

- i) ***The Study of Arabic in Malta: 1632-1915*, pp. 52.** Louvain: Peeters, 1990; trans. from Maltese. Malta, *Centru ghat-Taghlim ta' l-Gharbi fil Mediterran*, pp. ix+ 54. Malta: Klabb Kotba Maltin, 1980.

The status of Arabic and Islam in a Christian island governed by the Knights of Malta, the French Occupation and the British Protectorate is the study of this monograph based on archival material from the Inquisition, Church records at Mdina (Malta) and the Propaganda Fide in Rome.

“... opens a window on an intriguing aspect of Arabic Studies which definitely merits a larger investigation” (Michael Carter, *Middle East Studies Bulletin*, 26 [12992]; 237)

- ii) ***Arabic Literary Works as a Source of Documentation for Technical Terms of the Material Culture*** [Islamkundliche Untersuchungen, 98], pp. 373. Berlin: Klaus Schwarz, 1984.

A study of Islamic material-cultural terminology based on Arabic geography and travel literature and historical documentation from early to late medieval periods. It is a research that focuses on *how* the word is used in the context given for the speaker or writer of the time rather than what the root or form of the word might *mean*.

- iii) (with R. M. Savory). ***Logos Islamikos: Studia Islamica in Honorem G. M. Wickens***, pp. viii + 351. Toronto: Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies, 1984.

This collection of essays covers contributions on medieval Arabic and Persian languages and literatures and Islamic *weltanschauung*. It is a volume devoted to George Michael Wickens (d. 2006); the articles reflect the wide range of his scholarly pursuits and concerns (a list of his publications are compiled by Eleazar Birnbaum, pp. 325-338).

- iv) (with Richard Hitchcock). ***The Arab Influence in Medieval Europe***, pp. xi +181. Reading: Garnet, 1994; paperback edition 1996; reprinted 1997; trans. into Arabic by Qasim 'Abduh Qasim, *al-Ta'thir al-'Arabi fi Uruba al-'Usur al-Wusta*. Pp. 196. Cairo: 'Ain, 1997, reprinted twice.

A collection of essays by authors covering a diverse number of topics whose underlying theme is the contact and interaction between the Arabs and Europe during the medieval period.

“ ... the very breadth of focus is one of the book's merits” (L. Patrick Harvey, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 6, ii [1995]: 283).

“ ... a panoramic vista that owes its coherence and clarity to the exceptional brilliance of its individual landmarks” (Abu Lilia Sulani, *Muslim World*, 19 (iii) [1999]: 40).

- v) (with Ian R. Netton). *Across the Mediterranean Frontiers: Trade, Politics and Religion 650-1450* [International Medieval Research, 1], pp. xii+422. Turnhout: Brepols, 1997;

This volume aims at presenting a fully-rounded picture of the Medieval Islamic Mediterranean from discussions on Islamic Spain and Sicily through essays on economic and cultural exchange to an examination of Islamic and western politics and religious thought.

- vi) ***Siculo-Arabic*** [Library of Arabic Linguistics, Monograph No. 12], pp. 542. London: Kegan Paul International, 1996;

This book examines the socio-linguistic situation in Islamic Sicily. It is evident from this study that three linguistic communities emerged: one was isolated linguistically and culturally from Arabic and Islam; the second had a common affiliation into which Muslims (Arabs, Berbers and Sicilians) were brought up with a common language – Arabic; and the third commonly acculturated to Islam and spoke a pidginized form of Arabic but remained affiliated to Christianity. Most of the material-cultural data are reconstructed phonologically and morphologically.

“ ... is clearly an important database that will be useful to future generations of scholars.” (Bernard Comrie, *Linguistics*, 35 [1997]: 601)

“It is the first major treatise to deal with all the varieties of Siculo Arabic ...” (Alan S. Kaye, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 24, ii [1997]: 295).

“ ... le premier à lancer le débat au sujet de l’arabe de Sicile de manière rigoureuse et systématique” (Annliese Nef, *Arabica*, 45 [1998]: 138).

- vii) ***In the Wake of the Dhow: The Arabian Gulf and Oman***, pp. xxiv+253. Reading: Garnet, 2002.

The Arabian dhow, with its characteristic features, is one of the most evocative images of the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The great cargo dhows represented a flourishing trade which stretched from the Mediterranean up to China in the time of the Portuguese and the Dutch from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. When the pearling industry was at its height in the nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries, hundreds of pearling dhows were actively employed, carrying

thousands of mariners diving for the finest pearls, a commodity much sought by the western powers. In times of war, the dhows were magnificent vessels and associated with the piracy so prevalent in these waters. This book is a product of over two hundred interviews with shipwrights and seamen in the Arabian Gulf and Oman over a period of ten years. It comprises information given firsthand with the literature already written on the dhow and on Arab seafaring in the past seventy years, much of which was simply technical. Documenting the dhow is an important element in the prosperity of the area before the discovery of oil; we find in this book the geographical conditions and the historical-linguistical background of each dhow-type, the life pattern in its role as cargo, pearl-diving, pirate and slaving vessel and also how the seafaring communities interacted with the dhow world.

## Reviews

“He has responded, in the wake of a number of Arab chroniclers of the dhow, by supplementing a scrupulous trawl of almost the entire corpus of useful written material with observations and anecdotes meticulously gathered from a number of surviving Arab shipwrights and seafarers, compressing a wealth of detail from a wide range of sources between the covers of a single, elegantly presented book and making material of Arabic origin available to readers unacquainted with the language” (James Taylor, *Asian Affairs*, [Nov. 2003]: xx)

“... is an important contribution. Its classification system and analysis bring clarity to the confusing web of relationships – geographic, linguistic, and technological – that are integral to these vessels and the society that created them.” (Paul E. Fontenoy, *Nautical Research Journal*, 48, iii [2003]: 183).

“It is this fieldwork over a period of many years which has yielded a rich harvest indeed, making this now the definitive work on the subject” (Alan S. Kaye, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 66, ii [2003]: 253-254).

“In the Wake of the Dhow will be welcomed by a great variety of users ... . It will be quoted in theses, which will, no doubt, be written after further aspects of past and present maritime activities in the Gulf. It will be used by linguists and last not least it will be helpful for the visitors to Oman and the other Gulf States, who are intrigued by seeing these wooden vessels ... .” Frauke Heard Bey, *DAVO Nachrichten*, 17 [2003]: 89-90).

“ ... brings a more sophisticated and elaborate methodology to his linguistic data ...and an ability to fit all his information into a more general picture of the culture of the Gulf and Oman and one arrives at the end of

the book appreciating fully how important seafaring has been and still is in the lives of all the peoples of the area, those directly concerned with the sea and those not". (G. Rex Smith, *Journal for Semitic Studies*, 49, ii [2004]: 373.

"... a major contribution to the study of navigation in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean" (V. Christides, *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 34, i (2005): 159.

- viii) ***Seafaring in the Arabian Gulf and Oman: The People of the Dhow.*** xiii+285. London: Kegan Paul Limited, 2005, reprinted twice.

This is a study of the seafaring communities of the Arabian Gulf and Oman over the last one hundred and fifty years. It focuses on the cultural, material and commercial significance of the dhow and its role in the life and interaction of coastal communities with a long tradition of seafaring. Drawn from archival material, extensive field research and interviews that capture the voices and memories of the mariners, the work presents an integrated and dynamic study of dhow activity in the area bringing together history, geography and material culture. The sea, the ships and the people who sailed them are examined within the context of the wider culture of the Indian Ocean, as expressed in boat-building traditions, navigational techniques, crew organization and port towns. The Arabian Gulf and Oman have traditionally shared a common destiny within the Western Indian Ocean. The seasonal monsoonal winds were fundamental to the physical and human unities of the seafaring communities, producing a way of life in harmony with the natural world, a world which abruptly changed with the discovery of oil. What remains is memories of a seafaring past, a history of traditions and customs recorded here in the recollections of a dying generation.

"... a well-balanced fusion of literary sources, oral testimony and published volumes ... Besides offering the reader a comprehensive overview of the maritime world and culture of the Arabian Gulf, it is also a precious record of a fast-disappearing world." Timothy Gambin, *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 35, ii (2006): 347-348.

".... Equally important is the contribution it makes to the reconstruction of Arab seafaring by offering a well-researched and well-documented study on Muslim Arab seafaring in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, one which will now be relevant to further comparative studies of the Arabs' Mediterranean activities". Maya Shatzmiller, *Bulletin of the Society for Arabian Studies*, 11 (2006): 48-49.

- ix) ***Classic Ships of Islam: From Mesopotamia to the Indian Ocean.*** Leiden: E. J. Brill (forthcoming 2007).

This book charts the development of Islamic ships and boats in the Western Indian Ocean from the seventh to the early sixteenth century with reference to earlier periods. It utilizes mainly Classical and Medieval Arabic literary sources with iconographical evidence and archaeological finds.

The interdependence of various trading activities in the region resulted in a cross fertilization, not only of goods but also of ideas and culture which gave an underlying cohesion to the Arabian, Persian and Indian maritime peoples. This study has led to a re-evaluation of that maritime culture, showing that it was predominantly Persian and Indian, with Chinese influence, throughout the Islamic period until the coming of the Portuguese, as reflected in nautical terminology and technology.

- x) ***Al-Masāq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean*** (established 1988), Volumes 1-19 (Oxford: Routledge Taylor & Francis.

An international journal covering all aspects of the Islamic Mediterranean culture (2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Hijra/ 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> CE); it is concerned with fostering interdisciplinary and cross-cultural investigation of the Mediterranean region, creating a forum of ideas, encouraging debate on the influence of Islamic culture in the Mediterranean and promoting innovatory research. Research papers use a range of theoretical and methodological approaches covering studies in humanities and social sciences; topics covered include: transmission and communication of culture in the medieval Mediterranean; Islam and imagery in art, medieval European writings, art and architecture; material culture; seafaring and coastal communities; archaeology; rural and urban settlements; hagiography, sermons and related literature; conversion; Crusades, the Latin East; gender; women in literature and society; Islamic Spain and Sicily; the *Reconquista*; Norman Sicily; Byzantium and Islam; Orthodox Christianity; art and imagery, icons and paintings; monasticism and religious life; government and warfare; medicine, science and technology; military history; concepts of national identity; geography and settlement studies; archives and resources; languages and literatures, Greek, Latin and Arabic.

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/smm/>

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/09503110.html>

“... un nouvel instrument de travail pour ceux qui se consacrent à l'étude des pays musulmans de la Méditerranée” (Bernard Rosenberger, *Bulletin Critique des Annales Islamologiques*, 10 [1993]: 241).