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IN NORTH-WEST ARABIA

Edited by
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Guidelines and Transliteration

Guidelines for Authors

For details on the submission of papers and the preparation of papers for publication, authors are requested to consult and follow the latest *Guidelines for Authors*. These are available on the International Association for the Study of Arabia website at <https://www.theiasa.com/seminar/publication/>. Please contact the editors on <https://www.theiasa.com/seminar/publication/> for further information.

Fonts

Electronic versions of papers being submitted for publication should be set in Times New Roman 12-point typeface if at all possible, with double-line spacing on A4-paper size and 2.45 cm margins all round.

The IASA System of Transliteration of Relevant Characters

Quotations, single words, and phrases from Arabic or other languages written in non-Roman alphabets, are transliterated according to the systems set out below.

- We firmly encourage authors to use the correctly transliterated form of any place name, but the names used for types of pottery, archaeological periods, and cultures which have become archaeological standards should be used in that form: Umm an-Nar, Julfar ware, etc. If any place name needs to be given in a non-standard format, the correctly transliterated form should be added in the first instance in any paper (see *Guidelines for Authors* for more details).
- Personal names, toponyms, and other words that have entered English or French in a particular form, should be used in that form when they occur in an English or French sentence, unless they are part of a quotation in the original language, or of a correctly transliterated name or phrase. In the latter cases, they should be correctly transliterated, even when they occur in an English or French sentence.

1. Arabic

ء M	ج j	ذ dh (<u>dh</u>)	ش sh (<u>sh</u>)	ظ ẓ	ق q	ن n
ب b	ح ḥ	ر r	ص ṣ	ع ʿ	ك k	ه h
ت t	خ kh (<u>kh</u>)	ز z	ض ḍ	غ gh (<u>gh</u>)	ل l	و w
ث th (<u>th</u>)	د d	س s	ط ṭ	ف f	م m	ي y
Vowels	a i u ā ī ū	Diphthongs	aw ay			

The underlined variants can be used to avoid any ambiguity, e.g. *lam yushir* vs. *lam yushir*.

Initial *hamzah* is omitted.

Alif maqṣūrah is transliterated as ā.

The *lām* of the article is not assimilated before the ‘sun letters’, thus the form should be *al-shams* but not *ash-shams*.

The *hamzat al-waṣl* of the article should be shown after vowels except after the preposition *li-*, as in the Arabic script, e.g. *wa-l-wazīr*, *fī-l-bayt*, but *li-l-wazīr*.

Tāʾ marbūṭah (ة) should be rendered *-ah*, except in a construct: e.g. *birkah*, *zakāh*, and *birkat al-sibāḥah*, *zakāt al-ḥiṭr*.

2. Persian, Urdu, and Ottoman Turkish

Please transliterate these languages using the system set out for Arabic above with the additional letters transliterated according to the system in the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (<http://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/encyclopaedia-islamica/system-of-transliteration-of-arabic-and-persian-characters-transliteration>) except that ž is used instead of zh. There is a useful table to convert Ottoman Turkish to modern Turkish characters on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Turkish_language.

3. Ancient North and South Arabian Consonants:

ʾ	b	t	ṭ	ḥ	g	ḡ	d	ḏ	r	z	s ¹	s ²	s ³	ṣ
ḏ	ṭ	ṣ	ʿ	ḡ	f	q	k	l	m	n	h	w	y	

4. Other Semitic languages

Please use the transliteration systems outlined in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (BASOR) 262 (1986), p. 3. (www.jstor.org/stable/i258780).

Editor's Foreword

While Saudi Arabia's first inscribed World Heritage Site, Ḥeḡrā (al-Ḥijr) — Nabataean sister city of Petra — may be the best-known archaeological site in north-west Saudi Arabia, the region is extremely rich in cultural heritage beyond it. The special session *Revealing Cultural Landscapes in North-west Arabia*, included in the 54th Seminar for Arabian Studies (delayed from 2020 to 2021), presented the latest findings at a range of sites in this critical but understudied area of Saudi Arabia, showcasing a deep and complex past through many millennia.

From the late twentieth century onwards, most archaeological investigations of various scales and duration in north-west Arabia have been focused on the oases with long settlement histories. These sites, which include al-Bad' (Maghāyir Shu'ayb), al-'Ulā, 'Aynūnah, Dūmah, Ḥeḡrā, Qurayyah, Sakākā, and Taymā' (Fig. 1, overleaf), have been the subject of several research projects conducted by various institutions in partnership with the former Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH, prior the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities [SCTA] and the Supreme Commission for Tourism [SCT]), and currently the Ministry of Culture – Heritage Commission.

Since the establishment of the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) in 2017, a result of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, extraordinary attention and resources have been exacted on the study of the archaeological assets and cultural heritage of al-'Ulā County, within its oases and beyond, and shortly after of Khaybar, when parts came under RCU's jurisdiction. A strategy and initial programme of research projects were established, and in 2019 the French Agency for the Development of AlUla (Afalula), the key partner of RCU, began sponsoring archaeological research as well. Unsurprisingly, therefore, recent work in al-'Ulā and Khaybar predominate the volume.

The results and analyses offered in the articles derive from survey, extensive targeted excavation at multiple sites, and intensive excavation and studies at single sites.

Archaeological survey has been conducted at all

levels. An exceptional archaeological landscape survey was carried out in al-'Ulā County, divided into 'core' and 'hinterland', recording on the ground and from the air feature types of every time period within its extent of more than 22,000 km². Documenting the al-'Ulā oasis in detail followed, with a multidisciplinary diachronic study — mapping and investigating the complex dynamics of development and settlement. Khaybar, a hitherto unexplored sub-region of the Ḥijāz, has had two projects in play: an extension of the broad aerial al-'Ulā survey with targeted ground investigations and a multidisciplinary team mapping and establishing nuanced understanding of its cultural oasis and settlement.

Study at single sites highlights outstanding cultural expressions and sheds light on the use of specific structures or areas over time. A Neolithic site with unparalleled life-sized camels in high relief discovered at Sakākā adds an entirely new dimension to the rock art of Saudi Arabia. Targeted excavations at selected structures in al-'Ulā have revealed extraordinarily complex practices and interactions with the environment at the Neolithic mustatil and standing stone circles as well as refined the chronology of the large number of funerary structures dating from the Chalcolithic to the Bronze Age. Aspects of the geoarchaeological analyses of the al-'Ulā oasis figure in the interpretation presented of excavations at Tall al-Sālimīyah, near the exceptional Iron Age city of the region, Dadan. The evidence for Ḥeḡrā, also thriving then as a Lihyanite 'suburb' prior to the Nabataean period, is explored through pre-Nabataean numismatic and ceramic evidence recovered at the site.

Together the papers present a range of recent discoveries that demonstrate north-west Arabia's centrality to understanding the greater region and further and to begin to clarify the extraordinary richness of life in this pivotal zone of the Arabian Peninsula from the Palaeolithic through to the Islamic period.

Rebecca Foote

Director of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Research, Royal Commission for AlUla

November 2022



FIGURE 1. A map of key oases in north-west Arabia (L. Morabito).