

## Editors' Foreword

The Seminar for Arabian Studies is the longest-running academic forum for the presentation of research on the cultural and natural heritage of the Arabian Peninsula. Since its first meeting in 1968, the Seminar has covered a wide range of subjects including archaeology, epigraphy, history, ethnography, art, architecture, linguistics, and literature from prehistory to the present. Since 2019 the Seminar has changed from being a British-based forum to an international setting, starting with a meeting in the University of Leiden and continuing with other European institutions.

The 56th Seminar in Aarhus in 2023 was a special one, as it marked the 70th anniversary of the first Danish archaeological expedition to Bahrain led by T. Geoffrey Bibby and P.V. Glob, from the Prehistoric Museum of Moesgaard. This is justly considered the starting point of archaeological research on Arabia, as it was the first time that formal excavations were undertaken in the region. A celebration of this pioneering achievement was in order and the members of the Steering Committee were therefore very pleased to support Steffen Terp Laursen when he proposed Aarhus as the venue, under the joint umbrella of the Moesgaard Museum and the University of Aarhus.

The Moesgaard Museum and the University of Aarhus, as well as the beautiful city itself, formed a welcoming venue. The meeting consisted of 76 papers organized into seven sessions, as well as 18 posters. There was one Special Session, entitled *The Bronze Age, 70 years on... What we have learned and what we still don't know*, organized by Steffen Terp Laursen and Derek Kennet (the publication of which is being prepared as a monograph to be published by Brill). The Seminar also included a celebration of the pioneers of Arabian archaeology, many of whom attended the reception, and the Society of Antiquaries of London, Beatrice De Cardi Public Keynote Lecture by Professor Adrian Parker, entitled *Arabian Palaeoenvironments and climate change during the Arabian Bronze Age (3500–1000 BC)*. Both events were held in the Moesgaard Museum. Overall, the 56th Seminar was an excellent meeting and our acknowledgement goes to Steffen and the organizing team at Aarhus for making it such a success.

This volume of the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* includes 21 papers presented in the ordinary sessions held at Aarhus. Our thanks go to all the authors who submitted papers and to the anonymous reviewers who contributed to the academic robustness of the end result. The publication of the volume within a year of the event itself is possible thanks to the efforts of a team which includes the Editor Matthew Johnson and the Assistant Editors Abigail Buffington, Silvia Lischi, Michael Macdonald, Orhan Elmaz, Janet Watson, and the two signatories of this text. We are also thankful for the support of Patrick Harris and Erin McGowan, the dedicated Archaeopress team, who worked hard to facilitate timely publication. Finally, we wish to thank Helen Knox, our copy-editor, whose indefatigable work and exceptional efforts have helped to bring this volume to completion.

The Seminar for Arabian Studies and the *Proceedings* are organized by the Steering Committee of the Seminar for Arabian Studies and the International Foundation for the Study of Arabia (IASA). For additional information on the Seminar, please contact Kate Ayres-Kennet ([seminar@theiasa.com](mailto:seminar@theiasa.com)). The IASA (formally the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia), is a charitable organization that promotes research on the cultural and natural heritage of the Arabian Peninsula. The IASA produces two annual bulletins. For further information about IASA, please write to [contact@theiasa.com](mailto:contact@theiasa.com) or visit the IASA website at [www.theiasa.com](http://www.theiasa.com).

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## **Society of Antiquaries of London, Beatrice de Cardi Keynote Lecture**

This year's lecture, entitled *Arabian Palaeoenvironments and climate change during the Arabian Bronze Age (3500–1000 BC)*, was given by Professor Adrian Parker of Oxford Brookes University.

The Beatrice de Cardi Awards are administered by the Society of Antiquaries of London. The grants are worth up to £15,000 for archaeological research on the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the Pakistan province of Balochistan.

The deadline for applications is 15th January annually.

Please see: <https://www.sal.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/our-grant-programmes/>