The Society for Arabian Studies

**Notes for contributors to the Bulletin**

The success of the Bulletin depends entirely on the good will of its members and correspondents, for it is they who provide us with the news and articles that go into it. Your notes on news for inclusion in the next Bulletin should contain: 1. the title of the research project, 2. the name of the organising body/ university (if applicable), 3. the name of the director or researcher and his/her institutional affiliation, 4. a short description of the project, stating when and where it was conducted, its main objectives, and results, 5. whether or not the project is expected to continue in the future, 6. full details of recent and forthcoming publications. In addition, we welcome news items of general interest, ongoing and completed postgraduate research, news of upcoming conferences, meetings and special events, and ask that you give us the title or subject of the event, along with the name of the organiser, the date and the location. Submission by e-mail is welcome. HD disks in PC or MAC format preferred for longer contributions.

Transliteration of Arabic, where required, should follow the IJMES scheme. However, contributors may prefer to omit transliteration marks altogether. Bulletin questionnaires will be distributed in the summer, although information is welcome at any time for inclusion in the next issue of the Bulletin. Proposals for ‘feature articles’ should reach the Editor by August 1st. Contributions will be received up to 1 December for general material (but later for winter excavation and research reports).

**Notice to applicants to conduct research in the Yemen**

Applications to conduct research in Yemen should be made to the Society’s sub-committee, BAMY, c/o The British Academy and addressed to its Honorary Secretary, Mr Peter Parr.

**Grants in aid of research**

Details under ‘grants’. Applicants are advised to apply in good time before the deadlines of 31 May / 31 October.

**Notice to applicants for official sponsorship**

The Society will consider applications from expeditions and individuals to whom official sponsorship might be helpful in obtaining funds from other sources or permission from foreign governments. Such 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 forms available from the Hon Secretary at address below, or to Dr Derek Kennet, Chairman Grants Committee, derek.kennet@durham.ac.uk., or download from website www.societyforarabianstudies.org

Please direct all correspondence to: The Society for Arabian Studies, c/o The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK

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A message from the Chairman

It’s not easy these days to write about the Society’s activities in the field of Arabian studies when the region with which the society is concerned, albeit mainly in historical terms, is convulsed with the problems of war, terrorism, religious fervour, etc. The Society has always been firmly apolitical, concerned with historic Arabia, anthropological, geographical, architectural, literary Arabia, distancing itself as far as possible from contemporary issues. Yet 2005 has been a mournful year in many respects, relevant to all interested in the peninsula, for whatever reason, with the demise of an older generation of rulers (see Obituaries, p27) – King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Amir Jaber of Kuwait, Shaikh Maktoum of Dubai. Their deaths cast a pall of uncertainty over the region; we offer condolences to their successors and our hopes for a more settled future.

In political terms there’s nothing the Society can do or would want to do. What we can do, however, and this is an increasingly vital role, is publicise as widely as possible the history and culture of the peninsula. Ionis Thompson organises a programme of public lectures, generally well attended thanks to her efforts to bring other societies on board (fewer clashes, is the aim). Jan Picton produces an excellent Bulletin, this year with the help of Will Facey in augmenting the number of book reviews. Janet Starkey managed to produce in seven months the Proceedings of the second Red Sea Conference held in October 2004, and is now hard at work organising the third conference (see p10). Publications have become a significant part of the Society’s activities, thanks to St John Simpson’s and Derek Kennet’s development of a series of monographs in conjunction with Archaeopress; this is a considerable achievement given the general reluctance of scholars to go into print (nothing new in this but frustrating nevertheless). We do need the back-up from our members in all this and we do need more members!

With the Society wholly dependent on subscriptions for most of its activities, however, it is difficult to play an active role in one particular aspect of Arabian history: the looting of sites which help to elucidate it. This is a particularly grave problem in Yemen, where the authorities are faced with the almost insuperable problem of guarding the many ancient sites, as well as with the insatiable greed of the art market and its clientele. Tourism can be part of the answer, particularly if governments can be persuaded to reserve some of the income thus generated for the protection of sites. We do urge you to go.

Sarah Searight, Chairman

Membership details from Ionis Thompson, the Hon. Sec., Society for Arabian Studies, c/o The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH UK. Membership renewals: contact the Treasurer, Douglas Stobie, address above, or e-mail: stobie@chiterne.freeserve.co.uk

E-mail: ionisthompson@ukonline.co.uk

Website: www.societyforarabianstudies.org
The Society’s Monograph Series has now successfully published, with Archaeopress, its fourth title. After the successful launch of Derek Kennet’s book on Sasanian and Islamic pottery from Ras al-Khaimah, and Paul Lunde and Alexandra Porter’s publication of the RSP 1 Proceedings, Trade and Travel in the Red Sea Region, we now have the impressively prompt RSP 2 publication, People of the Red Sea, edited by Janet Starkey, and Nadia Durrani’s The Tihamah Coastal Plain of South-West Arabia in its Regional Context c. 6000 BC – AD 600.

Several more manuscripts are in advanced stages of preparation or discussion with the authors. The Series Editors are Dr Derek Kennet and Dr St John Simpson, and either would be delighted to hear about any new proposals. They can be contacted on derek.kennet@durham.ac.uk or ssimpson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

- The British Archaeological Mission in Yemen (BAMY) committee for 2006 is - Chairman: Professor Rex Smith; Acting Chairman: Dr Venetia Porter; Hon Secretary: Mr Peter Parr; Dr Salma Damluji; Miss Beatrice de Cardi OBE; Mr John Grondon OBE (representing the Society); Dr Geoffrey King; Mr Carl Phillips; Mr Clive Smith OBE. Details of grants and activities can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary BAMY, Peter Parr, The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5A
- In 2004, the Society gave a £400 grant to Nasser Said al Jahwari towards his work in the Wadi Andam area, Oman. The report on the results of his research can be found on p.5.

THE SOCIETY FOR ARABIAN STUDIES 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 an annual Bulletin, organises regular lectures and supports field projects in this region.

The Society also offers grants for research into these aspects of Arabian studies. These 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. The maximum grant to be awarded will be £500.

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. The awards will be tenable for a 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 Society for Arabian Studies 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.

Application forms are available from the Grants Committee Secretary, Dr Derek Kennet, by e-mail: derek.kennet@durham.ac.uk or by post from the Society’s Hon. Secretary, Society for Arabian Studies, c/o The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

www.societyforarabianstudies.org

SOCIETY FOR ARABIAN STUDIES GRANTS in 2005 were made to Julian Jansen van Rensburg (£450) to support research into the hawari of Socotra through an ethno-technical study of selected long established fishing villages (see feature in Bulletin No. 10, 2005), and to Paul Yule (£500) to support the preparation of maps to be included in a publication Himyar: A Late Pre-Islamic Arabian Kingdom between the East and West.
During the period from 15th December 2004 to 30th March 2005, I carried out the first season of my research fieldwork in al-Sharqyah region in the Sultanate of Oman. I thank the Society for Arabian Studies for its participation in funding my fieldwork which lasted for 105 days, and the hire of a four-wheel-drive vehicle. A house in al-Alya village in Walayat al-Mudhaybi at Wadi Andam was rented to be a central point for my work as this village is conveniently located between Muscat, the capital city (c. 120 km away), and Sinaw/Barzaman in far south.

Research aims
The aim of the research is an attempt to examine the settlement history of the Oman Peninsula through the passage of time, mainly from Haft Period (Late 4th Millennium BC) to the Late Islamic Period. This includes, in particular, the northern part of Oman, as the southern part has a different settlement history as well as different patterns. The research is intended to show the continuity and discontinuity in settlement patterns, and examines the landscape of the ancient agricultural settlements (wadi settlements) from the watersheds and upper wadis zones in the north through the lower wadis, gravel hills and broad wadis to the gravel flat interfluvial zones in the south.

Methodology and results
The total area surveyed and investigated was approximately 100 km by around 40 km (c. 400 km²). The study area was divided into four geographical zones: the watershed and upper wadis zone in the north; the lower wadis zone; the gravel hills zone and broad wadis to the gravel flat interfluvial zone in the south. Three types of area surveys were carried out during the fieldwork. These include control area survey for selected wadi settlements (villages), upper Wadi Andam control survey and Haft cairn survey. In total, 220 sites have been recorded during the surveys (Figure 1). The preliminary results of these surveys can be summarised below.

1- Wadi settlements (villages) control survey
This survey included a chosen wadi settlement (village) or area and around 2km² around this settlement, and then doing control survey in the surrounding 5km² near the village or chosen area. Six wadi settlements (villages) were surveyed, each one representing one of the divided geographical zones as mentioned above. These villages are al-Falaj (zone one), al-Qaryatain (zone two), al-rawdah (zone two), al-Khashbah (zone three), al-Khurais (zone three), and Barzaman (zone four).

![Total Number of Sites in Each Surveyed Area](image-url)

**FIGURE 1**: Chart presents the total number of sites found in each surveyed area.
Each village and its surrounding area were surveyed by car and on foot, and they were recorded in detail. Furthermore, a control survey was carried out of around 5km² in the area surrounding each village in order to check whether or not there was evidence of occupation away from these villages. The primary survey results showed a large number of sites and sub-sites within each wadi settlement and its surrounding areas.

The six villages surveyed showed that there is earlier occupation within them. These villages yielded sherds from the third millennium BC (Umm an-Nar Period), a very few possible Second Millennium B.C sherds (Wadi Suq), a large number of Early and Late Iron Age, and sherds from several Islamic periods (Fig. 2). The control survey of 5km² away from the villages showed little evidence of occupation, and these are not major sites. The majority of sites found away from the villages or wadi settlements are tomb fields, either Hafit cairns or beehive tombs.

On the other hand, the lowlands further south did not show any evidence of earlier occupation. Sample areas were visited and checked for possible occupation such as the area from Barzaman down south toward Muhut for more than 5km². This area did not show any evidence of either occupation or burial cairns. This could be related to the nature of the area that includes wide wadi beds and interfluves, which is not suitable for settlements.

2- The Upper Wadi Andam control survey (CS.2)

The fieldwork, moreover, included a control survey of the area that extends from the junction of Wadi Andam on the main road connecting Muscat via Sur, to the junction near Khadra Bani Dafa’a on the main road connecting Izki by Sinaw. In other words, the control survey included the area that covers the upper Wadi Andam, which extends for around 39 km long and around 2 km wide along the wadi edges and its hills as well as its gravel terraces.

The survey results in this area yielded around ninety-four sites in which sixty-nine are major sites (CS.2.1 to CS.2.69). Different types of features and periods have been recorded ranging between stone structures,
tomb fields, villages, towers and other structures. These sites range from the late fourth millennium BC until the Late Islamic periods. Apart from the Islamic sites, four Umm an-Nar sites have been recorded, which include stone structures of different sizes and shapes, tombs and towers, as well as high density or concentration of Umm an-Nar pottery sherds. Furthermore, a large number of Early and Iron Age sites have been recorded.

3- The control survey of Hafit cairns
One of the research aims was to establish a rough distribution of Hafit cairns from the north watershed and upper wadis to the southern limit of the gravel-flat areas and interfluves along Wadi Andam. This was done in order to locate as many as possible of these cairns and to gain a proper understanding of their distribution.

Apart from the cairns and tombs recorded within some of the above surveyed villages, around nine areas were surveyed for Hafit cairns. The results of these surveyed areas show that there is a high density of cairns in zone three that represents the gravel hills and broad wadis. This represents the area starting from al-Khashbah village to Sinaw, and from al-Khashbah to al-Mudhaybi where more than 1145 cairns were counted. The area from al-Musala to Barzaman, which is located between zone three and four, showed around 280 cairns. This does not include the area from Sinaw to Barzaman, which is not surveyed yet and may also include more cairns. Zone one, in particular upper Wadi Andam (CS.2), also showed a large number of beehive tombs and cairns. The majority are beehive, in particular the area from al-Alya to Khadra Bani Dafa’a where most of the yellow rocky hills on the wadi banks showed a large number of beehive tombs and cairns on the summits and on their slopes, consisting of around 249 cairns and tombs. This number does not include other types of tombs such as Mahleya type, which are uncountable. Moreover, the area around al-Falayj village showed more than 198 cairns and beehive tombs as well as other possible types. However, it is obvious that the highest density of cairns is in zone three while the lowest density area is around Barzaman in the south (zone four). Zones one and two showed a small density of cairns. On the other hand, Beehive and Umm an-Nar tombs are more concentrated in zone one (Upper Wadi Andam and al-Falayj) and zone three (al-Khashbah).

It should be mentioned that no associated settlements around these cairns have been found. The only structures found, so far, associated with these cairns are groups of piled and paved stones that look like platforms as well as cleared areas. These possible platforms and cleared areas could be the stone foundations of wooden houses or huts such as barasti that have vanished with the passage of time. They may be the only evidence of occupation to survive. Apart from this theory, the absence of Hafit remains
could also be due to the fact that they have been long buried beneath alluvial floods and sedimentation over the passage of time.

The pottery

The total number of sherds collected on the surface from the control survey areas is 19,240. These sherds were sorted into different groups.

FIGURE 4: Chart showing the total number of sites in each area surveyed that produced Umm an-Nar sherds.

FIGURE 5: Chart shows the total number of sites in each area surveyed that produced Early Iron Age sherds.
Of the 19,240 sherds, 903 sherds were considered as diagnostic, and were numbered, photographed, as drawn and described. Generally speaking, the results show that multi-period occupation existed in most of the surveyed areas. Figure 3 shows a high evidence of occupation during the Middle and Late Islamic periods and a very low density in the Early Islamic period. On the other hand, during prehistoric times, the evidence produces a high density of occupation during the third and first millennia, with a clear absence of second millennium BC evidence, which is only represented by a few handfuls of sherds.

Figures 4 to 6 present the total number of sherds of Umm an-Nar, Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age Periods found in each surveyed area. It is obvious that area CS.2 produced the largest quantity of sherds for these three periods. This could be related to the fact that this area is the largest surveyed area and included 94 sites, in which perhaps 26 sites are Umm an-Nar, 34 are Early Iron Age and 38 are Late Iron Age. This is the preliminary evidence from the survey and more analysis will be carried out on the results, which are still under evaluation.

Nasser Said Ali al-Jahwari <jahwari@squ.edu.om>
Society for Arabian Studies

RED SEA PROJECT

Phase 3

Cultural Connections of the Red Sea

Friday 27 October and Saturday 28 October 2006

Following two successful conferences held in association with the British Museum on, 1: *Trade and Travel in the Red Sea Region in the Red Sea* (2002), and 2: *People of the Red Sea* (2004), the Society is organising a third two-day event entitled *Cultural Connections of the Red Sea* focusing on the following topics:

**Maritime Networks**: commercial connections: cultural relations of Red Sea maritime traditions and industries - particularly the cultural roles of harbours, boats, boat-building and navigational routes/dimensions.

**Ecological Connections**: with a focus on natural history - natural distribution of plants, crops, fish, mammals, birds - which have, at some time, influenced local culture.

**Sacred Space**: pre-Islamic, Christian and/or Islamic spiritual/religious and political routes and connections: the spread of religious and political frameworks and traditions within the Red Sea region - pre-Islamic shrines, churches, mosques, building materials/styles; political & religious networks etc.

**Identities**: spread of other cultural identities, of and to the Red Sea, with an emphasis on craft traditions and anthropological perceptions: textiles/costume, architecture, pottery, rock art and other archaeological artefacts.

**Intellectual Landscapes**: Visual and oral artistic interaction with the region: with an emphasis on art, music, dialects and literature and linguistics.

Tickets £28 / or £25 Society members and British Museum Friends from Christine Lindner, 16/4 Comiston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6AH
Tel: 07775 726325. E-mail: CB Lindner <s0453472@sms.ed.ac.uk>

Project Co-ordinator **Janet C.M. Starkey**, j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk

More information at: [www.dur.ac.uk/red.sea](http://www.dur.ac.uk/red.sea)
The study of the ancient Nabataean people is still in its infancy. Even their origins are being debated. The development of their language, religion, architecture, sculpture and pottery types, are only now becoming better understood. When ‘Nabataean’ culture ended and where its people went, remains an enigma. Recent excavations at Petra, Mada’min Salih and the Dead Sea region have shed some light on the twilight of the Nabataeans. They have revealed some compelling evidence for ‘Nabataean’ cultural continuity beyond the 2nd century AD. These include religious practices, funerary customs, inscriptions, art and architecture and even dress. Recent archaeological discoveries indicate that an indigenous Semitic people of a ‘Nabataean’ character did persist well into the Christian-early Byzantine period in the southern Levant. The question, of course, is how meaningfully ‘Nabataean’ their culture had remained?

The cult of the chief Nabataean god Dushara seems to have remained? whilst Greek persisted as the lingua franca of the third and second Byzantine provinces (formerly Roman Province of Arabia), Nabataean-Aramaic personal names were predominant. From the earlier part of the twentieth century, several inscribed and dated funerary stelae began to be collected from the cemetery of Zoara in the Ghor al-Safi (on the south-eastern shore of the Dead Sea). They revealed the presence of an early Christian community from the 5th to 6th centuries AD. Since the excavations at the adjacent Deir ‘Ain ‘Abata in the late 1980s and 1990s, and subsequent investigations in the Ghor al-Safi, over 400 new early Byzantine-period inscriptions have shown that a vibrant early Christian community was established in the Zoara district from the 4th to the 7th centuries AD. Although all of the inscriptions were written in Greek, a large proportion of the personal names mentioned were of Semitic and Nabataean origin; for example, Avdoulas, Zenoviou, Dusariou and Obodias.

In 1993 a cache of 152 charred papyrus scrolls were found in a room adjacent to a large triple-apsed basilica church in the centre of Petra. All of these scrolls were written in Greek (except one line in Latin), and although undated, palaeographic research indicates they were from the early to late 6th century AD. The documents consisted of contracts and land deeds pertaining to the Petra region (Petra is actually mentioned). One specifically refers to the seat of a bishop. Another mentions the dedication of the church as that of ‘Virgin Mary’. However, of greater significance is the use of Nabataean-Aramaic personal names, such as Obodianos and dated to the early 6th century AD.

The latest known Nabataean inscription is found at Mada’in Salih belonging to the 4th century AD. Another inscription from Oboda in the Negev Desert is also dated to the same period.

The excavations at the Zurrabah kilns near Petra in 1991 revealed that Nabataean pottery types were still being made during the 5th and into the 6th centuries AD. This was corroborated by stratigraphic excavations from other sites such as Humeima, Wadi Mousa, Mada’in Salih and Deir ‘Ain ‘Abata. Architectural elements have been found at several early Byzantine churches in Palestinae Tertia which have close affinities to classical Nabataean styles. At Elusa in the Negev and at Deir ‘Ain ‘Abata on the Dead Sea characteristically Nabataean ‘dogtooth’ designs along with Christian crosses are found on capitals and lintels. Mosaic floor pavements have been uncovered at Deir ‘Ain ‘Abata and Siyaga which exhibit a floral pattern reminiscent of the painted decoration on Nabataean fine ware pottery and datable to as late as the 7th century AD.

Recent excavations at the temple of Petas Qazone on the eastern Dead Sea shore reveal 2nd to 3rd century AD Nabataean dress. Tombstones from this site also show the development of early Christian cross and palm branch motifs into the 4th century indicating the Christian conversion of Nabataeans.

The aniconic representation of Nabataean gods has a revival in early Byzantine-Christian dogma with the iconoclastic movement of the 7th century AD. This is even more apparent in Islam which has similar taboos. It has also been argued that Nabataean ‘high places’ not only continued to be used for religious purposes during the early Byzantine period, but that they may be the origin of raised altars in church architecture. A similar Nabataean origin can be argued for the omphalos-shaped chancel post tops in early Byzantine-period churches.

It is now becoming apparent from the archaeological
On 17th March 2006 Dr Nadia Durrani gave a joint lecture to members of the Society and the British Yemeni Society on the subject of *The pre-Islamic archaeology of the Red Sea coastal plain of Yemen.* It is interesting to note that both Ethiopia and Yemen claim the Queen of Sheba as its own. Although the Queen remains a mythical figure, Dr Durrani drew on this myth at the start of her talk, which dealt with cultural connections between Yemen and Ethiopia from the 6th millennium BC until the 6th century AD.

Al-Hamid, which lies not far from the city of Hodeida, is a sprawling site that covers some 30ha. It dates to the 1st millennium BC and is famed for its simple, yet clearly Sabaean-style, limestone temple; also for its monumental epigraphic South Arabian inscriptions, of which there are around a dozen.

The presence of such Sabaean-related material at the coastal site of al-Hamid is important since the Sabaeans – that is, the people connected with the legendary Queen of Sheba – centred their kingdom in the Yemeni interior. And yet, the al-Hamid inscriptions suggest that the Sabaeans may have been on the Tihamah by, or around, the 8th century BC. Further inscriptions from the nearby site of Waqir add fuel to this general argument of their presence on the coast.

Meanwhile, Sabaean-related evidence is also known from the Ethiopian interior, and of a potentially similarly early date. Was al-Hamid a way-station between the Sabean heartland of Yemen and the Sabaean-related heartland of Ethiopia during the 1st half of the 1st millennium? Whatever the case, al-Hamid certainly provides compelling evidence for Sabaean connections between the two interiors – connections that took place, in part at least, across the Tihamah.

But it seems that the Iron Age Sabaean connections between the two lands may have built upon a prehistoric legacy of links. Other potential connections between the two lands have been observed by the excavators of prehistoric sites recorded elsewhere on the Tihamah. These sites include the coastal middens excavated in the (Saudi Tihamah) Jizan area by Zarins and Zahran some quarter of a century ago. As Dr Durrani noted, some of the prehistoric connections between Ethiopia and Arabia have occasionally been over-emphasised, but nonetheless, the potential of connections exists.

Of course, it is also possible to marshal the archaeological evidence for a model of autochthonous and independent cultural development on the Tihamah, as argued elsewhere by Durrani. Moreover, she believes the Tihamah to have been an area which may not necessarily have been as culturally unified or united as some authors suggest. (For more on this, her 2001 PhD thesis is now revised and published as a Society Monograph – see ‘Publications’). Nonetheless, this talk was about connections, and as she illustrated, there were links between the two lands during the Iron Age, and potentially before. So could this explain the presence of the shared myth of Sheba? It does indeed seem that there is some smoke behind the queer story of the Queen.

On 2nd June, following the AGM, Dr Harriet Crawford spoke to the Society on the topic of *Early Dilmun seals: a world in miniature.*

The study of seals has always been a favourite academic field. Seals are some of the most attractive objects produced in the ancient world and can provide us with many insights. They are frequently made of beautiful materials, though clay examples are also known. They can depict a fascinating world of fact and fiction, though some may have purely geometric designs; and they can contain inscriptions which sometimes allow us to identify individuals in the archaeological record. Small wonder then that so much work has been done on them. As archaeological methods of retrieval improved the amount and type of glyptic material increased and, in addition to the seals themselves, impressions of seals are now routinely recovered thus adding an important new dimension to the studies.

Much of the early work on the glyptic material concentrated on methods drawn from art history to classify seals according to style, shape and material, often the only approach possible with material bought...
on the market with no archaeological provenance. The techniques of manufacture are also studied. Not only do these methods allow one to organise a large body of material, but they also allow for the establishment of a relative chronology based on the changing styles observed and sometimes to group seals geographically as well as chronologically. The assumption tends to be that the cruder examples are earlier than the more sophisticated ones and that imported raw materials also indicate a later, richer, more sophisticated society. The materials used for seals are frequently of non-local origin as too are the more sophisticated society. The materials used for imported raw materials also indicate a later, richer, earlier than the more sophisticated ones and that assumption tends to be that the cruder examples are as it is rare on Bahrain itself, but frequently found on Failaka which was settled a little later. In practice there seems to have been a considerable overlap in styles, perhaps partly due to what has been called the heirloom factor, families passing down a favourite seal from generation to generation. This means that archaeological contexts cannot be accurately dated by the find of a single seal; the date suggested by the seal has to be supported by evidence from other sources such as the associated pottery.

Changing approaches to the study of seals mirrors the changing concerns of scholars; first art historical, then economic questions or social ones began to dominate the archaeological agenda. In the economic field it could be claimed that seal impressions are more informative than the seals themselves. A study of the backs of the clay sealings will often indicate what they were originally attached to and so give us some idea of how or what goods were being stored or traded, all insights for a reconstruction of the ancient economy. The distribution of glyptic material outside its country of origin suggests ancient trade routes. Social information can be gained from a study of the distribution of seals in the archaeological record. A study of the locations in which seals or their impressions have been recovered gives us information on the number and class of people using seals. Were they elite objects used only by a few high officials or were they used by many within the community?

All three approaches outlined above will be used to study the stamp seals from the Early Dilmun (ED) world of the late third and early second millennium to see if they can be seen as a reflection of the society which produced them. This society was concentrated first on the eastern province of Saudi Arabia and the islands of Bahrain, and then a little later on Failaka island as well. The first seals appear in levels dating to the second half of the third millennium and have no known antecedents on Bahrain or in Arabia. The comparative chronology established by Poul Kjaerum demonstrated that there were a number of different styles in the Early Dilmun world. The simplest is known as the Persian/Arabian Gulf style, followed by the Proto-Dilmun, a transitional style, and then by the most common Early Dilmun 1 style. This last can be further subdivided into 1a and 1b. Unfortunately this stylistic chronology is not entirely validated by the very limited stratigraphic evidence available to us. The Persian Gulf seals are found together with the Proto-Dilmun type in the lower levels of the sequence at the Qal’a’at al Bahrain, the only one we have, and these two styles seem to be the earliest. Style 1b seems to be somewhat later than 1a as some of the motifs found in the designs, both evidence for a network of contacts which often stretches over many hundreds of miles.

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The earliest small round Persian Gulf stamp seals, often less than 2cm in diameter, are often as high as they are wide with an undecorated boss on the back, with relatively simple designs, crudely executed in a variety of hard stones. Proto-Dilmun seals are bigger and flatter and some of the designs found later in the classic ED style are already popular, such as the drinking scene which shows two people one on either side of a large jar drinking through straws. The boss is flatter and is decorated with one or more lines. Dot and circle design typical of the classic ED examples also occurs on the back.

An important sub-group of seals in both these styles carry motifs and even inscriptions in a style native to the Indus valley, and the importance of eastern connections to the people of Dilmun is confirmed by the amount of pottery in the so-called eastern tradition found in early levels at the Qal’a’at al-Bahrain. Unfortunately the inscriptions cannot be read but it has been suggested that they may be in the native Dilmun language rather than in the language of the Indus because the signs occur in groupings which are never found in the Indus.

The style 1 Early Dilmun seals are nearly all circular stamp seals made of softstone with a whitish glaze. There are also a few rectangular examples with gable backs and occasional cylinder seals decorated in the Dilmun style. A few are made of other materials like pottery or ivory. The backs of these seals are decorated across the boss with 3 lines and 4 dot and circles, apparently made with a tubular drill, which is also used to depict the heads of the animals which are a favourite motif. Human figures are rather schematically drawn, both naked and dressed in flounced skirts or kaunakes; women only seem to appear in so-called erotic scenes and are naked. Gazelle and other horned animals, including bulls, are
typical of many designs. The best-quality seals show a fine sense of symmetry often with figures balancing each other on either side of a central motif. Others show a less formal design and exude a feeling of energy and action. The style is unique, but some of the motifs seem to have been borrowed from the areas with which Dilmun was in trading contact and then frequently transformed into a local style.

Textual evidence for trading contacts are confirmed by the identification of Mesopotamian and Syrian motifs on the Early Dilmun seals. Some of the motifs originally thought to be Mesopotamian in origin now look as if they have closer ties with Syrian glyptic and this suggests that this area was perhaps more important to Dilmun than had previously been thought.

Iranian, Indian and even Central Asian motifs can also be identified. It seems likely that these contacts too were commercial and may in some cases have been indirect. In addition to the motifs, the softstone of which the vast majority of the seals are made had to be imported from either Arabia or Iran, but not all the traffic was in one direction as Dilmun seals are also found in foreign contexts – Ur, Susa, Tepe Yahya and Lothal have all yielded Dilmun seals.

Some foreign seals are also found within Dilmun itself such as the fine Central Asian seal in the National Museum of Bahrain as well as a number of Mesopotamian cylinder seals.

The seal impressions recovered from Saar, all of which are in the local style and which come from jars and packages of different descriptions, strongly suggest the presence of a flourishing internal market as well as the long-distance trade we have been discussing. There is one intriguing class of seal impression which has only recently been identified. These are the so-called tokens, usually sub-circular pellets of clay impressed on one or both sides. The presence of the same rather simple designs, almost like pictograms in some cases, at a number of sites suggests an authority with a wide remit whose ‘logo’ was widely recognised. A design of looped concentric circles occurs at Saar and at Barbar and parallels for the design can also be found on seals from Failaka.

We do not know what these tokens were used for but it has been suggested that they were some form of authorisation or possibly a form of IOU.

Single seals were found in a large number of graves on Bahrain and the excavations at Saar confirmed the widespread use of seals within society. They were found in many of the small houses, together with seal impressions torn from goods of various sorts, and in one case ten were found in a single house, suggesting that each member of the family had their own. The presence of very small examples allows one to guess that children too owned them and that these small seals may have had amuletic uses rather than economic ones. The widespread use of seals allows us to propose that the society was an egalitarian one, although the presence of a small elite is also clear from the archaeological evidence at the Qala’at and from the so-called royal graves at A’ali.

There is one aspect of the seals which we have not touched on at all. What do the designs mean? Can we hope to translate them? In the past attempts were made to translate them in terms of Mesopotamian mythology, but this cannot be justified on an intellectual level. Sadly, until an account of the mythology of Dilmun itself is found we can only speculate, but even if we can’t understand the designs they give us a sense of what was important to the people who used them; the hunt and animals seem to have been a prime concern and it is interesting that there are no battle scenes. (Very few weapons were found in the archaeological record either.) A love of order and symmetry also seem indicated, something which is also suggested by the regular layout of the settlement at Saar.

We should also look beyond mythology to more practical explanations for the designs. Some may have functioned as trade marks; some may depict scenes from everyday life; some may even be puns on a person’s name or trade.

The three approaches described at the beginning of this lecture have together yielded a lot of information, not all of it new. Some consolidates and confirms information from other types of evidence. The information on foreign contacts suggested by the iconography confirms the evidence of the cuneiform texts. On the other hand, it also suggests that Syrian contacts were as important as those with south Mesopotamia. The finds of the archives of two Dilmun merchants from Ur and of a group of Dilmun seals there have perhaps skewed our picture of the significance of south Mesopotamia to the Dilmun economy. There is some evidence for an important route east of the Tigris which connected Dilmun with Syria via Susa and the Jebel Hamrin. Evidence for contacts with the Indus and Central Asia is not known from the texts but is provided by the seals. The evidence for a thriving internal trade demonstrated by the seal impressions from Saar also adds a new dimension to our knowledge. Finally, the wide distribution of seals in graves and houses suggests that much of the population was using them and that they were not an elite artefact, while the designs
themselves give some insight into the minds of the inhabitants of Dilmun. It can really be said that seals represent a microcosm of life in an ancient and unique culture. They are a world in miniature.

- On the 20 October Dr Paul Starkey & Peter Clark spoke to the Society on the subject of Reading the Peninsula: issues in translating Arabian literature. Peter Clark told the meeting that Arabic literature has been outstanding in two forms – poetry and the short story. Universal literacy has only been a feature of the Arab world in the last generation, and the most dynamic and creative manifestations of culture have been oral: hence the outstanding nature of poetry and the short story. The novel first appeared over a century ago, though the fictional form goes back to One Thousand and One Nights and beyond. Again, there are traditions of drama in the animated storytelling of, for example, Ramadan nights, and in the Shi’a rituals of ta’ziya, the theatre is a relatively modern and often derivative phenomenon.

Clark has been commissioned by the Shoman Foundation to translate a three-volume novel by Abdel-Rahman Munif, entitled (in Arabic) Ard al-Sawad which means literally, Land of Blackness. Munif (1933-2004) was born the son of a Saudi father and an Iraqi mother. He was brought up in Jordan and had a PhD in Economics from Yugoslavia. He married a Syrian and worked for many years in the petroleum industry in Iraq. He was writing fiction from the 1970s, and produced the multi-volume novel Cities of Salt, part of which has been translated into English by Peter Theroux. This work describes the development of a mythical oil-rich state. The Saudi authorities did not like it and Munif was stripped of his nationality. When the book received international critical acclaim, he was offered nationality back, but this was declined. Munif also wrote critical works. A memoir of his childhood in Amman has been translated by Samira Kawar as The Story of a City. Munif spent his last years based in Syria. Ard al-Sawad is an uncompromising masterpiece. It is about the length of Tolstoy’s War and Peace: about 450,000 words. It takes place in Baghdad in the early nineteenth century, and is an amazingly well-researched social novel about the people of the city.

At the time, Baghdad was nominally a province of the Ottoman Empire. The Wali (governor) of Baghdad had a considerable amount of autonomy in return for a regularly paid tribute. In the last years of the eighteenth century there was a charismatic Wali, Sulaiman Pasha, known as ‘the Great’. Years of uncertainty followed his death until a son-in-law, Daud Pasha, seized power. The novel is about his reign. Daud was a Georgian slave who, through energy and intelligence, rose in the court of Sulaiman the Great and married his daughter, and ousted other members of his family.

The novel moves through all classes of Baghdad society, from the Pasha’s court, through the army barracks, the souks, the coffee-houses, the religious shrines and the popular suburbs. We meet the traders, the boatmen, the popular singers, the dancing girls, men of the government, Jewish merchants, astrologers and courtiers. The public and the private lives are interwoven. Munif does for Baghdad what Mahfouz did for Cairo, Balzac did for Paris and Dickens for London. The reader accepts the social values of the people he meets. We become aware of the importance of the annual Tigris flood, the importance of trade routes to Aleppo, to Basra and to Istanbul, and how they are threatened by the marauding bedu. There is no one storyline, but – as in Dickens – a series of interconnected subplots about a fascinating world.

The novel was written in the late 1990s, before the war in Iraq, and there is no direct political message, although Munif hated both the Saddam regime and the US-led invasion of 2003. But the novel reminds us of the richness and complexity of Baghdad society. Paul Starkey suggested that although the Arabian Peninsula has indeed been on the margins of most of the developments of the modern Arabic literary movement, a glance at Salma Jayyusi’s The Literature of Modern Arabia should be sufficient to convince the reader that a good deal of interesting material is now being produced there. One writer who has hit the headlines recently is the academic and political analyst Turki al-Hamad (born 1953), who turned to novel writing at a fairly late stage in his career, and whose trilogy Adama, Shumaisi and al-Karadib are essentially a ‘coming-of-age’ work, describing the progress of the hero, Hishâm, through his late teenage and university years to a prison near Jeddah. The author’s stated purpose in writing the trilogy was to lift the curtain on the three taboo subjects of religion, politics and sex in the Peninsula, and although the book has been criticised for his flat and dated style, it has also been described as ‘the most explosive novel to emerge from the Middle East in years’. Two of its three parts have so far been translated into English.
Outside grants and awards

The Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation with BRISMES will award two Scholarships of £2000 annually to encourage post-graduate studies in Middle Eastern disciplines in British universities. Applicants must be registered with a British university and members of BRISMES. Applications by 31 March each year. Further details from BRISMES 0191 3345179, www.brismes.ac.uk

Archaeology Abroad Fieldwork Awards offer modest financial assistance (£100-200) to subscribers to enable them to take up places on projects found through Archaeology Abroad. Contact Wendy Rix Morton, Hon. Sec. Archaeology Abroad, 31-34 Gordon Sq, London WC1H OPY. Fax: 020 7383 2572. E-mail: arch.abroad@ucl.ac.uk; www.britarch.ac.uk/archabroad

British Academy Larger Research Grant (LRG) scheme for pilot projects and field studies. The grants are open to all UK post-doctoral researchers in the humanities and social sciences and have a maximum value of £20,000. The deadline for competition is 30 October. For further information contact the Research Grants office. Tel: 020 7969 5217

The British Academy Book Prize has been set up to improve understanding of the humanities and social sciences by encouraging the writing, publishing and sale of books that are both academically excellent and accessible to the non-specialist reader. Further details from Jonathan Breckon, e-mail: bulletin@britac.ac.uk

The British Academy offers a number of academic, research and travel fellowships and grants. Further information from the British Academy, or: http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/

The British School of Archaeology in Iraq (BSAI) invites applications for grants supporting research into the archaeology, history or languages of Iraq and neighbouring countries, including the Gulf. Deadlines on 31 March and 30 September each year. They will normally fall within a limit of £1,000. For details contact Secretary BSAI, c/o The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Tel & Fax: 01440 785 244. E-mail: bsa@britac.ac.uk or theBSAI@aol.com / www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/

The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) awards two new essay prizes: the Graduate Article Competition in Middle Eastern Studies 2006 (£500 / £100, closing date Dec 2006), and the Undergraduate Essay Prize 2005–6 (£100, closing date 31 July 2006). Full details from Prof. R. Gleave, Executive Director BRISMES, University of Exeter. E-mail: r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk

The Guido Scholarship Fund was established for ‘suitable (bead related) research abroad’. Contact the Bead Study Trust, c/o Dr St J. Simpson, Dept Ancient Near East, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG. E-mail: ssimpson@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk http://www.beadstudytrust.org.uk/awards.htm

The Leigh Douglas Memorial Fund makes a number of small grants (£300 each) to further the study of aspects of the social sciences or humanities relating to Yemen. Details: Dr Venetia Porter, Dept Asia, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG. Venetia@trippsiyasa.demon.co.uk

In addition, the Fund jointly with BRISMES has instituted an annual prize of £500 for the best thesis at a British university during the academic year. Candidates should submit a copy of their thesis, together with a letter from their supervisor, to Dr Charles Tripp, Department of Politics, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, London WC1.

The Minerva Awards (£1000 and £500) for innovative and creative writing in the fields of archaeology and ancient art is awarded annually for original articles. Details, Minerva Awards, Minerva Magazine, 14 Old Bond St, London W1S 4PP. Details: e-mail Minerva.mag@virgin.net

The Palestine Exploration Fund awards small grants to students and others pursuing research into topics relevant to its general aims. Further details from the Executive Secretary, Palestine Exploration Fund, 2 Hinde Mews, Marylebone Lane, W1M 5RR. E-mail: pef@pef.org.uk / www.pef.org.uk

The Barakat Trust awards a number of scholarships and grants to students of Islamic art and archaeology (max £5000), including conservation (max £7000) and post-doctoral fellowships (£13,500). Contact the Barakat Trust, The Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford, OX1 2LE. barakat.trust@orinst.ox.ac.uk; www.barakat.org. Fax 01865 278078.

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 post-graduate degree at a British university. Contact details as above.

The Wainwright Prizes for Near Eastern Archaeology for young people of secondary school age. Prizes are offered for essays/projects on aspects of the history, archaeology, society or art, of any country in the ancient world. Details from The Gerald Avery Wainwright Near Eastern Archaeological Fund, The Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford OX1 2LE.
Introduction
An outline is provided of recent work carried out in the south eastern deserts of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates by a joint team from the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey (ADIAS) and the Department of Antiquities and Tourism in Al Ain, both shortly to become part of the newly established Abu Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority (ADCHA).
New survey and excavation work has provided valuable new information concerning the Neolithic period in the Rub al-Khali or Empty Quarter, between around 9,000 to 6,000 years ago. This casts new light on the kind of activities undertaken by the pastoral nomadic communities who once lived within this now seemingly barren landscape.

Previous Work
Lithic scatters in Kharimat Khor al-Manahil were first noted in 2003 by a team from the Terrestrial Environment Research Centre (TERC), part of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD, (then known as the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, ERWDA). The TERC team was undertaking an ecological survey in the NW corner of the Kharimat Khor al-Manahil plain. This is located north of Umm az-Zamul in the SE desert of Abu Dhabi (Figure 1). Subsequently, in November 2003 the reported sites were revisited by Dr Mark Beech and Dr John Stewart from ADIAS, together with a team from TERC, and further lithic sites were recorded in the area.

The first season of work at Kharimat Khor Al Manahil and Khor Al Manahil took place between the 24th January and the 6th February 2004. The team comprised: Dr Mark Beech, Dr Heiko Kallweit and Dr Walid Yasin al-Tikriti. Work concentrated in three areas: Kharimat Khor Al Manahil (KHM), Sabkhat Bu Dab (SBD) and Khor Al Manahil (KAM). Lithic scatters first noted at KHM were revisited and then systematic mapping and collection of material was made. A total of 80 sites were mapped where there

FIGURE 1: Location of Khor al Manahil and Kharimat Khor al Manahil in the Umm az-Zamul region of Abu Dhabi emirate, UAE.
were significant clusters of worked flint and other stone material. In the KHM region these lithic scatters were spread almost continuously along the northern edge of the plain for more than 3km!

A second season of work was carried out at both KHM and KAM between the 29th December 2004 and the 23rd January 2005. The team comprised: Dr Mark Beech, Richard Cuttler, Dr Heiko Kallweit, Hamed Al Mutairi and Dr Walid Yasin Al-Tikriti. Work concentrated at KAM on the systematic collection and mapping of lithic material from the surface of the site. A detailed topographic map was made of the terrain so that the archaeological material could be seen precisely within its landscape context. Such an approach was also undertaken for the rich lithic scatter identified during the 2004 season at KHM0035. A topographic map was also made of the vicinity of the three stone structures, KHM0045 – KHM0047.

The most recent and third season of fieldwork at both KHM and KAM began on the 28 December 2005 and concluded on the 17 January 2006. The team comprised: Dr Mark Beech, Richard Cuttler, Dr Heiko Kallweit, Phil Glover, Suzan al-Mutawa, Hamed Al Mutairi, Roxana Linklater-McLennan, Ahmed Abdullah Elhaj and Dr Walid Yasin Al-Tikriti.

**Methodology**

The main aims of this third season of archaeological fieldwork were:

1. To complete the single item pick-up at Khor al-Manahil, including the dense lithic scatter located in the interdunal depression known as ‘Area 9’. Material was collected from this dense scatter by dry sieving the lithics-bearing layer within one metre grid squares using 1mm mesh hand sieves.
2. To complete the topographic mapping of Khor al-Manahil.
3. To investigate the new area south-east of the main lithic spreads identified during the second season 2004/5. This extended the mapped area by several hundred metres to include the newly discovered burnt mounds and additional surface lithic material.
4. To excavate selected stone structures, namely the main structure KHM0046 at Kharimat Khor al-Manahil.
5. To learn more about the process of preservation of surface lithic scatters.

A Nikon C100 Total Station with a data logger using Fast Map FM700 logging software was used for mapping. Local grid coordinates were used from stations which were fixed to national coordinates using a hand-held GPS. The survey comprised a 3D record of the location of each find collected plus a survey of the local topography in order to place the lithics within their current topographic location. This also served to illustrate current dunes where no flints were recovered. Clearly this is important as these have the potential to mask areas of flint, and thereby explain any areas absent of debitage within the site. As each find was collected an incremented number, provided by the logger, was used as the survey reference number for each find. Any other distinctive features were also mapped. To date the data has been processed using Geosite software which has provided a location plan of each find, plus a contour survey of the topography. This has also been processed in AutoCAD 2004 to provide a Digital Terrain Model. Once the lithic database is completed this will be combined with the topographic survey and exported to a GIS program (e.g. ArcView). This will enable the presentation of different flint types within the topography of the site.

**Khor al-Manahil (KAM)**

Work at KAM concentrated on completing the pick-up of lithics from the surface of the site, as well as completing the topographic map of the general area (Figures 2-3).

**FIGURE 2: Map of Khor Al Manahil sites** (All contours shown are in metre intervals. Area 9 = where lithics were systematically picked up and mapped, and where sample squares were sieved during the 2005-6 season. BM1-3 = burnt mounds 1-3).
FIGURE 3: Rendered 3D digital terrain model of Khor al Manahil (points indicate lithics collected. Area 9 lithics were collected during the 2005-6 season).

Lithics collection
The greatest part of the work involved the controlled sieving by one metre squares of Area 9, an interdunal depression about 20 metres in width and 30 metres in length, which sloped towards the east (Figure 4). While a larger dune is aligned on its southern edge, the northern edge of the depression is marked by a flat and rounded dune corpus. The surface of Area 9 is dominated by the contrast between dark coloured patches of gravel in between areas of outcropping palaeodunes, marked by whiter strips and patches. The process of palaeodune weathering and the general evolution of the landscape on the site is currently under study. Archaeological finds so far retrieved are exclusively comprised of flint flakes and tools scattered on the surface. Accumulations of these were observed in certain areas, selected for square sampling. The square sampling in Area 9 was set up along a north to south and east to west running baseline. A one-metre square frame was applied to mark single sample areas. All removed sediments were then sieved using 1mm mesh hand sieves. Interestingly, all the flints were found exclusively in the uppermost 2 centimetres of sand. The lower layers of sand were sterile down to the hardened surface of the palaeodune. Details about the flint finds are still to be studied, but a preliminary overview revealed no obvious differences with the composition of previous finds from the site (Kallweit et al. 2005; Figure 5).

In addition to the material collected by sieving one-metre squares, single flint pieces in areas of low concentration were individually collected and mapped using the Total Station. The majority of the lithics material originally observed on the surface of KAM have now been collected and mapped. Each season when we have revisited the site some new material has, of course, been exposed by one year’s worth of wind erosion. The 2005-2006 season, however, witnessed smaller quantities of material exposed across the main area of the site.

FIGURE 4: Map of Area 9 at Khor Al Manahil. (All contours shown are in metre intervals. Line indicates bottom of dune edge. Points indicate the location of collected lithics. Shaded blocks indicate areas which were sampled by dry sieving using 1mm mesh hand sieves within metre square units).
FIGURE 5: Some of the lithics found at Khor Al Manahil (1-5: bifaces; 6-9: arrowheads; 10: willow-leaf-shaped projectile point).

There are now 2681 lithics find spots from Khor Al Manahil, of which 600 represent material collected this season, plus a large quantity of material from this season’s sieving of squares from Area 9, as well as earlier material collected by GPS. These all now await further detailed study.

Burnt mounds
At the end of the 2004-2005 season three interesting features were recorded to the south-east of the main lithics scatter at KAM. These consisted of concentrations of burnt limestone fragments measuring up to a maximum of 20cm and circular in plan.
The largest of these (burnt mound 1) was 4.5 metres in diameter (Figure 6) and measured only about 15cm in height. Its surface was littered with burnt limestone fragments. Close observation of the surface of each of these limestone fragments revealed a consistent pattern of weathering from the prevailing wind direction from the north. This suggests that the burnt mounds are of some antiquity.

About 7 metres to the north a second, less-well preserved, burnt mound was also recorded. This appeared to be more deflated, the stones being dispersed over a flat area about 3 metres in diameter. A third much smaller concentration of burnt stones (burnt mound 3), was recorded approximately 70 metres south of burnt mound 1. This was only about 1.5 metres in diameter. The original sediments associated with these two smaller concentrations of burnt stones had largely been dispersed by subsequent erosion.

A decision was made, therefore, to investigate the largest well-preserved of these features by excavation in the hope that archaeological material or samples of ash or charcoal might be obtained suitable for radiocarbon dating. Following the planning of burnt mound 1 by Phil Glover, a team comprised of Dr Mark Beech and Phil Glover excavated a trench 5 metres long by one metre wide. This trench was oriented north-south through the centre of the mound (Figure 6).

The natural bedrock was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.32m. This was sealed by a layer of small limestone fragments which was cemented with coarse sand in a hard gypsum-rich layer approximately 0.3m in depth. The burnt limestone fragments (Figure 6) lay directly on this surface, which was also sealed by a layer of fine windblown sand. The sand appeared to be of recent origin, and it would seem that the heavier burnt limestone fragments had immobilized the sand leaving a deposit approximately 0.02m in depth. Unfortunately no archaeological finds were retrieved and no traces of ash or charcoal were evident.

It seems likely that erosion and weathering have caused deflation of the mound removing traces of the original sediments. The original function of these burnt mounds remains enigmatic, although it is possible that they represent ancient cooking hearths. Their location is of some interest. All three features are located close together on the surface of an exposed limestone outcrop. About 70 metres to the north-east of burnt mounds 1 and 2 an interesting flint debitage scatter was noted. This demonstrates that the area was an occasional focus for activities during the Neolithic period. It may be that this ‘cooking and processing area’ was located close to a nearby water source for the inhabitants of the site. Immediately to the south of this exposed limestone outcrop is a large sand dune about 75 metres in height. Beyond that lies...
the main interdunal plains which criss-cross the Umm az-Zamul region oriented north-west to south-east between the major dune fields. Terracing observed within some of these plains may be indicative of an ancient Miocene period lake (UAE University 1993; Glennie 2005: 142 and 144, Fig.9.27), which may have also held water, at least seasonally, during the climatic optimum in the Arabian peninsula between about 9000 to 6000 years ago.

Kharimat Khor al-Manahil (KHM)

Work at KHM concentrated on the group of sites known as KHM0045-KHM0047, three sub-circular structures on a northeast-southwest alignment, each approximately 5.5m in diameter, with a distance of approximately 3.5m between each of the structures (Figure 7). The northeast and southwest structures were evident as low mounds, each with a central shallow depression. Located between these was a more substantial structure which was comprised largely of degraded limestone, which appeared to be anthropogenic in origin. Large, fragmented limestone blocks were evident on the surface of KHM0046 forming a scatter approximately 6m across that was roughly square in plan. The blocks varied in size from 0.2m to nearly 1m across.

Excavation of KHM0046

An initial test trench (Trench 1) was excavated through KHM0046 in January 2004 by Dr Mark Beech, Dr Heiko Kallweit and Dr Walid Yasin Al-Tikriti. This was five metres wide east to west, and one metre north to south. This trench was positioned to bisect the western side of the structure and to provide a chance to examine the deposits lying both within and outside the structure. This successfully demonstrated that the limestone boulders were set on a soil matrix different to the loose sand covering the surface. This layer was more compacted with traces of calcareous concretions, and comprised fine-grained brownish sediment. The limestone appeared to be identical in terms of texture and colour to samples collected from local natural outcrops in the vicinity. The test trench clearly demonstrated that this was no natural outcrop and that the stones had been intentionally transported to the site.

As the precise function of structure KHM0046 was still not clear, it was decided to undertake a larger open area excavation during the January 2006 field season. Initial hypotheses about the three adjacent structures suggested that they might be some form of house-type structures (Kallweit et al. 2005).
The results of the new excavations modified our ideas and suggested a new explanation for the function of these sites. A new trench (Trench 2, Figure 7) approximately five metres squared was excavated at KHM0046 between the 13-16th January 2006. This was undertaken by Dr Heiko Kallweit and Richard Cuttler. Excavation largely concentrated on removing the wind-blown sand from the shallow depression free of stones located within the centre of the structure (Figure 8, Layer 1). Below this was a more compact sandy layer containing fragments of the degraded limestone (Layer 2).

The major discovery of the brief excavation season at KHM0046 was the discovery of a subterranean construction with a rectangular-shaped stone cist about a metre below the modern ground surface at the centre of the structure (Figure 8). The cist was about 1.5 metres long and about 0.5 metres wide. A detailed record of the spread of the collapsed stone slabs (Layer 3) around the preserved superstructure displays an almost squared space. This is altogether an unusual result, representing a unique type of construction not previously recorded in the UAE.

Whilst there was unfortunately not sufficient time available this season to complete the excavation of the entire structure, the appearance of the cist strongly suggested that KHM0046 is a form of tomb with a subterranean burial with a megalithic construction built on top of it. The mobility and looseness of the upper layers at the site meant that it was not possible to empty the cist to check for any possible human skeletal remains or grave goods. Future excavations at the site must open a sufficiently wide area to ensure that the foundations of the structure can be carefully examined and recorded in greater detail.

While the structure KHM0046 is likely to be prehistoric, the wind-blown sand deposits (Layers 1 and 2) are likely to be more recently deposited. Small iron fragments were recovered from within these layers.
layers, and it is possible that the ‘depression’ in the middle of each of the features (KHM0045-7) represents a later intrusion, i.e. the tombs may have been robbed. However, on a more positive note, if these are tombs there are a number of other low mounds adjacent to KHM0045-7 that could represent undisturbed tombs. Work for January 2007 might also consider sampling one of these mounds to test the nature of the feature.

**Lithics collection at sites KHM0045-KHM0047**

A systematic pick-up of all lithic material in the vicinity of sites KHM0045-KHM0047 was undertaken. The precise location of each individual piece was mapped using the Total Station. There appeared to be a clear concentration of lithics about 10 to 20 metres to the west and north-west of the three structures. A further concentration of lithics was noted some 60 metres to the south east (Figure 7).

The lithics material included debitage material as well as completed and semi-completed artifacts, including projectile points. Mapping of all these artifacts included the completion of further topographic mapping of the dunes in the area around the sites. A total of 388 lithics find spots were collected and mapped during the 2005-6 season. This material, plus earlier material collected by GPS, now await further detailed study.

**Shell beads**

Besides the lithics collected in the vicinity of KHM0045-KHM0047, an earlier visit to these sites discovered two shell beads lying on the ground surface adjacent to these structures.

Dr Mark Beech together with the Abu Dhabi branch of the Emirates Natural History Group visited the area on the 11th February 2005. Two shell beads were found approximately five and ten metres west of KHM0046 (Figure 9).

The first example was a typical flat round disc-bead, about 7mm in diameter, with a hole about 2mm in diameter drilled through it. It had been manufactured from a marine bivalve shell, possibly from a species like Cardiidae: *Acrosterigma maculosa*, as traces of its distinctive parallel grooves were still visible on its uppermost surface. This species is present in both the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in sandy offshore habitats (Dance 1995: 246, no.1090).

The second example was an almost complete small marine gastropod, Oliviidae: *Ancilla cf. farsiana*, whose apex had been cut off to facilitate it being threaded as a bead. This species is present in both the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in intertidal habitats as well as sandy offshore habitats (Dance 1995: 145, no.604).

Identical examples of both types of bead are known from the Neolithic cemetery of Jebel Al-Buhais 18, located in Sharjah emirate in the UAE (Kiesewetter et al. 2000: 140 – Fig.3; 142; 144 – Fig.10 and Table 1). The discovery of these two shell beads represents the deepest penetration of items which must have originally been produced by coastal communities into the desert interior of the UAE. It demonstrates the mobility of the Neolithic pastoral nomadic communities who must have regularly come into contact with coastal communities as part of their annual cycle.
Protection of sites KHM0045-KHM0047
It is clear that sites KHM0045-KHM0047 are of great importance. These types of sites are unique as far as we know within Abu Dhabi emirate and the United Arab Emirates. A decision was therefore made to offer them some protection in the form of a fence. Dr Walid Yasin and a team from the Department of Antiquities and Tourism in Al Ain visited the sites in late January 2006 and arranged for the entire area around the structures to be fenced. Posts were driven in and concrete had to be used where the ground was too hard to fix the posts. Fencing wire was then used around the posts to prevent any vehicles from driving across the site. This measure will hopefully help to protect the sites and will ensure that they are not interfered with in the future.

Dating the sites at Umm az-Zamul
All the lithic tools collected to date have been examined by Dr Heiko Kallweit. According to his preliminary analysis the sites all date to the Neolithic period, i.e. between around 7500-6000 BP. The tools all belong, typologically speaking, to the technocomplex of the so-called ‘Arabian Bifacial Tradition’ (ABT), or, more closely to the ‘Rub al-Khali-Neolithic’, as first defined by Christopher Edens in 1982 (Edens 1982).

The problem of absolute dating of Neolithic sites within inland desert environments is that in most cases, no suitable layers or organic matters are preserved; therefore we do not have any suitable material for dating the sites. This is also the case for the KAM and KHM sites at Umm az-Zamul. Our recent excavations of burnt mounds at KAM and of the interesting structure at KHM0046 have so far failed to yield any ash, charcoal or other suitable stratified datable material.

Dating can, however, be carried out using a technique called Optical Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) on quartz grains within the sediment. In April 2005, a team comprised of Dr Anja Zander (then based at the Geography Department in Marburg University in Germany), Dr Heiko Kallweit and Dr Mark Beech, visited the Umm az-Zamul region to obtain suitable samples for OSL dating. Various locations within both plains and dunes were visited at both Khor Al Manahil and Kharimat Khor Al Manahil. An attempt was made to solve the problem of dating the archaeological sites by dating the sediments above and below the archaeological horizons. The results of this dating will be discussed in more detail in a forthcoming publication (Beech et al. in prep.; Kallweit et al. in prep.).

Conclusion
The third season of archaeological investigations at Umm az-Zamul has provided valuable new information concerning the interpretation of the sites already discovered. Whilst work has been largely completed at Khor Al-Manahil in terms of mapping the main site area, much work still remains to be done at Kharimat Khor Al Manahil.

We now have three full field seasons of lithics awaiting detailed study. It is planned that the databasing, illustration and photography of this material will commence shortly in Abu Dhabi. Dr Heiko Kallweit will soon begin the detailed recording of all the lithics material from the Umm az-Zamul sites.

The plan for the fourth season, scheduled for January 2007, will be to undertake the detailed excavation of structures KHM0045 – KHM0047, plus sampling one of the other low mounds adjacent to KHM0045-7 that could represent undisturbed tombs. Some additional mapping will be undertaken of lithics sites located within the north-west corner of the plain. Further surveys will also be undertaken in some of the adjacent plains to develop our existing knowledge of further sites in the region.

Acknowledgements
We would first of all like to thank Mohammed Al Niyadi, Director of the Department of Antiquities and Tourism, Al Ain, for his kind support and cooperation during our work. The following additional staff from the Department of Antiquities and Tourism assisted during the fieldwork at Umm az-Zamul: Ahmed Abdullah Elhaj, Jaber Al-Amery and Dia’eddin Tawalbeh. The department also provided Sami, our camp cook, for the first half of our fieldwork, plus several other workmen. The following additional staff from ADIAS assisted with the work: Phil Glover volunteered for the entire field season, and Suzan al-Mutawa and Roxana Linklater-McLennan joined the team for the final week of fieldwork. Hamed Mutaiti from the Department of Museums & Antiquities, National Council for Culture Arts & Letters in Kuwait, again participated in the fieldwork.
for the second year in succession. We thank them all for their important contributions.

Nigel Dodds from Birmingham Archaeology, U.K., kindly prepared figures 5 and 8 with assistance from Richard Cuttler. Annette Kallweit illustrated all the flints depicted in Figure 6.

Helen and Jonathan Beech kindly helped with the preparation of camping and field equipment in the ADIAS storeroom at Maqta in late December 2005, prior to the fieldwork. Simon Aspinall assisted by transporting equipment from Abu Dhabi to the Khor Al Manahil basecamp at the beginning of the season.

References


Kallweit H., Cuttler R., Beech M. and Al-Tikriti, W.Y. (In prep.) Neolithic Tombs, Burnt Mounds and Flints in the Desert: Recent Work in the Umm az-Zamul Region of Abu Dhabi Emirate, UAE. *PSAS* 37


Obituaries

SHAikh MaktoUM Bin Rashid al-MaktoUm, Ruler of Dubai since 1990, died in Queensland, Australia, on January 4th, 2006. Shaikh Maktoum succeeded his father Shaikh Rashid as Ruler and also as Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, under the constitution of 1971 that welded the seven emirates together. He was briefly acting President following the death of Shaikh Zayed in 2004.

Shaikh Maktoum was born in 1943 and was educated privately at first in Dubai, later at university in the UK. He was a philanthropist, generously donating to disability causes at home and abroad. He was also, together with his brothers Shaikhs Muhammad and Hamdan, a passionate horse-bredder and racer and may well have been in Queensland for the forthcoming yearling sales. So great has been the Maktoum family investment in the English, and also Irish, horse racing world since the 1980s that it is often credited with giving the institution a new lease of life.

The Maktoums have presided over the extraordinary transformation of Dubai from a small shaikhdom in the lower Gulf – with, however, strong Indian Ocean trading links especially with Iran – into a major banking, property and tourist centre in the Middle East. This was founded initially on the oil wealth in the area while having virtually none of its own, but successfully backed by a policy of laissez faire unusual in this part of the world.

He is succeeded by his brother Shaikh Muhammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

[An excellent article on the state of the UAE federation, ‘The United Arab Emirates: Statehood and Nation-Building in a Traditional Society’ by Frauke Heard-Bey, was published in The Middle East Journal, vol. 59 no.3, summer 2005].

Sarah Searight

AMIR JABER AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH, Ruler of Kuwait, who died on January 15th, became ruler in 1977 having been effective ruler for several years before that. In 1961 he was the country’s first finance minister; later he served as Prime Minister and Crown Prince. He survived a succession of crises stemming from Kuwait’s proximity to both Iran and Iraq: an assassination attempt in 1985 and the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, but above all Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1991. He spent nine months in exile in Saudi Arabia and returned to find a country devastated by the wanton destruction of the invaders. Kuwait was also the prime base for the 2003 invasion of Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein.

Amir Jaber presided over Kuwait’s gradual movement towards democracy that included the establishment of a national assembly in 1963, though it was the Assembly that defeated his proposal to give women the vote. The Assembly again found its teeth when, on the Ruler’s death, his cousin Shaikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah succeeded despite chronic ill health. Ten days later members of the National Assembly voted to replace him (albeit with Shaikh Saad’s acquiescence) with the half-brother of the deceased ruler, Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, de facto ruler for several years, now Prime Minister as well as Ruler.

The al-Sabah family presides over one of the richest countries in the world. Its oil wealth has been channelled into a number of investment organisations including the enormous Future Generations Fund established for Kuwaitis now and in the future. Such wealth has often made it the envy of less affluent parts of the Middle East. Its generosity, guided by the al-Sabah family, has been less noted but nevertheless remarkable.

Sarah Searight

KING FAHAD Bin Abdulaziz AL-SAUD

King Fahad bin Abdulaziz, who died last August, will be remembered as a forceful and shrewd manager of change in Saudi Arabia. He was born in 1921, during the remarkable series of campaigns by his father Ibn Saud’s forces which took Asir, Hail and Hijaz in quick succession. His upbringing in the then small and spartan town of Riyadh was unremarkable, but his personal qualities were so marked that in 1953, when King Abdulaziz formed his first Council of Ministers, Fahad was appointed the country’s first Minister of Education at the age of 31.

From that time on he was a central figure in putting into place the administrative systems of the new government. In 1962 he was appointed Minister of the Interior; in 1970 he presided over the first of the series of Five-Year Development plans; in 1975 he was made crown prince following King Faisal’s assassination; and became King after Khaleed’s death in 1982.

Holding together the numerous strands of Saudi society and bringing them forward together required formidable talents. If Fahad was not as polished an international statesman as King Faisal, nor as close to the tribal network as King Saud, nor as pious as the more enthusiastic could have wished, nevertheless his intelligence, worldly wisdom and flexibility of mind were gifts which enabled him to steer the kingdom and its development forward with a large measure of success.

Patrick Fraser
Dr DAVID DIXON died on 1st November 2005 after a long battle against cancer. Dr Dixon first joined the Department of Egyptology at UCL in 1950 as an undergraduate studying Hebrew with Egyptian, and worked with Professor Emery at Saqqara in 1956, and Buhen from 1957-9.

In 1964 the Wellcome collection was presented to the Petrie Museum – David Dixon who had been appointed to classify the collection in 1960, was instrumental in winning the collection for the Petrie. He was appointed an Honorary Research Associate and continued his work on the collection, later becoming a lecturer with the Department in 1967 and Honorary Curator of the Petrie Museum (until 1978), and taught until his retirement in 1995. He served on the committee of the Egypt Exploration Society and as Honorary Secretary from 1983 to 1992.

Dr Dixon’s principal research work concerned Egypt’s trade with Africa and the Indian Ocean – too much of it, alas, unpublished. Upon his retirement Dr Dixon focused his research on 19th-century Egypt and the Red Sea: he was a valuable contributor to the first session of the Society’s Red Sea Project, with a paper on ‘Pharaonic Egypt and the Red Sea arms trade’ – an investigation into competition for resources in the region from ancient Egypt to the modern arms race. He was an active member of ASTENE. He was plagued by failing eye-sight but he was a very private man and few knew of his health problems, especially his battle against cancer. He is survived by his wife Jane.

Janet Picton

D.B. DOE, MBE, PhD, FRIBA, FSA (1920 – 2005)

Donald Brian Doe (known as Brian) died on 5 May 2005 aged 84. He belonged to a generation whose early careers were interrupted and often changed direction as a result of the Second World War. He was born in Yorkshire in 1920, the only son of Charles and Mary Doe, and attended Knaresborough Grammar School until his parents moved to Sussex where his architectural studies began at Hastings School of Art in 1936. They had not been completed when war was declared and he enlisted as lieutenant and was sent to North Africa with the Eighth Army 50th Division RE. During the campaign in Libya he saw the spectacular remains of Sabratha and realised his vocation lay not in architecture but in archaeology. Nonetheless, on demobilisation as a major in 1947, he returned to London to complete his architectural training.

His appointment in 1951 as Government Architect in Aden was opportune as it enabled him to gain an understanding of the local landscape and its monuments while carrying out his official duties. Because many sites were at risk he took on additional archaeological duties in 1960, only relinquishing his post as Chief Architect in 1962 to become Director of Antiquities, Aden, and Archaeological Adviser in the Protectorates.

His first Departmental Antiquities Report cited two major problems: the illicit export of antiquities and the quarrying of sites as a source of building material at a time when Aden was developing rapidly. Comprehensive survey was essential before sites vanished unrecorded and Brian actively enlisted the help of visiting specialists and expeditions. He stimulated local interest, formed an archaeological society and designed the new Museum which opened in 1967. Political events then obliged him to leave Aden. His work there was recognised by Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1963 and he was awarded an MBE in 1966.

In 1968 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and, at Sir Mortimer Wheeler’s suggestion, I invited him to join me on a survey of Ras al-Khaimah, UAE. During the 1970s we undertook several expeditions in Oman and his Gazetteers form an essential part of our reports in The Journal of Oman Studies. Brian described our last survey in the Wadi al-Qawr, Ras al-Khaimah as ‘idyllic’, the wadi banks being replete with Iron Age pottery and later forts located in lovely scenery. Creature comforts were few on our surveys but Brian was resourceful, seemingly untiring and endowed with an equable temperament; I could not have had a better companion in the field.

On leaving Aden Brian overcame the difficulty of reverting to an academic life and enrolled as a Research Fellow at St John’s College, Cambridge. He published Southern Arabia (Thames & Hudson) in 1971 and his doctoral thesis on ‘Building techniques in Ancient South Arabia’ appeared as Monuments of Southern Arabia (Falcon-Oleander) in 1983. Both books remain major reference works and have to some extent overshadowed the importance of his earlier work in Aden. He undertook a study of defensive architecture in Oman at that government’s request but only an Arabic version has appeared. His survey, Socotra, an Archaeological Reconnaissance in 1967, appeared in 1970 and was followed by Socotra: Island of Tranquility in 1992. By then Alzheimer’s disease had taken hold and his remaining years were spent at home in Derbyshire. He is survived by his wife, Vanessa, and his children from a former marriage, Charles and Rowena.

Beatrice de Cardi
OBITUARIES

GREVILLE STEWART PARKER FREEMAN-GRENVILLE
It is an honour to have been asked by the Editor to flesh out the Arabian connection in the life and work of Greville Stewart Parker Freeman-Grenville. Freeman-Grenville first went to the Middle East during the war as a captain in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He served in Egypt where incidentally he made his first study of mosques. He completed his B.Litt degree in modern history for Worcester College, Oxford during his service and was demobilised in 1946. After his marriage to Mary, Lady Kinloss, in 1950, he taught school in Abadan, Iran and then in Baghdad where he mastered classical Arabic and became fluent in spoken Arabic. His colonial service began in 1951 with a year of study at the London School of Oriental and African Studies. This prepared him for his role as Education Officer and later Provincial Education Officer in former Tanganyika (Tanzania) where he and his wife immersed themselves in Swahili, travelled the country setting up schools and produced their first child. In 1961 they moved to the Aden Protectorate, Greville acting as Education Adviser to the British administration in which capacity it is said ‘he innovated the idea of providing every new school with a classroom which could double as a mosque’ (Sources: The Times 7 Feb 2005/ Daily Telegraph 8 Feb, 2005). He travelled to the Hadhramawt and other districts, accompanied by the redoubtable Mary who gave him two further children in the three years they spent in Aden. He saw out the turbulent last days of the Protectorate, an act of heroism given the chaos of the British withdrawal, but Freeman-Grenville took it as an opportunity to ‘see history in the making’ (Source: Stephen Day, Palestine Exploration Quarterly Vol. 137, No. 1, April 2005, p. 8). He left the colonial service in 1965, and spent the rest of his life as a lecturer, an independent scholar and a prolific historian. He served energetically as committee member and vice president of the Royal Asiatic Society (1997–2000), executive committee member of the Palestine Exploration Fund and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.


The anonymous obituary in The Times on line of March 15th, 2005 wrote, ‘Freeman-Grenville was a gentleman-historian of the old school, an energetic correspondent to young and old scholars alike, and a fearless campaigner to preserve the archaeological remains of Africa and the Middle East.’

In this writer’s estimation he was a towering influence on the study of East African medieval history and Swahili culture, drawing on his knowledge of Persian and Arabian numismatics, Indian Ocean architectures, languages, religions and Portuguese imperialism among many disciplines. His contribution to the shaping of the Red Sea Studies conferences first convened in 2002 by this Society helped make the series a success. He was a protean and dynamic intellect, a delight to the last. He is greatly missed.

Francine Stone

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The Society for Arabian Studies Monograph series
Published in conjunction with Archaeopress

This section is arranged alphabetically by country, starting with a section on news of general interest to members, or which is relevant to the Arabian Peninsula as a whole, followed by ‘news and research’ listed by country. The Society’s News now has its own section at the beginning of the Bulletin.

The editor’s thanks to those members who contribute information, and to the various websites and newsgroups, especially the Jack Sasson list, from which much of the following information derives. Where possible, this has been acknowledged.

**GENERAL NEWS AND RESEARCH**

- **The Festival of Muslim Cultures** will be a year-long arts festival that seeks to increase understanding and respect. It will take place across the UK throughout 2006 and hopes to involve Muslims and non-Muslims in a range of events. The patron is HRH Prince of Wales. A full listing can be found in the **Museums and exhibitions** section of this Bulletin. If you would like to be kept in touch with developments, tel 020 7609 3734, or e-mail news@muslimcultures.org; www.muslimcultures.org

- **The Khalili Research Centre for Art and Material Culture of the Middle East** opened its new building at 2–4 St John St, Oxford, in July 2005. The KRC was funded by a £2.3 million donation from the Khalili Family Trust to the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford. It brings together Middle Eastern scholars in all fields. One of the first projects will be the digitisation of the photographic archive. More information from www.krc.ox.ac.uk

- **The British-Kuwait Friendship Society Prize in Middle Eastern Studies** 2005, funded by the Abdullah Mubarak Charitable Foundation was awarded to Patricia Crone for *Medieval Islamic Political Thought* (Edinburgh UP).

- **IB Tauris** has established the **Tauris Academic Studies** imprint to enable the publication of scholarly books (and PhDs). Publications are peer reviewed and submissions should be accompanied by two academic endorsements. Full details from Elizabeth Mumms, IB Tauris, 6 Salem Rd, London W2 4BU. Tel 020 7243 1225. E-mail: emumms@ibtauris.com www.ibtauris.com

- **The University of Salford School of Languages** have appointed two new lecturers: James Dickins, Senior Lecturer in Arabic, and Janet Watson, as Professor of Arabic.

- In an unusual collaboration among scientists and humanists, a **Cornell University** team has demonstrated a novel method for recovering faded text on ancient stone by zapping and mapping 2,000-year-old inscriptions using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) imaging. The research, carried out at the **Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source** (CHESS), applies a non-destructive chemical analysis technique widely used in geology, archaeology and materials science. X-ray fluorescence imaging has the potential to become a major tool in epigraphy. http://www.physorg.com/news5574.html.


  Image: Below is a scan of a group of letters on CIL VI 12139. The top panel is the photographic image. The middle panel is the iron fluorescence; while there is iron fluorescence visible, it becomes very weak in areas that have been significantly worn away. The bottom panel is lead fluorescence. Even in areas that have been significantly weathered, the fluorescence is strong enough to clearly read the text.

- **NABA: The National Association of British Arabs** maintains a website containing analyses and reports in addition to various forums. Contributions are requested for articles, analysis, news, art work, literature and site links. The **British Arabs Forum** is an assembly for Arab organisations, groups and activists in the UK. They can be contacted on <baf@uk2.net>. Tel/Fax: 44 (0)1780 765 655; http://www.naba.org.uk; E-mail: naba@naba.org.uk
News and research – General interest

• In 2001 the German Research Foundation inaugurated the Sonderforschungsbereich (SFB - Collaborative Research Centre) 586 Difference and Integration (Studies on nomadism) conducted by the Universities of Halle-Wittenberg and Leipzig. Their most recent publication, Shifts and Drifts in Nomad-Sedentary Relations, is listed under ‘publications – general’. For further information, go to www.nomadsed.de or e-mail S.R. Hauser at hauser@orientarch.uni-halle.de

• Red Sea discovery. Professor Cheryl Ward, Florida State University anthropologist and specialist on ancient marine craft, participated in the most recent excavation in the caves at Wadi Gawasis, on the Egyptian Red Sea coast, where a number of ships planks, storage chests, ropes etc (and a stela of Pharaoh Amenemhat III, who ruled 1844–1797 BC), have been found dating to the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (c. 2000–1650 BC). Inscriptions on the storage chests refer to a sea voyage to the fabled land of Punt.

Scholars have long known that Egyptians travelled to Punt but they have debated its exact location and whether the Egyptians reached Punt by land or by sea. Some had thought the ancient Egyptians did not have the naval technology to travel long distances by sea but Ward suggests that shipworms that had tunnelled into the planks indicate the ships had weathered a long sea voyage of several months, possibly to Punt, putting it in what is today either Ethiopia or Yemen (or both, if you follow the argument that ‘Punt’ was wherever Egypt acquired its incense from – Ed.).

Ward joined archaeologists Kathryn Bard of Boston University and Rodolfo Fattovich of the University of Naples l’Orientale as the chief maritime archaeologist at Wadi Gawasis in December 2005. The site, located about 13 miles south of the modern city of Port Safaga, was an industrial shipyard of sorts with six rock-cut caves that the ancient Egyptians used as work and storage rooms to protect their equipment from the harsh desert conditions. Along with timber and cargo boxes, the archaeologists found large stone anchors, shards of storage jars and more than 80 perfectly preserved coils of rope in the caves that had been sealed off until the next expedition – one that obviously never came. The ships were originally built at a Nile shipyard, then disassembled and carried across 90 miles of desert to the Red Sea, where they were put back together and launched on the voyage. Upon the fleet’s return several months later, the crews unloaded the cargo and began breaking down the ship piece by piece. Shipwrights inspected the vessels and marked unsatisfactory pieces with red paint. Others were cleaned, rid of shipworm and recycled. “As many as 3,700 men may have taken part in the expeditions. The scale of the organisation was astonishing. They had men carry kits with pieces 10 feet long and 8 to 12 inches thick across the desert to reassemble into ships on the edge of a sea that is still difficult to sail today. Ward will return to the Wadi Gawasis site next year to continue to excavate and record ship timbers and the ship assembly and break-up process and to reconstruct the vessels as they were originally configured. Ward will publish her preliminary results in the next International Journal of Nautical Archaeology. For digital images of artifacts found at Wadi Gawasis, e-mail jelish@mailer.fsu.edu. © Florida State University.

cward@mailer.fsu.edu

• The Seminar for Arabian Studies was held at the British Museum 21–23 July 2005. The sessions were: Thursday: Environment and early human responses in Southern Arabia. T. Wilkinson et al., The Early-Mid Holocene moist period in Arabia: some recent evidence from lacustrine sequences in eastern and southwestern Arabia; R. Crassard et al., Manayzeh, an Early to Mid-Holocene occupation in Wadi Sana (Hadramawt, Yemen); L. Khalidi, The cultural landscape of Late Prehistoric settlements in the Tihamah coastal plain; M. Tengberg, Wood exploitation and degradation of the vegetation cover in Eastern Arabia from the Bronze Age until Early Islamic times.

Early man and environment in the Gulf. T. Steimer-Herbet, Studies on the distribution and organisation of pastoral remains during the third millennium BC in Wadi Wa’shah; R. de Beauclair, New results on the Neolithic jewellery from al-Buhais 18 (United Arab Emirates); S. Méry et al., On the relative chronology of the Umm an-Nar period in the Eastern Province of Abu Dhabi Emirate.

Archaeology of Arabia. A. Hausleiter, Archaeological excavations at Tayma (Saudi Arabia); D. al-Talhi, Recent excavations at Mada’in Salih (Saudi Arabia); J.S. Omar, Recent excavations at Khuraybah, the ancient city of Dedan, Saudi Arabia; S.F. Andersen, The Tylos Burials (Bahrain); M. Arbach, et al, New investigations at the pre-Islamic site of Makaynun (Yemen); Y. Tobi Israel Subayri collection of archaeological and ethnographic objects from Yemen.

Friday: A celebration of A.F.L. Beeston (1911–1995). One of the founders of the Seminar and one of
News and research – General interest

its most faithful participants, ten years after his death with an introduction by Michael Macdonald, and a reminiscent of Freddie Beeston by Julia Bray. Papers were offered in his honour throughout the day.


Arabic Language: C. Holes, The Arabic dialects of Arabia; J. Watson et al, Razih: a Yemeni dialect or a separate language?


Saturday: Archaeological surveys in Oman: J. Häser et al, Transformation processes in Oasis settlements in Oman 2004: archaeological survey at Izki and the Jebel Akhdar; P.M. Costa, Archaeological survey in the northern area of the Wilayat of Dakh (Sultanate of Oman): A preliminary report; M. Ibrahim et al, Investigations at Wadi Bani Khurais (Sultanate of Oman);


Traditional architecture and environmental exploitation: R.W. Hawker, Tribe, house style and the town layout of Jazirat al-Hamra, Ras al-Khaimah (United Arab Emirates); D. Boussaa, Urban conservation in North Africa and the Gulf; problems, opportunities and challenges; M.J. Morris, Traditional fishing on the Island of Soqotra.

R Tokunaga, The Arabic and Thamudic rock inscriptions of South Sinai.

The edited proceedings are in press, although not all of the above papers were submitted for publication.

• An International Conference on the Economy and Society of Pre-Islamic Arabia took place in Beirut on December 12–15, 2005, organised by the German Orient Institute in Beirut and the American University of Beirut with the cooperation of the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums of the Republic of Yemen. The proceedings will be published in Beiruter Texte und Studien, a series of the German Orient Institute in Beirut. The organising committee was Hélène Sader, AUB, Manfred Kropp, OIB, Mohammad Maraqa’t, OIB. Further information from Orient-Institut, P.O. Box 11-2988, Riald el Solh, Lebanon.

Panel I Languages and Scripts: C. Robin, The languages of Pre-Islamic Arabia; Manfred Kropp, Pre-Islamic Arabian scripts and epigraphic sources; A. Ansary, Who governs Qaryat Dhat Kahilum (Qaryat al-Faw), Saudi Arabia.

Panel II: Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Irrigation in Pre-Islamic Arabia: C. Phillips, The natural resources of pre-Islamic Arabia; U. Brunner, Irrigation systems in Pre-Islamic Arabia; I. Hehmeyer, Agricultural practices and irrigation principles in pre-Islamic South Arabia: the example of Marib, Yemen; L. Khalidi, Early and Middle Holocene society and economy in the Tihama coastal plain; M. Ibrahim, The first towns in the Arabian Gulf.

Panel III: Pre-Islamic Arabian Society: R. Hoyland, The emergence of Arab identity in pre-Islamic Arabia: the evidence of the inscriptions; Hattoon al-Fassi, Assessment of women’s status in the Nabataean kingdom; A. Sholan, Women in pre-Islamic South Arabia; T. Wilkinson, Settlement pattern in pre-Islamic Arabia; K. Gouchina, Comparative analysis of a South Arabian inscription and a Classical Islamic historical source from the point of view of their style, contents and historical precision; Y. Abdallah, Deeds and contracts in pre-Islamic South Arabia; I. Gajda, Weights and measures in Pre-Islamic South Arabia; A. Avanzini, Trade and trade structures in pre-Islamic Arabia; Said al-Said, New inscriptions from al ‘Ula, northwest of Saudi Arabia; W. Glanzman, Exchange networks and trade in Pre-Islamic Arabia: new archaeological evidence; W. Dostal, Political Institutions in pre-Islamic Arabia; S. Frantsouzoff, The ‘freemen (‘hr) in ancient Hadhramaut: A real key for understanding
the history of this kingdom; M. Mouton, Water-control and political unification in the lowlands of South Arabia in antiquity.


• Coinage of the Caravan Kingdoms Project, an interdisciplinary project on early Arabian coinage was held at the Orient Institute Beirut, 27–29 October 2005. This new project at the Orient Institute focuses on the indigenous coinage that was produced in the Arabian Peninsula from the fourth century BC to the third century AD. Until recently, the numismatic material from this region continued to grow with the emergence of many new and previously unknown types and series such as the early coinage of the Qatabanians. Apart from this largely undocumented increase in new and mostly South Arabian material, no study exists as yet that integrates the coinage of the Nabataeans, of North and South Arabia and of the Gulf region. The project will put the coinage in its historical and numismatic context (trade routes and monetary systems), tackle epigraphic and linguistic problems related to the coinage and deal with economic aspects and questions of monetary circulation. The proceedings, with a catalogue, will be published in a comprehensive volume. Project coordinator: Martin Huth.


• The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) promotes an enlightened and positive approach to Arab-British relations in government, parliament, the media, education and amongst the wider public. Council for Arab-British Understanding, 1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE. Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1310 Fax: +44 (0)20 7832 1329. www.caabu.org

• Middle East Events in London is a monthly publication produced by the London Middle East Institute listing events in Britain and further afield relating to the study of the Middle East, and listing job opportunities, scholarships, community notices, etc. Free to members of the LMEI (membership £25/£12.50). Details as address above. Tel 020 7898 4330, fax 020 7898 4329, E-mail: lmei@soas.ac.uk

• Make the most of Middle Eastern events in London and receive comprehensive up-to-date information on lectures and other events by joining BANE Southeast which (in addition to an annual Bulletin, conference, etc), entitles you to quarterly receipt of the LONDON DIARY FOR THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. Annual membership is £10 (£5 for students with ID). Cheques should be made payable to BANE, and sent (with full name, address and e-mail) to Jan Picton, BANE, Institute of Archaeology UCL, 31 Gordon Sq, London WC1C 0HP. e-mail: j.picton@ucl.ac.uk. Membership entitles you to information about the local group of your choice, please indicate ONE Regional Group: Scotland and NE (Durham, Edinburgh); NW (Liverpool, Manchester); W and SW (Oxford, Birmingham, Reading, Bristol); Southeast (London, Cambridge, etc – for receipt of the London Diary). Membership form and full details online at www.art.man.ac.uk/ARTHIST/banea.htm

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION TO THE BULLETIN EDITOR
janpicton@ijnet.demon.co.uk
News and research – Societies and Associations

- **MESAL** is a student society sponsored by LMEI, and they are keen to forge links with other organisations directly involved or concerned with the Middle East. General Secretary Natalya Adams, e-mail: soasmesal@yahoo.co.uk
- **The Middle East & North Africa (MENA)** programme of the US Social Sciences Research Council supports international co-operative research for a maximum period of 18 months. The deadline for preliminary proposals is November each year. For further information contact the MENA Programme: Phone: (212) 377-2700, ext. 441; mena@ssrc.org; http://www.ssrc.org/programs/ww6
- **Archeaozoology of South West Asia and Adjacent Areas (ASWA)** encourages research students to present their results and ideas, either in paper or poster format for the next ASWA conference. For further information, contact: Louise Martin, Institute of Archaeology, UCL. louise.martin@ucl.ac.uk; Tel: +44 (0)20 7679 4769
- **The Association of Arab Archaeologists**, sponsored by the Arab League, is based in Cairo. It is backed by the Saudi Society for Archaeological Studies and the Society of History and Archaeology in the states of the Gulf Co-operation Council. Contact Adumatu, e-mail adumatu@suhuf.net.sa
- The **Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE)** is anxious to contact descendants of early travellers to the region: contact usick@dircon.co.uk, www.astene.org.uk
- **Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia (ABBA)**. Further information from Michael C Jennings, Coordinator, Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia, 1 Warners Farm, Warners Drove, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, PE17 3HW, UK. Editor: Phoenix Newsletter. Tel / Fax 01487 841733. E-mail: arabian.birds@dial.pipex.com Webpage: http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/arabian.birds/
- **The Middle East Falcon Research Group** coordinates research on falcons and falconry and provides a forum for the exchange of information and research. Further details from MEFRG, PO Box 19, Carmarthen SA33 5YL. E-Mail nigel-barton@easynet.co.uk; or offices@falcons.co.uk, www.falcons.co.uk
- **The Visual Islamic & Traditional Arts** Department of the Prince of Wales Foundation offers higher degrees in the practice of traditional arts from around the world. Further details contact VITA, Princes’ Foundation, 19-22 Charlotte Rd, London EC2 3SG. Tel 020 7613 8500. E-mail rsuzuki@princes-foundation.org; www.princes-foundation.org
- **The School of Oriental and African Studies** (SOAS), University of London, invites applications for Research Student Fellowships. Nine awards for PhD research in any area relating to Asia and Africa, up to three years’ funding; £9,250 p.a., plus remittance of fees at Home/EU rate. Closing date for applications: 31 March each year. Application forms and further details from: The Academic Registrar, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG
- **BANEAA** The British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology is open to all at a cost of £10 (£5 concessions) (London membership includes membership of the London Centre for the Ancient Near East and subscription to the London Diary). BANEAA holds an annual conference, publishes an annual newsletter, and assists in educational research. http://www.art.man.ac.uk/arthist/banea.html. For inclusion of lectures or events in the London Diary, contact Jan Picton: janpicton@ijnet.demon.co.uk.
- **Arab Heritage in London** is a guide to London’s museums, galleries and institutions holding collections from the Arab world. Some 30 galleries, museums and institutions are listed. Copies of the leaflet are available from the Arab Community Association in Brent, 116 Salmon Street, Kingsbury, London NW9 8NL. Tel 020 8205 2190
- **The British School of Archaeology in Iraq** promotes, supports and undertakes research relating to the archaeology of Iraq and neighbouring countries, and produces the journal *Iraq*. For grant application details contact: Joan Porter Maclver, Secretary BSAI, c/o The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. E-mail: bsa@britac.ac.uk or TheBSAI@aol.com website: http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/ Tel. 01440 785 244 & fax. 01440 785 723.
- **The Friends of the Hadhramaut** celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2006. Cost of subscription is £20 which supports non-political work in Hadhramaut. E-mail: hadhramaut@lionrampant.co.uk; or website: http://www.hadhramaut.co.uk
- **The Saudi-British Society** promotes friendship between the UK and Saudi Arabia. The new ambassador, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf, is President. Sir Alan Munro is Chairman. For details of the lecture programme, other events and membership please contact the Hon. Secretary Ionis Thompson on: ionisthompson@ukonline.co.uk. Website: www.saudibritishsociety.org.uk
News and research – Online information

- The Society for Arabian Studies webpage is at www.societyforarabianstudies.org
- The annual bibliographical reference lists published by Paleoorient are online at http://web.mae.u-paris10.fr/paleo_index.htm
- Many of the articles previously published by the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey (ADIAS) can be downloaded as Acrobat pdf files at: http://www.adias-uae.com/publications.html
- The Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, the Journal of Cuneiform Studies, and Near Eastern Archaeology will be available on JSTOR, the not-for-profit online digital archive. The back issues of all three journals, from their first year published until the most recent three years, will be accessible as full-text PDF files for searching, browsing, downloading, and printing.
- Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy (AAE) (ISSN 0905-7196). This journal serves as a forum for study in archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, and early history of countries in the Arabian peninsula. For further information fax +45 7733 3377, or e-mail: soren.hemmingsen@mks.blackwellpublishing.com
- The Arabian Wildlife Magazine, covering all facets of wildlife and conservation in the Arabian peninsula is online at www.arabianwildlife.com. The fully searchable archive of past issues provides a wide range of information on the animal and plant life of the region.
- Al-Jazeera, the Arabic satellite channel, English speaking website at http://english.aljazeera.net.
- The London Middle East Institute (LMEI) website hosts a calendar of Middle East events in the UK and hosts weekly lectures on ME themes during the winter months. www.LMEI.soas.ac.uk
- www.palarch.nl Archaeology journal seeks papers. Check the website for full details
- FriendsofSoqotra.org. This website features information on the archipelago, FoS activities, publications, news and contact information.
- Visit the Oman & Arabia Natural History page at http://www.oman.org/nath00.htm
- Middle East Online is a source of news, arts and science in the area: www.middle-east-online.com
- Environmental Archaeology Unit at the University of York: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/eau
- The BRISMES website has links to main UK institutions teaching Middle Eastern related subjects www.dur.ac.uk/brismes
- The National Museum of Ras al-Khaimah website is http://www.rakmuseum.gov.ae
- The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East www.astene.org.uk
- The Oman Studies Centre www.oman.org
- The Yemen Times at www.yementimes.com
- British-Yemeni Society www.al-bab.com/bys
- The Oman Internet Project (OIP) at oman.org
- www.albawaba.com is the Middle East Gateway site that leads through to business, cultural and general information on all areas of the peninsula.
- ABBA web page http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/arabian.birds/
- There is a number of conservation, natural history, bird sites covering Arabia:
  - http://www.uaeinteract.com
  - http://www.arabianwildlife.com
  - http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite.5267
  - http://www.oman.org/nath00.htm
- Archaeopress has reprinted many of AFL Beeston’s earlier publications see www.archaeopress.com, bar@archaeopress.com, tel 01865 311914
News and research – Bahrain – Jordan

**BAHRAIN**

- **Qala‘at al-Bahrain** is inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. For a link to the full evaluation report, see http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1192. The site is listed under the UNESCO criteria:
  *Criterion (ii)*: Being an important port city, where people and traditions from different parts of the then known world met, lived and practised their commercial activities, makes the place a real meeting point of cultures – all reflected in its architecture and development. In addition, other powers invaded and occupied Bahrain for long periods and left their cultural traces in different strata of the tell.

  *Criterion (iii)*: The site was the capital of one of the most important ancient civilizations of the region – the Dilmun civilisation. As such this site is the best representative of this culture.

  *Criterion (iv)*: The palaces of Dilmun are unique examples of public architecture of this culture, which had an impact on architecture in general in the region. The different fortifications are the best examples of defence works from the 3rd century BC to the 16th century AD, all on one site. The protected palm groves surrounding the site are an illustration of the typical landscape and agriculture of the region, since the 3rd century BC.

- Any members currently resident in (or visiting) Bahrain who could act as correspondents for the *Bulletin* with news of general and archaeological interest should contact the editor, Jan Picton, Bulletin of the Society for Arabian Studies, The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Fax 44 (0)870 164 1855. e-mail janpicton@ijnet.demon.co.uk

**JORDAN**

- **New World Heritage Listing** of the four Nabataean towns of Haluza, Mamshit, Avdat and Shivta, along with associated fortresses and agricultural landscapes in the Negev Desert, are spread along routes linking them to the Mediterranean end of the Incense and Spice route. Together they reflect the hugely profitable trade in frankincense and myrrh from south Arabia to the Mediterranean, which flourished from the 3rd century BC until the 2nd century AD. With the vestiges of their sophisticated irrigation systems, urban constructions, forts, and caravanserais they bear witness to the way in which the harsh desert was settled for trade and agriculture.

  *Justification for Inscription:*

  *Criterion (iii)*: The Nabataean towns and their trade routes bear eloquent testimony to the economic, social and cultural importance of frankincense to the Hellenistic-Roman world. The routes also provided a means of passage not only for frankincense and other trade goods but also for people and ideas.

  *Criterion (v)*: The almost fossilised remains of towns, forts, caravanserais and sophisticated agricultural systems strung out along the incense route in the Negev desert, display an outstanding response to a hostile desert environment and one that flourished for five centuries. http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1107/

- The Council for British Research in the Levant has a new website www.cbrl.org.uk The CBRL appoints two Amman Scholars annually. It is expected that the successful candidates will recently have completed an undergraduate or intermediate post-graduate degree in a relevant subject and will be seeking to develop an active research interest in the area, leading to the production of a significant publication. The scholars’ duties will include research and assisting with the administration of the CBRL’s facilities. The scholarships are tenable for one year, with an annual scholarship of £6,600 and free accommodation. Further details may be obtained from the CBRL Secretary, British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH. website: <cbrl@britac.ac.uk> or www.cbrl.org.uk
## News and research – Kuwait – Oman

### Kuwait

- Dr Mark Beech (ADIAS Senior Resident Archaeologist) and Dr Heiko Kallweit (ADIAS associate) visited Kuwait at the invitation of Shihab al-Shihab, director of the Department of Museums and Antiquities, part of the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters in Kuwait. On 1st February 2005 they gave lectures at the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters: ‘Recent archaeological work on Marawah Island, Abu Dhabi Emirate, United Arab Emirates’ by Dr Mark Beech and ‘Archaeology in Arabia’s Deserts: Recent fieldwork at Khor Al Manahil, Abu Dhabi Emirate, United Arab Emirates’ by Dr Heiko Kallweit. Following the lectures, they visited a number of newly-discovered archaeological sites in Kuwait, and held meetings to discuss future collaboration and matters of mutual interest.

### Oman

- **Pre-Islamic occupation discovered during excavation in Al Baleed, Oman, December 2005.** Archaeological investigation at the site of Al Baleed, located within the modern town of Salalah, revealed the presence of pre-Islamic occupation. Prof. Juris Zarins, Missouri State University, is working in cooperation with the Office for Cultural Affairs in Muscat. Four deep soundings were made, reaching levels of up to four metres below the surface. It appears this well-known Islamic port city was founded in the late Iron Age (c.500 to 700 AD), based upon the recovery of ceramic materials associated with early stone walls. The earliest material, in the form of flint tools and a stone stela, date to the Bronze Age, 2,500 to 1,500 BC. It appears that Al Baleed was established in response to the abandonment of Khor Rori (Sumhurum), some 40km to the east, beginning in the 5th century AD. Dr Zarins believes that his hypothesis is supported by earlier archaeological work at Shisr, proposed as Ubar. It now appears that this site was contemporary with Al Baleed to exploit resources travelling to and from the interior of Arabia. The Rub Al-Khali desert route, connecting eastern Arabia to the Salalah plain, was probably established by this time, if not earlier. The continued growth of Al Baleed through the seventh and eighth centuries as evidenced by the presence of local ceramics and imported blue ceramics from Iran or Iraq (the so-called Sasano-Islamic turquoise glazed ware). Al Baleed clearly can be seen as a successor of Khor Rori. The Bronze Age is particularly well represented as Al Baleed was situated on large mangrove lagoons. An outstanding Bronze Age piece is the sandstone stela decorated with a number of large cup marks characteristic of this period throughout Arabia. Contemporary Bronze Age sites are known from sites further to the east of Al Baleed such as Khor Janif and Mughsayl to the West. Carbon 14 dates suggest a time bracket of 2000 to 1200 BC.

## News and research – Kuwait – Oman

### Kuwait

- **Kuwaitis find Bronze Age remains – Slovakian style.** A five member Kuwaiti team led by Director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums Shihab al-Shihab spent August 2005 engaged in the excavation of ancient ruins at a site in Liptoveska Mara, which is located 350km from the Slovakian capital as part of a joint initiative to broaden the experience of Kuwaiti archaeologists. The Kuwaiti team became the first Middle Eastern archaeological team to take part in an excavation mission outside the Middle East, and learned about new techniques and state-of-the-art equipment. The project continues in 2006, and a Slovakian team will resume excavation work at the Al-Khidr site on Failaka island. The Kuwaitis organised a seminar in Slovakia to shed light on the recent finds in Failaka and Subiya where a number of burial mounds were found in Nov 2004 by a GCC archaeological team. Samples of the recent discoveries in Subiya have been sent to Germany for analysis. The five-member Kuwaiti team was made up of Shihab al-Shihab, Ahmed al-Shimmari, Hameed al-Mutairi, Khaled Salem and Jassem al-Shimali.

### Oman

- **Muscat Tourism Ministry** held an international conference in February 2005 titled ‘Architectural visions for sustainable tourism: sustainability, identity and cultural diversity’. The four-day event was organised in collaboration with Unesco and the World Tourism Organisation. The conference reviewed examples of tourism sector architecture which demonstrated sustainability and cultural diversity, and

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Francis A. Clifford Cardozo – © Arab Times

- Any members currently resident in (or visiting) Kuwait who could act as correspondents for the Bulletin with news of general and archaeological interest should contact the editor. See inside front cover for contact details.
explored routes to encourage compliance with best-practice procedures. © Times of Oman

**The Oman Studies Centre** at Sultan Qaboos University is a multi-disciplinary research centre with an outstanding library collection. The Centre is relocating into a new building in 2006 and has made 3 senior appointments to assist this process, and to manage a significant expansion of the Centre’s activities: a new administrator, a co-ordinator for a new research programme for the Centre including a major oral history project, and a librarian responsible for maintaining the library as the leading Oman studies research resource, developing a digital library, and curating the Centre’s museum facility.

**Magan and the Indus Civilisation** was the title of an international seminar which took place in Vadodara, India, in January 2006, to explore the 5,000-year-old maritime trade link between India and Oman. Maritime archaeologists and scholars from US, France, Italy, Australia, India and Oman attended the seminar. The seminar was organized by the Oman Ministry of Heritage and Culture in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the M S University of Baroda. © Gujarat News

Magan boat

The seminar was meant to coincide with the culmination of a successful voyage of a reed boat from Oman to India. There was much press interest in the Magan Boat Project, an attempt to sail a 40ft replica of an ancient reed boat from Magan (or the harbour of Sur in Oman) to the Indus. Magan III sailed on September 7th but came to grief, sinking in high sea and strong winds.

In 1995 the Joint Hadd Project found 200 pieces of bitumen covered with sea barnacles. Indus civilization pottery carbon-dated to 2400 BC was found with the bitumen, suggesting that sea trade has been conducted throughout the Arabian Sea at that date. The textual evidence from Mesopotamia for long-distance sea voyages has long been recognised.

To prove this theory, **Gregory Possehl** (Penn Museum), **Tom Vosmer** (marine archaeologist and curator of maritime history at Australia’s Perth Museum) and Joint Hadd Project co-directors **Maurizio Tosi** and **Serge Cleuziou**, took a hands-on approach and began building boat models based on existing archaeological data – Vosmer’s particular area of research (and which he has reported in the *Bulletin* previously, Issue 5, 2000, p. 19-24).

After they successfully built and tested two earlier versions of the craft, the Magans I and II, the government of Oman approached Possehl and his colleagues in February 2005 with an offer to fund the construction of a full-sized model, the since-lost Magan III.

The boat was built of reeds formed into bundles approximately 11 cms in diameter and bound with rope hand-made from date palm fibre. The bundles were then lashed together, again with date palm fibre rope, and formed to shape the hull of the vessel. Once all the bundles were in place, they were covered with a woven mat made from split reeds of the same species, which was sewn to the bundles with more fibre rope. The mat covering was then coated with bitumen from Iraq, which analysis indicated was where the original fragments came from.

The wooden parts of the vessel were made from teak, and the sails hand woven from sheep wool. Two quarter rudders made of teak were used for steering. The gunwales or top edges and parts of the vessel that are vulnerable to chafing and wear associated with rope and crew movement were covered in hide, attached with wooden pegs. The reeds came from Salalah and the date palm fibre rope was made in Ja’alan Bani Bu Hassan and the goat hair rope in Quriyat. The sails were made in Bahla, Sinaw and Jebel Shams and the bitumen and woven mats came from Iraq, while the leather came from Muscat and Salalah. The construction team was made up of workers from Oman, Australia, Italy, Spain, Iraq, India and Bangladesh.

Despite the Magan III’s unsuccessful voyage, plans are already under way for the construction of the Magan IV and V.


In January 2006 a biosphere team set out on an extensive survey of Musandam in search of the endangered Arabian leopard, the last surviving species of big cat in the Arabian Peninsula. The team, in part sponsored by Shell Helix, is in Oman as a part of the efforts to conserve biodiversity while encouraging eco-tourism in the Sultanate. The project has important implications for Oman’s wildlife conservation effort. © Times of Oman
• The site Corpus of South Arabian Inscriptions is now online: http://csai.humnet.unipi.it/ For access to the database, you will need a login and password. Contact: A. Avanzini avanzini@humnet.unipi.it
• The Anglo-Omani Society is sponsored by H.M. The Sultan of Oman. The Chairman is Richard Muir. Membership of the Society is open to Omanis and to British subjects who have resided in Oman, or who have commercial, cultural or other interests there. The annual subscriptions are: Individual membership £6.00; corporate members £100.00. In addition to holding a regular series of lectures and events the Society offers grants to projects that meet the objectives of the Society. Further details from the Secretary, Richard Owens, c/o Middle East Association 33 Bury Street, SW1
• The Historical Society of Oman organises a series of lectures, trips and social events throughout the year. Membership is RO 10,000 (20,000 family membership). Details from PO Box 3941, Code 112, RUWI, Oman. Website: www.hao.org.om
• The French Centre in Sanaa for Archaeological and Social Sciences (CFEY) supports one research programme in Oman: Programme Identiité, politique et société, Franck Mermier (CNRS GREMMO-Maison de l’Orient, Lyon) Further information from F. Burgat CFEY – Centre Yéménite de prospective-Sanaa, Bayt Al-Ajami, rue du 26 Septembre, P. O. Box 2660 Sanaa, Yemen. Tél: (967-1) 275-417; Fax: (967-1) 270-725; e-mail: cfey01@y.net.ye / fburg@y.net.ye http://www.univ-aix.fr/cfey.

SAUDI ARABIA

• A ten-day Festival of Arabian Horses took place at the King Abdulaziz Historical Center in Riyadh in February 2005. The festival, which is expected to be international in scope from 2006, includes endurance racing championship, jumping championship and an awareness programme of the breed. Many groups participated in the festival, which included the King Abdulaziz Library (showing pre-historic, pre-Islamic and Islamic objects); Darat Al-Malik Abdulaziz (history of the Al-Saud family, and origins and relationship to Arabian horses); Department of Antiquity and Archaeology (objects from prehistoric period and the kinds of horses during the period); and King Abdulaziz Center for Arabian History. © Arab News http://www.arabnews.com/

• At the Rencontre Assyriologique 51, held in Chicago in July 2005, an interesting paper explored the role of Tayma and the ‘myth’ of Nabonidus, the Babylonian king portrayed as mentally unstable for forsaking the prime Babylonian deity, virile Marduk, and exiling himself to Tayma. Now archaeologists have found the first concrete signs that Nabonidus indeed lived in the oasis of Tayma, and they hope also to uncover why this obscure oasis played such a pivotal role in history. The Tayma dig is part of a five-year cooperation agreement between the Saudi authorities and the Institute of Archaeology in Germany.

Three years ago, Saudi researchers working near Tayma found rock inscriptions that mention an army of Nabonidus that battled local bedu. Then in December, a joint Saudi-German team found a piece of a badly weathered stela which closely resembles other slabs associated with Nabonidus’s reign, which was later reused in building a wall. Only about a dozen lines of the stela are legible, but they indicate that Nabonidus made offerings to Babylonian deities, including Marduk, in the form of carnelian, lapis lazuli, and censers of gold.

The find is part of a larger effort to understand the complex trade routes that linked the ancient Middle East. Tayma lies at a critical juncture of the frankincense trade flowing north from Yemen and other routes to the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia, and for millennia it offered travellers a respite from the desert. At the time of Nabonidus, the oasis included a city with a vast wall some 14km in circumference and a wall 18m across, one of the largest on the notoriously dry peninsula. The team, under the direction of Ricardo Eichmann of Berlin’s German Archaeological Institute and Said al-Said, a professor at King Fahd University, has found 13 successive layers of occupation from the mid-3rd millennium to the early centuries of the modern era, showing a surprising continuity in urban desert life. Although Babylonian texts mention that Nabonidus built a palace at the site, Eichmann says none has yet been found, but the team will keep looking. Andrew Lawler © Science Magazine

• The King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies. Professor Carole Hillenbrand from the University of Edinburgh has been awarded the prestigious King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies. The King Faisal Foundation, headed by HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal and based in Saudi Arabia awards the prize each year in five categories, including medicine, science and Islamic studies. Professor Hillenbrand’s award
reflects her ‘revolutionary approach to the largely one-sided subject of the Crusades’. Professor Hillenbrand’s book, *The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives* (Edinburgh University Press) which was highly commended by the judges of the British Kuwait Friendship Society Prize, administered by BRISMES, examines the period between 1099 and 1291 from a Muslim perspective. Traditionally, historical work in this field has had a largely European bias.

The King Faisal Foundation cites Professor Hillenbrand’s ‘objectivity, preciseness and clarity of thinking’ in her groundbreaking research. During the course of her work, she identified ‘several original texts, written in different languages and previously untranslated, in support of her refreshing examination of the many stereotypes that have pervaded western literature on [the subject of the Crusades]’. The work is seen as the first of its kind to address this era through Muslim eyes, thereby making it possible for history to be viewed from a more balanced and impartial perspective.

Since the King Faisal Foundation was set up in 1976, 28 scholars from 12 countries have won the King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies.

- **Red Sea Marine Environment – Jeddah Symposium.** A two-day symposium on the Red Sea Marine Environment was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (4th and 5th December, 2004) organised by the Saudi German Business Group. The event focused on conservation and sustainable development of the Red Sea and was conceived by Dr Stephan Keller the Consul General of Germany.

  The symposium was opened by Dr Mohammed al-Juhani, the Chairman of the Jeddah International Marine Club which is entrusted with launching the current Prince Abdul Majeed Campaign for the protection of the marine environment. The campaign, launched in 2004 under the slogan *Jeddah Deserves* ([www.jeddahdeserves.com](http://www.jeddahdeserves.com)) targets the local community and ‘aims to elevate the awareness of the marine environment to sea visitors, preserve sea life and stop pollution and wrong attitudes in dealing with the marine environment’.

- **In 2005, PERSGA** (the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden) was able to implement a number of approved programmes and activities in collaboration with several regional and international organizations, including ALECSO, ISESCO, IMO, and UNIDO. PERSGA organized the Second Sea to Sea Regional Forum in Cairo (February 2005), completed the development and design of the Integrated Information Management System (IIMS), and continued in its training activities in various fields. In this context PERSGA organized eleven training courses and workshops in cooperation with specialized regional and international organizations during 2005. Further, PERSGA supported its member countries by the provision of necessary equipment to implement the first phase of the Regional Environmental Monitoring Programme (REMP): the PERSGA Capacity Building Initiative (CBI).

  Member States effectively cooperated with PERSGA in reviewing two new protocols: the Protocol Concerning the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities and the Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and Establishment of Protected Areas.

  During 2005 PERSGA participated in several regional and international meetings such as the Third GEF International Waters Conference; the 7th Regional Seas Meeting; the International Forum for Oceans, Coasts and Islands; the Annual General Meeting of the Inter national Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); the IMO Global Ballast Water Workshop; the Regional Meeting of the World Heritage Centre on the Follow-up to the Periodic Reporting in the Arab States and Information Management; the Arab Workshop on Environmental Management System, Awareness, Contingency Preparedness and Response; and the Preparatory Consultative Meetings of the Arabic Organizations working in the field of mitigating the impact of natural catastrophes and relief.

  PERSGA has made efforts to attract funds from donor agencies resulting in a commitment for financial support in 2006 at around $1.5 million from UNIDO, UNEP, and the Khaled bin Sultan Living Ocean Foundation. PERSGA will host the 9th Global Regional Seas meeting in Jeddah in 2007. [http://www.persga.org/Publications/Alsanbouk/Alsanbouk.asp](http://www.persga.org/Publications/Alsanbouk/Alsanbouk.asp)

- An exhibition titled *Arabian Peninsula in Old European Maps* was held in the National Library of the King Abdul Aziz Center in Riyadh in March/April 2005. Organized by Al-Turath, and sponsored by the Prince Faisal International Academy, the exhibition consisted of 75 European maps from the late 15th century. The maps are from the private collection of Dr. Khaled Al-Angari, minister of higher education, and are believed to be among the rarest of their kind. The displays show the change in European map-makers’ views of the
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Arabian Peninsula over the past 300 years. © www.arabnews.com

- The Jeddah Ornithological Group maintains an active ornithological group who offer training to new members, field trips and lectures. Contact Secretary Martine Ward, tel. 624 000 x3209
- The Saudi Arabian Natural History Society continues to organise a busy programme of lectures, events and expeditions, and offer a library service. The general address of SANHS is c/o P.O.Box 41101, Jeddah 21521. SANHS new website is at http://www.sans.com. Programme Manager Kamal Abdalla e-mail kamal@apsco-ksa.com. Tel. 6392253

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- New Culture and Heritage Authority for Abu Dhabi By the time that this issue of the Bulletin appears, the Emirate of Abu Dhabi will have a new body responsible for culture and heritage, including archaeology and palaeontology.

Called The Culture and Heritage Authority, the new body will absorb the Department of Antiquities and Tourism in Abu Dhabi’s Eastern Region, based in Al Ain and founded at the beginning of the 1970s, and the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, ADIAS, which was founded in 1992. It will also take over responsibility for cultural matters, including the National Library and the Cultural Foundation, which are based in the centre of the city of Abu Dhabi.

The Authority will also be responsible for sites relating to national heritage, such as the Hili Archaeological Park in Al Ain, and for implementing plans for new museums in the capital city.

The Chairman of the new Authority is Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, who is also Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, the Deputy Chairman is Zaki Nusseibeh and the director-general is Mohammed Khalaf al-Mazroui.

The Authority was established under the terms of an Emiri law issued by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan in his capacity as Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and will be an autonomous agency of the Government of Abu Dhabi. The first meeting of its Board of Directors took place in early February 2006.

- ADIAS, EAD win Gulf-wide Environmental award. The Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi, EAD, and the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, ADIAS, were the joint winners of the Environmental Achievement of the Year Award presented by Dubai-based publication Construction Week. The award, one of a total of 20 awards presented at a ceremony in Dubai in November, covers the six GCC states, and acknowledges the efforts made over the last year by EAD and ADIAS in preserving the UAE’s heritage and environment. ADIAS works with industry and developers in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to ensure that the identification and preservation of archaeological and fossil sites is accepted as being part of the normal process of development. As a result, ADIAS has been able to discover, examine and preserve many sites of importance to the UAE’s national heritage that would not otherwise have been recognised. ADIAS works very closely with EAD, and its predecessor, the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency, ERWDA. The Agency has provided ADIAS with enormous support, ensuring that conservation of archaeology and fossils is given equal importance to the conservation of the environment and wildlife.

- Sadiyat survey As part of planning for the development of the island of Sadiyat, immediately north-east of Abu Dhabi island, as a residential and tourism complex, the government agency responsible, the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, ADTA, commissioned the ADIAS in June 2005 to undertake an archaeological baseline study of the whole island and to make recommendations for protection.

During the preliminary survey, carried out by Dr. Heiko Kallweit (ADIAS), over twenty individual sites were identified, with two significant concentrations being on rocky outcrops on the eastern side of the island, one close to the shoreline and one in an inter-tidal area. Of particular interest was the discovery of middens of the large mangrove-dwelling mollusc Terebralia palustris, which is now believed to be extinct in the Arabian Gulf, but was widely exploited in the northern UAE from the late Stone Age until the late pre-Islamic period. Less than half a dozen sites with Terebralia shells had previously been identified in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, (all within a fifty kilometre radius of Abu Dhabi island), with these having been dated to the late Islamic period, where a date could be ascribed. The midden on Sadiyat was also dated, from nearby potsherds, to the late Islamic period, suggesting that a population of Terebralia may have survived in the Abu Dhabi area until relatively recently.

Following presentation of a report to the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, ADTA agreed to afford protection to the two main concentrations of sites, and also commissioned further fieldwork by ADIAS in early 2005, this being undertaken by Heiko Kallweit,
Mark Beech (ADIAS), Richard Cuttler (Birmingham Archaeology Unit) and Phil Glover, a visiting postgraduate student from the United States. The larger of the two rocky outcrops was examined and mapped in detail, with the northern area, not previously examined, producing an extensive amount of glazed and unglazed late Islamic pottery, indicating that the area may have been used over a period of several centuries during the late Islamic period. This detailed survey also produced several dozen pieces of worked flint and several tools that are comparable to Arabian bifacial tradition artefacts from the Neolithic (late Stone Age) period, as well as a carnelian bead and potsherds of possible Bronze Age date, perhaps contemporary with the major settlement and collective tombs at Umm al-Nar, which lies a few kilometres east of Sadiyat in the lagoonal area just north of Abu Dhabi island.

With the support of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, ADIAS was planning to undertake further study of the site in March, including excavation and retrieval of ash from fireplaces for radiocarbon dating. Planning for the conservation of the sites is continuing.

**Department of Antiquities and Museums in Ras al-Khaimah.** A second campaign of excavations, initiated by Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr al-Qasimi, Director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums in Ras al-Khaimah, was carried out in the former palm garden area of al-Ghubb. The remains of a small hill with two towers in opposite corners had already been surveyed by the Department of Antiquities and Museums ten years ago during the Ras al-Khaimah tower survey. Termed by the local people al-Najdi, the site is said to be the birthplace of Ahmed ibn Majid al-Najdi, the famous navigator, who lived in the 15th century. His most famous book *The profitable things concerning the first principles and rules of navigation* was written in 1489/90, one of more than 40 books he wrote about navigation. It is well known from Arabic sources that Ibn Majid was born in Julfar, which was then the name of the whole area of Ras al-Khaimah. Julfar and its port was the most prosperous trading town in the lower Gulf, thriving between the 13th and 16th century.

So far, two seasons of excavations have failed to reveal any layers relating to their use in the period of Ibn Majid. Instead the site turned out to have been a large fortification. Parts of a mudbrick fort rectangular shape with two towers in opposite corners were uncovered, dating to the 18th and 19th century. The structure can clearly be identified as a *sur*, which protected the palm gardens and its inhabitants in times of danger. The further discovery of a 2m deep ditch, surrounding the fort on all four sides, came as a surprise. Although the combination of a fortified *sur* with a surrounding channel is well known from the Oman, this is the first example for the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to the mudbrick towers, whose remains can still be seen today, this channel would have given enhanced protection against attacks from outside. Its general size, depth and originally huge towers suggest that the *sur* in al-Ghubb was one of the most important fortifications in the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah. Although dried up and dead today, the surrounding palm gardens were very rich and fertile in the past. Dubai families had gardens in this area as well, where temperatures would be much pleasanter during the summer months than in Dubai itself. The former importance of the area can still be sensed from an old mosque, the second biggest in this emirate, which is situated on a shallow mound directly opposite the Sur.

After the 19th century the fortress fell into disrepair and the resulting mound was later used for settlement purposes during the 20th century. Various levels of *arish*, palm frond houses, were excavated during the first season, producing plenty of pottery and coins from their various rooms and surroundings. Further finds including beads, kohl-applicators for eye-makeup and glass bangles give an insight into the female aspects of daily life in the past.

Future investigations in al-Ghubb are planned by resident archaeologist Christian Velde, Imke Moellering and Ahmed Hilal, archaeological staff of the Department of Antiquities and Museums in the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah. Christian Velde &christian.imke@hotmail.com>

**In 2005 the ongoing cooperation between the RAK Department of Antiquities and Museums and Zayed University Dubai resulted in further documentation of heritage monuments in Ras al-Khaimah. A group of local female students started a project in Jazirat al-Hamra, which included the measuring, describing and photographing of traditional houses in this last authentic and traditional town still standing in the UAE. Once a small island, its inhabitants subsisted on maritime and pearl trading, before they abandoned their houses in the middle of the 20th century, when the rush to modernise started. An undisturbed picture of life before the discovery of oil was left behind and preserved until today. It is a unique area for Ras al-Khaimah and the whole of the country, showing all**
elements of a traditional town, including a fortress for defence purposes, a small market, several mosques and a variety of house types. These range from simple buildings to ornate houses with courtyards belonging to rich pearl merchants. Jazirat al-Hamra is an excellent place to study traditional coral-stone architecture, used in the past along the coast of the Arabian Gulf. Further long-term projects are planned with Zayed University Dubai to document various heritage objects in collaboration with local female students.

During the last season the Department of Antiquities and Museums was able to establish a fruitful liaison with other government departments of Ras al-Khaimah. The urgent need to integrate archaeological departments into the administrative structure had already been outlined by Beatrice de Cardi in her opening lecture ‘Is there a Future for the Emirates’ Past?’ during the first international conference on the archaeology of the UAE in Abu Dhabi 2001. Only if the various government departments work together more closely, will there be a chance to preserve the UAE’s heritage for future generations. The established governmental cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and Museums in Ras al-Khaimah includes the Tourism Office, Municipality, Public Works Department, Lands Department and Environmental Department (EPIDC). First collaborational results are already visible in the full integration of heritage places into the general plans of all departments to protect them from destruction. A complete list of places of archaeological and historical importance was provided by the Department of Antiquities and Museums for all government departments in order to integrate them into plans for their recognition as protected areas in the future.

- Visiting scientists to Ras al-Khaimah included a team of British geomorphologists, lead by Dr. Adrian Parker from Brookes University Oxford. A successful survey of prehistoric lakes was undertaken in the dunes and desert areas of this emirate to get an insight into weather conditions during the last 12,000 years. Not only will it help in detecting and understanding periods of climate change, but will also help to explain and understand changes in the archaeological record of the Gulf and neighbouring countries. For the first time deterioration noted in the material culture may be understood in regard to massive changes in weather conditions during prehistoric times. Samples of lake sediments were taken to be studied in Oxford.

As usual Beatrice de Cardi supported the Department of Antiquities and Museums during her annual stay in January and February and continued the ongoing work on the inventory of archaeological finds. Her knowledge and experience is always highly appreciated and the archaeological staff happily enjoyed her company!

Christian Velde, Resident Archaeologist, Department of Antiquities and Museums, P.O.Box 94, Ras al-Khaimah, UAE. E-mail: christian_imke@hotmail.com

- The third annual symposium on Recent Archaeological Work in the Emirates organised by the Zayed Center for Heritage and History, Al Ain was held on 6th – 7th April 2005 at the Rotana Hotel, Al Ain, and was opened by Dr Hassan M. al-Naboodah, Director, Zayed Center for Heritage and History. The following papers were given: Heiko Kallweit (ADIAS, Freiburg), Mark Beech (ADIAS) and Walid Yasin al Tikriti (Al Ain), Archaeology in Arabia’s Deserts – Recent fieldwork at Khor Al Manahil, Abu Dhabi Emirate, UAE; Margarethe Uerpmann, Hans-Peter Uerpmann, Hans-Haendel & Johannes Schmidt (Univ. of Tubingen), Flint raw materials in the interior of the northern emirates – sources, exploitation and procurement. Gary Feulner (Dubai), Hafit cairns of the UAE and Oman – an archaeological travelogue; Sophie Méry (CNRS) and Walid Yasin al-Tikriti (Al Ain), Results of the 7th season of excavation at Hili N pit-grave and a new study of the monumental circular graves at Hili by the Joint Emirati-French team; Christian Velde (Ras al-Khaimah), The development of tomb architecture in the Wadi Suq period in Shimal, Ras al-Khaimah; Helmut Brückner, Anja Zander, Gary Feulner, Claudia Gruber, Henriette Manhart and Hussein Qandil, The past in the future – millennia-old beaches and ecosystems in Dubai Internet City; Claudia Gruber, Angela von den Driesch and Henriette Manhart (University of Munich), The future of the past – The Al Sufouh 2 excavation and the fate of site and results; Peter Magee (Bryn Mawr) Recent excavations at Muweilah (Sharjah, UAE); Ahmed Hilal (Ras al-Khaimah), Al-Najdi – a mound in Al-Ghubb, Ra’s al-Khaimah; Anne Benoist (CNRS), Cultural practices during the Iron Age in the United Arab Emirates: new data from Bithnah-44/50; Geoffrey King (SOAS, University of London), A Portuguese account of Dibba: a 17th c. description and map of the town. Further information from Dr. Hasan M. al-Naboodah, Director Zayed Center for Heritage and History, P.O. Box 23888, Al Ain, UAE.
• **Al Sufouh 2.** Since 2001 a team from the University of Munich have conducted a joint project at Al Sufouh 2 combining investigations in archaeology, archaeozoology and geology. Identification of the site as an ancient hunting camp for wild camels or a slaughter place for domestic one-humped camels has been clarified, as well as its vicinity to the former coastal zone. A unique volume of bone material has been recovered to an extent that enables the building up of a database for statistical analysis. Reconstruction of its past appearance will be possible for the site, which will provide a more detailed picture of the environmental conditions. A mixed range of significant finds from the Wadi Suq period (c. 1900–1600 BC), giving an idea of the event’s dating, are catalogued with their photographs, material description and indication of measurements. The final question is how the site should be preserved—*in situ* or within a museum environment. The particular character of the site and its significance for the entire area and different disciplines have been proven and makes preservation *in situ* desirable, and the focus on the camel and its importance is self-evident. The University of Munich team was: Dr Claudia Gruber, Dr Angela von den Driesch and Dr Henriette Manhart.

• **Al Hail castle in Fujairah to be renovated**  

The Department of Archaeology and Heritage has begun renovating Al Hail fort, one of the oldest and most impressive historic monuments in Fujairah, dating back to the Iron Age (1300–300 BC). Nestled in Wadi Al Hail, 13km west of Fujairah, the old castle and its watch-tower are well known. It was once occupied by the Al Sharqiyyin ruling family. The monument lies in an enclosed compound, has meeting rooms, bedrooms, storerooms and a kitchen. It is well defended by a boundary that has weapons ports and battlements enabling the inhabitants to fight off raids by neighbouring tribes. The *majlis* is rectangular and attached to the tower. Its walls once had beautiful engravings and the room was plastered in white. Archaeological work was carried out at Al Hayl to document the architecture at the site. Two trenches were dug: the first was opened against the outer wall, exposing the foundations to learn about early engineering techniques. Excavations revealed a plaster floor. There were no more floors under this one, just rubble and sherds of Islamic pottery. © *Gulf News.* (When I last visited this beautiful wadi the whole site and especially the tower was becoming unsafe and much of the plaster had fallen off the walls. Restoration work is long overdue, as is the cataloguing and protection of the quantity of petroglyphs in the wadi. For a better photograph of the fort see Bulletin No. 4, 1999, cover photo – Ed.).

• **Abu Dhabi 8 million years ago: An exhibition of Late Miocene Fossils from the Western Region,** mentioned in last year’s *Bulletin* was officially inaugurated by Majid al-Mansouri, Secretary-General of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi on 26th November 2005. The exhibition is located in the entrance foyer of the main headquarters building of the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey (ADIAS) and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (formerly known as the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency – ERWDA). The exhibition was designed by Dr Mark Beech and Will Higgs from ADIAS, together with Abdul Hafiz from the private department of the President. The background diorama ‘Abu Dhabi 8 million years ago’ was painted by Gemma Goodall, Antares Designs, UK. The exhibition is a permanent display. Visitors are welcome to visit during normal working hours. Groups interested in organising a visit to the exhibition should contact: Mrs Suzan Al Mutawa, ADIAS Researcher and Outreach Officer, Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey (ADIAS), P.O. Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Email: adiassadmin@ead.ae

• **Dar Al Nadwa of Bastakiya heritage district** in early January 2006 hosted a lecture on the architecture of Dubai’s traditional wind-tower houses. ‘Wind-tower Houses of the Bastakiyah’ was organised by the Historical Buildings Section of Dubai Municipality, and given by Peter Jackson, an eminent Dubai-based architect and co-author with Dr Anne Coles of *A Windtower House in Dubai.* The lecture forms part of a year-round public awareness
programme, which includes lectures, seminars and exhibitions on architectural heritage, historical, social and cultural aspects of the UAE and other Arab countries. The next lecture will be ‘Inventing Places: Dubai Grapples with its Heritage’.

- **The Historic Building Section** also organised photographic exhibitions of historic buildings, and arranged field visit for students, tourists and residents to the heritage districts of Al Bastakiya, Shindagha and Al Ras, where the Dubai Municipality has restored a number of historic buildings.

- The **Dubai Natural History Group** holds monthly lectures on natural history, archaeology, and other related topics. Contact chairman Gary Feulner, Tel : (971 4) 313 320 Ext: 500 Fax 313 371. Vice Chairman Valerie Chalmers, tel : (971 4) 442 853, Fax : (971 4) 452 727

- **The Dubai Department of Tourism** has brought out an informative leaflet on the places of historic interest, also available online at http://dubaitourism.ae

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**YEMEN**

- **Phase 3 of the Society for Arabian Studies Red Sea Project, Cultural Connections on the Red Sea**, will take place on 27th and 28th October 2006. See p10 for details. The Society for Arabian Studies webpage is at www.societyforarabianstudies.org, and the RSP website is: www.dur.ac.uk/redsea

- **The American Institute for Yemeni Studies** administers two competitions for fellowship programmes of in-country research in Yemen, one for U.S. citizens and one for Yemeni citizens. Eligibility requirements and further details check online at: http://www.aiys.org. Membership details from Maria Ellis on e-mail: mellis@sas.upenn.edu

- Two interesting articles appeared in *Aramco World* in January 2006: **Eric Hansen**’s entitled ‘Sana’a Rising’ about the Yemeni tower houses, and **Tim Mackintosh-Smith** on ‘The Secret Gardens of San’a’. These can be accessed online at www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200601

- **A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen** by Shelagh Weir will be published in the Middle East Series of the University of Texas Press in late 2006 or early 2007. The book describes the politico-legal system of the tribes of Jabal Razih in the far north of Yemen, and their relations with states over four centuries. The book is based on extended fieldwork and local tribal documents, and includes a section of colour illustrations funded by grants from the **Society for Arabian Studies**, the **British Yemeni Society** and the **Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust.**

- During 2005 and early 2006, a study of the unusual dialect (or possibly language) of Jabal Razih in north Yemen was conducted by **Shelagh Weir**, anthropologist who did fieldwork in Razih, **Bonnie Glover Stalls**, an Arabic dialect specialist at the University of Southern California, **Khalid Abdo al-Razihi**, a native speaker, and **Janet Watson**, Professor of Arabic at Salford University and a specialist in Yemeni dialects. This year’s work on the dialect was financed by a grant from the British Academy. Prof. Watson presented some of the research at the Arabian Seminar in July 2005, which will be published in the Proceedings in 2006.

- **The Friends of Soqotra** in association with the Socotra Conservation Fund have recently published the second edition of *Tayf – The Soqotra Newsletter*. For further information about the FOS, Dr Sue Christie can be contacted at drsuechristie@aol.com, 49 Cambane Road, Lisburn, N.I. BT27 5NG. Dr R. Dutton, the Chairman of FOS, Centre for Overseas Research & Development, University of Durham. r.w.dutton@durham.ac.uk FriendsofSoqotra.org.

- **The British-Yemeni Society** holds lectures and cultural events to promote relations with Yemen. Details of membership from Mr Julian Paxton, 23 The Green, Richmond, TW9 1LX. Tel 020 89406101.

- **The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Day** will be held on 25 September 2006. There will be a public awareness and participation campaign with activities to involve the public included contests and tournaments, visits and public lectures on the beaches, as well as clean-up campaigns. PERSGA: information@persga.org; www.persga.org

- **Marjorie Ransom** is in Yemen from January to June 2006 to finish the research on her new book on the regional styles of Yemeni traditional silver jewellery. She recently lent a number of items to exhibitions planned at the **University of North Texas** (Nov 2005), and the **Bead Museum in Washington** (*The Sacred Bead*, 2006). Jewellery from 18 countries has been loaned to the **Mingei International Museum**, San Diego for *The Art of Adornment – Jewelry from Five Continents*, opening April 2006. Ransom’s own exhibition, *Silver Speaks*, will be on loan to the **Jefferson County Historical Society Museum** in September 2006 and the **Gibson Museum of the Potsdam State University** in 2007. Later in 2007 it will travel to the **Arab American National Museum** in Dearborn, Michigan.
MUSEUM WITH NO FRONTIERS (MWNF) The Discover Islamic Art Virtual Museum is the first virtual museum on Islamic art and architecture, launched in December 2005. The website is available in English, French and Arabic in addition to the local language of each participating country. It will be presented as a unique ‘open-air’ museum of Islamic art embracing 2,250 monuments and archaeological sites from the Umayad period to the Ottoman Empire. www.discoverislamicart.org

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM Twenty-seven inlaid metal objects dating from the 10th to 19th century, are on view at the Smithsonian Museum in an exhibition called Fountains of Light: Islamic Metalwork from the Nuhad Es-Said Collection. Information from Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, MRC 707, Washington, D.C. www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM Lawrence of Arabia: The life, the legend until 17 April, 2006. The exhibition will feature a wide range of original material, including letters, diaries, his Arab robes, photographs, film, paintings and memorabilia.

SHEFFIELD GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS TRUST Palace and Mosque: Islamic Treasures of the Middle East from the V&A until 17 April 2006. The exhibition will show a selection of objects from the V&A. The 120 items are part of one of the world’s most extensive collections of Islamic art from the Middle East, dating from the eighth to the nineteenth centuries. Visitors will see a range of decorative arts from ceramics, textiles, carpets, metalwork, glass and woodwork. Millennium Gallery, Arundel Gate, Sheffield S1 2PP. 0114 278 2600

Through a Glass Brightly An associated exhibition, inspired by artists’ reflections on ‘Palace and Mosque’. Open Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 11am–5pm. Millennium Gallery, Arundel Gate, Sheffield S1 2PP. £4, Concessions £3, Children 5–16 £2, under 5s free www.sheffieldgalleries.org.uk Tel: 0114 278 2600

The BAIT AL ZUBAIR MUSEUM, Muscat, Oman, hosts Islamic Art in the Calouste Gulbenkian Collection from 19 February – 18 April 2006. The exhibition includes a wide variety of arts produced in the Islamic world between the late 12th and early 20th century from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal. Further information, and to register for the Bait Al Zubair e-letter contact Sabah Ahmed, Bait Al Zubair, P.O. Box 257, Muscat PC 113, Oman. E-mail: bazubair@omantel.net.om

NATIONAL GALLERY Bellini and the East 12 April – 25 June 2006. This exhibition will examine images of the Muslim and Christian Eastern Mediterranean that were produced by the great Venetian painters Gentile and Giovanni Bellini. The exhibition is organised by the National Gallery, London and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN. Admission free. 020 7747 2885

TREASURES OF THE ASHMOLEAN opens on May 24th 2006 and features key items from the antiquities, eastern art and coins departments that will close during an extensive rebuilding and renovation programme scheduled to be completed by 2008.

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY Patterns of Identity, 24 June – 2 September 2006. Work from a variety of disciplines will be showcased by Muslim craftsmen as well as makers who have been inspired by Muslim culture or geometric design. Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Wolverhampton WV14 7LU. Open Tuesday–Friday 10am–4pm; Saturday 11am–4pm; Admission free. 01902 552505

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH The Soqotra exhibition at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is now due to open 1 July 2006 to 29 October 2006, Soqotra – Land of Dragon’s Blood. Soqotra is one of the world’s most biologically diverse, yet least-known island chains. Discover the plants, animals and people that live in harmony with this truly remarkable island, and how this fragile balance is now under threat. No booking required. Admission free. Associated lectures and events.

The CHILDREN’S MUSEUM in King Hussein Park, Amman, Jordan, is to open late in 2006, encouraging lifelong learning for children and their families. It seeks to expand its outreach to engage children from remote communities. The museum will be the first institution of its kind in Jordan. It will feature more than 150 hands-on exhibits and encourage multi-sensory exploration and understanding of the arts, sciences, technology, industry, and the value of the national identity.

Arab, or Islamic, seafaring has frequently been a subject for debate among historians of the medieval Mediterranean. It recently became so once again with the publication of the veteran French geographer Xavier de Planhol’s new book, L’Islam et la mer: la mosquée et le matelot, VIIe–XXe siècle (Perrin, 2000). That book revived a long-forgotten debate about mentalities and supposed ethnic deficiencies – specifically about whether the Arabs demonstrated an early aversion to the sea that might have affected the historical record of Arab navigation and maritime activities, and even whether there ever existed such a record. Hard on the heels of this polemic came the notion that the decline of Islamic trade, and eventually the general economic decline of the Islamic lands, had something to do with Muslim failure to dominate the seas and to develop a solid maritime transport system. Though this debate has centred on the Arabs in the Mediterranean, Agius’ book helps lay to rest many of these perceived deficiencies, by documenting a dynamic and well-organised seafaring industry far away on the other side of Arabia, in the Arab coastal communities of the Gulf. It offers an innovative view of the patterns of navigation and maritime trade in the pre-modern period by examining its material culture, a methodological approach that has more in common with Braudel’s model of Mediterranean history than with those more usually adopted by historians investigating the subject.

The book is a survey of a region and its unique place in the Indian Ocean trading network. It groups together several themes, from the geographical and political environment of the Gulf states, including the routes linking them to India and East Africa, to the dhow-building industry and navigation techniques, covering the many types of boats and the functions they serve, and to the cultural and human dimensions of the industry, including navigation manuals, rituals, poetry and art of the people of the sea. Given this multiplicity of themes, the book’s opening chapter sets a much-needed context for integrating the oral evidence gathered from the many interviews the author conducted with local people, over a period of some ten years, with the written sources that he used. The latter include an array of primary historical works from the Greek and Roman period, medieval Arabic navigational manuals, pre-modern European, Portuguese, English and Dutch sources, and reports and surveys by 19th and early 20th century observers, in both Arabic and European languages. However, although the author has made use of Khalilieh’s Islamic Maritime Law: An Introduction (Brill 1998) based on Geniza material, references to Goitein’s studies on the Jewish India traders (S. D. Goitein, Letters of Medieval Jewish Traders, Princeton, 1973), many of whom could be found living in Aden with their families, and developing trading networks in the region, are conspicuous by their absence. Observations on boat-building techniques and related aspects, such as size and tonnage, combine both approaches, with the interviews providing the traditional elements, and the modern reports the numerical dimensions.

The region’s economy appears as an integrated one throughout this study, with the boat-building industry being geared both to the main export, the irrigated date crop from the Shatt al-‘Arab, and to the importation of the chief products of the Indian Ocean region. The Gulf dhows followed two main trade routes, one going to India, the other to East Africa. They returned laden with timber, building materials, cotton, silk embroidery, and foodstuffs from Western India, and coconut and cotton-seed oil, hides, charcoal and mangrove poles for roofing houses from East Africa. But the Gulf dhow industry also ebbed and flowed with demographic upheavals within the region. As this was an area of very limited natural resources, but well served by natural ports, its fortunes were inextricably bound up with those of its trading posts and of its sole employer, the maritime industries. Dominated by the occupations of boat building and navigation, the region experienced population growth in the 19th century. The author corroborates this by providing patterns of settlement, detailed technical definitions and the numbers of boat types and craftsmen involved in each. His documentation of the pearl industry rounds out his description of livelihoods, and completes an evaluation of the entire range of economic activities in the region. The chapter covering the Arabic and Portuguese navigation manuals highlights the role of traditional training for the craft, but also exposes its weakness – the lack of literacy, and of education in general, among its people – which impeded the progress and adjustment of the industry and the region in general.

The exploration of the human dimension in the book is both fascinating and engaging. Without
sentimentality, the author records the hard physical conditions of those working in maritime industries and the deprivations they suffered, linking the less dangerous occupations of dhow building with the health hazards of pearling and the dangers of travel, the trading seasons and the dynamics and rituals of departure and arrival. His account of the social and financial hierarchy, particularly among the crews of the ocean-going dhows, which were capable of long voyages and freighting bulk cargoes, conjures up an authentic picture of a micro world of economic and social relations.

The linguistic scope of the study is also comprehensive. The author, himself a linguist, examined and recorded in detail the variety of Arabic terms used on the different boats, whether built for fishing, long-distance trade, pearl diving or passenger transport. The Arabic vocabulary extends even to details of structural components. The author also traces the infiltration of Arabic terms into Dutch and English.

Despite its dynamics and charm this is an industry en route to oblivion. All in all, the picture is one of declining numbers and activities due to the growth of the oil industry, the arrival of fibreglass boats, and the Japanese introduction of cultured pearls. Changing economic conditions initially inspired a desperate attempt to adapt by making structural modifications to dhows. But one cannot escape the conclusion that this is a book about a world in steep decline, and it has done an excellent job of recording it. Equally important is the contribution it makes to the reconstruction of Arab seafaring by offering a well-researched and well-documented study on Muslim Arab seafaring in the Gulf and Indian Ocean, one which will now be relevant to further comparative studies of the Arabs’ Mediterranean maritime activities. Enhanced by photographs and several technical and linguistic manuals and glossaries, a single blemish mars this otherwise beautiful book: a page (26) of unrelated print of Arabic transliteration which has crept into the production.

Maya Shatzmiller

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Over the past 50 years, numerous archaeological investigations in Bahrain and Eastern Arabia have revealed a rich archaeological heritage. Ancient civilisations dating back to the Bronze Age and later pre-Islamic periods have been uncovered, and their situations within a wider south-western Asian context have been discussed. However, the Islamic periods have been somewhat neglected in the quest for earlier periods. The area of Bilad al-Qadim, ‘The Old Town’, is considered the predecessor of al-Manama, the modern capital of Bahrain, although the foundation date of the ancient settlement has never been determined. The most characteristic remains in the area are the remnants of the al-Khamis mosque, with its two minarets still towering above the surroundings. In the 1980s, a French team investigated the mosque, which dates back to the Umayyad period with later additions (Kervran 1990: 7). In 2001 Prof. Insoll and his team, in co-operation with the Bahrain National Museum, conducted seven months of survey and excavation at the site, and it is the results of this work that are presented in this book.

The book consists of twelve chapters and contains a summary in Arabic. The introduction in Chapter 1 presents the aims of the book, namely to present the results of the fieldwork, but also to “explore the relevance of the results achieved within their wider context…” (p. 2). The introduction also contains a brief summary of the history of Bahrain and of the research history of Islamic sites in Bahrain. In Chapter 2 the results of the survey are presented. The survey is an account of the rather few ancient remains still visible around the site where modern developments, as in much of Bahrain, pose a continuing threat to the preservation of the archaeological heritage. The survey of the Bilad al-Qadim area is supplemented with a registration of Shi’ah shrines from various parts of Bahrain.

In Chapters 3–9, the findings from the excavations in two areas of Bilad al-Qadim are presented and discussed, including an interesting general discussion of ‘Agriculture, Diet and the Social Role of Food’ in Chapter 6. One area of investigation was within the al-Khamis mosque precinct, the other being the mound on which the abandoned al-Hassan mosque is situated. The presentation of the excavations includes precise and straightforward specialist reports on the pottery and the faunal and botanical remains, and the
data is generally easily accessible, although the presentation of the architecture and stratigraphy is rather brief and the contextual relations between these and the finds are in many cases unclear. The pottery is dated on external evidence, e.g. predominantly the pottery sequence from Kush in the U.A.E. (Kennet 2004), and has thereafter been used to date the stratigraphy. The illustrations in the book are of good quality and are generally carefully selected, supplementing the text well. However, it is confusing and not user-friendly that some figures are placed in blocks in the text (mainly b/w photos), whereas colour photos and plans are to be found in separate blocks in the back of the book, whilst they are all referred to in the same way.

The chief result of the excavations is the identification of a significant assemblage dating to the period from the early and middle Islamic periods (8th/9th to 14th century). Little such material has been previously published from Bahrain, e.g. a predominantly 9th century assemblage from the Barbar Temple site (Frifelt 2001:13–34, Andersen & Kennet 2003) and Ali (Sasaki 1990); the Barbar South site (13th/14th to 18th century) (Salles et al. 1983); and Qala’at al-Bahrain (predominantly 12th to 14th century) (Frifelt 2001: 35–170; Höjlund & Andersen 1994: 23–32; Kervran (ed.) 1982). The other key result is the discovery, at the al-Hassan mosque site, of what the author suggests – due to the massive walls – could have been a fort. The building seems later to have been refurbished and reused as a palace/rich merchant’s house. The earliest material found in the fort dates to the 8th century, but it is unclear if the structure is older.

Chapters 10–11 discuss ‘trade, exchange and related processes’ and ‘religious and social identity’. Both of these, as well as numerous discussions presented along with the findings, make inspiring reading, but depart very quickly from discussion of the objects and the archaeological record, developing into more general discussions of ancient societies and perceptions of them. This is fine in Chapters 6 and 10–11, but slightly problematic elsewhere, especially in Chapters 2 and 3, since the actual discoveries are sometimes submerged by disquisitions on what was not found and by rather preliminary interpretations. The author does not hold back in his criticism of other archaeologists for their reluctance to interpret their findings, and certainly Insoll has lots of ideas and suggestions of possible interpretations of his material. But many of his arguments would be more cogent and convincing if the findings were properly qualified against the corpus of excavated material that exists from Arabia and the Near East before being viewed in the light of more general theories. However, taking into account the fact that Insoll has previously worked mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, and therefore cannot be expected to have a detailed knowledge of the archaeology of Arabia and the Near East – published and unpublished, and that he has published his material most promptly, his courage in presenting his results quickly and making his data and ideas available to others, rather than attempting a perfect result, should be acknowledged. The critical remarks above notwithstanding, the book presents a refreshing contribution to the archaeology of Bahrain and eastern Arabia and provides what is badly needed to increase our understanding of the material culture of the Islamic periods: more data and discussion.

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Kennet, D., 2004, Sasanian and Islamic Pottery from Ras al-Khaimah. Classification, chronology and analysis of trade in the Western Indian Ocean, BAR International Series 1248, Oxford


J-F. Salles et al., 1983, Barbar-Sud, 1982 (Bahrain): Rapport préliminaire sur une 1ère campagne de fouilles archéologiques. Lyon


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George Rentz (1912–87) knew Saudi Arabia better than any westerner of his generation. His career with the ARAMCO Research Department (1947–63) gave him an unequalled opportunity to investigate the peoples and cultures of Saudi Arabia at a time when they were still relatively untouched by modernisation. He contributed 48 entries on the topography, tribes and history of Arabia (including Yemen and Oman) to the second edition of the Encyclopaedia of Islam. His entry al-Djazirah al-‘Arabiyyah is classic. Now at last, 57 years after it was written, we have a published edition of his thesis, originally submitted for a PhD in the history faculty at the University of California at Berkeley in 1947 under the sub-title of this book, and until now known only to scholars with access to the original or a microfilm. It is astonishing, given its importance, that it has had to wait so long.

Rentz’s aim is modest. His thesis is essentially an attempt to reconcile the two principal surviving accounts of the career of Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab and the rise of the first Saudi state in Najd: Ibn Ghanam’s (d. 1810) Rawdat al-akhwār wa l-afham li-murtad hal al-imam wa ta’adad ghashawat dhawi ‘l-Islam, and Ibn Bishr’s (d. 1871) ‘Unwan al-majd fi ta’rikh Najd. Each of these chronicles contains material, often from oral sources, not found in the other. Using them both, and following the chronicle style, Rentz constructs a narrative history of the rise of the Najdi reform movement and the foundation of the first Saudi state. In his introduction, Facey points out that in fact there have been three such states, of which this is the first and the present regime in Saudi Arabia the third. All three, of course, are linked, ideologically as well as genealogically, and Rentz’s book shows us clearly how the remarkable association between a Hanbali scholar from al-‘Uyaynah and the ruler of the small town of al-Dir‘iyyah laid the foundations upon which King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz later established the modern kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Such associations between ‘men of the pen’ and ‘men of the sword’, often reinforced by family ties, are recurrent in the history of Islamic state formation, and in this instance can be followed in great clarity.

Today, of course, the progress of the reform movement in 18th century Najd has a resonance and relevance it lacked when Rentz wrote. For him, as for his predecessor Philby, who used the same pro-reformist sources in his influential *Arabia* (London, 1930) and *Sa‘udi Arabia* (London, 1955), things were quite straightforward. Both men identified with their sources, never questioning the rightness of the reformist cause or its methods. It seemed obvious to both that political unity and homogeneous religious practice went hand-in-hand and were desirable goals, just as they accepted that there had been a need to ‘cleanse’ Arabia of the accretion of ‘non-Islamic practices’ (visits to the tombs of saints and ‘sacred’ trees, veneration of holy men, non-canonical taxes and levies) and return to the apostolic simplicity of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs.

The fact remains that this is an extraordinary story and, as Facey points out in his introduction, Rentz’s style is perfectly suited to the events he describes and the sources he uses. This is salvation history, recounted in chronicle form, heavily influenced by the maghāzi literature. Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab perfectly fits the Qur’anic prophetic typology. Born into a dynasty of Hanbali scholars at al-‘Uyaynah in 1703, he is a puer senex, a hāfiز at ten and already deep into the study of tafsīr and fiqh before he was twelve. His father, qadi of the town, considered that he had reached adult understanding, found him a wife and gave him permission to make the hājī. Contact with a more cosmopolitan world in the Hijaz convinced him that the endemic violence of Najd was a result of non-compliance with God’s law and he began to rebuke his fellows for non-Islamic practices. He then made his way to Basra, where he was set upon by a mob for preaching against folk practices and expelled. He returned to Najd to discover that in his absence his father had fallen out with the ruler of al-‘Uyaynah and relocated to Huraimila. He joined him there, but when his father died in 1741, began to preach tawḥīd openly. He won adherents in Huraimila and other towns of the Wadi Hanifah, but news of a plot to kill him drove him back to al-‘Uyaynah, where he married the daughter of the former ruler, whose son, now in power, became an adherent to his cause, which Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab couched for him in suitably simple terms: ‘If you support the Unity of God, through God’s help you will possess Najd and its Arabs’. Two sacred trees were ceremonially felled, the qubba of Zaid ibn al-Khattab at al-Jubailah destroyed. A self-confessed adulteress was stoned, further establishing the movement’s credentials (‘Here was the acid test of the sincerity of the Shaikh’s endeavor to restore the
ways of the past, and he met it unflinchingly.’). The Banu Khalid ruler of al-Hasa, Sulaiman, who, interestingly, paid annual dues of some sort to the amir of al-‘Uaynah, threatened to stop doing so unless Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab was killed or exiled. In 1744, the amir reluctantly expelled the Shaikh, sending him under escort to al-Dir‘iyah, where he sought asylum with the amir Muhammad ibn Sa‘ud. Together the scholar and the warrior made a covenant (‘And I bring you tidings of glory and power: whoever holds fast to the word of unity will by means of it rule lands and men’), and embarked on the project of religious reform and military conquest that led, after years of incessant warfare, to the establishment of the first reformist state. Shaikh Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab died in 1792, and did not live to see his adherents triumphantly enter Mecca in 1803. He did, however, see the unification of Najd, the smashing of the power of the Banu Khalid in al-Hasa, and the spread by his followers of religious reform throughout much of the Peninsula. Anyone interested in the rise of Islam, Islamic state formation, the complex relationships between tribes and towns and, above all, the unifying power in an Islamic context of a simple message of ‘return’ (‘We, praise be to God, are followers, not innovators, in the school of Ahmad ibn Hanbal’) and rejection of shirk and bida’, should find much to ponder in this book. William Facey’s scrupulous edition at last makes a fundamental work on the rise of the most significant force in the Islamic world today available to a wide readership. His introduction is exemplary, reviewing the literature on the rise of the muwahhidun and providing a careful assessment of George Rentz’s life and work, hitherto little known outside a small coterie. This is a major contribution to Arabian studies, made even more valuable by the splendid maps. These alone are worth the price of admission, for they contain information found nowhere else and shed great light on the text, originally published without maps. The book contains Rentz’s original classified bibliography (still very useful) and an excellent index. Even more unusually, there are no misprints.

Paul Lunde

Clara Semple, A Silver Legend, The Story of the Maria Theresa Thaler. Barzan Studies in Arabian Culture, no. 1. Manchester: Barzan Publishing, 2005. 165 pp. Fully illustrated. £19.95. ISBN 0954970101. This lavishly illustrated book on the Maria Theresa dollar (MTD) is the first account in English of the silver coin that flooded north-west Africa and Arabia in the 18th century, displacing the Spanish “pillar dollar” (abu midfa’) and the earlier pieça de a ocho, both of American silver, which had dominated the economies of the East since the 16th century. Although there is much in this book that will interest numismatists, Clara Semple aims at a much wider audience. The remarkable story of the Maria Theresa dollar, or Levantinerthaler, and how it conquered the economies of north-east Africa and Arabia, involves much more than the replacement of one currency by another. The acceptance of the MTD had important social as well as economic consequences. It was integral to social, economic and political life in Eritrea and Ethiopia. The splendid tribal jewellery of Yemen and Oman would not exist without the MTD, used by silversmiths everywhere for bullion. Clara Semple is particularly good on these often unexpected social ramifications of the MTD, used not only as coinage but for its protective and amuletic properties. Maria Theresa came to the Hapsburg throne in 1740 and was crowned empress in 1745. She died in 1780 after a reign of 40 years. The first thalers were issued in 1741, but it was not until 1752, when the Hapsburgs renounced monetarist policies and allowed the free export of their coinage that the MTD began to percolate Eastern markets. 17 million were struck between 1751 and 1761, and most of these flowed to the east. Niebuhr, who referred to them as ‘German crowns’, found them in circulation in Yemen in 1762. The beauty of the coin, its constant weight (28.0668g), the embossed rim with the legend Justitia et Clementia and the fine engraving which made it almost impossible to forge, and its high agio in eastern markets, all contributed to the speed of its acceptance, particularly in non-monetised or partially monetised economies where it had few competitors. The MTD really came into its own after the death of its namesake in 1780. Her successor, the Emperor Joseph II, gave permission for the dies to be used for restrikes. French merchants, unable to export their own silver coinage to pay for their silk and coffee imports, supplied bullion to the Hapsburg mints, from which MTDs were struck bearing the date 1780 and the obverse image of the pulchritudinous and prolific empress (16 children in 19 years, ten survivals), with the Hapsburg arms on the reverse. From now on, customers wishing to trade with Africa and Arabia supplied Hapsburg mints with silver, receiving MTDs in return. This and subsequent restrikes were commodity money rather than coins; their value was in their silver content. Between 400 and 800 million
have been produced in mints around the world since 1780. The MTD was the official currency in Oman from the 18th century to well into the 1970s. 27.5 million were coined in Vienna for the Arabian market between 1976 and 1978. They were coined for use in the local economy during the first Gulf War in 1991.

Clara Semple has produced a vivid account of a little-known subject. Her book abounds in wonderful anecdotes and sheds much light on the societies on both sides of the Red Sea and how they incorporated the MTD into their social and economic systems. She shows a refreshing disregard for conventional transcription systems (it took me some time to realize that ‘schroff’ represented Arabic *sarraf*) and has assembled a large number of striking and memorable illustrations of everything from Hapsburg mints to an arms dealer’s stall in the Yemeni town of ‘S’aada’.

*Paul Lunde*

**Patricia Aithie**, *The Burning Ashes of Time: from Steamer Point to Tiger Bay*, 2006. Bridgend, Wales, Seren, £9.99. ISBN 18541398400X. ‘The burning ashes’ refer to the ashes of the steamship stokehold, where Yemeni stokers kept the fires burning with Welsh coal. The young political officer Arnold Wilson, working his way home as a stoker in 1913, described being clad ‘only in a pair of rope shoes to save the feet from being burned by hot ashes,’ but according to Pat Aithie Yemenis claim good coal (which Welsh coal certainly was) never gave ash. In her book she brings together her own family background in the South Wales coal industry as well as her long residence in Cardiff, with her enthusiasm for Yemen, homeland of so many of the stokers of Welsh coal. The Aithies travelled extensively in Yemen shortly after unification, and produced an excellent account in *Yemen, Jewel of Arabia*, some of the ground covered again in this new book. But the story here comes alive when the Aithies reach Aden, ‘coal-hole of the east’, and meet Yemeni relatives and descendants of the stokers and of the Yemeni community in Cardiff. It’s salutary to be reminded – amidst all the current talk of immigrants, asylum seekers etc – of a community that has been absorbed into the local British scene as well as maintaining strong links with their remarkable homeland. Coincidentally Pat finds a Welsh blanket in Imam Ahmad’s palace (now museum) in Taiz, a ‘traditional double weave, two cloths woven one on top of the other’, and this she sees as symbolising that relationship between the Welsh and the Yemenis in their midst.

*Sarah Searight*

**Simon Aspinall & Peter Hellyer** (eds), *Jebel Hafit, A Natural History*. Emirates Natural History Group Abu Dhabi, supported by the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations, 2004, h/b 220p., colour illustrations ISBN 9948031431. Contributors: Richard Hornby (Introduction); Tony Kirkham (Geology); Robert Carter & Walid Yasin al-Tikriti (Archaeology); Gary Brown & Sabitha Sakkir (Flora and Vegetation); Mike Gillet & Brigitte Howarth (Insects); Richard Hornby (Clam Shrimps); Mark Beech, Olivia Pozzan & Simon Aspinall (Troglobites); Chris Drew and Lucy Drew (Mammals); Simon Aspinall (Birds).

The most annoying thing about this book is the lack of a map and the assumption that everyone knows where Jebel Hafit is. Having said that, there is nothing else to complain about. You are invited to enter the intriguing world of the natural history of the area set in the context of the history and archaeology of the jebel and the geology that created it. If every photograph tells a story then the pics in this lavishly colour-illustrated volume guarantee that in future you will be able to identify each of the creatures discussed (it wouldn’t have helped me to identify a very large, cross looking, snake in my path at the springs at Al-Hail as I didn’t stand still long enough to catalogue its characteristics – there was no doubt as to who was the most scared!).

Aspinall and Hellyer, this busy pair, are also responsible for what can be called a companion volume.

**Simon Aspinall & Peter Hellyer** (eds), *The Emirates, A Natural History*. Trident Press 2005 h/b, 220p, £65, colour illustrations, ISBN 1905486022. Thirty-four specialists, both amateur and professional, contributed to this volume, but space precludes a listing of their names. Applying the same approach as the *Jebel Hafit* book you are invited to consider an astonishing array of sumptuous photographs, (the publishers claim they are by award-winning cameramen, and that’s easy to believe) backed up by informative and accessible text. Here, we are also able to explore offshore – paddling, snorkelling or diving. It’s written for the interested, intelligent, layperson and avoids the exclusionary jargon that is so annoying in many books today. Both volumes demonstrate the range and depth of the natural history of the Emirates and hopefully will play a part in ensuring its conservation and long-term survival.

It’s the sort of book you want to stroke, it’s so beautiful. If you love the Emirates, you’ll want both.

*Jan Picton*
The list of publications is arranged by country, starting with those of general interest to students of Arabia. Space restrictions limit us to new and forthcoming publications, except where our attention has been drawn to items not previously mentioned in the Bulletin.

**GENERAL**

**Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia (ABBA).** The Arabian Ornithological Bibliography is updated annually, copies available from Mike Jennings, details below: Phoenix 22 was published in January 2006. Main contents as follows: First breeding of Red-tailed Shrike in Arabia (Oman); The Little Green Bee-eaters in the UAE; Seabirds breeding on Bubiyan island Kuwait; Bird Fauna of Wadi Rijaf, Jebel Bura’a, Yemen; A mangrove white-eye (Zosterops) population in the Arabian Red Sea; Wood Pigeons in the Jebel at Akhdar, Northern Oman; Forbes-Watson’s Swifts; The Water Rail as an Avian Predator; White-collared Kingfisher breeding at Khor Kalba; ABBA Survey 34: Wadi al Jawf and Wadi Khab, North-central Yemen; ABBA Survey 35: Jebal Akhdar and Northern Oman; Michael C Jennings, Co-ordinator, Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia project and Editor The Phoenix (ISSN 0268-487X) Warners Farm House, Warners Drove, Somersham, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3WD. E-mail: Arabian.Birds@dial.pipex.com Website: http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/arabian.birds

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**Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy (AAE)** (ISSN 0905-7196). This journal serves as a forum for study in archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, and early history of countries on the Arabian peninsula. For further information, consult the website http://www.blackwellpublishing.com


This book accompanies the major exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, and attempts to shed new light on T.E. Lawrence using Lawrence’s own atmospheric photographs, haunting paintings of the desert and its peoples, and ephemera


During the Graeco-Roman period, Berenike served as a gateway to the outside world together. Commodities were imported from Africa south of the Sahara, Arabia, and India into the Greek and Roman Empire, the importance of both harbours evidenced by several contemporary sources. Between 1994 and 2002, eight excavation seasons were conducted at Berenike by the University of Delaware and Leiden University, the Netherlands. This book presents the results of the archaeobotanical research of the Roman deposits


Current World Archaeology, is published 6 times a year for a subscription of £20 for 6 issues. Subscriptions to: CWA, 9 Nassingdon Rd, London NW3 2TX. Tel: 020 7435 7517; Fax: 020 7916 2405; e-mail editor@archaeology.co.uk. Website: www.archaeology.co.uk


Catalogue of more than 300 examples of pre-Islamic and Islamic glass objects in the Khalili Collection, grouped according to techniques of manufacture and decoration, and chronologically; the catalogue illustrates the development of glass making technology from its Byzantine and Sasanian beginnings into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Mould-formed glass and vessels with applied decoration, especially enamelling, are well represented in the collection

Grabar, O. 2005. Early Islamic Art 650-1100: Constructing the study of Islamic Art, Volume One, Ashgate h/b 326p, £70, ISBN 0860789217

Early Islamic Art, 650-1100 is the first in a set of four volumes of studies. This first volume concentrates primarily on documents provided by archaeology understood in its widest sense, and including the study of texts with reference to monuments or to the contexts of these monuments. The articles include major contributions to the understanding of the formative centuries of Islamic art, focusing on the Umayyad (661-750) and Fatimid (969-1171) dynasties in Greater Syria and in Egypt, and on the Mediterranean or Iranian antecedents of early Islamic art. Historical, cultural, and religious themes are introduced to help explain how a new art was formed in the central lands of the Near East and how its language can be retrieved


This book focuses on the imprint of interrelations on nomadic and sedentary societies. The authors, anthropologists and historians, have examined a wide range of nomad-sedentary relations, exposing many facets of the diversity and flexibility characteristic of


McGrail, S. 2004. Boats of the World, OUP p/b 480p., £42. (h/b 2001). ISBN 0199271860. This volume presents evidence for the many devices that have been used on the waters of the world from 40,000 BC to the mid-2nd millennium AD. Arranged geographically its coverage is world-wide. Based largely on archaeological evidence, the chapters build a picture of how various forms of watercraft were built, how they were propelled, steered and navigated and how trade routes were developed


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Paléorient is a multidisciplinary six-monthly CNRS journal with an international audience, devoted to a number of aspects of the prehistory and protohistory of southwestern Asia, including Arabia. CNRS Editions, 15 rue Malebranche, F-75005 Paris. Further information from Genevieve Dollfus (dollfus@mae.u-paris10.fr). There is now a good (English and French) website http://web.mae.u-paris10.fr/


Petersen, A. 2005. What is Islamic archaeology? Antiquity 79: 100-106


Contents: S.A. al-Rashid, The development of archaeology in Saudi Arabia; L. Nehmé, Towards an understanding of the urban space of Madāin Silah, ancient Hegra, through epigraphic evidence; D. Barker & S.A. Hassan, Aspects of east coast Hellenism and beyond: Late Pre-Islamic ceramics from Dibbā 76 and Dibbā al-Murabbakah, Fujairah,
Publications – General interest


Regourd, A. in preparation. Arabic Documents from Quseir al-Qudin (Egypt), Univ. of Leeds.


Rogerson, B. Heirs of the Prophet Muhammad. Little Brown, 415p. £17.99. ISBN 0316727296

Sandgrouse. Publication of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, c/o The Lodge, Sandy Lane, Bedfordshire. England. www.osme.org


Covers all aspects of the study of Arabic and deals with all levels of the language - Classical Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic, Arabic vernaculars, mixed


BAHRAIN


JORDAN


All, N. 2005. The Development of Pottery Technology from the Late Sixth to the Fifth Millennium BC in Northern Jordan: Ethno-archaeological studies: Abu Hamid as a key site.

Archaeopress BAR S1423, £30, ISBN 184171861


KUWAIT

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OMAN


Hanna, S.S. 2006. Field Guide to the Geology of Oman (new revised edition), p/b RO 7, from Oman Historical Association, Publications Officer: Zahir bin Khalid Al Sleimani, E-mail: zahrslmn@omantel.net.om

The Journal of Oman Studies is published by the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, Sultanate of Oman, POB 668, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. ISSN 0378 8180. JOS is R.O. 5. P&P UK, Europe and outside the Arab world is R.O. 5. Send a BANK DRAFT in Omani Rials to Family Bookshop, P.O. Box 376, Ruwi code 112, Oman. For enquiries e-mail fambooks@omantel.net.om
Publications – Saudi Arabia – United Arab Emirates

**SAUDI ARABIA**

*Adumatu* A journal from the Abdul Rahman-Al Sudairy Foundation. See ‘General’ publications. P.O.Box 10071, Riyadh 11433. Fax: (+966 1) 4022545, website; www.adumatu.com / e-mail: adumatu@suhuf.net.sa

*Atlal: Journal of Saudi Arabian Archaeology* ISSN 13198351. Ministry of Education, PO Box 3734, Riyadh 11481. ISSN 02564009

*Fauna of Saudi Arabia* is an annual publication. For an index of previous contributions contact: Karger Libri AAG. PO Box, CH-4009 Basel, Switzerland

*Journal of the Saudi Arabian Natural History Society*, available from the Society SANHS, c/o Jeddah Prep and Grammar School, P.O. Box 6316, Jeddah 21412. Fax + 966 2 6392253

**International conference on the Archaeology of the U.A.E.** Editor P. Hellyer

*Tribulus*, Journal of the Emirates Natural History Group, PO Box 45553, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E ISSN: 1019-6919

Vol. 15.1 (Spring/Summer 2005)

R. Hornby, An Interdental Spoon Worm in the UAE; A.S. Gardner, Marine mollusc shells from two archaeological sites near Al Ain; S. Votier, H & T Mainwood, B. Thomason & S. Aspinall, The first records of Jerdon’s Orphean Warbler in the UAE; Gary Feulner, Uncommon Butterflies of the Ru’us al-Jibal: Baton Blue and Loew’s Blue; Omar Naseer, A recent sighting of the Pomegranate Playboy butterfly at Khuthwah, Oman; M.T. Gillett & O. Naseer, An aberrant Caper White butterfly at Khutwah, Oman; David Diskin, A first breeding record of the Purple Gallinule for UAE; A.S. Gardner, An Islamic religious token found in Al Ain; M. Gillet & O. Naseer, The Red Palm Weevil at Khutwah, Oman

15.2 (Autumn/Winter 2005)


**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**


*Barrier P., Gagnaison C., Méry, S. and Al Tikriti W.Y. In press. Extractions de pierres à l’âge du Bronze à Hili (Emirat d’Abou Dhabi) et architecture funéraire, Revue d’Archéométrie*

**Publications – United Arab Emirates – Yemen**


Papers include *Mark Beech and Will Higgs*, A New Late Miocene Fossil Site In Ruwais, Western Region of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; *Will Higgs, Drew Gardner* and *Mark Beech*, A Fossil Proboscidian Trackway at Mleisa, Western Region of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; *Sabah A. Jasim, Hans-Peter Uerpmann* and *Margarethe Uerpmann*, Neolithic Life and Death in the Desert - 8 Seasons of excavations at Jebel al-Buhais; *Ahmed Hilal*, Excavations at Qarn al-Harf 67, Ra’a al-Khaimah, 2001; *Claudia Gruber, Saad Ayoub, Helmut Brückner, Angela von den Driesch, Henriette Manhart, Peter Werner* and *Anja Zander*, The site of Al Sufouh 2 within the Internet City of Dubai, UAE: Preliminary report on four campaigns of excavation (03/2001-11/2002); *Anne Benoist*, Excavations at Bithna, Fujairah: First and Second Seasons; *Christian Velde*, The Residence of Falayah; *M.C. Ziolkowski* and *A. Suhail al-Sharqi*, Bayt Sheikh Suhail bin Hamdan al-Sharqi, al-Fara, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (preliminary study); *Hussein Qandil*, Survey and Excavations at Saruq Al Hadeed, 2002-2003


**Yemen**


**British-Yemeni Society Journal** (ISSN 1356-0229). This small journal contains articles primarily about activities and research of British scholars and travellers. The major articles are referenced in Index Yemenicus. For subscription, contact the British-Yemeni Society, c/o Julian Paxton, 23 The Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1LX


**The Lammergeier** is the newsletter of the *Yemen Ornithological Society*. Information on the society can be obtained from David Stanton, on tel: 967-1-248-309; fax: 967-1-234-438. e-mail: david.s@netsqi.com. POB 2002, Sanaa, Yemen

**Wranik, W.** 2004. *Fauna of the Socotra Archipelago - Field guide*, 540p, illustrated with 760 colour photographs, covering some 100 species; € 79.00. Order Details: Universitätsdruckerei Rostock, Zum Laakkanal 20, 18109 Rostock, Germany; e-mail: uni-druckerei@verwaltung.uni-rostock.de


5 April 18.00. Professor Ulrike Freitag (Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin). Linking East Africa and the Middle East: Networks of Commerce and Culture Dr Greville Freeman-Grenville Memorial Lecture. Organised by the Royal Asiatic Society. Venue: Art Workers Guild, 6 Queen’s Square WC1. Tel: 020 7812 1495 Fax: 020 7837 0688 info@royalasiaticssociety.org

13 April 18.00. Stephanie Dalley The language of destruction in ancient texts and its interpretation, with special reference to Nineveh Stevenson lecture theatre, British Museum WC1. PEF lecture. Contact 020 7935 5379, Fax: 020 7486 7438, E-mail: execsec@pef.org.uk, www.pef.org.uk

20-22 April. Conference The Ubaid expansion? Cultural meaning, identity and integration in the lead-up to urbanism University of Durham. Themes: the southern Mesopotamian Ubaid; Regional Manifestations of the Ubaid; Theoretical Perspectives on the Ubaid, and Chalcolithic Website and Discussion Forum. Tickets £50 /£25 students. Register online at www.dur.ac.uk/ubaid.conference or send cheques payable to ‘The University of Durham’, to Dr Robert Carter, 38B Grand Parade, Green Lanes, London N4 1AQ. The conference web site is at http://www.dur.ac.uk/ubaid.conference/Ubaid%20conference/” For further details please contact Dr Robert Carter at ubaid.conference@durham.ac.uk

21-22 April. Minorities and Majorities in the Middle East and North Africa. Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh. Themes will include language, gender, ethnicity, culture, etc. Further information from B. White, 0131 651 3202. ben.white@ed.ac.uk

26 April 19.00. Salma Samar Damluji The Yemen Architecture Project from Yafi’ to Hadramut Khalili lecture theatre SOAS, Thornhaugh Street WC1. Islamic Art Circle at SOAS lecture. Contact Rosalind Wade Haddon: 01608 730769 or RosalindHaddon@aol.com


17 May 19.00 Claus-Peter Haase Arabic-Persian calligraphy in Mughal albums Khalili lecture theatre SOAS, Thornhaugh Street WC1. Islamic Art Circle 8th Toby Falk Memorial lecture. For further information please contact Rosalind Wade Haddon: 01608 730769 or RosalindHaddon@aol.com


24 May 17.30 Paul Dresch Arabia’s history in the nineteenth century: a list of petty wars and intestine broils Khalili lecture theatre SOAS. Society for Arabian lecture Studies follows AGM. Further information: ionisthompson@ukonline.co.uk; 020 7935 5379; fax 020 7486 7438; www.pef.org.uk

10 June 09.00-17.00. Soudavar Memorial Lecture Series The idea of Iran Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St WC1. Speakers: Prof. Philip Kreyenbroek, Dr Michael Alram and Dr Touraj Daryaee. Contact Naomi Massey 0207 898 4330 / Vincenzo Paci 0207 898 4490, e-mail lmei@soas.ac.uk. Fees £15 / £7.50 concessions / students free. Cheques payable ‘The London Middle East Institute’, sent to LMEI, B318, SOAS, Thornhaugh St WC1

15 June 18.00. Bruce Routledge Moab in the Iron Age Stevenson lecture theatre, British Museum WC1. PEF lecture follows AGM. All welcome. Contact 020 7935 5379, Fax: 020 7486 7438, E-mail: execsec@pef.org.uk, www.pef.org.uk

11-16 June 2006. The Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (RIIFS): the Second World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES-2), Amman, Jordan. Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), the World Congress involves the participation of the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES), the British, French, Italian and German Middle East studies associations (BRISMES, AFEMAM, SeSaMO and DAVO) and other similar organizations in North America, the Middle East and the 14 other member countries of EURAMES. WOCMES-2 Secretariat, P.O. Box 830 562, Amman 11183, Jordan. Fax: 962 6 4618053; e-mail: wocmes2@riifs.org; www.riifs.org
Conferences and events 2006 - 2007

♦ 1 July. Conference Pilgrims and travellers to Mount Sinai and St Catherine’s convent. ASTENE / Oxford University CE conference. Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JN. Tickets £38 (£47 with lunch). Cheques to ‘OUDCE’, sent to OUDCE Day School Administrator, address above. Enquiries to: 01865 270368, e-mail: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

♦ 3-5 July. Aram Twenty Fifth International Conference The Mandaeans. The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford. Further information from ARAM (UK) The Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford OX1 2LE. Tel: 01865 514041 Fax: 01865 516824. E-mail: aram@orinst.ox.ac.uk; http://users.ox.ac.uk/~aram/


♦ 18 July 2006. Dr Laure Pantalacci, Annual Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture In Egyptology for 2006 (title to be confirmed). BP Lecture Theatre, Clore Centre, British Museum. Contact details below.

♦ 19-20 July 2006. International Egyptological Colloquium The Dakhla and Kharga Oases. Full details available after June 1st, from Alison Cameron. Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WCI B3DG. Tel: 020 7323 8306, Fax: 020 7323 8303. E-mail: acameron@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk


♦ 3-5 August 2006. Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, organised by ISIS / IIF, LMEI and to be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh St, London WC1. Conference website: wwwiranheritage.org/sixthbiennial/ Enquiries for travel, accommodation and visas. Further information from The Iran Heritage Foundation, 5 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1AH. 020 7493 4766, fax: 020 7499 9293, e-mail info@iranheritage.org

♦ 15-24 September. Astronomy in Muslim Cultures. An astronomy show inside Birmingham’s new planetarium that transports audiences to glittering Middle-Eastern skies. Traditional constellations of Muslim cultures are pointed out, the significance of the New Moon to the start of Ramadan, and various contributions by Muslim cultures to modern astronomical knowledge are explained. Planetarium at Thinktank, Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG. 0121 202 2222

♦ 27-28 October. Conference Red Sea 3: Cultural Connections of the Red Sea, Stevenson lecture theatre, British Museum London WC1. BM / Society for Arabian Studies conference. Themes: maritime networks; sacred space; identities; intellectual landscapes; ecological connections. Further details Christine Lindner, e-mail: s0453472@sms.ed.ac.uk For full details, see notice on pages 10 / 64, or consult the websites: www.dur.ac.uk/red.sea, or www.societyforarabianstudies.org

♦ 24 November 2006. Art & Islam: The Journey of the Great Mosaic. A woman-only concert including a collection of stories from different women and their spiritual journeys and including poetry, Islamic songs and music (nasheeds), comedy and Qur’anic recitation. A fusion of women, art, Islam and spirituality for all women to enjoy. Part of the Festival of Muslim Culture. Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 0121 303 2834

♦ 1-3 April 2007. BANEA Conference Drugs, Bugs, Health and Society in Early Greece and the Ancient Near East. Medical School, University of Birmingham. Themes will include: Disease Patterns and Health Status; Religion, Cult and Healing; Medical Interconnections; Food and Diet; Disease and Medicine in the Archaeological Record; Health and Medicine in Textual Sources; Health and the Environment; Human Skeletal Remains. Register to receive further information, or offer a paper: The Director, Centre for the History of Medicine, The Medical School, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom. Tel: 0121 414 6804; Fax: 0121414 4036; E-mail: R.G.Arnott@bham.ac.uk; or consult website www.medicine.bham.ac.uk/histmed/Forthcoming_files/Health%202007.pdf
Society for Arabian Studies

RED SEA PROJECT
Phase 3

Cultural Connections of the Red Sea

Friday 27 October and Saturday 28 October 2006

Following two successful conferences held in association with the British Museum on, 1: Trade and Travel in the Red Sea Region in the Red Sea (2002), and 2: People of the Red Sea (2004), the Society is organising a third two-day event entitled Cultural Connections of the Red Sea focusing on the following topics:

Maritime Networks: commercial connections: cultural relations of Red Sea maritime traditions and industries - particularly the cultural roles of harbours, boats, boat-building and navigational routes/dimensions.

Ecological Connections: with a focus on natural history - natural distribution of plants, crops, fish, mammals, birds - which have, at some time, influenced local culture.

Sacred Space: pre-Islamic, Christian and/or Islamic spiritual/religious and political routes and connections: the spread of religious and political frameworks and traditions within the Red Sea region - pre-Islamic shrines, churches, mosques, building materials/styles; political & religious networks etc.

Identities: spread of other cultural identities, of and to the Red Sea, with an emphasis on craft traditions and anthropological perceptions: textiles/costume, architecture, pottery, rock art and other archaeological artefacts.

Intellectual Landscapes: Visual and oral artistic interaction with the region: with an emphasis on art, music, dialects and literature and linguistics.

Tickets £28 / or £25 Society members and British Museum Friends
from Christine Lindner, 16/4 Comiston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6AH
Tel: 07775 726325. E-mail: CB Lindner <s0453472@sms.ed.ac.uk>

Project Co-ordinator Janet C.M. Starkey, j.c.m.starkey@durham.ac.uk

More information at: www.dur.ac.uk/red.sea