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Editorial

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Editorial

The 33rd volume of *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* (*AAE*) comes along with a number of changes. First of all, Bruno Overlaet, who has shaped this journal as editor since 2015, retired by the end of 2021. He took over editorship from Dan Potts, who launched *AAE* 32 years ago. During Bruno's term of office, *AAE* underwent considerable growth: more than 130 original scholarly articles were published in *AAE* in the past 6 years, which is almost a fourth more than the average of all preceding years. One achievement, which is going to be further developed, was his engagement for special issues devoted to particular fields of research and assisted by invited guest editors: three such issues have been edited under Bruno's responsibility. Moreover, a number of improvements concerning the editorial board, facilities for authors and reviewers, the journal's layout, and the speed of publication have been achieved in agreement with the publisher. The editors would like to express their gratitude to Bruno Overlaet for his commitment to the demanding and time-consuming duty as editor to the benefit of *AAE*, which has long been established as a leading journal in the field of Ancient Arabian archaeology and history.

One of the changes in the scholarly landscape of Ancient Arabia, compared with the situation in the early years of *AAE*, is the fact that prehistoric archaeology gains more and more importance besides the historical periods. The increasingly high specialisation of disciplines within archaeology (and also philology) makes also editorial work too complex to be handled by only one or two persons. The new editorial team, therefore, consists of three people—each of them an expert in a particular field of Ancient Arabian archaeology and epigraphy.

Rémy Crassard (<https://www.archeorient.mom.fr/annuaire/crassard-remy>) is a senior researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Lyon. He is a specialist in the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic of the Arabian Peninsula, where he has been working since 1998. Among many collaborations and participations in international expeditions in every country of the Peninsula, he directed the National Research Agency project *Globalkites* (Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Armenia, Kazakhstan) and is currently the co-PI of the Khaybar *Longue Durée* Archaeological Project (Saudi Arabia) (contact: remy.crassard@cnrs.fr).

Jérémy Schiettecatte (<http://www.orient-mediterranee.com/spip.php?article150>) is a senior researcher at the

French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris. His research focuses on the archaeology and history of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa from the Late Bronze Age to Early Islam. Since 2000, he has worked in Bahrain, the U.A.E., Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia. He directed the French-Saudi Archaeological Mission in al-Kharj (Saudi Arabia) until 2017. He is currently co-directing the French Archaeological Mission in Eastern Tigray (Ethiopia); he is the PI of the National Research Agency project *Maparabia*, 2018–2023 (contact: j.schiettecatte@cnrs.fr).

Peter Stein (https://www.theologie.uni-jena.de/peter_stein) is associate professor for Semitic philology at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany). His research focuses on the Ancient South Arabian languages and inscriptions from Ancient Yemen and the Gulf. One of his major projects concerns the documentary texts written in cursive or *zabūr* script on wooden sticks. He has been in charge as Associate Editor for epigraphy of *AAE* since 2011 (contact: peter.stein@uni-jena.de).

To facilitate the editorial and review processes, submissions will be directed to one of the three editors:

- Archaeology—Prehistory/Protohistory to Rémy Crassard
- Archaeology—Historical Periods to Jérémy Schiettecatte
- Epigraphy and philology to Peter Stein.

A question has been added to the Wiley authors' submission website; authors are kindly requested to assign their submission to one of the three fields. Papers with a multidisciplinary approach should be handled accordingly, in cases of any doubt one may kindly address the editors beforehand.

From this year on, *AAE* will be published for individual customers only in digital format, the hybrid format of digital and print publication, as we had it in the past few years, being abandoned. Although the editors always favoured an additional printed edition alongside the regular online publication, the publisher eventually decided to discontinue the print version, not least due to a persistently low number of sales (library subscribers are as yet not affected by this change). Moreover, we are going to edit only one number per year instead of two, thus facilitating the editorial process and making publishing in *AAE* more translucent and rapid for the authors. We are going to ensure a rather short span of only a few weeks at best from acceptance to final

publication—a clear advantage for authors publishing in *AAE*. We do hope that these adjustments are appropriate to further improve *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* as an attractive, high-standard platform for scholarly discussion on the world of Ancient Arabia.

Rémy Crassard
Jérémie Schiettecatte
Peter Stein

Lyon, Ivry sur Seine and Jena, January 2022