Proceedings of the Twentieth SEMINAR FOR ARABIAN STUDIES

held at London

on

1st - 4th July 1986

Seminar for Arabian Studies

c/o Institute of Archaeology 31-34 Gordon Square London WC1H 0PY

1987

The Editorial Committee of the Seminar reserves the right to amend papers submitted for publication where necessary.

Opinions expressed are those of each author, and not necessarily of the Seminar.

CONTENTS

A.F.L. BEESTON	Habashat and Ahabish	5
n n	Apologia for 'Sayhadic'	
Paolo BIAGI	The Prehistoric Fishermen Settlements of RH5 and RH6 at Qurum, Sultanate of Oman	13
F. de BLOIS	'Abu Ṭāhir's Epistle to the Caliph Al- Muqtadir	21
O. CALLOT, J. GACHET & JF. SALLES	Some notes about Hellenistic Failaka	37
W. FACEY	The Boat Carvings at Jabal Jusasiyya, N.E. Qatar	199
D.F. HAWKINS	Primitive Rock Carvings in Qatar	53
Johann HEISS	Historical and Social Aspects of Sa ^c dah, a Yemeni Town	63
F.Nigel HEPPER	Current Research on the Plant Specimens from the Niebuhr and Forsskal Yemen Expedition, 1761-63	81
G.R.D. KING	The Distribution of Sites and Routes in the Jordanian and Syrian Deserts in the early Islamic Period	91
A. LONNET & MC. SIMEONE-SENELLE	Råbūt: Trance and Incantations in Mehri Folk Medicine	107
Eric MACRO	Arabia Before Photography	117
Abdullah A. NASIF	An Ancient Water System in Sakākā, Al-Jawf, Saudi Arabia	127
R.B. RAIKES	Beginnings of Agriculture - Rainfed Farming Versus Irrigation	137
H. Al-RIFAI	The Nature and History of Sea Song Music	143
Christian ROBIN	Trois Inscriptions Sabeennes Decouvertes Pres de Barâqish (Republique Arabe du Yemen)	165
Geraldina SANTINI	Site RH10 at Qurum and a Preliminary Analysis of its Cemetery	179
John Leigh Harvey DOUGLAS: an Obituary		136
Other papers given at the 1986 Meeting		106
Hon. Secretary's Report		62