



Arabia Antica Newsletter

Issue 2013, No. 1

Arabia Antica gets a makeover

Eight years after its creation, Arabia Antica is changing and introducing new features. Created to make available to the wider scholarly community the results of the research being conducted by the group led by Prof. Alessandra Avanzini at the University of Pisa, now it is preparing to expand its mission.

Arabia Antica is an on-line magazine dedicated to the history and culture of pre-Islamic Arabia. It reports on projects, research activities, cultural initiatives, archaeological sites, museums and collections, exhibitions, meetings and other events. Moreover, the website has now been revamped and improved to address a broader audience using a variety of materials, simpler language, and new and more attractive graphics.

Users will have at their disposal a single, simple point of access to the world of ancient Arabia. Constantly updated content and promptly published news will keep readers informed through new tools such as newsletters and rss feeds.

The staff of Arabia Antica warmly invite you to take a look at <http://arabiantica.humnet.unipi.it/> and hope that you enjoy it.

Museums: A new section

The restyling of Arabia Antica includes improvements and additions to its content. A completely new section has been created: [Museums](#).

This section will focus on museums around the world with collections of south Arabian and Semitic antiquities. Each museum mentioned will have been visited in person by members of our group not earlier than 2006 during the course of different research projects.

The museums will be grouped by geographical area and described, with their exact geographical coordinates, their opening times and contact information (this will include the names of the persons responsible for the south Arabian collections in little known, but object-rich museums). Moreover, the results of cataloguing work being conducted by the Arabia Antica team will be posted in advance and each museum will have its own 'history of collections' pages and charts describing holdings of particular interest.

The museum section is programmed to develop into the digital library MEDINA, which is part of the [MEDINA project](#) where each



[Arabia Antica gets a makeover](#)

[Museums: A new section](#)

[DASI project: DB updating and publication](#)

[IMTO Fieldwork & Activities](#)

[MEDINA project: 2nd training course](#)





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partner museum can publish its research and expand its on-line collection through theme-based and educational pathways and virtual exhibitions.

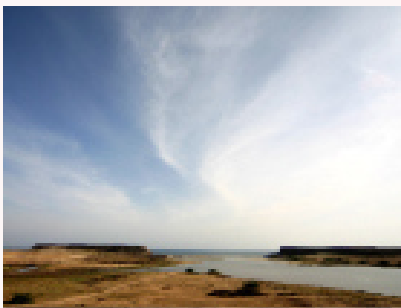
DASI project: DB updating and publication

[DASI](#), the digital archive of historical sources pertaining to the Arabian peninsula in the pre-Islamic period, is continually being updated to meet the requirements of the research community.

Grammatical marking will be carried out starting with Nabataean inscriptions and it will therefore soon be possible to perform searches of grammatical in addition to lexical and onomastic phenomena.

Grammatical tags will form the focus of a meeting of the DASI and OCIANA teams planned for May 2013 in Pisa.

The first version of the database front-end will be published shortly and provide free access to all the data thus far collected and analyzed.



IMTO Fieldwork & Activities

Arabia Antica will continue to present preliminary reports, along with brief updates, on the activities of the Italian Mission to Oman (IMTO), which is currently conducting excavations at the sites of Khor Rori (Sumhuram), Salut, Salut-ST1, and Mughsail.

This will provide visitors to the website with up-to-date news from the field in advance of the formal publication of excavation results and papers on specific artifacts by members of the IMTO team.

Arabia Antica

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MEDINA project: 2nd training course

The first training session organized by the MEDINA project was held at the University of Irbid in Jordan. A second training course intended for Lebanese students was held on 11-13 April 2013 in Beirut. Students specializing in archaeology and epigraphy were instructed by a team of experts on the latest theoretical work and digital technologies relating to epigraphy, and learnt how to catalogue inscriptions and archaeological artifacts using information technologies.