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Review

WALTER W. MÜLLER, *Südarabien im Altertum: Kommentierte Bibliographie der Jahre 1997 bis 2011*

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Bibliographical abbreviations used in this volume

- AE* *Annales d'Éthiopie*, Paris 1955ff.
- ÄthFor* Äthiopistische Forschungen, 1–35, ed. by E. HAMMERSCHMIDT, 36–40, ed. by S. UHLIG (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner (1–34), 1977–1992; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (35–40), 1994–1995).
- AethFor* Aethiopistische Forschungen, 41–73, ed. by S. UHLIG (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1998–2011); 74–75, ed. by A. BAUSI and S. UHLIG (*ibid.*, 2011f.); 76ff. ed. by A. BAUSI (*ibid.*, 2012ff.).
- AION* *Annali dell'Università degli studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale'*, Napoli: Università di Napoli 'L'Orientale' (former Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli), 1929ff.
- BSOAS* *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (London, 1917ff.).
- CSCO* Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, 1903ff.
- EAE* S. UHLIG, ed., *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, I: A–C; II: D–Ha; III: He–N; in cooperation with A. BAUSI, eds, IV: O–X (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2010); A. BAUSI in cooperation with S. UHLIG, eds, V: Y–Z, *Supplementa, Addenda et Corrigenda, Maps, Index* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2014).
- EMML* Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library, Addis Ababa.
- JAH* *The Journal of African History*, Cambridge 1960ff.
- JES* *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, Addis Ababa 1963ff.
- OrChr* *Oriens Christianus*, Leipzig–Roma–Wiesbaden 1901ff.
- PdP* *La Parola del Passato. Rivista di studi classici*, Napoli 1946ff.
- PICES 8* TADDESE BEYENE, ed., *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, University of Addis Ababa (26–30 November) 1984*, I–II (Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies–Frankfurt am Main: Frobenius Institut, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, 1988–1989).
- PICES 10* C. LEPAGE and É. DELAGE, eds, *Études éthiopiennes: Actes de la X^e Conférence internationale des études éthiopiennes, Paris, 24–28 août 1988* (Paris: Société française pour les études éthiopiennes, 1994).
- PO* *Patrologia Orientalis*, 1903ff.
- RIÉ* É. BERNAND, A.J. DREWES, and R. SCHNEIDER, *Recueil des inscriptions de l'Éthiopie des périodes pré-axoumite et axoumite*, I: *Les documents*, II: *Les planches* (Paris: (Académie des inscriptions et belle-lettres) Diffusion de Boccard, 1991).
- RRALm* *Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei, Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche*, Roma, 1892ff.
- RSE* *Rassegna di Studi Etiopici*, Roma, 1941–1981, Roma–Napoli, 1983ff.
- SAe* *Scriptores Aethiopici*.

Reviews

WALTER W. MÜLLER, *Südarabien im Altertum: Kommentierte Bibliographie der Jahre 1997 bis 2011*, Epigraphische Forschungen auf der Arabischen Halbinsel, 6 (Tübingen–Berlin: Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, 2014). vii, 187 pp. Price: € 19.80. ISBN: 978-3-8030-2202-8.

Walter W. Müller is the author of an important annotated bibliography entitled *Südarabien im Altertum*, which has appeared regularly, since 1974, in the journal *Archiv für Orientforschung* (AfO).¹ Müller's bibliography offers the most comprehensive and systematic review of publications in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy, history and linguistics of pre-Islamic South Arabia.

It is worth noting that research focusing on ancient Yemen is still considered to be at the margins of Near Eastern studies. This fact is reflected, inter alia, in the available general bibliographic reviews, in which we find only sporadic and unsystematic references to ancient Arabia, as in the case of the *Elenchus* of *Biblica* or the *Keilschriftbibliographie* in *Orientalia*, to name the most important of these; while the *Bibliographie Linguistique* (also edited by Walter W. Müller) is more inclusive, although limited strictly to linguistics.²

The most comprehensive bibliographic tool for the study of pre-Islamic South Arabia, dating back to 1977, is the companion volume to the *Corpus des Inscriptions et Antiquités Sud-Arabes*, which provided an overview of all of the research published until that time, organised by subject.³ *Südarabien im Altertum* thus satisfied the need for regular updates in a discipline that has undergone significant development in recent decades, attracting a growing number of scholars. Another attempt to meet this need for periodical bibliographic updates was made in *Raydān*, but with less success, due to the irregularity with which the issues of this journal began to appear; a problem that, unfortunately, also seems to have affected AfO of late.

¹ In volume 25 (1974), the column was, in fact, simply called *Altsüdarabien*, and included publications from 1973 on. A brief non-annotated bibliography entitled *Arabien im Altertum* appeared irregularly from 1952 (volume 16 of the journal) on.

² *Bibliographie linguistique ... publiée par le Comité international permanent de linguistes* (Leiden: Brill (2005/2008–)), publishers vary over time.

³ C. Robin, ed., *Bibliographie générale systématique*, Corpus des Inscriptions et Antiquités Sud-Arabes, 3, publié avec le concours du Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (Louvain: Peeters, 1977).

The present volume, edited by Norbert Nebes, is the second in a series that compiles all of Müller's columns published in *AfO*. The first volume,⁴ also edited by Nebes, covered the period from 1973—the year from which the annotated bibliography departs—until 1996, while the present volume covers the period 1997–2011 (vols 46/47–52).⁵ In point of fact, *AfO* (52 (2011)) only relates to material published in the years 2005–2007 (although the issue itself appeared in 2011, due to the aforementioned delays). Material pertaining to the years 2008–2011 was thus added to the present compilation, although previously unpublished. The format in the present volume remains essentially the same as in the journal, with the difference that publications listed in the journal by year and then by author, in alphabetical order, are listed here first by author and then chronologically. The entries are numbered progressively, reaching a total of 999 publications, as compared to 1415 publications in the first volume. Proportionate to the number of years covered, this represents an increase in the amount of scientific material published on the subject of South Arabia in recent years.

Basic bibliographic information is provided for each publication, followed by a brief summary of its content with specific comments, and corrections of macroscopic typographical errors where necessary, while entries for broader and more complex monographs often include a more detailed abstract of the contents. For the most important works cited, the author's comments assume in fact the form of a concise and always balanced review. Also worth noting is the attention given to less-accessible publications, including those in Arabic or Russian, for which titles are given in transliteration.

The volume concludes with a list of sigla for the inscriptions—in first editions as well as those subsequently revisited—with numerical references to the specific entries in which they appear. A number of useful indices provided in the first volume are lacking, however. These included a lexical list of South Arabian words and roots, a list of terms in other Semitic languages and, finally, a toponymic list of the provenances of the inscriptions. A greater number of indices would, in fact, have been appreciated in this second volume—for example, an index of general subjects (thematic index), to help readers navigate the myriad articles for which the only point of reference is the author's name (and in the case of works by more than one au-

⁴ W.W. Müller, *Südarabien im Altertum: kommentierte Bibliographie der Jahre 1973 bis 1996*, unter Mitarbeit von Esther-Miriam Wagner; herausgegeben von Norbert Nebes, Epigraphische Forschungen auf der Arabischen Halbinsel, 2 (Rahden/Westf.: M. Leidorf, 2001).

⁵ Vols 46–47 (1999–2000): bibliography of the years 1996–1997; vols 48–49 (2001–2002): 1998–1999; vol. 50 (2003–2004): 2000–2002; vol. 51 (2005–2006): 2003–2004; vol. 52 (2008 (2011)): 2005–2007.

thor, there is no way of independently identifying authors beyond the first). It would also have been a good idea to provide an index of the toponyms cited in the more archeologically-oriented publications, thereby giving a clear indication of those sites that have been the object of excavations and reconnaissances, or simply treated in the more general historical studies.

The *AfO* bibliography has thus become, in recent decades, a truly indispensable tool, facilitating navigation within an increasingly multifaceted body of research, published throughout the world and often disseminated in very heterogeneous and hard-to-find publications. The current risk is that hard-copy reviews of this kind will be surpassed by their more flexible and up-to-date counterparts increasingly available online. For this reason, a greater effort in reorganising this material—not limited merely to combining the various annual bibliographies—would allow for a more effective presentation of the single entries and, hopefully, maintain continuity in the future.

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ALESSIA PRIOLETTA, *Inscriptions from the Southern Highlands of Yemen: The Epigraphic Collections of the Museums of Baynūn and Dhamār*, Arabia Antica, 8, Philological Studies (Roma: «L'Erma» di Bretschneider, 2013). 408 pp., 235 ill., 2 maps. Price: € 145.00. ISBN: 978-88-913-0001-0.

Among the projects conducted at the University of Pisa, which led to the realization of the online Corpus of South Arabian Inscriptions,¹ was the cataloguing and digitization of inscriptions housed in a number of Yemenite museums (project CASIS²). Thanks to this operation, some important epigraphic collections, very difficult to access and often including virtually unpublished pieces, have been brought to general attention.

The book under review is the result of the work carried out by Alessia Prioletta on the collections stored at the Museum of Baynūn, the Regional Museum of Dhamār and the University Museum of Dhamār. All catalogued inscriptions and artefacts have, in the meantime, been uploaded to the online database. However, the present study offers an occasion to review the present state of knowledge regarding the history of this part of Yemen's southern highland, corresponding to the present-day governorate of Dhamār (south of Ṣanʿāʿ) where the above-mentioned museums are located.

¹ CSAI, which has now been merged in the broader Digital Archive for the Study of pre-Islamic Arabian Inscriptions (DASI, supervision by A. Avanzini).

² 'Cataloguing and fruition of South Arabian inscriptions through an informatic support'.