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Descendants and ancestors: a study of Arabic inscriptions from the Arabian Peninsula (1st-4th c. AH/7th-10th c. CE)

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Stellingen

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Descendants and Ancestors: A Study of Arabic Inscriptions from the Arabian Peninsula (1st-4th c. AH/ 7th-10th c. CE)

van

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1. There is a strong relationship between Arabic inscriptions dating to the 1st-2nd centuries of the hijra/ 7th-8th centuries CE from Arabia and the Arabic literary sources such as *nasab* (genealogy) and *ṭabaqāt* (generations or classes) works.
2. Arabic inscriptions from the Islamic period 1st-4th century of the hijra 7th-10th centuries CE still preserve family names which indicate a relation to the Companions of the Prophet Muḥammad.
3. The production of Arabic graffiti in Arabia was extremely popular in the 1st to 3rd century of the hijra/ 7th-9th centuries CE, but such inscriptions declined in subsequent periods to be replaced by the use of gravestones.
4. Members of the same family commonly left multiple Arabic inscriptions at the same site in the early Islamic period in Arabia even if they sometimes used different *nisbas*.
5. Recent discoveries show that there was an increase in the number of inscriptions in Arabia in the first half of the first century of the hijra/7th century CE.
6. Scholars of genealogical studies are highly recommended to use early Arabic inscriptions dating to the 1st-3rd century of the hijra/ 7th-9th centuries CE as a valuable historical source for their research about family connections.
7. While future discoveries in the field of Arabic epigraphy will certainly allow us to reconstruct details on the religious practices, history, genealogy and epigraphic habit of the inhabitants of early Islamic Arabia, at the moment such work remains preliminary due to the limit of our sources.
8. Considering the perennial statements in the field of early Islamic history that contemporary primary sources are lacking, it is to be recommended that historians of early Islam make more use of recent epigraphic discoveries which form an important but underused source in the field.
9. Cooperative research efforts should focus on creating an online database for Arabic epigraphy, following the database for ancient north and south Arabian inscriptions, to facilitate and stimulate the use of Arabic inscriptions.
10. Social media for a (websites, twitter, Facebook) where people post details about recent discoveries – by themselves or others – show that there is an interest in archaeology and epigraphy outside the Academy which scholars should engage with.
11. As the first Kuwaiti to undertake a Ph.D. at Leiden University in Arabic Studies, I have found it to be an immensely important experience which I highly recommend. The experience has greatly

enhanced my knowledge in the area of my expertise, as well as my capacity to undertake future scholarly endeavors.