

## Editors' Foreword

The Seminar for Arabian Studies is the only international academic forum which meets annually for the presentation of research in the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula. It focuses on the fields of archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, ethnography, history, language, linguistics, literature, and numismatics from the earliest times to the present day.

A wide range of original and stimulating papers presented at the Seminar are published in the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* and reflect the dynamism and scope of the interdisciplinary event. The *Proceedings* present the cutting edge of new research on Arabia and includes reports of new discoveries in the Peninsula. The *Proceedings* are published each spring in time for the subsequent Seminar which is held in July. We hope you find the papers in this volume fascinating. We encourage you to recommend the volume to your academic institutions and colleagues and look forward to further stimulating and informative Seminars.

The main foci of the Seminar in 2014, in chronological order were the Palaeolithic and Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages, Early Historical and Classical periods, Heritage Management, Islamic Archaeology and History. In addition there were sessions on Ethnography, on Language, and with a session dedicated to the Archaeology and History of ancient Yemen. In addition, on the evening of Saturday, 26 July 2014, Professor Lloyd Weeks, Head of the School of Humanities, the University of New England, New South Wales, Australia, a long supporter of the Seminar and Foundation, presented the MBI Lecture entitled 'The Quest for the Copper of Magan: how early metallurgy shaped Arabia and set the horizons of the Bronze Age world' and as always provided an informative, interesting and lucid lecture. We also include notes *in memoriam* on Nigel Groom (1924–2014), 'Arabist, historian, spy-catcher, and writer on perfume'; and on Professor Tony Wilkinson (1948–2014), Professor of Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh (2005–2006) and Professor of Archaeology at Durham University (2006–2014) who specialised in landscape archaeology. Many of us have fond memories of them and they will be greatly missed.

The *Proceedings* appears each year as a result of intense and effective cooperation between the editorial and production team, the Editorial and Steering Committees, peer reviewers and the many contributors to the volume. The patience and support of the authors is to be applauded despite very tight production deadlines, particularly when authors are also engaged in fieldwork and/or in remote locations during the production period.

All papers are subject to rigorous peer review in order to maintain the highest academic standards and meet criteria laid down for publication, therefore not all the papers that are offered are accepted for publication. The *Proceedings* benefit from the support of enthusiastic and diligent Editorial and Steering Committees, which provide an extended range of expertise and support. Apart from the Editorial Committee which includes professional academics of the highest standing in their respective fields, the editorial team includes our copy-editor, Helen Knox, whose attention to detail and cheerful and patient disposition cannot be faulted. The professionalism and kindness of Rajka Makjanić and David Davison of Archaeopress who are always ready to sort out production issues with enthusiasm is really appreciated. Derek Kennet, Michael Macdonald, St John Simpson and Janet Starkey, the editor of PSAS for several years, have also worked diligently during May with the new editor, Orhan Elmaz, to ensure that the production came out in time. Sarah Morriss, the Secretary for the Seminar, and Robert Wilson, its Treasurer, also provide logistical support. Thanks are also due to Soumyen Bandyopadhyay for the delightful cover image on this edition.

The *Instructions for Authors* and *Guidelines for Editors* are all available on the Seminar website and are updated annually in early August.

For more information about the Seminar for Arabian Studies from July 2015 please contact: Sarah Doherty (Secretary), Seminar for Arabian Studies, The British Museum, c/o Middle East Department, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, United Kingdom. E-mail: [seminar.arab@durham.ac.uk](mailto:seminar.arab@durham.ac.uk) and/or visit the Seminar website at [www.arabianseminar.org.uk](http://www.arabianseminar.org.uk).

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