

GUEST EDITOR FORWARD

This volume on “The Rock Arts in Pre-Islamic Arabia- PART I” include some double blind peer reviewed presentations in the relevant conference that took place in spring 2017 in Qatar University. The present Special Issue 17.4 of MAA includes seven distinguished research papers from different disciplines which cover different aspects of rock inscriptions. It makes available to researchers in history and archaeology new information on rock arts of the Arabian Peninsula, and will pave the road for new topics of interest and research methods in the study of rock arts in general. This is a specially the case because the region was the cradle of early human occupation and a source of ancient migrations. It witnessed cultures that have not been fully studied until now in spite of their material culture remains especially rock drawings and inscriptions, which were the tools of ancient people to express their emotions and observations on the rocks across the ages. They recorded their history in inscriptions telling their stories and visions of their world, evidence of the activities of ancient people, and a resource to study the complex human history. The rock drawings are among the most important sources of ancient history but prehistory too, and their study offer an opportunity to rewrite history as they make a huge amount of information that deserve the attention and interest of researchers from different disciplines whether researchers working on the ancient environmental conditions, archaeometry, or the form of economic life, religious beliefs, languages, manners, rituals, ancient philosophy. The same is true for researchers working on social and political life, or historians aiming to chronicle events of those times. In this regard, the archaeological sites in the Arabian Peninsula offer us a model of the genius of people in recording events they lived, and the landscape they lived in, drawing them on the rocks, a fertile ground for varied scientific studies. The research into archaeology including rock arts is a fine area for interdisciplinary research per excellence, for what the different phenomena represents of interlinks, and partial or general impact on each other. This reflects the need for collaborative researches involving teams from multi disciplines and methods bale to investigate and explain the phenomena narrated through these drawings in a more comprehensive and precise way.

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