

## Collecting the Arabian Peninsula

Deadline: Aug 12, 2013

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### Call for Papers

MUSEUMS AND THE MATERIAL WORLD: COLLECTING THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Edited by Pamela Erskine-Loftus

We invite international submissions to be included in this forthcoming book, being published by MuseumsEtc [[www.museumsetc.com](http://www.museumsetc.com)] early in 2014.

The continuing rapid expansion of museums in the Arabian Peninsula has greatly increased the emphasis on collections and collecting in the region. Collections in the Peninsula range in size and type from natural history, science and living collections, to heritage and history, fine art, new media, aviation, and sport. Concurrent with this museum growth is the increase in semi-public art collections, international temporary exhibitions and loaned collections, and the expansion of archaeological excavations.

### Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to examine both the collecting (of material and nonmaterial culture) within the Arabian Peninsula, and the management of Peninsula collections held outside the region itself. We seek to establish a dialogue between museums in the Peninsula and those outside the region who face similar challenges, or whose collections are relevant to the Peninsula.

### Editor

Museums and the Material World will be edited by Pamela Erskine-Loftus, who has worked in museums for fifteen years, in the United States (including MoMA, New York), the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Pamela is the editor of *Reimagining Museums: Practice in the Arabian Peninsula* published by MuseumsEtc. earlier this year, and she established the online crowdsourced site MAPcollective, for the sharing of resources on museums and museology in the Peninsula. Pamela holds a doctorate in Arabian Peninsula museology, and a Masters in Museum Studies with a dissertation on the effects of the 1991 Gulf War on art museums in Kuwait and Iraq, and has written and presented internationally on aspects of Peninsula museology.

## Submissions

Submissions are welcome in one of two formats – essay or précis.

Essays of 2,000 – 6,000 words address and discuss larger aspects of practice; shorter précis of 1,000 – 2,000 words, should take a more detailed form to discuss a very specific aspect or example.

This publication will discuss the two distinct areas of collecting and collections management, moving from the macro to the micro. Specific aspects of interest include, but are not limited to:

### Collecting

- Collection formation with regard to understandings of ownership, use of international codes/laws, and methods of collection
- Non-collecting museums and their use of loaned collections
- Creation of non-traditional collections; the creation of handling or teaching collections
- Politics of collecting, its implications on collection types, and aspects of “collecting ourselves” and “collecting others”
- Merging of existing collections
- Issues related to “difficult collections” (e.g. weaponry, collections related to war or conflict, “dark heritage”, socially objectionable subject matter)
- Collecting as a component of culture, attitudes towards collecting, and its place within society
- Collecting of intangible heritage and non-material culture
- The collecting of Peninsula heritage, natural history and art by international museums (museums outside the Peninsula), and related issues of ownership, provenance, collection management and collection growth
- Collections as components of the new “destination museums” in the Gulf
- Cities as mass tourism destinations, the advancement of cultural tourism, and the impacts of tourism growth
- Accessioning and deaccessioning within the contexts of the region and understandings of ownership, collections held in public trust, and public domain

### Collections Management

- Aspects of management systems and multiple languages
- Fieldwork and collecting
- Open storage
- Audience/visitor access to collection information
- Inventive and appropriate solutions to the issues of object care, storage, documentation or provenance
- Conversion of paper-based to electronic management systems, and the implications

- "Customary" collections and the inclusion of locally understood attributes and meanings within object care and storage
- Partnerships with international institutions
- The loan of objects to international institutions
- The loan of objects from international institutions
- The management, preservation and interpretation of object(s) in situ

#### Submissions

Museums and the Material World aims to develop a dialogue on current collections practice between museums in the Peninsula and museums in the USA, Europe and beyond which are dealing with similar issues.

Therefore we are particularly interested in:

- Collaborative submissions between Peninsula and international museums/ collections, which offer multiple facets of a discussion.

Submissions may take the form of a collaborative contribution, or two/three shorter separate contributions addressing aspects of the same issue.

- International contributions that offer ideas and insight related to Peninsula issues.

Museums and the Material World will be published in English, therefore all contributions must be submitted in English; translation services will not be provided. The Editor will be happy to assist with collaborator suggestions and contacts in order to facilitate collaborative submissions. Inquiries concerning this should be sent to the Editor as soon as possible and well in advance of the abstract submission deadline.

If you are interested in being considered as a contributor, please send an abstract (up to 250 words), stating whether you wish to contribute an essay or précis, and a short biography or résumé to both the editor at [re-museums2012@hotmail.com](mailto:re-museums2012@hotmail.com) and the publishers at [books@museumsetc.com](mailto:books@museumsetc.com) by 12 August 2013. Enquiries should also be sent to these addresses.

Contributors will receive complimentary print and digital copies of the publication and a discount on more. The book will be published in both print and digital formats by MuseumsEtc in early 2014.

#### DEADLINES

ABSTRACTS: due 12 August

CONTRIBUTORS NOTIFIED: by 18 August

COMPLETED PAPERS: due 18 November

MuseumsEtc

July 2013

A complete copy of this Call for Papers may be downloaded here:  
<http://bit.ly/13vvUJM>

Reference:

CFP: Collecting the Arabian Peninsula. In: ArtHist.net, Jul 9, 2013 (accessed Jun 26, 2025),  
<<https://arthist.net/archive/5726>>.