

# Contributors

**LOTFI ABDELJAOUAD** is a researcher at the Institut National du Patrimoine of Tunisia (INP) with a focus on the medieval Islamic epigraphy of Ifriqiya. Dr. Abdeljaouad has previously been a lecturer at the Universities of Kairouan and Tunis I and has participated in various archaeological excavations, including Sabra al-Mansuriyya (2003–2007) and Madinat Sultan, Surt, Libya (2004). In August 2017, he became Director of the National Center of Calligraphic Arts, Tunisia.

**DORIS BEHRENS-ABOUSEIF**, recently retired as Nasser D. Khalili Chair of Islamic Art and Archaeology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, has been a passionate student over a lifetime of the history and art of her homeland, Egypt. The breadth of her interest in the subject is reflected in the titles of books such as *Egypt's Adjustment to Ottoman Rule: Institutions, Waqf and Architecture in Cairo, 16th and 17th Centuries* (1994); *Beauty in Arabic Culture* (1999); *Cairo and the Mamluks: A History of the Architecture and Its Culture* (2007); *The Minarets of Cairo: Islamic Architecture from the Arab Conquest to the End of the Ottoman Empire* (2010); and *Practising Diplomacy in the Mamluk Sultanate: Gifts and Material Culture in the Medieval Islamic World* (2014).

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**DAVID BRAMOULLÉ** is Assistant Professor of History of the Medieval Muslim World at the University of Toulouse II Jean Jaurès. Using Arabic sources and the Geniza letters, he has been concentrating on the maritime activities of the Fatimids. His more recent studies deal with the commercial links of Fatimid Egypt with Africa, Europe, and Asia. His monographic essays range from “The Fatimids and the Red Sea (969–1171)” in Dionisius A. Agius, John P. Cooper, Athena Trakadas, and Chiara Zazzaro, eds., *Navigated Spaces, Connected Places: Proceedings of the Red Sea V Conference* (2012), to “L’Emirat de Barqa et les Fatimides: les enjeux de la navigation en Méditerranée Centrale au XI<sup>e</sup> siècle” in Patrice Cressier and Annliese Nef, eds., *Les Fatimides et la Méditerranée centrale (10<sup>e</sup> et 11<sup>e</sup> siècle)* (2016).

**FARHAD DAFTARY**, Co-Director of The Institute of Ismaili Studies and Head of its Department of Academic Research and Publications, is the world’s leading specialist in Ismaili history. His book *The Isma‘ilis: Their History and Doctrines* (1990; 2nd ed., 2007) is the first comprehensive study drawing on Arabic and Persian sources of this branch of Shi‘i Islam from its origins to the present day. Other groundbreaking books include *The Assassin Legends* (1994); *A Short History of the Ismailis* (1998); *Ismaili Literature* (2004); *Historical Dictionary of the Ismailis* (2012); and *A History of Shi‘i Islam* (2013). Over two hundred articles and encyclopaedia entries further expand his oeuvre.

**MARIBEL FIERRO** is a Research Professor in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and a member of the Research Group Cultural History of the Mediterranean at the Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East (ILC). She has published on the political, religious, and intellectual history of al-Andalus and the Islamic West, on Islamic law, and on violence and its representation in medieval Arabic sources. Dr. Fierro is the editor of *The New Cambridge History of Islam, Volume 2: The Western Islamic World, Eleventh to Eighteenth Centuries* (2010); co-editor, with Camilla Adang and Sabine Schmidtke, of *Ibn Hazm of Córdoba: The Life and Works of a Controversial Thinker* (2012); and co-editor, with John Tolan, of *The Legal Status of Dimmis in the Islamic West* (2013). Together with Mayte Penelas, she is currently Principal Investigator of the research project *Local Contexts and Global Dynamics: al-Andalus and the Maghreb in the Islamic East*.

**JOHANNES DEN HEIJER** is Full Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the Université catholique de Louvain and former President of the Institut Orientaliste de Louvain. He is in charge of the Arabica Series of the Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium (CSCO, Louvain-la-Neuve) and a member of the editorial boards of the journals *Le Muséon* (Louvain-la-Neuve) and *Eastern Christian Art in Its Late Antique and Islamic Contexts* (Leiden), and of the series Publications de l'Institut Orientaliste de Louvain (PIOL, Louvain-la-Neuve) and Sprachen und Kulturen des Christlichen Orients (Wiesbaden). Dr. den Heijer is the author of many monographic studies on Christian communities in Islamic Egypt, notably *Mawhūb Ibn Manṣūr Ibn Mufarriḡ et l'historiographie copte-arabe: étude sur la composition de l'Histoire des Patriarches d'Alexandrie* (CSCO, vol. 513: *Subsidia, tomus 81*) (1989).

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**ASSADULLAH SOUREN MELIKIAN-CHIRVANI**, Research Director of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Curatorial Director of the Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, is a cultural historian of the Iranian world and its links with other Islamic civilizations. His lifelong focus has been on the connection between the visual arts and the written word. In his book *Le Roman de Varqe et Golšâh: essai sur les rapports de l'esthétique littéraire et de l'esthétique plastique dans l'Iran pré-mongol* (1970), he demonstrated the Buddhist origin of the archetypal figure of idealized beauty in Persian literature and Iranian art of the early Islamic period. *Islamic Metalwork from the Iranian World, 8–18th Centuries* (1982) is acknowledged as the reference book on the subject. In *Le Chant du monde: L'Art de l'Iran safavide, 1501–1736* (2007), he has shown that every shape and motif in Iranian art is a visual transcription of a concept spelled out in Persian literature, notably in the metaphors of poetry. A series of monographs

in the *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* has established the names, destination, and symbolism of artifacts previously misunderstood: wine birds, wine horns, wine boats, and wine legs. The writer coined the phrase “archaeology in the literary field” to sum up his investigation method.

**BERNARD O’KANE** is Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at the American University in Cairo where he has been teaching since 1980. He has also been a visiting professor at Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. O’Kane’s scholarly interests focus on Islamic architecture, painting, and epigraphy, with particular reference to Egypt and Iran. He is the author of numerous books, including *Early Persian Painting: Kalila and Dimna Manuscripts of the Late Fourteenth Century* (2003); *The Appearance of Persian on Islamic Art* (2009); *The Illustrated Guide to the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo* (2012); and *The Mosques of Egypt* (2016). He also edited *The Iconography of Islamic Art: Studies in Honour of Robert Hillenbrand* (2005); *The Treasures of Islamic Art in the Museums of Cairo* (2006); and *Creswell Photographs Re-examined: New Perspectives on Islamic Architecture* (2009).

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**PAUL E. WALKER** was Director of the American Research Center in Egypt from 1976 to 1986 and has taught at Columbia University, McGill University, and the University of Michigan. He is currently Deputy Director for Academic Programs, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, at the University of Chicago. As a specialist in the history of Islamic thought, he has published dozens of papers and over a dozen books, among them *Early Philosophical Shiism: The Ismaili Neoplatonism of Abu Ya‘qub al-Sijistani* (1993); with Wilferd Madelung *The Advent of the Fatimids: A Contemporary Shi‘i Witness* (2000); *Exploring an Islamic Empire: Fatimid History and Its Sources* (2002); *Fatimid History and Ismaili Doctrine* (2008); *Orations of the Fatimid Caliphs: Festival Sermons of the Ismaili Imams* (2009); and *Caliph of Cairo: al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, 996–1021* (2009). His current research focuses on popular ritual, social elites, governing institutions, and Ismaili doctrine in the Fatimid period.