

## Journals:

**Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy, Vol. 10: No.1,** May 1999. Munksgaard, Denmark. ISSN 0905-7196

As usual, the latest issue of AAE, edited by Dan Potts, includes several papers relating to the archaeology of the Emirates:

*One woman and her dog: an Umm an-Nar example from the United Arab Emirates*, (S. Blau and M. Beech), 34-42; *Writing in the Iron Age: the earliest South Arabian inscription from southeastern Arabia* (P. Magee), 43-50; *Zur Inschrift auf einem Krugfragment aus Muweilah* (W.W. Muller), 51-53; *The excavation of a camel cemetery at Mleiha, Sharjah, U.A.E.*, (S.A. Jasim), 69-101; *Camel and horse skeletons from proto-historic graves at Mleiha in the Emirate of Sharjah*, (U.A.E.), (H.-P. Uerpmann), 102-118; *A site from the early first millennium AD at Ra's Bilyaryar, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.*, (P. Hellyer and G.R.D. King), 119-123 and *Abi'el, the ruler of Southeastern Arabia*, (E. Haerincq), 124-128.

**Bulletin of the Society for Arabian Studies No.4** Spring 1999. London. ISSN 1361-9144.

The main feature in the annual Bulletin of the Society for Arabian Studies is on a UAE topic - the 'Ubaid period settlement on Dalma discovered by the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey ADIAS.

Beech, Mark and Elders, Joseph [1999] *An 'Ubaid-related settlement on Dalma Island, Abu Dhabi Emirate, United Arab Emirates*. pp. 17-21.

Pages 26 to 30 in the **Recent News and Research** section cover the UAE, with contributions relating to work undertaken by ADIAS and in Sharjah, Ra's al-Khaimah and Fujairah.

**Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies, (PSAS) Vol. 28 - 1998.** Seminar for Arabian Studies / Brepols, Belgium, 1999. ISSN 0308-8421; ISBN 2-503-50632-1.

For those interested in the UAE, there are only two short papers on local topics, although there are several on Oman.

Blau, Soren. "*Studies of human skeletal remains in the United Arab Emirates: where are we now?*" pp. 7-13

Sasaki, Hanae & Sasaki, Tatsuo. *Scientific analysis of white glazed ware from Julfar, Ra's al-Khaimah*. pp. 247-250.

## RESEARCH NOTES

### Archaeology and Marine Resources

Notes on the analysis of fish bones from archaeological sites on Sir Bani Yas and in Umm al-Qaiwain were presented by Mark Beech of the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey, ADIAS, and the University of York, UK, to the 10th meeting of the International Council for Archaeozoology, ICAZ, Fish Remains Working Group Conference, in New York last September. An edited abstract follows:

The paper examined one of the key issues connected with the archaeology of south-east Arabia; namely, whether the earliest coastal inhabitants were fully

sedentary or practised a transhumant pattern of occupation along the coasts in the winter, moving to their residences in the interior during the summer months. This pattern is well-attested in the historical and recent ethnographic record in south-eastern Arabia, but has not yet been proven archaeologically. Two UAE coastal sites were discussed: Umm al-Qaiwain (UAQ 93/4), an Ubaid-related 5th millennium BC midden and cemetery, and Sir Bani Yas (SBY 9), a Christian pre-Islamic monastery dating to the 5th-8th Centuries AD. Fish otoliths were well preserved in the deposits at both sites, the majority of them belonging to *sha'ri* (emperors) *Lethrinidae*. Thin sectioning of the otoliths reveals clear evidence of apparent seasonal banding which is matched on otoliths collected from modern fishes caught within the same coastal waters. This confirms that fishing was predominantly carried out during the winter and early spring. Modern ecological data concerning water temperature and salinity was also discussed, as well as the seasonal occurrence of certain fish taxa at the present day, along with a consideration of the seasonal availability of marine resources for early coastal inhabitants of south-east Arabia.

### Late Stone Age dugongs

Helene Jousse, Centre des Sciences de la Terre, Universite Claude Bernard, Lyon, 1, France, has been awarded her PhD for a thesis entitled "**The fossil dugongs of Akab Island (Umm al-Qaiwain, UAE).**" A translated abstract of the thesis follows:

The Neolithic site of Akab Island (Umm al-Qaiwain, UAE), 6,000 years old, is the oldest site containing remains of the dugong (*Dugong dugon* [Muller 1776]). The fossils are very close to modern representatives of the species and there is no criterion that allows recognition of an endemic subspecies in the Gulf. The former environment of the lagoon of Umm al-Qaiwain differs little from the modern one.

This archaeozoological study has yielded better understanding of the function of this site: dugong hunting seems to have been seasonal, and focused on young individuals, the bones show signs of butchering. The inhabitants of the site utilised dugong meat and oil, but certainly the hide as well. The presence of other animal remains, notably those of small ruminants and molluscs, indicates that the subsistence activities of the human population were diversified.

(Source: *Sirenews, Newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Sirenia Specialist Group*, no. 32, October 1999)

**Editors' Note:** Although as yet unpublished, dugong bones have been identified by the Abu Dhabi Islands Archeological Survey, ADIAS, on the Late Stone Age settlement site at Dalma, Abu Dhabi. C 14 dating of date stones has produced results suggesting a date of ca. 5,200 - 5,000 BC, or 7,200 - 7,000 years ago, a thousand years older than the Akab site. Dalma is, therefore, now the oldest archaeological site - in Arabia at least - with evidence of human utilisation of the dugong).