



## Arabia Antica Newsletter

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### DASI. Updates on digitization

In the last months [DASI](#) has digitized nearly 400 Ancient South Arabian inscriptions. The entire ASA epigraphic collection of the Louvre Museum is now accessible on DASI portal, as well as the corpora published in the volumes *Problemi storici della regione di al-Hadā' nel periodo preislamico e nuove iscrizioni* (A. Avanzini, 1985) and *Les hautes-terres du Nord-Yémen avant l'Islam* (Ch. Robin, 1982). After the study and complete online edition of the inscriptions published in the *Corpus inscriptionum semiticarum. Pars IV. Inscriptiones Himyariticas et Sabaicas Continens (CIH)*, DASI is currently committed to the web publication of the inscriptions from other major epigraphic collections. The first groups of digitized texts from the *Répertoire d'Épigraphie Sémitique*, from the *Corpus des inscriptions et antiquités sudarabiques* and A. Jamme's *Sabaean Inscriptions from Maḥram Bilqīs (Mārib)* are being published online. The texts on the wooden sticks studied by P. Stein and the Sabaic inscriptions from Ethiopia will further enrich DASI archive.

### DASI. Digital lexicon: a new tool

DASI is developing a new tool which will allow the creation of digital lexica of its linguistic corpora, one of the most urgent needs for a full comprehension of the South Arabian inscriptions. The aim is to produce dictionaries of the non-Sabaic languages, structured by root, through the morphological and semantic analysis of the words in the inscriptions digitized. The launch of the tool, which at first will be accessible only to the working team, is expected for the beginning of 2015.

### Loan of bronzes from the Military Museum of Sana and training on restoration

The restoration of the [bronze artifacts](#) lent by the Military Museum of Sana to the University of Pisa is in progress. The bronzes appear partly damaged by past improper restoration: the original patina has been removed, allowing chlorides to





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attack the surface, and corrosive substances have been used to glue spurious parts to some artifacts. While the original patina will be renovated in order to prevent further damages, the reasons and the objectives of those manipulations are going to be investigated. A [course](#) on documentation and restoration of ancient artifacts has been organized by the Arabia Antica team in the same framework of cultural cooperation. It was held in Pisa and addressed mainly to personnel of the Museums itself, in order to train them according to the principles followed in the restoration of the bronze artifacts.

### IMTO. Khor Rori 3rd archaeological campaign



The [archaeological campaign](#) carried on in September - November 2014 has concerned the areas F and A of Khor Rori with different purposes. In area A the excavations were aimed at understanding the link between street A113 and buildings BA15, BB2 and BB4. In area F the investigation was performed inside the so-called Monumental Building 2. This probably was a multi-functional building in use since the early phases, the first structure to be built, even before the city walls. The report related to the archaeological and the restoration works will be soon made available on Arabia Antica.

### IMTO. Salut 2nd campaign



The [second campaign](#) of the year at the Iron Age site of Salut and at the Early Bronze Age tower has been carried out in November - December. At Salut the work has focused on the completion of the site protection, restoration and rebuilding. At the Bronze Age tower a stone perimeter wall for the whole site has been built, which could protect it from heavy water runoff and prevent exposed sections from collapsing. At the same time, the complete revealing of the main ditch's plan was achieved, which also led to the discovery of two more drains/channels conveying water into it. A new deep trench was cut through the ditch's sediments south of the tower, in order



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to further investigate their layout. The bottom of the ditch was hit, and the trench was dug in the precise point where the ditch deepens, moving westward. A charred material-rich layer was also discovered near the bottom of the trench and a sample was collected which will be submitted for radiocarbon dating.



### IMTO. Restoration campaign at Shisir

IMTO is also engaged at the UNESCO archaeological site of Shisir, where a huge project of restoration is in progress. The restoration is intended to be concluded within February, in occasion of the ICOMOS Oman international conference.

### Salut Virtual Museum

More than ten years have passed since the beginning of the excavations at Salut. IMTO have thus decided to show the results of the research not only to specialists but also to the general public. This purpose has led to the project of a Virtual Museum of Salut.

The features that are being implemented include: a video that will lead the visitor inside the heart to approach Salut, its myth and its history; a path that is thought to simulate ideal sections and exposition halls, each one dedicated to the major historical periods documented at Salut; a catalogue, downloadable in pdf, and the highlights section that will display the most interesting findings from Salut; temporary exhibitions about different subjects.

Through the objects from the site (seals, bronzes, pottery, soft-stone vessels...) and coeval foreign evidences, Salut architectural structures, irrigation system, commercial and cultural contacts with the main civilizations will be illustrated.

The Salut VM will be the first of the virtual museums dedicated to archaeological sites and museum collections that the Arabia Antica working group is planning.





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#### Flash news

**Follow IMTO on facebook!** The Italian Mission to Oman has its own page on FB. Pictures, videos and live news from the archaeological excavations are available at

[<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Italian-Mission-to-Oman/726857794060086>]. Follow IMTO, comment and share!



**Aerial shots of Khor Rori.** Unprecedented images of the archaeological site of Khor Rori are available. Indeed a complete photo and video survey of the site has been carried out with the aim of a drone. The shooting has provided for the first time a fascinating, full view from above of the overall site and the surrounding environment. The full video is published on IMTO FB page.

**ICOMOS Oman international conference.** An international conference on archaeological parks and sites is being organized by ICOMOS Oman in cooperation with ICOMOS Paris. The workshop will be held in February 2015 at Salalah. Further news will soon be published on Arabia Antica.

**Students exchange with KCHR.** The cooperation between the Arabia Antica research group and the Kerala Council for Historical Research has resulted in a memorandum of understanding. The common training programme, established within the memorandum, will allow the exchange of graduate students between the KCHR itself and the University of Pisa at the beginning of the next year.

**Conferences and new collaborations.** The Arabia Antica working group is intensely engaged in dissemination and networking activities. The ASOR Annual Meeting, the EAGLE International Conference and the Leipzig Open Philology Workshop, just to mention the most recent ones, have given the opportunity to get in touch with other projects dealing with archaeology of the Arabian peninsula, digital humanities and digital epigraphy also pertaining to different cultural contexts. Scholars and projects interested in exchange of knowledge and data are welcome and can contact the Arabia Antica staff.

#### Arabia Antica

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

Università di Pisa,  
Dipartimento di Civiltà e  
Forme del Sapere

via L. Galvani 1

56126 Pisa

tel.: +39 050 2215222

e-mail:

arabiantica@sta.unipi.it