

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

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VOLUME

26

1996

Papers from the twenty-ninth meeting
of the Seminar for Arabian Studies
held in Cambridge, 20-22 July, 1995

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| F. de Blois (London): | <i>Hijāratun min sijjīl</i> . |
| V. Charpentier (Paris): | Préhistoire récente du Dhofar et d'Oman: les industries à pointes de "Fasad". |
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| H. David (Paris): | Bronze Age soft stone vessel production in the Oman Peninsula. |
| U. Dreibholz (Austria): | Some aspects of early Islamic bookbindings from the Great Mosque of Sanaa, Yemen. |
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| I. Gajda (Aix-en-Provence): | Relations between the kingdom of Ḥimyar and the princes of Kinda in Central Arabia reconsidered. |
| F. Højlund (Moesgaard): | Incense-burners at Qala'at al-Bahrain c.1000BC. |
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| A. Korotayev (Moscow): | Material sources of Middle Sabaean royal power. |
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| C. Phillips (London): | Recent work on the Tihama at al-Hamid. |
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| R. Stocks (Australia, NSW): | Survey of Wadi Ḥaqīl, Ras al-Khaimah, UAE, Nov 1992. |
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| S. Weir (London): | Documents from Razih (north west Yemen) as anthropological / historical sources. |
| P. Yule (Bonn) and G. Weisberger (Bochum): | Preliminary report of the 1995 German archaeological mission to the Sultanate of Oman. |

PREFACE

We are sad to announce that, owing to a considerable increase in her academic commitments, Geraldine King has decided to resign from the post of Secretary of the Seminar after the 1996 meeting in London. She took over from Ann Dayton in 1992 and has worked extremely hard to increase attendance at the meetings and broaden the range of those invited. She has also overseen a great improvement in the production and distribution of the *Proceedings*. We are sure that all those who have attended the meetings of recent years will join the Committee in thanking her for all she has done. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her at future meetings, when, once again, she will be able to listen to the papers in the auditorium rather than having to sit “at the receipt of custom” outside!

The Committee is delighted to welcome Nanina Shaw Reade who will be assisting Geraldine during the 1996 meeting and who will take over as Secretary immediately after it.

Special note to this addition:

Unfortunately, because of editorial problems, we were unable to send proofs to contributors before publication. Whilst every care has been taken, we apologise for any mistakes that occur.

Corrigendum:

VOLUME 25. IN MEMORIAM A.G. LUNDIN.

A.G. Lundin died on the 12th October 1994 as the result of an accident which occurred on the 26th September 1994.

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR A.F.L. BEESTON

With the death of Professor A.F.L. Beeston, the Seminar for Arabian Studies has lost one of its founders and most faithful participants. The Index to the *Proceedings* shows how often he contributed his characteristically terse, concentrated, papers in which, with immense learning, lightly worn, he would illuminate points of pre-Islamic history and epigraphy. The Seminar will never be quite the same without his laugh collapsing into fearful coughing fits, perceptive comments and questions, his kindness and good company.

Alfred Felix Landon Beeston (“Freddie”) was born in London in 1911. From his early adolescence he was fascinated by “unusual and exotic” languages. He taught himself the rudiments of Arabic (having first learnt German in order to read the grammars!) and then began studying the South Arabian inscriptions on display in the British Museum. He studied Arabic and Persian at Oxford and wrote his D.Phil thesis on South Arabian inscriptions. He then joined the staff of the Bodleian Library, in the Department of Oriental Books, where among much else he produced the *Catalogue of ... Additional Manuscripts*. During the War he served in Palestine, where he quickly improved his colloquial Arabic, having initially startled his hearers by slipping into the Classical when taken unawares. After the War he returned to the Bodleian as Keeper of Oriental Books and Sublibrarian.

In 1955, he succeeded H.A.R. Gibb as Laudian Professor of Arabic at Oxford. The chair carried with it a fellowship at St. John’s, where he was to spend the next 40 years. Some time ago he wrote, “nothing in my career has given me more pleasure and comfort than my membership of that friendly and generous society”. To judge by the universal affection in which he was held there, the pleasure was entirely mutual. As Professor of Arabic, Freddie quickly showed himself a dedicated and gifted teacher. He broadened the Arabic syllabus, bringing in modern Arabic literature for the first time, taught undergraduates much more than was customary for Oxford professors

and wrote a number of books specifically for students of the language and literature. The latter were not mere textbooks, but were distillations of his enormous knowledge and deep understanding of the field.

However, it is perhaps in his research on pre-Islamic Arabia, and particularly Yemen, that he made his major contribution. His *Sabaic Grammar* (and its predecessor), and the *Sabaic Dictionary*, of which he was co-author, have placed on a firm footing our knowledge of the best attested of the Sayhadic languages. But he also wrote extensively about the culture, history and religions of pre-Islamic Arabia. He will always be remembered as one of the greatest Arabists and specialists in South Arabian of this century. But those who knew him will more often recall a man with a passionate interest in all aspects of the worked around him, great kindness and generosity, and an extraordinary gift for friendship.

IN MEMORIAM I. DURING CASPERS

Inez During Caspers, a contributor to the Seminar for Arabian Studies from its earliest days, died 31st January 1996 of sudden heart failure. She was well-known for her work on the cultural and mercantile relations between Mesopotamia, the Arabian Gulf and the Indus Valley civilisation, and for her ability to recognise extraneous cultural elements within local cultures. She was probably the first to identify the Jamdat Nasr pottery found in Oman, and the influence of the Murgabo-Bactrian cultural complex at various Arabian Gulf sites.

Elisabeth Christina Louisa During Caspers was born 1st September 1934 in Amsterdam, where she gained a double M.A. degree, *summa cum laude*, in the Sumerian language and the History of Art of South Asia. After a short marriage, she obtained a British Council grant enabling her to study at the Institute of Archaeology, London, where, in 1969, Professor Seton Lloyd awarded her a Ph.D for her thesis entitled "Archaeological Evidence for Maritime Trade in the Persian Gulf in the Third Millennium B.C."

On her return to the Netherlands, she worked for some years in the Manuscripts Room of the Library of the University of Amsterdam, while following a busy writing schedule. From 1974 she held a research position at the Kern Institute of Leiden, where she edited the Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology (ABIA). She obtained grants from the Netherlands Organisation for the Advancement of Pure Research to photograph sites and museum collections in India and Pakistan. Through her energetic coverage of this material she succeeded in creating a visual databank for the archaeology of the Indian subcontinent which is now part of her bequest to the Kern Institute.

In 1986 Inez was appointed as lecturer in the Archaeology of South and Southwest Asia in the newly created Department of Archaeology at Leiden University. She specialised in the archaeology of the Arabian Gulf, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. Throughout her career she produced a steady flow of articles and reviews, amounting to some 160 titles. She took an active part in excavations, and as recently as 1994 was a member of the

University of Birmingham Expedition to Oman. She was also an active member of learned societies and served on the editorial board of several journals.

She was a gifted teacher who gave her time to her students beyond the call of duty. She took early retirement in 1995 to devote herself to her own research, and to a long-running project: the decipherment of the Indus script. Her untimely death intervened. Her quick wit, humour, and kindness will be sadly missed.