hills.

In summary, the ports identified on the South Arabian coast can be connected to the relatively large Nabatean Hadramaut kingdoms whereas the Far-side ports appear much less complicated, probably indicating a more localised independent economy. So, while the Periplus is reassuring in the explanation of what we find, it is a working document with a practical purpose, not a historical treatise; what does it not tell us? How complicated was the real picture? How old is the trading culture in the area – 1st century AD or much, much older??

With such a fascinating lecture, there were obviously many questions but unfortunately the Q&A had to be kept short due to the press of time.

Report by **Alan F Hall**.

IASA CONFERENCES

The Seminar for Arabian Studies

The Seminar for Arabian Studies, founded in 1968, is the only international forum that meets annually for the presentation of the latest academic research in the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest times to the present day or, in the case of political and social history, to the end of the Ottoman Empire (1922). Papers read at the Seminar are published in the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* in time for the Seminar of the following year. The Proceedings therefore contain new research on Arabia and reports of new discoveries in the Peninsula in a wide range of disciplines.

The Steering Committee is delighted to acknowledge the continued support and generosity of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation. The 53rd Seminar for Arabian Studies will be held at the University of Leiden from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th July 2019.

For further information see: <https://www.thebfsa.org/seminar/>

The 52nd Seminar for Arabian Studies

3rd - 5th August 2018, British Museum, London

The 52nd Seminar for Arabian Studies (SAS), organized by the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (BFSa) and supported by both the MBI Al Jaber Foundation and the British Museum, took place on Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th August. Approximately forty papers were presented at the three-day event, the only annual international forum for the presentation of the most up-to-date academic research on the Arabian Peninsula.

The second day of the Seminar saw a session completely dedicated to Arabian Prehistory take place. This included papers on the Palaeolithic, the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. Other sessions covered a variety of subjects: Arabian languages, the Iron Age, Arabian Landscape and Early and Late Islamic Arabia. Papers presented in these sessions dealt with a number of different and interesting topics such as aerial archaeology, artistic contacts with the civilisations of the Indus and the incredible biodiversity of the island of Socotra.

The event, held at the British Museum, attracted a large number of participants on each of the three days and presentations stimulated interesting and lively debate between speakers and the audience. A large number of posters were also displayed during the Seminar and poster authors devoted some time to taking and answering questions from the audience.

On the evening of Saturday 4th August, the MBI Al Jaber

Public Lecture was attended by an audience of approximately 250 people. The lecture was entitled 'Neither the Desert Nor the Sown: the Towns of the Arabian Gulf from the 18th to the 20th Century AD' and was delivered by Professor Robert Carter of UCL Qatar. An account of Professor Carter's talk is given elsewhere in the Bulletin.

A wide selection of posters were displayed during the Seminar and the authors were on hand to take questions from conference delegates. Many of the papers presented will be published in the next Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies (PSAS) which is published annually and before the subsequent Seminar. More details on the Proceedings can be found here: <https://www.thebfsa.org/seminar/publication/>
Report by **Marylyn Whaymand**

Papers from the 2017 Seminar have been edited by Prof. Janet Watson and Orhan Elmaz and were published in the summer of 2018 as volume 48 of the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* (see below)

For further information see: <https://www.thebfsa.org/publications/proceedings-of-the-seminar-for-arabian-studies/>

OTHER EVENTS

RAI Annual Conference 'Art, Materiality and Representation'

1st-3rd June 2018, British Museum, London

The BFSa was an exhibitor at this conference, jointly organised by the Royal Anthropological Institute the British Museum's Department for Africa, Oceania and the Americas, and the Department of Anthropology at SOAS and held in the Clore Centre of the British Museum and the SOAS Paul Webley Wing of Senate House.

BFSa Trustee Aisa Martinez and BFSa Bulletin Committee member Daniele Martiri attended the conference and distributed material and information on the BFSa. The BFSa stall attracted much interest and many people stopped for a chat to find out who exactly we are and what we do. The RAI chairman David Shankland was pleased to have us exhibit. As a result of our presence, we signed up some new members and made ourselves known, in particular, to the participants and audience of the panel on arts and representation in the Arabian Peninsula. Overall it was an interesting conference and experience for Aisa and Daniele and useful for the BFSa in its continuing efforts in outreach and new membership.

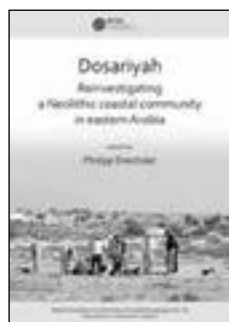
MONOGRAPH SERIES

One of the core activities of the IASA is to contribute to the accessibility of research on the Arabian Peninsula, and this includes overseeing the publication of the monograph series originally begun by the Society for Arabian Studies. The series includes research-based studies, conference proceedings, archaeological excavation or survey reports, and MA or PhD theses where the contents mark an important synthesis or a significant addition to knowledge. The monographs are edited by Dr Derek Kennet and Dr St John Simpson and published and distributed by Archaeopress.

A selection of titles can be found on page 55 and a full list on our website: <https://www.thebfsa.org/content/monographs>. All titles can be ordered from Archaeopress via info@archaeopress.com.

As series co-editor Dr St John Simpson explains: “We have published eighteen monographs to date, covering a wide range of topics ranging from PhD theses on the prehistory of the Tihamah and star gazing in Oman to the proceedings of five conferences on the Red Sea and Death & Burial in Arabia. The purpose of the series is to support rapid refereed publication of these forms of research through a dedicated sub-series within the BAR International Series published by Archaeopress. We have several more volumes which are either in press or in advanced stages of preparation.”

Potential contributors should contact either of the co-editors in the first instance: Dr St John Simpson: ssimpson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or Dr Derek Kennet: derek.kennet@durham.ac.uk.



Dosariyah: An Arabian Neolithic Coastal Community in the Central Gulf (British Foundation for the Study of Arabia)

Philipp Drechsler (ed.)
British Foundation for the Study of Arabia Monographs No. 19, ISBN 9781784919627, £80.00.

Dosariyah: Reinvestigating a Neolithic coastal community in eastern Arabia describes the work carried out at Dosariyah, located in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, which took place between 2010 and 2014. It was conducted by the joint German-Saudi Dosariyah Archaeological Research Project (DARP). A wealth of material remains was found during excavations within almost three metres of anthropogenic deposits. Radiocarbon dates and comparative studies of artefacts securely date the occupation of the site into the first centuries of the fifth millennium BC.

The co-occurrence of locally produced artefacts that are

technologically and typologically rooted in the local Arabian Middle Neolithic, and imports from southern Mesopotamia is characteristic of Dosariyah. However, the mechanisms behind this distribution of foreign materials along the Arabian Gulf coast, in particular, are still poorly understood. It is the central proposition of this book that the local societies living along the shores of the Arabian Gulf coast played an active role in the acquisition of Ubaid pottery and other objects originating in southern Mesopotamia.

A predominance of imported objects, considered as ‘exotic items’, are understood as integral components of rituals that were part of temporary gatherings of larger groups of people at Dosariyah. Based on the material evidence from the site, such collective social events were embedded in everyday life during the fifth millennium BC



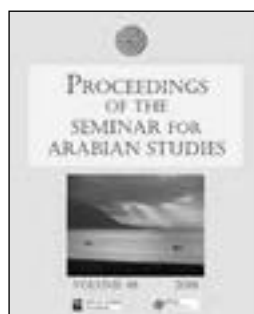
Softstone: Approaches to the study of chlorite and calcite vessels in the Middle East and Central Asia from prehistory to the present

Carl S. Phillips and St John Simpson (eds)
British Foundation for the Study of Arabia Monographs No. 20, ISBN 9781784919924, £45.00.

Stone containers have been made and used in the Middle East for over eleven millennia where they pre-dated the invention of pottery and were widely traded. The appearance or properties of the stone helped govern how stone vessels were valued or used and many classes were strictly utilitarian, being used for storage, cooking or lighting. Others were decorated and at times they were considered valuable exotica, particularly in regions far removed from their source areas. The subject of stone vessels is attracting growing attention but this is the first attempt to bring together different approaches to the study of softstone vessels, particularly but not exclusively those carved from varieties of chlorite, and covering all periods from prehistory to the present.

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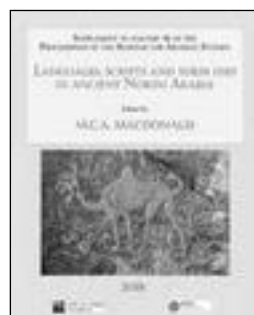
PSAS48



Papers from the fifty-first meeting of the Seminar for Arabian Studies held at the British Museum, London, 4th to 6th August 2017

edited by Julian Jansen van Rensburg, Harry Munt, Tim Power, and Janet Starkey. ISBN 978-17849187741.

The *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* is a peer-reviewed series which each year publishes papers read at the Seminar the previous year. It is the prime source for the most recent research on the Arabian Peninsula within a wide range of disciplines and for the latest discoveries in the field. The *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* is edited by Daniel Eddisford, assisted by an Editorial Board formed from members of the Steering and Editorial Committee of the Seminar, and other distinguished scholars. The most recent volume presents papers from the 2017 *Seminar for Arabian Studies* which was held at the British Museum from the 4th - 6th August 2017



Languages, scripts and their uses in ancient North Arabia. Papers from the Special Session of the Seminar for Arabian Studies held on 5th August 2017

edited by M.C.A. Macdonald. ISBN 978-1784918996.

The Seminar for Arabian Studies has come a long way since 1968 when it was first convened, yet it remains the principal international academic forum for research on the Arabian Peninsula. This is clearly reflected in the ever-increasing number of researchers from all over the world who come each year to the three-day Seminar to present and discuss their latest research and fieldwork. This supplement to the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* Volume 48 contains papers presented at a Special Session of the fifty-first Seminar for Arabian Studies, held at the British Museum on 5 August 2017. Its subject was 'Languages, scripts, and their uses in ancient North Arabia' and it was held to celebrate the completion in the previous March of Phase 2 of the 'Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia' (OCIANA).

Order from: Archaeopress, 18-24 Middle Way, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7LG. www.archaeopress.com
Email: info@archaeopress.com

GRANTS IN AID

In 2014 the IASA received a very generous donation from Prof. Valeria Fiorani Piacentini. We are extremely grateful to her. This exciting development has allowed the IASA to develop its research grant scheme and to increase the amount we award, enabling us to support more substantial and varied research projects.

The IASA grants are intended to support research in any academic area covered by the BFSA's aims, which are to promote research relating to the Arabian Peninsula, in particular, its archaeology, art, culture, epigraphy, ethnography, geography, geology, history, languages, literature and natural history. Grants may be used to fund fieldwork, library or laboratory-based research or research support.

The main objective of the research must fit within the scope of the IASA's aims, and applications must be linked to clear and achievable plans for immediate publication. The number of awards made each year will depend on the strength of applications.

There are two types of research grant:

- Small Research Grants: up to £1,000 (for all categories of researchers)
- Main Research Grants: up to £4,000 (for post-doctoral research)

The application deadline is 15th May each year, awards will be announced by the middle of June. Applicants to the Main Research Grants should normally hold a doctorate at the time of application. Exceptions can be made for researchers with a proven track record of post-doctoral level research and publication. Applicants for Small Research Grants can be at any level of their career, though they would normally be expected to be at least in the second year of a relevant university undergraduate degree.

The grants are available to researchers of any nationality. Individuals or groups can apply but the Principal Investigator of any project must make and be responsible for the application. If funding is being sought for a component part of a larger project, the sub-project should be free-standing with its own objectives. Generally, equipment costs should not comprise more than about 10% of the total budget. Higher proportions will be considered if the case is made in the application. Conference attendance will not normally be funded unless it can be shown that attendance will contribute in a significant way to the research and publication. Institutional overheads will not be covered. Salaries for short-term research staff are allowed but replacement teaching costs for academic staff will not normally be considered. For more details, and how to apply, see: <https://www.thebfsa.org/content/grant>

GRANT REPORTS

The following projects received funding from the IASA during the past year.

Wadi al Jizzi Archaeological Project Study Season 2019

by **Bleda S. Düring**

Wadi al Jizzi Archaeological Project Study (WAJAP) is a systematic surface survey that records archaeological features and assemblages of the Sohar hinterlands from all periods. The focus of research has been on the Wadi Al Jizzi / Wadi Suq corridor on the one hand, and the Wadi Fizh / Wadi Al Zuhaimi corridor, on the other. Our 2019 study season was a relatively brief project which lasted a total of 18 work days, and comprised a total of 10 people, including pottery specialists for Islamic and prehistoric pottery, softstone and small finds experts, an archaeometrist, an illustrator and GIS experts.

Aims and Approaches

After five seasons of fieldwork we felt it was the time to consolidate our knowledge of the surface archaeology and to prepare for publication of the results, so that they can be made available to academics and stakeholders. We aimed to consolidate our datasets, prepare materials for publication, and perform checks on previous assessments. First, we wanted to study our ceramic, softstone, and miscellaneous assemblages once more. This was necessary because our knowledge of archaeological assemblages has increased considerably over the past years, and we needed to revisit our assessments of the first seasons in order to make sure that our classifications and identifications are consistent and accurate.

Second, although we have produced drawings and photos of our collected assemblages during our five seasons of work, not all of these were of sufficient quality for publication. Therefore, we wanted to produce better illustrations and photos. This included the creation of three dimensional photo models of selected artefacts that we can share with our colleagues and use for future analysis.

Third, we wanted to obtain additional compositional information on our assemblages through scientific analyses. Dr. Dennis Braekmans brought a Portable XRF in order to measure the chemical properties of our ceramic assemblages, the stone beads and the softstone artefacts. Further, we sampled our ceramic, glass and softstone assemblages by selecting small specimens or making clippings of artefacts for export to the Netherlands. These will be analysed by Dr. Dennis Braekmans at Cranfield University and Dr. St John Simpson at the British Museum using a variety of techniques, including petrography, XRF, ICP-MC and INAA.

Fourth, we checked all our records in our database (some 5000 structures were revisited to check for errors and consistency in classifications and descriptions) and GIS files (some data in database was not in the GIS and vice versa). This was a time consuming job, but as a result we now have a reliable database and GIS.

Fifth, we returned to sites previously investigated to take extra measurements with the Differential GPS, check documentation problems and take some extra photos of the sites for the publication. On this basis we produced new maps for many of our sites in GIS. These have been created as work packages in (open source) QGIS, which will allow us to share this data with colleagues and stakeholders in the near future.

Results of the 2019 Season

We obtained the results we aimed for in the 2019 study season. We now have excellent illustrations and photos for the most important objects, good maps of our sites that can be accessed through open source software, and coherent information in our database.

The re-assessment of our assemblages also led to some revisions of our earlier assessments and I will mention a few examples. Site 22, a large prehistoric cemetery near Wili, was previously dated to both the Umm an Nar period and the Wadi Suq period, but a re-assessment of its ceramics suggests that all the pottery found is of Wadi Suq date. It is still possible that some of the large round tombs do in fact date to the Umm an Nar period, but we cannot conclusively demonstrate this at present.

Site 54, also known as Tell es-Sbul, was re-analysed. Whereas previously we had noted a significant proportion of Wadi Suq material at the site, our new reassessment suggests that the site is predominantly Iron Age, with only a residual presence of Wadi Suq.

Site 84 was found in the final days of the 2018 season and had been assigned to the Late Bronze Age, in part because of the strong parallels with Masafi as a site. However, the study of the ceramics undertaken this season suggests that the pottery is, in fact, late Wadi Suq, transitioning into the LBA, rather than Late Bronze Age in date. We hope to present on this key site in the 2019 Seminar for Arabian Studies. The re-assessment of our database records has also led to a more systematic understanding and classification of the burial structures in our region. We now have a much better understanding of the main types of cairns in our region, how they can be dated and in what types of locations they occur in the landscape.

Outlook

We aim to publish a volume provisionally entitled: "Surveying the Sohar Hinterlands: The Wadi al Jizzi Archaeological Project 2014-2019". It has also become

increasingly obvious that many of our questions cannot be adequately answered on the basis of our survey data. Many sites and structures remain difficult to date and we would like to know much more about what happened in particular structures. How many people were buried in the grave structures and of what age and sex? What kinds of burial goods can be found in these graves? What activities occurred in these buildings and what did the economy look like in the past? In order to obtain more data on such questions we intend to do a follow up project that includes excavation of selected structures.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the help of Sultan Al-Bakry, Khamis Al-Asmi, the late Professor Maurizio Tosi, Mohammed Al-Waily, Sumaya Al-Busaidi, Khalil Al-Nadabi, Khamis Al-Oafi, and Nasser Al-Hosni.

Ships' Timbers from the Islamic Site of Al Baleed: a case study of sewn-plank technology in the Indian Ocean.

by **Alessandro Ghidoni**

The sewn-plank ships that sailed the Indian Ocean in the pre-modern Islamic period (622–1500 CE) were agents of trade but were also instrumental in spreading religion and culture. They connected the Indian Ocean and the Islamic coastal communities in significant ways, carrying goods, people and ideas back and forth from East Africa to China. Yet relatively little is known about them. Historians, geographers, missionaries, pilgrims, traders and explorers who ventured the Indian Ocean during this period were intrigued by these ships but, unfortunately, their curiosity was not passionate enough to provide detailed descriptions; they rarely go beyond the simple statement that they were fastened with ropes. Iconographic evidence is also rather sparse, with only a handful of images such as those in the *Maqamat al-Hariri*.

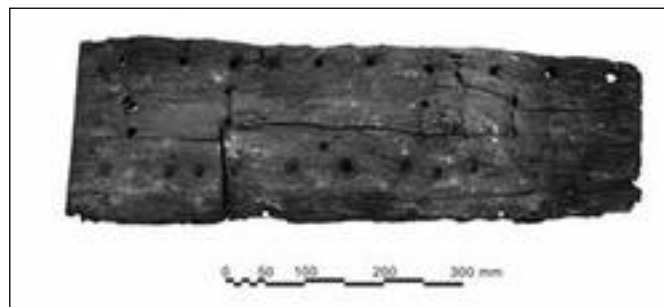
To date, archaeological work related to sewn boats has provided minimal data, with just two shipwrecks discovered and partially excavated in Southeast Asia, and a few ships' remains from the Red Sea. One of the most exciting and relevant pieces of evidence that has received little attention is the remains of sewn-ship planks from the site of Al Baleed (10th – 18th centuries CE) in southern Oman. These timbers were discovered in the walls of buildings where they were re-used as structural components. Dated to the 10th – 15th centuries CE, they provide a wealth of information regarding sewing techniques and ship construction during this period. Although the first timbers discovered in 2006 have been previously studied and published, much more work is required due to the recent discovery of considerably more planks at the archaeological sites of Al Baleed and Qalhat in the Sultanate of Oman. The Al Baleed timbers show a variety of techniques and materials used in the construction of sewn vessels; the planks display the traits of the western

Indian Ocean sewn-plank tradition of continuous stitching through holes drilled along their edges. Some timbers retain preserved portions of stitching, allowing the identification of different sewing patterns.

The planks display a wide range of thicknesses and widths, which assist in estimating the approximate size of vessels and their function. Other construction elements, such as dowels, plugs, frame lashings and luting substances, including bitumen and resin, are also visible and offer hints as to the variety of construction techniques and materials employed.



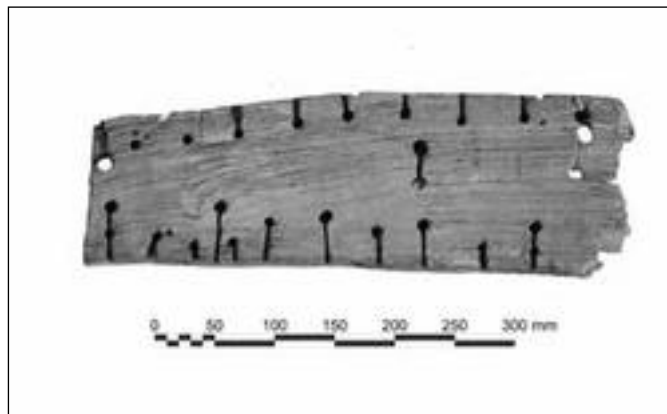
The stitching, wadding pad, dowels and a scarf joint are displayed on the inner and outer face of a plank (BA0604128.73) from Al Baleed.



Plank Wo54 showing stitching holes regularly spaced along its edge and frame lashings holes drilled in the centre.

The study of this evidence, which is supported by the Office of H.E the Adviser to H.M the Sultan for Cultural Affairs of Oman, forms the core of my PhD research. The project aims to deepen our knowledge of sewn-boat technology in the Indian Ocean during the Islamic era by undertaking a technical analysis of these timbers within a comparative context. The methodology consists of studying these pieces from a material perspective, by analysing the technical details of each plank and through identifying their material composition. The data will also be compared to the broader textual, iconographic, ethnographic, archaeological and experimental archaeological evidence from the western Indian Ocean maritime world. Collectively, this will contextualise these timbers within the broader material networks in the Indian Ocean during the pre-modern Islamic period.

The BFSA Small Research Grant has kindly supported this project by funding the radiocarbon dating and identification of wood species on the most significant timbers of the collection. These analyses are crucial to answering the questions of my research regarding the materials employed and technological development in the building of these watercraft. The travel accounts of Europeans and Arabs from the Mediterranean world, who provided descriptions of the maritime traditions, culture and technology of the region, have promoted a view of Indian Ocean vessels as immutable in terms of shape, technique, materials and technology, until the arrival of the Portuguese in 16th century. A preliminary study of the evidence from Al Baleed indicates a variety of techniques over an extensive period of time — over 500 years. The dating of the timbers provides the opportunity for a comparative chronological analysis of these remains, which can help to determine possible changes in sewn-plank construction in the western Indian Ocean over time. Moreover, it also offers a further opportunity to understand the chronological phases of the buildings of Al Baleed into which the timbers were incorporated.



The majority of the timbers have rebates carved between the stitching holes and the edge on the former outer side of the plank, as illustrated by plank Wo68. They served the purpose of accommodating the stitching ropes and protecting them from chafing.



One of the longest planks of the collection of timbers from Al Baleed (Wo86), showing holes regularly spaced along the edge and a scarf joint.

Species identification analysis could yield crucial information about the wood used to build these vessels, which is limited in historical sources. It may also indicate the geographical origin of the timber and thus help speculation about where these vessels were built or repaired, and whether there is a correlation between the material used and a particular stitching technique. Overall, analysis may provide hints into the broader material trade network and maritime relationships of the Indian Ocean during this period.

A chronological investigation of palaeoenvironmental change in Wadi Iddayyah, UAE

by Gareth W. Preston & Kira Dähling

Arabia is now recognised as an important geographical location with respect to early human demography (Armitage et al., 2011; Groucutt et al., 2015), with some suggesting that periods of climatic amelioration facilitated important demographic shifts by creating conditions more conducive to seasonal range expansions (Parton et al., 2013, 2015). Despite this, spatial and temporal heterogeneity in Arabian palaeoclimatic records mean that our understanding of climate change during key periods in the Late Pleistocene (e.g. Marine Isotope Stage 3) is based on a handful of securely dated records. To help address this, the project will generate new independent, age-constrained, empirical data from three exposed, stratified sequences of fluvial gravels, silts and sands along an unexplored ~30 km section in Wadi Iddayyah, UAE (Figure 1). The system is the main drainage feature within the Jebel Faya complex and as such offers a unique opportunity to study the relationship between climate change and long-term (130 ka) human occupation in the region.

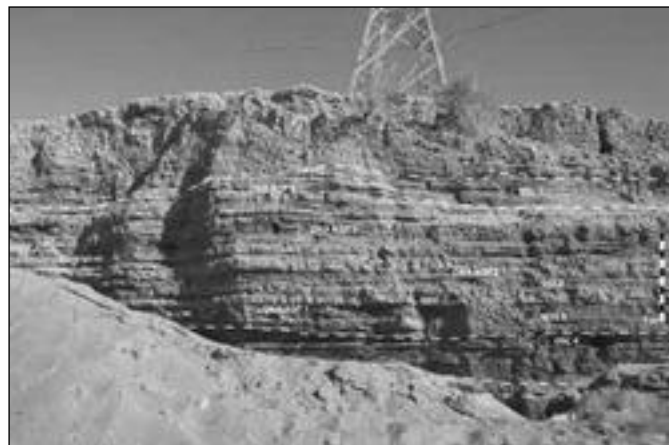


Map showing the location of Wadi Iddayyah (Copernicus Sentinel-2 data 2017). Inset is a general overview of the study area in the UAE (Esri Basemap 2018)

Previous palaeoclimate work in the Wadi Iddayyah region recorded several episodes of lake formation during MIS 3, corresponding with phases of early human occupation at Jebel Faya (Parton et al., 2013). Given the potential importance of the drainage network for understanding climate-human demography in Arabia, a 30 km stretch of the wadi was surveyed in March 2018, leading to the identification of three keys sites for further investigation.

The first site, Aqabah Pylon (AQP) (N25°2.569' E055°48.166'), is located at the junction of Wadi Iddayyah and Wadi Baraq and comprises ~5 m of fluvial gravels, sands and silts (Figure 2). Initial inspection of the section suggests the sequence has a similar stratigraphy to the lake deposits

reported by Parton et al. (2013), who recorded five separate phases of lake formation between 61 – 58 ka. The chronology of the site will be confirmed via Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating, which will allow us to correlate the two sequences, and further palaeoenvironmental investigation conducted in the laboratory. The investigation of the vegetation remains using both phytolith and eDNA analyses will help determine the stability and duration of the flooding episodes identified at the site and thereby the extent to which each may have facilitated the expansion of early human populations across the landscape.



Aqabah Pylon (AQP) section showing the position of the OSL (red circles) and eDNA (green circles) samples.

The second site, Wadi Iddayyah 1 (IDD 1) (N25°6.135' E 55°47.820'), is located on the edge of the main wadi channel and comprises ~3.80 m of aeolian sands (Figure 3). The sequence shows several distinct changes in aeolian deposition which will be investigated through palaeoenvironmental analyses. The chronology of the site will provide important information on the timing of dune mobilization and the associated interaction of aeolian and fluvial processes along the wadi.

The third site, Wadi Iddayyah 2 (IDD2) (N25°14.039' E55°40.343'), is a series of fluvial terraces (Figure 4) which run along the right-hand side of the wadi. The terraces reach a total thickness of ~3 m and are comprised of alternating layers of sands and silts. Determining the age of the terraces and thus the sequence of terrace deposition will provide important information on the timing of phases of fluvial activity within the wadi.

The sections at each site were logged in detail and sampled for further laboratory investigation. Tube samples were also extracted for OSL dating and eDNA samples collected using small DNA free tubes. A total of 55 samples were collected from the three sites for palaeoenvironmental (sedimentological and geochemical) investigation. This work is currently being undertaken at Oxford Brookes University. OSL dating will be performed by K. Dähling at the University of Freiburg, Germany, under the supervision of

Prof. Frank Preusser.



Wadi Iddayyah 1 (IDD 1) section showing the location of the OSL samples (red circles).



Wadi Iddayyah 2 (IDD 2) fluvial terraces A to C

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Construction techniques and daily life: metal materials from the monastic settlement of alQusur, Failaka Island (Kuwait)

By **Julie Clerc** (French-Kuwaiti Archaeological Mission in Failaka)

The monastic settlement of al-Qusur was located in the middle of Failaka Island over a vast area (2,80 x 1,60 km). Its dense centre was composed of two churches and many

buildings, including a refectory and a food production building. Surrounding this area, many enclosed houses of different sizes are scattered. The chronology of the settlement is currently estimated to date to a period from the 7th century to the 9th century CE. The excavations of the French-Kuwaiti Archaeological Mission in Failaka (MAFKF) focused on the centre of the site. The discovery of different metal objects during the 2011–2017 campaigns and the limited publications on this subject have made it necessary for us to carry out a complete and more detailed analysis of these artefacts. The comprehensive metal materials study, thanks to the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia, will be published with the results of the excavations in *Al-Qusur, a Christian settlement from Early Islam of Kuwait Bay, vol. 1. Final publication from the French-Kuwaiti Archaeological Mission in Failaka (2011–2018)*. Since this work is in progress, we will present here our initial results and observations.

Corpus and state of preservation

The metal materials under consideration here were unearthed during the 2011–2017 campaigns of the French-Kuwaiti Archaeological Mission in Failaka (supervised by Dr. J. Bonn  ric) and are an important part of the corpus. The finds from 1988–1989, which disappeared during the war, are only known through drawings, but materials from the 2007–2009 excavations will be studied during a second phase. The majority of the items were poorly preserved; the particular environment of the island with the combined action of sand and salt explains this significant corrosion. About 110 metal finds were discovered during the excavations conducted by the MAFKF. Almost all of them are made of iron. Only twelve pieces were made of a copperbased alloy (including five coins, studied by Dr. H. AlMutairi), six were fabricated in lead, and one was a small piece of slag.

Contexts of discovery

The metal materials studied come primarily from five

buildings located north and west of the two churches, mainly from the refectory (figure 1) and the food production building (figure 2), whereas some objects were found on the ground surface during the mapping done by J. Humbert of the whole site. Unfortunately, these items cannot be precisely situated chronologically. Among them, one copperbased alloy ring with an empty bezel was found (figure 3-1). This kind of item has been known since antiquity and is also known in the Early Islamic period (Allan 1982: 68-69). Some finds correspond to a later occupation of the site and the construction of a modern sheepfold (building B10) erected above the refectory. Only four iron objects (two nails, one rod, and one circular shank of a tool or an object) were found in the layers associated with or subsequent to this Late Islamic structure, but they could also be residual elements from the medieval occupation.

Objects from the medieval settlement

In buildings B15 and B16, interpreted as houses, only six items were found, including one iron ring and one iron shank with a circular section that could be a needle or an awl. In contrast, the majority of the materials were discovered in the refectory (building B23). Forty-five items were discovered in this edifice. Among them, we should draw attention to a single copper-based alloy piece: a simple open ring that is crushed. Three objects made of lead were also found in this building, two plates and one coiled band (figure 3-2) that has no parallel for now (it is uncertain whether it is a collar, a reinforcement, waste, a reused object, etc.). The other discoveries belong to the hardware category: these are mainly iron nails, rivet-nails, ringbolts (figure 3-3), and some flat elements that suggest hinges. In the refectory, the very restricted distribution of the metal finds, in close proximity to the internal openings of the building, and their nature (hardware) indicate that they correspond to doors components.

About forty objects, more diversified, come from the food production building (building B20): three (maybe four)



The refectory (building B23) seen from the southeast (H. AlMutairi  DAM/NCCAL, 2016).

coins, a small copper-based alloy ring, and one lead netweight were discovered in this edifice. Some objects remain unidentifiable due to their poor preservation, but the iron hardware is still predominant, with nails, ringbolts, and some tips. In fact, most of these pieces come from architectural contexts and craft structures, as for example the items discovered in tannurs or in households in the west part of the building.



Copperbased ring. 2: unidentifiable lead object. 3: iron ringbolt (drawings: J. Humbert©MAFKF).

This initial study of metal finds at al Qusur allows us to discuss the usage of the metal materials in the monastic settlement during the Early Islamic period. There were a number of metal finds discovered during the excavations conducted by the MAFKF. Most come from the two major buildings, that is to say, the refectory and the food production building. Even if some items are linked to daily

life, most of them are related to the architecture and the construction of the buildings and the interior fittings. For now, there were no cooking utensils, for example, as we would have expected in a food production building (but a lot of stone tools were found), and domestic and economic activities were represented by only a few objects (a needle, a netweight, slag and the ornaments) discovered in buildings B16, B20 and in outdoor areas, between the edifices. This lack of metallic artefacts from daily life could indicate the use of objects made of perishable materials or the recovery of materials when the site was abandoned. Initial results are promising, and to complete this study before publication, we still need to carry out some bibliographic research to look for accurate comparisons and to refine our analysis of the assemblages and their associated contexts. We can also state there is no trace of ground ores or local metal manufacture in Failaka; therefore composition analyses should also be conducted to understand the provenance and supply of these materials to the al-Qusur settlement.

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The food production building (building B20) located north of the refectory (H. AlMutairi©DAM/NCCAL, 2017).

IASA TRUSTEES 2019

Biographies and latest work

Ms Carolyn Perry

Chair

I am Director of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, a UK registered charity founded by philanthropist and businessman H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber which aims to build bridges between the Middle East and the wider world through activities in the areas of education, cultural dialogue and good governance. We are continuing our efforts to raise awareness of the cultural heritage of Yemen by enabling the photographic exhibition curated by Professor Trevor Marchand 'Buildings That Fill My Eye: The Architectural Heritage of Yemen' to travel. During the past year it has travelled from the Oriental Museum in Turin to the Pergamonmuseum in Berlin and is now on show at the University of York. I am a member of the IASA Events and Bulletin Committees. I'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions for events. I also look after our social media, so would welcome items for our Facebook page and Twitter account. In my spare time I am a Board Member of Caabu (Council for Arab British Understanding), am on the Committee of the Friends of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and a member of the Advisory Board of Ancient History Encyclopedia, the world's most-read history encyclopedia. I'm also a freelance lecturer and, in addition to regular talks at the British Museum, I lead cultural heritage tours (in fact I led one of the first ever British tours to Saudi Arabia). On a personal note, I relocated to Albania last year. If you happen to be in Durrës, look me up and I'll buy you a coffee!

Mr Simon Alderson

Treasurer

I am the odd trustee out in terms of my background. My MA (and unfinished PhD) are in archaeology, but my field is Medieval Britain, and most of my experience of Middle Eastern archaeology was an excavation in Jordan a few years ago. Fortunately, I'm a trustee because I offer other experience in another field: I've been a qualified accountant for 25 years, and have run my own practice for over 20 years. Over my career I have always dealt with charities, and currently serve as either treasurer or reporting accountant to a number of charities. Consequently, I offer both accounting advice and knowledge of charity law and regulations to the IASA. I became involved with the IASA because I've known Derek Kennet for many years and he asked me to! I'm a great believer in the work done by educational charities as a whole and, having a soft spot for archaeological charities in particular, it wasn't and isn't a difficult decision to get involved.

Dr Derek Kennet

Co-Editor of Monograph Series

I am a lecturer in the Department of Archaeology, Durham University. I have been working on the archaeology of Islamic and pre-Islamic Eastern Arabia and the western Indian Ocean for almost 25 years. I am presently in the course of publishing field projects at Kadhima in Kuwait (in collaboration with the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters), at Qarn al-Harf in Ras al-Khaimah (in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities and Museums, Government of Ras al-Khaimah) as well as running a large survey project around Rustaq on the Batinah in Oman (in collaboration with Dr Nasser al-Jahwari of Sultan Qaboos University, the Anglo-Omani Society and the Omani Ministry of Heritage and Culture). At Durham I teach courses on the archaeology of Oman and Eastern Arabia and continue to supervise research students who are working on the archaeology of the region. I am presently chair of the organizing committee of the Seminar for Arabian Studies.

Prof Dionisius Agius FBA

I am Emeritus Al-Qasimi Professor of Arabic Studies and Islamic Material Culture at the University of Exeter and Distinguished Adjunct Professor at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. Educated at the Jesuit Université St-Joseph in Beirut and the University of Toronto, I have research interests in maritime studies, Islamic material culture, the traditional watercraft, and the people of the sea in the Mediterranean and the western Indian Ocean. I have received numerous research grants between the years 1996 and 2017 from the Leverhulme Trust, Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, GoldenWeb Foundation and the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust. I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2011.

Dr Noel Brehony, CMG

I focus on Yemen, particularly the lands of the south – the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. I was chairman of the British-Yemeni Society 2010-2015. My book on the PDRY, *Yemen Divided* was published in 2011 (pb 2013). I co-edited *Rebuilding Yemen* (published in English and Arabic 2015) and edited *Hadhramaut and its Diaspora* to be published in 2017.

Dr Robert Bewley

Currently I am the Director of the *Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project*, University of Oxford, a project that began in 2015. More information on the project is available at <http://eamena.arch.ox.ac.uk>. I trained as an archaeologist (at Manchester and Cambridge Universities) and was initially employed at English Heritage as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments in 1984. I moved to the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England in the Air Photography Unit in 1987, and became the Head of Aerial Survey until 2003 (by then back in English Heritage). I was Head of Survey 2003-4, and then

English Heritage's Regional Director for the South-West 2004-2007 and became Director of Operations for the Heritage Lottery Fund (2007-2014). My research interests are in aerial archaeology, prehistory, landscape archaeology and the Middle East and North Africa.

Dr Robert Carter

I am Professor in Arabian and Middle Eastern Archaeology at UCL Qatar, where I run the MA in Archaeology of the Arab and Islamic World. I have broad interests in the archaeology and deep history of the region, from the Palaeolithic to the 20th century AD, particularly Neolithic seafaring, pearl-fishing and the foundation of the Gulf towns. I currently have two research projects: The Origins of Doha Project, funded by the Qatar National Research Fund, which combines archaeology, oral history and historical research to examine the life of the city from its foundation through to the coming of oil; and the Shahrizor Prehistory Project, funded by UCL Qatar and the Institute of Archaeology UCL, which investigates prehistoric interactions in northern Iraq during the 6th and 5th millennia BC.

Prof Clive Holes FBA

During the 1970s and 80s, I was an Overseas Career Officer of the British Council, serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Algeria, Iraq and Thailand. I was involved in setting up Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman in the mid-80s and was the Director of its Language Centre 1985-7 whilst on leave from Salford University, where I was Lecturer in Arabic and Applied Linguistics 1983-7. In 1987 I took up a Lectureship in Arabic at Cambridge and a Tutorial Fellowship at Trinity Hall, being promoted to Reader in Arabic in 1996. In January 1997 I moved to Magdalen College Oxford and the Oriental Institute to take up the Khalid bin Abdullah Al-Saud Chair for the Study of the Contemporary Arab World, from which I retired in 2014, becoming an Emeritus Professorial Fellow of Magdalen. I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2002. My main interests are the languages, dialects and popular cultures of the Arabian peninsula from the earliest times to the present.

Mr Michael Macdonald FBA

I am an Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College and a Research Associate of the Khalili Research Centre in the University of Oxford. Between 2013 and 2017, I directed the Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia project, funded by the AHRC and based at the Khalili Research Centre. This has produced an online database of more than 40,000 inscriptions from ancient North Arabia and more inscriptions are being added all the time. I have worked for the last 40 years on the languages, scripts and inscriptions of ancient North Arabia (including Jordan and southern Syria), ancient literacy and the history of the nomads. I undertake epigraphic surveys in the desert of north-eastern Jordan and in northern Saudi Arabia where I direct the British component of the Saudi-British-German project Epigraphy

and Landscape in the Hinterland of Taymā'. This records the numerous inscriptions in the desert around the oasis of Taymā' in their topographical, hydrological and archaeological contexts. In 2018 I was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Chicago.

Ms Ella Al Shamahi

Ella Al-Shamahi is a National Geographic Explorer specialising in fossil hunting in caves - in unstable, disputed and hostile territories... she is also a stand-up comic. Ella believes that this is a risk worth taking because huge parts of the planet are being neglected because of instability, which is tragic because some of these places represent the frontline of science and exploration. She also believes that development is not just about aid, it is also about science and empowering locals. Ella is a stand-up comedian and uses comedy as a coping strategy and also to communicate science. She has been performing science stand-up for four years in the UK and the States, has also done a TEDxNashville talk, and has taken three shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Ella is currently undertaking a PhD in Neanderthal rates of evolution at University College London.

Dr Robert Wilson

I retired from the Foreign Office in 2014, after a career of 32 years as analyst and diplomat concentrating on the Arab World, with postings in the UAE, Bahrain and Yemen, and also Iraq and Libya. Prior to that I was Assistant Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Cambridge University. I first lived in Yemen, teaching English in the highland town of Hajjah (Yemen Arab Republic), from 1972 to 1973. Currently Chair of the British-Yemeni Society (since July 2015).

NEWS AND RESEARCH

BY COUNTRY 2018 / 2019

OMAN

The Rustaq Batinah Archaeological Survey 2013-2018

by **Derek Kennet**

Between winter 2013/14 and winter 2017/18 the Rustaq Batinah Archaeological Survey (RBAS) was carried out in the Rustaq, Suwaiq and Musanah wilaya of the southern Batinah coast. The RBAS was a surface archaeological survey of a large area that was carried out with the intention of gaining insight into the diachronic patterns of human settlement and activity in this key area of Oman. Despite the fact that the Batinah is one of the most densely occupied and cultivated areas of the modern Sultanate of Oman, it has been only thinly studied archaeologically and very few key archaeological sites are known from the area (Kennet et al. 2016). The fieldwork related to this project is now complete and the project is moving towards publication.

The project was a joint venture between the Department of Archaeology, Durham University (UK), the Department of Archaeology of Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, and the Omani Ministry of Heritage and Culture. It was funded by the Anglo-Omani Society. It was jointly directed by Derek Kennet (Durham) and Nasser al-Jahwari (SQU).

Lorimer's description of the Batinah (1908) makes very clear that the main concentration of both population and date-palm cultivation on the Batinah occurs in a triangle formed by Rustaq, Suwaiq and Barqa, with Rustaq clearly having been particularly important at that time (Fig. 1). This is in contrast to the area to the north of Suwaiq where the population density was clearly much lower. This is probably a feature of the availability of both ground water and cultivable soil,

The survey has revealed a pattern of intermittent occupation and activity. In some periods there is evidence of a fairly intense occupation, for example in the Umm an-Nar period (2600-2000 BC), the Iron Age (particularly 1100-300 BC), the early Islamic period (7th to 9th centuries), and the Yaruba period and later (17th centuries to the present day). Other periods are represented but at a lower density, notably the middle Islamic (Nabhanid) period (11th to 16th centuries), the Wadi Suq period (2000-1600 BC), and the Samad period (3rd BC to 3rd AD). Other periods appear to be almost completely absent, particularly the Late Bronze Age (1600-1300), the early Iron Age (1300-1100 BC), and the Sasanian period (3rd to 7th c AD). In some cases this may be due to problems with understanding the local course wares,

but on the whole the picture seems robust. Other periods are more complex to assess. For example the Hafit period (3200-2600 BC) is well represented by stone burial cairns, but these are in parts of the landscape that were not occupied during the periods mentioned above, suggesting that there was a very significant shift in the focus of human activity after this time.

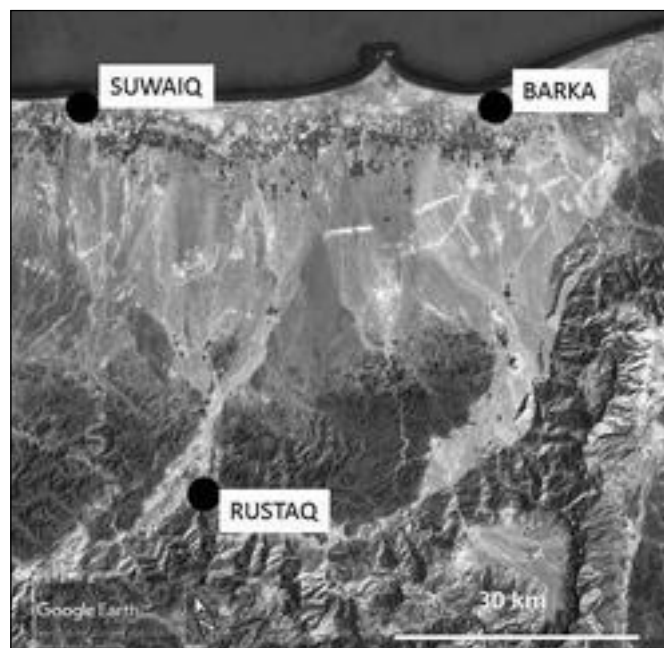


Figure 1: The southern Batinah study area between Rustaq, Suwaiq and Barka (Google Earth).

Work by Knut Bretzke and Ash Parton as part of the Stone Age Working Group of the project has revealed a consistent presence of Neolithic activity in certain parts of the landscape (Bretzke et al. forthcoming) and some Palaeolithic presence. But these periods are represented at a much lower density than later periods due to poor preservation and the difficulty in locating sites.

A number of very significant sites have come to light during the course of the work, each of which makes a new contribution to our understanding of the settlement history. For example a large Nabhanid fort has been recorded at Husn Ibraqi just close to the famous hot water springs at Ayn Kasfa (Fig. 2). There is evidence here of occupation between the 12th/13th and 16th centuries before the site was abandoned. This fort is now probably the best preserved example of Nabhanid architecture in Oman, a period about which very little is known either historically or archaeologically. A large Umm an-Nar settlement was recorded at al-Tikha consisting of three round towers, a large cemetery and two clearly-defined occupation areas. There is also some evidence at this site of continuity of occupation into the Wadi Suq period. A large and very significant Iron

Age presence was recorded consisting of a dense scatter of as many as 13 separate, and well-defined villages each up to 3 to 4 hectares in size all in very close proximity. This is one of the densest concentrations of Iron Age occupation that has yet come to light anywhere in Southeast Arabia. The Iron Age occupation also covers the lower Batinah coastal area around Suwaiq and Musanah and is the first dense evidence of prehistorical settlement that has yet come to light in that area. All of the Iron Age settlement was closely associated with agricultural field systems which are in the course of being studied by Dr Louise Purdue and her team from the CNRS.



Figure 2: A view of the Nabhanid fort at Husn Ibraqi from the east.

The RBAS fieldwork has now come to an end and the project team is now turning its attention to publication of the results, which are planned as a series of papers and a monograph.

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The Inqitat archaeological project

By Silvia Lischi

The archaeological research project at Inqitat, founded by the Italian Mission to Oman in collaboration with the Office of the Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan for Cultural Affairs began in 2016. Since then, two or three field seasons have been carried out between September and June. From the end of 2018 the project, with the scientific director Prof. A. Avanzini, was incorporated by the PhD project of Silvia Lischi (Settlement dynamics and territorial organization in the Dhofar region, Oman, during the pre-Islamic period). One of the aims of the project is to investigate the settlement

dynamics of the Khor Rori area during the Pre-Islamic Period. It will also be of fundamental importance to try to reconstruct the relationships between the city port of Sumhuram and the HAS1 settlement of Inqitat (end 2nd century BC - beginning 5th century AD).

The archaeological area is located in the surroundings of the South Arabian city of Sumhuram, and is situated on a rocky hill of about 30 meters above sea level. Its top is characterized by two plateaus of about 600x120 meters divided by a "valley". Previous archaeological investigation included survey activities of the surface and a number of excavations, which helped to clarify the HAS2 settlement sequences in the north-east corner of the area. Through analysis of the pottery found during the excavation of the HAS2 settlement, studied by Axelle Rougeulle (2008), it is evident that this is an Islamic occupation that dates back to the 10th - 11th century AD.



Aerial view of HAS1 (Copyright IMTO archive)

From the surveys it was evident that the northern plateau was the most heavily frequented part. The IMTO's excavation of the main gate in the wall that runs along the northern limit of the cliff highlighted several rectangular structures, which may have been inserted into the Classical period. The current investigations had started from these assessments with the aim of identifying the different periods present at Inqitat. Excavations focused on several areas but the most interesting are HAS1 and NW-S1.

HAS1 is located on the northern plateau of Inqitat. Superficial surveys conducted in 2008 and 2016 by Prof. Mauro Cremaschi and Dr. Silvia Lischi revealed the presence of several megalithic circular structures. During the excavations, it has become clear that the structures composed a settlement (HAS1) that appears to cover an area of about 2 hectares. These structures are circular or semi-circular in shape and made by megalithic undressed stones. The entrances are composed of two parallel and upright

megalithic stones with a threshold in between. Normally a step allows one to arrive at the floor, made of the virgin rock and, sometimes, levelled by stone slabs. The upper part of the structures is not preserved but from the findings it is probable that it consisted of wooden beams covered by lightweight organic materials and everything was covered with clay.



A megalithic circular structure after excavation with archaeological materials in situ (copyright Silvia Lischi)



Aerial view of Inqitat (copyright IMTO archive)

From the excavated area, it can be noted that the structures can be juxtaposed, communicating or not in relation to one another. This leads to the idea that it was a complex community with a certain social structure. The materials found inside suggest a livelihood based on family production. It is likely that more specialized activities were carried out by specialized craftsmen and concentrated in specific locations. This hypothesis is confirmed by the discovery of 5 stones with traces of the activity of bead

processing in a circumscribed area and probably open area. The pottery finds included imported materials such as amphorae and Indian pottery. There are also handmade ceramics which, given the current lack of comparison, are currently thought to be produced locally.

QATAR

Lekhraib Rock Art Site

By **Ferhan Sakal**

The rock carvings of Qatar are one of the important elements of the country's archaeology. Cut into limestone outcrops, they are mostly found along the coasts of Qatar. The majority of these rock carvings are cup marks in various combinations and most frequently are arranged in two motifs: cup marks in a double row, commonly known as 'mancala' type, and circular arranged cup marks with a central cup mark, the 'rosette' type. Beside these two motifs other carvings include boats, animal and human representations and tribal symbols (wasm).

In June 2018, Qatar Museums' (QM) Department of Archaeology was alerted about a new site with rock carvings which did not fit the common location pattern of the rock carving, as it was situated at the centre of the Qatari Peninsula. Mr. Ali Al-Dosari, who reported the new site, had noticed the carvings near his farm some time ago, but only realized their potential significance after hearing about QM work on archaeology and heritage protection. This is the first time that a petroglyph site has been discovered away from Qatar's coast. Until this discovery the petroglyph site Umm al Tuwaim in southwest Qatar, at a distance of 7km from the coast was the most inland rock carving site. The new site is approximately 30km away from the east and west coasts of Qatar.



Faisal Al Naimi and Ali Mutar Al Dosari discussing about the function of the carvings.

The Lekhraib rock art site is spread across an area of ca. 15 hectares, making it the second largest rock art site in the country after Al Jassasiya, the main petroglyph site in Qatar with over 900 carvings. The new site contains mostly the rock carvings of the “rosette” type in various arrangements and size. In the Gulf area this type of rock carving is unique to Qatar and is believed to have been used for a mancala type game. At the site, the QM Department of Archaeology performed an extensive survey to document the site in detail and in the process recorded over 100 carvings. The limestone massive into which these petroglyphs are cut is extensively damaged as the area seems to have been used as quarry for building material. The preserved carvings are in groups but not necessarily connected to each other, suggesting that originally more carving existed in this area. The new discovery has already transformed the current map of the petroglyph sites of the country, and it will hopefully provide more accurate clues about the function and date of the carvings, as well as their relationship with other sites found around Qatar.



A group of 'Rosette' type carvings seen from the South.

Ras Bu Omran Rescue Excavation

By Ferhan Sakal & Alice Bianchi

The peninsula of Ras Bu Omran is part of the Al Shamal Municipality and is situated between the towns of Al Ruwais and Aba Al Duloof. It is one of the northernmost points of the Qatari Peninsula, protected against the north-westerly winds and forming a natural bay. During one of the earliest archaeological expeditions in Qatar in the 1960s, Danish archaeologists discovered prehistoric remains on the Ras Bu Omran peninsula, including fireplaces and stone tools which

demonstrated the archaeological importance of the area.

In early 2018, Public Works (Ashghal) started to build a coastal walking path (Corniche) in this area which follows the shore of the peninsula. During the construction of the Corniche, archaeologists from Qatar Museums' Division of Cultural Heritage observed pre-modern materials such as pottery and porcelain sherds, bones, shells and glass bangle fragments that were spread across an area of approximately 2.6 ha., half of which were part of the inter-tidal zone. It was decided to carry out rescue excavations in order to document the remains under threat and understand the archaeological potential of the site.

During the construction works the archaeological area was damaged and soil with archaeological material was pushed by bulldozers in several directions. At least four spoil piles (C001-C004) were selected to be screened in order to collect the archaeological material and also to avoid the further spread of the archaeological material to other areas. Three areas were selected for excavation. Two of them (T2 and T3) included probable stone wall fragments that were observed on the slope to the shore.

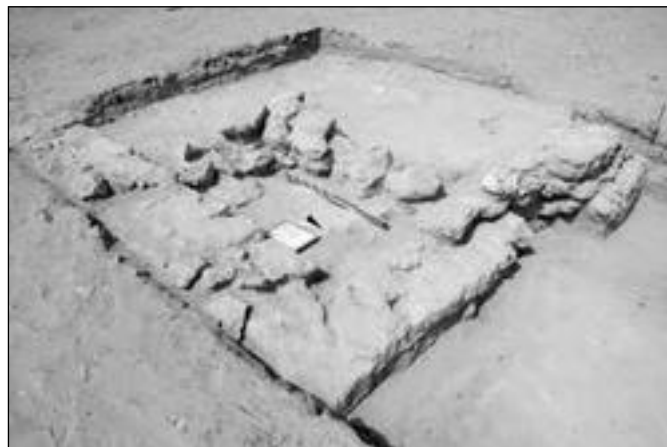
Trench 1, the most western one, was a 1m x 1m trial trench that was opened to assess the area of a future facility building. This trench yielded ash layers which contained numerous fragments of pottery and shells. This indicates that this part of the area was probably used as a midden. Trench 2 was located on the slope leading down to the shore and yielded the foundation walls of a large rectangular building, measuring 15m x 10m. Its walls are up to 60cm wide and are well preserved. Only a small portion of the building's interior was excavated. Well-constructed floors at different levels show that this building had several occupation phases and was in use for a long period of time.

Further east and directly on the shore Trench 3 yielded a long, rectangular room measuring 9m x 4m. It is still not clear whether this room was just a single building or whether there were further rooms connected to it. The room is oriented SW-NE, and its long wall runs parallel to the shore, as is the case with the building in Trench 2. The superstructure of the walls was not preserved. In the north-eastern corner of the room, three ovens were found which indicates that this part of the building was used for cooking activities.

Some preliminary remarks on small finds

Small finds were collected from excavated areas as well as from sieving the soil heaps. The following initial remarks aim at giving a general overview of the material. A total of 98 items/bulks were collected: two-thirds are artefacts and one third consists of ecofacts. The latter represents mainly shells and animal bones (respectively 18% and 10% of all finds), whereas artefacts consist of a large quantity of pottery (43% of all finds) and glass artefacts (12% of all finds); other

objects such as lithics, metal, organic, stone and clay artefacts occur in small quantities.



Partly eroded northeast corner of the building in Trench 2

Glass artefacts are found in limited amounts as vessel's fragments (e.g. bottles; 28% of all glass), and mainly as bangles (72% of all glass). Two-thirds of those are monochromatic with oval, triangular or plano-convex cross-section and for one third polychromatic, decorated with different inlays. Stone artefacts consist of a net weight/sinker, a possible fragment of an anchor stone and a pivot stone, both not found in situ.

The pottery has been studied more extensively than other artefacts, and its analysis is still in progress. A total of 3725 fragments have so far been processed in order to determine their fabrics and create an overall classification. Moreover, 14% of the pottery fragments have further diagnostic elements (rim, base, appendage, decoration, etc.) which were studied more in detail to understand the vessel's properties such as their shape, decoration technique and function. The results of the complete study will be part of the excavation final report; here a first brief overview is presented.

All processed fragments show clearly the predominance of three main fabrics, each one representing ca. 21% of the collection. One fabric consists of a buff/cream, fine, slightly sandy clay, high-fired, belonging to small to medium size jars, jugs or bowls with round to carinated bodies, often with incised motifs ('Ali ware/Cream Sandy ware). The second one is represented by hand-made cooking pots, jugs, jars and bowls made of a coarse, brittle, hard-fired clay. A few samples show red-painted lines on a reduced dark brown/grey surface or a white wash and red-painted motives (Julfar ware). The third one occurs as large jars, basins and large bowls made of pink to pink-buff colour, coarse clay with evident lime inclusions (Lime-Tempered ware). Worth mentioning, although in considerably lower quantity, are fragments made of Pale Gritty ware, Sandy ware, Coarse Cooking Pot ware and so-called Khunj/Bahla ware. Other glazed types (e.g. Manganese Purple Underglaze Painted ware, Mustard glaze ware) are minimally represented. The same is true for porcelain types which correspond to 1.3% of

the entire pottery collection and for Refined White ware vessels (equal to 0.2%).

The closest comparisons for the pottery material from Ras Bu Omran originate mainly from Fraiha in terms of dominant ware and shape types. On the basis of these first considerations about pottery and bangle types, it may be assumed that the findings at Ras Bu Omran might date from the (early) 18th century CE., a date that shall be confirmed by adding more detailed information to on-going studies.

The Origins of Doha and Qatar Project: 2018 Season

By Colleen Morgan

The Origins of Doha and Qatar Project (ODQ) is a multidisciplinary research project run by UCL Qatar in collaboration with Qatar Museums and supported by the Qatar National Research Fund. It aims to explore the foundation and historic growth of Doha and the other towns of Qatar, through a combination of archaeological investigation, historical research and oral testimony. Since 2016 the project has been conducting excavations at the coastal settlement of Fuwairit. Historical resources indicate that the site was a small town reliant on pearl fishing, at one point briefly rising to importance as the leading political centre of Qatar, subject to several stages of abandonment and refoundation, and finally deserted during the first half of the 20th century.



Ben Sharp excavating at Fuwairit, northern Qatar

In 2018 ODQ completed the project's final season of excavation at Fuwairit. The team completed work in the main excavation area, verifying intensive phases of occupation overlying one another. The final phase was a series of postholes cutting natural sand. Two additional trenches were excavated; one in a midden area and the other over the remains of a northern wall of a large mosque and the southern wall of a circular tower.

After completing excavations for the project, the ODQ has been engaged in post-excavation analysis and outreach that is expected to span the next 2-3 years. Dr Alan Farahani is

engaged in the palaeobotanical analysis of over 170 samples (1700L) of sediment and has so far uncovered date stones, hulled barley, bread wheat, rice and grape seeds. Analysis of the pottery from the excavation is currently being undertaken by Dr. Robert Carter. University of York undergraduate Elizabeth Hicks has analysed the architectural remains uncovered by the team (for more information see her short research notice section on page 28).

Several publications are in preparation and in press, and an article in the Proceedings of the 44th Conference on Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology about *DOHA - Doha Online Historical Atlas* by Michal Michalski, Professor Robert Carter, Daniel Eddisford, Dr Richard Fletcher, and Dr Colleen Morgan has been published. The article summarises the creation and dissemination of DOHA, the online map that is embedded with historical and archaeological data uncovered by the team. The article is Open Access and available on Archaeopress.



Arabic language educational resources developed by the ODQ

Initial finds by the ODQ project have been developed into school resources by University College London - Qatar and have been deployed at several schools in Qatar, including King's Collage Doha. These resources are available in Arabic and English and include a powerpoint for teachers, an activity sheet, and instructions for teachers. The lesson reviews traditional architecture in Qatar and involves several engaging illustrations of these buildings as they were occupied, drawing from archaeological evidence. The lesson concludes with students creating their own models of traditional houses. The reception of these resources has been extraordinarily positive, with one teacher stating, "Qatari children found that their subject knowledge made them become experts in this area of learning and they were excited about sharing their knowledge."

The Crowded Desert Project Season 2018: The Excavation of Yughbī

By Jose C. Carvajal Lopez

The Crowded Desert Project started in 2005 as a joint adventure of UCL Qatar and Qatar Museums, and in 2016 it was awarded a National Priority Research Grant of the Qatar National Research Fund. The aim of the project was to study the historical development of nomads and sedentary people inhabiting an area of 25 Km² in the northern desert of Qatar, an area placed between the urban sites of Murwab and Al-Zubarah and which had been occupied by the Āl-Naʿīmi tribe at least during the 19th and 20th centuries. Between 2015 and 2017, the team of the project surveyed a total area of c. 4698 ha with different intensities. One of the most interesting sites located in the survey was Yughbī, a site surveyed by Beatrice De Cardi in the 1970s and that she dated to the Sassanian Period. Our research on the site indicated that it could be probably re-dated to the 7th to 9th centuries CE and that its layout and position were similar to those of the nomadic sites that we were documenting: in short, Yughbī was interesting because it promised to be a site where a pattern of sedentarisation of the nomads could be investigated archaeologically.



Work-in-progress image of the excavation of the set of fishnet weights found within one of the buildings, under a collapsed wall. The spiral pattern in which they were found indicates that they were attached to a net that was hanging from the wall.

The Crowded Desert team dedicated the season of 2018, the last season of fieldwork, to the excavation and documentation of Yughbī. Four trenches were opened and five buildings were investigated. Three of them have been identified with spaces of inhabitation composed of several cells, in one case (Building 1) with an internal division; the measurements of the internal spaces are around 5x4m or 5x5m, although Building 1 could have been up to 7 m long before its internal division. One of the buildings (4) is a slightly smaller square space of around 4x4, made in a significantly different technique from the rest of the buildings, including major boulders of cut stone, with dimensions of up to 1m in two cases. Below the buildings, post-holes and cut features suggested the existence of a phase of occupation characterised by the use of ephemeral architecture (barasti-

style). During the excavation, abundant ceramic sherds were recovered, as well as glass, metal, stone vessels, shells and fishnet weights made of different materials. One of the highlights of the excavation was the recovery of a set of fishnet weights arranged in a spiral pattern, just as they were after the net to which they were attached fell from the wall over which it was hung.

The preliminary dating of the site, based on the pottery found, suggested that Yughbī had been occupied from the 7th to the 9th centuries CE. Radiocarbon dates from different contexts at the site provided a more accurate and even more surprising sequence of dates. The following archaeological phases could be documented at the site:

- a. Possible erection of Building 4. One single C14 date, suggesting 128-258CE. The existence of this phase is controversial, as the stratigraphic and material evidence are not enough to support it. The dating is, however, consistent with the dating of pre-Islamic tombs excavated in the north of Qatar.
- b. Early Occupation/Frequentation, perhaps the erection of Building 1. Three C14 dates suggest a combined dating of 535-670CE.
- c. Architectural development and occupation of the site until its abandonment. Three C14 dates give a combined dating of 662-778CE.
- d. . Reoccupation/second period of frequentation. This is dated with a single C14 date (760-882AD), but it is supported by the stratigraphy of the excavation.



View of Trench 27 from the south after excavation. From left to right, Buildings 1 and 2, with spaces indicated by standing members of the team

Yughbī can therefore be considered the earliest archaeological site of the Islamic period in Qatar, probably founded by a group of nomads who became progressively sedentarized between the Sassanian and the Islamic periods. The site

was abandoned by the end of the Ummayyad period, but was probably frequented and revisited, perhaps from the nearby Murwab (only 1 km away).

This work was made possible by NPRP Grant 8-1582-6-056 from the Qatar National Research Fund, a member of the Qatar Foundation. The statements and interpretations presented herein are solely those of the author.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi

By Tim Power with contributions from Eric Staples, Mark Beech, Noëmi Daucé, Peter Magee, Peter Sheehan & Robert Parthesius

In January 2018 staff from the Historic Environment Department at the Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi undertook joint fieldwork with staff and students from the Dhakira Center for Heritage Studies, New York University Abu Dhabi, on Delma Island. Dhakira has focused its research on mapping and analysing layered heritage in order to understand the various heritage creation processes as recognised by experts, communities and other stakeholders. This year, Dhakira concentrated on maritime heritage themes, local traditions and oral histories with particular emphasis on Dalma Island, as a local, regional and globally connected heritage site. To facilitate research on the island, Salama al-Qubaisi, a post graduate researcher from Dalma, established a heritage *majlis* as a long term ‘HeritageLab’ to record intangible heritage.

Peter Magee was appointed Head of Archaeology and Palaeontology at the DCT Abu Dhabi in 2017. He has pushed forward the publication of grey literature and reopened excavations at key sites to resolve outstanding research issues. Bo Madsen’s pioneering work, “The Early Bronze Age Tombs of Jebel Hafit: Danish Archaeological Investigations in Abu Dhabi 1961-1971,” was published in February by Aarhus University Press. Peter has also been directing new excavations at Hili 8 and 14, in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of al-Ain, and Jabeel north of Al Ain, aimed at resolving outstanding research issues on the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Excavations directed by Mark Beech at the Neolithic settlement site MR11 on the island of Marawah continued through February and March. As many as ten stone-built houses with an oval plan and cellular arrangement have now been found. Radiocarbon dates places the main occupation

around 6000 BC, making this the earliest settlement in the UAE. The settlement is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the country and a complete Ubaid vase from Marawah is now on display in the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

A three-day conference on the archaeology of the Emirates was convened in al-Ain by the DCT Abu Dhabi from 26th to 28th March. It was attended by speakers from around the globe and the latest discoveries were presented. Papers presented by young Emirati scholars, including Hamdan al-Rashdi from the DCT Abu Dhabi and Mai al-Mansoori from Zayed University, were particularly welcome. The conference is a welcome initiative by Peter Magee to raise the international and national profile of the archaeology of the Emirates and further dialogue between scholars working in all seven Emirates. A two-day conference focusing on the Islamic archaeology of the Emirates is now being planned for October 2019.

The DCT Abu Dhabi hired its first ever female Emirati archaeologist in May 2018. Noura al-Hameli is a graduate of Zayed University. She participated in the ZU-DCT collaborative al-Ain Archaeological Field School in February 2017, where she learned field methods and techniques at the Bayt Bin Hadi in Hili Oasis. She then excavated at the Old Fort in Zanzibar in summer 2017 and again in 2018, as part of an international collaboration between Zayed University, Bristol University and Zanzibar Department of Antiquities and Museums, directed by Tim Power and Mark Horton. Noura's recruitment by the DCT Abu Dhabi represents a historic first for the Emirates and we look forward to following her career.

The archaeological basement exhibition at the Qattara Arts Center was opened on 1st November. Basement exhibitions displaying *in situ* archaeology have become a feature of the international heritage landscape, but this marks a first for the Emirates. Visitors come down the stairs and view a unique rock-cut industrial installation dating to the Iron Age; a simplified version of the stratigraphy is recreated on the walls of the basement. The progress of excavations and deposition process are explained in a short video and finds from the site are presented in their stratigraphic context.

As part of its celebration of its first birthday, the Louvre Abu Dhabi hosted the exhibition *Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia* (7th November 2018-16 February 2019). The expanded version of this well-known travelling exhibition was co-curated by Jamal S. Omar, Vice President of Antiquities and Museums Department at STCH, Dr. Souraya Noujaim, Scientific, Curatorial and Collection Management Director at Louvre Abu Dhabi, and Noëmi Daucé, Chief Curator for Archaeology at Louvre Abu Dhabi. It includes hundreds of objects from some of Saudi Arabia's most famous

archaeological sites as well as a selection of UAE and French loans. The exhibition began in 2010 at the Louvre in Paris before travelling through fourteen cities in Europe, America and East Asia. However, this is the first time these objects have been displayed in the Arabian Peninsula beyond the borders of Saudi Arabia.

On 24th and 25th November members of the public were invited by the DCT Abu Dhabi to explore their archaeological heritage as part of an open day at Hili 8 and 4. This built on the success of a similar event in October 2017. Open days such as this are extremely important to engage young Emiratis and communicate the significance of archaeology to community stakeholders.

One of the highlights of the past year was the opening of Qasr al-Hosn, the historic fort of the ruling Al Bu Falah, on 1st December. Archaeological work directed by Peter Sheehan, Head of the Historic Buildings and Landscapes Department, has been ongoing since 2007. Although significantly truncated and obscured by later modifications of the building, the results of the archaeological monitoring revealed evidence for the development of the site and quantities of Late Islamic pottery. The fort is now open to the public and its history is explored in a permanent exhibition.

Ongoing projects throughout the year included the initial experimental phases of an archaeological reconstruction of a Bronze Age boat by Eric Staples, Assistant Professor at Zayed University. This project is jointly funded by Zayed University and NYUAD, and students from both universities have worked on the project in a truly collaborative effort. A series of experiments as well as the construction of an 8 m hypothetical model are being conducted on both campuses. The main goal of the entire project is built on the previous Bronze Age reconstructions and systematically explore the use of Bronze Age materials, tools and techniques through a review of all the available archaeological, textual and iconographic data in order to deepen our understanding of early seafaring.

Ras al-Khaimah

By Hilal Khan, Archaeology Department under the Department of Antiquities and Museums, Government of Ras al-Khaimah

Jazirat al-Hamrah is a traditional 17th/18th century coastal town whose economy was based on fishing and pearling. The Jazirat al-Hamrah restoration project started in December 2014. The scope of the project includes the recording and assessment of the traditional architecture and excavation - to record and understand early settlement and archaeology and, ultimately, restoration of the standing structures. In 2018, the building recording and assessment

proceeded and so far 71 structures have been fully recorded. Excavations at 25 different areas and compounds were completed and the preliminary reports are being prepared. 16 structures have been restored and 8 additional structures are nearing completion.

Seth Priestman is conducting a detailed study and recording of the ceramic finds from Jazirat al-Hamrah and after four years of continuous excavation Jazirat al-Hamra has produced an assemblage of over 100,000 ceramic vessel fragments. The largest portion of the finds date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but there is also clearly a significant component extending back into the 18th or possibly the later 17th century. Around two-thirds of the assemblage come from local sources, mostly from the Julfar kilns at the back of the Shimal plain around 30km to the north, while the other well represented groups come from a variety of sources throughout the Gulf region, especially from Oman, southern Iran, Bahrain and Iraq. Small quantities of imports are derived from remote sources in East Asia (China and Japan) and western Europe (mostly Holland, Belgium, Germany and the UK). Taken as a whole, the ceramic finds from Jazirat al-Hamrah provide a clear record of the different scales of network interaction operating within the period, from regular carrier trade bound up with the movement of local resources across the surrounding landscape, to the busy maritime exchange operating throughout the Gulf, up to the scale of global trade networks that furnished the population with small quantities of fine industrially produced ceramics carried for thousands of miles from the factories of East Asia and Western Europe.

An MoU has been signed with the Palace Museum, Beijing, Peoples Republic of China to initiate a long-term research programme to study the Chinese ceramics and understand, in greater depth, the related trade links across the Indian Ocean. A team under Prof. WANG Guangyao, Deputy Director of the Institute of Archaeology, Palace Museum, Beijing, visited Ras Al Khaimah and had a short season reviewing and cataloguing the Chinese ceramics from the previous excavations.

A new project was initiated with Archaeology Connolly Heritage Consultancy UK under David Connolly to survey/map the traditional architecture of Ras Al Khaimah. The research carried out thus far, and planned for the near future, intends to enhance existing material, map all available traditional architecture and to provide key data for planning control and heritage assets protection. It is envisaged that locating and describing these assets in a systematic manner will make the resource more accessible for further academic study, as well as more appreciated by the public. It is further anticipated that this documentation will form a useful basis for the imminent Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), which will list all heritage assets within the Emirate of Ras

Al Khaimah. In addition to this, the project is to deliver a series of publications (both popular and academic) on the subject, thus further raising the awareness of this rich cultural resource to national and international levels.

Shimal Plain Palm Garden archaeological survey/mapping Phase 1 was started by HKC Heritage UK under Hana Kadolska to map the palm gardens (both active and disused) within the Shimal Plain area. The aim of the project is to create maps of the palm gardens, overlain with LIDAR data. The maps will also include highlighted areas of known or potential sites, identified from the study of aerial and LIDAR images and previous archaeological investigations. It is also within the scope of the project to identify, characterise and accurately locate any archaeological sites and monuments encountered. The efficacy of the employed methodology was also tested for rapid but detailed survey/mapping of palm gardens, to be used in subsequent phases (year 2-4).

The Study of the formation, evolution and socio-environmental dynamics of the Ras al Khaimah Oases (Dhayah, Shimal and Khatt) since the Bronze Age continued under Louise Purdue and Julien Charbonnier, University Nice Sophia Antipolis, CEPAM, Nice, France. After the successful season at Dhayah 2017, this year the project was devoted to the systematic study of the oasian agro- and hydro-systems of the Shimal oasis. The aim of this season was to build a geomorphic, paleo-hydrological and climatic framework on the scale of the Shimal oasis in order to identify environmental dynamics that could have favoured the continuous use of the oasis (or not) in periods considered as unfavourable (or not) on the regional scale. Furthermore, it aimed to increase understanding of the oasian hydraulic system and agricultural system, as well as the associated agricultural practices.

At the same time, other small projects continued; for example, the building assessment and documentation of Naslah Tower complex at Wadi Al Qawr was completed and excavation was carried out. This will be followed by restoration of the tower complex. Building assessment and recording/documentation of the upper fort at Dhayah has now been completed and will be followed by small-scale restoration, which is part of the official opening of the site to visitors under RAKTDA. Fabien Lesguer (Panthéon-Sorbonne University) and Derek Kennet (Durham University) finished the photogrammetric survey of the pottery kilns at Ghailan and Wadi Haqeel, which is part of the project's research into the pottery kilns of the region.

BRITISH LIBRARY QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

Under the British Library's Living Knowledge strategy we have always undertaken partnerships and collaborations, particularly when it comes to digitisation and making the library's collections available online. Our partnership with the Qatar National Library and Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is one of our largest, as well as most ambitious digitisation initiatives.

The overarching aim of the partnership is to open up collections on Gulf History and Arabic Science, making them freely available for all users. In 2014 the partnership launched the Qatar Digital Library (<http://www.qdl.qa/>) at events in both Doha and London. With an initial 100,000 images from the British Library's collections this is an online, bi-lingual portal featuring archives, manuscripts, maps, visual arts and sound recordings around the themes of Gulf History and Arabic Science.



The English and Arabic portals to the online collection

The archival material has been drawn from the India Office Records (IOR): the archives of the British East India Company (1600-1858), the Board of Control or Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India (1784-1858), and the India Office (1858-1947). They include letter books, files and compilations from the British Political Residencies in the Gulf, including the residency at Bushire (1763-1948) and the agencies at Bahrain (1899-1951).

These records contain unique and detailed information about the history, politics and culture of the region, comprising of thousands of files and volumes dating from the late 18th to the mid-20th century

We have made available not only archival material but also private papers, maps, photographs and sound recordings from the library's collections in order to enrich the offering. We've also made use of technology to enhance the user experience, for example by geo-referencing all the maps.

By the end of 2018, we completed the second phase of the partnership with over 1½ million images available completely free to use and re-use via the QDL. This year we are continuing to add a further 300,000 images a year as we continue our collaboration into its third phase.

It is extremely gratifying how well used the website has been. To date, we have seen over a million users make use of the website from all over the world, with users from almost every country in the world making use of the resource at some point over the last four years.

Arabic Science is the second theme of the collections made available, and is based on selections for the British Library's internationally recognised Arabic manuscripts collections ranging from the 10th to 19th centuries. The manuscripts range in format from large and luxuriously decorated copies produced for royal patrons to the working notebooks of travelling scholars. The texts contained in the manuscripts cover medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geography, mechanics and other sciences.

The collections digitised under the partnership have been made available, as far as possible, under creative commons licence so that they not only be used freely for research, but re-used in creative and interesting ways. In order to make the collections available in this way, the partnership has undertaken a mammoth rights clearance task, identifying what parts of the collection are still in copyright, identifying rights holders and contacting them for permission to publish.

We've also written over 150 expert articles to provide context to the collections, highlight interesting stories or major themes, as well as provide introductory articles for non-specialists. As with every other part of the resource, these articles are available both in English and Arabic.



Some of the expert articles available online

Gratifyingly, both the Arabic and English parts of the website are equally well used, which is no small part down to the high-quality Arabic translation which is quality assured by a small team of translators. Being able to make these unique collections now searchable and discoverable in Arabic is another way for the partnership to open up the content to a whole new group of researchers and users, which is a fundamental benefit of this partnership between two national libraries.

More information on the project:

Qatar Digital Library – www.qdl.qa

About the Partnership – www.bl.uk/qatar

British Library Blogs – <https://www.bl.uk/blogs>

by **Richard Davies** (Head, British Library Qatar National Library Partnership)

SHORT RESEARCH NOTICES

The Gendered Household: Making Space for Women in the Study of Islamic Archaeology in Qatar

The aim of this research project was to uncover the roles and activities of women at the sites of Fuwairit, Furayḥah and Al-Zubārah from the eighteenth to the early-twentieth century. I wanted to highlight the important role of gender in structuring society, and to explore whether we can understand the role of gender within the archaeology of the Gulf region, and specifically the archaeology of domestic compounds in Qatar. The findings from this dissertation suggest that through synthesising historical, ethnographic and archaeological research it is possible not only to envisage the presence of women, but also to explore the processes that created gender identity in Qatar.

This project chose to focus on the archaeology of the domestic compound, not only because ethnographic and historical sources identify the activities of women within this space, but also because androcentric bias and outdated theoretical perspectives were universal within this field of study. The case study that formed the backbone of this analysis were the recent excavations conducted at the site of Fuwairit, as part of the Origins of Doha and Qatar Project (ODQ). I identified key spaces and artefacts tied to the possible activities of women, including ephemeral courtyard structures, the cooking or preparation of food, and significant small finds such as items of adornment. The data from Fuwairit was then compared to data from the sites of Furayḥah and Al-Zubārah.

Comparing the sites of Furayḥah and Al-Zubārah highlighted the extensive variation within the structure of domestic space, and in the activities that took place within these spaces. Using the data collected, this project set out to develop a theoretical approach that aimed to comprehend how women use space and interacted with material culture, so that a better understanding could be gained of how gender identity is created within domestic space.

The conclusions arising from this research demonstrate the important contribution of women to the history, society and economy of Qatar; a contribution that is often overlooked within the literature discussing the archaeology of the

region. This research concluded that the structure of domestic space and how women interact with material is significant in forming gender identity. This project was undertaken as part of my undergraduate dissertation; I hope that future research within the Arabian Gulf region will continue to critique our understanding of gender and uncover the roles of women within a broad range of contexts.



Location of Fuwairit, Furayḥah and Al-Zubārah



Archaeologists from the Origins of Doha and Qatar Project excavating the coastal site of Fuwairit

by **Elizabeth Hicks**

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON ARABIA

Aščerić-Todd, I., Knees, S., Starkey, J. & Starkey, P. (eds) 2018 *Travellers in Ottoman Lands: The Botanical Legacy*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1784919153.

Avanzini, A. & Degli Esposti, M. 2018 *Husn Salut and the Iron Age of South East Arabia: Excavations of the Italian Mission to Oman 2004-2014*. Rome: L'Erma di Bretschneider. ISBN 978-8891316363

Brehony, N. (Ed) 2017 *Hadhrmaut and its diaspora : Yemeni politics, identity and migration*. London: I.B. ISBN 978-1784538682.

Castro, M. 2018 *The Function of the Roman Army in Southern Arabia Petraea*. Oxford: Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 48. ISBN 978-1784919528

Döpfer, S. (ed.) 2018 *Beyond Tombs and Towers: Domestic Architecture of the Umm an-Nar Period in Eastern Arabia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag. ISBN 978-3447111195

Evers, K.G. 2017 *Worlds Apart Trading Together: The organisation of long-distance trade between Rome and India in Antiquity*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1784917425

Fitzpatrick, D. 2016 *Managing Archaeological Collections in Middle Eastern Countries A Good Practice Guide*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1784914882.

Frenez, D. & Cattani, M. 2019 *Sognatori/Dreamers. 40 anni di ricerche archeologiche italiane in Oman/40 years of Italian archaeological research in Oman*. BraDypUS. ISBN: 978-88-98392-90-2 (The volume can be downloaded from: https://books.bradypus.net/italian_archaeological_research_in_oman)

Fromherz, A., J. 2018 *The Gulf in World History: Arabia at the Global Crossroads*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. ISBN 978-1474430654.

Hardy-Guilbert, C., Renel, H., Rougeulle, A. & Vallet, E. 2018 *Sur les chemins d'Onagre: Histoire et archéologie orientales Hommage à Monik Kervran*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1784919849.

Hausleiter, A., Eichmann, R. & al-Najem, M. (eds) 2018 *Taymā' I: Archaeological Exploration, Palaeoenvironment, Cultural Contacts*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-178969043

Lambourn, E.A. 2018 *Abraham's Luggage. A Social Life of Things in the Medieval Indian Ocean World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1107173880

Malik R. Dahlan, M.R. 2018 *The Hijaz : the first Islamic state*. London : Hurst & Company, ISBN 781-849048798.

Manfredil, S. & Tosco, M. 2018 *Arabic in Contact: Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Perspectives*. Philadelphia : John Benjamins Publishing Company. ISBN 978-9027201355.

Michele Lampracos, M. 2017 *Building a World Heritage City: Sanaa*, Yemen Routledge. ISBN 978-1138308459

Purdue, L., Charbonnier, J. & Khalidi, L. (eds.) 2018 *From refugia to oases. Living in arid environments from prehistoric times to the present day / Des refuges aux oasis. Vivre en milieu aride de la Préhistoire à aujourd'hui*. Actes des XXXVIIIe Rencontres internationales d'Archéologie et d'Histoire d'Antibes, 2017. APDCA: Antibes, ISBN: 2-904110-60-7

Rendel, G. 2019 *Across Arabia: Three Weeks in 1937*. Arabian Publishing Ltd. ISBN 978-0992980856

van Rensburg, J.J. 2016 *The Maritime Traditions of the Fishermen of Socotra, Yemen*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1784914820.

Sarathi, A. (ed.) 2018 *Early Maritime Cultures in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Papers from a conference held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (African Studies Program) 23-24 October 2015*. Oxford: Archaeopress. ISBN 978-1784917128.

Walsh, T. 2018 *The Land of Frankincense: The Guide to the History, Locations and UNESCO Sites of Frankincense in Dhofar Oman*. Arabesque Travel. ISBN 978-1999813550

NEW PUBLICATIONS: MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF OMAN

The Ministry of Heritage and Culture of Oman has recently launched two new long-term series and published several monographs and edited volumes describing specific research activities, as well as more general topics related to the archaeology and ancient history of the Sultanate.

The series "The Archaeological Heritage of Oman" was conceived to meet the needs of both scholars and amateurs covering major topics in the archaeology and ethnography of Oman starting from the outcomes of important projects supported by the Ministry over the past decades. The series should include at least twelve volumes, six of which have

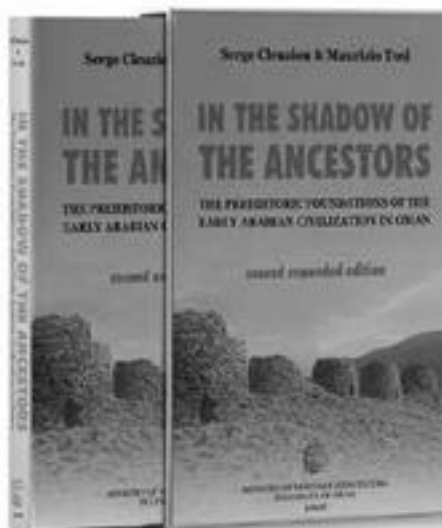
already been released, written in English by acknowledged scholars working on various topics including lithic technology, ancient metallurgy, funerary monuments and religious rituals, paleoenvironmental reconstructions, rock art, trading ports, traditional weapons, etc. All volumes in the series will be made available worldwide in both hard and digital copy through Archaeopress (www.archaeopress.com).

The series "Windows on Our Past" includes the preliminary reports of the most recent projects carried out by all Omani and foreign expeditions and scholars working in collaboration with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, as well as the results of important operations conducted by the Ministry in collaboration with international teams of experts in the field of rescue and preventive archaeology for the documentation and study of important archaeological sites and monuments threatened by the rapid infrastructure development presently ongoing in Oman, including the

recently inaugurated Batinah Expressway and the Duqm Special Economic Zone Authority. The volumes can be requested free of charge from the Ministry of Heritage and Culture of Oman.

Monographs and edited volumes include the second expanded edition of "In the Shadow of the Ancestors" by the late Serge Cleuziou and Maurizio Tosi, which updates what was the first comprehensive book about the prehistory of the Oman Peninsula; the proceedings of the international symposium "The Archaeological Heritage of Oman" held in Paris in 2012 to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption by Oman of the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage; the scientific report of the field-work carried out at the UNESCO site of Bat by the American team directed by the late Prof. Gregory Possehl, as well as a number of tourist-oriented booklets about the major archaeological sites in Oman.

By **Dennys Frenes & Sultan Saif Al-Bakri**



AWARDS AND PRIZES

The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF)

The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) is the most prestigious and important literary prize in the Arab world. Its aim is to reward excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing and to encourage the readership of high quality Arabic literature internationally through the translation and publication of winning and shortlisted novels in other major languages. In addition to the Prize itself, IPAF supports other literary initiatives. In 2009 IPAF launched its inaugural Nadwa (writers' workshop) for emerging writers of fiction in Arabic.

The Prize is run with the support, as its mentor, of the Booker Prize Foundation in London and funded by Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi (DCT). Each year IPAF's Board of Trustees selects a new panel of five judges. The judges may be literary critics, writers and academics from the Arab world and beyond. To underline the international dimension of the Prize, one judge is always a non-Arab, who is not necessarily a fluent speaker and sophisticated reader of Arabic.

Submissions open on 1 April and must be received by 30 June. Publishers can submit up to three of their novels from the calendar year which ends on 30 June that year. The winner announcement takes place at a gala ceremony in Abu Dhabi in spring. The shortlisted authors each receive \$10,000 US. The winning author goes on to receive a further \$50,000 US, with a commitment that IPAF will meet the cost of translation of the winning novel into English to help underwrite its publication for an English speaking readership. IPAF also actively encourages the translation of all shortlisted novels into other languages. Recognition by IPAF brings attention from publishers worldwide. So novels associated with IPAF can look forward to increased readership and sales both within the Arab world and internationally through translation.

<https://www.arabicfiction.org/en/about-the-prize>

The Saif Ghobash–Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize aims to raise the profile of contemporary Arabic literature as well as honouring the important work of individual translators in bringing the work of established and emerging Arab writers to the attention of the wider world. It was established by Banipal, the magazine of modern Arab literature in English translation, and the Banipal Trust for Arab Literature. The inaugural prize was awarded on 9 October 2006.

The prize is administered by the Society of Authors in the United Kingdom, alongside the other prizes for literary translation from languages that include Dutch, French, German, Italian, Greek, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

All are administered by the Society and awarded annually at a joint ceremony hosted by the Society and the TLS and supported by Arts Council England.

<http://www.banipaltrust.org.uk/prize/>

British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies

The BKFS was founded thanks to an endowment of the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation. In each of the years since the prize commenced, it has attracted around 50 nominations from some 20 publishers and the overall standard of entries has been extremely high. The prize is awarded for the best scholarly work on the Middle East each year. Normally, the chronological remit of the prize will be from the rise of Islam until the present day, but outstanding scholarly entries from the pre-Islamic era may also be considered. A prize or prizes will be awarded each year to the value of up to £10,000 for the best scholarly work in English on the Middle East which has been published in its first edition in the United Kingdom.

Further information: <http://www.bkfsprize.co.uk/>

The Board of Directors of Middle East Medievalists

The Board of Directors of Middle East Medievalists (MEM) offers a prize of \$100 for the best graduate student paper on a medieval topic. Its aim is to provide encouragement to graduate students with an interest in the medieval period. The prize will be awarded in Washington DC at the annual business meeting of MEM, held in conjunction with MESA. Papers should not exceed 10,000 words (including notes, but excluding bibliography) and should not have yet been submitted for publication.

<http://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/mem-awards-prizes/mem-graduate-student-prize/>

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Ansari Award

The winners of the Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Ansari Award for Serving the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Antiquities were awarded at the 1st Saudi Archeology Convention in Riyadh. Award winners included the Al-Turath Foundation for its awareness-raising role in the field of antiquities and its work role in the recovery of national antiquities from outside the Kingdom and the development of antiquities sites; the Green Arabia Project for pioneering efforts in the field of pre-history studies in the Kingdom; and Dr. Abdullah bin Hassan Masri in recognition of his efforts in establishing the Archaeology Department in the Ministry of Education and promoting the development of archaeological research.

The Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize

The Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize was established jointly in 1986 by the Leigh Douglas Memorial Fund and BRISMES in memory of Dr Leigh Douglas who was killed in Beirut

in 1986. The prize is awarded annually to the writer of the best PhD dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic in the Social Sciences or Humanities awarded by a British University in the previous calendar year.

The deadline for submission of entries is 31st January. The current value of the prize is £600 for the winner and £150 for the runner up. We believe this to be a very worthwhile award and would encourage all supervisors to bring it to the attention of their students. We are now accepting entries for the 2019 Prize. We require a copy of the thesis (electronic) and a letter of endorsement/support from your supervisor. Entries should be sent to louise.haysey@brismes.org and received by midnight on 31 January 2019. Entering your thesis for this award does not preclude entering it for other awards. <http://www.brismes.ac.uk/student-area/leigh-douglas-memorial-prize>

Prof. G. Rex Smith wins the King Salman bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Prize for Research in the Field of the History of the Arabian Peninsula

Congratulations to Professor G. Rex Smith for being awarded this prize for non-Saudi scholars for the year 1438/2017. Rex, a stalwart of the early days of the Seminar for Arabian Studies going back to the 1970s, is professor emeritus of the University of Manchester, and is currently visiting professor in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies in the University of Leeds.

The award comes after his many publications and his supervision of numerous doctoral theses in the field of Arabian history and epigraphy during his long academic career. He has published numerous articles on the history, epigraphy and language of the Arabian Peninsula, and between 1996 and 2004 was an editor of the journal *New Arabian Studies*. Some of his main monograph publications over the years are as follows:

The Ayyubids and Early Rasulids in the Yemen (567–694/1173–1295), 2 vols, London, E.J.W. Gibb Memorial Trust 26/1–2, 1974–78.

Bride of the Red Sea: a 10th/16th-century account of Jedda (al-Silāh wa-al-‘uddah fī tārikh bandar Juddah). Durham: Centre for Middle Eastern Studies Occasional Papers Series 22, 1984 (with Ahmad Umar al-Zayla‘i).

The Manuscript of al-Malik al-Afḍal: a Medieval Arabic Anthology from the Yemen. London: E.J.W. Gibb Memorial Trust, 1998 (with Daniel Martin Varisco).

A Medieval Administrative and Fiscal Treatise from the Yemen: the Rasulid Mulakhkhaṣ al-ḥiṭān by al-Ḥasan b. ‘Alī al-Ḥusaynī. Oxford: *Journal of Semitic Studies*, Supplement 20, 2006.

A Traveller in Thirteenth-Century Arabia: Ibn al-Mujawir’s Tarikh al-Mustabsir. London: The Hakluyt Society, 2008.

AVAILABLE GRANTS

American Institute for Yemeni Studies

The American Institute for Yemeni Studies annually holds two competitions for fellowship programs supporting research on Yemen, one for U.S. citizens, presently limited to venues other than Yemen, and one for citizens of the Republic of Yemen. Both are funded by grants from the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. For US scholars, AIYS can only accept applications for research on Yemen in venues other than Yemen and the United States. For the same reason, AIYS cannot accept applications for intensive Arabic study. More information is available at : <http://www.aiys.org/previous-fellows.html>

The Anglo-Omani Society

The Anglo-Omani Society (AOS) is a charitable organisation working with the objective of preserving the longstanding friendship between Britain and Oman. The Society was formed in January 1976 with HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said as the Society’s Patron and HE The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in London as its President. The Anglo-Omani Society has provided funding through their Grants Scheme to several projects in both the UK and Oman.

Arabic Language Scheme: The AOS send UK students to take one month of intensive language course at the Sultan Qaboos College for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers.

Outward Bound Oman provides funding to hire Omani instructors and send UK participants to attend their courses. More information is available at:

<http://www.angloomanisociety.com/grants-0>

The Asfari Foundation

The Asfari Foundation is pleased to announce its 2019 call for grant applications under its Civil Society and Youth Empowerment programmes. Ten grants of up to £225,000 (disbursed at up to £75,000 per year over three years) will be available. Eligible organisations are warmly invited to apply. Concept notes must be received by 1 April 2019. For more information www.asfarifoundation.org.uk.

Barakat Trust

The Trust awards a number of scholarships and grants to students and scholars of Islamic art history, architecture and archaeology including conservation and post-doctoral fellowships. Grants have covered conservation programmes, documentation of archives, events, exhibitions and museums, lectures, colloquia and conferences, scholarships towards a Master of Studies course in Islamic Art History and Architecture at the University of Oxford, scholarships and grants for post-graduate and post-doctoral study and research fellowships, travel and field trips, archaeological projects, and prizes to students at accredited schools and

universities. The Barakat Trust does not support the applied arts. The closing date for applications is 31st March each year. Further information on the grants can be found at <https://barakat.org/grants/>

Beatrice de Cardi Awards

The awards are endowed through a bequest from Beatrice de Cardi FSA. Beatrice de Cardi undertook pioneering fieldwork and research in the Arabian Gulf and Pakistan. Over the course of a long and distinguished career she was President of the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia, and the first Secretary of the Council for British Archaeology. The awards are for the furtherance of archaeological research by field survey, excavation and the publication of the fieldwork in the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the Pakistan province of Balochistan. Applications will be accepted for: projects where the Society will be the main or a significant financial contributor or support for definable objectives with specific, measurable outcomes within larger projects funded from a range of sources (but not simply ‘topping up’ applications to major funding bodies). Awards are made on an annual basis with possible renewal for up to two further years. A new application is required each year and no project will be funded for more than three years. Awards are for £5,000 to £15,000 and the deadline for applications is 15 January annually.

<https://www.sal.org.uk/grants/grants-programmes/beatrice-de-cardi-awards/>

British Academy

The British Academy offers a number of academic, research and travel fellowships and other grants including skills acquisition awards and professorships. They are all offered for postdoctoral research in the humanities and social sciences. For full details visit the British Academy website:

<http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/>

The British Foundation for the Study of Arabia

Through a generous donation, the BFSA has recently been able to offer a greater number of research grants to worthy scholars. The main objective of the research must fit within the scope of the BFSA’s aims, and applications must be linked to clear and achievable plans for immediate research.

The number of awards made each year will depend on the strength of applications. *Main Research Grants* up to £4,000 and *Small Research Grants* up to £1,000 are awarded. It is expected that grants of a combined value of up to about £8,000 will normally be awarded each year.

Terms and conditions can be found on our website, but also see the BFSA News Section of the Bulletin for more information: www.thebfsa.org/content/grants.

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI)

BISI Pilot Project Grants. The Institute welcomes funding

applications for pilot projects in all fields of the arts, humanities or social sciences, concerned with any time period from prehistory to the present day.

Funding of up to £8,000 is available for one such project a year. The Institute offers assistance to the award-holder in drafting a full research proposal to submit jointly to other funding bodies. Two academic references are required. All applications and references must be received by 1 February. Decisions will be announced in March. Only one BISI Pilot Project Grant can be made annually. However, the BISI also awards several Research Grants a year for short-term projects costing no more than £4000. Conditions and application forms can be found on: www.bisi.ac.uk/content/academic-grants

BISI Research and Conference Grants. The Institute invites funding applications once a year to support research or conferences on Iraq and neighbouring countries not covered by the British Academy’s BASIS-sponsored institutions, in any field of the humanities or social sciences, concerned with any time period from prehistory to the present day. A list of the British Academy-sponsored Institutes and Societies (BASIS) can be found on the following link: www.britac.ac.uk/intl/index-basis.cfm. BISI can only fund direct costs such as equipment, travel expenses, and consultancy fees, normally up to a total of £4,000 – although more substantial awards may exceptionally be made. BISI cannot pay institutional overheads, salary costs, PhD studentships, or other normal living costs. Applications must be received by 1 February annually with two academic references. Decisions will be announced in March.

BISI Visiting Iraqi Scholar Grants. Two grants are offered each year to Iraqi scholars visiting the UK and working in all disciplines within humanities and social sciences. These grants include a joint visiting scholarship with the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society). Priority is given to Iraqi scholars who have established links with UK institutions and would like to carry out collaborative projects with academics or heritage professionals in the UK. All applications and references must be received by 1 February annually. Candidates will be informed of the decision by early July. Please note that the next scholarships available are in the months of February to June and October to early December. However if you have already received an invitation or made arrangements with a UK institution, there may be the possibility of taking up a scholarship in October to early December. Formal leave of absence from the scholar’s own institution or employer is required before an award is made; a copy of the permission for a leave of absence is to be sent to BISI. An acceptance form is required from each applicant in advance of making travel arrangements. All scholars must be able to converse in and understand English to a working level to ensure the placement is a success. For further information see: www.bisi.ac.uk/content/visiting-iraqi-scholars

BISI Outreach Grants. Grants are available to support outreach and public engagement events and projects such as lectures, study days, and popular publications that relate to Iraq and neighbouring countries and to the areas of interest covered by BISI. Funding is normally up to £500 per project. Applicants should normally be residents in the UK. Preference will be given to events taking place in the UK, Iraq or neighbouring countries. Application forms must be supported by two references. All must be received by the 1st October. For further information see: <http://www.bisi.ac.uk/content/apply-grants-and-scholarships>

Please see the website for full details and conditions of BISI's grants: <http://www.bisi.ac.uk/> or contact the administrator: bisi@britac.ac.uk.

British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS)

BIPS welcomes applications from scholars wishing to pursue research in Persian Studies. The British Institute of Persian Studies' Main Grants Programme awards funding in an open, biannual competition for projects. Applications are invited from scholars wishing to pursue research in all fields of Iranian and the wider Persianate world studies in any relevant subject, including anthropology, archaeology, the visual arts and architecture, history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, religion, political science and cognate subjects, as well as for the organisation of conferences, lectures and workshops. In line with our funding priorities, the Institute continues to maintain a balance between supporting large-scale projects with far-reaching effects and smaller-scale research, publication or fieldwork-based endeavours.

Travel and Research grants for UK Undergraduates.

BIPS is offering a limited number of bursaries in 2016/7 to encourage such visits to Iran and the wider Persian world. In addition to the application form, applicants should submit a one-page proposal outlining their research project, including the time-scale, the itinerary and the breakdown of expenses. Any topic that is relevant to an academic study bearing on Iran will be considered. However, successful candidates will not receive more than £1,200 and should not expect a bursary to cover all the costs of a journey to Iran; they should be prepared to supplement it from other sources. Grants will be paid only after recipients who require a visa have obtained it.

Research and Lead Projects 2011-17.

Most of the Institute's income is set aside for collaborative research projects and our research strategy is divided into three broad programmes, each containing a lead project headed by a Programme Director. Applicants for projects within programme specification are encouraged to discuss their application with the relevant Project Lead. More general questions can be directed to the Chairman of the Research Committee, Dr Lloyd Ridgeon Research-Committee@BIPS.ac.uk.

Grants are available to support primary research in Iranian

studies. All applications should demonstrate that the Institute's funds are sought for a clearly defined, original piece of research that will have an identifiable outcome on completion.

Funds are available to facilitate initial project planning and development; to support the direct costs of research; and to enable the advancement of research through workshops or conferences, or visits by or to partner scholars. Applicants may seek support for any combination of eligible activity. Individual applications are available from a minimum of £200 up to a maximum of £8,000. Deadlines are the 16th February of each year. For more information see: <http://bips.ac.uk/grants/>

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)

BRISMES administers several scholarships and prizes each year:

MA Scholarship. BRISMES offers an annual Master's scholarship for taught Master's study at a UK institution. The Master's programme can be in any discipline but should include a majority component specifically relating to the Middle East. Preference will be given to candidates resident in the European Union, and to institutions who are members of BRISMES. For Master's programmes commencing October 2014, the award will amount to £1,200. The names of the winner and the institution will be publicised in the BRISMES Newsletter and website. Applications for October must reach the BRISMES Office by 31st March. The decision by BRISMES Council will be announced as soon as possible thereafter. For information, please contact: a.l.haysey@dur.ac.uk

Research Student Awards. For research students based in the UK working on a Middle Eastern studies topic. The annually available ceiling of £1,000 will either be given as a single award or divided (max. three).

Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation BRISMES Scholarships. The purpose of the scholarships is to encourage more people to pursue postgraduate studies in disciplines related to the Middle East in British universities. The scholarships will be for one academic year. The value of each scholarship will be £2,000. Two scholarships will be awarded. Applications should be made to the BRISMES Administrative office. The deadline for each round is 31st March. The applicants have to be registered at any UK university, be a paid-up member of BRISMES (Student membership suffices), submit an application of 600–1000 words by email to the BRISMES research committee and obtain a brief supporting statement from their supervisor. The announcement of the award will be made in June and published in the July edition of the BRISMES newsletter.

For full details, deadlines and conditions of all the above see the website: <http://www.brismes.ac.uk/student-area/the->

[abdullah-mubarak-brismes-scholarshp](mailto:abdullah-mubarak-brismes-scholarshp@durham.ac.uk) or email a.l.haysey@durham.ac.uk

British-Yemeni Society Annual Academic Grant

Applications are invited from anyone carrying out research in Yemen or on a Yemen-related subject at a British or Yemeni University. Applicants' nationality is irrelevant. Applications may be made to assist with study in any subject or field, so long as it is concerned with Yemen and is for a specific qualification (e.g. BA, MA, PhD etc.) Post-doctoral researchers may apply, but will only be considered should no junior applicants approach the Committee. Applications must follow normal academic procedures, i.e. an abstract supported by a recommendation from the applicant's supervisor. Applications are to reach the Secretary to the Committee by 31 March each year. The Committee will consider the applications and make the grant at the AGM in June. As a condition of the grant, the successful applicant will be required to make an acknowledgement of the grant in their thesis or dissertation. The applicant will also be expected to make a presentation to the Society (to be summarised in the Society's Journal) on the results of the research assisted by the grant.

Submissions and any queries are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, The British-Yemeni Society, 210 Stephendale Road, London SW6 2PP, email allfreea@gmail.com. or for full details see the website: www.b-ys.org.uk

Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW)

CASAW, a language-based area studies initiative funded by the AHRC, ESRC, HEFCE and SFC, offers funding for research internships, postgraduate internships and internships in publishing literary translations (Arabic) at the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester.

Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL)

CBRL currently offers *Travel Grants, Team-based Fieldwork Awards, Pilot Study Awards, Visiting Research Fellowships and Scholarships, Project Completion Awards and Project Affiliation* for research that comes under the following themes: the spread of early humans through the Near East from Africa; the origins, development and practice of economic and social strategies in the Middle East from earliest times to the modern day; the development and workings of complex societies and their products; long-term landscape and settlement studies; the relationship between people, past and present, and their built and natural environment; synthetic studies of key historical periods; the interface between East and West; the investigation of multiple identities in the Middle East; the diachronic and synchronic study of the use of language, music and the written record in Middle Eastern society.

The CBRL provides funding to research projects awards made available from the funds it receives from the British

Academy through its grant-in-aid. To apply for CBRL funding, honorary positions and unfunded affiliations please see detailed information about each application process and follow the relevant links below. Please note that only CBRL members are eligible to apply for funding. The number of awards made depends on the level of funding available.

1. Fellowships: these include Senior Visiting Fellowships, Visiting Research Fellowships and Visiting Scholarships.
2. Project Awards: these include Pilot Project Awards, Project Completion Awards and Project Affiliations.
3. Travel Grants: for exploratory research visits.
4. Arabic Language Training: for the Advanced Arabic Programme run at Ifpo, Beirut, and CBRL British Institute in Amman - Qasid Institute Scholarships.
5. Conference and Outreach Funding: for the support of conferences, exhibitions, or other forms of outreach.
6. Internships: volunteer to work at CBRL Kenyon Institute or CBRL British Institute in Amman in exchange for free accommodation and breakfast.

Further details, application forms and conditions of the grant schemes are available from the UK Secretary, CBRL, British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH, or visit: cbrl.ac.uk/funding-and-jobs. Information regarding the next deadlines can be located on the above website. Any queries should be addressed to cbrl@britac.ac.uk.

Qasid Arabic Institute in conjunction with the Council for British Research in the Levant

The Qasid Institute has developed a reputation as one of the best private intensive Arabic-language programmes in the Middle East with teaching methods specifically designed for foreign students. Two scholarships are normally offered for the summer or for the autumn session. See <http://cbrl.org.uk/british-institute-amman> for more information.

University of Durham

Sudan Archive Visiting Library Fellowship

The residential fellowship carries a small grant, accommodation and meals, and is a valuable research opportunity for doctoral students studying Sudan, South Sudan, or the wider East Africa region, and whose research would be significantly supported by two months' study of materials held in the Sudan Archive at Durham University. Information: francis.gotto@durham.ac.uk

2018/19 Civil Society Leaderships Awards

Applications are currently open for the 2018/19 Civil Society Leaderships Awards offered by Durham University and Open Society Foundation. The awards provide fully funded Master's level scholarships for individuals who demonstrate both academic and professional excellence and

have the potential to become civil society leaders in their home communities. The scholarships cover tuition costs, return airfare and provide additional funding for living expenses for one academic year. <https://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/finance/scholarships/csla/>

University of Edinburgh

PhD Scholarship in Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies

The Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh invites applications for two fees only PhD scholarships in any area within its expertise. The scholarship will be funded by IMES and will cover tuition fees at the Home/EU rate (currently £4,195 p.a. for 2017-2018). Applications for both the Scholarship and the PhD must be made by 28th February 2019. Applications for the PhD can be made via the online admissions portal.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/literatures-languages-cultures/graduate-school/fees-and-funding/funding/phd-students/imes-phd-scholarship>

The Emirates Natural History Group (ENHG)

The ENHG, the oldest NGO in the UAE dealing with archaeology and natural history, has previously provided several grants for relevant research and excavations including bird studies and funding an archaeological excavation at a Neolithic site at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Annual Awards: The Abu Dhabi Natural History Group gives two awards each year. Nominations for both awards can be made by members of any of the UAE's three natural history groups, in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al-'Ain. Nominees, however, need not be members of any of the Groups, although serving officers of the Abu Dhabi ENHG (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) are not eligible. The winners are selected by the committee of the Abu Dhabi ENHG early each year. The winners are usually announced at the Inter Emirates Weekend (IEW). Nominations may be sent by post to The Chairman, ENHG, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, by 15th December each year.

Sheikh Mubarak bin Mohammed Award for Natural History:

This award is intended to acknowledge the contributions made by an individual, primarily through original research and publication, to the scientific study of the archaeology, history and natural history of the UAE. This award is in place of the Jashanmal Award that was presented for several years after the introduction of the ENHG in the UAE. The Award consists of an inscribed silver dhow and a cash sum. Website: www.enhg.org/AbuDhabi/AnnualAwards.aspx

Elphinstone Scholarships

A number of Elphinstone PhD Scholarships at Aberdeen University are available across the arts, humanities and social sciences, linked to specific, individual research projects. These Scholarships cover the entirety of tuition fees for a PhD student of any nationality commencing full-

time study in October, for the three-year duration of their studies. For further details please contact Dr Zohar Hadromi-Allouche (zohar@abdn.ac.uk).

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Scholarships are offered for high-achieving students from anywhere in the world. Proficiency in both Arabic and English is required. Students who graduated in recent years, or who are now studying for their bachelor's degree in their final year, are eligible to apply for admission for the coming academic year. Places are available in Politics and IR; Sociology & Anthropology; Media & Cultural Studies; Legal Studies; Comparative Literature; History; Philosophy; and Arabic Language & Linguistics.

Information: <https://www.dohainstitute.edu.qa/EN/Research/Funding/Pages/default.aspx>

Gerald Averary Wainwright Fund for Near Eastern Archaeology

The Fund aims to encourage the study of non-classical archaeology and the general history of the countries of the Middle East. It holds an annual Schools Essay Prize, awards Research Grants to mature scholars and also sponsors a post-doctoral Fellowship. Applicants for the Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship have until 14 February to propose their project. Research Grant deadlines are on 1 April and 1 October. Visit the website for application forms and guidelines: <http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/wainwright/index.php/en/>

For further information contact: The Gerald Avery Wainwright Near Eastern Archaeological Fund, Khalili Research Centre, University of Oxford, 3 St. John Street, Oxford OX1 2LG. Email: wainwright.fund@orinst.ox.ac.uk.

The Islamic Manuscript Association annual grant scheme

The Islamic Manuscript Association Grant Scheme was established to further the aims of the Association by supporting the projects and research of its members in the field of Islamic manuscripts. The Grant Scheme is among the major ongoing activities of the Association, and is one of the main ways in which the Association is able to actively benefit its members' work with manuscript collections around the world. The maximum available grant is £5000 per project, and a number of awards are made annually.

<http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/grants/grantscheme.aspx>

International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF)

The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) is one of the most prestigious and important literary prizes in the Arab world. Its aim is to reward excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing and to encourage the readership of high quality Arabic literature internationally through the translation and publication of winning and shortlisted novels in other major languages. For further details, see: www.arabicfiction.org/

Jusoor Scholarship

St Antony's College, in partnership with Jusoor, are offering a one year scholarship for entry in 2018/19 to a student who is a Syrian citizen or a stateless person normally residing in Syria to study for a one-year Master's degree at St Antony's College at the University of Oxford. Jusoor is an NGO of Syrian expatriates supporting the country's development and helping Syrian youth realize their potential through various programs and initiatives in the fields of Education, Career, and Global Community Engagement. The scholarship is open to applicants who are Syrian citizens or Palestinian refugees in Syria (Palestinians with a Syrian Travel Document), who are currently living in Syria or abroad, and who have applied for a one-year full-time Master's degree in any subject offered at St Antony's College except the MBA. Preference will be given to students who have not already completed a Master's degree. 100% of university and college fees, and an annual grant for living costs of £14,553 for 12 month courses and £10,915 for 9 month courses. The stipend for courses with different durations will be adjusted accordingly. For more information: <https://jusoor-syria.com/jusoor-oxford-scholarship/>

Leigh Douglas Memorial Fund

The fund was established with donations from Leigh Douglas's family and friends to support continued scholarship on the Middle East. It is a charity, and has distributed more than £18,000 since 1990 to assist scholars and experts pursuing research, mostly on Yemen, in fields as varied as archaeology, social anthropology, folk tales, history, geography, linguistics, public health, and marine archaeology. Small grants have enabled scholars to travel, conduct field research or attend conferences, which otherwise would not have been possible. Grants include:

The Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize. This is awarded annually to the writer of the best PhD dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic in the Social Sciences or Humanities. The current value of the prize is £600 for the winner and £150 for the runner up. Anyone wishing to submit his/her dissertation for consideration should send a copy, together with an accompanying letter or recommendation from their supervisor to Professor Charles Tripp, S.O.A.S., Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1X 0XG, UK. The deadline for submission of entries is 31 January. www.brismes.ac.uk/student-area/leigh-douglas-memorial-prize

Grants for Yemeni Studies. Each year the Leigh Douglas Memorial Fund offers two or three small grants (in the region of £300) to assist scholars of any nationality whose research involves the study of Yemeni history, culture, economics, politics or society. Applications should include a brief curriculum vitae, an outline of the relevant research project and a letter of reference. There are two annual deadlines for applications: 1 November and 1 May. Further enquiries and applications should be sent by post to Dr Venetia Porter, Department of the Middle East, The British

Museum, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG, United Kingdom. Email: venetia@trippiyasa.demon.co.uk. For further information on Leigh Douglas and the Fund's work see www.brismes.ac.uk/student-area/leigh-douglas-memorial-prize

The Nahrein Network

The Nahrein Network fosters the sustainable development of antiquity, cultural heritage and the humanities in Iraq and its neighbours. We support interdisciplinary research to enable universities, museums, and community groups to better serve local, post-conflict needs. More information at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/nahrein>

Palestine Exploration Fund

The PEF awards small grants to students and others pursuing research into topics relevant to its general aims. The deadline is around the 27 February. Please address applications to the Grants Manager, Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 Hinde Mews, Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2AA. Enquiries can be addressed to the Executive Secretary. Email ExecSec@pef.org.uk. Further details and application forms can be found at: www.pef.org.uk/grants/

Qasid Arabic Institute

The Qasid Arabic Institute encourages applicants to apply early and to be as clear and accurate as possible in outlining their financial situation. As a rule, the financial aid committee will give preference to those who have clearly explored every alternate avenue of funding and have demonstrated an effort to meet tuition costs as much as possible. In other words, listing a lower income base will not necessarily bring more funding or improve the likelihood of receiving an award. Please note that the specific academic quarter (or quarters) and the total number of quarters for which financial aid is provided will vary for each student relative to their individual situations. Qasid reserves the right to rescind its commitments to a given financial aid offer in the event of a recipient violating institutional policies, performing below minimum academic standards, or if any changes occur to the conditions that they have stated in the application under which they received their financial aid offer. For more information: <https://www.qasid.com/admissions/financial-aid-application/>

Al Qasimi Foundation

The Al Qasimi Foundation's Doctoral Research Grants encourage scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research toward informing policymaking in the United Arab Emirates. The Grants are open to PhD students from all nationalities studying at an accredited university in the United Arab Emirates or abroad. Doctoral Research Grants financially support PhD candidates in the research phase of their dissertations. Currently, two awards are available each year for applied research projects that have Ras Al Khaimah as a primary

site for data gathering and analysis. The Grant covers all student expenses associated with their field research in the United Arab Emirates, including return airfares, furnished accommodation for up to 12 months, a stipend to cover living costs, and research support. Recipients are expected to produce one to two working papers as part of the Grant and make at least one presentation to the local research community. For more information: <http://www.alqasimifoundation.com/en/what-we-do-13/2/doctoral-research-grants>

Royal Asiatic Society

The Society offers several prizes for outstanding research in Asian studies, including the *Professor Mary Boyce Prize* (£250) for an article relating to the study of religion in Asia, and the *Sir George Staunton Prize* (£250) for an article by a young scholar, both for articles submitted to the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*. The Society introduces five life fellowships per calendar year starting from January 2014 at the rate of £1500. For more information contact Alison Ohta, Curator, Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London W1 2HD. Tel: +44(0)2073884539; Email ao@royalasiaticsociety.org. More information can also be found on: <https://royalasiaticsociety.org/the-societys-prizes-and-awards/>

Sir William Luce Fellowship

The Fellowship is awarded annually to a scholar working on those parts of the Middle East to which Sir William Luce devoted his working life (chiefly Sudan and Arabia). The Fund welcomes applications for the position of Sir William Luce Fellow which is hosted by Durham University during Epiphany term (January – 13 March). The Fellowship, tenable jointly in the Institute for Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies and Trevelyan College, will entitle the holder to full access to departmental and other University facilities. The Fellow is expected to deliver ‘The Sir William Luce Lecture’, which will form the basis of a paper to be published in the Durham Middle East Papers series.

Applicants should send a CV, an outline of their proposed

research and contact details for two referees by 30 April to: The Secretary, Sir William Luce Memorial fund, Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN, UK. Tel. +44 (0)191 334 1218. Email: Luce.fund@durham.ac.uk. For further information see: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/sgia/imeis/lucefund/>

SOAS Scholarships and Studentships

The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, offers numerous scholarships with relevance to Arabian studies. For further information see www.soas.ac.uk/registry/scholarships/ or contact: The Scholarships Officer, Registry, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG, UK. Email: scholarships@soas.ac.uk

Soudavar Memorial Foundation

The Soudavar Memorial Foundation’s scholarships are highly competitive and awarded on merit to students who possess outstanding academic credentials and demonstrate exceptional leadership potential. We take great pride in their achievements past and present as they continue to enrich our understanding and knowledge of the Iranian World at prestigious institutions across the globe. <http://soudavar.org/scholarships/>

Thesiger-Oman Fellowships

By the kind generosity of His Majesty Qaboos bin Said Al-Said, Sultan of Oman, the Royal Geographical Society offers one annual fellowship of up to £8,000 for geographical research in the arid and semi-arid regions of the world, as a memorial to Sir Wilfred Thesiger. The fellowship will focus either on the physical aspects or on the human dimension of arid environments. The fellowship funds a researcher with an outstanding research proposal, including periods of arid environment fieldwork. To reflect Thesiger’s interests, research within the Middle East and other arid regions he visited will be given priority, but applications for work in the world’s other arid regions is also welcomed. The deadline is 23 November each year. For more information see: <https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/in-the-field-grants/research-grants/thesiger-oman-fellowship/>



Photographer Felix Tchverkin is one of the many artists involved in this years Shubbak Festival (28 June – 14 July 2019)

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Completed in 2018/19

Sewn Boats: People, Technologies and Materials of the Indian Ocean

11th October - 12th December 2018

The Street Gallery, University of Exeter

Sewn watercraft were predominant in the Indian Ocean until the arrival of the Europeans in the late 15th century. The sewn-plank ships that sailed the Indian Ocean in the pre-modern Islamic period (622-1500 CE) were agents of trade, religion, and culture. They connected the Indian Ocean and the littoral Islamic world, carrying people, goods, and ideas back and forth from East Africa to China. Boats stitched with coconut fibre ropes have survived in the region until recently, despite the European influence. Not long ago, sewn craft of different forms and size were built in Oman, Yemen, East Africa and India as fishing, lightering and cargo vessels. This exhibition illustrated the sewn-plank techniques and technologies that persisted in the western Indian Ocean for millennia. It displayed a selection of images, boat models, construction samples, tools and materials.



XXXVIIIe Rencontres internationales d'Archéologie et d'Histoire d'Antibes: From refugia to oases: living in arid environments from Prehistoric times to the present day

10th-12th October 2017, Antibes, France

The XXXVIII th Rencontres internationales d'Archéologie et d'Histoire d'Antibes, organized by the CNRS-CEPAM Research Unit (Cultures et Environnements, Préhistoire Antiquité et Moyen Age) took place in Antibes, south of France, from the 10th to the 12th of October 2017. This conference was supported by the CNRS, the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis-Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société Sud-Est (France), the University Côte d'Azur (France), the city of Antibes (France), the ANR

(project OASIWAT – ANR16CE27008), the Centre Français d'Archéologie et de Sciences Sociales (CEFAS, Koweït), the Association pour la Promotion et la Diffusion des Connaissances Archéologiques (APDCA, France), and the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (BFSA, UK).

Thirty papers were presented during this two-day conference, entitled "From refugia to oases: living in arid environments from prehistoric times to the present day". The conference aimed to better define and provide clues on the development and evolution of niches in arid regions, over the long term: from refugia, isolated spaces benefiting from sources of water, to their gradual transformation into artificial niches, or oases as we know them today. The case studies presented during this conference covered various arid regions of the world, from South America to Arabia, and a wide chronological context, from the Pleistocene to the present-day. Presentations included perspectives that combined different disciplines such as hydro-climatology, geomorphology, hydraulic engineering, archaeozoology, archaeobotany, genetics, geoarchaeology, archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, and epigraphy. The event attracted many international as well as local participants and the multiple disciplines and chronological periods represented allowed for stimulating debates and the exploration of new methodological and theoretical approaches.

The proceedings, *From Refugia to Oases. Living in Arid Environments from Prehistoric Times to the Present Day*, edited by Dr. Louise Purdue, Dr. Julien Charbonnier and Dr. Lamya Khalidi were published in October 2018 and include nineteen contributions, half of which deal with refugia and oases in Arabia. The volume addresses four themes that investigate the dynamics of refugia, oases and niches that have developed in arid environments from the prehistoric period until now. It specifically tackles the adaptation of past societies to continuous and/or abrupt climatic and hydrological changes over the long term. The first theme - Refugia and oases: environment, resilience and mobility - explores the relationship between refugia and oases with a focus on Late Pleistocene to middle Holocene hunter-gatherer and pastoral communities. The second theme - The Emergence of oases - focuses more specifically on the gradual anthropisation of refugia and the establishment of early oasis communities from the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age periods. The third theme - Oases as waterscapes - emphasizes the role of water in the formation and evolution of oasis niches. Finally, the fourth theme - Oases as agrosapes - focuses on the spatial and temporal transformation of these spaces into food production systems.

For further information see: <http://www.librairie-archeologique.com/index.html?produit=50748>

by Louise Purdue, Julien Charbonnier & Lamya Khalidi

“Beyond the Letter” Modern Arabic Calligraphy from the collection of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

28th March - 23rd June 2018, Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization

This exhibition was held to coincide with the annual Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial. The 27 works were selected to highlight calligraphy as not only a visual art form but also for its ability to convey deep intellectual messages through fascinating and intricate symbols. The exhibition presented important works by leading artists from several countries working in the field of Arabic calligraphy including one of the world's top five contemporary Arabic calligraphers, the Japanese artist Fuad Koichi Honda. Others also represented were the Iranian calligraphers Mohsen Daeinabi, Maryam Ghanbarian and Ebrahim Olfat. The youngest artist in the show was the Malaysian Ahmad Dhiya bin Abdul Ghafur who had previously participated in shows in Sydney, Australia and Malaysia's Annual National Calligraphy Competition. His self-taught work focuses on Kufic, Naskh, Thuluth, Rika' and other classical writing scripts.

These modern artists are able to express themselves in a multitude of new and different ways. These talented individuals are pushing the boundaries of calligraphy as the art form continues to expand beyond its traditional structures and styles into new directions. In this exhibition visitors experienced outstanding works that had been created to reflect the entangled forces of nature, the waves of the sea,

the roots of plants, the order of the universe and the heavenly forces of nature. The Sharjah Museums Authority continues to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to supporting artists from across the Islamic world by providing a platform to display their works and expand the appreciation of this distinctive visual culture inspired by Islam. The exhibit was the second successful collaboration between the Sharjah Museums Authority and the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. The museums previously worked together on the 'Rhythm and Verse – Persian Calligraphy' exhibited in 2016.

by **Entisar Al Obaidli**, Curator, Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization

The Echo of Caravans: An exhibition of Pre-Islamic Era Centres of Civilisation in Saudi Arabia

17th October 2018 - 17th January 2019, Sharjah Archaeology Museum

This exhibition was a collaboration between the General Authority for Tourism and National Heritage, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sharjah Archaeology Museum, Sharjah Museums Authority. It presented three regions: Najran, Al Ula and Tayma that illustrated the story of trade and the ancient caravan routes that crossed Arabia between 1500 BC and 300 AD. Many of the objects had not been previously seen outside KSA. Najran, one of the oldest commercial centres in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was located at the junction where the trade route from the south divided to head north or east. Archaeology in the area has revealed evidence



“Beyond the Letter” Modern Arabic Calligraphy from the collection of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

of human activity dating back to the late Stone Age.

Visitors were introduced to the rock art from the first millennium particularly from the well of Hama area that illustrated inhabitants of the region had domesticated saluki hunting dogs, camels, cows, goats and sheep whilst hunting ibex and ostriches using various weapons including spears, sticks, bows and double-headed arrows. Objects with Badia or Thammudic and Al Musnad inscriptions, ceramics, alabaster vessels, incense burners, bronze camels and a bull were presented from the walled trading city of Al Ukhdud with its stone and mud brick buildings.

Within the Al Ula area the stunning sites of Al-Hijr Mada'in Saleh, the second city of the Nabataeans and Al-Khuraibah an oasis and important stopping place for caravans on the ancient trade route in the northwest of the Al-Ula region during the 1st millennium BC were highlighted. Objects represented the kingdoms of Dadan and Lihyan such as a Lihyanite sandstone altar, inscriptions and standing human figures, a bronze incense burner, ceramics, alabaster and ceramic oil lamps. Other sites also illustrated were Mahlab Al-Naqah (The Milking Place of the She-Camel), a temple with a circular basin in its centre and from an inscription on the base of a column the temple was built for the god Dhahrybah, the principle god for the Lihyanite people. Objects also were presented from the Ukmah valley and mount Um Daraj. The Ukmah valley contains many Lihyanite inscriptions on rock faces which have provided much information about the political, economic, religious and social traditions of this Kingdom.

Tayma was an ancient oasis with antiquities and inscriptions dating back to the 8th century BC. Occupation of the site continued until the early Islamic period. It was surrounded by a wall on three sides and protected to the north by salt marsh. Objects displayed included ceramic and stone incense burners, painted ceramic vessels and necklaces. Other sites from the area included the Red Palace dating from the middle of the 6th century BC; the Haddaj well dating from

the sixth century BC, that was said to have been buried when Tayma was hit by a flood and to have remained hidden for hundreds of years until a man called Sulaiman ibn Ghunaim came to the village and dug the well again, and Tell al-Haddiq (The Garden Hill), a mound that has been partially excavated and has revealed a large amount of ceramics from the second century BC.

Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia

8th November 2018 – 16th February 2019, Louvre, Abu Dhabi

The exhibition featured more than 460 artefacts from the National Museum in Riyadh and a number of other Saudi museums. The exhibition explored five chapters in the history of the Arabian Peninsula, spanning early prehistoric settlements; maritime exploration; caravan trading routes that linked the region with Asia, Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean; routes of holy pilgrimage emerging in the 7th century CE; and the social and economic developments between the 14th and 16th centuries that set the stage for the modern day region. The exhibition included spectacular artefacts from prehistory and early history, as well as from ancient Saudi Arabia: earliest stone tools, 6000 year-old anthropomorphic stela, monumental colossal statues, enchanting works in glass and metal dating from Roman antiquity, as well as objects from the ceramic revolution that took place in the Islamic early period. "The Arabian Peninsula has been a place of exchange, culture and civilisation since earliest Antiquity, and Louvre Abu Dhabi is deeply rooted in the region's unique history and context," says Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi. "The exhibition is an important opportunity for us to re-examine and celebrate this rich heritage through a remarkable series of artefacts, expanding on the regional pieces in our permanent collection to tell an Arabian story from a new perspective."



Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia

Exhibition ‘Buildings That Fill My Eye: The Architectural Heritage of Yemen’ Travels Around Europe

Various locations

The exhibition “Buildings That Fill My Eye: the architectural heritage of Yemen”, is a photographic exhibition curated by Trevor H.J. Marchand, Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, SOAS. The exhibition has travelled to Italy and Germany since September 2017, when it completed its time at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS. The aim of this exhibition, sponsored by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, Gingko Publishing, the London Middle East Institute and the British-Yemeni Society, is to share the treasure-troves of Yemen’s architectural and artistic heritage, and to raise awareness of its cultural and historical importance. The exhibition also reveals that this heritage is threatened by an ongoing conflict that has continued since 2015.

The first stage of the exhibition’s journey to Europe was in Turin, Italy, where it was inaugurated at the Museo d’Arte Orientale (Museum of Oriental Art) on 10th October 2018 by Emeritus Professor Trevor Marchand of SOAS and remained on display until 26th November 2018. This event was also supported by the Istituto Veneto per i Beni Culturali (Institute for Cultural Heritage of Veneto). The launch of the exhibition, which was renamed “From Earth to Heaven: a journey within the architecture of Yemen” (*Dalla Terra al Cielo: un viaggio nell’architettura dello Yemen*), was a public event and was accompanied by an introductory conference. Professor Marchand, Renzo Ravagnan, Director of the Institute for Cultural Heritage of Veneto and Sabina Antonini de Maigret, Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in the Republic of Yemen, introduced the exhibition, sharing their knowledge and experience of the Yemeni World Heritage sites.

The next stage of the journey was in Berlin at the Pergamonmuseum, where it was available to the public from 13th July until 14th October, 2018. Dr Ute Franke, Deputy Director of the Museum für Islamische Kunst, gave the opening address; Dr Barbara Schwepcke, Founder of Gingko, spoke on behalf of the sponsors and Professor Trevor Marchand, curator of the exhibition, gave the opening lecture. This event was also supported by the ‘Freunde der Museum für Islamische Kunst’ (Friends of the Islamic Culture Museum).

The photographs have now returned to the UK and are currently at the Department of Archaeology, King’s Manor, University of York. This stage of the exhibition has been funded by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, Founder and Patron of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, who wrote the foreword to the exhibition’s catalogue, has a long-standing commitment to Yemen and its people both through the charity and personal philanthropy. Dr Colleen Morgan, Lecturer in Digital Archaeology and

Heritage, and Co-Director of Studies for Digital Heritage and Archaeological Information Systems at the University of York, introduced the event; Marylyn Whaymand, Head of Programmes at the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, gave a short presentation of its work and connections with Yemen, and Professor Trevor Marchand again presented the opening lecture.

The aims of this ‘travelling’ exhibition are to share the splendours of Yemen’s architectural heritage and to raise awareness of its cultural and historical importance. A book accompanying the exhibition presents insights into various aspects of Yemen’s heritage in the form of 21 articles by different specialists. This publication was sponsored by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, as well as Gingko, who also published the book. A percentage of the money from the sale of the book is donated to UNHCR Yemen.

by **Marylyn Whaymand**



Trevor H.J. Marchand and Noel Brehony with the exhibition in York

Dreamers - 40 Years of Italian Archaeological Research in Oman

24th February 9th and March 2019, National Museum in Muscat

A richly illustrated volume and an exhibition organized in collaboration between the Italian Embassy and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities of Oman, with support from the International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO), recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of Italian archaeological research in the Sultanate of Oman.

The appointment in 1976 of Prof. Paolo Costa as an adviser to the Ministry of Heritage and Culture of Oman marked the beginning of this long journey, which immediately continued with the first archaeological excavation conducted by the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples under the direction of the late Prof. Maurizio Tosi and with support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the then Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East (IsMEO).

In the following decades, the presence in Oman of Italian archaeological teams and scholars has further grown to touch all regions of the Sultanate and the different historical periods. Italian institutions and experts have contributed to the understanding and conservation of the rich and diversified archaeological and historical heritage of the country. As testified by the volume and the exhibition, the reciprocal collaboration between Italy and Oman in the field of cultural heritage presently involves, in addition to academic archaeological research, also activities related to UNESCO world heritage sites, the organization and storage of archaeological collections, conservation and restoration of buildings and objects, design of museums and archaeological parks, editing of publications, and the implementation of important projects of preventive archaeology for the preservation of the archaeological heritage threatened by the rapid infrastructural development of the country.

Both the book and the exhibition are titled “Dreamers. 40 Years of Italian Archaeological Research in Oman”, in relation the visionary attitude of archaeologists, but also as an homage to the famous statement by the late Maurizio Tosi, who claimed that ancient Omanis were able to turn a land of scarcity into a heaven of wealth because “they were dreaming different dreams”. The book includes fifty contributions written in both Italian and English by forty scholars, which describe the history of the Italian archaeological missions in Oman from the mid-Seventies until the most recent projects. The exhibition, held at the National Museum in Muscat between February 24th and March 9th, informed instead about the life and accomplishments of the different generations of scholars who participated in this journey, including renowned figures such as Paolo Costa, Maurizio Tosi, Enrico d’Errico, Alessandra Avanzini, etc. but also the present doctoral candidates.



H.E. Federica Favi, Ambassador of Italy to Oman and H.E. Salim bin Mohammed Almahruqi, Undersecretary for Heritage of Oman opening the Dreamers Exhibition

On the occasion of the inauguration of the exhibition in the presence of H.E. Federica Favi, Ambassador of Italy in Oman, and of H.E. Salim bin Mohammed Almahruqi, Undersecretary for Heritage of Oman, the Omani authorities

have emphasized how in recent years the Sultanate has greatly benefited from the knowledge and skills of Italian scholars, but also from their dedication and the open and respectful attitude towards the local culture. They also hope for a further development of the Italian-Omani collaboration in the field of cultural heritage, making themselves available to formalize a new official agreement to have “forty more years of work together”.

The volume can be downloaded from: https://books.bradypus.net/italian_archaeological_research_in_oman

By Denny Frenez

Crossroads: Cultural Exchange between the Islamic Civilization, Europe and Beyond

15 November 2018 - 27 April 2019, Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization

In a special collaboration with the Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin, this new international exhibition explores Islam’s long history of interactions with different cultures and celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the opening of Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization. ‘Crossroads: Cultural Exchange between the Islamic Civilization, Europe and Beyond’ examines how the world has been shaped by the movement of people, objects and ideas from medieval times to the present day with 54 objects of historical and cultural significance from the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin and ten objects from Sharjah Museums Authority’s permanent collections.

Through many interconnecting ‘Crossroads’ the visitor will discover the five themes: Technology and Science illustrated by interaction between cities such as Málaga and Kashan, or Mosul and Venice; Trade, Commerce and Plurality of the large cities of Cairo, Aleppo and Istanbul; Politics and War presented through The Road of the Dragon; Power and Beauty as could be seen at Isfahan and Agra and Objects on the Move. The exhibition also includes educational programmes developed for families, communities and groups with different accessibility requirements, such as sessions inspired by Islamic Tiles and Persian Carpets. In addition specific tours have been developed for educational and academic institutions and groups of the general public. By **Entisar Al Obaidili**, Curator, Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization

Forthcoming Events

Seminar for Arabian Studies

11th - 13th July 2019 at University of Leiden

The Seminar for Arabian Studies is the only annual international forum for the presentation of the latest academic research on the Arabian Peninsula. The subjects covered include archaeology, history, epigraphy, languages, literature, art, culture, ethnography, geography, etc. from the earliest times to the present day or, in the case of political and social history, to the end of the Ottoman Empire (1922).

A special session on the Stone Tools of Prehistoric Arabia will be held at the Seminar for Arabian Studies on Friday 12th July. Focusing on patterns and changes in stone tool assemblages from Arabian prehistory, this special session will bring together lithic experts working on the Arabian Paleolithic to provide insights from deep-time evolution and experts working on Holocene lithic assemblages providing insights from high resolution records with more details available about paleoenvironmental and chronological contexts. In doing so, the session aims at compiling an overview of spatio-temporal patterns in lithic typotechnology in Arabia. From this foundation we hope to grasp and discuss the evolution of stone tools in Arabia, possible factors behind this process and their potential implications.

More details and registration information can be found at:
<https://www.thebfsa.org/the-2019-seminar/>

Endangered Archaeology (with reference to Yemen and Oman)

Robert Bewley, (Director of EAMENA Project, University of Oxford)

11th April 2019 at 17.45, MBI Al Jaber Building, SOAS, 21

Russell Square, London WC1B 5EA. The event is free, but booking is essential via info@mbifoundation.com

The 3rd Beatrice de Cardi Lecture: Our days on the sea are gone but our stories remain: The Life of the Red Sea Dhow

Dionisius A. Agius (University of Exeter)

10th June 2019 at 17.45, Lecture Room G6, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY
Please note this lecture will be preceded by the BFSA AGM at 17.15.

Arabian Renaissance

16th October 2019 at 5.45pm, Institute of Archaeology, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY

Patrick Mark will present the documentary 'Arabian Renaissance'. Travelling the length and breadth of the Kingdom, this one-hour documentary film celebrates the renaissance of Saudi Arabian archaeology.

Departures: A Photographic Journey Through the Islamic World

12th April – 3rd May 2019, Asia House, 63 New Cavendish Street, London, W1G 7LP

Drawing upon a unique collection of historical photographs and postcards, Departures will reveal the great diversity of the Islamic world's social and cultural life. The exhibition will explore a geographical area from Morocco in the West to China in the East, and from the Balkans in the North to Sudan in the South. Historical photographs from the mid 19th century to the mid 20th century will be shown alongside a selection of contemporary images from amateur photographers on Instagram.



Organised by Asia House and The Barakat Trust, and curated by Tarik Alireza and Richard Wilding, Departures will highlight the rich heritage of this region, exploring its ancient urban centres such as Cairo, Istanbul and Damascus, its traditions of travel, trade and artisanship, and its varied styles of costume and architecture. The exhibition is both a celebration of this historical diversity, and a reminder of what has been lost or weakened by cultural destruction, social change and political upheaval.

The title Departures defines the exhibition as a journey of discovery beyond the narrow stereotypes of the region as sectarian, war torn and culturally bereft. It also reflects the eager, observing eyes of travellers who have questioned, courted, and recorded the Islamic world from the earliest days of photography. These images are the fruit of travel and enquiry, made increasingly possible by ships and railways, then the jet engine, television and internet. Yet this exhibition will also suggest that, despite the advent of these improved forms of travel and communication, the Islamic world has become increasingly alien and misunderstood in the West.

Juxtaposed with the exhibition's historical photographs will be a mosaic of the Islamic world today seen through a curated sequence of images from the social media platform Instagram. These images, taken by talented amateur photographers, will reveal dynamic and diverse cultures – places where a multitude of people live a myriad of ordinary lives.

This remarkable insight into the Islamic world will encourage its audience to discover icons of antiquity and fleeting moments of the mundane. The exhibition aims to be a dialogue between past and present, between the diverse cultures and traditions that make up the Islamic world, and between the Islamic world and the West.

A series of associated talks and curator led visits have been organised by Asia House and The Barakat Trust to accompany the exhibition. These include a presentation by Shahed Saleem about the history of Muslim architecture in Britain titled *The British Mosque: An Architectural and Social History* on 11th June 2019. More information on Departures and the accompanying events:

<https://asiahousearts.org/events/>

28 June – 14 July 2019, Various London locations

The fifth edition of the Shubbak Festival starts on the 28th June bringing exciting, bold, poignant and urgent work by Arab artists questioning the norm to London's stages, concert halls, cinemas, outdoor locations, galleries and museums. In times when political alliances are shifting, definitions of gender are broadened, divisions between generations are interrogated, and hierarchies of power

are exposed, the voices of these artists take audiences to new and unexpected realms of possibilities, a realm where empathy and freedom dares to live.

This year's festival features over 150 artists based in the Arab region, in Europe and in the UK. Furthermore, this year an exciting new partnership with The Gate Theatre will showcase the best of international performance and readings with 11 artists and seven full productions taking to the stage as a part of Shubbak@Gate festival. Other highlights include contemporary belly-dance, drag and Middle Eastern avant-pop electronica from Lebanese performer Mo Khansa; Kabareh Cheikhats from Casablanca reinventing traditions of drag and gender ambiguity; X-Adra featuring Syrian activists who have been held in the notorious Adra prison; a tribute to the much loved Palestinian singer, songwriter and activist Rim Banna, who died aged 51 in 2018; the latest show from Groupe Acrobatique de Tanger; a pop-up created by Bricklab, Jeddah-based designers of the first Saudi pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale; French-Moroccan journalist, commentator and Prix Goncourt-winning novelist Leïla Slimani discussing what it means to be an Arab feminist in 2019 and the UK premiere of the debut documentary 'Of Sheep and Men' by multi-award winning Algerian director, Karim Sayad.

For more information : www.shubbak.co.uk



Shubbak Festival: A window on contemporary Arab culture

JOURNALS & MAGAZINES

Adumatu

www.adumatu.org/en

ISSN 1319-8947. Adumatu, PO Box 10071, Riyadh 11433, Saudi Arabia. Editors: Professor Adbul-Rahman Al-Ansary (ed.), Dr Khaleel Ibrahim Al-Muaikel and Dr. Abdullah Muhammad Al-Sharekh.

Contact: adumatu@alsudairy.org.sa

Arabia Antica

<http://arabiantica.humnet.unipi.it/>

Arabia Antica is the portal for Pre-Islamic Arabian Studies conducted by the University of Pisa Dipartimento di Civiltà e Forme del Sapere.

New: Arabian Epigraphic Notes

<http://www.arabianepigraphicnotes.org/>.

The Arabian Peninsula contains one of the richest epigraphic landscapes in the Old World, and new texts are being discovered with every expedition to its deserts and oases. Arabian Epigraphic Notes is a forum for the publication of these epigraphic finds, and for the discussion of relevant historical and linguistic issues. AEN is an open-access journal, published by the Leiden Center for the Study of Ancient Arabia (LeiCenSAA) and archived by the Leiden University Library.

Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/16000471>

ISSN: 0905-7196. E-ISSN: 1600-0471. This journal serves as a forum for study in archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, and the early history of countries in the Arabian Peninsula. Editor: Daniel T. Potts.

Aram

<http://poj.peeters-leuven.be/content.php>

ISSN 0959-4213. E-ISSN 1783-1342. Published by the ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies. It presents contributions to its annual International Conference, together with the ARAM Newsletter.

Atlal: Journal of Saudi Arabian Archaeology

ISSN 1319-8351. Ministry of Education for Antiquities and Museums, PO Box 3734, Riyadh 11481.

Banipal: Magazine of Modern Arabic Literature

www.banipal.co.uk/

A magazine of modern Arabic Literature.

Bulletin of the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia

www.thebfsa.org/content/bulletin

Past and present issues of our very own Bulletin can now be found online.

Chroniques Yéménites

<https://journals.openedition.org/cy/201>

An annual review in French and Arabic, produced by the

Centre français d'archéologie et de sciences sociales de Sanaa (CEFAS). The same website also covers Chroniques du Manuscrit au Yémen, which can also be downloaded free of charge. Email cy@journals.org

Current World Archaeology

www.archaeology.co.uk

Published six times a year.

Email: cwa@archaeology.co.uk

Fauna of Arabia

www.libri.ch/App_Web/EN/services/faunaofarabia.aspx

A series on the terrestrial, limnetic and marine zoology of the Arabian Peninsula. It began as Fauna of Saudi Arabia but changed its name and remit in 1998. It can be ordered from Karger Libri AG, P.O. Box, CH-4009 Basel, Switzerland Tel. ++41-613061500. Email journals@libri.ch

HAWWA Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World

<https://brill.com/view/journals/haww/haww-overview.xml>

Hawwa publishes articles from all disciplinary and comparative perspectives that concern women and gender issues in the Middle East and the Islamic world. These include Muslim and non-Muslim communities within the greater Middle East, and Muslim and Middle Eastern communities elsewhere in the world.

International Journal of Middle East Studies

www.jstor.org/journals/00207438.html

IJMES is a quarterly journal that offers original research on politics, society and culture in the Middle East from the seventh century to the present day. It is published by Cambridge University Press under the auspices of the Middle East Studies Association of North America. Editor: Beth Baron. Email ijmes@gc.cuny.edu

Journal of Arabian Studies; Arabia, the Gulf and the Red Sea

www.tandfonline.com/rjab

ISSN 2153-4764. Journal launched in 2011 based and published at the Centre for Gulf Studies, University of Exeter. Main Editor is James Onley J.Onley@exeter.ac.uk

Journal of the British-Yemeni Society

www.al-bab.com/bys/journal.htm

ISSN 1356-0229. Contact the Honorary Secretary, British-Yemeni Society, 2 Lisgar Terrace, London W14 8SJ.

Journal of Near Eastern Studies

www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/jnes/current

ISSN 0022-2968. Based in Chicago, JNES has been devoted to an examination of the civilizations of the Near East for more than 120 years. Contact jnes@uchicago.edu. Access to previous issues can be found through the JSTOR database.

Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient

www.brill.nl/jesh

ISSN 0022-4995. E-ISSN: 1568-5209. JESHO contains studies extending our knowledge of the economic and social history of what was once labelled as the Orient: the Ancient Near East, the World of Islam, and South, Southeast, and East Asia. Contact: jesho@let.leidenuniv.nl

Journal of Oman Studies

ISSN 0378-8180. Published by the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, Sultanate of Oman, POB 668, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Journal of Persianate Studies

www.brill.nl/jps

ISSN 1874-7094 and E-ISSN 1874-7167.

Edited by Sakd Amir Arjomand.

Order through: marketing@brill.nl

Levant

<https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ylev20>

ISSN: 0075-8914; E-ISSN: 1756-3801. Levant is the international peer-reviewed journal of the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), a British Academy-sponsored institute with research centres in Amman and Jerusalem, but which also supports research in Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus. Contributions from a wide variety of areas, including anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, language and literature, political studies, religion, sociology and tourism, are encouraged. Editor: Graham Philip.

Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication.

www.brill.nl/mjcc

ISSN: 1873-9857 and E-ISSN: 1873-9865

Order through marketing@brill.nl. MJCC provides a platform for diverse and interdisciplinary work, including original research papers from within and outside the Middle East, reviews and review articles, to investigate transformations in communication, culture and politics in the region.

Paléorient

www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/revue/paleo

ISSN 0153-9345. A multidisciplinary six-monthly CNRS journal with an international audience, devoted to a number of aspects of the prehistory and proto-history of south-western Asia, including Arabia. CNRS Editions, 15 rue Malebranche, F-75005 Paris. Further information email: paleorient@mae.u-paris10.fr

Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies

<https://www.thebfsa.org/publications/proceedings-of-the-seminar-for-arabian-studies/>

The Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies is a peer-reviewed series which each July publishes papers read at the Seminar in the previous July. It is the prime source for the most recent research on the Arabian Peninsula

within a wide range of disciplines and for the latest discoveries in the field.

Saudi Aramco World

<https://www.aramcoworld.com/en-US/Home>

The oil company, Saudi Aramco distributes its magazine, Saudi Aramco World, to increase cross-cultural understanding and to broaden knowledge of the cultures, history and geography of the Arab and Muslim worlds and their connections with the West. The bi-monthly magazine is distributed without charge, upon request. Saudi Aramco World, Box 469008, Escondido CA 92046 -9008.

Sekka Magazine

<https://sekkamag.com/>

Sekka is the first online magazine and publication to be managed by Khaleejis and narrated primarily by the people of the Arabian Gulf Region. Established in 2017, and headquartered in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, Sekka is an online magazine that is dedicated to documenting the stories of the Arabian Gulf Region and the experiences of its people, and sharing them with the world.

Syria

www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/revue/syria

E-ISSN 1957-701X. Syria is an annual journal, launched in 1920 by the French Institute of the Near East. It is dedicated to the history and archaeology of the Semitic Near East from Prehistory to the Islamic conquest.

Tribulus, Journal of the Emirates Natural History Group

www.enhg.org/trib/tribpdf.htm

ISSN 1019-6919. PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, UAE. This now appears annually, rather than bi-annually.

Wildlife Middle East News

There are great pressures on the environment and wildlife throughout the Middle East. The rapid pace of economic development, the fragility of the natural ecosystems and low population densities are factors making many indigenous species vulnerable to extinction. The expansion of human populations and the increasing contact between domestic and wild animals has also increased disease transmission between wild and domestic species, including humans. An extremely useful quarterly bulletin of wildlife news, Wild Life Middle East keeps abreast of the situation and also reviews new publications.

SOCIETIES, ASSOCIATIONS & OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH)

<https://tcaabudhabi.ae/en/default.aspx>

Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey

www.adias-uae.com

ADIAS has now been absorbed into ADACH, but this website still contains a record of its activities.

Aga Kahn Documentation Center

<https://libraries.mit.edu/akdc/>

Aga Khan Trust for Culture

<http://www.akdn.org/our-agencies/aga-khan-trust-culture>

American Institute for Yemeni Studies

www.aiys.org

The Anglo-Jordanian Society

<http://a-j-s.org.uk/>

The Anglo-Omani Society

<http://www.angloomanisociety.com/>

Arab-British Centre

www.arabbritishcentre.org.uk/

Arab World Institute

www.imarabe.org/

The Asfari Foundation

<http://www.atassifoundation.com/>

International Council for Archaeozoology

<https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/workaswa>

ArchNet

<https://archnet.org/>

Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East

www.astene.org.uk

Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia

<https://www.nhbs.com/series/atlas-of-the-breeding-birds-of-arabia>

Bahrain Society

www.bahrainsociety.com

Barakat Trust

www.barakat.org

BAR Publishing

<https://www.barpublishing.com/>

Brill Publishing

<http://www.brill.com/>

British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology

<http://banealcane.org/banea/>

British Council, Middle East

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/about>

British Institute of Persian Studies

www.bips.ac.uk

British Institute for the Study of Iraq

www.bisi.ac.uk/

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

www.brismes.ac.uk

British-Yemeni Society

www.b-ys.org.uk/

Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/literatures-languages-cultures/research/research-centres/casaw>

Centre Français d'Archéologie et de Sciences Sociales de Sanaa (CEFAS)

<http://www.ifre.fr/c/201>

Council for British Research in the Levant

www.cbri.org.uk

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Orient Department

<https://www.dainst.org/dai/meldungen>

Freer-Sackler Galleries, Ancient Near East Collection

<https://www.freersackler.si.edu/collections-area/ancient-near-east/>

Freer-Sackler Galleries - Ernst Herzfeld Papers

<http://archive.asia.si.edu/research/archives/HerzfeldCollection.asp>

French Institute of the Near-East (Ifpo)

www.ifporient.org/

Friends of the Hadhramaut

www.hadhramaut.co.uk

Friends of Soqatra

www.friendsofsoqatra.org

Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation

<https://www.al-furqan.com/>

Fondazione MedA

<http://www.fondazionemeda.it/>

Index Islamicus

<https://bibliographies.brillonline.com/browse/index-islamicus>

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University

www.huss.ex.ac.uk/iaais

Iran Heritage Foundation

<https://www.iranheritage.org/>

The Islamic Manuscript Association

<http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/home.aspx>

Janet Rady Fine Art

www.janetradyfineart.com/html/home.asp

London Centre for the Ancient Near East

<http://banealcane.org/>

London Middle East Institute

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/>

Louvre Abu Dhabi

<https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/>

Middle East Medievalists

<https://islamichistorycommons.org/mem/>

Mathaf Gallery

www.mathafgallery.com

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art

<http://www.mathaf.org.qa/en/>

MetPublications

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications>

MBI Al Jaber Foundation

www.mbifoundation.com

Museum of Islamic Art (Qatar)

<http://www.mia.org.qa/en/>

National Art Library

<https://nal-vam.on.worldcat.org/discovery>

Oman & Arabia Natural History

www.oman.org/nath00.htm

Ornithological Society of the Middle East

www.osme.org

Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia

<http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/ociana/>

Palestine Exploration Fund

www.pef.org.uk

Palaeodeserts

<http://www.palaeodeserts.com/>

Qatar Digital Library (British Library)

<http://www.qdl.qa/en>

Royal Asiatic Society

www.royalasiaticsociety.org

Saudi Arabian Natural History Society

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/13178>

Saudi–British Society

www.saudibritishsociety.org.uk

SOAS Library

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/library/>

Soudavar Memorial Foundation

<http://soudavar.org/>

The Travelers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA)

<http://timea.rice.edu/>

University of Michigan Global Islamic Studies Center

<https://ii.umich.edu/content/ii-directory/islamicstudies/en.html>

The Qantara Project

<http://www.qantara-med.org>

Victoria and Albert Museum – Collection Search

<https://collections.vam.ac.uk/>

The Yemen Manuscript Digitization Initiative

<http://ymdi.uoregon.edu/>



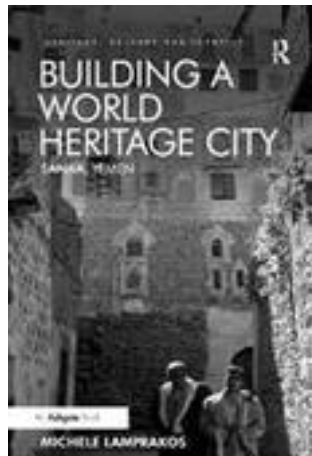
A panoramic view of The Echo of Caravans Exhibition held at Sharjah Archaeology Museum

BOOK REVIEWS

Book Reviews are collated by **William Facey**.

After thirteen years as book reviews editor of the *Bulletin*, Will is stepping down. Alexandra Hirst has kindly agree to take over for the next issue.

REVIEW ESSAY



Building a World Heritage City: Sanaa, Yemen

Michele Lamprakos
Farnham: Ashgate Publishing, 2015 / Abingdon: Routledge 2016. 286 pp. Maps, plans and colour photographs throughout. Appendix, Bibliography and Index. Medium-format. £88.99 (hardback). £35.99 (paperback). ISBN 13: 978-1-4724-3540-8 (hbk) and ISBN 13: 978-1-138-30845-9 (pbk).

GIVEN THE PRESENT situation in Yemen, what hope is there for the future of Sanaa as a World Heritage city? Security in the country has dramatically deteriorated since Michele Lamprakos first published her book in 2015. Yemen's economy is in a shambles, its infrastructure shattered, its social fabric and cultural landscapes defiled, and its population severely weakened by disease, famine and the collapse of basic essential services. Its architectural and engineering heritage too has suffered heavy damage. I offer an overview of the situation in the country as a prologue to reviewing Lamprakos's important scholarly work – a work that could prove invaluable to co-ordinating culturally sensitive grassroots strategies to reconstruct, repair and conserve what remains of Yemen's unique historical built environments.

As I write, the Saudi-led campaign, Operation Decisive Storm, stumbles towards the start of its fifth year of brutal warfare against the Houthi rebels. All-out military victory remains elusive for either party, as do hopes for a political resolution to the conflict. The ostensible aim of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies was to reinstate Yemen's internationally recognized government in Sanaa. Riyadh's more pressing concern, however, became increasingly apparent: preventing its arch-enemy, Iran, from colluding with the Zaydi Shia Houthis and gaining a toehold in south Arabia.

The mayhem generated by the war has been amplified by a host of other warring agents: scores of competing armed militias, including AQAP and local affiliates of IS; clashes between coalition-backed fighting units; alleged assassinations by American mercenaries of the UAE's political opponents in Yemen; Islah's consolidation of control in Taiz; deadly scuffles between Houthi forces and

those of former President Saleh; an intensifying secessionist movement in southern Yemen, backed in part by the UAE; and a proliferating cast of rapacious war profiteers who lord over heavily armed fiefdoms.

Impact on the country's infrastructure and economy and its public and private sectors has been devastating (with the possible exceptions of Marib and Wadi Hadhramaut). Sanaa's airport has been shut down and vital Red Sea ports are blockaded by coalition forces, with the persistent threat of a full-scale assault on Houthi-held Hudaydah. The exchange value of the Yemeni riyal is a fraction of pre-conflict rates; and exports of Yemen's crude oil and natural gas have been either forcibly suspended or constricted by the coalition, with a calamitous impact on the country's GDP and its access to American dollars. In combination, a feeble riyal and scarcity of hard currency have driven prices for imported foodstuffs – upon which Yemenis have subsisted for decades – to unmanageable levels. Escalating prices, not lack of food, is the heaviest contributor to what the UN has declared as the world's worst and largest humanitarian catastrophe.

The catastrophe is exacerbated by at least two other key factors: local councils in most regions lack the resources to provide essential services and to co-ordinate humanitarian relief efforts; and, the main warring parties stand accused of misappropriating and redirecting food relief.

UN experts reported in August 2018 that the governments of Yemen, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and the Houthi militia and its allied forces are all guilty of war crimes. Just days before that declaration, a passenger bus in Sa'dah Governorate was hit by an 'errant' Saudi-led coalition airstrike. The US-supplied bomb killed 54 people, 44 of whom were children: the incident attracted worldwide outrage. Civilian casualties have risen steadily since 2015 and the number facing famine grows month on month. Ancient monuments and dwellings in major cities, towns and rural villages around the country, as well as archaeological sites and museums, have been damaged or obliterated by bombing campaigns. International condemnation of the coalition's activities has increased (if too slowly) alongside mounting political and civil-society pressure on the governments of the US, the UK and other nations to suspend military support and arms sales to Saudi Arabia and its allies. Global attention to Riyadh's role in the Yemen war intensified in October following the murder of Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul.

The first UN resolution on Yemen in more than three years was adopted in Stockholm on 21 December 2018. The Security Council agreed on the deployment of UN monitors to observe the implementation of a ceasefire in the port

city of Hudaydah – a critical step for getting humanitarian assistance to millions of beleaguered Yemenis. Passages in the resolution guaranteeing humanitarian deliveries and demanding accountability for war crimes, however, were excised from the final version under threat of a veto by the American mission, which clearly represented the concerns of the Saudi and Emirati coalition. All parties nevertheless committed to further talks in early 2019 – the results of which should be known before this book review appears in print.

Meanwhile, the livelihoods of countless Yemenis dangle in the balance. Public sector workers, including employees of the General Organization for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts (GOAMM) and the General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY), have been deprived of their salaries for long periods. Conservationists, architects, planners, contractors, builders and craftspeople employed in the private sector – all of whom are at the centre of Lamprakos's study – are now unemployed or significantly underemployed.

Most building restoration and conservation works around the country had already ceased in 2011 with the start of the popular uprisings and growing state of insecurity that eventually ousted Ali Abdullah Saleh from his 22-year grip on presidential power. This is where Lamprakos's account ends. Four years later, when the Saudi-led coalition launched its intervention, the final trickles of foreign funding for such projects ran dry. By early July 2015, the UNESCO Committee for World Heritage took the decision to inscribe both the Old City of Sanaa and the Old Walled City of Shibam (Hadhramaut) on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of the war. The two historic cities joined Zabid, already designated as 'in danger' in 2000. In July 2018, Zabid became deeply embroiled in the battle between its Houthi occupiers and the 'liberating' Yemeni pro-government forces.

Today, with an estimated US\$19 billion-plus in war damage to Yemen's buildings and infrastructure, a committee of the country's leading socioeconomic experts has optimistically identified opportunities in four sectors, including construction, for immediate job creation.¹ They advocated that reconstruction efforts begin straightaway in areas now safe from conflict, and that these be carried out in close partnership with the local construction sector. Notably, they listed the rehabilitation of historic sites as being integral to that initiative, with long-term aims to resurrect tourism and, more urgently, to re-establish national pride and a 'sense of place' for the Yemeni people.

If, indeed, future pledges of foreign aid were securely channelled into reconstruction, the financial injection could effectively jumpstart local economies, creating both jobs and skills-training opportunities for youth and the unemployed. It would also stimulate myriad businesses that

directly support and supply the construction industry while rebuilding the infrastructure needed to reanimate Yemeni commerce and trade.

Intervention in heritage sites, however, demands a distinct and more carefully considered approach from that taken to rebuild and repair contemporary urban fabric and service infrastructure. This caution is doubly apposite in a war-torn country with no stable governance. Support from ministries and collaboration from authorized agents are needed for project planning and implementation, and, more crucially, for providing assurances that conservation standards will meet UNESCO World Heritage benchmarks. The criteria of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) upon which Sanaa, Shibam and Zabid were awarded their status, and upon which ten other sites around Yemen are contenders for the World Heritage list, must be safeguarded.

Even during the preceding decades of relative peace and security, rehabilitating Yemen's historic cities was riddled with challenge and risk, as attested in Lamprakos's focused case study of the Old City of Sanaa. In the roughly 40-year period covered by her book (from the birth of the Republic in North Yemen to the start of the Arab Spring), a tangle of issues jeopardized the preservation of the Old City's historic fabric composed of city walls and gates, monuments, some five thousand lofty tower dwellings, numerous public and religious buildings, and the *suq*, all connected by an intricate web of streets, alleyways, open spaces and gardens.

Persistent macro-level issues included the absence of a fully-fledged conservation plan that might have served as the basis for both institutional mechanisms and a legal framework for protecting Sanaa's architectural heritage; lack of government funding, capacity and commitment; bureaucratic wrangling and corruption; and unchecked urban expansion and land speculation. Lamprakos also recalls that, during the early years, there was a severe shortage of practical experience and expertise among local staff in the conservation office.

Other hindrances that directly affected conservation efforts in Old Sanaa included the introduction of piped water, initially carried out without the installation of appropriate evacuation and sewerage systems; increasing vehicular traffic in the narrow unpaved streets; an exodus of elite and middle classes to new 'modern' districts and a rapid in-migration of poorer rural populations; a resident population deeply suspicious of (and at times violently resistant to) interventions orchestrated by 'outsiders'; a dearth of knowledge or appreciation among stakeholders for the city's history, its cultural context and its changing social structure; individual ambitions to 'modernize' or to repurpose and reconfigure edifices; and cost-driven agendas that (mistakenly) regarded traditional building methods and materials as being too expensive.

Lamprakos illustrates all of the above with fascinating

examples from the UNESCO Campaign to Save Old Sanaa (1984–94, and headed by Ronald Lewcock) and competing initiatives (e.g. the Studio Quaroni and Bonifica S.p.A. study), and of later projects under the stewardship of GOPHCY and the Social Fund for Development,² most of which were financed wholly or in part by foreign governments.

Perhaps the thorniest challenge to the smooth running of conservation works in Sanaa, however, was the radical change in the pecking order among practitioners. Lamprakos's study deftly reveals how traditional master masons, who for centuries presided unchallenged over both design and construction, were progressively sidelined by the new 'paper professionals', including foreign and local architects, engineers, conservationists and contractors. The hands-on masters of building materials and technique were rendered 'unskilled' by the current operational setting, which demanded higher levels of literacy and numeracy than was possessed by the vast majority of masons. Project sponsorship demanded formal bidding procedures and came with requirements for a designated contractor (with a business bank account, which most masons did not have). Drawn plans, written specifications, and a scientific approach to managing heritage and the past became the norm. Consequently, the status of master masons on many sites was reduced to that of a contracted labourer.

Combining her training as historian and architect with archival research and ethnographic fieldwork (2004–05), Lamprakos set out to explore the ways in which Western "universalizing assumptions about the past" were in fact "received, appropriated and transformed in Sanaa". She aptly begins her book by reviewing the leading role played by the Venice Charter (1964) in laying the foundations for a new international practice wedded to the positivist conviction that 'authenticity' is inherent in the building-as-object – not in the processes of building.

Thirty years later, the Nara Document on Authenticity expanded the concept of heritage to include intangible dimensions and introduced a postmodern shift in the field of conservation that acknowledged cultural and heritage diversity. Lamprakos contends that though culturally relative values were licensed for the purposes of interpreting and presenting heritage, they were rarely allowed to inform the treatment of the material object itself. Likewise, the knowledge and skill-set of traditional builders in Old Sanaa and in other living historic cities around the world won esteem as 'intangible' heritage. However, the distinction made between that embodied, performative heritage and the tangible material heritage upon which craftspeople acted served to keep the conservation of physical objects safely within the domain of the professional expert.

In contrast to these categories and divisions, masons are keenly aware that their knowledge and skills are

inseparable from the 'world heritage' that they maintain and conserve. Those interviewed by Lamprakos were proud to work in the 'old style', but equally proud to build in a neo-traditional style, which was described by one as 'the renewal of heritage' (my emphasis). The accounts offered by masons and some local conservationists make plain that, for centuries, repair work, maintenance, modifications and reconstruction in Sanaa were conceptualized as part and parcel of the same process. That process was "fluid and interpretive, rather than documentary".

The present-day act of distinguishing and separating out various kinds of building activity was imported along with the concept of cultural heritage. "Cultural heritage is a Western term," declared a founding member of the UNESCO Campaign office to Lamprakos, and "it has limited application in a place where the built environment continues to fill the need for shelter and social and spiritual sustenance."

Indeed, Yemen (with the exception of British Aden) experienced remarkable continuity in its historic building styles and construction techniques until the 1970s, when Egyptian modernism was introduced (and, shortly after, popularly rejected). It is in fact difficult to accurately date individual buildings in Old Sanaa since they are often composed of multiple historical layers, all displaying striking continuity in both style and materials. In the eyes of Sanaani residents, conservation therefore "validated the familiar and the indigenous", writes Lamprakos. She observed that despite meagre efforts on the part of the conservation office to encourage community participation, conservation was progressively embraced at a local grassroots level. And, I would suggest, that is where the best hopes for its revitalization lie in the post-conflict era – whenever that might arrive.

As a one-time student of Sanaa's building tradition, I also hope that the eventual renewal of conservation activity in Sanaa and other sites around Yemen will move forward with the learning documented in the chapters of Lamprakos's book. By the late 1990s, projects undertaken by the SFD in collaboration with GOPHCY had begun to beneficially synthesize the plans and objectives drafted by the UNESCO Campaign with local ideas and practices. While Sanaani conservation architects continued to justify their position and site decisions in accordance with the international scientific discourse, many had, in practice, come to adopt the masons' creative approach to conservation.

The changes made way for positive renegotiations of working relationships between architects, contractors, conservationists and masons on a more level playing field. It also fostered wider appreciation for the masons' view that history and authenticity are not properties of objects but rather are lived processes embodied in practices and ways of being that are interpreted and learned by successive

generations of craftspeople. This attitude untethers history and authenticity from inanimate things and frees them to be dynamic and responsive in ways that keep ancient urban settlements relevant and alive.

In her final chapter, Lamprakos begins by re-posing the truly difficult questions of what it means to conserve in a place where the 'historic past' is in some sense still alive. And, of who determines authenticity in the day-to-day life of a World Heritage city. Decades of dialogue between international and local practice in Sanaa have distilled a new definition of authenticity, which Lamprakos endorses as the basis of future conservation practice and policy. The authentic is that which 'is true to the original'; meaning fidelity to inherited knowledge and practice, to materials, and to aesthetics. The author also urges future conservation policy to make room for creativity and to thereby value craftspeople as both independent agents and full project partners. After all, historic cities must license improvisation and accommodate change in order to keep the past relevant for the present.

In the race to rehabilitate the Old City of Sanaa and Yemen's other historic settlements – whether now or post-conflict – I underscore the onus on those financing and leading the interventions to be truly inclusive and participatory in their approaches. That means recognizing not just builders but neighbourhood residents – both men and women – as key stakeholders. Given the colossal need at this time for peace, security and the most basic provisions, cultural heritage is predictably a low priority for most Yemenis. It will therefore be all the more imperative to consult with local communities and to secure their support for renewed conservation efforts. Co-ordinating multiple and competing interests and building sustainable teamwork will rely on raising awareness of the benefits that conservation can deliver in terms of economic stimulation, job creation, enskilment and, of course, pride of place. It will also demand patience.

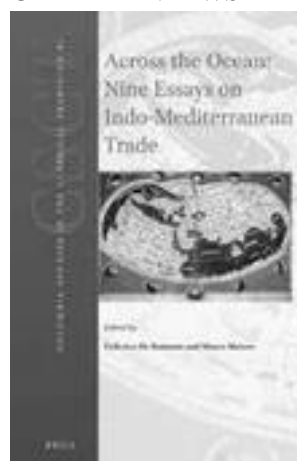
by **Trevor H.J. Marchand** (Professor of Social Anthropology, SOAS)

Notes

¹ See 'Generating New Employment Opportunities in Yemen', in Sanaa Centre Newsletter, October 2018, v.2. <http://sanaacenter.org/publications/main-publications/6564>

² Created in 1997, the SFD in Yemen was underwritten by the World Bank and funded by a variety of donors. Cultural heritage became part of its remit because it was perceived as a means for developing tourism and the economy.

OTHER REVIEWS



Across the Ocean: Nine Essays on Indo- Mediterranean Trade

Eds. Federico de Romanis and Marco Maiuro

Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2015.
Columbia Studies in the
Classical Tradition, vol. 41. x
+ 204 pp. 6 figures, 7 maps, 1
table. Footnotes, Bibliography,
Indexes. Hardback. US\$
131.00. EUR €103.00. ISBN
978-90-28919-2

THIS VOLUME comprises the published proceedings of the conference 'A Tale of Two Worlds: Comparative Perspectives on Indo-Mediterranean Commerce' held at Columbia University in 2011. By bringing together specialists from different regions and disciplines, and by encompassing a broad chronological range, this endeavour was intended to give new insights through a fresh re-evaluation of Indo-Mediterranean trade. The nine papers are accompanied by an introduction and an afterword.

The first section focuses on the Roman period in the Red Sea region. Two thorough studies, one on the Roman pearl trade (K. Schörle), and another on Nabataean traders in Italy (T. Terpstra) provide the reader with important contextual information and source material on the people and mechanics of trade. J.-J. Aubert's minimalist interpretation of the role and importance of Trajan's canal is perhaps at odds with other recent, more nuanced studies (Cooper 2009; 2011; or Nappo in this volume) in assessing the difficult questions of why dig it, and whether it ever effectively worked. There are also two very interesting synthetic papers on Roman policy in the Red Sea, the first on reasons for state involvement and investment (A. Wilson), and a convincing thesis by D. Nappo on the changing Roman policy under Trajan. Wilson's paper revisits S. Sidebotham's influential 1986 thesis on Roman economic policy in the Red Sea and draws upon some significant recent discoveries. The essay sets out what state interests (apparently customs dues) justified the heavy Roman investment in the infrastructure supporting Red Sea and Indo-Mediterranean trade. Attention to recent publications (particularly those of the CNRS, now directed by B. Redon, and Southampton University, directed by D. Peacock and L. Blue) would have avoided a series of mistakes concerning the dating of sites (Myos Hormos was operational until the mid-3rd century ad contra Wilson p. 20), or technology (ceramic Saqiyya pots were already in use by ca. 100 ad in the Eastern Desert, Tomber 2006: 95, contra Wilson p. 17). Finally, by emphasizing the importance of customs dues, Wilson (p. 31) relegates the role that the direct involvement of the imperial family (familia Caesaris, specifically through imperial freedmen, Thomas 2011: 25; Ast 2016; 2018) in this trade and the status of arabarchs (tax

farmers) profiting from it. Also concerns about the defence (or indeed expansion, see Nappo this volume) of the empire's south-eastern border may have motivated or been used to justify this investment.

The second section contains diachronic and comparative studies spanning the 3rd millennium BC through to the early modern period. H. Falk uses archaeological and historical sources to look at the long history of gold traded to and from the Indian subcontinent. Looking at the period ca. 2200 BC – ca. 230 AD, trade and contact between regions is interpreted on the basis of aligned gold-weighting standards and supporting evidence. J. Banaji traces the changing fortunes of ports in a (self-confessed) 'rapid survey' (p. 121) through the place names preserved to us via different historical documents from antiquity to the early modern period. Howel's study of Dutch (VOC) trade in the East during the early modern period neatly summarizes the business organization and business model of the VOC, explaining its rapid rise and fall. As hinted in E. La Cascio's afterword, the range may be diachronic, but the source material is rarely comparable. One notable exception is F. de Romanis' comparison between the Roman and Portuguese pepper trade. The argument relies upon his reading (and reconstruction) of the fragmentary Muziris papyrus in order to suggest that the Roman ship, the *Hermapollon*, detailed in this document, was carrying almost 620 tons of pepper (and is thus comparable to the 1518 Portuguese fleet). This would surely have been an exceptionally large ship for the Roman period. Archaeological evidence suggests that a range of vessel types and sizes were used at this time, making the *Hermapollon* recorded on this papyrus (if correctly interpreted) probably unusually large, within the highly varied mercantile fleet of ships that facilitated the Indo-Mediterranean trade.

Scholars and students of Indo-Mediterranean trade will find this a welcome addition to a growing range of literature on the subject. The fresh approach has revealed interpretations that are occasionally elegant and persuasive, but can also be at odds with other recent studies, which should also be consulted. Broad historical narratives require a thorough understanding of the growing nuanced archaeological evidence in order to synthesize effectively the complicated, often competing histories, of the vast subject (in both time and space) of Indo-Mediterranean trade.

by **Ross Thomas**



Human Interaction with the Environment in the Red Sea: Selected Papers of Red Sea Project VI

Eds. Dionisius A. Agius, Emad Khalil, Eleanor Scerri, and Alun Williams
Leiden: Brill 2017. xvi + 442 pp. 68 figures, 10 maps, 8 tables. Footnotes, Bibliography, Index.
Hardback. US\$ 167.00. EUR €145.00. ISBN: 978-90-04-32603-3

THIS VOLUME comprises the published proceedings of the sixth Red Sea conference, hosted in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, in 2013. It followed conferences hosted by the British Museum (2002; 2004; 2006), Southampton University (2008) and Exeter University (2010), with the ongoing support of the Seminar for Arabian Studies, the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (formerly the Society for Arabian Studies) and the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust. Published here are fourteen of the 33 papers presented in Tabuk and, as with previous Red Sea conferences, it covers a wide variety of subjects ranging from the environment to cultural heritage, although most of the papers concern archaeological or historical approaches to human activity around and on the Red Sea.

The volume is split into two parts, the first on the Red Sea environment, and the second on harbours and historical towns. The volume follows a logical thematic and broadly chronological progression through three themes: the national history of the Red Sea, the history of human activity in the region, and finally heritage management and tourism.

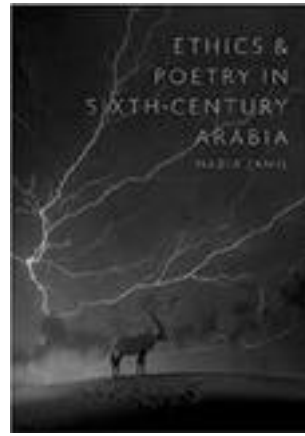
The chronological and interdisciplinary range of this volume is impressive. Palaeontologists (Beard et al.) describe regional diversity in the faunal assemblage around the Red Sea region changes during the Middle Cenozoic, whilst micro-biologists (Antunes) describe recently discovered extreme environments in the deep-sea brine lakes of the Red Sea. Ancient historian Scheider's interesting paper discusses early Greek descriptions of the mangrove environments found around the region. The dispersal of *Homo sapiens* out of Africa is the subject of Scerri's intriguing discussion of the bridges and barriers, by turns, enabling and halting movement from sub-Saharan Africa between 130 ka and 50 ka years ago (discussing the often under-represented Arabian evidence in the process). This is a suitable start for the discussion of human interaction with the Red Sea, which dominates the rest of the volume. The story is picked up by rock-art specialist Olsen with her comparison between North African and Arabian rock-art of the Neolithic period, broadly ca. 8000–4000 BC onwards, and the implications this has for understanding the environment, economy, technology and

domestication of animals in these regions.

Important contributions to our understanding of the phenomenon of Indo-Mediterranean trade during the Hellenistic, Roman and Islamic periods are included in this volume by specialists associated with important recent archaeological investigations in the region. M. de Procé discusses the role of the Farasan islands during antiquity, helpfully explaining the evidence, for example, for Roman naval occupation or presence between at least AD 120 and 144, which is often overlooked by classical archaeologists in their discussion of the limits of the Roman empire. Zazzaro presents recent results from Adulis, which significantly improve our understanding of this important town and port, building on and revising interpretations from the earlier work by Peacock and Blue. Adam gives us a tantalizing glimpse of the potential of the Hellenistic settlement at Aqiq in Sudan (and describes the traditional local inhabitants of the region and their crafts). Van der Veen and Morales bring us up to speed on the ongoing research on the archaeobotanical results from the Roman and Mamluk port of Myos Hormos/Qusayr-al Qadim, with some important observations on how culturally distinct consumption practices were during the Roman and Mamluk periods. A. Peacock brings the discussion of trade with India into the 16th century, whilst Ismail describes how folktales can enrich our understanding of maritime and cultural contact between Somalia and Arabia. A synthetic discussion of the archaeological evidence for Roman ships by Kotarba-Morley should serve as a warning to those who like to exaggerate ship technology in the region based on limited papyrological evidence, and I hope also challenge us to discover more of these important archaeological sites, the number of which has certainly grown since this publication was prepared. Indeed Orbaşlı and Khalil then eloquently round out the discussion with heritage management and the potential of maritime archaeology in Saudi Arabia.

This volume contains a wide range of articles, each interesting, but probably of greatest value to individual fields. The strength of the volume rests with each specialist discussing their area of expertise, often presenting their own new (and often recently discovered) evidence. The largely unrelated articles are published in a logical order and the editors have wisely avoided forcing a broad historical narrative onto the Red Sea Project. Instead they have produced a genuinely diverse and cross-disciplinary publication that highlights the active current research field which is helping us better understand the Red Sea, its history and people.

by **Ross Thomas**



Ethics and Poetry in Sixth-century Arabia

Nadia Jamil

Cambridge: Gibb Memorial Trust, 2017. ix + 402 pp. Text only. Notes, Bibliography, Index. Hardback, jacketed. £46.00. ISBN: 9781909724969

ARABIC BELLES-LETTRES are more usually associated with Islam, and so the subject-matter of this book offers the interested reader greater insight into the cultural *mores* that preceded Islam's inception. Nadia Jamil's book is based upon her PhD thesis – completed at Oxford University in 2000 – while also expanding upon her earlier findings and demonstrating expertise in classical Arabic poetry and its lexicon. As the title suggests, her main objective is in conveying ethical values from the *jāhili* and early *mukhaḍḍim* periods in the Arabian Peninsula, according to their transmission from a primary source. This she achieves by deconstructing a sample of lesser-known poems by Imru' al-Qays, the man who also composed one of the so-called *mu'allaqāt*, the most celebrated odes in Arabic poetry.

The twenty-seven poems Jamil subjects to analysis are sourced from the *Dīwān* of Imru' al-Qays, for which she relies upon three versions. She examines the repeated use of themes and vocabulary across a selection of poems, thereby establishing consistency in their lexical meaning, while also demonstrating intertextuality with verse by other early poets. Her translations into English are based upon her own analysis, but are also cross-referenced against classical dictionaries that are, in turn, informed by poetry. The author prioritizes connections between words, within an individual poem and across Imru' al-Qays' corpus of verse, and so does not over-rely upon social theories. She is careful to explain conceptual meanings by developing these from a base of vocabulary. For example, in explaining 'kinship' she defines words such as *waṣl* as 'union in covenant', *ṣabr* as 'principled endeavour', *karam* as 'generosity', and *wafā* as 'fidelity to covenant' (p. 86).

When analysing the semantic meaning of words that apply to early Arabian ethics, Jamil derives and adapts her methodology from the work of Toshihiko Izutzu, arguing that this approach is well suited to conveying the daily existential challenges of a desert environment. In her literature review she cites the Qur'an and also the work of Ignác Goldziher, Bichr Farès and Meir Bravmann, when tracing the dominant interpretations of *jāhili* values and terms like *muruwwa*, *dīn*, *jahl* and *ḥilm*, which she first explains, respectively, as 'masculine virtues', 'religion',

‘barbarism’ and ‘civility’, but whose meanings evolve across the trajectory of the study (pp. 3–4).

Jamil finds that there has been a tendency for scholars to prejudge the *jāhili* ethical world when offering a social interpretation of its rituals, even though its own poetic language is encoded and equally informative. She argues that vocabulary derives meaning from its situational context and that a *jāhili* poem is best understood by examining intertextual relationships between words instead of prioritizing “historical, biographical or geographical” concerns (p. 81). She also opines that, while some analysts recognize that Islamic values do not evolve in a vacuum, others divorce *jāhili* ethics from Islamic values by suggesting that the former are symptomatic of impulsive and violent behaviour without paying due regard to other pre-Islamic social imperatives valuing forbearance and restraint.

Classical Arabic poetry draws much from the late 5th and 6th centuries CE, during which the *qaṣīda* was established as both an oral form of creative expression and an eloquent response to existential challenges in a desert environment. Its structural and thematic complexity has led various scholars to identify and examine its different characteristics and ritual nature. For example, Ibn Qutayba and Renate Jacobi identify tripartite structural features such as *nasīb*, *raḥīl*, *madīḥ-fakhr*; Kamal Abu Deeb refers to a series of oppositions and parallelisms that inhabit the *qaṣīda* lending it structure and balance; Andras Hamori argues that it frequently refers to a cyclical process of ‘emptying and filling’; and Suzanne Stetkevych’s adopts Van Gennep’s ‘rites of passage’ framework for explaining the ode as a heroic journey (pp. 31–2, 74).

Jamil enhances existing scholarship by focusing upon the polythematic nature of the ode and by devoting individual chapters to tropes such as ‘time’, ‘camps’, ‘kinship’, ‘women’, and ‘the mount’. ‘Time’ and ‘camps’ are antithetical concepts, the former a predator and the latter a tribal bulwark against perdition, which is an aggregate of manly ethics (pp. 117, 129). ‘The mount’ is more complex, denoting ‘the horse and warrior’ as literal figures that journey within the poem (p. 211) as well as metaphors for 1) ‘a well-pulley system’ representing a harmonious balance in society (p. 217); 2) ‘stars’ that precipitate natural cycles of weather and destruction (p. 216); 3) ‘gambling’ against the fates and the hocking of a ‘camel’ (p. 266–7); and 4) a vehicular means of moving from ‘intoxication’ to ‘sobriety’, and ‘sickness’ to ‘health’ (p. 320).

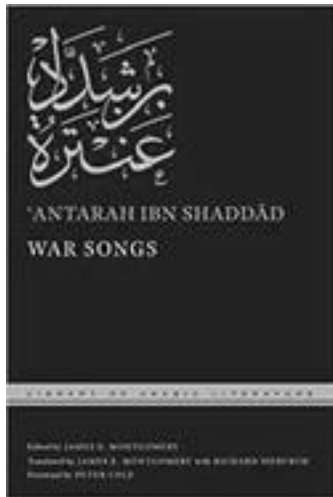
This study is outstanding in its argumentation and analysis, which, although technical, are comprehensively explained. Of particular note is insight afforded into the varied meanings of Arabic poetic vocabulary. For example, Jamil explains that the Arabic term *dīn* conveys not only ‘religion’,

but also an ethical obligation that may be social or financial, and thus the same word root can also manifest as *dayn*, i.e. a ‘debt’ (p. 330). In so doing, she demonstrates that 6th-century verse is made up of layers of meaning, so that one word alone can convey a system of values that is made up of checks and balances. She also posits that the feminine principle that inhabits the *jāhili qaṣīda* is very elaborate; a woman called Laylā is not only a lost beloved of the poet but also symbolizes ‘treachery’, ‘intoxication’ and the unravelling of kinship and so, like death, the female who inhabits the poem is a trial to be overcome, while order and virtue are male-gendered (p. 193).

The book is straightforwardly organized in its division into three parts. Part One reviews the secondary literature preceding the study and sets out a methodology; Part Two offers an analysis of poems according to a series of themes and tropes; Part Three comprises a conclusion. This leads me to my only criticism, which is not of the book’s content, but of its organizational transformation from an academic thesis into an expanded publication. The first section of Part One is termed ‘1.1’, while ‘Chapter 1’ itself does not begin until approximately one hundred pages into the study and represents the first subdivision of Part Two (this time adopting a decimal system for the numbering of poems and subdivisions of ‘Chapter 5’), while Part 3 is categorized by subheadings. I suspect that the author has treated Part One as an expanded introduction, so as not to detract from over two hundred pages of analysis in Part Two, but its very length has demanded additional sub-classification, for which this reader would have preferred greater editorial consistency.

To conclude, I highly recommend this book, which provides a valuable insight into desert life in pre-Islamic Arabia, as well as a comprehensive analysis of early Arabic poetry and its associated vocabulary. Because historical records for the period are documented only in retrospect, its verse represents a valuable store of the era’s cultural values. Arguably, some of the principles of kinship established then have continued to influence lifestyle habits over the centuries. This study is most likely to appeal to researchers of classical Arabic poetry, but it also offers valuable insights for historians, translators and, last but not least, romantics who love a tale pitting an exemplary poet and his mount against the vicissitudes of chance.

by **Dena Fakhro**



**War Songs: 'Antarah
ibn Shaddad**

Ed. and tr. James E.
Montgomery, with Richard
Sieburth

New York: NY University
Press, 2018. lxx + 358 pp.
Parallel Arabic/English
text. 2 maps. Introduction,
Notes, Bibliography,
Index. Hardback,
jacketed. \$40.00/£32.00.
ISBN: 9781479880904

THIS IS THE FIRST publication on ancient Arabic poetry to be released by the Library of Arabic Literature (LAL) – a formidable challenge, beautifully accomplished by James E. Montgomery in collaboration with fellow scholar-translator, Richard Sieburth. Based on a new edition of poems attributed to 'Antarah, it places centre-stage dynamic, fully cinematic translations that effect “the transfer of energy” essential to literary translation. Montgomery has experimented with a number of techniques, including a varied use of space and line-breaks, to convey the drive, rhythm and sonority of the poetic voice.

The author opens an engaging introduction (pp. xx–xlv) with an overview of 'Antarah's semi-legendary life. Born in Najd in the second half of the 6th century CE to the black slave of a noble of clan 'Abs of Ghatafān, he won freedom and fame by distinguishing himself in battle and is said to have harboured an unrequited love for a certain 'Ablah (on which, more below). Their world is contextualized generally within the geography of the Arabian Peninsula, and the history and politics of the surrounding regions, as well as the turmoil that beset much of Arabia during the 6th century. There is a concise account of current views on 'Arabs' in Arabia in those times, and a sketch of their poets and cosmos. This was a warrior society pitted against Time/Fate and its epitome, Death, which subscribed to a universal vision of manly virtue (*muruwwah*) and sacred honour (*'ird*). Their paradigm for how to live and die was founded on the principle of chance. “War was how a man preserved, acquired, and displayed honor and glory. It was the ultimate realization of risk and chance.” Poetry composed in the high *'arabiyyah* was the supreme vehicle for memorialization: “Poetry existed to celebrate the winners in the deadly game of war ... to preserve this glory against the depredations of Time” (p. xxx).

An outline of the poetic qasida-form is followed by a tour through the dramatic variation that is 'Antarah's main claim to fame, his *Mu'allaqah*, or 'Golden Ode'. This is followed by a brief guide to the Abbasid discovery of 'Antarah and his times in the 8th and 9th centuries CE, and to his subsequent

chivalric transformation with the development of his legend, over the 11th and 12th centuries CE, in the *Epic of 'Antar*. All this prepares us for selections that in fact represent two 'Antarahs: that of the scholarly 'Abbasid editions, and that of the *Epic*. Two maps have been produced on the tribes of pre-Islamic Arabia and the topography of the poetry of 'Antarah (pp. lix–lx), which, albeit somewhat conjectural, are compelling. The volume is complemented by itemized suggestions for further reading and an index.

Out of the presentation and chosen order of poems (the rationale for which the author explains in his notes on the manuscript traditions, pp. xlviii–xlix), a picture emerges of the evolving persona of 'Antarah over time; and this, in turn, reveals a very important touchstone of change: the figure of 'Ablah, 'Antarah's legendary beloved. Working backwards, we see how, in the *Epic of 'Antar*, 'Ablah has become an object of chivalric love, the romantic inspiration for heroic deeds of a lover bent on winning her hand. Yet earlier, during the Abbasid recovery of 'Antarah, she is singularly ignored: neither Ibn Qutayba (d. 276/888), in his *Book of Poetry and Poets*, nor al-Isbahānī (d. 356/967) in his *Book of Songs* mention her (see their notes on 'Antarah's biography and exploits in Appendices 1 & 2, pp. 269–82) – indicating, at the very least, that “this aspect of the legend was not yet as developed as it was later to become (p. lxi, n. 8). Meanwhile, in the early *Mu'allaqah* of 'Antarah, the poet's obsessive desire to ‘hunt’ out 'Ablah is intercalated into the poem in such tones that Montgomery inclines to regard his preoccupation to be not love, but a desire to encounter Death. And, here, to take up his observation, which will not please some, we touch on one of the most significant, yet understudied, features of the ancient poetry: the role of *passion* as distinct from *love*.

Love implies ethical good faith, provision, and protection, equally for men as for women, entailing, for one thing, a strict avoidance of betraying a brother or ally by illicit relations with a free woman – wife, or sister or daughter (p. 123):

I've never set out to seduce a woman
But always paid the full dowry.
I've never robbed a comrade of riches
without repaying him twofold.
I never visit a tribeswoman
unless her husband is near –
When our tribe is off on a raid
I stay away.
A woman's modesty in my care
I preserve.

Passion, on the other hand, is an arousal that can destabilize

a man, and is typically reined in and compensated when it cannot be satisfied. It is an affect equivalent to intoxication, to a 'sickness' that requires a 'cure'; an affect poetically analogous to the 'arousal' or bloodlust of a hunter or warrior, so that conquest is a quasi-erotic equation. Heroes who 'court' Fate in battle and fall, become the 'bridegrooms' of Death. Answering to a call to assist his comrades in arms, the poet blazes forth (p. 109):

like a lightning bolt,
urging my horse on,
and with hard Khaṭṭī
lance and manly
Yemeni steel
left my challenger
Dead – his hair
a bloody redbud,
the vultures praying
over him,
dancing their bridal
dance, held
back from feasting
by the thrum
and twitching of
his hands and feet

Trespass into the guarded enclosures of a people's women is an aggression, the act of an enemy, or the boast of one pleased to humiliate others by vanquishing the most emblematic signifier of their honour. And this is actually what 'Antarah seeks and promises to do throughout his *Mu'allaqah* (Poem 1): 'Ablah, elusive, is pure, intoxicating affect, all glistening teeth and juices, scent, and wine (p. 7). Atypically for a qasida-poem, the poet does not suppress his passion or declare a will to move on from her, but fixates on it, bent on reaching her. Her memory is a poetical ostinato, punctuating and leading him through recollections of breath-taking, bloody exploits, his unsatisfied passion for her clouding the only-ever-partial 'cure' he experiences sating his bloodlust in the field. She first gripped his heart as he was slaying her folk (p. 5). She may turn from him and hide behind her veil; but to what purpose? He crushes armoured knights, unstoppable (p. 9). He scouts out the opportunity to make a 'kill' of her, and the signs are propitious (p. 13):

Why, my doe, is it lawful for others
to hunt you, but not for me?
I said to my slave girl, "Go!
Find out what you can."
Her news: "Your enemy's lulled.
The freeborn doe is yours for the taking –

A snub-nosed gazelle offering
her tender neck."

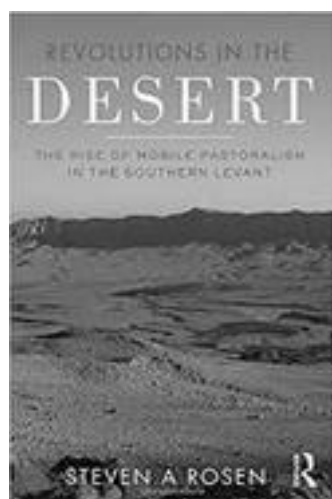
The trail to her, through further scenes of carnage and indomitable will, leads finally to the revelation that she is being barred from him by enemy spears (p. 15). She is protected, specifically, by a clan descending from Baghīd, an ancestor of the poet's tribe, 'Abs, as well as Dhubyān, who were opponents of 'Abs in the terrible, internecine War of Ḍāḥiṣ and Ghabrā' (p. xxix). This is immediately followed by the poet's final revelation of purpose at the poem's end: he wants to take down the "sons of Ḍamḍam", who stained his honour. He slaughtered their father, he boasts; let them come out to him to take vengeance if they dare (p. 15):

I feared I'd die before war's mill
could grind Ḍamḍam's sons to dust
Unprovoked, they vowed revenge
And stained my honor.
There's still time for them to act!
I killed their father –
carrion for gimpy hyenas
and grizzled vultures!

Ending in suspension so, the poet still burning for the chance he craves, the poem offers a snapshot of the unresolving cycles of bloodshed and revenge entailed by wars such as that of Ḍāḥiṣ and Ghabrā'. The figure of 'Ablah – still desired, elusive behind enemy spears – matches – or emblemizes – this state of suspension, manifesting the catalyst of arousal. She is the potential 'bride' of conquest; the 'cure' for 'Antarah's 'sick' warrior-soul, or the inspiration that, if he loses, will render him a 'bridegroom' to Death. One can concur, on this basis at least, with Montgomery's view that the *Mu'allaqah*, and 'Ablah, point not to an attachment of love, but a commitment to face off Death.

The interest in witnessing 'Antarah's evolution within the one volume is sufficient justification for choosing to include selections from the *Epic* alongside more authentic representations of the pre-Islamic warrior culture; but Montgomery has his own reasons, seeing them not as pastiche, but themselves as "acts of translation, part of a complex poetic and cultural process in which later poets invoked and sought to inhabit, through the vehicle of imagination ... 'time which is always past, but somehow now'" (p. xlv). The result is a coherent voice, out of which difference and change are nonetheless transparent. This is an exciting addition to the LAL corpus, a shining mirror for how 'Antarah, unflinching in his confrontation with mortality, still retains his grip on the popular imagination.

by **Nadia Jamil**



Revolutions in the Desert: The Rise of Mobile Pastoralism in the Southern Levant

Steven A. Rosen

New York: Routledge, 2016.
314 pp. Bibliography, Index.
Hardback £110. Paperback
£32.99. ISBN 978-1-62958-
543-7 (hbk). ISBN 978-1-
62958-544-4 (pbk)

MANY SEE TRIBALISM as a significant feature of Middle Eastern society. And tribe most often calls to mind the bedouin – originally the camel-breeding desert nomads flourishing beyond the control of central governments. The bedouin have been a notable – one might almost say extreme – type of the tribal way of life and though derided by many, they are nonetheless also exponents of a set of values commonly held to be characteristic of the wider Arab nation. So a romantic register in both the reactions of outsiders and the bedouin themselves colours the story from earliest times.

So persistent a way of life poses interesting questions about motives – why be a bedouin? Is there a matter of choice, even a moral project? Many of today's tribesmen would often assert that only the nomad has a freehold on honour; the rest are subject to rulers and systems. Or is a materialist analysis rooted in economic and demographic preoccupations adequate? Our tentative answers have implications for understanding the course of developments in today's turbulent Middle East. For, certainly, being a bedouin is as much a state of mind as a state of motion, and the trend towards sedentarization and political projects emanating from capitals will not eradicate such attitudes. Getting to grips with these deeper attitudes towards statehood and authority would help us see what is going on. A look at the earliest, pre-Arab, manifestations of nomadism, may help with some pointers to how and why this unusual way of life developed.

I reached out for Steven Rosen's book with enthusiasm – what light might he throw on these questions? I was not disappointed, for I learned much. By examining the remote past, the book has a lot to offer as an introduction to informed discussion of the headwaters of what has been a significant characteristic of Middle Eastern society. But sadly the etiological background remains a mystery.

Rosen's style is methodical and his academic attention to detail can be clunky ("flocks ... could not be watered in an area without water" – p. 33), but also entertaining. In setting

out some of the strands in the story of the domestication of animals, the tread of his thoroughness extends to Indian elephants, reindeer (which are, he tells us in note 5 on p. 52, the same as New World caribou) and house mice. And don't miss the elucidation of the spherulite as a possible signature for pastoralism on p. 173.

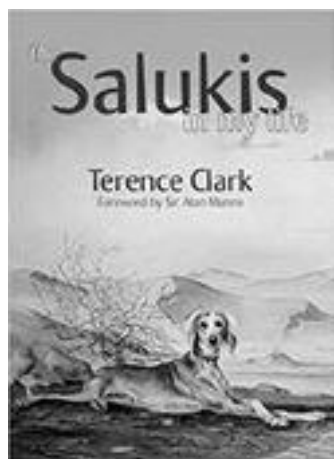
So there is a focal-length problem here: the constraints of a tiny geography (for Rosen the southern Levant – and there are many qualifications to nomadism to be made in that varied landscape) beg comparisons and examples from a much wider map. Some of his analogies with out-of-area examples are uncertain. Relevance and accuracy can be casualties. Clinton Bailey, another Israeli scholar interested in nomads (he collected oral poetry from Arab tribes in Sinai, then occupied by Israel), also showed a weak grasp of the links between what seemed to him particular to his subject, but which were part of much wider Arabian themes and tradition.

Rosen's approach sometimes seems to lack familiarity with what is going on just beyond his frontier. It's an inevitable but nonetheless regrettable blind spot. Recourse to the texts does not always adequately compensate – as Rosen himself argues. The texts are there, but the understanding to interpret them may not be. Given how punctilious his bibliography and references are, these difficulties, I guess, lie behind some inexplicable gaps – most notably, he omits work by William and Fidelity Lancaster, the principal anthropological authorities on north Arabian tribalism in modern times.

Rosen counters that analogies or inferences from more recent ethnographies are not helpful. But *pace* Bruce Chatwin's *Songlines*, Arabian nomadism is such a particular phenomenon that having some idea of what it entails should be a part of understanding the archaeological contribution. Nomads have, after all, a specially non-material culture and this is a real problem for the archaeologist. Rosen proposes that modern nomads have little to tell us about a lifestyle shared by others even in the remote past, but he does not establish his argument.

Rosen is painstaking in his survey of the state of the academic discussion and the non-specialist will find this very helpful, though a little more explanatory help with the '4.2k event' and the information gaps about nomads which occurred in the 3rd millennium bc and between the 7th and 17th centuries ad, would have been welcome. An internet connection is a help when reading this absorbing and valuable book.

by **Mark Allen**



The Salukis in My Life: Here, There and Everywhere from the Arab World to China

Terence Clark
Surbiton: Medina
Publishing, 2018. 328
pp. Colour photographs.
Glossary, Annex,
Bibliography, Index.
Hardback, jacketed. £22.95.
ISBN 978-1-911487-0-36

THE SALUKI (Arabic *salūqī*) is a medium-size gazehound, in all probability originating in the Middle East. Its name is something of a mystery, but would seem to have been derived from one of the several places with the name Seleucia (Arabic *Salūqiyyah*), or *Salūq*, to be found in the area in ancient times. Its mention in Arabic literature is attested from the pre-Islamic poetry of the 6th century CE, in which it is commonly depicted as a pack hunter of the Arabian oryx, right through to the hunting poetry of the Abbasid era of the 9th century CE, in which it hunts, along with the cheetah and the falcon, the gazelle and the hare. There are glimpses of the hound in later Arabic literature, notably and prominently for example in the work of the Syrian, Usāmah Ibn Munqidh, who lived on the Orontes and died in the late 12th century (see below). In more recent times, the saluki has been highly popular among hunters of the Arabian Peninsula, though with over-hunting there it has inevitably become scarcer and scarcer. In other countries of the Middle East, hunting with salukis has suffered greatly from political upheavals and indeed all but destroyed by war. The hound is throughout the Western world a fairly rare and exotic breed, bred mainly for the show ring and perhaps much spoilt as a hunter as a result. More on this topic below.

The book under review, as the title makes clear, is the author's accounts of his life with salukis, both in those countries of the Middle East to which his diplomatic career took him and, after his retirement, farther afield, indeed to wherever his international contacts and his nose for salukis led him. In 1973, the author set eyes on his first saluki in Oman and this appears to be the beginning of his love affair with the breed, though it was to be in the 1980s in the small town of Kalar in Iraqi Kurdistan that he finally acquired a sandy bitch which he could call his own. The author's

diplomatic career took him from Iraq to Bahrain and, over the years, also to Jordan, Syria, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Libya. Whenever his busy schedule permitted, he spent time seeking out, photographing, discussing and, from time to time, acquiring salukis. On his retirement from the Diplomatic Service in 1994, Sir Terence, always it must be said with the support of his wife, began a series of expeditions, still seeking out salukis and their cousins the *tazi/tazy*, sometimes returning to his old haunts, sometimes striking out to entirely new places: Turkey, Yemen, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan. The author's huge experience of the saluki on the ground and his encyclopaedic knowledge acquired over many years have made him without any doubt *the* world authority on the breed.

Two things stand out for me from a reading of this volume. First, the author's absolute passion for the saluki, wherever it is to be found and whatever its role; second, his firm belief that the true saluki is a product of the desert and that there must be constant recourse to desert blood to preserve the prize hunting hound. Show champions are all very well, but can the winner of the first prize actually hunt?

Everything about this volume is first-class. The text is clear and well written; the book is beautifully produced, from the superbly illustrated cover to the binding, the extraordinary photographs (taken mainly by the author himself), the paper and font and, last but by no means least, the exquisite calligraphy of Taha al-Hiti, Mustafa Ja'far and the author himself. At the price of £22.95, this book is a bargain indeed and comes highly recommended.

The following two items might be noted, although there is certainly no suggestion that they would improve this volume:

Hunting poetry (*ṭardiyyāt*) in Julia Ashtiany, T.M. Johnstone, J.D. Latham, R.B. Serjeant and G. Rex Smith (eds), *The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature: 'Abbasid Belles-Lettres*, CUP, Cambridge, 1990, pp. 167–84.

A New Translation of Certain Passages of the Hunting Section of Usāmah Ibn Munqidh's *Kitāb al-I'tibār*, *Journal of Semitic Studies* 26 (1981), pp. 235–55.

by **G. Rex Smith**

LIVES REMEMBERED

Paolo M. Costa (1932-2019)

Paolo M. Costa passed away on 13th January 2019. One of the big names of Arabian archaeology since the 1970s and a regular participant at the Seminar for Arabian Studies, he is a great loss to the field and will be much missed. He was born in 1932 in Turin where he obtained his degree in Roman archaeology. From 1964 to 1969 he lived in Baghdad where he was secretary of the Italian Institute of Archaeology and a professor at the University of Baghdad. He cooperated with the Directorate General of Antiquities of Iraq to organize the archaeological collections in the new Iraq Museum and carried out several surveys on Islamic sites.



Paolo M. Costa

Between 1970 and 1975 he served as archaeological adviser to the Yemen Arab Republic. During this period, he established the archaeological section of the National Museum of San'a, carried out several surveys, and was in charge of the first comprehensive study and conservation program of the Great Mosque of San'a. He also drafted the first antiquity law to control the research and conservation of Yemeni cultural heritage.

From 1972 to 1976 he cooperated with the Middle East Centre of the University of Cambridge (UK) and carried out research on early Islamic architecture in the Arabian Peninsula. In 1976 he worked with the World of Islam Festival Trust to organize the exhibition "Nomad and City" at the Museum of Mankind in London.

In 1976 he was appointed as an adviser for archaeology in the Sultanate of Oman, where he resided until 1986. Over

this decade, he organized the Department of Antiquities (now Ministry of Heritage and Culture). He started a regional inventory of archaeological sites and buildings of historic interest. He directed excavations at sites in Salalah, Arja, Bawshar, Saruj and Ghafat. He conducted exploratory works on the Jebel Akhdar and in the areas of Muscat, Bahla, Ibra, Wadi Tanuf and Wadi Ma'awil.

Costa was the deputy chairman of the first "International Conference on Oman Studies" held in Muscat in November 1980, which was attended by over a hundred scholars. He was also the coordinator of the "Heritage of Oman Festival" held in Muscat by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture in the same year. He was appointed as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Oman Studies. At the end of his term of service Costa was awarded the Civil Order of Oman by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said.

He is the author of numerous scientific publications including several monographs, such as "Yemen: A land of builders" (1977), "Musandam Architecture and Material Culture of a Little Known Region of Oman" (1991), "Studies in Arabian Architecture" (1994), and "Historic Mosques and Shrines of Oman" (2001).

He is survived by three children and his wife Germana.
by **Dennys Frenez**

Jeffery John Orchard (1931-2015)

Jeffery John Orchard was educated at Alleyn's School, Dulwich and read Archaeology and Anthropology at King's College, Cambridge, where he represented the University at Rugby Fives and graduated with a First. Following two years of Military Service, he was appointed Assistant Keeper of Western Asiatic Archaeology and Egyptology at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and there participated in the re-design and new thematic interpretations of the Egyptian and Western Asiatic Galleries. In 1961, Sir Max Mallowan invited him to become the Deputy Director (resident in Baghdad) of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq where he oversaw the cataloguing and conservation of the Assyrian ivories excavated at the site of Nimrud. He is considered to be one of the leading authorities on these works of art. He was a member of the team excavating at Nimrud and in 1963 himself directed a season of work at the site.

Jeffery's knowledge of the art and archaeology of the Ancient Near East was profound and his scholarship was greatly admired by his colleagues. In 1971, Wilfred Lambert, then Professor of Assyriology at the University of Birmingham, encouraged him to apply for the post of Lecturer in the Ancient History and Archaeology of Western

Asia and from 1971 until his retirement in 1993 he was an inspiring teacher and successful admissions tutor at Birmingham. Several of his students have described how, having selected another university as their first choice, they had changed their minds after being interviewed by him. Others have expressed their gratitude to him for the intensely rich and comprehensive education they received in their chosen field of study.



Jeffery John Orchard

In the late 1970s, Jeffery was determined to return to fieldwork. His first choice was Syria - where the authorities in the Department of Antiquities were welcoming and prepared to offer a rare division of the finds – but, with three British teams already working there, competition for funding and aid-in-kind was intense and instead he looked southwards to the Gulf where intriguing evidence of new civilizations was being discovered.

In 1980, he founded – with his wife, Jocelyn – the University of Birmingham Archaeological Expedition to the Sultanate of Oman (now more succinctly entitled The Hajar Project) and, over three decades, under the gracious patronage of the Oman Ministry of Heritage and Culture, they and their team successfully explored the character and cultural evolution of the Sultanate's ancient oasis settlements as identified at their sites in the Wadi Bahla, near Bahla town and in the vicinity of Bisya. These settlements – which Jeffery and Jocelyn have named The Hajar Oasis Towns – are distinguished by their monumental circular structures demarcating a cultivated territory, their cemeteries of beehive-shaped tombs and their trading and cultural contacts with Mesopotamia, Iran and

the Indus Valley. Chief amongst their discoveries have been the late 4th millennium BC sub-surface to surface irrigation systems (the earliest yet discovered) - known as aflaj (sing. falaj) in Arabia and Qanat in Iran - without which the ancient oases could never have survived.

Jeffery and Jocelyn have also suggested that the origins of the The Hajar Oasis Towns are most likely to be found in the Yemen and that this oasis culture – conceivably that of the legendary nation of 'Ad - was part of a pan-Arabian civilization that extended in a great southward sweeping arc from Oman and the UAE to Sinai. The interim results of this research have been presented in a number of journals and conference papers and preparations for the publication of the final reports are underway.



Jeffery John Orchard in Oman in 2007

Following retirement in 1993, Jeffery, now an Honorary Research Fellow of the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at Birmingham University, remained actively engaged in fieldwork and research but, in 2010, his eyesight began to fail as a result of Age-related Macular Degeneration and this was followed a year later by a heart attack. Despite these setbacks – which put an end to fieldwork – he continued his researches and only truly displayed frailty in the months leading up to his death. He died of heart failure on November 9th, 2015.

At his funeral service and in numerous letters and cards from friends and colleagues, he is remembered with great affection as the quintessential gentleman – elegant, scholarly, gentle – fondly remembered for his integrity, kindness, generosity and a delightful sense of humour.

by **Jocelyn Orchard**

Nancie Villiers (1915–2018)

In 1940, just after the outbreak of war, the young Nancie Wills, who has died aged 102, was working as an assistant editor at the London publishing house of John Murray when she heard a voice she recognized on the radio. She had met its owner, Alan Villiers, once before, in Melbourne, and now she arranged to meet him again. Villiers, heroic tall-ship sailor, Antarctic whaler, photojournalist, and best-selling

author of books such as *By Way of Cape Horn* and *Cruise of the Conrad*, was at that point seeing to the publication of his latest and perhaps greatest work, *Sons of Sindbad*, the classic account of Arabian dhow sailing. He was recently divorced (the sea had been cited as co-respondent), and the meeting went well. They were married in Scotland later the same year.

By that time Nancie had joined the WRAF and Alan the RNVR, and both would spend much of the war on active service. Their first child, Christopher ('Kit'), was born in 1943. After the war, Alan returned to his globe-trotting investigations of old-fashioned seafaring around the world and, by the time of his death in 1982 aged 78, had produced more than forty books and innumerable articles. The couple made their post-war home not by the sea however, but in north Oxford, where Nancie did the lioness's share of bringing up their three children.

Nancie Wills was born in Launceston, Tasmania on 29 July 1915, and grew up in a prosperous Melbourne suburb. After education at Melbourne C of E Girls' Grammar School, she found work in an architect's office in Melbourne but, suffering from itchy feet and a determined streak, decided to take ship for England. On the voyage she met Axel Munthe, celebrated psychiatrist and author of *The Story of San Michele*, who was instrumental in her finding the job at John Murray. Here Nancie, who had a passion for literature as well as architecture, was briefly in her element, though war

and marriage soon intervened.

During her decades in Oxford, her interests centred on her love of the city's built environment and she became an active member of the Oxford Preservation Trust. The river Cherwell on whose bank she lived for so long was another passion. She founded the Summertown Riverside Group to try to preserve its tranquil setting, and fought vigorously to ensure that the whole of the Cherwell Valley right into Oxford remained Green Belt – a 'green lung' into the city. She loved swimming in the river, and kept two punts in the boathouse at the bottom of her Elysian garden. "Punting available!" she would announce, as an extra incentive to visit. Even when bedridden late in life, she maintained her sunny good humour, and was always keen to promote Alan's work, as well as keeping an active eye on the Villiers Archive of photographs and film which had been deposited at the National Maritime Museum. I shall always remember her warm and positive support during the republication of *Sons of Sindbad* in 2006, along with its companion volume *Sons of Sindbad: The Photographs*. Nancie is survived by her three children Kit, Katherine and Peter, and by two grandchildren.

by **Will Facey**



Nancie and Alan Villiers on their wedding day in 1940

LAST WORD

Cultural Memories of the African and Arabian Red Sea Dhow: Maritime Ethnography of the Red Sea 2002-2013

*In his recent book on the cultural landscape and seascape of the Red Sea peoples over the past century **Dionisius A. Agius** explores how coastal communities of the African and Arabian Red Sea share identities deeply embedded in the past yet still alive today in their relationship to the seascape, and in their narratives and practices. Through interviews with hundreds of individuals Dr Agius has been able to document the tangible and intangible culture and give voice to these fascinating maritime communities*

The coastal communities of the African and Arabian Red Sea share identities deeply embedded in the past yet still alive today in their relationship to the seascape, and in their narratives and practices; all form part of a vibrant maritime cultural and spirit landscape contributing to the understanding of the connectivity, mentality and commonality of both the African and the Arabian shores.



An Adeni dhow 1940s (photo: Antonin Besse Sr.)

My new book *The Life of the Red Sea Dhow: A Cultural History of Seaborne Exploration in the Islamic World* (I.B. Tauris 2019) concerns the cultural landscape and seascape of the Red Sea peoples in the past one hundred years, covering Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The emphasis is on oral history, with over 166 interviews of people of varying ages and occupations conducted between 2002 and 2013. From 2002 to 2007, and again in 2013, I worked alone, visiting Egypt, Sudan and Saudi Arabia;

between 2008 and 2011, I led the Maritime Ethnography of the Red Sea (MARES) project team at Exeter, which included John P. Cooper, Chiara Zazzaro, Lucy Semaan and Julian Jansen Van Rensburg.



D.A. Agius and C. Zazzaro documenting the dhow at Khor al-Ghureirah, Yemen 2009 (photo: MARES J.P. Cooper)

I recall the voice of Sheikh Yahya Bin Ibrahim of Greater Farasan Island, Saudi Arabia, who, when asked about his maritime past, said: “I was a sea captain, a pearl merchant, I owned a sanbūk built in Luheyya [Yemen] that lasted twenty-five years before it was damaged and finally, beyond repair, abandoned”. Voices like his and their narratives still echo today on the African and Arabian Red Sea shores. Many a story was narrated to me by old mariners and as one Jeddawi fisherman, Muhammad Said al-Ahmadi exclaimed: “The sea is gone [but] its stories, surprises and secrets remain [in our memories]”. The findings for this research were sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust, the GoldenWeb Foundation, Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage and King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah.

There is no comprehensive written history of the maritime communities of the Red Sea shores. The tangible and intangible culture I documented, and the people I interviewed, is an attempt to remedy this lack, through the voices of the people themselves. Written sources are sparse, but we can, to some extent, reconstruct the socio-cultural history of the Red Sea corridor by consulting the diaries kept by western travellers and surveyors of the nineteenth and



Double-ended zārūk, Khor al-Ghureirah, Yemen, 2009 (photo MARES D.A. Agius)

twentieth centuries, such as Carsten Niebuhr, a German cartographer and explorer, the Catalan spy Domènec Badia y Leblich, known as Ali Bey, the Swiss geographer Johann Burckhardt and Richard Burton, the British explorer. In more recent times, the Frenchman Henri De Monfreid and the Australian Alan Villiers, both experienced sailors of the Red Sea, have been an invaluable resource. The written data, important and vital though it may be, cannot give the whole picture; the extensive ethnographic fieldwork undertaken in this project has shown how the written and oral data, when combined, lead us to a much greater understanding of the tangible and intangible culture of the African and Arabian shores.

The Red Sea is a perilous sea, once greatly feared by those who sailed it. Strong unpredictable winds, coral reefs and submerged rocks have taken the lives of many mariners and seafarers over the centuries. At the centre of the book is the Red Sea dhow, the traditional wooden vessel and its cultural life as seen through the knowledge and skills of the dhow builders; the crew that mastered the sea; the pearl divers seeking oyster shells that contained what were once the most sought after pearls in the world; the merchants who traded their goods from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean; pilgrims on the annual hajj that has for many years dominated this sea corridor; the prayers recited on board ship and ritual ceremonies; the insights into superstitious beliefs such as jinns; the threats faced by seafarers of gales, wrecks and pirates; and a glimpse of the once ubiquitous

slave trade and gun running.

In order to fully understand the landscape, one has to go out in the field and experience it for oneself; to explore the cultural landscape, it is better to feel and sense the environment. Nature and culture are inseparably intertwined as people are engaged, physically and culturally, with the landscape they live in. I wanted to know at first hand, how the coastal and sea people perceived this world of the dhow, to find out about the physical and cultural landscape they experienced, both in the past and in their lives today by and at the sea.



Ibrahim Ali Moosa, master dhow builder, Quseir 2004 (photo: D.A. Agius)

Written data explains why the harbour towns were booming with Indian and South Asian trade after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 but oral accounts, from the community elders, remembering what their grandparents have told them, can give us much valuable information about this proliferation of European and Asian vessels.

All ship movements from the north to the south of the Red Sea and India were dictated by the seasonal patterns of the winds and it would need a cycle of almost twelve months to coincide with the arrival of the pilgrim-trade ships. At the peak of this trading scenario, the pearling industry in the Red Sea was also at its height as hundreds of pearling dhows were employed in the Dahlak and Farasan Archipelagos



Sheikh Muhammad Hadi Al Rajhi weighing pearls at Greater Farasan Island, Saudi Arabia, 2010 (photo: MARES D.A.Agius)

The history of trading in the Red Sea region is well documented as was the India trade that was pivotal to the commercial life of the coastal peoples and those of the hinterland. Many were the ships that operated as pilgrim passenger ferries making the Red Sea corridor one of the busiest sea corridors in history.

With the introduction of the steamer and the discovery of oil, the African and the Arabian Red Sea dhow activity declined but did not fully disappear. It may be in decline but it is also a story of survival, continuity and change. It continues to be part of the maritime landscape and seascape, central to the lives of many of the maritime communities as it always was, through many centuries. Fishing dhows are all that survive now, still, in places, employing the traditional technology in building them, and often continuing to hoist sails for reasons of economy on fuel, navigating by the stars, and crossing the oceans in search of small trade.



Collecting oyster shells from the seabed, Farasan Islands, 2010 (photo MARES C. Zazzaro)



A Djibouti dhow (photo: Marion Kaplan)

Bulletin Editorial Team

Editor: Daniel Eddisford

University of Durham

I have worked as a professional archaeologist for 20 years, excavating a wide range of sites both in the UK and the Middle East. I received my undergraduate and MSc degrees in archaeology at University College London. I have a long standing interest in the archaeology of the Arabian Gulf and I continue to undertake fieldwork in the region with the *Origins of Doha and Qatar Project*. My PhD research focuses on building a better understanding of the networks of interaction linking southeast Arabia to the riverine civilizations of Mesopotamia and the Indus as well as Iran. I also organize the *Seminar for Arabian Studies* and edit the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*.

Research Editor: Dr. Timothy Power

Zayed University

I am an archaeologist and historian specialising in Arabia and the Islamic world. My interest in Islamic civilization began in 2001 when I moved to Cairo, from where I worked on a historical guidebook to Alexandria and dug in the Eastern Desert of Egypt, before travelling extensively in the Islamic world between Seville and Samarkand. I went on to study Islamic art and archaeology at the University of Oxford in 2003, and completed my doctorate on the Red Sea basin from Byzantium to the Caliphate, later published as a book by the AUC Press. I have been based in the Arabian Gulf since 2009, first as a consultant to the Department of Culture and Tourism before then becoming a lecturer at the UCL branch campus in Qatar, and am presently an associate professor at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi. My current archaeological fieldwork focuses on the oases of al-Ain and Buraimi, Islamic-period ceramics from the Arabian Gulf, and maritime trade with Zanzibar.

Book Reviews: William Facey

Arabian Publishing Ltd.

William Facey is owner and managing director of Arabian Publishing Ltd, a niche publisher on the Arabian Peninsula based in London. He is also a historian and researcher specializing in the communication of the Arabian heritage through publications, museums and visitor centres. Since 1974 he has worked as a planning and research consultant on numerous projects to set up museums and exhibitions on the archaeology, history, natural history and people of the Arabian Peninsula, most notably in Saudi Arabia. His own books, articles and introductions have established him as a well-known historian of Oman, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. Particular specialisms are the maritime history and early photography of Arabia, traditional architecture, Islam among the British, and Western visitors to Mecca and Madinah.

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