

The SEMINAR for ARABIAN STUDIES



23rd-25th July 2009

All Lectures will be held in the Clore Centre,
The British Museum



MBI AL JABER
Foundation

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME THURSDAY 23rd JULY 2009

09:00-9:45 – Initial Registration

09:45 – Welcome

Prehistory & Surveys

Chair: TBA

09:55 – JAGHER, Reto (*Universität Basel, Switzerland*) - **A new approach to central Omani prehistory**

10:20 – WILLIAMS, Matt (*University of York, UK*) - **Shell mounds of the Farasan Islands, Saudi Arabia**

10:45 – ZARINS, Juris & NEWTON, Lynne (*Office of the Advisor to HM the Sultan for Cultural Affairs, Sultanate of Oman*) - **Recent archaeological survey results in Dhofar, Sultanate of Oman**

11:10-11:40 COFFEE

Bronze Age to Iron Age in S.E. Arabia

Chair: TBA

11:40 – AL-JAHWARI, Nasser (*Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman*) & KENNET, Derek (*Durham University, UK*) - **Al-Khashba and al-Ghoryeen: two levels of Umm an-Nar settlement in the Wādī ‘Andam (Sultanate of Oman)**

12:05 – BENOIST, Anne (*CNRS, République Française*) - **New discoveries of an Iron Age cultic area at Masāfi**

12:30 – MAGEE, Peter (*Bryn Mawr College, USA*), HØJLUND, Flemming (*Moesgård Museum, Kongeriget Danmark*) & ZAMBELLI, Amber (*Bryn Mawr College, USA*) - **A mysterious barrier or just business as usual? First millennium BC trade in the Arabian Gulf**

12:55-14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – GALLEGO LÓPEZ, Alejandro (*Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Reino de España*) - **New evidence on the usage of implements in the al-Madām area**

Islamic Arabia

Chair: Derek Kennet (*Durham University, UK*)

14:25 – AL-NAIM, Mashary (*King Faisal University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*) - **City within a city: a walled city of al-Kut in Hufūf, al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia**

14:50 – AL-SHAikh, Nabil & REELER, Claire (*Dammam Regional Museum, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*) - **The ‘River Aftan’: an old caravan/trade route along Wādī al-Sahbā’?**

15:15 – MUNT, Harry (*University of Oxford, UK*) - **Writing the history of an Arabian holy city: Ibn Zabāla and the origin of Medinan local historiography**

15:40-16:10 TEA

16:10 – BELFIORETTI, Luca (*Sultanate of Oman*) & VOSMER, Tom (*Office of the Adviser to His Majesty for Cultural Affairs, Sultanate of Oman*) - **The al-Balid timber, preliminary overview and comparison**

16:35 – ROUGEULLE, Axelle (*CNRS, République Française*) - **The Qalhāt Project : New research on the medieval harbour site of Qalhāt (Oman)**

17:00 – BOULOGNE, Stéphanie (*CNRS, République Française & IFPO, Syrian Arab Republic*) - **Glass bangles of Shiḥr: a corpus of new data (15th-17th centuries) for the understanding of glass bangles manufacturing in Yemen**

The MBI Al Jaber Public Lecture

Ancient Arabia and the Written Word

M.C.A. Macdonald (*University of Oxford, UK*)

18.30 – Stevenson Lecture Theatre
(Limited Seating)

Followed by a RECEPTION hosted by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation
(Clore Centre East)

FRIDAY 24th JULY 2009

Morning Parallel Sessions

09:30-13:00 - **Focus Session: Current Fieldwork in Qatar**

Chair & Organizer: Derek Kennet (*Durham University, UK*)

09:30 – CUTTLER, Richard (*Birmingham University, UK*), KALLWEIT, Heiko (*Bundesrepublik Deutschland*), RAMSEY, Eleanor (*Birmingham University, UK*), AL-NAIMI, Faisal Abdulla (*Qatar Museums Authority, State of Qatar*) & FITCH, Simon (*Birmingham University, UK*) - **Reconstruction of the Late Pleistocene and Holocene palaeogeography of Qatar using remotely sensed datasets, and the implications for the integration of such data into the National Monument Record for Qatar**

10:00 – SCHREIBER, Juergen (*Qatar Museum Authority, State of Qatar*) - **Excavations at Umm al- Mā', Qatar - preliminary report on the first two campaigns**

10:30 – GUÉRIN, Alexandrine (*Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée, Lyon, République Française*) & AL-NAIMI, Faisal Abdulla (*Qatar Museums Authority, State of Qatar*) - **Pottery study to understand a district in Abbasid village of Murwab (9th century - Qatar)**

11:00 – Questions & discussion

11:20-11:50 COFFEE

11:50 – PETERSEN, Andrew (*University of Wales, UK*) – **Qal'at al-Ruwaydah, Qatar**

12:20 – WALMSLEY, Alan (*København Universitet, Kongeriget Danmark*) - **Al-Zubārah and its hinterland: archaeology and heritage**

12:50 – Questions & discussion

13:10-14:30 LUNCH

09:30-13:30 - **Special Session: The Development of Arabic as a Written Language**

Chair: Janet Watson (*University of Salford, UK*)

Organizers: Robert Hoyland (*University of St Andrews, UK*), Michael Macdonald (*University of Oxford, UK*) & Venetia Porter (*British Museum, UK*)

09:30 – ROBIN, Christian (*Institut de France, République Française*) - **Introduction**

09:40 – MACDONALD, Michael (*University of Oxford, UK*) - **Why did Arabic remain a purely spoken language for so long?**

09:55 – GHABBAN, Ali (*Supreme Commission for Tourism of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*) & NEHMÉ, Laïla (*CNRS, République Française*) - **New very late Nabataean, 'transitional', and early Arabic inscriptions, with a comparison of their content**

10:30 – HOYLAND, Robert (*University of St Andrews, UK*) - **Power, patronage and Arabic inscriptions**

10:55 – LARCHER, Pierre (*Université de Provence, République Française*) - **In search of a standard: dialect choices in the development of Classical Arabic**

11:20-11:50 COFFEE

11:50 – DEROCHE, François (*École Pratique des Hautes Études, République Française*) - **The Codex Parisino-petropolitanus and the Ḥijāzī scripts**

12:15 – GEORGE, Alain (*University of Edinburgh, UK*) - **On the roots and context of the Ḥijāzī corpus**

12:40 – PORTER, Venetia (*British Museum, UK*) - **The use of writing in magic**

13:05 – SCHOELER, Gregor (*Universität Basel, Switzerland*) - **The relationship of literacy and memory in the 2nd/8th century**

13:30-14:30 LUNCH

Further papers on The Development of Arabic as a Written Language

Chair: TBA

14:30 – AL-THENAYIAN, Mohammed A.R (*King Saud University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*) - **A dated Early Islamic rock inscription of Jabal Umm Sanmān, al-Jabbah (Hā'il region, Saudi Arabia)**

14:55 – FRASER, Marcus (*University of Edinburgh, UK*) - **Qur'ans in 'Hijazi' Scripts: marshalling the evidence**

15:20 – LIEBHABER, Samuel (*Middlebury College, USA*) - **Written Mahri, Mahri fuṣḥā and their implications for early historical Arabic**

15:45-16:15 TEA

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

16:15-17:30 - **Landscape & Food Resources**

Chair: TBA

16:15 – BANDYOPADHYAY, Soumyen (*Nottingham Trent University, UK*) - **Topographic conceptions in Omani architecture**

16:40 – AL-BELUSHI, Mohammed Ali; AL-HINAH, Nasser & ELMAHI, Ali Tigani (*Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman*) - **The exploitation of minor food resources in Oman: A parallel of a Prehistoric subsistence strategy**

17:05 – NASARAT, Mohammed & ABUDANH, Fawzi (*Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*) - **Agriculture in 6th century Petra and its hinterland: the evidence from Petra papyri**

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16:15-18:30 - **Workshop on The Development of Arabic as a Written Language** (Sackler Room)

This workshop develops discussions resulting from the Special Session and related papers. Seminar Participants are also invited to bring photographs of particular inscriptions, manuscripts, documents, coins and objects of relevance to the subject of the Special Session. If you wish to present such an item please contact the Secretary well in advance with details of the object and how you wish to present it (digital photographs preferred).

*The Sackler Room is located to the right of the entrance into the BP Lecture Theatre.*

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18:30 - RECEPTION

Clore Centre West, The British Museum

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**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009**

**Arabic & Modern South Arabian**

**Chair:** TBA

- 09:30 – GIOLFO, Manuela (*University of Exeter, UK*) - **yaqum versus qāma in Classical Arabic conditional context: a relativistic interpretation**  
09:55 – NAÏM, Samia (*CNRS, République Française*) - **The semantic structure of motion verbs in the dialect of Zabīd (Tihāmah)**  
10:20 – WATSON, Janet (*University of Salford, UK*) & BELLEM, Alex (*Council for British Research in the Levant, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*) - **A detective story: emphatics in Mehri**

**Ancient South Arabia**

**Chair:** TBA

- 10:45 – MULTHOFF, Anne (*Lehrstuhl für Semitische Philologie und Islamwissenschaft, Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) - **How difficult it is to dedicate a statuette: a new approach to some Sabaic inscriptions from Maʿrib**

**11:10-11:40 COFFEE**

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11:40 – FRANTSOUZOFF, Serge (*Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation*) - **Once more on the Interpretation of *mtl* in Epigraphic South Arabian (a new expiatory inscription on irrigation from Kamna)**  
12:05 – STEIN, Peter (*Lehrstuhl für Semitische Philologie und Islamwissenschaft, Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) - **Irrigation management in pre-Islamic South Arabia according to the epigraphic evidence**  
12:30 – AGOSTINI, Alessio (*Università degli Studi di Firenze, Repubblica Italiana*) - **Building materials in South Arabian construction inscriptions**

**12:55-14:00 LUNCH**

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14:00 – MARAQTEN, Mohammed (*American Foundation for the Study of Man, USA*) - **Music and musical instruments in ancient Yemen**  
14:25 – BUCKLEY, Stephen; WORTHINGTON, K.; FLETCHER, Joann; PENKMAN, Kirsty & KOON, Hanna - (*University of York, UK*) - **Study of leather involved in ancient Yemeni burial practices**  
14:50 – YULE, Paul (*Universität Heidelberg, Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) - **Fieldwork in Zafār, capital of Ḥimyar (Yemen)**  
15:15 – LEWIS, Krista (*University of Arkansas at Little Rock, USA*), Khalidi, Lamya (*University of Louisville, USA*), Eisenberger, Bill (*Digital Mapping & Graphics, USA*) & SANABANI, Ali (*Museum of Archaeology in the Dhamar Province, Republic of Yemen*) - **Mapping Maṣnaʿah Maryāḥ: Using GIS to reconstruct the development of a multi-period site in the Highlands of Yemen**

**15:40-16:10 TEA**

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16:10 – WOLF, Pawel (*Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) - **The Almaqah temple near Wuqro (Tigray, Ethiopia)**

**South Arabian Ethnography**

**Chair:** TBA

- 16:35 – AGIUS, Dionisius; COOPER, John; ZAZZARO, Chiara; VAN RENSBURG, Julian Jansen (*University of Exeter, UK*) - **Wooden boatbuilding in Yemen: Arabia's last redoubt (The MARES Project)**  
17:00 – RODIONOV, Mikhail (*Russian Academy of Science, Russian Federation*) - **A *ṣarf* talisman from Ghayl Bā Wazīr, Ḥadramawt**

**17:25 – Closing Remarks**

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