

VOLUME 83.2 2020

ISSN 0041-977X

Bulletin of the  
*School of*  
*Oriental*  
*& African*  
*Studies*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Bulletin of the School of Oriental & African Studies

Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of SOAS University of London, UK



## Editorial Board

- Ayman Shihadeh, MSt, DPhil (*Editor*)  
Nathan W. Hill, AB, AM, PhD (*Deputy Editor*)  
Professor Julia Bray, University of Oxford  
Wayne Dooling, BA, MA, PhD  
Imre Galambos, PhD  
Professor Almut Hintze MPhil, Dr phil, Dr habil, FBA  
Professor Peter Kornicki, BA, DPhil, FBA  
Professor Scott Redford  
Mark Weeden, BA, MA, PhD  
Michael Willis, BA, MA, PhD

## International advisory board

- Dr David Bradley, LaTrobe University  
Dr Sascha Ebeling, University of Chicago  
Professor M. J. Geller, University College London  
Professor Virginia Matheson Hooker, Australian National University  
Professor James Matisoff, University of California, Berkeley  
Professor Shaul Shaked, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Editorial Officer: Elizabeth Gant

All editorial communications should be addressed to the editorial office at SOAS University of London.  
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK, email [bulletin@soas.ac.uk](mailto:bulletin@soas.ac.uk).

## Subscriptions

The *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (ISSN 0041-977X) is published three times a year in February, June and October. Three parts form a volume. The subscription price which includes delivery by air where appropriate and electronic access (but excluding VAT) of volume 83 in 2020 is £288.00 (US \$497.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions; £47.00 (US \$83.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for individuals ordering direct from the publishers and certifying that the journal is for their personal use. Institutions in developing countries can apply for the developing countries rate which is £55. Single parts are £109.00 (US \$187.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) plus postage. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered members should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices for institutions (including ASP delivery) are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or direct to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK; or in the USA, Canada and Mexico: Cambridge University Press, 1 Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. The current plus two back volumes are available from Cambridge University Press.

Journals Group, Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK.  
Tel +44 (0)1223 325757 Fax +44 (0)1223 325801.

## Copying

This journal is registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, USA. Organizations in the USA who are also registered with the C.C.C. may, therefore, copy material (beyond the limits permitted by sections 107 and 108 of U.S. Copyright law) subject to payment to the C.C.C. of the per copy fee of \$12.00. This consent does not extend to multiple copying for promotional or commercial purposes. Code 0041-977X/15. ISI Tear Sheet Service, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA, is authorized to supply single copies of separate articles for private use only. Organizations authorized by the Copyright Licensing Agency may also copy material subject to the usual conditions. For all other use, permission should be sought from Cambridge or from the American Branch of Cambridge University Press. This journal is included in the Cambridge Journals Online Service which can be found at [journals.cambridge.org](http://journals.cambridge.org). For further information on other Press titles access <http://www.cambridge.org>.

© SOAS University of London, 2020

ISSN 0041-977X

Bulletin of the  
*School of*  
*Oriental*  
*& African*  
*Studies*

VOLUME 83:2 2020

---

### Articles

- 201 STEWART, DEVIN J.: Husayn b. 'Abd al-Şamad al-'Āmilī's draft letter to his teacher: The culture of scholarly correspondence and the Islamic republic of letters in the sixteenth century
- 225 AÏM, EMMANUEL: Consonant dissimilarity in Biblical Hebrew defective nouns
- 239 MITSUMA, YASUYUKI: BM 30617: An astronomical diary from the reign of Antiochus and his son Antiochus
- 249 GARDNER, IAIN: Backgammon and cosmology at the Sasanian Court
- 259 LAI, YUNFAN: The historical development of inverse marking in Khroskyabs: Evidence from two modern varieties – Siyuewu and Wobzi
- 283 JACQUES, GUILLAUME: Voicing alternation and sigmatic causative prefixation in Tibetan
- 293 ANDRASON, ALEXANDER, ANNE-MARIA FEHN and ADMIRE PHIRI: Interjections in Tjwao

### Reviews

#### The ancient Near East

- 321 BILGIN, TAYFUN: *Officials and Administration in the Hittite World.*  
By Matteo Vigo
- 322 HAUBOLD, JOHANNES, JOHN STEELE and KATHRYN STEVENS (eds):  
*Keeping Watch in Babylon: Astronomical Diaries in Context.* By Jean-Jacques Glassner
- 325 BECKMAN, GARY: *The Hittite Gilgamesh.* By Christopher Metcalf
- 327 PATRI, SYLVAIN: *Phonologie hittite.* By Anthony D. Yates
- 329 HUTTER, MANFRED and SYLVIA HUTTER-BRAUNSAR: *Economy of Religions in Anatolia: From the Early Second to the Middle of the First Millennium BCE. Proceedings of an International Conference in Bonn (23rd to 25th May 2018).*  
By Alice Mouton

#### The Near and Middle East

- 331 STERN, SACHA: *The Jewish Calendar Controversy of 921/2 CE.* By Robert Brody

- 333 EMON, ANVER M. and RUMEE AHMED (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Law*. By Knut S. Vikør
- 334 D'OTTONE RAMBACH, ARIANNA (ed.): *Palaeography between East and West: Proceedings of the Seminars on Arabic Palaeography at Sapienza University of Rome*. By Marijn van Putten
- 336 BROCKOPP, JONATHAN E.: *Muhammad's Heirs: The Rise of Muslim Scholarly Communities*, 622–950. By John Nawas
- 338 KARS, AYDOGAN: *Unsaying God: Negative Theology in Medieval Islam*. By Laura Hassan
- 340 TOLAN, JOHN: *Faces of Muhammad: Western Perceptions of the Prophet of Islam from the Middle Ages to Today*. By Peter Good
- 342 COPPENS, PIETER: *Seeing God in Sufi Qur'an Commentaries: Crossings between This World and the Otherworld*. By Ahmet T. Karamustafa
- 343 MARTINI, GIOVANNI MARIA: *'Alā' al-Dawla al-Simnānī between Spiritual Authority and Political Power: A Persian Lord and Intellectual in the Heart of the Ilkhanate*. By Devin DeWeese
- 345 ULRICH, BRIAN: *Arabs in the Early Islamic Empire: Exploring al-Azd Tribal Identity*. By Peter Webb
- 347 BOYAR, EBRU and KATE FLEET (eds): *Entertainment among the Ottomans*. By Li Guo
- 350 Europe and the Ottoman World: Diplomacy and International Relations. By Ebru Boyar
- 351 MILWRIGHT, MARCUS: *The Arts and Crafts of Syria and Egypt from the Ayyubids to World War I: Collected Essays*. By Mariam Rosser-Owen
- 353 AUBIN, JEAN (ed. Denise Aigle): *Études sur l'Iran médiéval: géographie historique et société*. By Andrew Peacock
- 355 YAZDI, HAMID REZAEI and ARSHAVEZ MOZAFARI (eds): *Persian Literature and Modernity: Production and Reception*. By Alexander Jabbari

#### South Asia

- 357 ALLCHIN, RAYMOND and NORMAN HAMMOND: *The Archaeology of Afghanistan from Earliest Times to the Timurid Period*. By Bernard O'Kane
- 359 FURUI, RYOSUKE: *Land and Society in Early South Asia: Eastern India 400–1250 AD*. By Dániel Balogh
- 361 HARRISON, PAUL (ed.): *Setting Out on the Great Way: Essays on Early Mahāyāna Buddhism*. By Francesco Bianchini
- 362 COMPARETI, MATTEO: *Samarkand: The Center of the World, Proposals for the Identification of the Afrāsyāb Paintings*. By Daniel J. Sheridan

#### Southeast Asia

- 364 PERRET, DANIEL (ed.): *Writing for Eternity: A Survey of Epigraphy in Southeast Asia*. By Hunter I. Watson
- 366 SEEGER, MARTIN: *Gender and the Path to Awakening: Hidden Histories of Nuns in Modern Thai Buddhism*. By Hiroko Kawanami

#### East Asia

- 368 ST. ANDRÉ, JAMES: *Translating China as Cross-Identity Performance*. By T.H. Barrett

- 370 MUNGELLO, D.E.: *The Silencing of Jesuit Figurist Joseph de Prémare in Eighteenth Century China*. By T.H. Barrett
- 372 DESPEUX, CATHERINE (trans. Jonathan Pettit): *Taoism and Self Knowledge: The Chart for the Cultivation of Perfection*. By Fabrizio Pregadio
- 374 HONKASALO, SAMI: *A Grammar of Eastern Geshiza: A Culturally Anchored Description*. By Lai Yunfan
- 375 LACKNER, MICHAEL (ed.): *Coping with the Future: Theories and Practices of Divination in East Asia*. By Brandon Dotson
- 377 LEONARD, JANE KATE: *Stretching the Qing Bureaucracy in the 1826 Sea-Transport Experiment*. By Ulrich Theobald
- 379 OIDTMANN, MAX: *Forging the Golden Urn: The Qing Empire and the Politics of Reincarnation in Tibet*. By Hanung Kim
- 381 DU, CHUNMEI: *Gu Hongming's Eccentric Chinese Odyssey*. By Craig Clunas
- 383 KISHIDA, YUKA HIRUMA: *Kenkoku University and the Experience of Pan-Asianism: Education in the Japanese Empire*. By Roger Goodman
- 384 PARK, J.P.: *A New Middle Kingdom: Painting and Cultural Politics in Late Chosŏn Korea (1700–1850)*. By Jungsil Jenny Lee

#### Africa

- 386 WOLFF, H. EKKEHARD (ed.): *The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics*.  
By Andrew Harvey
- 388 SHAY, ERIN (in collaboration with Lazare Wambadang): *A Grammar of Pévé*.  
By Maarten Kossmann