

## FRIENDS OF HADHRAMAUT

Patrons	Angela Kilmartin, John Ducker, Patricia Ducker
Chairman	Saleh bin Ghalib al-Qu'aiti
Vice-Chairman	Salah Mohammad al-Qu'aiti
Adviser	Brian A. Fyfield-Shayler
Treasurer	Sultana al-Qu'aiti



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NUMBER 27

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

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**PLEASE INFORM US IF YOUR POSTAL/EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED**

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

After a long wait, FOH opened a new Sterling online account with Virgin Money UK in August 2023. Please be advised that any currency donations can be sent directly to the online account. **Please see bank details on back page.**

### OUR NEW PATRON

**A fond farewell to our outgoing Patron John Harding and a warm welcome to our new Patron Angela Kilmartin**

In May our dear and esteemed Patron **John Harding** (FOH 10.4.97) wrote to the trustees:

“In the light of my own present circumstances I believe that the time has come for me to step down as an FOH Patron. Naturally, I have come to this conclusion with reluctance for we go back a very long way (served in Hadhramaut 1960s) and it has been a great privilege to play some part, albeit very minor, in FOH affairs. However, given my age (90 next August), the role of FOH Patron is better served by someone younger, more mobile and more closely in touch with FOH’s aims and its diverse activities which go from strength to strength. I will always treasure my association with FOH and even more so, my long friendship with the Al-Qu’aiti family. We will of course, continue to follow FOH’s progress with interest and it is Georgina’s and my sincere hope that there will be future opportunities for us all to meet up again. Georgina and I both send FOH our warmest best wishes for the future.”

The Trustees accepted the entirely understandable reasons for our much valued Patron’s retirement and wrote to John to thank him for his unstinting and generous commitment to FOH. It was always a great pleasure to see John and Georgina at our events. They shall continue to remain much loved and appreciated Friends of Hadhramaut.

In June, John wrote to us: “I would like to thank FOH fulsomely for their kind and undeservedly generous words. Inevitably life moves on and one must adapt to changed circumstances. I often think of those words of Islamic wisdom: *we travel on the wheel of fate and know not what is written*. It is a consolation to have had some uplifting experiences and adventures over the years and produce 3 wonderful daughters and to be blessed with 10 grandchildren. I was delighted to learn that Oslo was such a success. I was particularly sad to miss this event as I spent several months in Scandinavia whilst at Cambridge, mainly in



Sweden where I worked during a long vacation. Also, a few visits to Norway for some gentle mountaineering, sailing round Lofoten and expeditioning in Svalbad. It was a great honour to have served as an FOH Patron since 2015 and done some small service in the Hadhramaut 73 years ago. I have no doubt that FOH will continue to flourish”.

**Angela Kilmartin** was the very FIRST person to join FOH on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1996. From the outset her commitment and loyalty to the charity has been outstanding. She has organised no less than 4 fundraising events covering a wide range of venues: September 2002 - a memorable evening at the Tower of London (marvelously assisted by June and Melanie Lake); 2007 – an unforgettable tour of St. Paul’s Cathedral where Angela sang a song; June 2009 - a splendid river trip on the Stour, North Essex; September 2019 - an unforgettable garden party at Cressing Barns, Essex.



In July we unanimously agreed at the annual trustees meeting to invite Angela to become our 8<sup>th</sup> patron, upon the retirement of John Harding. We were delighted when she accepted:

“Your amazing letter arrived here in Essex inviting me to become a patron of FOH. I am taken aback by its contents and have indeed given it serious contemplation spread over several bouts of self-discussion. Age and health are big factors. The balance of 'yay or nay' has eventually tipped towards 'yay'. Our lengthy association and wonderful friendships have played a big part in this decision process. I also recognise the trustees’ undoubted abilities and strenuous commitment to this charitable cause for the people of Hadhramaut. FOH is the best example I know of on the Asian continent in which

superb charity abounds. It is underwritten and overseen by your team on the ground to a 100 percent level of satisfactory aims and outcomes. I am therefore very pleased and greatly honoured to have been asked to take a place on the Board. I really am. I accept this position with interest, love and admiration for what FOH achieves and look forward to my involvement.”

Angela is convent-educated and won performers' awards to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama following her five years of modelling. As lecturer, researcher and author of many books on Cystitis, she is globally recognised for this pioneering work. Mercury poisoning from dental fillings became another health promotion. Angela undertook book tours in USA and presented these subjects on UK media shows: [www.angelakilmartin.com](http://www.angelakilmartin.com)

Following 7 years living in Lagos and Jeddah, she has been thrilled to support FOH and loved visiting the Hadhramaut in 2007 on a tour organised by the Treasurer and Alan D’Arcy where she was able to witness many FOH projects firsthand. Moving to Witham, Essex in 2011, Angela became a District and Town Councillor, Chairman and then town Mayor. She is Chairman of the Witham History Group and the Witham Luncheon Club. After retiring in May 2024 from the Council, Angela looks forward to helping FOH in her role as Patron.

## **URGENT APPEAL FOR AMBULANCE**

The people of Wadi Hajar, one of the poorest districts in Hadhramaut, are in dire need. They have appealed to FOH for an ambulance to transport their dead from Mukalla (approximately 105 kms) to their villages for burial. Due to the high, unaffordable cost of fuel and the deteriorating economic situation, we hope that this very deserving request will be met. A second-hand ambulance in the UAE can be purchased for **AED150,000** (approximately **£ 30,000**) and can be transported overland to Mukalla.

## **COMPLETED PROJECTS**

In April, after 7 years of a devastating war in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the Houthi forces agreed to a ceasefire. We hope this will alleviate the misery of over a million Hadhramis in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The Hadhramaut is the largest governorate in Yemen. When we founded FOH in 1997, we concentrated on shipping medical, educational and disability related equipment from the UK to al-Mukalla. We spent our donations on building lavatories, dormitories, classrooms, playgrounds, shelters and sports facilities. We furnished sewing, autism centres and clinics in far-flung areas and supplied medicines. As the situation deteriorated, we found that bricks and mortar were no longer the priority. Food was and **IS** the crying need of the day. People need clean drinking water and sustenance. As the war continued, incomes fell, unemployment rose, and Covid-19 struck. Most donations are currently spent on distributing dry goods, continuing medical aid and helping towards minor surgeries. FOH could not operate without the voluntary dedication of our man on the ground Salah Al-Qu'aiti, who for the last 26 years has managed all our projects; he is the cornerstone of FOH. Last Ramadan was particularly traumatic for many Hadhrami families both in coastal areas and in the wadis. Families could not afford to buy food and therefore fasting was challenging. Salah managed to put together food baskets with essentials: sugar, salt, flour, noodles, rice, tuna cans, dates, tomato paste and milk powder, distributing them to needy families, ably assisted by his two sons. The necessity of continuing with these baskets is crucial especially as these rations only last a month. We need to maintain food supplies to families in bereft areas.

### **Al-Moqaibel Hospital, Al Jahi, Wadi Leisar**

Thanks to the Berfred Foundation and their magnanimous donation of an X-ray machine to this hospital, an average of 250 patients a month are using this facility as stated by Hamed Al-Safi, Health Office Manager, Wadi Doan. FOH has provided the hospital with X-ray film so that the machine can keep running on a regular basis.

### **Aid and Donations in Hadhramaut**

Salah distributed 135 baskets of food in Ramadan in Mukalla, Ghail BaWazir and its environs. His son Ali distributed more than 50 in al-Qatn, 30 in al-Shihr and to some needy families in Tareem. This time the quantity of sugar was reduced from 19 kgs to 5 kgs. Salah tried to cover as many families as he could.

He also distributed 100 school bags along with stationery in the Mukalla area and over 170 uniforms were distributed to poor families in the al-Shihr area. Medicines were distributed to



poor families in the Wadi and along the coastal areas and to Medical Centres in Harshiyat and Rukab.

### **PENDING PROJECTS**

#### **Sports, Youth and Culture Club, al Qatn, Wadi Hadhramaut**

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Berfred Foundation FOH is currently laying the foundations for a purpose built gymnasium in the club grounds which will comprise a large hall to be used by both women and men, an office, 2 changing rooms and 2-3 toilets. Used gym equipment has been purchased from Abu Dhabi.



### **LEGACIES AND WILLS**

Those thinking about leaving a legacy to FOH can check our bona fides by consulting the website of the Charity Commission of England & Wales: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk). FOH is registered with the Commissioners under Charity Number 1062560 since May 1997. If you are planning your will (or making additions to an existing one) we cannot over emphasise how grateful we, and the poorest people of Hadhramaut would be for a bequest from you. If there is a particular project you are interested in supporting, or specific terms and conditions you would like to make, please contact the treasurer at our registered address, or ask your solicitor to do so.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS**

David & Ann Grainger	Pius Fischer	Dr. Julia Bray
Paul Hughes-Smith	John & Patricia Ducker	Mr. & Mrs. Bin Dohry
Dr. Anne Regourd	Vanja Pantovic	Norunn Vorland
Zuhair al-Jefri	Philippa Vaughan	Anna Haug
Sultana & Fatima al-Qu'aiti	Nina Kneppen	Inger Kristofferson
Petter & Bente Holt Håkonsen	Margaretha, Gabrielle & Josephine Østern	Sir William & Lady Vanessa Patey
Eva Bekkelund-Eriksen	Patricia Loudon	Bernhard Herzmaier
Dr. Hanne Schöning	Leif Ole Manger	Dr. Anne Bang
Jan Einar & Gry Mette Daae	Dina von Randow	Julia Miles
Carl Schiøtz Wibye	Wolfgang Gaerte	Uwe & Mona Drettwan

Sverre Driveklepp	Aida Altaie	James Budd
Corinne Hillman	Ole Martin Gjeraker Tveit	Carsten Pigott
Aziz Omar	Julia Schellens	Juli Avedissian
Dr. Gerhard Heck	Renate Ammann	Beatrice Wiesemann
Sue Roff	Aida Kellal	Phillipa Pardue
The Zain family	A H Hydes	John A Horrell
Shireen Careem	Shifa Khan	Latifa Lemoh
Arild & Torill Storvik	Nico Kummer	Julie Friis Petersen
Joelle Febvre	Marion Herb	Alan de Lacy Rush
Unni Wikan	Marie-Jose Defrance	Ole Jacob Driveklepp
Dr. Willi Steul	Mimi Cejka	Sidsel & Odd Ramen
Angela Kilmartin	Sarah Finch	Trude Onstad
Aisha Gray Henry	Walid Al-Ward	Aste & Torunn Bratli
Joachim Duester	Dr. Matthias Eigenbrodt	Marit Sørvald
Eva Bergren	Ravinder Sandhu	Zamzam Hussain
Zeeshan & Lubna Sheikh	Lubna Kanwal	Noel Butler
Renate Hussein	Dr. Edward Hayes	Mick Walton
Daphne Sanders	Anthony Prince	Norman JM Cameron
Peter Ingrams	Ulla & Maija Calvert	Sir Harold Walker
Jusitice John Bryson	Christopher Baker	Asma Ibrahim
Col. Morton Burdick	Dimity Spiller	Afshan Khokher
The Mohamed Ali Foundation	Ronald & Florence Mollinger	Nicholas Morris
Shima Khan	Dr. Ulrike Freitag	Alexandre Cumas
Afshan & Sumaira Waheed	Rakhshee Raza	

Our heartfelt thanks to these Friends who continue to support us through standing orders: **Lady Bute, Lord Green of Deddington, S al-Juffali, Dr. Ronit Lami, Thanos Petouris, Canon Peter D Ingrams and Dr. FJ Pocock.** We hope other Friends will consider setting up orders to help our cause.

We would like to offer our profuse thanks to anonymous donors in the **United Arab Emirates.**

In October 2023 the **Berfred Foundation** made a magnanimous donation of **£21,956.79** to FOH.

### **NEWS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Saleh, currently based in Riyadh/Jeddah, would be happy to meet any FOH passing through: [salehbinghalib@hotmail.com](mailto:salehbinghalib@hotmail.com)

### **NEWS OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN**

In May 2022, **Salah** organised a visit for a group of children from a local kindergarten in Ghail BaWazir who visited "al-Bagh".

In September his two eldest sons were married; both Muhammad and Ali are a great help to him in his work.



Salah Al-Qu'aiti

### NEWS OF THE ADVISER

**Brian Fyfield-Shayler** can only be reached by post: BA Fyfield-Shayler, 5 Quant Park, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0JQ



James Budd & Brian, Tavistock, September 2023



## NEWS OF THE TREASURER



**Dr. Gerhard Heck and Frau Renate Ammann**

Sultana was very pleased to welcome Aisha Gray Henry from Kentucky in February and Dr. Gerhard Heck and Frau Renate Ammann from Mainz to her home in Jeddah in March as well as Farida Azad in September and Dr. Ulrike Freitag in December. George Hancock, Jean Franco and Shima Khan joined FOH when they visited Jeddah in April. She was delighted to meet Sheikha Al-Attas in Vienna in May and honoured to meet Dr. Jan Just Witkam, Emeritus Professor of Codicology and Paleography of the Islamic World, Leiden University in Leiden in June. She was very grateful to Wolfgang Gaerte for organising her journey to Oslo from Berlin.

Sultana met David and Ann Grainger and Prince Abbas Hilmi at Durham University in June; Eva Bekkelund-Eriksen and Mimi Cejka from Oslo in London in August as well as Mick Walton from Italy.



**Jean Franco & George Hancock**



**Eva Bekkelund-Eriksen & Mimi Cejka**



**Farida Azad**

## NEWS FROM NORWEGIAN BRANCH

### FUNDRAISING DINNER AT THE EKEBERGRESTAURANTEN, OSLO 19<sup>th</sup> MAY



The organisation for our 3 day Oslo event was superb. 60 plus attendees comprising 10 nationalities came to this stunning city to enjoy the variety of experiences arranged by our hosts. We witnessed the colourful Constitution Day Parade with a wealth of fabulous folkloric costumes worn by the proud Norwegians, as we walked around soaking up the friendly atmosphere and watched the cheerful school children as they marched past to the tunes of their impressive bands. This was followed by a most delicious, copious lunch prepared lovingly by Nina and her mother Inger, comprising many Norwegian specialities at their beautiful home in Hagan where we were regaled to a musical

interlude featuring Angela Kilmartin, Sarah Finch, Arild Berger and Sverre. Our historic trip to Hole the next day was ably coordinated by Torunn Bratli and by the charming Eva who greeted us in the Bosnes church, associated with King Olav the Holy, where we enjoyed listening to Norwegian folk songs sung hauntingly by Ase Bratli. We all enjoyed the talks in the bus on Norwegian culture and history given by Torunn and Eva, not to mention the breath-taking scenery. A return to the amazing Oslo Opera House to watch a performance of the ballet *Crystal Pite: Light of Passage* and explore the remarkable edifice. Our restaurant was chosen for its spectacular views over the city and for its gastronomy. This was preceded by a guided tour of the renowned Munch Museum. We were very fortunate to have 2 keynote speakers, who journeyed from Bergen, to address us on fascinating aspects of Hadhrami history.

#### Presentations



Dr. Anne Bang, Professor of Middle Eastern and African Islamic History at the University of Bergen gave a presentation on *The Tale of the Two Riyadhas: The Riyadha Mosque of Lamu, Kenya and the Riyadha of Sayun, Hadhramawt*. Her main research has been on the influence of Hadhramaut in East Africa in terms of migration but especially in the field of intellectual and religious leadership. She is the author of several books including *Islamic Sufi Networks in the Western Indian Ocean*.



Dr. Leif Manger who retired as Professor in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen gave a presentation on *The Hadhrami diaspora in East Africa*, in which area he is a specialist. He is the author of the *Hadhrami Diaspora: Community-building on the Indian Ocean Rim* (2010). He has also published works on trade, communal labour and socio-cultural processes of Arabisation and Islamisation.

## Auction of Painting



Sverre and Norunn auctioning the painting

Britt Boutros-Ghali, a world famous Norwegian artist, very generously donated her painting to help raise funds for Hadhramaut. It was successfully auctioned by Norunn Vorland at the Oslo dinner for €1,750. We are grateful to Norunn Vorland and Hisham Hafiz for initiating the idea of auctioning the painting. The buyer wishes to remain anonymous. Britt was born in Norway in 1937 and studied painting and sculpture in Oslo in the late 1950s. She became a pivotal player in the Abstract Expressionist scene of the day. She has exhibited internationally throughout her career, and her work is widely collected, both privately and in public institutions worldwide. In 1996 she was awarded the St.Olav's Order, the highest honour given to an artist, by King Haakon of Norway.

## Comments from Friends on the Oslo event

### London

- It was ALL BRILLIANT. Everyone was so happy, with Oslo, with getting to know fellow guests, with the immense generosity of the Norwegians.
- I thank FOH for looking after me so perfectly during the Oslo festivities. FOH made me - as indeed it made all of us - feel special through your very warm welcome and your actions. It was indeed a wonderfully well-organised and unforgettable occasion and I will always remember how clearly communicated was FOH's deep compassion and commitment to the people living there. My thanks to Sverre for his enormous contribution to the event.
- I just wanted to say what great fun we had during the fundraising trip to Oslo last week. FOH organised it so well and Sverre and Nina were delightful, kind and welcoming hosts showcasing their city and country.

### Montpellier

- Super contente de ces quelques jours passés à Oslo. Merveilleuse organisation!

### Essex

- We had a wonderful time. Every day we spent in Oslo was brilliant, thanks to Sverre and Nina. I found the talks interesting and the food out of this world.

### Oslo

- I cannot tell you how impressed I was about your excellent and very considerate placing at the tables - let alone all those lovely detailed information packages,



delicious dates and Hadhrami gifts for us all. I want to congratulate you all on a great success. Best wishes for your continued most valuable work!

- Nina and Sverre really deserve a medal for bravery and perseverance for making all these efforts again and again!!
- Truly an evening full of inspiring people and conversations.

### **California**

- I was happy to learn about Friends of Hadhramaut and the wonderful things that the organisation does to help people in need. The trip to Oslo was such a wonderful experience. Every day was an adventure, and it was a pleasure to get to know Sverre and Nina, and learn about their beautiful country.

### **Frankfurt**

- Oslo wird mir in guter Erinnerung bleiben. Eine fantastische Stadt, die durch das FOH - Treffen für mich noch interessanter war.

### **Düsseldorf**

- Allergrößter Dank für das Gelingen eines geradezu phänomenalen Treffens in Oslo!!! Ohne die FOH, das Tagungs- und Kulturprogramm hätte ich niemals solche Erlebnisse und Begegnungen in solch einem schönen Land gehabt!!!

### **Gloucestershire**

- Thank you for all the trustees and the Norwegians did to make the FOH meeting so enjoyable

### **Extracts from Speech by FOH Treasurer**

When Pius Fischer called me in August 2017 from Augsburg to tell me that he had enrolled 2 Norwegian friends of his into FOH – a certain Sverre Driveklepp and one Nina Kneppen, I was delighted. They not only agreed to become the Local Coordinators for FOH, but at Cressing Barns in 2019, they offered to host a fundraising event in Oslo, 2020. We remain utterly beholden to them for their persistent tenacity in spite of having to postpone this event no less than 3 times. Sverre and Nina first put together this remarkable programme in 2020. Their diligence and the total bonhomie with which they have welcomed us all is heartwarming. They have regaled us with a breathtaking panorama of Norwegian gastronomy, culture, art, music, ballet and hospitality. It is impossible to find words to thank you Sverre and you Nina. The people of Hadhramaut, 1000s of miles away, thank you from the bottom of their hearts!

We have amongst our 60 guests tonight our 2 esteemed Patrons - John and Patricia Ducker who lived and served in the Hadhramaut in the 60s. Thank you John and Patricia for gracing our event today!

It is heartening and deeply moving to see so many Friends and supporters who have travelled such long distances from all over the world. Raya Abu Gulal and her daughter Aida al-Taie have travelled all the way from the Middle East and Juli Avedissian all the way from California.



Angela Kilmartin & Sarah Finch Sir William & Lady Patey

We welcome our loyal supporters from the UK: Alan Rush, Phillipa Vaughan, Angela Kilmartin, Sarah Finch, Patricia Loudon and Corinne Hillman (whose father Col. Hillman served in the Hadhramaut in the 1960s); Julia Miles (whose late husband Oliver Miles also served in the Hadhramaut); James Budd and Philippa Pardue; Sir William and Lady Patey who was instrumental in raising funds for classrooms in Ghail BaWazir when she chaired ICING (International Children In Need Group) in Riyadh. I never met the late Dr. William Roff, one of our earliest supporters, former Professor of Islamic and South-East Asian History at Columbia University, but I am delighted that his wife Susan has come from Scotland to join us.

From Austria, we welcome Bernhard Herzmaier. From Spain, Aida Kellal. From Montenegro, Vanja Pantovic. From Denmark, Aziz Omar and from France Joelle Febvre and Marie Jose Defrance.

What would we do without our indefatigable Local Coordinator in Germany, Wolfgang Gaerte who succeeded in bringing his sister Beatrice, Dina von Randow, Dr. Gerhard Heck and his wife Renate, Pius Fischer, Nicolaus Kummer and Marion Herb. Thank you Wolfgang! Thank you Pius!

Last, but not least, we welcome our wonderful Norwegian Friends. My close friend, Margaretha Ostern, introduced me to Norwegian history and culture in Jeddah 45 years ago. Elsa Rennes from Kristiansand and Widad Shihabi from Bergen were the first Norwegian FOH in 1997. In 1999 the remarkable Eva Bekkelund-Eriksen joined FOH.

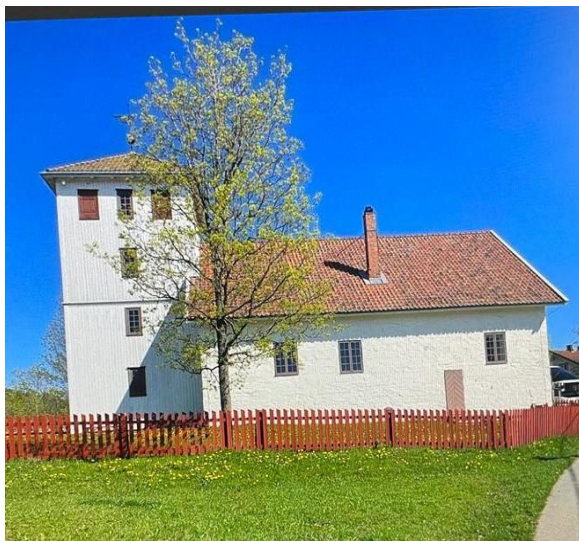
I would like to thank 2 exemplary trustees. They work terribly hard both behind the scenes and here tonight. I applaud Maija Calvert, our Local Coordinator in France, and our trustee Fatima Al-Qu'aiti who has come all the way from California.

Tonight, we honour Karl Erik Larsen, born in 1947, who passed away in March in Bergen. He was to be with us tonight and is proudly represented by his son Erik as we recall the most remarkable story of his great-grandfather Arthur Larsen, who was a crew member on a Norwegian 2-masted 150 ton schooner called the **Asp** on a voyage from Norway to China in 1927. This was the first Norwegian vessel EVER to call at al-Mukalla. Details and photographs are in our Archives section. Our thanks to Karl for joining FOH in 2016 and for alerting us to this amazing journey.

€ 5,936 was raised in Oslo for FOH. [sverre.driveklepp@gmail.com](mailto:sverre.driveklepp@gmail.com)

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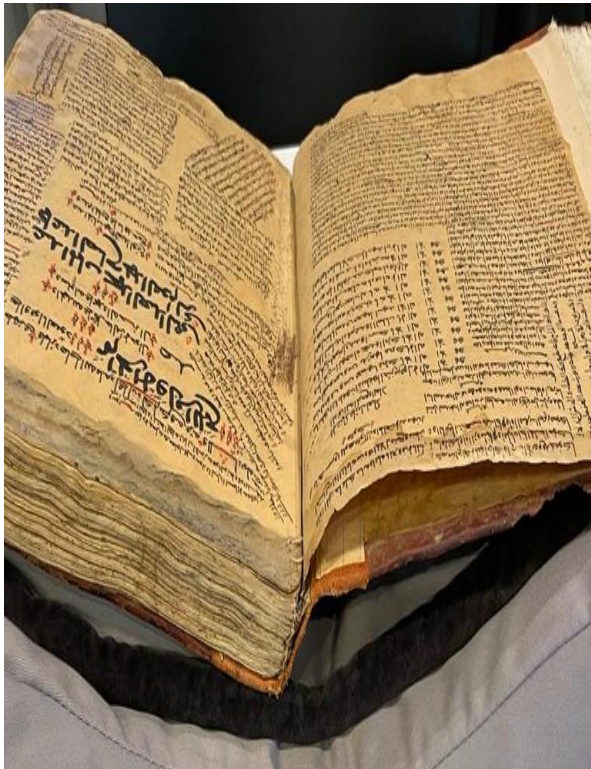






## NEWS FROM NETHERLANDS BRANCH

Dr. Ed Hayes, Postdoctoral Researcher at Leiden University collaborated with Dr. Kate Pukhovaia, Assistant Professor at Utrecht University and specialist in Yemeni history of the 13th-17th centuries to host an event with administrative support from the Leiden University Centre for Islam and Society (LUCIS).



**The earliest Yemeni Zaidi text on Fiqh**

Local Coordinator Dr. Alex Ingrams ([alex.ingrams@gmail.com](mailto:alex.ingrams@gmail.com)), Dr. Anne Regourd, Renate Hussein and Sultana al-Qu'aiti attended the two-day seminar on Yemen at Leiden University in June. It included a pop-up exhibition of Yemen-related artifacts at Leiden University Library, a Yemeni studies roundtable, a manuscripts workshop for students and scholars and a research lecture by Dr. Scott Lucas (Associate Professor of Islamic Studies Arizona University): “*Publish or Perish: Religious Zaydi publishers in Yemen during the 1990s*”.



**Renate Hussein**

[https://www.library.universiteitleid.nl/news/2022/09/amsterdam-yemen-library-now-available?fbclid=IwAR0AXWqzGJ9mYTKK8QZr\\_5uN5zRRenateHusseinik9AbKhdlGdT4VdytH4TIWeyvNsUgkXGA](https://www.library.universiteitleid.nl/news/2022/09/amsterdam-yemen-library-now-available?fbclid=IwAR0AXWqzGJ9mYTKK8QZr_5uN5zRRenateHusseinik9AbKhdlGdT4VdytH4TIWeyvNsUgkXGA)



**New FOH Ronnie & Florence Mollinger**

## The library of a great scholar: Dr. J J Witkam



I met Dr. Jan Just Witkam, Emeritus Professor of Codicology and Paleography of the Islamic World, Leiden University in Leiden in June. Dr. Witkam is the first Dutch Friend of Hadhramaut, joining as early as December 1997. I was introduced to him through Daniel van der Meulen's wife Dr. Helene van der Meulen-Duhm and through our second patron Leila Ingrams. I had heard about his amazing house dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and situated in the oldest part of Leiden from Dr. Ulrike Freitag who had stayed there while he was away in Cairo doing research at the National Library of Egypt. It sits on the confluence of two rivers and has the most amazing views out onto the old town.

We talked about Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani and it was enlightening to hear how deeply Dr. Witkam respected his intellect as a true visionary. He had served on the Board of the Al Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation.

Sheikh Yamani entertained many projects and ideas which included his desire to do more research on Snouck Hurgronje, the great Orientalist who lived in Jeddah (1884-85). His phonographic recordings in Jeddah are all stored at the Oriental Department, Leiden University Library, including all his private letters and papers which Dr. Witkam has worked on.

I asked him about Dr. Anne-Marie Schimmel, a close friend whom he ranked very highly as an Islamic scholar and as a scholar of Persian, Urdu and Arabic. He himself is also a scholar of Persian History having studied Persian at Tehran University and worked there during the Pahlavi era. He went to India in 1974, visiting Delhi and Hyderabad where he gave a lecture at the Salar Jang Museum and donated books to the Curator in the Library who reciprocated with a gift for the Leiden University Library.

I asked Dr. Witkam about the Hadhramaut as he knew the family of the renowned writer and traveller Daniel van der Meulen. He visited the Hadhramaut in 1994 just after the *Wahda* (Unification) and was taken there by the Dutch government flying from Sanaa to Seiyun and then driven to Tarim where he visited the famous Maktabat Al Ahqaf which impressed him. The Dutch government sent two young scholars/librarians from Leiden University to help with cataloguing the manuscripts in the Ahqaf Library. He was sorry not to have visited Mukalla but he did visit Shibam which remained etched in his memory as a wonderful architectural feature.

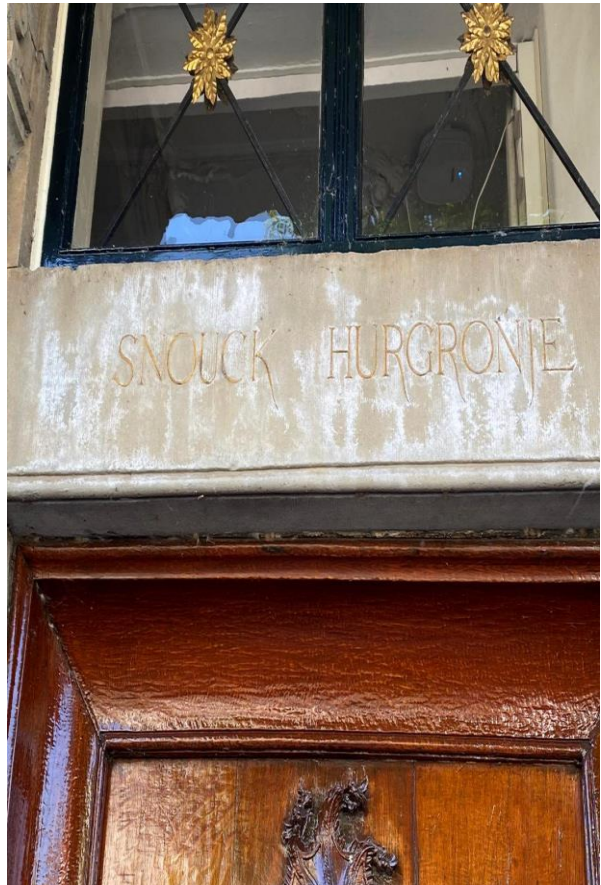


I was then graciously escorted to his magnificent library which was the highlight of my visit and a very unique experience for me as I beheld thousands of splendid volumes and leather-bound tomes which resonated deep scholarship and elevated erudition. Many of the books are precious, old legal documents bound





in parchment as Dr. Witkam's father had taught Roman Law at Leiden University. He picked up a book that he had just completed in 2022 *Values of old paper* and gifted it to me with a dedication. In all my years I have never seen a private library containing works of such antiquity.



Sultana al-Qu'aiti

### NEWS FROM CANADIAN BRANCH

We are very grateful to Local Coordinator **Alexandre Cumas** for hosting and organising the annual Parc Centennial barbecue and fundraiser in July. The total amount raised was Canadian \$240. [firetexion@gmail.com](mailto:firetexion@gmail.com)



FOH Supporters in Montreal

## NEWS FROM FRENCH BRANCH

As a trustee and Local Coordinator, we thank **Maija Calvert** for her tremendous support at our Oslo event. In August Maija moved from Paris to a new job in Antibes. [maijacalvert@gmail.com](mailto:maijacalvert@gmail.com)



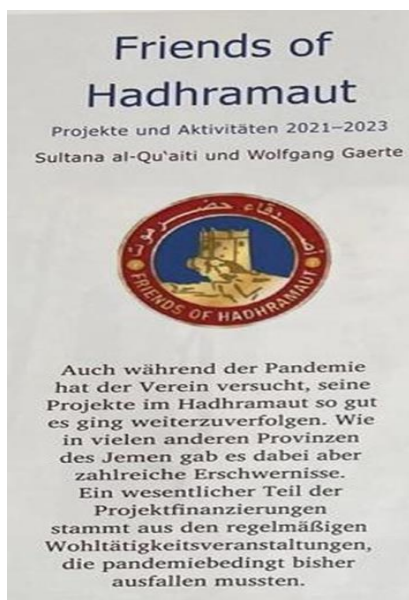
Many thanks to **JM Bel** for promoting FOH in Angers in March. He has prefaced and illustrated a book called *Al Arabiyya Al Saeeda* (Arabia Felix) authored by Fathiyya Mahmoud Siddiq, wife of the Yemeni Ambassador to France.



Dr. Riyadh Yassin with JM Bel

## NEWS FROM GERMAN BRANCH

We thank Local Coordinator **Wolfgang Gaerte** for his presence at Oslo and his sterling efforts in recruiting German Friends to attend the event. He attended the AGM of the Deutsche Jemenitische Gesellschaft (DJG) in Berlin in May along with Ruth Hildebrandt, Sultana al-Qu'aiti, Marie-Amelie Steul, Dr. Matthias Eigenbrodt, Zuhair al-Jefri and Joachim Duester. He never loses an opportunity to publicise our work. [w.gaerte@yahoo.com](mailto:w.gaerte@yahoo.com)



We thank Wolfgang for writing such a detailed and interesting account of FOH's work in the Hadhramaut for the annual Jemen Report. The Pdf link to the article:

[FOH Article in Annual Jemen Report 2023.pdf](#)





**Wolfgang Gaerte and Marie-Amelie Steul**



**Ruth Hildebrandt, Treasurer DJG**



**Dr. Freitag & Dr. Dannemann meeting HM King Charles III & Queen Camilla, Berlin, March 2023**



**The LCs father Felix Gaerte on his way to Buckingham Palace for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953**



**W Gaerte, Dina v Randow, Udo & Rosie Kluth, Beatrice Wiesemann in Kiel**

## NEWS FROM ITALIAN BRANCH

Our Local Coordinator **Mick Walton** writes: At the 5th International Sir Richard Burton Conference held in Vienna in October, I made a short, out-of-conference presentation about the Hadhramaut, distributed material about FOH and donated 50 percent of the profits of the bookstall to FOH. [mickwalton@libero.it](mailto:mickwalton@libero.it)

## NEWS FROM PAKISTAN BRANCH

Local Coordinator **Rukhsana Rashid** leaves no stone unturned in helping FOH in myriad ways. We are especially grateful to her for her consummate skills and painstaking hard work in the preparation of this newsletter. [Rashid.rukhsana@gmail.com](mailto:Rashid.rukhsana@gmail.com)



Congratulations to **Rashida Masood** and **Saleem Bukhari** on the inauguration in December 2023 of the Memorial Park Group, Karachi where trees were planted.

## NEWS FROM SINGAPORE BRANCH

Our new patron Angela Kilmartin visited Singapore in November 2023 where she was delighted to meet a few FOH. We hope to forge closer links with this branch through Farah Ali Bahajaj [fabjajrp@gmail.com](mailto:fabjajrp@gmail.com) Sharifah Zahra Aljunied has written a book entitled *A reverent journey: Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka 1820-2020 and Beyond* (Singapore 2022). The Mosque is the first prayer house built in Singapore by her ancestor Syed Omar bin Ali Aljunied. Syed Omar was born in Tarim and came to Singapore in 1819. In September 2023, the book won the Singapore Book Award.



Angela at the Raffles Hotel



Angela with Khadijah Alattas, Aisha al-Sarihi & Farah Bahajaj



## NEWS FROM USA BRANCH

A *cri de coeur* from Local Coordinator **John Mulholland**: “I see several countries are moving ahead with plans to create events for FOH. Meanwhile, the largest nation among FOH supporters (currently 65), the USA, sits idly by. What is the “hook” to get Friends here more interested? Although I am well inserted into our Atlanta Arab and international communities, Yemen is low on their lists of interests. I am very keen on generating greater awareness amongst our USA membership and would very much appreciate some feedback from Friends on our continent as to how to raise funds for Hadhramaut. Does any Friend have contact with the Washington Center of Yemeni Studies?” [jmulholland45@aol.com](mailto:jmulholland45@aol.com)

## CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Wafaa Murad on the death of her mother **Wahiba Tahir Abdul Aziz** in February 2020 in Jeddah

Our deepest sympathy to Dr. David Bryer CMG (former Chair of Oxfam International) on the death of his wife **Margaret Isabel Bowyer Bryer** (FOH 30.10.07) in March 2020

Our deepest sympathy to Siegfried Niederberger on the death of his wife **Monika Niederberger** (FOH 1.1.18) in the autumn of 2022

Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Antoine Turzi on the death of his mother **Francesca Turzi** aged 98 in Toulouse, France in December 2022

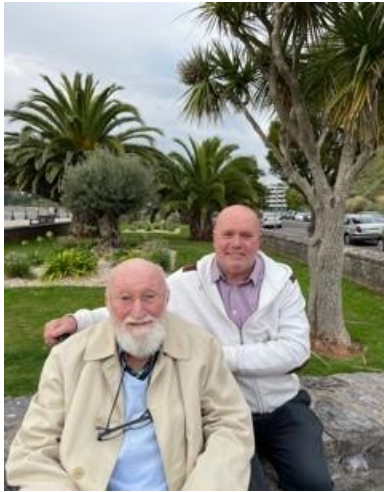


It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of **Alan D'Arcy** (FOH 23.1.97) on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in a Torquay care home thanks to a call from Gary Mundy.

I first met Alan in Hadhramaut in 1997 on a BYS tour that our former patron Jim Ellis had led. Alan co-hosted two early memorable garden parties in Torquay with Pandora Holloway and helped (along with Gary) with the garden party in 2016 hosted by Yousif al-Nasser. He was an outstanding Friend. Having no family of his own, I would make it a point of visiting him every year in Torquay but sadly was unable to do so last year.

Alan was born on 20.5.1930. He was a Wing Commander in the Royal Air Force (RAF) and served in the Aden Protectorate Levies (APL) from 1953-56. From 1948-1951, he served in the RAF Administration in Cranwell. He once told me how cold it was when he worked on the coke stoves at Compton Bassett. In Aden, he befriended Godfrey Meynell and Bill Heber-Percy who encouraged him to join the Western Aden Protectorate service. From 1963-1967 he served as a political officer in Nisaab, Upper Awlaqi Sultanate. Muhammad Awadh, the grandson of the former Awlaqi Sultan became his ward. Alan was delighted to be re-connected with the Awlaqis after joining the BYS tour in 1997. He led several tours for the BYS and served as their Treasurer from 1998-2003. Alan will be sorely missed.





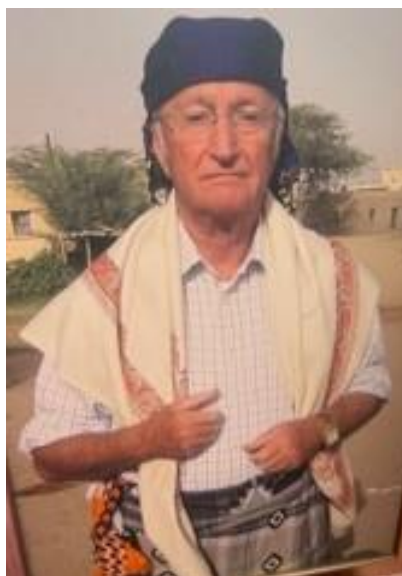
**Alan and Gary, Torquay 2021**

Our heartfelt condolences to Gary Mundy and Muhammad Awadh. Gary left no stone unturned in looking after Alan, seeing to his every need; shopping, cooking, taking him to the doctor, to hospital and finally arranging for him to be moved from his flat in Paignton to a care home in Torquay. He was an exemplary friend to Alan, caring for him as a son would care for his father and given his nursing background, meticulous in his medical care for Alan. Gary had arranged for Alan's flights to Oslo in 2020 and booked hotels; unfortunately the FOH fundraising event had to be postponed due to Covid-19. Alan had travelled all the way to Venice to support FOH in 2014. FOH is pleased to confer Alan's FOH membership on Gary.

A memorial tea was held in memory of Alan in Torquay in June at the Robin Hill Hotel. Those present were BA Fyfield-Shayler, Andrew Mead, Gary, Maj. Yeoman, Julia Sanders, Yousif al-Nassir and Sultana. Andrew's arrangements were excellent as always and FOH is very grateful to him and Yousif for all their help and generosity.



**Left to right Andrew Mead, BA Fyfield-Shayler, Yousif Al-Nassar, Julia Sanders, Maj. Yeoman & Gary Mundy**



**Alan leading FOH tour in 2005**

**Sultana al-Qu'aiti**

Our deepest sympathy to the children of **Tom Stacey** on his death in London in December 2022. A memorial service was held for him in May 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church, London

**The Treasurer writes:** Shama Husain and Robert Shipman attended the memorial service, representing FOH. We first met Tom in 1997 in Jeddah and thereafter developed a warm friendship. Tom was amongst the very first to join FOH (27.1.97), a charity which was very close to his heart. He was both a generous supporter and a loyal attendee at our events. I last met Tom at his daughter Tilly's pottery exhibition in 2022. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire family on the passing of a remarkable man

**Sultan Ghalib al-Quaiti remembers:** It is impossible to describe a man of Tom's many rare and diverse qualities and gifts. Although "very English" in his outward appearance and demeanour, he possessed that bravura of unhesitatingly mixing with a huge variety of people. Blessed with a fine intellect and an always open and questioning mind of a great professional journalist, he was also gifted with a very keen and shrewdly observant eye. He was a sincere and generous friend and host, always willing to go well out of his way for a deserving cause.

May you rest in eternal peace dear Tom; you will always be dearly remembered by all those who came into contact with you. REQUIESCAT IN PACEM

Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Muna Bagour on the death of her husband **Omar Cornel Pavel Vulcu** (FOH 22.11.13) in Munich

Our deepest sympathy to Marion Leslie née Serjeant on the death of her brother **Lesley Serjeant** in January 2023

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **HEH Nizam Mir Barkat Ali Khan Mukarram Jah, Asaf Jah VIII** (FOH 29.11.2000) on his death in Istanbul in January 2023. The Nizam was tremendously grateful to our Vice Chairman for showing him the Hadhramaut when Salah arranged his visit and accompanied him in 2000

Our deepest sympathy to Caroline al-Juneid on the death of her father **Jurges Klibingaitis** in Melbourne in February 2023 and on the death of her sister **Maxine Klibingaitis** in Melbourne in April 2023

Our deepest sympathy to Lady Vanessa Patey on the death of her father **Leonard Morrell** aged 97 in London in February 2023

Our deepest sympathy to Angela, Richard, Philippa and Belinda on the death of their husband/father **Stephen Day** (FOH 20.05.07) in Surrey in March 2023. A memorial service was held for him in April where our Patron John Harding represented FOH. Angela will continue her beloved husband's FOH membership. Stephen was Chairman of the British Yemeni Society in 1998

**Sultan Ghalib al-Quaiti remembers:** Stephen was a fine political officer who served the people in the Western Aden Protectorate with a sensitive and responsible open mind, always keen to understand and give serious consideration to the other side's views when he felt that this was in the mutual interest. Not surprisingly, this display of independence would have been hardly welcome by his superiors. He was a caring and loyal friend. The Fadhlis for one remember him to this day with great respect and appreciation

**Muzna al-Quaiti adds:** It was very kind how Uncle Stephen saw me through my MA at SOAS, always checking in with consideration during his time at MBI Al-Jaber Foundation.



Our deepest sympathy to Irmelin, Elisabeth and Erik Dahl Larsen on the death of their husband/father **Karl Erik Larsen** (FOH 18.09.16) in Bergen in March 2023. We are pleased that his son Erik has taken on his father's FOH membership

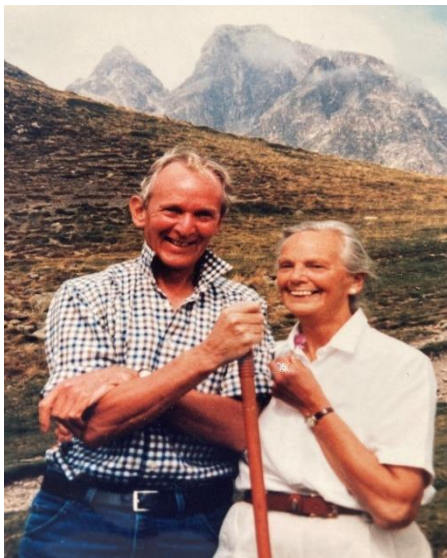
Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Abdul Aziz bin Ali al-Qu'aiti and his family on the death of his wife **Shafiqa Rubia Ali al-Qu'aiti** in Jordan in May 2023

Our deepest sympathy to Asya Alashaikh on the death of her mother **Noura Hassan** in Riyadh in June 2023

Our deepest sympathy to Felipe and Laura Allard on the death of their mother **Baroness Allard nēe Sharifa Aziza AlAtas** (FOH 13.6.14) in London in June 2023. The Treasurer attended her funeral at Kensal Green cemetery and her memorial service held in London in September 2023

Our deepest sympathy to Caroline Lees on the death of her husband **Colonel Brian Lees LVO OBE** (11.2.97) aged 91 in London in June 2023. During a distinguished 34-year army career, he served with the British Army in Aden and then the Aden Protectorate Levies in the 1950s, before returning to the region as Defense Attache in Saudi Arabia and Yemen 1975-79. Several FOH attended a memorial service at The King's Chapel of the Savoy, London on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday) where Sir Harold Walker gave the eulogy.

Our deepest sympathy to Ulrike Freitag on the death of her mother **Annelies Krause** in Germany in July 2023



Our deepest sympathy to Alison Johnson on the death of her mother **Dr. Muriel Berkeley** (FOH 22.10.98) who died in July 2023 in Scotland two weeks short of her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are delighted that Alison has taken on her mother's membership: "My parents first went to Aden at the invitation of the Anglican church who had some land where they wished to set up a mother and baby clinic. They ended up forging links between the local hospitals and the Ministry of Health with their equivalents in Aberdeen. They enjoyed the company of all the Cuban doctors who were great fun. They also did some basic medical work - particularly M who was able to visit veiled women in their homes. My father (Dr. Jim Berkeley) was always talking about the Hadhramaut - what an amazing place!"

Our deepest sympathy to Jane Forrester on the death of her husband **Bob Forrester** (FOH 16.8.03) in August 2023 in Brockham. Several FOH attended the funeral service at St. Michael's Church, Betchworth in September 2023

FOH extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of **Al Muqaddam Ali bin Muhammad Saeed Al-Juhi** who died in Uqran, Wadi Hadhramaut in September 2023. He entertained our patron Joanna Ellis at his home in 2005 and accompanied our patron Leila Ingrams when she inaugurated FOH classrooms in Reidat al Juhiyyin in 2004

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Muhammed Amir Muhammed Khan, the Raja of Mahmudabad** (FOH 10.5.99) who died in October 2023 in Lucknow after a prolonged illness

### **THANKS**

**Louise Hosking** and the British Yemeni Society for including the FOH Oslo event in their April 2023 newsletter: "it is such a well put-together event"

**Daphne Sanders** for sharing the Oslo event flier with her Norwegian friends

**Shama Husain** and **Robert Shipman** for attending Tom Stacey's memorial service on behalf of FOH in May 2023

**Dr. Gerhard Heck** and **Dr. Ulrike Freitag** for posting letters in Germany

**Dr. Marie-Christine Heinze**, President CARPO (Centre for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient) for publishing an article on FOH in the annual Jemen Report (DJG)

**Owain Raw-Rees** for donating a signed David Shepherd print of Mukalla to FOH

**Geoff Calvert** OBE Independent Examiner for auditing our accounts voluntarily

**Huraiby al-Huraiby**, our diligent webmaster, for keeping the FOH website updated with such dedication and enthusiasm

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Louis Blin** on his appointment in September 2022 as Research Director Middle East at the European University, Florence and on sharing a panel of discussions at Riyadh's Annual Book Fair in September where 80 French publishers participated *La Ligue Islamique Mondiale: Le Renouveau Musulman?* and *Récits présentés et annotés Alexandre Dumas Récits d'Arabie* (L'Harmattan)

**Sverre Driveklepp** on the occasion of his mother Arna Driveklepp's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in November 2022 and on the birth of his grandson Albert Driveklepp Skulstad in Oslo in October 2023

**Julian Paxton** on the marriage of his son Edward to Faye in Cape Town in December 2022

**Sir Harold Walker** on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2022



**Pia Kanaan** on her transfer from Switzerland to Ludgrove Boys Preparatory School in Berkshire

**Princess Caroline Murat (Caroline Haffner)** on initiating, founding and organising the 17<sup>th</sup> Gstaad New Year Music Festival in December 2022

**John Mulholland** on his Sicilian story being published in *Atlanta-Italy News*, Presented by *Global Atlanta*

**Muhammad Salah al-Qu'aiti** on passing the neuro-brain surgery specialisation exam from the Yemeni Medical Board, being one of seven top candidates to qualify in the whole of Yemen

**Dr. Gerhard Heck** on being awarded the 2020 ITB prize for the best German language Oman travel guide *Oman Reise Handbuch*. Dumont have also published his well-known travel handbook *Arabische Halbinsel*

**Felipe Fernandez-Armesto**, William P Reynolds Professor of History at Notre Dame University USA, on his latest book *Straits: Beyond the Myth of Magellan* published by Bloomsbury in 2022 and on editing the *Oxford History of the World* (OUP 2023)

**Dr. Razia Sultanova** on her latest book *Woman's Journey in Afghan Music Study: Field work in a Burka* and on her book *Afghanistan Dispossessed: Women, Culture and the Taliban* (Pen and Sword 2023); and on her book *"From Shamanism to Sufism: Women, Islam and Culture in Central Asia"* (IB Tauris, 2014) being translated into Serbian (UTOPIA Publishers Belgrade) and on her appointment as a Visiting Professor at Charles University, Prague and Honorary Professor at the Eurasian International University, Bishkek. She and her husband Hamid Ismailov participated in the Lahore Literary Festival in February 2023. Congratulations to both of them on the forthcoming marriage of their son Daniyar

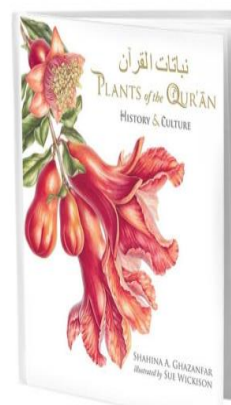
**Dr. Gorshkov-Cantacuzène V.A.** on the publication of his book *The protection of rights to biotechnological inventions in the European countries of the "Eastern Bloc"* (Moscow: Yurait 2023)

**Ovidio Salazar**, award-winning filmmaker on directing the first-ever cinematic account of the Hijrah *In the Footsteps of the Prophet* in July 2022



**Dr. Shahina Ghazanfar**, honorary research associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and a Gibbs Fellow at Newnham College, University of Cambridge on her presentation to the British Omani Society on "Language and Ecology in Southern and Eastern Arabia" in March 2023 and on her exhibition *Plants of the Quran* at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art in Kew Gardens. Based on her recent publication *Plants of the Quran: History and Culture*, Shahina presented a lecture at the Pakistan Society in September 2023. She was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science from Cambridge University in October

GARDEN MEDIA GUILD AWARDS - 2023  
WINNER of  
The Garden book of the Year



**Alison Shan Price** MBE FRGS on being awarded a Masters in History in March 2023 by Swansea University. Her thesis was entitled *What influence did British women Arabists have on the Anglo-Arab relationship in the Middle East (1914-45)?* Her thesis offers an insight into the cultural evolution, intercultural collaborations and activism of women Arabists: Gertrude Bell (1868-1926), Freya Stark (1893-1993), Violet Dickson (1896-1991) and Doreen Ingrams (1906-1997) in Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Yemen and Hadhramaut

**Jill Hammans** on becoming a great grandmother in April when her eldest granddaughter gave birth to James Hamish

**Dr. Jan Just Witkam** on his online lecture to Princeton in April *Lives and Letters: The Correspondence of Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje (1857-1936)*

**Professor Nile Green** (UCLA) on the publication of his recent book *How Asia Found Herself: A Story of Intercultural Understanding* in April 2023 (Yale University Press) and on presenting a paper at *The Worlds of Islam in Asia* at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh in November 2023 and on an article *Arabic as a South Asian Language* in the International Journal of Middle East Studies in February 2023

**Dr. Alex Ingrams** on his daughter Rosanne's third birthday in May 2023

**Paul Hughes-Smith** on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 2023

**Lina & Omar Mukharesh** on their daughter Lana's graduation from Harvard Children's Medical Hospital in Boston and their son-in-law Dr. Mohanad's graduation from Duke Medical Hospital in North Carolina

**Professor Vitaly Naumkin** Director Institute of Oriental Studies at The Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow on being appointed Consultant Editor of the Journal of Islamic Studies Oxford

**Dr. Willi Steul** on the marriage of his son Francois-Joseph to Katerina in June 2023

**Yousif Al-Nassar** on his Hajj (pilgrimage) in 2023



**John Mulholland** our LC in USA and Gabriella on their golden wedding anniversary

**William Facey** on co-editing *Diary of a Journey through Inner Arabia, 1883-1884* by Julius Euting (Arabian Publishing May 2024)

**Linda Davies** on her new book *What Every Woman Needs to Know to Create Financial Abundance* <https://amzn.eu/d/3egNat4>



**Dr. Muhammad Salah al-Qu'aiti** on his marriage to Muneera Saleh Mohsin al-Qu'aiti and **Ali Salah al-Qu'aiti** on his marriage to Manar Abdullah Saleh al Batl in al Qatn in September 2023

**Saeed Chinoy** on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday in September 2023 in Kuala Lumpur

**Samaan Rahman** on the marriage of his sister Syeda Aisha Rahman in London in November 2023

**Sabiha Omar** on her golden wedding anniversary

**JM Bel** on the birth of his granddaughter Jude in Paris in October 2023

**Aziz Omar** on the publication of his online article and open-access in the Journal of Agriculture and Human Values in September 2023 *"Rebalance power and strengthen farmers' position in the EU food system? A CDA of the Farm to Fork Strategy"* <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-023-10508-5>

**Jamie Bowden** CMG OBE MVO on his appointment as a Trustee of the British Omani Society

**Asma Ibrahim** on the launch of her new magazine "al Dar". Al Yamaniah was founded in March 2020 with the aim of championing women of Yemeni heritage working in the creative/cultural space. "We share their work, facilitate opportunities and bring greater awareness about the great talent in our community and the work that is being done. It's very much a diaspora-led project, however we try to ensure all of our content is bilingual to be as inclusive as possible". <https://alyamaniah.wixsite.com/al-yamaniah/home>

**Martin White**, former Manager Eastern Bank Mukalla, on his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Ann Grainger** on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Christopher Arnander** on his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday

**Julian Lush** on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**Barbara Schumacher** on her *Adventures* in KSA published in EURABIA magazine No 4/2022, the quarterly online magazine of the German Arab Society



**Aisha Gray Henry** introducing *Fons Vitae*, (USA) to the King Faisal Center in Riyadh in February. She also gave a talk in Washington in October at the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

**Renaud Detalle** is the current Representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - Yemen

**Ahmed Rashid** participated in the Lahore Literary Festival in February 2023

**Earl St Andrews** attended the coronation of HM King Charles III in May 2023 in Westminster Abbey

**Sir Harold Walker** KCMG is Honorary Vice President of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs

**Elizabeth Ingrams** organised the installation of the bust of her mother Rosalind Ingrams, co-founder with her late father Leonard Ingrams of the Garsington Opera in May 2023 at the Wormsley Estate





**HRH Princess Maha al-Faisal** organised a seminar on the *Arabian Narrative* in February 2023 at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh

Please visit artist **Caroline Lees** website: [www.carolinelees.co.uk](http://www.carolinelees.co.uk)

**Prince Abbas Hilmi** was the guest of honour at a seminar organised by The Mohamed Ali Foundation Fellowship Programme at Durham University, attended by FOH Alan Rush and the Treasurer in June 2023

**Nael Zafarul Islam** is now running a riyad in Marrakesh. All FOH are most welcome <https://www.riadlacigale.com/>

The 6th International Sir Richard Burton Conference was held on 20th October 2023 at the *Diplomatische Akademie* in Vienna organised by LC in Italy **Mick Walton. Alison Dingle** also attended the conference

A memorial to former President **Anthony Smith CBE** has been installed in the ante-chapel at Magdalen College, Oxford

Yemen artefacts recovered: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/sep/12/v-and-a-ancient-yemen-stones-stelae-london-museum>

**Richard Hunt** has left Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and is heading the Foundation at Sherborne, Dorset which is the school's fundraising arm

**Dr. Miranda Morris** authored a chapter in a new book entitled *Language and Ecology in Southern and Eastern Arabia* (Bloomsbury Publishing 2022)

**Jean Franco's** grandfather Umberto Nicolini was one of the master painters of Deruta. An exhibition of his work in the Museo Regionale della Ceramica in Deruta, Umbria will run until 6th January 2024 <https://www.labottegadelvasaio.com/it>

**James Firebrace** has stepped down as Chairman of the British-Yemeni Society (BYS) after 4 years; he remains involved in both Yemen and the Horn of Africa on issues relating to food security, renewable energy and coping with climate extremes

**Tom Stacey's** daughter Tilly Young held an exhibition of her pottery in November 2023

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Editor: **Muzna al-Qu'aiti**. Co-Editor: **Rukhsana Rashid**.

We welcome comments, suggestions and contributions and reserve the right to edit any material submitted to [hadhramaut@btinternet.com](mailto:hadhramaut@btinternet.com)

The password for reading newsletters on our website [www.hadhramaut.co.uk](http://www.hadhramaut.co.uk) is **frankincense**

**29** new Friends joined in 2023 from Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, UK, USA and Yemen

### **Corrigendum**

Henry Bridges Molesworth is the artist who painted these scenes of Hadhramaut in 1893. These were wrongly attributed to Theodore Bent in the last FOH Newsletter # 26.



HB Molesworth was born at Woolwich on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1855 and died at his home in Limpsfield Chart on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1954. He was educated at Windermere College and joined Dartmouth as a naval cadet in 1869. He served in the Royal Navy as a midshipman until May 1873. In November 1873 he was appointed as an Assistant Engineer to the Public Works Department in India and served first on the Northern Bengal State Railway and later on the Jhelum-Pindi State Railway during the Second Afghan War. Later on he was appointed District Engineer on the Nizam's State Railway.

## Comments on Newsletter 26

### **United Kingdom Sunderland**

- We know that the good work is continuing in spite of the difficult conditions. Well done to all in FOH who are continuing to support the people of the Hadhramaut in these troubled times. The plight of the poor people in Hadhramaut has gone largely unreported being overshadowed by wars elsewhere: the work of FoH is therefore all the more necessary

### **Worcestershire**

- Thanks so much for the newsletter - as always full of interest

### **London**

- Congratulations on a magnificent newsletter - and for all the magnificent work you do
- Thank you for your brilliant newsletter and for the wonderful reports of all the work that has been accomplished
- Thank you for sharing the newsletter; it is great to see how active the charity is
- Many thanks for your long newsletter about the Friends of Hadhramaut. It is an engaging read, not least on account of the mention of people who are also friends or contacts in other areas. I admire your persistence in writing it all up

### **Stourbridge**

- I was impressed by the international progress of FOH. Things have certainly become much more difficult in Yemen in the meanwhile and I am pleased that there is so much goodwill for the Hadhramaut directed from all over the world. It was also heartening to read news of some of you that we remember from our very memorable trip to Hadhramaut in 1997

### **Gloucestershire**

- The FOH gatherings are always such wonderful events. We have received the wonderful newsletter. Congratulations to all for compiling the interesting news which must have taken many hours

### **Wiltshire**

- I am happy to see your continued good work in the Hadhramaut

### **Oxfordshire**

- We follow the charity's doings thanks to its indefatigable activity
- Thank you for the wonderful newsletter

### **Germany**

#### **Augsburg**

- Thank you so much for sending us the annual detailed account of FOH news and the very impressive and rich content

### **Mainz**

- I have read the newsletter with intense interest..... it took me straight back to my visit to Mukalla in 1980 and the wonderful journey I made with LC Wolfgang Gaerte in the Wadi Hadhramaut

**Hindelang**

- Schon vor einiger Zeit habe ich FOH ausführlichen Rundbrief gelesen und wollte Dir unsere Bewunderung mitteilen für Dein anhaltendes Engagement und Deine Kraft, die Du immer noch diesem Projekt widmest. Wie vielen Menschen würde es ohne Eure Hilfe viel schlechter gehen!!

**Berlin**

- Es ist mir eine Ehre. Ich werde immer ein Freund der Hadhramis bleiben

**France****Pyrenees**

- What a lot work it must have been to get all that information and what a community Friends of Hadhramaut is!

**Paris**

- My warmest thanks for this newsletter; it is very rich in information and has interesting pictures!
- It's absolutely astonishing, a most remarkable work of skill, attention and love

**Troyes**

- We are simply grateful to have something to give to this work of God FOH is doing

**Norway****Oslo**

- Very impressive!

**USA****Georgia**

- I am continually impressed by the important role this province (governorate) has played, and does play, in the history and formation of both the Arab and the modern worlds. Most of us know of the huge arc of Islam from Indonesia around the Indian Ocean and down the east coast of Africa. Few know that this arc was largely created by Hadhramis. Even less known is that the Zanzibarian writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature last year, Abdul Razzak Gurni, is of 100 percent Hadhrami heritage. The latest newsletter is another Opus Magnus by the editor and her faithful crew

**Italy****Rome**

- Many thanks for the most recent newsletter and congratulations to the editor and typesetter for an excellent job

**Pakistan****Islamabad**

- Managed finally to check out the newsletter: very impressive production, kudos to everyone involved, you are doing so much great work

**Barbados**

- Great work FOH and a very interesting newsletter

## Australia

### New South Wales

- I am reading your newsletters with great interest and with great admiration for the work of the Friends in one of the most difficult places to do good work

## ARCHIVE ON HADHRAMAUT

We ask Friends to contribute short articles for this section and to send us any rare/interesting photographs of the Hadhramaut

### **Notes by the Master of the Norwegian motor schooner 'Asp' on a maiden voyage from Bergen to Foochow 1926-1928. Port Visit to Mukalla February 1927**



In 1927 Karl Erik Larsen's grandfather was a crew member on a Norwegian 2-masted 150-ton schooner called the **Asp**. This was the first Norwegian vessel ever to call at Mukalla. The crew were invited to the palace to meet Sultan Ghalib's great-granduncle Sultan Omar bin Awadh al-Qu'aiti. The captain wrote a detailed description in his log on the visit to Mukalla which is reproduced below. (Courtesy Karl Larsen).

The nearest town of any importance was Mukalla, but according to advice given in Aden, we were not to go near any inhabited places on the Arabian coast under any circumstances, on account of pirates. I decided to take the chance and headed for Mukalla, in the hope to secure kerosene to mix with oil we got in Aden. We still had one of our fuel tanks full of Suez-oil, which was sufficient for five days run, but this was kept in reserve in case of an emergency so we travelled at slow speed to Mukalla. We arrived there in the afternoon of 21 February and stopped close to the landing place.

The place looked rather picturesque as we approached it, and thousands of natives could be seen watching our arrival. In view of the well-meaning warnings received in Aden it was with many misgivings that we received several fully manned canoes which came alongside. Our engine was kept running in readiness should it become necessary to dash out to sea. However, our fears were unfounded, and the friendly and sincere attitude of the officials who boarded us convinced me that no harm would befall us by remaining here, so we dropped anchor.

It was unexpected to see so many large whitewashed stone buildings, which gave the place a modern aspect. The Sultan's palace, which was pointed out to us, was a very conspicuous building, and when I expressed my admiration for the place to the boarding officials, I jokingly told them that we wished to call and pay our respects to the Sultan.

I was not a little surprised when a messenger from the palace came on board and expressed the Sultan's desire to see us, the officers. We hurriedly changed into a decent suit, and with mixed feelings of anticipation and awe followed the messenger ashore.

The Sultan sported a Ford car, and I looked on it as a tie with the outer world. We drove through the main street, running parallel to the beach, which was thronged with natives, who moved out of the way for the Sultan's car; and when they noticed white men in it, they raised

their eyes in surprise. Herds of sheep and cattle strayed in the street as well and did not heed the royal car. Most of the men carried in their belts a half-round dagger with a fancy handle. At the palace gate, we passed a sentry, naked to the waist, holding an old-fashioned rifle. It looked odd when he presented arms as we rolled into the palace yard. We were met by a young man in European attire who spoke English fluently, apparently some sort of secretary to the Sultan. He led us up a broad staircase to the first floor, and I was struck with the refined look everywhere, revealing good taste. Without further ceremony, we were taken straight into the reception hall, where we met the Sultan. I was surprised as the mental picture I had formed of him was entirely different from the person in front of us. He was very interested in our ship and our experiences, and is a man of knowledge regarding world politics. As for the situation in China he was well informed, and even knew some prominent Chinese generals personally.

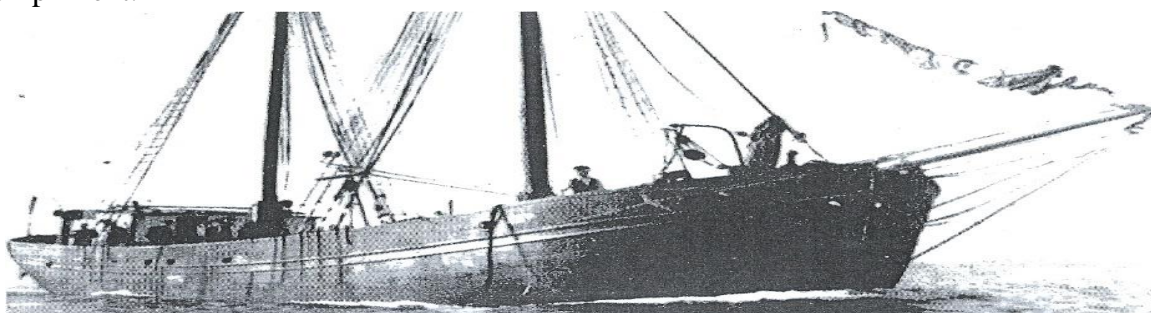
The servants brought a tea tray with cups of tea and biscuits. The secretary acted as interpreter, but did not join in the tea. There was another person present, a huge barefooted man, who continually kept looking at us, and I took him to be some sort of bodyguard. After a while, he disappeared, much to my relief, evidently convinced that we had no evil intentions.

I kept the reason for our visit to Mukalla a secret, in case the oil, which I required, should be raised in price. However, inspired by the Sultan's kindness, I confided my trouble to him, and he at once issued instructions to the effect that local dealers were to charge me no more than the market price for supplies of any kind sold to the ship, oil included. This eased my mind considerably, but the quantity of oil obtainable was not sufficient for our requirements.

After tea, we were taken out for a drive to the Sultan's bungalow, which was situated up in the hills, among the date-groves. The bungalow was vacant at the time, and it was amusing to walk round the many different rooms and apartments belonging to the harem ladies. The existence of a harem had not entered my mind, but in the matter-of-fact way it was explained by the Secretary I realised that the possession of some half-a-hundred women was considered a necessity in life for a man of the Sultan's standing. The giant who had embarrassed me on my arrival at the palace with his persisting stare was, I understood, a eunuch.

The town's fresh-water supply came from a lake in the vicinity of the bungalow, through a pipe. This had to be watched continually by armed guardsmen owing to the hostility of a neighbouring tribe, with whom the Sultan was at war. The population of Mukalla was about 25,000, and the chief communication with the world was by means of a coastal steamer, which called every fortnight on its way to Aden. The Sultan entertained the idea of having a wireless station erected, also the foundation of a modern hospital, which was badly needed.

When on the point of going ashore the next morning, I was surprised at receiving a present from His Highness consisting of four beautiful gazelles, two tins of honey and many bananas. The gazelles had recently arrived on a dhow from Africa, and they were therefore quite at home on board a ship. I did not really know how to return in a befitting manner such a royal compliment.



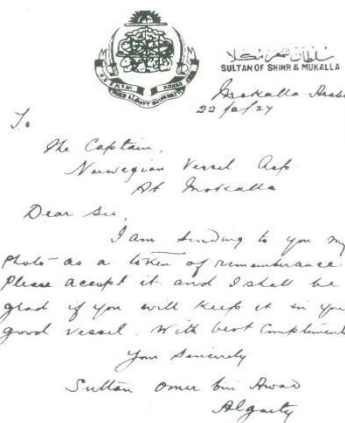


Our greatest trouble in Mukalla was to keep friendly visitors away, but when this was brought to the Sultan's notice, (not by us) he immediately dispatched some of his guardsmen to the ship to maintain order.

When leaving Mukalla the foredeck of the Asp resembled a farmyard more than a ship, with our numerous livestock - composed of four gazelles, one goat, two pigs, two dogs, a cat and a monkey - amidst bundles of hay.

I wrote him a letter of thanks and sent him a photograph in remembrance of the first Norwegian vessel, which had visited his port.

To this, I received a reply as follows, together with his photograph in full-dress uniform.



To, The Captain, Norwegian vessel  
Asp, at Mukalla  
Mukalla, Arabia 22/2/27

Dear Sir,  
I am sending to you my photo as a token of remembrance. Please accept it and I shall be glad if you will keep it in your good vessel.  
With best compliments  
Yours sincerely  
Sultan Omar Bin Awad AIQuaity

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**An old map showing Hadhramaut from the New Relief Atlas (Circa 1880)**



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## Ghail BaWazir Summer Palace



The Qu'aiti summer palace visited by HAR Philby in 1939





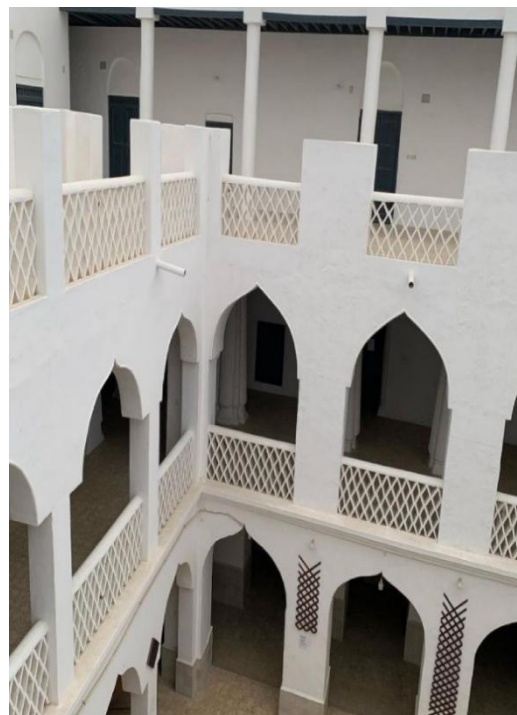
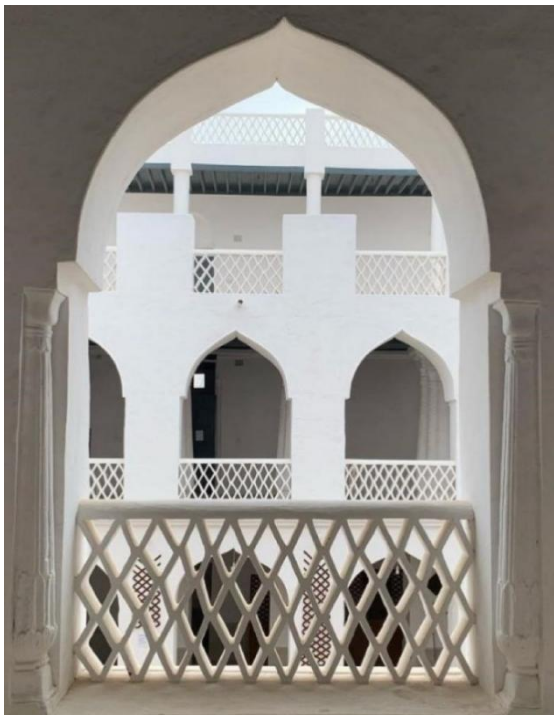


**Ghail BaWazir Gateway**

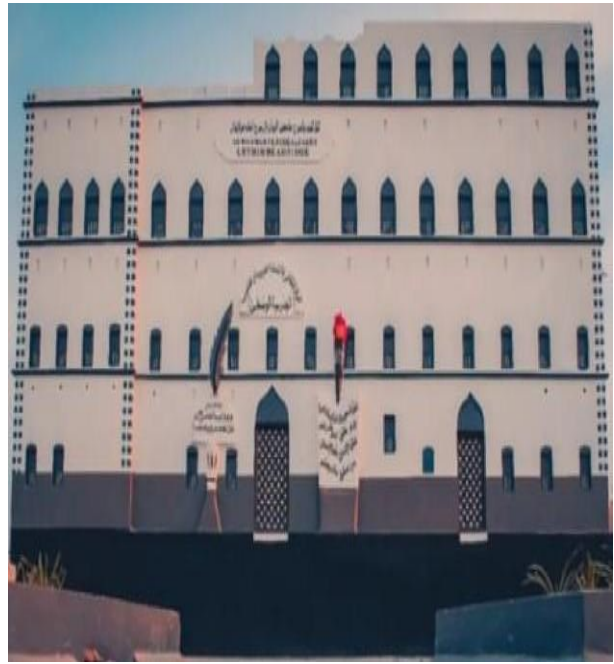
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## **Qasr al-Azhar**

This palace, known as Qasr al-Azhar, was built by Munassar bin Abdullah bin Omar bin Awadh al-Qu'aiti in the 1890s in the fertile town of Ghail BaWazir, famous for its gardens and tobacco plantations. After its conversion to Madrasah al-Wusta in 1944, it is now a museum.



## Madrasah al-Wusta



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## Restoration of Al-Ghuwaizi Fort



Al-Ghuwaizi Fort, one of the historical landmarks of Hadhramaut

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## The Quaiti Armed Constabulary Shibam 1963



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## Jim Maxwell

Jim Maxwell has assembled 45 slides illustrating *A Tour of South Arabia 1960*: “We boarded our ship *Dilwara* from Southampton Docks on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1960. Colour film was purchased in Gibraltar and we sailed on to the Suez Canal after a stop at Famagusta in Cyprus, waiting at Port Said for the south bound convoy, and finally into the Red Sea landing at Aden some 12 days later. After a 2 week wait for a flight, I landed at RAF Riyan, which was my home for the next 12 months. I left Riyan in 1961 in an Aden Airways Dakota and the flight home from Aden landed at Stanstead Airport. My designation was Ground Radar Fitter”. The list of slides can be viewed at [FOH List of Jim Maxwell Slides.pdf](#) and the photographs are accessible on the FOH website: <https://hadhramaut.co.uk/gallery/> . There are also links on both Facebook and Instagram.



**Pictures of the RAF Riyan tie.** It was not official as Riyan was a part of RAF Khormaksar. An enterprising airman contacted a Macclesfield tie manufacturer as a private venture. The design was inspired by a watercolour of a vulture perched on a signpost marked "To Riyan" hanging in the Signals Office.



Jim Maxwell aged 22 Wadi Hadhramaut



Jim Maxwell aged 85, Chester UK



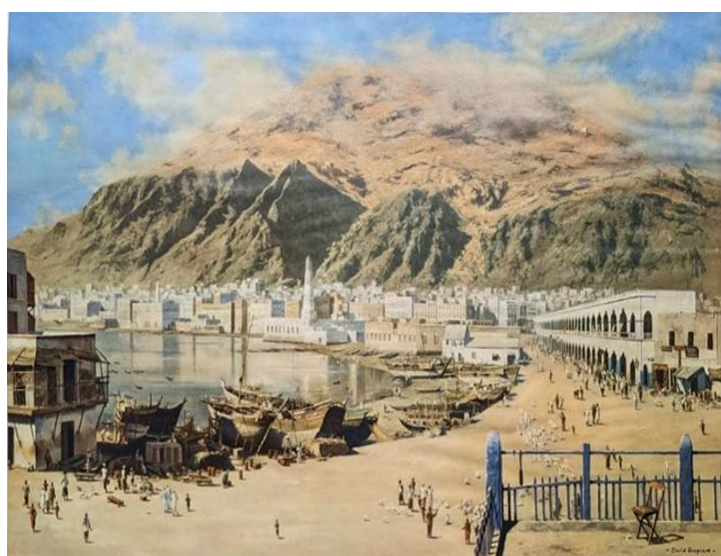
## ITEMS FOR SALE

The items listed below are for sale from the FOH registered address



Photograph courtesy David Halford

English bone china mugs with FOH logo at **£10** each or **£18** for 2



David Shepherd's signed print of Mukalla (1960) is for sale as a result of a very kind donation by Owain Raw-Rees. **Any offers above £300 are welcome.** All proceeds to FOH. Please contact the Treasurer.

Mick Walton has donated copies of *Sir Richard Burton and his Circle* at **£10** each, the proceeds of which he will donate to FOH: [mickwalton@libero.it](mailto:mickwalton@libero.it)

Copies of *Hadhramaut and its Diaspora: Yemeni Politics, Identity and Migration* (ed. Dr. Noel Brehony) at **£25** each

David Grainger has donated 3 sets of *The Geologic Evolution of Saudi Arabia, A Voyage Through Space and Time* to FOH at **£50** per set (published Saudi Geological Survey 2007)

A metal/enamel lapel badge produced by Thomas Fattorini Ltd and designed by Owain Raw-Rees at **£5** each



## **FOH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

Our audited accounts and official returns (as required by UK law) are prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the Charity Commissioner online by her, after an Independent Examination by Geoff Calvert OBE. The accounts may be inspected on the Charity Commission's website: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

## **GIFT AID**

Gift Aid is extremely valuable to FOH and may be claimed only on unencumbered donations upon which the donor has paid UK Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount of Gift Aid claimed in the relevant tax year.

## **WANTED**

Local Coordinators for Australia, India and Spain

Expert author required for article on Yemeni/Hadhrami textiles for the Journal of the Oriental Rug and Textile Society of Great Britain: <https://www.orientalrugandtextilesociety.org.uk/>  
Please contact Fiona Kerlogue: [fkerlogue@gmail.com](mailto:fkerlogue@gmail.com)

## **A Night of Yemeni Short Films Project**

Asma Ibrahim has asked FOH to find sponsors for her film initiative: [asmai4561@gmail.com](mailto:asmai4561@gmail.com)

This project is being organised by Al Yamaniah in partnership with Yemen Art Base and Yemen Creative Hubs (who are funded by the Goethe-Institut and the European Union). The project is an effort to celebrate both early-career and established filmmakers. The objectives behind this initiative are to provide a chance for Yemeni filmmakers to show case their work abroad and to allow foreign audiences to engage with and appreciate Yemeni culture and storytelling.

The inaugural screening took place at the Garden Cinema in London in October. There are confirmed screenings in Beirut, Aden, Al Mukalla and the Arab American National Museum. In terms of the actual screening event itself, we can do all the remote work but we need logistical support on the ground. We only have a physical presence in a few select places like London so the support we need is a venue and setting up the event on the day. From our end, we can provide all the necessary information: a full programme in both English and Arabic, subtitles in the appropriate languages, social media posters, advertising etc.

We do not have any funding for this so ideally we can partner up with a venue/cultural centre that is interested in making this part of their programme (a 50/50 split on ticket sales is fine) and through links to universities or similar institutions where a student/staff member can book an appropriate room for the screening without charge. The Mukalla screening will take place in collaboration with Madarat Cultural Organisation in December.

<https://alyamaniah.wixsite.com/al-yamaniah/al-dar-short-films-from-yemen>



## **FUTURE EVENTS**

Our Patrons John and Patricia Ducker hosted their first garden party for FOH in 2014. They will now be hosting a second **Summer Garden Party** at Ampney Crucis, Gloucestershire, England on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024**. Further details will be sent in the spring.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**FRIENDS OF HADHRAMAUT: Registered Charity No. 1062560**

**Address: 48 Richmond Park Road, London SW14 8JT UK**

**Telephone: +44 (0) 2083929823**

*(The telephone is not always attended; messages may be left and are dealt with regularly)*

**Email: [hadhramaut@btinternet.com](mailto:hadhramaut@btinternet.com)**

**Website: [www.hadhramaut.co.uk](http://www.hadhramaut.co.uk)**

**Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/FriendsofHadhramaut/>**

**Instagram: [friendsofhadhramaut](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofhadhramaut)**

**Please make all cheques payable to "Friends of Hadhramaut"**

### **Sterling Account**

**Virgin Money**

United Kingdom

**Account name:** Friends of Hadhramaut

**Sort Code:** 821107

**Account Number:** 60572139

**IBAN:** GB35CLYD82110760572139

**BIC:** CLYDGB21943

**Life Subscription: £25 or €30**

**The account accepts ALL currencies which are transferred online.**



**FRIENDS OF HADHRAMAUT**  
**Registered Charity No. 1062560**

**Sterling Income and Expenditure 2023**

**INCOME**

Brought forward from 2022 (NATWEST A/C Closed Dec 2022)	21,895.43
Subscriptions	650.00
Donations	38,820.85
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>61,366.28</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

**Administration**

Stationery	308.53
Printing and Photocopying	284.62
Postage	343.66
Phone calls	202.74
Transportation	323.21
Purchases for Oslo event	36.36
Webmaster and computer service	230.00
Bank Charges	18.40
Transfers to Yemeni Rials (Vice-Chairman's Account)	23,371.69
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>25,119.21</b>

INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE: Balance at 31.12.2023	<b>36,247.07</b>
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SULTANA FS AL-QUAITI MBE

*Sultana FS al-Quaiti*

TREASURER

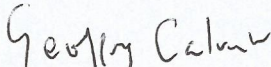


**Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of The Friends of Hadhramaut  
(Registered Charity Number 1062560) for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

I, Geoff Calvert of Garden Flat, 16 Bolton Gardens, London SW5 OAJ, confirm that I have examined the accounts of The Friends of Hadhramaut for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 under Section 43 of the 1993 Act and in accordance with the general direction by the Charity Commissioners. I examined the Sterling, Euro and Yemeni Rial accounts.

The preparation of the charity's accounts is the responsibility of the Trustees. They have asked me to conduct an independent examination and the accounts will not be audited, as is appropriate for a charity of this size. I confirm the accounts have been prepared by the Trustees on a receipts and payments basis and have no reason to doubt their accuracy.

I am qualified to be the Independent Examiner of the charity after a career in financial services.

  
Geoff Calvert OBE

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024