Volume 88

Historical Muscat is an attempt to define and explain the historical environment that determined the significance and design of Oman's capital city Muscat, its twin city Matrah, and their environs prior to 1970.

It also examines how the development of the Muscat conurbation since 1970 has transcended the historical boundaries of the existing settlements and how the process of development has proceeded largely without any consideration of the impact on Muscat's tangible or remembered history.

At the heart of the book is a historical gazetteer of forts, gates, palaces, mosques, houses, quarters, settlements, and other sites covering the broader Muscat region from Bandar Jissah to al-Sib.

The text is accompanied by a large number of illustrations, including maps from various eras and both historical and more contemporary photographs.

J.E. Peterson (Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University SAIS) has taught in various universities and served as the official historian of Oman's armed forces. He has published a dozen books and more than 40 scholarly articles on the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.



В

H

H

R

R

Ι H

S

S

works of lasting value, under the editorship of major scholars in the field Handbook of Oriental Studies, a careful selection of scholarly reference

VOL. 88

Peterson ·

Historical Muscat

Ħ R ΕZ

Historical Muscat

An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer



J.E. Peterson

Brill



BRILL



HANDBOOK OF ORIENTAL STUDIES HANDBUCH DER ORIENTALISTIK

SECTION ONE THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

EDITED BY

H. ALTENMÜLLER \cdot B. HROUDA \cdot B.A. LEVINE \cdot R.S. O'FAHEY K.R. VEENHOF \cdot C.H.M. VERSTEEGH

VOLUME EIGHTY-EIGHT

HISTORICAL MUSCAT

HISTORICAL MUSCAT

An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer

BY

J.E. PETERSON



BRILL

LEIDEN • BOSTON 2007

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A C.I.P. record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISSN 0169-9423 ISBN-13: 978 90 04 15266 3 ISBN-10: 90 04 15266 0

© Copyright 2007 by Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands Koninklijke Brill NV incorporates the imprints Brill, Hotei Publishing, IDC Publishers, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers and VSP.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher.

Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use is granted by Brill provided that the appropriate fees are paid directly to The Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Suite 910 Danvers MA 01923, USA.

Fees are subject to change.

PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS

CONTENTS

List of Maps	vii
Preface and Acknowledgements	ix
Glossary of Arabic Terms	xiii
Transforming Muscat: The Cultural Consequences of	
Urban Development	1
Historical Muscat	1
Twentieth-Century Muscat Before 1970	20
Muscat Since 1970	22
A Gazetteer of Place Names in Muscat and Its Vicinity	37
Chronology	117
Oman's Modern Rulers: The Al Bu Sa'id Dynasty	125
Bibliography	127
Index	133
Illustrations	141
Figure Labels	141
Credits for Figures	149
Figures	153

LIST OF MAPS (by figure number)

- 1. Muscat and Matrah by the Indian Survey in 1904-1905.
- 2. The Muscat metropolitan area in the late 1990s.
- 3. Portuguese map of Muscat about 1635.
- 4-6. Anonymous French map of Muscat and Matrah of 1778.
- 7. Muscat about 1960.
- 8. The traditional quarters of Muscat.
- 10. The wells and gardens of Muscat.
- 49. Portuguese map of Matrah of about 1635.
- 61. Muscat and Matrah before 1970.
- 62. Wadi Bayt al-Falaj before 1970.
- 63. French map of Muscat of 1701.
- 65. Carsten Niebuhr's 1764 map of Muscat.
- 66. The Muscat area's expansion from 1970 to 1990.
- 169. The quarters of Matrah.