

**Bulletin
of
The Society for Arabian Studies**
جمعية دراسات الجزيرة العربية

Number 13 ISSN: 1361 9144 Registered Charity No. 1003272 2008 £5.00



Corrigendum

In the 2008 Bulletin, we included false information regarding the **Tayma** project, run jointly by the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut and the General Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, Riyadh. We offer our sincere apologies to all members of the project for this mistake.

In fact, both field seasons of 2007 and the first season of 2008 were carried out at Tayma as scheduled. A preliminary report has been published: R. Eichmann, A. Hausleiter, M. al-Najem & S. al-Said 2006 Tayma - Spring 2004. Report on the joint Saudi-Arabian-German archaeological project. *ATLAL* 19: 91-116 [Arabic version ١٩١-٢١٦]. Further news and publications of the project can be found on the website at www.dainst.org/index_3258_en.html

Thanks to Professor Arnulf Hausleiter for providing this information.

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Notes for contributors to the Bulletin

The *Bulletin* depends on the good will of its members and correspondents to provide contributions. News, items of general interest, ongoing and completed postgraduate research, forthcoming conferences, meetings and special events are welcome. Please contact the editor: racbahr@hotmail.com

Applications to conduct research in Yemen

Applications to conduct research in Yemen should be made to the Society's sub-committee, the British Archaeological Mission in Yemen (BAMY). Contact Professor Tony Wilkinson, Durham University, Department of Archaeology, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE. Tel. 0191 334 1111. Email t.j.wilkinson@durham.ac.uk

Grants in aid of research

Applicants are advised to apply well ahead of the 31 May and 31 October deadlines. Full details on p. 3–4.

Applications for official sponsorship

Expeditions and individuals may apply for official sponsorship from the Society for research projects if helpful in obtaining funds from other sources or permission from foreign governments. Sponsorship will signify the Society's approval for the academic content of the research project but will contain no element of financial support. Applications should be submitted on the relevant form, available from the Honorary Secretary at the address below, or downloadable from the website (www.societyforarabianstudies.org) and sent to Dr Derek Kennet, Chairman, Grants Sub-Committee, at the address below or to derek.kennet@durham.ac.uk

Membership

Membership details are available from Ionis Thompson, the Honorary Secretary, at the address below or on the Society's website. For membership renewals contact the Treasurer, Douglas Stobie, at the address below, or email: dmms@btinternet.com

The Honorary Secretary

Society for Arabian Studies

c/o The London Middle East Institute

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Thornhaugh Street

London

WC1H 0XG

UK Email: ionisthompson@ukonline.co.uk Web: www.societyforarabianstudies.org

Bulletin of the Society for Arabian Studies ISSN: 1361-9144 Registered Charity No. 1003272

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Front Cover: wedding celebrant, Sanaa Old City, March 2007

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last year's editor, Wendy Rix Morton, has sadly been obliged to resign and this year we welcome Dr Rob Carter who has taken on the considerable task of editorship. We warmly extend our thanks to Wendy for last year's work and her generous assistance in the hand-over.

The Society for Arabian Studies was established to foster interest in the prehistory, history, archaeology and environment of the Peninsula and the Bulletin is its principal instrument. Keeping abreast of developments in all these fields is a considerable challenge, especially when the countries of the Peninsula are rapidly developing commitments to contemporary literature, painting and music, as well as paying ever greater attention to traditional culture, for instance in music and poetry. There is also growing focus on the environment and wildlife.

On the archaeological front, the original basis for the Society's foundation, there are major schemes afoot in Yemen where the Qatari government has offered to fund international excavations along the incense route. The Society's subcommittee – British Archaeological Mission in Yemen (BAMY) – has taken on a new lease of life under the chairmanship of Professor Tony Wilkinson (p. 4) and hopes to participate in these key developments. The major archaeological development in recent years has been the discovery of numerous Palaeolithic sites in eastern and southern Arabia, reflected in the news sections of this *Bulletin*. These finds are of immense significance not just to Arabia but also to global prehistory, as they relate directly to the question of early human dispersals from Africa via Arabia, as opposed to the northerly route through Sinai and the Levant. The importance of these new advances in the understanding of Palaeolithic Arabia was reflected in the organisation of a special session at the Seminar for Arabian Studies in 2007, the fruits of which will appear in the forthcoming *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*.

Within the contemporary scene Abu Dhabi has launched an International Prize for Arabic Fiction, supported by its Emirates Foundation and in association with the Booker Prize Foundation (p. 19). Abu Dhabi is also planning both an Arabian branch of the Louvre and a Guggenheim Museum (the fourth, after Venice, New York and Bilbao, and designed, like Bilbao's, by Frank Gehry). Qatar is due to open its Museum of Islamic Arts this year, also by a leading international architect, I.M. Pei, who designed the Louvre Pyramid in Paris. Private art galleries are taking off in Dubai and Kuwait. Commitment to the preservation of the Peninsula's wild life is also active, especially in Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

Meanwhile the Society is sustaining its record of biennial conferences on the Arabian Peninsula and adjoining regions. Following on from its three Red Sea conferences, Dr Lloyd Weeks is organising, on behalf of the Society, a three-day conference on *Death, Burial, and the Transition to the Afterlife in Arabia and Adjacent Regions*. It's an ambitious topic and one that has already aroused enormous international interest, judging by the full programme of papers that have already been submitted. Also of great satisfaction to the organisers of the Red Sea events, Southampton University's Marine Archaeology Department has taken up the cudgels and is organising a fourth Red Sea conference, *Connected Hinterlands*, in September, this time somewhat expanding to the wider Red Sea and Indian Ocean region. Both these conferences stress the centrality of the Peninsula within the wider region.

As Chairman of the Society I would like to think our membership enjoy keeping pace with all these interests and developments. The Society is, however, entirely dependent on its members' subscriptions to maintain its active involvement with the Peninsula. Help us to ensure we can continue the involvement by encouraging others both to join and to keep us informed!

Finally, we have sad news of the death of Sir Donald Hawley KCMG, MBE, who died suddenly at his Wiltshire home on 31 January 2008 (thanks to Sir Harold Walker for the following information). Sir Donald served on the Society's committee from 1991 to 1994. As Political Agent Trucial States 1958–61 and Consul-General and subsequently Ambassador, Oman 1971–75, he was a shrewd observer of Arabian events, as demonstrated in his writings on the area. These include not only the volume reviewed in this Bulletin but also *The Trucial States* (1971), the first comprehensive work on the subject and today a useful contrast to the metamorphosis which he described in the current publication; he also published comment on another metamorphosis, *Oman and its Renaissance* (1977), and published *Courtesies in the Gulf Area* (1978), an invaluable source of niceties to those working in the area. I offer the condolences therein to his wife Ruth (herself the author of *Traditional Gulf Jewellery*) - *ahsan Allah 'azalkum*: may God grant you solace.

Sarah Searight
Chairman

SOCIETY FOR ARABIAN STUDIES NEWS

SOCIETY FOR ARABIAN STUDIES

The Society was founded in 1987 with the purpose of encouraging interest and research into the archaeology, history, culture and environment of the Arabian Peninsula – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Society publishes this annual Bulletin, organises regular lectures and a biennial conference, and supports field projects in and publications on this region. Full details of the Society's aims and activities can be found on its website:

www.societyforarabianstudies.org

MONOGRAPH SERIES

In 2004, the Society launched its own Monograph Series with the aim of publishing peer-reviewed research-based studies, conference proceedings and archaeological excavation or survey reports, as well as theses which comprise an important synthesis or a significant addition to knowledge. The scope encompasses the archaeology, early history, ethnography, epigraphy and numismatics of the Arabian Peninsula and related matters. The Series now has five titles, published by Archaeopress (B.A.R. International Series):

- Kennet, D., with a contribution by Regina Krahl (2004), *Sasanian and Islamic pottery from Ras al-Khaimah: Classification, chronology and analysis of trade in the Western Indian Ocean*. Archaeopress B.A.R. S1248, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs No. 1. ISBN: 1841716081. £32.00.
- Lunde, P. and A. Porter (eds.) (2004), *Trade and Travel in the Red Sea Region: Proceedings of the Red Sea Project I held in the British Museum October 2002*. Archaeopress B.A.R. S1269, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs No. 2. ISBN: 1841716227. £33.00.
- Starkey, J. (ed.) (2005), *People of the Red Sea: Proceedings of Red Sea Project II held in the British Museum October 2004*. Archaeopress B.A.R. S1395, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs No. 3. ISBN: 1841718335. £30.00.
- Durrani, N. (2005), *The Tihamah Coastal Plain of South-west Arabia in its Regional Context c. 6000 BC – AD 600*. Archaeopress B.A.R. S1456, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs No. 4. ISBN: 1841718947. £32.00.
- Starkey, J., Starkey, P. and Wilkinson, T. (eds) (2007), *Natural Resources and Cultural Connections*

of the Red Sea: Proceedings of Red Sea Project III held in the British Museum October 2006. Archaeopress; BAR S1661, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs No. 5. ISBN: 9781407300979. £36.00.

Forthcoming titles planned for publication include:

- Phillips, C.S. and St J. Simpson (eds), *Softstone in Arabia and Iran*.
- Mouton, M. *La péninsule d'Oman de la fin de l'âge du fer au début de la période Sassanide (250 av.–350 ap. JC)*

Potential contributors: please contact the Series Editors:

Dr Derek Kennet
Department of Archaeology, Durham University,
South Road, Durham, England DH1 3LE
Derek.Kennet@durham.ac.uk

Dr St John Simpson
Department of the Middle East, The British Museum,
London, England WC1B 3DG
ssimpson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

To order:

Archaeopress, British Archaeological Reports,
Gordon House, 276 Banbury Road, Oxford, England,
OX2 7ED. Email bar@archaeopress.com
Web www.archaeopress.com

GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH

Each year, the Society offers grants of up to £500 in support of research, or the publication of research, into the archaeology, history, culture or environment of the Arabian Peninsula. Awards are intended primarily for small projects and are insufficient in themselves to finance a major research project, although they may be used as grants-in-aid towards larger projects which have already attracted, or can reasonably expect to attract, further independent funding. Grants will not be awarded to fund university or other courses. Applicants must be members of the Society. Applications should be submitted by 31 May or 31 October each year. A decision will be made and the result communicated within 6 weeks of those dates.

Awards are tenable for one year from the date on which they are awarded. Grant holders will be required to provide a written report on their research with an account of expenditure, to be submitted within six months of the expiry of the period for which the grant was made. Successful applicants will also be required to submit a summary of their research for publication in the *Bulletin* following the

end of the period during which the grant was held. The Society may also ask grant holders to give a talk to Society members on their research projects.

Further information and application forms are available from Dr Derek Kennet, Grants Sub-Committee Secretary, via email at derek.kennet@durham.ac.uk or by post from Ionis Thompson, Honorary Secretary, Society for Arabian Studies, c/o The London Middle East Institute, Room B318, SOAS, University of London, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK. Information is also available on the Society's website at: www.societyforarabianstudies.org

SOCIETY GRANTS-IN-AID 2007

Dr Michel Mouton was awarded a grant for the reformatting of his 1992 thesis, *La Peninsule D'Oman De La Fin De L'age Du Fer Au Debut De La Periode Sassanide (250 av.-350 ap. JC)*. This will be published in the Society Monograph Series.

GRANT-IN-AID REPORTS

Dr Paul Yule received a Society Grant in 2005, for preparation of his book on Himyar. He writes:

The grant which the committee generously granted to me allowed me to finish the drawings of my book which is entitled *Himyar, Late Antique Yemen / Himyar Spätantike im Yemen*. These included approximately 8 maps and plans.

The book was published in 2007 by Linden Soft Verlag, and is reviewed in this edition of the Bulletin by Robert Hoyland (see Book Reviews, p. 48).

Dr Lamya Khalidi received a travel grant from the Society in 2006 to speak at the third Red Sea Conference at the British Museum, 27–28 October 2008. Her paper was entitled "The formation of a southern Red Seascape in the late prehistoric period: Tracing cross-Red Sea culture-contact, interaction, and maritime communities along the Tihamah coastal plain, Yemen, in the third to first millennium BC". It is included in the Red Sea III publication.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION IN YEMEN (BAMY)

We are pleased to announce that Professor Tony Wilkinson agreed to take over the Chair of BAMY in September 2007. BAMY operates under the auspices of the Society for Arabian Studies and is responsible for screening all British research carried out in Yemen in the fields of archaeology, history, epigraphy, numismatics, pre-Islamic and Islamic architecture and all manuscript and museum-based studies.

UK applications for permission to carry out research in Yemen in the above mentioned disciplines should be referred to the BAMY

Committee who will be happy to advise potential applicants on any aspect of their application. The applications it approves will become official BAMY projects and BAMY will apply for permits from the General Organisation of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM), Ministry of Culture, Sanaa on behalf of applicants. Application deadlines are 30 April and 30 September each year. Further details can be obtained from BAMY, Professor Tony Wilkinson, Durham University, Department of Archaeology, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE. Tel. 0191 334 1111. Email t.j.wilkinson@durham.ac.uk

Proposed Qatari–Yemeni Project

A meeting was held in Qatar in November, attended by Tony Wilkinson, with the aim of identifying long-term excavation projects which might be funded under the umbrella of the Qatari–Yemeni funding initiative. The official proposal was to seek projects relating to one of the major "incense capitals" of the South Arabian kingdoms, but it was indicated that a smaller (but still significant) site in the vicinity of one of the capitals may also be acceptable.

A follow-up meeting of BAMY was held in London on 12 December 2007, where the site of Hajar Hinu al-Zurir (ancient Haribat) was identified as a suitable candidate for excavation. This small site is positioned on the incense route between Marib and Tamna, and has monumental architecture and an existing British association. Professor Wilkinson accordingly drew up a draft proposal and budget and sent it to the Qatar Museum Authority, copying it to Professor Yusuf Abdallah. The results of this application are awaited.

LECTURES AND LECTURE REPORTS 2007

11 January 2007

These were the Potters: Reflections on Olga Tufnell's Visit to South Arabia 1959

Mr Carl Phillips

Joint lecture with the Palestine Exploration Fund, the Council for British Research in the Levant and the British–Yemeni Society.

Carl Phillips is an Arabian archaeologist currently with UMR 7041, Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnologie, Nanterre, France.

Mr Phillips has been researching the papers of the renowned Near Eastern archaeologist and ethnologist, Olga Tufnell, which are lodged in the PEF Library. Olga Tufnell had a specialist expertise in many fields of Arabian archaeology, culture and craft, including that of the potters of South Arabia.

7 March 2007

In Search of Paradise Lost: Palaeoclimate Change to Landscape Architecture in South-East Arabia

Dr Adrian Parker

Dr Parker has been Head of the Department of Geography (now Department of Anthropology and Geography) at Oxford Brookes University since 2003. His work has recently focused on the palaeoecology and geoarchaeology of arid and semi-arid regions, especially the Middle East and Arabian Gulf regions.

The coastal desert region of the southeastern Arabian Gulf has been a focal point for human settlement since ~8,000 cal. yr BP. The region is strategically located on an important trade route between two “cradles of civilisation”, namely Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley. The integration of palaeoenvironmental and archaeological work has been used to produce a framework of environmental change for the Late Glacial (22,000–11,000 cal BP) and early-mid Holocene periods (11,000–5,000 cal. BP). During these periods the development and interactions of the Indian Ocean monsoon and Westerly climate systems is assessed. Against this background the record of Neolithic and Bronze Age human activities and environments in southeastern Arabia is made. During the Late Glacial and earliest Holocene (12,000–9,000 cal. BP) intense aeolian activity and dune emplacement occurred. The early to mid-Holocene moist phase (8,500–6,000 cal. BP) was a phase of wetter conditions with wadi flow, the development of lakes and the dunes stabilised with C3 savanna grassland. During this period Neolithic herding and exploitation of marine resources occurred. From 5,500 cal BP, during the Bronze Age, the climate became drier, with low lake levels, sparser C4 grassland and dune re-activation.

Adrian Parker

23 May 2007

Landscapes of Pilgrimage: the Archaeological Context of the Hajj routes of Arabia

Professor Tony Wilkinson

Dr Wilkinson is a Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. His research integrates archaeological and landscape surveys with ancient historical records.

It is generally known that every Muslim must visit Mecca at least once, but what is less well understood is that this stipulation has resulted in the development of a remarkable radial system of pilgrimage roads. These radiate from Mecca towards the main contributory places: Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Egypt etc. In other words, the need to perform the pilgrimage has structured the landscape at a sub-continental scale.

This lecture considered both the macro-structure of the pilgrim roads, as well as the details seen on the ground, namely the hydraulic landscape of each way-station which included cisterns, palaces, mosques, route markers and ancillary structures. There was a critical need to take into account the hydrology of individual stations, because depending upon the local

geography, water for the cisterns (*birkahs*) could be captured within enclosed depressions, from intermittent wadis, from gently sloping terrain, or from ground water within volcanic rocks.

The needs of human pilgrims were not the only factor in the placement of way stations – fieldwork in 1979 demonstrated that many stations appeared to be located with the availability of pastures in mind, presumably for the pack animals. One of the remarkable features of the Darb Zubayda, which formed the main part of the lecture, is that careful management of water resources resulted in the development of sometimes quite substantial towns and even field systems, at comparatively remote locations in the deserts of Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

This lecture was based on fieldwork in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thanks to Saad el-Rashid (King Saud University); team members of the Comprehensive Survey of Saudi Arabia, especially Salah Hilwah and Neil Mackenzie; Abdullah Masry; Shankland Cox Associates; Carl Phillips.

Tony Wilkinson

24 October 2007

A Tribal Order: politics and law in the mountains of Yemen

Dr Shelagh Weir

Joint lecture and book launch with the British–Yemeni Society

Dr Shelagh Weir was formerly Curator for Middle Eastern Ethnography at the Museum of Mankind (British Museum), and is presently a Research Associate in the Anthropology Dept, SOAS.

The joint lecture and book launch marked the publication of Shelagh Weir’s new book: *A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen* (2007) co-published by British Museum Press and the University of Texas Press (reviewed in this volume – see Book Reviews, p. 44).

Dr Weir’s richly illustrated talk first introduced the mountainous environment and agricultural economy of Jabal Razih in north west Yemen where she conducted field research for the British Museum. It then summarised key features of the political and legal system of the tribes of Razih, and of their historical relations with Muslim states over the past four centuries. A major theme of the book is the complexity and local relevance of Razihi values and customary law. Razihis are farmers and traders who depend on peace for their livelihoods. Their ideal is therefore to avoid bloodshed, and to resolve conflicts speedily and conclusively by mediation followed by compensation payments and rituals of apology and reconciliation. Dr Weir expressed the view that the current violent conflict in the Province of Saadah, including Razih, between the so-called “al-Huthis” and government forces is unlikely to be solved without implementation of key tribal values, rules and practices such as her book describes.



Shaikhs and government officials with animals slaughtered as apology and entreaty for reconciliation after an inter-tribal conflict, Jabal Razih, 1985

Shelagh Weir

12 December 2007

When Did People First Cross the Red Sea? Sea-level change, submerged coastlines and the earliest history of the Arabian Peninsula

Professor Geoff Bailey

Dr Geoff Bailey is Professor of Archaeology at the University of York and is running a joint UK–Saudi archaeological project on the early prehistory of the southern Red Sea and the Farasan Islands.

In this lecture Professor Bailey presented some of the results of fieldwork that has begun as part of a joint Saudi–UK project focused on the Farasan Islands, and presented the wider research context. The Arabian Peninsula has played little role until recently in the wider understanding of very early prehistory. This is due to relative lack of investigation, a widespread belief that there would have been little human occupation in earlier periods because of climatic aridity, and the assumption that the movement of people and ideas between Africa and Eurasia occurred via the Sinai Peninsula and the Levant, effectively bypassing the Arabian Peninsula.

That picture is now changing. First, it is clear from the work of the Comprehensive Archaeological Survey of Saudi Arabia begun thirty years ago that there are many Palaeolithic sites in the region. They include undoubted stone-tool artefacts typical of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic, and it is likely that the record of human occupation extends back at least half a million years and most probably much longer. Secondly, there is abundant geological evidence for extended periods of wetter climatic conditions than today during the past two million years, with lakes in the Rub al-Khali and in the Nafud desert of the north,

providing an abundance of food resources for human occupation. There is also intense current interest in the “southern corridor” of human dispersal, across the southern end of the Red Sea, as a result of genetic studies of modern populations, which suggest a single dispersal from Africa to Asia about 70,000 years ago or earlier following the coastline of the Indian Ocean and supported by a dependency on marine resources such as gathering of intertidal molluscs alongside hunting and gathering on land.

These new hypotheses raise a number of questions. At what point were early human groups able to cross the southern end of the Red Sea? Would they have required boats? Or did sea-level changes create an intermittent land bridge? When did marine resources become a significant part of human subsistence, opening up new opportunities for human settlement and movement in coastal zones? A major problem is that for most of the period in question, indeed for most of human existence, sea-levels were substantially lower than the present, at maximum about 120 m below present level. This means that most of the relevant evidence is now deeply submerged on the seabed and perhaps destroyed or buried under thick layers of marine sediment. We know that the marine resources of Arabian waters are very productive, especially in the Gulf and in the southern Red Sea. Archaeological sites attesting to shell gathering and fishing, often in the form of shell mounds, are common from about 7,000 years ago, but this is precisely the period when sea level stopped rising after the melting of the continental glaciers of the last ice age. Therefore earlier coastal sites, if they existed, are now deeply submerged.



A shell mound in the Farasan Islands

In our work in the Farasan Islands we are addressing all these questions. We have carried out detailed mapping of the southern coastal region to plot the changing position of coastlines with sea-level change, taking account of local movements of the Earth’s crust. At no time during the Palaeolithic era has there been a clear land bridge across the Bab al-Mandab Straits or the Hanish Sill. At periods of lowest sea level during glacial maxima, at about 20,000 years ago, and at about 100,000 year intervals further back in time, the channel would have persisted for thousands of years as a narrow

waterway a few kilometres wide, and extending for more than 100 kilometres. This could have been crossed quite easily by swimming or simple rafting without sophisticated seafaring technology and knowledge. Survey on land in the Farasan Islands has revealed an extremely rich archaeological record comprising many hundreds of shell mounds dating back over the past 7,000 years or so. Further investigation and excavation of these should give us a benchmark for the archaeological signature of intensive coast-dwelling communities and a guide to what to look for in earlier periods and underwater. We have also begun diving operations, including deep diving down to c. 90 m, to search for underwater features and archaeology associated with the now submerged landscape. We have found submerged shoreline features and expect to extend this work with a wider range of underwater techniques in the future, alongside continuing investigation of the archaeology on dry land.

Our work has been carried out under the sponsorship of the Saudi Deputy Ministry of Antiquities and Museums and the Supreme Commission for Tourism. It is funded by the British Academy, NERC and the Leverhulme Trust, and has received valuable additional support from Saudi Aramco, the Saudi British Bank and Shell Companies Overseas.



Recording underwater sites in the Farasan Islands

Geoff Bailey

17 January 2008

The Ottoman Conquest of Arabia from the 16th to the 18th Century

Dr Andrew Petersen

Joint lecture with the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF) and the Council for British Research in the Levant

Dr Petersen is currently based at the University of Lampeter. Before that he was Assistant Professor of Islamic Archaeology at the United Arab Emirates University in Al-Ain. His research interests include the Islamic architecture of Palestine, the archaeology of pilgrimage and the archaeology of Arabia.

The Ottoman occupation of Arabia is often viewed through the perspective of their defeat during the First World War and subsequent withdrawal from all Arab lands. However the Turkish occupation of Arabia has a much longer and more complex history stretching back 500 years to the early 16th century. In this talk I will focus on the first 300 years of Turkish rule up to the early 1800s when the French occupation of Egypt and the rise of Muhammad Ali Pasha introduced a new dynamic to the Ottoman regime in Arabia.

In the early part of the 16th century the Ottomans were seen as the most powerful Muslim state in the region and the only force capable of halting European, specifically Portuguese, expansion. Following their discovery of a direct sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope the Portuguese had gained control of the Indian spice trade which had dire consequences for the Mamluks who had relied on this trade. Consequently in 1510 the Mamluks called on the Ottomans as allies in their struggle against the Portuguese in the Red Sea where they threatened the Holy cities. A similar situation existed in north-eastern Arabia where Shaikh Abdullah, ruler of the al-Hasa region, requested assistance from the Ottoman Turks against the growing Portuguese threat in the Gulf (Özbaran 1994, 63). The situation in Yemen was slightly different though it is clear that the Ottomans also had allies there such as the Tayyibi Ismailis who welcomed and supported the Turkish conquest (Smith 2002, 9). In these circumstances the initial Ottoman occupation was relatively easy as they were seen as protectors of the Muslims.

The first part of Arabia to come under Ottoman control was the Hijaz, which was seized following the defeat of the Mamluk regime in Syria and Egypt in 1517. Although formally the Hijaz continued to be ruled by the hereditary Sharifs of Mecca, in practical terms the area formed a province of the Ottoman empire after the Sharif of Mecca, Barakat II, had sworn an oath of allegiance to the Ottoman Sultan in 1517. The capture of the Hijaz was followed by the conquest and occupation of Yemen in 1538. The third area of Ottoman control was north-east Arabia which was occupied and incorporated into the empire as the Ottoman province of al-Hasa in 1550. The Ottomans also sought to extend their territory beyond these three areas, later attacking both Bahrain and Muscat. Thus by the latter part of the 16th century the Ottomans were in control of most of the Arabian Peninsula and a dominant force in the areas which they did not directly control. By the middle of the 17th century the Ottomans had lost both Yemen and al-Hasa though they retained control of the Hijaz .



Qal'at Fassu'a an 18th century fort in southern Jordan

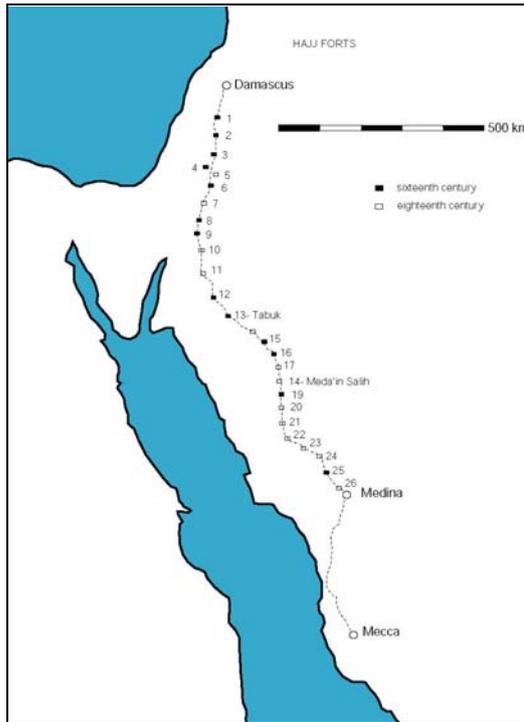
To a certain extent the loss of al-Hasa and Yemen is a reflection of events elsewhere in the Empire, though there are also certain factors which specifically relate to Ottoman rule in Arabia. One important factor in this situation is religion – whereas the Ottomans were followers of Sunni Islam, within the province of al-Hasa and Yemen there were significant numbers of Shi'a who were regarded as suspicious and potentially hostile by the Ottoman rulers. Other factors include the way the provinces were administered; thus instead of the usual *timar* system of land grants, the provinces were administered as tax farms with revenues payable in cash to the central government. This tax farm system encouraged local governors to extract the maximum revenue during their period of tenure and alienated local populations. However, problems of over-taxation were not confined to the Arab provinces, and other causes for the rapid loss of Yemen and al-Hasa must be sought.

One possible answer for the loss of al-Hasa and Yemen in the seventeenth century is suggested by the Ottoman experience in the Hijaz, the one Arabian province which they retained from the 16th century till the break up of the empire in 1917. Of course the Hijaz had a special importance for the Ottoman Sultans, who adopted the title of *Khadhim al-Haramayn* (Servant of the Two Sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina), and it is to be expected that they took special measures to retain control of this sacred area. One important difference between Ottoman rule in the Hijaz and the provinces of al-Hasa and Yemen is that in the Hijaz they appointed the existing local ruler, the Sharif of Mecca, as their governor thus avoiding the excesses of an imposed governor, trying to make money out of the province. More importantly the Hijaz benefited financially from the Ottomans both in terms of gifts and as a result of trade from pilgrims. In spite of these factors there were still attempts to break away from the empire, such as in 1671/2, when the Ottoman governor of Jeddah was murdered by the Sharif's troops (Kortepeter 1979).

How then were the Ottomans able to retain control of the Hijaz? One reason may be the development of a direct fortified route linking Mecca with Constantinople. This route, known as the Darb al-Hajj al-Shami, enabled the swift movement of

troops from Syria to Mecca as well as providing a secure route for pilgrims. The development of this route has been the focus of a detailed archaeological and historical survey which I have carried out over a number of years and will shortly be published as a monograph (in the meantime see Petersen 2001). The principal finding of this research is that between the 16th and 18th century the route was gradually turned into a fortified line along the eastern side of the Red Sea. During the 16th century a small number of forts were built to provide secure water resources for the annual Hajj; examples include Ukhaidhir, Qatrana, Ma'an, Dhat al-Hajj and Tabuk. It is probable that the locations of these forts also reflected tribal locations and that one of their functions was to provide secure locations where payments and negotiations could be made between the bedouin and the Turks. Although no new forts were built in the 17th century they continued to be maintained. In the 18th century, after the loss of both Yemen and al-Hasa, the Ottomans faced a new challenge in the form of increasingly ferocious bedouin attacks culminating in the famous massacre of 20,000 pilgrims at al-'Ula in 1757 (Barbir 1980, 2001). The Ottoman response was the construction of new forts on the Hajj route, so that by the end of the 18th century there were twenty-six forts between Damascus and Mecca each one no longer than a day's journey from the next. The architecture of the new forts was improved with projecting corner towers and multiple gun slits as a deterrent for bedouin who had acquired hand-held guns which could be fired from horseback.

The development of this fortified route was unique in Arabia and may have provided a model for fortified routes elsewhere in the Ottoman empire. By contrast the other Arabian provinces did not have developed road networks and one of the major problems in retaining al-Hasa and Yemen was the difficulty of transporting troops there quickly and efficiently. In fact one of the main routes in Arabia linking al-Hasa to Medina was closed by order of the Ottoman governor of al-Hasa on pain of imprisonment to prevent its use by Iranian (Shi'a) pilgrims (Mandeville 1970, 498). When the Ottomans reconquered al-Hasa in the early 19th century the lack of secure roads was regarded as a major reason for the failure of the earlier occupation in the 16th and 17th centuries (Anscombe 1997, 35 n.7). As a result of this assessment the fortification of roads was seen as a priority and a series of fort was built along the road between al-Hasa and the port at al-'Uqayr.



Line of the fortification of the Syrian Hajj route.

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Andrew Petersen

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2008

19 March 2008

City and State in Bahrain and the Gulf before Oil

Dr Nelida Fuccaro

Joint lecture with the British–Bahrain Society

5.30pm in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Dr Nelida Fuccaro lectures in the modern history of the Arab Middle East at SOAS and is a specialist on the Gulf region. She is the author of *The Other Kurds: Yazidis in Colonial Iraq* (London: IB Tauris, 1999) and of *Histories of City and State in the Persian Gulf: Bahrain 1783–1971* (forthcoming). She has published several articles on urbanism, nationalism, transnationalism and urban movements in the Middle East and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf in the 19th and 20th centuries.

21 May 2008

From Mayfair to Mecca

Mr William Facey

5.30pm in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS,

following the Society's Annual General Meeting

Mr Facey is a publisher and writer on Arabia and its history. He will give a lecture on Britain's first female Muslim to visit Mecca and Medina. Lady Evelyn Cobbold (1867–1963) was an Anglo-Scottish aristocrat, denizen of Mayfair, society hostess, landowner and deerstalker, frequenter of Claridges – and also, extraordinarily, a Muslim, which she claimed to have been since childhood. She performed the pilgrimage to Mecca in 1933, when in her sixties, and wrote a book about it. *Pilgrimage to Mecca* (John Murray, London, 1934) takes the form of a day-by-day journal interspersed with digressions on the history and merits of Islam. Mr Facey has collaborated with a descendant of Lady Evelyn to write a short biography, now being published as the introduction to the first-ever reprint of *Pilgrimage to Mecca* (Arabian Publishing, London, 2007). He will discuss whether she was indeed the first female Briton to visit the Muslim holy cities, what it meant to be a Muslim in a European society, and British Muslims in former times.

Note from the Honorary Secretary

In addition to the Society's own lecture programme, Society Members are sometimes invited to attend lectures and talks organised by other societies. Members with email addresses can be sent notice of these lectures as they arise, often at very short notice. It is usually not practical to send notices to those with only postal addresses. Any members who are not receiving such notices but who would like to do so are asked to send a current email address to me at: ionisthompson@ukonline.co.uk

Ionis Thompson

ARABIAN NEWS AND RESEARCH

GENERAL INTEREST NEWS

This section starts with news of general interest to members, or which may be relevant to the Arabian Peninsula as a whole, followed by news and research listed alphabetically by country.

Arts

The Contemporary Art Scene in the Gulf

Thanks to Janet Rady for contributing this piece. She studied Islamic Art and Archaeology at SOAS in the 1980s and took her Masters in Islamic Art at the University of Melbourne in 1985. She has travelled widely in the Middle East and now sits on the Councils of the Iran Society and ASTENE. Janet has recently begun to represent contemporary Middle Eastern artists in London

It was not so long ago when the only notable, non-Islamic, art one imagined to exist in the Gulf was that by Western artists depicting lugubrious harem scenes or dashing Arab Princes aloft their steeds brandishing hawks or scimitars. Things, however, could not have changed more radically in the last few years.

Indeed, there has been a veritable explosion of contemporary art featuring in countless diverse events around the region as well as an impressive number of museums and galleries either already opened or planning to, in the UAE; not to mention the continuing expansion after a slight, well publicised, hiccup of the extensive Museum Projects in neighbouring Qatar.

Not wishing to be left behind by their competitors, each of the Emirates of Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi have found their own way of forging ahead in this burgeoning market. Thus, Sharjah has now comfortably established itself as the Emirate of the Biennial (the ninth one being due to take place in 2009) as well as boasting an internationally acclaimed Art Museum, inaugurated in 1997.

Dubai, by contrast, is recognised as the leading commercial art centre, in parallel with its epic construction projects, and now has three Christie's auctions to its name since May 2006, with a fourth one scheduled for April 2008; whilst Bonhams was to hold its inaugural sale at the beginning of March. At each of these sales, it is the work by the established and emerging international Arab and Iranian artists which have out-performed all expectations and in the case of the Egyptian calligraphist Ahmed Moustafa and the Iranian multimedia artist, Farhad Moshiri, have achieved prices in excess of \$600,000. Nonetheless, the sophistications of the International Contemporary auction markets are equally evidenced in the strong demand at these

sales for such renowned luminaries as Andy Warhol and Damien Hirst.

Dubai can also be credited with hosting the first Gulf Art Fair in March 2007, comprising around 40 Middle Eastern and international galleries, ancillary projects, forums and a spin-off Creek Art Fair, organised by XVA Gallery. The success of these events has led to a repeat performance, this time under the more narrowly defined rubric of Art Dubai, in late March 2008. Billed as the cornerstone for the rapidly growing art community of the Middle East, this year it will be expanded to include, *inter alia*, conceptual video art works showing in the underground car park at the Madinat Jumeirah venue.

Furthermore, Dubai, thanks to its user friendly trading platform, has become the hub for Contemporary art galleries in the Middle East, attracting dealers from the UK, USA, Iran and Belgium showing works by both regional and international artists. Following the precedents of their Western counterparts, these gallerists have set up spaces in and around the City, much to the consternation of the taxi drivers who are often directed to find (not always successfully) white cube spin-offs in some of the most inhospitable, industrial, areas of the town.

We may, however, now return to the more familiar in the shape of the British Museum's repeat performance of its superbly curated *Word into Art* exhibition held in 2006. The exhibition, which opened at DIFC Financial Centre at the beginning of February, features works from the original London show as well as new acquisitions. It is to be swiftly followed at the end of February by the Haughton Art and Antique Fair, the sixth in its international stable of Fairs, again a first for Dubai.

If all this art activity in Dubai seems excessive, it is arguably only to be outdone by that of Abu Dhabi, where four world renowned architects, Tadao Ando, Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid and Jean Nouvel, have each been commissioned by Abu Dhabi's Tourism Development & Investment Company to design the Maritime Museum, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, the Performing Arts Centre and the Classical Museum on the outlying cultural centre of Saadiyat Island. This iconic project, which is due for completion in 2012 and with a price tag of \$27 billion, has caused much controversy in the West, not least because of the Classical Museum, which has been made available to the Louvre to house parts of collection at a cost of between \$260m and \$519m.

However, despite or perhaps because of this controversy, the Emirate also succeeded in November last year in securing the staging an outpost of the well known ArtParis Fair, at which it was rumoured that government had been given

instructions to acquire \$10m worth of art for its new museums.

Where will it all stop? Despite the criticisms launched at the Emiratis for trying to buy their culture, at last it can be argued that the West has now begun to take the Gulf seriously for its encouragement of and investment in contemporary art, a recognition which is long overdue and which, one hopes, will only continue to grow.

Janet Rady

Other Gallery Information

The November-December 2007 edition of *Saudi Aramco World* contains an article by Lisa Ball-Lechgar which gives a detailed account of some of the artistic initiatives and gallery shows in various countries of Arabia:

www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200706/fresh.gulf.currents.htm

International Prize for Arabic Fiction

The International Prize for Arabic Fiction is a prestigious new literary prize which aims to reward excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing and to encourage wider readership of quality Arabic literature internationally. It is the result of a collaborative effort by the Booker Prize Foundation, the Emirates Foundation and the Weidenfeld Institute for Strategic Dialogue. The prize, which is specifically for prose fiction, will award \$60,000 in total to the winner and \$10,000 to each of the five runners-up.

The prize is also designed to encourage translation and publication of Arabic language literature in other major languages – particularly English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. A number of European and US publishers have already shown positive interest in publishing translated winning works.

The prize was officially launched in Abu Dhabi, in April 2007. The inaugural shortlist and the judging panel of 2007/2008 were announced on Tuesday 29 January, and the announcement of the overall winner was due to take place on 10 March in Abu Dhabi. The six shortlisted authors for the 2007/2008 prize are Baha Taher, Jabbour Douaihy, Khaled Khalifa, Elias Farkouh, May Menassa and Mekkaoui Said. For more information see

www.arabicfiction.org/en/index.html

The Saif Ghobash–Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

The £2000 prize is for the translation of a full-length imaginative and creative work of literary merit published in English, and has the aim of raising 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. The 2007 Prize of £2000 was awarded to Farouk Mustafa (pen-name Farouk Abdel Wahab) for his translation of Khairy Shalaby's *The Lodging*

House, published by the American University in Cairo Press. The judges were author Moris Farhi, literary journalist Maya Jaggi, and academic and literary translator from Arabic Roger Allen. For more information see www.banipaltrust.org.uk

Wildlife

Thanks to Sarah Searight for contributing the majority of this section

Wildlife Middle East News

According to its bilingual website, Wildlife Middle East News is a high-quality information resource on the wildlife and environment of the Middle East and surrounding region. It is based in Dubai and sponsored by RAK Bank. Downloads of the illustrated Newsletter, from Vol. 1 Issue 1 (June 2006) to Vol. 2 Issue 3 (December 2007) can be downloaded free from the website, as can guidelines for submitting articles.

Its existence reflects the growing interest in the UAE, as indeed in Arabia as a whole, in the conservation of precious wild life as well as the environment. Previous issues have included articles on the houbara bustard, avian flu in the UAE, Ruppell's foxes in the UAE, the establishment of an avian monitoring system in the UAE and many other topics.

There are four editors: Tom Bailey (Dubai Falcon Hospital); Declan O'Donovan (Wadi al-Safa Wildlife Centre); Christ Lloyd (Nad al-Shiba Veterinary Hospital); and Theri Bailey (Zayed University). They can be contacted on editors@wmenews.com. For more information see www.wmenews.com

Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW)

This is based in Sharjah's Desert Park, linked to that emirate's Arabia's Wildlife Centre which opened to the public in September 1999. BCEAW also runs a confiscation service to rescue fauna illegally imported to the UAE. Their website highlights the problems arising from these confiscations, for instance how suited the creatures are to the Arabian environment whether in captivity or released into the wild. There are some sad images on the website, demonstrating the scope of the trade and presumably the profits to be made from it. For more information see www.breedingcentresharjah.com

9th Annual Conservation Workshop for the Fauna of Arabia

The 9th annual Conservation Workshop for the Fauna of Arabia was held at the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife, Sharjah from the 3-5 February 2008. The workshop was hosted by the Environment and Protected Areas Authority of Sharjah.

During the first seven years, this annual workshop has focused on assessing the status and distribution of many of the fauna species of Arabia.

Based on the combined knowledge of local and international experts a comprehensive database has been established and several conservation recommendations have been made. The working groups have consistently highlighted the need for urgent conservation action plans and the development of suitable protected areas, and so the Conservation Workshop for 2007 discussed the requirements for proposing and establishing a successful protected area. Under the guidance of Dr Philip Seddon, the Conservation Workshop for 2008 was intended to continue to explore this complex topic and develop regional recommendations for the protection of the Arabian habitat through the development of protected areas.

Falcon News

The **Save the Saker** website documents conservation efforts focused on the *saker* falcon. Meanwhile, the **Middle East Falcon Research Group** has published its latest newsletter, *Falco 29*, which is available at: www.savethesaker.com/images/falco29.pdf

Oman's Oryx Sanctuary Deleted From The World Heritage List

Bad news from Oman, as reported by the Environment New Service, www.ens-newswire.com. Oman's Arabian Oryx Sanctuary has become the first site ever to be deleted from the World Heritage List since UNESCO's 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage entered into force. The Arabian oryx is vanishing due to poaching, and now oil exploration in its sanctuary. The sanctuary is also inhabited by other endangered species, including the Arabian gazelle and houbara bustard.

At its meeting in Christchurch, which concludes today, the World Heritage Committee deleted the listing because of Oman's decision to reduce the size of the protected area by 90 percent, in contravention of the Operational Guidelines of the Convention. This was viewed by the Committee as destroying the outstanding universal value of the sanctuary in the Wusta region, which was created in 1994 by Royal Decree and inscribed on the World Heritage List that same year. In 1996, the population of the Arabian oryx in the site stood at 450, but due to poaching and habitat degradation, oryx numbers have dwindled to 65 animals with only about four breeding pairs, making viability of this population uncertain.

After extensive consultation with the government of Oman, the Committee felt that the unilateral reduction in the size of the sanctuary and plans to proceed with hydrocarbon prospecting would destroy the value and integrity of the site.

Other General News

Golden Web Foundation Award, 2008–11

Professor Dionisius Agius, member of the Society for Arabian Studies Committee and Chair in Arabic & Islamic Material Culture at Exeter University, has

been awarded a major grant by the Golden Web Foundation. The title is *MARES: Maritime Ethnography of the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea: People, Trade and Hajj*. The aim is to explore historical, ethnographical and archaeological data with regard to a network of commercial and religious activities in the harbour towns of the Arabian/Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, as well as their trade links with their hinterlands, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. It will cover the period from the emergence of Islam to the coming of the Portuguese.

**PLEASE SEND INFORMATION FOR
THIS SECTION TO THE BULLETIN EDITOR**

Robert Carter

racbahr@hotmail.com

NEWS AND RESEARCH BY COUNTRY

BAHRAIN

Steffen Terp Laursen, Aarhus University, reports on archaeological activities in Bahrain during 2007-8

Conference

Twenty Years of Bahrain Archaeology (1986–2006). The conference was held at the Bahrain National Museum from 6–12 December. It featured papers presented by scholars from most of the world. Proceedings of the conference is planned. For further information contact: Dr Pierre Lombard. Senior Researcher, CNRS. Head of French Mission, Bahrain. Email Pierre.Lombard@mom.fr

Excavations 2006–7

▪ *Saar Burial Complex Project*, Jordanian Mission in Bahrain, Department of Antiquities of Jordan and department of Heritage & Antiquities, Bahrain. A team of Jordanian archaeologists continued excavations at the Saar burial complex. (2000–1700 BC) from December 2006 until March 2007. The following persons are involved: Director Hani Falahat, Archaeologists Emad Drous, Aktham Oweidi, Mohamad Shalabi; Draftsman Qutaiba Dasouqi; and Photographer Salem Dajaah. For further information contact: Mr Hani Falahat, Department of Antiquities of Jordan (mobile 00962 777 96 01 03).

▪ *The Bahrain National Museum*. Rescue excavation of Islamic occupation remains at Maqsha, Bahrain. The excavation continued from 2006 until March 2007. Field director: Mr Abbass.

Excavations 2007

▪ *Bahrain National Museum*. Rescue excavations between May and November of Early Dilmun burial mounds (2000–1700 BC) in the Aali mound field, Bahrain. The excavations were supported by a local private contractor.

- Rescue excavation of Islamic occupation remains at Shakhoura, Bahrain. The excavation lasted from March to May with Mr Abbass as field director.
- *Mound Mapping Project*, supported by Moesgaard Museum, Denmark and the Ministry of Information Culture & Heritage, Kingdom of Bahrain. In 2007 the project of digitally mapping the burial mounds of Bahrain was concluded. In order to pre-date the destruction of the tomb fields the mapping was based on a series of aerial photos from 1959. The discovery of a rare type of elite tomb with outer ring wall has given brand new insight into the emergence of social complexity in early Dilmun society. For further information contact: Steffen Terp Laursen, Moesgaard Museum Oriental Department, Moesgaard Alle 20, 8270 Højbjerg, Denmark. Tel: 89421100. Fax: 86272378. *Steffen@terp-laursen.dk*
- *The Danish–Bahraini Burial Mound Project*. Excavation at Wadi Sail, Bahrain, Supported by Moesgaard Museum, Denmark and the Ministry of Information Culture & Heritage, Kingdom of Bahrain. In November a team of Bahraini and Danish archaeologists, under the direction of Dr Flemming Højlund, excavated two very early burial mounds from the early Dilmun period (2300–1700 BC) at Wadi Sail, west of Hamad Town. The objective of the excavation was to date and document a special type of burial mound with an outer ring wall, newly discovered during the Mound Mapping project. For further information contact: Dr Flemming Højlund, Moesgaard Museum Oriental Department, Moesgaard Alle 20, 8270 Højbjerg, Denmark. Tel: 89421100. Fax: 86272378. Email *farkfh@hum.au.dk*

2007 Doctoral student activities

- *PhD student Waleed Alsadeqi*, Durham University, has been studying the bead material from the Early Dilmun Period in the Bahrain National Museum as part of his PhD project. His work will continue in 2008. For further information contact: Waleed Alsadeqi, *Waleed.alsadeqi@durham.ac.uk*
- *PhD student Martha Ewa Sobur*, Harvard University, has been studying the soft stone vessels from the early Dilmun period in the Bahrain National Museum as part for her PhD project. For further information contact: Martha Ewa Sobur, *msobur@fas.harvard.edu*
- *PhD student Thomas Brandt Fibiger*, Aarhus University, has been doing anthropological fieldwork on Bahrain as part of his PhD-project. His fieldwork will continue in 2008. For further information contact: Thomas Brandt Fibiger, *etnotbf@hum.au.dk*
- *PhD student Steffen Terp Laursen*, Aarhus University, has been studying the ceramic and seal material from the early Dilmun period in the Bahrain National Museum as part of his PhD-project. His work will continue in 2008. For further information contact: Steffen Terp Laursen, *Steffen@terp-laursen.dk*

Planned activities 2008

- *The Bahrain National Museum* continued Rescue excavation of Islamic occupation remains at Shakhura. Field Director Mohammed Jaffa.
- *Opening of the Qala'at al-Bahrain Site Museum*. The opening of the new site museum at Qal'at al-Bahrain will provide an important exhibition that covers the more than 4000 year history of the site. For further information contact: Dr Pierre Lombard, Senior Researcher, CNRS. Head of French Mission, Bahrain. *Pierre.Lombard@mom.fr*

Steffen Terp Laursen

KUWAIT

Kuwaiti-Polish excavations in al-Sabiyah

Lukasz Wojnarowicz, Warsaw University, reports on Kuwaiti-Polish Excavations, 2007–8.

In November 2007 at the kind invitation of the Department of Antiquities and Museums, Kuwait, a team of archaeologist representing the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, Warsaw University, started its first season of explorations in the al-Sabiyah region. The joint Kuwaiti–Polish mission, directed by Professor Piotr Bieliński, conducted an intensive survey of burial sites within the Mugheira area and at the same time excavated three burials situated at the north-western border of a sector surveyed by the previous British expedition.

All three investigated graves were sited near the edge of a large flat rocky plateau, some 500 meters to the south-west of a modern road leading towards Bubiyan Island, about 2,000 meters to the northeast of the site H3, which was excavated by Kuwaiti–British Mission. Excavated graves were labelled as SMQ 30, SMQ 31 and SMQ 32.

They were all varieties of tumuli erected using local stones. The first two were circular structures with diameters of about 6 meters and height less than 0.7 m, while the third one was an oval structure measuring ca. 5.5 x 6 m and rising for about 0.3 m over the surrounding ground. In the centre of these constructions we found small chambers, at ground level, conically shaped by slightly curved walls around them and, in the case of SMQ 32, with a rectangular ground plan. All chambers were empty, filled only with loose sand and stones, except SMQ 30. There we found over 40 artifacts inside. Most of them were beads, the majority made of shells, but four were made of lapis lazuli and one was of pearl. We also collected a large number of microbeads. Noteworthy is a pendant made of a large flat piece of mother of pearl, decorated inside with dot-in-circle patterns. At the bottom of the chamber we discovered badly preserved long-bones of a human skeleton, while the lower part of the fill yielded splinters of skull and teeth. During the removal of one quarter of the cairn we found about 50 beads. Careful cleaning of the exposed grave structure revealed a sort of a ring wall of big unshaped blocks.

Dating the SMQ 30 burial at this moment is based only on the occurrence of the well-known dot-in-circle pattern engraved on one of our finds. It gives us as a *terminus post quem* date of around the end of the 3rd and the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC. Disturbed human remains lead us to believe that it was a secondary burial. As to the other cairns, no reasonable answer can be given.

During the excavation of the graves discussed above part of our team surveyed the adjacent areas to the north, west and south. Westwards along the edge of the plateau we were able to locate more than 10 new stone tumuli; southwards on a smaller rocky plateau we found three stone cairns; while to the north towards the modern road we found only one presumably artificial structure. The area covered by this survey measured about 120 ha.

All these investigations were carried out as part of a large Kuwaiti project whose aim is to register, explore and protect archaeological sites within an area which will soon be much disturbed by the construction of a new city. We hope that our investigations will continue in 2008, and with the joint efforts of Kuwaiti archaeologists it will be possible to preserve a considerable number of the archaeological monuments of al-Sabiyah.

Lukasz Wojnarowicz

Kuwaiti–Greek excavations on Failaka

The Athens News Agency reports on Kuwaiti–Greek excavations at the Hellenistic fortress at mound F5, Failaka Island:

The head of the six-week-old mission, Angeliki Kottaridis, said Greek colonists in the region arrived with Alexander the Great, with their presence on the isle evident for at least two centuries. According to ancient sources, Alexander the Great himself had named the island Icaros, while his Seleucid successors continued to consider the island a strategic asset due to its position at the mouth of today's Shatt al-Arab, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers in southern Mesopotamia. The island was later named Failaka possibly derived from the Greek word *filakio* for outpost.

The temple and the entire eastern section of the Hellenistic fort were discovered following earlier excavations by Danish, American and French archaeologists. The Greek mission proceeded with the systematic excavation of the western section of the complex, discovering a part of the western wall, a workshop processing stone offerings and a chamber that was part of a Hellenistic era building.

Greek archaeologists also helped in the preservation work done on the noted stele of Icaros, bearing a large Greek inscription, on display at the Museum of Kuwait, which itself suffered serious damage during the Iraqi invasion.

The archaeological mission was the result of an agreement signed last summer between the Greek culture ministry and the relevant Kuwaiti agency.

Interest in renewing the bilateral cooperation has been positively met by the Greek ministry.

www.ana.gr/anaweb/user/showplain?maindoc=6119012&maindocimg=5576654&service=102

Kuwaiti–Slovak Archaeological Mission 2007

The Arab Times, 5 April 2007, reports:

Excavations took place at the Bronze Age (Early Dilmun) site at al-Khidhr, Failaka, and continued to reveal a small harbour settlement.

Work also took place at the late pre-Islamic Christian site at al-Qusur, Failaka.

www.kuwaitarchaeology.org/presentations.html

Kuwaiti–Slovak Archaeological Mission 2008

The Slovak Spectator, 11 Feb 2008, reports:

A team of Slovak archaeologists is leaving for its fourth expedition to Kuwait to continue research on ancient settlements. The 20-member team, consisting of workers of the Archaeological Institute at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) in Nitra and experts from Kuwait and Turkey, will spend three months on Failaka Island in the Persian Gulf.

“We plan to complete the excavation of a natural harbour, the Al-Khidr site from the Bronze Age and go ahead with research at the pre-Islamic village of Al-Qusur in the middle of the island, which we located and documented during the previous two seasons,” Karol Pieta, the head of the research from the Archaeological Institute of SAV in Nitra, told the SITA newswire.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Culture appealed to the Slovak archaeologists four years ago to protect the monuments on Failaka from destruction by surging waves and to create an open-air museum. The island has more camels and scorpions than people, but should become a tourist paradise in the future.

The archaeologists' research has already produced some interesting results. During research at the Al-Khidr site, they found almost 40 precious Mesopotamian seals inscribed with cuneiform script and mythological scenes.

“They're from the era of the Dilmun civilisation, which existed between 2,400 and 1,400 BC” said Lucia Benediková, head of research at the site.

The archaeologists also uncovered the foundations of stone buildings, as well as fishing hooks, razors, knives, jewellery made of bones, a lot of pottery and Arabian medieval coins.

During research at the early Christian village of al-Qusur, which was inhabited from the 6th to the 8th centuries, archaeologists uncovered 140 households with well preserved basements. Two kilos of amethysts and containers made out of colourful glass were precious finds on the third expedition. These are the first findings of this kind in the area. In the middle there used to be a monastery with a church. “Probably, this was a missionary village that spread Christianity eastwards, to Iran and India,” Pieta said.

www.spectator.sk/articles/view/30683/8/slovak_archaeologists_go_to_kuwait.html

Kuwaiti–Japanese Archaeological Mission 2008

It is reported that a Japanese team will begin work in Kuwait in Spring 2008.

OMAN

The following information is abridged from a report by the Ministry of Information, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, Oman 2007–2008, pp. 130–153 (Heritage, Culture And The Arts).

Excavations and archaeological sites

A number of digs were carried out by the Department of Excavations and Archaeological Studies of the Ministry of Heritage and Culture:

- Bausher site. Experts from the AGCC antiquities departments took part in the joint AGCC dig on the Bausher site, marking the final stage in archaeological excavations that began there in 2004.
- Bat site. The German mission (Orient Department, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) continues its work at the Bat site in conjunction with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture. Currently survey and excavation work is being carried out at the site in collaboration with an archaeological team from Pennsylvania University. Excavations to date have revealed two round structures dating from the third millennium BC. Finds include – for the first time – a lump of frankincense.

Surveys, exploratory digs and rescue work

- A French mission carried out an archaeological survey of the wilayat of Adam and the surrounding area, which revealed several Bronze Age sites. In the village of Zakeet to the south of the wilayat of Izki an Italian mission made a number of discoveries at settlements overlooking caves from the Hafit period and dating from the beginning of the early Bronze Age. An earthenware jar imported from Mesopotamia and dating from the Jamdat Nasr and Hafit periods (3000–2700 BC) was discovered.
- The British mission under Jocelyn and Jeffrey Orchard continued its work on the Hajar Project in the Dakhiliyah Region. Most of its operations centred on two areas – Bisya in Wadi Bahla and Wadi al-Ameri. The Wadi al-Ameri site in the wilayat of Bahla, about 4 kilometres from Bahla Fort, consists of tombs dating from the 3rd millennium BC. Excavations carried out in the summer of 2006 on Bahla Fort (the Qasbah) revealed four underground chambers beneath the fallen rubble from the unrestored walls of the fort.
- During the latest season a survey was carried out on a Stone Age site in the Wusta Region. The Swiss mission, which began surveying the Huqf and the Duqm areas in the Wusta Region in 2007, is aiming to explore the Sultanate's early Stone Age period on the basis of flint fragments scattered over the site and dating back over 5,000 years. The survey produced 230 sites.

- The Ministry of Heritage and Culture carried out an exploratory dig on the site of Bait al-Maqham Fort in the wilayat of Bausher which revealed the remains of the walls of a rectangular room with an oven in its centre which is thought to have been used for cooking. A large number of earthenware fragments were also found in the room. Recovery digs took place at a site in the village of al-Faiqain in the wilayat of Manah in December 2006, which was found to date from the late Copper Age/early Bronze Age (3200–2700 BC). In al-Khubar in the wilayat of Sumail an exploratory dig on an ancient burial ground revealed a tomb containing fragments of earthenware jars and soapstone containers. Recovery excavations on tombs in a rectangular stony area on the al-Birain site in the wilayat of al-Amerat showed that they dated from a number of different eras including the Lizq (1000–400 BC) and Samad al-Shan (late Iron Age: 300 BC–793 AD) periods.

Forts and castles

Oman's 500-plus forts, castles and towers are a priority of the government's building restoration plans. Restoration work has already been completed on the forts of Qazah, Liwa, Bukha, al-Ma'mur, Yanqul, Hafit and al-Khabourah, as well as on Bait al-Nadd in Madha, Yanqul's Bait al-Marah quarter and Manah's al-Bilad quarter. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Tourism has completed work on Taqah Fort – one of the most important forts in Dhofar – and Khasab Fort in Musandam, both of which are now open to visitors.

Journal of Oman Studies (JOS)

JOS publishes scientific papers, studies and book reviews on the natural and cultural heritage of Oman and the Arabian Peninsula. Volume 14 is forthcoming, along with an Arabic translation of Volume 13.

Museum news

- The Bait al-Baranda Visitors Centre on Muttrah corniche was opened in January 2007 to become one of Muscat's historic landmarks. It records the story of Muscat's past, from the earliest geological epochs to the present day, and complements the Muscat Gate Museum, which reveals how Oman's capital city has developed through the ages.
- The Museum of Omani Heritage was reopened after extensive modernisation in December 2006 and gives the visitor a picture of Oman's past and the features of its different regions.
- The Sultan's Armed Forces Museum too was reopened in September 2007 following renovation.
- The Land of Frankincense Museum, housed in the Al-Baleed Archaeological Park, was officially opened on 23rd July 2007 – it has a Frankincense Hall and a Maritime Hall. There is also a Culture Centre in this area, featuring photographs taken by the famous British explorer, Sir Wilfred Thesiger, in the 1940s and 1950s. For website see gaiaheritage.com/ProjectDetails.aspx?Id=28

Cultural activities

▪ Smithsonian Exhibition. From June to mid-September 2007, the Sultanate took part in an international exhibition staged in Washington by the American Smithsonian group of galleries entitled "Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries." The exhibition showed how over the centuries the Omanis carried their knowledge, culture and language to the many regions of the world they visited. An exhibition on "The Indian Ocean: From Muscat to the Spice Islands" was held on the sidelines of the Washington event.

▪ Literature and Arts Festivals. The 12th Muscat International Book Fair was held in February 2007; some 27 states and 523 publishing firms took part, and around 100,000 titles were exhibited. The 41 exhibitors in the Omani section represented a range of both official and private establishments.

▪ Cultural weeks. The Sultanate held an Omani Cultural Week in Algiers in April 2007. The cultural weeks are held within the framework of cultural agreements and co-operation programmes.

▪ The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Cultural Innovation. The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Cultural Innovation was announced during celebrations held to mark *Muscat – Arab Culture Capital 2006* to encourage home grown creative talent. The prize covers the fields of literature and the arts. The winners were announced on 16th December 2006 and were presented with their prizes on 21st January 2007.

▪ The Oman Encyclopaedia project. The Oman Encyclopaedia is designed to be a comprehensive reference work on Oman and its people and will cover the country's history as well as its society, arts, literature, geology, climate, flora, fauna and other features. The project is due for completion in November 2010.

▪ The House of Musical Arts. On the instruction of Sultan Qaboos, it was announced in May 2007 that a "House of Musical Arts" will be built by Royal Court Affairs (Royal Buildings) in Qurum, governorate of Muscat. This high-tech project is due for completion by the summer of 2010, and will have state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems and an expandable, moveable stage. The auditorium will be able to accommodate an audience of up to 1,100 people.

National Documents and Archives Authority

Royal Decree No. 60/ 2007 issued on 2nd July 2007 established the National Documents and Archives Authority. Affiliated to the Council of Ministers, it is an administratively and financially independent legal entity based in Muscat. The Ministry of Heritage and Culture had already amassed a collection of around 4,500 historic Omani manuscripts covering a wide range of topics including astronomy, medicine, marine sciences, literature, *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence), the Arabic language, sharia and other branches of knowledge. The Ministry offers facilities

for scholars and post-graduates to study the manuscripts, and a five-volume index of reprinted and published manuscripts can be accessed via the internet. The manuscripts have also been transferred onto microfilm and stored on computer. The process of documenting and preserving them is ongoing. So far 750 issues have been published.

QATAR

Fran Gillespie reports from Doha.

Museums news

▪ The **Qatar Museums Authority**, established two years ago, is headed by HE Shaikha Mayassa, daughter of the ruler HH Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. Trustees include Lord Rothschild, former chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund and of the National Gallery, London.

▪ The **Museum of Islamic Art**, designed by IM Pei and constructed on the Doha Corniche, will house a world-class collection of Islamic pieces from places as far apart as Samarkand and Moorish Spain. It is due to be opened on 22 October 2008.

▪ Plans for the construction of a **Natural History Museum** which will include a biodome are now at an early stage of discussion.

▪ Major museum redevelopment plans for a new National Library designed by Arata Isozaki, a Photographic Museum designed by Santiago Calatrava and a redesigned and updated National Museum have been cancelled.

Fieldwork in 2007

▪ In 2007 a small French team of archaeologists headed by Dr Alexandrine Guerin began excavations at the early Islamic settlement of **Murwab** in the NW of the country, having completed a survey in 2006. Plans to continue work at this site have now been postponed.

▪ A team headed by Dr Geoffrey King carried out excavations in 2007 on a site at the small coastal town of **al-Wakra**, south of the capital Doha (see below for report).

▪ A number of small coastal sites fringing the bay of **al-Khor** on the east coast of the Qatar peninsula were excavated by a large international team of archaeologists based at the University of Lyons and funded by the real estate company BARWA which is carrying out massive developments in the region.

Projected Fieldwork in 2008

2008 will see a number of teams of archaeologists working in Qatar on the invitation of the Department of Antiquities of the Qatar Museum Authority. Head of the Department, and responsible for the coordination of the archaeological projects, is Faisal Abdullah al-Nuaymi.

▪ A small Danish team headed by Bo Madsen from Moesgard Museum in Jutland will carry out excavations on the small peninsula of **Ras Abaruk** on the west coast. Danes were the first archaeologists

to work in Qatar in the 1950s and 60s and this will be the first time that Danish archaeologists have returned to work in Qatar for some 40 years.

- A German team from the University of Heidelberg, headed by Dr Jurgen Schreiber, will look at Bronze and Iron Age sites at **Umm al-Ma** in the north-west of the country. Excavations were last conducted in this area by the Japanese Archaeological Mission from Rikkyo University, Tokyo in 1990/91.

- A team from the University of Lyons, directed by Dr Frederic Abbes, will conduct a survey in the south of Qatar, concentrating on a search for **Palaeolithic** remains. At the same time Dr Heiko Kallweit, employed by the Qatar Museums Authority, will carry out a three-month survey of other areas for Palaeolithic remains, particularly regions of karst limestone where caves and depressions have formed due to the dissolution of evaporates by rainwater.

Fran Gillespie

Excavations at al-Wakra

Thanks to Geoffrey Tassie for sending this report.

Pre-18th century Qatari cultural and architectural traditions remain largely unknown to scholars of the Arabian Gulf, and the excavations at al-Wakra provide a unique opportunity to further the understanding of Qatar's cultural heritage and the socio-economic dynamics of the Gulf region as a whole. Historical records indicate that al-Wakra, located just to the south of Doha, was of major economic importance in Qatar in the 18th and 19th centuries AD, being the centre of the pearl-diving trade on which much of Qatar's wealth was based.

Redevelopment at al-Wakra precipitated the need for archaeological evaluation (27 August – 1 September and 10–16 September 2007) and a preliminary season of rescue excavation (1 November – 21 December) was undertaken on the basis of the evaluation findings. Two main areas of excavation were targeted: Area 1 further investigated the multi-phase dwelling identified in evaluation trench 1; and Area 2 extended the excavation of continuous non-structural occupation layers previously recorded to a depth of 2 m in evaluation trench 2. The site was excavated within a 5m square grid and recording was both single- and multi-context, as deemed appropriate.

Seven occupational phases were identified in both areas ranging in date from the upper unstratified demolition layer of the final 20th century occupation of al-Wakra to sealed archaeological deposits containing both structural and general occupation deposits in association with ceramics which have been spot dated to the 15th–17th century indicating continuous occupation at al-Wakra for many centuries.

In Area 1 there were three clear building phases interspersed with demolition and make-up layers. A series of rooms have been excavated from the 2nd building phase along with associated floor surfaces

and doorways, and a large courtyard area to the east. Ceramics recovered from these occupation layers date to the 18th–19th centuries.



Archaeological work at al-Wakra

The earliest building phase is a clear indication of a substantial dwelling pre-dating the 18th century. The ceramic assemblage in association with this structure included Gulf Green Glazed Ware, Chinese Blue and White Porcelain and Celadon Ware, which has been spot dated to the 15th–17th centuries. These high quality imported wares also suggest some degree of wealth and status in al-Wakra during this period. Time constraints unfortunately prevented further excavation of this phase.

In Area 2, in the west of the site, the structural remains dated to the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century. The lack of any substantial structures identified in the earlier phases of this area indicates that it lay outside the main settlement. There was, however, evidence of continuous, although less permanent, forms of occupation. The presence of numerous small postholes, for instance, may indicate some form of temporary structures, such as tents, and hearths for food production. This area is characterised by hearths, either simple pit hearths or tanours. The presence of green glazed pottery in phase 4, comparable to that found at Zubara, seemed to indicate a date for this phase around the late 18th to early 19th century. The earliest phase consisted of 6 pits and 3 hearths (plus another possible hearth). A large quantity of organic material was recovered, as well as some early Chinese trade ware pottery, preliminary analysis of which indicates a date during the 17th century.

The al-Wakra faunal assemblage provides an initial dataset for more detailed work on the utilisation of animals within Qatar in the past. It gives a case study of a settlement with the occupants engaged in pearling during the summer months with at least part of the population living a semi-nomadic lifestyle in the winter months as they grazed their herds inland. Within this setting, it is clear that milk from sheep and goats would have been economically important. Wild resources were hunted occasionally but fuller advantage of these animals may have taken place during the winter months away from al-Wakra.

Preliminary results suggest that fish would have been a more important resource to al-Wakra's population.



Multi-phase dwelling at al-Wakra

A geoarchaeological evaluation was also conducted, although the full report is awaited. The deposits uncovered so far at al-Wakra indicate a changing coastline. How much human agency has impacted upon this is not yet fully understood, although aerial photography has demonstrated that major changes can take place over very short periods. Further absolute dating of the deposits as well as palaeoenvironmental analysis in association to micromorphology would be necessary.

King G., Griffiths K., Tassie G., Yeoman L., Mills W.

SAUDI ARABIA

Farasan Islands Project

A Saudi-UK project has continued archaeological and geomorphological work on the Farasan Islands, including underwater survey. The project focuses on early human dispersals, and is exploring the possibility that humans travelled between Africa and Arabia across the southern part of the Red Sea. It is sponsored by the Deputy Ministry of Antiquities and Museums and the Supreme Commission for Tourism, and is funded by the British Academy, NERC and the Leverhulme Trust, with additional support from Saudi Aramco, the Saudi British Bank and Shell Companies Overseas. See the Lecture Report, p. 6, by Geoff Bailey for further details.

Saudi-German Expedition to Tayma

http://www.dainst.org/index_3258_en.html

The Tayma project was cancelled in 2007, due to safety concerns. Entitled *The Archaeology of the Tayma Oasis: continuity and change of subsistence in the arid north-western region of the Arabian Peninsula from the Neolithic to Islamic Periods*, it is a joint project of the Supreme Commission for Tourism (until 2007 of the Deputy Ministry of Education), Riyadh, and the German Archaeological Institute, Berlin.

Agreement of Cooperation between the Prince's Foundation and the Al-Turath Establishment

In December 2007 the British-based Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment and the

Prince's School of Traditional Arts signed a co-operation agreement with **Al-Turath Establishment**, aimed at the promotion and preservation of traditional arts and architecture.

Prince Charles and the Secretary-General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Prince Sultan bin Salman, who is also chairman of the Al-Turath Establishment, were present at the signing of the agreement, which stipulated conducting joint heritage programmes and giving a human face to the urban environment. "This co-operation would also cover all the areas related to the architectural heritage and traditional arts," Prince Sultan said.

Prince Sultan founded the Al-Turath Establishment with the aim of promoting Arab and Islamic architectural heritage, besides the protection of the region's urban heritage. It runs the **Prince Sultan bin Salman Award for Urban Heritage**, a series of prizes for new projects, conservation and research.

The 2nd Jeddah Film Festival

<http://www.arabnews.com/?page=9§ion=0&article=98616&d=18&m=7&y=2007>

According to *Arab News*, the 2nd Jeddah Film Festival, entitled the *Jeddah Visual Shows Festival*, took place 17–20 July 2007 at the Ismail Abudawood auditorium at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI). It showed 48 films, from short fiction movies to documentaries and animations.

Growing Threats To Wildlife And Conservation In Saudi Arabia

From information kindly supplied by Peter Harrigan

The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) was set up 20 years ago to protect the fragile ecosystems of 15 wilderness reserves in Saudi Arabia that together measure more than 33,762 square miles. It runs captive breeding programmes for the houbara bustard, oryx, gazelle and ostrich, which it then releases into the wild, or into one of its reserves. It monitors their progress with radio-collars, and by aircraft and vehicles which the rangers use to watch for poachers. The threats from poaching, over-hunting, over-grazing, cutting of trees for firewood and use of 4WD vehicles have all been increasing in recent years.

Along the coasts and in the seas off Saudi Arabia there are also serious dangers for marine ecosystems from commercial overfishing, destruction of sharks for fins, the hoovering up of sea cucumbers for export to the Far East as delicacies, Yemeni smugglers caught in Saudi waters, the destruction of coral in coastal building projects, and unrestricted anchoring, harpoon fishing and pollution from waste outflows. Coral bleaching, still not fully understood by scientists, is also increasing and threatening the marine eco-system.

Stringent regulations are now required, as have been successfully introduced and enforced by the Egyptian authorities, on anchoring, diving and

fishing in marine conservation areas. This is urgently needed in the Red Sea, where there is no evidence at present of such regulations or policing, despite a rapid increase in leisure activity, such as sport fishing, diving and boating. These activities all place serious pressures on the already endangered marine eco-system.

There is a pressing need for a comprehensive education and awareness programme if endangered marine and terrestrial eco-systems are to be preserved.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

General UAE news

Archaeological Consultancy surveys

Peter Hellyer reports:

Over the last year, a number of major archaeological baseline studies have been undertaken throughout the UAE as part of Environmental Baseline Assessments required prior to the approval of development projects. Within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, such studies have been undertaken by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, ADACH, in the form of Preliminary Cultural Reviews, PCRs.

Elsewhere, they have largely been undertaken by Peter Hellyer, formerly executive director of the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, ADIAS, (www.adias-uae.com) Simon Aspinall (ex-ADIAS), Dr Michele Ziolkowski, formerly of the University of Sydney, and Dr Drew Gardner (Zayed University). Results have been submitted to clients and to relevant local Departments of Archaeology and Antiquities, while joint supplementary surveys have also been carried out in collaboration with the Sharjah Directorate of Archaeology.

The most significant of the surveys in the northern emirates have been along the routes of two new, and major, oil and gas pipelines, running from Abu Dhabi to the UAE East Coast, at Fujairah, and the site of a large new residential property development at Wadi Madhab, Fujairah. Over 200 previously unrecorded archaeological features or groups of features have been identified during the survey work, ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Late Islamic period. Site types include Neolithic camp-sites, pre-Islamic burial cairns, Islamic hill-top fortified settlements, sites related to the early Islamic copper-mining industry and petroglyphs.

The results of the surveys along the pipeline routes have been used by the companies concerned to help them refine their planned routing, with several changes having been made to ensure that key sites are preserved and protected. In the case of the Wadi Madhab survey, the developer (ICG) worked closely with the consultants on site planning, to protect sites, and also provided funding for investigation of some of the key sites by professional archaeologists brought specially from Britain.

Other property developers, sadly, have displayed less interest in the results of the surveys that had been commissioned, although, fortunately, in most cases, the sites identified were of only very minor significance!

One major problem relating to such surveys in the past is that results have been rarely published or made widely accessible, except in the case of those undertaken by ADIAS in Abu Dhabi. Some publication of results of the more recent surveys is now, however, under way.

Abu Dhabi

Museums news

In March 2007 an agreement worth €700 million was signed between France and Abu Dhabi to open a branch of the Louvre on Saadiyat Island, just opposite Abu Dhabi. *Spiegel Online* reports:

“The French Ministry of Culture has announced that final contracts have been signed on the “Louvre Abu Dhabi,” a 24,000-square-meter branch of the famous Parisian museum to be built on the emirate’s Saadiyat Island.

“For a €700 million license fee – €400 million of which are for the rights to the Louvre brand – France will make expertise and art available from its most prestigious museum. The pieces, drawn from all époques and respecting the “cultural values” of the country, will be on loan for a maximum of two years.

“The Louvre Abu Dhabi will be housed in a futuristic building, designed by star architect Jean Nouvel, who also designed the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. The museum will cost €83 million to build, and is slated for completion by 2012.

“Saadiyat Island (“Island of Happiness”) is also to be home to a 30,000-square-metre branch of New York’s Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank O. Gehry. Abu Dhabi’s ruler, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed al-Nahyan, has decided to make the island one of the world’s top cultural destinations and a “beacon for cultural experience and exchange.” There will also be national and marine museums and an entertainment center, as well as luxury hotels, golf courses and recreational ports.”

www.spiegel.de/international/0,1518,470356,00.html

Archaeological projects

The website of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage reports.

Current projects include:

- GPS mapping of archaeological sites on Dalma and Sir Bani Yas Islands, as well as in Al Ain and the Eastern Region
- Late Miocene Fossils of the Western Region (together with Professor Andrew Hill of the Peabody Museum of Palaeontology at Yale University, USA)
- Discovering the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic) of Abu Dhabi at Jebel Barakah (together with Dr Ghanim Wahida, Cambridge, UK)

- Neolithic Settlement of the Rub Al-Khali – Umm al-Zamul (together with Richard Cuttler of Birmingham Archaeology).
- Investigation of Iron Age *falaj* systems in Al-Ain. A 3,000 years old *falaj* has been discovered and partly excavated near Nahil, Eastern region.
- Excavation of a traditional house and mosque in Al Ain, the Bayt Bin Suroor.
- Excavations of a traditional house in the Hili Oasis, the Bayt Bin Hadi.
- Restoration of the Jahili Mosque.

www.cultural.org.ae/heritage/archeology_en.html

Wildlife news

In November 2007 the **Marawah Marine Protected Area** was designated as the first Biosphere Reserve in the UAE by UNESCO. It is the largest Marine Protected Area in the Gulf, with an overall area of 4255 km².

It is home to important marine and coastal ecosystems including sea grass beds, coral reefs and mangroves. The Reserve hosts 60% of the second largest population of dugongs in the world, and its waters are also home to bottlenose and humpback dolphins, four species of marine turtles, especially green and hawksbill turtles, more than 70 species of fish, and coral reefs.

Marawah is also of great cultural and archaeological significance in the UAE as more than 20 sites dating back to the Stone Age have been discovered on its various islands.

abridged from

www.wildlifeextra.com/marawah-biosphere345.html

Bird Records Database

Peter Hellyer in Abu Dhabi reports on the new Bird Records Database.

In February 2008, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD, the leading governmental environmental agency in the United Arab Emirates – signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Emirates Bird Records Committee to collaborate on the building up of a national database of bird records. The EBRC, currently chaired by Simon Aspinall, was founded in the early 1990s, and currently has amassed a collection of nearly a quarter of a million records on wild bird sightings in the Emirates, dating back to the mid-1960s.

Under the terms of the agreement, the EBRC database will be housed on the EAD network, and EAD's own bird records will be integrated into it. The EBRC will continue to act separately as the UAE's body for assessing reports of rare species and will also continue to maintain the UAE Bird List.

Dubai

Word Into Art

The British Museum, in partnership with Dubai Holding, opened its exhibition *Word into Art* at the Dubai International Finance Centre on 7 February 2008. See EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS, p. 42.

Dubai Desert Survey

This collaborative project between the Dubai Department of Archaeology and the University of Arkansas, under the direction of Dr Jesse Casana, will continue to examine sites of several periods in the southern deserts of Dubai Emirate.

Fujairah

Michele C Ziolkowski & Abdullah Suhail Al-Sharqi report.

The late Islamic period fort of **Dibba Ghorfa** is the focus of an ethno-archaeological study. This mudbrick fort is located on the western edge of the date palm gardens in Dibba Ghorfa, Fujairah Emirate. Structurally the fort has eroded and collapsed considerably in the past ten years, thus emphasising the need to record archaeological and ethnographic details before the site deteriorates.

The study involves an examination of the architecture and material culture remaining at the site. Relevant historical sources are also being investigated. Currently, the main focus is on obtaining local ethnographic knowledge concerning the site and its history.

Ras al-Khaimah

The Resident Archaeologist, Christian Velde, reports on activities in Ras al-Khaimah.

Ma'arid Survey. In 2007 the Department surveyed the traditional houses in the old village of Ma'arid, situated opposite the town of Ras al-Khaimah, from which it is divided by the creek. The survey of the remaining traditional houses resulted in a preliminary documentation. All buildings were marked on Municipality maps to protect them from demolition. Some interesting and unique examples of local coral stone architecture were discovered and recorded. Compared to Ras al-Khaimah Old Town differences in building style and decorations were noted, showing, that the village had its own craftsmen and traditions despite the proximity to Ras al-Khaimah.

Co-operation with Zayed University. The fruitful co-operation with Zayed University Dubai continued into 2007 and focused on the support of the above mentioned Ma'arid survey. Both parties agreed on a thorough study of the famous *Bait Sirkal* house in Ma'arid. It is one of the most important buildings with traditional architectural features in Ras al-Khaimah and one of the largest compounds known. Originally situated directly at the coast, it was the residence of a wealthy trading family. Both the size and number of building units reflects the high status of its owners. Mr. Omid Rouhani, Assistant Professor of Art and Design, led a group of local, female students, who spent several days documenting the main house, its complementary buildings and compound grounds. The survey happened just in time, as unfortunately a huge part of the main building collapsed during summer 2007, presumably due to the heavy rains in spring.



The *Bait Sirkal* in Ma'arid

Shifting Power Line. The Department was able to change the course of a power line planned over the historical summer residence of the ruling Qawasim family in Falayah, the famous location where the peace treaties between the British and local shaikhs were signed in 1820. The Department succeeded in implementing more changes of this power line north of Ras al-Khaimah, thus preventing visual and physical damage to Dhayah, one of the most important environmental, archaeological and historical areas of the emirate. The proposed, original course of the power line led to further surveys in the area of Dhayah and in the mountains and plateaus above.

Site Protection: Dhayah. An extensive survey was carried out by the Department in the oasis of Dhayah, mentioned in last year's *Bulletin*, which was followed by further studies to assess possible damage by the new power line already mentioned above. One of the major results was the discovery of two large 18th century villages built from wadi stones. Both villages and their surrounding landscape have been set up for protection, in order to preserve them for the future with the possibility of tourist access. They will be part of a wider protection plan of the unique heritage and environment of the Dhayah oasis, including the already protected forts, watchtowers and 2nd millennium BC tombs of the Wadi Suq Period.

Co-operation with the Environmental Department. Besides the many archaeological sites in the Dhayah area, which were described in last years *Bulletin*, the Department also concentrated on the island of Hulaylah, enclosing the creek in front of Dhayah. Hulaylah has an important settlement on its southern end, dating back to the 7th and 8th centuries AD, a period, which is only poorly documented in the United Arab Emirates. Further settlement areas of the following periods are known to exist on the island, as well as towers, tombs and other structures dating to the later Islamic periods. In cooperation with the Environmental Department, a plan was developed to protect the creek with its mangroves and fisheries, as well as the island with its

archaeological and historical remains. This co-operation will lead to the declaration of a Nature and Heritage Reserve for Ras al-Khaimah.

Publication Series. The Department of Antiquities and Museums has developed the preliminary outlines of a publication series highlighting the archaeology, history and heritage of Ras al-Khaimah. It is based on excavation and survey results, historical research and ethno-archaeological work, giving an overview and deep insight into the rich and manifold heritage of this emirate. So far, eight book projects have been approved by H.H. Crown Prince Shaikh Saud bin Saqr al-Qasimi and will be published successively:

- 1.) Riches of the Past – The Collection of Traditional Jewellery in the National Museum of Ras al-Khaimah
- 2.) The Archaeology and History of Ras al-Khaimah – From Prehistory to Modern Times
- 3.) Dhayah – History of a Coastal Oasis in Ras al-Khaimah
- 4.) Traditional Architecture of Ras al-Khaimah – From Coast to Mountains and Desert to Palm Gardens
- 5.) Ras al-Khaimah Fort – From Watchtower to Residence
- 6.) Al-Ghubb in Ras al-Khaimah – How People lived in the Palm Gardens in the Past
- 7.) Rams – Ma'arid – Jazirat al-Hamra, Traditional Coastal Towns
- 8.) Julfar – The Medieval Success Story of Ras al-Khaimah

Restoration Work in the Museum. The restoration work inside the wind tower room, which was described in more detail in last year's *Bulletin*, has been finished. The wind tower itself was also redone and the decorative elements renewed. Further restoration work will be finished in the museum's north-eastern corner in a L-shaped room, which had many surprises in store. It turned out to incorporate one of the oldest rooms inside the fort, originally fitted with ventilation niches only and built from traditional materials like coral stone and traditional mortar. An extension to the north turned out to be originally an open veranda, which was later closed with sand bricks and breeze blocks. In the same process the northern wall of the old room was destroyed to create the large L-shaped room we see today. After the different features and stages were documented, the idea was developed to visualize these differences, allowing visitors to understand the building process. A new idea in the UAE, the Department thinks it is necessary to show that buildings have a long history with many alterations meeting the needs of the day. The older parts of the room, built with traditional materials, were restored with a layer of traditional plaster, which is slightly projected. The modern walls and closures were covered with a cement wash and paint, thus clearly marking the difference between old and new. The

remains of the old wall, which was cut during the enlargement process, were made visible by projecting it a few centimetres into the room on both sides. Future visitors will be able to understand the original structure and its changes through time, seeing the remains and being guided by drawings and explanations.



L-shaped room at Ras al-Khaimah Fort

Developing Restoration Techniques. During the last ten years the Department of Antiquities and Museums has carried out various restoration projects in the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah. The experience gained during this time span has greatly enhanced our understanding of local building techniques and the composition of materials. Further experiments were carried out with different compositions, resulting in authentic mixtures of lime, gypsum and sand, resembling the plaster and mortar compositions of the past. At the same time the Department started cooperating with the Sharjah Department of Heritage, which is also restoring traditional buildings. Discussions and workshops helped to exchange the challenges experienced by both departments.

Development Plan for Tourism and the Public. On behalf of H.H. Crown Prince Shaikh Saud bin Saqr al-Qasimi the Department set up a detailed development plan for sites of tourist and public importance. They include sites of archaeological and historical significance, as well as traditional architecture typical of Ras al-Khaimah. The proposal comprises detailed discussions about the potential of each site, securing and setting up of borders, development of touristic infrastructure including walkways, information signboards, guard and toilet houses. In some places restoration, reconstruction or excavation was proposed, which will be carried out by the Department in the near future. Furthermore a detailed financial plan was drawn up for each site. In the meantime the Department's development plan has been approved and as a first step the Hudaybah Tower Project has been started.

Hudaybah Tower Project. Hudaybah Tower is an important example of a fortified Shaikh's residence, formally situated in the fertile palm gardens of Nakheel. The rectangular tower consists of a living and reception room, as well as store rooms and also served a defensive and prestigious purpose. The building had already been restored a few years ago and is currently being developed for public access. This includes fencing, a toilet and guard house and a tea house inside a recreated palm garden. In cooperation with the Tourism Department the tea house was created to serve as a recreation place for visitors, while it will be used at the same time to promote further places of interest in Ras al-Khaimah, using brochures and information boards.

Preliminary Survey of Rams. Rams, about 10 km north of Ras al-Khaimah, is an important coastal town of this emirate. Its history goes back to the period of the trading town of Julfar and is mentioned in Portuguese sources of the 17th century. The town centre still consists of a large number of traditional buildings, which have never been documented. In a preliminary survey the Department assessed the number of different building types, techniques and conditions of preservation. The observed compounds differed in size, the largest situated next to the harbour. It belonged to the former Shaikh of Rams, consisting of several prestigious and domestic buildings. A large number of buildings were made from wadi stones, contrary to our observations in all other coastal towns along the Gulf coast of the UAE. For Rams's inhabitants wadi stones were the easiest available building material, due to the close proximity of the mountains. All other coastal towns would have had to transport wadi stones over large distances over land, which seems to have been very difficult and expensive. Therefore all these towns used coral stone, mined on the Tunb Islands and shipped in large quantities to various harbours.

Visiting Scientists. Beatrice de Cardi worked on the finds from different surveys and excavations, helping to identify 17th and 18th century material from the stores, which will be used for future exhibitions in the newly restored National Museum.

Adrian Parker, a geomorphologist from Oxford Brookes University, Britain, carried out a one-week fieldtrip with 13 of his students (see below).

Rebecca Kohlhauer, a geography student from Heidelberg University, Germany, did a two-month study of the traditional architecture of Ras al-Khaimah Old Town, in order to set up a 3D model. Her work was based on the results of the Department's previous surveys in that area. The 3D model will be used for future exhibitions in the National Museum and for a tourist website, which is developed in co-operation with the Geography Department of Heidelberg University and the Government of Ras al-Khaimah.

Olivier Brunet, an archaeology student from Paris University, France, studied the beads of the 2nd

and 3rd millennium BC tombs in Shimal, being especially interested in their material analysis and technology, which will be compared with other material from the UAE and elsewhere.

Christian Velde

Preliminary Report on Palaeolithic Surface Sites in the Emirate of Ras al-Khaimah, UAE

Adrian Parker and others report on the discovery of Palaeolithic sites in Ras al-Khaimah

In January 2008 preliminary fieldwork was undertaken to identify potential areas of Palaeolithic occupation in the Emirate of Ras al-Khaimah, United Arab Emirates. This focused on the geological formations in the foothills of the mountains located between Idhn and al-Ghayl (Figure 1). Chert outcrops are located in the vicinity of Jebel as-Selwa and Jebel al-Hamrah along the Wadi al-Riyan at altitudes between 150-239 m asl. Key sites sampled are listed in Table 1. Stone artefacts were found as surface scatters of varying densities on the chert outcrops of the Hawasina series, including cores, flakes and endscrapers (Figure 2). Most are manufactured from reddish brown chert, which caps the low hills.



Figure 1: Foothills of the mountains located between Idhn and al-Ghayl, Ras al-Khaimah, UAE.

The objectives of our continuing research are to 1) investigate the timing of hominin (*sensu* Underdown, 2006) dispersals into Arabia, 2) describe and analyse the variety of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic stone tool technologies within the study area to establish a foundation of regional typology, and 3) model changing palaeoenvironmental conditions, correlated with the archaeological record, to examine landscape usage over time. During the Quaternary (last 2 million years of Earth's history) the climate of Arabia has oscillated between wet and arid conditions, governed by changes in the north-westerly and Indian Ocean monsoon climate systems. Such changes would have had profound impact on the flora and fauna of the region and as such would have determined patterns and processes of human dispersals across the sub-continent (Rose, 2004). It is likely that Palaeolithic landscape usage, lithic technologies and dispersal patterns were linked

to topographic relief, phytogeographic distribution, and resource predictability.



Figure 2: Chert lithic material from O27, Ras al-Khaimah

Middle Stone Age lithic sites have been found elsewhere in the UAE at Fili (Scott-Jackson, pers. comm.), Hili (Gebel, 1987), and in western Abu Dhabi (McBrearty, 1993). Upper Palaeolithic lithics have been recorded at Jebel Faya (Uerpmann, *pers comm.*). The sites identified here further expand the emerging picture of a Palaeolithic Arabia. At this stage it is premature to speculate on the technologies from the newly identified sites, but future work will include examination of the assemblages and attempt to place them in a palaeoenvironmental context.

Acknowledgements

We thank Christian Velde and Imke Moellering, National Museum of Ras al-Khaimah for their continued support for fieldwork in the region. Fieldwork in January 2008 was supported by the Strategic Research Fund, Oxford Brookes University. We should also like to thank the Khasab Club whose support and generosity made this work possible.

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Site Name	UTM (WGS84)	Site Description
024 site 1	40R 0399894	187m Low hills. Surface finds.
Chert	2808647	

025 site 2	40R 0400469 2808958	211m Low hills. Surface finds.
026 site 3	40R 0400504 2809008	205m Low hills. Surface finds.
027 site 4	40R 0400610 2808976	200 – 207m Low hills. Surface finds.

Table 1 Locations of chert outcrops with worked lithic materials, Emirate of Ras al-Khaimah

Underdown, S.J., Walkington, H., Parker, A.G. & Underdown, J.N. (Human Origins and Palaeoenvironmental Research Group (HOPE), Department of Anthropology and Geography, Oxford Brookes University, Headington Oxford OX3 0BP)

Sharjah

Kalba

Dr Aurelie Daems reports on fieldwork conducted by Ghent University, Belgium, in collaboration with the Directorate of Antiquities, Sharjah.

Between January and February 2008, the archaeology section of the Department of Languages and Cultures of the Near East and North-Africa, Ghent University, set up a first excavation season at a multi-period site close to modern Kalba, in the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE. In close collaboration with the Directorate of Antiquities, the Belgian team focused on Tell Kalba 07, and already after one season the results look promising. Apart from a large wall made of well-preserved mudbricks recovered in several trenches, the end of the season provided additional evidence for occupation in the other explored parts of the mound. As we are dealing with a first campaign, nothing conclusive should as yet be said, but the material unearthed so far seems to point to at least an occupation of tell Kalba 07 during the Iron Age and some of the following later periods. The Belgian team working on Kalba 07 consisted of Dr Aurelie Daems (director and field-director), Drs Parsival Delrue and Tijs De Schacht (square supervisors) and Erik Smekens (draftsman-photographer), and a team of 15 Pakistani workmen. Work will be resumed at Kalba 07 on a yearly basis.

Dibba. The Directorate of Antiquities, headed by Dr Sabah Jasim, excavated Parthian Period settlement remains at Dibba in December 2007.

Wadi Hilu. A joint expedition undertaken by Sharjah's Directorate of Antiquities and the Institute of Pre- and Proto-history and Medieval Archaeology of the University of Tübingen, Germany, conducted fieldwork during February and March 2007. Following earlier investigations which uncovered evidence for early industrial exploitation of copper ore in the Wadi Hilu area, the site was mapped and test excavations took place.

Finds include copper artefacts more than 4,000 years old, such as a large semi-spherical copper ingot

weighing almost 5 kg. This provides proof of production of copper from local ore. Copper was produced at the site during two periods, the Bronze Age and the Islamic period. The early phase is of particular interest because it is the first site in the UAE to be subjected to scientific exploration with regard to Bronze Age copper production.

archive.gulfnews.com/articles/07/04/16/10118675.html

Khor Fakkan. A Japanese team from the University of Kanazawa started work in December 2007 at an archaeological site in Khor Fakkan which goes back to the early years of Islam. The team discovered artifacts dating from the 13th to the 15th century AD, including pottery from the Arabian Peninsula and Eastern Asia, particularly China, Thailand and Burma. This indicates that Khor Fakkan was an important economic centre that played a significant role in world trade at the time.

www.bi-

me.com/main.php?id=16015&t=1&c=33&cg=4

Muweilah, Hamriyah and Tell Abraq. Under the direction of Professor Peter Magee, of Bryn Mawr College, USA, work was conducted at Muweilah, Hamriyah and Tell Abraq by a newly inaugurated field school. Professor Magee presented the latest results of work at Muweilah and Hamriyah at the Al Ain Archaeological Symposium, 3–4 April 2008 (see CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS 2008).

www.brynmawr.edu/news/2007-02-

22/fieldschool.shtml

Palaeolithic sites in Sharjah

Palaeolithic sites have recently been identified in Sharjah Emirate. These major discoveries are reported in the forthcoming volume of the Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies, and include a series of chert surface scatters in the **Fili** area in the east of Sharjah, identified during a survey conducted by Drs Julie and William Scott-Jackson (Cambridge). The sites are thought to date to the Middle Palaeolithic.

Excavations at **Jebel Faya**, near Jebel al-Buhais, led by Professor Hans-Peter Uerpmann (University of Tübingen) and Dr Sabah Jasim (Directorate of Antiquities), have revealed stratified layers of Palaeolithic date at the base of the sequence in a rock shelter, below Neolithic and Iron Age layers. It is hoped that the results of radiometric dating will soon be available.

Sharjah Museums

The report on the Archaeology Museum was kindly provided by Dr Emma Thompson, Research and Projects Manager at the Museum

The **Sharjah Archaeology Museum** experienced many changes in 2007. It is now under the management of the newly created Sharjah Museums Department. Sharjah archaeology and excavation continues to be managed by the well-known and

much respected Dr Sabah A. Jasim, Director of Antiquities, Sharjah Directorate of Antiquities.

2008 will be the year that the efforts of 2007 will come to fruition. The Museum has just launched a new, interactive excavation workshop for school groups (Madfoun House), where children will learn about archaeological excavation and documentation. On 16 March 2008 the Museum launched a new exhibition showcasing archaeological exploration at Sharjah's oldest graveyard, al-Buhais 18. A selection of reproduction grave casts forms the centrepiece of the exhibition. They are accompanied by artefacts from the excavation including beads, stone tools, and animal bones to tell the story of life and death in the Stone Age. The Museum is also undertaking a programme of upgrades and reinterpretation of existing displays that includes the introduction of new display cases, models, and information panels.

In 2008 the Museum will open a small café and also a gift shop. The gift shop will sell a selection of books in English and Arabic including the Museum's own publications, and also a range of souvenirs including reproduction jewellery, clothing, postcards, stationery and educational toys. Current museum publications for sale include a guide to the museum, a Buhais 18 exhibition guide and a catalogue titled *Athar Sharjah: Highlights from the Collection of the Sharjah Archaeology Museum*. The Archaeology Museum is also developing research areas and a library for the use of specialists and visitors.

For more information on the Sharjah Museums Department visit www.sharjahmuseums.ae

Emma Thompson
ethompson@sharjahmuseums.ae

Meanwhile, the **Sharjah Maritime Museum** is in the process of being moved to a new site at al-Khan,, under the direction of Colin Reid, where it will be part of a complex that includes the Aquarium.

YEMEN

Yemen College Of Middle Eastern Studies

Thanks to Shelagh Weir for providing the following.

An exciting new educational institution has been inaugurated in Yemen: the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies (YCMES). This builds on the Yemen Language Centre founded by Sabri Saleem eighteen years ago to teach Arabic to foreigners, which will continue as usual with a full range of Arabic courses of various durations and levels.

The new, expanded college will introduce new courses on various aspects of the contemporary Middle East including politics, literature and law. These will be taught each year by different well-established scholars on one year secondment from their home universities. It is hoped that this opportunity to combine language with social science and humanities studies in one of the most fascinating countries in the Middle East will attract

undergraduate students from all over the world on "year abroad" schemes, as well as others at different stages in their lives and careers. To this end, a major aim of the college is to build a reputation for academic excellence.

The President of the YCMES is Sabri Saleem, and the Dean is Professor Steven Caton of Harvard University who has been instrumental in planning this development. The first meeting of the Advisory Board of the YCMES took place in January 2008, and elected Dr Abdul Karim al-Iryani as Chairman of the Board, and Professor Brinkley Messick of Columbia University as Vice Chairman. The Board members include academics from Europe, the USA and Yemen, and representatives of the Yemen Ministry of Education. Once the college is established, it is planned to turn it into a self-sustaining non-profit institution, and to benefit Yemeni students as well as foreigners.

The first courses of the YCMES begin in autumn 2008. For further information go to www.ycmes.org or email the Sanaa-based administrator, Matthew Kuehl, at ycmes@ycmes.org

Shelagh Weir



L to R: Sabri Saleem (President), Dr Abdul Karim al-Iryani (Chairman) and Prof. Steven Caton (Dean) at the first meeting of the Advisory Board of the YCMES, Jan 2008

London Yemen Film Festival

Leila Ingrams (Patron, Friends of the Hadhramaut – see also SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS) organized the first London–Yemen Film Festival (4–6 December 2007), held in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, Soas, University of London with the support of the London Middle East Institute. Reviewers and filmgoers described it “a tremendous success – the first-ever Yemen Film Festival held in London and probably in the UK”.

Centre Français d'Archéologie et de Sciences Sociales de Sanaa (French Centre in Sanaa for Archaeology and Social Sciences)

The CEFAS website lists the following active projects. Links can be found at:

www.cefass.com.ye/enligne/eng/program.htm

Archaeological Missions

- Palaeontological and palaeanthropological research in Tihama. Roberto Macchiarelli, Stéphane Peigné (Team for Palaeoanthropology and digital Palaeobiology, UMR CNRS 6046-Lab. GBPH, University of Poitiers), Alfredo Coppa (University La Sapienza de Rome)
- *Mission Qataban*. Christian Robin (LESA, Collège de France), Mounir Arbach (LESA, Collège de France), Hédi Dridi (LESA, Collège de France)
- *Archaeological and epigraphical mission in the region of High Yafi' and in the region of al-Bayda'*. Iwona Gajda (CNRS, Institut des Etudes Sémitiques-Collège de France)
- *French archaeological mission in Jawf-Hadramawt*. Anne Benoist (CNRS/ArchéOrient Lyon)
- *Mission Sharma, Hadramawt*. Axelle Rougeulle (CNRS-Université Paris I-Sorbonne)
- *Exploitation of silver mines in Jabali*. Florian Téreygeol (CNRS, UMR 5060 IRAMAT-LMC, Belfort et UMR 9956 LPS, CEA-Saclay)

Islamic History Projects

- *Preservation of the manuscripts of the private collections of Zabid*. Anne Regourd (University of Leeds , UK), www.anne.regourd.org. This project is in collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). According to the latest *Chroniques du manuscrit au Yémen*, a programme of manuscript photography has been initiated by Hélène Davide.
- *French-German project for the maintenance and study of manuscripts heritage in Yemen*. Eric Vallet (University Paris I) and Tomislav Klaric (University Göttingen)
- *Balanorient. Thermal baths and hammams , 25 centuries of public baths (Near East , Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula)*. Marie-Françoise Boussac (MOM, Lyon), Michel Tuchscherer (University of Provence , Univ. Aix-Marseille, CNRS)

Contemporary Society

- *Yemen after September 11th. Political changes, new local, regional and international challenges*. François Burgat (CNRS/IREMAM-MMSH Aix-en-Provence)
- *From the Arab-Persian Gulf to Europe: Between violence and counter-violence*. François Burgat (CNRS/IREMAM-MMSH Aix-en-Provence)
- *Associations in Yemen (1991– 2004): Emergence or continuities of a civil society?* Juliette Honvault, Jean Lambert (CEFAS)
- *Archives of French diplomatic representations in Yemen and in Arabia*. Patrice Chevalier (CEFAS), Alexis Allais (internship).
- *Child and Youth literature in Yemen (ENS-CEFAS)*. Houda Ayoub (resp.), Jassas Annam, Carole Boisdin, Julien Dufour, Mathilde Lévêque, Hanan Maaloum, Muhammad Othman Child and mother Oral Literature (CNS, Mil al-Dhahab Center,

CEFAS) Houda Ayoub, Fatima al-Baydani, Jean Lambert

- *Linguistic research project in the Red Sea-Indian Ocean region*. Marie-Claude Simeone-Senelle (UMR CNRS 8135-LLACAN, scientific referent of the ILD (Language Institute of Djibouti) and Research Center of Djibouti (CERD)
- *Identity Markers in Yemen History, from the Antique Kingdoms to the Modern State*. Jérémie Schiettecatte (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre d'Anthropologie), Vincent Martignon (CITERES/EMAM- Université de Tours), Patrice Chevalier, (IEP de Lyon, CEFAS)
- *Contemporary Yemeni Literature: between the tradition of poetry and the emergence of the novel*. Houda Ayoub (ENS), Luc Deheuveld (INALCO,Carma) , Geraldine Jenvin (INALCO)
- *Ethnomusicology and oral literature in Yemen*. Jean Lambert (CEFAS), Jaber Ali Ahmed, Samir Mokrani (Centre of Musical Heritage in Yemen)

The Sanaa Branch of the German Archaeological Institute

The following information is derived from the Institute website:

www.dainst.org/abteilung.php?id=291

The following projects are taking place in cooperation with GOAM (General Organisation of Antiquities and Museums)

- *Al-Mabna – The Late Antique Dam System in the Northern Oasis of Marib*. Nobert Nebes (Institut für Orientalische Sprachen und Kulturen, Friedrich Schiller-Universität, Jena); Michael Schütz, Thomas Kersten, Klaus Mechelke (Universität Hamburg)
- *Jabal al-'Awd: an early Himyaritic mountain settlement in the south Yemen highlands*. Nobert Nebes (Institut für Orientalische Sprachen und Kulturen, Friedrich Schiller-Universität, Jena)
- *Water management in Marib Oasis*. Professor M. Schütz (Universität Hamburg)
- *Marib, Bar'an Temple*. Iris Gerlach (Vorderasiatische Archäologie, DAI), Burkhard Vogt (Vorderasiatische Altertumskunde, DAI)
- *Marib, the cemetery of the Awam Temple*. Iris Gerlach (Vorderasiatische Archäologie, DAI)
- *Marib, Capital of the Sabaean Kingdom*. Thomas Scholten & Volker Hochschild (Universität Tübingen); Roman Koch & Christian Weiß (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen); Thomas Kersten & Klaus Mechelke (Universität Hamburg)
- *Sabir and Ma'layba*. Burkhard Vogt (Vorderasiatische Altertumskunde, DAI)
- *Wadi Gufaina*. Iris Gerlach (Vorderasiatische Archäologie, DAI)

Publications

The Sanaa Branch of the German Institute publishes the journal *Hefte zur Kulturgeschichte des Jemen*. It also lists the following forthcoming monographs in the ABADY series:

- *In prep.* Archäologische und epigraphische Forschungen in der antiken Stadt von Marib. Bericht über die Prospektionskampagnen 2001/2002 und 2007. *Archäologische Berichte aus dem Yemen (ABADY)* 13.
- *In press.* Buffa, V. Ma'layba et l'Âge du Bronze du Yémen. *Archäologische Berichte aus dem Yemen (ABADY)* 12.
- *In press.* Various authors. *Archäologische Berichte aus dem Yemen (ABADY)* 11.

American Institute for Yemeni Studies

The following information is derived from the Institute website, www.aiys.org

Architectural Reconstruction and Documentation

- **The Amiriya Project** involves the restoration of a 16th century *madrassa* in Rada, one of Yemen's major medieval architectural monuments. The physical restoration has been completed. The project director, Dr Selma al-Radi, was awarded the 2007 Agha Khan Award for Architecture for her achievements.
- **The Tarim Project** involves the documentation of elaborate early 20th century mud-brick palaces in Tarim, Hadhramawt. The work involves professional

architects, students in architectural preservation from Columbia University, staff members of the Museum of the Hadramawt and Yemen's General Organization of Antiquities and Monuments, and architecture students from the University of Mukalla (Yemen). See also www.mcah.columbia.edu/tarim

Other Archaeological Fieldwork and Research

Thanks to Lamya Khalidi for this information.

The University of Poitiers **Paleo-Y Mission** is focusing on a series of Palaeolithic sites in the Tihama foothills, governorate of Mahwit (Direction Prof Macchiarelli, Musée Homme, and Dr Delagnes, Bordeaux). The **Highland Project** (Direction Dr Lewis, University of Arkansas, Little Rock) is continuing the work of the **Dhamar Survey Project** (Direction Prof Wilkinson, Durham) and focuses on the Masna'at Maryah region of Dhamar. Finally, Dr Lamya Khalidi is starting a project on obsidian studies in the Red Sea region. This project is in collaboration with the University of Nice, and with Dr Oppenheimer from the University of Cambridge.

Lamya Khalidi

AVAILABLE GRANTS AND PRIZES

Barakat Trust

The Trust awards a number of scholarships and grants to students of Islamic art 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 **Salahuddin Y. H. Abduljawad Award** is also administered by the Barakat Trust and offers grants up to £10,000 to a Muslim scholar doing a postgraduate degree at a British university.

Contact the Barakat Trust, The Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford, OX1 2LE. barakat.trust@orinst.ox.ac.uk; www.barakat.org

British Academy

The Academy offers a number of academic, research and travel fellowships and other grants. For full details visit the British Academy website at www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide

British Institute of Persian Studies

BIPS welcomes applications from scholars wishing to pursue research in all fields of Persian Studies.

These are at postgraduate and postdoctoral level and include anthropology, archaeology, art, history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, religion and cognate subjects.

- **Research Programmes.** Most of BIPS' research income is set aside for collaborative research programmes. BIPS is currently seeking to attract applications from scholars in three "umbrella" programmes: Socio-Economic Transformations in the Later Prehistory of Iran (programme Director: Robin Coningham, University of Durham r.a.e.coningham@durham.ac.uk); Kingship in Persian Cultural History (programme Director: Charles Melville, University of Cambridge cpm1000@hermes.cam.ac.uk); Modern Iran: National Identities – History, Myth and Literature (programme Director: Ali Ansari, University of St Andrews, aa51@st-andrews.ac.uk)

- **Individual Grants.** A small part of BIPS' research budget is set aside to support the research of individual students and scholars rather than programmes. Preference will be given to those wishing to study material in Iran, but grants may also be available to those wishing to study similar material in universities, museums and other learned institutions outside Iran. Grants may also be awarded to applicants in the final stages of a major piece of research, such as a doctorate. Grants are awarded mainly to cover travel and research within Iran.

- **Undergraduate Bursaries.** BIPS offers a limited number of bursaries in 2007–8 to encourage visits by undergraduates to Iran.

The deadline is 11 May 2008. Application forms can be obtained from www.bips.ac.uk/story/award-call. All applicants for grants must be members of the British Institute of Persian Studies. Membership forms are available to download from www.bips.ac.uk/join/join-us. Please send grant application and membership forms to The Secretary, BIPS, The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Tel: 020 7969 5203. Email bips@britac.ac.uk

British Institute for the Study of Iraq

BISI, formerly The British School of Archaeology in Iraq (BSAI), operates the following grants programmes, which have changed significantly since the last edition. Note that Major Research Grants are no longer available for direct funding from the School, but should be obtained from the British Academy.

- **BISI Research Grants.** Intended to support research or conferences on Iraq, neighbouring countries, and the Gulf, in any field of the humanities or social sciences, concerned with any time period from prehistory to the present day. In addition to individual research grant requests, the Institute welcomes funding applications for pilot projects preliminary to larger research projects on Iraq and neighbouring countries. The Institute can offer assistance in drafting a full research proposal to submit jointly to other funding bodies.

Applications and references must be received by 30 April or 31 October 2008. Awards will normally fall within a limit of £4,000, though more substantial awards may be made. Applicants will be informed of the decision of Council concerning their grant application by early July (2008 only), early April or early January, depending upon the date of submission. Applicants must be residents of the UK or, exceptionally, other individuals whose academic research closely coincides with that of the BISI. For further details on eligibility and applications see www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/newgrants.htm or contact the BISI Administrator, email bisi@britac.ac.uk

- **BISI Development Grants.** This new initiative provides grants in support of development projects and events, such as lectures, study days and popular publications that relate to Iraq and neighbouring countries and to the areas of interest covered by BISI. A Development Grant will not normally be for more than £500, although more substantial grants may be made in exceptional cases.

The normal deadlines for applications and references are 15 April and 15 October each year, but because this is a new initiative there was a special deadline of 31 January 2008 for the first round of grant applications. Applicants need to submit an application form and two references to the BISI

Administrator. Applicants must be residents of the UK. For a link to the application form see www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq or contact the administrator, bisi@britac.ac.uk

- **BISI Iraqi Scholars and Fellows.** The BISI provides grants to Iraqi scholars to come to the UK for research and training opportunities under its Appeal Programme. Future BISI Iraqi Scholars and Fellows should apply to BISI for a two – three month fellowship by sending a copy of their CV, with a letter outlining a research proposal to be carried out in the UK related to Mesopotamian archaeology and/or the heritage sector in Iraq. All Scholars must have permission from their university or employer for a leave of absence for the two–three month period in the UK. A telephone interview will be arranged. No Salary is paid but travel and living expenses are provided. A UK visa will must be obtained in Amman, Jordan prior to coming to the UK. Applications are to be sent to: BISI Administrator, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Email bisi@britac.ac.uk

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

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 (academic institutional membership can be obtained for £100). Applications should be forwarded by the Director of the Master's programme concerned, to the BRISMES Administrative Office, and should include: a supporting statement from the course Director not exceeding 500 words; the programme syllabus; a statement by the candidate not exceeding 500 words; the candidate's CV and transcript of previous academic results; two academic references.

For Master's programmes commencing October 2008, the award will amount to £1,200, i.e. 50 % of the course fees for most Master's programmes. The names of the winner and the institution will be publicized in the BRISMES Newsletter and website. Applications should be sent to: BRISMES Administrative Office; Institute for Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies; Durham University; Al-Qasimi Building; Elvet Hill Road; Durham; DH1 3TU. Tel: 0191 33 45179. Email a.l.haysey@durham.ac.uk. Applications should reach the BRISMES Office by 31st March 2008.

For any queries contact: Professor Robert Gleave; Professor of Arabic Studies; Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies; University of Exeter; Stocker Road; Exeter ; EX4 4ND. Tel: 01392 264

040. Fax: 01392 264 025. Email: r.gleave@exeter.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). To qualify, you must be a registered research student (of any nationality) in a UK institution, have completed at least your first year of doctoral research; be a paid-up member of BRISMES (student membership suffices) by the time you apply; submit an application of 600–1,000 words, by e-mail to the Research Committee, E-mail: a.l.haysey@durham.ac.uk – this should include a sketch of your overall research topic, and a description of the purpose for which the grant would be used; obtain a brief supporting statement from your supervisor. For the present round, the deadline is 31st March 2008.

▪ **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 no later than 31 March. To qualify applicants must fulfill the following conditions: be registered at any UK university; a paid-up member of BRISMES (Student membership suffices) by the time you apply; submit an application of 600–1000 words, by email to the BRISMES research committee. This should include a sketch of the overall research topic, and a description of the purpose for which the grant would be used; obtain a brief supporting statement from their supervisor. Applications should be sent to a.l.haysey@durham.ac.uk

▪ **British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies** is also funded by an endowment from the **Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah** Charitable Foundation. In each of the years since the prize commenced, it has attracted around 30 nominations from some 15 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.

The deadline for entries for this year's prize was 10th February 2008. Application forms and further information can be found at www.dur.ac.uk/brismes/book_prize.htm

▪ **Graduate Article Competition in Middle Eastern Studies** and the **Undergraduate Essay Prize.** Full details of these two prizes can be found on the BRISMES website, at www.dur.ac.uk/brismes/competitions07.htm.

Enquiries should be directed to Professor Robert Gleave (contact details above, in MA Scholarship section).

The Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World

CASAW, a Language-Based Area Studies Initiative funded by the AHRC, ESRC, HEFCE and SFC, offers funding for postgraduate studentships and postdoctoral fellowships at the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Manchester. The deadlines for application are at the end of March 2008.

▪ **Postgraduate Studentships.** These will start in September 2008 and awards will cover tuition fees and an annual stipend. There is a total of 5 two-year Masters studentships available at the three Universities. The two-year Masters degree in Arab World Studies comprises 8 months in Edinburgh dedicated to intensive study of the Arabic language and training in research methods followed by 4 months at an approved institution in the Arab world. Students will be based in their primary institution for the second year of the degree. For further information, eligibility and application details see www.casaw.org/index.php/posts/more/postgraduate_studentships

▪ **Postdoctoral Fellowships.** These provide an outstanding opportunity for excellent young researchers who have recently gained (or are very close to gaining) a relevant PhD to contribute to the research programmes of CASAW. Fellows will be expected to make an active contribution to the work of CASAW; to pursue important new research trajectories; to promote breadth and depth of understanding of the Arabic-speaking world; to undertake some teaching and administrative duties after their first year; and to undertake collaborative interdisciplinary work. A number of the fellowships will be converted to permanent positions after the expiry of research council support. Details are provided in the particulars for the posts.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates in the following key areas: 3-Year Fellowship in Minority Identities in the Arab World (University of Edinburgh); 2-Year Fellowship in the Socio-Cultural Impacts of Modern Information and Communication Technologies in the Arab World (University of Durham)

For further information, eligibility and application details see www.casaw.org/index.php/posts/more/postdoctoral_fellowships

Council for British Research in the Levant

CBRL currently offers Research Awards, Travel Awards, Conference Funding, Pilot Study/Pump-Priming, Visiting Research Fellowships 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. 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 see www.cbrl.org.uk/funding_opportunities.shtm.

Queries regarding the next deadlines should be addressed to info@cbrl.org.uk

▪ **Research Awards** of up to £10,000 are offered for postdoctoral research in the humanities and social sciences to be undertaken in the countries of the Levant (Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria). Applicants must be of British nationality or normally resident in the United Kingdoms.

▪ **Travel Grants.** Small grants (up to £800) are available to fund the basic costs of individual travel and are generally (but not exclusively) intended to fund junior researchers. Such grants are not awarded to assist individuals to join a project, where it could be seen as a hidden subsidy to the project in question.

▪ **Pilot Studies and Pump-Priming.** This falls into two categories: (1) support for research projects from non-archaeological disciplines, where CBRL is actively seeking to encourage greater diversity among the projects that it supports; and (2) support for researchers undertaking initial exploratory work or a feasibility study with a view to preparing a later application for major funding from a research Council or the British Academy in due course. Awards under either heading may be used to cover travel, round tables, seminars, or initial exploratory fieldwork. In addition, CBRL will assist such feasibility studies through the provision of its facilities and in establishing local contacts. To be eligible under this scheme, a project must involve an element of travel to (or from) the Middle East.

▪ **Visiting Fellowships.** CBRL Visiting Research Fellowships are offered for doctoral and postdoctoral research in the humanities and social sciences to be undertaken in the Levant (Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria). Fellowships are available to enable individuals to spend a period of between three and nine months in the Levant, which is to include a minimum of one month residence at the British Institute in Amman or the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem. Applicants must be British or normally resident in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands or registered on a full-time doctoral degree in a UK university.

▪ **Honorary Fellowships.** CBRL also awards Honorary Fellowships. At present there are five of

these. Two have been awarded to assist promising junior scholars in their research and three have been awarded to assist in the publication of backlog projects. Project Affiliation is required. Applications may be made for Honorary Fellowships at any time of the year. Please send your curriculum vitae, with two letters of recommendation, and at least one project affiliation application. Postgraduate researchers must have a letter of support from their supervisor.

▪ **Project Affiliation.** CBRL invites applications for Project Affiliation for postdoctoral research in the humanities and social sciences to be undertaken in the countries of the Levant (Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria). All applications should clearly demonstrate that CBRL affiliation is sought for a clearly defined piece of research, which will have an identifiable outcome on completion.

▪ **Conference and Outreach funding.** CBRL holds, sponsors, and assists with conferences and other forms of outreach, such as exhibitions and museum displays. Conference and other outreach grants are awarded by CBRL on an annual basis to British citizens or members of the British academic community. It is recommended that those planning to organise a conference or other outreach project discuss their proposals with the Director in advance of making an application. Awards will not normally be made to support conference attendance by participants from countries other than the UK or those of the Levant.

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. For information on Leigh Douglas and the Fund's work see www.al-bab.com/bys/articles/douglas06.htm. Grants include

▪ **The Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize.** This was established jointly in 1986 by the Leigh Douglas Memorial Fund and BRISMES and 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 £500. Anyone wishing to submit his/her dissertation for consideration should send a copy, together with an accompanying letter or recommendation from their supervisor, before 31st January 2008 to Professor Charles Tripp, S.O.A.S., Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1X 0XG, U.K.

The deadline for submission of entries for the 2007 award was 31st January 2008.

▪ **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 VPORTER@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

MBI Al Jaber Foundation

The Foundation has a long-standing scholarship programme, and is currently offering the following scholarship programmes:

▪ **Postgraduate Scholarships for Masters' Degrees in the UK**, open to Yemeni nationals.
▪ **Undergraduate scholarships for the Bachelors in Business Administration (Tourism and Hospitality Management)** at MODUL University Vienna. This scholarship programme is open to all Arab residents of the Middle East and North Africa.

You are eligible to apply if you can demonstrate financial need; if you intend to return to your country of residence and contribute to its future development; if you have applied for, and already been accepted onto a post-graduate Master's degree programme at one of our partner institutions. Please email any queries to info@mbifoundation.com. See also www.mbifoundation.com/mbi-foundation-scholarships/default.html

Palestine Exploration Fund

The PEF awards small grants to students and others pursuing research into topics relevant to its general aims. Details and application forms can be found at www.pef.org.uk/Pages/Grants.htm. The deadline is 31 January each year. Please address applications to Grants Manager, Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 Hinde Mews, Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2AA. Enquiries can be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Felicity Cobbing, email ExecSec@PEF.org.uk

Rawabi Holding Award

The Saudi-British Society presents this annual prize, donated by a Saudi businessman, Mr. Abdulaziz al-Turki, to two British people who have made a significant contribution towards the promotion of Saudi-British relations. In January 2008 it was given to Mrs. Caroline Montagu and Mr. Frank Gardner, at a reception held in the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall. Nominations are submitted by the members of the Society and the Society's Committee makes the final selection. See www.saudibritishsociety.org.uk/main/rh-awards.htm

Royal Asiatic Society

The Society offers several prizes for outstanding research in Asian studies, including the **Professor Mary Boyce Prize** for an article relating to the study of religion in Asia, and the **Sir George Staunton Prize** for an article by a young scholar, both of which apply to articles submitted to the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*. See royalasiaticsociety.org/site/?q=taxonomy/term/5.

The Society moreover welcomes fellowship applications from anyone with a serious interest in Asian studies. For more information contact Alison Ohta, Curator, Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London W1 2HD. Tel: +44 (0)20 7388 4539. Email ao@royalasiaticsociety.org

SOAS Scholarships and Studentships

The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, offers numerous scholarship schemes with relevance to Arabian studies. The closing date for Research Studentships is 31 March each year. For further information see www.soas.ac.uk/soasnet/adminservices/registry/scholarships/scholarships.html or contact The Scholarships Officer, Registry, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG, UK. Tel: (+44) 020 7074 5105. Email: as100@soas.ac.uk

Gerald Avery 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.

Research Grant deadlines are on 1 May and 1 December. Visit the website for application forms and guidelines: www.krc.ox.ac.uk/gawainwright.htm. For further information contact: David Griffiths, The Gerald Avery Wainwright Near Eastern Archaeological Fund, Khalili Research Centre, University of Oxford, 3 St. John Street, Oxford OX1 2LG. Tel: 01865 278222. Email: david.griffiths@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Arab-British Culture and Society Award

The Arab-British Centre (ABC) invites nominations of its new annual prize of £5000, to be awarded to an individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to the British public's knowledge and understanding of the life, society and culture of the Arab people. In addition to the prize of £5,000, the ABC will also offer opportunities and support to promote the winner's work.

Nominations should be accompanied by a paragraph of no more than 400 words describing the candidate's or nominee's achievements and their impact on the British public. Applications will be accepted either from individuals or organisations that wish to be considered for the award or from those

who wish to nominate a particular individual or organisation.

The closing date for the 2008 award was 29th February 2008. The judging panel will be chaired by Sir Marrack Goulding, a former British diplomat, Under-Secretary-General in the United Nations and Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford. A shortlist of applicants and nominees will be published in March. The email address for nominations is nominations@arabbritishcentre.org.uk. For further information contact Noreen Abu Oun, tel. 020 7832 1310, email noreen@arabbritishcentre.org.uk.

Sir William Luce Fund

The Sir William Luce Memorial Fund was established to commemorate the long and distinguished career of Sir William Luce GBE, KCMG, DL (1907–77) in the Middle East during the era of the transfer of power. 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 the Sudan and

Arabia and is hosted by Durham University for a period of three months from the beginning of May. 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 such as the University Library and Information Technology Service. It also carries a grant, accommodation and all meals for the duration of the Fellowship. The Fellow is expected to deliver a lecture on the subject of his or her research which will be designated The Sir William Luce Lecture, which will form the basis of a paper to be published in a special edition of the Durham Middle East Papers series.

For further information see www.dur.ac.uk/sgia/imeis/lucefund. Contact Mrs Jane Hogan, Honorary 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

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

The following bodies are British-based organisations which have an interest in Arabian heritage, culture, education and environment. There are several new entries, and some bodies listed under INFORMATION ONLINE last year are listed here.

Arab-British Centre

www.arabbritishcentre.org.uk/default2.html

The **ABC**, founded in 1975, aims "to promote the development of friendship, understanding and cooperation between the people of the United Kingdom and the peoples of the Arab World by providing a Centre in London for social, cultural, charitable and commercial activities concerned with the Arab World". See also GRANTS AND PRIZES for the Arab-British Culture and Society Award.

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

www.astene.org.uk

ASTENE encourages and promotes education and learning with particular reference to the history of travel and travellers in Egypt and the Near East. It brings together anyone interested in the subject, whether a professional academic or not, across a wide spectrum of nations and subject areas. Membership is open to all, regardless of nationality, and the Association is keen to foster an international co-operative network. **ASTENE** holds conferences, seminars, exhibitions and lectures, organises visits, publishes papers, newsletters, books and a quarterly Bulletin. Further information available from the Administrative Office, 26

Millington Rd, Cambridge CB3 9HP. Email: astene@dsl.pipex.com

Bahrain Society

www.bhainsociety.com

The Bahrain Society was founded in 1971 and aims to promote friendship and a close understanding between Bahrainis and British; to provide a medium through which hospitality may be offered to Bahrainis on their visiting the United Kingdom; and to enable former residents of Bahrain to keep in touch with each other. The patron is H.M. The King of Bahrain, while the President is H.E. The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the UK, and the Chairman is Michael Rice CMG.

Membership is open to Bahraini and British subjects who have resided in Bahrain or who have (or have had) interests there whether commercial, cultural or otherwise and any Bahraini or British subjects who are interested in fostering the aims of the Society. Applications for membership will be reviewed by the Committee. To obtain an application form for membership please contact the Honorary Secretary: Mr. H. V. Whittingham, Manor Cottage, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. GL20 7EG. Email bredonvic@aol.com

British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology

www.banea.org

BANEA membership is open to all those interested in the archaeology, languages and history of the Ancient Near East. The Association publishes an

annual Newsletter, organises Schools Days, and holds an annual conference which is open to all members and takes place in a different university or institution each year. See FORTHCOMING EVENTS for details of the March 2008 BANEA conference at Liverpool.

Membership costs £15 per annum (£7.50 for students/concessions). BANEA Membership entitles you to membership of one of the Regional Groups which organise their own programmes of lectures and events. For subscription information please contact Jan Picton, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, 31–34 Gordon Square, WC1H 0PY. Email j.picton@ucl.ac.uk For further information about BANEA contact: Dr Louise Steel, Honorary Secretary, BANEA, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion, Wales, SA48 7ED. Email l.steel@lamp.ac.uk

Barakat Trust

www.barakat.org

The Trust is a UK registered charity which provides financial support for the study and research of the material and visual cultures of Islamic societies. This assistance is granted to enable scholars to continue to add to the body of Islamic scholarship while enhancing the possibilities of cross-cultural understanding and tolerance. See also GRANTS AND PRIZES.

British Institute of Persian Studies

www.bips.ac.uk

BIPS was founded in 1961 and is financially supported by the British Academy. It promotes scholarship and research in all aspects of Iranian Studies and has a purpose-built institute in Tehran, on land leased from the British Embassy. BIPS currently sponsors a series of academic projects including: Socio-Economic transformations in the Sialk Plain; Darabgird Sasanian Project; Sasanian coins; The Gorgan and Tammishe Sasanian walls; Persian Gulf in Prehistory and history; Pre-Mongol architecture; Survey of stone lion tombs; Shi'a crescent; Early nineteenth century Qajar history. For details of grants available from BIPS, see GRANTS AND PRIZES

BIPS welcomes new members and membership is open to all those involved or interested in this field. Members receive copies of the journal *Iran* and are kept informed about lectures, seminars and other events. For further information contact the BIPS London Office, c/o The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Tel: 020 7969 5203; email bips@britac.ac.uk

British Institute for the Study of Iraq

www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq

BISI was formerly the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (BSAI), the name having been changed in 2007 to reflect its widening remit. This

is to advance research and public education relating to Iraq and the neighbouring countries in anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, philology and related disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences. The Institute is currently devoting part of its resources to assisting in the rebuilding of Iraq's heritage. BISI activities include:

- making grants to promote, support and undertake research, including the new BISI Development Grant (see GRANTS AND PRIZES)
- publishing an academic journal, *Iraq*
- publishing the results of fieldwork
- a bi-annual newsletter
- organizing lectures, study days and other events, which usually take place at its London offices.

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

www.dur.ac.uk/brismes

BRISMES was established in 1973 to encourage and promote the study of the Middle East in the United Kingdom. It brings together teachers, researchers, students, diplomats, journalists and others who deal professionally with the Middle East. Membership is open to all the above, regardless of nationality.

It publishes the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* twice a year, which is free to members, who also receive the *BRISMES Newsletter*, which contains information about what is happening in the field (conferences, the latest publications, research, scholarships, jobs, etc). The Society organises an annual public lecture and an annual conference, which attracts the latest research on all aspects of Middle Eastern studies in Britain and beyond. Its annual conference is to be held at the University of Leeds, 4–6 July 2008, entitled *Mapping Middle Eastern and North African Diasporas* (see FORTHCOMING EVENTS). On 18–19 April 2008 it will also be holding a major international conference at SOAS, London, organised jointly with the London Middle East Institute (see also FORTHCOMING EVENTS, and the LMEI entry).

BRISMES offers or administers a number of scholarships, awards and prizes (see GRANTS AND PRIZES). For further information contact the BRISMES Administrative Office, Institute for Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies, University of Durham, Elvet Hill Road, Durham DH1 3TU. Tel: 0191 33 45179; Fax: 0191 33 45661; email a.l.haysey@durham.ac.uk

British–Yemeni Society

www.al-bab.com/bys

The BYS aims to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries and to advance public knowledge in Britain about the Republic of Yemen, its history, geography, economy and culture. It holds regular

meetings and lectures and has been involved in sponsoring visits of Yemeni musicians to Britain, the recruitment of British teachers to work in Yemen, support for a medical clinic in Aden, a visit of Welsh musicians and craftsmen to Yemen, and support for publications and exhibitions. It also provides a focus for contact between individuals of both countries for the development of cultural, commercial and humanitarian activities. H.E. the Yemen Ambassador in London and H.E. the British Ambassador in Sanaa are Honorary Presidents.

Membership is open to all who have an interest in the Republic of Yemen. The programme of activities includes six lecture meetings per year. Members also receive the Society's annual *Journal of the British Yemeni Society*. The latest (December 2007) is currently available on the website, and the annual appeal is directed this towards the Soqatra Training Centre (see the 2007 Bulletin). For further information and queries about membership, please download the form from www.al-bab.com/bys/membersh.htm and send to The Hon. Secretary, The British Yemeni Society, 2 Lisgar Terrace, London W14 8SJ.

The Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World

www.casaw.org

CASAW is a newly-formed research consortium, comprising the Universities of Edinburgh, Manchester and Durham, and bringing together world-class scholars in Arab World Studies from each of these Universities. It was officially launched in September 2007 and is funded by the AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council), ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) and SFC (Scottish Funding Council).

The Centre's goals envisage the creation of four new permanent posts, complementing the five new posts already promised by the three host institutions; eight post-doctoral fellows trained in Arabic and pursuing, alongside teaching and administration, major research projects such as the Muslim diaspora and jihad and martyrdom; mid-career training opportunities; and, above all, a cadre of 19 Ph.D. and 20 Masters students, fully funded. Postgraduate provision will combine intensive Arabic language work with advanced discipline-based research training specific to the Arab political and cultural context across the humanities and social sciences. Further details are given in the GRANTS AND PRIZES section.

Council for Arab-British Understanding

www.caabu.org

CAABU was set up in 1967 to promote an enlightened and positive approach to Arab-British relations in Government, Parliament, the Media, education and amongst the wider public. It has four principal programmes; Parliamentary, Educational,

working with the Media, and a diverse Events schedule. For further information see the website or contact CAABU London headquarters on 020 7832 1320, or email caabu@caabu.org

Council for British Research in the Levant

www.cbirl.org.uk

The CBRL is a British Academy sponsored institute for research into the humanities and social sciences with research centres in Amman and Jerusalem and field bases in Homs and Wadi Faynan. The CBRL promotes research in the modern countries of Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian Territories and Syria, closely related to the former Bilad el-Sham. It also hosts two lectures a year in the UK and a variety of seminars, exhibitions and lectures in the various countries of the Levant. It publishes an annual academic journal, *Levant*, as well as a less formal newsletter.

The CBRL provides travel grants, funding towards key strategic research, the employment of research active staff, and fellowship schemes. CBRL office also provide important links between the local academic communities and counterparts in the UK, and assists UK researchers in discussions with government agencies. See GRANTS AND PRIZES section for information on the CBRL's funding schemes.

For membership and other queries contact CBRL UK Office, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK. Email cbirl@britac.ac.uk. For the Amman office contact British Institute (Amman), PO Box 519, Jubaiha 11941, Amman, Jordan. Tel. + 962 (0) 6 534 1317. Fax + 962 (0) 6 533 7197. Email info@cbirl.org.uk.

Friends of the Hadhramaut

www.hadhramaut.co.uk

This charitable trust was founded as a result of a visit to the area by Sultana Al-Qu'aiti and Brian Fyfield-Shayler, as part of an expedition organised in 1996 by the British Yemeni Society. It aims to promote philanthropic, educational and medical links between the people of Hadhramaut and overseas, bringing the needs of the people to the attention of those who may be in the best position to help. The trust aims to raise living standards, individually and collectively, relieving poverty wherever it can. We favour community-based projects and self-help developments, using as far as possible local resources, indigenous materials and appropriate technology. Our first project for support was Al-Noor Institute for the Blind in Mukallah. We also provide equipment and supplies to hospitals in Al-Qatn, Shibam, Saiyun, Tarim, Mukallah, Shihr, Ghail Ba Wazir and Ibn Sina in Fuwwa. We are also trying to help schools throughout the area. Our work is purely humanitarian and strictly non-political.

Subscription forms can be downloaded from www.hadhramaut.co.uk/index.phtml?d=182, or contact Friends of the Hadhramaut, 48 Richmond Park Road, London SW14 8JT, UK. Tel. +44 020 8392 9823. Email hadhramaut@lionrampant.co.uk

Friends of Soqotra

www.friendsofsoqotra.org

FoS brings together people throughout the world who have an interest in the Soqotra archipelago. It was formed in 2001 at an inaugural meeting at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh attended by over 40 people representing eight countries. The distinctive rationale for FoS is that it brings together people with backgrounds in scientific research and those with a more general interest. It promotes the sustainable use and conservation of the natural environment of the island group; raises awareness of the Archipelago's biodiversity and the unique culture and language of the islander; and helps improve the quality of life of the island communities and support their traditional land management practices.

A membership form is available at www.friendsofsoqotra.org/membershipform.htm, and membership enquiries can be addressed to John Dickson, Benswood House, Bleadney, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1PF. Tel. 01749 672928. Email Jdickson61@aol.com. General Correspondence can be addressed to Sue Christie, 49 Carnbane Road, Lisburn, BT27 5NG, Northern Ireland. Tel. +44 (0)2890 314 944. Email drsuechristie@aol.com

London Centre for the Ancient Near East

www.soas.ac.uk/academics/departments/nme/ane/lcane

The Centre was originally founded as an independent association of university, museum and independent academics, and others with interests in the ancient Near East. It now acts as the south-eastern arm of BANEA (see above). The London Centre organises a regular series of seminars at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). These and other ancient Near Eastern events in London are publicised in the **London Diary for the Ancient Near East** which is produced three times a year. Subscription is through BANEA, but the Diary can also be accessed online on the website. For inclusion of lectures or events in the Diary contact Jan Picton: janpicton@ijnet.demon.co.uk

London Middle East Institute

www.lmei.soas.ac.uk

The LMEI, based at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, provides teaching, training, research, publication, consultancy, outreach and other services related to the Middle East. It serves as a neutral forum for the consideration of issues concerning that region and helps to create links between individuals and

institutions with academic, commercial, diplomatic, media or other specialisations. With its own professional staff of Middle East experts, the LMEI is further strengthened by its academic membership – the largest concentration of Middle Eastern expertise in any institution in Europe. The LMEI also has access to the SOAS library.

The LMEI promotes knowledge of the Middle East by hosting academic lectures; organising briefings, seminars and panel debates; offering a neutral venue for discussion and analysis of issues; sponsoring exhibitions and performances; promoting preservation of cultural heritage; providing briefings and analysis for the media; holding conferences; co-hosting conferences and events with affiliated organisations; networking individuals and institutions with interests in the region; publishing monographs, occasional papers, guides and a monthly magazine, **The Middle East in London**. This provides listings for forthcoming events. See also the Noticeboard for upcoming events:

<http://www.lmei.soas.ac.uk/home/index.cfm?navid=6>

For members only, LMEI also provides **Middle East Places in London**, a concise directory of organisations, institutions and businesses based in London, whose work relates to the Middle East. It comprises the names, addresses, contact details, (opening hours and additional information where applicable), of over 700 organisations.

For individual or corporate membership of LMEI, information and forms are available at www.lmei.soas.ac.uk/registration/register.cfm. For further queries contact The London Middle East Institute, Room B318, SOAS, University of London, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK. Tel. 020 7898 4442. Email lmei@soas.ac.uk

MBI Al Jaber Foundation

www.mbfoundation.com

The Foundation supports projects that promote better understanding between the peoples of the Middle East and the wider world, especially in Europe but also with the United States and elsewhere.

The focus is on educational and cultural projects, and the Foundation concentrates on forging partnerships rather than simply giving grants. It has a long-standing scholarship programme (see GRANTS AND PRIZES), with an Alumni body which reaches from Iraq to Morocco.

Recent initiatives have included a major donation to UCL's Institute for Cultural Heritage, due to open in 2010, and another towards the building of a new auditorium at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The MBI Al Jaber foundation is also the main sponsor of the Seminar for Arabian Studies.

Palestine Exploration Fund

www.pef.org.uk

The purpose of the PEF is to promote research into the archaeology and history, manners and customs and culture, topography, geology and natural sciences of the Levant the southern portion of which was conventionally named Palestine. It publishes a respected academic journal, the *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*. In addition, the PEF presents public lectures on a wide range of subjects and funds several research projects covering a range of subjects in the Levant by way of small annual grants (see GRANTS AND PRIZES).

Membership application forms can be found at www.pef.org.uk/Pages/Join.htm, or contact The Secretary, Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 Hinde Mews, Marylebone Lane, London W1U 2AA. Email execsec@pef.org.uk

Royal Asiatic Society

royalasiaticsociety.org

The Society provides a forum for those who are interested in the history, languages, cultures and religions of Asia to meet and exchange ideas. It offers lectures and seminars and it provides facilities for research and publishing. The library contains a collection of books and journals on a wide variety of subjects concerning Asia. Fellows of the Society are able to borrow books; students and researchers are welcome to consult material by prior appointment. The Society publishes the peer-reviewed *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* four times a year and organises a monthly lecture series covering a wide range of topics. Symposia and study days are arranged from time to time in areas that reflect the interests of the Society and its fellows. The Society also offers a variety of awards (see AWARDS AND PRIZES).

Forms for membership can be found at royalasiaticsociety.org/site/?q=taxonomy/term/6 Alternatively you can contact Alison Ohta, Curator, Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD, UK. Tel. +44 (0)20 7388 4539. Email ao@royalasiaticsociety.org

Saudi Arabian Natural History Society

This small organisation, based in Jeddah, arranges monthly lectures, has a small library and a monthly newsletter and annually produces the **Journal of the Saudi Arabian Natural History Society**. For further information contact the acting coordinator Margaret Thomson, on margthomza@yahoo.com,

or the Secretary Janet Jacobsen, jan-jacobsen24@hotmail.com

Saudi-British Society

www.saudibritishsociety.org.uk

The Society was formed in 1986 to help promote closer friendship and understanding between the people of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. The Society is a social, cultural, non-political and non-commercial organisation. It aims to bring together British citizens who have an interest in Saudi Arabia (whether professional, commercial, cultural or otherwise) and Saudi Arabian citizens who are resident in, visitors to or interested in the UK. It aims also to provide a medium through which hospitality may be offered to Saudi Arabians visiting or living in the UK. The Society has a President who is always the Saudi Arabian ambassador in London and an elected committee. There are ordinary, associate, corporate, student and honorary members. It offers two prizes, the Rawabi Holdings Prizes, for British individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to furthering Saudi-British relations (see GRANTS AND PRIZES).

Seminar for Arabian Studies

www.arabianseminar.org.uk/aboutus.html

The Seminar For Arabian Studies meets annually for the presentation of the latest academic research in the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula (including archaeology, epigraphy, ethnography, language, history, art 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). It publishes its peer-reviewed *Proceedings* annually. The Seminar is generously sponsored by the MBI al Jaber Foundation – see above.

The next meeting is at the British Museum, 24-26 July (see also CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS). For further information contact Dr Ardle MacMahon (Secretary), Seminar for Arabian Studies, The British Museum, c/o Middle East Department, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK. Email seminar.arab@durham.ac.uk

Society for Arabian Studies

www.societyforarabianstudies.org

Our own website continues to be updated with news on forthcoming conferences, lectures, and other events and publications.

OTHER ONLINE INFORMATION

Please refer to the websites of the organisations listed in the previous section for abundant information on activities and resources relating to Arabia.

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage
www.cultural.org.ae/e

Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey
www.adias-uae.com

ADIAS has now been absorbed into the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH), but this website still contains a record of its activities.

Al Ain National Museum
www.aam.gov.ae

Al-Bab
www.al-bab.com
Abundant data relating to the Arab world, aiming to introduce non-Arabs to the Arabs and their culture.

American Institute for Yemeni Studies
www.aiys.org
See this site for the Institute's news and activities, as well as **Yemen Update – Bulletin of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies**.

Arabia Felix Magazine
<http://www.arabia-felix.com>

Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy (Journal)
www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0905-7196

Arabian Wildlife
www.arabianwildlife.com

Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia and Adjacent Areas (ASWA[AA])
www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaaz/workaswa.htm
Promotes communication between individuals working on faunal remains from sites in western Asia and adjacent areas.

Atlas of Breeding Birds of Arabia
www.dspace.dial.pipex.com/arabian.birds
Includes information on how to subscribe to its Newsletter, *The Phoenix*

British Council, Middle East pages
www.britishcouncil.org/me.htm

Centre Français d'Archéologie et de Sciences Sociales de Sanaa (CEFAS)
www.cefas.com.ye/homeng.html

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Orient Department
www.dainst.org/abteilung.php?id=270
Contains useful updates on archaeological activities in Saudi, Yemen and Oman.

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University

www.huss.ex.ac.uk/iais
Contains details of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, research, conferences and events.

National Museum of Ras al-Khaimah
www.rakmuseum.gov.ae

Oman & Arabia Natural History
www.oman.org/nath00.htm

Ornithological Society of the Middle East
<http://www.osme.org/>
See this page for the latest editions of OSME's journal, **Sandgrouse**

Paléorient (Journal)
www.mae.u-paris10.fr/paleo_index.htm

Saudi Aramco World
<http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com>
A bimonthly magazine, which aims to broaden knowledge of the cultures, history and geography of the Arab and Muslim worlds and their connections with the West

UAE Interact, Culture Pages
<http://www.uaeinteract.com/culture>
A comprehensive government News & Information service for the United Arab Emirates, supported by the National Media Council.

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Call for Papers

Red Sea IV: Connected Hinterlands

The fourth international conference on the peoples of the Red Sea region

25-26 September 2008

Centre for Maritime Archaeology,
University of Southampton

Supported by the Society for Arabian Studies

Conference website: www.arch.soton.ac.uk/redsea08

Red Sea IV explores themes of connection and communication across and along the Red Sea through the material culture, anthropology, ethnography, history, and languages of peoples living in the hinterlands of the sea from the earliest times to the early modern period. The committee welcomes submissions on the following topics: Seafaring and navigation; Trade routes, ports and harbours; Early human migration and contact; Ethnicity and identity; Religion and pilgrimage; Coastal heritage management; Linguistics.

The deadline for paper abstracts has passed but the committee welcomes academic posters for display at the conference.

For further information contact

redsea@soton.ac.uk



Society for Arabian Studies

جمعية دراسات الجزيرة العربية

The Society for Arabian Studies is pleased to announce the next in its series of biennial conferences

Death, Burial and the Transition to the Afterlife in Arabia and Adjacent Regions

Stevenson Lecture Theatre, the British Museum, from November 27-29, 2008

The conference will review, synthesise, and contextualise the evidence for burial practices and associated beliefs in Arabia and neighbouring regions from earliest prehistory to the present day. Contributions will be presented from a wide range of disciplines, including archaeology, physical anthropology, epigraphy, cultural anthropology, and theology. Amongst the more than 50 presentations and posters, some prominent themes include:

- burial traditions of Arabia and neighbouring regions
- beliefs surrounding death and the transition to the afterlife
- implications of burial data: religion, kinship, social complexity, production
- burial traditions and inter-cultural contacts
- landscapes of death and burial
- burial and pilgrimage
- health and disease
- the recording and preservation of burial sites
- recent and contemporary ideas and practices relating to death and burial

Apart from the paper, the conference incorporates two **workshops**: *Bronze Age Burial Traditions in Arabia* (chair: Lloyd Weeks, Lloyd.Weeks@nottingham.ac.uk); and *Death and Burial in the Islamic World* (chair: Janet Starkey, j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk).

A **booking and pre-registration** form for the conference can be downloaded from the Society website. We strongly urge those attending the conference to pre-register and pre-pay using the booking form, as this will greatly streamline your arrival and registration process.

A **Programme** and **Abstracts** can also be downloaded from the Society website

www.societyforarabianstudies.org/dbconf08.shtml

For further information contact the convenor, **Dr Lloyd Weeks**, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, University Park NG7 2RD, Nottingham, UK, Tel.: +44-(0)115-846-7355

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS 2008

Al Ain Archaeological Symposium

3-4 April 2008, Al Ain, UAE

The Zayed Centre for History and Heritage, part of the Emirates Heritage Club, held the fifth in its series of Annual Symposia on Recent Archaeological Discoveries in the United Arab Emirates. The series began in 2003, although no symposium was held in 2007. Papers presented included *The Stone Age Sequence at Jebel Faya* (H-P Uerpmann *et al.*); *Akab Island revisited* (S. Méry); *The Hidden Villages of Ra's al-Khaimah* (Christian Velde & Imke Moellering, National Museum of Ra's al-Khaimah); *Reflections on Archaeological Consultancy in the United Arab Emirates* (Peter Hellyer, Abu Dhabi); *A Neolithic Assemblage from Dalma Island, Abu Dhabi* (Dr Heiko Kallweit, Freiburg); two papers by Dr Peter Magee (Bryn Mawr) *Excavations at Muwailah* and *Two seasons of research at al-Hamriya, Sharjah, UAE*; and *Archaeology of the Wadi Madhab, Fujairah* (Robert Carter, Durham, Alex Wasse & Peter Hellyer).

BRISMES and LMEI Conference at SOAS: Do We Understand The Middle East?

18-19 April 2008, SOAS, London, UK

The British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) is hosting this conference in collaboration with the London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI). Speakers include Amina Wadud (Virginia Commonwealth University); Bobby Sayyid (University of Leeds); Fawwaz Trabulsi (Lebanese American University); Ilan Pappé (University of Exeter); Juan Cole (University of Michigan, former president of MESA); Lisa Cooper (University of British Columbia); Tony Wilkinson (University of Durham); Sir Roger Tomkys (Chair of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce).

Admission: £30.00 for both days; £20.00 LMEI/BRISMES Affiliates/Members; £5.00 for students for one day. Pre-registration required, please contact Ms. Louise Hosking, e-mail: lh2@soas.ac.uk. More details will be posted on the LMEI website www.lmei.soas.ac.uk/home/index.cfm?navid=6 and the BRISMES website, www.brismes.ac.uk

The International Congress on the Persian Gulf

30 April – 2 May 2008, Tehran, Iran
The conference will address History, Ancient and Contemporary Geography, Social, Economic and Political Matters, Anthropology and Art on the Persian Gulf shores. For further information see the website <http://www.iranolologyfo.net/date1.aspx>

The Sixth International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (6 ICAANE)

5-10 May 2008, Rome, Università di Roma.

The aim of 6 ICAANE is to promote cooperation and information exchange between archaeologists working in all fields and areas of the Ancient Near East, from the Eastern Mediterranean to Iran and from Anatolia to Arabia, from prehistoric times to Alexander the Great. A special session will be devoted to Islamic archaeology. The International Scientific Committee has selected the following main topics: 1) Near Eastern Archaeology in the Past, Present and Future. Archaeological heritage and the archaeologist's identity. 2) Ethnoarchaeological and interdisciplinary approach, results and perspectives in Near Eastern Archaeology. 3) High versus Low: visual expression and craft production in the definition of social relations and status. 4) Excavations, surveys and restorations: reports on recent field archaeology in the Near East. For more information see <http://www.6icaane.it>

LMEI One Day Conference: Setting The Arab News Agenda: Who, How And With What Consequences?

12 May 2008, SOAS, London, UK

Media in the Arab world are now thought to be of great significance for politics, as attested to by the efforts of numerous actors to impact the news agenda. Governments, both regional and extra-regional, political parties and organisations, and influential commercial interests vie with one another through the Arab media to impact audiences.

The purposes of this one-day conference are to seek some preliminary answers to the questions of who sets the Arab news agenda, how they do it, and what consequences this media has, especially on Arab politics. What will be offered are selective case studies through which broader issues and trends can be illustrated. The panels themselves will combine presentations of information and analysis relevant to the topic, as well as interactive debate. Participants will include media professionals and analysts, as well as representatives of interests engaged directly with the Arab media.

The conference is organised by the London Middle East Institute, SOAS and supported by the Media Outreach Centre, US Embassy, London and the MBI Al Jaber Foundation. Admission Free – All Welcome. For further information please contact Ms. Louise Hosking, email lh2@soas.ac.uk or visit the LMEI's website at www.lmei.soas.ac.uk

The 2008 Gulf Studies Conference

1-4 July 2008, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University, UK

The Institute will host an interdisciplinary conference on the Gulf region (Arabia, Iran, Iraq), past and present, commemorating 30 years of Gulf Studies in

Exeter, UK. See www.ex.ac.uk/iais or contact James Onley, J.Onley@exeter.ac.uk. Questions about logistics should be addressed to L.Scrivens@exeter.ac.uk

BRISMES Annual Conference 2008: Mapping Middle Eastern and North African Diasporas
4-6 July 2008, University of Leeds, UK

BRISMES invites contributions which seek critical understandings of notions like Diaspora, Exile, Globalisation, Effects of war on terror, Postcoloniality, Xenophobia, Islamophobia, Transculturation and Occidentalism as they relate to the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Diasporas. Special focus will be on the migrating and diasporic ideas, sounds and images, including film, photography, music, theatre and performance. Papers which explore the boundaries between cultural and political dimensions of mobile spaces, culture and transnational migrations, local community diasporas, border zones and language contacts, are also welcome. Although this is a themed conference, papers relating to any aspect of the Middle East and North Africa will also be welcomed. Contributions from postgraduate students, and sessions focusing on particular areas within MENA, are particularly encouraged.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers include Professor Kim Knott and Professor Michael Suleiman. The conference will also include a publishers' exhibition, film screening and musical performance.

Titles and abstracts (250 words) for 20-minute papers, with a short biographical statement, contact details and affiliation should be sent 28th February 2008 to Dr Zahia Smail Salhi, Department of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK. Alternatively, email your abstract to z.salhi@leeds.ac.uk (please mark your email subject line: MENA diasporas). Proposals will also be considered for panels (of six papers or more). A 200-word rationale should include panel title, brief description of panel theme, name of the panel chair, and 250-word abstracts of each paper, contact details and affiliation for each speaker.

Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale
20-25 July 2008, Würzburg, Germany

The theme of the 54th RAI is *Organization, representation and symbols of power*. For further information contact the Convention Office, email rai54wue@googlemail.com, or visit www.altorientalistik.uni-wuerzburg.de/rai54

Seminar for Arabian Studies 2008
24-26 July 2008, British Museum, London, UK

The Seminar will be held, as usual, at the British Museum, and is sponsored by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation. The website will be updated once the provisional programme is ready: <http://www.arabianseminar.org.uk>

As in the previous two years, the Seminar will be opened by a Special Lecture, open to both the Seminar attendees and the public. This year the Seminar is very pleased to announce that the speaker will be Professor Dan Potts, who will give a paper on the evening of Thursday 24 July, entitled **Cartography and Cantatas: Arabia and the European Enlightenment**.

Red Sea IV: Connected Hinterlands
25-26 September 2008, Centre for Maritime Archaeology, University of Southampton, UK

Following the success of the first three Red Sea conferences, organised by the Society for Arabian Studies, the series is being continued by the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at Southampton. For further information see the advertisement on p. 38 or visit www.arch.soton.ac.uk/redsea08

Cambridge Symposium on Middle Eastern Studies: Knowledge and Language in Middle Eastern Societies

18-19 October 2008, University of Cambridge, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge, UK

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies invites papers to be presented at its international symposium on *Knowledge and Language in Middle Eastern Societies*. Papers can range from classical to contemporary times, and are encouraged to be in, but not limited to, 1) Language and identity. 2) Linguistic and literary analysis. 3) Transmission and classification of knowledge. 4) Production and distribution of religious and secular ideas.

Abstracts should be sent by email to Yoni Mendel, yym20@cam.ac.uk, by 28th March 2008. Submissions should be up to 300 words in MS Word or PDF format, and should include your name, affiliation and academic institution.

Society for Arabian Studies Biennial Conference: Death, Burial and the Transition to the Afterlife in Arabia and Adjacent Regions
27-29 November 2008, British Museum, London, UK

The Society's fourth Biennial Conference will review, synthesize, and contextualize the evidence for burial practices and associated beliefs in Arabia and neighbouring regions from earliest prehistory to the present day, covering a wide range of disciplines, including archaeology, physical anthropology, epigraphy, cultural anthropology, and theology

For further details see the advertisement on p. 39, and visit the Society website, where a provisional programme can already be downloaded, <http://www.societyforarabianstudies.org/dbconf08.shtml>

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS 2008

The Last of the Dictionary Men

Baltic Mill, Newcastle, UK

Until 5 May

Celebrates the venerable South Shields community of Yemeni seamen who came to Britain, often as stokers on British ships. The exhibition includes a film of boxer Muhammad Ali's wedding in the local Al-Azhar mosque.

Treasures: Antiquities, Eastern Art, Coins and Casts

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK

24 May 2006 – 31 December 2008

<http://www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions/?timing=current&id=16>

Over two hundred of the most significant objects in the Ashmolean's world-renowned collections of Archaeology, Eastern Art, Coins and Casts are on display side by side in an exhibition lasting throughout the Museum's major redevelopment. *Treasures* provides visitors with a rare opportunity to discover the historic crossing of time and culture in this portrayal of artistic achievement and the development of civilization in Europe, the Near and Far East. Originating from four continents, the treasures represent more than thirty cultures dating from Palaeolithic times to the present day. Selected for their extraordinary merit as rare, exquisitely crafted and outstanding objects, they are presented in nine sections reflecting basic aspects of human activity and interest throughout history.

War Artists in the Middle East

Imperial War Museum, London, UK

8 September 2007 to 11 May 2008

<http://london.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConEvent.1728>

This new exhibition, drawn exclusively from the Imperial War Museum's Art collection, brings together the work of British artists who have documented conflict in the Middle East from the First World War to more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Containing a number of works that have not been on public display before, this exhibition also incorporates travel journals, interviews, film and photography that document the experiences of artists working in a complex landscape and throughout the social and political changes that have shaped the Middle East we know today.

The exhibition provides a context for the display of *Queen and Country* by Steve McQueen. This new work, commissioned by the Imperial War Museum and Manchester International Festival, commemorates British soldiers who have been killed in Iraq. The project takes the form of a series of postage sheets featuring a photographic portrait of

the individual servicemen and women who have lost their lives in the conflict so far.

European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500-1750

Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago, USA

November 2 2007 – March 16 2008

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/maps>

An important collection of early printed maps, atlases, and sea charts that trace the changing view of the Ottoman world from the Age of Discovery to the 18th century is on exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago. The exhibition is being mounted in conjunction with the Chicago Festival of Maps, a major event beginning in November 2007 that will feature exhibits and programs on cartography at cultural institutions citywide.

The Arts of Islam: Treasures of the Khalili Collection

Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi

23 January – 22 April 2008

www.emiratespalace.com/en/home/index.htm?item_id=51876&details=1&offer=1

The Emirates Palace Hotel is currently hosting one of the world's largest and most impressive Islamic Art exhibitions, with over 500 pieces of Islamic artwork, dating back to over 1,000 years. Professor Nasser Khalili, Iranian scholar, collector and Benefactor, said the exhibition showcases works from the Khalili Family Trust collection of 20,000 pieces, and portrays the achievements of Islamic art and its far-reaching impact on different countries of the world.

Word into Art

Dubai International Finance Centre, Dubai, UAE

7 February – 30 April 2008

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/wordintoart>

Following its highly successful run in London, this exhibition has been taken to Dubai by the British Museum, in partnership with Dubai Holding. It is curated by Dr Venetia Porter, and focuses on the way modern Middle Eastern artists experiment with the calligraphic tradition. It is the first time that the British Museum has sent an exhibition to the region. The web address given above includes links to information on the artists, interviews and the online exhibition.

Saints and Sufis in Islam

Pergamonmuseum, Museum für Islamische Kunst

11 February – 27 April 2008

[http://www.smb.spk-](http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de/smb/kalender/details.php?lang=en&objID=18419&typeId=10)

[berlin.de/smb/kalender/details.php?lang=en&objID=18419&typeId=10](http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de/smb/kalender/details.php?lang=en&objID=18419&typeId=10)

The exhibition in the miniatures cabinet shows facets of Islamic religious life. Sumptuous Korans, prayer

books, and pilgrims' guide books from the 16th and 17th centuries represent the Muslim's main duties. Among the 20 album sheets from 17th century Mughal India is the famous picture of the emperor Jahangir and the crown prince Khurram congregating with members of their court at the mosque of Ajmer for the first Eid prayer marking the end of Ramadan. Other illuminations and miniatures show images of the Sufi movement with its mystics, ascetics, and saints, Hindus among them. The wise men were visited by monarchs as much as simple folks, especially women, hoping for advice and comfort. Presented by Museum of Islamic Art

In Palaces and Tents: The Islamic World from China to Europe

State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia

14 February 2008 – 7 September 2008

http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_En/04/2008/hm4_1_186.html

The exhibition recently opened at the Nicholas Hall of the Winter Palace is dedicated to the contacts between the Islamic World with the neighbouring cultures of Europe and China. It is aimed at displaying the immense variety of Islamic art as represented in the State Hermitage Museum collections and at demonstrating that the Islamic World has never been isolated from world culture but, on the contrary, has always remained as a deeply integrated part of it. The exhibition includes more than 300 pieces from different countries of the Islamic World and consists of four sections. The first section is devoted to Islamic art from the origin of Islam in the 7th century to the Mongol invasion (13th century). It is in this period that Islamic art absorbed the cultural traditions and achievements of the nations within the Caliphate's range of dominance, including Egypt, Syria and the Sassanid Empire. The second section illustrates the subsequent development of Islamic art from the Mongol invasion well up to the 16th century. The third section displays works of art dating from 16th-19th centuries from various Islamic countries, when Islamic culture was strongly affected by European traditions. The fourth section deals with contacts between Russia and the Islamic World. The exhibition's curator is A.D. Pritula, a senior scientific researcher of the Oriental Department and Head of the Near East Section.

A Century of Photographs from the Arabian Peninsula

Yemeni National Museum, Sanaa

16 February – March 10 2008 (then moving to Aden)
Information from an article by Eman al-Jarady in the Yemen Observer: <http://www.yobserver.com/news-varieties/10013740.html>

A unique collection of photos depicting scenes from the Arabian Peninsula taken over the last 100 years is currently the focus of an exhibition at the Yemeni National Museum. The mobile exhibition, consisting

of photographs collected from all over the Peninsula by Pascal D.Gueyle of the French Cultural Institute, will be displayed in seven Arab countries, including Yemen, over the course of two years.

Babylon

Musée du Louvre, Paris, France

14 March – 2 June 2008

www.louvre.fr/llv/exposition

For the first time assembling works from all over the world, this exhibition seeks to reconcile Babylon's history with its legend. It explores the various stages in the foundation of the ancient city and the extent of its influence, as well as the way in which the Babylonian myth grew out of its historical reality.

Art Dubai

Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE

19-22 March 2008

<http://www.artdubai.ae>

Art Dubai takes place every March at the Madinat Arena. As the first contemporary art fair in Dubai, the Fair has become a cornerstone for the rapidly growing art community of the Middle East. The 2008 fair will host nearly seventy galleries from the Middle East, Asia, Europe, North and South America, North Africa and Australia.

Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past

Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, USA

10 April – 31 December 2008-02-28

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/catastrophe>

The opening date of the exhibition, April 10, marks the fifth anniversary of the looting of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad. Although this was widely publicized in the international press, it is less well known that ongoing looting of archaeological sites poses an even greater threat to the cultural heritage of Iraq. The exhibition and a public symposium on April 12 (*Looting the Cradle of Civilization: The Loss of History in Iraq*) examine the ongoing destruction and looting of Iraq's cultural heritage.

Babylon: Myth and Truth

Pergamonmuseum

26 June – 5 October 2008

[http://www.smb.spk-](http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de/smb/kalender/details.php?objID=11220&lang=en&typeId=10&n=1&datum=26.06.2008)

[berlin.de/smb/kalender/details.php?objID=11220&lang=en&typeId=10&n=1&datum=26.06.2008](http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de/smb/kalender/details.php?objID=11220&lang=en&typeId=10&n=1&datum=26.06.2008)

Created in collaboration with the Musée du Louvre/Réunion des musées nationaux in Paris and the British Museum in London, this exhibition is the first to present in Berlin the close connection between the arts in Europe and the Middle East over a period spanning several centuries.

The first part of the exhibition shows numerous archaeological objects from Babylonia, which document the roots of European civilisation, reaching far back into the second century BC. The

second part looks at the reception of Babylonian culture in the history of European art and culture from late antiquity to the 21st century AD.

Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival

Bluecoat and other venues

10 – 27 July 2008

Celebrations of Arabic Arts will be taking place at various venues across Liverpool. It will include **Arab Cities** at the Bluecoat, an exhibition investigating intersections in art and architecture featuring sculpture, photography, film and installation works responding to the cities of Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, Mecca, Casablanca, Gulf cities and cities in the occupied territories.

Babylon: City of Wonder

British Museum, London, UK

13 November 2008 – 15 March 2009

www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/news_and_press_releases/press_releases/2008/forthcoming_exhibitions.aspx

The city of Babylon, situated in modern-day Iraq, has engendered the richest legacy in art and thought from great paintings to contemporary film and music. The exhibition will bring together such works of imagination with archaeological treasures from ancient Babylon, to reveal the reality behind the legends. The exhibition will focus on the period of Nebuchadnezzar (reigned 604 – 562 BC) bringing his capital to life through bombastic inscriptions on stone and clay, objects of cultic and daily life, magnificent enamel wall panels, and a newly-commissioned model of the architecture that made the city so famous. It will also examine the stories that have sprung from the city including the Tower

of Babel, the Hanging Gardens, Nebuchadnezzar's madness, the Babylonian Captivity and the city's infamous Fall. The exhibition concludes with consideration of the city's tragic recent history through video and photography. The exhibition is organised by the British Museum, the Musée du Louvre and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux Paris and the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin.

Beyond Babylon: Art and International Exchange in the Second Millennium B.C.

Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA

November 18 2008 – March 15 2009

http://www.metmuseum.org/Special/se_upcoming.asp

This exhibition of approximately 400 objects will highlight the extraordinary art found in both Near Eastern and neighboring royal palaces of the second millennium B.C. From Mesopotamia to Egypt, these elaborately decorated buildings, their treasuries filled with objects of the highest artistry, were part of a sophisticated network of kings, diplomats, and merchants. Throughout the second millennium B.C., powerful kingdoms were linked through commerce and diplomacy. The artistic impact of their interaction is reflected by the importation of precious materials destined for royal and temple treasuries and the creation of gold and silver vessels, ivories, seals, jewelry, and wall paintings, reflecting a fusion of Near Eastern, Aegean, and Egyptian styles. Such interrelations are clearly demonstrated by, among other finds, the astonishing material found in merchant shipwrecks off the shore of southern Anatolia that contained rich cargoes destined for the international elite.

BOOK REVIEWS

Thanks to our reviewers for their work, and special thanks to Will Facey for organising and editing this review section.

A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen

Shelagh Weir

London: The British Museum Press/Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007. xviii + 390 pp. 14 colour plates; 60 b/w photographs, maps and figures; 14 tables. Hardback, jacketed. Appendices, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. Price: £26.99. ISBN (UK): 978-0-7141-2579-4. ISBN (US): 978-0-292-71423-6

Shelagh Weir was doing fieldwork on Jabal Rāziḥ in north-west Yemen in 1979, studying the material culture of the town of al-Naẓīr, when a tribal dispute broke out. She found herself with a front row seat at

the conflict and its legal and ritual resolution. It was a "breakthrough event" for her. It led her to discover that, unlike elsewhere in Yemen, the tribal leaders responsible for maintaining peace and order in Rāziḥ have for generations kept records of their tribes' legal decisions which make up a canon of legal precedent. She was able to photocopy 350 of these politico-legal documents, and it became her doctoral work to translate and study them.

The result, *A Tribal Order*, commands respect. It amalgamates a law textbook with dramatic narrative and a masterly exegesis of the way of life on Jabal Rāziḥ. In it we learn what is unique and coherent about this society in its mountain fastness. At the same time the universal themes of Yemen's highland tribes are sounded throughout, making the work relevant to historians, anthropologists, Arabists and political analysts alike. Ultimately, whether or not

one agrees with all the analysis, one must admire this book as a *tour de force* and a much-needed tool.

The legal archives Weir analysed span 400 years, the earliest document dating from 1605. The most recent ones bring us up to the present era. They contain a wealth of information. They name every party to the “court of hearing” – those who seek justice, those who judge, those who advise, and those who validate the claimants and guarantee the remedies laid down. The papers record the verbal testimony given and they write up the decisions, pacts and treaties that result. With the help of local informants and colleagues, Weir has sifted through this trove to accomplish a comprehensive study of the law contained therein, the Arabic terms, and the identities of the actors involved.

It would have been enough to publish these documents providing annotation and commentary. Instead the book has been conceived as a monograph on Rāziḥī culture as seen through the legal system that governs it. It marries the skills of an ethnographer with those of a jurist and an Arabist. *A Tribal Order* starts with basics – the natural environment, the landscape and then daily life, building up a picture of the three main groups that make up this society (tribesmen, religious men and the “butcher” group) whose origins are said to derive from immigrants arriving in the mists of time. The structure of the tribes of Rāziḥ is explained, and their subsections, down from the major tribal divisions to the clans at the base of the pyramid, are clearly defined. How these polities fund and defend themselves, and how they share corporate subscriptions, are laid out in detail. We also learn how, at the top, the shaikh’s authority is conferred, how it operates and what ideals inform it. Then at the core of the book is a rigorous explanation of the system of tribal law itself, drawn from Rāziḥ’s documents and the many interviews Weir conducted.

The system of governance which regulates tribal people, preserves their interests and protects them in dealings with the outside world is known in Arabia as *‘urf*, customary law, and it functions alongside Islamic law (*sharī‘ah*) and more recent secular state law (*qānūn*) in a complex layering of mutual accommodation. In careful but confident steps the author defines her terms from her observations and reading of the collected texts. By the time we get to the explanation of *‘urf* itself, we know not to rely on the existing anthropological literature, but to listen intently to this researcher’s empirical evidence and to its internal logic. Weir admirably fulfils the admonition of her late mentor Ernest Gellner, to “write clearly and remain true to [your] data”.

In a book with so many strengths it is hard to pick out examples, but one must praise how the practicalities of real life are related to the abstract concepts of tribal law. For instance, an active shaikh should ideally live no more than two hours’ walk or so from anywhere in his domain, so that when he is

summoned to the scene of incidents he can come and go in half a day, avoiding the necessity to be fed an expensive midday meal, the cost of which might be seen as “coercive hospitality” under customary law. Another admirable feature is the book’s ability to illustrate how legal practice and moral compunction function in the tribal system. Take *rabākh* (a surety): “A plaintiff or culprit formally submits to the law by submitting ... a surety – usually a dagger or gun – to an elder or shaikh This act of capitulation breaks the tension, averts disorder, and initiates the legal process by empowering a leader to arbitrate or adjudicate.” Also noteworthy is the opportunity to appreciate how the tribal order has stayed constant over time, applying its precepts and rules to new circumstances such as the advent of motor transport or the rise of centralized government power. Both the documents from bygone days and those from the modern era enshrine the same ideals of mutual respect, conciliatory intent and fairness.

The text is mercifully light on anthropological jargon, and it does not suppose prior knowledge of the history of Yemen or its culture. The author is tremendously well read around her field and she takes every opportunity to compare her data to that of her colleagues and other researchers mostly in Europe and North America. She does not hesitate however to challenge the stereotypes of anti-tribalism to be found in both Yemeni and academic sources. The book is permeated with an unabashed conviction that the ideals and practices exemplified in Rāziḥī tribal life are eminently civilized and evolved. A way of life is championed with brilliant argument, but one may wonder where admiration ends and bias begins.

To illustrate how this book treads across hallowed ground, consider its treatment of clans (*abyāt*, meaning “houses”), the building blocks of tribes. Weir deduces from her observations on Jabal Rāziḥ that clans are not necessarily related by blood kinship. Rather clans are made up of clusters of dwellings whose householders deem themselves “bound by strands of friendship, neighbourhood, agnatic and affinal kinship and economic interdependence ... linked to other clans, especially in the same vicinity, by similar multiplex ties”. Emphasis is placed on a “genealogy of place” that “trumps kinship ties and putative descent” when clans merge or absorb new members. Weir casts herself off from those who would over-simplify clan membership as based indissolubly on lineage. For her, flux, change and contiguity are more at work than blood ties, which she downgrades to a veneer providing political stability. In her experience few Rāziḥī clansmen can trace their patrilineal descent beyond their grandfathers, and the conclusion is that one’s family tree is not the *sine qua non* of clanship, rather that clans “depend on ancestors and natal *bilāds*” (homelands), “merging human and geographical origins in a usually timeless

historiography". This emphasis on multiplex ties is very thought-provoking, and it moves us on in the quest to understand what clans really are.

But I have a problem with the assertion that clan identities derive from "an ideology of common descent" (my italics) not from genealogical fact, as if narratives of descent were always more spin than truth. Why not accept that bloodlines are the strongest bond of belonging? Weir seems to favour the sinew of place as the more plausible connectedness in these tribal communities. Indeed the geography of Rāziḥ must be crucial in understanding the psychology of its inhabitants. So when it is suggested that the effort to carve an existence out of its vertiginous slopes has led to a mythology of common ancestry, I am ready to entertain this notion but not at the expense of my trust in what the Yemenis themselves say about their traditions of kinship and the importance they place on them. The value of family ties is held in highest esteem in Semitic cultures, and perhaps this is hard for Westerners to credit fully. On Tihāmah at least, one can easily find knowledgeable genealogists who have recorded local family births for generations and who can recite family trees back at least to the first Ottoman occupation. Yes, ordinary folk cannot do this, but they wish they could. The ancestral line is called the *silsilah*, the chain, and it must not be broken, even though it might be relocated. The same view is held by al-Naẓīr's shaiḫ 'Awaḍ Maṣṣūr, who "vehemently denied that it was possible to change clan membership [saying] "People cannot repudiate their descent!": for him clan-swapping is almost an unnatural act.

There are aspects of the book that could be slightly improved. Among them the deconstruction of al-Ḥasan al-Hamdānī, the 10th-century Yemeni ethnographer, could perhaps be toned down. Weir echoes Dresch in inferring that he peddled propaganda "conforming with the state-inspired custom ... of constructing all-encompassing genealogical schemes to conceptualize and unify the expanding Muslim empire ... and classify and hierarchize its tribal structures for administrative purposes". Oddly Weir consults al-Hamdānī's *al-Iklīl* but not his monumental work of geography, the *Sifat Jazīrat al-'Arab*, where he mentions Rāziḥ, its wadis and its villages, much earlier than the 13th-century chronicle by Yahyā b. al-Ḥusayn which is referenced.

The profusion of Arabic terms given in this book must be one of its finest contributions, but there are minor shortcomings. Because the author's data incorporate oral as well as written information, and because there is a not yet fully understood dialect (language?) on Rāziḥ, discrepancies surface in the grammar and vocalizations she transcribes. For instance the third person possessive suffix appears variously as ōh, ūh, eh and h. The glossary would be stronger if it noted distinct Rāziḥī terminology and

transliteration of the local dialect. When terms first appear in the text sometimes the singular is indicated, sometimes the plural, and sometimes no indication at all. When a scene is described using an Arabic word without an English gloss ("The *shibāb* of Rāziḥ strut and swagger"), one pities the general reader. At least broken plurals should be cross-referenced to their singular form in the glossary. Furthermore the glossary would be improved if it included all terms that warrant a place in the index, while the index itself is missing some of the key Arabic terms encountered in the book. Also composite phrases, a feature of Yemeni Arabic (i.e. *jār wa qarār*), which pepper the commentary, would be welcome in the glossary in their own right. And, lastly, when the English translation is followed with an Arabic term, the latter should whenever possible match the grammatical form of the translation, a verb for a verb, a noun for a noun. With such suggestions the lay reader would not have to suffer frustration and the Arabist would be able to access the rich lexicon that this new work contains.

One final disappointment for anyone who knows Shelagh Weir's stunning photographs of Rāziḥ is the poor quality of their black and white reproduction here, and I am sure this pains the author as much as the reader. But if there is one impression I would like to leave in closing, it is how beautifully written the book is. Not only is this a major contribution to Arabian studies – intelligent, hugely informative and provocative – but it can be a joy to read as well.

Francine Stone

The Architecture of Yemen: From Yafi' to Hadramut

Salma Samar Damluji

London: Laurence King Publishing, 2007. 304pp. 328 x 248 mm. 600 illustrations, 400 in colour. Hardback with jacket. Price: £40. ISBN: 978-1-85669-514-5

Few of us who are privileged enough to have lived, worked or traveled in Yemen remain unmoved by that remarkable land. Yemen's unique appeal to architects, landscape and art historians, urban planners and interior designers needs no elaboration. The author of *The Architecture of Yemen: From Yafi' to Hadramut* requires equally little by way of introduction. Dr Damluji has published previously on the subject of Yemeni and other Arabian architecture, and this latest book represents the culmination of her research and thinking over more than two decades.

The author's early work centred on mud-brick buildings, an interest generated in part by a chance meeting in Beirut with renowned Egyptian architect Hasan Fathy in the early 1970s, which led her to celebrated Yemeni architectural hotspots such as Shibam and Tarim. Importantly, this new publication largely eschews such places in favour of less well-known settlements scattered across the Yemeni

hinterland, where equally extraordinary buildings are built in a range of different styles and materials. Access to some of these areas has traditionally been difficult, if not impossible, for foreigners, and in that respect the achievements of the author, and of this book, are all the more significant. Detailed coverage focuses on a number of buildings in four governorates in the south and east of the country: al-Dali' and Upper Yafi' in Lahij; Habban and Bayhan in Shabwah; Mukalla, Shihr, Wadi Hajr and Wadi Daw'an in Hadramawt. The Introduction includes limited consideration of the architecture of Wadi Hadramawt and Aden, alongside general contextual information.

The book's undoubted strength is the treatment of its case studies. Whilst some of the subjects may have been photographed and remarked upon previously by casual visitors to what are often remote locations, the vast majority are unknown to an outside audience and this is the first time that they have been properly surveyed and recorded by qualified professionals. They include some of Yemen's most important buildings. Photographs, generally of very good quality, sit alongside drawings of elevations, floor plans, sketches and isometric views to give unparalleled insight into design and construction techniques, as well as decorative elements. Detailed descriptions supply measurements, explain materials and techniques, and reveal how particular spaces are used and the nature of their relationship to each other. Both the level of information and standard of presentation are outstanding.

Absolutely central to Yemen's architecture are its master builders and craftsmen, and it is the author's engagement with these people, and her commitment to recording and conveying their knowledge and experience, that makes this book such a landmark contribution. Particularly valuable are the "Building Notes" sections – the author's accounts of technical discussions and interviews held with master builders – and the 24-page glossary of Yemeni architectural terms, undoubtedly the best of its type yet published. The account of the "closed shop" nature of the guild of master builders in Yafi', who until relatively recently jealously guarded their trade secrets from builders in neighbouring villages, is particularly interesting.

Whilst the narrative is essentially driven by its excellent case studies, it extends well beyond the domain of pure bricks and mortar into how traditional Yemeni buildings are used, and the ways in which settlement patterns have developed. Especially revealing are the author's observations on Yemen's changing social climate, and in particular the role of women in buildings and architecture. She notes how in Shu'ayb the women "... did not remember ever being veiled. They wore colourful dresses over trousers and rubber shoes; Shal'ah carried a handbag and ran around with amazing

energy." Yet times are changing in Yemen, and the role of women is now considerably more circumscribed. In Yafi', for example, where women traditionally played an active role in the workforce, helping to build roads and paint and decorate houses, they now wear black robes over their bright clothes and are segregated from men in a way that has reduced the immediacy of their relationship with construction.

Recent shifts in Yemen's social and cultural mores are paralleled by changes in its architecture. Whilst the author concludes that regional architectural traditions still have a powerful resonance, she notes that changes are taking place: cement is increasingly replacing stone as a construction material, for example, and introduced "foreign" features, such as *qamariyyah* fanlights (which are an essentially Sanaani characteristic) are becoming more widespread in regions where they were previously unknown. Yet the bottom line is that today's Yemeni master builders are still constructing outstanding buildings that speak essentially the same architectural language as those built by their forebears, a fascinating continuum which has all but evaporated elsewhere in the region. When running conservation workshops in Sanaa and Aden in the mid-1990s I recall asking first-year undergraduate architecture students whether they would prefer to build their own homes in a contemporary style or in the traditional technique of their region. Their overwhelming reply was in favour of the latter, a startlingly different response from the reaction that the same question might have elicited from their Emirati, Omani or Saudi peers.

The author rightly identifies this particularly Yemeni attachment to their indigenous built heritage as providing hope for the future, yet across the country traditional architecture and settlement patterns are falling foul of unsympathetic modern development, insensitive urban planning and, in many cases, inappropriate use and simple neglect. The next decade or so will doubtless reveal whether or not Yemen is about to succumb to the cult of bland architectural modernity that has become the hallmark of the Gulf states – for example, by its precious towns being obscured and degraded by incoherent new-build, with a few "heritage" set pieces maintained to satisfy the demands of cultural tourism. The urgency of the situation is overwhelming, and the author nails her colours to the mast early on: "This book is about cities that are being lost. It is for those who refuse to let this loss occur unopposed, and who consider that architecture can offer an intelligent pattern or matrix for the future."

I would have enjoyed rather more discussion of the various issues behind this dilemma, and more analysis of what is going wrong, and how it might be put right, but perhaps that is for another book. One especially welcome aspect of this publication is its

coverage of Aden's colonial architecture, for so long ignored or even derided – indeed, the author confesses to a prejudice against it during her earlier periods of work in Yemen – but here accorded a concise but mature and professional treatment. This, together with the research carried out by Marilyn Hywel-Jones and the inception of the Aden Victorian Architecture Project in 2006, will hopefully encourage others to focus further on this neglected area – and, indeed, on Aden's modern architecture, such as the 1960s apartment blocks along the Ma'alla corniche – before more of that city's anachronistic but fascinating built heritage is lost.

Meanwhile, this is an exceptional book and an epic achievement. It captures beautifully the lyrical spirit of Yemeni architecture, and underlines the practical application and value of a building style that both expresses the spirit of a people and could potentially act as a force for urban renewal in future. We can only hope that in due course studies of such care and professionalism will be produced to cover the built heritage of other regions of the country. Collectively, they could help the traditional architecture of Yemen avoid the ignominious fate of that elsewhere across much of the Middle East.

James Parry

Himyar: Spätantike im Jemen / Late Antique Yemen

Paul Yule

Aichwald: Linden Soft Verlag, 2007. Parallel German and English text. 192 pp. 80 colour and 4 b/w photographs, 27 maps and plans, 38 drawings and tables. Hardback. Glossary, chronology, sources. Price: €39.80. ISBN: 978-3-929290-35-6

This rather nicely produced book introduces the general reader to the kingdom of Himyar, the civilization that dominated the southern half of Arabia from the late 3rd to the late 6th century CE. Its culture and history are considered from a variety of different angles: its nature (ch. 1), physical setting (ch. 2), visitors to it, "Pliny to the present" (ch. 3), language and writing (ch. 4), calendar and chronology (ch. 5), historical overview (ch. 6), economy (ch. 7), funerary practices (ch. 8), social structures (ch. 9), religion (ch. 10), art and architecture (ch. 11), and war and hunting (ch. 12). Finally, there is a useful glossary (though sadly Beeston is not accorded a place among the South Arabian experts mentioned there) and lists of major historical events, Himyarite kings, and pertinent secondary literature. The principal strength of this book, and certainly its most attractive feature, are the many well-chosen and evocative images that adorn its pages and greatly facilitate appreciation of Himyarite culture.

An odd characteristic of the book is that it is in both German and English. Presumably this was done to reach wider markets without the expense of having a separate German and English edition. It does,

however, reduce substantially the space available for text, since the 110–120 printed pages (having discounted the acknowledgements, glossary, lists, credits, and the some 40–50 pages of illustrations) are thereby cut in half, giving us only about 55–60 pages of text. This is enough to give a good introduction to the subject, and indeed this book achieves that aim very well, but the author evidently has lots more information at his fingertips, and it would have been nice to have heard more of this. A second odd characteristic is that although the author spent all his formative years in an English-speaking environment ("born and raised in Minnesota", it says in the "About the author / Über den Autor" section at the back, though curiously only in the English version, not in the German one), the English version of the text is not very idiomatic; the author evidently wrote the German version, but did not (get the chance to?) revise the English translation. The most grating aspects of the English are excessive recourse to the historic present and the persistent, yet inconsistent, use of "*the* Himyar" instead of the Himyarites (the German version often has "die Himyaren") or just Himyar when the Himyarite tribe/people is intended (compare use of "*the* Kinda" on pages 48 and 51–52). Otherwise there are just many infelicitous translations (e.g. p. 19: "valued trees" for "hochwertige Bäume"; p. 37: "the general optical impression" for "der allgemeine optische Eindruck"; p. 40: "new overwhelming cultural impulses" for "neue überraschende kulturelle Impulse"; p. 41: "which reflect a goodly number of foreigners in the population" for "was auf engen Kontakt mit Fremden schliessens lässt"; p. 53: "Sumuyafa Ashwa ... is a prominent Himyar" for "... ein bedeutender himyarischer Fürst"; etc).

Notwithstanding these gripes, this volume does perform an excellent service in providing a clear and readable introduction to what is still a relatively unknown subject, and the inclusion of so many fine illustrations is really a wonderful bonus, one that will, I hope, encourage others to take an interest in this fascinating civilization.

Robert Hoyland

Food for the Gods: New Light on the Ancient Incense Trade

David Peacock and David Williams, eds. Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2007. xiv + 152 pp. B/w photographs, maps, tables and diagrams. Hardback. Price: £35.00. ISBN: 978-1-84217-225-4

The incense trade that plied from southern Arabia north to the Levant, the eastern Mediterranean and Mesopotamia, has long been regarded as a major contributor to the development of South Arabian civilization. The main focus of this useful little volume is on just part of this history, namely "on the Roman period and the archaeology of incense". Of the eight chapters, Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the volume; four chapters are

primarily based on historical texts (Chapters 2, 6, 7 and 8), and three are solidly archaeological (Chapters 3, 4 and 5). Potential buyers should note that part of Chapter 1 was inadvertently omitted with the result that an erratum page has been added and inserted as a loose-leaf addition.

Chapter 2, by Caroline Singer builds on Nigel Groom's seminal work, *Frankincense and Myrrh: A Study of the Arabian Incense Trade*. In fact, by grounding the research in primary classical sources Singer manages deftly to avoid citing Groom's work itself. Nevertheless, this is a useful chapter that supplies the historical context for some of the archaeological chapters that follow.

This historical overview of the Roman incense trade is followed by Chapter 3 which employs the analyses of volcanic rocks sampled from around the shores of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean coast of Arabia to demonstrate that ballast (an under-appreciated material!) found at Qusair al-Qadim on the Red Sea coast of Egypt came predominantly from Qana and to a lesser degree from Aden. This important article demonstrates the power of scientific methods in archaeology to provide fundamental new information on the very specific linkages within ancient trade routes.

In general, this volume offers little on the archaeology of the incense trade in Yemen or Saudi Arabia through which the products passed to the Levant. To some degree this gap is well filled by Sedov's dense and detailed Chapter 4, which supplements his earlier article in *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy*. This fine chapter, by providing an overview of archaeological work at Qana, charts the development of that important trading port on the south coast of Yemen from the 1st century BC, through its heyday in the 2nd–5th centuries AD, to its abandonment in the 7th century AD. The article is closed by a lengthy discussion setting the site of Qana in a broader context. This section announces the important discovery of "Sabir-type" pottery from Aden (p. 98), an observation which suggests that modern Aden may trace its history back to the 2nd millennium BC. Sedov also reminds us of the earliest evidence known from the island of Socotra, published in more detail elsewhere. Overall, the article makes a good archaeological case for the expansion of the maritime trade in incense from the 1st century BC.

Chapter 5, by Sunil Gupta, builds on his own work at the Indian site of Kamrej to provide an Indian perspective on the archaeology of the incense trade. Gupta argues for a reciprocal trade in goods from India to Arabia: thus the Romans exchanged essential goods from India for frankincense at the port of Kanê (Qana), with the result that there was a strong Hadrami engagement in the Indo-Roman sea trade.

Chapter 6, on the use of incense in Mithraic ritual, by Joanna Bird, is a reprinted version of an

article originally published in 2004. Chapter 7, by David Peacock and Lucy Blue is a brief but interesting article on the port of Adulis. Compiled primarily from written sources, this chapter does however make reference to a recent venture by an Eritreo-British survey project of the site, which has identified the location of 1st century AD ceramics, thereby "resolving the question of the whereabouts of the Aksumite harbour of Adulis". I would like to have seen more on this important discovery in this chapter.

The final chapter (8) by Myra Shackley supplies some fascinating insights into the modern use of incense. Shackley points out, for example, how there is an increased use of incense by Methodists today, and goes on to show how social practices and biases influence or stigmatize the use of incense. What looks like an interesting article by Shackley herself (1998) is (rather modestly) omitted from the bibliography.

Although it would be easy to see this as just another one of those books of collected papers that lacks a theme or cohesion, such a verdict would be unjust in this case. Rather, key organizing elements in the book are those chapters dedicated to the movement of ballast, and to the site of Qana. Both show just how focused, in both time and place, the incense route had become, at least in its later stages, and to some degree they provide an archaeological complement to other text-based chapters. In fact, archaeology, rather than supplying the "supplementary information that only archaeology can furnish" (Chapter 1) can be seen to provide fundamental data in its own right. Because this volume deliberately focuses upon the Classical and Roman/Byzantine incense trade, it (gratifyingly) leaves much for future books. Little is said (deliberately) on the splendid 1st-millennium BC cities along the incense trade route within the desert fringe of Yemen or Saudi Arabia, nor their foundations which arguably lie in the mountains of Yemen. Nor is the route to the north, following the Hijaz Mountains and/or the coast, dealt with. Nonetheless, it is gratifying to see the field of South Arabian archaeology and the incense routes that formed part of that network being explored with exemplary new sources of data.

T. J. Wilkinson

The Holy Cities, the Pilgrimage and the World of Islam: A History from the Earliest Traditions till 1925 (1344 H)

Sultan Ghalib Al-Qu'aiti

Louisville, US: *Fons Vitae*, 2007. 700 pp. 47 illustrations, 15 maps, 5 diagrams. Notes, appendices, bibliography, index. Hardback, jacketed, and paperback. Price: \$49.95/\$29.95. ISBN-10: 1887752947/1887752897.

Facing the table of contents in the introduction to this work is a 10th-century map showing Mecca and

Medina at the centre of the known world. It is an image that neatly encapsulates the approach taken by the author to this history: if the Holy Cities of Arabia represent the *omphalos* of the Islamic body, and the pilgrimage serves to orientate that body around this perceptual centre each year, then arguably the nerve endings of all Muslim history start and end here.

As this idea unfolds across the ensuing 600 pages, Al-Qu'aiti's account brings together three strands of tightly intertwined narrative: the history of Mecca and Medina as Islam's Holy Places in the Hijaz, with a particular focus on architectural developments; the history of the *hajj* as a social, cultural and political phenomenon through the rise and fall of various states, with a particular focus on Muslim philanthropy; and the history of Islam, from its early development in Arabia through to the 20th century, with a particular focus on the shifting balance of power outside Arabia as it was reflected in patronage of the Hijaz.

The interweaving of these strands in an account that is compilatory and expansive in character makes sense principally for two reasons. First, the conditions of the Holy Cities and the circumstances in which the pilgrimage took place act as a useful barometer of the cultural, the social and the political at different points in time across the wider Muslim world. Second, the perception of their centrality by decision-makers as varied as the Mongols and the British has had a significant influence not only on how events unfolded, but also on the motivations that drove them.

At the same time, however, it should be said that Al-Qu'aiti's work is an ambitious one. The fact that F. E. Peters effectively separated the first two of these three strands into separate volumes, one covering Mecca and the other the pilgrimage, and referred only where necessary to the third, is an indication of the scale of this undertaking. What allows the author to manage his material is his persistent narrative focus, both within and between chapters, a characteristic of the book that is both its strength and its weakness. If the work's chief strength thus lies in the broad sweep of this narrative, which is probably where its appeal will lie for non-specialist readers, then it is its limited critical analysis which might be construed as its Achilles' heel for the specialist.

For the general reader, a particular virtue of Al-Qu'aiti's story is his literal reliance on the Islamic sources. In providing genuinely accessible insights into the ways in which the annals of Muslim history have been written by Muslim historians across the ages, his account clearly reflects a cosmopolitan Muslim outlook on the construction of the past. This, however, leaves very limited space available for more detailed analysis and reflection on his theme, or for any intervening interpretation of his sources.

The lack of critical space is the inevitable weakness of the approach. More specialist readers

may also feel that by connecting the loose ends of Islam's traditions, particularly the earlier ones, in this way, the author has created the impression of a superficial coherence where they are aware of none. For example, a brief comparison of the opening chapter of this work with the relevant sections in Peters' volumes soon reveals the keen sense of teleological inevitability that is common to historical narratives written from a believer's perspective. There are other instances where an occasional switch to a more conceptual form of exposition could have strengthened the narrative flow.

However, there is much in the narrative on which Al-Qu'aiti's reading of Islamic sources sheds new light. He has an alert eye for the pertinent points of detail, and, amidst the personal anecdotes, there are a range of references and subordinate themes that could spark further enquiry into matters as diverse as Meccan sundials and the perceptions of the Muslim "Other" among the very inhabitants of the Hijaz. Where there are omissions, such as the absence of an account of the *hajj* and disease in the 19th and early 20th centuries, these are more than compensated for by the author allowing new and alternative voices to tell more substantial tales than might otherwise have been possible.

The work is visually rich, including a black-and-white photographic essay by HRH Princess Reem al-Faisal and a wide range of historical prints, early *hajj* photographs, maps and other illustrations. The photographic essay is of interest primarily because it presents a more intimate portrayal of pilgrim life than is usually conveyed by the visual spectacle of the more common panoramic images of the modern *hajj*, and this informal and more private perspective provides a vivid counterpoint to the forceful march of Al-Qu'aiti's wide-ranging narrative of more formal and public history.

The other images either support that narrative – the mosque photographs providing a visual accompaniment to illustrate the flourishing of Islamic culture in its many different geographical locations – or provide points of entry for more specialized enquiry into the alternative ways in which Islam's Holy Places have been visualized at different points in time by different image-makers and for different audiences.

The text is supported by detailed appendices and referencing but, perhaps inevitably in a work that is as digressive as this, there are some weaknesses. Chapter 6, which treats of the insights afforded by medieval travellers, is cursory; there are careless typographical errors (the second half of p. 109 is particularly problematic); and some aspects of the presentation, in particular the inclusion of extended quotations from other sources, could easily be improved. The work is also caught between the different levels of contextual detail needed for Muslim and non-Muslim audiences; the latter may feel a need for a more formal account of some points

of ritual and theology than that provided at various points in the text.

The author is none the less to be congratulated on bringing to publication a sweeping narrative of Islamic history from his unique vantage-point in the Hijaz, and for presenting an original work of interest to specialist and layperson alike.

Paul Robertson

A Season in Mecca: Narrative of a Pilgrimage

Abdellah Hammoudi. Tr. from French by Pascale Ghazaleh.

Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006. 224 pp. Hardback and paperback. Price: hardback £50.00/paperback £12.99. ISBN-10: 0-7456-3788-4 / 0-7456-3789-2

This is a *hajj* account that cuts across the conventional distinctions separating Muslim from non-Muslim travellers to Mecca. In the modern world, these distinctions are often defined by attitudes to identity and questions of intent, but they can also be approached in terms of the categories of knowledge that pilgrims introduce to their journeys, in particular the disjunction between “religion” and “science”.

Abdellah Hammoudi, an anthropologist wishing to observe the *hajj* and a pilgrim apparently keen to follow its course, experiences just this disjunction. Unsure as to the extent of his own duplicity, he knows only that his journey has no eschatological purpose. Yet the questions he poses about the sincerity of his motives go beyond the persistent surface doubts about the alternative forms of knowledge on which his journey draws: they reflect deeper personal uncertainties about the cultural shadows cast by his Moroccan past over the dispassionate persona of the enquiring modern academic.

It is no surprise that Hammoudi should project these categories onto a journey that takes him to Mecca. Here, like many other pilgrims, he implicitly encounters a physical embodiment of the psychological point by which a collective Muslim self is defined. However, this particular pilgrim’s progress rarely extends beyond the author’s personal story and it is difficult to see the deeper myths of the *hajj* exercising any real influence over the broader human conflict in which Hammoudi is engaged. This is surprising, for the author draws extensively on the mythical material, most notably the story of Hagar. The characterization of the crux of his dilemma as an attempt “to square a circle” reveals the limitations of the kind of intellectual solution he tentatively constructs from this material.

Put differently, the journey sometimes lacks a deeper affective quality, and the reader is ultimately left with the impression that the text could have engaged with the *hajj* in ways that would have been more significant than the web of word games endlessly spun around the Arabic root letters by Hammoudi’s anthropological ego.

It is perhaps inevitable given the author’s equivocal perspective that any resolution to his dilemma is persistently postponed. Yet this simply raises further questions about the sincerity of the whole textual endeavour, specifically whether the moral qualms the author reveals in the text are simply part of a somewhat empty rhetorical strategy in which the pilgrim anthropologist is unwittingly caught.

That is not to say that this account does not contain some illuminating insights. The awareness Hammoudi demonstrates of the impact of the theological discourse on the experience of many ordinary Muslim pilgrims travelling to Mecca is illuminating. His ability to shift his own narrative perspective by incorporating, for example, lecture notes or diary fragments, also enriches the text.

The author’s interest in the politics of the modern *hajj* opens up an additional dimension to the journey. But this is perhaps the least convincing strand of his intricate tale, partly because the political structures of the Muslim world are presented solely as systems of repression and corruption, and partly because they are described in a tone that is consistently moralizing.

The final disjunction that Hammoudi thus constructs between Islam’s political and cultural forms is never a particularly convincing boundary. In fact, it is difficult to see his attempt to separate culture from politics along these lines as anything more than a further expression of the divisions the pilgrim author has already acknowledged within himself.

Paul Robertson

Mumbai to Mecca

Ilja Trojanow. Tr. from German by Rebecca Morison. London: Haus Publishing Ltd/Armchair Traveller, 2007. 224 pp. Small hardback with jacket. 2 calligraphic illustrations. Glossary. Price: £11.99. ISBN: 978-1-904950-29-5

Many modern *hajj* accounts have literary aspirations; this is one of the few of genuine literary merit. The author’s shifting perspective and intuitive sense of the visual lends his series of carefully crafted vignettes a significance that is always greater than the sum of its individual parts. Central to the clarity of the writing is the overall sense of literary purpose and the result is a vivid and engaging text characterized by deftness of touch and originality of observation.

The work is presented as a travelogue in the *rihlah* tradition. The basis for such a bold claim is questionable, as the author’s occasionally idiosyncratic interpretations of that tradition, for example when he styles *rihlah* as a “unique time-out”, do occasionally undermine the sense of the work as a continuation of that particular canon. Nevertheless, the two key points made by the author in a brief prologue do reflect a measured

understanding of *hajj* travel writing and help explain the success of his literary endeavour.

The first is the necessary distinction between the *hajj* as a collective Muslim ideal and the inevitably imperfect reality of the individual pilgrimage, which the narrator of this journey accepts without becoming entangled in the kind of moral judgments that have marred many accounts of the rite. The second is the need for his readership to understand the distinctive narrative focus of Muslim *hajj* writers, who are generally careful to avoid the kind of detailed or systematic revelation of inner experience as they relate experiences and perceptions that are always subject to, and perhaps fragmented by, the external reference points of the underlying theological script.

There is never any sense that this journey is a search, even in the very modern sense of being a search for an experience, though there are occasional instances where one or two of the less felicitous summative comments made by the author might suggest otherwise. Nor can it be said to represent a search for the self, at least not in the sense of an attempt to reconstruct some sense of deeper unity from the fragments of modern man. Such processes, if they have played a role in the construction of this text, have been carefully concealed beyond the surface narrative and it is implicit that whatever personal transformations led to this journey, they are not especially recent.

A particular strength of the work is that it is constructed around an acute sensitivity to the fluidity of community boundaries, including those in which the author and the travellers he encounters choose to partake. A chance encounter in Mecca between the author and a pilgrim born and brought up in Blackpool illustrates this well. Presenting himself initially to the author on the basis that they share a common allegiance to the same continent, Europe, this British Muslim subsequently expresses a desire to return "home" to India in search of an authentic communal experience of Islam not to be had in the north of England.

The author's own identity partakes of just such ambiguities. Introduced as a "German author of Bulgarian origin", he initially uses his knowledge of English in Mumbai as a cultural commodity by bartering it for Islamic instruction as part of his preparation for the *hajj*. Yet he can also be susceptible to a tangible sense of otherness, most obviously in relation to the Muslim confrères he leaves behind in India at the start of the journey. That this sense of separation is wrought by his own transition into *ihram* and advancement to pilgrim status only underlies the paradox of many of the boundaries and transitions in which the journey implicates him.

Given this cosmopolitan outlook, it is no surprise to read of the author's response at the heart of Mecca, where he writes of the collective catharsis that is often experienced on *hajj*. Comparing his

experience to that of the other pilgrims at a point in the journey where the requirement is simply to "be" in Mecca, he writes tellingly: "I too felt the need to lose myself, but didn't know what to lose myself in." Devoid of any other context, this remark might strike the reader as little more than an empty rhetorical flourish. But the author's sensitivity to cultural practices and community affiliations undergoing radical redefinition among the Muslims he encounters arguably lends the statement a deeper significance.

As a motif that infuses the account, it is this relationship between the uncertain and shifting forms of Islam and the boundaries perceived and crossed by the pilgrim traveller, that may be said to lie at the heart of this narrator's journey. Furthermore, if the logical conclusion of the *hajj* is for the pilgrim to transcend the distinctions made salient by the journey to the site of the ritual, then this aspect of the text is the most convincing basis for any comparison between the observations of this pilgrim and those of the *rihlah* masters.

Paul Robertson

Windtower

Anne Coles and Peter Jackson

Foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales. London: Stacey International, 2007. 200 pp. 304 x 252 mm. 200 colour and b/w photographs, architectural drawings and diagrams. Hardback with jacket. Price: £35.00. ISBN 978-1-9009-881-0

Coles, a social geographer, and Jackson, an architect, have collaborated to produce a detailed record and analysis of the social structures and environmental factors that moulded the cosmopolitan, mercantile society that grew up in the late 19th and early 20th centuries centred on Bastakiyya, the old quarter of Dubai. The windtower has become a symbol of this social development and an intriguing discussion on the history and the technicalities of windtowers is skilfully woven into the subject.

The book has a number of strengths. The foremost is that the social and architectural surveys were undertaken in the 1970s, when the original families still lived, played and worked in the Bastakiyya quarter in buildings designed to fulfil their specific needs and reflect their values. Both of these surveys have been expanded and updated to record the rapid and unprecedented changes of the last thirty years and how they have left their mark on Bastakiyya: fifty percent of the quarter has been demolished; all the families have been moved away, some against their will; urban studies and development programmes have been commissioned; the remaining buildings have been preserved to become museums or tourist facilities such as boutique hotels or cafés, and for the last decade the quarter has been sympathetically administered by The General Projects Department, Dubai Municipality. Another of the book's strengths is the

technical analysis of how the windtowers' performance varies throughout the year – an analysis made possible through recent advances in climatic recording instruments and techniques, which allowed Australian environmental engineers to show that the windtower house can efficiently produce comfortable living conditions.

The book begins by providing an historical analysis of the development of Dubai up to the present day and the special part played by the founding merchant families of Bastakiyya. They came to Dubai from the Arab-controlled southern coastal area of Persia in the late 19th century in response to political changes in their country. They were sophisticated, as for generations they had been trading around and beyond the Gulf. Through intermarriage and their commercial interests they maintained close contacts with brothers, uncles and cousins in the great mercantile centres of Bombay, Karachi, Calcutta and Aden. Indeed, as an indication of their wealth, one of the founders often visited Paris on pearling business, and owned his own yacht.

At first they lived in palm houses with simple timber-framed windtowers beside the Creek, but by the end of the century they were constructing masonry houses with windtowers on the Persian pattern. In 1969–71, through talking to the women of the families, Coles recorded the details of everyday life in these houses from their foundation in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Every aspect of daily life in the quarter is recorded – from the functions of the private and public spaces, the domestic courtyards and their wells, to gathering fuel, obtaining food and cooking. Animals and their husbandry are described, including how sheep lived in the courtyards before being slain for Eid. The social divisions within the community's families were based on wealth, influence and marriage. These divisions are all considered, as are the close relationships between families and their servants such as the fact that an employer would often arrange and pay for a servant's wedding. Religious life and education were important to all of the families, and since the 1950s many of their members have attended universities in Europe and the States, and having excelled in their professions have returned to contribute to the success of their community.

Each of the seven magnificent windtower houses considered by the book is given its own chapter. This is an especially valuable contribution to the study of the region's architecture, for not only are they presented in clear and detailed drawings, with drawn scales (a feature generally ignored by many authors) but every floor, room and interesting feature is considered. And, for each house, the seasonal migrations from the ground to first floor or the roof are given not only for the family group but for its individual members.

One house surveyed by Jackson, but demolished in 1985, was the basis of the wind tunnel experiments described. They proved that the direction of the windtowers enabled the air currents to be caught with minimal turbulence, and this air was distributed so that it clung at a low level to the walls of a room, precisely where people sat cross-legged on the floor and leaning against the walls.

Traditional construction materials and techniques are described. The 'arish houses which efficiently use every part of the palm tree to provide shelter, privacy and ventilation; the masonry houses with the qualities and uses for the different types of stone, the lime and gypsum renders, and the various timbers available.

This is a lavishly illustrated book and a valuable and unique record of the various Bastakiyya families – their family relationships in far-flung ports, the excitement of visits from these relatives, children playing games, and the men and women discussing their respective and varied interests. My only sorrow is that I am left with the feeling that the vibrancy, hubbub and smells of the place evoked by Coles and Jackson can never be regained.

Dr Archie Walls

Yemen into the Twenty-first Century: Continuity and Change

Kamil A. Mahdi, Anna Wurth and Helen Lackner (eds).

Reading: Ithaca Press, 2007. Exeter Arab and Islamic Studies Series. xxviii + 464 pp. 3 maps. Tables and figures. Bibliography, index. Hardback. Price: £35. ISBN: 978-0-86372-290-5

This edited work is based on a conference held in 1998 at the University of Exeter that examined the problems facing Yemen in the 1990s. Some papers have been updated but all discuss Yemen before 2000 and few make direct reference to the 21st century of the title. There is no explanation for the long gap between the conference and publication. There are 17 papers in all, plus the text of an address given at the conference by the then Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani.

Many of the individual articles make important contributions to our understanding of Yemen in the late 1990s. But readers looking for a comprehensive view of Yemen at the end of the 20th century will be disappointed, as the book does not discuss in separate chapters either the domestic or international political background, or the oil and gas sector which emerged in the 1990s as a major source of state income. It omits such issues as tribalism or the growth of political Islam in its moderate and extreme forms, which are among the major challenges in the first years of the 21st century. Some of these topics are covered in an admirably lucid introductory chapter, and clearly influence the analysis in subsequent articles, but this will not be enough for some scholars.

The book's greatest strength lies in the quality of the analysis of some of the major problems facing the Yemen in both the last and present centuries. These are grouped under the themes of the political economy and the restructuring it was undergoing in the 1990s; the legal system; the environment, water and large agricultural land tenure; and social and regional issues. They are set in a Yemen living through the consequences of the major events of the 1990s: the unity in 1990 of the former Yemen Arab Republic with the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), and the failures in the original unity agreement that led to the three-month civil war of 1994. The situation was made much worse by the forced return from Saudi Arabia of 800,000 migrants in 1990 when Yemen was seen as siding with Iraq in the confrontation following Baghdad's occupation of Kuwait.

What this book brings out best is the depth of Yemen's problems and the limited resources and capacity of the government to tackle them without external support and much deeper internal reform. The high rate of growth of the Yemeni population at nearly 3 per cent annually puts immense pressure on resources in a country with a GDP per caput of below US\$600. Christopher Ward's article ("Practical Responses to Extreme Groundwater Overdraft in Yemen") on the water crisis describes the way in which groundwater is being "mined" and rapidly depleted. The full extent of the water problem can be summed up by some of the statistics quoted: each Yemeni has available 140 cubic metres of water annually compared with a world average of 7,500. Current policies are accelerating the rate of extraction and Yemen does not do enough to make more effective use of rainwater. Richard Tutweiler in his article ("Research Agenda for Sustainable Agricultural Growth and Natural Resource Management in Yemen") cites how terraces are being eroded through lack of maintenance. He also examines how agricultural practices can be enhanced in a country that is still predominantly rural and heavily dependent on agriculture as a source of employment.

Yemenis have lived with these problems for decades and emigration has long been the panacea for hundreds of thousands. As Norah Ann Colton points out ("Political and Economic Realities of Labour Migration in Yemen"), the traditional flow of migration has been from Yemeni villages to cities abroad. Remittances from migrants helped fuel and shape the economy. The return of so many migrants in 1990 added to Yemen's difficulties and several of the writers describe the serious problems faced by the migrants themselves (some had lost virtually all contact with their families or villages) and the country that had to absorb them. Fortuitously the impact of the loss of remittances in the years after 1990 came as Yemen started generating more of its income from internal sources, mainly oil, even if in

the late 1990s it was offset by low oil prices. There was a rapid growth in some sectors of the economy that increased the power of the elite, but created problems that led Yemen to start restructuring its economy with the support of the IMF. Such reform may have been necessary but did little in the short term to relieve poverty or promote employment, as several writers note.

Oil and gas do not create many jobs and too much government income goes to consumption, a political necessity. Yemen's oil exports already show signs of decline, and gas reserves, though important, are relatively limited. Yemen needs local and foreign investment to build up new sources of employment. The articles in the legal section of the book discuss how Yemen's legal system adapted to the unity of the two Yemens, and one focuses on the commercial courts which, alongside transparent legal process, are essential to bring in investment. It is just as important too that decision-making processes relating to major projects are transparent.

Several writers refer to the need for educational reform, and in an excellent survey Mutahar A. Al-Abbasi shows that much still needs to be done to ensure greater participation in schooling, particularly by girls in rural areas, and in generating the skills that Yemenis will need to work in 21st-century economies, either in Yemen or as migrants.

The final articles analyse some of the social issues that affect the daily lives of Yemenis. The health sector in the 1990s had many inadequacies. Beth Kangas looks at the many Yemenis who seek treatment abroad and the sacrifices they make to pay for it. For those interested in some of the effects of the PDRY's socialist policies there is a particularly useful contribution from Helen Lackner, whose book, *PDRY: Outpost of Socialist Development in Arabia* (Ithaca, 1985) is one of the best available on the PDRY. She examines changes in land tenure in what are now called the southern governorates as the united Yemeni government sought to reverse the policies of its socialist predecessor. One other piece worth singling out is by Susan Dahlgren ("Islam, Custom and Revolution in Aden: Reconsidering the Background to the Changes of the Early 1990s"), who shows that the impact of the PDRY's policies on social attitudes affecting women were not as profound as thought. Women in Aden may enjoy equality at work but not at home.

This book will be indispensable to those interested in how Yemen fared in the first ten years after unity, for many of the problems analysed and the solutions proposed remain valid today. They show that Yemen has just about coped with the difficulties since unification but that a great deal still needs to be done to sustain the country's long-term viability. Since 9/11 the world has woken up to the fact that Yemen is a key factor in regional security and that the international community – not least its wealthy Gulf neighbours – must help Yemen to deal

with its problems. This book shows where such help needs to be applied and the urgency of the task.

Noel Brehony

The Emirates: Witness to a Metamorphosis

Donald Hawley

Norwich: Michael Russell Publishing, 2007. 348 pp. 234 x 156 mm. 32 images. Hardback, jacketed. Price: £28.00. ISBN 978-0-85955-305-6

This review comes at a sad moment, following as it does the death, on 31 January 2008, of Sir Donald Hawley, whose writings on the history and culture of south-east Arabia added lustre to a distinguished diplomatic career.

The Trucial States of the period when Hawley served there as Political Agent (1958–61) are now a lost world. The metamorphosis into the world player that the UAE has become, which is described in the first part of the book, was then very much in its infancy. Each of the seven states (“Emirates” is a title which only came about with the creation of the UAE) was fiercely independent. There was frequent squabbling between them and indeed Dubai and Abu Dhabi had not long previously been at war. Federation between them was a distant ambition – of the British, rather than the states themselves.

There were hardly any roads and travellers between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, including the shaikhs, frequently got stuck in the sabkha (salt flats) when the tide was in. The creek at Dubai (the most advanced of the shaikhdoms) was prone to silting up after storms and there was no bridge across it. Even in Dubai the state administration and finances were rudimentary; there was no municipality, no land registry, and no town plan. Medical services, under the commanding presence of Lt.-Col. Desmond McCaulley (IMS, ret'd.) were primitive and, outside Dubai, virtually non-existent.

Oil exploration, particularly on Das Island, had not yet revealed the colossal extent of Abu Dhabi’s reserves although the British authorities were already concerned at the reluctance of the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Shaikh Shakhbut, to put in place an administrative framework to deal with the consequences of rapidly increasing wealth. The economy was largely dependent on traditional sources of revenue and, in the case of Dubai, customs revenues and smuggling gold into India. Agriculture was in its infancy.

Security was in the hands of the British-officered Trucial Oman Scouts (TOS). They reported, on the political level, to the Political Agent, who exercised Britain’s responsibilities for the states’ security and external relations as well as retaining jurisdiction over non-Trucial States citizens. Most importantly of all, he advised the Rulers on virtually everything apart from their domestic affairs.

The heart of Hawley’s book is a detailed picture, built up from his diary and letters home to his

parents, of how he carried out this unique role in the British public service. His days are packed with meetings with the shaikhs, the numerous British professional advisers who were being recruited to serve in Dubai, oilmen and TOS officers, and a wide assortment of visiting firemen. The picture that emerges is of the foundations steadily being laid for the astonishing metamorphosis of the book’s title.

The driving force in this process was Shaikh Rashid of Dubai (father of the present Ruler). A man of no formal education – indeed describing himself as “only a bedu” – he comes across nevertheless as a decisive leader with a strong natural intelligence, a shrewd judge of character and a warm personality. He also had a progressive vision for his shaikhdom and, unlike Shaikh Shakhbut in Abu Dhabi, was ready to seek and take advice. It was to Hawley that he chiefly turned for such advice, and Hawley through whom London channelled it. The easy and constructive relationship built up between the two men, as revealed in these pages, was, during those years, the critical element in charting the path of Dubai’s development. His successors kept up the good work.

For anyone interested in looking behind the glittering façade of to-day’s UAE, this book will give a fascinating insight into how its foundations were laid. It is an account of one of the most productive chapters in Britain’s usually fraught relationship with the Arab world, and provides further testament to Hawley’s distinguished career in the region.

Michael Burton

Underground to Overseas: The Story of Petroleum Development Oman

Terence Clark

London: Stacey International, 2007. xiii + 248 + viii pp. 280 x 240 mm. Colour and b/w photographs throughout. Hardback, jacketed. Price: n/a. ISBN 978-1-905299-46-1

It was indeed high time that the story of PDO was set down in one book (here presented in both Arabic and English). Well done PDO for commissioning it. But even greater commendation must go to the author, Sir Terence Clark, by his immediate admission an outsider to the oil industry, for his diligent research and for achieving as lively, readable, entertaining yet accurate synopsis of the story as one would wish for. This book is indeed the place to find a succinct version of the events, political and practical, leading to the penetration of Oman’s interior, and the frustrating search for and ultimately momentous discovery of the source of Oman’s wealth.

Any such condensed account has to be highly selective. A whole chapter is given to the geological surveys in the first half of the 20th century up to their halt for WWII. Succinct cover is given to the tireless efforts of Edward Henderson in 1948–54 to negotiate access for PDO to start work in its concession area, culminating in the famous beach landings in Duqm

in 1954, whereupon the geologists could get to work. This focused on the Fahud outcrop on which so much expectation was based, and which so dashed hopes when the first well drilled in 1955 was dry.

Highlights of the drilling of the oil discovery wells are amply covered. But a significant omission, to grind this reviewer's axe, was the establishment of Arabist Liaison Representatives in the interior. The role of Stuart Watt, based in Ibri in the late 1950s, in comprehending the relationships of the tribes of the interior and their leaders, was vital in allowing the company's work to proceed. Those of us lucky enough to follow him as Reps drew heavily on the detailed knowledge he had gained; it enabled us to play our part in keeping the operations running. Incidentally, Pat Bannerman (Rep, Ibri, 1960) would be embarrassed by the caption to his photograph on page 35 leading one to think that Reps went to work

on camel-back; the occasion was his celebratory departure! Landrovers without roofs and few spare parts were the rule in 1961.

The subsequent story of oil exports and consequent great expansion of oilfields throughout Oman is severely condensed, but does provide a scatter-shot of significant personalities and company activities to the present day.

Julian Lush

REVIEWS IN THE 2008 BULLETIN

The Reviews Editor welcomes suggestions from readers of books to be considered for review in the next edition of the *Bulletin*. Please contact William Facey at: william.facey@arabia.uk.com

PUBLICATIONS ON ARABIA

The Editor comments: this year we have decided not to attempt to include all articles written on matters Arabian, given the impossibility of making a comprehensive list which covers the entire remit of the Society for Arabian Studies. We are prepared to include new PhD theses under the Books section if the author submits the details to the editor.

NEW BOOKS 2007-08

A-Z by author

al-Fassi, Hatoon Ajwad

Women in Pre-Islamic Arabia: Nabataea
2007. BAR S1659. £30.00. xii+129 pages; 37 plates, 2 in colour ISBN 9781407300955.

In addition to feminist studies, this work uses epigraphy, archaeology and classical sources, as well as recent developments in historiography, to understand Nabataean society and Nabataean women in particular.

Al-Harbi, Dalal Mukhlid (author) & Roberg-Abahsain, Jill Ann (ed.)

Prominent Women from Central Arabia
2007. Ithaca Press. ISBN-10: 0863723276. ISBN-13: 978-0863723278. Hardcover: 177 pages. 23.8 x 16 x 2.2 cm

Women's contributions to Arabic and Islamic society, be they cultural, religious, medical or military, have been recorded by Muslim historians throughout the ages. However, little has been written about the contribution of women from more recent contemporary central Arabian society. This volume explores sources ranging from published material to manuscripts, documents and oral history in an attempt to redress the balance.

Alsharekh, Alanoud, ed.

The Gulf Family: Kinship Policies and Modernity
2007. Saqi Books. SOAS Middle East Issues. Paperback. 198 pages. ISBN-10: 0863566804. ISBN-13: 978-0863566806. Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.3 x 0.7 inches. Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces

The contributors in *The Gulf Family* examine the paradox of the persisting importance of family and tribe in the face of modernization. Published in association with the London Middle East Institute at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies).

al-Qu'aiti, Sultan Ghalib

The Holy Cities, The Pilgrimage and The World of Islam. A History: from the earliest traditions till 1925 (1344H)

2007. Louisville, Fons Vitae. Paperback Price: \$29.95; Hardback Price: \$49.95. Page Count: 700; 47 Illustrations; 15 maps; 5 diagrams. ISBN: 1887752947; ISBN: 1887752897

This book investigates the colourful, often astonishing story of the two great cities of Mecca and Medina.

Andersen, Søren Fredslund

The Tylos Period Burials in Bahrain, Vol. 1. The Glass and Pottery Vessels

2008. Culture & National Heritage, Bahrain, in association with Moesgard Museum and Aarhus University. Pp. 262, ill. EUR 46.95. ISBN 978 87 7934 373 3

Barrett, Roby C

The Greater Middle East and The Cold War – US Foreign Policy Under Eisenhower and Kennedy

2007. IB Tauri., ISBN 9781845113933
Roby C Barrett casts fresh light on US foreign policy under Eisenhower and Kennedy, illuminating the struggles of two American administrations to deal

with massive social, economic, and political change in an area sharply divided by regional and Cold War rivalries.

Bleaney, C.H., ed.

Index Islamicus

2007. Brill. 8th edition. Available online.

An international classified bibliography of publications in European languages on all aspects of Islam and the Muslim world. It covers the main Muslim areas of Asia and Africa, as well as Muslims living elsewhere. It contains 339,479 records as of November 2007.

Cobbold, Lady Evelyn.

Pilgrimage to Mecca

2008. Arabian Publishing Ltd. ISBN: 0954479289 : 9780954479282. Illustrations: 50 b/w photos, 1 map.

Hardback. Size: 156x234mm. Pp 320. List Price: £25
A re-edition of the 1934 memoir of Lady Cobbold, the first British woman convert to Islam on record as having made the pilgrimage to Makkah and the visit to the Prophet's Tomb at Madinah. With an Introduction by William Facey & Miranda Taylor and Footnotes by Professor Ahmad S Turkistani.

DeLong-Bas, Natana J.

Wahhabi Islam – From Revival and Reform to Global Jihad

2007. IB Tauris. ISBN 9781845113223

Wahhabism is portrayed by the media and public officials as an intolerant, puritanical, militant interpretation of Islam that calls for the wholesale destruction of the West in global jihad. In the first study ever of Wahhabism's founder, Muhammad Ibn al-Wahhab (1702-1791), Natana DeLong-Bas shatters these stereotypes.

Ehteshami, Anoushiravan

Globalization and Geopolitics in the Middle East Old Games, New Rules

2007. Routledge, Durham Modern Middle East and Islamic World Series. ISBN: 978-0-415-42632-9. Hardback. Pages: 258

This book provides a much needed assessment of the impact of globalization in the 'greater' Middle East, including North Africa, in the context of the powerful geopolitical forces at work in shaping the region today.

Ehteshami, Anoushiravan & Wright, Steven, eds.

Reform in the Middle East Oil Monarchies

2007. Ithaca Press. Hardback. ISBN-10: 0863723233. ISBN-13: 978-0863723230

Elie, Serge D.

The Waning of a Pastoralist Community: An Ethnographic Exploration of Soqatra as a Transitional Social Formation

2007. D. Phil. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex, UK.

This dissertation aims to elucidate the current dynamics of Soqatra's politically mediated and

development induced communal transition within a historical continuum.

Højlund, Flemming

The Burial Mounds of Bahrain: Social complexity in Early Dilmun

2008. Jutland Archaeological Society Publications 58. Pp. 178, ill. EUR 46.95. ISBN 978 87 88415 45 2

Joseph, Suad

The Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures (Set Volumes 1-6)

Brill. 6 Volumes. ISBN 978 90 04 13247 4

A unique collaboration of over 1000 scholars from around the world, the Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures crosses history, geographic borders and disciplines to create a ground-breaking reference work reflecting the very latest research on gender studies and the Islamic world.

Juynboll, G.H.A.

The Encyclopedia of Canonical Hadith

2007. Brill ISBN-13: 978 90 04 15674 6. ISBN-10: 90 04 15674 7. Hardback. Number of pages: xxxiv, 806 pp. List price: € 209.00 / US\$ 289.00

This encyclopedic work on Islam comprises English translations of all canonical ḥadīths, complete with their respective chains of transmission (isnāds).

Koironi, Agus

A Complete Guide to Arabic Grammar: Volumes I and II

2007. Booksurge Publishing. Paperback: 442 pages. ISBN 1419659413.

Labib, Tahar

Imagining The Arab Other – How Arabs and Non-Arabs Represent Each Other

2007. IB Tauris. ISBN 9781845113841

In this innovative study, Professor Tahar Labib seeks to understand how the 'Other' is viewed in Arab culture, and vice versa. "Imagining The Arab Other" examines how Turks, Europeans, Christians and Iranians have been represented in the arts, opinions and cultures of the Arab world.

Manners, Ian

European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos

2007. Oriental Institute Museum Publications 27. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2007. Pp. 144; 53 color and 5 b/w illustrations. 9.0 x 11.5 inches. \$42.00. ISBN: 978-1-885923-53-0. ISBN: 1-885923-53-8

This lavishly illustrated catalogue of the exhibition *European Cartographers and the Ottoman World*, explores how mapmakers sought to document a new geography of the Near East that reconciled classical ideas and theories with the information collected and brought back by travelers and voyagers. The text is accompanied by images of illuminated manuscript charts and atlases, the earliest printed maps of the

Ottoman Empire, and bird's-eye views of cities that provided "arm-chair travelers" with the experience of knowing distant places.

Mattair, Thomas R.

The Three Occupied UAE Islands – The Tunbs and Abu Musa

2007. IB Tauris. ISBN 9789948007647

Documenting the historical record and examining the relevant international precedents, this comprehensive study assesses the legal and sovereign rights of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands.

McAuliffe, Jane Dammen, ed.

Encyclopaedia of the Qur'ān

Brill. 6 volumes, also available as CD-ROM.

Drawing upon a rich scholarly heritage, Brill's Encyclopaedia of the Qur'ān (EQ) combines alphabetically-arranged articles about the contents of the Qur'ān. It is an encyclopaedic dictionary of Qur'ānic terms, concepts, personalities, place names, cultural history and exegesis extended with essays on the most important themes and subjects within Qur'ānic studies. With nearly 1000 entries in 5 volumes, the EQ is the first comprehensive, multi-volume reference work on the Qur'ān to appear in a Western language.

Niblock, Tim & Malik, Monica

The Political Economy of Saudi Arabia

2007. Routledge. ISBN 978-0-415-42843-9. Pp. 280

With Saudi Arabia being of immense importance both politically and economically in the Middle East, this book provides a much needed, broad ranging survey of the development of the Saudi economy from the 1960s to the present day.

Rushing, John

Mission Al-Jazeera: Build a Bridge, Seek the Truth, Change the World

2007. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-10: 1403979057. ISBN-13: 978-1403979056. Hardcover. 23.4 x 15.5 x 2.8 cm

A spokesman for the U.S. military joins Al-Jazeera and evolves from a cliché-spouting PR robot to a more thoughtful position.

Sakr, Naomi

Arab Television Today

2007. IB Tauris. ISBN 9781845115630

Probing internal and external interventions in the Arab television landscape, this book offers a timely and compelling sequel to Naomi Sakr's 'Satellite Realms: Transnational Television, Globalization and the Middle East', which won the Middle Eastern Studies Book Prize in 2003.

Sluglett, Peter

Britain in Iraq – Contriving King and Country

2007. IB Tauris. Library of Middle East History v. 12. ISBN 9781850437703

As the attention of the world is focused on the increasingly beleaguered U.S. and U.K. occupation

of Iraq, Iraq expert and Middle East historian Peter Sluglett revisits Britain's creation of Iraq in the twentieth century in this thoroughly revised edition of his classic text 'Britain in Iraq'.

Starkey, Janet; Starkey, Paul; Wilkinson, Tony, eds.

Natural Resources and Cultural Connections of the Red Sea. Proceedings of Red Sea Project III held in the British Museum October 2006.

2007. Society for Arabian Studies Monograph No. 5; BAR S1661. Oxford, Archaeopress. ISBN 9781407300979. £36.00. ix+261 pages; illustrated throughout with figures, maps, drawings and photographs; Index.

Sunayama, Sonoko

Syria and Saudi Arabia – Collaboration and Conflicts in the Oil Era

2007. IB Tauris. ISBN 9781845113025

Commentators and analysts have questioned why these two states have pursued mutually conflicting aims in almost every major regional or international foreign policy issue and often propagated contrasting ideological banners over the past thirty years. Here, Sonoko Sunayama explores the logic behind the paradoxical longevity of this cooperative relationship and argues that what ultimately makes Saudis and Syrians so indispensable to each other is the perception and the historical appeal of 'shared identities', be they Arabism or Islam.

Vincent, Peter

Saudi Arabia: An Environmental Overview

2007. Taylor & Francis Ltd. ISBN-10: 0415413877. ISBN-13: 978-0415413879. 25 x 17.4 x 2 cm

This volume contains the very first comprehensive overview of Saudi Arabia's environment. It is a unique and authoritative text on the geological and environmental aspects of Saudi Arabia.

Weir, Shelagh

A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen

2007. British Museum Press. xviii + 390 pp. 14 colour plates; 60 b/w photographs, maps and figures; 14 tables. Hardback, jacketed. Appendices, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. Price: £26.99. ISBN (UK): 978-0-7141-2579-4. ISBN (US): 978-0-292-71423-6

See the review in this edition of the Bulletin.

Yule, Paul

Himyar: Spätantike im Jemen/Late Antique Yemen

2007. Aichwald: Linden Soft Verlag. Parallel German and English text. 192 pp. 80 colour and 4 b/w photographs, 27 maps and plans, 38 drawings and tables. Hardback. Glossary, chronology, sources. Price: €39.80. ISBN: 978-3-929290-35-6

See the review in this edition of the Bulletin.

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES

See also the *OTHER ONLINE INFORMATION* section for journals and newsletters of various societies involved in the Middle East

Adumatu

www.adumatu.com

ISSN 1319-8947. Adumatu, PO Box 10071, Riyadh 11433, Saudi Arabia. Editor: Dr Abdullah Alsharekh, contact at adumatu@sufuh.net.sa

Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy

www.blackwellpublishing.com/jnl_default.asp

ISSN: 0905-7196. E-ISSN: 1600-0471. This bi-annual journal serves as a forum for study in archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, and early history of countries in the Arabian peninsula. Editor: Daniel T. Potts, School of Archaeology The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. For further information email soren.hemmingsen@mks.blackwellpublishing.com

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.

Atlat: Journal of Saudi Arabian Archaeology

ISSN 1319-8351. Ministry of Education, PO Box 3734, Riyadh 11481. ISSN 02564009.

Banipal: Magazine of Modern Arabic Literature

www.banipal.co.uk/home/index.php

In its latest issue Banipal celebrates ten years of publishing – translating and showcasing hundreds of Arab authors who have never had their works published in English before, presenting newly emerging and well-established writers.

Chroniques Yémenites

<http://cy.revues.org/>

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@revues.org

Current World Archaeology

www.archaeology.co.uk

Published 6 times a year. Subscriptions to: CWA, Barley Mow Centre, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH. Tel: 08456 447707. Email cwa@archaeology.co.uk

Fauna of Arabia

www.libri.ch/agency/services/faunaofarabia.htm

A continuous 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 2998. It can be ordered from Karger Libri AG, Tel. ++41 61 306 15 23. Email a.murdoch@libri.ch

International Journal of Middle East Studies

www.jstor.org/journals/00207438.html

IJMES is a quarterly journal publishing 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. Email ijmes@georgetown.edu

Journal of the British-Yemeni Society

www.al-bab.com/bys

ISSN 1356-0229. Contact the Honorary Secretary, British-Yemeni Society, 2 Lisgar Terrace, London W14 8SJ. Tel: 020 7603 8895.

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

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 labeled 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.

Paléorient

www.mae.u-paris10.fr/paleo_index.htm

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

Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies

www.arabianseminar.org.uk/proceedings.html

ISBN 190573901X. £45.00. 299 pages; numerous figures, plans, maps, drawings and photographs.

The Arab

<http://www.the-arab.com>

Newly launched in January 2008, The Arab is an English language magazine on the most topical issues and under-reported stories in the Middle East & North Africa today. It is published six times a year, and provides a balanced understanding of the political, cultural and social landscape of a region at

the top of the international news agenda, through thought-provoking, erudite, good quality journalism.

Tribulus, Journal of the Emirates Natural History Group

ISSN 1019-6919. PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

OBITUARIES

**Tom Abercrombie
1930-2006**

If anybody lived a full life of travel and adventure it was Tom Abercrombie, who died in Baltimore, USA, on 3 April 2006 from complications following open-heart surgery. Until his retirement in 1994 he was one of the National Geographic magazine's senior and most experienced writer-photographers, who had undertaken assignments in every corner of the earth from Alaska to Kazakhstan, Japan to the Sahara, Tibet to the South Pole. During his 38 years with the magazine he contributed 43 major articles to its pages. After retirement he taught geography at George Washington University.

Tom Abercrombie, born in Minnesota of Scottish ancestry, married Lynn, his childhood sweetheart, in 1952. She too was a National Geographic photographer, and many of their expeditions were made together, producing articles noted for meticulous research and brilliant photography. In 1954 he was nominated the USA's "newspaper photographer of the year", and in 1959 "magazine photographer of the year", the only person ever to achieve both honours.

Abercrombie was particularly noted for his work in the Muslim world, where he traveled widely, wrote 16 of his articles and converted to Islam. Joining the *hajj* in 1965, he produced a vivid account of his experiences as a pilgrim which included a famous and spectacular panoramic shot of the circumambulation of the Kaaba in Makka. He regarded a monumental article *The Sword and the Sermon* (July 1972) as his proudest accomplishment, attaching the highest importance to building bridges of understanding between Islam and the West.

He visited all the countries of Arabia and some notable articles on these assignments included *Behind the Veil of Troubled Yemen* (March 1964), a description of the Yemen Republic during its formative years, and, in conjunction with Lynn, *Oman – Guardian of the Gulf* (September 1981), which surveyed Oman from Musandam to Dhofar as it began to enter the modern world. These in-depth reports involved months of extensive preparation, research and travel – perhaps none more so than their joint coverage of the route of the ancient incense trade (*Arabia's Frankincense Trail* – October 1985),

undertaken during the period of Marxist rule in the former Aden Protectorate. Six months of travelling, almost entirely overland by Land Rover and with many diversions, led them from Dhofar to Mukalla and thence to Hadhramaut, ancient Shabwa and Qana, Bayhan, Marib, Sanaa, Aden, Sada, Najran, Makka, Madina, Mada'in Salih and so onwards to Petra. During this epic journey they took some 20,000 photographs, from which 20 were finally selected to illustrate the article. When passing through Bayhan they found an ancient, undiscovered ruin-site in a hidden valley, described in the article *Nuqman – an Unknown Qatabanian Sanctuary* in the 2004 issue (no. 9) of this Bulletin, of which they were co-authors and which contained some of their photographs.

Thomas James Abercrombie, born 13 August 1930, was aged 75 when he died. His wife Lynn and their son and daughter survive him.

Nigel Groom



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Society for Arabian Studies Monograph Series

Series editors: D. Kennet & St J. Simpson

The *Society for Arabian Studies Monograph Series* was launched in 2004 with the intention of encouraging the publication of peer-reviewed monographs on the archaeology, early history, ethnography, epigraphy and numismatics of the Arabian Peninsula and related matters. Creating a specific monograph series within the *British Archaeological Reports International Series* is intended to allow libraries, institutions and individuals to keep abreast of work that is specifically related to their areas of research. While research and conference volumes in the series will be peer-reviewed according to normal academic procedures, the decision was taken to allow the publication of doctoral theses, field reports, catalogues and other data-rich work without peer review where this will permit the publication of information that might not otherwise be available.

PUBLISHED MONOGRAPHS

Derek Kennet, with a contribution by Regina Krahl

Sasanian and Islamic Pottery from Ras al-Khaimah

Classification, chronology and analysis of trade in the Western Indian Ocean

Archaeopress: BAR S1248 (2004). Society for Arabian Studies Monographs, No. 1, ISBN: 1-84171-608-1
£32.00

Paul Lunde & Alexandra Porter (eds)

Trade and Travel in the Red Sea Region: Proceedings of Red Sea Project I held in the British Museum, October 2002

Archaeopress: BAR S1269 (2004). Society for Arabian Studies Monographs, No. 2, ISBN: 1-84171-622-7.
£33.00

Janet C. M. Starkey (ed.)

People of the Red Sea: Proceedings of Red Sea Project II held in the British Museum, October 2004

Archaeopress: BAR S1395 (2005). Society for Arabian Studies Monographs, No. 3. ISBN: 1-8417-18335
£30.00. iv+176 pages; 35 figures, plans, drawings and photographs; 7 maps; 7 tables; index.

Nadia Durrani

The Tihamah Coastal Plain of South-west Arabia in its Regional Context c. 6000 BC – AD 600

Archaeopress: BAR S1456 (2005). Society for Arabian Studies Monographs, No. 4. ISBN: 1-84171-8947
£32.00. 164 pages, b/w tables, figs, pls.

Janet C. M. Starkey, Paul Starkey & Tony Wilkinson (eds)

Natural Resources and Cultural Connections of the Red Sea: Proceedings of Red Sea Project III held in the British Museum, October 2006.

Archaeopress; BAR S1661, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs No. 5. ISBN: 9781407300979. £36.00.

FORTHCOMING TITLES

C. S. Phillips & St J. Simpson (eds)

Softstone in Arabia and Iran

Michel Mouton

La Peninsule D'Oman De La Fin De L'age Du Fer Au Debut De La Periode Sassanide

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Please contact the editors in the first instance:

Dr Derek Kennet, Department of Archaeology, Durham University, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK

Derek.Kennet@durham.ac.uk

or

Dr St John Simpson

Department of the Ancient Near East, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, UK.

ssimpson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

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