

# LIBYAN STUDIES

VOLUME 22

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The Society for Libyan Studies

# THE SOCIETY FOR LIBYAN STUDIES

c/o The Institute of Archaeology  
31–34 Gordon Square  
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## The Society

The Society for Libyan Studies, founded in 1969, is established as a British Institute Abroad. Its aims are to encourage and co-ordinate the activities of British scholars in Libya covering as wide a range of interests as possible including the natural sciences, linguistics and history as well as archaeology, and to foster and develop relations between British and Libyan scholars.

Since its foundation the Society has sponsored many differing projects in Libya within the subject areas of archaeology, education, geography, geology, history and Islamic law. Its resources to date have been concentrated on supporting long term archaeological projects and their subsequent publication, including excavations in Benghazi, Tolmeita, Ajdabiyah and Germa in the Fezzan; and more recently the multi-disciplinary survey in the pre-desert valleys of Tripolitania, the Islamic excavation at Medinet Sultan and the preparation for publication of the postwar excavations at Sabratha.

## Membership and Subscriptions

Those who wish to join the Society are invited to communicate with the General Secretary of the Society. The subscription rate is £12.00 p.a. for both those based in Britain and overseas. This may be paid by bankers order and forms are available from the Secretary.

Members receive the current issue of *Libyan Studies*, are given notice of forthcoming activities, and are entitled to use the Society Library.

## Meetings

The Society holds several Lecture Meetings in London each year, the December Meeting being preceded by the Annual General Meeting. Details are circulated to all UK members.

## The Library

The Society Library has a considerable collection of books on Libyan and related North African studies built on the nucleus of the collection of the late Professor R. G. Goodchild. The Library is housed in the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP (first floor, Africa section, Bay 125). It is open for consultation and books may be borrowed by members of the Society.

## Libyan Studies

The Journal and Annual Report of the Society appears in November each year and publishes articles and reviews relating to current research on Libyan topics. A *Guidelines for Authors* is published in Volume 21 and intending contributors should consult the Editor, *Libyan Studies*, Society for Libyan Studies. Back copies of *Libyan Studies* and the earlier *Annual Report* are available from the Secretary. For prices and a full list of publications stocked by the Society, see back cover.

**Books for Review** should be sent to the General Secretary of the Society in the first instance.

## Grants in Aid of Research

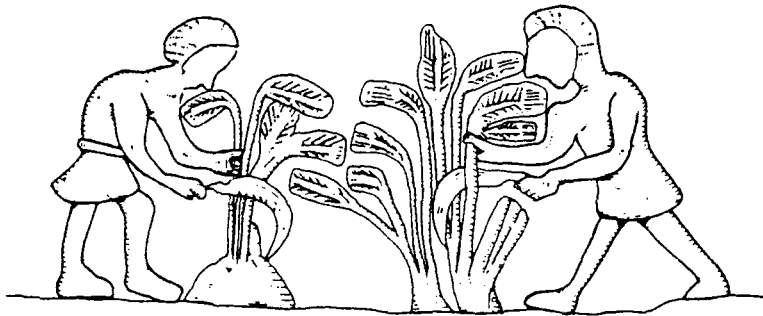
The Society wishes to advise intending applicants that it has changed its procedure for considering requests for financial aid in support of research on Libyan topics. Applications must now be submitted on a standard form which is available from the General Secretary. The completed form should be returned to the General Secretary by 1 November, 1 January, 1 April or 1 September and will be discussed at the following Council Meeting.

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The Society for Libyan Studies

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## OBITUARY – Professor Mukhtar Mustapha Buru

Professor Mukhtar Buru was among the first generation of Libyan academics trained in the period after independence, first in Cairo and later with Professor Bill Fisher at the Department of Geography in the University of Durham. From the beginning his hearty and frank approach to his British co-students endeared him to an entire generation of research scholars at Durham. After learning English, Mukhtar Buru began studies for M.Phil., concentrating his efforts on the Derna area of eastern Libya, in which he became a leading expert. After a period as a lecturer at the young and vital University of Libya at Benghazi, he returned to Durham to complete a Ph.D. thesis on the land use of the Jabal al-Akhdar. His role with eminent fellow countrymen such as Abdelmolah Daghman, Abdelhamid al-Tayyar, Misbah Areibi and others in establishing first class academic standards in the University of Libya during the 1960s was considerable. He was an energetic and effective co-director of the Libyan-London University Joint Research Project at that time.

The revolution of 1969 brought changes in the state and the university which saw Dr Buru appointed as Governor of Tripoli, where he served for several difficult years as the country accommodated to a new political direction. As a child of a merchant family from Suq al-Turk in the old town, he had an instinctive understanding of the management of the city and region of Tripoli and instituted a series of building programmes and urban improvements, including the laying out of gardens in and about the city. He later returned to university life at the Fatah University in Tripoli where he concentrated on teaching and research. He maintained an interest in regional planning and became an influential member, for a long time coordinating secretary, of various committees which oversaw the long term development arrangements for the four provinces of the country in the period 1979–1989.

Dr Buru produced many books and articles on Libya in Arabic and English, the most recent being *Planning and Development in Modern Libya* (1985).

Long term health problems caused Mukhtar Buru to come to London on a number of occasions for treatment, the last protracted period which he bore with great fortitude, being in 1990–1991 at University College Hospital. He returned to Libya in early summer of 1991 and died peacefully on 5th June. His death is a great loss to Libya's academic tradition and to Libyan connections both with the Society for Libyan Studies and the British universities at large.

*Keith McLachlan and Tony Allan (S.O.A.S)*

The Society is grieved to hear of the recent death of Professor Sandro Stucchi, pre-eminent in the field of classical studies in Libya, particularly of the architecture. An obituary will appear in the next issue of *Libyan Studies*.

# CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Articles</b>	
The Suq al Jum'ah Palaeowadi, an example of a Plio-Quaternary Palaeo-valley from the Jabal Nafusah, Northwest Libya. <i>By S. M. Ghellali and J. M. Anketell</i> . . . . .	1
Proposals for Updating the Rock-Drawing Sequence of the Acacus (Libya). <i>By A. Muzzolini</i> . . . . .	7
ULVS XXIII: The 1989 season. <i>By G. W. W. Barker, D. D. Gilbertson, G. D. B. Jones and D. A. Welsby</i> . . . . .	31
UVLS XXIV: A Late Roman and Byzantine church at Souk el Awty in the Tripolitanian Pre-Desert. <i>By D. A. Welsby</i> . . . . .	61
Al-Waleed's Gold Dinar. <i>By Saleh Wanis</i> . . . . .	81
Some Notes on Islamic Tolmeita. <i>By D. Kennet</i> . . . . .	83
Excavations at El Merj (Ancient Barca): a First Report on the 1990 Season. <i>By J. Dore</i> . . . . .	91
<b>Book Reviews</b>	
M. Euzennat, <i>Le Limes de Tingitane. La Frontière Méridionale</i> (T. W. Potter) . . . . .	107
L. Anselmino <i>et al.</i> , <i>Il Castellum del Nador. Storia di una Fattoria tra Tipasa e Caesarea (I-IV Sec. D.C.)</i> (T. W. Potter) . . . . .	107
<b>Annual Report of the Society for Libyan Studies 1990-1991</b> . . . . .	111
<b>Balance Sheet as at 31st March 1991</b> . . . . .	113
<b>Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 1991</b> . . . . .	114
<b>Arabic Abstracts</b> . . . . .	122