



An Initiative of Qatar Foundation

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON IN QATAR AND QSCIENCE.COM OPEN UP ACCESS TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND**

*Online academic publishing platform of Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals offers freely available books that shed light on region's heritage with lessons learnt from ceramic deposits around the world*

**Doha, Qatar 15 December 2014:** A new partnership highlighting archaeological research in the Middle East has been set up between University College London in Qatar (UCL Qatar), and QScience.com, the online academic publishing platform of Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals.

The partnership takes the shape of a new, open access book series entitled 'UCL Qatar Series on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage' enabling anyone, anywhere in the world, to freely read about archaeological research and build a greater understanding of the region's fascinating history.

'Craft and science: International perspectives on archaeological ceramics,' is the first volume in the series to be published this week. Edited by Marcos Martín-Torres, an archaeologist at UCL in the UK, the full text is freely available to download on the QScience.com website.

One of the chapters of the first book focuses on techniques used to generate the distinctive colour and shine of early silver Islamic lustre. The presence of silver and copper nanoparticles in the glazes of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century AD ceramics give some of the most decorative works of that time a golden, reflective nature, which was highly-valued.

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals (BQFJ) is a collaboration between Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and Bloomsbury Publishing that fosters scholarly and research communication and supports QF's mission to enhance transfer knowledge. QScience.com is one platform offering a unique research environment while UCL Qatar, a partner of QF member Hamad Bin Khalifa University, is a leading centre of excellence for the study of cultural heritage.



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UCL Qatar Director Thilo Rehren, speaking about the new book series, said: “Both Qatar Foundation and UCL Qatar share a strong ethos of excellence, and are committed to promoting research as a key element of creating knowledge. This is relevant for cultural heritage as much as for engineering, as we all live in a society shaped by its heritage, which we need to understand in order to shape the future.”

“To make knowledge most effective, it needs to be shared – and the Open Access drive in modern scientific publishing is a major step in this direction. We at UCL Qatar are therefore delighted to see that Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals is promoting Open Access for books and journals being at the forefront of developments in science disseminations.”

QScience.com Editorial Director Christopher Leonard said: “We are truly excited to work with UCL Qatar to bring some of the wonderful work they are doing in Doha to a wider audience. These open access books mean that anyone, anywhere in the world, can read about this research and build upon it for a greater understanding of the history of Qatar and the wider region.”

For more information, please visit: [www.QScience.com](http://www.QScience.com).

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#### **About QScience.com**

Launched in September 2011, QScience.com is a peer-reviewed online publishing platform that offers a unique and collaborative research environment for scientists in Qatar and the rest of the world. This new platform publishes a range of peer reviewed, high quality, open access journals, databases and repositories which adhere to international publishing standards.

[www.QScience.com](http://www.QScience.com)

#### **About Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals (BQFJ)**

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals (BQFJ), founded in 2009 as a unique collaboration between Qatar Foundation and Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, focuses on fostering scholarly and research communication. BQFJ publishes a range of peer reviewed, high-quality, open access journals, databases and repositories which adhere to the highest scholarly publishing standards.

[www.qscience.com](http://www.qscience.com)



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**Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

*For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>*

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