OCIANA

Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia

NEWSLETTER

October 2026

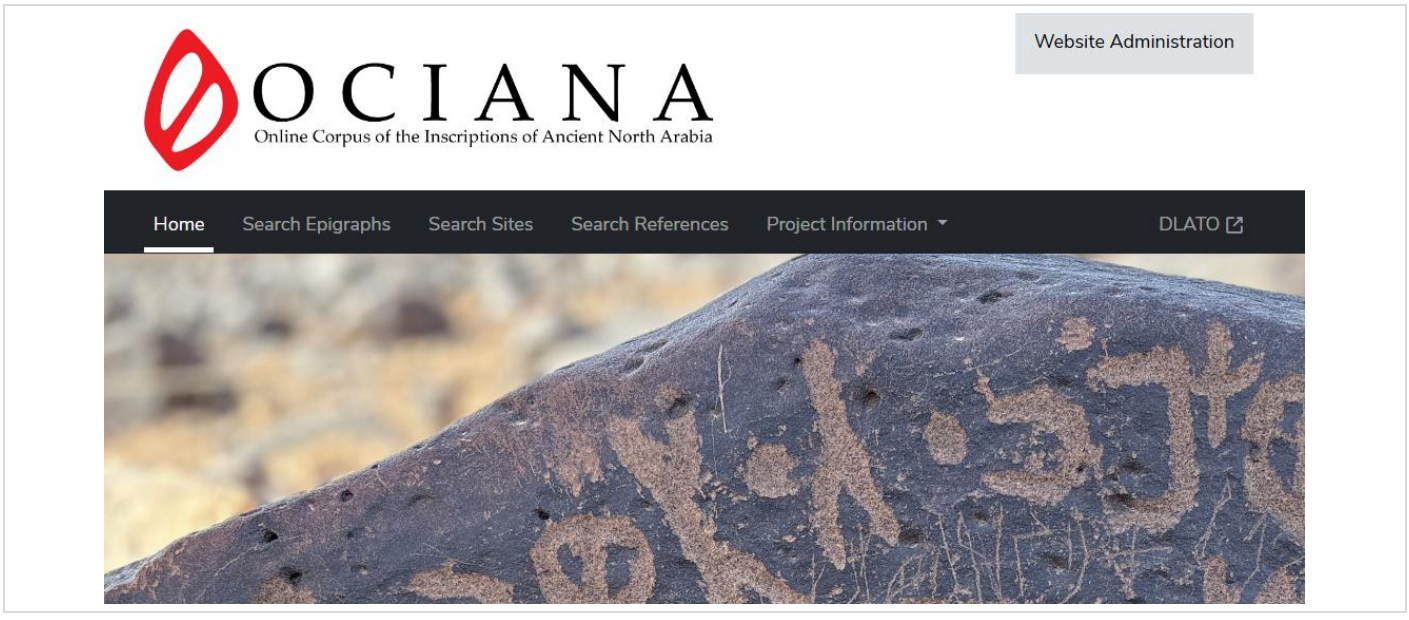


IN THIS ISSUE A new website · Contributor pages · Sites, mapped · Six new sites · Gobb's memorial · 148 inscriptions · Two new reports

A NEW LOOK

OCIANA has had a makeover

If you've visited ociana.osu.edu lately, you'll have noticed the change. A Safaitic inscription from the Thiyyat of ʿAqrab adorns our cover page. Scroll down and you'll see some updates!



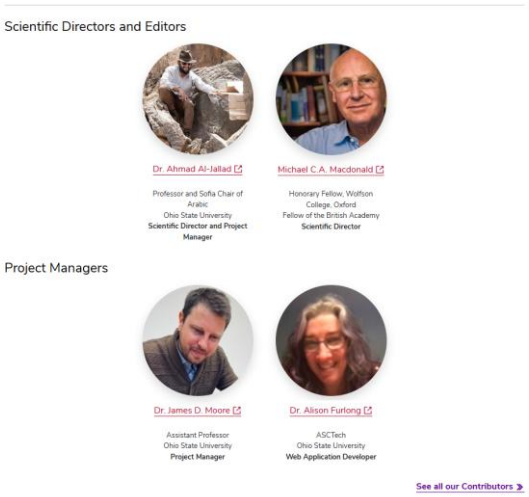
The new OCIANA home page.

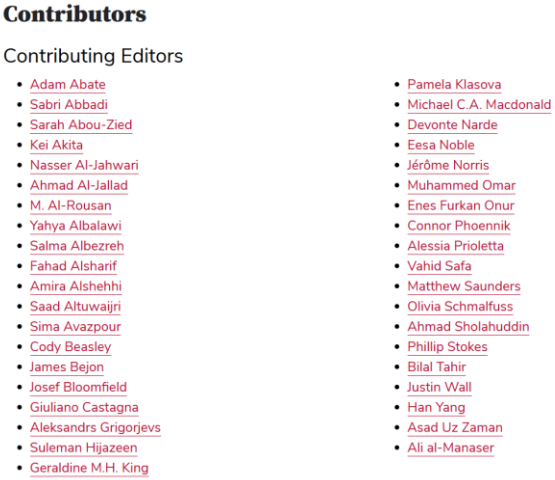
PEOPLE

Every editor, every inscription

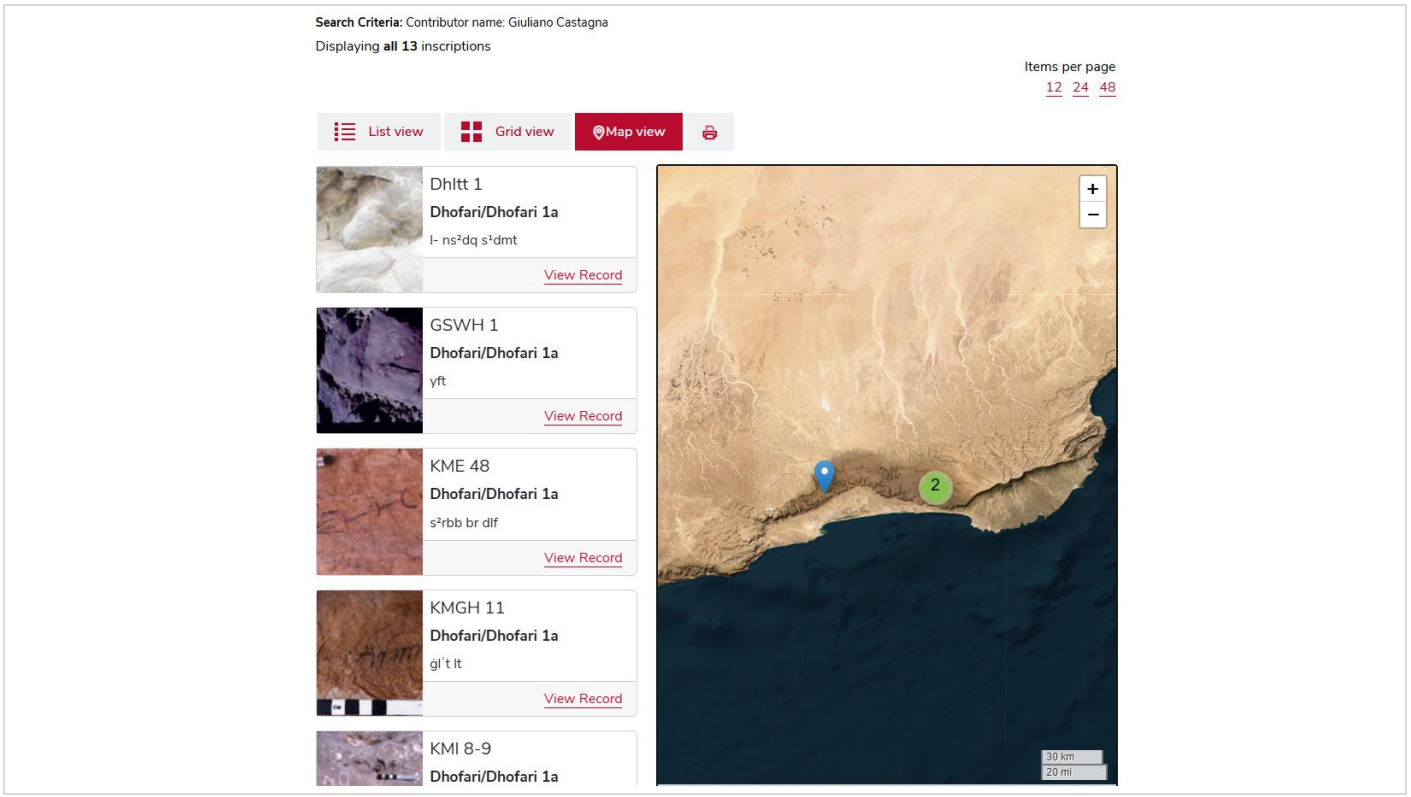
We now have a proper **Contributors page**. The scientific directors and project managers are on the home page, and the full list of contributing editors can be reached by clicking the link below. **Every contributing editor's work is now linked to their name.** Click a name and you get every inscription that person edited, in list, grid or map view.

Try **Giuliano Castagna**, for example. His 13 Dhofari inscriptions come up at once, with a map listing the locations when known.





Left: directors and project managers. Right: the contributing editors.



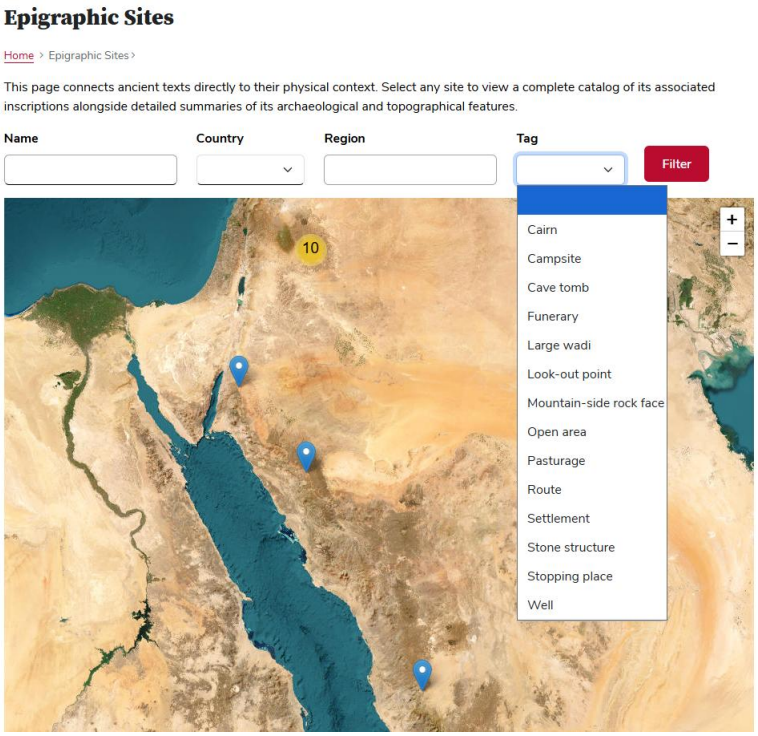
Search by contributor: Giuliano Castagna's Dhofari inscriptions on the map.

CONTEXT

Inscriptions in context

The new Epigraphic Sites page gives details descriptions of the places the inscriptions were discovered, along with pictures, maps, and archaeological drawings. Browse the map, or filter by name, country, region or **tag**. All inscriptions associated with a site follow below.

SITE TAGS Cairn · Campsite · Cave tomb · Funerary · Large wadi · Look-out point · Mountain-side rock face · Open area · Pasturage · Route · Settlement · Stone structure · Stopping place · Well etc…



The Epigraphic Sites page, with the tag filter open.

JUST UPLOADED

Six new sites

Here's what went up this month. Click any name to explore.

Marabb al-Shurafāt

AL-MAFRAQ, JORDAN

A *marabb*, an open basin where rain collects and plants thrive, in the old territory of the Shurafāt east of the Hawran. Its basalt is covered in Safaitic, Nabataean, Latin and early Arabic. Local lore says a raid once wiped out a hundred grooms here on a single wedding night.

1,339 inscriptions · BES 2015

HRN 1 (Hārūn area)

AL-MAFRAQ, JORDAN

Hilly pasture and hunting ground about 20 km southeast of al-Safawi. The site centres on a long, slightly curved stone wall linked by small paths to a ring of stone circles. Some inscribed stones are built into the wall itself, so it went up during or after the Safaitic period.

68 inscriptions · BES 2026

Haḍabat al-ʿAbd 1

TABŪK, SAUDI ARABIA

A panel high on a rocky outcrop east of Abu Rakah, reached by a steep footpath, with a wide view over the plain. Well known to locals, recorded by Al-Jallad and Sidky in 2022.

5 Hismaic, 1 Nabataean · TES 2022

The Cairn of Hāniʾ

AL-MAFRAQ, JORDAN

The first intact Safaitic burial ever found, excavated by Harding in 1951. The man inside, aged 35 to 50, still had long black hair; his bowl and staff had been broken on purpose. Dozens of relatives and friends from 21 lineages wrote his name on the stones. Bulldozers have since left only about a sixth of the cairn in place.

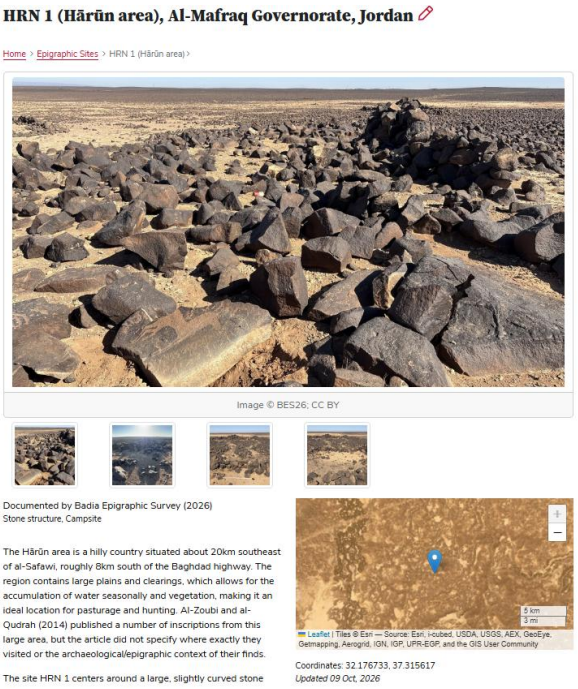
155 inscriptions · Safaitic

The Cairn of Wrd

WĀDĪ ḤAŠĀD SALMÀ, JORDAN

A burial cairn with a portal entrance on a hill above a valley that floods with water and grass in winter. Looters got in, but the dead man's skull is still in the chamber. Of nearly 200 Safaitic texts here, 15 remember Wrd and the building of his cairn.

200 inscriptions · Safaitic



The HRN 1 site page.

FEATURE

Site FWKh 1: The Ṯiyyat of Gobb

FWKH 1 · FARʿ WĀDĪ AL-KHUḌARĪ, JORDAN

About 2,000 years ago a woman named Gobb died. More than fifty people, her father among them, climbed a steep hill above a branch of Wādī al-Khuḍarī to build her a memorial, a *ṯiyyat*, and carved their grief into the rocks around it.

HER FATHER'S INSCRIPTION · BES24_FWKH1 35

l sˡwd bn ṣʿd bn tm bn zḥk w l- bnt -h h- ṯyt w rġm -h mny

"By Sawād son of Saʿd son of Taym son of Zaḥak, and this *ṯiyyat* is for his daughter; Fate struck her down."

A KINSMAN · BES24_FWKH1 24

l ġṯ bn sˡhrn bn ġṯʾl bn sˡhrn w wgm ʿl-gb ʿrsˡ w mtrḥt ḏʾt ʾl qmr bnt sˡwd w bny h-ṯyt f h dsʔr ʿwr ḏ ʿwr h-ḥṭṭ

"By Ġṯ son of Sˡhrn son of Ġṯʾl son of Sˡhrn and he grieved for Gb, a young (woman), perished, of the lineage of Qmr, the daughter of Sˡwd, and he built the Ṯyt so, O Dusares, blind him who would efface this writing"



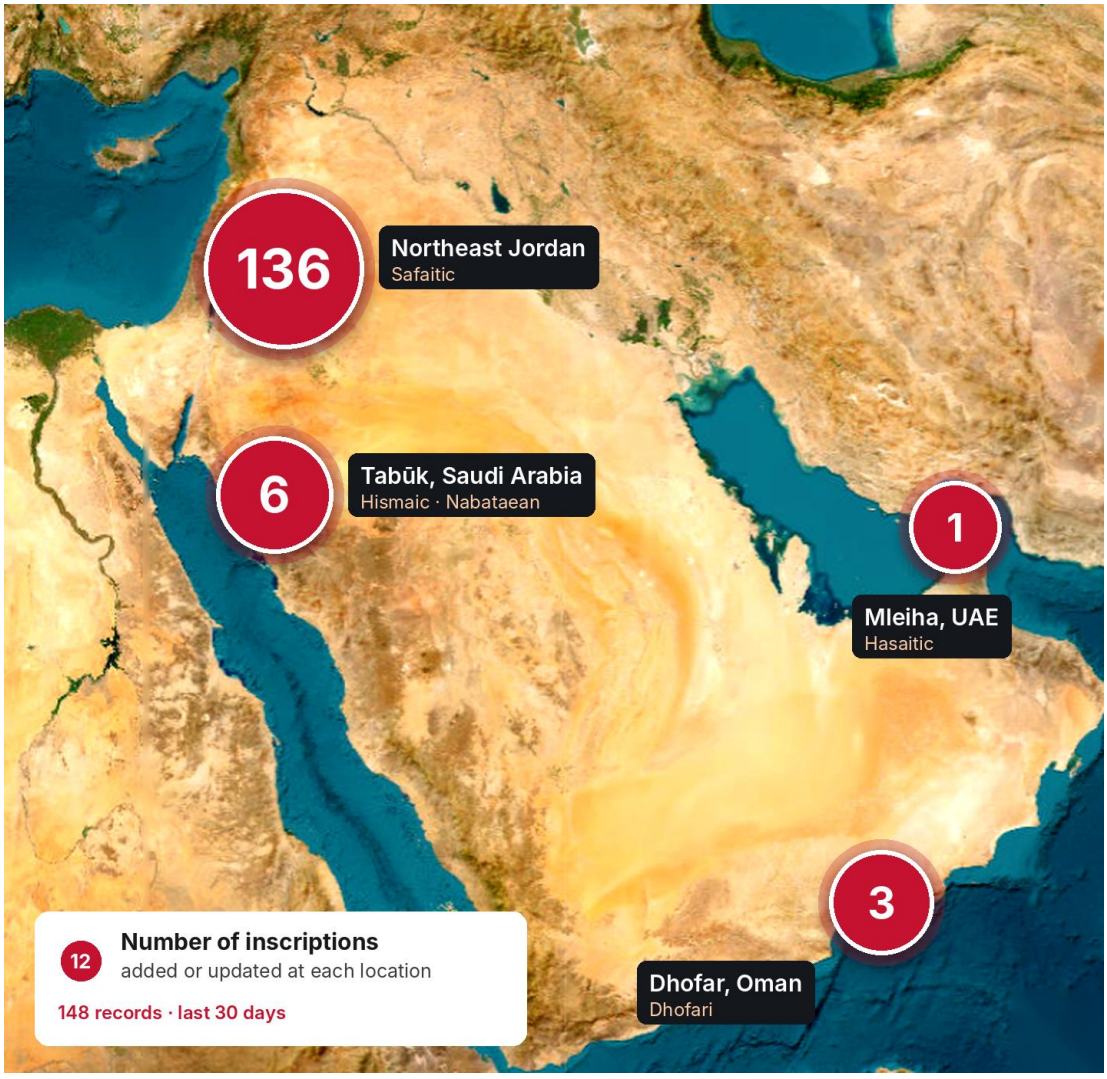
Explore all 56 inscriptions → *The full study in the 2024-5* BES report (below).

BY THE NUMBERS

148 inscriptions this month

In the last 30 days we added or updated 148 inscriptions. Most come from the 2026 Badia Epigraphic Survey at Hārūn, from Gobb's ṯiyyat and from Marabb al-Shurafāt, with new texts from Tabūk, Dhofar and an updated to the Hasaitic tomb inscription from Mleiha in the UAE.

137	6	3	1	1
SAFAITIC	HISMAIC	DHOFARI	NABATAEAN	HASAITIC

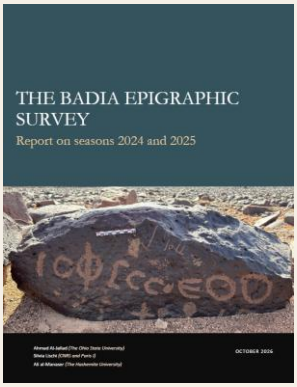


Where this month's inscriptions come from.

NEW FROM OCIANA

Two new reports

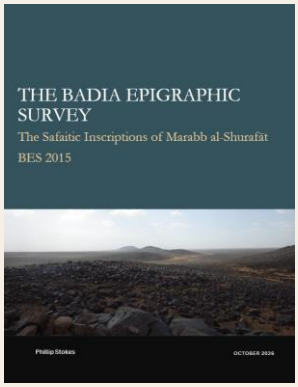
OCIANA now has an open-access book series to publish the Badia Epigraphic Survey field reports and targeted studies on inscriptions. The first two volumes have been published.



The Badia Epigraphic Survey: Report on Seasons 2024 and 2025

Ahmad Al-Jallad, Silvia Lischi & Ali al-Manaser

Two seasons of fieldwork in Jordan's Harrah, including the full study of Gobb's ṯiyyat and its inscriptions.



The Badia Epigraphic Survey: The Safaitic Inscriptions of Marabb al-Shurafāt (BES 2015)

Phillip Stokes

The edition of the texts from the survey's first season, at one of the richest inscription sites in the Harrah.

Stay in touch

Questions, corrections or new material? Write to ociana@osu.edu. Follow us on X @OCIANA_OSU and on YouTube.

OCIANA · Department of Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures · The Ohio State University · 300 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210