

Editors' Foreword

The Seminar for Arabian Studies is the principal international academic forum for research on the Arabian Peninsula. First convened in 1968, it is the only annual academic event for the study of the Arabian Peninsula that brings together researchers from all over the world to present and discuss current fieldwork and the latest research. The Seminar covers an extensive range of diverse subjects that include anthropology, archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, ethnography, history, language, linguistics, literature, numismatics, theology, and more besides, from the earliest times to the present day or, in the fields of political and social history, to around the end of the Ottoman Empire (1922).

The Seminar meets for three days each year, with an ever-increasing number of participants coming from around the globe to attend. In 2018 the fifty-second meeting took place, in which fifty-seven papers and posters were presented in London at the British Museum, where this prestigious event has been hosted since 2002.

The Proceedings appear 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. Thanks to the dedicated and enthusiastic editorial and steering committees the papers presented at the Seminar, having been subjected to an intensive review process, are published in time for the subsequent Seminar. The rigorous nature of the reviews undertaken by a range of specialists ensures that the highest academic standards are maintained, and consequently not all papers are accepted for publication in the Proceedings.

This year the editorial team consisted of four excellent assistant editors: Orhan Elmaz, Harry Munt, Tim Power, and Julian Jansen van Rensburg. Many thanks are due to Rajka Makjanic and David Davison of Archaeopress, who are a pleasure to work with and continue to deal with all aspects of the production of this journal professionally. Finally, I would like to thank our outstanding copy-editor, Helen Knox, whose attention to detail and patience cannot be faulted.

For more information about the Seminar for Arabian Studies please contact Daniel Eddisford (seminar.arab@thebfsa.org), Seminar for Arabian Studies, The British Museum, Middle East Department, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK, or visit the Seminar website at www.thebfsa.org/seminar. The International Association for the Study of Arabia (IASA), formerly the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia, is a charitable organization that exists to advance public knowledge through the promotion of research relating to the cultural and natural heritage of the Arabian Peninsula. The IASA publishes an annual bulletin in the spring; for further information about the IASA, please contact Carolyn Perry, Chair of the BFSA, by emailing contact@thebfsa.org or visit the BFSA website at www.thebfsa.org/.

Daniel Eddisford
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e-mail: psas@thebfsa.org

