

Cover illustration: Gold "Standing Caliph" dinar. Courtesy American Numismatic Society. Public domain: <http://numismatics.org/collection/1970.63.1>.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bent, Josephine van den, 1988- editor, author. | Eijnde, Floris van den, 1975- editor, author. | Weststeijn, Johan (Researcher), editor, author. | Mohammed en het Einde van de Oudheid (Conference) (2015 : Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Title: Late antique responses to the Arab conquests / edited by Josephine van den Bent, Floris van den Eijnde, and Johan Weststeijn.

Description: Leiden ; Boston : Brill, [2022] | Series: Cultural interactions in the Mediterranean, 2405-4771 ; volume 5 | This book originated in a Dutch symposium on Late Antiquity and early Islam organized by the Zenobia Foundation in 2015: "Mohammed en het einde van de Oudheid"--Preface. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021046471 (print) | LCCN 2021046472 (ebook) | ISBN 9789004500617 (hardback) | ISBN 9789004500648 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Islamic civilization. | Mediterranean Region--Civilization--Islamic influences. | Mediterranean Region--Colonization--History--To 1500. | National characteristics, Arab. | Qur'an--Criticism, interpretation, etc. | Islam--History. | Muhammad, Prophet, -632.

Classification: LCC DS36.85.L38 2022 (print) | LCC DS36.85 (ebook) | DDC 909/.09767--dc23/eng/2021012

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021046471>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021046472>

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill." See and download: brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 2405-4771

ISBN 978-90-04-50061-7 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-50064-8 (e-book)

Copyright 2022 by Josephine van den Bent, Floris van den Eijnde and Johan Weststeijn. Published by Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill NV incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Hotei, Brill Schöningh, Brill Fink, Brill mentis, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Böhlau Verlag and V&R Unipress.

Koninklijke Brill NV reserves the right to protect this publication against unauthorized use. Requests for re-use and/or translations must be addressed to Koninklijke Brill NV via brill.com or copyright.com.

This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

Printed by Printforce, the Netherlands

Contents

Preface VII

List of Figures and Tables IX

Notes on Contributors XI

- 1 Late Antique Responses to the Arab Conquests: An Introduction 1
Josephine van den Bent, Floris van den Eijnde and Johan Weststeijn
- 2 The Qur'anic Rūm: A Late Antique Perspective 32
Clare Wilde
- 3 Wine and Impurity in the Sura of the Bees: A Structuralist Interpretation of Qur'an 16:67 56
Johan Weststeijn
- 4 Historical-Critical Research of the *Sīra* of the Prophet Muhammad: What Do We Stand to Gain? 74
Harald Motzki †
- 5 Arabicization, Islamization, and the Colonies of the Conquerors 89
Kevin van Bladel
- 6 Continuity and Change: Elite Responses to the Founding of the Caliphate 120
Peter Webb
- 7 Muhammad's World in Egypt 171
Petra M. Sijpesteijn
- 8 "May God be Mindful of Yazid the King": Further Reflections on the Yazid Inscription and the Development of Arabic Scripts 195
Ahmad Al-Jallad
- 9 Of Siblings, Kingdoms, and the Days of the Messiah: Jewish Literary Responses to the New Order in the Land of Israel in the First Muslim Period 212
Constanza Cordoni

10 New Light on the Dark Ages: A Byzantine Perspective on the Arab
Expansion 245
Joanita Vroom

Index of Names and Subjects 267

Index of Biblical and Qur'anic References 273

Preface

This book originated in a Dutch symposium on Late Antiquity and early Islam organized by the Zenobia Foundation in 2015: "Mohammed en het einde van de Oudheid." The Zenobia Foundation presents scholarship on East and West in Antiquity to a wider Dutch audience; the editors of the book you are holding have all been connected at some point to this foundation. Several scholars from Dutch universities presented at the 2015 symposium, among them Ahmad Al-Jallad, Petra Sijpesteijn, and Joanita Vroom, all at the time working at Leiden University. Kevin van Bladel from Yale University presented his contribution to the current volume as the English-language keynote lecture.

A Dutch-language publication resulted from this symposium entitled *Mohammed en de Late Oudheid* (Hilversum: Verloren, 2018). Harald Motzki (Radboud University Nijmegen) and Clare Wilde (University of Groningen) contributed additional chapters for the publication. *Mohammed en de Late Oudheid* and the present volume were funded by Stichting Oosters Instituut, Stichting Boekenfonds Elisabeth Grent, Stichting Sormani Fonds, the Zenobia Foundation, and various individual donors.

The Dutch book laid the foundation for an academic version in English. Some contributions to the Dutch book were intended as an introduction to various aspects of the field of study to a wider audience, while others presented cutting-edge scholarship. It is the latter that we have selected for this volume. Together, these contributions cover a broad range of subfields with regards to research matter, source material, and geography. We have asked two more scholars, focusing on yet other aspects, to contribute as well: Peter Webb (Leiden University) and Constanza Cordoni (Utrecht University).

During production of this book the sad news reached us that Harald Motzki passed away on 8 February 2019. Trained in Germany, Motzki had worked at Radboud University Nijmegen since 1991, where he held the chair Methodology of Research in Islamic Studies from 2001. Motzki acquired fame for his innovative *isnād-cum-matn* analysis. Commenting on his legacy, his Nijmegen colleague Kees Versteegh wrote that perhaps the most important lesson Motzki taught us was that "rejecting the [Arabo-Islamic] evidence about the early Islamic period out of hand is mistaken, unwarranted, and counterproductive."¹

¹ Kees Versteegh, "Harald Motzki (1948–2019)." *Hadis ve Sıyer Araştırmaları: Hadith and Sira Studies* 5 (2019): 397–99.