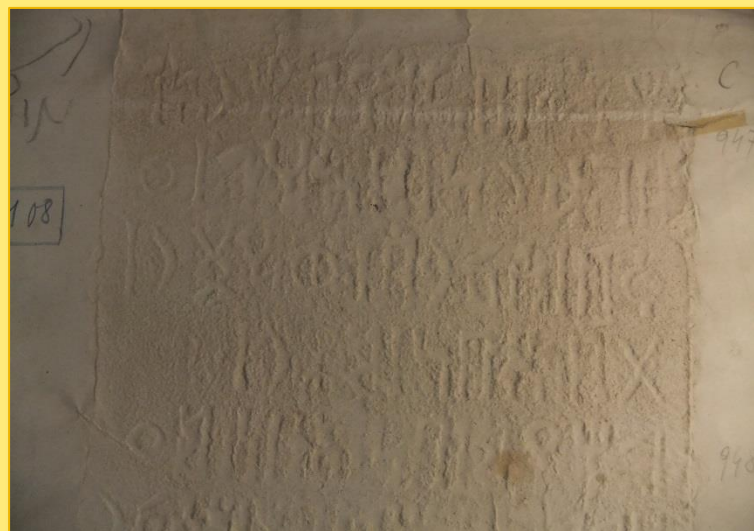


Digitizing the Glaser Squeezes of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

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Duration: 04/2015-03/2017
Homepage: <http://www.clarin-dariah.at/de/Glaser-Squeezes>



The Project and its Goals

The task of the South Arabian project *Pilot-3D-Digitizing of Rare Ancient South Arabian Squeezes, 19th Century Glaser Collection* based at the Austrian Academy of Sciences is to digitize 700 of the Glaser squeezes currently kept in the archive of the academy. The inscriptions from which these squeezes were taken are in the Sabaic, Qatabānic, and Minaic languages, ranging in date from the early seventh century BCE to the sixth century CE, and in length from one-line texts containing only a single name to the 136-line inscription of King 'Abrehā (r. ca. 535-560 CE) from the dam at Mārib. The inscriptions cover a wide range of themes, recording such things as dedications to deities, construction and irrigation projects, and military campaigns. Regrettably, the conditions in which the squeezes were kept over the years in the National Library and then Academy's archive have been far from optimal, and many have been damaged by water and mildew in the first storage, or pressed flat by the weight of other squeezes piled on top.

Eduard Glaser

The approximately 2850 South Arabian squeezes currently kept in the Austrian Academy of Sciences are the work of the Austrian Semitist and explorer Eduard Glaser (1855-1908). Although much of the earlier part of his life remains obscure, it is known that Glaser was educated at the Polytechnic in Prague, and that he moved in 1880 to Vienna, where he studied under the Austrian Semitist David Heinrich Müller. It was Müller who first proposed that Glaser should travel to Yemen with the aim of copying the ancient inscriptions there, and, thanks to a stipend from the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, he undertook the first of four expeditions there in 1882. Although Jewish, Glaser traveled in Yemen disguised as a Muslim, assuming the name of Ḥusayn bin 'Abd Allāh al-Birāqī "Ḥusayn, son of 'Abd Allāh, from Prague".



Expeditions

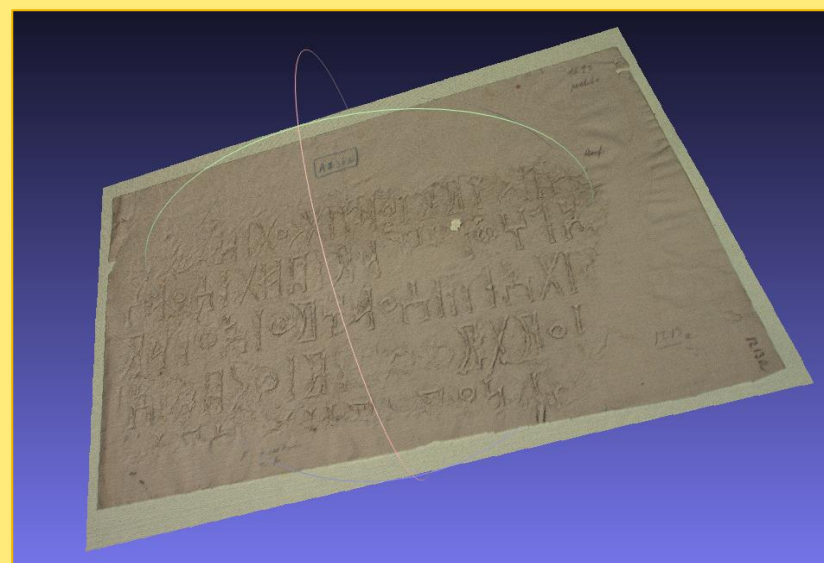
1. 1882-1884: region northwest of Ṣan'ā', visiting Ṭawīla, Ḥajja, Sūda, Rayda, Dhī Bīn, and Riyām;
2. 1885-1886: the region west and southwest of Ṣan'ā', including the towns of Manākha, Maḥḥaq, and Sūq al-Khamīs
3. 1887-1888: the area between Ṣan'ā' and Mārib
4. 1892-1894: from Ṣan'ā' to Aden, the towns of Laḥij, Ta'izz, Ibb, Yarīm, Dhamār, and Ma'bar

Glaser trained local Yemenis to copy inscriptions in regions to which he had no access.

Technically speaking

The project offers an easy access to Glaser's squeezes. Students as well as experts will have the possibility to get all information on the squeeze they need for their work. Therefore the data base system, on which the project is based on, contains all available information on a certain squeeze, e.g. signatures (according to Glaser and to ÖAW), time period of creation, locality, language (Sabaic, Minaic, Qatabānic), transcription, translation, quality, damages, notes on drawings, concordance, and pictures of the squeeze.

There are three kinds of pictures provided for each squeeze: an ordinary picture, for getting an impression of the current state of the squeeze; an analyzed picture, which has been proceeded to improve the view onto the grooves and pitches of the squeeze; and a 3D-model, which offers the possibility to rotate and zoom into the squeeze in detail. In the first stage all information is stored in an *AdLib* database, later on a free online access will be available.



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