



## Arabia Antica Newsletter

Issue 2014, No. 1

### **DASI: improvement of the geographical and archaeological data**



Following the workshop on geographical data in DASI held at the beginning of July, the CNRS laboratory UMR 8167 – Mondes Sémitiques agreed to cooperate with DASI project. Thanks to this further agreement, the Site cards of DASI archive will be restructured and enriched with geographical and archaeological information, under the scientific supervision of Jérémie Schiettecatte.

**DASI: improvement of the geographical and archaeological data**

**DASI: new materials digitized**

**DASI archive: new features for the web fruition**

**IMTO: updates from Salut and Khor Rori**

**International relations: agreement with the KCHR**

### **DASI: new materials digitized and new features for web fruition**

Since its opening in September 2013, DASI archive has been continually updated with newly catalogued material.

In particular, the CSAI corpus has been integrated with about 500 inscriptions, among which the well-known inscriptions of Karib'il Watar RES 3945 and 3946 and about 170 inscriptions edited in articles published in Arabic journals and monographs.

In the "Collections" section at present, more than 1,200 epigraphs and 300 un-inscribed objects of Ancient South Arabia are available: the complete collection of the South Arabian objects held in The British Museum, the collection of the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale in Rome (nearly 40 epigraphic and 60 an-epigraphic ASA pieces), 60 more inscriptions preserved in the Military Museum of Sanaa and about 50 of the National Museum of Aden.

Thanks to the collaboration with the CNRS-UMR 8167 (Paris), the cataloguing of the Nabataean inscriptions in DASI has begun under the supervision of Laila Nehmé.

DASI site has been improved in order to allow a more flexible textual search on onomastics. The different types of names have been arranged in macro-categories (e.g. names of individuals) and a series of checkboxes allow multiple selections with a combined logic AND/OR.





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An Arabic translation is now available for the “Help” section, containing explanation on how to consult DASI archive. The pdf file is available at:

[[dasi.humnet.unipi.it/fileadmin/user\\_upload/The\\_help\\_Arabic\\_2014-01-08.pdf](http://dasi.humnet.unipi.it/fileadmin/user_upload/The_help_Arabic_2014-01-08.pdf)].



Finally, DASI is working on the enhancement of the lexical studies on the inscriptions of pre-Islamic Arabia, starting from the non-Sabaic ASA corpora, thanks to the development of a tool able to create lexica from the words recorded in DASI.

### IMTO: updates from Salut and Khor Rori

The archaeological campaigns at Salut and Sumhuram have been carried out between January and March.

It must be noted that in Sumhuram, amazing representations carved on the masonry blocks of the building called Monumental Building 2 have been discovered. Moreover, structures dating to the first occupational phase of the settlement have been excavated below the square in front of the main temple dedicated to the god Sin.



Translation and interpretation of the inscribed bronze plaque discovered at Sumhuram at the end of last year have been presented by Alessandra Avanzini at the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Paris, on March 21st.

At Salut, excavations focused on the structure of the early perimeter wall of the site, built with mudbricks above substantial stone footing. Excavations at the Bronze Age tower ST1 near Salut were aimed to empty out part of the main ditch and study its sediments in a stretch of land to the west of the tower.

In addition to this, many other activities have been carried out. The geoarchaeologist Mauro Cremaschi from the University of Milan (Politecnico) joined the team on the field again, in order to study the channel network connected with ST1 Bronze Age tower.



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A geophysical survey (GPR and magnetometer) was carried out in the vicinity of the Bronze Age tower ST1 by a UK-based team. Martina Renzi, from UCL Qatar, visited the mission in order to sample several metallurgy-related items coming from Iron Age contexts (ingots, objects, scrap metal, and crucible fragments), meant to be the subject of a thorough metallurgical study. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and Dennys Frenez, from the University of Bologna in collaboration with the mission developed a study about the Indian seals discovered at the site.

On the other hand, Roberta Tomber has been welcomed by the mission for a study season at Khor Rori focused on the Roman pottery at the site.

### **International relations: agreement with the KCHR**

An international agreement between the Kerala Council for Historical Research and the University of Pisa has been signed in May. Its objectives are the exchange of scholars and young researchers, the development of common projects and the organization of conferences and congresses.

Some joint activities preceded the agreement. The South-Arabian material found in India was the focus of the study season conducted by Alessandra Avanzini and Vittoria Buffa at the site of Pattanam, Kerala, whereas the South-Arabian pottery discovered at the site has been registered and started to be studied. The collaboration with the Kerala Council for Historical Research grew stronger thanks to the presence of Preetha Nayar and Sarath Chandrababu in Salalah for a study season focused on the beads and the Indian pottery found at the site.

### **Arabia Antica**

[<http://arabiantica.humnet.unipi.it/>]

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